
WHAT DO I WANT TO DO WITH MY LIFE?



Hopefully, the answer is not, "lay on my mom and dad's couch..."

It's time to sit down and think about what you want to do with your life. You certainly do not need to make concrete decisions right now, however you need to start thinking of a college/career path.



Two things to think about as you enter high school:

1. What do I find interesting?

2. What am I good at?

But, what if I don't find anything interesting or I am not good at anything???

Ok, stop right there.

You must find something interesting, you must like something???



Do you like fixing cars or anything else you can get your hands on?



Do you like dancing?



Every movie you watch, do you rip it apart and critique every facet of it?



Do you like to bake?



Do you like to draw, paint or write?



Would it be supercool to know how to operate a tank?



Do you like to play with kids?



Is CSI your favorite show and you think, "Hey, I could do that!"

Surely you are good at something???

(And no, sleep does NOT count...)

Are you good at fixing things?

Get good grades in science?

Do you make a mean batch of brownies?

Do little kids always seem to find you and stick to you like glue?

Maybe you are a fabulous field hockey player?

Or you excel at being a drama queen/king?

Every one of these things can translate into a career:



- Auto mechanic, Diesel Mechanic
- Pre-school Teacher
- Military service
- Culinary chef – Pastry chef
- Electrician
- Artist
- Writer
- Doctor
- Construction Engineer
- Sporting coach, Athletic trainer

Or any one of a gazillion other careers

The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. --Lao Tzu

What activities interest me?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

OR maybe you have no idea what you like or are good at or might be interested in...I mean, Hey, you are only in 9th grade, right???

What are your personality traits?

There are 4 personality type categories:

- Extraversion and Introversion
- Sensing and Intuition
- Thinking and Feeling
- Judging and Perceiving



You can read more about each at the following website:

www.personalitypage.com/four-prefs.html

If you would like to take a personality test to see where you fall check out this website:

www.16personalities.com/free-personality-test

Online websites can be helpful in bringing awareness to where your career interests may lie. The following is a website where you answer questions about your interests and it will give you career choices that match your interests.



Career Test Quiz for High School Students

www.yourfreecareertest.com

Tip: check out the [Occupational Outlook Handbook](http://www.bls.gov/ooh) website from the Bureau of Labor and Statistics for a listing of occupation groups as well as information on specific career choices. Following is a copy of the webpage and the groups you are able to search.

www.bls.gov/ooh

“‘May the Force be with you’ is charming but it’s not important. What’s important is that you become the Force – for yourself and perhaps for other people.” – Harrison Ford

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

This is a guide to career information about hundreds of occupations!

OCCUPATION GROUPS

- Architecture and Engineering
- Arts and Design
- Building and Grounds Cleaning
- Business and Financial
- Community and Social Service
- Computer and Information Technology
- Construction and Extraction
- Education, Training, and Library
- Entertainment and Sports
- Farming, Fishing, and Forestry
- Food Preparation and Serving
- Healthcare
- Installation, Maintenance, and Repair
- Legal
- Life, Physical, and Social Science
- Management
- Math
- Media and Communication
- Military
- Office and Administrative Support
- Personal Care and Service
- Production
- Protective Service
- Sales
- Transportation and Material Moving

The careers listed in the **Occupational Outlook Handbook** and on the **Free Career Test** all have minimum educational criteria that can be met in a variety of ways.

There are two types of training you may receive while in high school.

1. **Vocational training** to enter a job right out of high school
2. **College entry “training”** by taking specific courses that colleges want to see completed in high school.

Four main career paths for the high school student:

1. **Vocational training**
2. **Military service**
3. **Two year college, Associates Degree**
4. **Four year college, Bachelor Degree or Higher**

Important to note is where the jobs are... if you spend 2 or 4 years in college you want to be reasonably sure you can get a job on your field when you have completed the program.

The **Occupational Outlook Handbook** has lists of Fastest Growing Occupations (projected).

Topping the list are:

- Industrial-Organizational Psychologists,
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographers,
- Occupational Therapy Assistants,
- Physical Therapy Assistants,
- Physician Assistants, and
- Information Security Analysts.

