

Last-Dollar Scholarship: High Demand Occupations

Academic Years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026

2023 Entry-Level Hourly Wages



Advanced Manufacturing Production, Installation, & Maintenance

- Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians (\$23.57)
- Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists (\$18.12)
- Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators (\$16.80)
- Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Programmers (\$20.56)
- Electrical and Electronics Repairers, Commercial and Industrial Equipment (\$26.00)
- Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers (\$34.54)
- Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians (\$19.78)
- Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers (\$18.68)
- Industrial Machinery Mechanics (\$21.90)
- Machinists (\$18.12)
- Maintenance Workers, Machinery (\$22.07)
- Millwrights (\$20.73)
- Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers (\$19.47)
- Tool and Die Makers (\$19.02)
- Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant and System Operators (\$20.43)
- Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers (\$17.84)
- Welding, Soldering, and Brazing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders (\$19.83)
- Wind Turbine Service Technicians (\$22.05)

Construction & Engineering

- Architectural and Civil Drafters (\$21.80)
- Calibration Technologists and Technicians (\$17.24)
- Carpenters (\$16.99)
- Electrical and Electronics Engineering Technicians (\$23.42)
- Electricians (\$18.95)
- Electro-Mechanical Technicians (\$22.59)
- Elevator and Escalator Installers and Repairers (\$22.56)
- Mechanical Drafters (\$22.30)
- Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters (\$20.44)

Healthcare & Biosciences

- Agricultural and Food Science Technicians (\$18.10)
- Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians (\$17.38)
- Dental Assistants (\$16.90)
- Dental Hygienists (\$33.71)
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (\$30.28)
- Emergency Medical Technicians (\$12.16)
- Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses (\$20.60)
- Medical Assistants (\$15.91)
- Medical Dosimetrists, Medical Records Specialists, and Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other (\$17.38)
- Occupational Therapy Assistants (\$20.29)
- Paramedics (\$16.30)
- Physical Therapist Assistants (\$22.25)
- Radiologic Technologists (\$22.56)
- Registered Nurses (\$27.52)
- Respiratory Therapists (\$24.53)
- Surgical Technologists (\$19.17)

Information Technology

- Computer Network Support Specialists (\$22.30)
- Computer Occupations, All Other (\$22.29)
- Computer Programmers (\$29.10)
- Computer Systems Analysts (\$30.73)
- Computer User Support Specialists (\$18.43)
- Network and Computer Systems Administrators (\$29.33)
- Software Developers (\$33.48)
- Web Developers and Digital Interface Designers (\$18.54)

Service & Administrative Support

- Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks (\$14.69)
- Correctional Officers and Jailers (\$19.67)
- Cost Estimators (\$21.08)
- Firefighters (\$14.28)
- Human Resources Assistants, Ex Payroll and Timekeeping (\$16.87)
- Logisticians (\$23.81)
- Paralegals and Legal Assistants (\$20.30)
- Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers (\$23.77)
- Payroll and Timekeeping Clerks (\$19.05)
- Statistical Assistants (\$22.09)

Criteria:

- With few exceptions, 33.3% or higher of people employed in the occupation with educational attainment of Some College, No Degree or Associate's Degree.
- Entry-level wage of \$14.00 or higher

- Doesn't typically require work experience for entry

For more details about these occupations visit [iowalmi.com](https://www.iowalmi.com)

Sources:

- State of Iowa Occupational Projections workforce.iowa.gov/labor-market-information/occupations/occupational-projections
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (national) <https://www.bls.gov/emp/tables/educational-attainment.htm>