

Setting Salary Expectations

It's important that your student loan debt be in line with your future earnings, because what you earn tomorrow will pay for what you borrow today. There are many resources available to help you estimate future earnings.

College Resources

Almost every college campus has a career services center. Take some time to stop in and make an appointment with one of the counselors. Tap into their expertise and experience as you consider the career options that interest you and match your education aspirations.

Personal Interviews

Once you have narrowed down a career, try to find or connect with people who are actively employed in this field, possibly an alumnus. Not sure where to make these connections? See if your campus has an alumni resource or mentor program available.

Questions to ask:

- What degree do you have?
- How did your education prepare you for your career?
- How did you choose this line of work?
- What positions did you hold prior to your current position?
- What additional training would be helpful in this field?
- What salary can I expect in an entry-level and mid-level position?

Online Research

There are a number of sites dedicated to offering salary ranges for numerous occupational positions. Many of these sites take into consideration your location. Compare different career paths and locations to see what you might expect to make in the future.

Some website examples include: [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com), [SimplyHired.com](https://www.simplyhired.com), [MyNextMove.org](https://www.mynextmove.org), and [bls.gov](https://www.bls.gov) (Bureau of Labor Statistics).

Job & Salary Comparison Chart

Use the chart below to compare potential jobs and salaries you may have after you graduate. With this in hand, you can monitor whether the student loan debt you are acquiring is appropriate for your career path.

Job Title	Potential Annual Salary

Average Annual Salary of all Jobs: