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How long is your lunch break on average?



What kind of retirement plan does your job offer?



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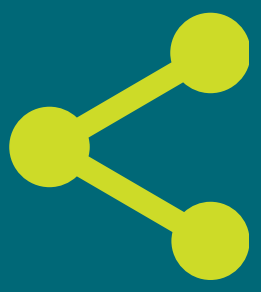


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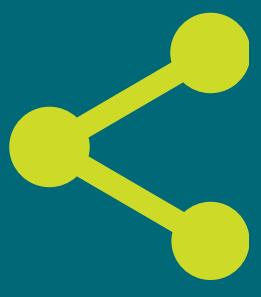


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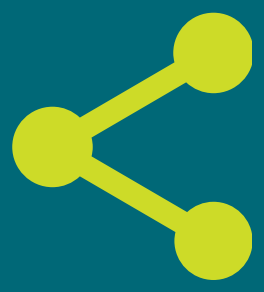


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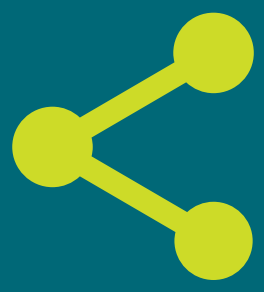


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How long have you each had your career for? What age did you settle into a job, and would it be easy to find and settle into a job at that age?



Brian Kelley

I have been a nurse for over 20 years, it wasn't until my late 20's until I became a nurse. It was very easy for me to find a job as a nurse - I had people coming to me wanting me to work for them and had to turn down job offers because there were so many nursing jobs.



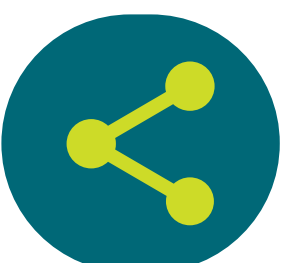
Tyler Bracey

I started this job in 2020 at just 22 years old. After a year of working in the field I just knew that this was something I'd love to do for a long while and decided to make the leap into making this my chosen career. I think that finding it easy to settle into a job all depends on where you are personally in your life and the feelings you get from what you are doing for work. Sometimes you just know but the burning feeling of PASSION you get from something you are doing. This is the feeling I had when I started to get into this work. That's how I knew it was right for me. So my best advice is to just listen to what your heart is telling you.



Zeynep Barut

I've been in my career for a few years now. I settled into my first full-time job in my early 20s. Finding a job can be challenging, but being prepared and flexible makes it easier.





What's the highest paying job you've ever had?



Brian Kelley

I have been paid the most in my nursing career. Nurses are paid well and you get a job anywhere in the US and even possibly in other countries.



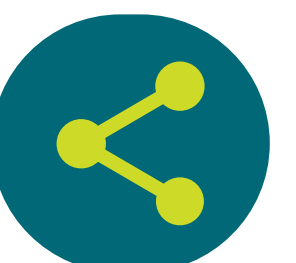
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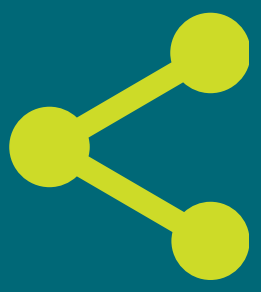
Between my jobs as a Service Leader at Hannaford's and my current teaching job, I actually worked at the Ben and Jerry's factory on a 12 hour night shift that actually was the highest paying job that I got right off the bat at \$22 an hour. But since I have been so dedicated to getting my education in my current profession, I have actually worked my way up the career ladder helping me to surpass that hourly rate.



Zeynep Barut

My current job is the highest paying one I've had so far. As I gained more experience, my pay increased, and I could take on more advanced roles.





Was it difficult to find a college that aligned with your job goals?



Brian Kelley

Not really - there are many programs for nursing. I chose to go to the UVM school of nursing and got a bachelor's degree in nursing - it was a great choice. In my opinion the best avenue to having a career as a nurse is to become a RN and get a bachelor's degree - it pays off in so many ways (and you will likely get paid more as well)



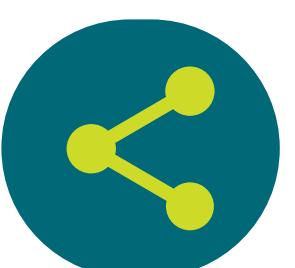
Tyler Brace

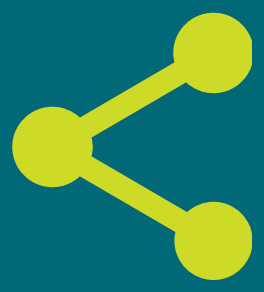
I actually never thought I'd go back to school until I found myself working in childcare. The only reason why I went back to school was because CCV was creating the teaching program as a free college program with the help of the 802 Opportunity grant! So I actually found it extremely easy to find a school for me. As it came to me!



