# HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS
IN THE CAPITAL AREA

## Introduction

Workforce Solutions regularly provides a list of careers currently in high demand along with careers that will be in demand in the future throughout the Capital area. Below is the latest update describing some of the best-paying, high-skill, high-growth jobs available in our area, and what you must do to qualify for those jobs.

Looking at a variety of data, we're able to provide average annual salary, average annual job openings and the employment growth for each occupation as a percentage.

Business & Industry
STEM
Public Services

## Architecture and Construction

### ELECTRICIANS

Electricians install and replace wiring, and must be licensed by the state. Those who earn a master electrician's license have the highest earning potential.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $46,563 | Minimum Education: | High school diploma/GED & Apprenticeship |
| Employment Growth: | 25.7% | Annual Average Job Openings: | 120 |

### PLUMBERS

Plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters are needed everywhere to install, maintain and repair gas and water pipe systems. Getting a dual certification as a welder-pipefitter maximizes career opportunities.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $50,925 |
| Employment Growth: | 26.2% |
| Minimum Education: | High school diploma/GED & Apprenticeship |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 65 |

### WELDERS

Advanced welders with specialty skills are in short supply across various industries. Individuals with some postsecondary training and work experience achieve the highest success in this field.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $37,181 |
| Employment Growth: | 21.7% |
| Minimum Education: | High school diploma/GED & Apprenticeship |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 55 |

### HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION MECHANICS & INSTALLERS

HVAC mechanics and installers apply high-tech tools to diagnose and fix a wide variety of heating and cooling appliances and equipment.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $40,959 | Minimum Education: | Postsecondary non-degree award, such as a certificate, & on-the-job training |
| Employment Growth: | 26.1% | Annual Average Job Openings: | 70 |

**For more detail on career options with high wages and strong job growth in the Central Texas Region, visit**
**http://www.wfscapitalarea.com/JobSeekers/JobTraining/TargetedOccupationsIndustries.aspx**

**For career pathways research and resources, visit E3 Alliance's Pathways of Promise Initiative**
**http://e3alliance.org/resource-library-full/?formfilter=89**

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# HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS
## IN THE CAPITAL AREA

## Business Management and Administration

### BOOKKEEPING, ACCOUNTING & AUDITING CLERKS

These clerks compute, classify and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. They may also check the accuracy of calculations pertaining to business transactions recorded by other workers.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $40,435 |
| Employment Growth: | 21.7% |
| Minimum Education: | High school diploma/ GED & on-the-job training |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 265 |

### SECRETARIES & ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Secretaries and administrative assistants draft correspondence, schedule appointments, and provide customer service to callers.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $33,631 |
| Employment Growth: | 21.3% |
| Minimum Education: | High school diploma/GED & on-the-job training |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 475 |

## Education and Training

### TEACHERS (ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL)

Teachers teach students basic academic, social and other formative skills in public and private schools at the elementary, middle and high school level.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $47,164 |
| Employment Growth: | 31.8% |
| Minimum Education: | Bachelor's degree |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 595 |

### SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Counselors help students by encouraging academics and providing career and personal/social development guidance to help maximize academic achievements.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $48,942 |
| Employment Growth: | 25.7% |
| Minimum Education: | Master's degree |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 65 |

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# HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS
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## *Law and Public Safety*

### PARALEGAL & LEGAL ASSISTANTS

Paralegals and legal assistants support lawyers by investigating facts, preparing legal documents and filing them at courthouses, or researching legal precedents.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $49,528 |
| Employment Growth: | 28.1% |
| Minimum Education: | Associate's degree |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 80 |

### LAWYERS

Lawyers represent clients in criminal and civil cases and can specialize in a certain type of law or may practice many areas.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $127,193 |
| Employment Growth: | 19.8% |
| Minimum Education: | Doctoral or professional degree |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 205 |

