Vermont Career Connect Q&A

INDEX

INDEX

Anthony, how do you get the money for your own business?

Ashlee, what has been your favorite part about being a veterinarian?

David, as a civil engineer, what are your work hours?

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Q&A

What does Projected Openings mean?

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
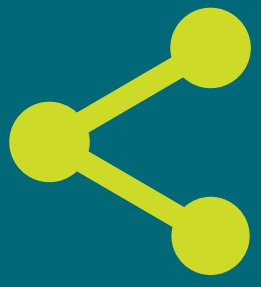**VDOL**

"Projected Openings" means how many jobs we think are going to be available in the future --- "How many job are going to available for you to apply for?"

Why is wood carving not one of VTs most promising jobs?

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VDOL

Wood carving as an incredible skill and part of a number of jobs in Vermont. It can be used as an artist or in wood working for furniture design, for example. A job to look at might be: https://www.vtlmi.info/oic3.cfm?occcode=51-7042.00

A little background - there are over 600 different types of jobs in Vermont!!! This brochure only focuses on about 60... So keep asking questions and learning more about the different types of jobs. The jobs in this brochure are projected to pay a median wage of over $30/hour and have at least 300 openings in the state over the next decade. There are many great jobs in VT that aren't on this list because they don't quite meet the hourly wage or projected openings target.
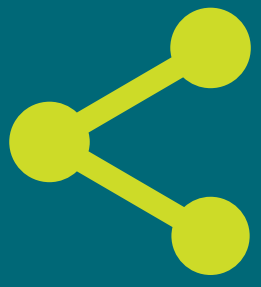
I want to be an actor. Is that a job I could have in VT?

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Yes, it is possible but opportunities for full-time, in-person, VT based work are limited. There are a lot of famous actors that live in Vermont and then travel to be on location for filming. About 25% of all actors are "self-employed."
Resource: https://www.vtlmi.info/oic3.cfm?occcode=27-2011.00

CAREERS CLiC
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There is a vibrant live theater scene in Vermont. Some actors use their other talents to lead production and theater management too.

Does your degree limit what job you can get?

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Sometimes a degree can limit what job you can get - "I got a degree in teaching and I want to be a nurse"; in this case, nursing requires specialized training so you can't switch. But many times a degree is a gateway to more opportunities... I know many people who studied English; they are now lawyers, business owners, human resources manager, so many different pathways.

CAREERS CLiC
Careers CLiC

There are some jobs that require some educational pathways to prepare for a state license (like hygienists, electricians and hair stylists). But generally, a degree will not limit what you are able to eventually do because most degrees help you to continue to develop the 4 Cs. I have a geology degree and now I focus on education.

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Q&A
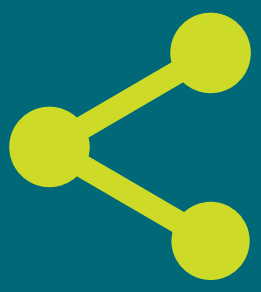
If I want to become a coder or video game designer, what are the opportunities I have in Vermont to gain experience and pursue a career in that field?

Anthony Bambara

My old college roommate is a professor at Champlain College. He teaches narrative for games, as well as runs the e sports dept. over there.

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Coder / video game designer is another great job! You can teach yourself a lot but as mentioned, Champlain College in Burlington has an excellent gaming program. You can live in Vermont and do work for clients across the globe!

CAREERS CLiC

Careers CLiC

In addition to the Champlain College opportunities Anthony mentions above, there are other VT colleges and community college programs and boot-camps to help prepare for those jobs. Also, people can self-teach themselves the skills needed for that work. A bonus is that coding and gaming skills can work in many other jobs.

VSAC

This is a program you might be interested in when you get to high school: https://www.champlain.edu/admissions/high-school-students/vermont-cyber-start/

Many local CTE centers also have coding and information technology programs. Governor's Institute of VT also has a summer program focused on coding and game design: https://giv.org/summer-institutes/technology-design/

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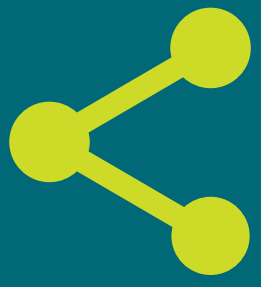
How much family time do you have?

