

# Master of Science in Civil Engineering Degree Program

Blueprint to Enhanced  
Professional Success?

# Advantages

- ◆ NCEES (National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying) has approved a model licensure law requiring at least 150 semester credit hours to qualify for the Principles & Practice Exam – for the UK CE program, this means 18 semester hours above the BSCE requirements – MSCE degree only requires either 6 or 12 additional hours for non-thesis option
- ◆ Many CE Design firms are beginning to insist on graduates with a masters degree

# ADVANTAGES Continued

- ◆ Reduction of one year for PE practical training in Kentucky, other states may not be as generous
- ◆ **Greater education ⇒ Greater confidence**

# ADVANTAGES - Continued

## ◆ Average starting salary (NACE, July 2007)

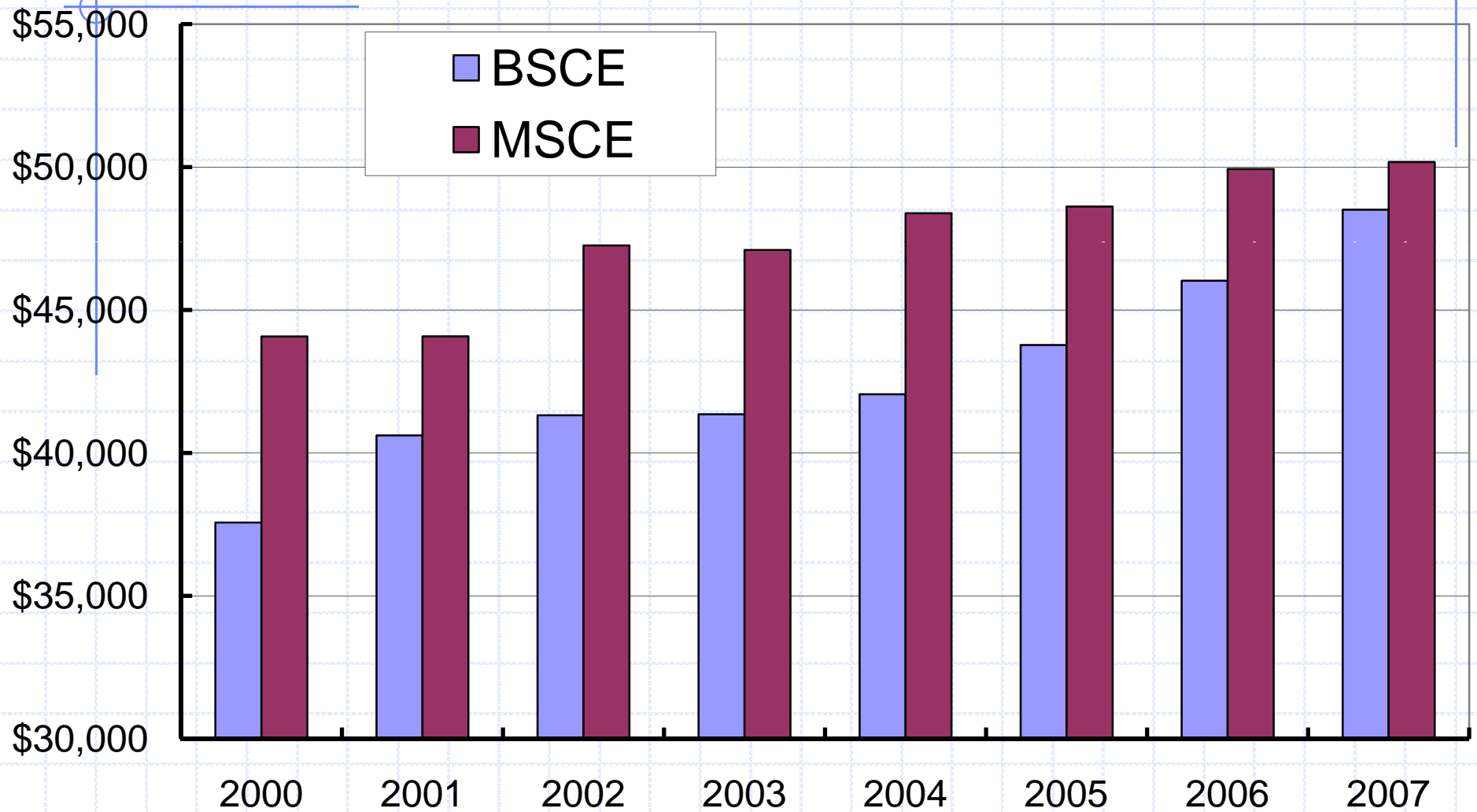
- BSCE = \$48,509
- MSCE = \$50,176

## ◆ Median 1995 salaries (NSF):

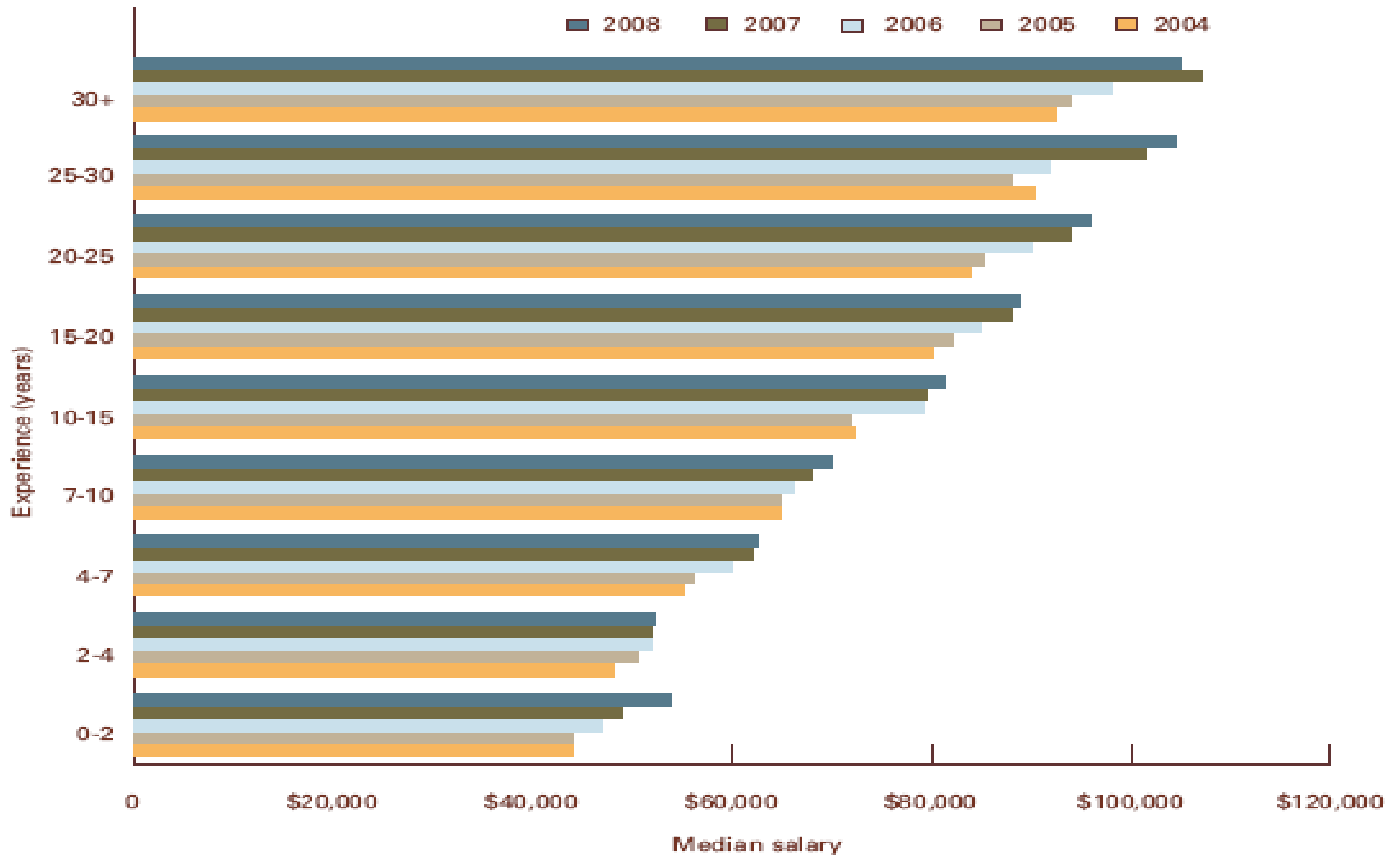
- BSCE = \$50,000 (159,831)
- MSCE = \$56,750 ( 47,279)
- Ph.D. = \$75,000 ( 4,091)

(Parenthetical numbers are the number of engineers within each degree level.)

# NACE Historical Trend of Starting Salaries for BSCE and MSCE Graduates Nationally



**Figure 1: Trend in median salary for private-sector civil engineers by years of experience, 2004-2008**



# ADVANTAGES

## Continued

- ◆ Lifetime earnings  $\approx$  \$200K - \$400K greater than BSCE graduate
- ◆ US News & World Report (1998) = \$248K for all degrees

# MSCE Degree Entrance Requirements

- ◆ 2.80/4.00 Cumulative GPA
