

THE FACULTY

Law Professors Are Academe's Best-Paid Faculty Members, Survey Finds

BY DENISE K. MAGNER

SURPRISE: Law professors are out-earning their faculty colleagues by a significant margin, making on average at least \$17,000 more annually than their closest peers in engineering and business. That's according to this year's survey of faculty salaries, released last week by the College and University Personnel Association.

The CUPA study, while not as exhaustive as the recent salary survey conducted by the American Association of University Professors (*The Chronicle*, April 14), is the only one that breaks down earnings by scholarly discipline. It reports on faculty salaries at institutions where the primary mission is teaching, primarily baccalaureate and comprehensive institutions. The survey excludes salaries of medical professors.

Professors in 80 disciplines at 363 public colleges and 501 private ones participated in the 1999-2000 study. CUPA issues separate reports on salaries at public and private institutions.

Law professors earned an average of \$102,513 at private institutions, compared with an average salary of \$56,308 for all faculty members. After law, the best-paid professors were in financial management, with an average salary of \$84,762; public health, \$84,018; chemical engineering, \$80,931, and enterprise management, \$77,737. The highest reported salary in the study was paid to a finance professor who earned \$298,000 this academic year.

LOW PAY FOR ENGLISH COMPOSITION

At public institutions, too, law professors were the highest-paid, making an average of \$95,829, while the overall average for all professors was \$58,313. The next-highest-paid faculty members were in engineering, where the average salary this year was \$78,024; business management, \$77,628; chemical engineering, \$77,474; and financial management, \$77,229. The highest individual salary at public institutions in the survey was paid to a physics professor who earned \$234,531.

The lowest-paid professors tended to be in the arts or the helping professions. Only seven of the 80 disciplines in the survey earned an average annual salary below \$50,000 at public colleges: drama, English composition, health and physical education, music, nursing, speech, and specialized teacher-education programs. Faculty members in English composition earned

the very lowest salaries, with an average of \$41,840.

At private institutions, the average salary was below \$50,000 for 29 of the 80 disciplines. At the bottom of the salary scale were nine disciplines in which the average salary was below \$46,000: administrative and secretarial services, agriculture, criminal justice, English composition, health

and physical education, library science, nursing, speech, and teacher education. Faculty members in secretarial services earned the least, an average of \$38,850.

LUCRATIVE PROFESSIONAL FIELDS

The lowest individual salary at public colleges was earned by an instructor of botany who made only \$10,999, and at pri-

vate colleges by a computer-science instructor who earned \$15,400.

For new Ph.D.'s, the highest starting salaries continued to be in professional fields.

In four disciplines at private colleges, the average salary for a new assistant professor is more than \$60,000: business management, \$60,826; electrical engineering, \$60,613; financial management, \$76,685; and law, \$65,791. At public institutions, starting salaries for junior professors were more than \$60,000 in four fields: accounting, \$65,019; bioengineering, \$60,745; business management, \$66,696; and financial management, \$69,470.

Copies of this year's CUPA surveys are available to survey participants for \$55 each, to association members who didn't take part in the study for \$80 each, and to others for \$105 each. They can be obtained from the association at 1233 20th Street, N.W., Suite 301, Washington 20036; (202) 429-0311, ext. 2.

Information about the salary reports for public and private institutions can be found on the association's World Wide Web site (<http://www.cupa.org>).

Average Faculty Salaries in Selected Fields at 4-Year Institutions, 1999-2000

	Private	Public		Private	Public
Accounting	\$67,549	\$70,634	Health and medical administrative services	\$47,035	\$59,671
Administrative and secretarial services	38,850	52,372	Health and physical education	44,310	48,713
Agricultural business and production	45,195	64,644	History	54,363	54,937
Anthropology	60,085	56,391	Home economics, general	46,117	53,316
Architecture and related programs	59,059	59,357	Human-resources management	63,661	68,472
Area, ethnic, and cultural studies	56,257	59,697	Information sciences and systems	65,724	67,611
Bioengineering and biomedical engineering	77,089	69,118	Law	102,513	95,829
Biology, general	53,155	58,396	Library science	43,401	54,121
Botany	48,168	57,931	Marketing management and research	72,034	69,864
Business administration and management	65,054	66,464	Mathematics	54,087	57,871
Business management			Mechanical engineering	74,644	71,468
and administrative services	65,077	77,628	Multi-interdisciplinary studies	51,632	58,484
Business and managerial economics	63,826	65,029	Music	48,291	49,823
Cell and molecular biology	59,876	61,379	Nursing	45,164	48,987
Chemical engineering	80,931	77,474	Occupational therapy	46,099	51,145
Chemistry	55,556	58,977	Parks, recreation, and leisure studies	48,276	52,532
Civil engineering	71,230	70,705	Philosophy	54,856	55,105
Classical and ancient Near Eastern			Philosophy and religion	49,997	56,925
languages and literatures	56,368	58,360	Physical sciences, general	52,348	77,225
Clinical psychology	54,961	55,174	Physical therapy	53,329	55,710
Communications	47,588	50,148	Physics	63,516	63,537
Communications technologies	49,331	53,184	Political science and government	57,645	56,027
Computer and information sciences	58,260	66,240	Psychology, general	53,188	58,157
Counselor education	54,045	52,681	Public administration	64,572	59,825
Criminal justice and corrections	43,434	51,159	Public health	84,018	62,460
Curriculum and instruction	52,735	50,535	Reading teacher education	47,184	51,878
Dentistry	66,139	71,671	Religion and religious studies	53,318	57,016
Drama and theater arts	48,134	49,218	Romance languages and literatures	51,776	51,205
Economics	67,255	66,682	Social sciences, general	56,137	72,571
Education	49,137	54,369	Social work	50,421	52,648
Education administration and supervision	55,249	56,221	Sociology	53,242	54,471
Electrical, electronics,			Special education	47,619	52,978
and communications engineering	76,683	73,795	Speech and rhetorical studies	45,351	48,746
Engineering, general	76,060	78,024	Speech pathology and audiology	51,401	51,756
Engineering-related technologies	46,978	53,195	Teacher education, specific academic		
English composition	40,991	41,840	and vocational programs	46,480	49,893
English language and literature, general	50,931	51,960	Technology and industrial-arts		
Enterprise management and operation	77,737	68,049	teacher education		53,237
Environmental and environmental			Theological studies and religious vocations	47,169	
health engineering	57,809	56,005	Visual and performing arts	46,642	56,392
Financial management and services	84,762	77,229	Zoology	46,638	62,791
Fine arts and art studies	48,619	51,249			
Foreign languages and literatures	49,323	50,984	All	\$56,308	\$58,313
General teacher education	44,348	50,802			
Geography	55,561	54,327			
Geological and related sciences	64,132	58,800			

Note: The salaries shown are averages for all ranks combined. The figures are based on reports covering 125,462 faculty members at 363 public four-year colleges and universities and 58,759 faculty members at 501 private four-year institutions. The figures cover full-time faculty members on 9- or 10-month contracts. A dash indicates that figures are not available.

SOURCE: COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION