

# Top Postsecondary Educational Programs in Virginia by Education Level and Median Pay of Graduates

Prepared for School Year 2020-2021

## Education Level: Award of less than one academic year

| Top 10 Programs Ranked by Median Pay of Graduates  | Median Annual Wage<br>(Three Years After Graduation) |
|--|--|
| Emergency Medical Technology/Technician (EMT Paramedic)                                    | \$51,090   |
| Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse  | \$50,386   |
| Business Administration, Management and Operations, Other                                  | \$47,323   |
| Accounting and Related Services, Other   | \$46,984   |
| Respiratory Care Therapy/Therapist   | \$46,597   |
| Electrical, Electronic and Communications Engineering Technology/Technician                | \$44,505   |
| Industrial Production Technologies/Technicians, Other                                      | \$44,253   |
| Automobile/Automotive Mechanics Technology/Technician                                      | \$42,376   |
| Legal Assistant/Paralegal  | \$42,285   |
| Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation and Refrigeration Maintenance Technology/Technician | \$41,243   |

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**Education Level: Award of at least one but less than two academic years**

| <b>Top 10 Programs Ranked by Median Pay of Graduates</b>                                   | <b>Median Annual Wage<br/>(Three Years After Graduation)</b> |
|--|--|
| Precision Metal Working, Other   | \$61,253   |
| Industrial Production Technologies/Technicians, Other                                      | \$56,533   |
| Electrical, Electronic and Communications Engineering Technology/Technician                | \$54,947   |
| Industrial Electronics Technology/Technician   | \$53,659   |
| Electrician  | \$47,614   |
| CAD/CADD Drafting and/or Design Technology/Technician                                      | \$43,054   |
| Surgical Technology/Technologist   | \$42,744   |
| Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse Training   | \$38,523   |
| Allied Health Diagnostic, Intervention, and Treatment Professions, Other                   | \$37,314   |
| Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation and Refrigeration Maintenance Technology/Technician | \$36,783   |

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**Education Level: Associate Degree (Bachelor Credit)**

| <b>Top 10 Programs Ranked by Median Pay of Graduates</b> | <b>Median Annual Wage<br/>(Three Years After Graduation)</b> |
|--|--|
| Computer Science   | \$71,906   |
| Information Technology                                   | \$64,419   |
| Engineering, General                                     | \$61,330   |
| Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse                      | \$53,142   |
| Business Administration and Management, General          | \$46,082   |
| General Studies  | \$40,338   |
| Biological and Physical Sciences                         | \$36,491   |
| Humanities/Humanistic Studies                            | \$35,726   |
| Physical Sciences  | \$35,681   |
| Social Sciences, General                                 | \$34,668   |

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**Education Level: Associate Degree (Occupational/Technical Credit)**

| <b>Top 10 Programs Ranked by Median Pay of Graduates</b>       | <b>Median Annual Wage<br/>(Three Years After Graduation)</b> |
|--|--|
| Mechanical Engineering Related Technologies/Technicians, Other | \$59,777   |
| Dental Hygiene/Hygienist                                       | \$58,759   |
| Emergency Medical Technology/Technician (EMT Paramedic)        | \$57,631   |
| Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse                            | \$57,602   |
| Industrial Electronics Technology/Technician                   | \$55,689   |
| Industrial Technology/Technician                               | \$50,849   |
| Engineering Technology, General                                | \$49,157   |
| Radiologic Technology/Science - Radiographer                   | \$48,163   |
| Physical Therapy Technician/Assistant                          | \$47,862   |
| Respiratory Care Therapy/Therapist                             | \$47,534   |

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**Education Level: Four-Year Bachelor's Degree**

| <b>Top 10 Programs Ranked by Median Pay of Graduates</b> | <b>Median Annual Wage<br/>(Three Years After Graduation)</b> |
|--|--|
| Computer and Information Sciences, General               | \$83,681   |
| Mechanical Engineering                                   | \$73,589   |
| Finance, General   | \$69,267   |
| Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse                      | \$65,541   |
| Accounting   | \$64,820   |
| Economics, General                                       | \$61,526   |
| Marketing/Marketing Management, General                  | \$56,135   |
| Business Administration and Management, General          | \$54,459   |
| Business/Commerce, General                               | \$51,698   |
| Chemistry, General                                       | \$51,244   |