It is important to note that three of these choices require only a 2 year college degree.

The Handbook also lists the **Most New Jobs (projected)**:

- Registered Nurses (526,800 new jobs over the next 10 years),
- General and Operations Managers (244,100 new jobs),
- Carpenters (218,000 new jobs),
- Licensed Practical Nurse (182,900 new jobs).

Highest paying jobs are listed as:

- Physicians: all area specialties and Surgeons (greater than or equal to \$187,200 per year),
- Psychiatrists (\$173,330 per year),
- General Medical Practitioners (\$172,020 per year),
- Chief Executives (\$168,140 per year),
- Dentists (\$145,000 to 155,000 per year),
- Petroleum Engineers (\$130,280 per year),
- Architectural and Engineering Managers (\$124,870 per year),
- Computer and Information Systems Managers (\$120,950 per year)



Careers from the OOH that look interesting to me:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

“Whatever you are, be a good one.” –Abraham Lincoln

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Vocational training is achieved through high school BOCES programs. There are many programs to pick from. Popular choices are:

- Cosmetology
- Automotive Technology
- Culinary Arts
- Welding Technology
- Graphic Communications
- Animal Science
- Early Childhood Occupations
- Nursing Assistant and Health Occupations

BOCES programs are generally taken during the Junior and Senior year of high school. These programs are generally not housed in your local high school (although Marathon is bringing an Agriculture program very soon). Students are bused area BOCES programs for half days. BOCES programs may lead to learning a technical trade that you may transition to employment upon graduation. Some BOCES programs enable a student to explore health careers while still in high school. Proficiency in other technical trades can be accomplished by apprenticeships. According to the [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) website, some of the fastest growing technical careers are in Plumbing (with 21% expected growth over the next 10 years, which is faster than average), Stonemason (with 34% expected growth over the next 10 years, which is faster than average), and Electrician (with 20% expected growth over the next 10 years, which is faster than average). Other choices have predicted decreased rates of growth or decline such as Construction/ Building Inspectors (with 12% expected growth, which is average, over the next 10 years), Welding (with -0.6 expected decline) and Farmers/Agricultural Managers (with -19% expected decline).

Area BOCES Programs:

Broome Tioga

www.btboces.org

- Animal Science
- HERO- Heavy Equipment Repair/Operation

Onondaga Cortland Madison

www.ocmboces.org/teacherpage.cfm?teacher=1262

- Automotive Collision
- Automotive Technology
- Career Explorations
- Computer Technology
- Construction Technology
- Cosmetology
- Culinary Arts
- Early Childhood Education
- Graphic Communication
- Health Occupations
- New Visions: Environmental
- New Visions: Medical
- Physical Therapy
- Welding Technology



"You're off to great places, today is your day. Your mountain is waiting so get on your way." -Dr. Suess



MILITARY SERVICE

There are 5 armed service branches of the United States Military. The Marines, Coast Guard, Air Force, Army and Navy. In addition to Active Duty (which is full time soldiers and sailors), there is also Reserve Force and Guard Force service (usually work a civilian job, but can be called to full-time military duty).

Each branch of the service has a unique mission within the overall mission of U.S. security and peace.

Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard

The nation's source of air and space power. The primary mission of the USAF is to fly planes, helicopters, and satellites.

Army, Army Reserve, Army National Guard

The dominant land power. The Army generally moves in to an area, secures it, and instills order and values before it leaves.

Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve

The Coast Guard's mission is primarily with domestic waterways. Providing rescues, law enforcement, drug prevention and clearance of waterways.

Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserve

The Marine Corps is known as the U.S.' rapid reaction force. They are trained to fight by sea and land, and usually are the first "boots on the ground." Marines are known as the world's fiercest warriors.

Navy and Navy Reserve

The Navy accomplishes its missions primarily by sea, but also by air and land. It secures and protects the oceans around the world to create peace and stability, making the seas safe for travel and trade.

Where in the world can you serve in the United States Military???

The U.S. operates in over 100 countries, including the U.K, Germany, Italy, Bahrain, Brazil, South Korea, Australia, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Japan, just to name a few.

