

Job Descriptions Key:

Associate's Degree: Requires 2 years of college.

Bachelor's Degree: Requires 4 years of college.

Master's Degree: Requires 6 years of college.

Doctoral Degree: Requires 7 years of college.

Source

"BLS Career Information Home Page." *U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, n.d. Web. 22 Apr. 2013.

Careers for people that like reading...

Writer

Median Yearly Salary: \$55,420

Taxes: 24%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Writers and authors develop original written content for advertisements, books, magazines, movie and television scripts, songs, and online publications.

Desktop Publisher

Median Yearly Salary: \$36,610

Taxes: 20%

Degree: Associates

Description: Desktop publishers use computer software to design page layouts for newspapers, books, brochures, and other items that will be printed or put online. They collect the text, graphics, and other materials they will need and then format them into a finished product.

Editor

Median Yearly Salary: \$51,470

Taxes: 23%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Editors plan, review, and revise content for publication.

Librarian

Median Yearly Salary: \$54,500

Taxes: 24%

Degree: Master's

Description: Librarians help people find information from many sources. They maintain library collections and do other work as needed to keep the library running.

Reporter

Median Yearly Salary: \$36,000

Taxes: 20%

Degree:

Description: Reporters, correspondents, and broadcast news analysts inform the public about news and events happening internationally, nationally, and locally. They report the news for newspapers, magazines, websites, television, and radio.

Careers for people who like math...

Statistician

Median Yearly Salary: \$72,830

Taxes: 27%

Degree: Master's

Description: Statisticians use mathematical techniques to analyze and interpret data and draw conclusions.

Electrical Engineer

Median Yearly Salary: \$87,180

Taxes: 29%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Electrical engineers design, develop, test, and supervise the manufacturing of electrical equipment such as electric motors, radar and navigation systems, communications systems, and power generation equipment. Electronics engineers design and develop electronic equipment, such as broadcast and communications systems—from portable music players to global positioning systems (GPS).

Surveyor

Median Yearly Salary: \$54,880

Taxes: 24%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Surveyors establish official land, airspace, and water boundaries. Surveyors work with civil engineers, landscape architects, and urban and regional planners to develop comprehensive design documents.

Mathematician

Median Yearly Salary: \$99,380

Taxes: 30%

Degree: Master's

Description: Mathematicians use high-level mathematics and technology to develop new mathematical principles, understand relationships between existing principles, and solve real-world problems.

Cost Estimator

Median Yearly Salary: \$57,860

Taxes: 24%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Cost estimators collect and analyze data to estimate the time, money, resources, and labor required for product manufacturing, construction projects, or services. Some specialize in a particular industry or product type.

Actuary

Median Yearly Salary: \$87,650

Taxes: 29%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Actuaries analyze the financial costs of risk and uncertainty. They use mathematics, statistics, and financial theory to assess the risk that an event will occur and to help businesses and clients develop policies that minimize the cost of that risk.

Careers for people who like science...

Chemist

Median Yearly Salary: \$69,790

Taxes: 26%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Chemists and materials scientists study the structures, compositions, reactions, and other properties of substances. They use their knowledge to develop new and improved products, processes, and materials.

Environmental Scientist

Median Yearly Salary: \$61,700

Taxes: 25%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Environmental scientists and specialists use their knowledge of the natural sciences to protect the environment. They identify problems and find solutions that minimize hazards to the health of the environment and the population.

Pharmacist

Median Yearly Salary: \$111,570

Taxes: 31%

Degree: Doctoral

Description: Pharmacists dispense prescription medications to patients and offer advice on their safe use.

Physicist

Median Yearly Salary: \$105,430

Taxes: 31%

Degree: Doctoral

Description: Physicists and astronomers study the fundamental nature of the universe, ranging from the vastness of space to the smallest of subatomic particles. They develop new technologies, methods, and theories based on the results of their research that deepen our understanding of how things work and contribute to innovative, real-world applications.

Microbiologist

Median Yearly Salary: \$65,920

Taxes: 26%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Microbiologists study the growth, development, and other characteristics of microscopic organisms such as bacteria, algae, and fungi.

Careers for people who like social studies...

Economist

Median Yearly Salary: \$89,450

Taxes: 29%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Economists study the production and distribution of resources, goods, and services.

