

# Arts

**This group includes the following majors:**

- **Commercial Art and Graphic Design**
- **Drama and Theater Arts**
- **Film Video and Photographic Arts**
- **Fine Arts**
- **Music**
- **Studio Arts**
- **Visual and Performing Arts**

Arts account for 4.6 percent of all majors. Median earnings for those with a Bachelor's degree who majored in Arts are \$44,000.<sup>1</sup> Sixty-one percent of all people in these majors are women, and 39 percent are men. However, women with these majors make, in the aggregate, \$8,000 less than men. The racial make-up of these majors, on average, is 81 percent White, 7 percent Asian, 7 percent Hispanic, 5 percent African-American, and 1 percent Other Races.<sup>2</sup> Earnings for Asians (\$44,000), African-Americans (\$38,000), and Hispanics (\$40,000) are less than the \$45,000 median wage earned by Whites.

There are great earnings variations among the specific majors within this group. The lowest-earning are Studio Arts, Drama and Theater Arts, and Visual and Performing Arts, while the highest-earning is Fine Arts. Earnings in Arts as a whole can vary widely, with the 25th percentile earning \$30,000 and the 75th percentile earning \$65,000—a difference of \$35,000.

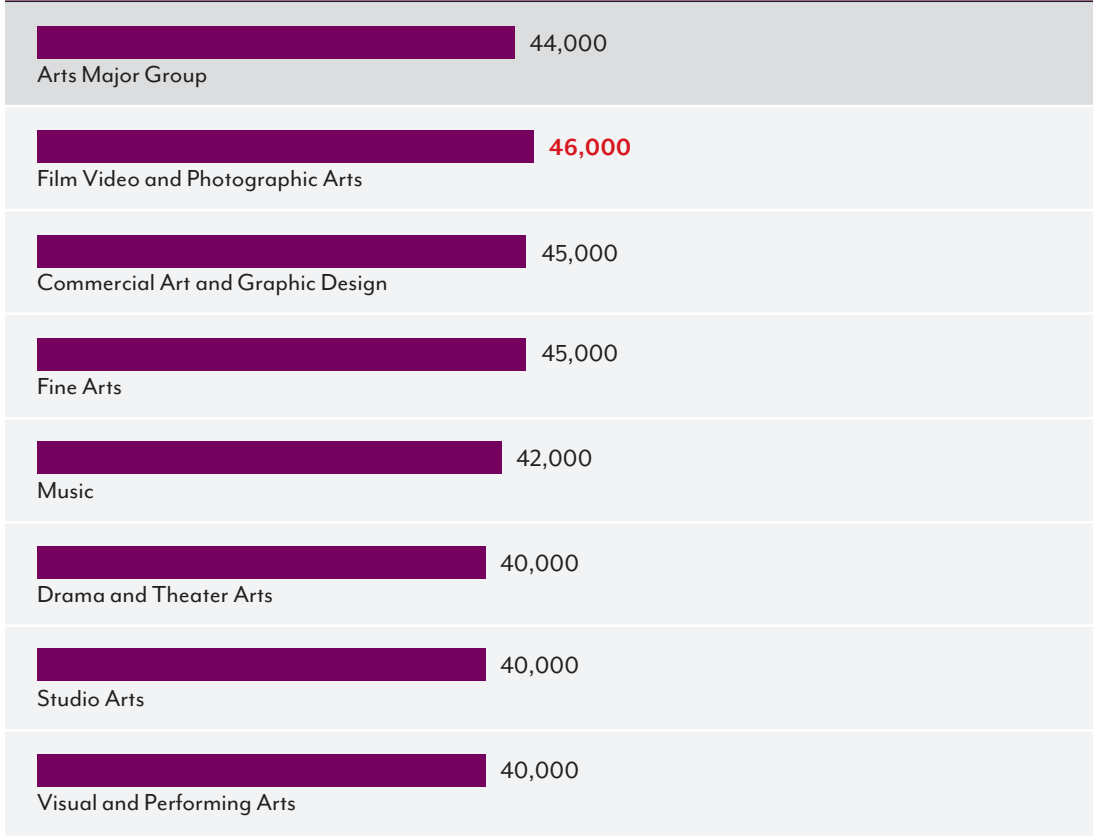
About 23 percent of people with these undergraduate majors obtain a graduate degree and, as a result, get an average earnings boost of 23 percent.

Of people who have majored in Arts, 25 percent work in Arts, 14 percent in Management, 12 percent in Sales, 12 percent in Office, and 8 percent in Education occupations. By industry, 18 percent work in Professional and Business Services, 12 percent in Retail Trade, 11 percent in Education Services, 8 percent in Information Services, and 6 percent in Health Services. About 76 percent of those with a major in Arts who are employed and in the labor force work full-time, and 8 percent are unemployed.

