

Best Careers for 2009

Science, mathematics and engineering all offer opportunities into career fields that are both up-and-coming and are likely to have staying power according to a recent article from *US News & World Report*. Considering factors subjectively, such as job satisfaction, prestige, training and salary, *US News* created a list of careers that they believe offer the best opportunities for future growth and success. *US News* groups several different types of careers into categories such as “most overrated,” “ahead of the curve” and “best kept secret” careers. Jobs range from biomedical equipment technicians and engineers to veterinarians and clergy.

This year, *US News* removed two occupations that had previously been considered overrated: clinical psychologists and real estate agents. Clinical psychologists had previously been considered an overrated career, however, with the passage of new legislation regarding mental health care, there will be an increased need for psychoanalysts and psychotherapists. The field has also been evolving over the last several years to focus more broadly on issues related to cognitive-behaviors rather than traditional thought. Real estate agents have also been removed from the list. Prior to the recent history of real estates woes, many people flocked real estate jobs in an effort to cash in on the booming housing market; however, given the current recession, the glamour of the position has begun to diminish.

While removing two careers, *US News* also added two careers to the list of overrated, including farmers and professors. With the recent interest in green technology and organic farming, people are jumping into farming as careers, but with international competition many are left to struggle to make ends meet. Professorships are also considered overrated because of the long hours, low pay and difficulty to land tenured positions. The list also includes advertising executives, architects, attorneys, chefs, chiropractors, medical scientists, nonprofit managers, physicians, police officers, small business owners, and teachers.

Thirteen positions were named as cutting edge careers that are likely to see growth in the next several years. *US News* broke down their list into several subcategories including: “growing health care demand,” “increasingly digitalized world,” “globalization,” “environmentalism,” “terrorism” and “clinical genomics.” According to the article, positions like wellness coaches and patient advocates will grow in great demand as the population of the US continues to age and government seeks to regulate health and healthcare issues. Similarly, there will be a demand for individuals to work in labs and clinics to do research on biological issues to increase our understanding of the human body. Other new and exciting careers such as immigration specialists, data miners, green collar specialists, and emergency planners are also likely to see their fields expand quickly over the next few years.

In the “best kept secret” careers, several of the positions, such as accent-reduction specialists, health informatics specialists, orthoptist and surgical technicians all fall into fields that were identified as leading sectors. However, there also several positions listed related to nonprofit management and transparency, including program evaluators, program analysts and prospect researchers. The latter is interesting to recognize as hidden gems, because nonprofit managers are listed on the overrated list. While these positions are frequently found in nonprofit organization charts, they are also found in the public and private sectors.

On the Web: <http://www.usnews.com/money/careers/articles/2009/08/28/americas-best-careers-2009.html>

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