

College Graduate Earnings: 2021



September 2021
by Andrew Gillen, PhD



Texas Public Policy
Foundation

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This annual report uses new data released by the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard to examine typical college graduate earnings. The data revealed in this report will help students and parents make more informed college enrollment decisions, college administrations make better strategic planning choices, and policymakers make wiser policy choices.

U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard Data

Before presenting the results of our analysis, a few technical notes:

- This report focuses on median earnings 2 years after graduation for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 graduation cohort and generally reports a weighted median.
- The College Scorecard data report median earnings by program, which is a college/major/level of degree combination. For example, the bachelor's degree major (the level) in accounting (the major) at the University of Texas at Austin (the college) would be one program.
 - ▶ There are around 244,000 programs in the U.S. But roughly 50,000 of these are programs at branch campuses whose data are pooled with the parent campus, and another 50,000 have no graduates.
 - ▶ Programs with few graduates, or few graduates with earnings data have their data suppressed to protect student privacy.
 - There are roughly 52,000 programs with earnings data, and these programs account for 73% of all college graduates.
 - ▶ Data are organized by degrees awarded, not by unique students. This means that some students who double majored are counted twice in the data.
- Earnings are reported for students who received federal financial aid and then entered the labor force. Graduates who did not work, who enrolled in further schooling, or who died were excluded. Earnings are the "sum of wages and deferred compensation from all nonduplicate W-2 forms and positive self-employment earnings from IRS Form 1040 Schedules SE (Self Employment Tax) for each student measured" ([U.S. Department of Education, 2021, p. 4](#)).
- College Scorecard has earnings data for two overlapping cohorts
 - ▶ Those who graduated in 2014-15 and 2015-16.
 - ▶ Those who graduated in 2015-16 and 2016-17.
- The 2014-15 and 2015-16 cohort has earnings data for 2 years after graduation (2016, 2017, and/or 2018 depending on the student's graduation date), and the 2015-16 and 2016-17 cohort has earnings data for 1 year after graduation (2017 or 2018).
- All values are in 2019 inflation-adjusted dollars.

Key Points

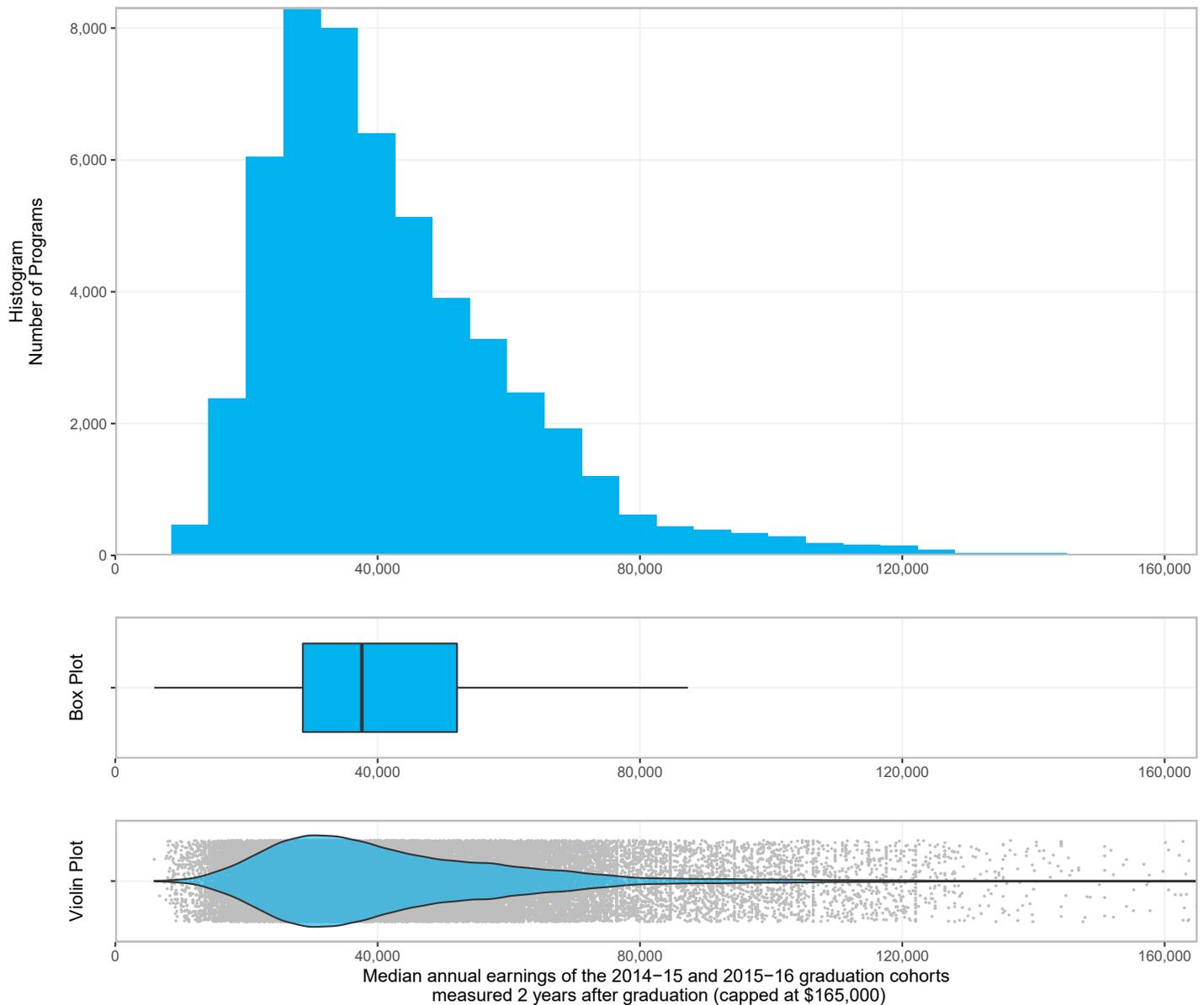
- New data from the U.S. Department of Education reveal the typical earnings of recent college graduates 2 years after graduation.
- Median earnings vary by credential: associate degree (\$31,000), bachelor's degree (\$38,000), master's degree (\$55,000), professional degree (\$63,000), and doctoral degree (\$71,000).
- Median earnings by academic field (4-digit CIP code) and credential are reported.
- The largest academic fields and degrees with the biggest growth or decline in earnings are reported.
- Graduates from for-profit colleges who received a bachelor's degree had higher earnings than graduates from public or private nonprofit colleges. Graduates with an associate degree from a for-profit college earned less.

College Graduate Earnings

Figure 1 shows the distribution of college graduate earnings 2 years after graduation for students who graduated in 2014-15 or 2015-16. The top portion is a histogram, which shows the number of programs in each earnings bin. The next portion shows the same distribution as a box plot. In a box plot, the shaded box shows the middle 50% of observations, with the line representing the median value. The whiskers show the range of values relatively close to the median. The bottom portion shows the same distribution as a violin plot. In a violin plot, each program is a small grey dot, and the blue shape represents the relative frequency of values.

Figure 1

How Much Do College Graduates Make?



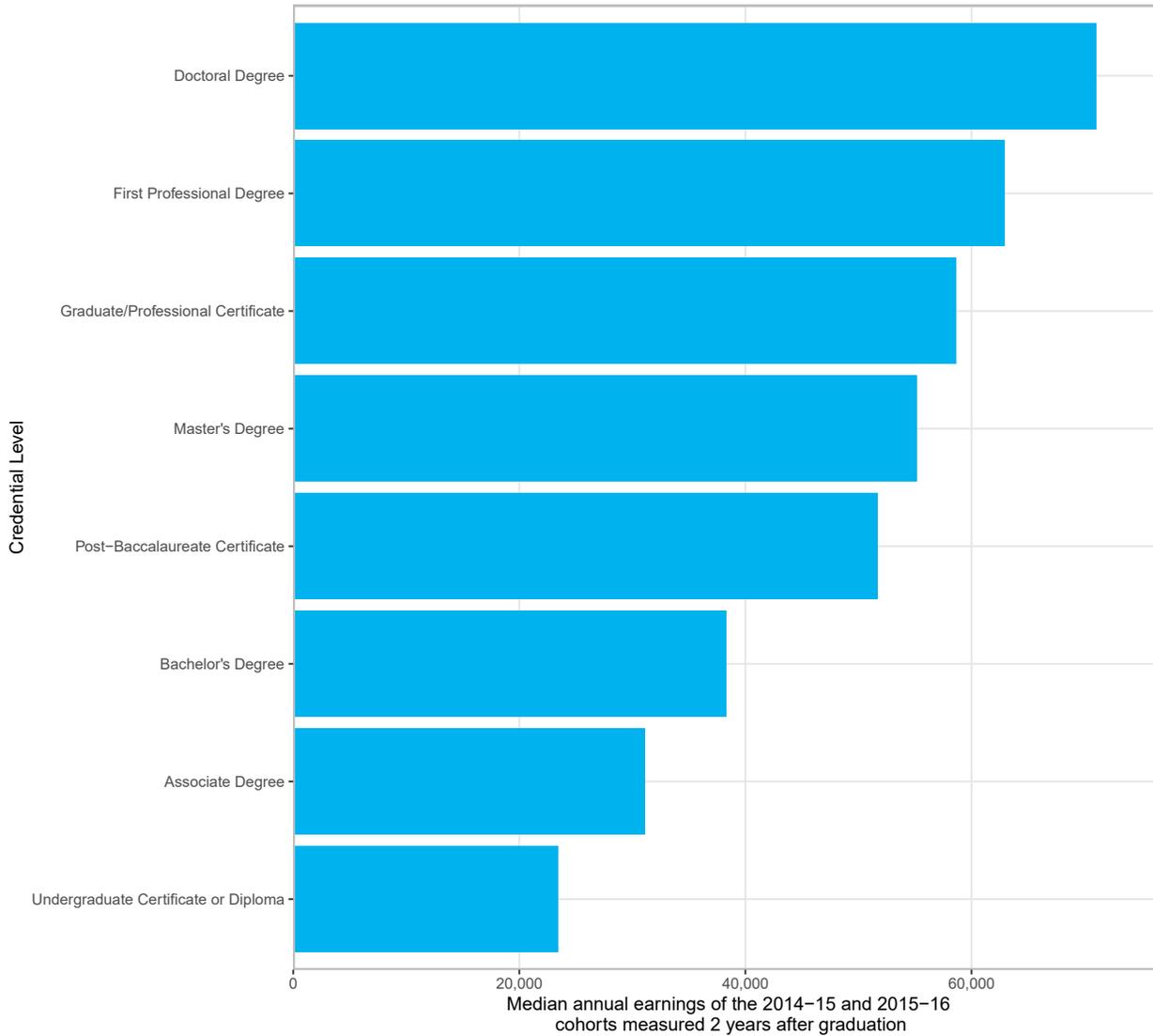
Note. Data from U.S. Department of Education and author's calculations; outliers have been suppressed in the box plot.

College Graduate Earnings by Degree

Figure 2 shows the weighted median earnings of college graduates 2 years after graduation by credential. The median graduate with an associate degree earned roughly \$31,000, and the median graduate with a bachelor’s degree earned roughly \$38,000. Median earnings for graduate students were higher: \$55,000 for those with a master’s degree, \$63,000 for those with a professional degree,¹ and \$71,000 for those with a doctoral degree.

Figure 2

Median College Graduate Earnings by Credential



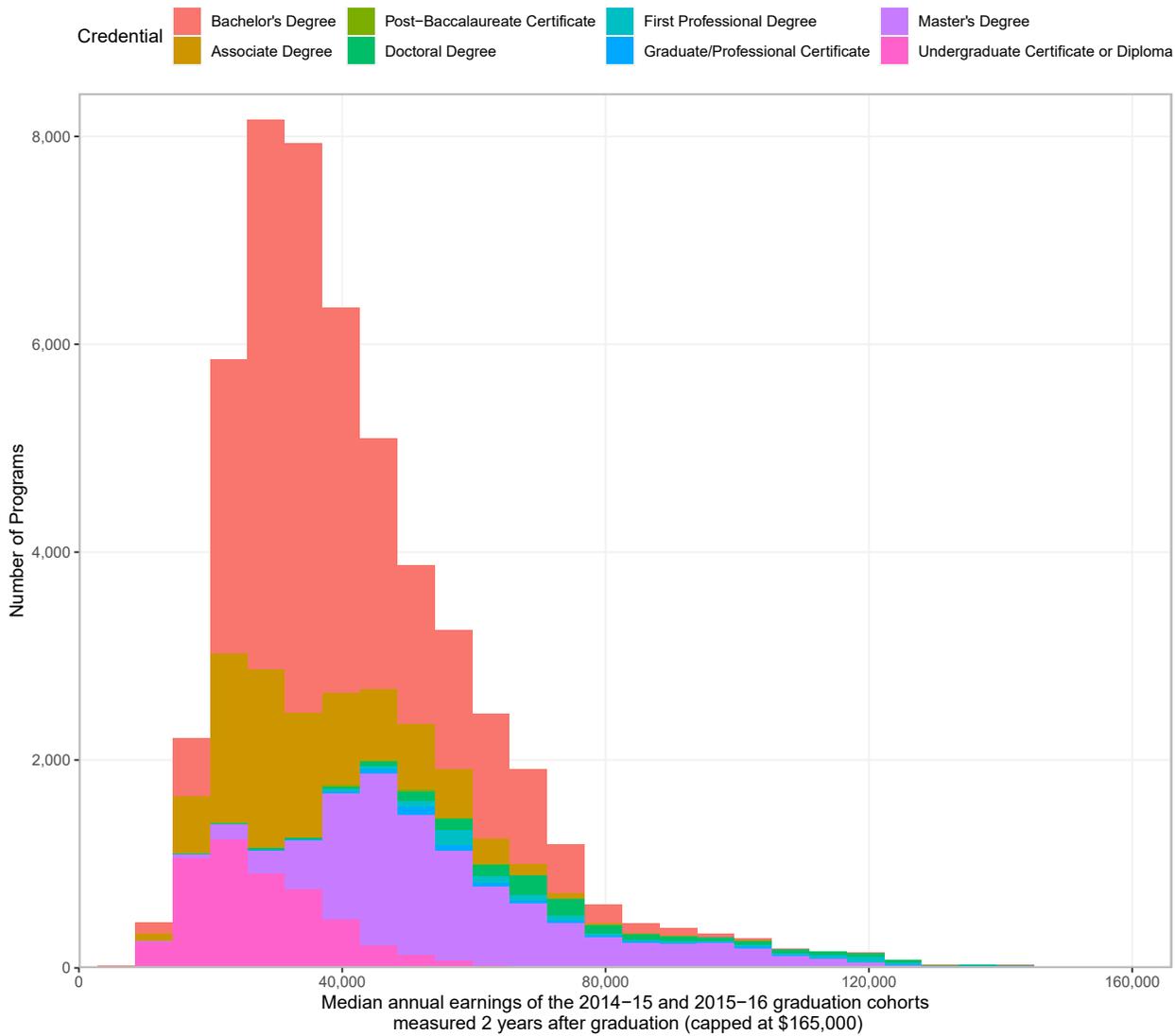
Note. Data from U.S. Department of Education and author’s calculations.

While median earnings generally increase with the level of credential, there are many exceptions. **Figures 3 and 4** illustrate the distribution of median earnings among programs.

¹ As opposed to doctoral degrees, professional degrees generally do not require original research and aim to prepare graduates for employment in a specific occupation. For example, most graduates in law, dentistry, and pharmacy receive professional degrees.

Figure 3 is a histogram of median earnings among programs by credential, which reveals that while there are low- and high-earning programs at virtually every credential level, there are noticeable patterns. Programs with median earnings below \$40,000 tend to be undergraduate programs, whereas those with earnings above \$80,000 tend to be graduate programs.

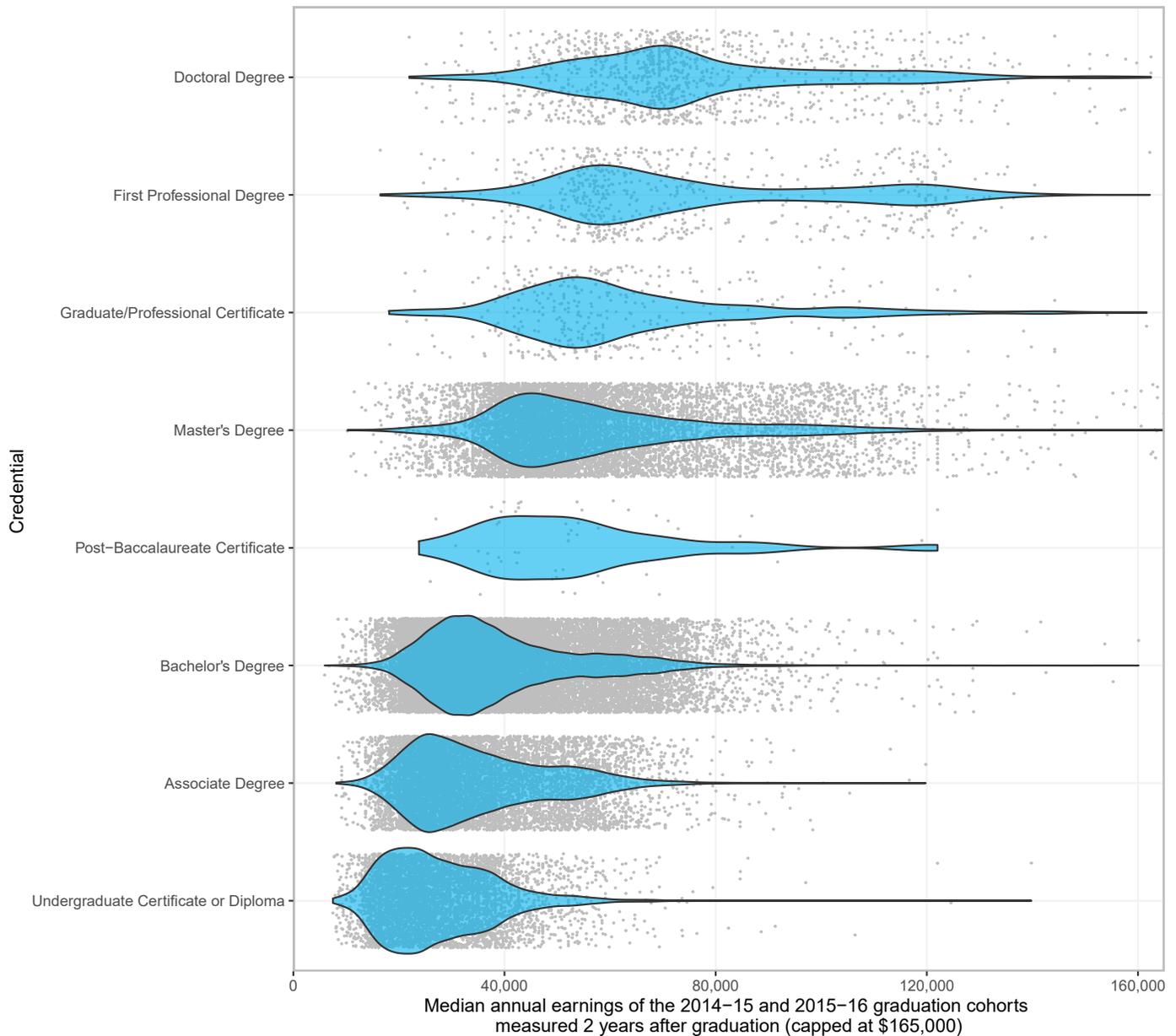
Figure 3
Histogram of Median Earnings Among Programs by Credential



Note. Data from U.S. Department of Education and author's calculations.

Variability in earnings is even more visible in **Figure 4**, a violin plot of median earnings by credential. While graduate programs generally have higher median earnings than undergraduate programs, there are programs with highly compensated graduates at all credential levels. A handful of undergraduate certificate and associate degree programs result in median earnings exceeding \$100,000 while some doctoral programs result in median earnings of less than \$50,000.

Figure 4
College Graduate Earnings by Credential

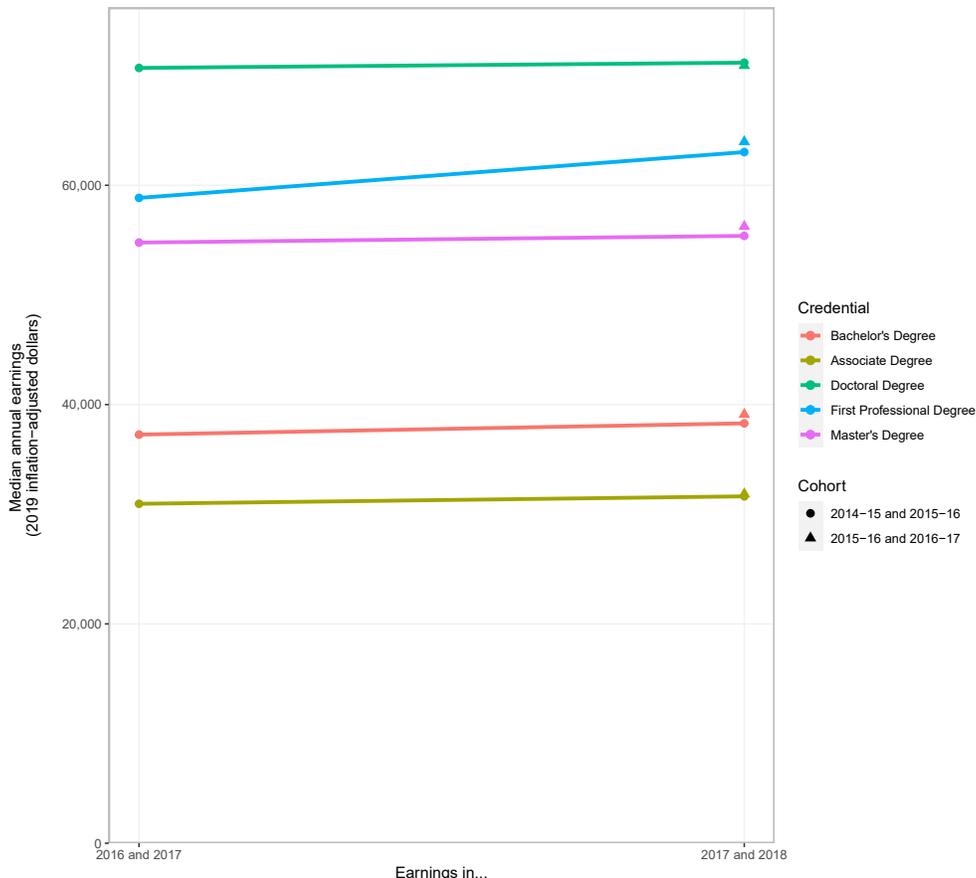


Note. Data from U.S. Department of Education and author's calculations.

Trends in College Graduate Earnings

Figure 5 shows earnings by cohort and credential. The 2014-15 and 2015-16 cohort has earnings for the 1st and 2nd years after graduation, while the 2015-16 and 2016-17 cohort only has earnings for the 1st year after graduation.

Figure 5
Earnings Trajectories by Degree and Graduation Cohort



Note. Data from U.S. Department of Education and author's calculations.

College Graduate Earnings by Academic Field

Table 1 reports the median earnings by academic field and credential level. For example, graduates with an associate degree in the field of “Accounting and Related Services” had median earnings of \$31,133, while those with a bachelor’s degree had median earnings of \$48,206. An “NA” indicates that the Department of Education did not report data to protect student privacy because the programs had too few graduates who received federal financial aid and had a job 2 years after graduation.

Table 1

Median College Graduate Earnings 2 Years After Graduation by Academic Field and Credential

Academic Field (CIP Code)	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree	1st Professional Degree	Doctoral Degree
Accounting and Computer Science (3016)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Accounting and Related Services (5203)	\$31,133	\$48,206	\$60,311	\$66,956	\$82,440
Advanced/Graduate Dentistry and Oral Sciences (5105)	NA	NA	\$192,518	\$195,512	\$108,223
Aerospace, Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering (1402)	NA	\$65,060	\$90,498	NA	\$97,071
African Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics (1602)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Academic Field (CIP Code)	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree	1st Professional Degree	Doctoral Degree
Agricultural and Domestic Animal Services (105)	\$25,870	\$25,987	NA	NA	NA
Agricultural and Food Products Processing (104)	\$38,289	\$55,939	NA	NA	NA
Agricultural Business and Management (101)	\$37,233	\$45,254	\$57,239	NA	NA
Agricultural Engineering (1403)	\$42,682	\$59,758	NA	NA	NA
Agricultural Mechanization (102)	\$42,798	\$54,768	NA	NA	NA
Agricultural Production Operations (103)	\$31,805	\$31,203	\$43,384	NA	NA
Agricultural Public Services (108)	NA	\$35,594	\$42,877	NA	NA
Agriculture, Agriculture Operations, and Related Sciences, Other (199)	\$36,324	\$41,959	NA	NA	NA
Agriculture, General (100)	\$27,403	\$35,349	\$47,045	NA	NA
Agriculture/Veterinary Preparatory Programs (113)	\$29,812	\$24,938	NA	NA	NA
Air Force ROTC, Air Science and Operations (2801)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Air Transportation (4901)	\$40,236	\$45,073	\$73,894	NA	NA
Allied Health and Medical Assisting Services (5108)	\$30,039	\$24,333	\$140,530	\$64,196	NA
Allied Health Diagnostic, Intervention, and Treatment Professions (5109)	\$44,542	\$52,863	\$103,746	\$102,163	NA
Alternative and Complementary Medical Support Services (5134)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Alternative and Complementary Medicine and Medical Systems (5133)	\$21,042	\$29,354	\$24,308	\$23,412	\$33,060
American Indian/Native American Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics (1610)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
American Sign Language (1616)	\$24,021	\$32,317	\$52,107	NA	NA
Animal Sciences (109)	\$25,120	\$31,046	\$61,733	NA	NA
Anthropology (4502)	NA	\$25,967	\$37,707	NA	\$52,107
Apparel and Textiles (1909)	\$30,988	\$37,240	\$45,884	NA	NA
Applied Horticulture and Horticultural Business Services (106)	\$31,782	\$38,688	NA	NA	NA
Applied Mathematics (2703)	NA	\$52,406	\$85,127	NA	\$59,417
Archeology (4503)	NA	\$24,201	NA	NA	NA
Architectural Engineering Technologies/ Technicians (1501)	\$44,161	\$49,523	NA	NA	NA
Architectural Engineering (1404)	NA	\$65,992	\$70,978	NA	NA
Architectural History and Criticism (408)	NA	\$38,715	NA	NA	NA
Architectural Sciences and Technology (409)	\$44,717	\$42,589	\$52,377	NA	NA
Architecture and Related Services, Other (499)	NA	\$38,421	\$44,801	\$63,997	NA
Architecture (402)	NA	\$47,601	\$53,775	\$53,673	\$52,870
Area Studies (501)	NA	\$33,292	\$48,698	NA	\$52,107
Army ROTC, Military Science and Operations (2803)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Arts, Entertainment, and Media Management (5010)	\$18,406	\$27,164	\$38,583	NA	NA
Astronomy and Astrophysics (4002)	NA	\$35,023	NA	NA	NA
Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology (4004)	NA	\$34,782	NA	NA	NA

