

# Law and Public Policy

**This group includes the following majors:**

- **Court Reporting**
- **Criminal Justice and Fire Protection**
- **Pre-law and Legal Studies**
- **Public Administration**
- **Public Policy**

Law and Public Policy make up 2.3 percent of all majors. Median earnings for those with only a Bachelor's degree who majored in Law and Public Policy are \$50,000.<sup>1</sup> Within these majors, there is a significant gender imbalance (59 percent male, 41 percent female). Women with these majors make, in the aggregate, \$42,000, which is \$16,000 less than men. The racial makeup of these majors, on average, is 72 percent White, 14 percent African-American, 10 percent Hispanic, 3 percent Asian and 1 percent Other Races.<sup>2</sup> Earnings of Whites (\$52,000), African-Americans (\$42,000), and Hispanics (\$50,000) are somewhat lower than the \$55,000 median earnings of Asians.

Earnings for majors within this group can vary significantly. The major with the lowest median earnings is Public Policy, while the highest is Public Administration. Earnings in Law and Public Policy as a whole vary widely, with the 25th percentile earning \$36,000 and the 75th percentile earning \$74,000—a difference of \$38,000.

About 24 percent of people with these majors obtain a graduate degree and, as a result, get an average earnings boost of 45 percent.

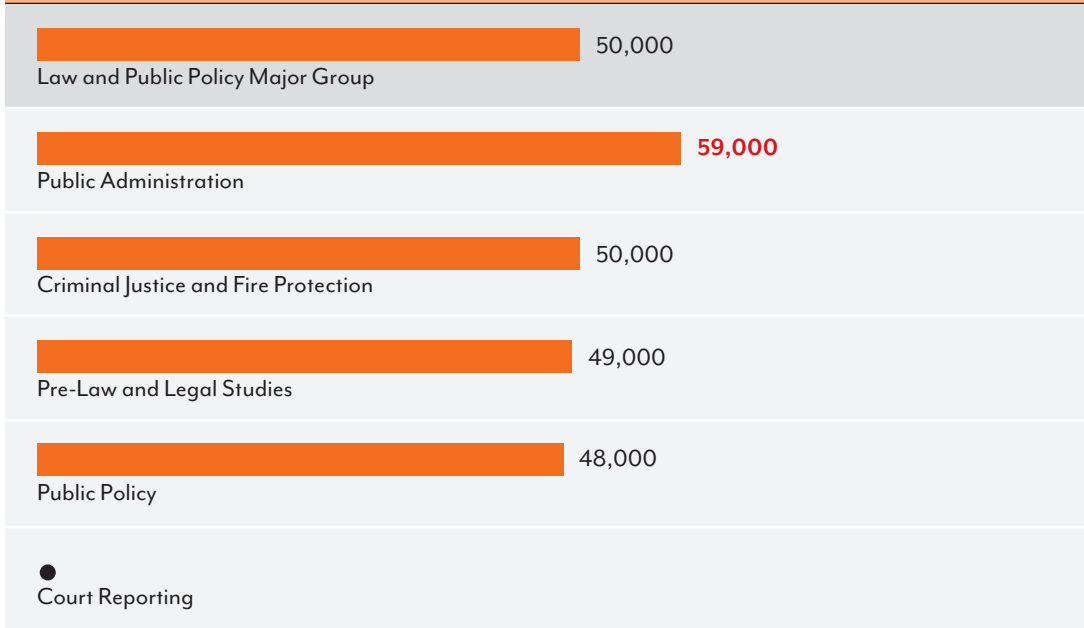
Of people who majored in Law and Public Policy, 32 percent work in Protective, 11 percent in Management, and 11 percent in Office occupations. By industry, 43 percent work in Public Administration, 8 percent in Health Services, and 7 percent in Financial Services.

Of Law and Public Policy majors who are in the labor force and employed, 90 percent work full-time. About 5 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 LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY MAJOR GROUP\*



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

● Sample size was too small to be statistically valid.

**ALL**

	Law and Public Policy Major Group	Court Reporting	Criminal Justice and Fire Protection	Pre-Law and Legal Studies	Public Administration	Public Policy
<b>POPULARITY OF MAJORS<sup>†</sup></b>						
Total Bachelor's	768,978	6,281	<b>652,085</b>	52,864	44,315	13,433
% of Major Group	100	1	<b>85</b>	7	6	2
<b>MEDIAN EARNINGS BY MAJOR*</b>						
Median Earnings	50,000	•	50,000	49,000	<b>59,000</b>	48,000
<b>EARNINGS AT THE 25TH AND 75TH PERCENTILE*</b>						
Earnings at the 25th percentile	36,000	•	35,000	36,000	<b>40,000</b>	34,000
Earnings at the 75th percentile	74,000	•	73,000	66,000	<b>94,000</b>	75,000
Difference	38,000	•	38,000	30,000	<b>54,000</b>	41,000
<b>PERCENT OBTAINING A GRADUATE DEGREE</b>						
Did not obtain graduate degree (%)	76	72	<b>80</b>	64	56	50
Obtain graduate degree (%)	24	28	20	36	44	<b>50</b>
<b>EARNINGS BOOST FROM OBTAINING A GRADUATE DEGREE</b>						
% Earnings Boost from Graduate Degree	45	•	34	81	35	<b>107</b>
<b>WORK STATUS*</b>						
Full-time (%)	90	85	<b>90</b>	88	89	82
Part-time (%)	10	15	10	12	11	<b>18</b>
<b>PERCENT EMPLOYED**</b>						
Employed (%)	95	90	<b>95</b>	91	94	94

<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.

• Sample size was too small to be statistically valid.

\*\* Of people in the labor force.

## GENDER

	Law and Public Policy Major Group	Court Reporting	Criminal Justice and Fire Protection	Pre-Law and Legal Studies	Public Administration	Public Policy
<b>GENDER COMPOSITION OF MAJORS</b>						
Percent Female	41	57	39	<b>72</b>	43	48
Percent Male	59	43	<b>61</b>	28	57	52
<b>EARNINGS BY GENDER*</b>						
Female Median Earnings	42,000	•	41,000	45,000	<b>50,000</b>	•
Male Median Earnings	58,000	•	58,000	59,000	<b>70,000</b>	•
Difference	16,000	•	17,000	14,000	<b>20,000</b>	•

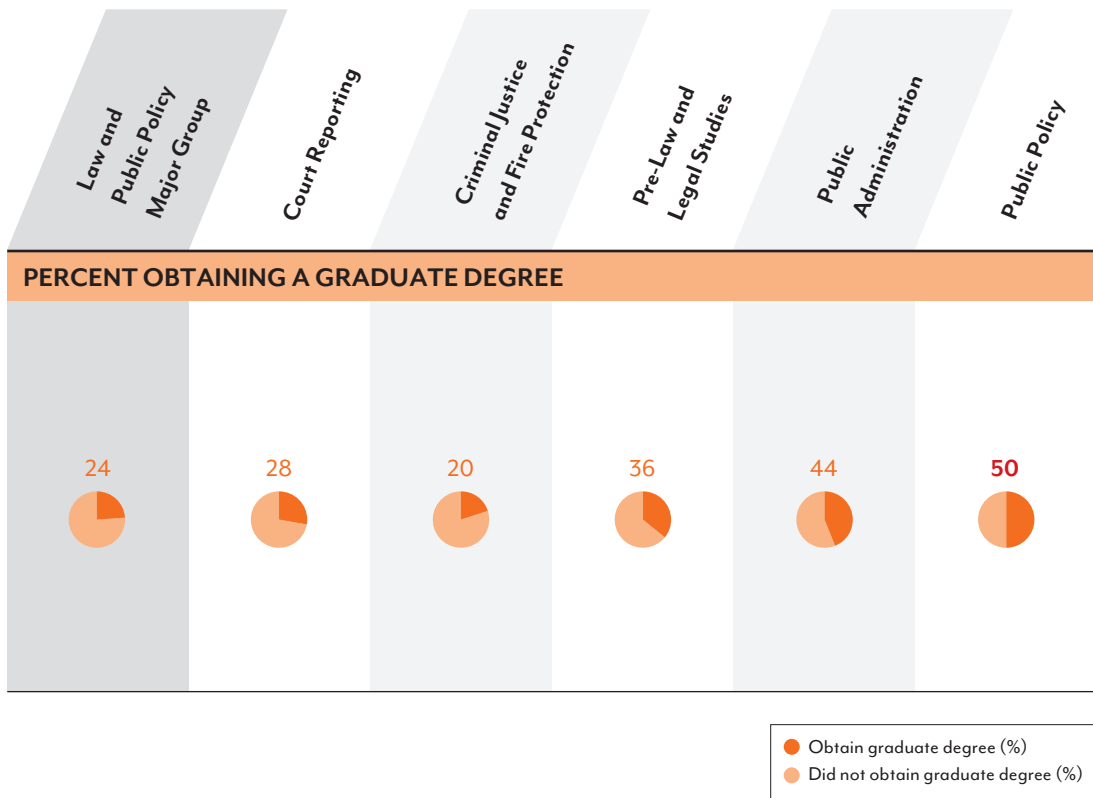
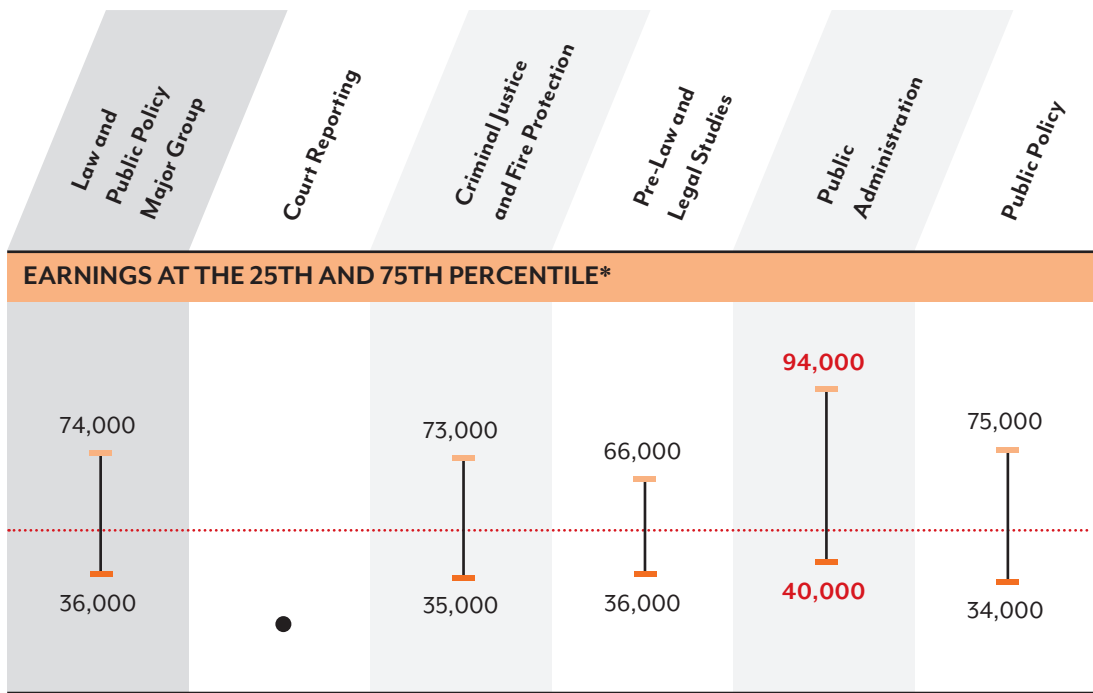
\* Full-time, full-year workers with a terminal Bachelor's.

