

**25 BEST Paying Jobs that only Require a  
High School Diploma (some may require career training)  
Information taken from U.S. News and World Report**

**Landscaper and Groundskeeper**

**Median Salary: \$27,270 - Expected Job Growth by 2026: 11%**

Landscapers and Groundskeepers make sure gardens and lawns look great and stay healthy at parks, golf courses, private homes, college campuses and office buildings. They stay busy working outdoors by planting, watering, mowing, fertilizing and weeding. Usually, no formal education is necessary for this role, and workers learn on the job.

**Personal Care Aide**

**Median Salary: \$24,020 - Expected Job Growth by 2026: 39%**

Personal Care Aides help people who have chronic conditions accomplish everyday tasks. Some positions require high school diplomas or certificates from relevant community college programs. Additional training may include CPR certification.

**Home Health Aide**

**Median Salary: \$24,200 - Expected Job Growth by 2026: 47%**

These workers support patients in completing their day-to-day tasks. They are in **high demand** as baby boomers age. Some roles require high school diplomas, competency exams or certifications, plus passing a background check. Additional training may include CPR certification.

**Wind Turbine Technician**

**Median Salary: \$54,370 - Expected Job Growth by 2026: 96%**

Wind Turbine Technicians inspect and repair wind turbines, which generate clean energy. They may train on the job, through a technical program or at a community college. In addition to studying wind energy technology, they may also study first aid and safety systems.

## **Plumber**

**Median Salary: \$53,910 - Expected Job Growth by 2026: 16%**

Plumbers assemble, install and repair pipes and pipe systems. Plumbers typically complete an intense apprenticeship program offered by unions or businesses, which combine classroom instruction with hands-on work. They must be licensed to work independently.

## **Hairdresser**

**Median Salary: \$24,850 - Expected Job Growth by 2026: 13%**

These licensed cosmetologists wash, cut, color and style hair for their clients. To qualify for licenses, hairdressers graduate from state-approved barber or cosmetology schools and take exams.

## **Patrol Officer**

**Median Salary: \$61,380 - Expected Job Growth by 2026: 7%**

Patrol Officers protect people and their property, which includes patrolling local areas, writing reports and responding to incidents. Some jurisdictions require a high school diploma, but others may require a college degree. Patrol Officers will need to graduate through a training academy and may need to pass a physical exam.

## **Medical Assistant**

**Median Salary: \$33,610 - Expected Job Growth by 2026: 29%**

Medical Assistants work in doctors' offices, helping with clerical tasks and basic medical work. They often spend a year earning a certificate through a community college or technical college, studying anatomy and medical terminology.

## **Medical Secretary**

**Median Salary: \$35,760 - Expected Job Growth by 2026: 22.5%**

Medical secretaries manage the traffic in and out of a doctor's office, maintaining records and collecting insurance information. They may need certificates to find jobs in the field and should have strong computer skills.

## **Licensed Practical Nurse and Licensed Vocational Nurse**

**Median Salary: \$46,240 - Expected Job Growth by 2026: 12%**

These nurses offer basic health care in places such as schools, nursing homes and hospitals. They complete certificate programs that typically take at least one year and include classroom instruction and clinical work. These nurses have to pass a national exam to get licenses.

## **Paramedic**

**Median Salary: \$34,320 - Expected Job Growth by 2026: 15%**

Also known as EMT's, paramedics arrive first to help people who have suffered accidents or health emergencies. They need high school diplomas and CPR certifications to enter emergency medical technology training programs, which take one or two years. Some roles require associate degrees. All paramedics and EMTs must be licensed.

## **Massage Therapist**

**Median Salary: \$41,420 - Expected Job Growth by 2026: 26%**

Massage therapists use their bodies and various methods of touch to help clients relieve pain and relax. They usually complete a training program after high school that requires at least 500 hours of study and work. Many states require massage therapists to pass exams and obtain licenses.

