



Popular Topics: [Banking](#), [Credit](#), [Debt](#), [Insurance](#), [Stocks](#), [Forex](#)

enter keywords

Search

enter symbol

Get Quote

Personal Finance

- [Banking](#)
- [Credit](#)
- [Debt](#)
- [Insurance](#)
- [Loans](#)
- [Mortgages](#)
- [Retirement](#)
- [Budgeting](#)
- [Taxes](#)

The Markets

- [Stocks](#)
- [ETFs](#)
- [Mutual Funds](#)
- [Economy](#)
- [Hedge Funds](#)
- [Forex](#)
- [International Markets](#)



- [Home](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Dictionary](#)
- [Articles](#)
- [Exam Prep](#)
- [Tutorials](#)
- [Ask Us](#)
- [Simulator](#)
- [Stock Ideas](#)
- [Free Tools](#)
- [Calculators](#)
- [Free Newsletters](#)



[Learn how to turn \\$1k to \\$10k with Penny Stocks!](#)

8 High Paying Jobs That Require 2-Year Degrees

Posted: August 26, 2011 9:52AM by [Janet Fowler](#)

Email Article

Like

57

Share



Filed Under: [Careers](#)



[twitter](#) / investopediacom

If you're looking to return to school, but the [idea](#) of a four-year degree just doesn't fit with your time or budgetary constraints, there are many high-paying jobs that only require a two-year degree. These two-year programs are often referred to as associates degrees.

If making the big bucks is something you put a high value on, you might want to invest your time into one of these high-paying career options that only require two-years education. (University payment plans are a great option for reducing student loan borrowing, but only if you know the details. Refer to [Student Borrowing: University Payment Plans Vs. Federal Student Loans](#).)

TUTORIAL: [Starting A Small Business Tutorial](#)

Registered Nurses

Though there is quite a bit of variance when it comes to nursing programs and the length of time it takes to complete them, many of the two-year nursing programs lead to high-paying jobs. One of the best things about nursing is that this career choice offers lots of opportunities for growth. This profession is also quite stable through [recession](#). Individuals in this career can expect to earn an average salary of about \$55,000 per year.

Engineering Technicians

Those with good math and science skills may choose a career as an engineering technician, though within this field there is a wide range of types of engineering to specialize in. Industrial engineering technicians can earn in the range of \$47,000 annually, while environmental engineering technicians can earn about \$41,000 per year. Electrical engineering technicians can expect to earn an annual salary of about \$47,000 per year, while aerospace engineering technicians can expect to earn even more, approximately \$52,000 per year.

Dental Hygienists

This career option may only require a two-year degree, but it also generally requires workers to obtain a license or certification on top of the educational requirement. Despite the added hurdle to cross in obtaining a position as a dental hygienist, it's definitely worth it when the pay checks start to come in. The average yearly income for a dental hygienist comes in at over \$57,000 per year, with some hygienists [earning](#) well over \$60,000 annually. Also of note, the demand for this position is expected to increase over the coming years.

Computer Support Specialists

In our modern high-tech world, those with the know-how when it comes to [computers](#) can expect to earn a good wage. Two-year computer support specialist programs can cover everything from IT positions or network security to computer support and help desk-type positions. These jobs tend to offer yearly incomes anywhere in the range of \$46,000 to \$60,000. They generally come with the added perks of flexible schedules or the ability to work remotely.

Paralegal

Good lawyers depend on good paralegals to provide administrative support. Though paralegals won't earn as much during their careers as a lawyer will, they still earn a great wage considering this career only requires a fraction of the education. Individuals working in this field can expect to rake in an average annual salary of about \$46,000.

Diagnostic Medical Imaging and X-Ray Technicians

Employment in this segment of the medical field is expected to increase in the coming years, which is great news for those that have an interest in working this field without [investing](#) the huge amount of time and money required to become a doctor. Diagnostic medical imaging staff and x-ray technicians may work in either clinics, hospitals or labs that use imaging technology to assist in diagnosing medical issues. These medical staff can expect to earn in the range

Top Searches

1. [Best Growth Stocks](#)
2. [Top 100 Stocks To Buy](#)
3. [Undervalued Stocks List](#)
4. [High Yield Bonds](#)
5. [Highly Recommended Stocks](#)
6. [High Dividend Stocks](#)

ads by media.net

Most Popular

- [How The Credit CARD Act Impacts Your Finances Today](#)
- [Top 6 Factors For Homebuyers](#)
- [Top 8 Ways To Stick To Your Budget](#)
- [How To Escape Halloween Budget Killers](#)
- [Top 3 Budgeting Tips For Lazy People](#)
- [How To Run A Home Office On A Budget](#)



Enter Your Email Address

Choose Your Newsletters Here!

