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**Penn State
Architectural
Engineering**

CAREER FAIR

2021

Placement & Salary Summary

for the Penn State Bachelor of Architectural Engineering (B.A.E.)
and Master of Architectural Engineering (M.A.E.)
Graduating Class of 2021
Department of Architectural Engineering

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PennState
College of Engineering

**ARCHITECTURAL
ENGINEERING**

Annual Salary & Placement Survey Summary

Each year the Architectural Engineering Department (AE) conducts a voluntary exit survey under the supervision of Professor M. Kevin Parfitt to obtain historical information relative to salary offers, acceptances, employment details, and related information such as student placement preferences. This year the published summary of offers and acceptance details continues to highlight a variety of information related to salaries including separate categories of data for the BAE and MAE degree programs.

The demand for 2021 Penn State AE graduates remained strong despite the impact of pandemic related industry issues on hiring and placement. Positive industry interest in AE students is evidenced by an increase in the average salary figures for accepted positions in most categories of the survey.

The value of the average offer **accepted** by the Class of 2021 (all options – all degrees) was \$66,490. Demand for top performing students continues to be very strong with the value of the top salary offers ranging from \$75,000 up to \$78,500 this year depending on the AE Option.

Based on preliminary data from students and employers, *Fall Semester 2021 (Class of 2022)* has already generated numerous early offers and in some cases early acceptances. This activity is believed to be partially due to the continuing positive economic recovery and pent-up demand from the past year or so. In addition, we expect this to be a year of high *Summer Internship* employment activity due to the realization by industry firms that providing students with a quality summer internship experience is an invaluable recruiting tool for future years.

By the Percentages...

32... Percentage of students accepting an offer from one of their previous internship employers. *Internships remain one of the best recruiting tools for employers.*

18... Percentage of all offers included an incentive or signing bonus.

79... Percentage of students accepting their highest offer.

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Salary Summary Information¹ September 8, 2021

AE Salary Survey Category	Construction	Lighting / Electrical	Mechanical	Structural
Offers				
Average BAE Salary – All Offers	\$ 64,880	\$ 65,350	\$ 67,360	\$ 60,440.
Average MAE Salary – All Offers	\$ 67,220	\$ 66,250	\$ 67,750	\$ 64,500
Avg. BAE + MAE Salary – All Offers	\$ 65,940	\$ 65,760	\$ 67,640	\$ 63,150
Accepted				
Average BAE Salary - Accepted	\$ 65,780	\$ 65,770	\$ 67,500	\$ 59,940
Average MAE Salary – Accepted	\$ 67,640	\$ 68,570	\$ 71,880	\$ 66,590
Avg. BAE + MAE Salary - Accepted	\$ 66,310	\$ 67,120	\$ 69,250	\$ 64,080
Accepted with a company that was one of their previous internship employers.	31%	29%	30%	38%
High – Low				
Highest Reported Offer	\$ 78,500	\$ 75,000	\$ 76,000	\$ 77,000
Lowest Reported Offer	\$ 56,000	\$ 52,000	\$ 61,000	\$ 55,000
Students Accepting their Highest Offer	85%	64%	90%	77%
Bonus ²				
Average Bonus Offered	\$3,750	\$3,500	\$4,400	\$2,160
Offers that included a signing bonus	8%	16%	20%	44%
Class of 2021 - Overall Averages All Options-All Degrees Combined		2021		
Average Salary Offered – All Options	\$ 65,650			
Average Salary Accepted – All Options	\$ 66,490			

¹ Information contained in this summary represents only those students in the Class of 2021 who responded to the survey as of May 15, 2021.

² Bonus amounts are not included in the Salary figures reported in this chart. Some students also indicated that they would receive a moving allowance as a separate item which is not included in the Bonus figures in the chart.

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L/E Option Average Salary Offer Breakdown ³	Percentage of Total Offers	2019
Lighting Designer or Lighting Engineer Position Only	32%	\$ 61,620
Positions Described as Primarily Electrical or Elect/Ltg.	58%	\$ 67,060
Positions Described as Lighting / Electrical (L/E)	10%	\$68,330

“Non - Traditional” AE Employment Categories: Offers	High	Low	Average
Structural & Architectural Forensics / Building Science / Building Envelopes / Building Technology / Waterproofing / Facades	\$ 68,000	\$ 64,000	\$ 60,000

Summer Internships ⁴	2021
Range – All Options	\$16.50 - \$ 24.00 per hour
<i>Applies to Returning Seniors & MAE Students, not necessarily the entire undergraduate population. Note this is a very limited sample as most students were pursuing permanent full-time employment.</i>	

³ Note that the Lighting / Electrical Option Figures are based on a small sample size of students (split between Lighting Design, Electrical Design positions and L/E) and may not accurately reflect industry averages in this field

⁴ Some internship offers for these upper-level students included housing or housing allowances in addition to the hourly rate noted in the chart. Those allowance figures are not averaged into the wages shown in the chart. This includes some students who entertained internship offers as a back up in case full time positions were not available during the pandemic.