- ◆ Score of 1,000 on the Verbal and Quantitative Portions of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE)
- ◆ **NOTE:** If your GPA is below a 2.75, work with the DGS on a petition to the Graduate School for provisional admittance

# University Scholars Entrance Requirements

- ◆ Cumulative GPA of 3.20/4.00; CE GPA of 3.50/4.00
- ◆ GRE Score of at least 1,000 on Verbal and Quantitative portions
- ◆ Completed 100 semester credit hours of CE curriculum including 30 hours of CE prefixed courses

# University Scholars Entrance Requirements

- ◆ Completed all but one University Studies course
- ◆ Open only to UK undergraduates

## **ADVANTAGES:**

- Reduction of six credit hours for degree
- Start graduate program during senior year

# MSCE Degree Plan A

- ◆ 24 semester credit hours plus thesis
- ◆ At least 12 credit hours at the 600 level or higher
- ◆ Thesis writing builds research competence and a greater knowledge of a subject area than is possible with just coursework
- ◆ Duration: 1.5 - 2.0 years

# MSCE Degree Plan B

- ◆ 30 semester credit hours, which must include three credit hours of independent study
- ◆ Minimum of 15 semester credit hours at or above the 600 level
- ◆ **DURATION:** Normally, one calendar year

# University Scholars Plan A

- ◆ 18 semester credit hours
- ◆ 9 semester hours at or above the 600 level
- ◆ DURATION: One - two years

# University Scholars Plan B

- ◆ 24 semester credit hours, which must include three credit hours of independent study
- ◆ 12 semester hours at or above the 600 level
- ◆ **DURATION:** Normally, one academic year