

Top 10 Highest-Paying Jobs Requiring Associate's Degree

In this data spotlight, we highlight the top 10 highest-paying jobs in the US that require, on average, an associate's degree. The list that follows is from EMSI's third-quarter dataset, via Analyst.

Highest-Paying Occupations Requiring Associate's Degree

Source: EMSI Complete Employment - 3rd Quarter 2010

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SOC Code	Description	2009 Jobs	2010 Jobs	Change	% Change	Current Median Hourly Earnings
15-1099	Computer specialists, all other	235,778	239,025	3,247	1%	\$34.03
29-1124	Radiation therapists	15,323	15,568	245	2%	\$33.97
29-2021	Dental hygienists	172,631	176,681	4,050	2%	\$33.24
29-2033	Nuclear medicine technologists	22,604	22,734	130	1%	\$31.24
29-1111	Registered nurses	2,586,316	2,624,631	38,315	1%	\$30.91
29-2032	Diagnostic medical sonographers	52,053	52,416	363	1%	\$30.03
11-9061	Funeral directors	30,599	29,923	-676	-2%	\$27.53
17-3029	Engineering technicians, except drafters, all other	69,692	70,229	537	1%	\$27.43
19-4041	Geological and petroleum technicians	14,285	14,360	75	1%	\$26.28
17-3023	Electrical and electronic engineering technicians	153,445	150,617	-2,828	-2%	\$26.06

Note: Data in parentheses in the "change" and "% change" columns reflect negative numbers.

After computer support specialists, the next five jobs on this list are health care occupations. (But perhaps surprisingly, registered nurses is **not** the top-paying health care job — at least in terms of median hourly earnings.)

Meanwhile, No. 9 on the list, geological and petroleum technicians was the quickest-growing associate's-degree level occupation in our recent infographic series.