Zeynep Barut

It wasn't too difficult. I researched colleges that offered strong programs in the field I was interested in and made sure they had good career resources and connections.





How long is your lunch break on average?



Brian Kelley

So this might be one of the downsides of the job - I don't officially take breaks because I have to be available if someone gets hurt and that could happen at any time. The upside is that I am very independent in my work. So for example if it is slow and I want to answer questions from students about a career as a nurse, I can take 20 mins to do that whenever I want. I do eat my lunch at my desk most days, but I also get every holiday off, every weekend off, a week off for spring break, April break and a week off around the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas - as well as 8 weeks off in the summer. So I really have no complaints about having to eat my lunch at my desk most days.



Tyler Bracey

Breaks are between 30 minutes to an hour. This is actually during the naptime at my job.



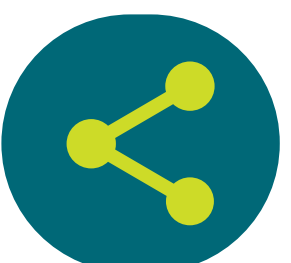
Zeynep Barut

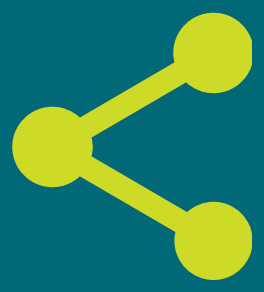
My lunch break is usually 30 minutes to an hour. It's a good time to recharge and relax before getting back to work.



Careers CLiC

Lunch breaks are typically 30 minutes (but some people can get an hour).





What kind of retirement plan does your job offer?



Brian Kelley

I have had to save for my own retirement, but my employers have always kicked in a percentage of my salary for my retirement. As a school nurse I am very lucky to be part of the Vermont Teachers Retirement Program which will give me a pension for the rest of my life when I retire.



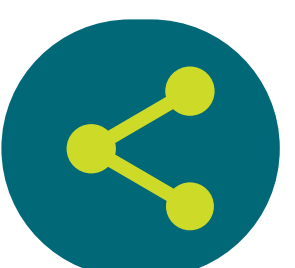
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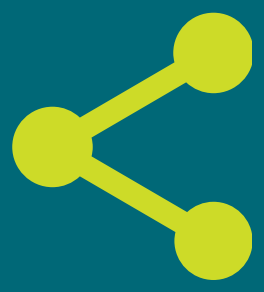
My job currently has a 401k plan like most places do with a matched rate by the business.



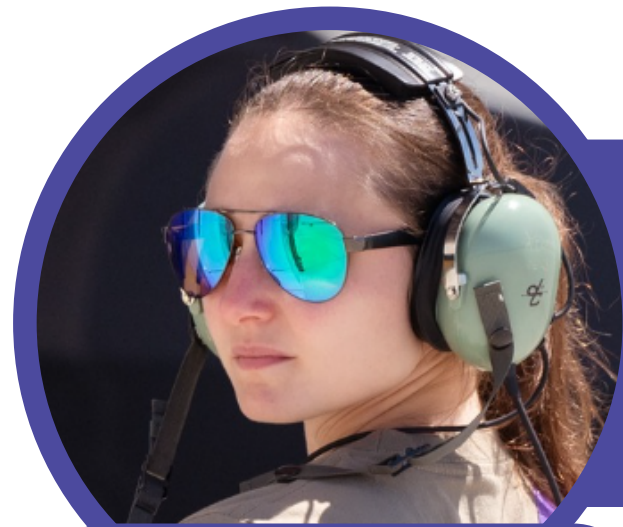
Zeynep Barut

My job offers a plan where I can save money for retirement. They even match some of the money I save, which helps it grow faster.





Ally, did you end up getting a college degree?



SrA Ally Banke

I'm currently taking advantage of the Vermont National Guard's education benefit to finish!

Ally, how do you communicate with other people at your job and do you think it's difficult?



SrA Ally Banke

I communicate through all different ways including verbally, over the phone, email, even hand gestures when the aircraft is running.

