Jobs in the Age of AI

Jobs AI Can Replace

Routine, rules-based, predictable work.

PHYSICAL & MANUFACTURING AUTOMATION
- Machine operators
- Product testers
- Packaging workers
- Assembly line roles

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS
- Drivers (as self-driving vehicles expand, i.e., Waymo)
- Some warehouse roles
- Inventory handling

INFORMATION PROCESSING & ADMIN WORK
- Basic data entry
- Bookkeeping & tax preparation
- Financial analysis focused only on routine projections
- Basic data visualization tasks

LANGUAGE & DOCUMENT-HEAVY ROLES
- Translators
- Proofreaders
- Paralegals (routine research & document review)

RETAIL & CUSTOMER SERVICE
- Cashiers & checkout roles
- Simple customer support
- Fraud analysis & common inquiry handling

MILITARY & DEFENSE SUPPORT
- Intelligence data processing
- Surveillance monitoring
- Logistics support tasks

Careers Built to Last

Require human strengths AI can't replace. But workers need to know how to use AI and take ownership beyond routine tasks.

AI & TECHNOLOGY
- Machine learning engineers
- Software developers (software & game development)
- Data scientists
- Cybersecurity engineers
- AI safety specialists
- AI agent managers
- UI/UX designers

HEALTHCARE & HUMAN SERVICES
- Registered nurses
- Paramedics
- Surgeons
- Mental health specialists & therapists
- Psychologists
- Social workers

EDUCATION & LAW
- Teachers (K–12 and college)
- Lawyers & trial attorneys
- Detectives

BUSINESS, LEADERSHIP & CREATIVITY
- Project managers
- Operations managers
- HR specialists
- Marketing strategists
- Entrepreneurs
- Accountants (advisory, forensic, strategic finance)

CREATIVE FIELDS
- Musicians
- Filmmakers
- Actors and Performers
- Artists
- Journalists (investigative & storytelling roles)

SKILLED TRADES & HANDS-ON WORK
- Electrician
- HVAC technician
- Plumber
- Auto mechanic
- General technical repair
- Construction & infrastructure trades

Best College Majors for a Future With AI

When choosing a major, aim for paths where humans still have the edge: **empathy, judgement, creativity, communication, leadership and real-word decision making**. Avoid those built mainly on repetitive, rules-based tasks.

HEALTHCARE & LIFE SCIENCES MAJORS

- Nursing
- Pre-med / Medicine
- Biomedical technology
- Public health
- Medical imaging, physical and occupational therapy

Why future-proof: Requires human empathy, real-world judgment, hands-on care, and complex decision-making.

CREATIVE, DESIGN & HUMAN-CENTERED MAJORS

- UX/UI design
- Digital media
- Game design
- Art & animation
- Graphic design
- Social work
- Counseling
- Performing Arts

Why future-proof: Creativity, empathy, storytelling, and cultural insight are uniquely human strengths.

ENGINEERING & TECHNICAL MAJORS

- Mechanical engineering
- Electrical engineering
- Civil engineering
- Environmental engineering
- Robotics
- Industrial and infrastructure engineering

Why future-proof: AI can assist with planning, but humans handle physical construction, safety decisions, on-site problem solving, and adapting to unpredictable real-world conditions.

LAW / TRIAL & ADVOCACY-FOCUSED MAJORS

- Pre-law
- Law school
- Criminal justice

Why future-proof: Courtroom argument, negotiation, ethical judgment, advocacy, and understanding people all require human reasoning and emotional intelligence.

SOFTWARE & COMPUTING MAJORS

- Software Engineering
- Computer Science
- Computer Engineering
- Game Development

Why future-proof: Combines software and system design with AI-assisted tools and uniquely human strengths like judgment, ethics, communication, and responsibility for real-world outcomes.

HYBRID / OVERSIGHT / AI-AWARE MAJORS

- Data science with ethics
- Management and human relations
- Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)
- Environmental science and policy
- Business and sustainability
- Information systems
- Public policy and tech policy
- Marketing & analytics
- Business administration & management
- Communications & media studies
- Accounting & Finance (AI, analytics, & advisory focus)

Why future-proof: Combines understanding of AI with uniquely human skills like leadership, ethics, judgment, and communication and emotional intelligence.

SKILLED TRADES & HANDS-ON TECHNICAL WORK

- Electrician
- HVAC technician
- Plumber
- Auto mechanic
- General tech repair
- Construction and skilled trades

Why future-proof: Unpredictable physical environments, hands-on skill, and real-time problem solving are extremely hard to automate. Plus there will be a big demand for these workers to help build and run the large power-hungry AI data centers.

Sources

Based on patterns identified by the World Economic Forum, McKinsey, Forbes, Indeed, and other research.

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