

Career & Occupation Opportunities

Let's read and discuss some of the choices you have for a career or occupation.

Aircraft Pilot

I fly a plane for an airline, so I am in charge of the safety of passengers during every flight that I take. I am able to travel to many different places around the world. I was specially trained to fly an airplane. I must be in very good health with excellent eyesight. Most airlines require pilots to have at least two years of college but prefer four years.

Architect

I draw the plans for many different types of buildings, so I must know a lot of math. I design the outside and the inside of buildings as well as design where a building will fit best on land. I can work for myself or with a company. Four years of college plus one year of architecture school is required.

Computer Programmer

I design computer programs that are written in code. I write the instructions that tell the computers what to do with the code I write. Programming requires good concentration and good math skills. At least a two-year certificate or degree is required but many employers prefer four years of college.

Cartoonist

I create comics strips for newspapers, comic books, television, the internet and films. I use pens, crayons, paints, as well as computer software to create images. I like to draw, sketch or paint and can work with different materials. I'm very creative. My work is humorous and tells stories or explain ideas. Two to three years in art school is required as well as some experience.

Elementary or Middle School Teacher

I teach students different subjects such as math, language arts, social studies, and science. I make lesson plans for every school day. I assign homework, create projects, and give tests to make sure students learn. I do my best to make learning fun. I want my students to do well in class. Four years of college are required and a teaching credential.

Journalist

Have you seen or read a newspaper or magazine? Did you know that someone writes every story? That's what I do for a living. I am a journalist. I write stories to inform people about important events. Journalists have to be good writers. There are also broadcast journalists that write stories and share them on TV shows like the news or sports programs. Four years of college are required.

Lawyer

Lawyers work in many different areas of law. I work in an office. Sometimes I work in the courts on different trials or presentations to judges. I help people write agreements when they are buying or selling something to one another. These types of agreements are known as contracts. A contract is a written description of what people are buying or selling. Four years of college and then three years of law school are needed to practice law.

Medical Doctor

I have to know everything about the human body. I need to be able to tell you why you are sick. I treat people for many different illnesses or injuries, some are minor and others can be serious illnesses. It is important that I am very careful, and that I do not make mistakes. I can give you medicine to make you feel better. Sometimes I need to send patients to special doctors and to the hospital. Four years of college, four years of medical school and at least one year of specialized medical education in a hospital setting are required.



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Musician

Do you like music? Musicians play musical instruments to create the music you hear. As a musician, I have to learn to read music and play very well. I practice every day. I can get paid to play music; sometimes very well, if I am really good. I can have my own band or perform with orchestras. As a musician, I can also write music for other performers. Four years of college are highly recommended.

Pharmacist

I work in a drugstore or in a hospital. I prepare the medicine that a doctor prescribes to you to make you feel better. I make sure that you receive the right medicine so you can get well. I have to be sure that the medicine does not make you feel worse. I have to be very careful that I don't make mistakes with the medicine I prepare. At least six years of study beyond high school at a college of pharmacy are required.

Physical Therapist

I care for patients with disabilities, injuries or pain. Doctors refer patients to me who have lower back pain, arthritis, or broken bones. I examine patients and create a treatment plan that includes exercise to strengthen muscles or give deep tissue massages. I also teach families to help with exercises and follow up treatment at home. A bachelor's degree after four years is required.

Police Officer

My main responsibility is to protect you. I am trained in self-defense and how to use a firearm. I work a shift, either during the day or at night, which is an assigned area for me to patrol. Police officers can work for the state, the country, the city and even school districts. My job is to enforce the law and to educate people about safety issues. A four year college education is preferred.

Professor

I teach at a university or college. I teach classes that will help students get their college degrees to start their careers. I am called a professor. I have a doctoral degree which requires four years of advanced study and that I write an advanced research paper known as a dissertation. I can be either a PhD or an EdD and can teach at public and private colleges.

Registered Nurse

I work in a hospital with doctors. Hospitals are open 24 hours a day. Sometimes I must work during the night when patients need me. I am responsible for the care of many patients. I give shots and medicine to patients. I also check their blood pressure, pulses, and temperature. I must also know how to handle emergencies. I enjoy making people feel better. Minimum two years of college are required, four years are preferred.

Scientist (Medical)

I conduct research to find causes of and treatments for diseases. For example I study viruses, bacteria and cancer cells. I also study ways to make the human body better able to fight disease. Sometimes my research helps to develop new drugs and treatments to prevent disease or improve the lives of people who have diseases like diabetes or cancer. A Masters degree in biology but most employers prefer a doctoral degree.

Veterinarian

I am a doctor that helps animals. I had to go to school to learn about many different animals. One of my main responsibilities is to help people care for their pets. I do check-ups for animals just like a doctor would for humans. I give shots and medicine to animals, and sometimes must perform surgery. I enjoy animals and want them to be very healthy. Four years of college plus six years of veterinarian school are required.