

Hispanics:

2015



College Majors and Earnings

Anthony P. Carnevale
Andrea Porter
Jennifer Landis-Santos



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY



Center
on Education
and the Workforce

McCourt School of Public Policy

Hispanics: College Majors and Earnings

Majors fall into two categories:

1. Grouped majors are the family of specific majors.
2. Detailed majors, reflect a specialization of study.

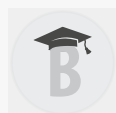
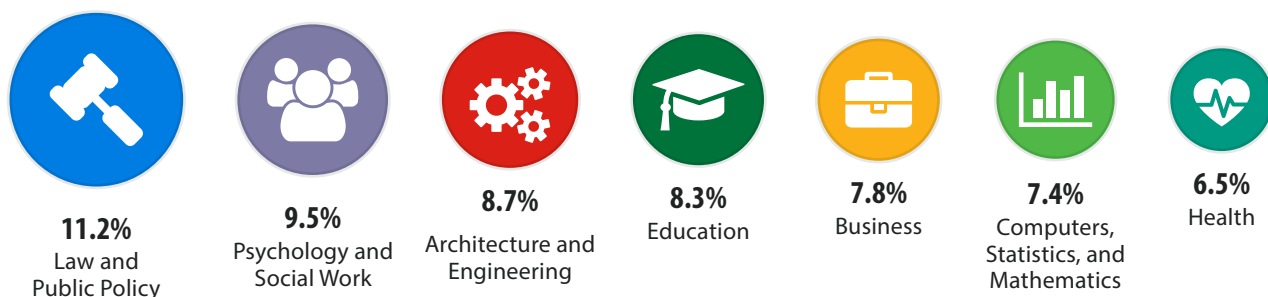
For example, Nutrition Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Nursing, these are all specific majors under the larger grouping of Health majors.



Prevalence of Hispanic degree holders

In an analysis of the 137 majors measured, Hispanics received *at least 4 percent* of the Bachelor's degrees granted in 86 of the 137 majors, and *fewer than 4 percent* of the degrees granted in the remaining 51 areas. Hispanics represent at least 10 percent of Bachelor's degree recipients in only 17 majors, and are most represented in **International Business**, where they hold 22 percent of degrees.

Concentrations of Hispanic Bachelor's degree holders among major groupings:

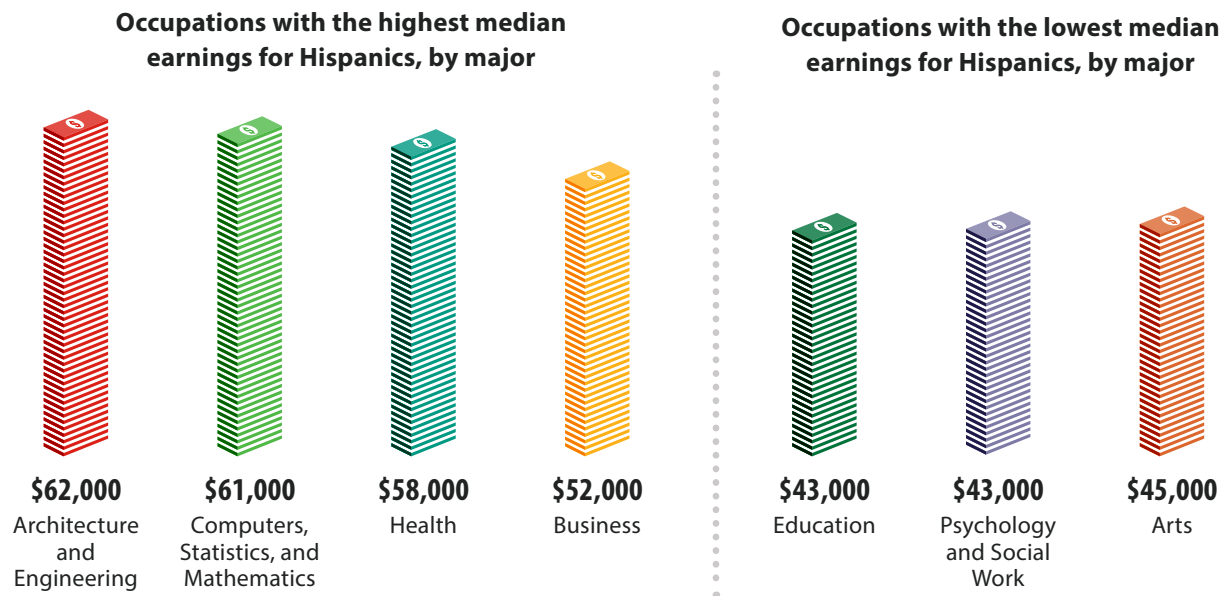


Bachelor's degree holders refers to adults between the ages of 21 and 59 with a Bachelor's degree but no graduate degree. Earnings data are reported for workers employed full-time, full-year.

Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey micro data, 2009-2013.

Hispanic Earnings by Major

Majors play a large part in earnings, with salaries in STEM fields often **60 percent** more than the median earnings in Education and Liberal Arts and Humanities.



When measured more specifically, Hispanics who majored in Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Administration have the highest median earnings at \$90,000. Chemical, Electrical, Mechanical, Civil and Computer Engineering follow with median earnings ranging from \$65,000 to \$75,000. Hispanic graduates in Information Sciences earn \$67,000. The lowest paying major for Hispanics is Early Childhood Education, with a median salary of \$35,000. Surprisingly, one major near the bottom is in engineering; Hispanics who majored in biomedical engineering earn a median of \$43,000 per year because a large portion end up working in lower paying occupations.

Hispanics in the Nation's Fastest Growing Occupational Fields:

Over the next 10 years 55 million new jobs will be created in the United States. Of those newly created jobs, 65 percent will require education beyond high school. The fastest-growing fields in the U.S are: Healthcare, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), Consulting, Marketing, and Finance.

Even though Hispanics represent 17 percent of the total population, they have low concentrations of degree holders in the those growing fields. For instance in the Healthcare field (or major grouping), 6.5 percent are Hispanic. In STEM, Hispanics are represented as follows: General Engineering (11%), Computer and Information Systems (9%), and Mathematics (6%). In the Business field Hispanics are represented at 7 percent percent in Finance and 6 percent in Marketing.

While no major lines up perfectly with the mentioned growing occupations, Hispanics choosing majors in those fields will be better positioned to successfully obtain higher paying jobs.

Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey micro data, 2009-2013.

ALL MAJORS BY GROUP FOR HISPANICS WITH BACHELOR DEGREES

BY MEDIAN EARNINGS AND DEGREE CONCENTRATION

| Median Earnings [†] | | Percentage Hispanic |
|--|---|---------------------|
| Agriculture and Natural Resources | | |
| \$41,000 | General Agriculture | 7% |
| Architecture and Engineering | | |
| \$59,000 | Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering | 17% |
| \$43,000 | Biomedical Engineering | 15% |
| \$56,000 | Architecture | 12% |
| \$51,000 | General Engineering | 11% |
| \$57,000 | Miscellaneous Engineering Technologies | 8% |
| \$69,000 | Civil Engineering | 8% |
| \$73,000 | Electrical Engineering | 7% |
| \$75,000 | Chemical Engineering | 7% |
| \$72,000 | Mechanical Engineering | 7% |
| \$47,000 | Miscellaneous Engineering | 7% |
| \$65,000 | Industrial Production Technologies | 4% |
| Arts | | |
| \$52,000 | Film, Video, and Photographic Arts | 9% |
| \$50,000 | Commercial Art and Graphic Design | 8% |
| \$44,000 | Fine Arts | 7% |
| \$43,000 | Music | 7% |
| \$37,000 | Drama and Theater Arts | 6% |
| Biology and Life Sciences | | |
| \$59,000 | Biochemical Sciences | 8% |
| \$49,000 | Biology | 7% |
| \$41,000 | Miscellaneous Biology | 6% |
| \$58,000 | Environmental Science | 4% |
| Business | | |
| \$51,000 | International Business | 22% |
| \$47,000 | Miscellaneous Business and Medical Administration | 9% |
| \$44,000 | Hospitality Management | 9% |
| \$51,000 | Business Management and Administration | 9% |
| \$51,000 | Accounting | 9% |
| \$48,000 | Human Resources and Personnel Management | 9% |
| \$54,000 | General Business | 7% |
| \$67,000 | Management Information Systems and Statistics | 6% |
| \$64,000 | Business Economics | 6% |
| \$61,000 | Finance | 6% |
| \$52,000 | Marketing and Marketing Research | 6% |

Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey* micro data, 2009-2013.