Information taken from:

www.military.com/join-armed-forces/us-military-overview.html

There are two ways to enter the Military. First is to Enlist. Second is to be commissioned after college.

Enlistment

The first thing you need prior to enlistment is a high school diploma or a GED. Next you need to take the ASVAB test. Young adults who are interested in joining the military often take the ASVAB test while in high school. This test measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational successes in the military. There are nine sections, ranging from mathematics, passage comprehension, to assembling objects and verbal expression. A minimum score is required to be accepted for military service. The different branches of the Armed Forces have different minimum score requirements. Qualifying and being selected for military service is more difficult than in the past as the military is seeking higher skilled recruits these days. Today, it is simply not enough to have a high school diploma. You really need to take high school seriously and do your best no matter what your career path is.

For more information on the ASVAB test:

www.official-asvab.com/

Commission

Young adults who want to enter the Armed Forces as an officer may do so in one of four ways. Attend a Military College or Academy, complete a 4 year college/university program with ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps), attend Officer Candidate School (OCS) after graduating from college, or receive a direct commission after earning a professional degree.

For more information on becoming a commissioned officer:

www.todaysmilitary.com/joining/becoming-a-military-officer

The **Occupational Outlook Handbook** reports that each year the military recruits about 155,000 personnel to replace those who complete their commitment or retire.

Current enlisted pay for E1 rank is **\$1547.00 per month**. This represents an **\$18564.00 yearly** income. Base pay for an officer is **\$2934.30 monthly** with represents a **\$35,211.60 yearly** income. These numbers do not include benefits such as housing and meals on base. Pay scales are from:

www.militaryfactory.com/military_pay_scale.asp

*** The most important take away here is that being selected for military service these days is not an easy or simple thing. First of all, the ASVAB test requires good knowledge of information that is learned throughout high school. Second, being in the military today can be quite a sacrifice and stressful. Our world has been in a state of discontent and the United States is involved globally in many conflicts, particularly the Middle East. Each military member must be prepared for loss of limb and life. So this is a pretty darn significant life decision.

*“Education breeds confidence.
Confidence breeds hope. Hope
breeds peace.”*
— Confucius



TWO YEAR COLLEGE DEGREE

A two year college degree typically comes from a Community College, Technical College and some Four year Colleges. The degree typically conferred is an Associate's Degree. The duration of study is typically two years. The Associate's Degree can be a stepping stone to a Bachelor's degree or it may be the terminal degree for some career paths. Many desirable careers require an Associate's Degree.

Potential stepping stone to a Bachelor's Degree:

- Liberal Arts
- History
- English
- Art/Art History
- Humanities
- Math
- Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
- Computer Science
- Engineering Science

Terminal Degree

- Cardiovascular Technologist
- Physical or Occupational Therapist Assistant
- Radiologic Technologist
- Avionics Technician
- Engineering Technician
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologist
- Registered Nurse
- Funeral Service Director
- Dental Hygienist
- Veterinary Technician
- Paralegal Studies (you can also continue to a Bachelor program)



A two year degree is a great place to start if you are not quite sure what you want to study. Maybe you think you want to be a counselor, you could start at a Community College and take all the preparatory classes required for either sociology or psychology major at a four year college. If you think you want to be a teacher, you could study a Liberal Arts degree and take many of the classes the four year colleges require as general education requirements.

Or maybe you already you want to know you want to be a dental hygienist (see below in the top 9 highest paying jobs with a 2 year degree). A two year degree is all you need and you're done and moving on to a career. You could take the Paralegal Studies as an Associate's degree and stop there, or you could move on to a Bachelor's degree and maybe further on to Law School.

There are benefits as well as drawbacks to attending a Community college. Some community colleges have lower graduation rates as compared to four year colleges. On the other hand 2 year colleges tend to be cheaper when compared 4 year colleges. A community college might be right for you if you have a clear goal to meet (such as being an Occupational therapy assistant) and if you are self motivated (if you intend to transfer to a 4 year school you need to be sure all of your credits will transferrable).

