

TOP JOBS OF 2022/2023

According to the National Student Clearinghouse, postsecondary enrollment has continued to decline during the pandemic. The numbers show that there are now 240,000 fewer undergraduates that enrolled this fall compared with the same time last year. If this rate continues that could translate to almost half-million fewer undergraduate students.

Why is this a problem? When fewer students go to college, fewer students graduate, get job training and move on to higher paying jobs, meaning all of this could have huge ramifications for the U.S. economy.

Doug Sharpiro from the National Clearinghouse states, "College is the best chance you have to get into a well-paying job in this economy. It's not the only path, and it's certainly not a guarantee, but it's the best path we have right now. And so, if more students are thrown off that path, their families and communities suffer, and our economy suffers because businesses have fewer skilled workers to hire from."

Fewer college graduates also means there won't be enough workers to fill high paying jobs being left by fast-retiring baby boomers.

"There will be fewer jobs that people can get with just a high school diploma, so this will be an issue as more and more jobs require a college degree but fewer and fewer students go to college," said Jennifer Ma, senior policy research scientist at the College Board.

This means current day labor shortages and logistics interruptions may be telling of things to come. We are currently seeing hospitals understaffed and schools closing due not having enough people. So, what happens when we don't have enough people studying to be teachers or nurses?

Even though fewer students are enrolling, that doesn't mean that college doesn't still have value. The value of college education has not changed. Cutting off college from your options is cutting off a lot of potential future earning and job security. High school graduates who don't go further in their education earn a median of \$24,900 less a year than people with a bachelor's degree. They are also 40% more likely to be unemployed and nearly four times more likely to be living in poverty, according to the Pew Research Center.

Now that not to say that finding the right career path and degree needed to get you started can't be overwhelming. No single job suits all of us, but many of the best ones have a few things in common: they pay well, challenge us year after year, match our talents and skills, offer room to advance throughout our careers, and provide satisfying work-life balance. For this month's blog, we have created a list of the top careers you can find after earning either an associate's or bachelor's degree.

Many high paying jobs with associate's degrees are in the fields of health care, technology, electronics, or skilled labor, which can take two years or less to complete depending on your course of study, so if you find yourself gravitating to one of these fields, you're in luck.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the median weekly earnings for someone with an associate's degree is \$862, which is \$132 more a week than someone with only a high school diploma. This equals out to \$6,336 more a year.

BEST JOBS YOU CAN GET WITH AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE

Here is our list of the best jobs you can get with an associate's degree, along with their average yearly salary

HVAC Mechanic: \$50,590 (\$24.32 per hour) <https://youtu.be/PNcQwekl2KQ>

Paralegal: \$52,920 (\$25.44 per hour) <https://youtu.be/ubHE0-Tjiwc>

Mechanical Drafter: \$57,960 (\$27.87 per hour) <https://youtu.be/y8WjCE-YfeE>

Industrial Engineering Technician: \$57,320 (\$27.56 per hour)

<https://youtu.be/GhVZTN1pZys>

Mechanical Engineering Technician: \$58,230 (\$28.00 per hour)

<https://youtu.be/xd0Judgrkzk>

Electro-Mechanical Technician: \$59,800 (\$28.75 per hour) <https://youtu.be/-3GjrJG6Ds8>

Physical Therapy Assistant: \$49,970 (\$24.02 per hour) <https://youtu.be/fbpS0uBh7b0>

Cardiovascular Technician: \$70,380 (\$33.84 per hour)

Geological & Petroleum Technician: \$50,630 (\$24.34 per hour)

<https://youtu.be/wB2nC36plG4>

Occupational Therapy Assistant: \$60,950 (\$29.30 per hour) <https://youtu.be/YqG5tRleeow>

Radiologic Technician: \$63,710 (\$30.63 per hour) <https://youtu.be/yGieTgpDy0Y>

Aviation Technician: \$66,680 (\$32.06 per hour) <https://youtu.be/oByvKU2CwHs>

Electrical Drafter: \$62,100 (\$29.85 per hour)

Respiratory Therapist: \$62,810 (\$30.20 per hour)

Computer Programmer: \$89,190 (\$42.88 per hour) <https://youtu.be/4FT15GxJQrE>

Electrical Engineering Technician: \$67,550 (\$32.48 per hour) https://youtu.be/E_ly34hFITE

Computer Network Support: \$55,510 (\$26.69 per hour) <https://youtu.be/xe6GS8kSN1g>

Aerospace Engineering Technician: \$68,570 (\$32.97 per hour) <https://youtu.be/1eOnm-61cDE>

MRI Technologist: \$63,710 <https://youtu.be/yGieTgpDy0Y>

Licensed Practical Nurse: \$48,820 (\$23.47 per hour) <https://youtu.be/yTBPYOnNjVU>

Diagnostic Medical Sonographer: \$70,380 (\$33.84 per hour)

<https://youtu.be/GYLfPP0UQWw>

Funeral Service Director: \$58,170 (\$27.97 per hour)

Dental Hygienist: \$77,090 (\$37.06 per hour) <https://youtu.be/TeAtDfCQ0J4>

Nuclear Medicine Technician: \$79,590 (\$38.27 per hour) <https://youtu.be/dl4kdhlAIKU>

The demand for four-year degrees is rising. Holding a bachelor's degree could potentially earn you a significantly larger salary compared with those with less advanced education. In addition to an unemployment rate of 2.2%, the median weekly earnings significantly increase where the holders earn approximately \$64,896 per year. That's a 40% increase compared to an associate degree.

