

The \$200K Question:

Will AI Replace Tech Jobs — and What's the Real ROI on a Tech Degree?

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Why This Guide Exists

Choosing a tech major is one of the most expensive — and most important — decisions your family will make. Four years of tuition, housing, and living costs can add up to \$140,000–\$238,000 or more.

This guide will help you:



Understand the real return on investment (ROI) for different tech majors



Avoid costly mistakes that cause students to switch majors or drop out



See how AI is creating new opportunities in tech careers



Make a confident, informed choice for your child's future

02 The Big Risk: Switching Majors

About 30% of tech majors switch by sophomore year. This often means:

- 1–2 extra years in college
- \$50,000+ in extra tuition and living costs
- Lost confidence and momentum

➔ Why it happens:

- Choosing based on "what sounds exciting" instead of fit
- Not prepared for the workload or type of assignments
- Misunderstanding what the major actually involves

ROI Impact:

Switching can cut lifetime ROI by 20–40% because of added cost and delayed income.

Smart Fix:

Take a Tech-Ready Assessment before choosing a major to match your child's strengths, interests, and learning style.

03

Is AI Replacing Tech Jobs?

Short answer:

No. It's creating more of them.

The myths:

- "ChatGPT will replace programmers"
- "AI means fewer tech jobs"

➔ The reality:

- Software developer jobs are projected to grow 33% from 2023–2033 (BLS, 2024)
- AI-related roles — like machine learning engineers, data scientists, and AI ethicists — are some of the fastest-growing jobs in the U.S.
- Every AI tool still needs programmers, data experts, and security specialists to build, train, and maintain it

Think about it:

Excel didn't eliminate accountants — it made them more valuable. AI is doing the same for tech professionals.

ROI Impact:

Degrees that include AI, machine learning, and data science content have some of the highest projected lifetime returns.

04

The ROI Reality: Which Tech Majors Pay Off?

ROI Formula:

ROI = (Lifetime Earnings - Total Education Cost) ÷ Total Education Cost × 100

Major	Avg Cost (Public)	Avg Starting Salary	Mid-Career Salary	Lifetime ROI
Computer Science	\$140,000	\$85,000	\$142,000	716%
Data Science	\$140,000	\$95,000	\$135,000	735%
Cybersecurity	\$135,000	\$82,000	\$126,000	660%
Information Technology	\$130,000	\$65,000	\$109,000	540%
AI/Machine Learning*	\$150,000	\$95,000	\$150,000	760%

**Based on early career salary data from new AI degree programs in the U.S.*

05

What About AI Degrees?

AI-specific majors are new but growing quickly at top schools like Carnegie Mellon, MIT, and UT Austin



Why they matter:

- AI is built into every industry: healthcare, finance, transportation, education
- Students learn data science, programming, and ethics of AI
- High demand for graduates with starting salaries of \$90K–\$100K+



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06 Signs Your Child is Tech-Ready

If your child can say "yes" to most of these, they're likely ready for a tech major:

- Enjoys solving puzzles or strategy games
- Can focus for 2+ hours without getting distracted
- Googles answers before asking for help
- Keeps at least a B average in math
- Recovers quickly from mistakes



Smart Parent Checklist

Before committing to a tech major:

- ✓ Take the Tech-Ready Assessment
- ✓ Research the top 3 majors that fit your child's profile
- ✓ Compare ROI and job demand for each
- ✓ Look into scholarships and community college transfer paths to reduce costs
- ✓ Plan for internships and skill-building outside class



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ROI at a Glance — Print & Keep

Major	Lifetime ROI	High-Demand Skills to Build Early
Computer Science	716%	Programming, Algorithms, AI basics
Data Science	735%	Python, Data Analysis, Statistics
Cybersecurity	660%	Network Security, Risk Management
Information Technology	540%	Cloud Systems, IT Support, Databases
AI/Machine Learning*	760%	Neural Networks, Python, Ethics



Your Next Step: Ensure Success Before Day One

A tech degree can be one of the best investments you'll make in your child's future — but only if it's the right fit and they're properly prepared.

The smartest parents use data, not guesswork.

Based on your assessment results, choose your path:

Option 1: The Live Challenge

For families who want personalized guidance:

- One-on-one coaching sessions with Dr. Shumba
- Custom career planning tailored to your child
- Direct support through the critical decision-making process
- Personal accountability and milestone tracking



**Start with
Our FREE
College
Success
Assessment**

Take our comprehensive assessment to identify your child's strengths, risk factors, and tech major fit. This isn't just another quiz — it's a strategic evaluation tool that reveals:

- Which tech major aligns with your child's learning style
- Potential challenges they may face
- Specific preparation strategies for success

Option 2: Self-Paced Challenge

For independent learners who want **comprehensive preparation:**

- Build resilience and stress management skills
- Master study strategies designed for tech majors
- Learn time management for 30-hour coding projects
- Develop the mindset that separates thriving students from those who struggle



These programs specifically address:

- The 30% major switching risk
- Imposter syndrome that affects 70% of tech students
- Burnout prevention strategies
- Interview preparation starting freshman year
- Building the portfolio that lands internships

Get started today



Visit
[https://www.kudz
ai.edugroup.com/
vip-challenge-
college-success](https://www.kudzai.edugroup.com/vip-challenge-college-success)

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Prevention costs less than switching majors.
Preparation beats struggling through.

YOUR TECH MAJOR ROI CHEAT SHEET

SAVE
THIS
PAGE

THE NUMBERS THAT MATTER

Major	Lifetime ROI	Starting Pay	Your Investment
AI/Machine Learning	760%	\$95,000	\$150,000
Data Science	735%	\$95,000	\$140,000
Computer Science	716%	\$85,000	\$140,000
Cybersecurity	660%	\$82,000	\$135,000
Information Technology	540%	\$65,000	\$130,000
Average Degree	215%	\$55,000	\$120,000

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PARENT'S DECISION CHECKLIST

Before You Invest \$200,000:

- ☐ Child completed College Success Assessment
- ☐ Identified top 3 major matches
- ☐ Compared 10-year job projections
- ☐ Calculated actual costs for YOUR situation
- ☐ Explored community college path (saves \$40K+)
- ☐ Visited CS departments at target schools
- ☐ Talked to recent graduates in field
- ☐ Reviewed scholarship deadlines
- ☐ Enrolled in VIP Challenge or Self-Paced Course



GREEN LIGHTS — INVEST WITH CONFIDENCE

- ✓ 4+ Tech-Ready indicators present
- ✓ B+ or better in math
- ✓ Self-teaches from online resources
- ✓ Can focus 2+ hours on complex tasks
- ✓ Rebounds from failure without giving up



RED FLAGS — EXPLORE ALTERNATIVES

- ✗ Needs constant academic support
- ✗ No natural curiosity about technology
- ✗ Quits when confused or frustrated
- ✗ Below B average in math consistently
- ✗ Avoids problem-solving activities



KEY INSIGHTS

- Even the lowest tech ROI (540%) beats average degree ROI (215%) by 2.5x
- CS graduates doubled from 51,696 (2014) to 112,720 (2024) despite AI fears
- 30% who switch majors lose \$50,000+ and delay careers by 2 years
- Community college first 2 years = same degree, \$40,000 less debt



THE BOTTOM LINE

The difference between choosing the right tech major and guessing?

\$500,000+ in lifetime earnings.

Ready to make a data-driven decision?



VISIT

<https://www.kudzaiiedugroup.com/vip-challenge-college-success>

→ Start with the *FREE* College Success Assessment

→ Then choose VIP or Self-Paced preparation