

U.S. demand for engineering graduates intensifies

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New Jersey's Courier-Post (3/23, Stilwell) reported that the "demand for engineers is intense in the defense and aerospace sector as a generation of Cold War technical experts is hitting retirement age." The company "predicts it could lose up to half of its work force of 140,000 to retirement over the next decade." The Courier-Post pointed out that U.S. "universities are awarding 2 1/2 times more engineering, math and computer science degrees than they did 40 years ago." However, "defense companies must compete with the likes of Google, Microsoft, General Electric Co., Westinghouse Electric Corp.,...and big automakers for electrical and mechanical engineering graduates." Lockheed Martin, "[h]eadquartered in Bethesda, Md.," intends "to keep the pipeline full of engineers by promoting the study of math and science in elementary schools." Chris Wronsky, director of human resources for Lockheed Martin's Moorestown, Md., division, said, "It's an undisputed fact that the demand for technical people is greater than the supply. That's why we participate in future science and engineering programs, junior achievement, mentoring and internships."

From First Bell - Today's engineering and technology news prepared exclusively for the engineering and technology education community

Top 10 Jobs for the Class of 2008

By Nathan Lippe, Senior Career Adviser for CBcampus.com

Once summer is in sight, students everywhere spend less time outlining their research papers and more time planning their summer vacations. The annual exception is, of course, the class of graduating seniors, whose commencement pushes them into the mythic "real world." They spend the last few weeks of the semester ensuring they can walk across the stage and deciding what they will do that next day.

The realization that this semester's final exams are their last and summer breaks are things of the past is both exciting and nerve-racking. After all, once they start job hunting, they find out how valuable their degrees – which took a lot of money and the last four years of their lives – are to employers. This summer is a major milestone in their lives.

Luckily, employers are ready to hire and looking to woo them with signing bonuses and higher starting salaries than in years past, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers. Among the most sought-after graduates are those who majored in business, finance and information technology.

We analyzed this information and data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics on the industries doing the most hiring and expecting the most job growth. Here are 10 of the best jobs for the graduating class of 2008:

1. Financial analyst

Major: Business administration

Median annual salary: \$66,590*

Projected job growth: 34 percent

Jobs created: 75,000

2. Computer systems analysts

Major: Information sciences and systems

Median annual salary: \$69,760

Projected job growth: 29 percent

Jobs created: 146,000

3. Computer systems software engineers

Major: Computer science

Median annual salary: \$85,370

Projected job growth: 28 percent

Jobs created: 99,000

4. Accountants

Major: Accounting

Median annual salary: \$54,630

Projected job growth: 18 percent

Jobs created: 226,000

5. Civil Engineers

Major: Engineering

Median annual salary: \$68,600

Projected job growth: 18 percent

Jobs created: 46,000

6. Marketing managers

Major: Advertising or journalism

Median annual salary: \$98,720

Projected job growth: 14 percent

Jobs created: 24,000

7. Financial managers

Major: Finance

Median annual salary: \$90,970

Projected job growth: 13 percent

Jobs created: 64,000

8. Chemical engineers

Major: Engineering

Median annual salary: \$78,860

Projected job growth: 8 percent

Jobs created: 2,400

9. Electrical engineers

Major: Engineering

Median annual salary: \$75,930

Projected job growth: 6 percent

Jobs created: 9,600

10. Mechanical engineers

Major: Engineering

Median annual salary: \$69,850

Projected job growth: 4 percent

Jobs created: 9,400

*Salary, job growth and job creation information is based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Nathan Lippe is an expert in the post-college job search and oversees CBcampus.com, a site that helps college students and recent college graduates find internships, part-time jobs and after-graduation careers. He also assists college career centers across the country with their job search resources.

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Excellent job prospects, compensation & internship opportunities for Purdue Calumet engineering students

Employment outlook & average starting salary for engineers Employers

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics—Occupational Outlook Handbook 2006-2007—demand for engineers is expected to grow by 9 percent to 17 percent through 2014. The average starting annual salary is \$52,000+.

Purdue Calumet engineering graduates are employed at Fortune 500 companies, other industrial leaders, and government agencies such as: Arcelor Mittal USA, Advanced MicroDevices, AT&T Corporation, Argonne National Lab, BP, Boeing Company, Cisco Systems, Caterpillar, Exelon, Ford, GE, Hewlett Packard, Honeywell, Intel, Johnson Controls, John Deere, Kimberly Clark, Lockheed, Lucent Technologies, Motorola, NASA, National Semiconductor, Nextwave Systems, NIPSCO, NISource, Northrop Grumman, Panduit, Peoples Energy, Praxair, Proctor and Gamble, Sandia National Laboratories, Sargent & Lundy, Siemens, St. Margaret Hospital, Texas Instruments, United States Steel, and Westinghouse.

Salaries

Among fall 2006 Purdue Calumet engineering graduates. . .

\$59,000 – average starting salary of baccalaureate degree graduate

\$70,000 – highest starting salary of baccalaureate degree graduate

\$100,000 – highest starting salary of master’s degree in engineering graduate

Internships

Purdue Calumet engineering students apply their classroom and laboratory learning as interns for respected employers. Internships provide opportunities for students to gain valuable, on-the-job experience. Among firms that have employed Purdue Calumet engineering student interns are: ArcelorMittal Steel, Chicago Transit Authority, Com Ed/Exelon, Ford Motor Co., Hadady Corp., Holland Company, General Electric, Marcom, N.V. Inc., Midwest Service Center, Nisouce, Proctor and Gamble, Sargent & Lundy, Sierra Nevada Corp., Superior Engineering, Unilever, U.S. Steel., and ZF Lemforder Chicago.