Anthony Bambara

As a small business owner I can set my own hours, so I can make time when i need it. As the gym has grown, I've also been able to hire my wonderful wife to work the front desk and help manage the space, so I get to hang with her all day!

Ashlee Flanagan

I have 3 small kids and try to have boundaries between work and home life to conserve some balance... but that being said, animals have emergencies at all hours of the day and night and someone has to be available to help them. For the most part, I do get to spend as much time as possible with my family. My workday usually coincides with their school days.

David Saladino

Being a consulting engineering (an engineer who works for an engineering consulting company) can be stressful and involve long days at times, but for me it was important to find a company that valued a strong team culture, work/life balance, and family time so I could have the flexibility to catch my breath and spend time with family after busy times at work.

Scott Pellegrini

Currently, as waitstaff, I work nights and my wife works days, but this works well for us. We do not have kids, but we co-parent our two dogs, so these schedules allow us to not have to leave them alone a lot which is good and also give us both some autonomy which we really like. So we typically have 3-4 nights a week together and much of our weekends, which is plenty from both of our pov's haha. That said, as I move into business ownership (opening my own restaurant) we anticipate my hours will expand pretty dramatically for a couple of years as we build it up, but of course the goal of business ownership will to be able to have full control over my schedule/working hours in the longer term, which we're both very excited about. But that will likely take 3-5 years to achieve at minimum.

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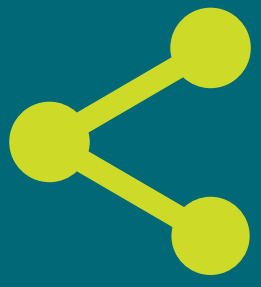
What's something you all wish you knew before going to college?

Scott Pellegrini

I wish I knew it wasn't such a big deal to not know what I wanted to do with my life/career yet and that there could be so much flexibility between what you study in college and what you go to do in your career following school (aside from certain fields that require a lot of specific schooling of course).

David Saladino

Before going to college, I wish I had known that not doing well in AP calculus wouldn't keep me out of college - or keep me from becoming an engineer!
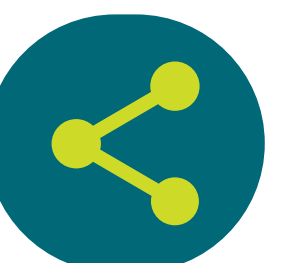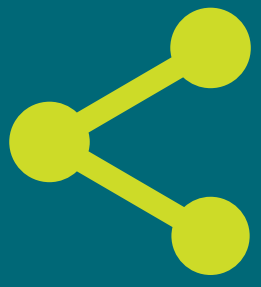
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I wish I had known how valuable internships are and that it's possible to find internships that pay. And use the career centers!

VDOL

I wish I had done more career exploration. Doing a job shadow would have saved me two years of studying a topic I was not interested in.

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Q&A

Anthony, could you share your YouTube channel with us at some point?

Bambara Boxing: https://www.youtube.com/@bambaraboxing

Anthony Bambara
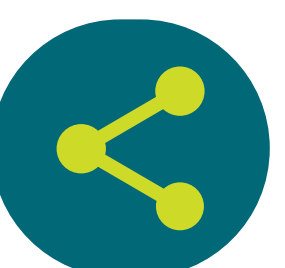
Anthony, how do you get the money for your own business?

You save, you partner up with someone you trust, you take out a loan, apply for grants.

Anthony Bambara

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Q&A

Ashlee, what has been your favorite part about being a veterinarian?

The success stories are my favorite part of being a veterinarian! The most rewarding part is being able to rehabilitate wild animals, especially sea turtles. I love when we are able to take a sick or injured turtle and rehabilitate them to be released back into the ocean so they can contribute to the overall population.

Ashlee Flanagan

David, as a civil engineer, what are your work hours?

That's a great question. Most of the time, I work 8 - 5, but there are definitely crunch times where we're pushing to get a final design finished before a deadline where we'll work extra hours to make sure we get everything finished.

David Saladino