

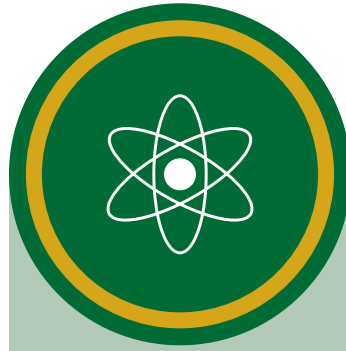
CAREER LADDER STEM

Last Updated: February 2026

NOVA

Northern Virginia
Community College

www.nvcc.edu/lmi



Physical & Life Sciences

Math & Technology

Engineering

High School Diploma or GED

No high-growth jobs at the HS Diploma/GED level in this pathway

No high-growth jobs at the HS Diploma/GED level in this pathway

No high-growth jobs at the HS Diploma/GED level in this pathway

Certificate or Diploma (1–2 yrs.) Diploma, Certificate, License, or Apprenticeship Programs

Surveying and Mapping Technicians,
Veterinary Assistants, Laboratory
Animal Caretakers

Computer User
Support Specialists

No high-growth jobs at the
Certificate/Diploma level in this
pathway

\$17.66 - \$24.91/hr.
522 Postings

\$29.54/hr.
3,775 Postings

Associate Degree (2 yrs.)

Laboratory Technicians, Laboratory
Analysts, Veterinary Technicians,
Chemical Analysts, Environmental
Specialists, Remote Sensing
Technicians

Statistical Assistants, Computer
Network Support Specialists

Civil, Mechanical, and Electrical
Drafters/Designers; Engineering
Technicians: Aerospace,
Civil, Electrical/Electronic,
Environmental, and Mechanical

\$48,518 - \$97,447/yr.
1,718 Postings

\$54,327 - \$89,308/yr.
541 Postings

\$58,788 - \$94,397/yr.
621 Postings

Bachelor's Degree (4 yrs.)

Laboratory Technologists,
Forensic Science Technicians,
Chemists, Meteorologists,
Environmental Scientists,
Ecologists, Environmental
Engineers, Bioinformatics
Technicians, Biomedical Engineers,
Cartographers, Surveyors,
Scientific/Technical Product Sales
Representatives

Actuaries, Mathematical
Technicians, Financial
Quantitative Analysts, Business
Intelligence Analysts, Computer
Systems Analysts, Computer
Network Architects, Database
Administrators & Architects,
Operations Research Analysts,
Software Developers, Programmers

Engineers: Aerospace, Biomedical,
Civil, Computer Hardware,
Electrical, Environmental, Health
and Safety, Industrial, Mechanical,
Sales and all other

\$54,507 - \$154,108/yr.
4,096 Postings

\$85,270 - \$183,353/yr.
45,666 Postings

\$101,546 - \$170,633/yr.
7,624 Postings

Post-Graduate Degree

Laboratory Scientists, Clinical
Data Managers, Epidemiologists,
Veterinarians, Biochemists, Bio-
statisticians, Physicists, Engineering
Managers, Environmental
Economists

Statisticians, Mathematicians, Data
Scientists, Computer Scientists/
Research
Engineers, Economists

Engineering Managers

\$92,785 - \$202,446/yr.
9,363 Postings

\$134,007 - \$176,744/yr.
9,308 Postings

\$202,446/yr.
1,975 Postings

Occupations grouped by level of education typically required for employment, as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Openings represent the total number of online job postings from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 in the NOVA region, as compiled by Lightcast. Wages represent the 25th percentile of hourly pay for positions at the High School/GED and Certificate/Diploma levels, and median annual salaries for positions at the associate, bachelor, and post-graduate degree levels. Wages calculated by Lightcast based on 2024 Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) data from the BLS.