Academic Field (CIP Code)	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree	1st Professional Degree	Doctoral Degree
Audiovisual Communications Technologies/ Technicians (1002)	\$21,271	\$26,592	\$29,093	NA	NA
Basic Skills and Developmental/Remedial Education (3201)	\$37,396	NA	NA	NA	NA
Behavioral Sciences (3017)	\$25,724	\$30,970	\$38,416	NA	NA
Bible/Biblical Studies (3902)	\$21,738	\$28,300	\$42,358	NA	NA
Bilingual, Multilingual, and Multicultural Education (1302)	NA	\$44,237	\$53,006	NA	\$84,653
Biochemical Engineering (1443)	NA	\$63,062	NA	NA	NA
Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biology (2602)	NA	\$33,164	\$38,289	NA	\$55,699
Bioethics/Medical Ethics (5132)	\$62,587	\$57,811	\$87,154	NA	\$91,744
Biological and Biomedical Sciences, Other (2699)	NA	\$29,852	\$32,363	NA	\$50,439
Biological and Physical Sciences (3001)	\$25,339	\$30,554	\$61,363	NA	NA
Biological/Biosystems Engineering (1445)	NA	\$46,125	NA	NA	NA
Biology Technician/Biotechnology Laboratory Technician (4101)	\$40,431	\$45,597	NA	NA	NA
Biology, General (2601)	\$24,072	\$28,381	\$35,590	NA	\$60,901
Biomathematics, Bioinformatics, and Computational Biology (2611)	NA	\$71,015	\$68,713	NA	NA
Biomedical/Medical Engineering (1405)	\$61,218	\$61,271	\$71,351	NA	\$90,416
Biopsychology (3010)	NA	\$35,330	NA	NA	NA
Biotechnology (2612)	NA	\$38,392	\$67,491	NA	NA
Boilermaking/Boilermaker (4808)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Botany/Plant Biology (2603)	NA	\$23,619	NA	NA	NA
Building/Construction Finishing, Management, and Inspection (4604)	\$35,472	\$67,114	NA	NA	NA
Business Administration, Management and Operations (5202)	\$30,640	\$44,951	\$66,379	\$132,501	\$73,578
Business Operations Support and Assistant Services (5204)	\$25,194	\$15,299	\$57,995	NA	NA
Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services, Other (5299)	\$22,579	\$43,363	\$73,440	NA	NA
Business/Commerce, General (5201)	\$29,788	\$44,278	\$80,666	\$94,260	\$93,595
Business/Corporate Communications (5205)	NA	\$42,397	\$52,280	NA	NA
Business/Managerial Economics (5206)	NA	\$48,520	\$66,825	NA	NA
Carpenters (4602)	\$28,529	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cell/Cellular Biology and Anatomical Sciences (2604)	\$36,312	\$31,818	\$36,294	NA	\$56,648
Celtic Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics (1613)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ceramic Sciences and Engineering (1406)	NA	\$57,047	NA	NA	NA
Chemical Engineering (1407)	NA	\$69,061	\$76,648	NA	NA
Chemistry (4005)	NA	\$38,289	\$60,245	NA	\$64,556
Chiropractic (5101)	NA	NA	NA	\$39,712	\$40,289
Citizenship Activities (3301)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
City/Urban, Community and Regional Planning (403)	NA	\$37,784	\$55,184	NA	\$59,515

Academic Field (CIP Code)	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree	1st Professional Degree	Doctoral Degree
Civil Engineering Technologies/Technicians (1502)	\$47,260	\$57,318	NA	NA	NA
Civil Engineering (1408)	NA	\$61,674	\$71,601	NA	\$77,075
Classical and Ancient Studies (3022)	NA	\$22,915	NA	NA	NA
Classics and Classical Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics (1612)	NA	\$26,554	\$36,134	NA	NA
Clinical Psychology (4202)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Clinical, Counseling and Applied Psychology (4228)	NA	\$32,657	\$43,335	\$60,584	\$64,195
Clinical/Medical Laboratory Science/Research and Allied Professions (5110)	\$39,009	\$56,818	\$46,723	NA	NA
Cognitive Psychology and Psycholinguistics (4203)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cognitive Science (3025)	NA	\$39,974	\$42,235	NA	NA
Communication and Media Studies (901)	\$20,647	\$35,255	\$49,893	NA	\$61,164
Communication Disorders Sciences and Services (5102)	\$33,993	\$26,353	\$55,964	\$57,757	\$74,194
Communication, Journalism, and Related Programs, Other (999)	NA	\$35,648	\$59,265	NA	NA
Communications Technologies/Technicians and Support Services, Other (1099)	NA	\$32,873	NA	NA	NA
Communications Technology/Technician (1001)	\$22,745	\$24,456	\$56,415	NA	NA
Community Organization and Advocacy (4402)	\$24,422	\$35,203	\$42,682	NA	NA
Community Psychology (4204)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Computational Science (3030)	NA	\$67,660	NA	NA	NA
Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services, Other (1199)	\$35,806	\$54,616	\$91,156	NA	NA
Computer and Information Sciences, General (1101)	\$33,432	\$60,642	\$79,159	NA	\$103,047
Computer Engineering Technologies/Technicians (1512)	\$37,201	\$53,978	NA	NA	NA
Computer Engineering (1409)	\$52,107	\$72,219	\$96,327	NA	NA
Computer Programming (1102)	\$35,452	\$54,996	\$85,206	NA	NA
Computer Science (1107)	\$26,551	\$69,338	\$94,408	NA	\$104,192
Computer Software and Media Applications (1108)	\$28,060	\$35,548	\$76,239	NA	NA
Computer Systems Analysis (1105)	\$37,407	\$52,717	\$76,907	NA	NA
Computer Systems Networking and Telecommunications (1109)	\$38,278	\$53,584	\$67,602	NA	NA
Computer/Information Technology Administration and Management (1110)	\$33,181	\$49,772	\$89,146	NA	\$111,435
Construction Engineering Technologies (1510)	\$58,771	\$66,032	\$74,098	NA	NA
Construction Engineering (1433)	NA	\$70,332	\$88,198	NA	NA
Construction Management (5220)	\$45,912	\$65,035	\$84,174	NA	NA
Construction Trades, General (4600)	\$58,045	NA	NA	NA	NA
Construction Trades, Other (4699)	\$28,488	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cosmetology and Related Personal Grooming Services (1204)	\$17,232	\$14,399	NA	NA	NA
Crafts/Craft Design, Folk Art and Artisanry (5002)	NA	\$21,634	NA	NA	NA
Creative Writing (2305)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Academic Field (CIP Code)	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree	1st Professional Degree	Doctoral Degree
Criminal Justice and Corrections (4301)	\$28,960	\$35,249	\$44,978	NA	\$72,405
Criminology (4504)	\$24,369	\$33,817	\$47,290	NA	\$79,450
Culinary Arts and Related Services (1205)	\$26,327	\$29,630	\$42,682	NA	NA
Cultural Studies/Critical Theory and Analysis (3026)	NA	\$21,111	\$36,451	NA	NA
Curriculum and Instruction (1303)	NA	\$39,786	\$50,102	\$56,087	\$70,403
Dance (5003)	NA	\$21,964	\$35,587	NA	NA
Data Entry/Microcomputer Applications (1106)	\$29,641	NA	NA	NA	NA
Data Processing (1103)	\$33,081	\$43,926	NA	NA	NA
Demography and Population Studies (4505)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Dental Residency Programs (6001)	NA	NA	NA	\$198,793	NA
Dental Support Services and Allied Professions (5106)	\$49,035	\$57,770	\$69,082	NA	NA
Dentistry (5104)	NA	NA	\$220,050	\$111,769	\$106,923
Design and Applied Arts (5004)	\$24,081	\$32,493	\$45,378	NA	NA
Developmental and Child Psychology (4207)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Dietetics and Clinical Nutrition Services (5131)	\$29,940	\$32,011	\$48,412	NA	NA
Dispute Resolution (3028)	NA	NA	\$71,122	NA	\$57,318
Drafting/Design Engineering Technologies/Technicians (1513)	\$35,390	\$55,871	NA	NA	NA
Drama/Theatre Arts and Stagecraft (5005)	\$17,601	\$22,781	\$32,974	NA	\$21,964
East Asian Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics (1603)	NA	\$31,314	NA	NA	NA
Ecology, Evolution, Systematics, and Population Biology (2613)	NA	\$24,974	\$56,204	\$50,105	\$58,251
Economics (4506)	NA	\$48,432	\$64,049	NA	\$86,459
Education, General (1301)	\$20,252	\$35,163	\$50,814	\$48,684	\$73,981
Education, Other (1399)	\$39,222	\$34,789	\$52,880	NA	\$71,810
Educational Administration and Supervision (1304)	NA	\$29,685	\$53,648	\$62,870	\$78,148
Educational Assessment, Evaluation, and Research (1306)	NA	\$27,490	\$54,941	NA	\$80,311
Educational/Instructional Media Design (1305)	NA	\$53,311	\$53,447	NA	\$67,959
Electrical and Power Transmission Installers (4603)	\$40,889	NA	NA	NA	NA
Electrical Engineering Technologies/Technicians (1503)	\$35,644	\$54,885	NA	NA	NA
Electrical, Electronics and Communications Engineering (1410)	\$40,666	\$69,917	\$94,950	NA	\$119,993
Electrical/Electronics Maintenance and Repair Technology (4701)	\$40,154	NA	NA	NA	NA
Electromechanical Engineering (1441)	NA	\$67,380	NA	NA	NA
Electromechanical Instrumentation and Maintenance Technologies/Technicians (1504)	\$52,951	\$54,407	NA	NA	NA
Energy and Biologically Based Therapies (5137)	NA	\$29,685	NA	NA	NA
Energy Systems Technologies/Technicians (1517)	\$40,188	\$44,775	\$83,693	NA	NA
Engineering-Related Fields (1515)	NA	\$63,749	\$82,744	NA	NA

Academic Field (CIP Code)	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree	1st Professional Degree	Doctoral Degree
Engineering-Related Technologies (1511)	\$50,921	\$57,652	NA	NA	NA
Engineering Chemistry (1444)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Engineering Mechanics (1411)	NA	\$71,575	NA	NA	NA
Engineering Physics (1412)	NA	\$59,433	NA	NA	NA
Engineering Science (1413)	NA	\$62,434	\$71,701	NA	NA
Engineering Technologies/Technicians, Other (1599)	\$39,466	\$59,513	\$65,256	NA	NA
Engineering Technology, General (1500)	\$43,222	\$59,603	\$67,660	NA	NA
Engineering, General (1401)	\$26,312	\$63,997	\$88,986	NA	\$114,892
Engineering, Other (1499)	NA	\$65,493	\$93,659	NA	NA
English Language and Literature, General (2301)	\$20,140	\$29,532	\$40,644	\$30,409	\$50,439
English Language and Literature/Letters, Other (2399)	NA	\$27,697	\$29,397	NA	NA
English Literature (British and Commonwealth) (2308)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Entrepreneurial and Small Business Operations (5207)	\$27,797	\$38,345	\$69,424	NA	NA
Environmental Control Technologies/Technicians (1505)	\$34,934	\$48,552	\$53,019	NA	NA
Environmental Design (404)	NA	\$39,270	\$44,630	NA	NA
Environmental/Environmental Health Engineering (1414)	NA	\$52,917	\$68,322	NA	NA
Ethnic, Cultural Minority, Gender, and Group Studies (502)	NA	\$29,685	\$45,233	NA	\$56,016
Family and Consumer Economics and Related Studies (1904)	NA	\$33,205	\$44,059	NA	NA
Family and Consumer Sciences/Human Sciences Business Services (1902)	NA	\$38,779	\$57,318	NA	NA
Family and Consumer Sciences/Human Sciences, General (1901)	\$17,950	\$29,995	\$44,324	NA	NA
Family and Consumer Sciences/Human Sciences, Other (1999)	NA	NA	\$50,563	NA	NA
Film/Video and Photographic Arts (5006)	\$18,928	\$25,194	\$34,263	NA	NA
Finance and Financial Management Services (5208)	\$29,250	\$50,950	\$76,460	\$89,674	NA
Fine and Studio Arts (5007)	\$18,933	\$25,664	\$29,741	NA	NA
Fire Protection (4302)	\$49,268	\$69,374	\$55,490	NA	NA
Fishing and Fisheries Sciences and Management (303)	\$30,409	\$29,165	\$45,715	NA	NA
Food Science and Technology (110)	\$35,182	\$42,178	\$71,486	NA	NA
Foods, Nutrition, and Related Services (1905)	\$24,035	\$32,668	\$49,968	NA	NA
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics, Other (1699)	NA	\$32,944	\$41,565	NA	NA
Forest Engineering (1434)	NA	\$53,608	NA	NA	NA

Academic Field (CIP Code)	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree	1st Professional Degree	Doctoral Degree
Forestry (305)	\$31,848	\$37,675	\$51,273	NA	NA
Funeral Service and Mortuary Science (1203)	\$35,319	\$38,586	NA	NA	NA
General Sales, Merchandising and Related Marketing Operations (5218)	\$25,194	\$46,069	\$82,817	NA	NA
Genetics (2608)	NA	\$34,837	\$72,783	NA	NA
Geography and Cartography (4507)	\$37,568	\$35,979	\$55,158	NA	\$57,318
Geological and Earth Sciences/Geosciences (4006)	\$39,927	\$34,704	\$58,423	NA	\$51,250
Geological/Geophysical Engineering (1439)	NA	\$55,852	\$74,145	NA	NA
Germanic Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics (1605)	NA	\$32,067	NA	NA	NA
Gerontology (3011)	NA	\$33,326	\$43,854	NA	NA
Graphic Communications (1003)	\$25,662	\$24,008	\$34,485	NA	NA
Ground Transportation (4902)	\$47,119	NA	NA	NA	NA
Health-Related Knowledge and Skills (3401)	\$26,353	\$31,423	NA	NA	NA
Health Aides/Attendants/Orderlies (5126)	\$26,151	NA	NA	NA	NA
Health and Medical Administrative Services (5107)	\$25,774	\$35,841	\$58,982	\$55,978	\$98,919
Health and Physical Education/Fitness (3105)	\$25,486	\$30,891	\$42,885	NA	\$69,420
Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences, Other (5199)	\$30,321	\$33,559	\$46,268	NA	NA
Health Services/Allied Health/Health Sciences, General (5100)	\$31,259	\$33,198	\$54,458	\$26,739	\$83,521
Health/Medical Preparatory Programs (5111)	\$25,597	\$28,478	\$24,773	\$124,539	\$57,060
Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation and Refrigeration Maintenance Technology/Technician (HAC, HACR, HVAC, HVACR) (4702)	\$36,179	NA	NA	NA	NA
Heavy/Industrial Equipment Maintenance Technologies (4703)	\$43,416	\$65,905	NA	NA	NA
High School/Secondary Certificate Programs (5302)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
High School/Secondary Diploma Programs (5301)	NA	\$41,565	NA	NA	NA
Historic Preservation and Conservation (3012)	NA	\$28,865	\$40,538	NA	NA
History (5401)	\$29,685	\$30,374	\$42,181	NA	\$51,891
Holocaust and Related Studies (3021)	NA	\$25,194	NA	NA	NA
Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting and Related Protective Services, Other (4399)	\$27,644	\$41,973	\$68,178	NA	NA
Homeland Security (4303)	\$47,260	\$44,151	\$71,305	NA	\$101,964
Hospitality Administration/Management (5209)	\$24,348	\$38,289	\$48,617	NA	NA
Housing and Human Environments (1906)	NA	\$43,578	NA	NA	NA
Human Biology (3027)	NA	\$31,729	NA	NA	NA
Human Computer Interaction (3031)	\$26,353	\$33,022	\$79,041	NA	NA
Human Development, Family Studies, and Related Services (1907)	\$21,140	\$29,616	\$41,306	NA	\$57,214
Human Resources Management & Services (5210)	\$33,353	\$44,265	\$54,473	NA	\$81,212
Human Services, General (4400)	\$25,617	\$32,284	\$37,128	NA	\$67,101
Industrial Engineering (1435)	NA	\$69,721	\$82,647	NA	NA

