



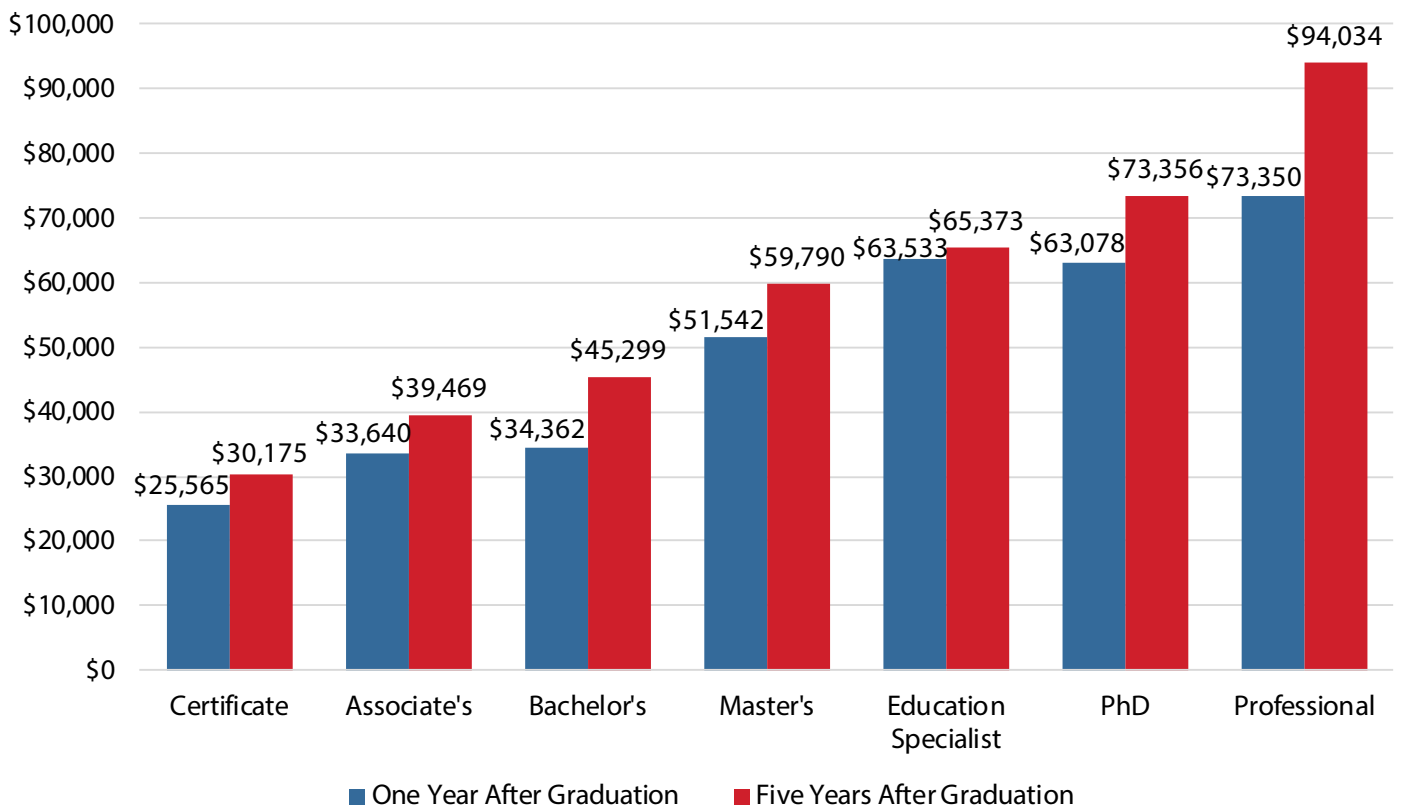
Employment and Earnings Outcomes of Georgia's Graduates from Colleges/Universities

By 2025, over 60 percent of jobs in Georgia will likely require some form of a college education, whether a certificate, associate's degree, or bachelor's degree.¹ Expected earnings are an important factor in making the decision on whether to pursue a certain program of study (major), but these data have not previously been publicly available. The Georgia Higher Learning and Earnings Snapshot previews earnings information for Georgia technical college and college/university graduates who work in Georgia after earning their degree. The full report and an interactive dashboard are available at learnearn.gosa.ga.gov.

