

Careers and levels of education

People have many choices of careers to pursue. Some require only a high school diploma, but others require a higher degree.

Different college degrees take different amounts of time to earn. An associate's degree usually takes two years of college after high school, and a bachelor's degree usually takes four years. A master's degree usually takes six years after high school to earn, and a doctorate or professional degree can take seven to 10 years depending on the career.

The following information on five key fields is from the Occupational Outlook Handbook from the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The handbook is available at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>.

Arts and entertainment

Careers	What they do	Level of education
Graphic designer	Graphic designers create visual concepts to communicate ideas that inspire, inform, and captivate people.	Bachelor's degree
Director	Directors create motion pictures, television shows, live theater, commercials, and other performing arts productions.	Bachelor's degree
Sports official	Umpires, referees, and other sports officials preside over competitive athletic or sporting events to help maintain standards of play.	High school diploma

Computer and information technology

Careers	What they do	Level of education
Computer programmer	Computer programmers write and test code for applications and software.	Bachelor's degree
Computer research scientist	Computer research scientists invent and design new ways to use computers.	Master's degree
Web developer	Web developers design and create websites.	Associate's degree

Education

Careers	What they do	Level of education
Teacher	Teachers instruct students in basic subjects to prepare them for future education.	Bachelor's degree
Librarian	Librarians help people find information and conduct research.	Master's degree
Teacher assistant	Teacher assistants work with teachers to give students additional attention and instruction.	High school diploma and some college but no degree

Health care

Careers	What they do	Level of education
Athletic trainer	Athletic trainers prevent, diagnose, and treat muscle and bone injuries and illnesses for athletes.	Bachelor's degree
Veterinarian	Veterinarians care for the health of animals.	Doctoral or professional degree
Home health worker	Home health workers help people who have illnesses or disabilities with their daily living activities in their homes.	High school diploma or equivalent

Sciences

Careers	What they do	Level of education
Astronomer	Astronomers study outer space, including stars, planets, moons, comets, and galaxies.	Doctoral or professional degree
Environmental scientist	Environmental scientists and specialists use their knowledge of the natural sciences to protect the environment and human health.	Bachelor's degree
Food science technician	Food science technicians assist agricultural and food scientists.	Associate's degree