Academic Field (CIP Code)	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree	1st Professional Degree	Doctoral Degree
Industrial Production Technologies/Technicians (1506)	\$46,836	\$53,689	\$60,914	NA	NA
Information Science/Studies (1104)	\$32,672	\$59,183	\$81,109	NA	\$122,038
Insurance (5217)	NA	\$56,599	\$89,352	NA	NA
Intelligence, Command Control and Information Operations (2902)	\$44,254	\$37,658	\$56,784	NA	NA
Intercultural/Multicultural and Diversity Studies (3023)	NA	\$24,711	\$53,861	NA	NA
Interior Architecture (405)	NA	\$42,259	\$50,212	NA	NA
Internal Medicine Residency/Fellowship Programs (6108)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
International Agriculture (107)	NA	\$29,115	\$31,492	NA	NA
International and Comparative Education (1307)	NA	\$47,846	\$52,863	NA	NA
International Business (5211)	\$39,369	\$44,312	\$69,201	NA	NA
International Relations and National Security Studies (4509)	NA	\$37,800	\$64,127	\$45,500	NA
International/Global Studies (3020)	NA	\$33,993	\$64,644	NA	NA
Interpersonal and Social Skills (3501)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Iranian/Persian Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics (1608)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Journalism (904)	\$20,140	\$33,864	\$46,329	NA	NA
Landscape Architecture (406)	NA	\$47,260	\$54,254	NA	NA
Law (2201)	NA	NA	\$34,663	\$61,140	\$58,603
Leatherworking and Upholstery (4803)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Legal Professions and Studies, Other (2299)	\$30,246	\$36,076	\$83,730	\$60,719	NA
Legal Research and Advanced Professional Studies (2202)	NA	\$34,232	\$78,059	\$53,801	\$63,005
Legal Support Services (2203)	\$29,478	\$34,276	\$57,318	NA	NA
Leisure and Recreational Activities (3601)	NA	\$22,744	NA	NA	NA
Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies and Humanities (2401)	\$24,532	\$32,590	\$46,087	\$61,516	\$40,378
Library and Archives Assisting (2503)	\$14,627	NA	NA	NA	NA
Library Science and Administration (2501)	NA	\$32,608	\$43,054	\$49,661	NA
Library Science, Other (2599)	NA	NA	\$48,614	NA	NA
Linguistic, Comparative, and Related Language Studies and Services (1601)	NA	\$27,301	\$47,592	NA	\$50,839
Literature (2314)	NA	\$24,985	\$25,194	NA	NA
Management Information Systems and Services (5212)	\$40,154	\$57,318	\$66,908	NA	\$127,993
Management Sciences and Quantitative Methods (5213)	\$25,194	\$50,154	\$94,080	\$108,092	NA
Manufacturing Engineering (1436)	NA	\$66,444	\$94,367	NA	NA
Marine Sciences (3032)	NA	\$29,787	NA	NA	NA
Marine Transportation (4903)	NA	\$82,305	NA	NA	NA
Maritime Studies (3029)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Marketing (5214)	\$29,501	\$43,431	\$53,836	NA	NA

Academic Field (CIP Code)	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree	1st Professional Degree	Doctoral Degree
Mason/Masonry (4601)	\$26,521	NA	NA	NA	NA
Materials Engineering (1418)	NA	\$65,491	\$77,661	NA	\$74,576
Materials Sciences (4010)	NA	\$62,480	NA	NA	NA
Mathematics and Computer Science (3008)	NA	\$63,774	NA	NA	NA
Mathematics and Statistics, Other (2799)	NA	\$68,582	NA	NA	NA
Mathematics (2701)	NA	\$44,929	\$51,919	NA	\$56,020
Mechanic and Repair Technologies/Technicians, Other (4799)	\$52,660	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mechanical Engineering Related Technologies/Technicians (1508)	\$43,153	\$58,822	\$85,635	NA	NA
Mechanical Engineering (1419)	NA	\$66,040	\$81,965	NA	\$99,701
Mechanics and Repairers, General (4700)	\$22,989	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mechatronics, Robotics, and Automation Engineering (1442)	\$53,358	\$72,650	NA	NA	NA
Medical Clinical Sciences/Graduate Medical Studies (5114)	NA	NA	\$122,038	\$59,350	NA
Medical Illustration and Informatics (5127)	\$39,009	\$57,365	\$72,553	NA	NA
Medical Residency Programs (6002)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Medicine (5112)	NA	NA	\$62,241	\$57,514	\$56,899
Medieval and Renaissance Studies (3013)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mental and Social Health Services and Allied Professions (5115)	\$26,648	\$31,327	\$42,131	\$39,154	\$60,215
Metallurgical Engineering (1420)	NA	\$69,087	NA	NA	NA
Microbiological Sciences and Immunology (2605)	NA	\$33,993	\$44,351	\$50,439	\$57,318
Middle/Near Eastern and Semitic Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics (1611)	NA	\$35,689	NA	NA	\$63,005
Military Applied Sciences (2903)	NA	\$56,415	NA	NA	NA
Military Science and Operational Studies (2805)	NA	\$58,673	NA	NA	NA
Military Systems and Maintenance Technology (2904)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Military Technologies and Applied Sciences, Other (2999)	\$54,869	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mining and Mineral Engineering (1421)	\$98,403	\$70,089	\$76,460	NA	NA
Mining and Petroleum Technologies/Technicians (1509)	\$51,429	\$52,733	NA	NA	NA
Missions/Missionary Studies and Missiology (3903)	NA	\$21,657	NA	NA	\$63,328
Modern Greek Language and Literature (1606)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Molecular Medicine (2614)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Movement and Mind-Body Therapies and Education (5136)	NA	\$25,967	\$38,047	NA	NA
Multi-/Interdisciplinary Studies, General (3000)	NA	\$32,559	\$44,733	NA	NA
Multi-/Interdisciplinary Studies, Other (3099)	\$30,344	\$39,318	\$57,264	NA	\$72,313
Museology/Museum Studies (3014)	NA	NA	\$36,848	NA	NA
Music (5009)	\$19,311	\$25,299	\$26,433	NA	\$39,300
Nanotechnology (1516)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

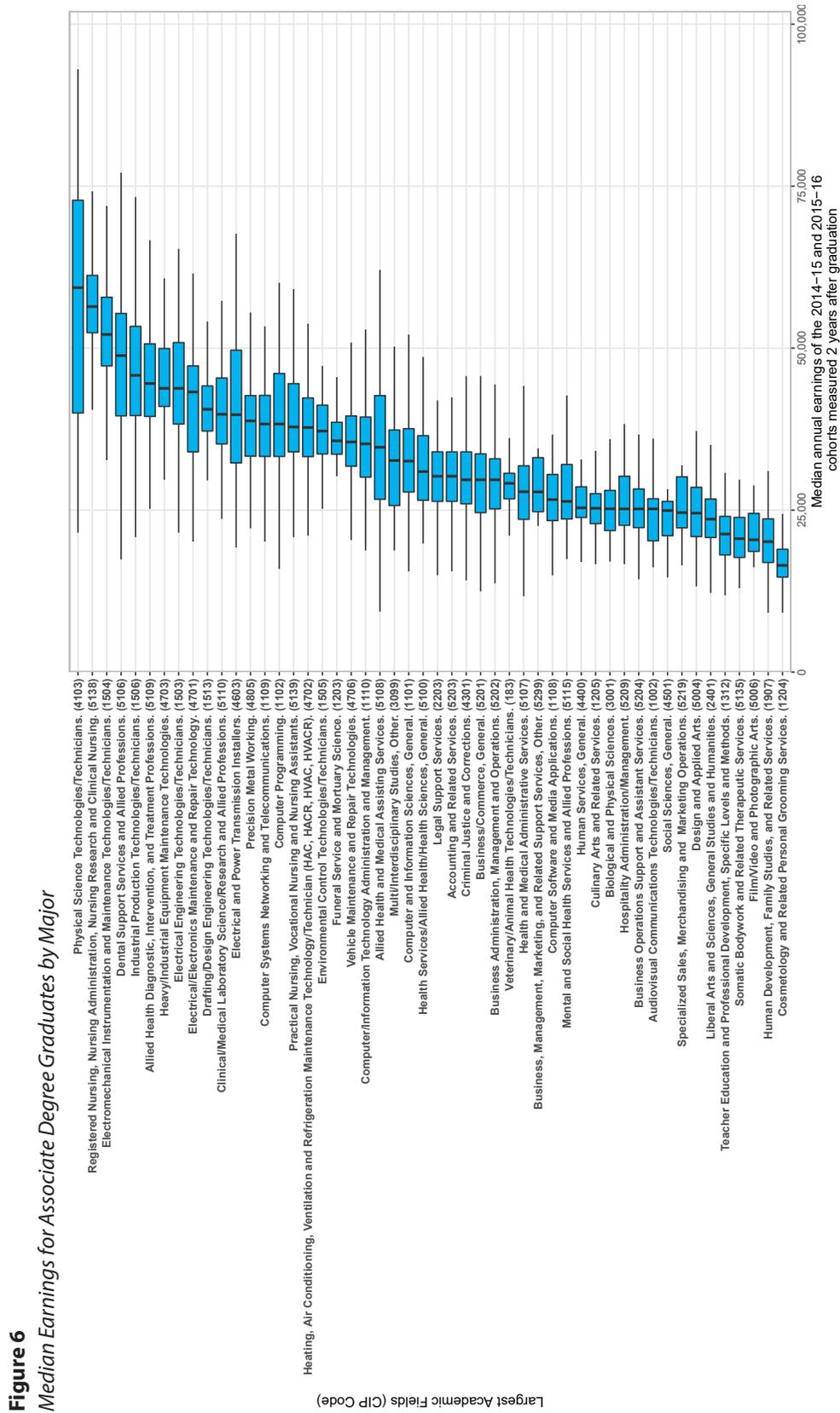
Academic Field (CIP Code)	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree	1st Professional Degree	Doctoral Degree
Natural Resources and Conservation, Other (399)	NA	\$26,676	NA	NA	NA
Natural Resources Conservation and Research (301)	\$32,746	\$31,305	\$52,107	NA	\$58,221
Natural Resources Management and Policy (302)	\$27,417	\$32,203	\$50,905	NA	NA
Natural Sciences (3018)	\$27,279	\$30,165	NA	NA	NA
Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering (1422)	NA	\$91,083	\$77,213	NA	NA
Neurobiology and Neurosciences (2615)	NA	\$29,738	\$33,993	NA	\$53,126
Neuroscience (3024)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Non-Professional General Legal Studies (Undergraduate) (2200)	NA	\$35,817	\$55,738	NA	\$57,318
Noncommercial Vehicle Operation (3602)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Nuclear and Industrial Radiologic Technologies/Technicians (4102)	\$54,480	NA	NA	NA	NA
Nuclear Engineering Technologies/Technicians (1514)	\$81,644	\$94,408	NA	NA	NA
Nuclear Engineering (1423)	NA	\$63,038	\$88,560	NA	\$94,064
Nursing (5116)	\$55,884	\$62,887	NA	NA	NA
Nutrition Sciences (3019)	NA	\$31,239	\$50,067	NA	\$46,087
Ocean Engineering (1424)	NA	\$64,650	NA	NA	NA
Operations Research (1437)	NA	\$84,750	\$111,622	NA	NA
Ophthalmic and Optometric Support Services and Allied Professions (5118)	\$37,927	NA	NA	NA	NA
Optometry (5117)	NA	NA	NA	\$96,063	\$97,426
Orthopedic Surgery Residency/Fellowship Programs (6115)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Osteopathic Medicine/Osteopathy (5119)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Outdoor Education (3106)	NA	\$26,353	\$39,009	NA	NA
Paper Science and Engineering (1440)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Parks, Recreation and Leisure Facilities Management (3103)	\$24,251	\$31,356	\$42,852	NA	NA
Parks, Recreation and Leisure Studies (3101)	\$24,615	\$33,042	\$41,788	NA	NA
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies, Other (3199)	NA	\$27,066	NA	NA	NA
Pastoral Counseling and Specialized Ministries (3907)	\$29,685	\$27,486	\$35,536	\$28,816	\$76,460
Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution (3005)	NA	\$37,496	\$50,860	NA	NA
Personal and Culinary Services, Other (1299)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Personal Awareness and Self-Improvement (3701)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Petroleum Engineering (1425)	NA	\$73,411	\$82,260	NA	NA
Pharmacology and Toxicology (2610)	NA	\$41,569	\$68,499	NA	NA
Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Administration (5120)	\$20,117	\$36,764	\$75,170	\$118,472	\$119,806
Philosophy and Religious Studies, General (3800)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Philosophy and Religious Studies, Other (3899)	NA	\$28,426	\$53,775	NA	NA
Philosophy (3801)	NA	\$29,351	\$32,895	NA	\$46,087

Academic Field (CIP Code)	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree	1st Professional Degree	Doctoral Degree
Physical Science Technologies/Technicians (4103)	\$64,143	NA	NA	NA	NA
Physical Sciences, Other (4099)	NA	\$23,532	\$65,332	NA	NA
Physical Sciences (4001)	\$21,373	\$48,861	NA	NA	NA
Physics (4008)	\$16,874	\$41,768	\$69,497	NA	\$88,501
Physiology, Pathology and Related Sciences (2609)	NA	\$26,060	\$42,682	NA	\$72,228
Plant Sciences (111)	\$36,992	\$38,769	\$54,620	NA	\$61,609
Plumbing and Related Water Supply Services (4605)	\$38,573	NA	NA	NA	NA
Podiatric Medicine/Podiatry (5121)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Political Science and Government (4510)	\$27,669	\$35,060	\$49,053	NA	\$69,576
Polymer/Plastics Engineering (1432)	NA	\$69,468	NA	NA	NA
Practical Nursing, Vocational Nursing and Nursing Assistants (5139)	\$38,888	\$22,955	\$122,038	NA	NA
Precision Metal Working (4805)	\$38,301	NA	NA	NA	NA
Precision Production Trades, General (4800)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Precision Production, Other (4899)	\$32,569	NA	NA	NA	NA
Precision Systems Maintenance and Repair Technologies (4704)	\$30,043	NA	NA	NA	NA
Psychiatry Residency/Fellowship Programs (6124)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Psychology, General (4201)	\$22,746	\$29,685	\$41,824	NA	\$66,171
Psychology, Other (4299)	NA	\$31,237	\$38,660	NA	\$62,921
Public Administration and Social Service Professions, Other (4499)	\$25,584	\$36,077	\$52,061	NA	\$50,606
Public Administration (4404)	\$30,771	\$40,463	\$55,968	\$51,273	\$90,412
Public Health (5122)	\$29,100	\$33,728	\$52,898	\$51,883	\$73,006
Public Policy Analysis (4405)	NA	\$39,336	\$69,865	\$50,231	\$87,604
Public Relations, Advertising, and Applied Communication (909)	\$23,775	\$38,418	\$53,036	NA	\$54,635
Publishing (910)	NA	NA	\$42,618	NA	NA
Quality Control and Safety Technologies/Technicians (1507)	\$65,987	\$59,980	\$71,770	NA	NA
Radio, Television, and Digital Communication (907)	\$20,140	\$29,607	\$47,507	NA	\$67,660
Radiology Residency/Fellowship Programs (6126)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Real Estate Development (410)	NA	NA	\$93,187	NA	NA
Real Estate (5215)	\$31,557	\$49,485	\$99,253	NA	NA
Registered Nursing, Nursing Administration, Nursing Research and Clinical Nursing (5138)	\$56,087	\$65,112	\$95,215	\$113,609	\$113,890
Rehabilitation and Therapeutic Professions (5123)	\$43,834	\$30,927	\$63,352	\$70,565	\$71,215
Religion/Religious Studies (3802)	\$34,968	\$34,103	\$42,765	\$69,338	\$50,647
Religious Education (3904)	NA	\$30,874	\$42,304	NA	NA
Religious/Sacred Music (3905)	NA	\$27,807	\$44,666	NA	NA
Research and Experimental Psychology (4227)	NA	\$30,102	\$44,013	NA	\$61,808

Academic Field (CIP Code)	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree	1st Professional Degree	Doctoral Degree
Rhetoric and Composition/Writing Studies (2313)	\$27,305	\$31,583	\$35,208	NA	\$70,456
Romance Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics (1609)	NA	\$31,904	\$36,645	NA	\$44,997
Rural Sociology (4514)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Science Technologies/Technicians, General (4100)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Science Technologies/Technicians, Other (4199)	\$27,252	\$52,656	\$92,632	NA	NA
Science, Technology and Society (3015)	NA	\$51,756	\$64,493	NA	NA
Security Policy and Strategy (2806)	NA	NA	\$58,422	NA	NA
Security Science and Technology (4304)	\$25,565	\$36,173	\$51,404	NA	NA
Slavic, Baltic and Albanian Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics (1604)	NA	\$34,302	NA	NA	NA
Social and Philosophical Foundations of Education (1309)	NA	\$25,194	\$52,631	NA	\$52,941
Social Psychology (4216)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Social Sciences, General (4501)	\$24,137	\$34,704	\$38,590	NA	NA
Social Sciences, Other (4599)	\$24,913	\$36,310	\$38,601	NA	\$63,600
Social Work (4407)	\$25,321	\$32,569	\$46,288	\$48,687	\$66,987
Sociology and Anthropology (4513)	NA	\$29,363	NA	NA	NA
Sociology (4511)	\$25,935	\$31,853	\$40,132	NA	\$64,815
Soil Sciences (112)	NA	\$41,802	\$67,101	NA	NA
Somatic Bodywork and Related Therapeutic Services (5135)	\$23,090	\$12,468	NA	NA	NA
South Asian Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics (1607)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Southeast Asian and Australasian/Pacific Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics (1614)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Special Education and Teaching (1310)	\$29,312	\$37,664	\$49,300	NA	\$63,005
Specialized Sales, Merchandising and Marketing Operations (5219)	\$31,438	\$36,656	\$91,194	NA	NA
Statistics (2705)	NA	\$54,341	\$84,118	NA	NA
Student Counseling and Personnel Services (1311)	NA	NA	\$43,962	\$43,197	\$64,309
Surveying Engineering (1438)	NA	\$59,722	NA	NA	NA
Sustainability Studies (3033)	NA	\$34,133	\$68,999	NA	NA
Systems Engineering (1427)	NA	\$74,253	\$101,072	NA	\$146,893
Systems Science and Theory (3006)	NA	\$59,781	\$60,273	NA	NA
Taxation (5216)	NA	NA	\$75,518	NA	NA
Teacher Education and Professional Development, Specific Levels and Methods (1312)	\$20,408	\$35,805	\$45,383	\$42,205	\$73,870
Teacher Education and Professional Development, Specific Subject Areas (1313)	\$18,024	\$37,208	\$49,362	NA	\$77,335
Teaching Assistants/Aides (1315)	\$20,124	NA	NA	NA	NA
Teaching English or French as a Second or Foreign Language (1314)	NA	\$24,317	\$53,091	NA	\$52,107
Telecommunications Management (5221)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Textile Sciences and Engineering (1428)	NA	\$43,479	NA	NA	NA

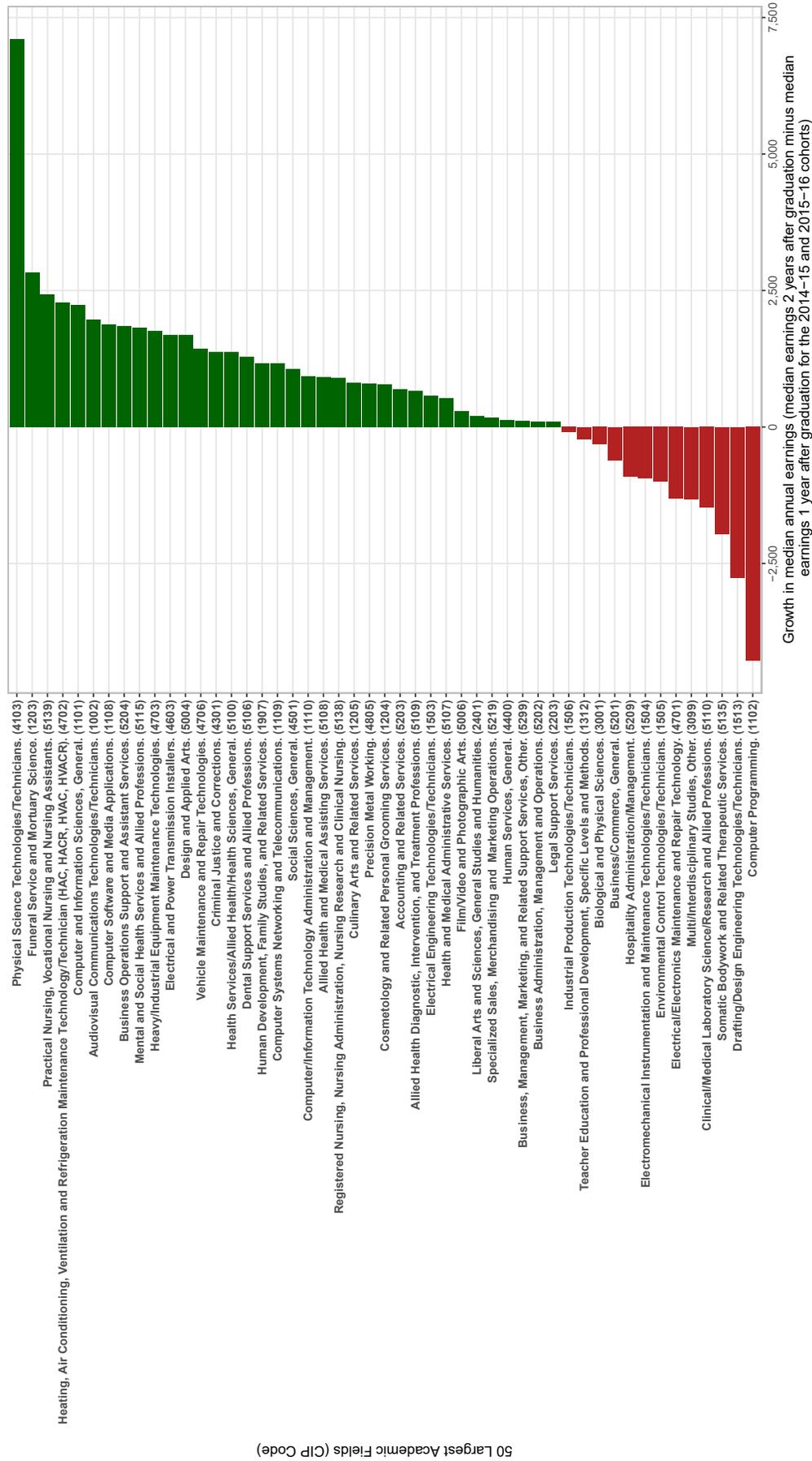
Academic Field (CIP Code)	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree	1st Professional Degree	Doctoral Degree
Theological and Ministerial Studies (3906)	NA	\$29,215	\$44,535	\$40,036	\$61,842
Theology and Religious Vocations, Other (3999)	NA	\$33,961	\$41,597	\$28,960	\$57,937
Transportation and Materials Moving, Other (4999)	NA	\$63,005	NA	NA	NA
Turkic, Uralic-Altaic, Caucasian, and Central Asian Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics (1615)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Urban Studies/Affairs (4512)	NA	\$37,358	\$51,169	NA	NA
Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Technologies (4706)	\$36,039	\$55,102	NA	NA	NA
Veterinary Biomedical and Clinical Sciences (181)	NA	\$43,487	\$64,755	\$81,886	NA
Veterinary Biomedical and Clinical Sciences (5125)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Veterinary Medicine (180)	NA	\$78,029	\$115,339	\$77,005	\$76,869
Veterinary Medicine (5124)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Veterinary Residency Programs (6003)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Veterinary/Animal Health Technologies/Technicians (183)	\$28,680	\$30,771	NA	NA	NA
Visual and Performing Arts, General (5001)	\$18,572	\$25,821	\$44,197	NA	NA
Visual and Performing Arts, Other (5099)	\$16,867	\$30,944	\$39,878	NA	NA
Wildlife and Wildlands Science and Management (306)	\$26,383	\$25,560	\$46,582	NA	NA
Woodworking (4807)	\$36,312	\$30,228	NA	NA	NA
Work and Family Studies (1900)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Work and Family Studies (1910)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Zoology/Animal Biology (2607)	\$30,782	\$25,194	\$39,603	NA	\$48,823

Figures 6 through 15 show the median earnings and the change in median earnings from the 1st year to the 2nd year after graduation for the largest majors by level of credential.



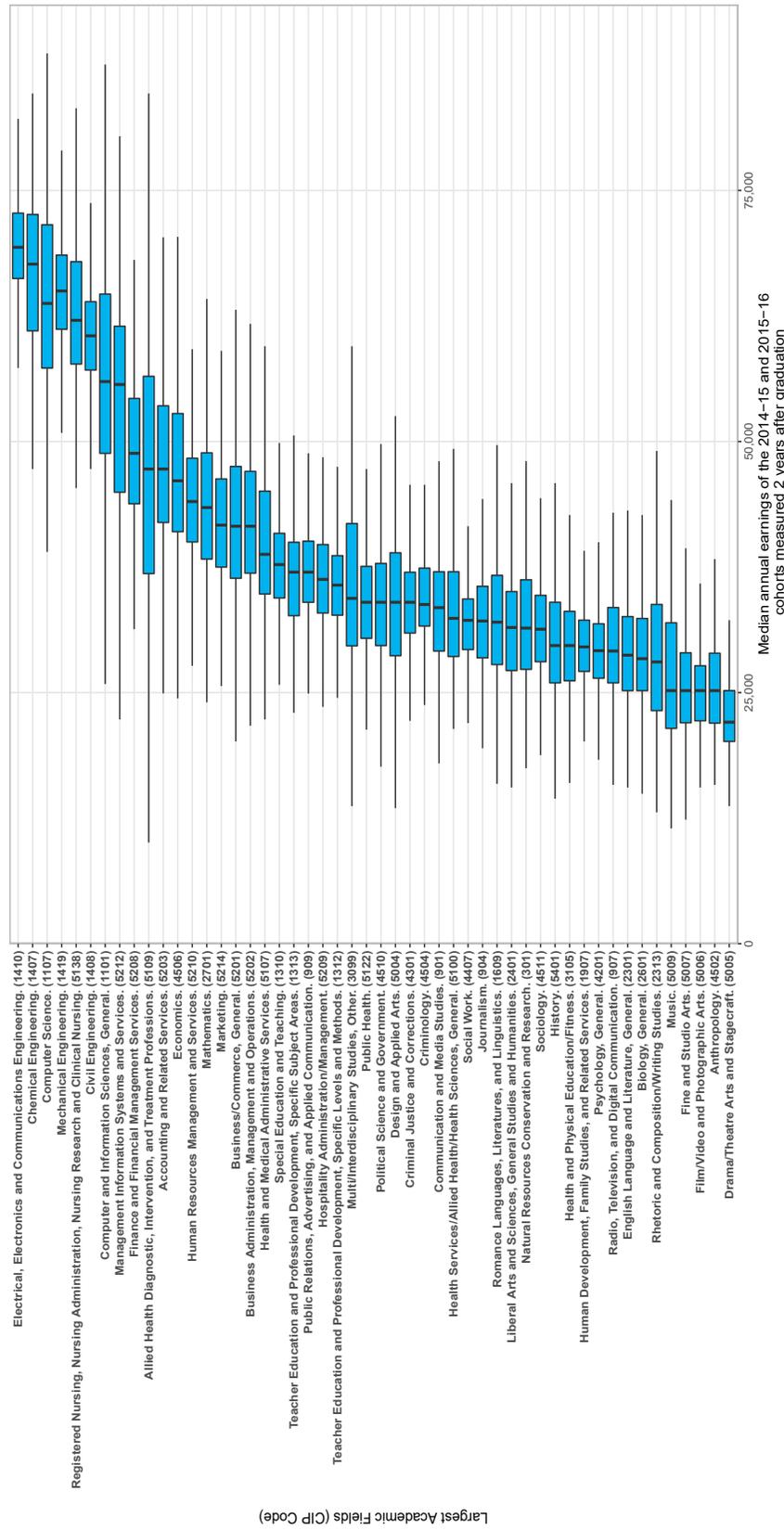
Note: Data from U.S. Department of Education and author's calculations; outliers have been suppressed.

