

STEM Career Spotlight - Nuclear Engineer

Nuclear engineers research and develop the processes, instruments, and systems that derive benefits from nuclear energy and radiation. They design, develop, monitor, and operate nuclear plants to generate power. They may work on the nuclear fuel cycle or on the development of fusion energy. Some specialize in the development of nuclear power sources for naval vessels or spacecraft; others find industrial and medical uses for radioactive materials.



Student pursuing a career in nuclear engineering will be required to obtain a bachelor's degree in engineering; however some research positions may require a graduate degree. Continuing education is critical for engineers in order to keep up with improvements in technology. Starting salaries are among the highest of all college graduates averaging \$65,000 and up. For the moderately experienced nuclear engineer, the mean salary is slightly over \$100,000 annually.

Individuals in this field can anticipate 11 percent annual growth in employment opportunities. Most job growth will be in research and development and engineering services. Increased interest in nuclear power as an energy source will spur demand for nuclear engineers to research and develop new designs for reactors. They also will be needed to work in defense-related areas, to develop nuclear medical technology, and to improve and enforce waste management and safety standards.

States with the highest published employment opportunities, location quotients, and wages for this occupation are California, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Washington.

Data provided extrapolated from U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics website:

<http://www.bls.gov/home.htm>

Highlighted Products



Basic Radioactivity Set

Calculate the mass absorption of gamma radiation in lead and aluminum.

[More details »](#)



Radiation Meter

Small and lightweight, yet sensitive enough to detect miniscule amounts of gamma, beta, or X-rays!

[More details »](#)