

# THE ECONOMIC VALUE *of* COLLEGE MAJORS

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY



Center  
on Education  
and the Workforce

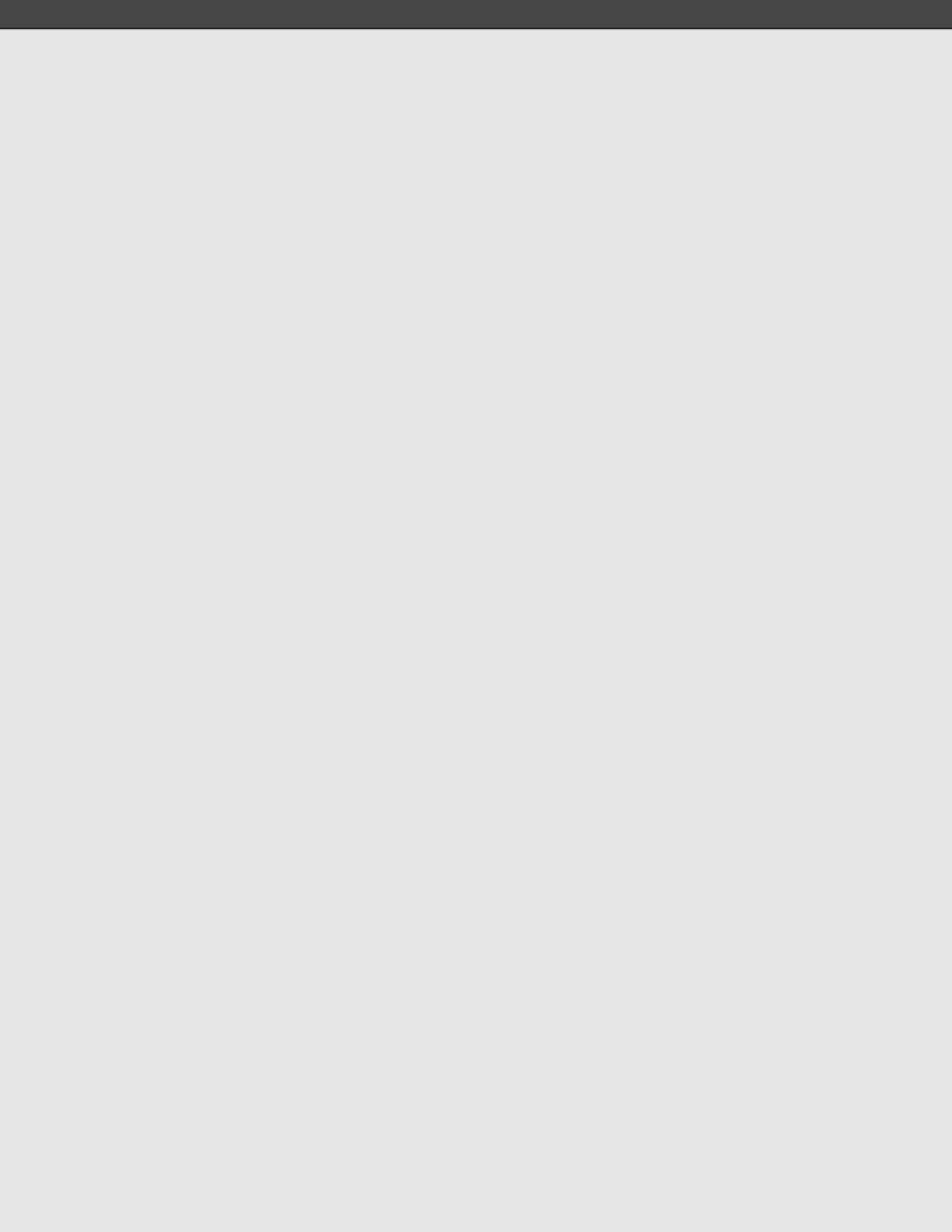
McCourt School of Public Policy

Anthony P. Carnevale | Ban Cheah | Andrew R. Hanson

Executive Summary

2015

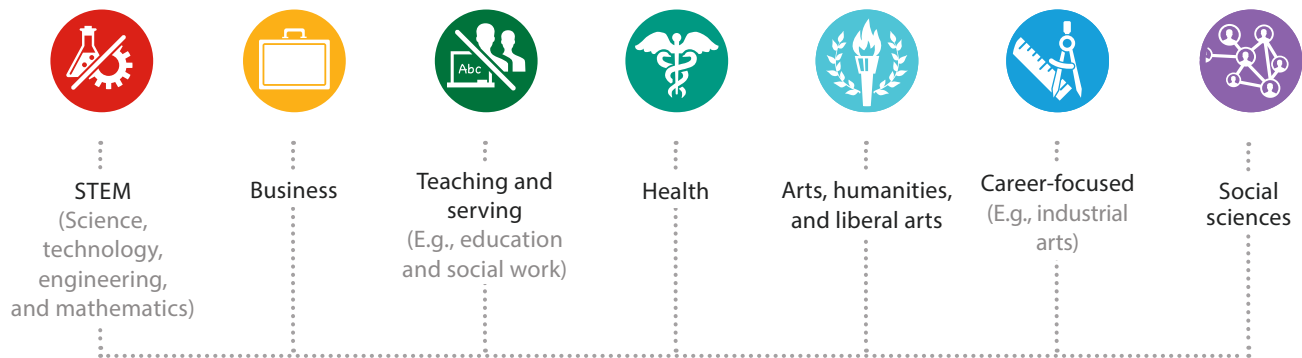




# The Economic Value of College Majors

In this report, we analyze the annual earnings of college graduates by major. Entry-level earnings are for ages 21-24. Mid-career earnings are for ages 25-59. Earnings are reported in 2013 dollars.

## Majors are aggregated into seven supergroups:



**W**e also analyze the prevalence of majors among college-educated adults and how much graduate degree holders earn based on their undergraduate major compared to Bachelor's degree holders. Finally, we analyze the 10 highest- and lowest-paying majors among 137 detailed major subgroups.



**Graduate degree holders** include workers between the ages of 25 and 59. Graduate degree holders' majors refer to their undergraduate major, not their graduate field of study.



**Bachelor's degree holders** refers to adults between the ages of 21 and 59 with a Bachelor's degree but no further education. Earnings data are reported for workers employed full-time, full-year. Data on the prevalence of majors include all college-educated adults, including those neither employed nor in the labor force.

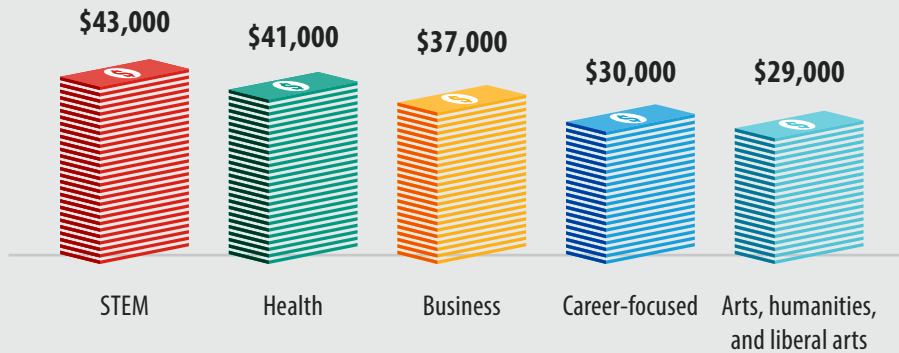


**High school graduates** refers to workers between the ages of 21 and 59 with nothing other than a high school diploma, employed full-time, full-year.

FIGURE

1

## Not all Bachelor's degrees are created equal.



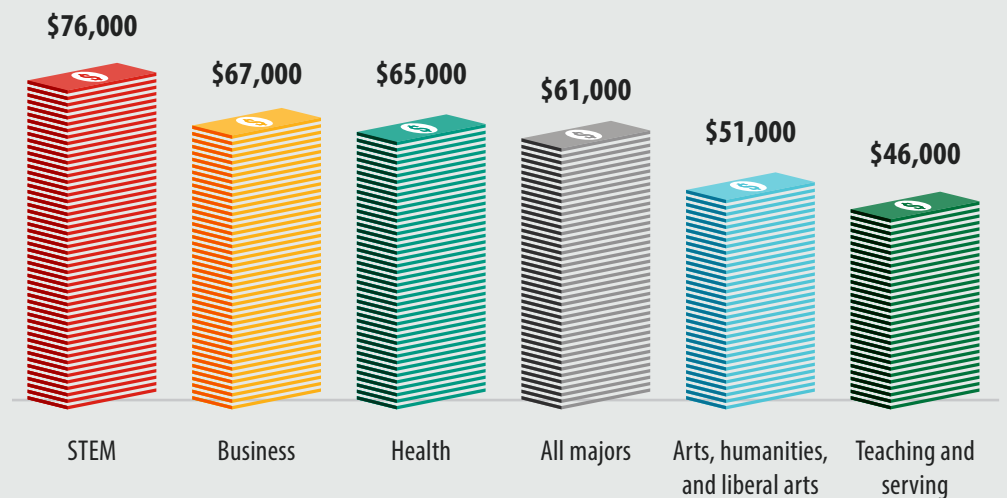
Median annual wages of college-educated workers (ages 21-24) by major supergroup (2013\$)

### Entry-level

At the entry level, health majors earn \$41,000 annually, while humanities and liberal arts majors earn \$29,000 annually.

### Mid-career

Among prime-age workers,<sup>1</sup> those who majored in STEM earn \$76,000 annually, while those who had a teaching and serving major earn \$46,000 annually.



Median annual wages of college-educated workers (ages 25-59) by major supergroup (2013\$)

FIGURE

2

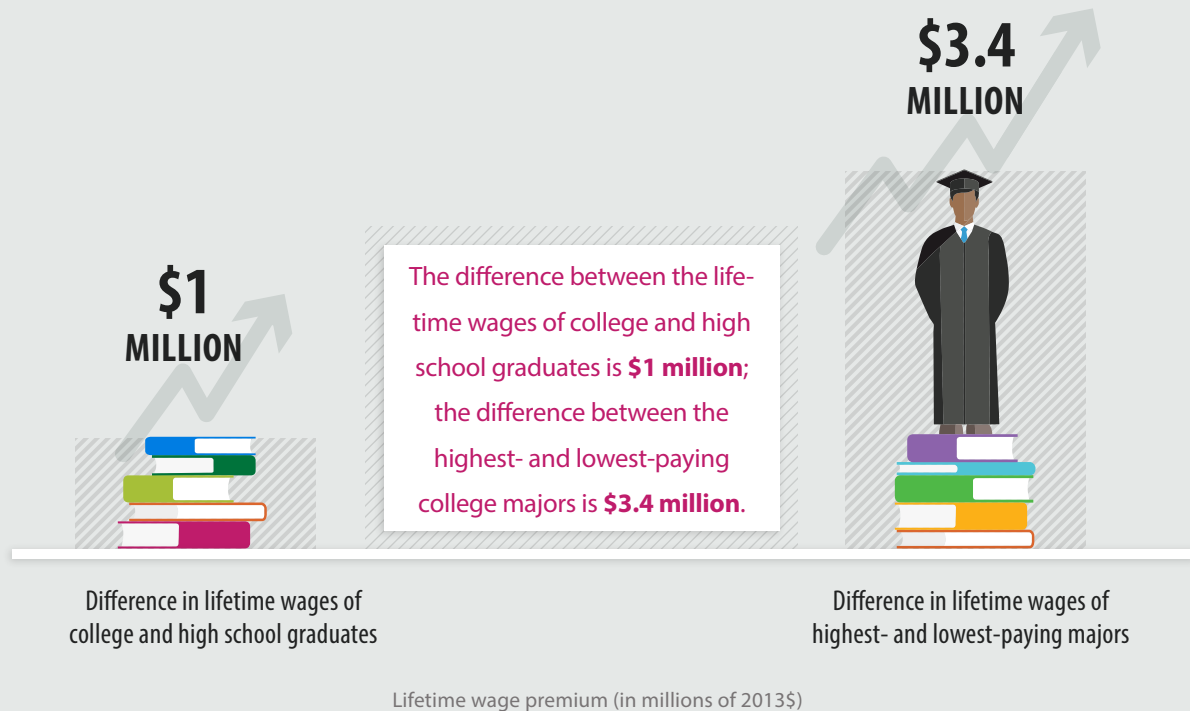
## College graduates' wages increase over the course of their careers, while the differences in wages among majors grow larger.

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

<sup>1</sup> "Prime-age workers" refers to those between the ages of 25 and 59.

**FIGURE 3**

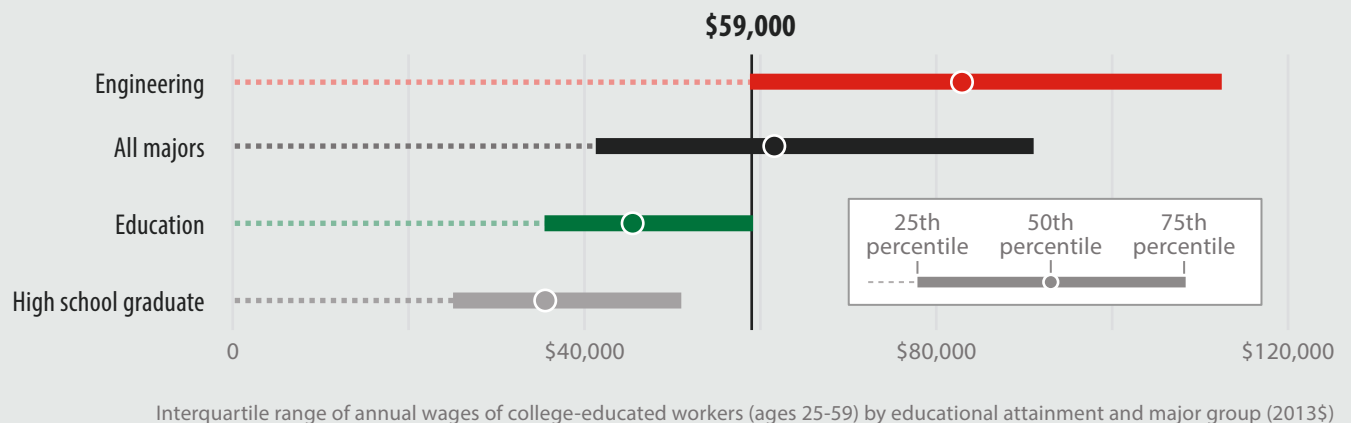
**Majors play a larger role in determining earnings than the decision to go to college.**



**FIGURE 4**

**Your major isn't your destiny.**

Some college graduates who have generally low-paying majors earn more than some college graduates with generally higher-paying majors: the top 25 percent of education majors earn \$59,000 or more annually, while the bottom 25 percent of engineering majors earn \$59,000 or less annually.

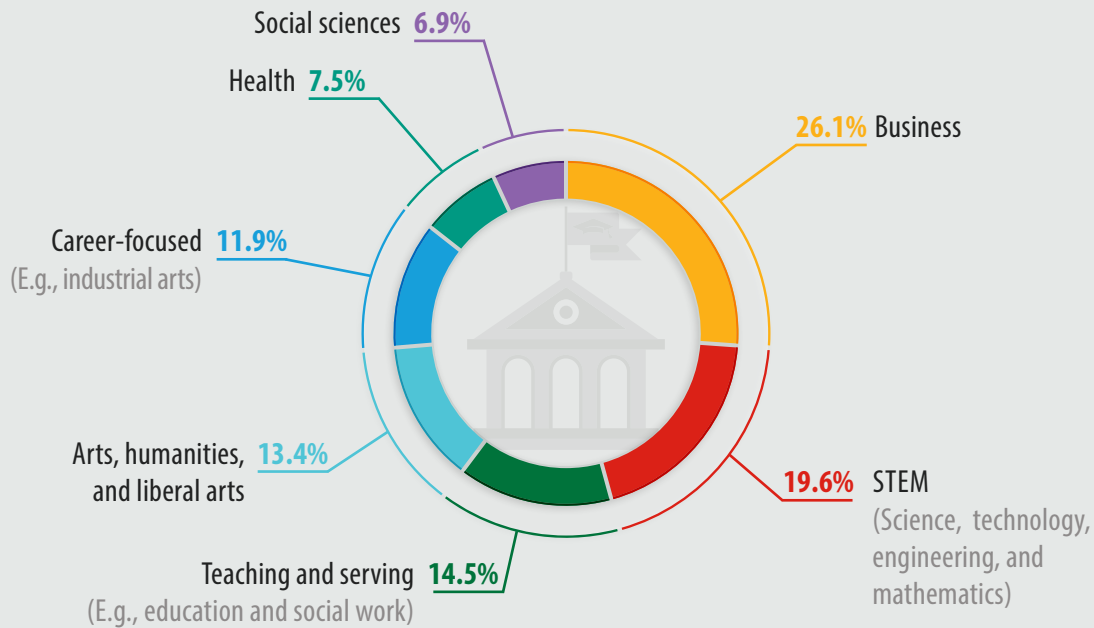


Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey* micro data, 2009-2013 pooled sample.



**FIGURE 5**

**Business majors and STEM majors are the most common and among the highest-paying majors.**



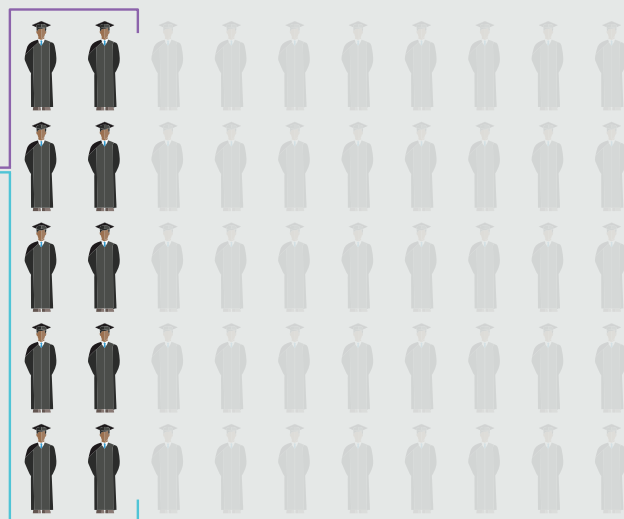
Share of college graduates (ages 25-59) by meta-major

**FIGURE 6**

**Most students choose a major that is connected to the labor market.**

**20%**

Majors with weak connections to the labor market – humanities and liberal arts, social sciences, and arts majors – comprise only **20 percent** of college-educated workers.



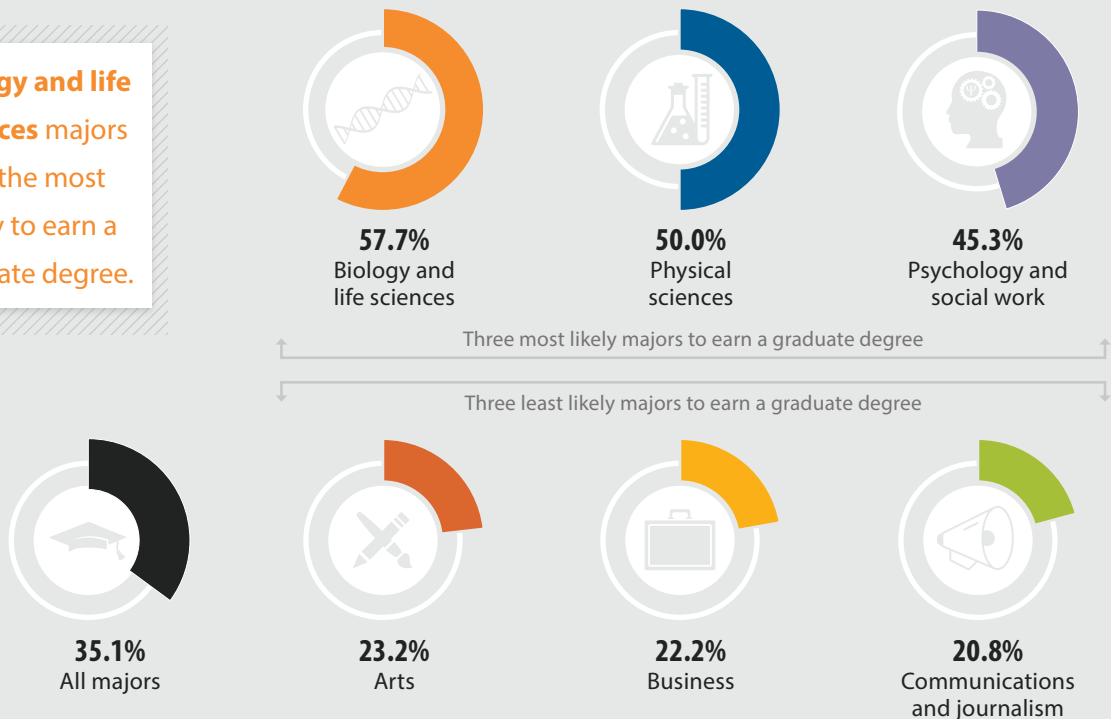
Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey* micro data, 2009-2013 pooled sample.

FIGURE

# 7

Some majors are more likely to lead to graduate school than others.

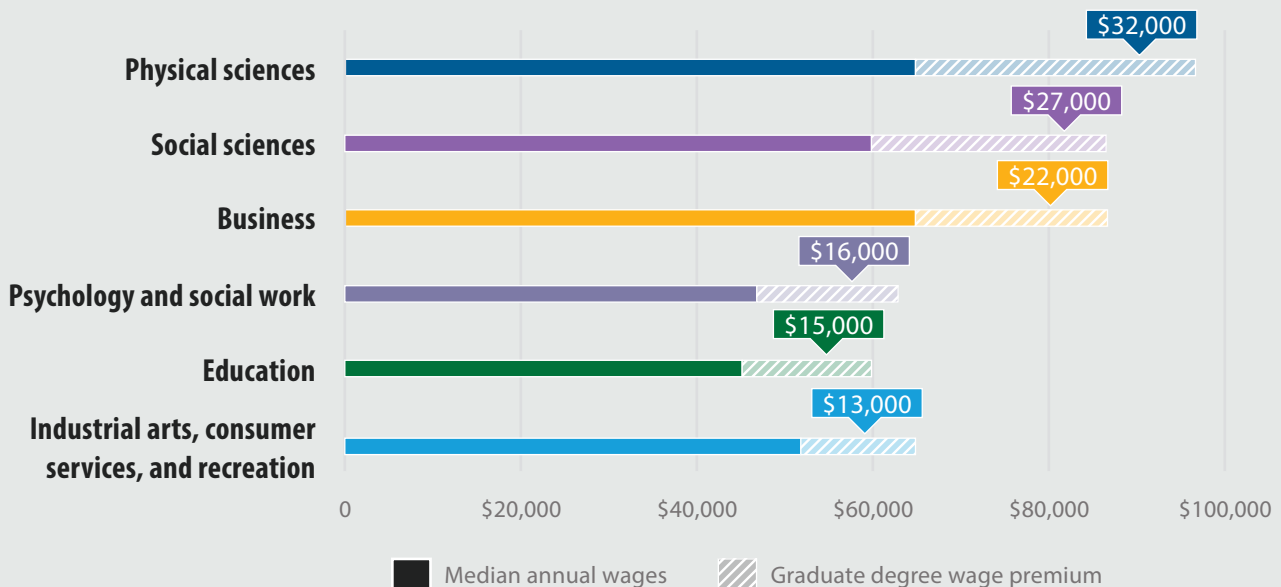
Biology and life sciences majors are the most likely to earn a graduate degree.



FIGURE

# 8

The benefit of a graduate degree is much greater for some majors than others.



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

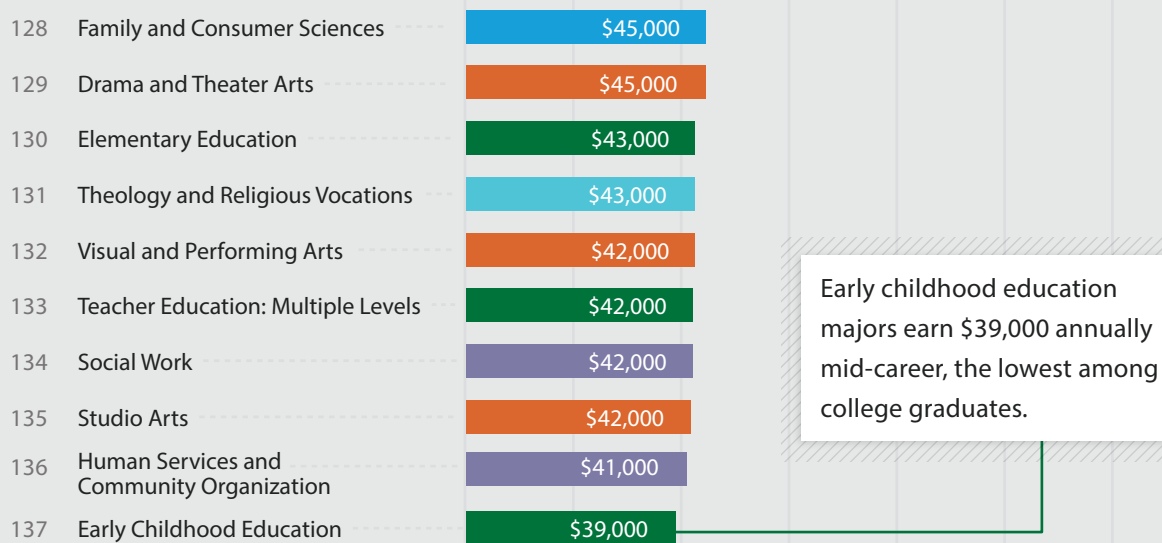
# What's It Worth?

## Highest- and Lowest-Earning Majors

### Almost all of the highest-paying majors are in engineering fields.



### The lowest-paying majors are in education, arts, and social work fields.



Median annual wages of college-educated workers (ages 25-59) by major subgroup (2013\$)

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



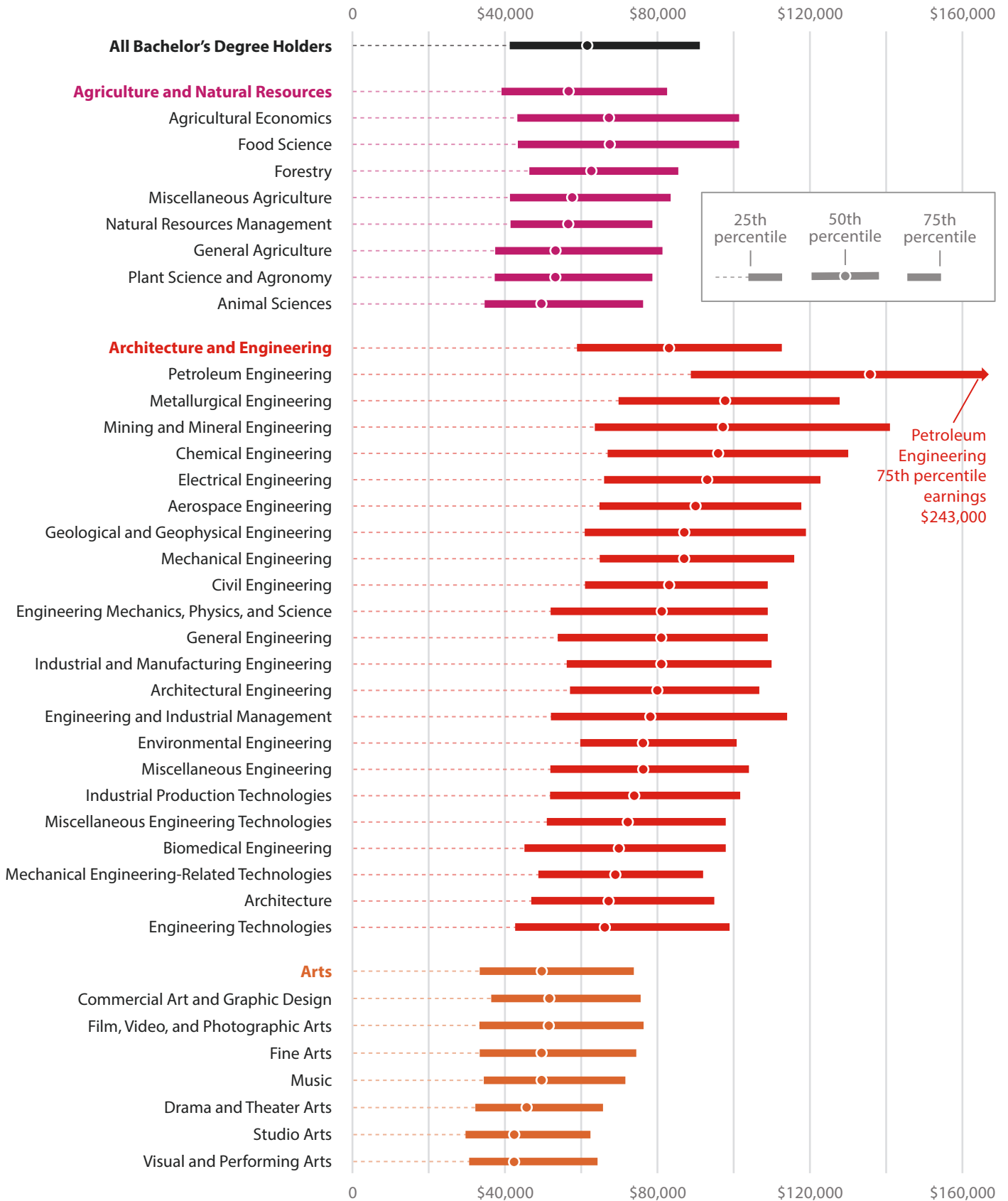
# 137 Detailed Majors

## Selective Statistics

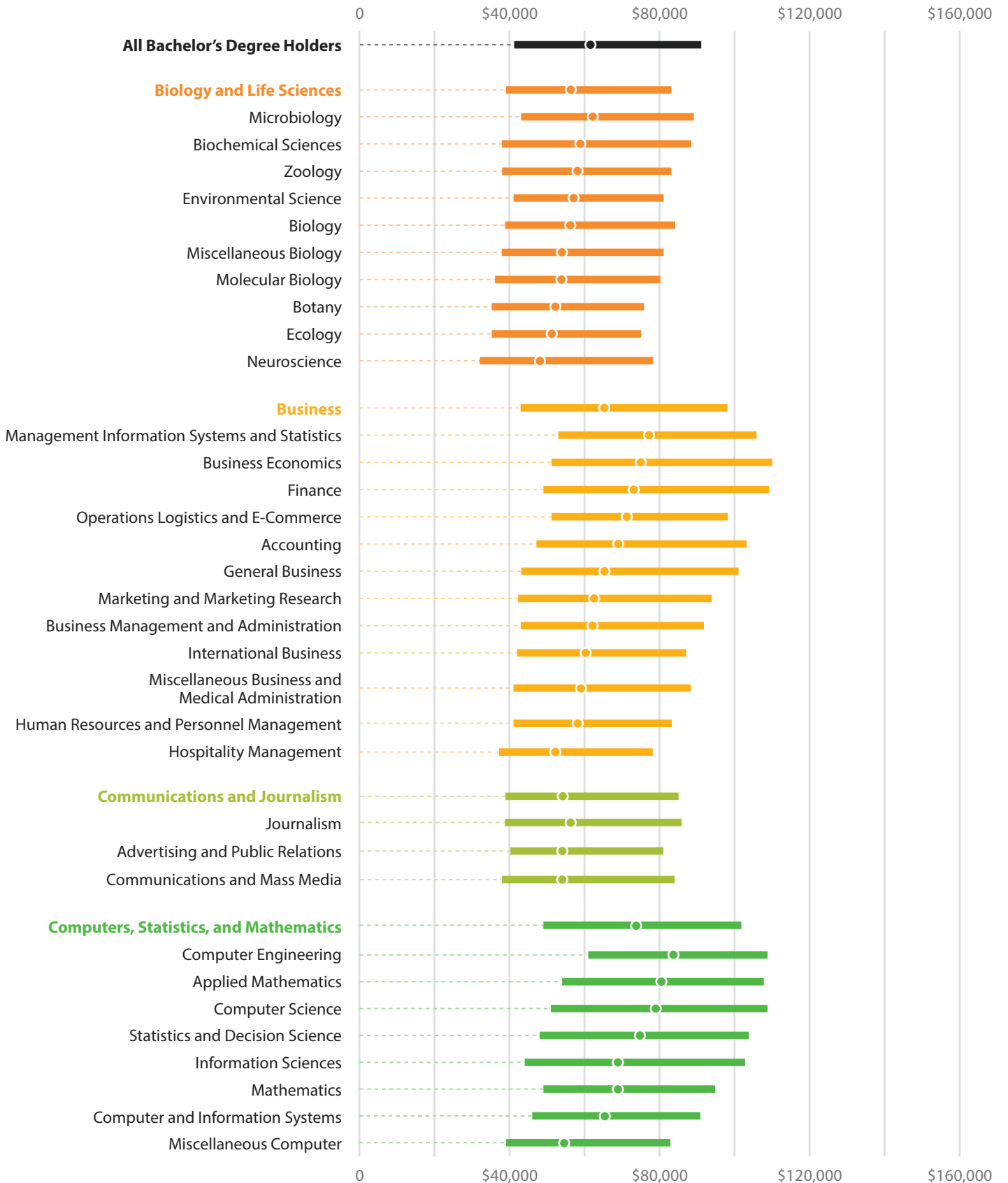
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- 34 Lowest- and highest-earning majors, Bachelor's degree holders
- 36 Lowest- and highest-earning majors, graduate degree holders
- 38 Majors ranked by popularity for Bachelor's degree holders
- 39 Majors ranked by popularity for graduate degree holders

