



Being a
TEACHER
in the Gulf Coast region is a great career

With a bachelor’s degree and classroom experience, you could earn an average annual wage of **more than \$52,000 per year** as a teacher.

More than 5,025 jobs are open each year for secondary math, science and special education teachers at elementary and secondary schools. Bilingual teachers are particularly valuable throughout the region.

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SCHOOL COUNSELORS

offer vital guidance

School counselors **help students** by encouraging academics and providing career and personal/social development guidance to help maximize students' academic achievements. The majority of counselors work in the public school education system, and the average median **wage for counselors is more than \$55,000.**

The job of a school counselor is interesting, challenging, rewarding, and is a great opportunity to make a difference in people's lives.

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Careers that amount to something....

ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS

A bachelor's degree in accounting or a related field is necessary for this position. Earning a CPA designation increases employment opportunities. The average **annual salary is \$70,000.**

Accountants and auditors ensure that a company is run efficiently, its public records are kept accurately, and its taxes are paid properly and timely.

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PARALEGALS AND LEGAL ASSISTANTS

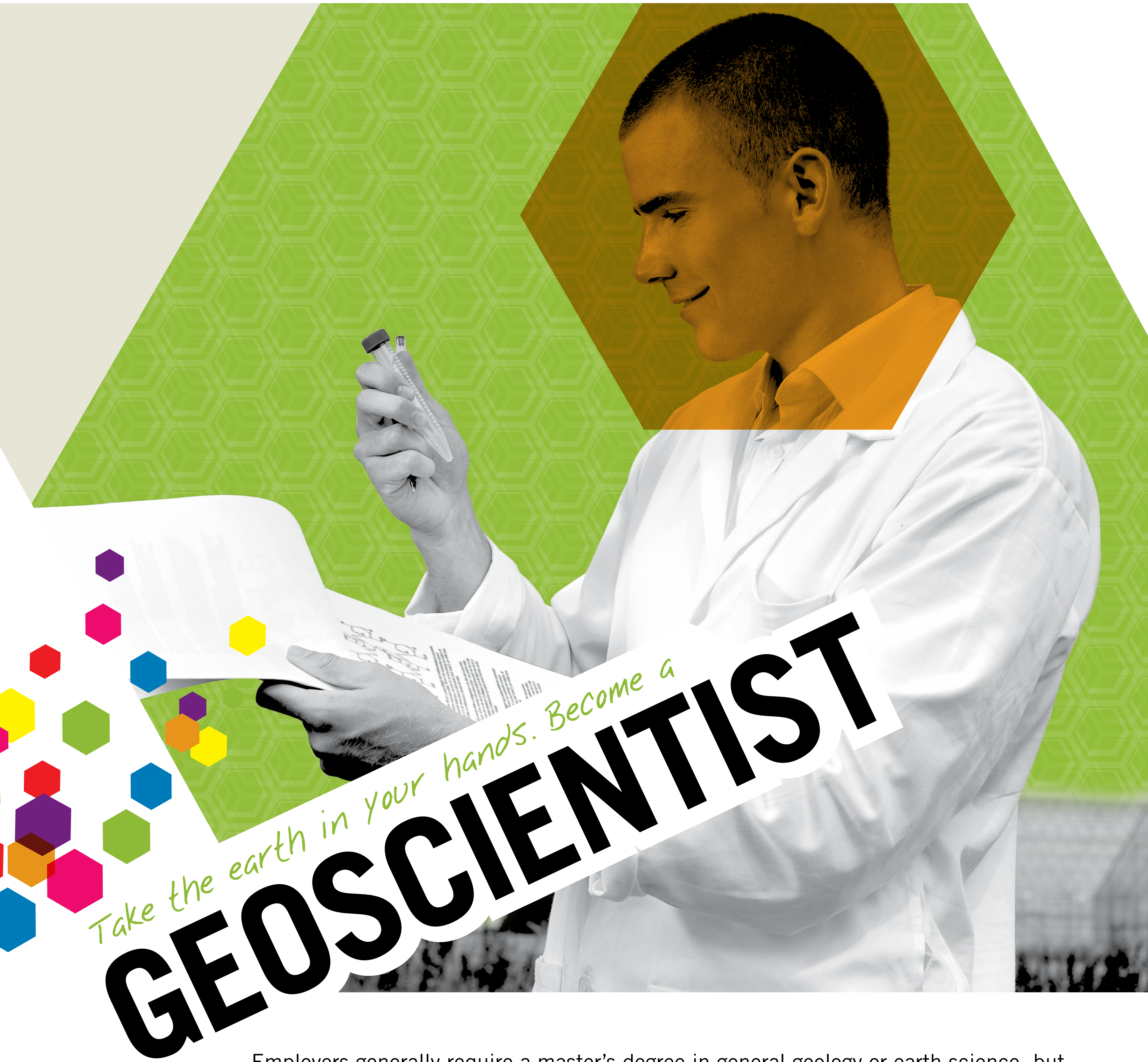
An associate’s degree is necessary for this position. Experienced paralegals can **earn more than \$54,000 per year.**

Paralegals, also referred to as legal assistants, assist lawyers by researching legal precedent, investigating facts or preparing legal documents.