<sup>1</sup> All of the earnings data presented here is on full-time, full-year workers with a Bachelor's degree only.

<sup>2</sup> Due to rounding, these may not add to 100 percent.

## MEDIAN EARNINGS OF ARTS MAJOR GROUP\*



\* Full-time, full-year workers with a terminal Bachelor's.

## ALL

Arts Major Group

Commercial Art  
and Graphic Design

Drama and  
Theater Arts

Film Video and  
Photographic Arts

Fine Arts

Music

Studio Arts

Visual and  
Performing Arts

### POPULARITY OF MAJORS<sup>†</sup>

Total Bachelor's	1,539,384	445,432	161,540	101,214	<b>490,604</b>	224,859	67,218	48,517
% of Major Group	100	29	10	7	<b>32</b>	15	4	3

### MEDIAN EARNINGS BY MAJOR\*

Median Earnings	44,000	45,000	40,000	<b>46,000</b>	45,000	42,000	40,000	40,000
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### EARNINGS AT THE 25TH AND 75TH PERCENTILE\*

Earnings at the 25th percentile	30,000	<b>32,000</b>	29,000	30,000	31,000	30,000	26,000	26,000
Earnings at the 75th percentile	65,000	65,000	60,000	65,000	<b>66,000</b>	58,000	60,000	60,000
Difference	35,000	33,000	31,000	<b>35,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>	28,000	34,000	34,000

### PERCENT OBTAINING A GRADUATE DEGREE

Did not obtain graduate degree (%)	77	<b>91</b>	76	87	77	59	72	77
Obtain graduate degree (%)	23	9	24	13	23	<b>41</b>	28	23

### EARNINGS BOOST FROM OBTAINING A GRADUATE DEGREE

% Earnings Boost from Graduate Degree	23	27	<b>40</b>	24	22	28	3	30
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### WORK STATUS\*

Full-time (%)	76	<b>80</b>	72	79	77	71	71	65
Part-time (%)	24	20	28	21	23	29	29	<b>35</b>

### PERCENT EMPLOYED\*\*

Employed (%)	92	92	91	92	92	<b>95</b>	91	93
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<sup>†</sup> The ACS data are best used to discuss distributional characteristics of the underlying population. However, we also include the number of degree holders to provide the reader with an 'order of magnitude' sense of the number of people with this major.

\* Full-time, full-year workers with a terminal Bachelor's.

\*\* Of people in the labor force.

