



THE GUIDEPOST

Go Beyond Your Degree to Get the Salary You Want

by Lynda M. Bassett Monster Contributing Writer

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When people ask you what your college major was, they want to know about more than your interests. What they really mean is, "How much money do you make?" Indeed, when it comes to salary, your major can make a big difference.

No matter what you majored in, the news is good for the class of 2007: The job market has improved, and both hiring and salaries are on the upswing. But there are "certain majors that translate into higher-paying jobs," says Sunny Ackerman, regional director for Manpower Professional.

Engineering, Finance, Math and Science Pay Off the Most

"Anything in engineering, especially in the fields of civil and petroleum, is really hot right now!" Ackerman says.

John Challenger, CEO of Challenger, Gray & Christmas, agrees, adding that along with engineering majors, "finance and technology graduates usually get paid more than liberal arts majors. Anybody who has an orientation toward math, science and engineering -- those jobs are in great demand."

What's even more encouraging is that these hot jobs are also pulling in higher entry-level salaries, Ackerman says. "In these fields where employers are having trouble filling positions, it's likely that salaries are on the rise as companies become willing to fill the gaps," she adds.

If you work in certain industries, like healthcare, you'll start out with a lower salary but see an increase after you gain specialized skills and about five-plus years of experience. People who go into sales may start at about \$30,000 to \$40,000, but they end up earning "well into six-figure salaries" based on commission and experience, says Challenger.

Time Is on Your Side

According to PayScale, an expert on salary issues and data compensation, in 2005, economics majors were offered about \$40,000 a year to start. Engineering majors brought home entry-level salaries of about \$55,000, while English majors pulled in about \$30,000 the first year.

After five to nine years' experience, those who majored in English saw an increase to about \$50,000 a year. Economics majors can expect to make about \$66,500. Engineering leads the pack, with salaries of about \$70,000 five to nine years after graduation.

For any career, 10 or more years after college graduation is peak earning time. At this point, the economics majors have caught up with electrical engineering majors; the difference in average total compensation is not statistically significant.

English majors have also made gains. While the low end of the salary scale is still much lower than it is for engineers, the top 25 percent of English majors earn incomes "just as good or better than half of the engineers," says Joe Giordano, founder and vice president of product development at PayScale.

It's More Than Your Major

But even more than your major, your career choice and how you pursue it will determine your income, Giordano says.

Bill Coleman, senior vice president of compensation for Salary.com, agrees. "It's not just about the major," he says. "It's about the person, the ability to solve problems, the way you sell yourself and your skills."

To increase your earning power, start by researching the industry and then writing a great resume and customized cover letter. "These recruiters go through piles and piles of resumes," says Coleman. "You need to make sure you use their terms, their keywords and their lingo. Make it easy for them. Tell them what they want to hear."

Get Real-World Experience

Whether it's volunteer projects, internships or even work-study jobs, there is no substitute for real-world experience on your resume. Not only does it give you something to talk about intelligently, Coleman says, but it also gives you a "broad understanding of the workplace at large" and shows that you know "how to manage schedules, how to take direction, how to give input and how to be an employee." And it can ultimately bring you more money. According to Ackerman, to get experience, you may have to work

Questions???

Call your Counselor

Mr. Banks

⇒ 404-2022

Mrs. Cardwell

⇒ 404-2013

Mrs. Higgins

⇒ 404-2022

Mr. Monteleone

⇒ 404-2023

Mrs. Sartorio

⇒ 404-2027

Mrs. Scarlett

⇒ 404-2014

Ms. Stant

⇒ 404-2024

Mrs. Wade

⇒ 404-2012

Mr. Quinn

Supervisor

⇒ 652-1485

outside your field of interest. Another tactic is to look for a temporary or contract job. "It gets your foot in the door, offers experience for your resume, and networking and mentoring opportunities," she says.



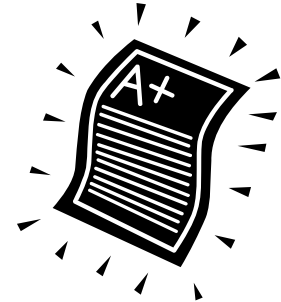
What's a "good" SAT score?

How many questions do I need to get right to achieve that score?

