

Master's Degrees With the Highest Employment Rates (2026 Data)

New research ranks 12 master's degree fields by employment rate, finding healthcare and technology degrees offer graduates the strongest job security.

RENO, NV, UNITED STATES, August 26, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- A new report from

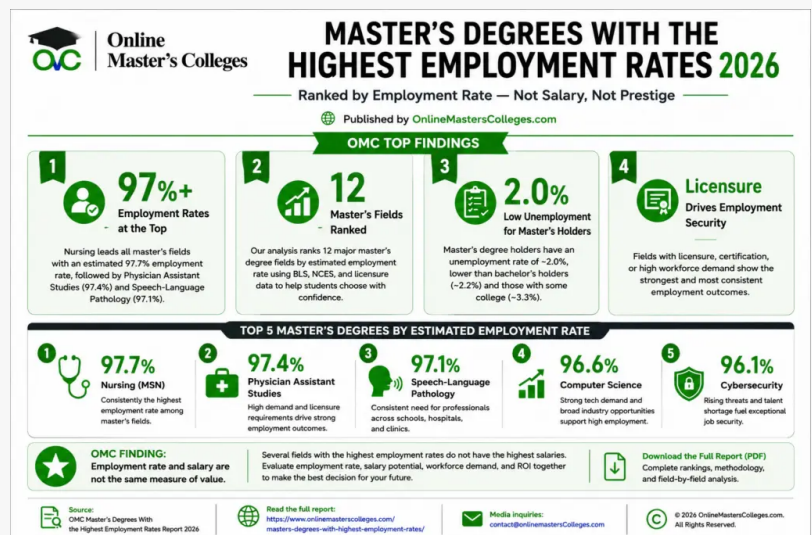
[OnlineMastersColleges.com](https://www.onlinemasterscolleges.com) (OMC) identifies which master's degree fields lead to the highest rates of employment after graduation, ranking 12 disciplines using federal labor statistics and field-specific workforce data rather than salary or institutional prestige alone.

The report, titled "Master's Degrees With the Highest Employment Rates (2026 Data)," draws on data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), and professional licensing organizations to compare how reliably graduates in different fields find work in roles connected to their degree.

Key Findings

According to the analysis, nursing tops the list, with graduates of Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) programs experiencing an estimated employment rate near 98.5%, reflecting a well-documented, ongoing shortage of qualified nurse practitioners and clinical specialists nationwide. Physician assistant studies and computer science followed closely behind, each posting estimated employment rates above 97%.

Rounding out the top tier were cybersecurity and information security, accounting, speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, and data science and analytics — all fields where estimated employment rates for graduates topped 95%.



Master's Degrees With the Highest Employment Rates (2026 Data)



Employment rate is one of the clearest signals of a degree's real-world value — and the gap between the strongest and weakest fields is bigger than most students expect.”

Sai Yallapragada

The report notes that employment rate and salary don't always move together. Fields such as social work and education post strong employment numbers despite comparatively modest median pay, while some high-paying fields, including select engineering specialties and data science, show somewhat greater variability in employment outcomes tied to experience level, specialization, and geographic market.

To assess employment strength more holistically, the report's authors developed what they call an Employment

Security Framework, which weighs projected job growth, workforce shortages, licensure requirements, and time-to-employment alongside the raw employment rate. Under that framework, nursing, physician assistant studies, and cybersecurity earned the top marks, followed by computer science, accounting, speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, and data science.

The research also included a review of employment transparency across more than 120 graduate programs at over 60 universities, finding that only a minority of institutions publicly publish placement rates or standardized graduate employment outcomes — a gap the report's authors say makes it harder for prospective students to compare programs on career results alone.

Why It Matters

"Prospective graduate students often default to comparing salary figures or school rankings, but those numbers don't tell you whether you'll actually find work in your field," the report's authors note. "Employment rate is a distinct and often overlooked measure of a degree's practical value — and the gap between the strongest and weakest fields is much wider than most people expect."

The [full report](#) also examines degree fields with comparatively lower employment rates — including fine arts and general humanities master's degrees — and outlines practical steps graduate students can take to improve their own employment odds, such as choosing accredited, field-specific programs, prioritizing internships and clinical placements, and engaging career services early.

About the Report

The complete report, including full field-by-field rankings, an employment-rate-versus-salary comparison, and detailed methodology, is available for download at OnlineMastersColleges.com.

About OnlineMastersColleges.com (OMC)

OnlineMastersColleges.com (OMC) publishes independent research, rankings, and resources to help prospective students evaluate graduate degree programs, including studies on employment outcomes, salary potential, return on investment, and workforce demand trends.

Media Contact

OnlineMastersColleges.com Research Team

contact@onlinemasterscolleges.com

<https://www.onlinemasterscolleges.com/masters-degrees-with-highest-employment-rates/>

Stephen Lukes

OnlineMastersColleges.com (OMC)

+1 614-982-0752

stephen.lukes@onlinemasterscolleges.com

Visit us on social media:

[LinkedIn](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

[YouTube](#)

[TikTok](#)

[X](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/937137358>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2026 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.