Generally, students who earn higher education certificates or degrees earn more than those who do not.² In addition, earning degrees beyond a bachelor's typically leads to higher earnings than those who have just a bachelor's degree.³

Certificates require the shortest length of time to earn, in many cases less than a year, depending on how many classes a student takes at once. Associate's degrees typically take at least two years of full-time study, and bachelor's degrees take at least four years of full-time study. All degree types beyond bachelor's on the chart below require a student to have at least a bachelor's degree before he/she can start the program.

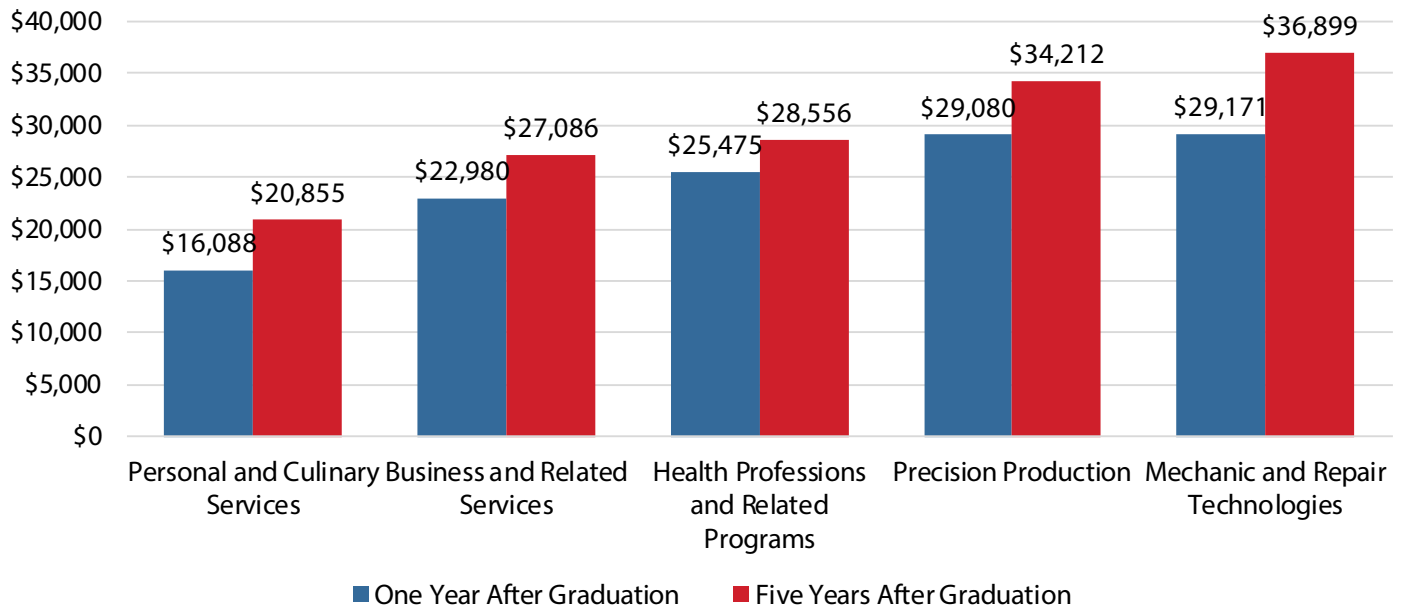
Median Earnings by Degree Category



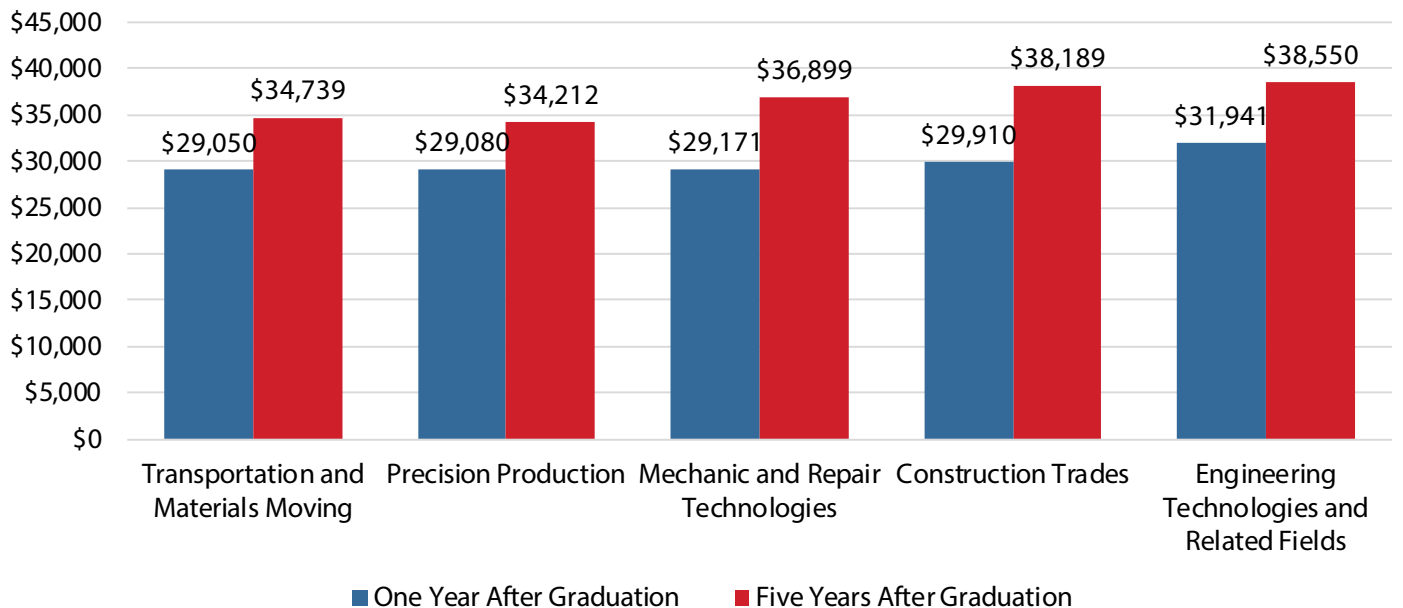
Earnings Differ Widely by Program of Study

There is a wide variety of median earnings within each of these categories. The graphs below show the first and fifth year earnings for the five most popular and the five highest earning certificates, associate's, bachelor's, and master's degrees.