These are two important questions I get from students and parents all of the time. The national average for the SAT is approximately 1530. Broken down, this means that the national average for reading is around 510, math- 510, and writing- 510. A "good" SAT score in any of the three areas is 600. If a student earns a 600 on each of the three sections, he or she will end up with an overall SAT score of 1800.

The following chart gives an approximation of how many questions a student needs to get right to achieve a certain score:

Reading Score	Total # of questions	Questions correct	Questions incorrect	Questions omitted
500	67	34	22	11
600	67	49	14	4
700	67	60	6	1
Math Score				
500	54	29	18	7
600	54	41	12	1
700	54	49	5	0
Writing Score *				
500	49	22	18	9
600	49	33	11	5
700	49	43	6	0



*A student's writing score is a combination of how they do on the multiple-choice grammar questions, which account for 70% of a student's writing score, and how they do on the essay, which accounts for 30% of a student's writing score. The chart above gives scores based on the number of multiple-choice questions they answer correctly combined with an essay score of 8 out of 12.

Smart Idea. If you are taking the May SAT, make sure you order the "Question and Answer" service from the College Board. You can order this service right from the College Board's web site and you can even order it after you take the exam. When you order this service, a copy of the entire exam and a copy of your answers will be mailed to your home 4-6 weeks after the exam. This way, you can look at which questions you missed, learn from your mistakes, and give yourself a bet-

SAT Dates for Fall/Winter 2008-09

October 4, 2008 SAT & SAT Subject Tests– Deadlines TBA
November 1, 2008 SAT & SAT Subject Tests -- Deadlines TBA
December 6, 2008 SAT & SAT Subject Tests– Deadlines TBA
January 24, 2009 SAT & SAT Subject Tests– Deadlines TBA
March 14, 2009 **SAT Only- Deadlines TBA
May 2, 2009 SAT & SAT Subject Tests– Deadlines TBA
June 6, 2009 SAT & SAT Subject Tests– Deadlines TBA

Go to www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org for more information including on-line registration and test prep!

ACT Dates for Fall/Winter 2008-09

September 13, 2008 Deadline August 12, 2008

October 25, 2008 Deadline September 19, 2008

December 13, 2008 Deadline November 7, 2008

February 7, 2009 Deadline January 6, 2009

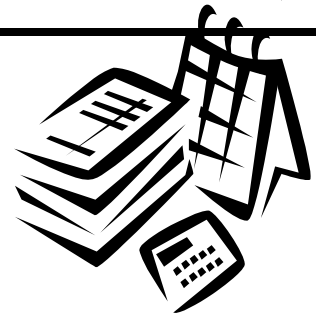
April 4, 2009 Deadline February 27, 2009

Parent Institute: Quick Tips...

The Apathetic Child???? Parents report that their apathetic child "just doesn't care." In fact apathetic children may care too much! Ironically, one of the causes of apathy is that children are not willing to be average. They'd rather say they didn't try than say they tried their best and came up short! Other apathetic children never have had to develop a sense of responsibility for themselves. They've had parents who have done everything for them (including their homework!). When the time comes for these children to stand on their own legs, they've never developed the mental "muscles" they need to be independent. **What can Parents do?**

1. **Listen to the messages you give your child.** Do you spend most of your time being critical? Children need to hear that they are loved unconditionally. Find stories to share about people who succeeded as a result of their effort.
2. **Talk about doing your best, not being the best.** Emphasize effort with your child.
3. **Let your child take responsibility and accept consequences.** Every time you do something for your child that he could be doing for himself you are sending a powerful message- "I don't really think you can do this." Pretty soon your child comes to believe it too! Make a conscious effort to give your child more responsibility.
4. **Give your child a chance to shine.** Success in one area often leads to confidence in others.
5. **Teach Goal Setting.** Plan your work then work your plan. Parent Institute Pamphlets are available in Guidance on 30 different topics!

End-of-the-Year Important Dates



May 23 & 27- Senior Exams start for periods 1 & 2

May 28 & 29- Senior Exams periods 3 & 4/5/6

May 30 & June 2- Senior Exams periods 6/7/8 & 8/9/10

June 3 & 4- Senior Exams periods 11 & 12

June 5- Last Full Day of School!

