



HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS

In the Capital Area



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Introduction...

The Austin Metro Area Master Community Workforce Plan seeks to bring career awareness of high-skill, high-growth jobs in the Capital area. By gathering information about these opportunities, you can find out which skills and certifications local employers need. This will give you the best chance to find a good job!

Workforce Solutions Capital Area 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.

ARCHITECTURE & 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 MEDIAN SALARY: \$47,073
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 45%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: High School Diploma/GED & Apprenticeship
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 165

ELECTRICIANS HELPERS

Electricians helpers assist supervisors or more experienced workers with their duties.

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$28,405
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 52%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: High School Diploma/GED & Short-term On-The-Job Training
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 30

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 MEDIAN SALARY: \$43,413
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 46%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: Postsecondary non-degree award, such as a certificate, & on-the-job training
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 85

PLUMBERS

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

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$50,894
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 41%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: High School Diploma/GED & Apprenticeship
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 120





PLUMBERS HELPERS

Plumbers helpers assist supervisors or more experienced workers with their duties.

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$26,032

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 43%

MINIMUM EDUCATION: High School Diploma/GED & Short-term On-The-Job Training

ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 25



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 MEDIAN SALARY: \$37,137

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 19%

MINIMUM EDUCATION: High School Diploma/GED & Apprenticeship

ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 50

ARTS, A/V TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATION



GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Graphic designers create visual concepts, using computer software or by hand, to communicate ideas that inspire, inform, and captivate consumers. They develop the overall layout and production design for various applications such as advertisements, brochures, magazines, and corporate reports.

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$46,849

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 22%

MINIMUM EDUCATION: Bachelor's Degree

ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 75



MULTI-MEDIA ARTISTS & ANIMATORS

Multimedia artists and animators create animation and visual effects for television, movies, video games, and other forms of media.

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$68,020

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 24%

MINIMUM EDUCATION: Bachelor's Degree

ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 50



BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & 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 MEDIAN SALARY: \$42,254

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 8%

MINIMUM EDUCATION: High School Diploma/GED & On-The-Job Training

ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 130

SECRETARIES & ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

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

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$34,272

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 20%

MINIMUM EDUCATION: High School Diploma/GED & On-The-Job Training

ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 550

EDUCATION & 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 MEDIAN SALARY: \$56,670

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 38%

MINIMUM EDUCATION: Bachelor's Degree

ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 650

SCHOOL COUNSELORS

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

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$56,036

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 29%

MINIMUM EDUCATION: Master's Degree

ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 60

PRESCHOOL TEACHERS

Preschool teachers educate and care for children younger than age 5 who have not yet entered kindergarten. They teach language, motor, and social skills to young children.

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$44,013

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 27%

MINIMUM EDUCATION: Associate's Degree

ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 85



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 MEDIAN SALARY: \$78,190

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 22%

MINIMUM EDUCATION: Associate's Degree

ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 25

EMTs & PARAMEDICS

Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics assess injuries, administering emergency medical care and extricating trapped individuals. They also transport injured people in ambulances to medical facilities.

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$44,818

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 30%

MINIMUM EDUCATION: Postsecondary non-degree award, such as a certificate, & On-The-Job Training

ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 30

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 MEDIAN SALARY: \$46,914

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 31%

MINIMUM EDUCATION: Certificate & LVN License

ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 145

MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

Medical assistants complete administrative and clinical tasks in the offices of physicians, hospitals, and other healthcare facilities. Their duties vary with the location, specialty, and size of the practice.

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$31,740

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 35%

MINIMUM EDUCATION: Certificate

ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 135

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 MEDIAN SALARY: \$40,205

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 31%

MINIMUM EDUCATION: Associate's Degree

ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 35



MEDICAL RECORDS & HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNICIANS

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

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$33,433
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 34%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: Certificate
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 50

NURSING ASSISTANTS & ORDERLIES

Nursing assistants, sometimes called nursing aides, help provide basic care for patients in hospitals and residents of long-term care facilities, such as nursing homes. Orderlies transport patients and clean treatment areas.

