

NEWSFLASH

Math Degrees are Not Just for Teachers

- There is a huge misconception that the only thing one can do with a math degree is teach. Although there continues to be a great demand for qualified teachers in the field of mathematics and statistics, the salary and benefits of an educator in this country fall near the bottom in comparison with other positions held by individuals who have earned degrees in mathematics and statistics.
- Titles held by “mathematicians” are most often associated with other fields of study. These include jobs such as analyst, data scientist, engineer, biostatistician, and cryptographer.
- Math majors with degrees from public institutions in Ohio have found jobs in the following fields:
 - Actuarial mathematics
 - Applied mathematics
 - Biomathematics
 - Cryptography
 - Financial mathematics
 - Insurance
 - Internet security
 - Law
 - Medicine
 - Mathematical Modeling
 - Music
 - Operations Research
 - Public Health and Epidemiology
 - Public Policy
 - Mathematics Research
 - Medical research
 - Mechanical engineering
 - Petroleum engineering
 - Risk management
 - Statistical and Data Analysis
 - Teaching
 - Technical Writing
- According to the January 2014 posting from The Bureau of Labor Statistics, each of the four titles listed for math occupations boasted a 10-year growth rate of at least 23%, which is much faster than average. Note that this information was most likely provided by someone with a math degree.
- In today’s technological society, big data has quickly become a smorgasbord from which every major corporation wishes to gather data that will help to maximize profit. In order to do this, companies seek to hire individuals with quantitative, analytical thinking skills. These, of course, are skills most often found in math majors.
- According to Brookings research on the duration of job postings published in July of 2014, STEM occupations requiring a higher level of learning with computer and mathematical skills are associated with longest advertising duration which indicates qualified applicants are hard to find.
- The bottom line is that math is synonymous with problem-solving, and ALL employers want problem solvers!

Sources:

Bureau of Labor Statistics

<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/math/home.htm>

Brookings Institution

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/interactives/2014/job-vacancies-and-stem-skills#/M10420>

Here are some notable people holding degrees in mathematics:

- Jeff Immelt, CEO, General Electric
“Mr. Immelt earned a B.A. degree in applied mathematics from Dartmouth College in 1978 and an M.B.A. from Harvard University in 1982.”
- <http://www.ge.com/about-us/leadership/jeff-immelt>
- Sergey Brin, Co-founder of Google
“receiving his degree in mathematics and computer science from the University of Maryland at College Park”
- <http://www.biography.com/people/sergey-brin-12103333#early-life>
Sergey Brin is listed at number 9 on *Forbes* 2014 list of the most powerful people in the world.
- <http://www.forbes.com/powerful-people/list/#tab:overall>
- Salman Khan, Teacher, Executive Director of Khan Academy, Founder of Khan Lab School
“Khan attended public schools in Metairie, Louisiana, before enrolling at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he studied mathematics, engineering and computer science.”
- <http://www.biography.com/people/salman-khan-21416751#khan-academy>
- Herman Cain, Business leader, 2012 Republican presidential nominee
“In 1967, Cain graduated from Morehouse College with a bachelor's degree in mathematics.”
- <http://www.biography.com/people/herman-cain-20679991>
- Tammy Baldwin, U.S. Representative
“She enrolled at Smith College in Massachusetts, where she majored in mathematics and government and graduated in 1984. She went on to receive a law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1989.”
- <http://www.biography.com/people/tammy-baldwin-21027897#synopsis>
- Matt Stone, Co-creator of South Park
“Stone double majored in film and mathematics at the University of Colorado at Boulder.”
- <http://www.biography.com/people/matt-stone-20989817#synopsis>
- Reed Hastings, Founder of Netflix
“Hastings studied mathematics at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1983. After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, he spent two years with the Peace Corps, most of the time teaching math in Swaziland.”
- <http://www.britannica.com/biography/Reed-Hastings>