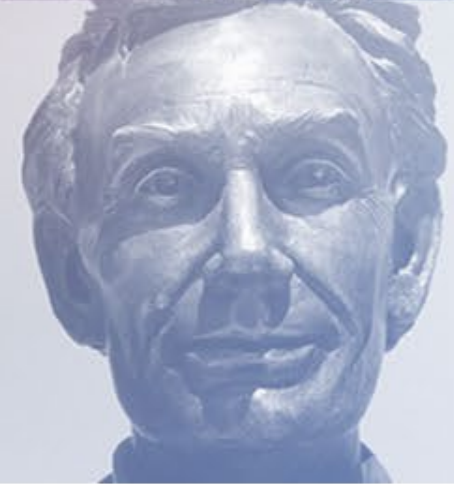


Beyond Graduation: What Our Graduates' Earnings Reveal About Economic Mobility

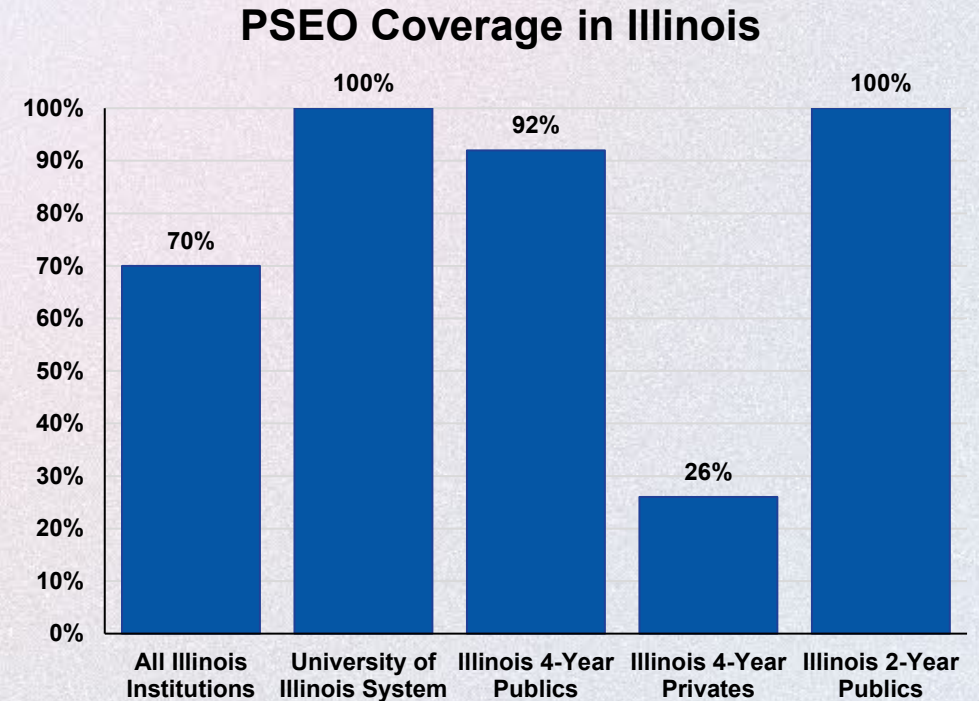
funded by the Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO) Coalition grant

University Office for Planning & Budgeting
Cheyenne Galentine, Resource & Policy Analyst
Chris Lehman, Director of Planning & Analysis



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS (U OF I) SYSTEM & PSEO

- State's largest system of higher education with over 100,000 students
 - University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) – #12 ranked public university
 - University of Illinois Chicago (UIC)– R1 with Hospital
 - University of Illinois Springfield (UIS)– Regional in state capital
- Joined PSEO in 2024 alongside 76 other partner institutions in the state
- Presented on PSEO at 2024 AIR Forum
- Grant provided opportunity to develop PSEO dashboards



MAKING DATA PUBLICLY AVAILABLE IS NOT THE SAME AS MAKING IT UNDERSTANDABLE.

The Need

- Growing demand for transparency around graduate outcomes and ROI.

The Challenge

- PSEO data is valuable but is complex and can be difficult to interpret.

The Question

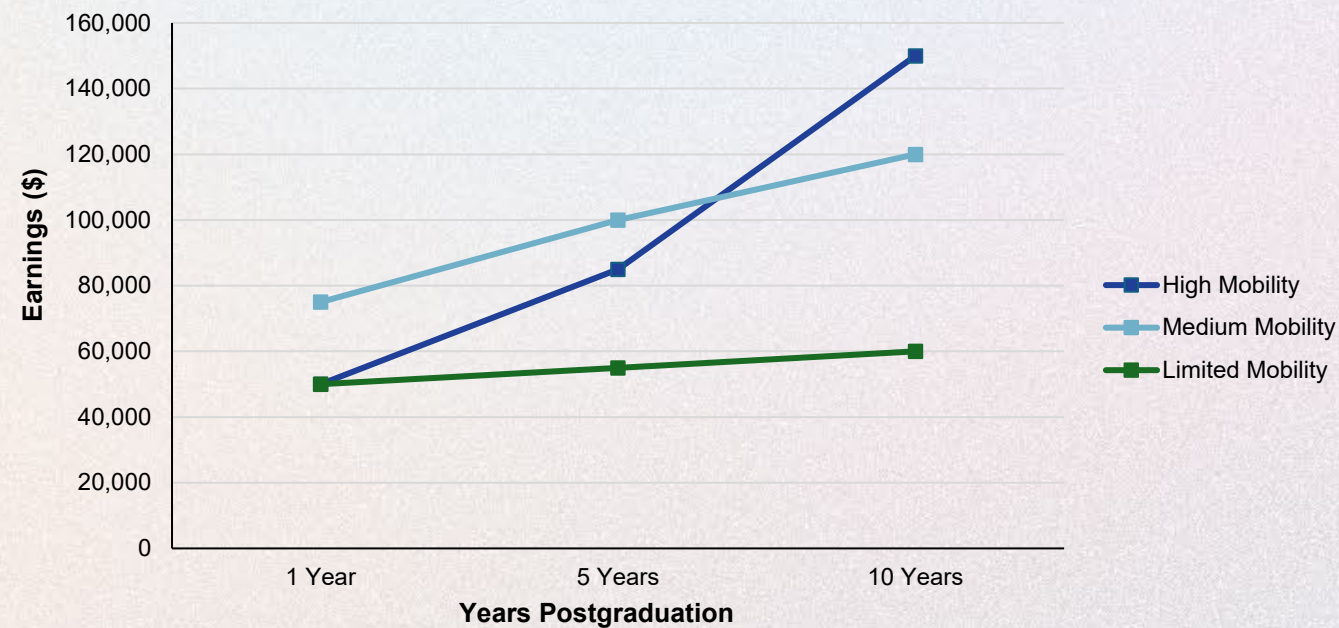
- How can we make long-term earnings outcomes easier to understand and compare?