Local two year colleges in the area:

- **ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE:**
www.sunyocc.edu
- **TOMPKINS CORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE:**
www.tc3.edu
- **BROOME COMMUNITY COLLEGE:**
www.sunybroome.edu

9 Highest Paying Jobs with a 2 Year Degree

<http://www.businessadviceource.com/9-highest-paying-jobs-with-a-2-year-degree/>

Despite what you might have heard, not every gold-mine job requires at least four years in college to attain. In fact, there are a large number of high-paying jobs that require only an associate's degree. If you want to earn maximum salary while putting in a minimal amount time in a classroom, here are nine of the highest paying jobs that only require a two-year degree:

1) Registered Nurse

If you feel a calling towards the field of general medicine but have always been scared away by the years upon years of schooling required to become a doctor, then perhaps you should consider a career as a registered nurse. Registered nurses work right alongside doctors in clinics and hospitals across the country, performing a number of crucial tasks such as facilitating patient care and serving to provide their patients and the public with important information regarding various health conditions. Often times, patients receive more treatment and information from a registered nurse than they do from their doctor. As a registered nurse, you can look forward to an abundance of jobs at any location, a job security that is not dependent upon the current economy, as well an impressive median salary of \$65,000 a year. In order to be considered for a position as a registered nurse, you will need to have an associate's degree in nursing.

2) Nuclear Technician

With the world in the grips of an energy crisis that isn't going to be solved with fossil fuels alone, the need for positions that can facilitate the use of alternative energy sources such as nuclear energy are only going to rise. One of these well-paying positions that can be attained with only a two-year degree is a nuclear technician. As a nuclear technician your job will be to assist physicists, nuclear engineers, and other professionals in both nuclear research and nuclear energy production. This means that a qualified nuclear technician is able to either work at a nuclear power plant or in a research laboratory, giving you some options about which work environment you prefer. Working as a nuclear technician, you can expect to earn a median salary of \$73,000 a year. In order to be considered for a position as a nuclear technician, you will need to have an associate's degree in nuclear technology or a closely related field.

*"If you want to be successful, it's just this simple.
Know what you are doing. Love what you are doing.
And believe in what you are doing." –Will Rogers*

3) Radiation Therapist

Modern medicine has come a long way in using advanced technology to treat illnesses that, at an earlier point in history, would have been a death sentence. Of these new methods, one of the most prevalent and cutting-edge treatments is using radiation to treat and cure various forms of cancer. Interestingly enough, all you need to be on the front line of putting this technology into use is a two year degree. As a radiation therapist, your job will be to check the equipment and make sure it is functioning properly, observe and record the patient's reactions to the treatment, and document the session for further analysis. For this work, you can expect to earn a median salary of \$77,000 a year. In order to be considered for a position as a radiation therapist you will need to have an associate's degree in radiation therapy.

4) Funeral Service Director

It's been said that the only certain things in life are death and taxes, and so long as people are passing on, there will be a need for professionals to see them and their families through life's final ceremony. As a funeral service director, your job will be to plan, direct, and coordinate all of the various services and duties offered by a funeral home. While the job of a funeral service director showing up on a list of highest paying jobs with a two year degree may come as somewhat of a surprise, it turns out that this is actually a very well-paid position. As a funeral service director, you can look forward to a median salary of \$66,000 a year. In order to be considered for a position as a funeral service director, you will most likely need to have an associate's degree in funeral service education.

5) Air Traffic Controller

That's right—besides the necessary training and certifications, all the education you need to become an air traffic controller is an associate's degree. It's a pretty remarkable fact seeing how technical a job it is as well as how much is riding on it being done right. As an air traffic controller, your primary job will be to manage every aspect of a plane's flight from takeoff to landing with the safety of the plane and its passengers always being the most important goal. Taking a backseat to flight safety, other responsibilities of an air traffic controller include ensuring that the planes arrive and depart on schedule. All of this may sound like a high stress job, but the good news is you will be paid excellently for performing these tasks. The median salary for an air traffic controller is a whopping \$122,000 a year. In order to be considered for this position you need to have an associate's degree in air traffic control.