[†] Earnings at the 50th percentile, ages 25 – 59

| Median Earnings [†] | | Percentage Hispanic |
|---|---|---------------------|
| Communications and Journalism | | |
| \$52,000 | Advertising and Public Relations | 7% |
| \$49,000 | Communications and Mass Media | 7% |
| \$51,000 | Journalism | 5% |
| Computers, Statistics, and Mathematics | | |
| \$67,000 | Computer Engineering | 10% |
| \$56,000 | Computer and Information Systems | 9% |
| \$54,000 | Miscellaneous Computer | 9% |
| \$67,000 | Information Sciences | 7% |
| \$67,000 | Computer Science | 7% |
| \$49,000 | Mathematics | 6% |
| Education | | |
| \$41,000 | General Education | 12% |
| \$47,000 | Language and Drama Education | 12% |
| \$35,000 | Early Childhood Education | 7% |
| \$43,000 | Elementary Education | 7% |
| \$48,000 | Physical and Health Education Teaching | 6% |
| \$47,000 | Secondary Teacher Education | 6% |
| \$45,000 | Special Needs Education | 6% |
| \$51,000 | Miscellaneous Education | 4% |
| \$48,000 | Art and Music Education | 4% |
| Health | | |
| \$49,000 | Miscellaneous Health Medical Professions | 7% |
| \$51,000 | Health and Medical Administrative Services | 6% |
| \$62,000 | Nursing | 6% |
| \$56,000 | Treatment Therapy Professions | 6% |
| \$90,000 | Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Administration | 6% |
| Humanities and Liberal Arts | | |
| \$47,000 | Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies | 19% |
| \$48,000 | French, German, Latin and Other Common Foreign Language Studies | 16% |
| \$49,000 | Linguistics and Comparative Language and Literature | 14% |
| \$48,000 | Area Ethnic and Civilization Studies | 12% |
| \$51,000 | Liberal Arts | 9% |
| \$48,000 | History | 6% |
| \$38,000 | Theology and Religious Vocations | 6% |
| \$45,000 | Philosophy and Religious Studies | 6% |
| \$48,000 | English Language and Literature | 6% |

Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey* micro data, 2009-2013.

[†] Earnings at the 50th percentile, ages 25 – 59

All Majors by Group for Hispanics with Bachelor Degrees
by Median Earnings and Degree Concentration

| Median Earnings[†] | | Percentage Hispanic |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| Industrial Arts, Consumer Services, and Recreation | | |
| \$44,000 | Family and Consumer Sciences | 8% |
| \$64,000 | Transportation Sciences and Technologies | 7% |
| \$41,000 | Miscellaneous Industrial Arts and Consumer Services | 7% |
| \$46,000 | Physical Fitness, Parks, Recreation, and Leisure | 6% |
| Law and Public Policy | | |
| \$50,000 | Pre-Law and Legal Studies | 12% |
| \$62,000 | Public Administration | 11% |
| \$53,000 | Criminal Justice and Fire Protection | 11% |
| Physical Sciences | | |
| \$50,000 | Multidisciplinary or General Science | 8% |
| \$50,000 | Chemistry | 7% |
| \$50,000 | Physics | 5% |
| Psychology and Social Work | | |
| \$43,000 | Human Services and Community Organization | 12% |
| \$44,000 | Psychology | 9% |
| \$40,000 | Social Work | 9% |
| Social Sciences | | |
| \$43,000 | International Relations | 15% |
| \$53,000 | Criminology | 11% |
| \$45,000 | Anthropology and Archeology | 9% |
| \$51,000 | General Social Sciences | 9% |
| \$46,000 | Interdisciplinary Social Sciences | 9% |
| \$48,000 | Sociology | 9% |
| \$55,000 | Political Science and Government | 8% |
| \$53,000 | Economics | 7% |
| \$54,000 | Geography | 4% |

Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey* micro data, 2009-2013.

[†] Earnings at the 50th percentile, ages 25 – 59

National Top Ten Majors for Hispanics with Bachelor Degrees, Ranked by Percentage of Hispanics (with Median Earnings)

| | Percentage Hispanic | Median Earnings [†] |
|---|---------------------|------------------------------|
| International Business | 22% | \$51,000 |
| Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies | 19% | \$47,000 |
| Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering | 17% | \$59,000 |
| French, German, Latin and Other Common Foreign Language Studies | 16% | \$48,000 |
| Biomedical Engineering | 15% | \$43,000 |
| International Relations | 15% | \$43,000 |
| Linguistics and Comparative Language And Literature | 14% | \$49,000 |
| General Education | 12% | \$41,000 |
| Human Services and Community Organization | 12% | \$43,000 |
| Language and Drama Education | 12% | \$47,000 |