DESIGN STRATEGY 1: MAKE COMPARISONS MORE INTUITIVE

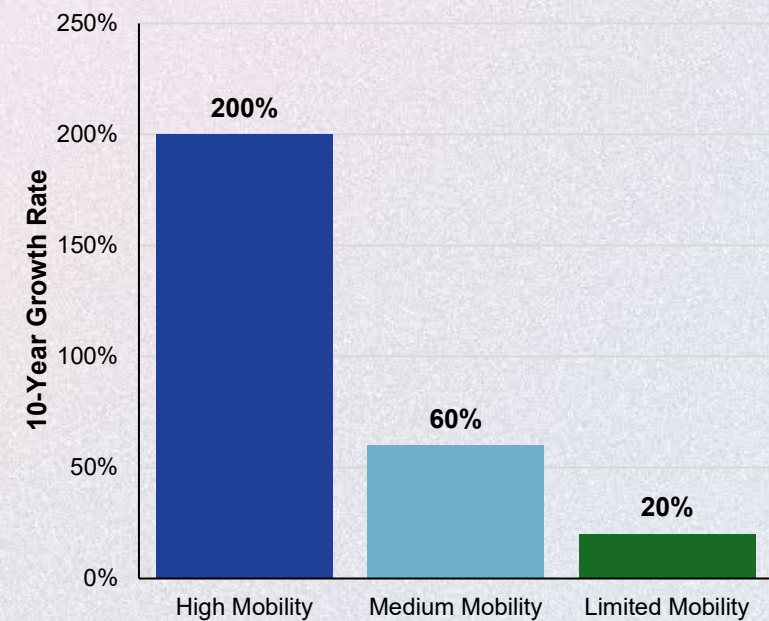
- **10-Year Earnings Growth Rate**
 - Measured as % change in earnings from Year 1 to Year 10
 - Serves as a proxy of **economic mobility** by providing insight into long-term earnings potential
- **Benefits:**
 - Standardized measure for comparison across groups
 - Highlights earnings trajectories rather than salary alone
 - Percentage-based metric is intuitive and easy to communicate

DESIGN STRATEGY 1: MAKE COMPARISONS MORE INTUITIVE

Similar starting earnings can mask substantial differences in long-term earnings potential.



10-year growth percentages make these trajectories easier to compare.



*Values in the charts are hypothetical and do not reflect real earnings data.

DESIGN STRATEGY 2: REDUCED COMPLEXITY THROUGH FOCUSED SCOPE

- Focus the questions
- Focus the layout
- Focus the population

DESIGN STRATEGY 2: REDUCED COMPLEXITY THROUGH FOCUSED SCOPE

- Focus the questions
- Focus the layout
- Focus the population

Questions This Dashboard Answers

Use this dashboard to explore the following key questions about graduate earnings outcomes:

Which degree programs or institutions show both high earnings and strong long-term earnings growth, and which show more limited mobility?

[Open Economic Mobility Dashboard →](#)

How do earnings vary across degree programs at a specific university?

[Open Earnings Overview Dashboard →](#)

How do U of I graduates' earnings outcomes compare with those of peer institutions?

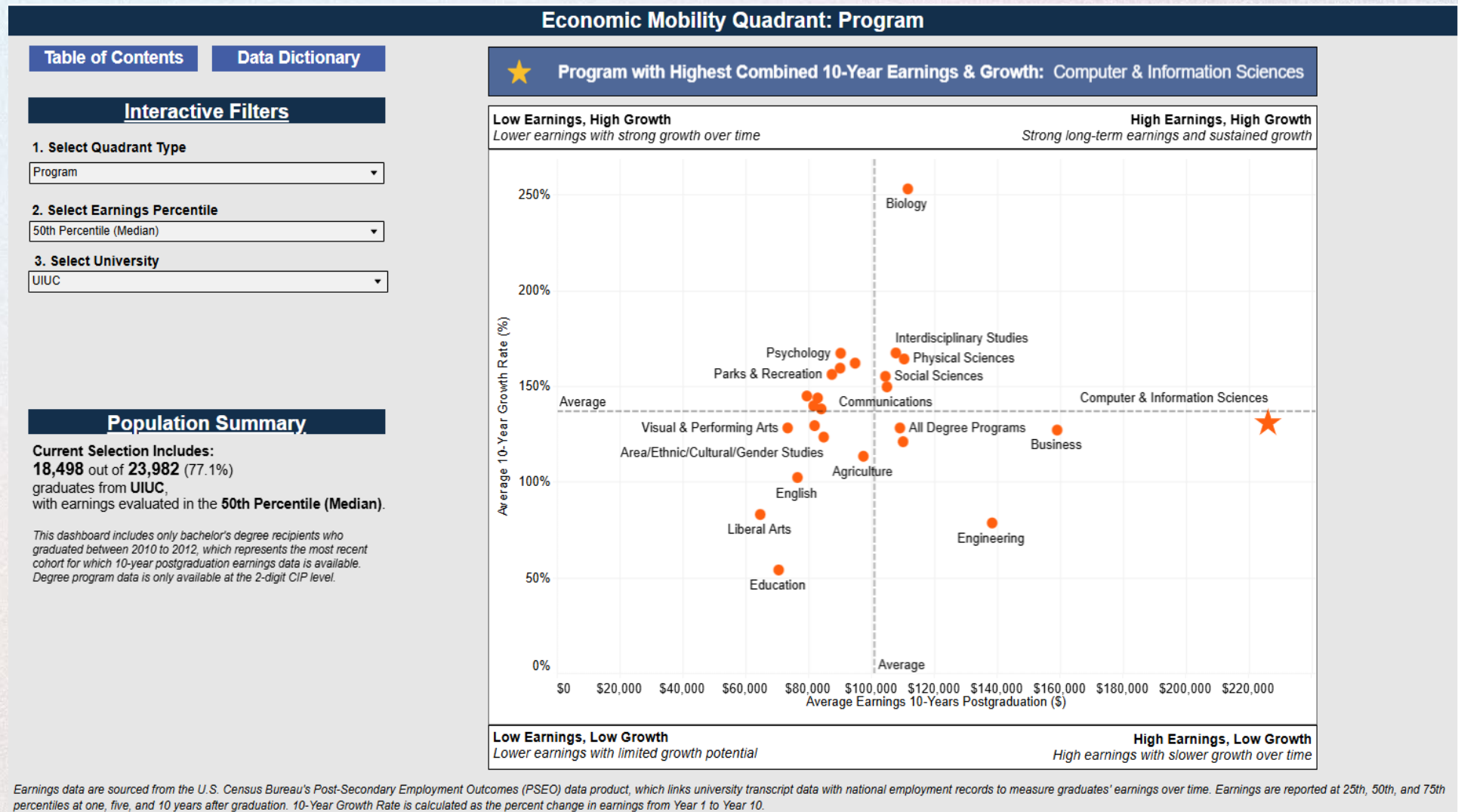
[Open Peer Comparison Dashboard →](#)