Psychologist

Median Yearly Salary: \$68,640

Taxes: 26%

Degree: Doctoral

Description: Psychologists study mental processes and human behavior by observing, interpreting, and recording how people and other animals relate to one another and the environment.

Historian

Median Yearly Salary: \$53,520

Taxes: 23%

Degree: Master's

Description: Historians research, analyze, interpret, and present the past by studying a variety of historical documents and sources.

Urban Planner

Median Yearly Salary: \$63,040

Taxes: 25%

Degree: Master's

Description: Urban and regional planners develop plans and programs for the use of land. They use planning to create communities, accommodate growth, or revitalize physical facilities in towns, cities, counties, and metropolitan areas.

Anthropologist

Median Yearly Salary: \$54,230

Taxes: 23%

Degree: Master's

Description: Anthropologists and archeologists study the origin, development, and behavior of human beings, past and present. They examine the cultures, languages, archeological remains, and physical characteristics of people in various parts of the world.

Careers for people who like music and arts...

Actor

Median Yearly Salary: \$36,275

Taxes: 20%

Degree: None

Description: Actors express ideas and portray characters in theater, film, television, and other performing arts media. They also work at theme parks or for other live events. They interpret a writer's script to entertain or inform an audience.

Photographer

Median Yearly Salary: \$29,130

Taxes: 18%

Degree: None

Description: Photographers use their technical expertise, creativity, and composition skills to produce and preserve images that visually tell a story or record an event.

Artist

Median Yearly Salary: \$43,470

Taxes: 21%

Degree: None

Description: Craft and fine artists use a variety of materials and techniques to create art for sale and exhibition. Craft artists create handmade objects, such as pottery, glassware, textiles, or other objects that are designed to be functional. Fine artists, including painters, sculptors, and illustrators, create original works of art for their aesthetic value, rather than a functional one.

Dancer

Median Yearly Salary: \$33,217

Taxes: 19%

Degree: None

Description: Dancers and choreographers use movements to express ideas and stories in performances. There are many types of dance, such as ballet, modern dance, tap, and jazz.

Interior Designer

Median Yearly Salary: \$46,280

Taxes: 22%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Interior designers make interior spaces functional, safe, and beautiful for almost every type of building: offices, homes, airport terminals, shopping malls, and restaurants. They select and specify colors, finishes, fabrics, furniture, flooring and wall coverings, lighting, and other materials to create useful and stylish interiors for buildings.

Musician

Median Yearly Salary: \$46,571

Taxes: 22%

Degree: None

Description: Musicians and singers play instruments or sing for live audiences and in recording studios. They perform in a variety of styles, such as classical, jazz, opera, rap, or rock.

Careers for people who like building and fixing things...

Carpenter

Median Yearly Salary: \$39,530

Taxes: 20%

Degree: None

Description: Carpenters construct and repair building frameworks and structures—such as stairways, doorframes, partitions, and rafters—made from wood and other materials. They also may install kitchen cabinets, siding, and drywall.

Automotive Mechanic

Median Yearly Salary: \$35,790

Taxes: 20%

Degree: None

Description: Automotive service technicians and mechanics, often called *service technicians* or *service techs*, inspect, maintain, and repair cars and light trucks.

Drafter

Median Yearly Salary: \$47,880

Taxes: 22%

Degree: Associate's

Description: Drafters use software to convert the designs of engineers and architects into technical drawings and plans. Workers in production and construction use these plans to build everything from microchips to skyscrapers.

Architect

Median Yearly Salary: \$72,550

Taxes: 27%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Architects plan and design buildings and other structures.

Civil Engineer

Median Yearly Salary: \$77,560

Taxes: 27%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Civil engineers design and supervise large construction projects, including roads, buildings, airports, tunnels, dams, bridges, and systems for water supply and sewage treatment.

Electrician

Median Yearly Salary: \$48,250

Taxes: 22%

Degree: None

Description: Electricians install and maintain electrical systems in homes, businesses, and factories.

Careers for people who like helping people...

Teacher

Median Yearly Salary: \$47,000

Taxes: 22%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Teachers educate students. They help students build on the fundamentals they learned in previous grades and prepare them for the more difficult lessons they will learn in college.

