



**CAREER & LIFE
PLANNING CENTER**
FULLERTON COLLEGE
BUILDING 2000
Second Floor
(714) 992-7121
M-TH 9:00am-6:00pm
careercenter.fullcoll.edu

The Career Spotlight

Volume 5, Issue 2

Spring 2009

Have no Fear, Consider a STEM Career! *Project GPS² at Fullerton College is for You*

If you want a promising career, then listen up! STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Don't stop reading...It's a matter of those who will be more marketable after graduation versus those who aren't. These are the fields that will get you employed faster! As reported by the Government Accountability Office in [Higher Education: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Trends and the Role of Federal Programs](#), the amount of STEM degrees awarded in the U.S. is dwindling, while the demand for STEM jobs is increasing. The latest data shows that from 1994-2003, employment in STEM fields increased by an estimated 23 percent, compared to 17 percent in non-STEM fields. In other words, there's less competition and more openings for STEM jobs. Are you listening? This should be sounding good right now. If you are considering a liberal arts major, then why not consider the discipline in a STEM-ish way? Don't just think about becoming a teacher, consider becoming a science or math teacher. Instead of being a writer, be a technical writer. If you are contemplating becoming an interior designer or decorator, think CAD-proficient designer/ decorator. And for the record, STEM workers earn about 70 percent more than the national average. Do you hear me now?



SCIENCE. When you think of science workers, you might picture a chemist in a white lab coat running experiments—and you'd be right. But science goes beyond the laboratory. Scientists are also involved in teamwork, communication, and data analysis. And although many scientists spend time in laboratories, they work in offices, too. Some work outdoors, as when wildlife biologists observe animals in their habitats or geoscientists measure movements in the Earth's crust. Scientists design experiments to find out how things work. They conduct or oversee those experiments, analyze the results, and explain what the results mean. They use scientific methods to learn about the world.

TECHNOLOGY. This category can include any occupation that requires technical skill, but it usually refers to information technology or computer-related occupations. Workers in these occupations use logic, mathematics, and computer science to make computers function. Some technology workers create new software, design computer systems, and develop databases. Others focus on helping people use computers and on keeping computers running well.



ENGINEERING. Almost every product, from cars to carrots, is the result of engineering. Engineers use science to evolve practical problems. They design, develop, and test new products, such as computers, machines, and chemical fertilizers; they also design, develop, and maintain systems, including assembly lines and electrical power grids. Drafters, engineering, and mapping technicians help in those efforts.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Have no Fear, Consider a STEM Career! Project GPS² at FC is for You
- Who's in Demand: A NACE Report
- Informational Interviewing & Roadtrip Nation
- It's Not Too Late to Register for Late-Start Career Classes

CLP Coordinator/Editor:

Janine Cirrito

CLP Counselors:

Ines Beilke

Dr. Brian Couron

CLP Assistants:

Melissa Andrizzi

Darlene Dzul

CLP Intern:

Erin Arruda

Visit
careercenter.fullcoll.edu

Continued on Page 4

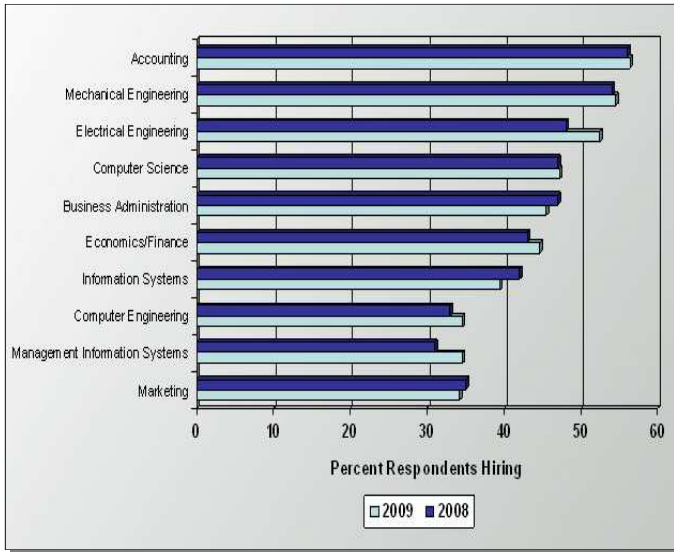
WORLD OF WORK NEWS

Who's in Demand?

NACE's Job Outlook 2009 Report

In National Association of Colleges and Employers' *Job Outlook 2009* report, **business, engineering, and technical** majors (see Figure A) continue to dominate the list of majors most in demand, and for the third year in a row, **accounting** degrees are the most highly sought-after at the bachelor's degree level. In addition, the federal government employers appear to be the best for the top-five majors in demand.