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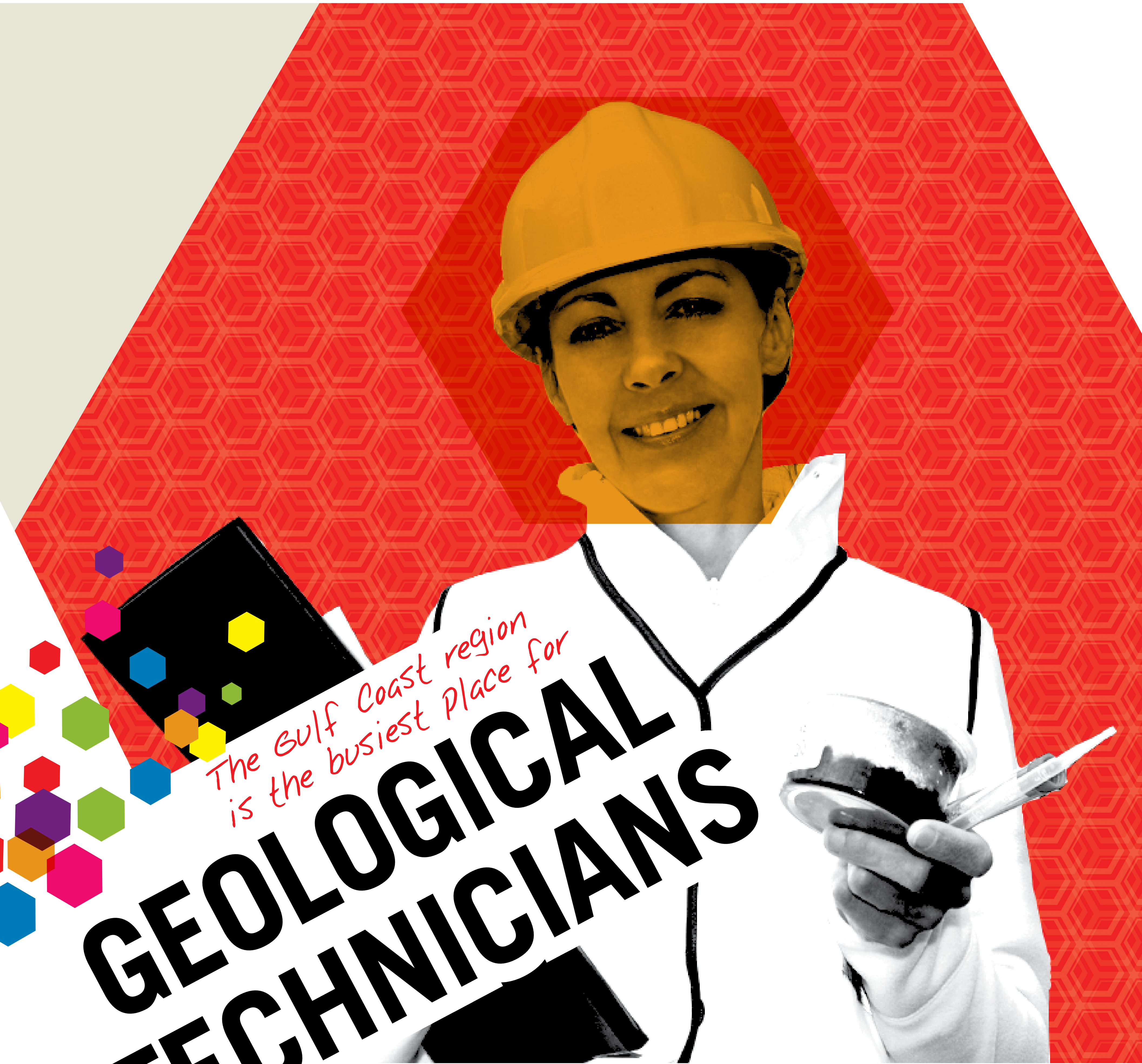
Employers generally require a master’s degree in general geology or earth science, but some accept bachelor’s degrees for a few entry-level positions. Annual salaries can range from \$50,000 for those with a bachelor’s degree to more than \$100,000 for individuals with doctoral degrees.

Geoscientists study the composition, structure and other physical aspects of the earth for the purpose of oil and gas exploration. Some also find work in education, mining, government and the environmental industry. Most geoscientists pursue advanced degrees, studying in seismic and hydraulic systems.

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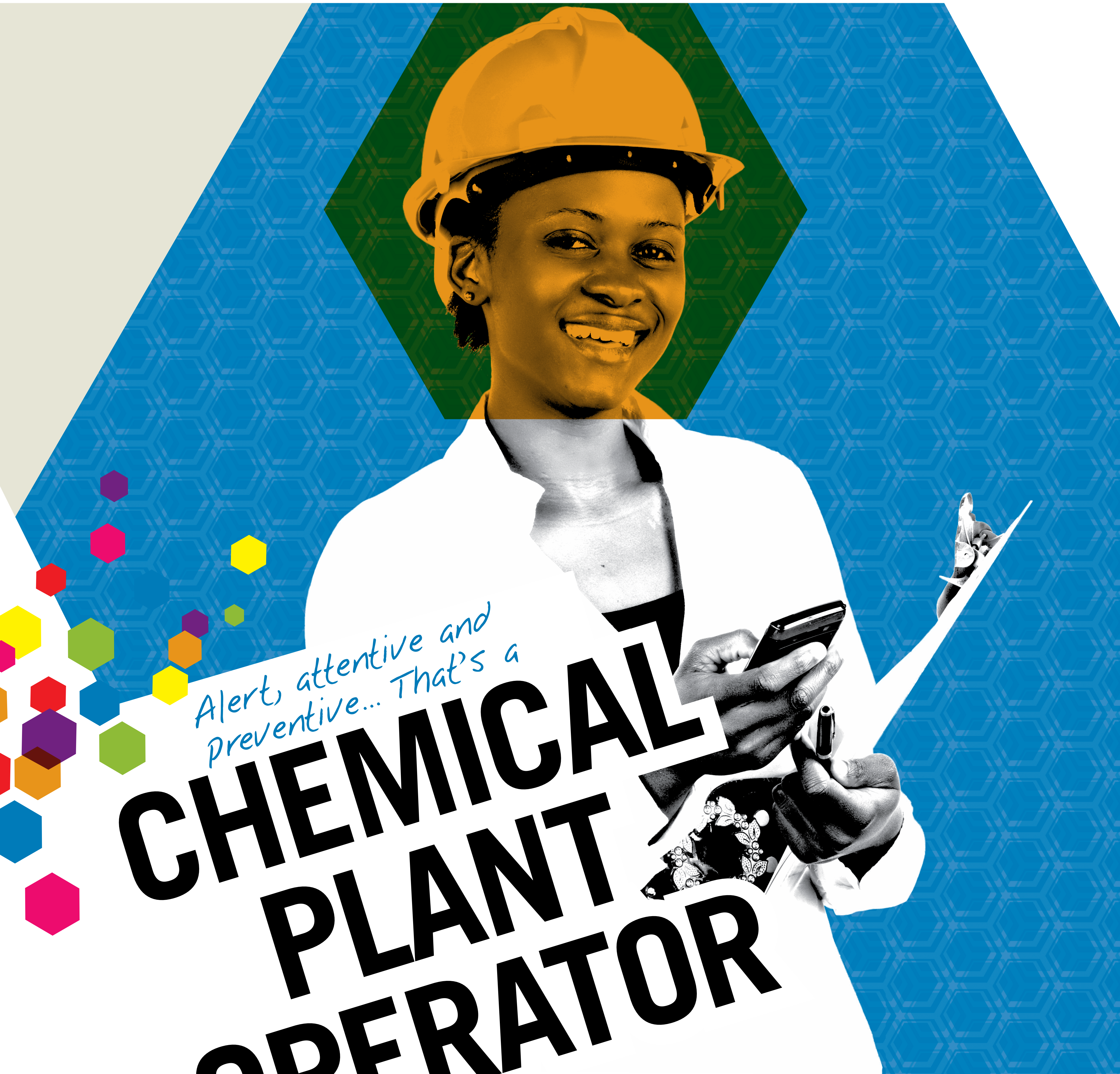
Most employers prefer individuals who have at least two years of specialized training or an associate's degree in applied science or science-related technology. The average hourly wage is \$30.15 per hour.

Whether in an office or out in the field, geological technicians help scientists find potential sources of oil and gas through the collection and examination of geological data.

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Alert, attentive and preventive... That's a

CHEMICAL PLANT OPERATOR

Employers generally want applicants with a high school diploma or better, and long-term, on-the-job training is common. The average [hourly wage is \\$33.00](#).

Chemical plant operators analyze data to monitor the manufacturing process of various products and serve as troubleshooters.

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RIG OPERATORS

maintain and increase flow from producing wells

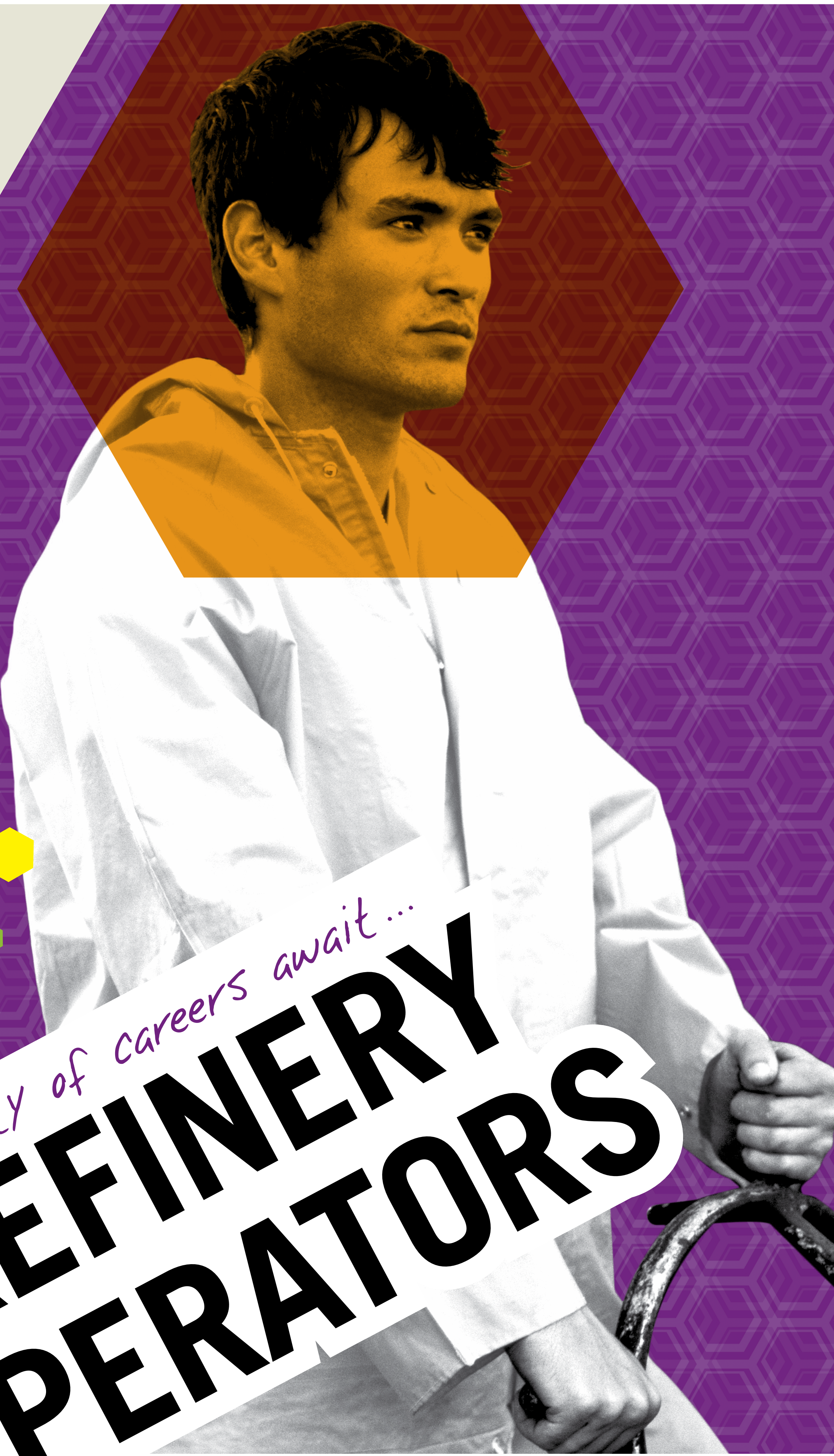
Employers usually require a high school diploma or GED. Moderate-term, on-the-job training is common. The work is outdoors, physically intensive and requires overtime hours and frequent travel. **Wages start at around \$20.10 per hour.**

