

Business Analyst

Work out what a company actually needs, then write it down clearly enough to build.

TYPICAL PAY

\$101,860

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$61k to \$172k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

4 to 6 years

after high school

DEMAND

Very high

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Offices, consulting firms, banks, hospitals, remote teams

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Math, statistics and any computer class. Learning to write clearly matters more than you think.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 4 years
 Business, information systems, economics, finance, computer science or industrial engineering all work. So does a liberal arts degree with data classes on top.
- 3 Internships** During school
 Two summers inside a real company beats a higher grade average. This is how most people get their first offer.
- 4 First job** 1 to 2 years
 Often not called business analyst. Look for coordinator, operations analyst, reporting analyst or support roles that sit next to the business.
- 5 Move into the title** Year 2 onward
 Take the requirements work nobody else wants, then ask for the title. Add a certification once you have real hours behind you.

Pros and cons

- + Strong pay with only a bachelor's degree and no license
- + Federal projections show much faster than average growth
- + Remote and hybrid work is normal in this field
- The title means something different at every company
- You carry the blame when requirements are wrong and rarely the credit when they are right
- Meeting-heavy days with little to physically show for them

Optional boosts

ECBA (Entry Certificate in Business Analysis). CCBA (Certification of Capability in Business Analysis). CBAP (Certified Business Analysis Professional). PMI (Project Management Institute) Professional in Business Analysis.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Management Analysts (13-1111.00)
 O*NET OnLine: Management Analysts, wages and outlook
 International Institute of Business Analysis: certifications
 Apprenticeship.gov: United States Department of Labor

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/business-analyst>

Good to know

It is a big, growing field

The occupation this job is counted in, management analysts, had about 1,075,100 workers in 2024 and is projected to grow much faster than average, with roughly 98,100 openings a year over the following...

Most of the job is asking questions

Analysts spend more time interviewing people and writing down what they said than they do touching software. The hardest part is noticing that two departments described the same process in ways that can...



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