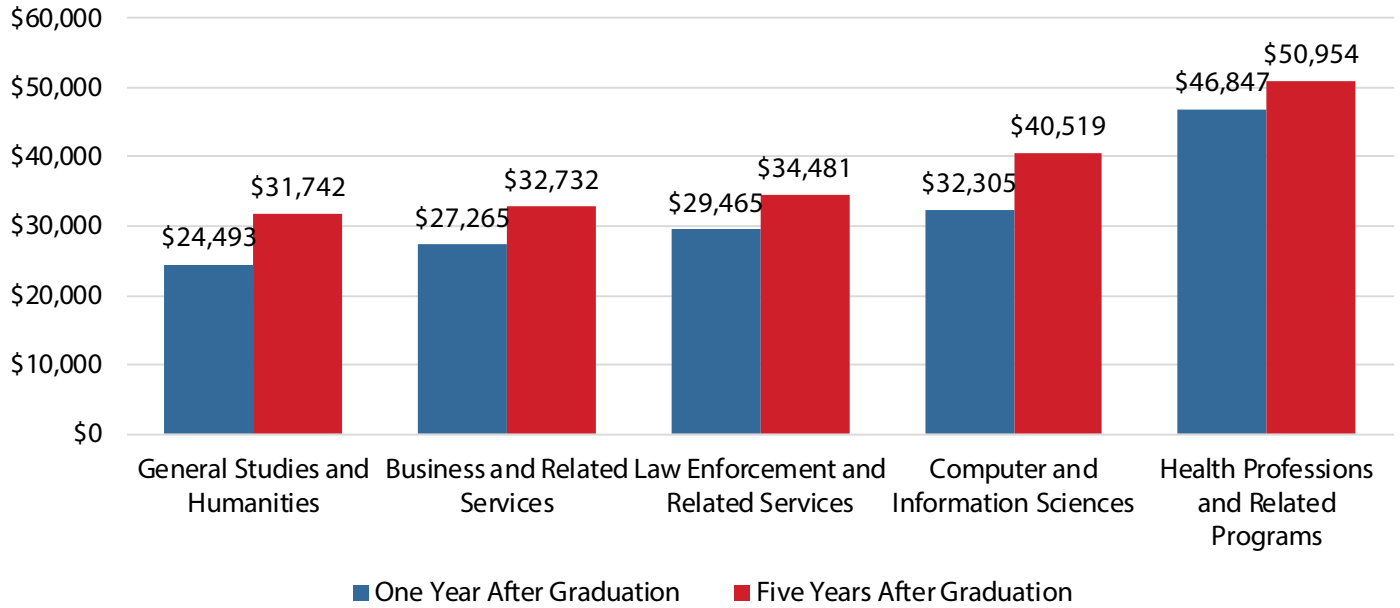
Earnings by Most Popular Certificates



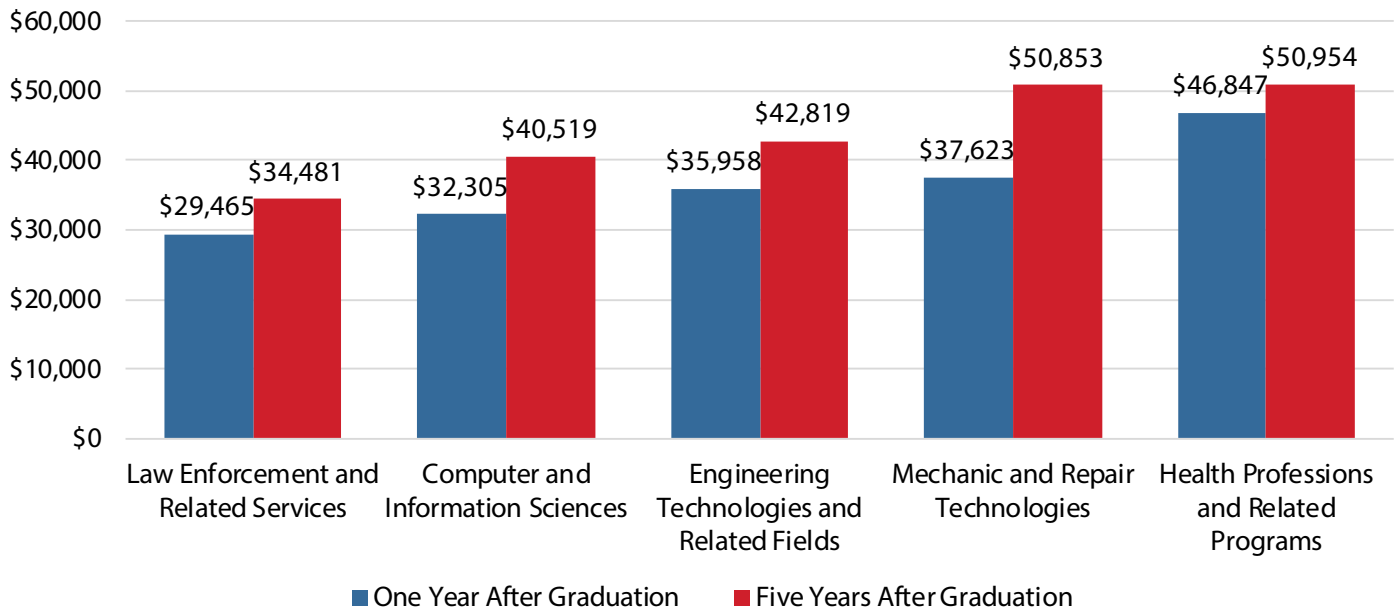
Earnings by Highest Earning Certificates