The rig operator's responsibilities include moving heavy equipment, monitoring pressure and density plus many other specialized tasks.

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Plenty of careers await...

REFINERY OPERATORS

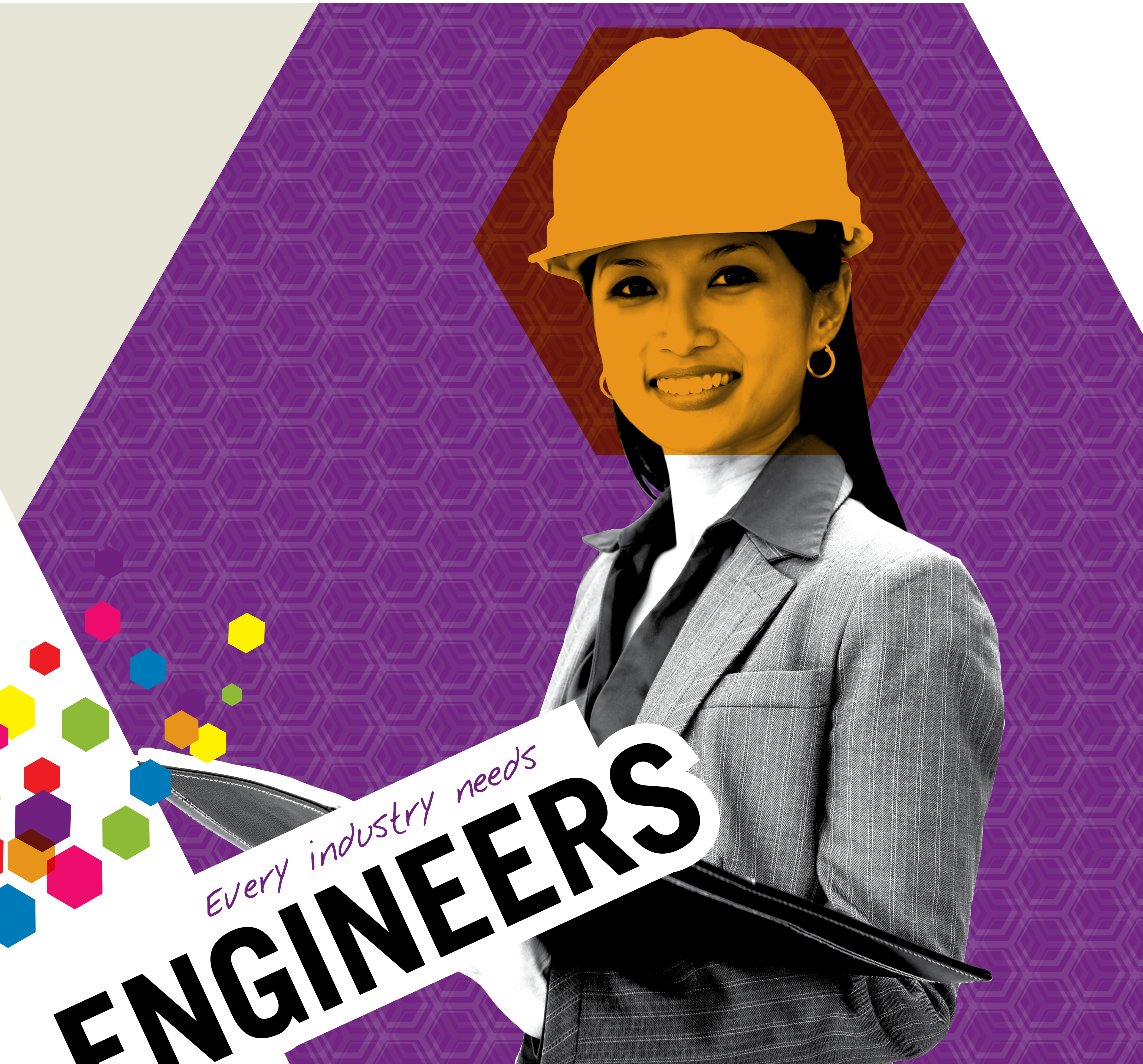
Long-term on-the-job training is common in this field, but earning an associate's degree in process technology opens doors to several careers in the chemical industry. The average *hourly wage* is \$31.72.

