

Bryant University

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OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS AND STRATEGY



Median Earnings and Debt by Major *Data Briefing (Classes of 2015 and 2016)*

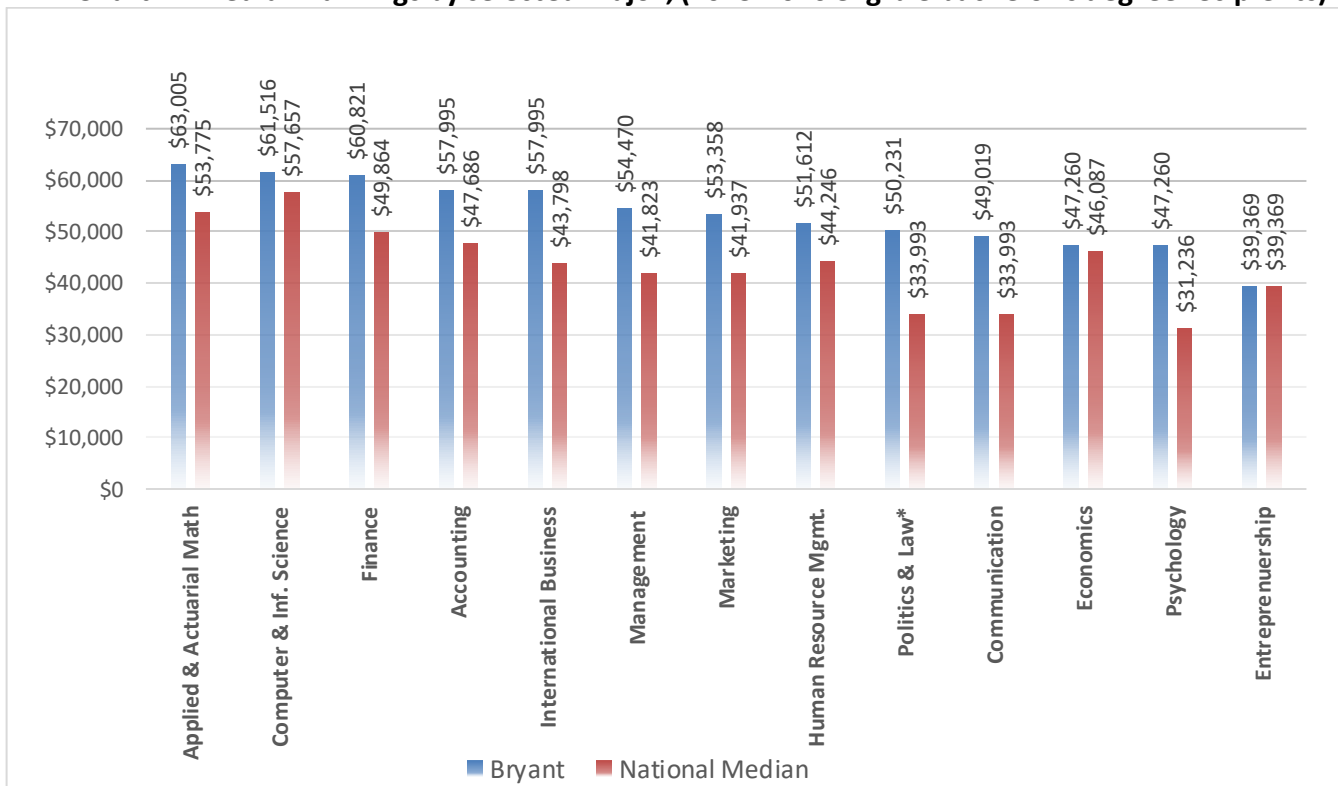


Summary

Highlights

- This *Data Briefing* uses *College Scorecard* information compiled by the United States Department of Education¹ to produce rankings of median earnings and median debt for Bryant graduates.
- Bryant had 13 majors with sufficient eligible graduates² from the 2015 and 2016 graduating class cohorts to compare median earnings data. Among those majors, nine had graduates with median earnings ranked in the top 15% nationally among all colleges awarding similar majors³ and six were in the top 10% nationally. (See Table 1 on page 2).
- Three of five College of Arts & Sciences’ eligible majors – Communication, Psychology, and Politics and Law³ - were in the top 5% median earnings nationally.
- Six of eight College of Business’ eligible majors – Accounting, Finance, Human Resource Management, International Business, Management, and Marketing – were in the top 15% median earnings.
- 10 of the 13 majors had “earnings premiums” (percent above the national median earnings) greater than 16%. Seven majors had premiums above 20% and five majors had premiums greater than 30%. (See Table 1 on page 2 and Chart 2 on page 3).
- The median debt of Bryant students in eligible majors is lower than the respective median debt for graduates in the same fields of study from bachelor’s degree, private, non-profit schools. The Bryant median debt to income ratio was 0.47, compared to 0.75 for bachelor’s degree, Private and non-profit schools in the country.

Chart 1 - Median Earnings by selected major, (2015-2016 eligible bachelor’s degree recipients)



Introduction

This *Data Briefing* examines median earnings and debt levels for bachelor’s degree recipients whose degrees were awarded in 2015 or 2016 by their fields of study. The briefing also compares the median earnings⁴ of Bryant graduates in eligible majors to national averages based on all other schools with eligible cohorts and assigns a rank based on those values. (See Table 1, page 2) Additionally, an earnings premium – percent difference of Bryant graduates’ median earnings in a field of study compared to the national average – is provided (See Table 1 below, Chart 2, page 3, and Appendix A).