Registered Nurse

Median Yearly Salary: \$64,690

Taxes: 25%

Degree: Associate's

Description: Registered nurses (RNs) provide and coordinate patient care, educate patients and the public about various health conditions, and provide advice and emotional support to patients and their family members.

Childcare Worker

Median Yearly Salary: \$19,300

Taxes: 16%

Degree: None

Description: Childcare workers care for children when parents and other family members are unavailable. They care for children's basic needs, such as bathing and feeding. In addition, some help children prepare for kindergarten, and many help older children with homework.

Social Worker

Median Yearly Salary: \$42,480

Taxes: 21%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: There are two main types of social workers: direct-service social workers, who help people solve and cope with problems in their everyday lives, and clinical social workers, who diagnose and treat mental, behavioral, and emotional issues.

Firefighter

Median Yearly Salary: \$45,250

Taxes: 22%

Degree: Associate's

Description: Firefighters protect the public by responding to fires and other emergencies. They are frequently the first emergency personnel on the scene of an accident.

Physician

Median Yearly Salary: \$166,400

Taxes: 32%

Degree: Doctoral

Description: Physicians and surgeons diagnose and treat injuries and illnesses in patients. Physicians examine patients, take medical histories, prescribe medications, and order, perform, and interpret diagnostic tests. Surgeons operate on patients to treat injuries, such as broken bones; diseases, such as cancerous tumors; and deformities, such as cleft palates.

Human Resources Specialist

Median Yearly Salary: \$52,690

Taxes: 23%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Human resources specialists recruit, screen, interview, and place workers. They also may handle human resources work in a variety of other areas, such as employee relations, payroll and benefits, and training.

Secretary

Median Yearly Salary: \$34,660

Taxes: 19%

Degree: None

Description: Secretaries and administrative assistants perform routine clerical and organizational tasks. They organize files, draft messages, schedule appointments, and support other staff.

Real Estate Agent

Median Yearly Salary: \$42,680

Taxes: 21%

Degree: None

Description: Real estate brokers and sales agents help clients buy, sell, and rent properties. Brokers and agents do the same type of work, but brokers are licensed to manage their own real estate businesses. Sales agents must work with a broker.

Careers for people who like computers...

Database Administrator

Median Yearly Salary: \$73,490

Taxes: 27%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Database administrators use software to store and organize data, such as financial information and customer shipping records. They make sure that data are available to users and are secure from unauthorized access.

Software Developer

Median Yearly Salary: \$90,530

Taxes: 29%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Software developers are the creative minds behind computer programs. Some develop applications that allow people to do specific tasks on a computer or other device. Others develop the underlying systems that run the devices or control networks.

Computer Support Specialist

Median Yearly Salary: \$46,260

Taxes: 22%

Degree: Associate's

Description: Computer support specialists provide help and advice to people and organizations using computers. Some, called tech support specialists, support information technology (IT) employees within their organization. Others, called help-desk techs, assist non-IT users with computer problems.

Web Developer

Median Yearly Salary: \$75,660

Taxes: 27%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Information security analysts, web developers, and computer network architects all use information technology (IT) to advance their organization's goals. Security analysts ensure a firm's information stays safe from cyberattacks. Web developers create websites to help firms have a public face. Computer network architects create the internal networks all workers within organizations use.

Computer Hardware Engineer

Median Yearly Salary: \$98,810

Taxes: 30%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Computer hardware engineers research, design, develop, and test computer equipment such as chips, circuit boards, or routers. By solving complex problems in computer hardware, these engineers create rapid advances in computer technology.

Systems Analyst

Median Yearly Salary: \$77,740

Taxes: 27%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Computer systems analysts study an organization's current computer systems and procedures and make recommendations to management to help the organization operate more efficiently and effectively. They bring business and information technology (IT) together by understanding the needs and limitations of both.

Careers for people who like law...

Police Officer

Median Yearly Salary: \$55,010

Taxes: 24%

Degree: None

Description: Police officers protect lives and property. Detectives and criminal investigators, who sometimes are called agents or special agents, gather facts and collect evidence of possible crimes. Law enforcement officers' duties depend on the size and type of their organizations.

Lawyer

Median Yearly Salary: \$112,760

Taxes: 31%

Degree: Doctoral

Description: Lawyers advise and represent individuals, businesses, or government agencies on legal issues or disputes.