Refinery operators, petroleum system operators, and gaugers control the operation of petroleum refining or processing units.

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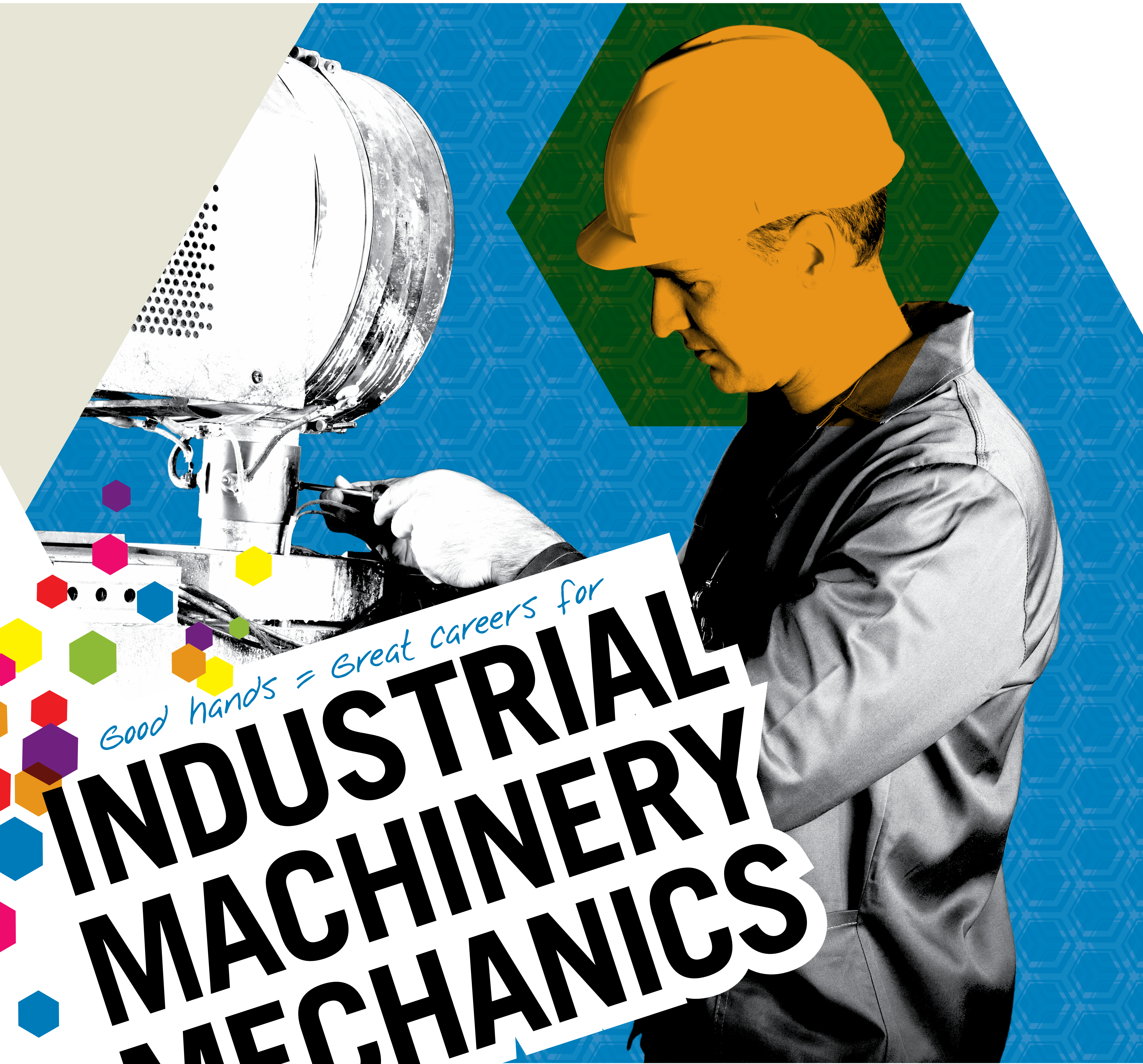
Engineering jobs generally require at least a bachelor's degree, while a master's degree enables more opportunities. Starting salaries can be above \$50,000 per year. Experienced engineers with advanced skills can easily earn more than \$100,000 per year.

All engineers—chemical, civil, electrical, mechanical, petroleum, process and others—handle the design, development, testing or supervision of various projects.

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Applicants must have at least a high school diploma or a GED, and on-the-job training is required. The average [hourly wage is \\$23.15](#)—before overtime and incentive pay.

Industrial machinery mechanics maintain plants and factories by detecting breakdown conditions, making machinery adjustments and repairing faulty equipment.

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They handle the power...