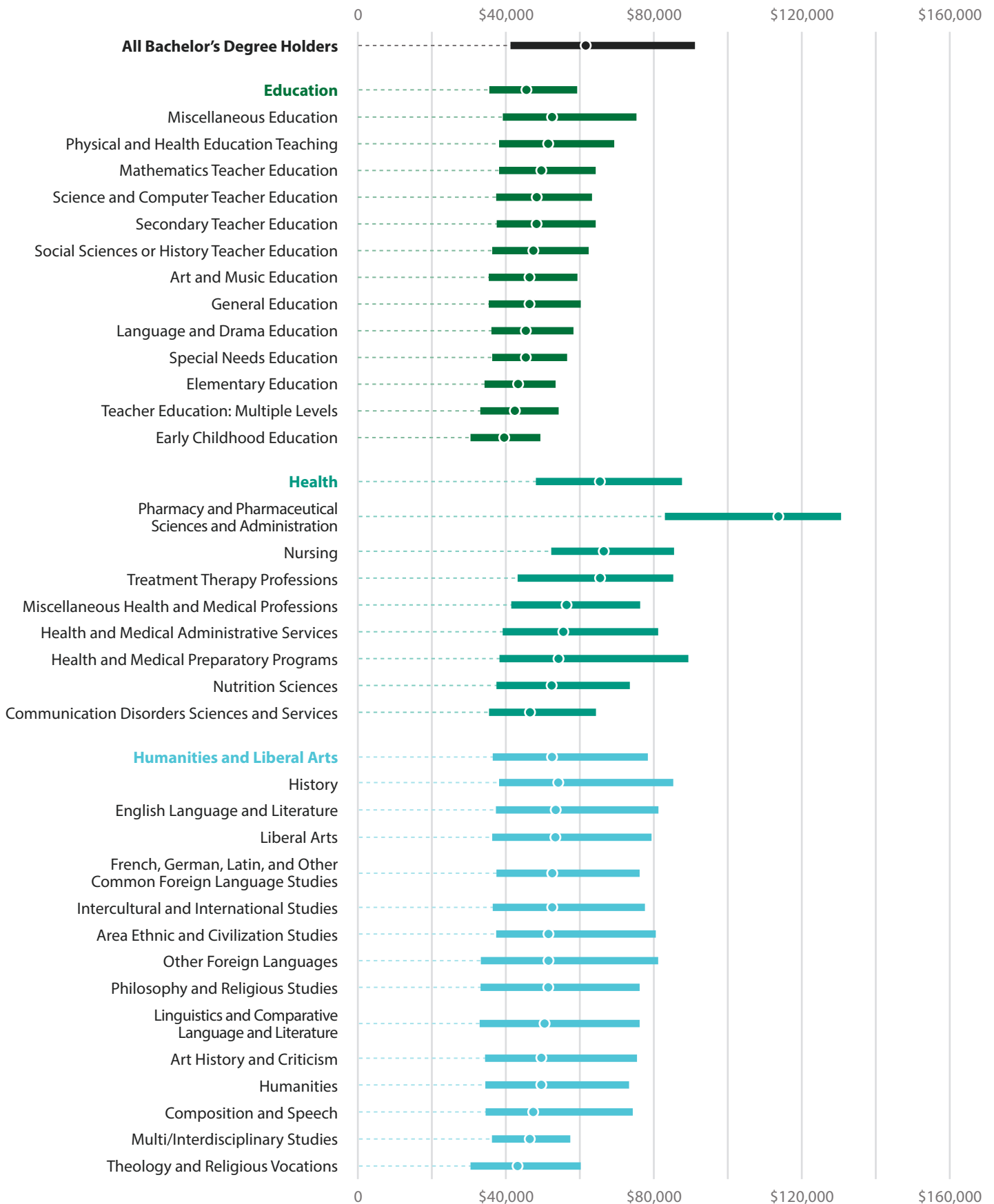
# MID-CAREER EARNINGS AT THE 25TH, 50TH AND 75TH PERCENTILES, BY BACHELOR'S DEGREE MAJOR



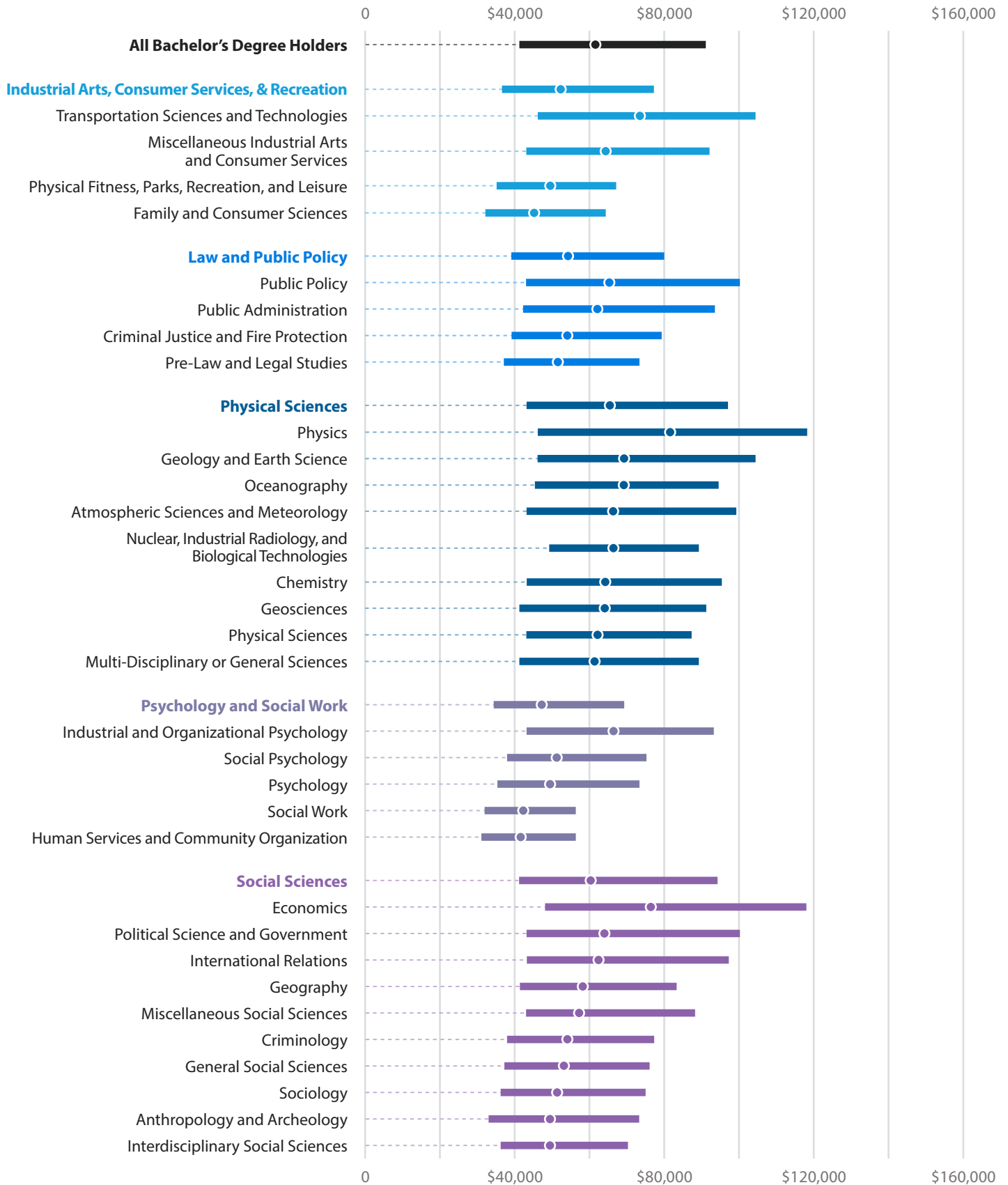
Mid-career earnings at the 25th, 50th and 75th percentiles, by Bachelor's degree major



Mid-career earnings at the 25th, 50th and 75th percentiles, by Bachelor's degree major



Mid-career earnings at the 25th, 50th and 75th percentiles, by Bachelor's degree major



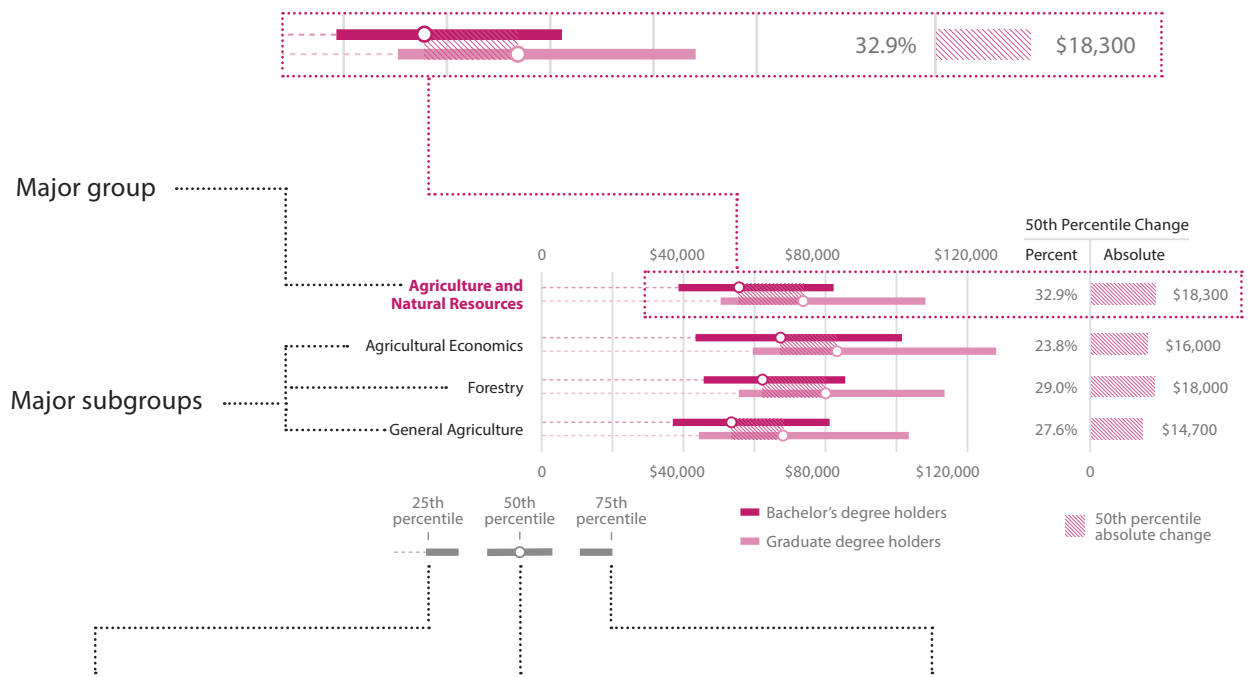
Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey micro data, 2009-2013 pooled sample.

# THE GRADUATE ADVANTAGE

The charts displayed in this section (the graduate advantage) show the interquartile range of annual wages for each major group and subgroup.

Each horizontal bar corresponds to a major group or subgroup. The leftmost point on the bar shows the 25th percentile of the wage distribution. The dot in the middle of the bar shows the median or 50th percentile of the wage distribution. The rightmost point on the bar shows the 75th percentile of the wage distribution.

The columns on the right correspond to the percentage and absolute difference between the median annual wage distribution of graduate degree holders and Bachelor's degree holders.



### 25th percentile

The bottom 25 percent of college-educated workers earn less than the 25th percentile.

### 50th percentile

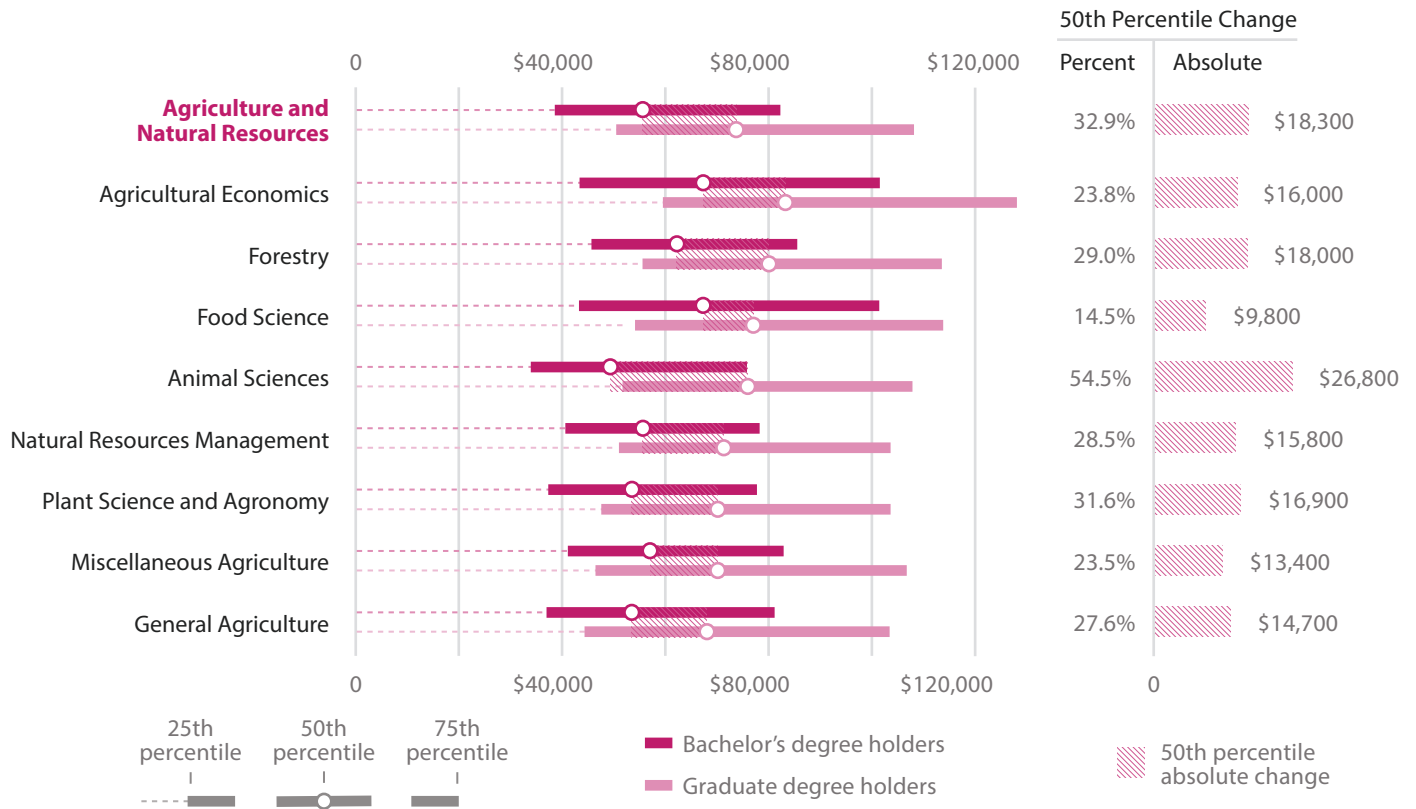
Half of college-educated workers earn more than the median and half earn less.

### 75th percentile

The top 25 percent of college-educated workers earn more than than 75th percentile.



**Agriculture and Natural Resources | The Graduate Advantage**  
 Mid-career earnings at the 25th, 50th and 75th percentiles by Bachelor's degree major



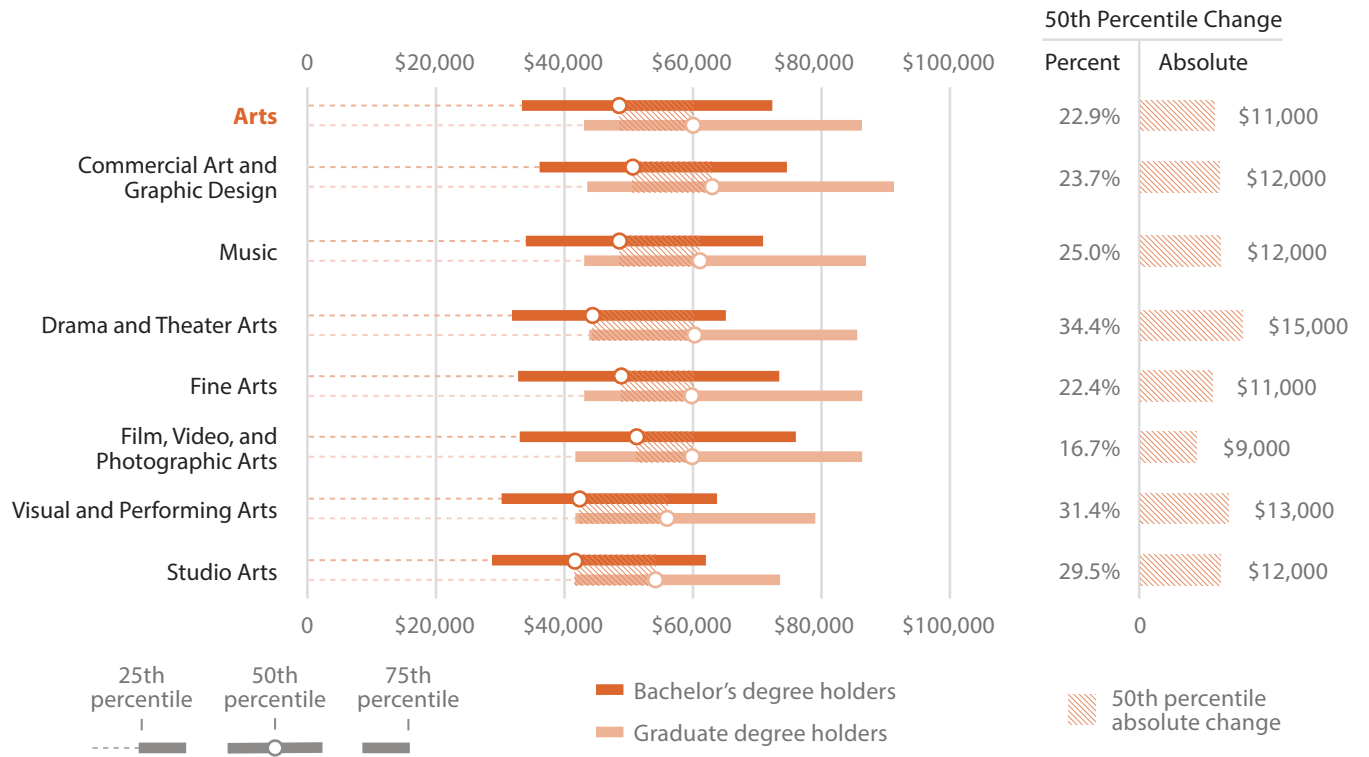
Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey* micro data, 2009-2013 pooled sample.