National Top Ten Median Earnings for Hispanics with Bachelor Degrees, Ranked by Highest to Lowest Earnings (with Percentage Hispanic)

| | Median Earnings [†] | Percentage Hispanic |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Administration | \$90,000 | 6% |
| Chemical Engineering | \$75,000 | 7% |
| Electrical Engineering | \$73,000 | 7% |
| Mechanical Engineering | \$72,000 | 7% |
| Civil Engineering | \$69,000 | 8% |
| Computer Engineering | \$67,000 | 10% |
| Information Sciences | \$67,000 | 7% |
| Computer Science | \$67,000 | 7% |
| Management Information Systems and Statistics | \$67,000 | 6% |
| Industrial Production Technologies | \$65,000 | 4% |

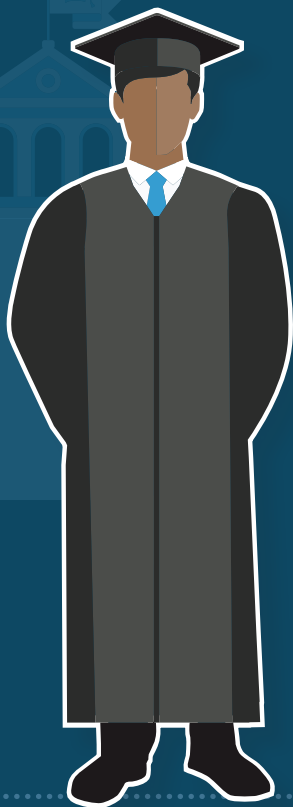
National Top Ten Lowest Median Earnings for Hispanics with Bachelor Degrees, Ranked by Lowest to Highest Earnings (with Percentage Hispanic)

| | Median Earnings [†] | Percentage Hispanic |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Early Childhood Education | \$35,000 | 7% |
| Drama and Theater Arts | \$37,000 | 6% |
| Theology and Religious Vocations | \$38,000 | 6% |
| Social Work | \$40,000 | 9% |
| General Education | \$41,000 | 12% |
| Miscellaneous Industrial Arts and Consumer Services | \$41,000 | 7% |
| General Agriculture | \$41,000 | 7% |
| Miscellaneous Biology | \$41,000 | 6% |
| Biomedical Engineering | \$43,000 | 15% |
| International Relations | \$43,000 | 15% |

Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey* micro data, 2009-2013.

[†] Earnings at the 50th percentile, ages 25–59

Hispanics: College Majors and Earnings



Prevalence of Hispanic Bachelor's Degree Holders



22%

of **International Business** Bachelor's degree holders are Hispanic*
*the highest concentration




Top 10 Majors by Percentage of Hispanic Bachelor's Degree Holders

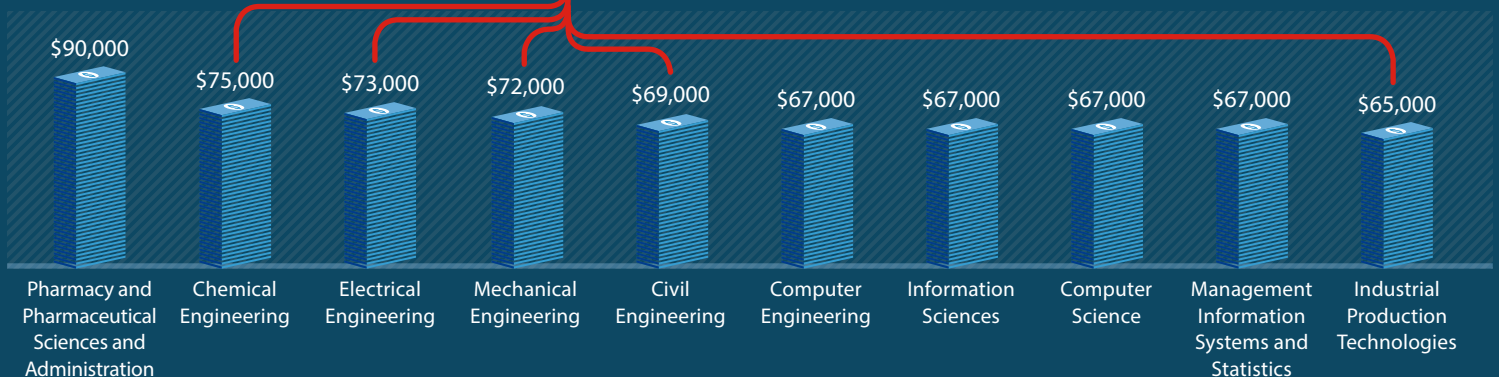
- 1 – International Business, 22%
- 2 – Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies, 19%
- 3 – Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, 17%
- 4 – French, German, Latin and Other Common Foreign Language Studies, 16%
- 5 – Biomedical Engineering, 15%
- 6 – International Relations, 15%
- 7 – Linguistics and Comparative Language and Literature, 14%
- 8 – General Education, 12%
- 9 – Human Services and Community Organization, 12%
- 10 – Language and Drama Education, 12%