What are the earnings outcomes of lower-earning U of I graduates in the 25th percentile?

[Open 25th Percentile Highlight Dashboard →](#)

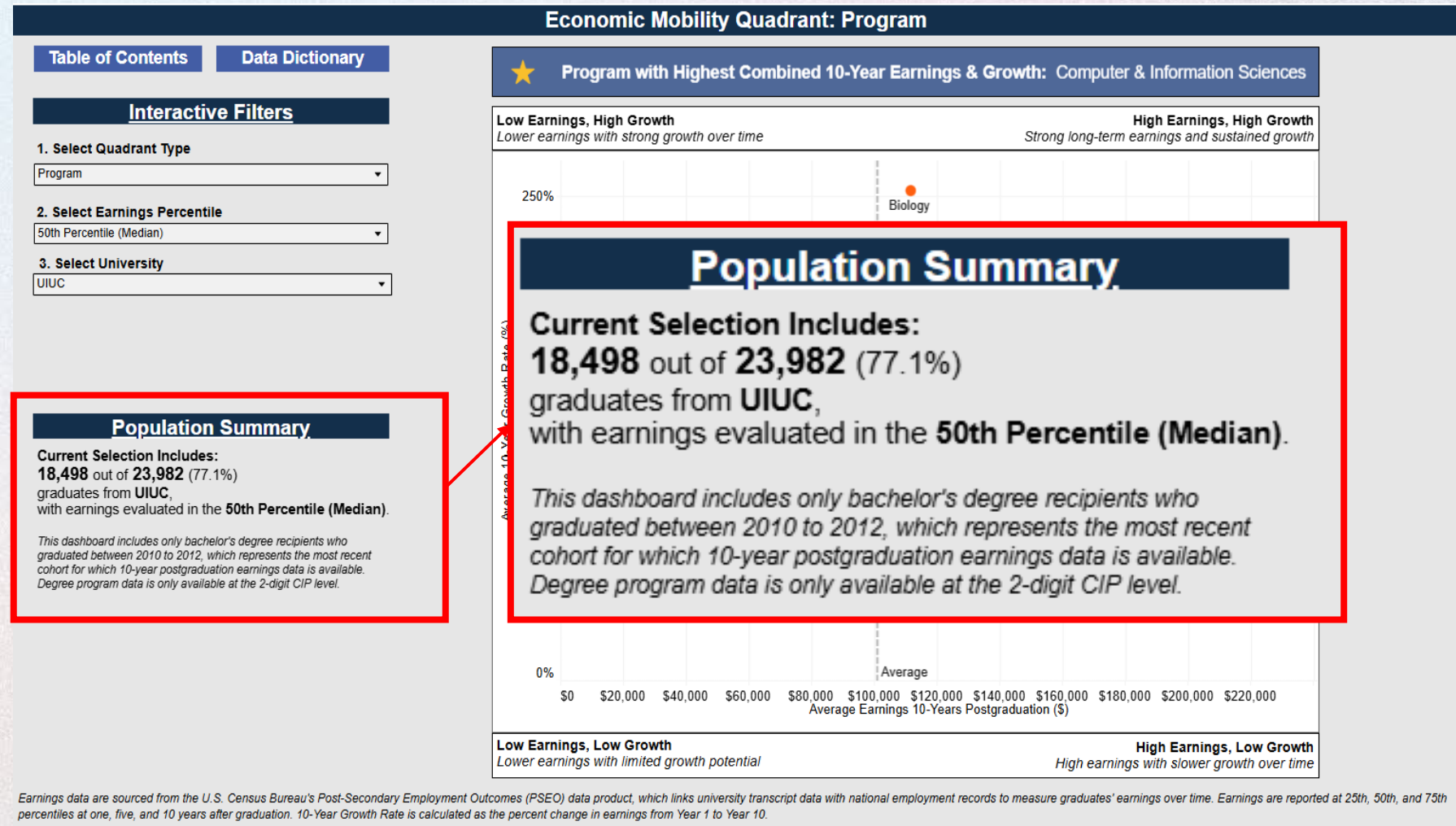
DESIGN STRATEGY 2: REDUCED COMPLEXITY THROUGH FOCUSED SCOPE

- Focus the questions
- Focus the layout
- Focus the population



DESIGN STRATEGY 2: REDUCED COMPLEXITY THROUGH FOCUSED SCOPE

- Focus the questions
- Focus the layout
- Focus the population



DESIGN STRATEGY 3: PROVIDE CONTEXT FOR INTERPRETATION

- Include a Data Dictionary and links to relevant resources
- Clearly communicate limitations of data
- Help users understand results with summary statements and descriptive statistics

Peer Comparisons: UIC & Board Of Trustee Peer Groups

[Table of Contents](#)
[Data Dictionary](#)

Interactive Filters

Select University

UIC

Degree Program Filter

Computer & Information Sciences

Legends

U of I University

UIC

Earnings Percentile

25th

50th

75th

Population Summary

Current Selection Includes:

UI System University:

203 out of 225 (90.2%)

Computer & Information Sciences graduates from UIC

BOT Peer Group:

968 out of 1,144 (84.6%)

Computer & Information Sciences graduates across 6 partner institutions in the BOT - UIC peer group.