**Architecture and Engineering | The Graduate Advantage**  
 Mid-career earnings at the 25th, 50th and 75th percentiles by Bachelor's degree major



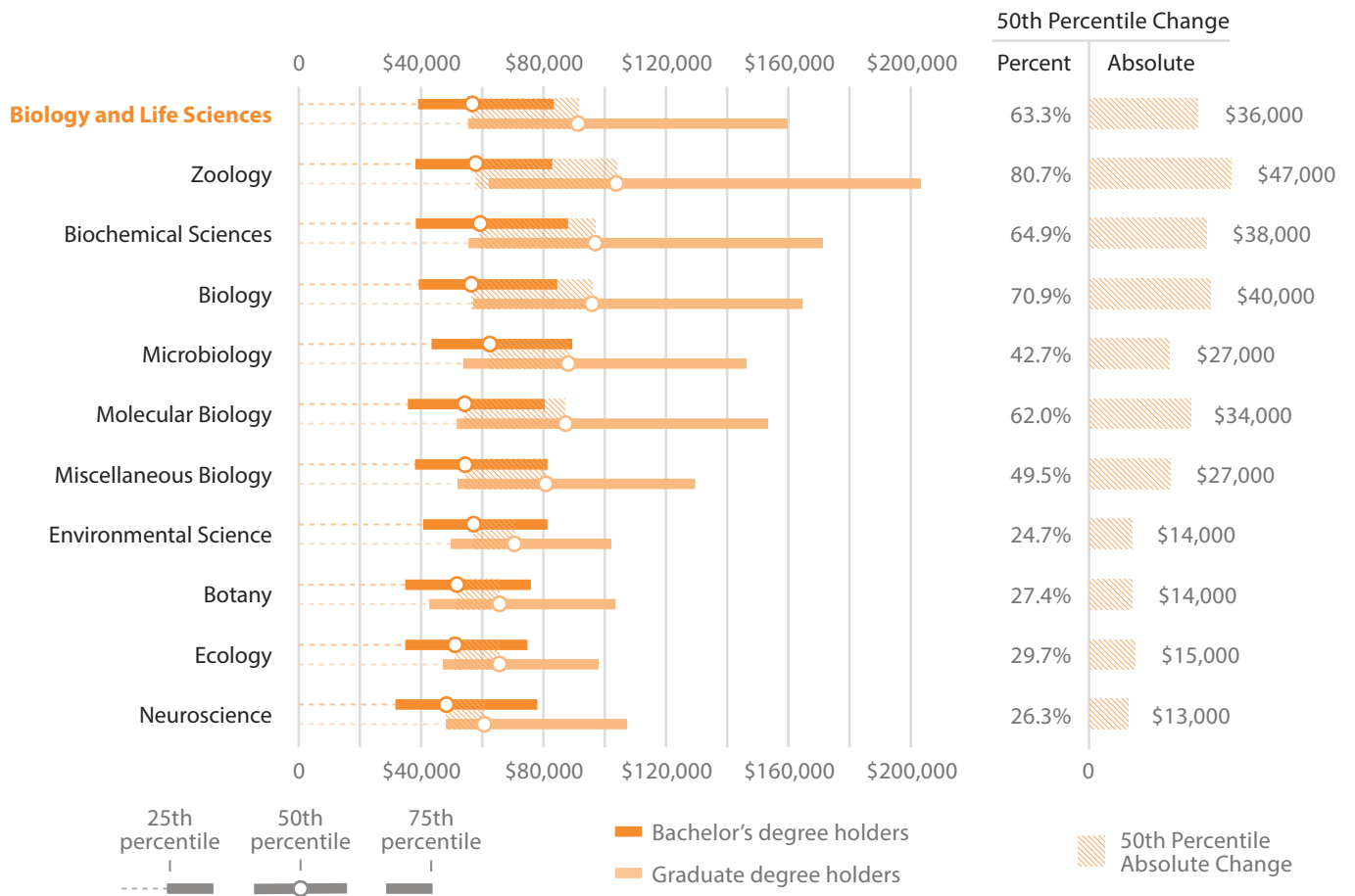
Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey* micro data, 2009-2013 pooled sample.

Mid-career earnings at the 25th, 50th and 75th percentiles by Bachelor's degree major

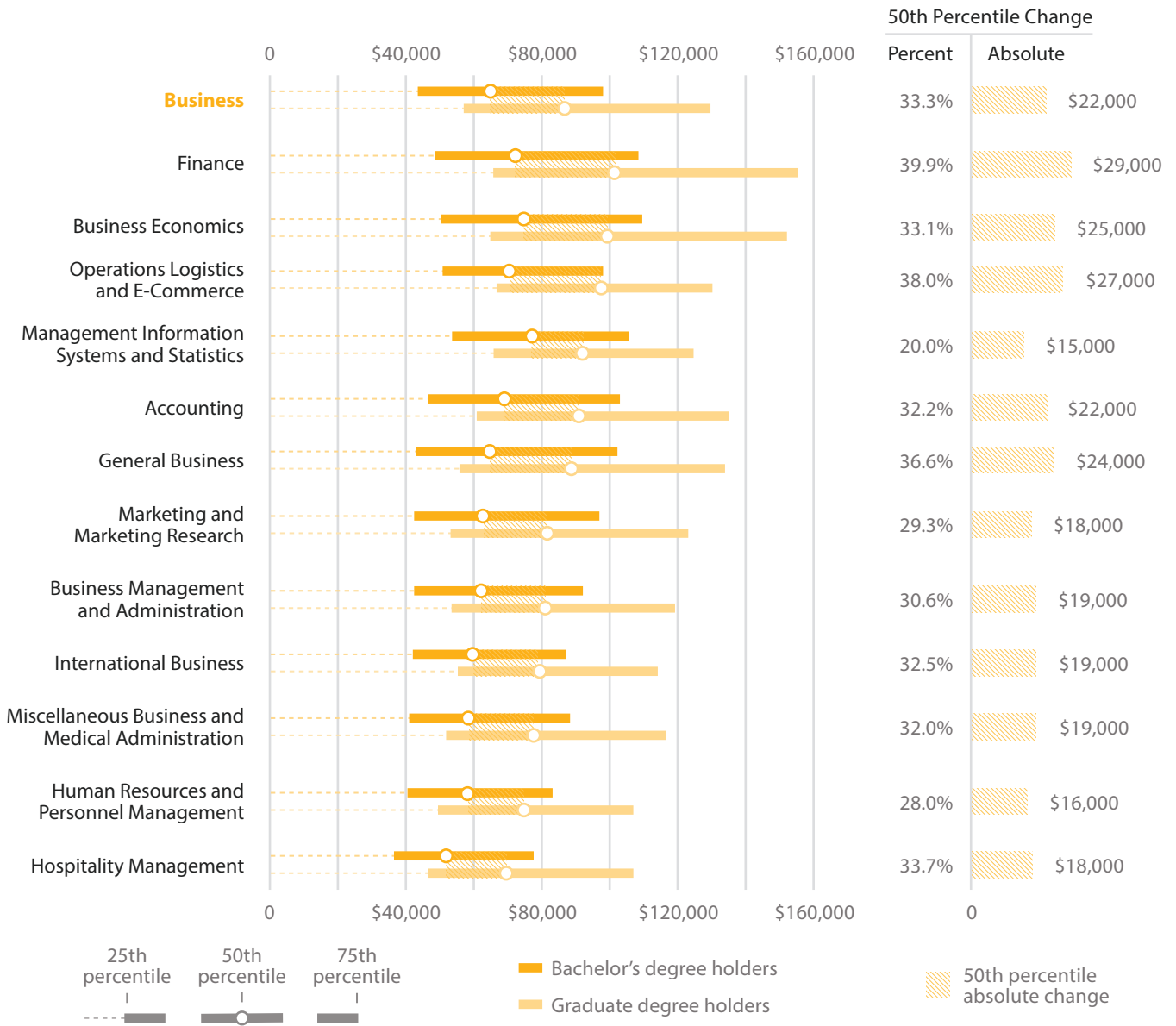


Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey micro data, 2009-2013 pooled sample.

**Biology and Life Science | The Graduate Advantage**  
 Mid-career earnings at the 25th, 50th and 75th percentiles by Bachelor's degree major

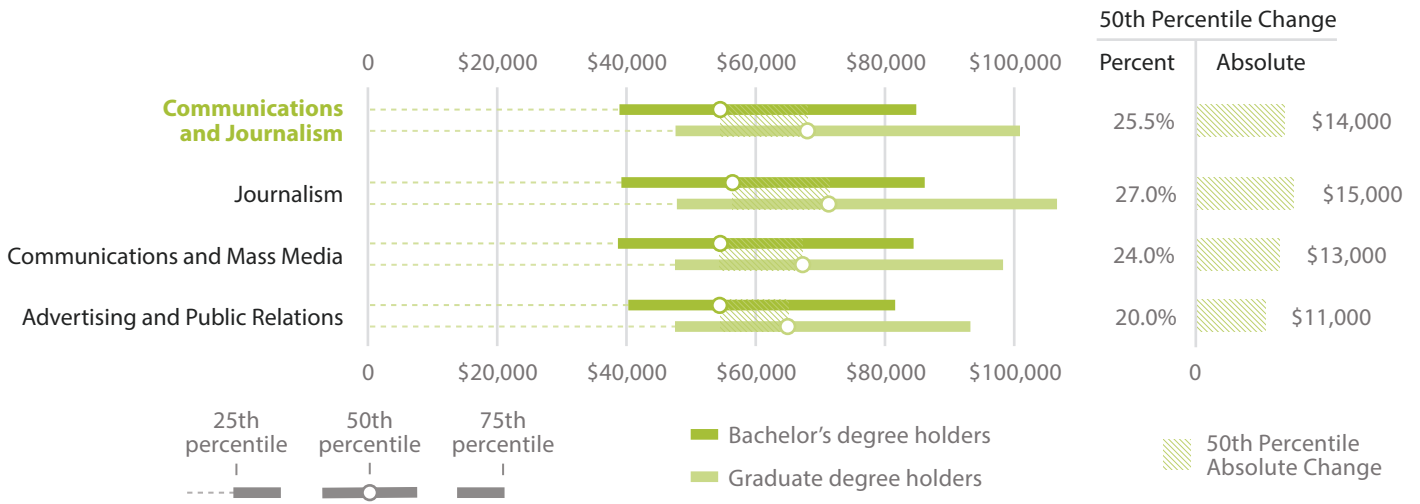


Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey* micro data, 2009-2013 pooled sample.



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

**Communications and Journalism | The Graduate Advantage**  
 Mid-career earnings at the 25th, 50th and 75th percentiles by Bachelor's degree major



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



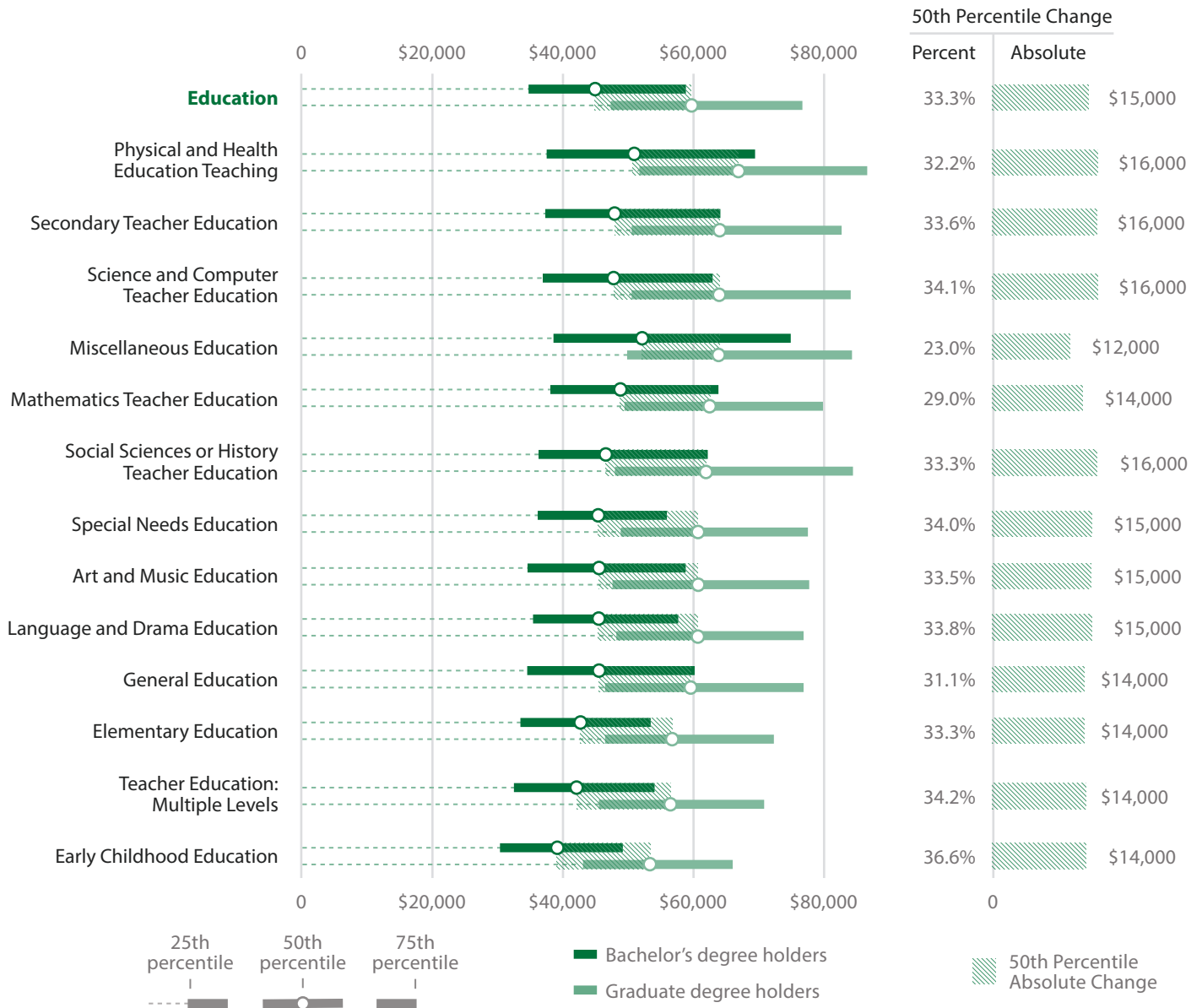
**The Graduate Advantage | Computers, Statistics, and Mathematics**  
 Mid-career earnings at the 25th, 50th and 75th percentiles by Bachelor's degree major



