

AMEDF

American Education Foundation | Ensuring College Success

COLLEGE PLANNING FAST FACTS

COLLEGE MAJOR	CLASS OF 2015 STARTING SALARIES
Computer Science	\$69,214
Engineering	\$63,764
Math and Stats	\$58,554
Business	\$51,452
Healthcare	\$49,851
Humanities and Social Sciences	\$40,964
Education	\$35,686
All Degrees	\$50,219
Median Annual wage all occupations	\$35,540*

Source: *College Planning Essentials*, JP Morgan Asset Management, 2016-17; * Table 6 of "Occupations with most job growth, 2014-2024" US Bureau of Labor Statistics

HOW MUCH INCOME DO I NEED? Budget guidelines for select expenses using 2015 average starting salary for all degrees (\$50,219)

EXPENSE	MONTHLY BUDGET	PROPORTION OF INCOME
Transportation (car payment, gas, insurance, maintenance)	\$627	15%
Housing/Rent & Utilities	\$1,255	30%
Student Loan Repayment	\$335	8%
Food (incl. eating out)	\$418	10%
Medical Expenses	\$209	5%

Source: *Budget Worksheet for Graduates*, College Board

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS: *What Factors are Important? According to The Independent Educational Consultants Association (IECA) in its April/May 2018 newsletter, a survey of IECA members yielded the following top 10 factors for college admissions:*

1. Rigorous high school curriculum
2. GPA
3. Standardized test scores
4. Insightful essay
5. Passionate involvement in few activities
6. Counselor and teacher recommendations
7. Ability to pay
8. Leadership in and out of school
9. Personal characteristics contributing to campus diversity
10. Intellectual curiosity

Details of survey data on select factors:

1. **Highest GPA possible vs Challenging coursework:** 88% cited challenging coursework vs. 12% highest GPA possible
2. **Single most important aspect of an application essay:** 93% cited providing insight into student's personality, value and goals vs. 6% on demonstration clear thought and 1% on demonstrating superior writing skills
3. **How often do you believe a college reviews a student's social media:** 43% cited when a student is "on the bubble" between accept and reject, 38% rarely, 12% frequently, 7% almost never

Source: IECA Insights newsletter, April/May 2018 edition. There is no relationship between IECA and AMEDF. Data has not been independently verified.

14 BEST (of 30) PAYING COLLEGE MAJORS BY STARTING SALARIES: *Think Advisor, May 17, 2017:*

1. *Petroleum Engineering, Starting \$96,700, mid-career \$172,000 (1ST)*
2. *Physician Assistant Studies, starting \$85,200, mid-career \$103,000 (28TH)*
3. *Computer Science & Engineering: starting \$71,200, mid-career \$116,000 (5th)*
4. *Mining Engineering, starting \$70,200, mid-career \$107,000 (19th)*
5. *Chemical Engineering, starting \$69,800, mid-career \$119,000 (3rd)*
6. *Computer Engineering, starting \$68,500, mid-career \$116,000 (9th)*
7. *Nuclear Engineering, starting \$68,500, mid-career \$116,000 (5th)*
8. *Electrical & Computer Engineering, starting \$68,100, mid-career \$114,000 (8th)*
9. *Electronics & Communications Engineering, starting \$68,000, mid-career \$115,000 (7th)*
10. *Electrical Engineering, starting \$67,000, mid-career \$110,000 (13th)*
11. *Systems Engineering, starting \$66,400, mid-career \$121,000 (2nd)*
12. *Materials Science & Engineering, starting \$65,800, mid-career \$108,000 (15th)*
13. *(Tie) Aerospace Eng/Dental Hygiene, starting \$65,400, mid-career \$106,000/\$74,900 (2nd/142nd)*