This dashboard includes only bachelor's degree recipients who graduated between 2010 to 2012, which represents the most recent cohort for which 10-year postgraduation earnings data is available. Degree program data is only available at the 2-digit CIP level.

Hover over the peer group name to view a list of PSEO partner and non-partner institutions.

BOT Peers - UIC

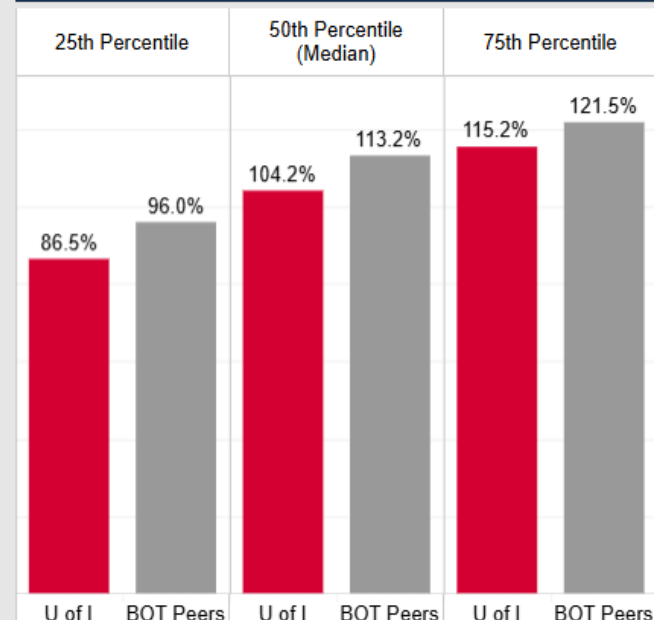


Across all degree programs, median (50th Percentile) earnings for UIC graduates are comparable to the peer median at 1, 5, and 10 years postgraduation. UIC's 10-Year earnings growth rate exceeds the peer average across percentiles.

50th Percentile (Median) Earnings (\$)



Average 10-Year Growth Rate (%)



	1 Year After Graduation			5 Years After Graduation			10 Years After Graduation			10-Year Growth		
	25th	50th	75th	25th	50th	75th	25th	50th	75th	25th	50th	75th
Utah	\$63,451	\$80,624	\$103,197	\$96,572	\$121,303	\$152,163	\$112,807	\$164,239	\$236,534	144.6%	140.2%	122.2%
Connecticut	\$64,138	\$74,301	\$85,664	\$86,507	\$113,771	\$140,692	\$112,107	\$162,085	\$188,060	117.9%	122.3%	122.3%
Alabama-Bir..	\$44,398	\$57,867	\$72,871	\$64,402	\$82,803	\$105,199	\$108,603	\$138,999	\$161,896	86.0%	109.3%	144.1%
UIC	\$51,357	\$65,353	\$81,828	\$84,931	\$103,871	\$131,111	\$95,790	\$133,443	\$176,123	74.8%	118.1%	119.5%
Buffalo	\$47,392	\$60,342	\$76,885	\$71,942	\$91,987	\$129,475	\$88,155	\$126,300	\$187,699	77.8%	103.7%	129.2%
Cincinnati	\$51,615	\$63,143	\$78,349	\$72,975	\$90,871	\$116,040	\$95,254	\$122,679	\$154,897	86.5%	104.2%	115.2%
Virginia Co..	\$40,863	\$54,389	\$72,442	\$69,067	\$88,204	\$112,517	\$89,036	\$120,903	\$161,056	84.5%	94.3%	97.7%

Tables sorted by average 10-year earnings and growth rate.

Earnings data are sourced from the U.S. Census Bureau's Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO) data product, which links university transcript data with national employment records to measure graduates' earnings over time. Earnings are reported at 25th, 50th, and 75th percentiles at one, five, and 10 years after graduation. 10-Year Growth Rate is calculated as the percent change in earnings from Year 1 to Year 10.



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM

TAKEAWAY 1: EARNINGS LEVELS & GROWTH TELL DIFFERENT STORIES.

Earnings (\$) 10 Years After Graduation by Program: UIUC

[Table of Contents](#)
[Data Dictionary](#)

Interactive Filters

1. Select Earnings Metric View

Earnings

2. Select University

UIUC

3. Select Earnings Percentile

50th Percentile (Median)

4. Select Year

10 Years After Graduation

Population Summary

Current Selection Includes:

18,498 out of **23,982** (77.1%)

graduates from **UIUC** with earnings **10 Years After Graduation** evaluated in the **50th Percentile (Median)**.

This dashboard includes only bachelor's degree recipients who graduated between 2010 to 2012, which represents the most recent cohort for which 10-year postgraduation earnings data is available. Degree program data is only available at the 2-digit CIP level.