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

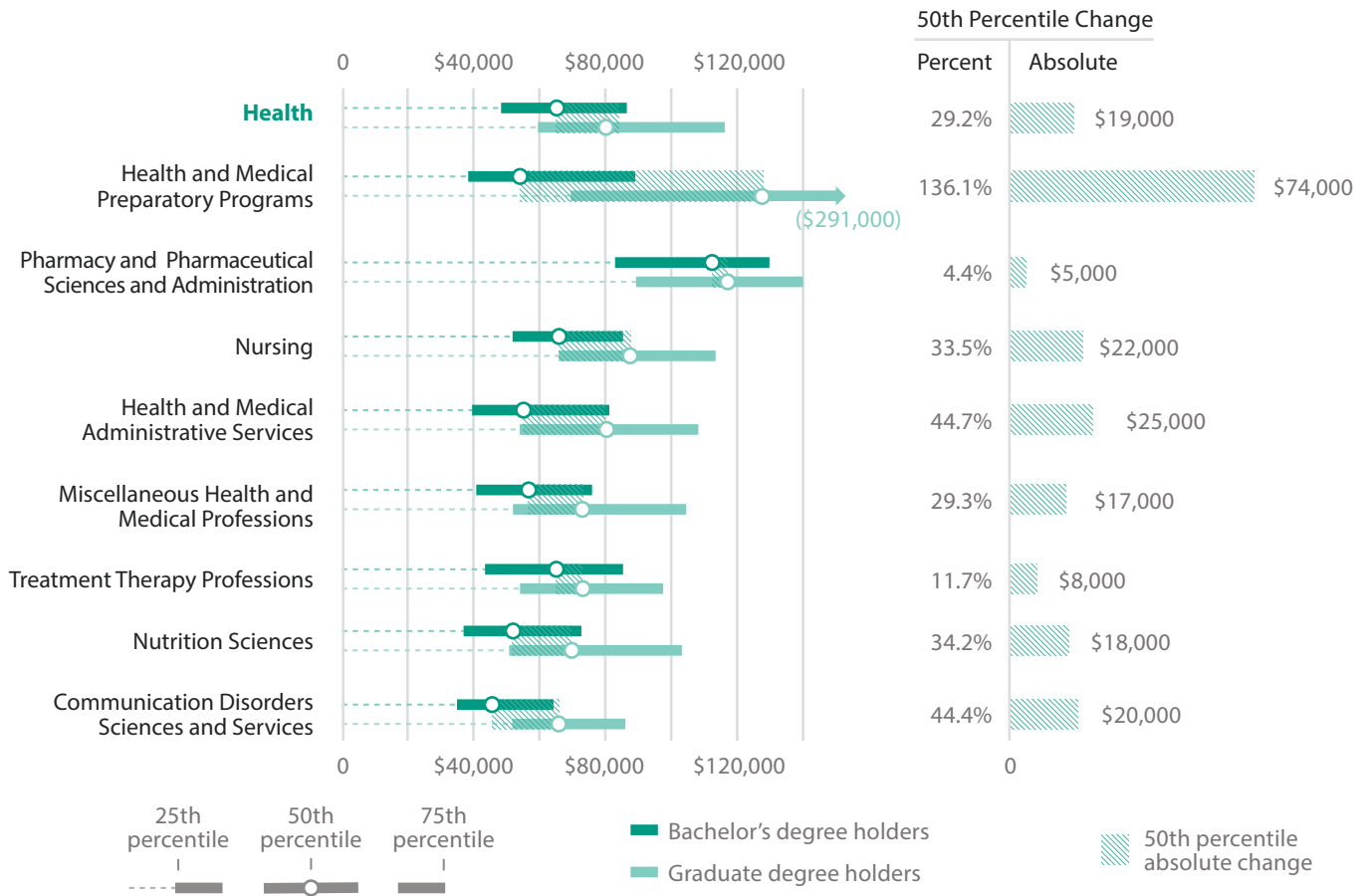
**Education | The Graduate Advantage**

**Mid-career earnings at the 25th, 50th and 75th percentiles by Bachelor's degree major**



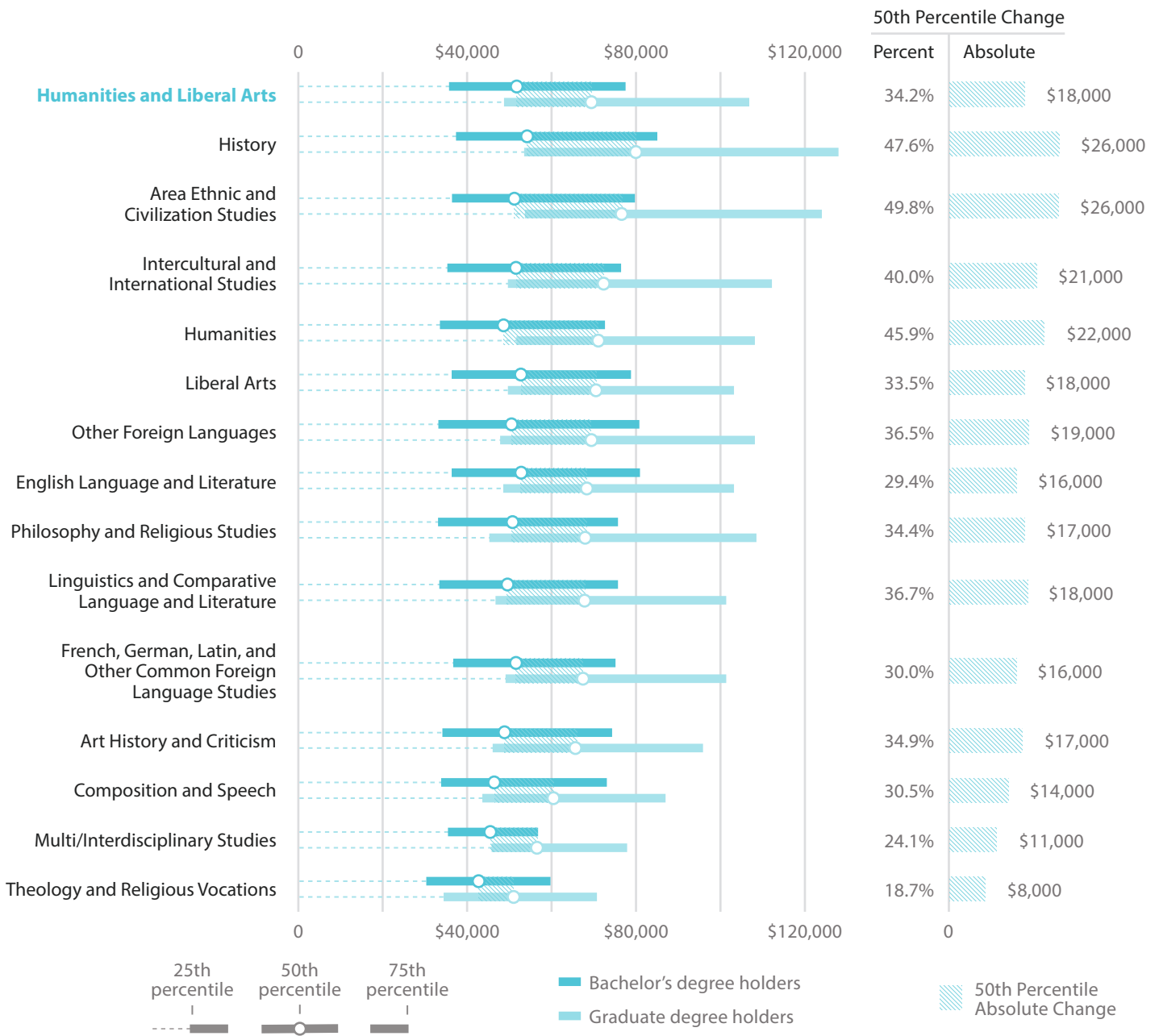
Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey* micro data, 2009-2013 pooled sample.

The Graduate Advantage | Health  
 Mid-career earnings at the 25th, 50th and 75th percentiles by Bachelor's degree major



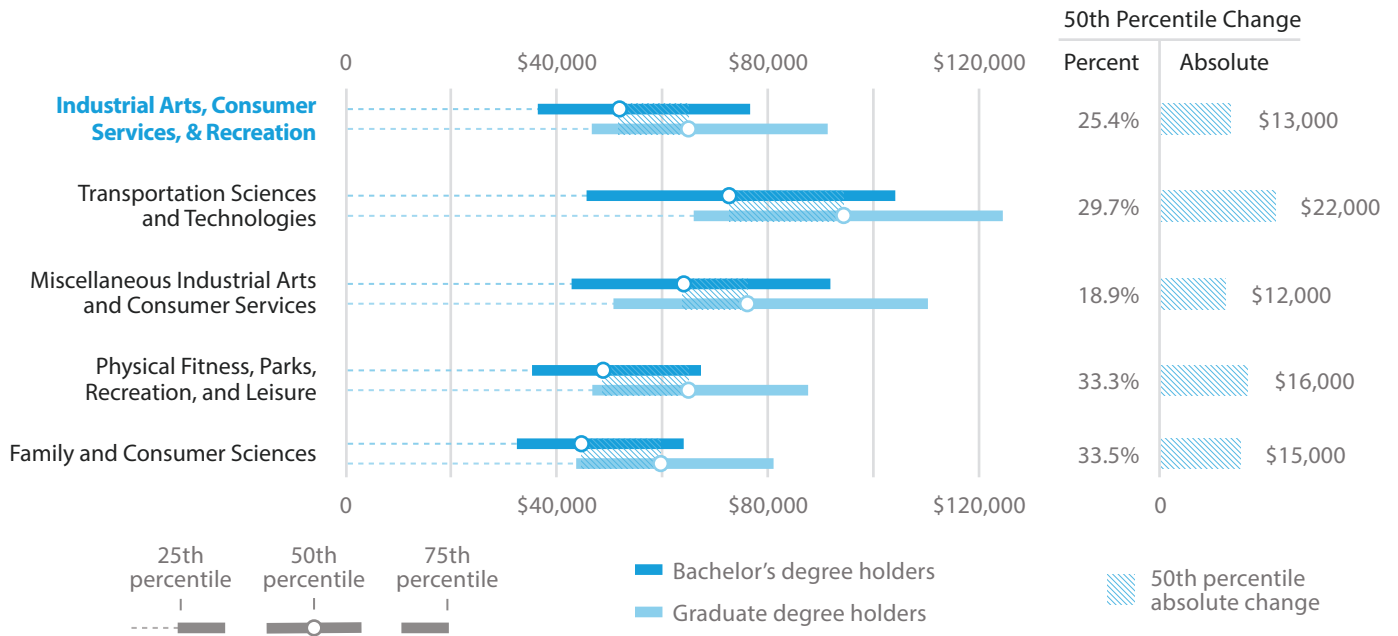
Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey* micro data, 2009-2013 pooled sample.

**Humanities and Liberal Arts | The Graduate Advantage**  
**Mid-career earnings at the 25th, 50th and 75th percentiles by Bachelor's degree major**



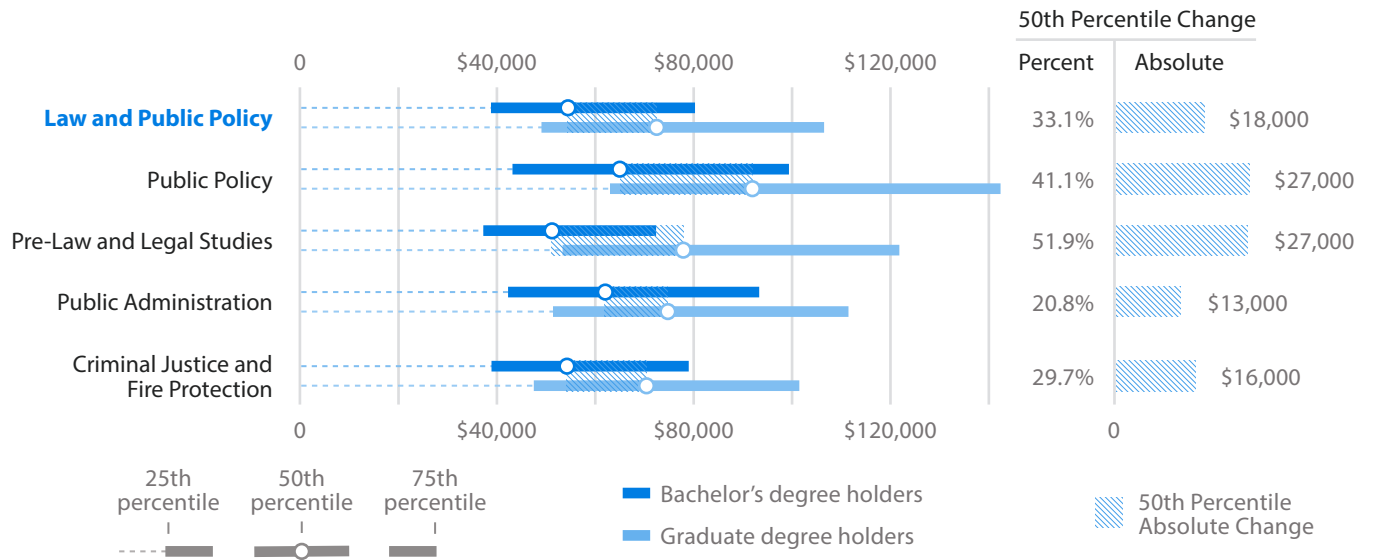
Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey* micro data, 2009-2013 pooled sample.

**The Graduate Advantage | Industrial Arts, Consumer Services & Recreation**  
 Mid-career earnings at the 25th, 50th and 75th percentiles by Bachelor's degree major



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

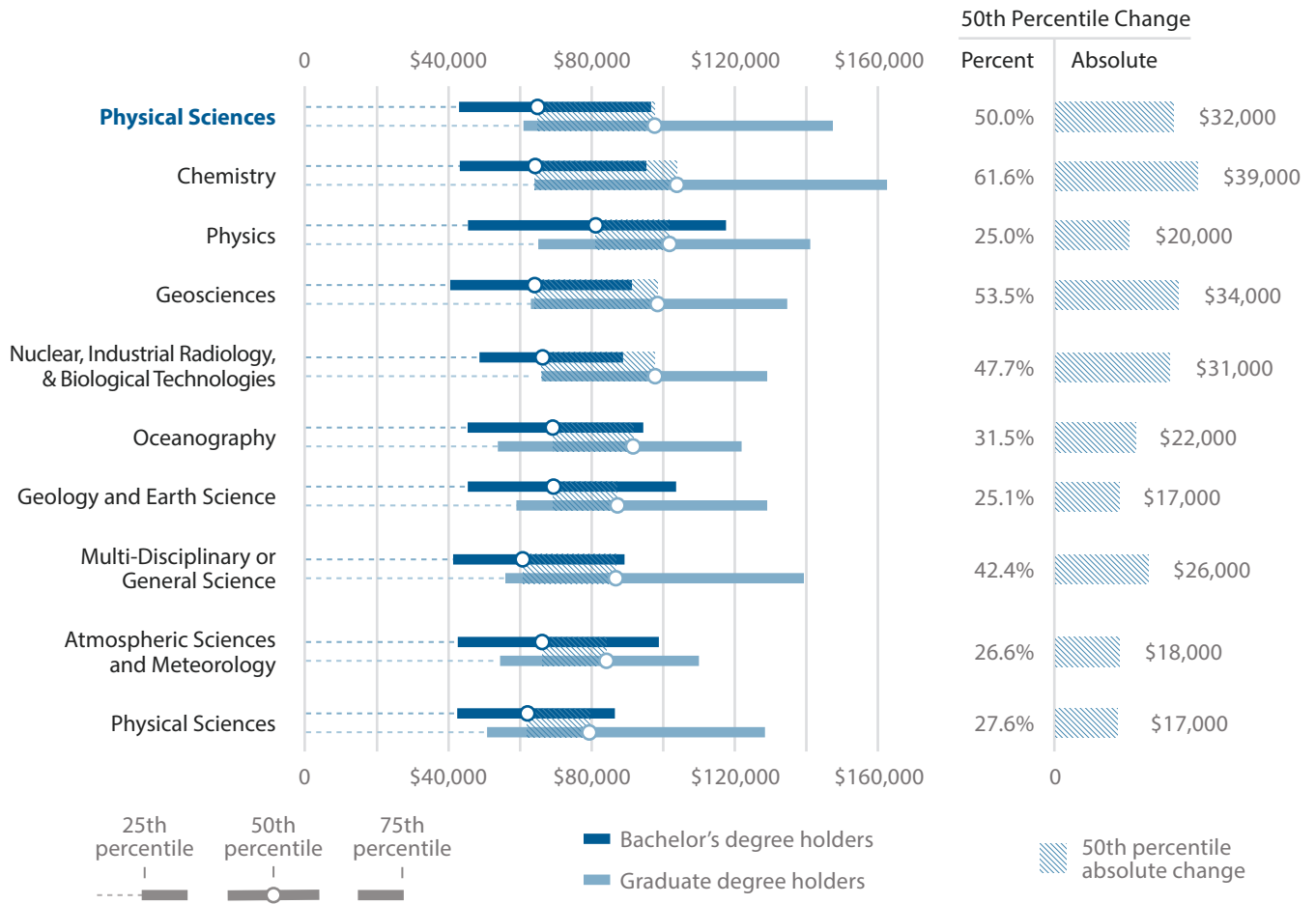
**Law and Public Policy | The Graduate Advantage**  
**Mid-career earnings at the 25th, 50th and 75th percentiles by Bachelor's degree major**



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

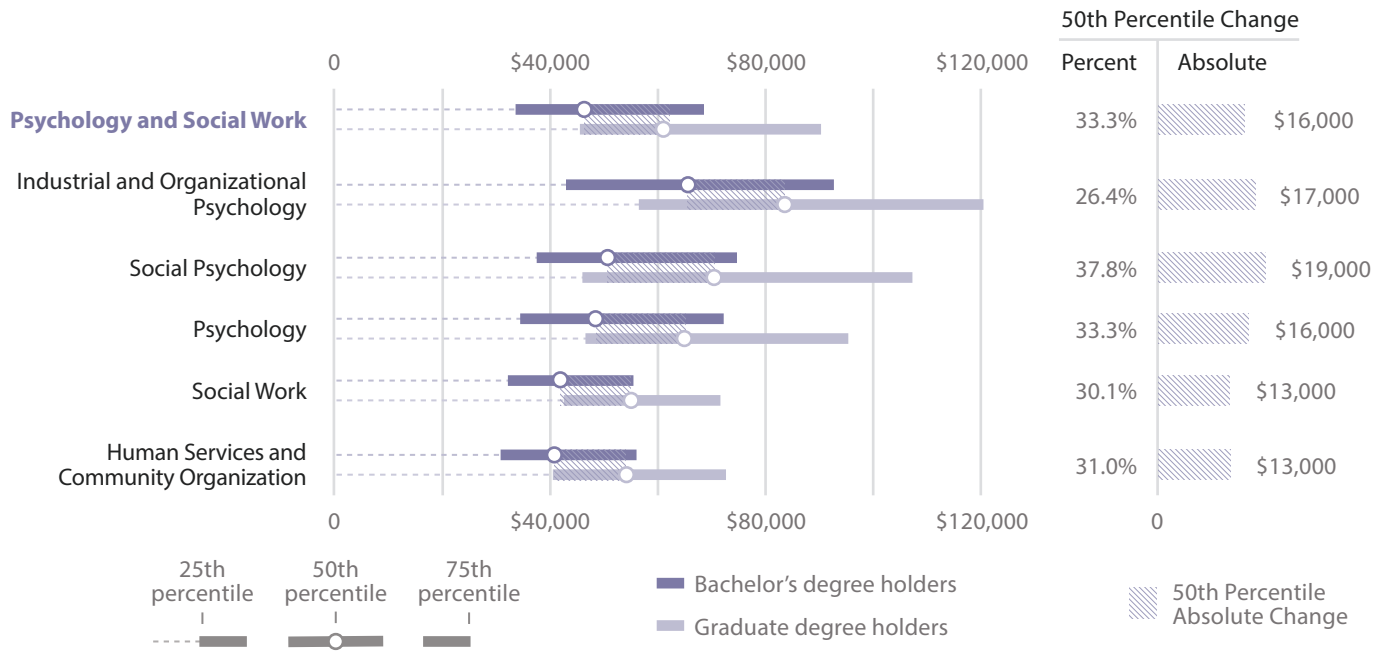


**The Graduate Advantage | Physical Sciences**  
 Mid-career earnings at the 25th, 50th and 75th percentiles by Bachelor's degree major



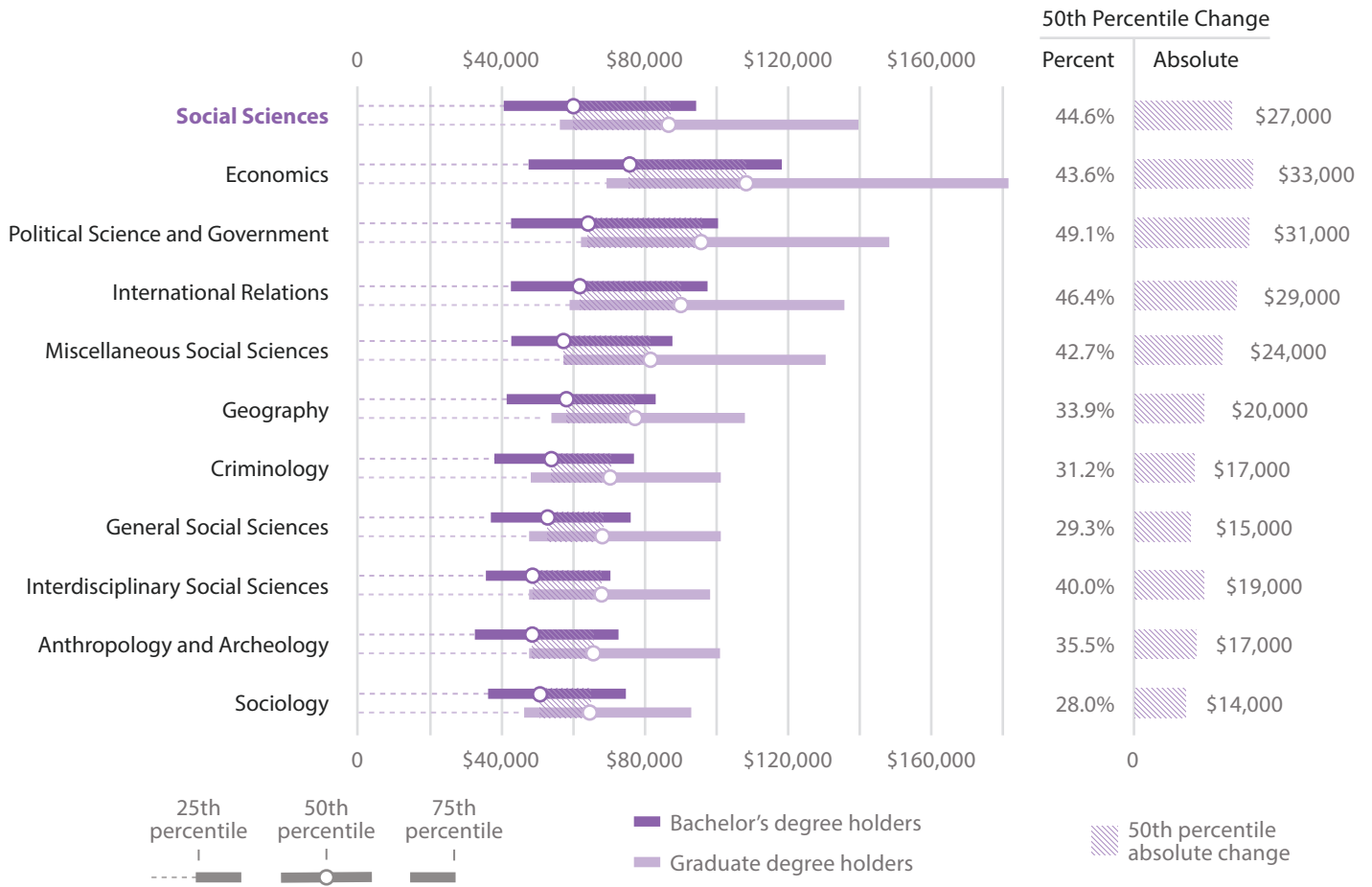
Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey* micro data, 2009-2013 pooled sample.

**Psychology and Social Work | The Graduate Advantage**  
**Mid-career earnings at the 25th, 50th and 75th percentiles by Bachelor's degree major**



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

**The Graduate Advantage | Social Sciences**  
**Mid-career earnings at the 25th, 50th and 75th percentiles by Bachelor's degree major**



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

# ALL MAJORS BY GROUP

RANKED BY EARNINGS AND POPULARITY

| Bachelor's Degree Ranking                |               |   | Graduate Degree Ranking |               |
|--|---------------|---|-------------------------|---------------|
| By earnings                              | By popularity |   | By earnings             | By popularity |
| <b>Agriculture and Natural Resources</b> |               |   |                         |               |
| 39                                       | 112           | Agricultural Economics                      | 54                      | 125           |
| 107                                      | 72            | Animal Sciences                             | 73                      | 67            |
| 40                                       | 116           | Food Science                                | 71                      | 119           |
| 55                                       | 99            | Forestry                                    | 62                      | 108           |
| 85                                       | 67            | General Agriculture                         | 96                      | 89            |
| 70                                       | 70            | Miscellaneous Agriculture                   | 89                      | 106           |
| 75                                       | 78            | Natural Resources Management                | 82                      | 90            |
| 86                                       | 86            | Plant Science and Agronomy                  | 88                      | 98            |
| <b>Architecture and Engineering</b>      |               |   |                         |               |
| 7  | 100           | Aerospace Engineering                       | 5                       | 72            |
| 18                                       | 122           | Architectural Engineering                   | 57                      | 133           |
| 41                                       | 34            | Architecture                                | 75                      | 40            |
| 33                                       | 107           | Biomedical Engineering                      | 49                      | 75            |
| 5  | 51            | Chemical Engineering                        | 7                       | 38            |
| 12                                       | 31            | Civil Engineering                           | 22                      | 33            |
| 6  | 17            | Electrical Engineering                      | 6                       | 13            |
| 19                                       | 114           | Engineering and Industrial Management       | 10                      | 122           |
| 17                                       | 123           | Engineering Mechanics, Physics, and Science | 11                      | 116           |
| 43                                       | 111           | Engineering Technologies                    | 67                      | 127           |
| 22                                       | 128           | Environmental Engineering                   | 44                      | 123           |
| 16                                       | 23            | General Engineering                         | 17                      | 21            |
| 10                                       | 137           | Geological and Geophysical Engineering      | 4                       | 137           |
| 14                                       | 62            | Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering    | 19                      | 56            |
| 26                                       | 81            | Industrial Production Technologies          | 45                      | 115           |
| 8  | 24            | Mechanical Engineering                      | 12                      | 18            |
| 37                                       | 113           | Mechanical Engineering-Related Technologies | 46                      | 132           |
| 3  | 136           | Metallurgical Engineering                   | 8                       | 128           |
| 4  | 131           | Mining and Mineral Engineering              | 13                      | 136           |
| 23                                       | 98            | Miscellaneous Engineering                   | 26                      | 97            |
| 31                                       | 50            | Miscellaneous Engineering Technologies      | 43                      | 78            |
| 1  | 124           | Petroleum Engineering                       | 1                       | 131           |
| <b>Arts</b>                              |               |   |                         |               |
| 105                                      | 22            | Commercial Art and Graphic Design           | 116                     | 65            |
| 129                                      | 47            | Drama and Theater Arts                      | 124                     | 64            |
| 98                                       | 58            | Film, Video, and Photographic Arts          | 126                     | 101           |
| 108                                      | 21            | Fine Arts                                   | 125                     | 36            |
| 113                                      | 36            | Music                                       | 121                     | 31            |
| 135                                      | 82            | Studio Arts                                 | 134                     | 93            |
| 132                                      | 97            | Visual and Performing Arts                  | 132                     | 109           |

| Bachelor's Degree Ranking                     |               |   | Graduate Degree Ranking |               |
|---|---------------|---|-------------------------|---------------|
| By earnings                                   | By popularity |   | By earnings             | By popularity |
| <b>Biology and Life Sciences</b>              |               |   |                         |               |
| 64  | 89            | Biochemical Sciences                              | 30                      | 41            |
| 74  | 14            | Biology   | 31                      | 2             |
| 93  | 129           | Botany  | 103                     | 118           |
| 100   | 106           | Ecology   | 104                     | 102           |
| 71  | 63            | Environmental Science                             | 83                      | 69            |
| 56  | 92            | Microbiology                                      | 40                      | 58            |
| 79  | 77            | Miscellaneous Biology                             | 59                      | 50            |
| 83  | 115           | Molecular Biology                                 | 48                      | 80            |
| 117   | 133           | Neuroscience                                      | 120                     | 112           |
| 68  | 105           | Zoology   | 15                      | 59            |
| <b>Business</b>                               |               |   |                         |               |
| 38  | 3             | Accounting  | 37                      | 9             |
| 25  | 87            | Business Economics                                | 25                      | 95            |
| 58  | 1             | Business Management and Administration            | 61                      | 5             |
| 30  | 12            | Finance   | 21                      | 17            |
| 49  | 2             | General Business                                  | 41                      | 8             |
| 91  | 39            | Hospitality Management                            | 92                      | 96            |
| 66  | 44            | Human Resources and Personnel Management          | 77                      | 61            |
| 62  | 74            | International Business                            | 66                      | 86            |
| 21  | 45            | Management Information Systems and Statistics     | 34                      | 74            |
| 54  | 7             | Marketing and Marketing Research                  | 58                      | 25            |
| 65  | 68            | Miscellaneous Business and Medical Administration | 70                      | 105           |
| 32  | 94            | Operations Logistics and E-Commerce               | 29                      | 113           |
| <b>Communications and Journalism</b>          |               |   |                         |               |
| 78  | 42            | Advertising and Public Relations                  | 108                     | 85            |
| 77  | 6             | Communications and Mass Media                     | 101                     | 16            |
| 73  | 27            | Journalism  | 81                      | 49            |
| <b>Computers, Statistics, and Mathematics</b> |               |   |                         |               |
| 13  | 119           | Applied Mathematics                               | 14                      | 111           |
| 34  | 33            | Computer and Information Systems                  | 52                      | 53            |
| 9   | 46            | Computer Engineering                              | 18                      | 52            |
| 11  | 11            | Computer Science                                  | 24                      | 14            |
| 27  | 75            | Information Sciences                              | 42                      | 91            |
| 29  | 30            | Mathematics                                       | 38                      | 19            |
| 63  | 40            | Miscellaneous Computer                            | 60                      | 82            |
| 20  | 117           | Statistics and Decision Science                   | 23                      | 104           |

**All Majors by Group**  
Ranked by Earnings and Popularity

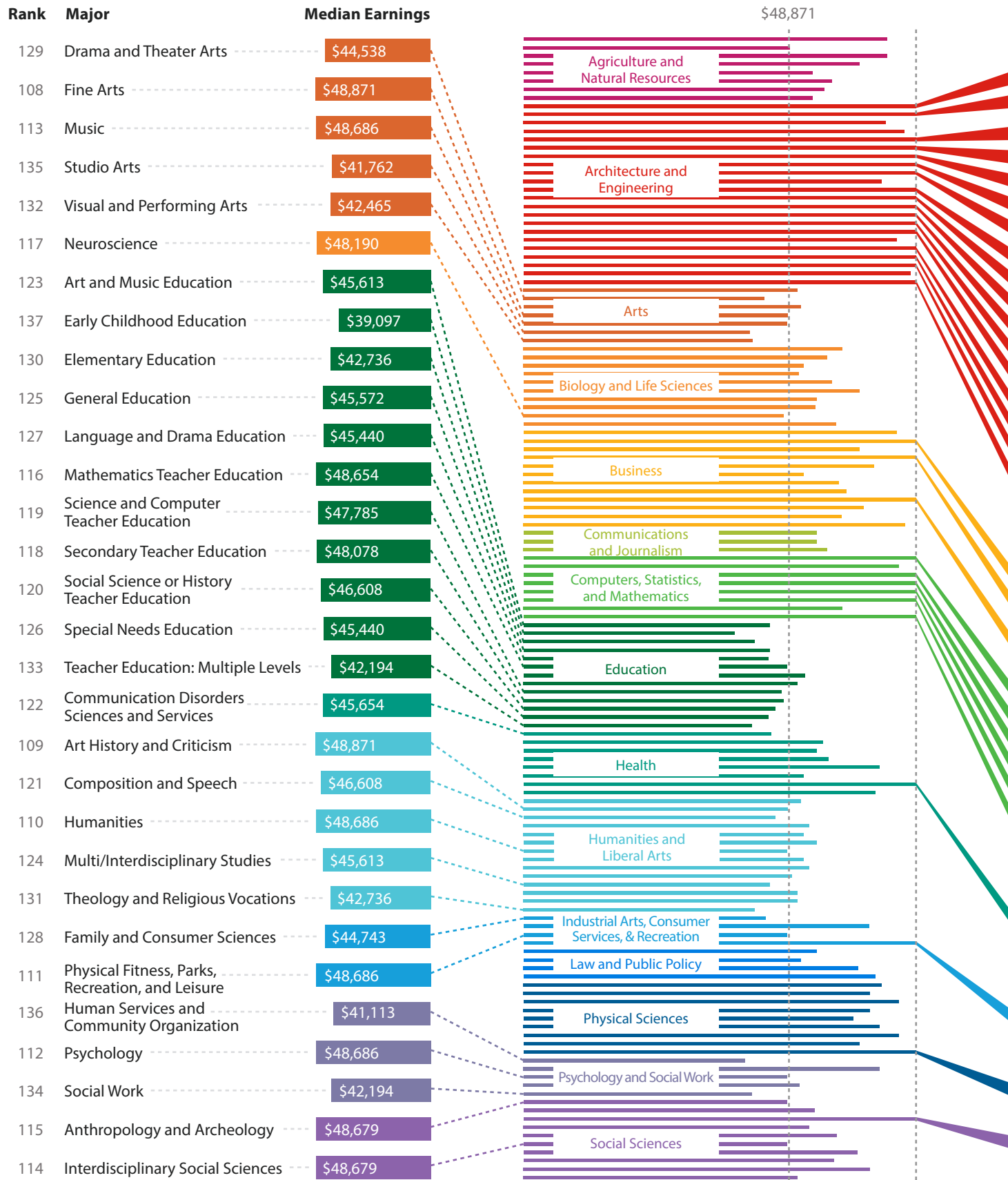
| Bachelor's Degree Ranking          |               |  | Graduate Degree Ranking |               |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--|-------------------------|---------------|
| By earnings                        | By popularity |  | By earnings             | By popularity |
| <b>Education</b>                   |               |  |                         |               |
| 123                                | 49            | Art and Music Education  | 119                     | 44            |
| 137                                | 53            | Early Childhood Education  | 136                     | 54            |
| 130                                | 9             | Elementary Education   | 129                     | 4             |
| 125                                | 8             | General Education  | 127                     | 3             |
| 127                                | 61            | Language and Drama Education                                     | 122                     | 45            |
| 116                                | 102           | Mathematics Teacher Education                                    | 115                     | 66            |
| 90                                 | 54            | Miscellaneous Education  | 114                     | 37            |
| 101                                | 38            | Physical and Health Education Teaching                           | 102                     | 42            |
| 119                                | 108           | Science and Computer Teacher Education                           | 113                     | 81            |
| 118                                | 55            | Secondary Teacher Education                                      | 112                     | 48            |
| 120                                | 76            | Social Sciences or History Teacher Education                     | 117                     | 63            |
| 126                                | 56            | Special Needs Education  | 118                     | 32            |
| 133                                | 88            | Teacher Education: Multiple Levels                               | 130                     | 73            |
| <b>Health</b>                      |               |  |                         |               |
| 122                                | 93            | Communication Disorders Sciences and Services                    | 107                     | 30            |
| 76                                 | 65            | Health and Medical Administrative Services                       | 63                      | 77            |
| 81                                 | 118           | Health and Medical Preparatory Programs                          | 2                       | 62            |
| 72                                 | 25            | Miscellaneous Health Medical Professions                         | 78                      | 23            |
| 46                                 | 4             | Nursing  | 47                      | 10            |
| 95                                 | 90            | Nutrition Sciences   | 91                      | 79            |
| 2                                  | 57            | Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Administration          | 3                       | 39            |
| 48                                 | 35            | Treatment Therapy Professions                                    | 79                      | 35            |
| <b>Humanities and Liberal Arts</b> |               |  |                         |               |
| 96                                 | 71            | Area Ethnic and Civilization Studies                             | 72                      | 55            |
| 109                                | 80            | Art History and Criticism  | 106                     | 70            |
| 121                                | 96            | Composition and Speech   | 123                     | 99            |
| 89                                 | 10            | English Language and Literature                                  | 94                      | 6             |
| 92                                 | 43            | French, German, Latin, and Other Common Foreign Language Studies | 100                     | 34            |
| 82                                 | 18            | History  | 64                      | 11            |
| 110                                | 109           | Humanities   | 84                      | 103           |
| 94                                 | 101           | Intercultural and International Studies                          | 80                      | 87            |
| 87                                 | 19            | Liberal Arts   | 85                      | 26            |
| 106                                | 91            | Linguistics and Comparative Language and Literature              | 99                      | 68            |
| 124                                | 110           | Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies                                  | 131                     | 120           |
| 102                                | 104           | Other Foreign Languages  | 93                      | 83            |
| 103                                | 48            | Philosophy and Religious Studies                                 | 98                      | 27            |
| 131                                | 41            | Theology and Religious Vocations                                 | 137                     | 46            |



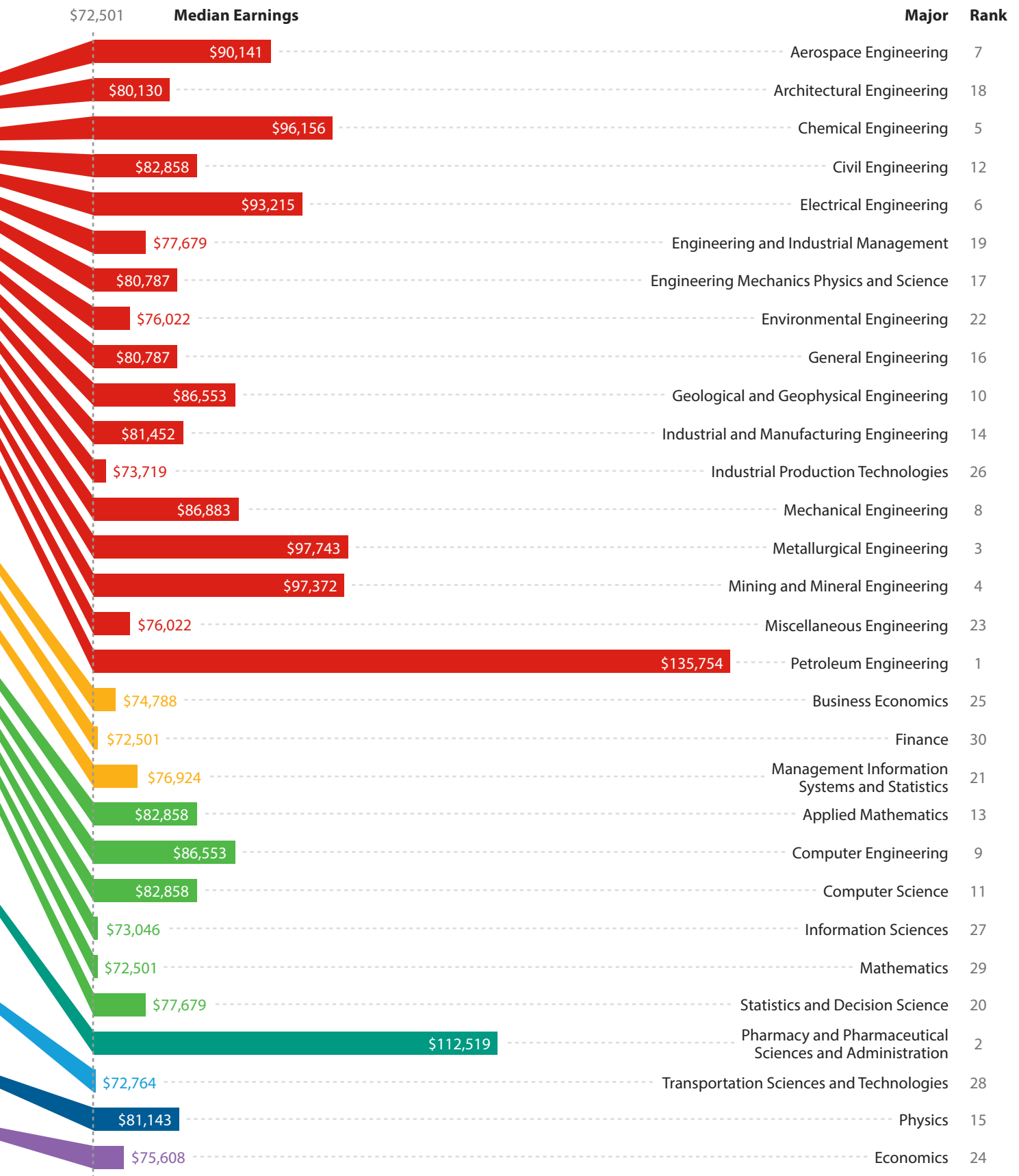
| Bachelor's Degree Ranking                                 |               |  | Graduate Degree Ranking |               |
|---|---------------|--|-------------------------|---------------|
| By earnings   | By popularity |  | By earnings             | By popularity |
| <b>Industrial Arts, Consumer Services, and Recreation</b> |               |  |                         |               |
| 128   | 29            | Family and Consumer Sciences                               | 128                     | 47            |
| 53  | 52            | Miscellaneous Industrial Arts and Consumer Services        | 74                      | 110           |
| 111   | 28            | Physical Fitness, Parks, Recreation, and Leisure           | 109                     | 43            |
| 28  | 60            | Transportation Sciences and Technologies                   | 33                      | 100           |
| <b>Law and Public Policy</b>                              |               |  |                         |               |
| 80  | 13            | Criminal Justice and Fire Protection                       | 87                      | 24            |
| 97  | 83            | Pre-Law and Legal Studies                                  | 68                      | 88            |
| 59  | 103           | Public Administration                                      | 76                      | 84            |
| 47  | 127           | Public Policy  | 35                      | 114           |
| <b>Physical Sciences</b>                                  |               |  |                         |               |
| 42  | 126           | Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology                       | 53                      | 126           |
| 50  | 37            | Chemistry  | 16                      | 15            |
| 35  | 69            | Geology and Earth Science                                  | 50                      | 57            |
| 51  | 134           | Geosciences  | 27                      | 129           |
| 61  | 26            | Multidisciplinary or General Science                       | 51                      | 28            |
| 44  | 120           | Nuclear, Industrial Radiology, and Biological Technologies | 28                      | 117           |
| 36  | 130           | Oceanography   | 36                      | 130           |
| 57  | 135           | Physical Sciences  | 65                      | 134           |
| 15  | 73            | Physics  | 20                      | 29            |
| <b>Psychology and Social Work</b>                         |               |  |                         |               |
| 136   | 79            | Human Services and Community Organization                  | 135                     | 92            |
| 45  | 121           | Industrial and Organizational Psychology                   | 55                      | 124           |
| 112   | 5             | Psychology   | 110                     | 1             |
| 99  | 132           | Social Psychology  | 90                      | 135           |
| 134   | 32            | Social Work  | 133                     | 22            |
| <b>Social Sciences</b>                                    |               |  |                         |               |
| 115   | 59            | Anthropology and Archeology                                | 105                     | 51            |
| 84  | 85            | Criminology  | 86                      | 107           |
| 24  | 16            | Economics  | 9                       | 12            |
| 88  | 66            | General Social Sciences                                    | 95                      | 71            |
| 67  | 64            | Geography  | 69                      | 76            |
| 114   | 95            | Interdisciplinary Social Sciences                          | 97                      | 94            |
| 60  | 84            | International Relations                                    | 39                      | 60            |
| 69  | 125           | Miscellaneous Social Sciences                              | 56                      | 121           |
| 52  | 15            | Political Science and Government                           | 32                      | 7             |
| 104   | 20            | Sociology  | 111                     | 20            |

# LOWEST- AND HIGHEST-EARNING MAJORS

BACHELOR'S DEGREE HOLDERS



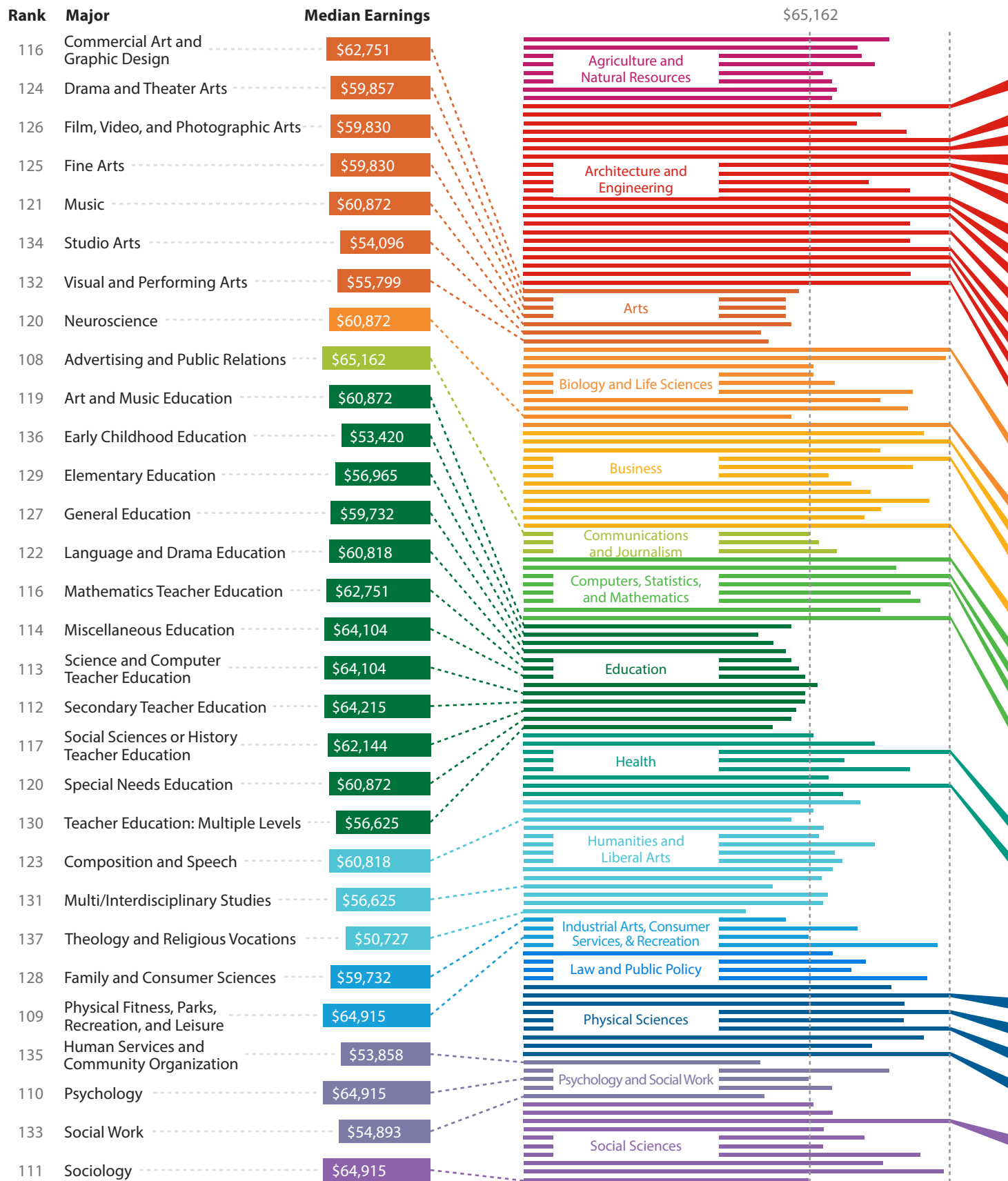
Lowest- and Highest-Earning Majors  
Bachelor's Degree Holders



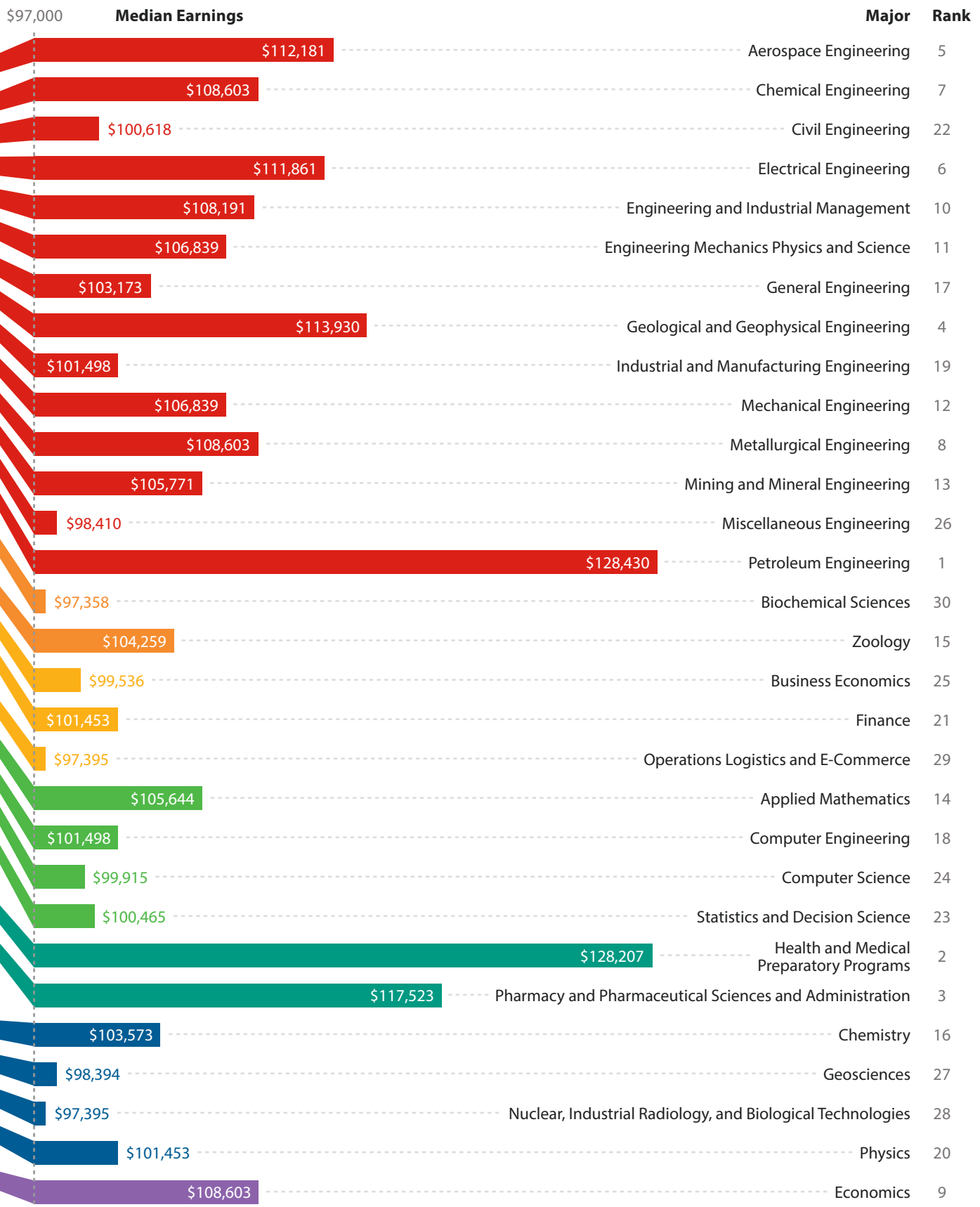
Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey* micro data, 2009-2013 pooled sample.