June 6- Underclassmen Exams start- periods 1 & 2- 12noon dismissal- **also Senior Picnic plus Cap & Gown distribution.**

June 9- Underclassmen Exams- periods 3 & 4/5/6- also Senior Awards Night 7pm in the PAC- Remember Seniors- you must apply for scholarships for a chance to get an award!

June 10- Underclassmen Exams- periods 6/7/8 & 8/9/10

June 11- Underclassmen Exams- periods 11 & 12- also LAST Day of School! Plus Absegami Graduation is set for 5pm- Project Graduation goes from 11pm to 5am

June 16- Credit Completion Starts 8:00am Absegami Main Cafeteria

Credit Completion!!!!

As per school policy, any student who has accumulated more than 10 unexcused absences, or 12 unexcused lates, must attend credit completion to earn credit for the year. Failure to attend credit completion will result in a loss of all credits for this school year

Credit Completion starts on Monday June 16th and ends on Friday June 27th. Two sessions of credit completion are

scheduled for each day. Session 1 begins promptly at 8:00AM and ends at 10:00AM. Session 2 begins at 10:10AM and ends at 12:10PM. One session of Credit Completion counts toward one unexcused absence. Transportation is NOT provided and is the responsibility of the student. **All students owing Credit Completion must start on Day 1, Monday June 16 at 8:00AM sharp, and serve their time owed in consecutive sessions until their obligation has been met.**

Summer School Info???

Students that have not successfully completed a required class may choose to attend summer school to make up the credit. Absegami and Oakcrest High Schools do not offer summer school programs, so students must attend summer school elsewhere. In previous summers, Pleasantville, Atlantic City, Vineland, EHT, and Mainland Regional High

Schools have offered summer programs. Students enrolling in summer school must do so at their own expense. Prices last year ranged from \$150 to \$250 per 5 credit course and may also require a book deposit. Parents are reminded that you must provide your own transportation as well for these summer programs. Applications and information on these Summer School Programs will be available in the Guidance Office in June. Call 652-1485 or your counselor for more details.

Working Papers???

Students, ages 14 through 17, who need working papers may obtain these important forms from the AHS Guidance Office. Forms may be picked up during the school day or over the summer, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9AM and 12Noon. The

paperwork requires an Employer's signature, Parent's signature, Physician's Certification, and proof of age (birth certificate- **bring a copy from home!**) for processing. Ms Ligouri or Ms Berret as well as other secretaries in the Guidance Area can process these forms for anyone in need.

THE ABSEGAMI PARENT'S GUIDANCE NEWSLETTER

Absegami High School
Guidance Department
201 South Wrangleboro Road
Galloway NJ 08205

NON-profit Organization
Bulk Rate
US Postage Paid
Absecon NJ
permit #74

Ask 'Gami Guid-

QUESTION... "What should your students be doing this SUMMER???"

Mrs Sartorio Make the most of your summer, Visit colleges you are interested in attending in the future. If you are unsure of your major, job shadow area of interest.

Ms Stant Enjoy your break but don't forget to plan/prepare for the upcoming year!! Set new goals. Identify and investigate your options. Go for it!!!!!!!

Mr Mont Have Fun, Relax, Make GOOD CHOICES! Develop interests, READ, exercise, Get ready for a GREAT School Year! For Seniors- Figure out which schools you will be applying to, finalize your resume', figure out who you will ask to write rec letters! Invest some time NOW.

Miss Higgins Continue researching potential careers and colleges. AP students get your packets done early! Sophomores and Juniors continue your SAT preparation. All students - enjoy the summer!

Mr Banks If there are any out-of-state colleges on your list, visit them this summer, Juniors! Don't wait for the school year to start. DO NOT procrastinate. Enjoy your summer and be safe!

Mrs Cardwell Explore an interest -- try something you've always wanted to try! If you're a junior (class of 2009), spend quality time planning for what you want to do after graduation, which should include visiting colleges, if you plan to attend a four-year college.

Mrs Wade is out on maternity leave with her beautiful baby girl- Olivia Shannon!

Mrs Scarlett For the summer, students should do some reading (Check out the College Board website for some good suggestions), think about their futures, and plan for their next successful school year.