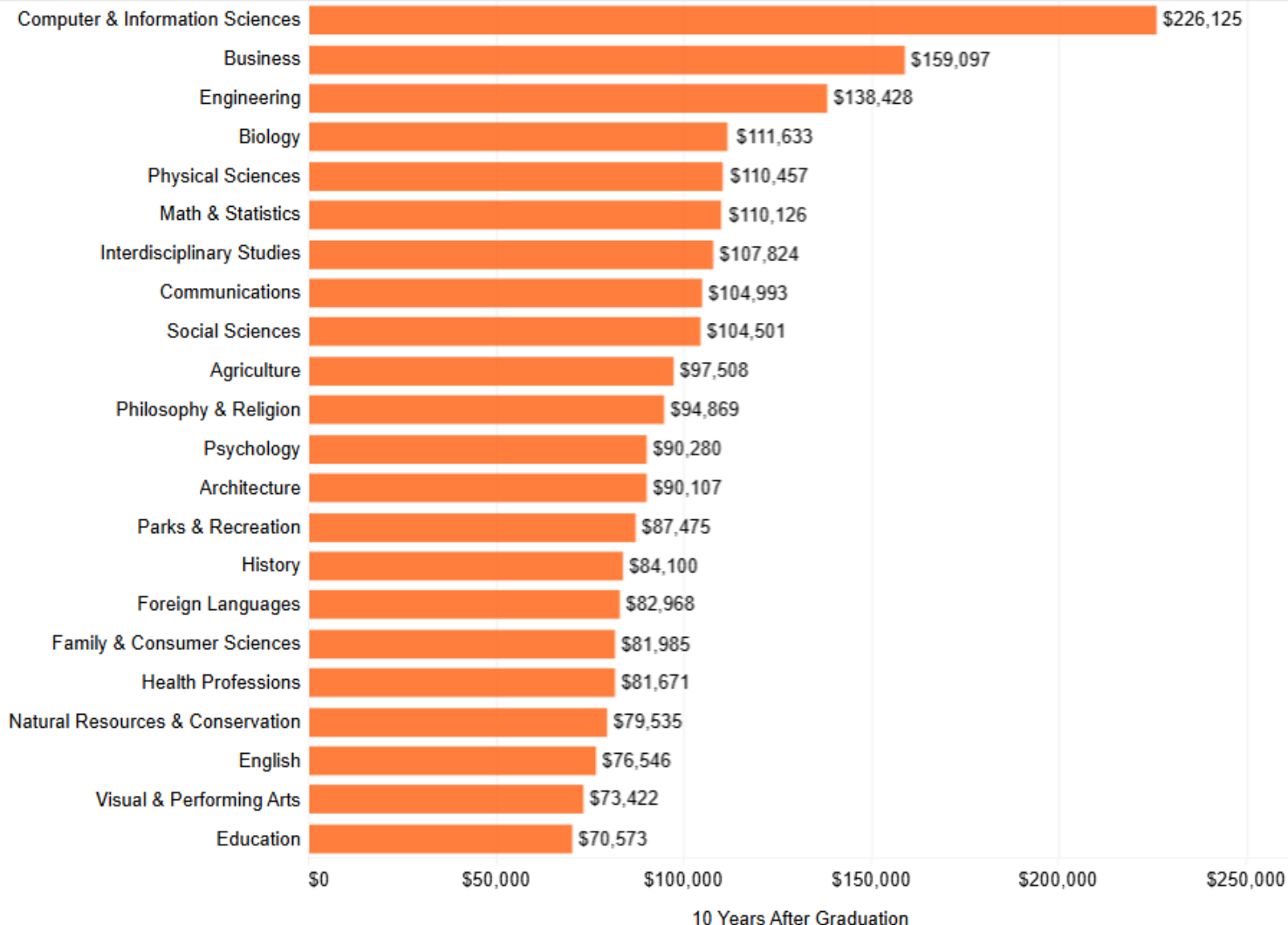
UIUC Overview
All Degree Programs
50th Percentile (Median)

Year 1 Earnings:
\$47,847

Year 5 Earnings:
\$77,696

Year 10 Earnings:
\$109,123

10-Year Growth Rate %
128.1%



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM

10-Year Earnings Growth (%) by Program: UIUC

[Table of Contents](#)
[Data Dictionary](#)

Interactive Filters

1. Select Earnings Metric View

Growth Rate

2. Select University

UIUC

3. Select Earnings Percentile

50th Percentile (Median)

10-Year Growth Rate Legend

----- = 100% Growth Rate
(Earnings Doubled in 10 Years)

Population Summary

Current Selection Includes:

18,498 out of **23,982** (77.1%)
graduates from **UIUC**,
with earnings evaluated in the **50th Percentile**
(Median).

This dashboard includes only bachelor's degree recipients who graduated between 2010 to 2012, which represents the most recent cohort for which 10-year postgraduation earnings data is available. Degree program data is only available at the 2-digit CIP level.



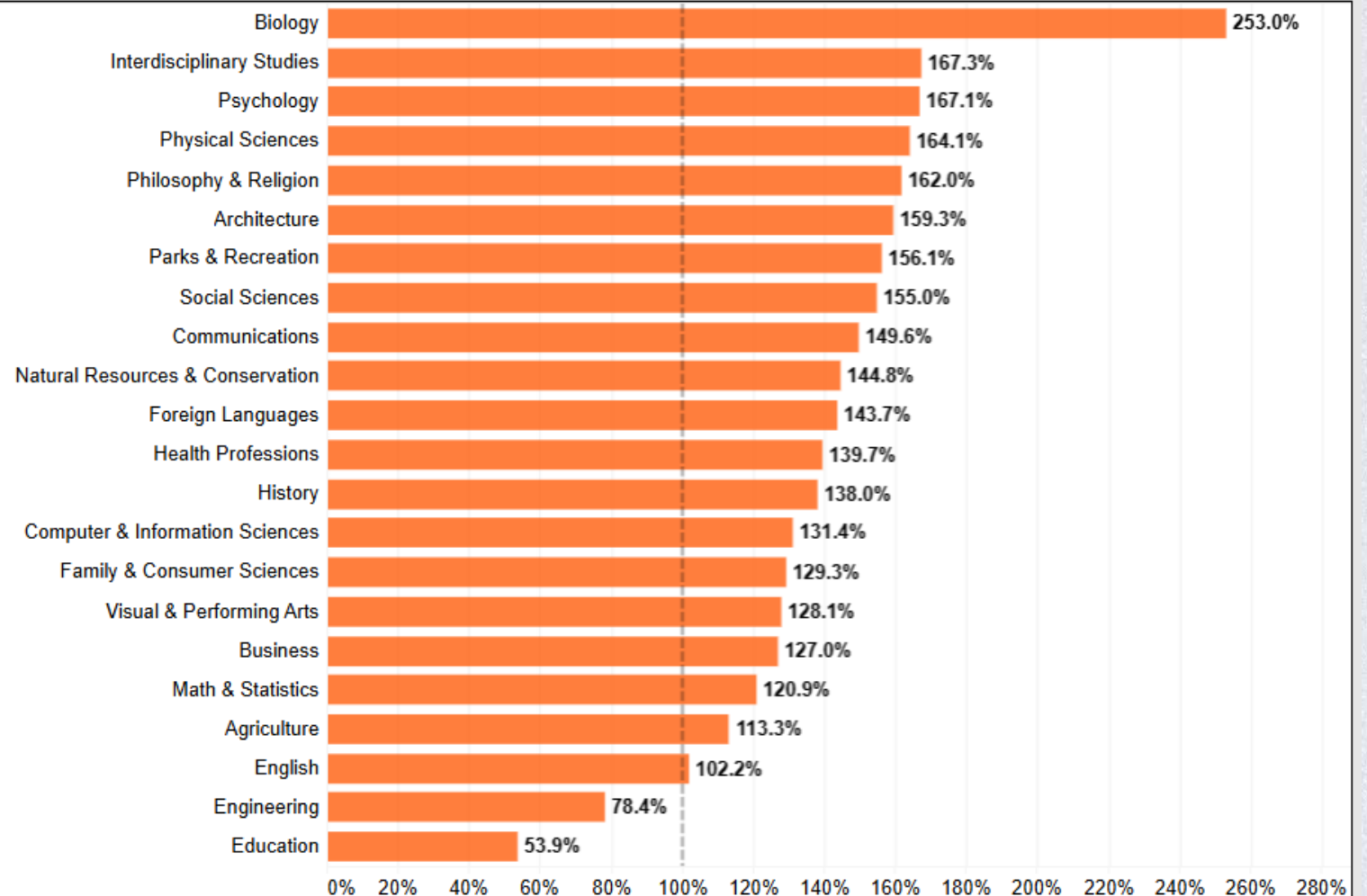
UIUC Overview
All Degree Programs
50th Percentile (Median)

