

## **LEVEL OF SATISFACTION OF GRADUATES: BACHELOR OF ARTS VERSUS BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE**

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**Abstract.** *Choosing between a Bachelor of Arts (BA) and a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree can have a significant impact on career prospects and earning potential. While both degrees offer valuable skills, they differ in their focus, curriculum, and job opportunities. Depending on them, different students have diverse overall view on it's impact on life after graduation.*

**Keywords:** *career, education, employment, fulfillment, salary, skill.*

### **Introduction**

When it comes to choosing a college major, some students may feel torn between pursuing a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree. While both degrees can lead to fulfilling careers, students may feel pressure to choose the degree that is perceived to be more practical or prestigious. As a result, some students may fear pursuing a BA degree, fearing that it may not lead to as many job opportunities or as high of a salary as a BS degree [1]. In this context, it is important to consider the unique benefits and opportunities that a BA degree can offer, as well as to recognize the diverse paths that students can take to achieve their career goals.

### **Satisfaction in terms of salaries**

The choice between pursuing a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree can have a significant impact on future job prospects and earning potential. While both degrees provide students with a well-rounded education and valuable skills, there are notable differences in their curricula that can affect career paths and salaries.

The main difference between a BA and a BS degree lies in their focus. A BA degree typically emphasizes the humanities and social sciences, while a BS degree focuses on natural sciences and mathematics. As a result, BA graduates tend to have strong critical thinking and communication skills, while BS graduates have a solid foundation in technical skills and scientific reasoning.

According to a report by the National Center for Education Statistics, the median earnings for individuals with a BA degree was \$54,700 in 2019, while those with a BS degree earned a median salary of \$65,000 [2]. This gap in earnings is largely due to the higher demand and salaries for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) jobs, which require a strong background in the natural sciences and mathematics.

In a study conducted by Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce, it was found that individuals with STEM-related degrees, including BS degrees in computer science, engineering, and mathematics, earned the highest salaries among all Bachelor's degree holders. On the other hand, graduates with BA degrees in fields such as education, psychology, and the arts earned lower salaries [3].

However, it's important to note that earning potential can vary greatly depending on the specific field of study and career path pursued by graduates. For example, individuals with BA degrees in economics, political science, and business can earn high salaries in finance, consulting, and management positions.

In addition, the report by the National Center for Education Statistics found that salaries for both BA and BS degree holders increased significantly with higher levels of education. Those with a graduate or professional degree earned median salaries of \$77,000 and \$100,000, respectively [2].

Furthermore, job satisfaction and personal fulfillment should also be considered when deciding between a BA and a BS degree. While earning potential is important, pursuing a degree in a field that aligns with personal interests and passions can lead to greater job satisfaction and long-term success.

In conclusion, the choice between a BA and a BS degree depends on individual interests, career goals, and desired earning potential. While BS graduates generally earn higher salaries due to the demand for STEM-related skills, BA graduates can also pursue high-paying careers in fields such as finance, management, and consulting. Regardless of the degree chosen, continuing education and professional development can greatly enhance job prospects and earning potential for graduates.

### **Job opportunities**

In today's competitive job market, choosing the right college major is critical for securing a promising career path. Two of the most popular undergraduate degrees are the Bachelor of Science (BS) and the Bachelor of Arts (BA). While both degrees have their unique features, they also differ in terms of the job opportunities available to graduates.

#### **A. Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree**

A Bachelor of Science degree is typically awarded to students who complete a rigorous curriculum in scientific, technical, or mathematical fields. BS degrees focus on developing analytical, quantitative, and problem-solving skills, making them ideal for careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields. Graduates with a BS degree are in high demand and often receive higher salaries than their peers with other degrees [4].

##### ➤ Job Opportunities for BS Graduates:

- **Engineering:** BS graduates in fields such as mechanical, electrical, and civil engineering are highly sought after by employers. They design, develop, and test products and systems, ranging from small electronics to large-scale infrastructure projects.
- **Computer Science:** With the growing demand for technology, graduates with a BS in Computer Science can find job opportunities in software development, data analytics, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence.
- **Healthcare:** BS graduates in healthcare-related fields such as nursing, medical technology, and public health can work in hospitals, clinics, and research labs. They can also pursue graduate degrees to become doctors, dentists, or veterinarians.
- **Finance:** BS graduates in finance, economics, and accounting can pursue careers in banking, investment firms, and financial planning [5].

