



The Top 10 Careers for Recent Graduates

For those entering the workforce or beginning full-time studies, finding out where you will fit into the job market is essential for your career goals. Too often, employees find that the job they have spent years training for is not one they are happy with. It is best, then to carefully research the careers available, the necessary training, and what fits best with your unique goals and abilities before you go too far down a particular career path.



What follows are descriptions of some of the best jobs for recent college graduates. Read on to begin your research into some potential career options.

Financial Analyst

The position of a financial analyst is an important one since they are the ones who collect, analyze, and utilize data for a given company in regards to reports made to various banks, insurance companies, investors, and other businesses who are in direct contact with the firm's operations. For many companies, this is one of the top positions available, and although it does not require extensive qualifications, many financial analysts have graduate degrees, such as MSF or MBA degrees, while many others are qualified accountants. A financial analyst position is not typically a job that is an entry-level opportunity, and usually industry experience is a must for those who are seeking out this position as part of their career goals. A typical salary will be approximately \$66,000 or more, depending on the individual analyst's experience and the firm.

Computer Systems Analyst

Those involved in researching, planning, developing, implementing, and recommending the software applications necessary for a business's operations are known as computer systems analysts. An incumbent in such a position will usually act as a middleman between the various vendors and the firm in order to fulfill the company's software needs. A background in computer science, information science, or even management information systems is usually recommended for those who are seeking employment as a computer systems analyst. People with this type of job has been known to thrive as freelancers, contracting themselves out to various organizations rather than staying with one firm. The average salary for a computer systems analyst is approximately \$69,000 annually.

Computer Systems Software Engineer

This technological position is one in which the employee uses the skills necessary to design, develop, test, evaluate, and implement the many system software applications that a corporation will use on a daily basis. A bachelor's degree is the knowledge that one needs in order to begin in this job, though one must also keep up to date on the many software advancements as they occur in the market. A typically annual salary for a computer systems software engineer is approximately \$85,000.

Accountant

Accountants are essential for any business, utilizing all of the financial information from business dealings to help managers, investors, tax authorities, and other significant decision makers help guide the operations of a firm. There are many different levels of accountants, and many countries have their own designations for certifying accountants in their area. No matter where you are located, though, in order to be a certified accountant, you will need to fulfill a required amount of specified training. \$54,000 and above is the annual salary that is expected for a certified accountant today.

Civil Engineer

This position is one that involves a diverse amount of skills and requirements. Dealing with the design, construction, and maintenance of the surrounding environment, including structures such as bridges, roads, and buildings, civil engineers can have a wide spectrum of job duties. Just as in any other job, a certain type of academic degree is necessary in order to secure a civil engineering position, but experience will lead an engineer on the path to success later on as he or she gains hands-on knowledge. An annual salary of \$68,000 is average for civil engineers.

Career Tips**Marketing Manager**

Focusing on the marketing techniques and the management of a company's resources and activities is the main concern of a marketing manager. Utilizing research and analysis, a manager must assess the current market as well as previous trends and projected market fluctuations in order to help guide the firm in its future marketing practices. The typical training for such jobs involves administrative courses that stress a marketing focus. A salary of over \$98,000 annually is typical for a marketing manager today.

Financial Manager

Essential for the budgets and investments of a company, a financial manager is an important individual in any organization. With different levels of financial managers, the duties for financial manager jobs vary depending on experience and training. A bachelor's degree, master's degree, or even a professional certification may be required for certain financial manager positions. Over \$90,000 per year is a typical salary for those who hold this position.

Chemical Engineer

This high-profile position utilizes the application of physical science and mathematics to convert raw chemicals into more useful forms that are valuable to a company. Many chemical engineers help implement new techniques and create new



materials where they were not used before. A university education such as a master's degree is typically essential when looking at this employment opportunity. An annual salary of \$78,000 is average for a chemical engineer today.

Electrical Engineer

An electrical engineer deals mainly with electricity, electronics, and electromagnetism. Dealing with power, electronics, telecommunications, and other control systems is essential in today's technologically advanced world. A university degree with a focus on electrical engineering is a must for such jobs. A \$75,000 salary is average for a practicing electrical engineer.

Mechanical Engineer

The application of principles dealing with physics in order to analyze, design, manufacture, and maintain mechanical systems is the primary duty of a mechanical engineer. Using an understanding of kinematics, energy, and thermodynamics are the core principles for someone in this field of work. There are a number of degrees available for those wishing to find work in this field, but the specific degree needed can vary from country to country. Engineers in this specialized market earn \$69,000 annually on average.

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