

# BREAK FREE

An Interactive Student Guide to:

## NONTRADITIONAL CAREERS

*Break free of the barriers that limit your career choices.*



FAMILY & CONSUMER  
SCIENCES

HEALTH SCIENCE  
& TECHNOLOGY

SKILLED & TECHNICAL  
SCIENCES

MARKETING

INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY

BUSINESS

AGRICULTURE

TECHNOLOGY &  
ENGINEERING





## Nontraditional Occupations:

Any occupation in which women or men comprise 25 percent or less of its total employment.

For example, only about 2 percent of carpenters are female, so “carpenter” is a nontraditional occupation for females. The related high school carpentry program is similarly male-dominated. In contrast, “nurse” is a nontraditional occupation for males, so it’s rare to find males in nursing-related educational programs. But it’s an opportunity missed! Male nurses are in high demand, and the pay — even for an inexperienced registered nurse — exceeds \$20 an hour.

Nontraditional occupations might be a very appealing option for students looking to step out of their comfort zone, and into an opportunity to build skills that will serve them well — in a career or at home — across an entire lifetime.

What’s stopping you? Be different! Try something new! **BREAK** free of the traditions and barriers that limit your choices.

*Attitudes about which jobs are appropriate for women or for men are largely the result of tradition and socialization. The vast majority of jobs have nothing to do with gender.*

*There's nothing wrong with traditions, as long as you can start new traditions whenever you want!*

# BREAK EVEN

You've found a career pathway that suits you, RIGHT? Discovering a suitable career pathway will give you a head start toward a satisfying career. And although big financial rewards don't ensure job satisfaction, most workers expect to earn at least enough money to support themselves.

Category	Average* Individual Spends	Your estimated needs/wants
Housing (rent or mortgage payment, utilities — including phone, insurance) .....	\$500/month	_____
Food (groceries & eating out) .....	\$200/month	_____
Transportation (car payment, insurance/registration, fuel, maintenance) .....	\$290/month	_____
Personal Health & Grooming (clothing, medical/dental, haircuts, cosmetics) .....	\$160/month	_____
Recreation (entertainment, hobbies, games, vacation, memberships, subscriptions) .....	\$100/month	_____
Other .....	\$170/month	_____
Savings .....	\$140/month	_____
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>\$1,560/month</b>	_____

**Step ONE:** Think about how much money it will take to support yourself when you move away from home. Will you be able to live on less than the "average" individual reflected in this table? Make your best guess about how much you will need (or want) to spend in each category and write that amount in the last column.

**Step TWO:** Add up your estimated expenses and write the monthly total on the bottom line (highlighted in gold).

To take home \$1,560, an "average individual" needs to earn about \$2,000 a month. That's because employers are legally required to withhold state and federal taxes (and other withholdings — ever heard of FICA?) from every paycheck.

\*based on information provided by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Step THREE:** To find out how much your estimated spending would be in a year, multiply the amount on the bottom line by 12 (months in a year):

$$\text{\$} \quad \times 12 = \text{\$}$$

**Step FOUR:** Keep your new total in mind as you consider your educational choices. You can discover average annual earnings for workers in almost any occupation by checking out [UtahFutures](#).

## Did you know?

Post-secondary education means a one-year certificate, a two-year associate or technical degree or a four-year bachelor degree?



# Training Level and Utah Earnings for Selected Occupations

Based on information from the Utah Department of Workforce Services

## Agricultural Equipment Operator

High school preferred  
\$2,144/mo \$25,730/year (Utah)

OR

## Environmental Engineering Technician

Associate degree  
\$2,928/mo \$35,140/year (Utah)

## Bookkeeping & Accounting Clerk

High school + on-the-job training  
\$2,400/mo \$28,800/year (Utah)

OR

## Admin. Assistant/Executive Secretary

Some post-secondary + work experience  
\$3,180/mo \$38,160/year (Utah)

## Cafeteria Cook

High school + on-the-job training  
\$1,796/mo \$21,560/year (Utah)

OR

## Food Services Manager

Some post-secondary + work experience  
\$4,133/mo \$49,600/year (Utah)

## Nurse Aide/Orderly

High school + on-the-job training  
\$1,733/mo \$20,800/year (Utah)

OR

## Surgical Technologist

Associate degree  
\$2,737/mo \$32,850/year (Utah)

## Computer Operator

High school + work experience  
\$2,529/mo \$30,350/year (Utah)

OR

## Telecom Equipment Installer/Repairer

Some post-secondary + on-the-job training  
\$4,163/mo \$49,950/year (Utah)

## Retail Sales Person

High school + on-the-job training  
\$1,972/mo \$23,670/year (Utah)

OR

## Real Estate Sales Agent

Some post-secondary  
\$4,434/mo \$43,210/year (Utah)

## Civil Engineering Technician

Associate degree  
\$3,375/mo \$40,500/year (Utah)

OR

## Aerospace Engineering Technician

Associate degree  
\$4,140/mo \$49,690/year (Utah)

## Construction Laborer

High school + on-the-job training  
\$1,978/mo \$23,740/year (Utah)

OR

## Plumber

Some post-secondary + on-the-job training  
\$3,743/mo \$44,910/year (Utah)

An administrative assistant can earn the same amount as a bookkeeping clerk working just 6 hours (instead of 8 hours) a day!

A little additional training earns the surgical technologist \$1,000 more per month!