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS

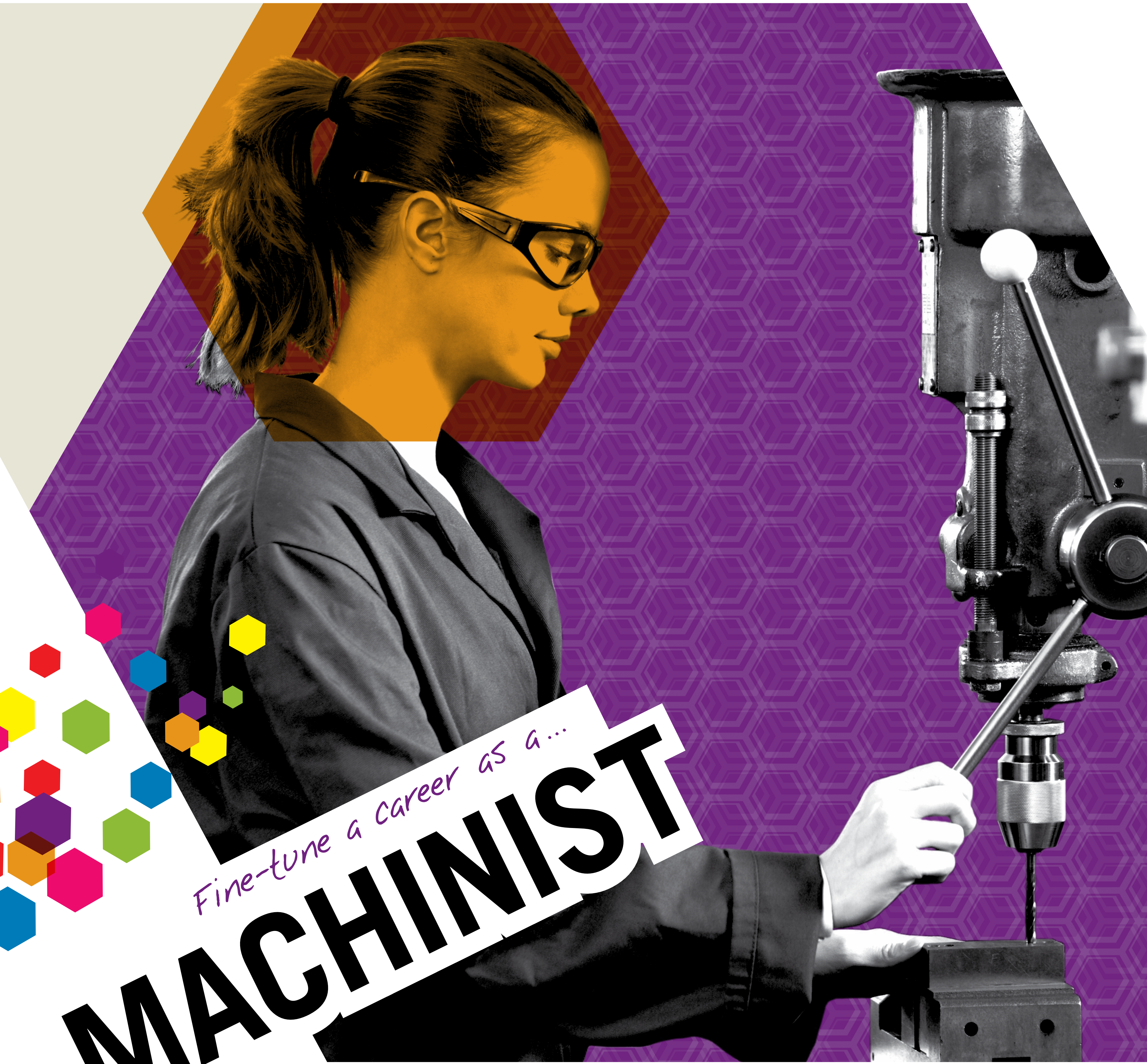
Applicants with degrees in industrial technology, instrumentation technology or a related field are preferred by most employers. The average **annual salary is about \$64,000.**

Electrical and electronic engineering technicians install, maintain and repair automated equipment needed in manufacturing plants, pipeline systems and other high-tech operations.

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Fine-tune a career as a...

MACHINIST

A growing number of machinists earn two-year associate degrees at community or technical colleges. Long-term, on-the-job training is common. Hourly wages range between \$16.00 and \$22.00 before overtime.

Machinists are highly-skilled manufacturing workers with extensive knowledge of many precision machine tools which they use to produce metal or plastic parts.

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Becoming a registered nurse for most hospital systems in the Gulf Coast region requires earning at least a BSN and passing a national licensing exam. *The average hourly wage is around \$36.27.*

Registered nurses provide care using advanced knowledge and analytical skills. They generally work in hospitals and clinics.