### POLICE & SHERIFF'S PATROL OFFICERS

Officers enforce local, tribal, state or federal laws to maintain order and protect life and property.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $67,374 |
| Employment Growth: | 22.7% |
| Minimum Education: | Postsecondary non-degree award, such as a certificate, & on-the-job training |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 175 |

### FIREFIGHTERS

Firefighters respond to emergency situations such as fires where life, property or the environment is at risk, such as controlling house or forest fires.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $54,415 |
| Employment Growth: | 24.6% |
| Minimum Education: | Postsecondary non-degree award, such as a certificate, & on-the-job training |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 65 |

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# HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS
## IN THE CAPITAL AREA

## *Health Science*

### DENTAL HYGIENISTS

Dental hygienists clean teeth and examine oral areas, head and neck for signs of oral disease. Dental hygienists advise dentists of their observations.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $84,273 |
| Employment Growth: | 29.6% |
| Minimum Education: | Associate's degree |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 40 |

### EMTs & PARAMEDICS

EMTs and paramedics assess injuries, administering emergency medical care and extricating trapped individuals. They also transport injured people in ambulances to medical facilities.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $41,636 |
| Employment Growth: | 27.0% |
| Minimum Education: | Postsecondary non-degree award, such as a certificate |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 40 |

### LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSES

LVNs care for ill, injured or recovering patients or persons with disabilities in facilities such as hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, private homes and group homes.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $46,554 |
| Employment Growth: | 26.4% |
| Minimum Education: | Postsecondary non-degree award, such as a certificate, and an LVN license |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 145 |

### MEDICAL & CLINICAL LAB TECHNICIANS

Medical and Clinical Lab Technicians perform routine medical laboratory tests for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease. They consult with pathologists to determine final diagnoses when abnormalities are found.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $39,106 |
| Employment Growth: | 35.3% |
| Minimum Education: | Associate's degree |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 45 |

### MEDICAL RECORDS & HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNICIANS

Medical Records & Health Information Technicians compile, process and maintain medical records of hospital and clinic patients.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $36,211 |
| Employment Growth: | 26.7% |
| Minimum Education: | Postsecondary non-degree award, such as a certificate |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 50 |

### OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

Through rehabilitative programs, occupational therapists help persons with disabilities or developmental delays gain independence by learning vocational, homemaking and daily living skills.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $72,082 |
| Employment Growth: | 30.0% |
| Minimum Education: | Master's degree |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 15 |

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## Health Science (continued)

### PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

Doctors of medicine (MDs) treat all types of diseases and injuries. Surgeons operate on patients in both outpatient and emergency situations.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $256,039 |
| Employment Growth: | 25.3% |
| Minimum Education: | Doctoral or professional degree (Ph.D.) & internship/residency |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 50 |

### PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

Through individually designed patient programs, physical therapists help people adapt to the loss of bodily functions due to injuries or ailments.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $72,889 |
| Employment Growth: | 29.4% |
| Minimum Education: | Doctoral or professional degree (Ph.D.) |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 25 |

### RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST

Radiologic technologists perform imaging tests to assist in diagnosing patients and are most easily associated with x-rays.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $52,826 |
| Employment Growth: | 27.4% |
| Minimum Education: | Associate's degree |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 30 |

### REGISTERED NURSES

Becoming a registered nurse for most hospital systems in the Capital Area region requires earning at least an associate's degree and passing a national licensing exam.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $65,394 |
| Employment Growth: | 28.6% |
| Minimum Education: | Associate's degree |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 445 |

### RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS

Respiratory therapists generally work in hospitals and nursing homes with patients who are experiencing cardiology or pulmonary dysfunction.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $56,435 |
| Employment Growth: | 26.5% |
| Minimum Education: | Associate's degree |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 20 |

### SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS & TECHNICIANS

Surgical technologists/technicians assist in operations along with other surgical personnel. They may help set up the operating room, prepare patients for surgery, and other duties related to surgery.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $44,905 |
| Employment Growth: | 35.4% |
| Minimum Education: | Postsecondary non-degree award, such as a certificate |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 20 |