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$26,897
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 35%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: Certificate
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 205

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 MEDIAN SALARY: \$70,578
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 38%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: Master's Degree
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 20

PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS

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

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$151,791
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 32%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: Doctoral or Professional Degree & Internship/Residency
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 90

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: \$81,422
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 38%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: Doctoral or Professional Degree
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 60

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST

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

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$56,172
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 26%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: Associate's Degree
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 35





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 MEDIAN SALARY: \$66,336
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 35%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: Associate's/Bachelor's Degree
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 640



RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS

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

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$56,035
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 33%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: Associate's Degree
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 25



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 MEDIAN SALARY: \$44,439
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 36%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: Certificate
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 20

HUMAN SERVICES



HAIR DRESSERS, HAIR STYLISTS & COSMETOLOGISTS

Hairdressers, hairstylists and cosmetologists provide haircutting, hairstyling, and a range of other beauty services.

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$33,197
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 23%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: Certificate
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 150



REAL ESTATE BROKERS & SALES AGENTS

Real estate brokers and sales agents help clients buy, sell, and rent properties. Although brokers and agents do similar work, brokers are licensed to manage their own real estate businesses. Sales agents must work with a real estate broker.

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$103,461
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 26%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: Certificate
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 90



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS

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

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$80,632
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 3%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: Bachelor's Degree
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 90

COMPUTER USER & NETWORK SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

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

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$55,107
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 59%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: Associate's Degree, Some college, no degree; certificates/associate's degrees are available in this field
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 390

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 MEDIAN SALARY: \$81,50
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 40%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: Associate's Degree
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 435

DATABASE ADMINISTRATORS

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

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$86,237
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 29%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: Bachelor's Degree
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 60

INFORMATION SECURITY ANALYSTS

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

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$99,820
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 33%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: Bachelor's Degree
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 20



SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS, APPLICATIONS & SYSTEMS SOFTWARE

Software developers are the creative minds behind computer programs. Some develop the applications that allow people to do specific tasks on a computer or another device. Others develop the underlying systems that run the devices or that control networks.

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$102,699
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 35%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: Bachelor's Degree
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 670

WEB DEVELOPERS

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

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$69,132
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 49%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: Associate's Degree
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 110

LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY, CORRECTIONS & SECURITY

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 MEDIAN SALARY: \$46,708
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 29%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: Associate's Degree
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 135

LAWYERS

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

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$99,241
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 28%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: Doctoral or Professional Degree
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 245

POLICE & SHERIFF'S PATROL OFFICERS

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

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$72,735
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 25%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: Postsecondary non-degree award, such as a certificate, & On-The-Job Training
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 150



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 MEDIAN SALARY: **\$58,082**

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: **25%**

MINIMUM EDUCATION: **Postsecondary non-degree award, such as a certificate, & On-The-Job Training**

ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: **75**

MANUFACTURING

CNC MACHINE TOOL OPERATORS

Computer Numerically Controlled Machine Tool Operators operate computer-controlled machines or robots that work on metal or plastic work pieces.

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: **\$30,038**

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: **33%**

MINIMUM EDUCATION: **High School Diploma/GED & On-The-Job Training**

ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: **0 (10 from 2014-2024)**

INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY MECHANICS

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

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: **\$40,292**

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: **42%**

MINIMUM EDUCATION: **High School Diploma/GED & On-The-Job Training**

ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: **60**

MACHINISTS

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

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: **\$40,789**

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: **31%**

MINIMUM EDUCATION: **High School Diploma/GED & On-The-Job Training**

ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: **25**

SEMICONDUCTOR PROCESSORS

Semiconductor processors perform a variety of functions in the manufacture of electronic semiconductors, including loading material into furnaces and cleaning, polishing and loading wafers into special purpose furnaces, chemical baths, and equipment.

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: **\$36,458**

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: **13%**

MINIMUM EDUCATION: **Associate's Degree**

ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: **35**



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATH

ARCHITECTURAL AND CIVIL DRAFTERS

Drafters use software to convert the designs of engineers and architects into technical drawings. Most workers specialize in architectural, civil, electrical, or mechanical drafting and use technical drawings to help design everything from microchips to skyscrapers.

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$45,971
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 15%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: Associate's Degree
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 25

BIOLOGICAL TECHNICIANS

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

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY: \$38,264
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 26%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: Some college, no degree; certificates/associate's degrees are available in this field
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 25

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 MEDIAN SALARY: \$61,628
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: 15%
MINIMUM EDUCATION: Associate's Degree
ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: 140



TRANSPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION & 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 MEDIAN SALARY: **\$45,971**

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: **23%**

MINIMUM EDUCATION: **High School Diploma/GED & On-The-Job Training**

ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: **140**

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 MEDIAN SALARY: **\$36,296**

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: **29%**

MINIMUM EDUCATION: **Certificate & Commercial Driver's License**

ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS: **205**