Table 2 (page 4) shows median debt and earnings for each eligible major. A “debt to income” ratio is calculated for 11 of the 13 eligible majors (see endnote 5). For comparison, national data for private, non-profit schools are included, although the data includes all fields of study with eligible cohorts.

See the Endnotes Section for the methodology and sources and Appendix A for additional information.

Data Details

Table 1 shows median earnings for Bryant and national (schools with eligible cohorts awarded degrees with the same CIP code). Rank is based on the number of schools with eligible cohorts. Applied and Actuarial Math, Computer and Information Science, Finance, Accounting, and IB are the top 5 highest paid majors at Bryant.

Table 1: Median Earnings and Rank by Major, (2015-2016 eligible bachelor’s degree recipients)

COLLEGE	BRYANT MAJOR	BRYANT	NATIONAL MEDIAN	RANK	EARNINGS PERCENTILE	EARNINGS PREMIUM
Arts & Sciences	Communication	\$49,019	\$33,993	6 of 555	Top 1%	44.2%
	Politics & Law*	\$50,231	\$33,993	15 of 466	Top 3%	47.8%
	Psychology	\$47,260	\$31,236	2 of 47	Top 4%	51.3%
	Applied & Actuarial Math	\$63,005	\$53,775	6 of 24	Top 25%	17.2%
	Economics	\$47,260	\$46,087	143 of 319	Top 45%	2.5%
Business	Marketing	\$53,358	\$41,937	35 of 409	Top 8%	27.2%
	Management	\$54,470	\$41,823	79 of 1,023	Top 8%	30.2%
	International Business	\$57,995	\$43,798	8 of 78	Top 10%	32.4%
	Human Resource Management	\$51,612	\$44,246	19 of 145	Top 13%	16.6%
	Finance	\$60,821	\$49,864	45 of 349	Top 13%	22.0%
	Accounting	\$57,995	\$47,686	82 of 606	Top 14%	21.6%
	Computer & Information Science	\$61,516	\$57,657	112 of 310	Top 35%	6.7%
	Entrepreneurship	\$39,369	\$39,369	20 of 40	Top 50%	0.0%

- Three of five College of Arts & Sciences’ eligible majors – Communication, Psychology, and Politics and Law³ - were in the top 5% median earnings nationally.
- Six of eight College of Business’ eligible majors – Accounting, Finance, Human Resource Management, International Business, Management, and Marketing – were in the top 15% median earnings.
- 10 of 13 majors had “earnings premiums” (percent above the national median earnings) greater than 16%. Seven majors had premiums above 20% and five had premiums greater than 30%.