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# HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS
## IN THE CAPITAL AREA

## Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

### BIOLOGICAL TECHNICIANS

Biological technicians assist scientists in laboratories by monitoring experiments, recording observations and maintaining lab equipment.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $57,056 |
| Employment Growth: | 20.6% |
| Minimum Education: | Some college but no degree; certificates/associate's degrees are available in this field |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 15 |

### ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS

Electrical and electronic engineering technicians install, maintain and repair electrical equipment needed in manufacturing plants, pipeline systems and other high-tech operations

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $68,175 |
| Employment Growth: | 21.7% |
| Minimum Education: | Associate's degree |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 90 |

### COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS

Programmers create, modify and test code, forms and script that allow computer applications to run.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $86,372 |
| Employment Growth: | 15.1% |
| Minimum Education: | Bachelor's degree |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 135 |

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# HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS
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## *Information Technology*

### COMPUTER USER & NETWORK SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

Support specialists troubleshoot and evaluate existing network systems to ensure that networks operate correctly with minimal interruption.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $61,215 |
| Employment Growth: | 16.0% |
| Minimum Education: | Associate's degree |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 70 |

### COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYSTS

Computer systems analysts aim to automate or improve existing technological systems, and review computer systems capabilities to best meet the needs of an organization.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $77,350 |
| Employment Growth: | 33.1% |
| Minimum Education: | Bachelor's degree |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 310 |

### DATABASE ADMINISTRATORS

Database administrators manage computer databases, including updates and even security measures.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $73,959 |
| Employment Growth: | 27.0% |
| Minimum Education: | Bachelor's degree |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 45 |

### INFORMATION SECURITY ANALYSTS

Information security analysts plan, implement, upgrade or monitor security measures to protect computer networks and information.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $91,569 |
| Employment Growth: | 55.6% |
| Minimum Education: | Bachelor's degree |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 50 |

### WEB DEVELOPERS

Web developers design, create and modify websites. They work with users to improve website content, graphics, performance and capacity.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $70,920 |
| Employment Growth: | 30.1% |
| Minimum Education: | Associate's degree |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 55 |

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## Manufacturing

### CNC MACHINE TOOL OPERATORS

CNC machine tool operators operate computer-controlled machines or robots that work on metal or plastic work pieces.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $29,481 |
| Employment Growth: | 25.0% |
| Minimum Education: | High school diploma/GED & on-the-job training |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 15 |

### INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY MECHANICS

Industrial machinery mechanics maintain plants and factories by detecting breakdown conditions, making machinery adjustments and repairing faulty equipment.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $54,948 |
| Employment Growth: | 40.3% |
| Minimum Education: | High school diploma/GED & on-the-job training |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 45 |

### MACHINISTS

Machinists set up, operate and repair machine tools that are used to produce precision parts and instruments.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $41,627 |
| Employment Growth: | 23.0% |
| Minimum Education: | High school diploma/GED & on-the-job training |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 40 |

## Transportation, Distribution and Logistics

### AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE MECHANICS & TECHNICIANS

These technicians and mechanics diagnose, adjust and repair automotive vehicles. They change tires, oil and fix damage to automobiles, among other duties.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $40,249 |
| Employment Growth: | 19.5% |
| Minimum Education: | High school diploma/GED & on-the-job training |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 105 |

### HEAVY & TRACTOR TRAILER TRUCK DRIVERS

These truck drivers unload, load and drive tractor-trailer combinations or trucks with a capacity of at least 26,000 pounds. These drivers may travel locally or nationally to pick up and deliver goods.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Salary: | $40,940 |
| Employment Growth: | 22.5% |
| Minimum Education: | Postsecondary non-degree award, such as a certificate, and a commercial driver's license |
| Annual Average Job Openings: | 160 |

Sources: Standardized Occupational Components for Research & Analysis of Trends in Employment System (SOCRATES) – Capital Area labor market information & careeronestop.org. Anticipated employement growth calculated from 2012 actual to 2022 projections.

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