

Why Engineering?

- It allows you to work in a challenging, rewarding career with the opportunity to make a difference.
- “Engineering majors are consistently among the highest paid because the demand for them is so great,” Marilyn Mackes (National Association of Colleges and Employers).
- The average starting salary of an engineer in 2013 has risen by 4% to \$62,535 (Industry Market Trends Career Journal).
- In 2013, the top ten college degrees by highest starting salaries were all STEM-related, and of those, 7 were in engineering (Industry Market Trends Career Journal).
- The National Science Foundation estimates 80% of jobs in the next decade will require math and science knowledge.

Traits of an Engineer

Personalities and the types of character traits vary widely among engineers, even within a very specific sub discipline. All one really requires to be an engineer is the desire—hard work can do the rest! Some common traits include:

- Interest in math and science
- Attention to detail and the ability to concentrate
- The ability to analyze ideas and develop theories
- Strong communication skills
- Problem solving skills
- Natural curiosity
- Creativity

How to Prepare

Some tips for success in an engineering career:

- Take the highest math and science courses available.
- Get involved in science, technology, engineering, or math related extracurricular activities.
- Explore the wide variety of career options that the numerous engineering disciplines offer: civil, biomedical, mechanical, electrical, computer and many more!
- Talk to professionals and other students already involved in an engineering program.
- Have a plan with clear, concise goals.

Educational Opportunities

The typical degree for an engineer is a **bachelor's** degree which takes 4-5 years, depending on the program. You may then opt for further education such as a **master's** degree, followed sometimes by a **doctorate** degree.

Additional Resources

The West Tennessee STEM Hub: www.westtnstem.org/students

The Tennessee STEM Innovation Network: thetsin.org

The Industry Market Trends Career Journal:

www.thomasnet.com/journals/career/highest-paid-majors-for-new-grads-with-bachelors-degrees

The Society of Women Engineers: www.swe.org

The American Society for Engineering Education: www.egfi-k12.org