Court Reporter

Median Yearly Salary: \$47,700

Taxes: 22%

Degree: Associate's

Description: Court reporters attend legal proceedings and public speaking events to create word-for-word transcriptions. Some court reporters provide captioning for television and at public events.

Judge

Median Yearly Salary: \$91,880

Taxes: 29%

Degree: Doctoral

Description: Judges, mediators, and hearing officers apply the law to court cases and oversee the legal process in courts. They also resolve administrative disputes and facilitate negotiations between opposing parties.

Paralegal

Median Yearly Salary: \$46,680

Taxes: 22%

Degree: Associate's

Description: Paralegals and legal assistants do a variety of tasks to support lawyers, including maintaining and organizing files, conducting legal research, and drafting documents.

Careers for people who like managing money...

Accountant

Median Yearly Salary: \$61,690

Taxes: 25%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Accountants and auditors prepare and examine financial records. They ensure that financial records are accurate and that taxes are paid properly and on time. Accountants and auditors assess financial operations and work to help ensure that organizations run efficiently.

Bookkeeping Clerk

Median Yearly Salary: \$34,030

Taxes: 19%

Degree: None

Description: Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks produce financial records for organizations. They record financial transactions, update statements, and check financial records for accuracy.

Financial Analyst

Median Yearly Salary: \$74,350

Taxes: 27%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Financial analysts provide guidance to businesses and individuals making investment decisions. They assess the performance of stocks, bonds, and other types of investments.

Budget Analyst

Median Yearly Salary: \$68,200

Taxes: 26%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Budget analysts help public and private institutions organize their finances. They prepare budget reports and monitor institutional spending.

Loan Officer

Median Yearly Salary: \$56,490

Taxes: 24%

Degree: None

Description: Loan officers evaluate, authorize, or recommend approval of loan applications for people and businesses.

Careers for people who like sports...

Referee

Median Yearly Salary: \$22,840

Taxes: 16%

Degree: None

Description: Umpires, referees, and other sports officials preside over competitive athletic or sporting events. They detect infractions and decide penalties according to the rules of the game.

Professional Athlete

Median Yearly Salary: \$43,740

Taxes: 21%

Degree: None

Description: Athletes and sports competitors participate in organized, officiated sports events to entertain spectators.

Coach

Median Yearly Salary: \$28,340

Taxes: 18%

Degree: None

Description: Coaches teach amateur and professional athletes the skills they need to succeed at their sport. Scouts look for new players, evaluating athletes' strengths and weaknesses as possible recruits. Many coaches also scout out new talent.

Fitness Trainer

Median Yearly Salary: \$31,090

Taxes: 19%

Degree: None

Description: Fitness trainers and instructors lead, instruct, and motivate individuals or groups in exercise activities, including cardiovascular exercise (exercises for the heart and blood system), strength training, and stretching. They work with people of all ages and skill levels.

Recreational Therapist

Median Yearly Salary: \$39,410

Taxes: 20%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Recreational therapists plan, direct, and coordinate recreation programs for people with disabilities or illnesses. They use a variety of techniques, including arts and crafts, drama, music, dance, sports, games, and field trips. These programs help maintain or improve a client's physical and emotional well-being.

Careers for people who like nature...

Zoologist

Median Yearly Salary: \$57,430

Taxes: 24%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Zoologists and wildlife biologists study the characteristics and habitats of animals and wildlife.

Veterinarian

Median Yearly Salary: \$82,040

Taxes: 28%

Degree: Doctoral

Description: Veterinarians care for the health of animals. They diagnose, treat, or research medical conditions and diseases of pets, livestock, and animals in zoos, racetracks, and laboratories.

Landscape Architect

Median Yearly Salary: \$62,090

Taxes: 25%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Landscape architects plan and design land areas for parks, recreational facilities, highways, airports, and other properties. Projects include subdivisions and commercial, industrial, and residential sites.

Agricultural and Food Scientist

Median Yearly Salary: \$58,450

Taxes: 24%

Degree: Bachelor's

Description: Agricultural and food scientists work to ensure agricultural productivity and food safety.

Farmer

Median Yearly Salary: \$60,750

Taxes: 25%

Degree: None

Description: Farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural managers run establishments that produce crops, livestock, and dairy products.