6) Dental Hygienist

Want to perform dental work without having to attain a doctorate in dentistry? If so, you should look into becoming a dental hygienist. A dental hygienist is to a dentist what a nurse or physician's assistant is to a medical doctor. They perform procedures such as teeth cleanings, examinations, x-rays, and other preventive dental care, as well as working alongside the dentist as his aid in more complicated operations. As a dental hygienist, you can look forward to earning a median salary of \$72,000 a year. As another benefit, jobs for dental hygienists are available most anywhere you would want to work. The presence of a dentist's office in almost every city and small town combined with a need for dental care no matter the economy makes finding a job as a dental hygienist much easier than many careers. To be considered for a position as a dental hygienist you will need to have an associate's degree in dental hygiene.



7) Web Developer

The economic structure of the world today is shifting ever more rapidly towards an all-encompassing online presence. In fact, it is now almost unheard of for any business or organization, even on a small scale, to not have a website of their own. Fortunately for those holding the position of a web developer, someone has to build those sites. As a web developer, your job will be to design websites for clients from the ground up. From creating the layout to coding the various functions of the site to helping the owner manage various technical details of the website once it's up and running, web developers are there for every step of a website's creation and implementation. For providing these services, a web developer earns an impressive median salary of \$62,500 a year. In order to be considered for a position as a web developer, you will need to have an associate's degree in web development or a related computer science field.

8) Electronics Drafter

Have you ever torn open an electronic device and noticed all of the tiny electronic components set into a circuit board? It turns out that these circuit boards are both the brain and heart of most every piece of electronic technology on the market, providing both the necessary information and charges for the device to run properly. With this much importance riding on these circuits, there are ample career opportunities in designing them. As an electronics drafter, your job will be to prepare the wiring diagrams and circuit board assembly diagrams that will be used in the manufacturing and repairing of electronic devices. Think of the job as like being an architect for electronics. If accepted for a job as an electronics drafter, you can look forward to a median salary of \$56,000 a year. In order to be considered for this position, you will need to have an associate's degree in electronic drafting.

9) Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologist

Magnetic resonance imaging scans (better known by the abbreviation, MRIs) are one of the most effective tools today for locating and diagnosing a large number of medical conditions. Because of this popularity as well as the complexity of the machine, there is an entire position dedicated to their operation—a position that only requires two years of education to attain. As an MRI technologist, your job will be to make sure the patients inside the machine are safe and comfortable as well as monitoring the images that the MRI produces to ensure that they are of the highest possible quality. If hired as an MRI technician, you can expect to receive a median salary of \$65,000 a year. In order to be considered for this position, you will need to have an associate's degree in radiography, sonography, or a closely related medical field.

“When I was 5 years old, my mother always told me that happiness was the key to life. When I went to school, they asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up.

I wrote down ‘happy’. They told me I didn’t understand the



**assignment, and I told them
they didn't understand life.”
— John Lennon**

FOUR YEAR COLLEGE DEGREE

**A four year college program typically leads to a Bachelor of Art
or Science in a specific major**

Major sampling:

- Studio Art/Graphic Art/Art History
- Communications/Public Relations
- Science: Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Physics
- Education: Elementary, Secondary, Special
- Engineering: Mechanical, Electrical, Geophysical, Chemical, Glass, Ceramic, Explosive, Materials
- English: Literature, Creative Writing, Professional Writing
- Math: Statistics, Actuarial Science
- Music: Performance, Composition, Education
- Social Sciences: Anthropology, Economics, Sociology, Psychology: Educational, Counseling, Cognitive
- Theater: Performance, Set Design

Potential Career choices:

- Commissioned/Commercial Artist
- Biologist Teacher/Researcher/Activist
- Chemist/Teacher/Researcher
- Journalism/Campaign/Creative Writer
- Physicist/Engineer
- Accountant/Actuary
- Composer/Music Teacher

- Psychologist/Psychiatrist
- Medical Doctor
- Social Worker
- Veterinarian
- Actor/Director/Producer
- Meteorologist

State University of New York (SUNY)

A four year degree can come from one of any number of public and private colleges and universities. The **State University of New York (SUNY)** is the largest public university system in the United States. The SUNY system is comprised of 35 four year campuses from Buffalo to Long Island, consisting of small college campuses to large university centers. The largest university center in terms of enrollment is the University at Buffalo and among the smallest is SUNY Cobleskill. Within the SUNY system there are different types of colleges, the large university centers, university colleges, technology colleges, and the previously mentioned community colleges.