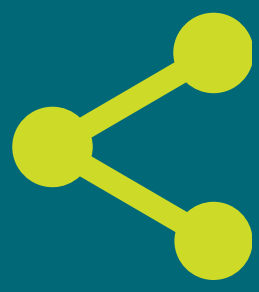
Zeynep, what did you have to do to get your job right after college?



Zeynep Barut

I had to apply to several jobs, make sure my resume looked professional, and prepare for interviews. I also gained some experience through internships and part-time jobs during college, which helped me stand out.





Brian, what is a typical day like in your job as a school nurse?



Brian Kelley

Being a school nurse is very busy, but it is also very very rewarding! Some days are hard, but most days I feel really good about my work day and I have time and energy to do things after work - like go to the gym!!

Brian, have you ever gotten sick from a patient? Was it serious or not?



Brian Kelley

Great question - yes I have gotten sick from patients - but really nothing more than a cold.

Brian, what's the most dramatic patient you've ever had?



Brian Kelley

I have had a bunch of very intense patients in my job. The one that comes to mind first is a student who had a life-threatening allergy to sesame and unbeknownst to her she ate something that had sesame in it. She started to have trouble breathing and it became very bad very quickly. Fortunately we knew she had this allergy and she had her EpiPen (a life-saving medication) which I gave to her. Had she not had that medication she could have possibly died because of how bad the allergic reaction was. It took me a long time to calm down after her bad reaction because I was full of adrenaline, but when I was able to look back at the event it is very cool to know that through my training and skill I was able to save someone's life.





Tyler, what is the minimum education required for teaching preschool?



Tyler Bracey

I personally started in this field of work with no prior experience or any education under my belt. I got settled into a classroom as a teacher's aid, and then took the required training courses to qualify me for the job. Then I decided to continue my education from there. There is built in professional development through any childcare profession that allows you to get the help needed once in the field to work on getting more qualified for better pay and better positions within the field.



VDOL

It is a licensed occupation so you need to be licensed; minimum education needed is listed as an Associate's degree.

How long does it take to pay off your college loan (on average)?

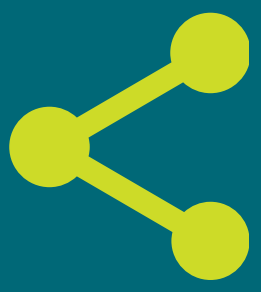


VSAC

It varies a lot between individuals and how much a learner has borrowed, but it can take anywhere between 10-30 years! The less loans you take out, the less time it takes to pay them off. Keep in mind the longer it takes for you to pay off the loan, the more interest you'll pay which will increase the overall cost for the loan. Look out for federal loan forgiveness programs in certain career fields to have your loans paid off for you, too!

You can find more information about federal student loan forgiveness at this link: <https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation>





Where do you typically go if you have questions or concerns about a job?



Nearly anyone and nearly everywhere can help inform your future decisions about education and employment. Talk to neighbors, family members, or teachers. Ask them questions about what jobs they have had. See what jobs sound interesting to you. For online research, you can visit here: [It is a licensed occupation so you need to be licensed; minimum education needed is listed as an Associate's degree.](#) to search for jobs and see videos about the work. If you don't know where to begin, visit: [It is a licensed occupation so you need to be licensed; minimum education needed is listed as an Associate's degree.](#) to give you ideas about what jobs may be good for you. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Talking through your options is the best way forward.



In middle school, family and teachers are a good resource to begin to ask about jobs. In high school, check in with a work-based learning coordinator or a school counselor. Outside of school, the Vermont Department of Labor has job centers across the state. You can make an appointment to get help with a job search and applying for work. See <https://labor.vermont.gov/workforce-development/job-centers> for all locations.

Tell me about the jobs one can get without going to college. What about "green " jobs?



VSAC

The Vermont's Most Promising Jobs brochure includes education needed for each job, so this is a great place to start to look at jobs that don't require a college degree. MyFutureVT is another helpful resource. You can search jobs by education requirements here: <https://www.myfuturevt.org/careers/>

MyNextMove.org is another good resource for exploring careers. If you search for "Green Energy" you can learn more about different types of green energy careers and their education requirements.

Advance Vermont also has a great resource on "Climate Careers" including many that don't require a college degree: <https://www.myfuturevt.org/pathways-to-climate-careers>





What's the least well-paying job in Vermont?



Vermont's minimum wage for 2024 is \$13.67 per hour.