Figure A. Top Degrees in Demand

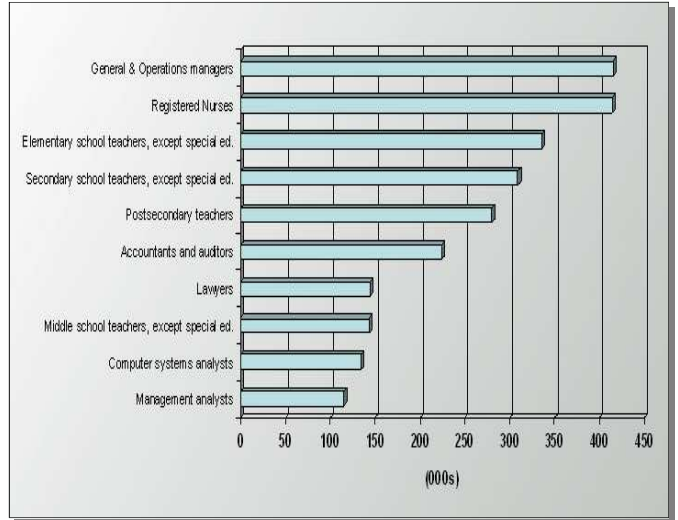


The demand for associate degree students remains level. More than one-quarter of employers (26.3 percent) are planning to hire graduates from the Class of 2009, compared to 27.4 percent who had plans for associate degree graduates from the Class of 2008.

The majors most in demand at the associate degree level mainly fall into business and engineering, but there is also a notable demand for graduates earning **drafting, design, or CAD** (computer-aided design) degrees. The most interested employers as indicated in the *Job Outlook 2009 Student Version* for the associate degree level are utility companies, research organizations, communications services, electrical/electronic machinery and equipment manufacturers.

A recent presentation, *Economic Trends and The Implications for College Recruiting*, by NACE, posits that while the economic outlook is significantly slower in growth over the next several years, replacement openings will dominate due to aging in the workforce. The report revealed that **Elementary and Secondary Education** and **Information Technology** are the best prospects for new grads in the next few years. **Healthcare** positions, especially **nursing**, are also attractive options. (See Figure B.)

Figure B. Top Jobs Requiring a Post-Secondary Degree: Replacement Openings



If you are interested in receiving bonuses, the *Job Outlook 2009 Student Version* indicates that bonuses are more likely to go to graduates with one of the degrees in high demand who are taking jobs with utility companies, consulting services firms, food and beverage processing companies, electrical machinery and equipment firms, or chemical and allied products companies.

Just remember that employers are looking for graduates with specific skills as indicated in the last issue of [The Career Spotlight, Volume 5 Issue 1](#) in *Are You the Perfect Candidate?* The following are the skills and abilities that help job seekers stand out from the crowd of degree-holders: communication skills, strong work ethic, team work skills, initiative, analytical skills, computer skills, flexibility/adaptability, interpersonal skills, problem solving skills, and technical skills.

For more information on NACE's *Job Outlook 2009* stop by the Career & Life Planning Center.

Are you undecided about your major or career goal?
Don't spend one more semester with the feeling of uncertainty!
Join us for...

Career Assessment & Group Interpretation Sessions

SPRING 2009 DATES:
2/19, 3/19, or 4/16

Come to the Career & Life Planning Center any time during open hours and ask to take one of our assessments (interests, skills, values, and personality). Sign up for the one of the group sessions (10-11:30am) to learn what your results mean, identify career options, and connect with others in the process.

Informational Interviewing

The key to career decision-making!

Career decision-making can be a monumental feat for some college students. Without an action plan, you can be left making a serious life decision without any knowledge backing it. One of the key steps in career decision-making is informational interviewing.



Informational interviewing entails identifying people who are doing what you want to be doing and asking them questions related to their current jobs. It serves a couple of purposes. It helps you improve your knowledge of the field you are exploring and it creates a setting for you to develop contacts.

Informational interviewing is based on the premise that you have already explored, read information about the position, and now you are at the point of receiving confirmation from people who are already doing the job. You want them to tell you what the field is really like before you commit your time, effort, and money to pursue the field. In an informational interview, you can discover specifics about the business or organization such as the services and products, its competitors, projections, position classifications and descriptions, entrance requirements, benefits, and work environment. You can quickly learn from this on-site visit if the environment is comfortable or noisy and if the people are friendly or rude. You will find out more specifically about the person who you are interviewing such as what a typical work day looks like, challenges, dislikes, schedules, education, training, advancement opportunities, etc.

The Career & Life Planning Center offers students a handout with a list of questions to get you started. Informational interviewing is an opportunity for you to collect information, evaluate it and move forward in your plan. Do not make your career decision

without conducting informational interviews!

If you need help in finding professionals for your informational interviews, the Career & Life Planning Center is sponsoring **Roadtrip Nation's second visit to Fullerton College on Thursday, March 5, 2009 from 9am to 5pm.** Look for the Big Green RV in Parking Lot next to the College Center on Chapman Avenue. (See ad below for more information about Roadtrip Nation or visit www.roadtripnation.com.)