The **university centers** host the most diverse majors. The University at Buffalo offers over 100 bachelor's, 205 master's, 84 doctoral, and 10 professional areas of study. The **university colleges** offer liberal arts and sciences degrees in many areas. SUNY Cortland offers 64 majors and 38 minors from which to choose, plus 33 graduate majors and four certificates of advanced study. The **technology colleges** offer technology based majors. Alfred State College offers bachelor degrees in 19 areas, associate degrees in 50 areas, as well as a number of certificates. Alfred state is one of the public colleges that offer both 2 year and 4 year degrees.

“In some parts of the world, students are going to school every day. It's their normal life.”



But in other part of the world, we are starving for education... it's like a precious gift. It's like a diamond."-Malala Yousafzai

Within the SUNY system there are some colleges that have a specific area of strength that may be unique to that college.

SUNY Potsdam: Crane School of Music, BFA in Creative Writing, BFA Studio Art

SUNY ESF, Plattsburg, Oneonta: Environmental science

SUNY Upstate and Downstate: Medical Professions

SUNY University at Albany: Actuarial Math

SUNY Brockport, Oneonta, Oswego: Meteorology

SUNY Oswego: Zoology

SUNY University at Buffalo: Aerospace Engineering

SUNY New Paltz: Astronomy

SUNY Buffalo: Metals and Jewelry

Whatever your course of study, it is likely you will be able to find it at a SUNY college. On the SUNY website you can search majors and find out which of the colleges offer that major. Or, if you absolutely love a particular college, you may also type in the college and search majors within that specific college. Each SUNY college/university has its own website as well. There is a SUNY college for most students with varying acceptance rates. For example, SUNY Postdam has approximately a 63% acceptance rate, whereas The University at Binghamton has a much less acceptance rate of about 33%. Most of the SUNY colleges acceptance rates are somewhere in between.

SUNY website:

www.suny.edu/



The City University of New York (CUNY) has an additional 24 colleges (7 being community colleges) that receive funding from New York as well as NYC.

CUNY website:

www.cuny.edu/index.html

Private Colleges/Universities

New York also has over 100 private colleges/universities. These colleges and universities range from very small colleges such as Cazenovia College to large universities such as Cornell University and NYU. Similar to the SUNY system these colleges range from not being that difficult to being accepted, to being very difficult to be accepted. Cazenovia's acceptance rate is approximately 70%, whereas Cornell University's acceptance rate is approximately 15%. Private colleges often (not always) grant merit scholarship funds and endowments to make their cost more competitive with SUNY colleges. You will need to check each college's tuition and fees and weigh all factors and costs for attendance. Most colleges have a **net price calculator** which will help you determine your actual cost of attendance. You might be surprised to find a private college may be close to the cost of a SUNY college. Some colleges have a huge sticker shock tuition of over \$40,000. Unless you complete the calculator you might not realize that you are eligible for a large merit scholarship based on your grades or large financial aid package due to your parent's income. The net price calculators give you a "guesstimate" on what you might be expected to pay. Final results are

only known after acceptance to the college and filing of the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)).

New York Private college website:

www.nycolleges.org

In New York there is a college for everyone. Like SUNY schools, private colleges are found in the middle of nowhere (Alfred University), small to medium size towns (Cazenovia College, Clarkson University , St. Lawrence University, Colgate University, Hobart and William Smith), medium size cities (Syracuse University, Le Moyne), and major metropolitan areas (New York University, Columbia University, Julliard School).

Like SUNY schools, private colleges/universities often have areas of strength. For example, Alfred and Clarkson both have very strong engineering programs and they are both in rural/small town areas. If you would prefer a college in a larger city that has engineering, take a look at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in the Albany area or Columbia University in NYC or University of Rochester.