Lowest wage: Ushers, Lobby Attendants, and Ticket Takers (example: people working at movie theaters)

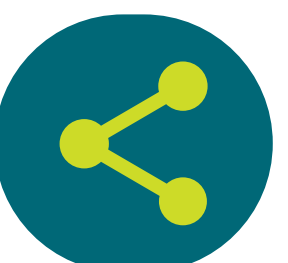
What is the best paying job in Vermont?

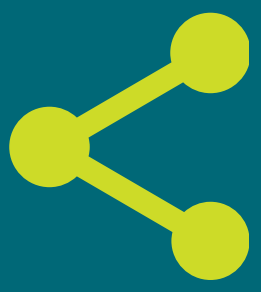


Many jobs that are called "trades", like plumbing, HVAC, carpentry, and so on, tend to be well above the minimum wage. The brochure is a great place to start researching hands-on jobs.



Doctors earn the highest wages in Vermont. One hands-on occupation to highlight with a high wage - crane operator; but as you advance in your career, you can make more as a supervisor or business owner.





How old do you have to be to retire? How much do you get a week when you retire?



62 is the official retirement age - but many people retire later than that. It's also possible to retire earlier. It depends on how much money you save over your lifetime.

The current age for people born after 1960 to collect full social security is 67. You can learn more about social security here: [Social Security Benefits](#)

Retirement calculator tools will help you to estimate how much you'll save by the time you retire and what you'll receive monthly based on what you save: [Retirement Calculator](#)



VSAC



Careers CLiC

The amount of monthly income is different for each retiree. Retirees' income may come from a combination of Social Security, pension funds, savings, or even part-time work. Teens save for retirement too! There is a special way to save for retirement, either through an employer, like a 401K account, or through an individual account, like a Roth IRA.

Which career is the most hands on?



VDOL

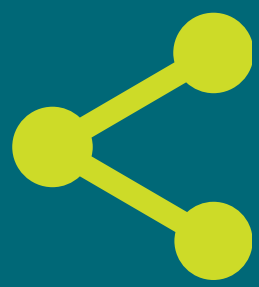
Installing power lines is one of the most physically demanding jobs; it pays really well because it is tough and dangerous. There is an apprenticeship program for this job so you can get paid while being trained.



VSAC

Many jobs offer the opportunity to be very hands on. The purple category of the [Vermont's Most Promising Jobs brochure](#) is a great place to start for some ideas of very hands on careers.





What job can you do that you don't have to see anyone?



VDOL

All jobs require some sort of interaction with others; some jobs with potentially less - bookkeeper, author, and many computer related occupations.



VSAC

Jobs that offer the option to work fully remote also typically involve more time alone.

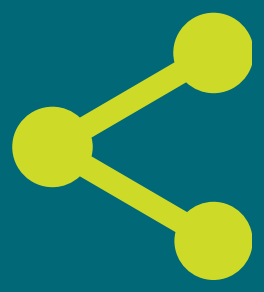
How long do you need to go to school to be a diesel mechanic?



VSAC

VTSU Randolph has a Diesel Mechanic Associates Program, and if you go full-time, is takes about 2 years!





What're the main differences between videography and filmography? How are they seen in day-to-day job requirements?



VSAC

The biggest differences between these terms is that filmographers typically work on projects like movies, and videographers capture videos like live-action sports!



Careers CLiC

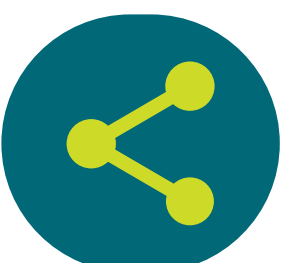
Filmography tends to incorporate more storytelling.

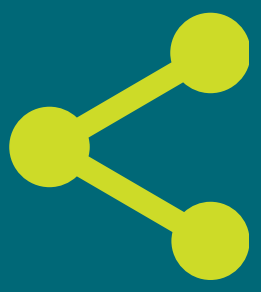
Can you think of any other jobs- apart from being a mechanic- that might allow me to work with cars?



Careers CLiC

Beyond mechanic, there are jobs such as sales, detailing or equipping vehicles with stereo systems. There are also manufacturing jobs to build cars and jobs that relate to design and engineering cars. Auto parts store jobs are another example of a non-mechanic car related job.





How much money does a soccer player get?