Aside from improved earning potential, a bachelor's level education may also equip an individual with a larger range of soft skills such as communication, teamwork and critical thinking, which can lead to salary increases in the future.

BEST JOBS YOU CAN GET WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Here is our list of the best jobs you can get with a bachelor's degree, along with their average yearly salary

Information Security Analyst: \$103,590 (\$49.80 per hour) <https://youtu.be/cVZktAEtWE4>

Medical & Health Service Manager: \$104,280 (\$50.13 per hour)

<https://youtu.be/jmh01pXYn5I>

Market Research Analysts & Specialist: \$65,810 (\$31.64 per hour)

<https://youtu.be/XXaw9K33lsU>

Substance Abuse, Behavioral & Mental Health Counselors: \$47,660 (\$22.91 per hour)

Web Developers & Digital Interface Design: \$77,200 (\$37.12 per hour)

<https://youtu.be/FfxTklsaTYk>

Computer & Information System Manager: \$151,150 (\$72.67 per hour)

<https://youtu.be/WQmsKH7mlqo>

Software Developers: \$110,140 (\$52.95 per hour) https://youtu.be/_WQ_VV4pXPc

Database Administrators: \$98,860 (\$47.53 per hour) <https://youtu.be/GKAnWFOyk8E>

Marketing Managers: \$141,490 (\$68.03 per hour) <https://youtu.be/8r-nFPIKELc>

Pilots, Co-Pilots & Flight Engineers: \$130,440 https://youtu.be/oey4mi_QV48

Management Analysts: \$87,660 (\$42.14 per hour) <https://youtu.be/TWXBadjTgz0>

Financial Managers: \$134,180 (\$64.51 per hour) <https://youtu.be/8ATMziMJ1fw>

Registered Nurses: \$75,330 (\$36.22 per hour) https://youtu.be/x4Y_2fpET0U

Human Resources Managers: \$121,220 (\$58.28 per hour) https://youtu.be/x6NTfg_3Wh0

Training & Development Specialist: \$62,700 (\$30.14 per hour) <https://youtu.be/-OeCYWbjbyU>

Human Resource Specialists: \$63,490 (\$30.52 per hour) <https://youtu.be/3jTLYwteH2Q>

Social & Community Service Manager: \$69,600 (\$33.46 per hour)
<https://youtu.be/E24m0WUJ-1M>

Logistician: \$76,270 (\$36.67 per hour) <https://youtu.be/42uJcWOD1ts>

Fundraisers: \$59,610 (\$28.66 per hour)

Coaches & Scouts: \$36,330 <https://youtu.be/ZHALrtdG9CI>

Marriage & Family Counselors: \$51,340 (\$24.69 per hour) <https://youtu.be/Yq2ylfyP9VY>

School Counselor: \$58,120 (\$27.94 per hour)

Compliance Officer: \$71,100 (\$34.18 per hour)

Post-Secondary Teacher: \$80,560 <https://youtu.be/ISmxPVS5O2c>

Natural Science Manager: \$137,940 (\$66.32 per hour) <https://youtu.be/faXbaiNn2HM>

If you wish to continue your education past a bachelor's degree, there are even more opportunities at your disposal.

A master's degree is a postgraduate qualification or a degree you earn beyond the bachelor's level. A master's program typically takes two years to complete, during which time you aim to master a specific area of study or professional discipline. To earn a master's degree, you must complete a specified number of credit hours, and many programs require that you complete a thesis, or a research paper that integrates your learning, demonstrates your mastery and supports your eligibility for the degree.

The earnings increase from the bachelor's level to the master's level is approximately 20%. Specifically, the median income for master's degree holders is \$77,844 per year. When compared to those without high school diploma, individuals at the master's level earn greater than 100% more.

A doctoral degree is the highest academic qualification you can earn, signifying that you're an expert in an area of study or professional discipline. There are two types of doctoral degrees:

- **Ph.D.: The Ph.D., or Doctor of Philosophy, is a research-oriented degree, representing the highest level of understanding about a subject.**
- **Professional doctorate: A professional doctorate is an applied degree, meaning that the holder can apply principles in their field to real-world scenarios. An MD, or Doctor of Medicine, is an example of a professional doctorate.**

The length of a doctoral program depends on the field of study and the university you attend. Average lengths are between four and eight years.

There is a slight difference in earning potential between Ph.D.'s and professional doctorates. Ph.D. holders earn a median income of \$97,916 per year, while those with professional doctorates earn \$96,772 per year. This amounts to an approximately 25% increase compared to master's degree holders and a 218% increase compared to those with less than a high school diploma.