

Class of 2014: Top-Paid Liberal Arts Majors

Spotlight for Career Services Professionals

Spotlight for Recruiting Professionals

October 15, 2014

Majors in foreign languages and literatures were the top-paid among Class of 2014 liberal arts graduates at the bachelor's degree level, according to results of NACE's September 2014 *Salary Survey*.

These majors earned the highest average starting salary at \$46,100, followed by political science/government majors at \$43,500 and liberal arts and sciences/general studies graduates at \$42,400. (See Figure 1.)

Employers hiring both foreign languages and literatures majors and liberal arts and sciences/general studies majors and did so primarily to fill elementary and middle school teaching positions. Meanwhile, employers hired political science/government majors for various teaching positions ranging from elementary to postsecondary, and as management analysts, financial and insurance managers, social workers, human resources workers, paralegals, legal assistants, and legal support workers.

In all, Class of 2014 graduates in five liberal arts majors earned average starting salaries that exceeded \$40,000.

Data for the September 2014 *Salary Survey* report were retrieved in July 2014. An executive summary of the September 2014 *Salary Survey* report is available at www.naceweb.org/salary-resources/salary-survey.aspx.

Figure 1: Starting salaries for Class of 2014 liberal arts majors

Major	Starting Salary
Foreign Languages and Literatures	\$46,100
Political Science/Government	\$43,500
Liberal Arts and Sciences/General Studies	\$42,400
Other social sciences	\$41,700
English Language and Literature Letters	\$40,100
History	\$39,400
Criminal Justice and Corrections	\$38,800
Social Work	\$37,100
Psychology	\$36,900
Sociology	\$36,800
Visual and Performing Arts	\$35,600

Source: September 2014 *Salary Survey*, National Association of Colleges and Employers.
All data are for bachelor's degree graduates.