VSAC

CareerOneStop is a good resource for exploring labor market data and average salaries: <https://www.careeronestop.org/>. According to this resource, salaries for athletes and sports competitors range from \$27,730 annually to \$239,200+ annually. The median salary is listed as \$70,280. You can find more details on Major League Soccer salaries at: <https://mlsplayers.org/resources/salary-guide>.



VDOL

As a soccer player, it is possible to earn more from endorsements and sponsorships. The range is truly zero to millions for the "job" of soccer player.



Careers CLiC

As you research soccer player salaries also explore other jobs in the sports industry. There are a variety of jobs and range of salaries for sports-related careers. They range from business management, sports medicine, social media, retail and more.

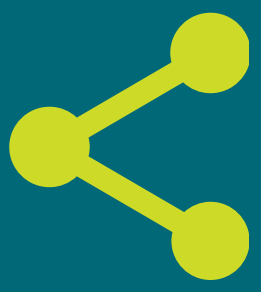
Do carpenters and plumbers need science & math skills?



VDOL

Yes, basic math but you get trained for what you need; numbers matter in these jobs - think: measurements





How old do you have to be to qualify for grants/scholarships/aid? What are the qualifications to get a grant?



Students typically apply for grants and scholarships their senior year of high school, and you receive them when you graduate and go into a degree program. While many people eligible for their first year of college grants are 18, there is no minimum – or maximum – age to receive grants and scholarships. Learners do not need to be 18 to receive grant or scholarship money from Federal Student Aid or VSAC. High school seniors with financial need could be eligible for a VT Grant from VSAC for Early College studies. This means some students as young as 16 could be eligible for grants if they show sufficient financial need.

You can find more info on eligibility requirements for federal financial aid here: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility/requirements>

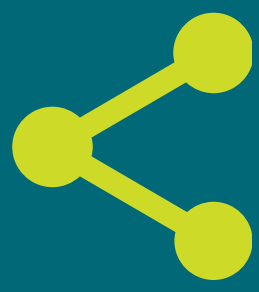
You can find more info on grants and the requirements to get one at <https://www.vvac.org/pay/student-aid-options/grants>

And more info on scholarships at <https://www.vvac.org/pay/student-aid-options/scholarships>



VSAC





What are pros and cons of going to college? What is the difference between degree types including how many years for each?



Gaining new skills through education and training will open doors, and keep them open. This can be college, but there are also many other types of education and training you can pursue after high school. Here is an overview of common types of credentials:

▶▶▶ Getting started: Common types of credentials

In alphabetical order

Apprenticeship

Apprenticeships combine paid, on-the-job training with classroom learning, allowing individuals to gain practical skills and knowledge in an occupation. They are offered by employers, often in partnership with an education provider, and can lead to professional licensure within an industry. Registered Apprenticeships are those that are verified to meet state and federal standards. Apprenticeships typically range from 1-6 years in length and are free to participants.



Certificate

Certificates show expertise in a subject or field and are offered at various education levels. They typically take between a few months and two years to complete, and are offered by different types of education and training providers.



Certification

Certifications are awarded by authoritative bodies and show ability to perform certain job skills. They typically involve passing an exam or meeting industry standards in a particular area. Certifications often must be renewed, can be revoked, and may offer paid learning.



Degree

Degrees are qualifications offered by colleges and universities. Common degree types include associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral. Each represents progressively higher levels of academic depth and specialization.



- ▶ **Associate degree:** A "two-year" degree offered by community/undergraduate colleges, though completion time varies based on course load (~1-4 years). Students often commute or take online courses.
- ▶ **Bachelor's degree:** A "four-year" degree offered by undergraduate colleges, though completion time varies based on course load (~4-6 years). Program delivery type (in-person, online, etc.) and residency requirements vary by college.
- ▶ **Masters's degree:** Usually requires a bachelor's degree. Program delivery type (in-person, online, etc.) and residency requirements vary by college. Typically takes 1-3 years.
- ▶ **Doctoral degree:** Highly specialized, may be research-based. Often in-person. May take around 4-9 years.

License

A license is a credential from a government agency or authorized group that gives legal permission to do a specific job. Licenses may require another credential in order to qualify, or completion of a training program and exam. They generally must be renewed and can be revoked.



Micro-Credential

A micro-credential typically represents ability in a specific skill or competency. They can usually be earned through short, targeted courses often completed in a few weeks or months. Digital badges are often considered a visual representation of a micro-credential. Micro-credentials are usually offered online.



When used in this document, "education and training" and "credentials" refer to all forms of post-high school education and training, and "students" refers to learners of any age or path — for consistency and brevity.

