

Illustrative Starting Salary Index by College Major

Projected entry-level starting salaries, indexed to 2026 = 100

20%+ Very Strong	14-17% Strong	8-10% Moderate			4-5% Low		-2% to -4% Slight Decline		-6% to -10% Declining	
College Major		2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Salary Change	Hiring Outlook	
Nursing		100	104	108	112	117	122	+22%	↑↑↑	
Occupational Therapy		100	103	107	111	116	121	+21%	↑↑↑	
Biomedical Engineering		100	104	108	112	116	120	+20%	↑↑	
Computer Science		100	104	108	112	116	120	+20%	↓↓↓	
Physical Therapy		100	103	107	111	115	120	+20%	↑↑↑	
Software Engineering		100	104	108	112	116	120	+20%	↓↓↓	
Electrical Engineering		100	103	106	109	113	117	+17%	↑↑	
Civil Engineering		100	103	106	109	112	116	+16%	↑↑	
Data Science		100	103	106	109	112	115	+15%	↓	
Mechanical Engineering		100	103	106	109	112	115	+15%	↑↑	
Environmental Science		100	102	104	107	110	114	+14%	↑↑	
Pre-Med / Biology		100	102	104	107	110	114	+14%	↑↑	
Economics		100	102	104	106	108	110	+10%	→	
Education		100	101	103	105	107	110	+10%	↑	
Finance		100	102	104	106	108	110	+10%	↓	
Information Systems		100	102	104	106	108	110	+10%	↓↓	
Supply Chain		100	102	104	106	108	110	+10%	↑	
Accounting		100	101	102	104	106	108	+8%	↓↓	
Architecture		100	101	102	104	106	108	+8%	→	
Pharmacy		100	101	102	103	104	105	+5%	→	
Psychology		100	101	102	103	104	105	+5%	→	
Human Resources		100	100	101	102	103	104	+4%	↓↓	
Marketing		100	100	99	99	98	98	-2%	↓↓↓	

College Major	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Salary Change	Hiring Outlook
Communications	100	99	99	98	97	96	-4%	↓↓
Advertising	100	99	98	96	95	94	-6%	↓↓↓
Graphic Design	100	98	96	94	92	90	-10%	↓↓↓
Journalism	100	98	96	94	92	90	-10%	↓↓↓

Color coding reflects projected cumulative starting-salary growth from 2026 through 2031, not the hiring outlook.

Interpretation: an index of 120 indicates a projected starting salary 20% above the 2026 level.

These figures are illustrative scenarios, not official forecasts.