Chart 2 plots the calculated earnings premium (Y -axis) and the national percentile for the median earnings (X – axis) for the eligible majors. The earning premium is calculated as the difference (%) of Bryant graduates’ median earnings in a field of study compared to the national average. College of Business majors are in blue while College of Arts & Sciences majors are in green. The chart shows that majors with higher wage premiums are also those in higher earnings percentiles and no Bryant major included in the Scorecard had a negative earnings premium.

Chart 2 – Earnings Premium and Comparative National Rank Percentiles

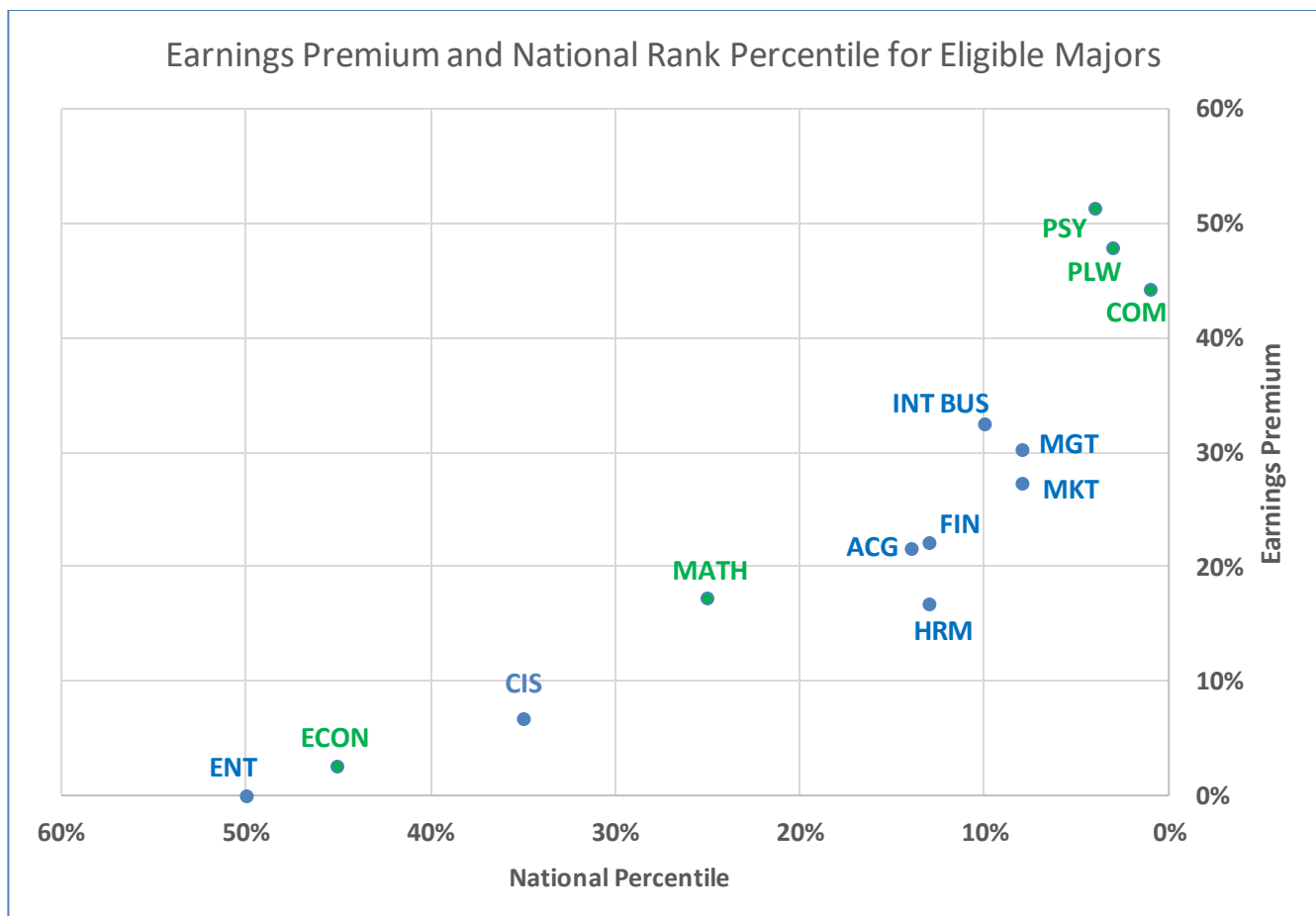


Table 2 reports the median debt (see endnote 5) for each major in addition to median earnings. A debt to income (earnings) ratio is provided. For comparison purposes, the table also presents the national median debt and earnings for all eligible bachelor’s degree graduates (see endnote 2) from private, non-profit schools. Those figures, however, are for all fields of study, not just the comparable Bryant majors.