Latest Stock Analysis

- [Yahoo! - Everybody's Favorite Target?](#)
- [Banking On Dividends](#)
- [The Job Market Hurts Companies. Too AMR â€¢ No Bankruptcy Today â€¢ Yet](#)
- [ONEOK Partners Loves The Bakken](#)
- [Brazil Builds-Up For The World Cup](#)

Current Rates

[Savings](#) [Home Equity](#) [Mortgage](#) [Auto](#)

Savings Products Rates

Click product name to view rates in your area

| PRODUCT | TODAY | LAST WEEK |
|---------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| \$10K MMA | 0.54% | 0.58% |
| MMA | 0.50% | 0.52% |
| 6 Month CD | 0.50% | 0.50% |
| 1 Year CD | 0.82% | 0.74% |
| 5 Year CD | 1.78% | 1.74% |
| 1 Year Jumbo CD | 0.76% | 0.77% |

[View more rates >>](#)

Rate [data](#) provided by [Bankrate.com](#)

of \$52,000 per year after completing a two-year program. These positions are also great for those that wish to work in a flexible work environment.

Web Designer

If you've got a creative mind mixed with strong [technical skill](#), graphic or web design is a great career option for you. Companies always require talented designers to modify or create websites, and this career option also offers great potential for workers to start their own businesses. According to PayScale, website designers can expect to earn an average salary in the range of \$49,000 annually, though the sky is the limit if you go into business for yourself or work freelance.

Physical Therapy Assistant

The medical field is always a fairly stable career option, and physical therapy is no different. Jobs in this field are definitely on the rise, especially as the population continues to age and has an increased need for physical therapy. Individuals in this field can expect to earn over \$46,000 per year on average.


The Bottom Line

It's definitely true that no education is ever wasted, so whether you opt for the four-year degree or if you decide that two years is all you're willing to [invest](#), those that go to college often have greater [earning potential](#) than those that don't. However, some two-year programs can definitely lead to high paying jobs; at times perhaps even higher paying than some four-year programs. Some employers in particularly high-demand industries may even offer incentives to those that complete educational programs that enable them to work in the field. These incentives can come in the form of tuition rebates or tax breaks.

Do your homework before you head back to school and know what the prospects are in the industries you're considering. (Effectively using your commute time could place you miles ahead of your competition. Check out [Commuters' University: On-The-Road Learning](#).)

[twitter](#) investopediacom

Rate this Article: Your Rating:  Overall Rating: 

 Posted: August 26, 2011 9:52AM by [Janet Fowler](#)

 [Email Article](#)

[Share](#)



Filed Under: [Careers](#)

[< Previous Article](#)

[Next Article >](#)

Sponsored Links



Average 6.32% Monthly Using ETFs?

Simple, Time-Tested ETF System Averages 6% Monthly Trading DIA, QQQ, SPY & More!
etftippingpoint.com



Charter Business. Connect and save today

Charter Business delivers an \$89/month bundle for internet and phone services.
www.charter-business.com



American Equity Mortgage - Get to a Better Place.

Mortgage Refinance, Home Loans, Equity Loans & Debt Consolidation
www.AmericanEquity.com

Financial Dictionary

<#> | [A](#) | [B](#) | [C](#) | [D](#) | [E](#) | [F](#) | [G](#) | [H](#) | [I](#) | [J](#) | [K](#) | [L](#) | [M](#) | [N](#) | [O](#) | [P](#) | [Q](#) | [R](#) | [S](#) | [T](#) | [U](#) | [V](#) | [W](#) | [X](#) | [Y](#) | [Z](#)

Investopedia Links

[Home](#) | [Videos](#) | [Dictionary](#) | [Articles](#) | [Exam Prep](#) | [Tutorials](#) | [Ask Us](#) | [Simulator](#) | [Stock Ideas](#)
[Free Tools](#) | [Calculators](#) | [Free Newsletters](#) | [Our Writers](#)

Personal Finance

[Banking](#) | [Mortgages](#)
[Credit](#) | [Retirement](#)
[Debt](#) | [Budgeting](#)
[Insurance](#) | [Taxes](#)
[Loans](#)

The Market

[Stocks](#) | [Hedge Funds](#)
[ETFs](#) | [Forex](#)
[Mutual Funds](#) | [Economy](#)
[International Markets](#)

Copyright © 2011 Investopedia ULC. [All Rights Reserved](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Advertise on Investopedia](#)

[Become a Pharmacist](#)
Become a Pharmacist 100% Online!
Request Free Information Today.
www.PharmacistDegreeLeap.com

[Top 100 High Paying Jobs](#)
Search Only Professional Jobs. Make Your
Next Career Move Today.
www.TheLadders.com

[Top 2011 Lists of Careers](#)
Find Schools that Train You For the Highest
Paying Careers!
ClassesUSA.com/Careers