Figure 7
Change in Median Earnings for Associate Degree Graduates by Major



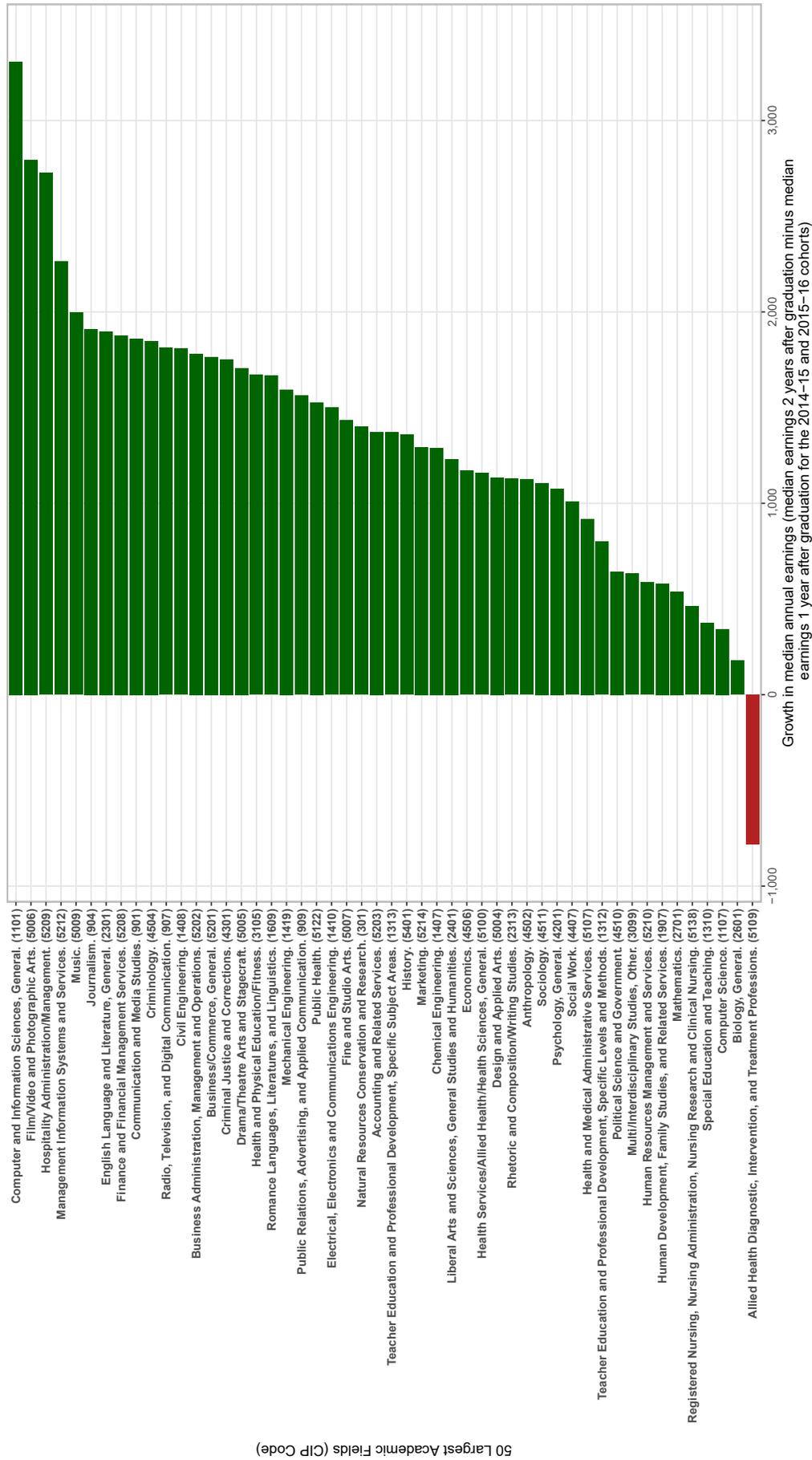
Note. Data from U.S. Department of Education and author's calculations.

Figure 8
Median Earnings for Bachelor's Degree Graduates by Major



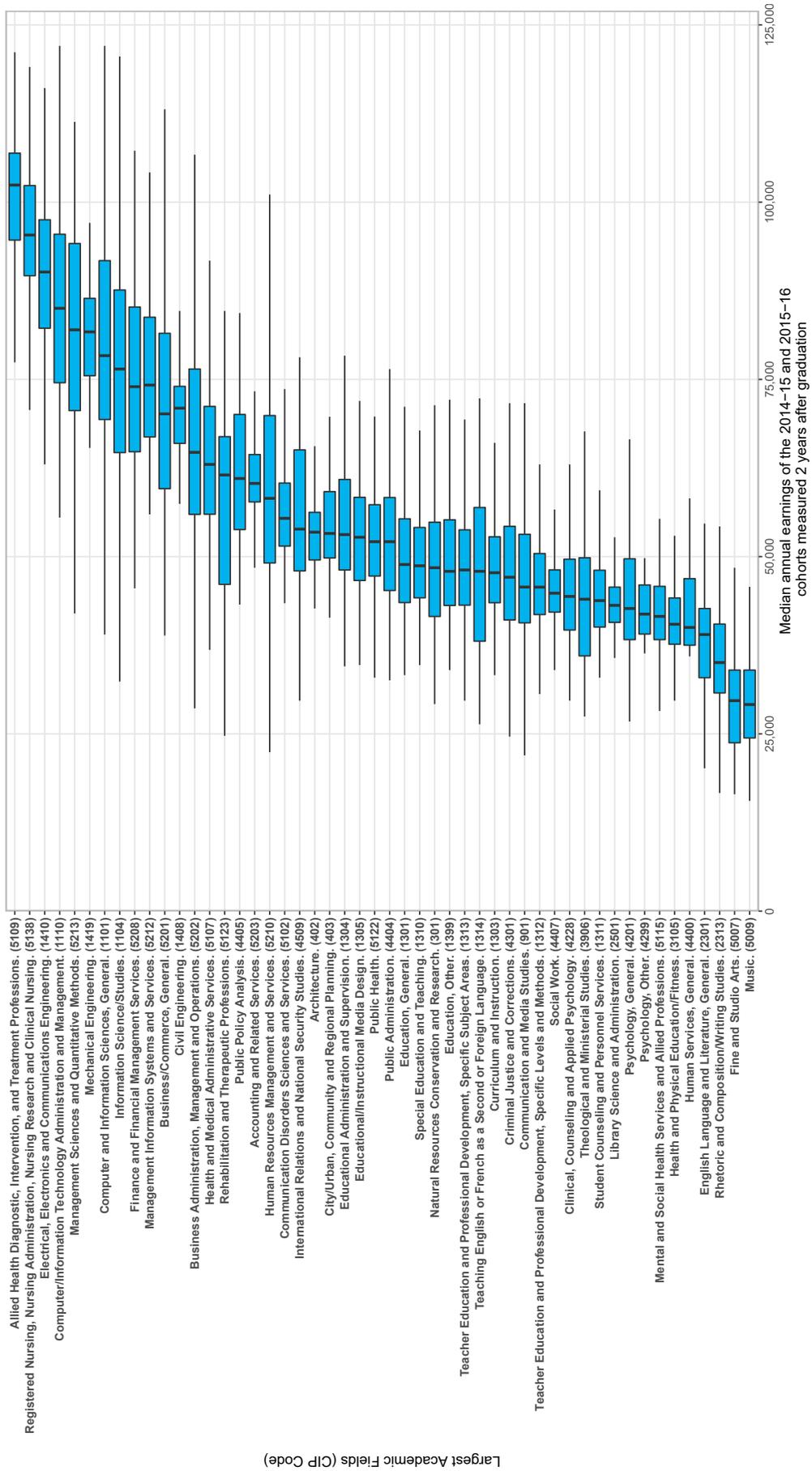
Note. Data from U.S. Department of Education and author's calculations; outliers have been suppressed.

Figure 9
Change in Median Earnings for Bachelor's Degree Graduates by Major



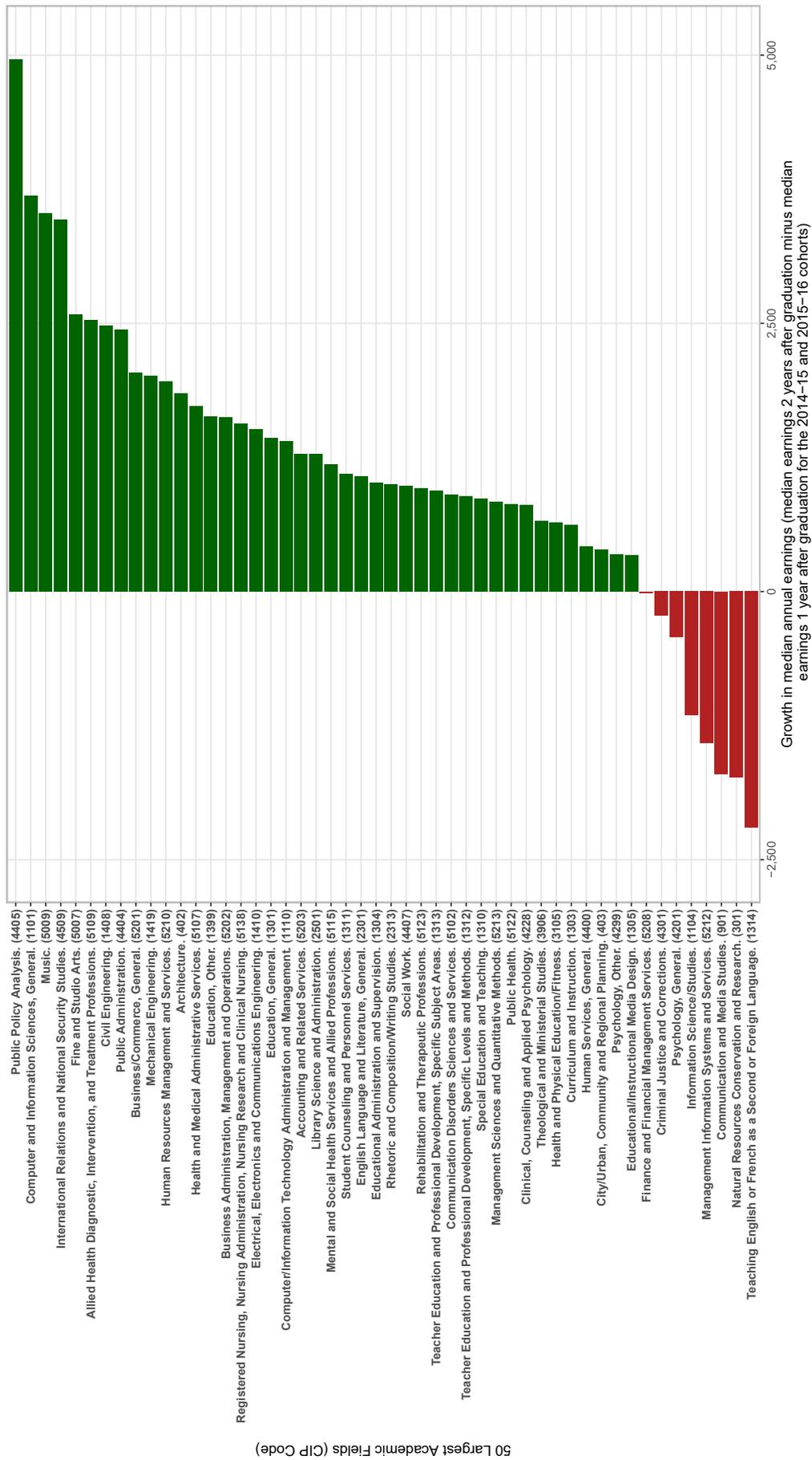
Note: Data from U.S. Department of Education and author's calculations.