## **Phlebotomist**

**Median Salary: \$34,480 - Expected Job Growth by 2026: 25%**

Phlebotomists are blood experts who draw blood cells for medical tests. They also collect it for research and donations. Phlebotomists earn certificates from specialized programs at community colleges or technical colleges, during which they learn about physiology, anatomy and medical terminology.

## **Pharmacy Technician**

**Median Salary: \$32,700 - Expected Job Growth by 2026: 12%**

These technicians work in retail pharmacies and hospitals, supporting the work pharmacists do giving prescription medicines to clients. They may complete training programs after high school to learn record keeping, law, ethics and information about medications.

### **Physical Therapist Aide**

**Median Salary: \$26,240 - Expected Job Growth by 2026: 29%**

These professionals support physical therapists and physical therapy assistants, often taking on some of the less-skilled work, including sanitizing treatment areas and performing office tasks. Many receive on-the-job training.

### **Maintenance and Repair Worker**

**Median Salary: \$38,300 - Expected Job Growth by 2026: 8%**

These jacks-of-all-trades take care of a range of systems, from electrical circuits to plumbing and painting. Most maintenance and repair workers develop expertise through apprenticeships and are licensed to work independently.

### **Surgical Technologist**

**Median Salary: \$47,300 - Expected Job Growth by 2026: 12%**

Surgical technologists help physicians in the operating room. They clean and organize tools and disinfect incision sites. These professionals usually need certificates or associate degrees from accredited training programs, which may last up to two years. During these programs, aspiring technologists learn about patient care, sterilization and infections and equipment used in surgery.

### **Nail Technician**

**Median Salary: \$24,330 - Expected Job Growth by 2026: 13%**

Working in spas and salons, these technicians clean, shape and paint fingernails and toenails. Also called manicurists and pedicurists, these workers complete cosmetology programs and take exams to get licenses.

### **Esthetician and Skincare Specialist**

**Median Salary: \$31,290 - Expected Job Growth by 2026: 14%**

These workers help clients clean, tone and moisturize their skin. They may perform wax, laser, peel or other procedures. Estheticians complete cosmetology programs and take exams to get licenses, which most states require for them to practice.

### **Sales Representative**

**Median Salary: \$61,660 - Expected Job Growth by 2026: 5%**

These professionals sell goods and services to businesses, government agencies and other organizations. While advanced degrees aren't required for most sales representative jobs, these workers may take classes about sales techniques, communications or marketing. Many entry-level positions come with on-the-job training.

### **Medical Records Technician**

**Median Salary: \$40,350 - Expected Job Growth by 2026: 13%**

Medical Records Technicians organize and manage health information data for doctors and hospitals. They often need to earn certificates after high school to find jobs. Training programs teach aspiring records technicians about medical terminology, communication, health data standards, classification systems and health care reimbursement methods.

### **Electrician**

**Median Salary: \$55,190 - Expected Job Growth by 2026: 9%**

Electricians install and repair electrical power and other systems in businesses, factories and homes. Training happens on the job or at a technical school, with many states requiring licensure.

### **Ophthalmic Medical Technician**

**Median Salary: \$36,530 - Expected Job Growth by 2026: 19.5%**

These professionals work with patients who come in for eye exams, taking notes about their medical histories and checking their visual fields. Ophthalmic medical technicians need high school degrees and on-the-job training.

### **Real Estate Agent**

**Median Salary: \$48,690 - Expected Job Growth by 2026: 6%**

When homebuyers or renters are looking to buy, sell or rent a home, these professionals are available to help with the process. Training requirements vary by state, but all require licensure.

### **Solar Photovoltaic Installer**

**Median Salary: \$42,680 - Expected Job Growth by 2026: 15%**

PV Installers assemble, install and maintain solar panels on buildings. While a high school diploma is typically the only educational requirement to get started as a PV Installer, many installers take courses at technical schools, community colleges, or as part of an apprenticeship program.