Year 1 Earnings:
\$47,847

Year 5 Earnings:
\$77,696

Year 10 Earnings:
\$109,123

10-Year Growth Rate %
128.1%



Average 10-Year Growth Rate



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM

Economic Mobility Quadrant: Program

[Table of Contents](#)[Data Dictionary](#)

Interactive Filters

1. Select Quadrant Type

Program ▼

2. Select Earnings Percentile

50th Percentile (Median) ▼

3. Select University

UIUC ▼

Population Summary

Current Selection Includes:

18,498 out of **23,982** (77.1%)

graduates from **UIUC**,
with earnings evaluated in the **50th Percentile (Median)**.

This dashboard includes only bachelor's degree recipients who graduated between 2010 to 2012, which represents the most recent cohort for which 10-year postgraduation earnings data is available. Degree program data is only available at the 2-digit CIP level.



Program with Highest Combined 10-Year Earnings & Growth: Computer & Information Sciences

Low Earnings, High Growth

Lower earnings with strong growth over time

High Earnings, High Growth

Strong long-term earnings and sustained growth



Low Earnings, Low Growth

Lower earnings with limited growth potential

High Earnings, Low Growth

High earnings with slower growth over time

**TAKEAWAY 2: WHERE GRADUATES START MATTERS, BUT
SO DOES WHERE THEY END UP.**

Earnings (\$) 1 Year After Graduation by Program: UIS

[Table of Contents](#)[Data Dictionary](#)

Interactive Filters

1. Select Earnings Metric View

Earnings ▼

2. Select University

UIS ▼

3. Select Earnings Percentile

50th Percentile (Median) ▼

4. Select Year

1 Year After Graduation ▼

Population Summary

Current Selection Includes:

1,352 out of **1,984** (68.1%)
graduates from **UIS** with earnings **1 Year After Graduation**
evaluated in the **50th Percentile (Median)**.

This dashboard includes only bachelor's degree recipients who graduated between 2010 to 2012, which represents the most recent cohort for which 10-year postgraduation earnings data is available. Degree program data is only available at the 2-digit CIP level.



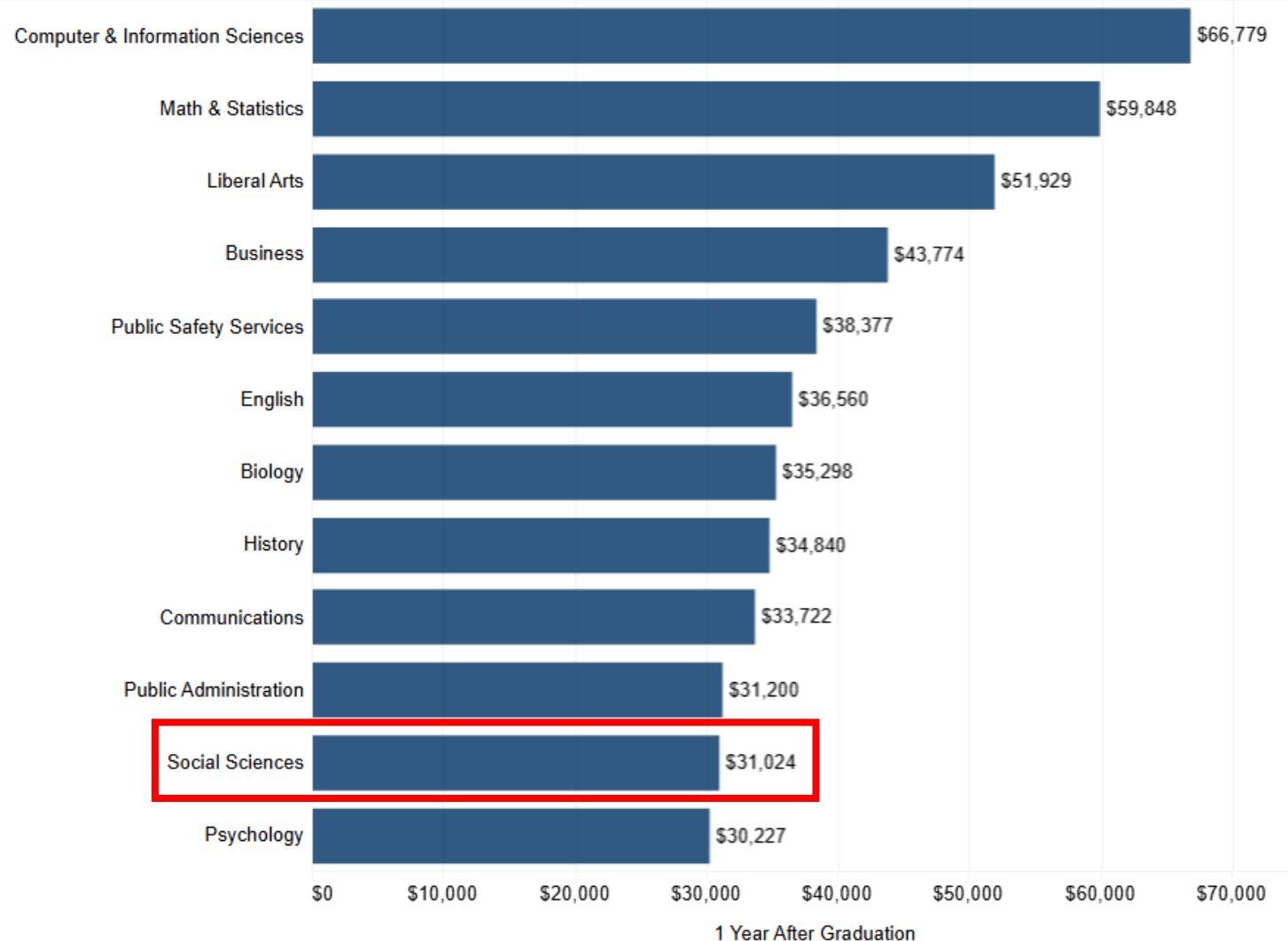
UIS Overview
All Degree Programs
50th Percentile (Median)