Figure 10
Median Earnings for Master's Degree Graduates by Major



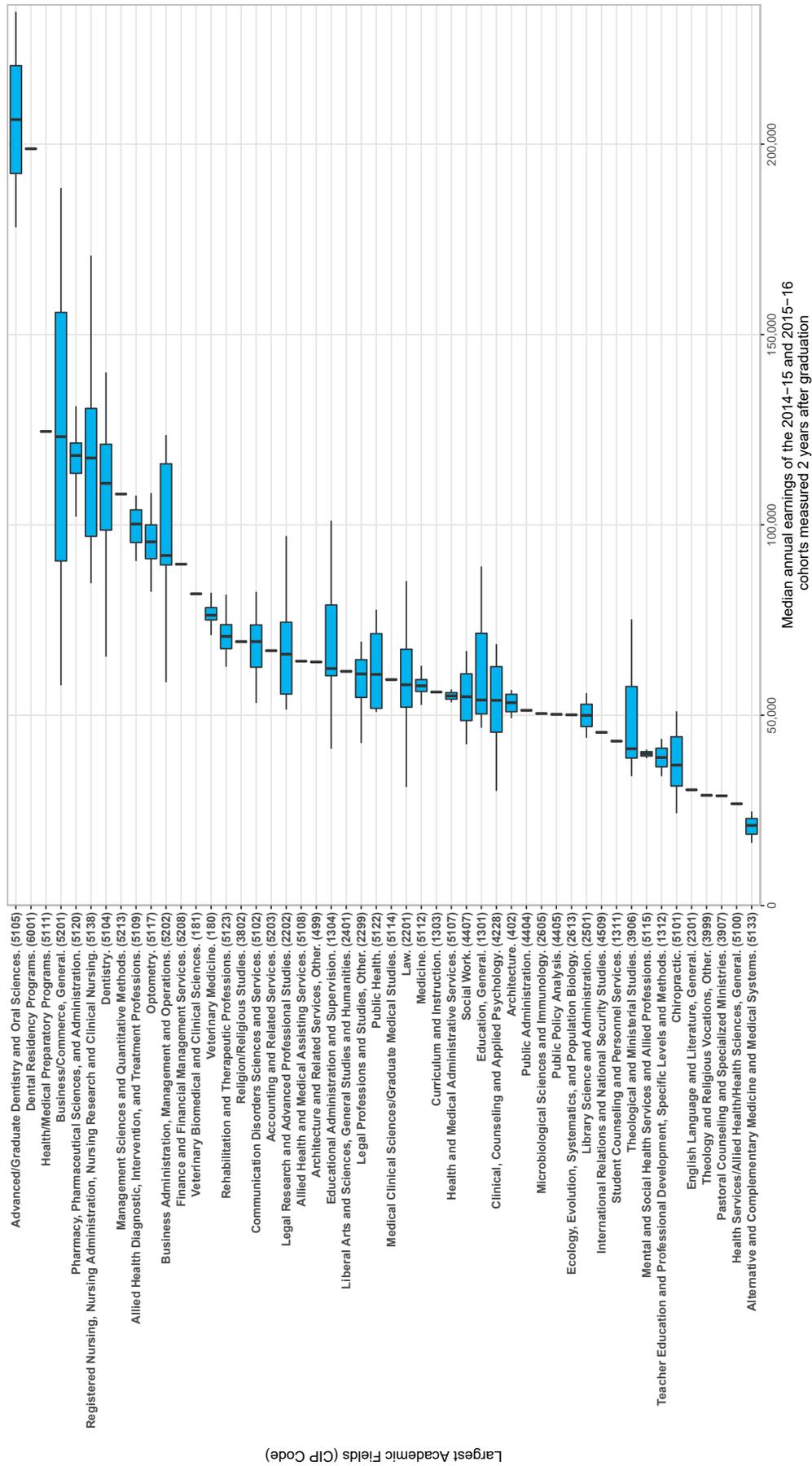
Note. Data from U.S. Department of Education and author's calculations; outliers have been suppressed.

Figure 11
Change in Median Earnings for Master's Degree Graduates by Major



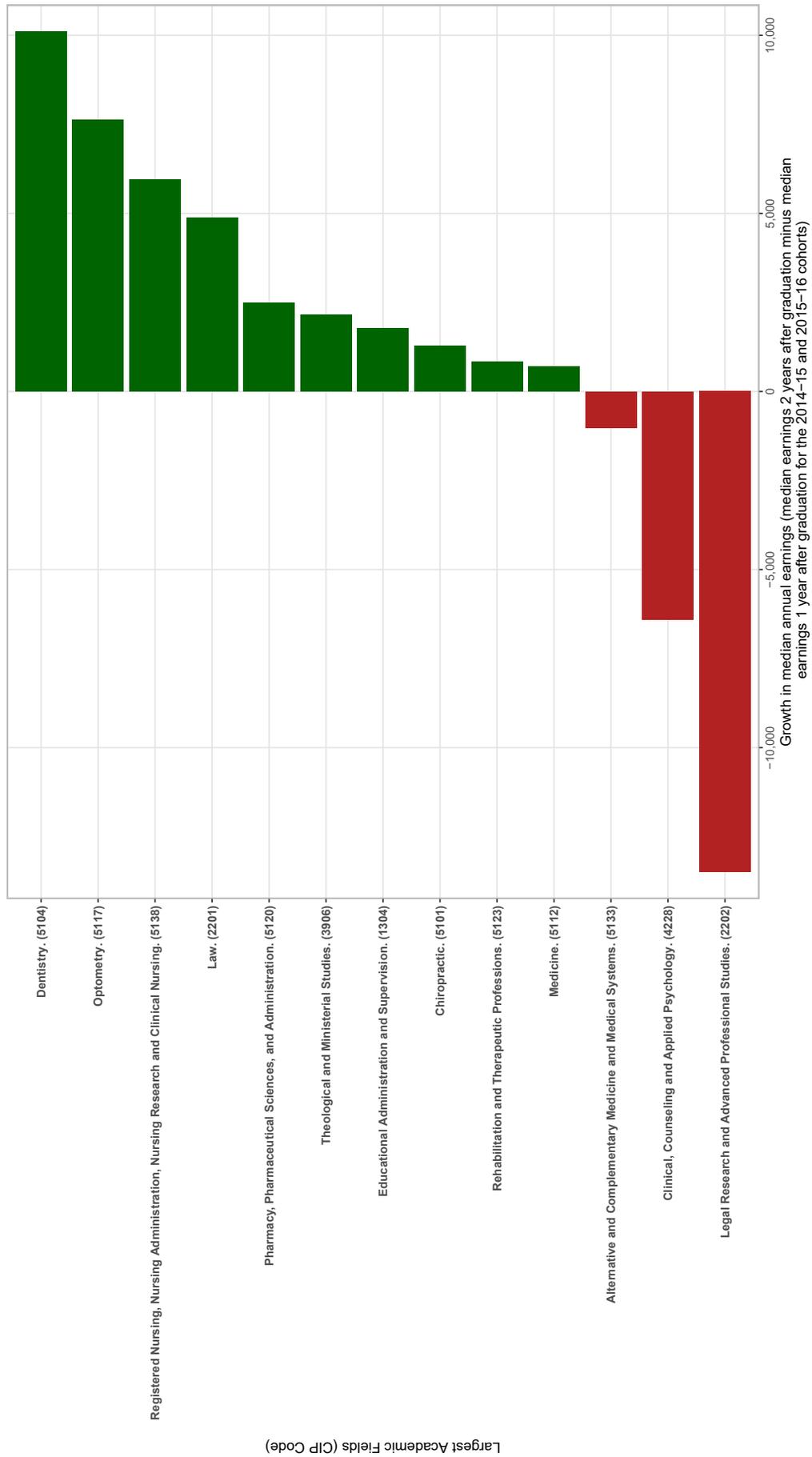
Note. Data from U.S. Department of Education and author's calculations.

Figure 12
Median Earnings for Professional Degree Graduates by Major



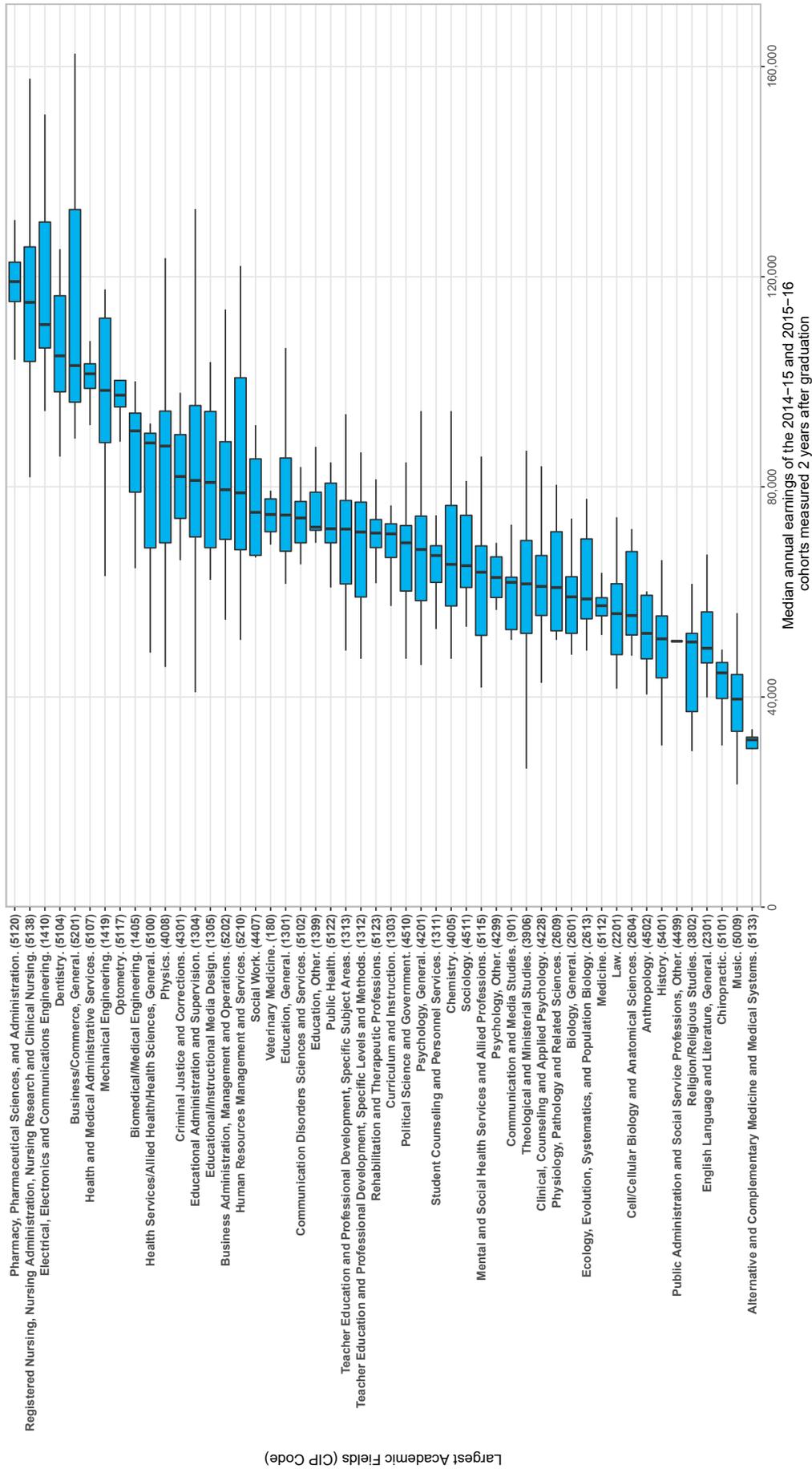
Note: Data from U.S. Department of Education and author's calculations; outliers have been suppressed.

Figure 13
Change in Median Earnings for Professional Degree Graduates by Major



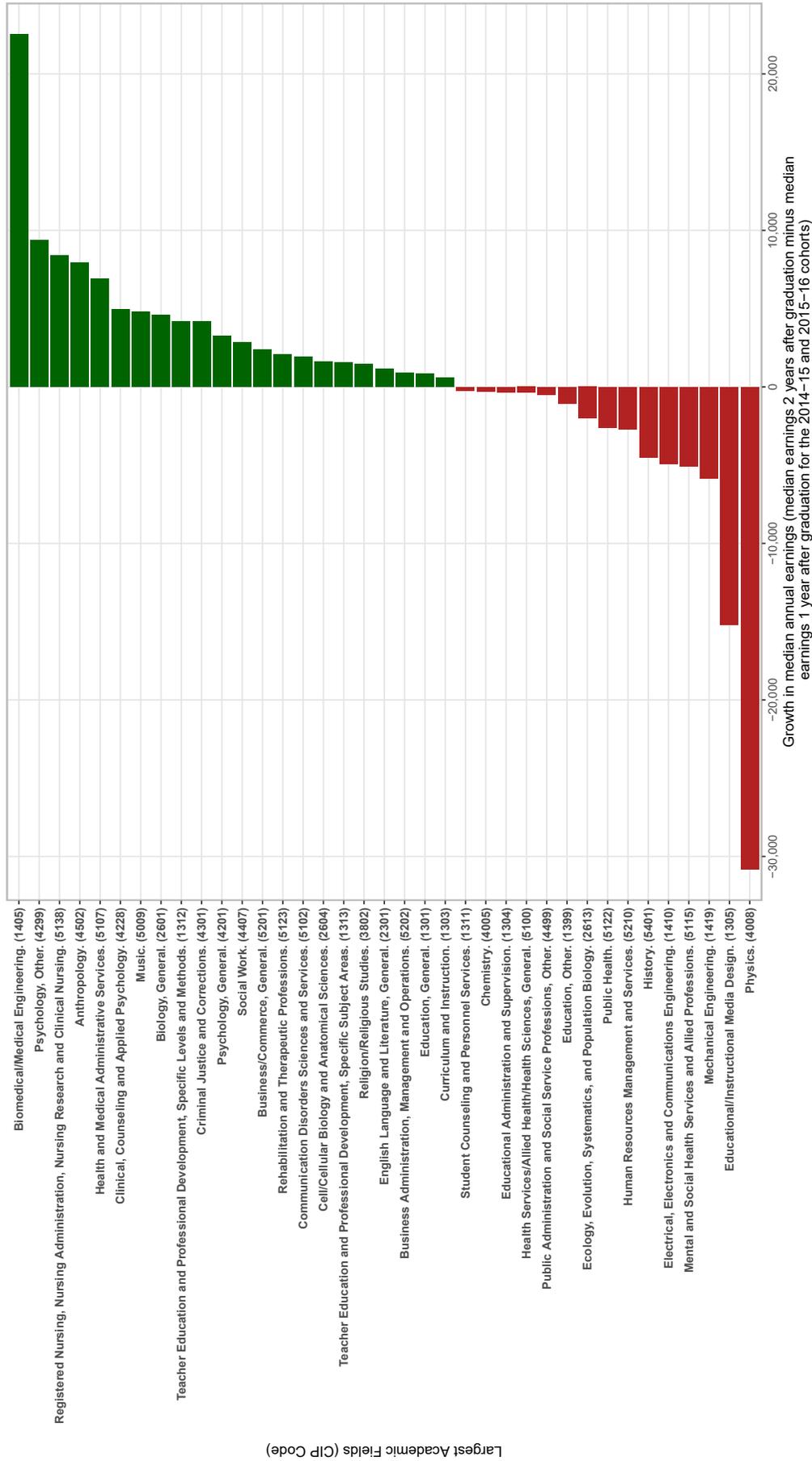
Note. Data from U.S. Department of Education and author's calculations.

Figure 14
Median Earnings for Doctoral Degree Graduates by Major



Note. Data from U.S. Department of Education and author's calculations; outliers have been suppressed.