Real estate sales offer twice the earnings and much more worker flexibility than retail sales.

All engineering occupations generally pay higher than the average!

# \$3,063

Average monthly earnings for Utah workers across all industry sectors.

-Utah Department of Workforce Services  
"Point-in-time count," 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2008

Remember: Pay is just one part of a worker's "compensation package." Other benefits - such as medical insurance, a flexible schedule, or paid vacation - can make one job more attractive than another. Learn about the "perks" being offered by an employer, and know which ones mean the most to you in your current situation.



# BREAK WITH TRADITION

## Select CTE Pathways

High school programs of study have been defined for over 60 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathways, organized under eight Areas of Study. The CTE Pathways listed below are some that are dominated by one gender. **Consider a BREAK with tradition: try a high school program in which you will be one of the few.** In addition to developing new skills, you'll also learn a lot about yourself!

### Nontraditional for Females

Agricultural Systems Technology  
 Carpentry  
 Drafting/CAD  
 HVAC  
 Pre-Engineering  
 Network Systems

### Nontraditional for Males

Child Development  
 Consumer Economics Services  
 Food Services & Culinary Arts  
 Interior Design  
 Nursing  
 Surgical Technician

Arrange the CTE Pathways (above, words in red only) to complete the crossword puzzle.

HINT: Across = CTE Pathways that are nontraditional for female students.

Down = CTE Pathways that are nontraditional for males.



# UtahFutures

UtahFutures is a web-based career information system that will help you learn more about how your personal characteristics can be put to good use in a variety of occupations.

Log on to your UtahFutures SEOP (Student Education Occupation Plan)\* and take advantage of the many features designed to provide the information you need to develop your plan for life and career success!

Global Search

Occupations & Employment

- Occupation Sort
- Occupations
- Self Employment
- Military Employment
- Job Search
- Keep That Job

Education & Training

- Programs of Study
- U.S. Colleges & Universities
- Undergraduate School Sort
- Graduate School Sort
- Financial Aid Basics
- Scholarships
- Financial Aid Sort
- CTE Pathways

Assessments

- IDEAS (English or Spanish)
- Interest Profiler
- SKILLS (English or Spanish)
- Work Importance Locator
- Assessment Link

Get the job from someone who actually does it!

Check out other interesting stuff by reading a Real World Interview, go to the Occupation Index, click on occupations with this symbol.

Don't count on luck... education pays!

Learn while you earn for a variety of jobs!

Who said this about her job? "It doesn't limit you to one industry... you could work for the FBI investigating white-collar crime."

What occupations offer apprenticeship training? What should you know about apprenticeship training?

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Check out the UtahFutures links and select the occupations that interest you. Find out:

- The level of education typically required for success.
- Related high school *CTE Pathways* and college majors.
- About real people who work in the occupation.

Other helpful information includes:

- CTE Pathways
- Occupations by alphabet
- National career clusters
- Career videos
- School subjects
- Holland codes (interest areas)

Most importantly, keep track of what you learn about yourself, including your plans for achieving your occupational goals in your UtahFutures SEOP.

\* If you have not yet created your UtahFutures SEOP, a CTE teacher or school counselor can help.

For more information, contact your school counselor.





**BREAK AWAY...**

# Explore a Nontraditional Career Pathway!

Red = Nontraditional for females  
Blue = Nontraditional for males

## Family & Consumer Sciences Education

- Child Development
- Consumer Economics Services
- Family & Human Services
- Fashion Design, Manufacturing & Merchandising
- Food Science, Dietetics & Nutrition
- Food Services & Culinary Arts
- Hospitality Services
- Interior Design

## Marketing Education

- Marketing Entrepreneurship
- Marketing Management
- Sales & Service Marketing
- Travel & Tourism

## Business Education

- Accounting & Finance
- Business Administrative Support
- Business Entrepreneurship
- Business Management
- Business Technology Support

## Technology & Engineering Education

- Pre-Engineering (Utah Pre-Engineering Program)
- Project Lead the Way (National Pre-Engineering Program)

## Agricultural Education

- Agricultural Systems Technology
- Horticulture Science & Management
- Natural Resources Science & Management
- Production/Processing Animal Science
- Production/Processing Plant & Soil Science
- Production/Processing Science & Management

## Health Science Education

- Biotech Research & Development
- Biotechnology
- Health Informatics
- Medical Office Administrative Assistant
- Therapeutic Services
- Dental
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Medical Assistant
- Nursing
- Pharmacy
- Surgical Technician
- Therapeutic Rehabilitation/Exercise

## Skilled & Technical Sciences Education

- Building Trades
- Carpentry
- Electrician
- HVAC
- Plumbing
- Precision Production Trades
- Cabinetmaking/Millwork
- Drafting/CAD
- Graphics/Printing
- Machining/Tool
- Welding
- Communication
- Radio Broadcasting Technician
- Television Broadcasting Technician
- Mechanics & Repairs
- Automotive Collision Repair
- Automotive Service Technician
- Electronics
- Heavy Duty Diesel
- Personal Services
- Cosmetology/Barbering
- Esthetician/Nail Technician
- Protective Services
- Firefighting
- Law Enforcement
- Visual Arts
- Commercial Art
- Commercial Photography

## Information Technology Education

- Information Support & Services
- Database Development & Administration
- Technical Support
- Interactive Media
- Digital Media (Multimedia)
- Web Development & Administration
- Network Systems
- Programming/Software Development

