

USA Today article....rankings from College Factual. Aug 20, 2014

<http://college.usatoday.com/2014/08/20/the-top-10-engineering-colleges-in-the-u-s/>

The top 10 engineering colleges in the U.S.

Engineering is one of the [highest paid degrees](#) you can get — and it's a popular choice for students who are interested in building and developing products, as well as for those who have a knack for math and science.

The list below breaks down the top 10 places to get an engineering degree in the U.S. The list comes from College Factual and is a ranking of colleges based on their overall quality.

Note: this is not a ranking for a specific engineering major, but an overview of how the school does overall for all the engineering degrees it offers. See this [description of the methodology](#) for more information.

1. Colorado School of Mines: Golden, Colo.

The Colorado School of Mines is a public research university with very high admissions standards. One of the focuses of the school is the [responsible use of Earth's resources](#). Engineering is the most popular field of study at this school, with majors in General Engineering and Petroleum Engineering being the most sought-after. Mines offers degrees up to the Ph.D. level, and is ranked as one of College Factual's best value schools due to its reasonable tuition and high student outcomes. Engineering graduates start out with high average salaries of \$68,000!

2. Georgia Institute of Technology-Main Campus: Atlanta

Georgia Tech is another public research university with high academic standards. The university offers degrees up to the Ph.D. level, and is also ranked as a [best value](#) school due to its reasonable tuition and high outcomes. This highly diverse university has a low student loan default rate, and its engineering grads report average starting salaries of \$61,000.

3. Missouri University of Science and Technology: Rolla, Mo.

Missouri S & T is a four-year public university offering degrees up to the Ph.D. level. The two [most popular majors](#) at this school are Mechanical Engineering and Civil Engineering. While not as selective as the first two schools on this list, Missouri S&T still produces high student outcomes, making it rank high on the best value list. The average starting salary for engineering grads at this school is \$60,000.

4. Massachusetts Institute of Technology: Cambridge, Mass.

MIT is a large, private research university well known for its selectivity and high student outcomes. The school is highly diverse, and offers degrees up to the Ph.D.

level. Engineering is the most popular field of study, with Mechanical Engineering being the most popular major. Students who graduate with an engineering degree from MIT report [high average starting salaries](#) of \$71,000!

5. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute: Troy, N.Y.

RPI is a mid-sized private research college that specializes in science and engineering degrees. The school offers a [fair value](#), with students reporting higher than average starting salaries and low student loan default rates. The university offers degrees up to the Ph.D. level. The most popular undergraduate majors include Mechanical Engineering, Biomedical Engineering and Civil Engineering. Grads report average starting salaries of \$60,000.

6. Worcester Polytechnic Institute: Worcester, Mass.

WPI is a highly selective private school offering degrees up to the Ph.D. level. The [most popular majors](#) at the school are Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering. Though the school has a relatively high net price, the high student outcomes make it a fair value. Students with engineering degrees average \$62,000 as their starting salary.

7. Stevens Institute of Technology: Hoboken, N.J.

Stevens is a highly selective private research university located in Hoboken, NJ, close to New York City. The school has high academic standards, but also has a high price tag to match. It offers degrees up to the Ph.D. level, with the [most popular undergraduate majors](#) being Mechanical Engineering and Civil Engineering. Students with a bachelor's degree in engineering from this university report average starting salaries of \$60,000.

8. New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology: Socorro, N.Mex.

New Mexico Tech is an affordable public research university that also provides advanced technological training in the field of engineering. This small to mid-sized school offers degrees up to the Ph.D. level, and is considered a [great value for the money](#) schools due to its high outcomes and relatively low-priced tuition. The most popular majors for undergraduates are Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering. Students who graduate with a degree in engineering report average starting salaries of \$59,000.

9. University of Michigan-Ann Arbor: Ann Arbor, Mich.

The University of Michigan is an affordable public university with high academic standards. It offers a wide variety of majors, including graduate degrees. Engineering is the most popular field of study at the school (with Social Sciences being a close second), and in the engineering field the [most popular majors](#) are Industrial Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Chemical

Engineering and Aerospace & Aeronautical Engineering. Graduates can expect high average starting salaries of about \$63,000.

10. Illinois Institute of Technology: Chicago

IIT was founded with the goal of providing [meaningful education](#) to students of all backgrounds. This private research university grants degrees up to the Ph.D. level. The university has a heavy focus on science and technology, with Architecture and Mechanical Engineering being some of the most popular majors. The school has a [serious commitment to full-time teachers](#), smaller than average class sizes, and a low student loan default rate.

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A Summary of Our Rankings by Major: The Quick Version

We offer many different ways to rank colleges offering a particular major. Many of these look at these colleges from a single dimension (i.e. graduate earnings, number of students, etc.). For more information on all of these rankings, see our [Overview of College Factual's Top Schools by Major](#).

This article will give a brief overview of the much more comprehensive “Top Ranked” colleges for each major. This ranking attempts to identify the best overall colleges for each major by looking at a combination of ten different factors. For the full detailed methodology, please see our [Top Colleges by Major Full Methodology](#).

Rankings by Major

The table below outlines the factors used to calculate the current ranking by major. A “major” in this case is something like [Electrical Engineering](#). Our rankings by Field of Study, which represent a collection of majors (ie. [Engineering](#)), is primarily an aggregate of the rankings of each major in that Field of Study and are explained more further below.

Factor	Weighting	Description
Graduate Earnings		
Early-Career Salary	High	Average salary of bachelors degree graduates from the
Mid-Career Salary	Med	Average salary of bachelors degree graduates from the
Major Focus		
Major Focus %	Med	Percentage of students at the college studying that maj
Bachelors Degree Market Share	Med	Percentage of all U.S. bachelors degree graduates in tha

Masters Degree Market Share	Low	Percentage of all U.S. masters degree graduates in that
Doctoral Degree Market Share	Low	Percentage of all U.S. doctoral degree graduates in that
Related Major Concentration		
Related Major Focus (mPower Index)	Med	Measure of how much all the other majors at the college
Related Major Breadth	Low	Number of closely related majors offered at the college.
Accreditation		
Relevant Program Specific Accreditation	Med	Whether or not the major is accredited by a relevant ac a major, this factor is ignored for that major's rankings.
Overall College Quality		
Best Colleges Ranking	High	The College Factual Best Colleges ranking, a measure of

Rankings by Field of Study

In addition to our rankings by major, we also rank programs by field of study, which is a broader category that will house several majors in it. For example, the field of study [Engineering](#) includes such majors as [Mechanical Engineering](#), [Chemical Engineering](#), [Civil Engineering](#), etc.

The methodology for this ranking is slightly different, although it relies significantly on the Rankings by Major. The three main metrics are:

Factor	Weighting	Description
Average of Rankings by Major	High	The average Ranking by Major of majors in that field of major.
Wealth of Majors	Low	The number of majors in that field of study the college
Percent Focus	Low	The percentage of the student body made up of students

How Our Rankings are Different

Most rankings by program are based almost completely on subjective survey data. Survey-based rankings can be useful in providing insight into industry opinion on certain schools and programs. However, there are weaknesses to this format. For one, there is no way even the most expert of industry insiders could possibly know and accurately rank all the different programs available. The results can be more of a popularity contest than a researched, objective list.

Our ranking is based on more objective data and includes a lot of metrics that are outcomes based (i.e. can these students actually make a living after graduation?) We believe this makes our rankings stronger in many areas. One of our strengths is that we can rank many more colleges, and many more majors, than your typical ranking site.

However, there are some weaknesses to our rankings as well: one of which is that new or smaller schools may be overlooked because they cannot possibly graduate as many students as very large schools. There are also some schools well-known for their programs that are currently not ranked in our system due to insufficient data, a problem we are working on rectifying.

We are constantly working to improve our ranking system. Stay tuned for future updates.

Additional Resources

Please check out some of the following articles for more information on our Rankings by Major

- [Top Colleges by Major Full Methodology](#)
- [Overview of All College Factual's Top Schools by Major](#)
- [Rankings by Major Frequently Asked Questions](#)