

Is Economics a Good College Major for Future Lawyers?

Earnings Data Say YES!

Annual Earnings for U.S. Lawyers among The 25 Most Popular Majors for Lawyers

Major	Mean Earnings Rank	Mean Earnings	Median Earnings
Electrical Engineering	1	219,383	179,744
Economics	2	182,359	130,723
Accounting	3	180,507	135,044
Finance	4	170,356	122,150
Mathematics	5	165,901	122,008
Chemistry	6	165,266	122,150
History	7	161,682	117,060
International Relations	8	158,770	119,829
Philosophy and Religious Studies	9	156,913	110,354
General Business	10	155,789	111,971
Political Science and Government	11	155,661	114,288
Area, Ethnic, and Civilization Studies	12	155,475	114,006
Business Management and Administration	13	145,842	107,178
English Language and Literature	14	145,596	106,881
Liberal Arts	15	143,480	103,898
Biology	16	139,439	107,178
Marketing and Marketing Research	17	138,274	100,221
Anthropology and Archeology	18	135,713	105,863
Communications	19	135,577	101,791
Journalism	20	132,594	100,774
Psychology	21	129,328	98,738
Pre-Law and Legal Studies	22	128,906	93,508
Sociology	23	126,028	97,532
French, German, Latin and Other Languages	24	123,823	91,612
Criminal Justice and Fire Protection	25	113,681	83,880

Notes: The data are from the combined 2009-2013 American Community Survey and based on a 5% sample of the U.S. population. The analytical sample is restricted to persons ages 30-61 employed as lawyers. Earnings are adjusted for inflation and reported in 2015 dollars. Sample means and medians are descriptive and do not necessarily measure causal effects. Actual earnings also vary depending on field of practice, law school attended, geographic location, knowledge, ability, effort, and other factors.