

## Fastest Growing Occupations for College Graduates 2002–2012

Ever wonder what you're going to do with that college degree? Here is a chart of the fastest growing occupations for college graduates from 2004–2014 to help you get an idea of the occupations of the future. These figures are based on research by the Bureau of Labor. For comprehensive information about specific occupations or fields, visit the *Occupational Outlook Handbook* at [www.bls.gov/emp/emptab21.htm](http://www.bls.gov/emp/emptab21.htm).

Occupation	Expected Growth by 2012 (percent)	Most significant source of postsecondary education or training <sup>1</sup>	Median Annual/Hourly Earnings in 2002
Home health aides	56	Short-term on-the-job training	\$20,184/yr
Network systems and data communications analysts	54.6	Bachelor's degree	\$58,420/yr
Medical assistants	52.1	Moderate-term on-the-job training	\$28,589/yr
Physician assistants	49.6	Bachelor's degree	\$64,670/yr
Computer software engineers, applications	48.4	Bachelor's degree	\$70,900/yr
Physical therapist assistants	44.2	Associate degree	\$36,080/yr
Dental hygienists	43.3	Associate degree	\$26.59/hr
Computer software engineers, systems software	43	Bachelor's degree	\$74,040/yr
Dental assistants	42.7	Moderate-term on-the-job training	\$28,589/yr
Personal and home care aides	41	Short-term on-the-job training	\$20,184/yr
Network and computer systems administrators	38.4	Bachelor's degree	\$54,810/yr
Database administrators	38.2	Bachelor's degree	\$55,480/yr
Physical therapists	36.7	Master's degree	\$57,330/yr
Forensic science technicians	36.4	Associate degree	\$43,605/yr
Veterinary technologists and technicians	35.3	Associate degree	\$22,950/yr
Diagnostic medical sonographers	34.8	Associate degree	\$47,530/yr
Physical therapist aides	34.1	Short-term on-the-job training	\$28,589/yr
Occupational therapists	34.1	Bachelor's degree	\$51,990/yr

Occupation	Expected Growth by 2012 (percent)	Most significant source of postsecondary education or training <sup>1</sup>	Median Annual/Hourly Earnings in 2002
Medical scientists, except epidemiologists	34.1	Doctoral degree	\$85,240/yr
Preschool teachers, except special education	33.1	Postsecondary vocational award	\$8.69/hr
Cardiovascular technologists and technicians	32.6	Associate degree	\$57,450/yr
Postsecondary teachers	32.2	Doctoral degree	\$49,040/yr
Hydrologists	31.6	Master's degree	\$44,489/yr
Computer systems analysts	31.4	Bachelor's degree	\$62,890/yr
Hazardous materials removal workers	31.2	Moderate-term on-the-job training	\$40,250/yr
Biomedical engineers	30.7	Bachelor's degree	\$68,791/yr
Employment, recruitment, and placement specialists	30.5	Bachelor's degree	\$42,495/yr
Environmental engineers	30	Bachelor's degree	\$61,410/yr
Paralegals and legal assistants	29.7	Associate degree	\$39,462/yr

Footnotes:

1. An occupation is placed into one of 11 categories that best describes the education or training needed by most workers to become fully qualified.

Source: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics and *Monthly Labor Review*, July 2006.