Surrounding states also have many fine colleges and universities.

All states can be searched at:

www.collegestats.org/colleges/all

www.collegexpress.com/private-colleges

"While I was (in college) I was exposed to this world that I didn't know was possible."

--Tom Hanks



9 highest paying jobs with a Four-year degree

<http://www.businessadvice.com/9-highest-paying-jobs-with-a-four-year-degree/9/>

1) Software Developer

Whether you're enthralled by the idea of working for a tech giant such as Google or Apple, or you are more driven by the idea of developing the next big app or program, landing a job as a software developer can get you where you want to be. As a software developer, your job will be to write code and develop programs for a number of software systems. Be warned, however—as quickly as the world of information technology changes every day, having a job as a software developer means that your learning and on the job training will likely never end. Still, the amount of perks that many software development jobs offer combined with a median salary of \$84,000 a year can make all of this more than worthwhile. To be considered for a position as a software developer, you will want to have a degree in either software development or another computer science field.

2) Petroleum Engineer

Despite the dip that gas prices have recently taken, this is still a job that is in high demand. Once on the job, petroleum engineers are divided into four primary disciplines—drilling engineers, whose job is to manage the technological aspects of the drilling process, petroleum geologists, whose job is to locate subsurface hydrocarbons, production engineers, whose job is to manage the interface between the reservoir and the well, and reservoir engineers whose job is to maximize the amount of oil recovered. As a petroleum engineer, you can look forward to a median starting salary of \$93,000 a year and a median mid-career salary of \$157,000 a year. In order to be considered for a position as a petroleum engineer, a four year degree in petroleum engineering is required. However, similar

jobs in the field are attainable by someone with a degree in mechanical engineering or geology as well.

“The biggest adventure you can ever take is to live the life of your dreams.”
—Oprah Winfrey

3) Financial Analyst

It may seem sometimes that all of the highest paying jobs available today, especially those attainable with a four year degree, are in the field of technology. But business majors fret not, there are a host of jobs on the market that pay top dollar for your economic skills. One of the most well-paying of these jobs is the position of a financial analyst. As a financial analyst, your job will be to collect, monitor, and study data that will help you to make predictions about future economic situations and will allow you to advise businesses and individuals in their investment decisions. As a financial analyst, you can expect to make a median salary of \$78,000 a year. In order to be considered for a position as a financial analyst, your degree will need to be in finance or another closely related field.

4) Actuary

While it's not one of the most well-known positions, working as an actuary is still a highly lucrative position. As an actuary, your entire job description is centered around two words: risk analysis. Most actuaries today work for insurance companies. There, they use statistics, probability, and advanced algorithms to assess the risk associated with a particular individual or company. Insurance companies aren't the only place an actuary might be employed, however. Many other fields such as investment, healthcare, and banking are now employing more and more

actuaries as the years go by. As an actuary, you can look forward to a median salary of \$79,000 a year. This salary combined with a promising job security has led the position of an actuary to consistently be rated as one of the highest ranking jobs by a number of sources. In order to be considered for a position as an actuary, you need to hold a degree in either mathematics, actuarial science, statistics, or another analytical field.

"A goal is a dream with a deadline." -Napoleon Hill

5) Cloud Architect

With the majority of the commercial world quickly transitioning their entire information technology infrastructure from physical servers into the cloud, there exists a large demand for a new breed of problem solvers to help make the transition smooth and flawless. These problem solvers are known as cloud architects, and they are paid well for their services. As of last year, the median salary for a cloud architect was near \$104,000 a year, making it one of the few and coveted six figure jobs that can be attained with only a four-year degree. As a cloud architect, your job description will include collaborating with companies and helping them develop a cloud structure that will meet all of their technological and business requirements. To be considered for a position as a cloud architect, you need to have a degree in computer science or in a similar, IT related field.

