

# Which college degrees lead to well-paying jobs?

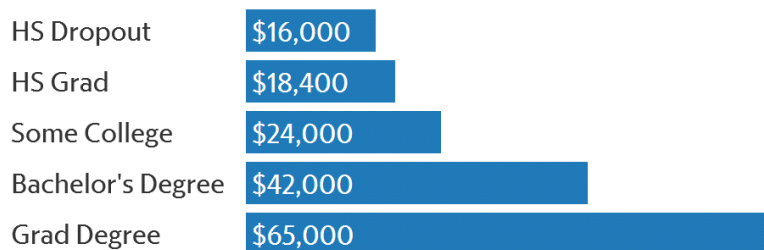
By Phillip Reese

Hundreds of thousands of California college students will graduate this month, many hoping their degree translates into a well-paying job.

They have reason to be optimistic: Earnings for college graduates age 35 and younger in any discipline tend to be much higher than earnings for those in the same age group without a college degree.

## HOW EDUCATION AFFECTS EARNINGS

Median annual earnings for Californians 35 and under



*Includes only those in the labor force. Excludes those who are still attending school.*

But some degrees lead to well-paying jobs faster than others. Using census data, The Bee looked at the percentage of Californians age 35 and under with college degrees who reported earning at least \$50,000 a year.

About half of college graduates in that age group earned at least that much, but the proportion of high earners varied sharply by type of degree. Engineers and computer science majors were most likely to land high-paying jobs fast. Philosophy and recreation majors were the least likely to earn north of \$50,000 – but still much more likely to earn that much than peers without a college degree.

Notes: Analysis excludes those still attending school or who are not employed. Shown is undergraduate degree, even if student went on to get a graduate degree. Census figures taken from 2012-2015 American Community Survey. Attending college is often about more than just making money. Students who major in social work or education do so for valuable reasons other than becoming rich.

## WHO MAKES MORE MONEY QUICKLY?

Percentage of California college grads age 35 and under making at least \$50,000

<b>Discipline</b>	<b>Most Common Major</b>	<b>Most Common Job After Graduation</b>	<b>%&gt;\$50K</b>
Communication Tech	Computer Science	Software Developer	76%
Engineering	Electrical Engineering	Software Developer	76%
Mathematics	Mathematics	Software Developer	62%
Health Sciences	Nursing	Registered Nurse	56%
Physical Sciences	Chemistry	College Instructor	56%
Business	Business Management	Accountant	55%
All Majors	All Majors	All Majors	52%
Biology	Biology	Doctor	52%
Social Sciences	Economics	Lawyer	50%
Communications	Communications	Marketing Manager	47%
History	History	K-12 Teacher	47%
English	English	K-12 Teacher	42%
Psychology	Psychology	Counselor	41%
Criminal Justice	Criminal Justice	Police Officer	38%
Linguistics	Foreign Languages	K-12Teacher	37%
Fine Arts	Graphic Design	Designer	35%
Education	General Education	K-12 Teacher	34%
Consumer Sciences	Human Development	K-12 Teacher	32%
Physical Fitness	Fitness/Parks & Rec	Recreation Worker	32%
Liberal Arts	Philosophy/Religion	K-12 Teacher	31%