10 Highest-Earnings Majors for Hispanics



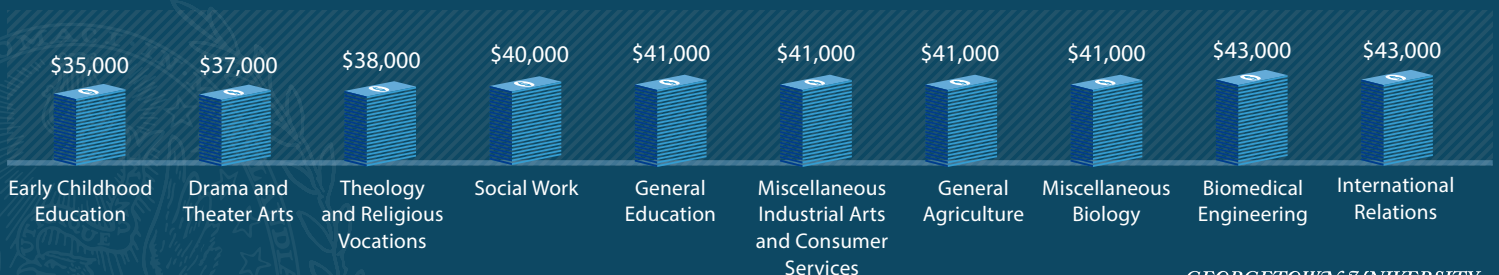
The highest median earnings for Hispanics, by major, are in **Engineering** fields. After engineering, the industries with the highest median earnings for Hispanics are  **Computers, Statistics, and Mathematics**,  **Health** and  **Business**.



10 Lowest-Earnings Majors for Hispanics

The occupations with the lowest median earnings are  **Education**,  **Psychology** and **Social Work**, and the  **Arts**.

Majors play a large part in earnings, with salaries in STEM fields often **60%** more than the median earnings in Education and Liberal Arts and Humanities.



Bachelor's degree holders refers to adults between the ages of 21 and 59 with a Bachelor's degree but no graduate degree. Earnings data are reported for workers employed full-time, full-year. Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey micro data, 2009-2013.

To view the entire document, this graphic is based on, download [Hispanics: College Majors and Earnings](#).

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY



Center
on Education
and the Workforce

McCourt School of Public Policy

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express our gratitude to the individuals and organizations whose generous support has made this report possible: **Lumina Foundation** (Jamie Merisotis and Holly Zanville), **The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** (Daniel Greenstein and Jennifer Engle) and **The Joyce Foundation** (Matthew Muench and Whitney Smith). We are honored to be partners in their mission of promoting postsecondary access and completion for all Americans.

Many have contributed their thoughts and feedback throughout the production of this publication. We are grateful for our talented designers, Tim Duffy and Josias Castoreña and meticulous editorial advisor Marty Van Der Werf whose tireless efforts were vital to our success. In addition, the dedication of Georgetown CEW's economists, analysts, writers, communications team and operations staff was instrumental to production of this report, from conceptualization to completion.

- Ban Cheah - data analysis
- Jeff Strohl - research direction
- Ricardo Real Preciado – translation
- Hilary Strahota, Ana Castanon, Vikki Hartt, Monet Clark – communications efforts
- Joe Leonard, Coral Castro – logistics and operations

The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of Lumina Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Joyce Foundation, or their officers or employees.



Hispanics: College Majors and Earnings can be accessed online at
cew.georgetown.edu/hispanicmajors
and in Spanish: cew.georgetown.edu/carreraseingresos

The Georgetown University
Center on Education and the Workforce
3300 Whitehaven Street, NW, Suite 3200
Washington, D.C. 20007

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY



Center
on Education
and the Workforce

McCourt School of Public Policy