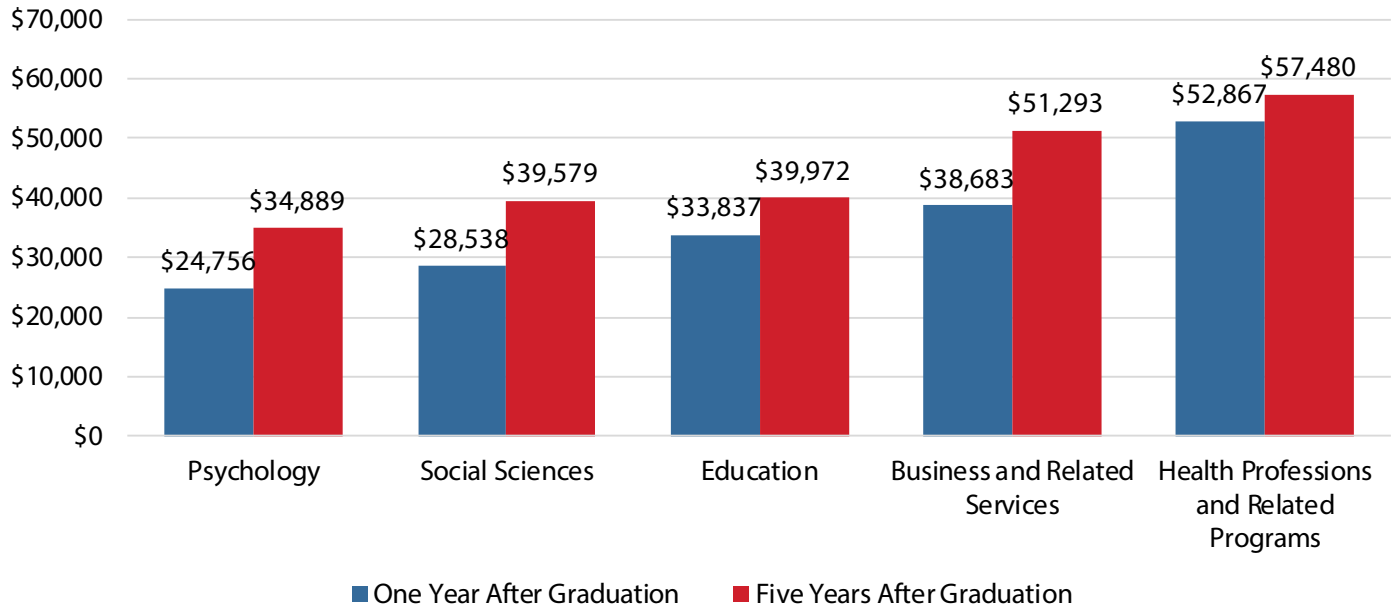
Earnings by Most Popular Associate's



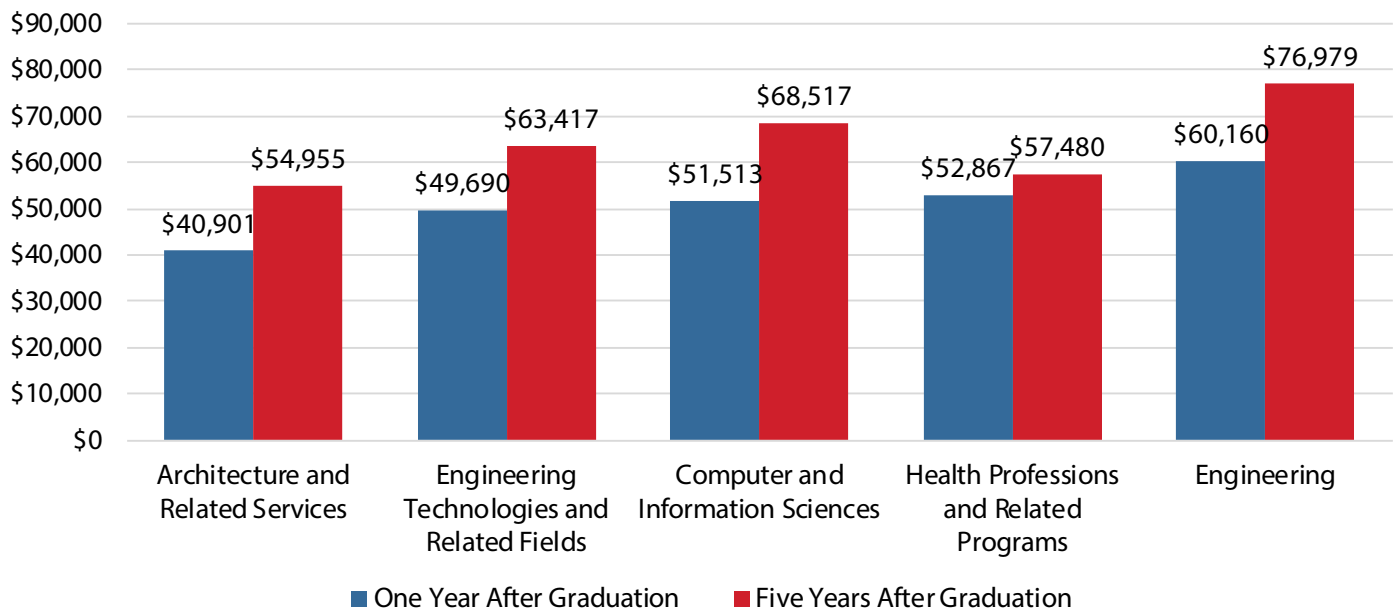
Earnings by Highest Earning Associate's



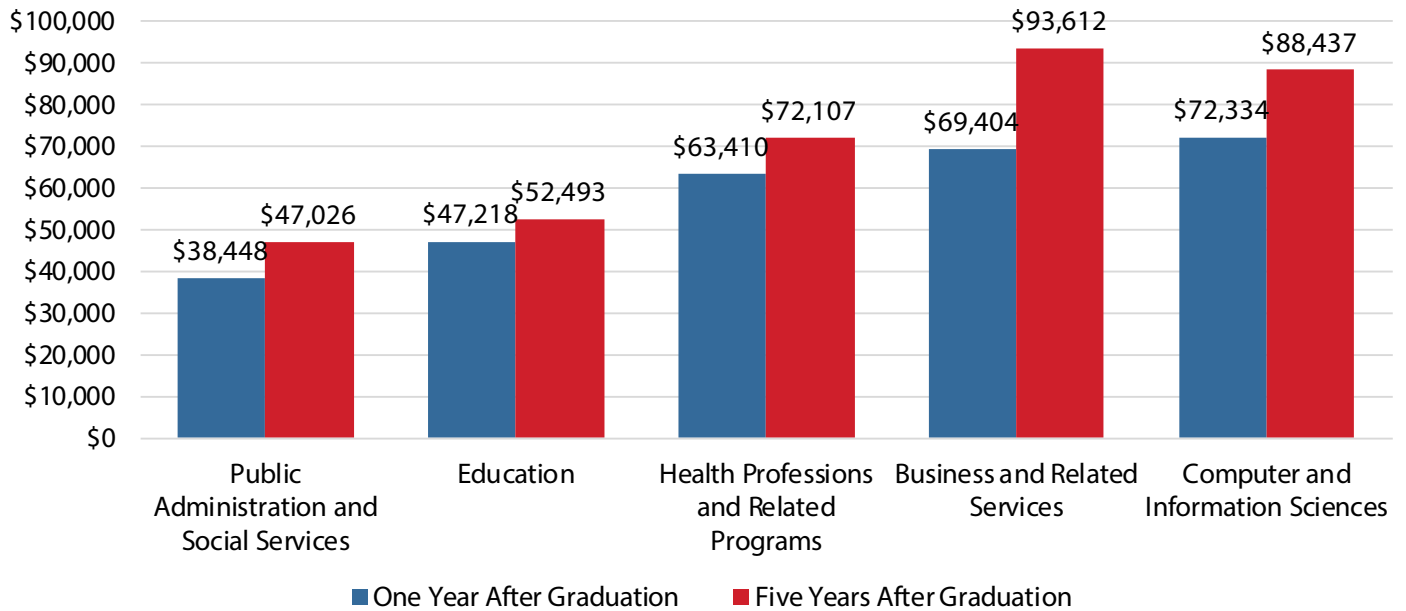
Earnings by Most Popular Bachelor's



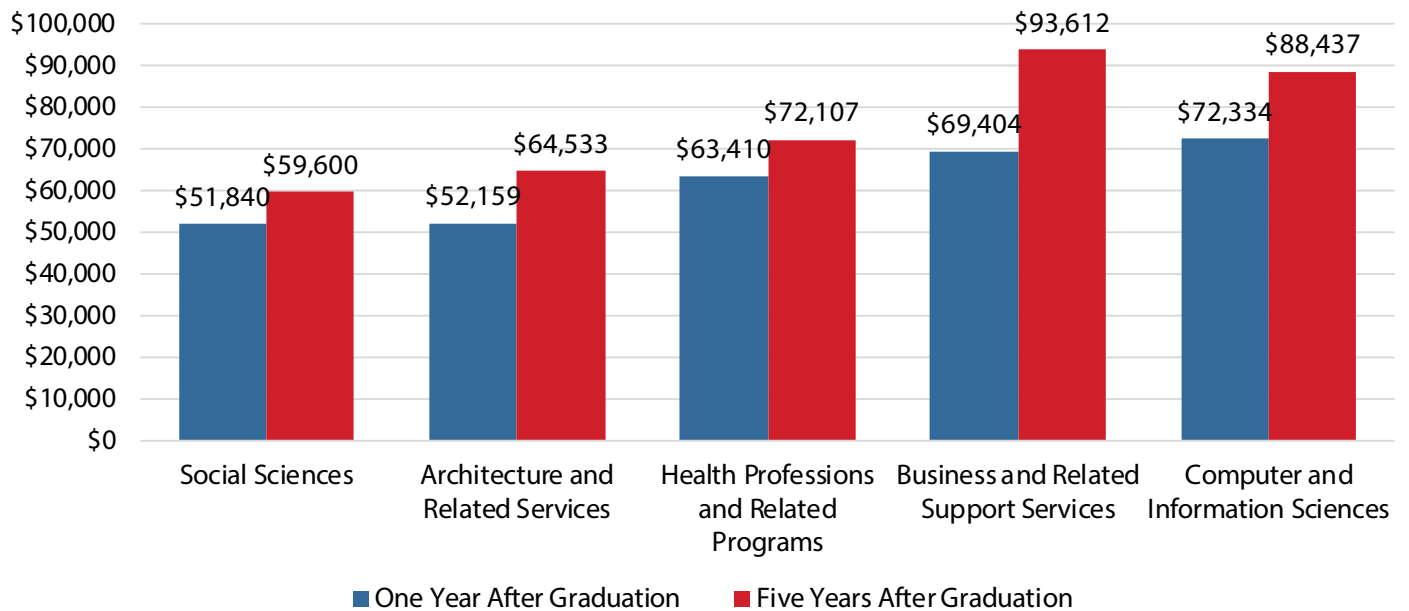
Earnings by Highest Earning Bachelor's



Earnings by Most Popular Master's



Earnings by Highest Earning Master's



Summary



Before choosing a program of study, students and parents should examine potential earnings as one factor in the decision. To dig deeper into this data, the full report and interactive dashboard, available at learnearn.gosa.ga.gov, includes comparisons of first and fifth year wages by degree type, program of study (major), and college/university. These comparisons can be used to compare earnings for the same programs offered at different colleges/universities. When viewing these data, it is important to remember that expected earnings also depend on where a graduate chooses to live, his/her prior experience, and available job opportunities upon graduation.