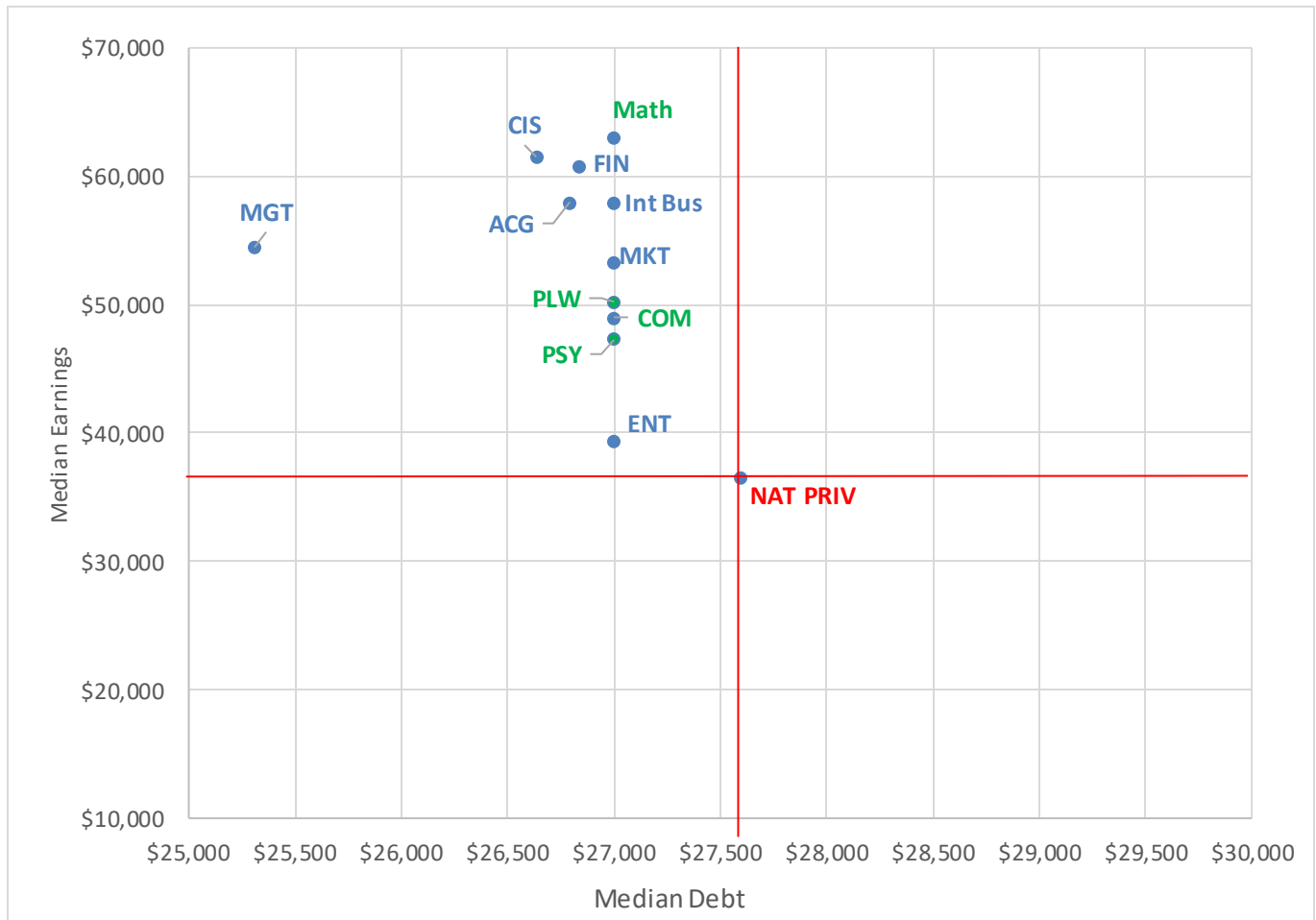
The median debt of Bryant students across all 11 eligible majors⁵ (cohort for two majors had fewer students with federal debt than the minimum size criteria) was \$27,000, compared to a median of \$27,600 for all bachelor’s degree, Private and non-profit schools in the country. Median earnings across all 13 eligible majors (2017-18 dollars) was \$54,470. The median debt to income ratio for Bryant graduates was 0.47, compared to 0.75 for bachelor’s degree recipients from private, non-profit schools in the country.

Table 2: Median Debt and Earnings by Major, (2015-2016 eligible bachelor’s degree recipients)

BRYANT MAJOR	MEDIAN DEBT	MEDIAN EARNINGS	DEBT-INCOME RATIO
Applied & Actuarial Math	\$27,000	\$63,005	0.43
Computer & Information Science	\$26,634	\$61,516	0.43
Finance	\$26,838	\$60,821	0.44
Accounting	\$26,792	\$57,995	0.46
International Business	\$27,000	\$57,995	0.47
Management	\$25,309	\$54,470	0.47
Marketing	\$27,000	\$53,358	0.51
Political Science & Law*	\$27,000	\$50,231	0.54
Communication	\$27,000	\$49,019	0.55
Psychology	\$27,000	\$47,260	0.57
Entrepreneurship	\$27,000	\$39,369	0.69
Economics	N/A ²	\$47,260	N/A
Human Resource Management	N/A ²	\$51,612	N/A
Benchmark			
All bachelor’s degree, Private, non-profit schools	\$27,600	\$36,600	0.75

Chart 3 shows that for all eligible majors, the median debt of Bryant students is lower and the median earnings is higher than the respective medians for graduates in the same fields of study from bachelor’s degree, private, non-profit schools in the country.

Chart 3 – Median Earnings and Debt by Major relative to National Private Medians



An excel file with additional data including each Bryant major’s eligible cohort counts and the individual comparison schools’ data by field of study is [available here](#) (Bryant credentials required to access it).

Appendix A has the earnings data sorted by median earnings and earnings premium (highest to lowest).

Contact us

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Appendix A**Table 3: Median Earnings by Major and Earnings premium (Highest to Lowest)**

BRYANT MAJOR	BRYANT	NATIONAL MEDIAN	RANK	EARNINGS PERCENTILE	BRYANT EARNINGS PREMIUM
Psychology	\$47,260	\$31,236	2 of 47	Top 4%	51.3%
Politics & Law*	\$50,231	\$33,993	15 of 466	Top 3%	47.8%
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Endnotes

¹ College Scorecard Data Home (n.d.). United States Department of Education. Retrieved on August 3, 2021 from <https://data.ed.gov/dataset/college-scorecard-all-data-files-through-6-2020/resources>

² Cohorts require at least 10 graduates in 2015 and 2016 who had recorded earnings (see note 4) and some level of federal student loan debt (see note 5) with the debt originating at the school awarding the degree. Two fields of study – economics and human resource management had an eligible cohort for earnings, but not for debt.

³ Cohorts in the field of study are determined by the CIP code assigned by the school. Schools with the same "major name" may assign different CIP codes and schools may call degree programs with the same CIP code by different names. For example, Bryant's "Politics and Law" major (CIP code 45.10) is categorized under "Political Science and Government" at the US Department of Education. CIP is at the 4-digit level (hence why some majors appear aggregated such as Applied Math and Actuarial Math).

⁴ Earnings come from United States' Treasury Department records (tax returns) for the graduate in the period 2016-2017; the highest earnings recorded are used for each graduate. Earnings are in 2017-2018 dollars.

⁵ Debt includes only federal loans originated at the school awarding the credential; it excludes private student loans, Parent PLUS loans, and federal loans originated at previously attended schools.

⁶ U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2020). [One Year After a Bachelor's Degree: A Profile of 2015–16 Graduates](#) (NCES 2020-341), Tables 3.1 and 5.1.