

## Top Ten Colleges with the Highest Paid Professors

Rockefeller University—\$129,800  
Harvard—\$128,900  
University of Colorado Health Sciences Center—\$121,900  
Stanford—\$121,100  
Princeton—\$120,000  
Yale—\$119,000  
University of Chicago—\$118,500  
California Institute of Technology—\$118,400  
New York University—\$116,100  
Pennsylvania—\$114,800

Source: [chronicle.com](http://chronicle.com); average salary of all full professors.

## Top Ten Colleges with the Lowest Paid Professors

Cornish College of the Arts—\$27,800  
University of the Sacred Heart—\$30,300  
Tennessee Wesleyan College—\$31,700  
Talladega College—\$32,200  
Trocaire College—\$33,200  
Concordia University-Austin—\$33,200  
Oakwood College—\$33,700  
Bethany College (Kan.)—\$34,300  
Bethel College (Tenn.)—\$34,500  
Faith Baptist Bible College and Seminary—\$34,700

Source: [chronicle.com](http://chronicle.com); average salary of all full professors.

### GAMES

## RPG Renaissance

Role Playing Games stage a comeback in Europe and America.

By Karen Zierler

There's no doubt any longer: Role-playing computer games (RPG) are in the height of a Renaissance. The September North American bestseller list, found at [GameWeek.com](http://GameWeek.com), shows **Diablo 2** in the no. 3 spot, with **Deus Ex** (15), **Icewind Dale** (19) and **EverQuest: The Ruins of Kunark** (20) all high on the list as well.

This situation is radically different than it was three years ago, when the RPG genre was all but dead.

In Europe, at the European Leisure Software Publishers Association (ELSPA) site, one finds **Deus Ex** in the no. 2 slot, and **Diablo 2** in sixth position in the PC category (over all platforms, including PlayStation and N64).

Whether it's in first-person shooter (*Deus Ex*), or top-down AD&D packaging (*Icewind Dale*), the RPG elements of strong character development, dungeon crawling and unique story progression—with a sleek presentation—are in demand.

Take for example Blizzard's **Diablo 2**. Not a thinking man's game, but a true RPG, based on the old *Angband*, *Moria* and *Nethack* ASCII text-based titles. Fight evil in groups or alone, and figure out how best to develop your character's stats and skills.

The fast graphics (you need an excellent system) and camaraderie online at [Battle.net](http://Battle.net) make it one of the most addictive forms of gameplay in five years.

Black Isle's *Icewind Dale* has a slower pace. Its micro-management and tactical flow offers

relaxing fun with optional turn-based combat allowing fans of AD&D dungeon crawling to experience trolls as they are meant to be. The story is less expansive than that of its direct predecessors, *Baldur's Gate* and *Planescape: Torment*. However, superb voice-acting and music along with excellent artwork help one overlook its minor flaws (a patch correcting some bugs also helps).

Can the trend continue? The makers of *Baldur's Gate* are banking on it, as **Baldur's Gate II: Shadows of Amn** finally gears up for its release (expected this fall). This will be the fourth title

using the now very dated Infinity Engine that lies at the heart of the original *Baldur's*, *Planescape* and *Icewind Dale*. Too much of a good thing? We'll see shortly—BG II has over 360 hours of gameplay.



The soon-to-be-released Wizardry 8.

While top-down viewing is hot, author D.W. Bradley and developers Heuristic Park are hoping to change all that with their first-person view, six party-member title, **Wizards & Warriors**. It's a return to the classic RPG viewpoint. Bradley was the author of the last three heralded *Wizardry* titles (ending in 1992). Not to be outdone by Bradley, Sirtech Canada (keepers of the *Wizardry* license) are also working on finalizing their "official" *Wizardry* sequel, **Wizardry 8**.

And I haven't even mentioned the **Diablo 2 Expansion** set. It would appear there's more life in the old Renaissance yet. •

### Links to Games in this Article

**Diablo 2**  
[blizzard.com](http://blizzard.com)  
[battle.net](http://battle.net)

**Baldur's Gate, Icewind Dale, and Planescape: Torment**  
[bioware.com/bgate2/index.html](http://bioware.com/bgate2/index.html)  
[interplay.com/icewind](http://interplay.com/icewind) (for the patch download)  
[planescape-torment.com](http://planescape-torment.com)

**Wizards & Warriors**  
[heuristicpark.com](http://heuristicpark.com)  
[activision.com/games/wizards](http://activision.com/games/wizards)

**Wizardry 8**  
[wizardry8.com](http://wizardry8.com)

**European Leisure Software Publishers Association (charts lists)**  
[elspa.com](http://elspa.com)

**History of AD&D games**  
[gamespot.com/features/history\\_add/index.html](http://gamespot.com/features/history_add/index.html)

**Diablo 2 is one of the most addictive forms of gameplay to come around in five years.**