Year 1 Earnings:
\$40,161

Year 5 Earnings:
\$57,376

Year 10 Earnings:
\$72,951

10-Year Growth Rate %
81.6%



Earnings (\$) 1 Year After Graduation vs. 10-Year Earnings Growth Rate (%) by Program: UIS

[Table of Contents](#)
[Data Dictionary](#)

Interactive Filters

1. Select Earnings Metric View

Earnings and Growth Rate

2. Select University

UIS

3. Select Earnings Percentile

50th Percentile (Median)

10-Year Growth Rate Legend

----- = 100% Growth Rate
(Earnings Doubled in 10 Years)

100% or higher:



Less than 100%:



Population Summary

Current Selection Includes:

1,601 out of **1,984** (80.7%)

graduates from **UIS**,

with earnings evaluated in the **50th Percentile (Median)**.

This dashboard includes only bachelor's degree recipients who graduated between 2010 to 2012, which represents the most recent cohort for which 10-year postgraduation earnings data is available. Degree program data is only available at the 2-digit CIP level.



UIS Overview
All Degree Programs
50th Percentile (Median)

Year 1 Earnings:
\$40,161

Year 5 Earnings:
\$57,376

Year 10 Earnings:
\$72,951

10-Year Growth Rate %
81.6%

Computer & Information Sciences

84.6%

Math & Statistics

46.7%

Business

87.1%

Public Safety Services

100.3%

Biology

115.4%

Social Sciences

135.5%

Liberal Arts

38.1%

History

75.6%

English

66.4%

Public Administration

89.9%

Psychology

93.3%

Communications

56.1%

\$0 \$20,000 \$40,000 \$60,000 \$80,000 \$100,000 \$120,000

Average Earnings: 10 Years After Graduation



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM

TAKEAWAY 3: THE MEDIAN DOESN'T TELL EVERY STORY.

Economic Mobility Quadrant: Peer Institution

[Table of Contents](#)[Data Dictionary](#)

Interactive Filters

1. Select Quadrant Type

Peer Institution

2. Select Earnings Percentile

50th Percentile (Median)

3. Select Peer Group and Degree Program

Select Peer Group

BOT Peers - UIC

Select Degree Program

Biology

Population Summary

Current Selection Includes:

4,515 out of 5,814 (77.7%)

Biology graduates across

7 partner institutions in the **BOT Peers - UIC** peer group, with earnings evaluated in the **50th Percentile (Median)**.

This dashboard includes only bachelor's degree recipients who graduated between 2010 to 2012, which represents the most recent cohort for which 10-year postgraduation earnings data is available. Degree program data is only available at the 2-digit CIP level.

Hover over the peer group name to view a list of PSEO partner and non-partner institutions.

Partners: BOT Peers - UIC

Non-partners: BOT Peers - UIC



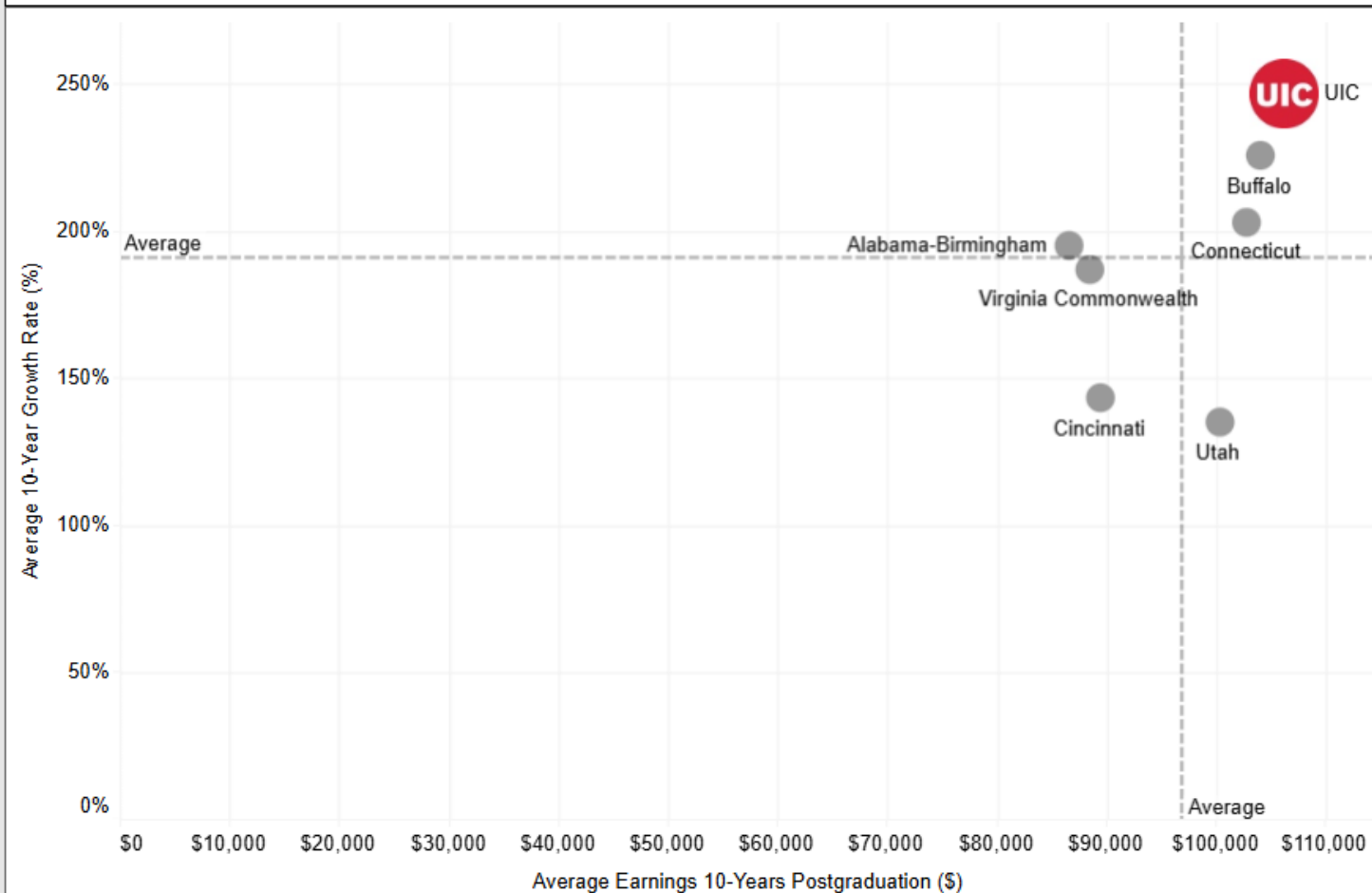
Institution with Highest Combined 10-Year Earnings & Growth: University of Illinois Chicago

