

Virginia Demand Occupations List

Purpose

The New Economy Workforce Credential Grant Program was developed during the 2016 General Assembly Session to create and sustain a supply of credentialed workers to fill high-demand occupations in fields which support the state's economy while making the attainment of these credentials more affordable. The legislation requires the Virginia Board of Workforce Development (VBWD) to identify a list of high-demand fields and occupations and maintain that list, along with related noncredit workforce training programs and credentials, on its website.

In March 2016, the Chairman of the Virginia Board of Workforce Development created the Demand Occupation Taskforce to identify the fields and occupations for the Virginia Demand Occupations (VDO) List. The taskforce will annually develop and publish the list of occupations and related programs. Petitions for inclusion may be received by the VBWD at any time and will be responded to within 45 days of receipt. The list and more details regarding the petitioning process may be accessed at www.elevatevirginia.org.

Methodology

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The taskforce identified 3 primary criteria for inclusion on the Virginia Demand Occupations List. They include: 1) the occupational groups' relevance to the State's economic development strategy, 2) the degree to which advanced skills are required for entry into an occupation, and 3) the projected statewide demand for an occupation.

Strategic to Virginia's Economy

The Demand Occupation Taskforce selected the following major occupation groups for inclusion in the Demand Occupations List for 2016-2017 year based on the degree to which they support Virginia's economic development strategy. The New Virginia Economy Strategy document may be reviewed [here](#).

15-0000 Computer and Mathematical Occupations	43-0000 Office and Administrative Support Occupations
17-0000 Architecture and Engineering Occupations	47-0000 Construction and Extraction Occupations
19-0000 Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	49-0000 Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations
25-0000 Education, Training, and Library Occupations	51-0000 Production Occupations
29-0000 Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	53-0000 Transportation and Material Moving Occupations
31-0000 Healthcare Support Occupations	

Advanced Skills Requirements

The taskforce reviewed the typical education required to enter the occupations in each group and limited the list to those that require some post-secondary education, but less than a Master's degree. Attainment of many of these jobs is dependent, in part, on the development of occupationally specific competencies and a related industry-recognized post-secondary credential.

Projected Statewide Demand

In an effort to focus attention and investment in occupations with a high number of anticipated openings, the list features those occupations which are projected¹ to have more than 50 statewide openings annually.

Regional Petitions

The taskforce recognizes that business' demand for skilled workers is dynamic and may not be accurately reflected in data sets. In order to be responsive to industry needs, changing skills requirements, emerging occupations, and unique developments in Virginia's workforce regions, the VBWD VDO Taskforce will receive petitions for inclusion on the Virginia Demand Occupations List. Petitions may be pursued to address unmet employer demand. The petition form, sample letter, and further instructions can be found at www.elevatevirginia.org.

¹ The 2012-2022 employment projections are provided by the Virginia Employment Commission. Calculations of annual openings include openings due to replacement and growth.