

15 Highest paying degrees the world must watch

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An academic degree is a qualification awarded to students after satisfactory completion of a course of study in higher education, typically at a college or university. The bachelor's degree is the most popular undergraduate degree, although in some countries there are lower-level higher education qualifications that are also titled degrees (e.g. associate degrees and foundation degrees).

There are four major categories of degrees available for postsecondary students: associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees.

Degree Level	Average Completion Time (full-time)	Common Prerequisite
Associate degree	2 years	High school diploma or equivalent
Bachelor's degree	4 years	High school diploma or equivalent
Master's degree	1-2 years	Bachelor's degree
Doctoral degree	2+ years	Master's degree (sometimes bachelor's degree is acceptable)

Schooling Degree Levels Available

What we major at academic institutions has effects that stretch well beyond the base of knowledge that we establish in our early years. Any program in which we want to join often provides a path for meeting future friends, job prospects, and connections.

Furthermore, particularly in the first decade after graduation, the college degree you select will partially determine your future earning potential. It can also set you up for long-term financial success if careers in your profession are in high demand. *Highest paying degrees* are important as they give financial freedom.

Based on PayScale's year-long survey of 1.2 million users that graduated only with a bachelor degree in the United States, the majors that saw the highest median mid-career salaries were all along the engineering spectrum: chemical engineering, computer engineering, electrical

engineering, and aerospace engineering all came in above \$100,000. They also generally had very high starting salaries. The data can be assessed with the link: <https://www.kaggle.com/wsj/college-salaries/home>

Here are the 15 *highest paying degrees* from the data set, sorted by mid-career median salary (10 years

in):

Rank	Undergraduate Major	Starting Median	Mid-Career Median	% Change
#1	Chemical Engineering	\$63,200	\$107,000	69.30%
#2	Computer Engineering	\$61,400	\$105,000	71.00%
#3	Electrical Engineering	\$60,900	\$103,000	69.10%
#4	Aerospace Engineering	\$57,700	\$101,000	75.00%
#5	Economics	\$50,100	\$98,600	96.80%
#6	Physics	\$50,300	\$97,300	93.40%
#7	Computer Science	\$55,900	\$95,500	70.80%
#8	Industrial Engineering	\$57,700	\$94,700	64.10%
#9	Mechanical Engineering	\$57,900	\$93,600	61.70%
#10	Math	\$45,400	\$92,400	103.50%
#11	Physician Assistant	\$74,300	\$91,700	23.40%
#12	Civil Engineering	\$53,900	\$90,500	67.90%
#13	Construction	\$53,700	\$88,900	65.50%
#14	Finance	\$47,900	\$88,300	84.30%
#15	Management Information Systems (MIS)	\$49,200	\$82,300	67.30%

The starting median salary is the median of what people were earning after they graduated with their degree and the mid-career median is the median salary 10 years in.

The top-earning specialization out of college is for Physician Assistants, with a median starting salary of \$74,300. However, the earning potential of the degree levels out quickly, with a 23.4% increase in earning power 10 years in. In contrast, the biggest increases in earning power go to Math, Philosophy, Economics, Marketing, Physics, Political Science, and International Relations majors. All these degrees see a 90% or higher increase from the median starting salary to the median mid-career salary.

It is important to also note that a master’s degree may provide you with better job prospects, more career responsibilities and a higher salary. You might need one to advance past a certain point in your career, particularly if your goal is a senior leadership position. Many master’s degrees can earn you jobs with high salaries, but the following are some of the *highest paying master degrees* Indeed.com “Highest Paying Master's Degrees, 2020”:

Master’s degrees major	National average salary
Nursing anesthesia	\$176,386
Information technology	\$121,769

Business administration	\$114,083
Finance	\$108,518
Software engineering	\$107,366
Nursing	\$107,076
Electrical engineering	\$104,119
Statistics	\$104,009
Physicians assistant	\$103,648
Economics	\$94,319
Chemical engineering	\$93,453
Physics	\$91,080
Petroleum engineering	\$82,330
Computer science	\$81,680
Industrial management	\$80,200

Last but not least, it is also important to note that dozens of business and related jobs earn more than double the median annual salaries for all occupations. According to DegreeQuery “15 top degrees for the highest-paying business careers, 2020” Master of Business Administration ranks number 1 *highest paying degree in business*.

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