

careers

NON-
TRADITIONAL



What is a Nontraditional Career?

A nontraditional career refers to an occupation where one gender comprises less than 25% of those employed.

Why does America need nontraditional workers? Nontraditional workers can make up for anticipated labor shortages in various fields, such as science, technology, engineering, and health-care. Nontraditional workers can also bring diverse insights to the workplace. Choosing to pursue a career that is nontraditional is not an easy decision for many individuals due to several stereotypes about "men's work and women's work." For example, some stereotypes for women's work

are "Women don't have the physical strength to do certain jobs," and "Many careers demand total commitment and having a family is not an option." The reality is that although the male body is usually better at building muscle, many women are very fit. Brute strength is losing importance on the job and work tasks can be reorganized for female strength. Not all women intend to start a family and mothers don't carry all child-rearing responsibilities. Other stereotypes for women's work are, "Women aren't tough enough for leadership positions," and "Women in this career are taking away jobs from men who need to support their family." The truth is not all women have the same personality type and many women are able to handle highly stressful situations. Low stress job niches are also available. Some

companies classify homemaking as managerial experience. In many families, the earnings of both parents is essential. Another stereotype is "Women aren't good at math." Studies show that young girls and boys have equal math ability. Many women have excelled in math and science careers. (continued on page 2)

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Listing of Outstanding
Non-traditional Careers

Pros and Cons

GCC

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Pros

of choosing a Nontraditional Career

Women may:

- ◆ earn more
- ◆ have higher status
- ◆ be a pioneer
- ◆ have more opportunity and challenge
- ◆ gain special satisfactions

Men may:

- ◆ have more opportunities
- ◆ advance rapidly
- ◆ be a pioneer
- ◆ have more challenge
- ◆ gain special satisfactions

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Some stereotypes for men's work are "Men are not caring or sensitive enough to do certain jobs," and "Men are not good communicators." Other stereotypes for men are "Men are too competitive or ego-driven for a job in which workers must cooperate and collaborate," and "If a career doesn't pay much, men are not likely to stay long." The truth is that not all men have the same personality type and men often face discrimination in nontraditional jobs. Teamwork is respected in many sports that men play, so many are able



to cooperate and collaborate. The main breadwinner in a family is not always male and some men seek rewards from work other than pay.

There are many pros and cons of nontraditional careers. Weighing out the pros and cons can be helpful when deciding whether or not to pursue a nontraditional career.

Talk to a GCC counselor if you want more information on nontraditional careers, or if you need help deciding on your career. GCC counselors are trained career development professionals who can help you make an informed career choice.

Some outstanding Nontraditional Careers for Women

Occupational Title	Women	Earnings	Growth	Openings
Civil Engineers	10.4%	\$ 76,590	24.3%	11,460
Construction Managers	8.2%	\$ 82,330	17.2%	13,770
Cost Estimators	10.0%	\$ 57,300	25.3%	10,360
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	2.7%	\$ 58,330	15.4%	24,220
Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	2.0%	\$ 41,100	28.1%	13,620
Fire Fighters	4.8%	\$ 45,050	18.5%	15,280
Electricians	1.0%	\$ 47,180	11.9%	25,090
Clergy	14.8%	\$ 42,950	12.7%	21,770
Carpenters	1.5%	\$ 39,470	12.9%	32,540
Detectives and Criminal Investigators	19.2%	\$ 62,110	16.6%	4,160
Construction Laborers	3.1%	\$ 29,150	20.5%	33,940
Mechanical Engineers	6.7%	\$ 77,020	6.0%	7,570

Some outstanding Nontraditional Careers for Men

Occupational Title	Men	Earnings	Growth	Openings
Registered Nurses	8.3%	63,750	22.2%	103,900
Dental Hygienists	2.3%	67,340	36.1%	9,840
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	6.7%	39,820	20.6%	39,130
Paralegals and Legal Assistants	12.3%	46,980	28.1%	10,400
Occupational Therapists	4.1%	69,630	25.6%	4,580
Dental Assistants	3.7%	33,230	35.7%	16,100
Personal and Home Care Aides	14.6%	19,680	46.0%	47,780
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	8.5%	33,450	10.3%	46,040
Office Clerks, General	15.6%	26,140	11.9%	77,090
Speech-Language Pathologists	1.9%	65,090	18.5%	4,380
Receptionists and Information Clerks	6.4%	25,070	15.2%	48,020

Cons

of choosing a Nontraditional Career

Women may:

- face discrimination
- encounter sexual harassment
- experience loneliness
- be stereotyped
- experience unpleasant work conditions and demands
- have fewer job prospects

Men may:

- be stereotyped
- have lower earnings
- face discrimination
- encounter sexual harassment
- experience loneliness
- experience unpleasant work conditions and demands