



MASTER'S DEGREE REQUIREMENTS & THE U.S. WORKFORCE

Master's degree holders are an essential part of the education, social services and health care workforce.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2016 the plurality of the workforce in the following occupations held master's degree:

- Elementary and middle school teachers
- Social Workers
- Education administrators
- Librarians
- Counselors
- Nurses
- Therapists

Jobs that require a master's degree at entry-level are projected to be the fastest growing segment of the workforce between 2016 and 2026.

Jobs that require a master's degree at entry-level, but do not require previous work experience are projected to grow even faster by 21%. These jobs include, but are not limited to: counselors, social workers, therapists, nurses, and computer scientists, and represent an additional 599,000 jobs by 2026.

Fig. 1 Projected Job Growth Between 2016 & 2026 by Typical Entry-level Education & Previous Work Experience Requirements

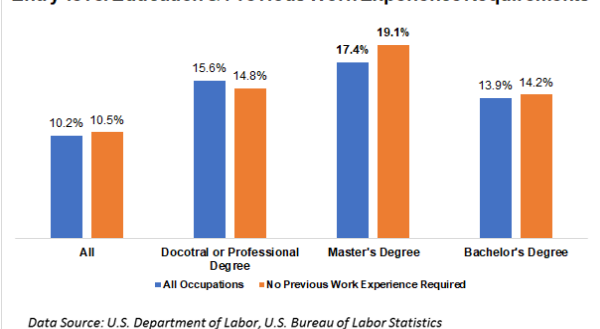
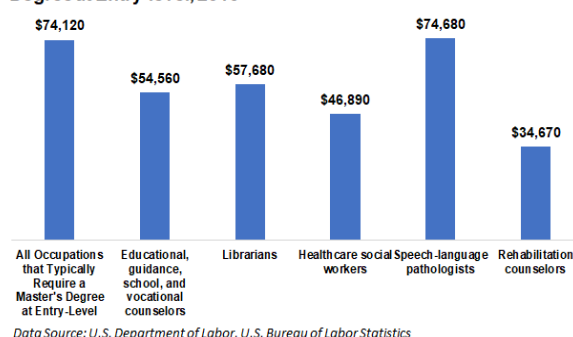


Fig.2 Median Wage for Select Occupations that Require a Master's Degree at Entry-level, 2016



Many of these critical occupations are not “high-wage” jobs. The median annual wage for jobs that require a master's degree at entry-level in 2016 was \$74,120. The median wage for some occupations is even less:

- Postsecondary teachers are expected to add about 197,800 jobs by 2026, a growth of 15%; their median wage in 2016 was \$75,430.
- Mental Health Counselors are expected to add 60,300 jobs by 2026, a growth of 23%; their median wage in 2016 was \$42,150.
- Social Workers are expected to add 109,700 jobs a growth of 16%; their median wage in 2016 was \$46,890.