• Sample size was too small to be statistically valid.

## RACE AND ETHNICITY

	Law and Public Policy Major Group	Court Reporting	Criminal Justice and Fire Protection	Pre-Law and Legal Studies	Public Administration	Public Policy
<b>RACIAL AND ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF MAJORS<sup>Δ</sup></b>						
% White	72	61	<b>73</b>	70	67	72
% African-American	14	14	14	14	<b>18</b>	15
% Hispanic	10	<b>15</b>	10	8	10	6
% Asian	3	2	2	<b>8</b>	4	7
% Other Races and Ethnicities	1	<b>8</b>	1	<0.5	2	1

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



## WHERE LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY MAJORS END UP BY OCCUPATION\*

	1st Occupation (%)	2nd Occupation (%)	3rd Occupation (%)	4th Occupation (%)	5th Occupation (%)
<b>Law and Public Policy Major Group</b>	PROT (32)	MGMT (11)	OFF (11)	COMM (9)	SALES (8)
<b>Court Reporting</b>	PROT (23)	MGMT (22)	INST (13)	OFF (9)	BUS (7)
<b>Criminal Justice and Fire Protection</b>	PROT (36)	OFF (10)	COMM (10)	MGMT (10)	SALES (8)
<b>Pre-Law and Legal Studies</b>	LGL (28)	OFF (15)	MGMT (10)	SALES (9)	BUS (6)
<b>Public Administration</b>	MGMT (27)	PROT (14)	SALES (13)	OFF (11)	FIN (7)
<b>Public Policy</b>	MGMT (29)	OFF (17)	COMP (10)	SALES (9)	BUS (8)

\* 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 LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY MAJORS END UP BY INDUSTRY\*

	1st Industry (%)	2nd Industry (%)	3rd Industry (%)	4th Industry (%)	5th Industry (%)
<b>Law and Public Policy Major Group</b>	PUB (43)	HS (8)	FIN (7)	PROF (7)	RETL (5)
<b>Court Reporting</b>	PUB (28)	FIN (14)	ADMN (13)	OS (10)	FS (8)
<b>Criminal Justice and Fire Protection</b>	PUB (46)	HS (8)	FIN (7)	RETL (5)	PROF (5)
<b>Pre-Law and Legal Studies</b>	PROF (31)	FIN (15)	PUB (11)	HS (7)	RETL (5)
<b>Public Administration</b>	PUB (35)	HS (11)	FIN (8)	EDU (8)	PROF (7)
<b>Public Policy</b>	EDU (16)	INFO (13)	PUB (13)	TRAN (9)	FIN (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