Low Earnings, High Growth

Lower earnings with strong growth over time

High Earnings, High Growth

Strong long-term earnings and sustained growth



Low Earnings, Low Growth

Lower earnings with limited growth potential

High Earnings, Low Growth

High earnings with slower growth over time



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM

Peer Comparisons: UIC & Board Of Trustee Peer Groups

[Table of Contents](#)
[Data Dictionary](#)

Interactive Filters

Select University

UIC

Degree Program Filter

Biology

Legends

U of I University

UIC

Earnings Percentile

25th 50th 75th

Population Summary

Current Selection Includes:

UI System University:

1,021 out of 1,291 (79.1%)

Biology graduates from UIC

BOT Peer Group:

3,494 out of 4,523 (77.2%)

**Biology graduates across
6 partner institutions in the BOT - UIC peer group.**

This dashboard includes only bachelor's degree recipients who graduated between 2010 to 2012, which represents the most recent cohort for which 10-year postgraduation earnings data is available. Degree program data is only available at the 2-digit CIP level.

Hover over the peer group name to view a list of PSEO partner and non-partner institutions.

BOT Peers - UIC

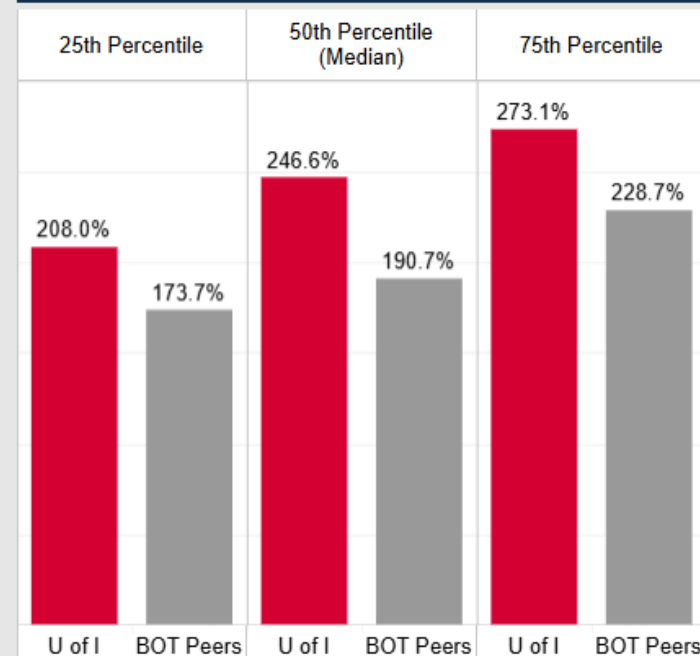


Across all degree programs, median (50th Percentile) earnings for UIC graduates are comparable to the peer median at 1, 5, and 10 years postgraduation. UIC's 10-Year earnings growth rate exceeds the peer average across percentiles.

50th Percentile (Median) Earnings (\$)



Average 10-Year Growth Rate (%)



	1 Year After Graduation			5 Years After Graduation			10 Years After Graduation			10-Year Growth		
	25th	50th	75th	25th	50th	75th	25th	50th	75th	25th	50th	75th
Buffalo	\$22,534	\$31,956	\$46,460	\$45,937	\$67,399	\$89,378	\$72,256	\$104,018	\$157,494	220.7%	225.5%	239.0%
UIC	\$23,127	\$30,620	\$41,516	\$43,564	\$64,698	\$85,407	\$71,231	\$106,126	\$154,884	208.0%	246.6%	273.1%
Utah	\$30,437	\$42,686	\$52,207	\$49,464	\$63,723	\$83,018	\$70,264	\$100,331	\$159,534	185.6%	202.8%	235.1%
Connecticut	\$24,751	\$33,937	\$46,490	\$45,180	\$68,022	\$87,617	\$70,679	\$102,748	\$155,773	159.3%	194.9%	267.1%
Alabama-Bir..	\$23,548	\$29,352	\$36,966	\$42,904	\$57,652	\$77,631	\$61,070	\$86,568	\$135,706	177.1%	186.7%	205.6%
Cincinnati	\$26,918	\$36,761	\$46,858	\$42,698	\$59,910	\$76,166	\$63,170	\$89,433	\$129,202	130.9%	135.0%	205.6%
Virginia Co..	\$23,114	\$30,850	\$41,586	\$41,578	\$59,947	\$75,356	\$64,060	\$88,462	\$127,100	134.7%	143.3%	175.7%

Tables sorted by average 10-year earnings and growth rate.



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Continue to work with stakeholders at all levels of the university community to develop visualizations and analytical tools that meet their needs
 - Develop an internal dashboard with lower-level CIPs for academic program review
- Increase awareness of, access to, and use of PSEO data by presenting this project at conferences, data summits, and hosting dashboard demos
 - Presenting on PSEO at 2026 Illinois Association for Institutional Research (i-AIR) Forum and U of I Data Summit



THANK YOU!

University of Illinois System Postgraduate Earnings and Economic Mobility Dashboard:

<https://pseocoalition.org/resource-library/u-of-i-system-postgrad-earnings-economic-mobility-dashboard/>

For any questions, please contact:

- Cheyenne Galentine, cre4@uillinois.edu
- Chris Lehman, calehman@uillinois.edu