**Education Level: Post-Baccalaureate Certificate**

| Top 10 Programs Ranked by Median Pay of Graduates  | Median Annual Wage<br>(Three Years After Graduation) |
|--|--|
| Computer Systems Analysis/Analyst                  | \$152,246  |
| Systems Engineering                                | \$126,559  |
| Computer Systems Networking and Telecommunications | \$117,818  |
| Industrial Engineering                             | \$105,992  |
| Information Technology                             | \$91,908   |
| Multi-/Interdisciplinary Studies, Other            | \$87,630   |
| Business Administration and Management, General    | \$81,945   |
| Educational Leadership and Administration, General | \$75,947   |
| Adult Development and Aging                        | \$71,586   |
| Information Science/Studies                        | \$71,032   |

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**Education Level: Master's Degree**

| <b>Top 10 Programs Ranked by Median Pay of Graduates</b> | <b>Median Annual Wage<br/>(Three Years After Graduation)</b> |
|--|--|
| Industrial Engineering                                   | \$120,968  |
| Information Science/Studies                              | \$113,908  |
| Computer and Information Sciences, General               | \$112,937  |
| Electrical and Electronics Engineering                   | \$104,022  |
| Physician Assistant                                      | \$98,501   |
| Business Administration and Management, General          | \$95,111   |
| Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse                      | \$88,700   |
| Accounting   | \$80,775   |
| Civil Engineering, General                               | \$80,270   |
| Public Policy Analysis, General                          | \$71,807   |

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**Education Level: Post-Master's Certificate**

| <b>Programs Ranked by Median Pay of Graduates</b>  | <b>Median Annual Wage<br/>(Three Years After Graduation)</b> |
|--|--|
| Educational Administration and Supervision, Other  | \$77,080   |
| Educational Leadership and Administration, General | \$65,875   |
| Curriculum and Instruction                         | \$59,769   |
| Reading Teacher Education                          | \$53,329   |
| Education, Other                                   | \$52,053   |

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**Education Level: First Professional Degree**

| <b>Programs Ranked by Median Pay of Graduates</b> | <b>Median Annual Wage<br/>(Three Years After Graduation)</b> |
|---|--|
| Dentistry   | \$151,758  |
| Pharmacy  | \$124,654  |
| Veterinary Medicine                               | \$86,492   |
| Law   | \$78,373   |

**Education Level: Doctoral Degree**

| Top 10 Programs Ranked by Median Pay of Graduates  | Median Annual Wage<br>(Three Years After Graduation) |
|--|--|
| Nurse Anesthetist  | \$162,050  |
| Mathematics and Computer Science   | \$112,413  |
| Nursing Science  | \$105,017  |
| Engineering, General   | \$104,440  |
| Registered Nursing, Nursing Administration, Nursing Research and Clinical Nursing, Other | \$102,671  |
| Community College Education  | \$97,023   |
| Educational Administration and Supervision, Other  | \$95,650   |
| Education, General   | \$81,277   |
| Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences, Other                                  | \$80,153   |
| Public Administration  | \$79,499   |

Data source for all tables: State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. Data report WG01 - Wage and debt by institution and degree, three years post-completion, all reporting institutions, Virginia, 2018. [LINK:](#)

[https://research.schev.edu/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=EOM.EOM\\_DegreeWageDebt\\_Inst&rdRequestForwarding=Form](https://research.schev.edu/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=EOM.EOM_DegreeWageDebt_Inst&rdRequestForwarding=Form).

Note: The wage data included in these tables represent only the following individuals:

1. Graduates successfully matched to the unemployment insurance wage records collected by the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC).
2. Graduates employed in Virginia by an entity that reports to the VEC. This excludes federal employees, including those within the Department of Defense.



[LINK: http://ctetrailblazers.org/](http://ctetrailblazers.org/)