6) Natural Science Manager

A rather broad job, natural science managers oversee and supervise the work of chemists, physicists, biologists, and other scientists. By directing and coordinating activities such as testing, research and design, quality control, and, ultimately, production, natural science managers are able to help scientists put their theories into practice and provide helpful scientific solutions for today's world. Since scientists work in almost every area of the economy, working as a natural science manager is a broad career that allows you to choose which field and sector you would like to go into. As a natural science manager, you can expect to earn a median salary of \$116,000 a year, making it one of the top ten highest paying careers available today. While the only educational requirement to becoming a natural science manager is a bachelor's degree in a science-

related field, expect to put in at least five years as a scientist yourself before being considered for the job.

7) Aerospace Engineer

If you can't live out your childhood dream of becoming an astronaut, why not settle for the next best thing? As an aerospace engineer, your job will be to design and oversee the technology and processes concerning aerial defense systems, aviation, and yes, even space exploration. You may not be the first person to step foot on mars, but a job as an aerospace engineer may mean that you were responsible for helping to get them there safely. Second only to petroleum engineering in terms of the highest paying engineering jobs, aerospace engineers earn median salary of \$81,000 a year. Plus, the added benefit of informing everyone that what you do is indeed "rocket science" makes the job worthwhile in and of itself. In order to be considered for a position as an aerospace engineer, you will need to hold a degree in aerospace engineering. However, there are very similar jobs available to those with a degree in mechanical and electrical engineering as well.

8) Advertising Executive

Are you the type of person who considers themselves able to sell ice to an Eskimo? If so, before you jump into a job as a salesman, you might want to consider a career as an advertising executive. As an advertising executive, your job will be to present your company's products to the public in a way that will make them fly off of the shelf, using your creativity, good economic sense, and loads of financial, psychological, and sociological research to help you achieve this goal. From developing commercials to designing the ads on a billboard, you are responsible for marketing these products and services in the most effective and creative way possible. If you are accepted for a position as an advertising executive, expect to earn a median salary of \$73,000 a year. To be considered for such a position, you will need to hold a degree in advertising, marketing, or a closely related field.

“A lot of people want a shortcut. I find the best shortcut is the long way, which is basically two words: work hard.”

--Randy Pausch

9) Supply Chain Manager

From digging the raw resources up out of the ground to placing a shiny, finished product on the store's shelf, a supply chain manager is one of the rare positions that will allow you to be there for every step of the process. As a supply chain manager, you will be responsible for managing both the people and technical logistics involved in every aspect of the economic chain, from planning and developing to manufacturing and distribution. While this may seem like a lot to handle, you will be paid well for your services. On average, the mid-career salary of a supply chain manager is \$84,500 a year, making it a very lucrative job to attain. In order to be considered for this position, you will need to have a degree in supply chain management or another business and economics related field.

So hopefully you have an idea what your options are from the information compiled in this booklet. The world is your oyster, go out there and grab it!!!! Think of what you are good at (or want to be good at) and enjoy doing. It's very likely you can make a career out of it. Some careers take technical training, some require a 2 year degree and others require a 4 year degree or more. There is something for everyone. And don't forget, it's not that easy to get into the military these days. An amazing amount of information can be found online. **Your school guidance counselor is one person who is be able to help you sift through all the information.**

**“EDUCATION IS THE MOST
POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH YOU**

CAN USE TO CHANGE THE
WORLD.”

— NELSON MANDELA

The internet and Social media can be a good place to gain information. Go online and do some searching. Just remember that not everything on the internet is true, right???! Many of the following websites are on Facebook as well.

Teenlife.com : Gives tips on gap year programs, volunteer opportunities, summer programs, college entrance essays, as well as information on colleges and universities.

Cappex.com : Engine to search and compare colleges.

Collegeboard.org : College planning and preparation tools.

Collegeconfidential.com : Information about choosing a college, getting into the college you want, how to pay for it.

Niche.com : Grades colleges on personal reviews, including academics, campus life, campus dining, diversity, and others.

A multitude of information is at your finger tips, all you have to do is look it up. Having a plan is a start and whether or not the plan changes (chances are it will... a few times...) is good to know that you have options.

“You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know

*what you know. And Y•OU are the one who'll
decide where to go..."*

--Dr. Seuss,

Oh, the Places You'll Go!