

Best Jobs for New College Graduates



An estimated 5 million students will graduate college in 2019. These new diploma holders will enter one of the country’s best job markets, with unemployment levels at their lowest in fifty years. Employers plan to hire over ten percent more graduates from the class of 2019 than they did in 2018, and salaries for new graduates are also up from last year. Continuing the trend, STEM degree holders are projected to earn the most overall as demand for workers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math continue to increase.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)

SALARIES FOR BACHELOR’S DEGREES IN 2018

ENGINEERING	\$69,200
COMPUTER SCIENCE	\$67,500
MATH & SCIENCES	\$62,200
BUSINESS	\$57,700
SOCIAL SCIENCES	\$57,300
HUMANITIES	\$56,700
AGRICULTURE/NATL. RESOURCES	\$55,800
COMMUNICATIONS	\$52,100

Source: National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE)



Graduate and Professional Studies

Not ready to enter the job market? Looking to pursue a higher degree? There is still time to register for Fall graduate programs and professional studies. An advanced degree can help you build on your current abilities, gain new skills, or even transition to an entirely new field and experts predict that over the next five years, master’s degrees will account for nearly a third of all post-secondary degrees. A majority of these will be professional master’s programs focused on specific job skills that help students gain a new job or

advance in an existing position. The Master of Professional Studies (MPS) combines theory and practice-based learning and can help upgrade credentials and pay scales.

MPS Degree vs Traditional Master’s Degrees

How does an MPS degree differ from a “traditional” master’s degree? According to the Educational Advisory Board (EAB), the answer speaks to both the types of students who enroll and the

type of education they are receiving. First, the students: they are usually “nontraditional,” meaning not right out of college. They are, on average, a few years older. And perhaps most significantly, they are usually employed. But the term “working professionals,” while accurate, isn’t precise enough to describe their specific needs. Thus, EAB divides them into four groups:

Career Starters—Recent graduates seeking a professional degree before entering the workforce. (These do not fit the “nontraditional” or “working professional” designations.)

Career Changers—Mid-career adults seeking graduate degrees to move into new fields.

Career Advancers—Mid-career professionals seeking graduate degrees in order to earn a promotion or a raise.

Career Crossers—Mid-career professionals seeking cross-training to advance in current fields.

Fundamentally, MPS degrees teach students very specific knowledge

with the goal of helping them in their current careers, or in a career they are aiming to pursue. Theoretical knowledge taught by more traditional master’s programs may be useful, but most students need practical, applicable skills that they can use in their current workplaces.

MPS Programs Are Tailored to Student Needs

One of the biggest advantages of professional programs, like the MPS, is the opportunity to connect with students and faculty who work in the field. There are ample opportunities for networking, internships, and other career advancement benefits. Not only does this make for fascinating class discussions, but it also provides students with established industry contacts, an advantage when they look to advance in their careers.

Because most students are working and their time is limited, they need a master’s program that has an accelerated format and flexible class times that can work around their schedules.

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Top Five Highest Paying Entry-level Jobs

To secure the highest salary you can right out of college, consider these careers that the 2019 LinkedIn Grads’ Guide to Getting Hired report cites as the highest paying entry-level jobs for 2019 graduates:

1. SOFTWARE ENGINEER

Average salary for entry-level roles: \$83,000

For the second year in a row, LinkedIn reports that Software Engineer was the job title that the highest number of recent graduates were seeking. It’s also the job with the most openings and highest entry-level salary among those in the report.

2. REGISTERED NURSE

Average salary for entry-level roles: \$62,400

The healthcare industry as a whole is forecast to be one of the fastest growing parts of the labor market, particularly in areas that require expertise with new technologies and the ability to care for our aging population.

3. SALESPERSON

Average salary for entry-level roles: \$31,100

Unlike the recent popularity of STEM-

focused jobs, a sales job has long been a common first career step, and it’s a position some say can launch you into long-term career success. In fact, many of today’s millionaires and billionaires started their careers in sales positions.

4. TEACHER

Average salary for entry-level roles: \$40,000

Despite its challenging work conditions and lower-end salaries, the LinkedIn survey found that education, and specifically teaching, is still a position that attracts a significant share of recent college graduates.

5. ACCOUNTANT

Average salary for entry-level roles: \$48,000

Three of the largest accounting firms—EY, PwC, and Deloitte—rank in the top five U.S. companies that hire the most recent college graduates, according to LinkedIn.

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