## SALARY AS AN EMPLOYMENT FACTOR

Salary information was reported for 62 percent of those employed full time. The national median salary for the class of 2009 was $72,000, unchanged from that for the class of 2008. The median has more than doubled since 1985, when a national median was first compiled.

The highest paying jobs were the exception rather than the rule: Although salaries of more than $75,000 accounted for almost 48 percent of the salaries reported, salaries of $55,000 or less accounted for one-third of the salaries reported. Outside of private practice, most salaries were $75,000 or less, with medians ranging from just $43,000 for public interest jobs to $65,000 for jobs in business. It is evident that a $160,000 salary, or even a $145,000 salary, is not the norm but applies to a specific employment setting applicable to fewer than one in five employed graduates.

**Differences in Salary Medians by Job and Employer Type**

| | Bar Passage Required | JD Preferred | Other Professional |
|---|---|---|---|
| All Types | $77,000 | $52,000 | $60,000 |
| Academic | $47,000 | $45,000 | $49,200 |
| Business | $65,000 | $65,000 | $70,000 |
| Private Practice | $130,500 | $41,600 | $47,000 |
| Government | $52,000 | $52,000 | $57,500 |
| Public Interest | $42,855 | $41,000 | $46,250 |

Note: Figures reflect full-time jobs only.