

Industries on the rise

The changing job market and degrees to meet the need

By Lisa Robbins, ASU News
May 20, 2026

Editor's note: This story was featured in the [summer 2026](#) issue of ASU Thrive.

A transforming economy is creating opportunities for graduates prepared to lead. In supply chain alone, employment of operations research analysts is projected to grow 21% by 2034 as companies develop smarter, more resilient systems.

Investment is also accelerating in semiconductor development and virtual reality technologies with \$2 trillion and \$1.5 trillion projected, respectively, to boost the global economy within the next decade.

Specialized business disciplines such as financial management and information security are growing about five to 10 times faster, respectively, than average.

Meanwhile, U.S. life sciences research is expanding, with record numbers of professionals and strong growth in roles like medical scientists, biochemists and biophysicists.

At the same time, critical gaps in mental health services are driving demand for qualified psychologists across the country.

ASU is responding with degree programs that ensure graduates are not just prepared to enter the workforce, but advance it.

Some of the programs that will get you there:

Learn more at degrees.asu.edu.

Master of Electrical Engineering

MS in materials science and engineering

MS in psychology

MS in media arts and sciences (extended reality technologies)

MS in immersive experience design

MS in supply chain management

MS in finance

MS in program and data analytics

MS in biomedical informatics and data science

Jobs forecast

\$2 trillion

total global semiconductor industry revenue by 2036

146,000

engineers and technicians needed in the semiconductor field by 2029

See other jobs forecasts at
news.asu.edu/jobs-forecast.

136,000+

psychologists required to meet unmet need in the U.S. by 2038

\$80.7 million

value of AI in global health care market by 2036

29%

projected employment growth for information security analysts from 2024 to 2034

\$1.5 trillion

potential boost to the global economy from virtual and augmented reality by 2030

90%

of companies worldwide report insufficient talent to support supply chain digitization

3X

the national average job growth rate projected for medical scientists by 2034

Testimonials

There have been times when I've reached out to many of my professors to seek advice on my career — regarding jobs, a job switch or even ideating on new ideas given the AI boom and applications within supply chain. If I had an innovative

thought, I would run it by them, and they would still always answer my call.

—

Varun Veda

'24 MS in business analytics and supply chain management, senior supply chain analyst at Microsoft

The combination of mentorship is really unique. [In addition to my advisors,] I feel very comfortable asking professors that I have taken classes with or just run into in the faculty building.

—

Emilia Berkes

'23 BS in psychology, current graduate psychology student

Sources: Deloitte, McKinsey & Company, Bureau of Health Workforce, Future Market Insights Inc., U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, PWC Switzerland

This story originally appeared on [ASU News](#).

Main image



Jason Zach (left), '25 BS in engineering (mechanical engineering systems), then a mechanical systems engineering student, works with Jacob Cousins, '25 BS in engineering (robotics) at Array Technologies in Chandler, Arizona, to support the expanding field of solar technology. Photo by Sabira Madady