Figure 15
Change in Median Earnings for Doctoral Degree Graduates by Major

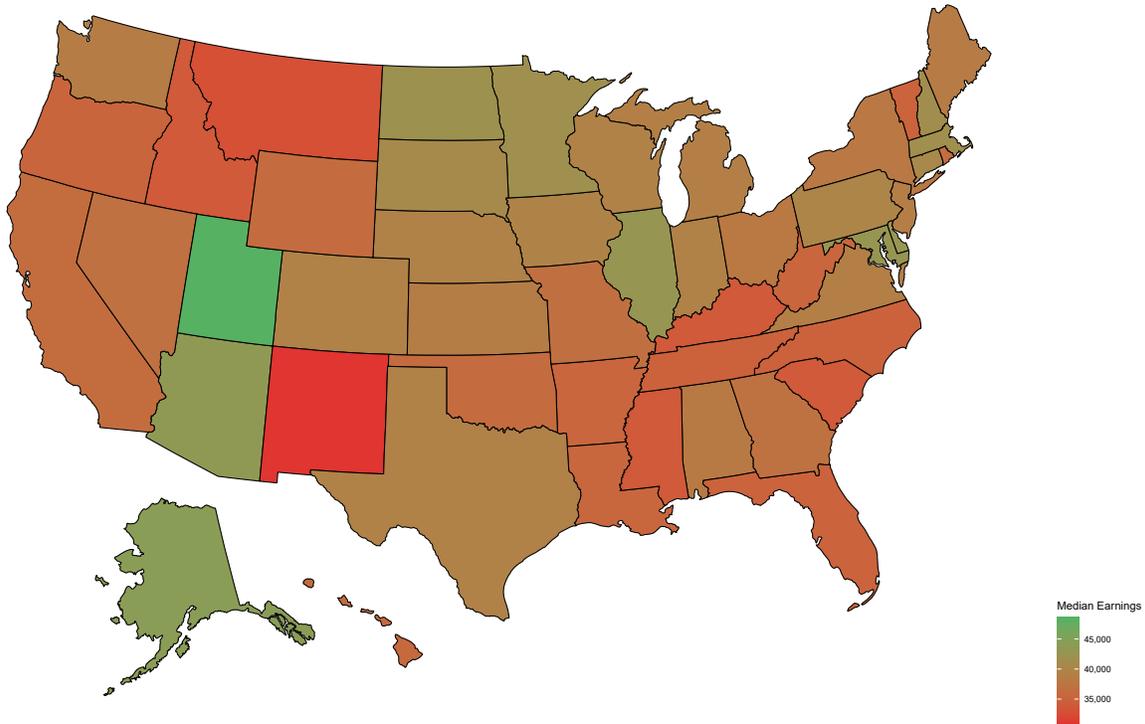


Note: Data from U.S. Department of Education and author's calculations.

Bachelor's Degree Graduate Earnings by Location and Type of College Attended

This section looks at the subset of college graduates who earned a bachelor's degree. **Figure 16** shows median earnings for bachelor's degree recipients by state.

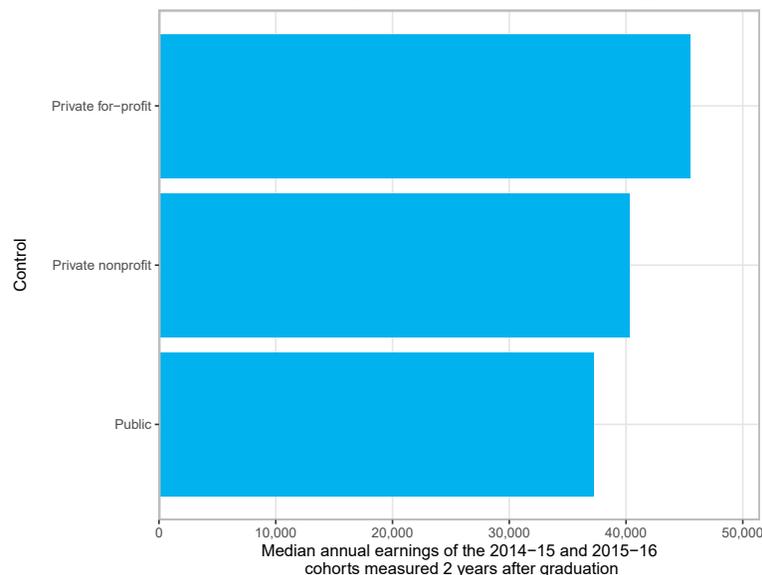
Figure 16
Median Bachelor's Degree Earnings by State



Note. Data from U.S. Department of Education and author's calculations.

Figure 17 shows median earnings by control (e.g., public, private nonprofit, or private for-profit). Median earnings for graduates from for-profit universities is higher than median earnings for graduates from public or private nonprofit universities.

Figure 17
Median College Graduate Earnings by Control: Bachelor's Degree



Note. Data from U.S. Department of Education and author's calculations.

This result is not consistent with the conventional wisdom of “predatory for-profit” universities delivering a subpar education to their students. **Table 2** reports median earnings by control and credential to see if this result was a fluke. **Table 2** shows that median earnings for bachelor’s degree, master’s degree, and doctoral degree graduates from for-profit universities are higher than the median for graduates from public universities, while they are lower for graduates with associate degrees and considerably lower for graduates with professional degrees.

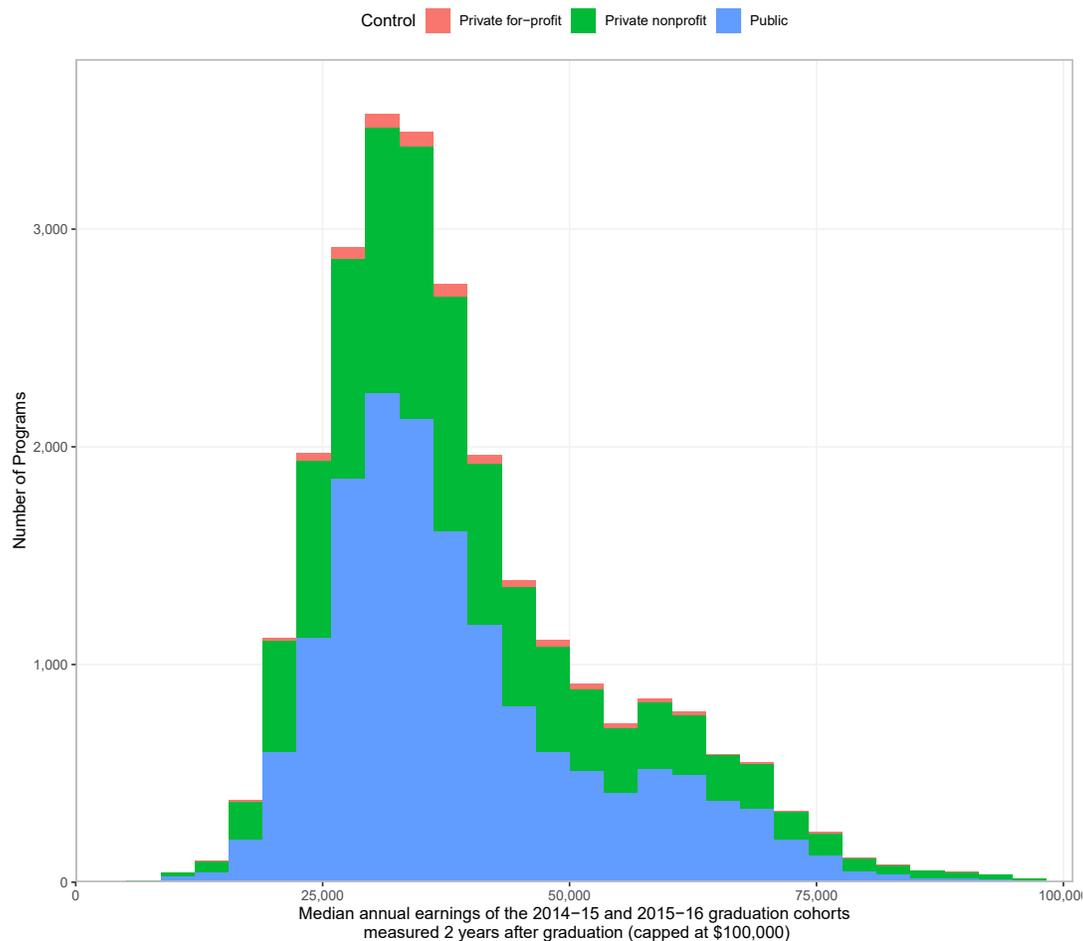
Table 2
Median Earnings 2 Years After Graduation by Control and Credential

Control	Associate Degree	Bachelor’s Degree	Master’s Degree	1st Professional Degree	Doctoral Degree
Private for-profit	\$29,637	\$45,464	\$54,215	\$48,064	\$73,923
Private nonprofit	\$31,616	\$40,281	\$57,589	\$62,973	\$71,587
Public	\$32,029	\$37,208	\$53,358	\$63,231	\$70,176

Note. Data from U.S. Department of Education and author’s calculations.

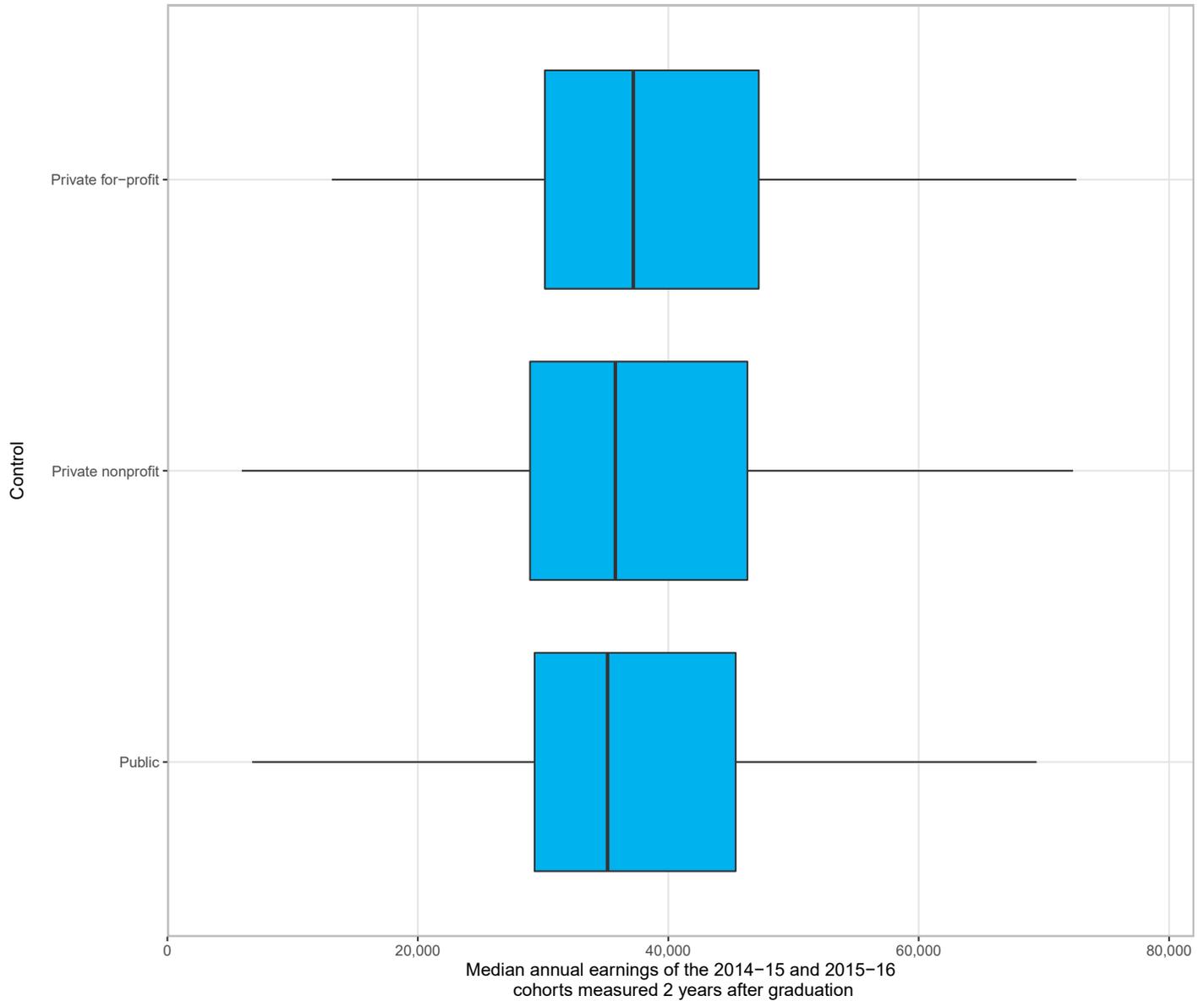
Figures 18 and 19 show the distribution of median earnings among bachelor’s degree programs by control. The overlapping distributions in **Figures 18 and 19** indicate that there are high-earning and low-earning programs across all types of colleges. This means that any accountability measures focused on earnings that are applied to only one category of university are inappropriate. For example, a new accountability measure that punishes programs at for-profit universities with median earnings below a certain threshold will miss many programs at public and private non-profit universities with similar earnings.

Figure 18
Histogram of Median Earnings by Control: Bachelor’s Degree



Note. Data from U.S. Department of Education and author’s calculations.

Figure 19
Distribution of Median Earnings by Control: Bachelor's Degree



Note. Data from U.S. Department of Education and author's calculations; outliers have been suppressed.

Where to Find More Information

This annual report is just one part of a much broader project. Readers can find more of our research at <https://www.texaspolicy.com/initiatives/next-generation-texas>. Students and parents can use this information when making enrollment decisions, colleges can use it in strategic planning, and policymakers can use it to design policies affecting higher education. ★

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U.S. Department of Education. (n.d.). *College Scorecard* [Data set]. <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/data/>

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Andrew Gillen, PhD, is a senior policy analyst at the Texas Public Policy Foundation and an adjunct professor of economics at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Gillen's recent work has focused on how to reform federal financial aid, how state disinvestment is a myth, and how post-college earnings and debt should be used to inform student choice and government accountability.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Dr. Gillen spent over a decade at nonprofit and philanthropic organizations researching and trying to improve higher education. He was a program officer for the Charles Koch Foundation and served in research roles for American Institutes for Research, Education Sector; the American Council of Trustees and Alumni; and the Center for College Affordability and Productivity. He was also on the U.S. Department of Education's Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance.

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