

# INTRODUCTION

This book is designed to help you explore a wide variety of jobs. This is important because your career choice is one of the most important decisions you will make in life. This book includes descriptions for 269 major jobs.

The job descriptions answer questions such as these:

- What do people in this job do all day?
- What training or education will I need to do the job?
- How much does the job pay?
- Will the job be in demand in the future?
- What classes should I take now to prepare me for this job?
- What jobs are related to this one?



The information in this book is based on another book called the *Occupational Outlook Handbook* (the *OOH*). The *OOH* is published by the U.S. Department of Labor and is the most widely used source of career information available. Like the *OOH*, the *Young Person's Occupational Outlook Handbook* groups similar jobs together. This makes it easy to explore related jobs you might not know about. Because the job descriptions in the *OOH* are more detailed than the ones in this book, you can refer to the *OOH* for more information on jobs that interest you.

## Tips to Identify Jobs That Interest You

The table of contents lists all the jobs in this book, arranged into groups of similar jobs. Look through the list and choose one or more of the job groups that sound most interesting to you. Make a list of the jobs that interest you, and then read the descriptions for those jobs.

## The Information in Each Job Description

Each job description in this book uses the same format. They all include eight sections:

**On the Job:** This section has a short description of the duties and working conditions for the job.

**Subjects to Study:** Here you'll find some high school courses that will help you prepare for the job.

**Discover More:** This section has an activity you can do to learn more about the job, or a place to go for more information.

**Related Jobs:** This section lists similar jobs you can consider.

**Something Extra:** This box has interesting, fun facts or stories related to the job.



**Education & Training:** This section tells you the education and training levels most employers expect for someone starting out in the job. Almost all jobs now require a high school diploma, so we do not include “high school graduate” as an option. Instead, we list the *additional* training or education the average high school graduate needs to get the job.

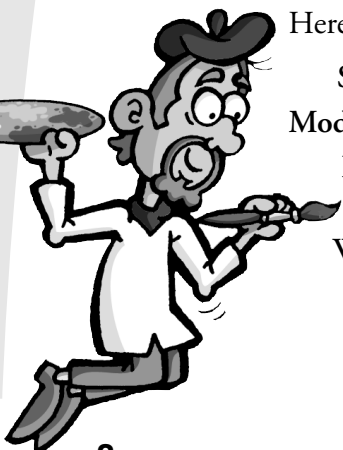
Here are the abbreviations we've used for the levels of training and education:

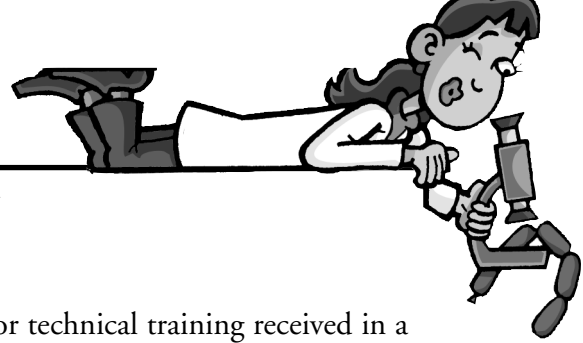
Short-term OJT = On-the-job training that lasts up to six months.

Moderate-term OJT = On-the-job training that lasts up to a year.

Long-term OJT = On-the-job training that lasts up to two or more years.

Work experience = Work experience in a related job.





**Voc/tech training** = Formal vocational or technical training received in a school, apprenticeship, or cooperative education program or in the military. This training can last from a few months to two or more years and may combine classroom training with on-the-job experience.

**Associate degree** = A two-year college degree.

**Bachelor's degree** = A four-year college degree.

**Master's degree** = A bachelor's degree plus one or two years of additional education.

**Doctoral degree** = A master's degree plus two or more years of additional education.

**Professional degree** = Typically, a bachelor's degree plus two or more years of specialized education (for example, education to be an attorney, physician, or veterinarian).

**Plus sign (+)** = The plus sign indicates that you need work experience in a related job as well as formal education. For example, "Bachelor's degree +" means that you need a bachelor's degree plus work experience in a related job.



**Earnings:** Dollar signs represent the approximate range of average earnings for a job.

\$ = \$19,000 or less per year

\$\$ = \$19,001 to \$25,000 per year

\$\$\$ = \$25,001 to \$30,000 per year

\$\$\$\$ = \$30,001 to \$55,000 per year

\$\$\$\$\$ = \$55,001 or more per year