



Money & Business

Excellent careers for 2006

By Marty Nemko

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Audiologist. Careers in which you help people, one-on-one, are rewarding, and the work environment is usually pleasant. Audiology is my favorite. Pay and prestige are excellent, and the job market will be strong because as baby boomers age, their hearing fades. And audiologists will be offering ever better hearing aids. The annoying conventional aids are being replaced by more pleasing computer-controlled ones. A final plus is that audiology is an under-the-radar career—few people consider it, so competition isn't as keen as it deserves to be. One downside: Universities' relentless push to keep more students longer is creating pressure to make audiology programs doctoral.

To learn more

OOH profile: www.bls.gov/oco/ocos085.htm

American Academy of Audiology: www.audiology.org

Read: *Survey of Audiology* by David DeBonis

Speech therapist. This is another of my favorite helping careers. Patients improve at higher rates than in fields like psychotherapy or oncology, and the training is shorter and less science intensive. That's significant because many college-level science courses are—for most students—very difficult and boring, not a great combination. Speech therapists who work in schools have relatively short workdays, with ample time off. They may also work in hospitals, clinics, and in private practice. Many speech therapists choose a combination.

To learn more

OOH profile: www.bls.gov/oco/ocos099.htm

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association: www.asha.org

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