#### **B. Bachelor of Arts (BA) Degree**

A Bachelor of Arts degree is a liberal arts degree that focuses on developing critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving skills. BA degrees offer a broad-based education and provide students with the flexibility to choose from a wide range of subjects. Graduates with a BA degree can find jobs in fields such as education, journalism, public service, and the arts.

##### ➤ Job Opportunities for BA Graduates:

- **Education:** BA graduates in education can work as teachers, school counselors, and administrators in both public and private schools. They can also pursue advanced degrees to become professors or educational researchers.
- **Communication:** BA graduates in communication, journalism, and public relations can work in media outlets, advertising agencies, and marketing firms.
- **Social Work:** BA graduates in social work can work in non-profit organizations, community centers, and government agencies. They help individuals and families who are struggling with social, emotional, and economic challenges.
- **Arts:** BA graduates in arts-related fields such as music, theater, and visual arts can work as performers, designers, and curators. They can also pursue graduate degrees to become professional artists or art educators.

It is difficult to make a generalization about who can achieve bigger results in their career, as success in one's career depends on various factors such as individual skills, interests, experience, and networking abilities. However, graduates with a Bachelor of Science degree often have an advantage in certain industries where technical skills are in high demand, such as engineering, computer science, and healthcare. These fields typically offer higher salaries and faster career advancement opportunities to individuals with a BS degree.

On the other hand, graduates with a Bachelor of Arts degree may have a broader skill set and the ability to think critically and creatively, which can be an asset in fields such as education, social work, and the arts. These industries may not offer as high of a salary as some technical fields, but they can provide fulfilling and rewarding careers.

In conclusion, while both Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees offer unique advantages in different industries, success in one's career is ultimately determined by individual skills, interests, and experience. Graduates from both degree programs can achieve big results in their career by continuously learning, developing new skills, and being adaptable to changing job market demands.

### **Level of wellbeing**

While both types of degrees offer valuable skills and knowledge, they also differ in terms of curriculum and career paths. This leads to the question of whether one type of degree provides greater job satisfaction and success than the other. This definition refers to a good emotional response you have in the experience of doing your job or being present at work. It takes into account the work-life balance, job security, opportunities, salary and personal fulfillment.

A survey conducted by BT Ireland involving 900 workers across Ireland, concluded that 81% of STEM workers reported being pleased or very satisfied with their jobs and 98% of employees in the health field stating they consider their work as “inspiring” [7]. One possible explanation for these results is that BS degrees typically focus on more technical and specialized skills, such as math, science, and technology, which are in high demand in today’s job market. This may lead to a greater number of job opportunities and higher salaries for BS graduates. In contrast, BA degrees often focus on more general liberal arts topics, such as social sciences, humanities, and languages, which may not have as clear of a career path.

However, it is important to note that job satisfaction is not solely dependent on salary and employment outcomes. A study conducted by the Strategic National Arts Alumni Project (SNAAP) surveyed over 13,500 arts graduates at 154 institutions to explore their level of job satisfaction and fulfillment [8]. While graduates with a BS were more likely to have a job related to their field of study and higher salaries, this study shows that graduates with a BA were more likely to report feeling a sense of personal fulfillment and satisfaction with their work, as 70% of those employed with Fine Arts Degrees were “very satisfied” with their jobs and the creative opportunities they offered, despite receiving poor compensation [1].

One possible explanation for these results is that BA degrees often focus on developing critical thinking and communication skills, which are highly valued by employers and can be applied to a variety of fields. This may lead to a greater sense of personal fulfillment and satisfaction in one’s work, even if it is not directly related to their field of study. Another justification may be the higher autonomy. An alternative report by SNAAP provides findings from more than 33,000 graduates who responded to their survey shows that 84% of arts graduates admit their current primary job reflects their personalities, interests and values [9].

It is also important to consider individual factors that may influence job satisfaction, such as personality, values, and career goals. While the type of degree one obtains may play a role in job satisfaction, it is ultimately up to the individual to find a career path that aligns with their interests and values.

## Conclusions

In conclusion, the level of satisfaction of students who graduate with a BA versus a BS varies depending on various factors such as employment outcomes, personal fulfillment, and individual preferences. While studies and surveys have found that BS graduates tend to have higher salaries and more job opportunities related to their field of study, BA graduates may experience greater personal fulfillment and job satisfaction due to their general skill set and versatility. Ultimately, the decision to pursue a BA or BS should be based on one's interests, career goals, and personal preferences.

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