## GENDER

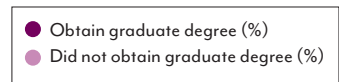
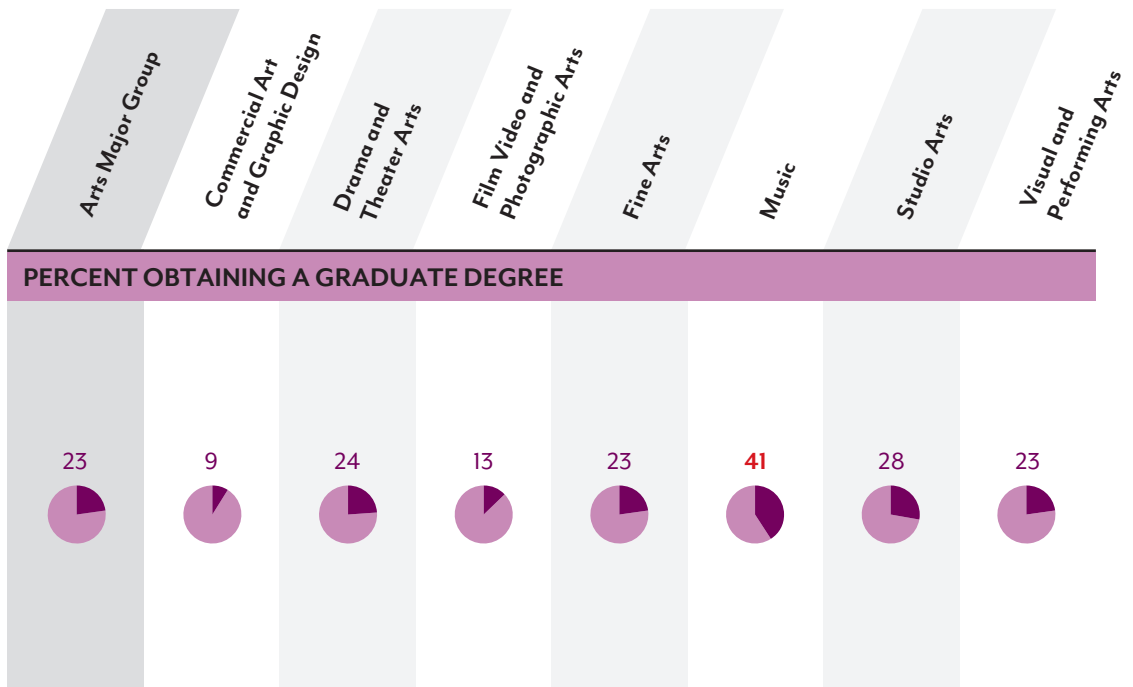
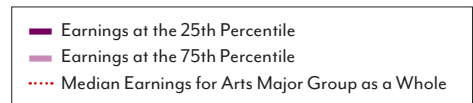
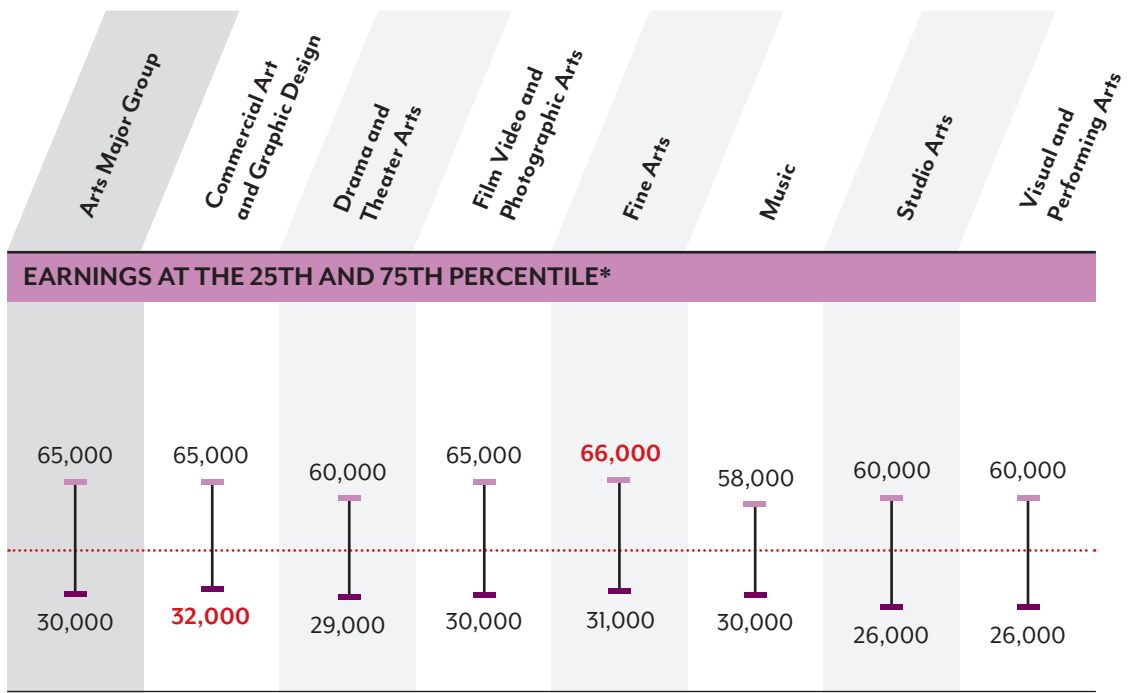
	Arts Major Group	Commercial Art and Graphic Design	Drama and Theater Arts	Film Video and Photographic Arts	Fine Arts	Music	Studio Arts	Visual and Performing Arts
<b>GENDER COMPOSITION OF MAJORS</b>								
Percent Female	61	67	60	42	63	51	66	<b>77</b>
Percent Male	39	33	40	<b>58</b>	37	49	34	23
<b>EARNINGS BY GENDER*</b>								
Female Median Earnings	40,000	<b>42,000</b>	39,000	41,000	40,000	40,000	38,000	40,000
Male Median Earnings	48,000	<b>50,000</b>	42,000	<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	45,000	45,000	36,000
Difference	8,000	8,000	3,000	9,000	<b>10,000</b>	5,000	7,000	-4,000

\* Full-time, full-year workers with a terminal Bachelor's.