# LOWEST- AND HIGHEST-EARNING MAJORS

## GRADUATE DEGREE HOLDERS



Lowest- and Highest-Earning Majors  
Graduate Degree Holders

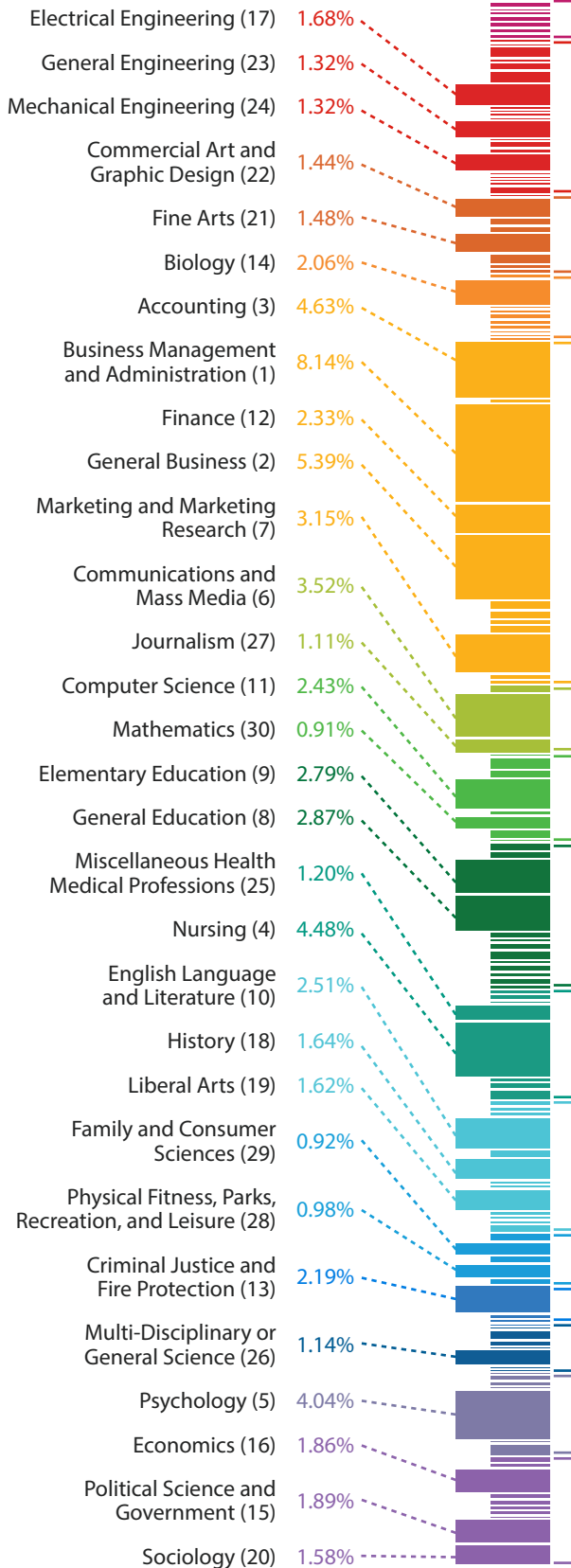


Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey* micro data, 2009-2013 pooled sample.

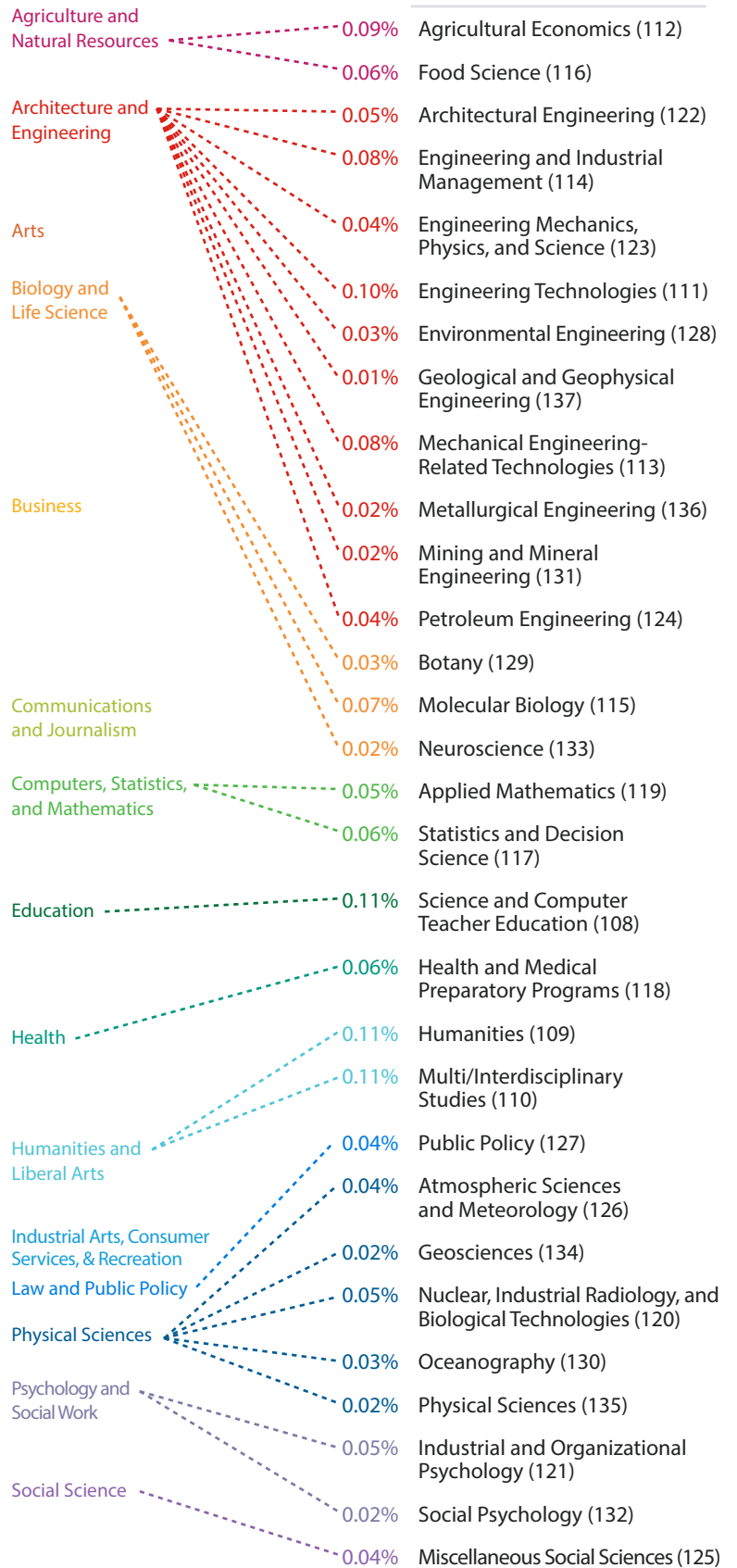
# MAJORS RANKED BY POPULARITY

## BACHELOR'S DEGREE HOLDERS

### 30 Most Popular Majors (Rank)



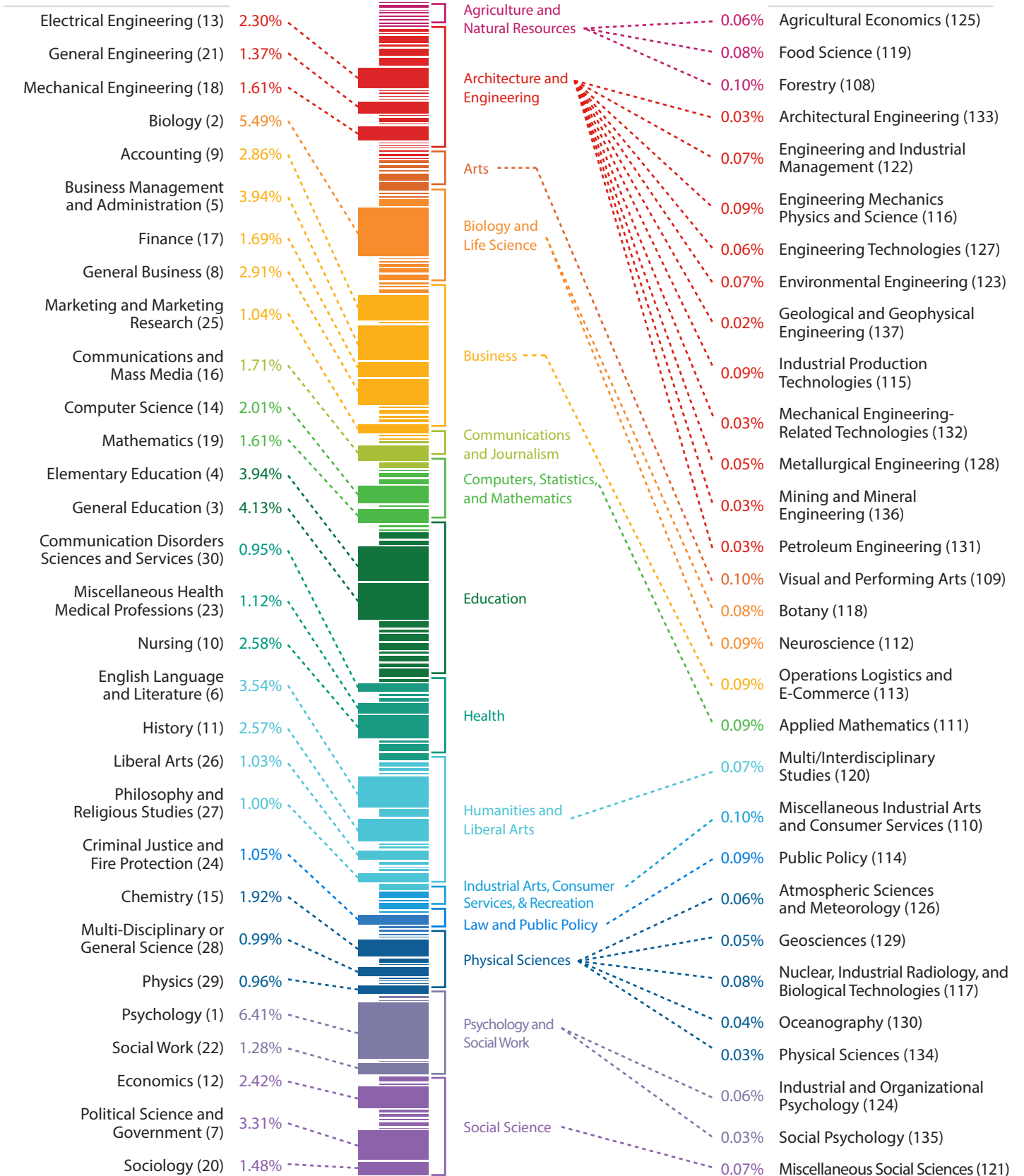
### 30 Least Popular Majors (Rank)



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

30 Most Popular Majors (Rank)

30 Least Popular Majors (Rank)



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



# HELP READING OUR CHARTS

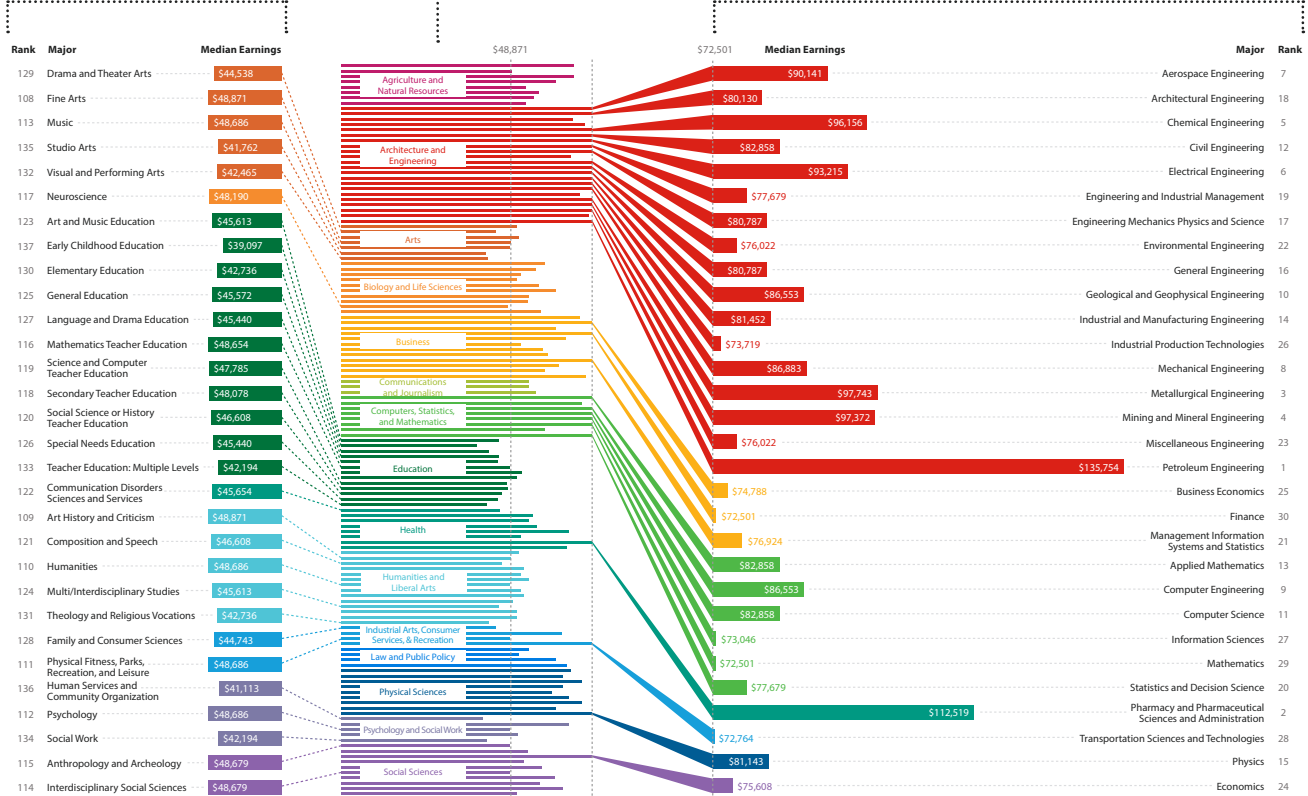
## LOWEST- AND HIGHEST-EARNING MAJORS

This chart shows the 30 highest paying majors and the 30 lowest paying majors.

The leftmost column displays the rank of the **30 lowest paying majors** among the 137 major subgroups. To the right of that column is the median annual wages (2013\$) of that major subgroup.

The rightmost column displays the rank of the **30 highest paying majors** among the 137 major subgroups. To the left of that column is the median annual wages (2013\$) of that major subgroup.

The chart is sorted alphabetically by the 15 major groups included in the center. Each of the 15 major groups is represented by a distinct color. For example, **architecture and engineering** majors are red.





This chart shows the 30 most common majors and 30 least common majors for Bachelor's degree holders and graduate degree holders.

The leftmost column displays the rank of the **30 most common majors** among the 137 major subgroups.

The majors are sorted alphabetically by major group (displayed in the center on each page) in a stacked column. Each of the 15 major groups is represented by a distinct color.

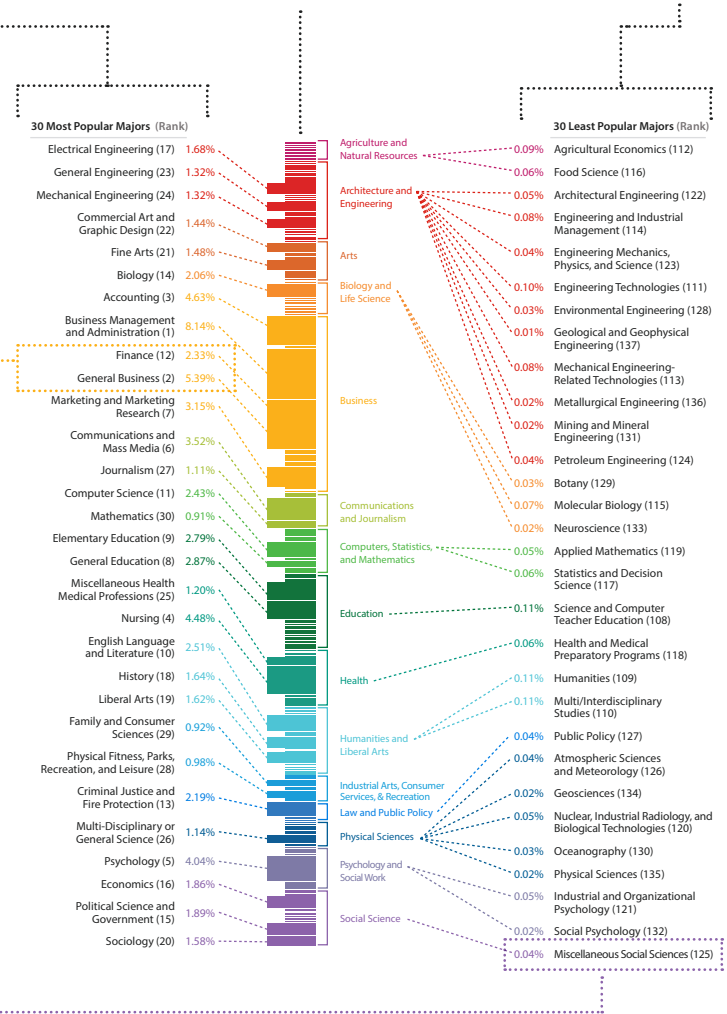
The rightmost column displays the rank of the **30 least common majors** by the 137 major subgroups.

The rank of each major subgroup is displayed in parentheses. (Rank)

Finance (12) 2.33%  
General Business (2) 5.39%

To the immediate left (for most popular) or right (for least popular), the percentage of college graduates with each respective major is displayed.

~0.04% Miscellaneous Social Sciences (125)







The Economic Value of College Majors  
can be accessed at  
[cew.georgetown.edu/report/valueofcollegemajors](http://cew.georgetown.edu/report/valueofcollegemajors)



## THE ECONOMIC VALUE *of* COLLEGE MAJORS

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