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CIVIL ENGINEERING ACADEMY PODCAST

Hosted By Isaac Oakeson

CEA 101 - THE HIGHEST PAID CIVIL ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES

Have you ever heard that a civil engineering degree allows you to work in many different industries—even some you don't even know yet? Well...that's true. But have you ever been told the average salary for each of them? Well...you're about to. And it's going to make you even MORE interested in civil engineering!

Let's start with Geotechnical Engineering. According to ZipRecruiter, geotech engineers make about $83,000 per year (overall US average), which translates into about $40/hour. Combined with the relatively low level of stress geotech engineers need to deal with on a daily basis due to the inherent nature of their work, this number is really good.

Next up, there's Water Resources Engineering. Even though the stress level in this field can get somewhat high due to the pressure from having to meet deadlines and making sure the sewer system of the city is working properly, engineers working in the industry make a little less than the geotech guys. Water resources engineers make about $80,000 per year, which makes it the least paying of the main civil engineering disciplines.

Another discipline is Transportation Engineering, which focuses on designing, building, operating, and maintaining transportation systems, be it by air, land, or water. People working in this industry make about $88,000 per year. This is still a decent pay. And if you're a structural engineer, you can also end up in the transportation field due to the overlap there exists between the two disciplines.

Even though it may be one of the most sought-after disciplines by civil engineering majors, and one that everybody immediately thinks of whenever they hear anything about civil engineering at all, Structural Engineering is not the highest paid discipline. In fact, they make $84,000 per year, which is just a little more than Water Resources and Geotechnical

Engineering. And according to Mark, a real-life structural engineer, it can also be a highly competitive industry, which makes it even more stressful. Therefore, keep in mind that, yes, you can design bridges and buildings. But allow yourself to explore other options as well.

Now, the big winner is Construction Engineering. A construction engineer is responsible for all the construction processes to actually get a project built from the ground up, according to the drawings, within the budget, and on time. These people make about $89,000 per year, making them the highest paid professionals within civil engineering. However, the stress level is also way higher. Since you'll be in charge of literally everything to get the project completed, you'll basically be jogging a lot of things at once. So if you want that big paycheck, you'd better be good at handling stress.

Finally, as mentioned above, here are three alternative industries you never thought you could work in with a civil engineering degree:

(1) Utility → A transmission line engineer makes about $83,000

(2) Project Management → A project manager in civil engineering makes $90,000

(3) Sales → A sales engineer makes about $81,000

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Reach out to Isaac - isaac@civilengineeringacademy.com

