

Degrees That Get You Hired



Find out which 6 degrees rank highest in terms of employment

By Chris Kyle

Come graduation time, the English major, history buff, computer whiz, and [business student](#) all look alike in their caps and gowns.

Their job prospects, on the other hand, look very different.

Corporate consulting firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas polled 100 human resource professionals to find out what graduating students this year can expect from the job market in 2010, and, specifically, which degrees have the best odds of helping students get jobs.

If you're contemplating a return to school and deciding what you want to study, read on for the six degrees that rank highest in terms of employment.

#1 - Health Care Degree

Graduates with recession-proof [degrees in health care](#) will find the most success in 2010, according to Challenger. In fact, more than one in four (26.3 percent) HR professionals picked health care as the best bet for job security. [Nurses](#) are receiving the most job offers in this category.

Desirable Degrees:

[Nursing](#)

[Physical Therapy](#)

[Pharmacy](#)

[Medical Technician](#)

Average Starting Salaries:

Nursing: \$47,217

Health & Related Sciences: \$30,522

Search for [Nursing](#) and [Health Care](#) schools now.

#2 - Business Administration Degree

It's no coincidence that business is booming for graduates with a [business degree](#)...it's the most popular [bachelor's degree](#) in the country.

Graduating with a [degree in business administration](#) puts job seekers in the second strongest position overall, just behind [health care](#), according to the Challenger survey.

Desirable Degrees:

[Business](#)

[Business Administration](#)

[Business Administrative Support](#)

Average Starting Salary:

Business Administration: \$45,200

[Find the right Business school and start your training!](#)

#3 - Computer Science Degree

Computers are an indispensable part of the economy, and so are graduates who study [computer science](#), which ranks as the third most valuable degree in today's job market.

Desirable Degrees:

[Computer Science](#)

[Technology Support](#)

[Information Technology and Systems](#)

Average Starting Salaries:

Computer Science: \$61,205

Information Sciences & Systems: \$54,038

[Search for local and online Technology and Computer Science schools.](#)

#4 - Accounting/Finance Degree

[Finance and accounting](#) graduates can expect their fortunes to improve as the economy improves. "Historically, hiring on Wall Street has recovered before the rest of the economy," Richard Lipstein, managing director at Boyden Global Executive Search, told the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Desirable Degrees:

[Accounting](#)

[Finance](#)

Average Starting Salaries:

Economics: \$52,909

Finance: \$49,607

Accounting: \$47,982

[Search for Accounting/Finance programs.](#)

#5 - Engineering Degree

It might surprise you to learn that engineering degrees are ranked fifth in terms of employment - and not first - but don't start feeling sorry for engineers just yet. According to a survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, eight of the top 10 best-paid majors are in engineering.

Desirable Degrees:

Biomedical Engineering

Civil Engineering

Electrical Engineering

Mechanical Engineering

[Network Engineering and Administration](#)

[Programming and Software Engineering](#)

Average Starting Salaries:

Petroleum Engineering: \$86,220

Computer Engineering: \$60,879

Mechanical Engineering: \$58,392

#6 - Marketing Degree

Demand remains strong for [marketing graduates](#) in the business world, though a more general [business administration degree](#), ranked number two overall, gets the edge in today's tight job market because of its broader application.

Desirable Degree:

[Marketing](#)

Average Starting Salary:

Marketing: \$42,499

[Search for schools with local and online Marketing degree programs now.](#)

All salary information from the National Association of Colleges and Employers' Winter 2010 Salary Survey, which looked at starting salary offers for new Class of 2010 college graduates.