## RACE AND ETHNICITY

	Arts Major Group	Commercial Art and Graphic Design	Drama and Theater Arts	Film Video and Photographic Arts	Fine Arts	Music	Studio Arts	Visual and Performing Arts
<b>RACIAL AND ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF MAJORS<sup>Δ</sup></b>								
% White	81	78	<b>86</b>	81	81	80	85	80
% African-American	5	5	5	4	5	<b>6</b>	3	5
% Hispanic	7	8	6	<b>10</b>	5	6	5	8
% Asian	7	<b>9</b>	2	5	8	8	6	7
% Othe Races and Ethnicities	1	<0.5	1	<0.5	1	<0.5	<b>2</b>	<0.5

<sup>Δ</sup> Due to rounding, these may not add to 100 percent.



## WHERE ART MAJORS END UP BY OCCUPATION\*

	1st Occupation (%)	2nd Occupation (%)	3rd Occupation (%)	4th Occupation (%)	5th Occupation (%)
<b>Arts Major Group</b>	ARTS (25)	MGMT (14)	OFF (12)	SALES (12)	EDU (8)
<b>Commercial Art and Graphic Design</b>	ARTS (41)	MGMT (12)	SALES (11)	OFF (8)	COMP (5)
<b>Drama and Theater Arts</b>	MGMT (18)	OFF (16)	ARTS (12)	SALES (10)	EDU (8)
<b>Film Video and Photographic Arts</b>	ARTS (28)	MGMT (15)	OFF (12)	SALES (11)	PERS (4)
<b>Fine Arts</b>	ARTS (22)	MGMT (14)	SALES (13)	OFF (13)	EDU (9)
<b>Music</b>	OFF (16)	EDU (16)	MGMT (14)	SALES (11)	ARTS (10)
<b>Studio Arts</b>	ARTS (18)	OFF (12)	SALES (10)	MGMT (10)	EDU (8)
<b>Visual and Performing Arts</b>	OFF (17)	EDU (15)	SALES (13)	MGMT (13)	ARTS (11)

\* Full-time, full-year workers with a terminal Bachelor's.

### Occupation Abbreviations:

Architecture = ARCH

Arts = ARTS

Blue Collar = BC

Building = BLDG

Business = BUS

Community Service = COMM

Computer Services = COMP

Construction = CON

Education = EDU

Engineering = ENGR

Finance = FIN

Food Service = FOOD

Health Professionals = HLTH PROF

Health Support = HLTH SUP

Installation = INST

Legal = LGL

Life Science = LS

Management = MGMT

Office = OFF

Personal Service = PERS

Production = PROD

Protective Services = PROT

Sales = SALES

Social Science = SS

Transportation = TRAN

**WHERE ART MAJORS END UP BY INDUSTRY\***

	<b>1st Industry (%)</b>	<b>2nd Industry (%)</b>	<b>3rd Industry (%)</b>	<b>4th Industry (%)</b>	<b>5th Industry (%)</b>
<b>Arts Major Group</b>	PROF (18)	RETL (12)	EDU (11)	INFO (8)	HS (6)
<b>Commercial Art and Graphic Design</b>	PROF (26)	RETL (14)	MAN-nd (8)	MAN-d (7)	INFO (6)
<b>Drama and Theater Arts</b>	EDU (13)	PROF (12)	ARTS (12)	INFO (10)	RETL (8)
<b>Film Video and Photographic Arts</b>	INFO (25)	PROF (15)	HS (9)	RETL (8)	EDU (6)
<b>Fine Arts</b>	PROF (16)	EDU (14)	RETL (13)	MAN-nd (6)	MAN-d (6)
<b>Music</b>	EDU (19)	RETL (10)	PROF (8)	HS (8)	OS (8)
<b>Studio Arts</b>	PROF (14)	RETL (11)	EDU (11)	FIN (7)	ARTS (7)
<b>Visual and Performing Arts</b>	EDU (20)	FIN (10)	INFO (9)	PROF (9)	ARTS (8)

\* Full-time, full-year workers with a terminal Bachelor's.

**Industry Abbreviations:**

Administrative Services = ADMN  
 Agriculture = AG  
 Arts = ARTS  
 Construction = CON  
 Education Services = EDU  
 Financial Services = FIN  
 Food Service = FS  
 Health Services = HS  
 Information = INFO  
 Management Services = MGMT  
 Manufacturing (durable) = MAN-d  
 Manufacturing (non-durable) = MAN-nd

Mining = MNG  
 Other Service = OS  
 Professional Services = PROF  
 Public Administration = PUB  
 Real Estate = RE  
 Retail Trade = RETL  
 Sales = SALES  
 Social Science = SS  
 Transportation = TRAN  
 Utilities = UTIL  
 Wholesale Trade (durable) = WHLS-d  
 Wholesale Trade (non-durable) = WHLS-nd