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The fastest-growing community college jobs

	Percentage growth	Median annual income
Physical therapist assistants	32.4	\$41,360
Dental hygienists	30.1	\$62,800
Environmental science and protection technicians, including health	28.0	\$38,090
Cardiovascular technologists and technicians	25.5	\$42,300
Occupational therapist assistants	25.4	\$42,060
Radiation therapists	24.8	\$66,170
Environmental engineering technicians	24.8	\$40,560
Court reporters	24.5	\$45,610
Registered nurses	23.5	\$57,280
Computer specialists, all other	15.1	\$68,570

Source: Compiled by the Democratic Leadership Council, 2009

Health care, energy among 'hot' jobs

Computer specialists in demand, for the highest pay, report says

By Lindsey Anderson
USA TODAY

The hottest job areas from now to 2016 will be in health care, education, information technology and clean energy, a new report says.

And though some require bachelor's degrees or higher, many call for an associate's degree and sometimes additional vocational training.

Health care will generate 3 million new jobs by 2016, the most of any industry, says the report by the Democratic Leadership Council, a non-profit think tank. Among "hot jobs" in health: physical and occupational therapist assistants, dental hygienists and radiation therapists, the report says.

A job is considered "hot" if it pays over the 2006 average wage of \$32,000 and if projected growth is more than 10% in the next 10 years.

"Health care is already a large part of our economy and is going to remain one even after health reform, because we're getting older as a nation," report co-author Bruce Reed says.

More than three in 10 new U.S. jobs will be in health or education, the report says. But the highest-paying "hot jobs" are in information technology, averaging about \$71,415. Computer specialists and computer support specialists are in high demand.

In clean energy, jobs are expected to triple in 10 years. The authors say wind energy will grow fastest, generating about 285,000 jobs with incentives from the economic stimulus package.