Students and parents should also consider other factors when making this decision, including interests, skills, expected costs, life circumstances, and locations where programs are offered. To get more information and assistance with this process, students can create an account on GAFutures, the state's one-stop shop for college planning, career exploration, college applications, and financial aid information <https://www.gafutures.org>.



Notes:

¹For more information regarding this statistic and the Complete College Georgia initiative, please visit <http://www.completegeorgia.org/>.

²Data for the report are provided by Georgia's Academic and Workforce Analysis and Research Data System (GA•AWARDS). GA•AWARDS is the state's pre-k through workforce (P-20W) longitudinal data system. Student degree and certificate data are provided to GA•AWARDS by the University System of Georgia (USG), Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG), Georgia Independent College Association (GICA), and the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC). The Georgia Department of Labor (GaDOL) provides wage data to GA•AWARDS that is matched with degree and certificate records. Students graduating from a Georgia college and those graduating from a Georgia high school who subsequently graduated from an out-of-state college between the years of 2007 and 2014 are included in the report. All earnings are median earnings for graduates with wage data reported in Georgia's Unemployment System. Earnings from out-of-state jobs, self-employment, or the military are not included in the dataset.

³In addition to degree type and earnings, many factors, such as student ability/motivation, college selectivity, and job market conditions, affect earnings, so the results in this report should not be interpreted as a guarantee of employment or earnings.