

# Top 7 Most Valuable Degrees

Contributed by Diana Bocco

The top seven most valuable undergraduate degrees

By Diana Bocco

If you think you need a decade of studies before you can earn any decent money, think again. According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook, US Bureau of Labor Statistics, "between 2004 and 2014, almost 14 million job openings are projected to be filled by workers who have an undergraduate degree and who are entering an occupation for the first time."

1. **Computer Specialists \$71,500.** Computer experts (including programmers, researchers and technicians) who hold an undergraduate degree are expected to have ample knowledge of computer science, mathematics and information systems.
2. **Radiation Therapists \$70,000.** Depending on where the degree is obtained, either an associate (more common) or a bachelor may be needed to graduate. Students take lots of medical classes, including anatomy and physiology, as well as subjects directly related to radiation protection and physics, pathology and imaging.
3. **Nuclear Technicians \$66,100.** The degree focuses on manufacturing processes, product testing, handle radioactive material and monitor radiation.
4. **Dental Hygienists \$64,700.** Aside from a degree, a State license is needed in order to work as a hygienist. Duties (and therefore education requirements) vary by state, allowing some hygienists to administer anesthetics, place temporary fillings and perform periodontal therapy.
5. **Nuclear Medicine Technologists \$64,700.** This is a degree that will allow you to work in laboratories and as a medical researcher assistant.
6. **Fashion Designers \$62,800.** The only creative degree in the top-ten list of better earning occupations, this requires knowledge about textiles fabrics, computer-aided design (CAD), and fashion trends.
7. **Commercial Pilots \$61,600.** Pilots need just two years of college in no particular area in order to qualify for a commercial license. Further training, such as obtaining instrument rating from the FAA, is also obligatory. Those with little previous flying experience may start their careers as co-pilots and flight engineers.