It is important that you do as many informational interviews as you can. Since you already know as a college student that the more information you collect, the better you can evaluate it in order for you to make the best decision. Just remember your specific purpose for the informational interview is not to look for a job but to confirm your information about the field and to develop contacts for the future.

roadtrip nation

Roadtrip Nation is a PBS series that began with four friends and one dilemma: "What do I want to do with my life?" Fresh out of college and unsure about the career paths in front of them, they were determined to expose themselves to more than just the traditional life roads. They hopped in an old RV, painted it green, and hit the road to talk with inspiring people from all walks of life to find out how they came to do what they love for a living.

Today, *Roadtrip Nation* has evolved not only into a PBS series, but three books, an online community, and a student movement.

Fullerton College students will have an opportunity to learn about *Roadtrip Nation* by asking questions and viewing footage from the road of people who have followed their passions. Their goal is to encourage students to participate and discover their own roads in life.

Small Group Counseling Sessions

Small Group Counseling is great opportunity for students to meet and share common concerns and learn new skills under the guidance of a group leader.

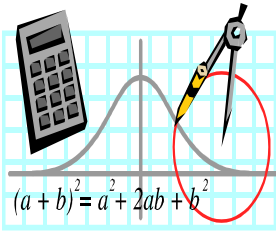
Sessions are held the first Tuesday of every month at 10am-11:45am in the Career & Life Planning Center.

SPRING 2009 DATES:

2/3, 3/3, 4/14, and/or 5/5

If you are interested in participating, please contact the Career & Life Planning Center.

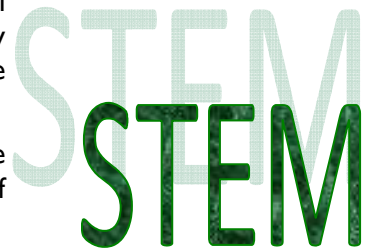
Have No Fear, Consider a STEM Career (Continued from Page 1)



MATHEMATICS. Many occupations use mathematics. But some occupations focus on mathematics almost exclusively. Actuaries, for example, analyze statistical information to determine the risk of uncertain future events, such as hurricanes or automobile collisions. They use calculations to decide what kinds of insurance a company should offer and how much that insurance should cost. Mathematicians develop new mathematical theories and tools to solve problems. Some devise or decipher encryption methods to protect confidential information.

If you are interested, or at the least a little curious, in learning more about STEM fields, then stop by the Career & Life Planning Center (BLDG 2000, Second Floor) or the Office of Special Programs (Building 200, Rm 225) for more information. The Office of Special Programs has a federally funded grant, **Project GPS²**, to encourage students to pursue STEM fields. What does this mean for you? **Project GPS²** - Guiding and Preparing STEM Students - provides academic enhancement opportunities and services that will help you fulfill your future career goal. Here are some examples of what is offered: special campus STEM resource center "The Lighthouse"; receive one-to-one assistance from career guidance specialist and STEM advisor; join study groups (to help you increase your GPA!); benefit from book loan program; participate in social/academic events, workshops, and meetings with guest speakers; Service Learning; receive STEM financial aid/scholarship/internship information; apply to be a tutor/mentor in a local school and receive a stipend (\$\$\$ for your successful efforts). All this is for you! Now is the time to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity! Get ready and be prepared for the future!

See the list of occupations below that are in *high demand* as reported by the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) found in the disciplines of STEM— Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, see below.



STEM Careers In High Demand*

Engineering and Technology:	Science and Math:
Aerospace Engineers , Architectural and Civil Drafters , Architectural Drafters , Chemical Engineers , Civil Drafters , Computer Hardware Engineers , Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technicians , Electrical and Electronics Drafters , Electrical Engineers , Engineering Managers , Industrial Engineers , Mechanical Engineers , Surveying and Mapping Technicians , Technical Writers	Agricultural and Food Science Technicians , Biochemists and Biophysicists , Biological Technicians , Chemical Technicians , Chemists , Computer and Information Scientists, Research , Environmental Scientists and Specialists, Including Health , Geoscientists, Except Hydrologists and Geographers , Microbiologists

*This list provides the high demand occupations and is not inclusive of all STEM careers. To view the full list reported by O*NET, go to <http://online.onetcenter.org/find/career?c=15&g=Go>

Source: Occupational Outlook Quarterly, 2007; Occupational Information Network (<http://online.onetcenter.org>)

It's not too late to register for Late-Start Career Classes!

Course Title	Course #	CRN	Dates	Time	Day	Rm
Career Exploration	COUN 141	22425	3/18-5/13	7:00-8:50pm	W	1013
Career Motivation & Self Confidence	COUN 144	22836	3/14-3/21	9:00-5:20pm	S	117
Career & Life Planning	COUN 151	23184	2/2-5/11	6:30-9:50pm	M	1013
Career & Life Planning <small>Located at Anaheim Campus</small>	COUN 151	22009	3/16-5/13	4:00-7:20pm	MW	AN-117