

Arkansas Economic Security Report

Higher Education Planning Guide Summary

Students and Families,

The Arkansas [Higher Education Planning Guide](#) fulfills the mandate under Act 852 of 2015 to provide students and families with employment and income information for recent graduates from Arkansas' higher education institutions.

Regardless of where you are in your college and career planning process, the real-world data summarized in this guide will help you make informed decisions when choosing which college to attend and field-of-study to pursue.

For example, you can answer questions like:

- *What percentage of graduates in a particular field-of-study are employed?*
- *What is their average annual income?*
- *Which institutions offer programs in a particular field-of-study?*
- *What are the average outcomes for students who graduate from specific college?*

We hope that the [Higher Education Planning Guide](#) is a useful tool as you decide which path you want to follow.

How to Use the Higher Education Planning Guide

The Higher Education Planning Guide summarizes employment and earnings outcomes for graduates from 96 programs across 37 colleges. The guide is based on employment and wage data from 2019.¹ The guide is organized around fields-of-study.²

If you do not yet know what you want to study in college, there are some great resources out there. For instance, the website “My Next Move” (<https://www.mynextmove.org/>) allows you to search for particular jobs, or just answer some survey questions about the kinds of things you like to do—and the site will then tell you all the best jobs that you might be interested in. Appendix C in the guide includes the crosswalk between occupations and programs of study with the relevant link to My Next Move.

¹ 2020 was an unusual year in many ways, and the employment and wage data from that year are unlikely to reflect the long-term value of college credentials. For that reason, we use 2019 data for the employment and earnings statistics in this report.

² To protect privacy, any program of study and/or institution with fewer than 11 graduates in 2018 does not appear in this guide.

When you look up a particular program in the guide, you will find summary information on:

- *First year employment and earnings outcomes after graduation*
- *Indicators of high wage and in demand programs*
- *Average earnings by education level and years since graduation (earnings growth)*
- *Arkansas colleges and universities offering the program*

In addition, the [Higher Education Planning Guide](#) includes summary information on:

- *The top 25 programs of study by employment and earnings*
- *Earnings trends by education level and years since graduation (earnings growth)*
- *Average employment and earnings by higher education institution*

To learn more on return on investment for your program of study, please visit the Arkansas Economic Security Report [Higher Education Planning Guide](#).



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(Based on 2019 wages)

