

10 careers with staying power

These careers should still be in high demand a decade from now

Published: January 21, 2015 10:45 AM



Once you know what you're looking for in a second career, you'll want to make sure all of your preparation and training pays off. So ascertain that your chosen field is one where the demand for the service is growing. To inspire you, here are some careers with staying power—perfect for a retirement-focused transition—that have great prospects over the next 10 to 15 years.

Thinking about changing careers? Read about how to [find fulfilling work for your later years](#).

Patient advocate

As the population ages, the demand for patient advocates—individuals who help patients work with others who will have an effect on their health, from medical specialists to insurance companies—is likely to surge. You can work full- or part-time, on your own, or as part of a hospital, nursing home, rehab center, or even insurance company. No licenses are required, but several credentialing programs are offered at community colleges and some nonprofits. Learn more from the Master List of Health and [Patient Advocacy Educational Courses](#) and the nonprofit [Patient Advocate Foundation](#).

Eco-landscaper

The green movement is leading more people to want their own “sustainable” gardens, which use less water and have native plants that are less expensive to maintain. If you have a green thumb, this could be a good business to go into. You'll need to understand horticulture and have wide-ranging knowledge of plants and diseases. The [Ecological Landscaping Association](#) holds an annual conference with workshops and educational sessions. Many community colleges offer certificates and degrees in sustainable landscape design. One consideration: This job could require bending, lifting, and pulling—so you may need to hire a younger helper. Translator-

Translator/interpreter

Just because you were a Spanish major in college doesn't mean you are qualified for this job. You need to be current with terms and slang. Spanish is the most in-demand language, but the need for Arabic and Chinese speakers is growing. Specializing as a judicial-system or health-care interpreter will increase your opportunities. No certifications are required, although several are offered through trade organizations such as the [American](#)

[Translators Association](#). Job opportunities for interpreters and translators are projected to grow 46 percent from 2012 to 2022, according to the Department of Labor.

Green-building consultant

If you're genuinely interested in building a postretirement career with a green shade, a background in architecture, engineering, and construction offers a firm foundation. States, counties, and cities are offering tax incentives targeting green-building projects, particularly for rehabbing older buildings. You'll need an understanding of the technical aspects of building construction, say, the causes of leaky windows and the best ways to use natural lighting. A good idea: Obtain professional certification in a green-building rating system known as [LEED](#) (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) from the [Green Building Certification Institute](#).

Social-media specialist

If you're comfortable navigating social-media sites, you can do this for clients, helping to draw new followers to their Twitter feed and Facebook page with the goal of bringing them to the client's website and turning them into customers. Daily duties may include keeping a site "fresh" by posting timely blogs. You'll add your 2 cents in online discussions and retweet other people's posts that reflect positively on your client. To learn the latest ways to use social media as a marketing tool, you might enroll in a community college Social Media Certificate program.

Certified senior financial planner

If you have financial expertise, you could help older Americans with their investments and estate plan, and handle tax matters for them. This doesn't have to be a full-time job—you can take on as many or as few clients as you like. No minimum experience or education is required by law, but it's a good idea to get the Certified Financial Planner designation awarded by the nonprofit [Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards](#). If you are already a CPA, you can take the exam without completing the educational requirements. Demand for financial planners is projected to grow 27 percent by 2022, according to the Department of Labor.

Home-modification pro

As the population ages, more homes will need to be retrofitted to accommodate older people's special needs: better lighting, special ramps, grab bars in the shower, and more, all to prevent accidents. The National Association of Home Builders offers a course that teaches design and building techniques for what it calls the aging-in-place market. If you have a background in construction or are an architect or interior designer, that might appeal to you. Though such a job is likely to be demanding, you can take on as many clients as you are comfortable with. Plus this will be a job with staying power. A report from [Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies](#) predicts a prolonged period of recovery and growth for the home-improvement industry as Americans age.

Adjunct professor

Community colleges and technical schools offer many part-time jobs for those who have a yearning to teach. To learn more, go to the [American Association of Community Colleges'](#) website. A master's degree is preferred, but it's possible to land a post with a bachelor's degree. Stop by a college and find out what might be missing from its offerings and whether there are any openings. Look for job listings at [adjunctprofessorsonline.com](#) and [higheredjobs.com](#). Employment for adult-literacy teachers and those who prep students to take the test for the high school equivalency diploma is projected to grow 9 percent from 2012 to 2022, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Dietitian and nutritionist

Though the lion's share of these jobs will probably be at hospitals, nursing-care facilities, outpatient-care centers, and offices of physicians, you could have your own private practice, which would give you much more flexibility. There are roughly 280 bachelor's degree programs and 18 master's degree programs approved by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics. Employment of dietitians and nutritionists is projected to grow 21 percent from 2012 to 2022, according to the BLS. For more information, go to the website of the [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#).

Fitness trainer for seniors

If you've been sitting behind a desk for the past 30 years, working "hands on" as a fitness trainer could be very rewarding. The greatest need will be for specially skilled trainers who can develop workout routines for people ages 65 to 90. Certification is not required by law, but most fitness clubs insist on it. You can get some type of credential, maybe in CPR, for example, from several national organizations including the [American Council on Exercise](#), the [International Sports Sciences Association](#), and the [National Strength and Conditioning Association](#). Opportunities for senior fitness trainers are projected to grow 13 percent from 2012 to 2022, according to the BLS.

—Kerry Hannon

Editor's Note: This article also appeared in the January 2015 issue of [Consumer Reports Money Adviser](#). Kerry

Hannon is a career transition expert and author of [“What’s Next?: Finding Your Passion and Your Dream Job in Your Forties, Fifties, and Beyond”](#) and [“Great Jobs for Everyone 50+.”](#)

Like Share  

For complete Ratings and recommendations on appliances, cars & trucks, electronic gear, and much more, **subscribe today** and have access to all of ConsumerReports.org.

Consumer Support

- My Account
- Customer Service
- Report a Safety Problem
- Career Opportunities

Our Site

- A-Z Index
- Product Index
- Car Index
- Video Index
- Site Features
- Canada Extra en Español

Products & Services

- Build & Buy Car Buying Service
- Books & Magazines
- Mobile Apps
- National Car Prices

Our

- Cons
- Cons
- Cons

[About Us](#)

[Donate](#)

© 21
[Privacy Policy /](#)