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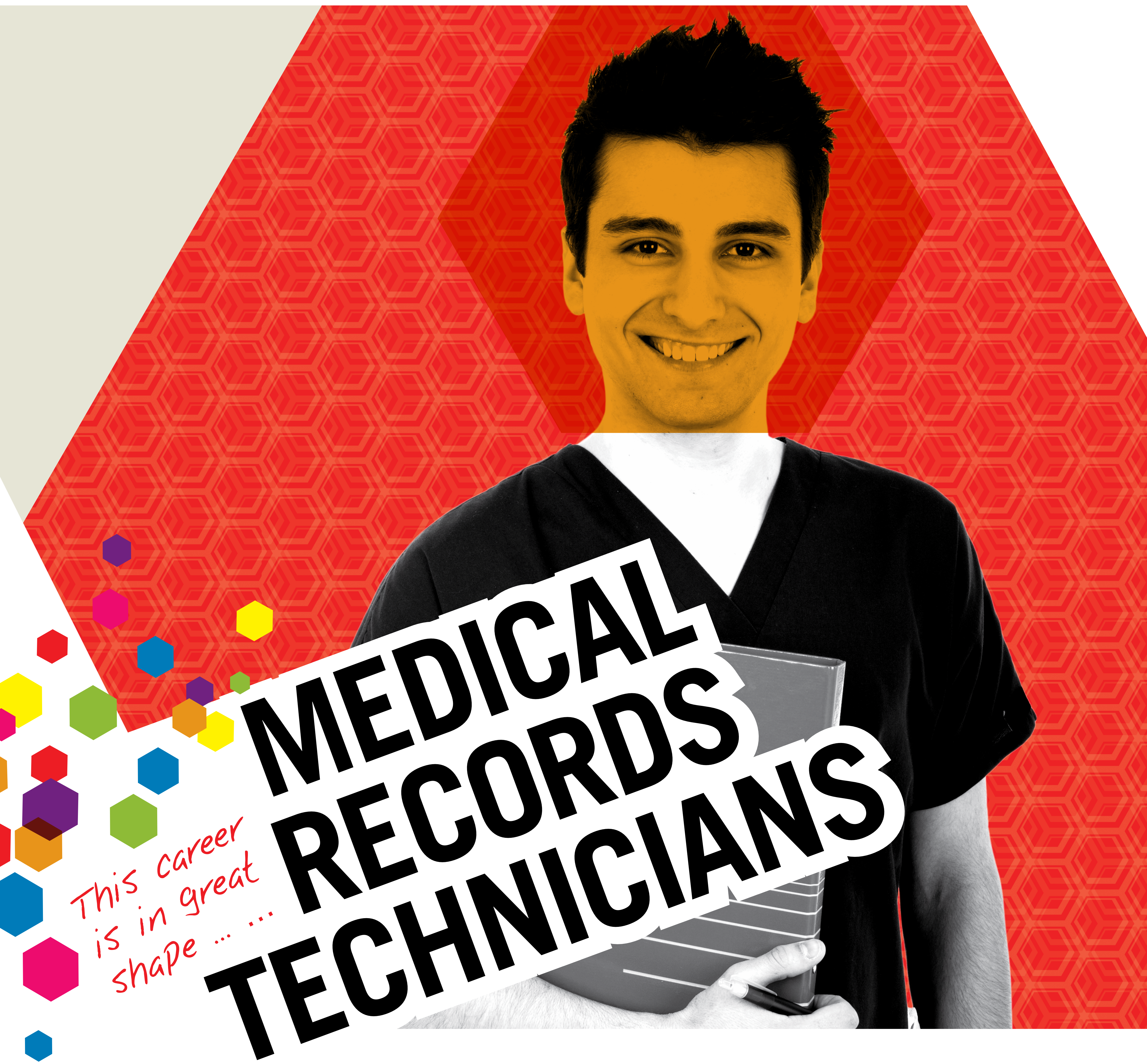
Licensed vocational nurses must complete postsecondary vocational training and obtain a license through an approved nursing program at a community college or technical school. The average **hourly wage is nearly \$21.69.**

Licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) provide basic patient care. They account for one in every four nursing occupations in the Gulf Coast region.

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Medical records technicians must earn at least a certificate, but employers generally prefer graduates of an associate’s degree program. Entry-level wages average about \$12.00 per hour. The average **hourly wage is \$17.67.**

Medical records/health information technicians work in hospitals, physician offices, community health centers and other health care organizations. Using complex proprietary database systems, technicians manage, interpret and report data to maintain accurate records. Technicians who can maintain and troubleshoot computer systems have greater earning potential.

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MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHS

Medical laboratory technologists must have at least a bachelor's degree. An advanced degree is generally preferred.

Their wages average nearly \$58,000 per year.

The demand for more medical and clinical laboratory technologists is growing as the use of complex laboratory testing for early diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease rises.

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RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS

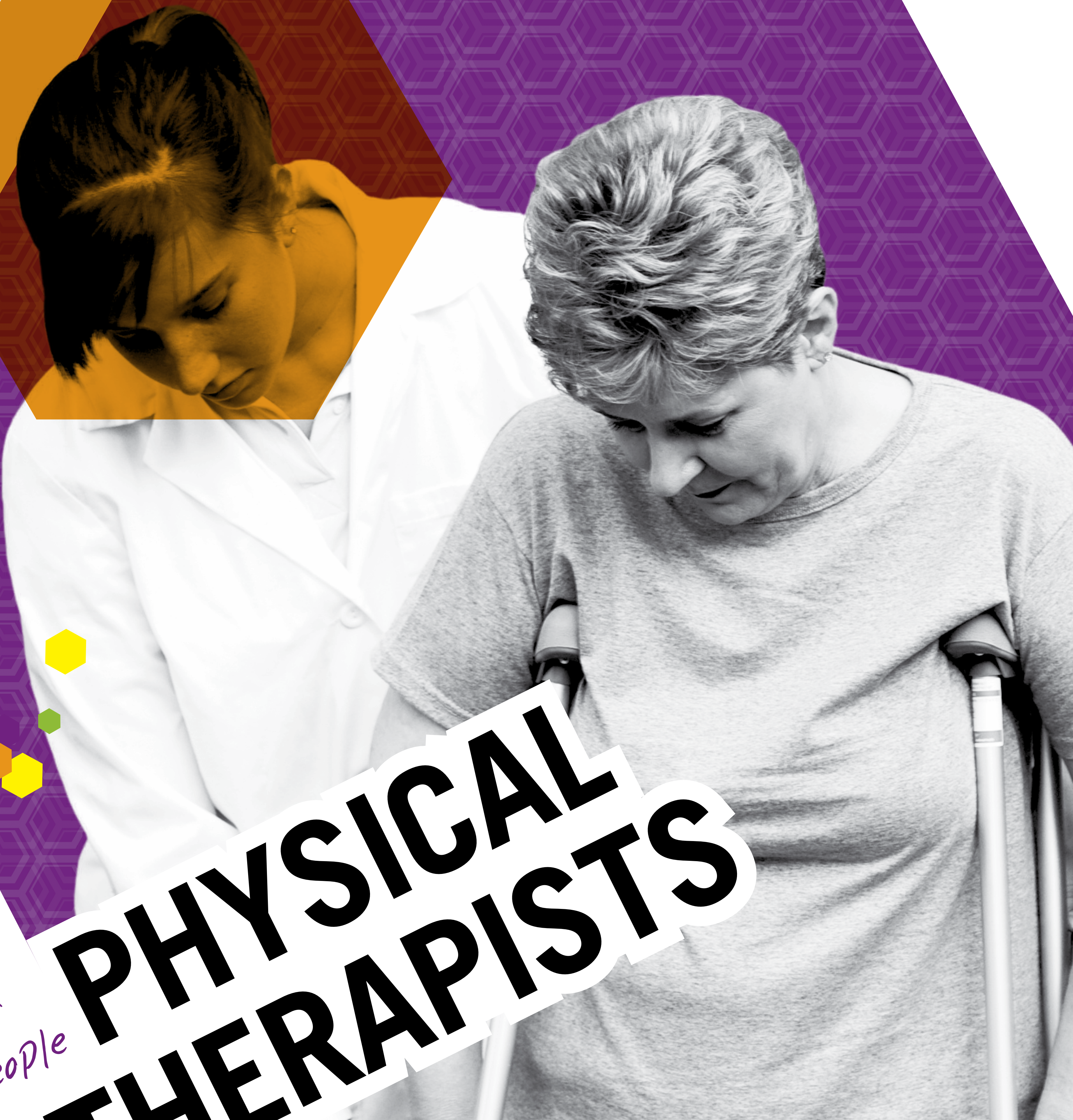
Radiologic technologists generally must complete a two-year associate degree program. Their average [hourly wage is \\$25.71](#).

Radiologic technologists are most easily associated with imaging tests, or x-rays. They perform imaging tests to assist in diagnosing patients. Some radiologic technologists specialize in computerized tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

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PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

A career of helping people readjust...

Physical therapists must earn a graduate degree and obtain a state license. They earn nearly \$86,000 per year.

Physical therapists help people adapt to the loss of bodily functions due to injuries or ailments.

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A high-paying career of bringing hope...
**SPEECH-LANGUAGE
PATHOLOGISTS**

Speech-language pathologists, commonly called speech therapists, diagnose and treat those with speech and language difficulties resulting from various medical problems.

Speech-language pathologists must have a master's degree in speech language pathology. The average **annual salary is more than \$66,000.**

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Breathe easy with a bright career as a...

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

An associate’s degree is necessary to become a respiratory therapist. The average *hourly wage is \$27.02.*

Respiratory therapists generally work in hospitals and nursing homes with patients who are experiencing cardiology or pulmonary dysfunction. They initiate and conduct therapeutic procedures and treatments; maintain patient records; and select, assemble, check and operate equipment.

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A master's degree is necessary to become an occupational therapist. The average **hourly wage is \$36.40.**

Occupational therapists work with individuals who suffer from a mental, physical, developmental and/or emotional disability. They utilize treatments that develop, recover or maintain clients' activities of daily living.

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Careers in health are good for you...

DOCTORS & DENTISTS

Many people dream of becoming a medical doctor or dentist, but few have the discipline it takes to complete the heavy coursework required in school. While they follow separate educational paths, they are both in-demand careers that offer above-average pay. The average *hourly wage for doctors and dentists is \$74.83.*

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COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYST

It pays to find new ways...

A bachelor's degree with emphasis in computer science is necessary. They earn about **\$91,000 per year** with experience.

Computer systems analysts solve computer problems and apply computer technology to meet the needs of an organization.

They analyze user requirements, procedures, and problems to automate or improve existing systems, and review computer systems capabilities, workflow and scheduling limitations.

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Some applications you sign,
others you design as an...

APPLICATIONS SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

A bachelor's degree is necessary for this position. The average annual salary is \$95,000 with experience.

Applications software developers design, build, customize, test and maintain general computer applications software or specialized utility programs.

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The future's bright for...

SYSTEMS SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS

Employers require at least a bachelor's degree for this position. The average **annual salary is about \$96,000 with experience.**

Systems software developers coordinate the construction, maintenance, and expansion of an organization's computer system.

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Design, test and refine...

COMPUTER SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

Employers require at least a bachelor's degree for this position.
The average **annual salary is more than \$89,000.**

Network and computer systems administrators analyze, design and test local area networks (LAN), wide area networks (WAN), Internet, intranet and other data communication systems.

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ADVANCED WELDERS

put everything together

Advanced welders with specialty skills are in short supply. Welders can work in a variety of industries and **earn up to \$18.36 per hour**. Individuals with accrued experience, formal training and the ability to travel across the region achieve the highest success in this field.

The Gulf Coast region needs to train more than **800 new welders every year** through 2020 to meet a rapidly rising demand.

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Getting certified only takes two years at a technical school or community college and you can [earn an average of \\$22.46 per hour](#).

Electricians install and replace wiring, and must be licensed by the state. Those who achieve journeyman status are best able to find steady jobs. Those who earn a master electrician's license have the highest earning potential.

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PLUMBER OR PIPEFITTER

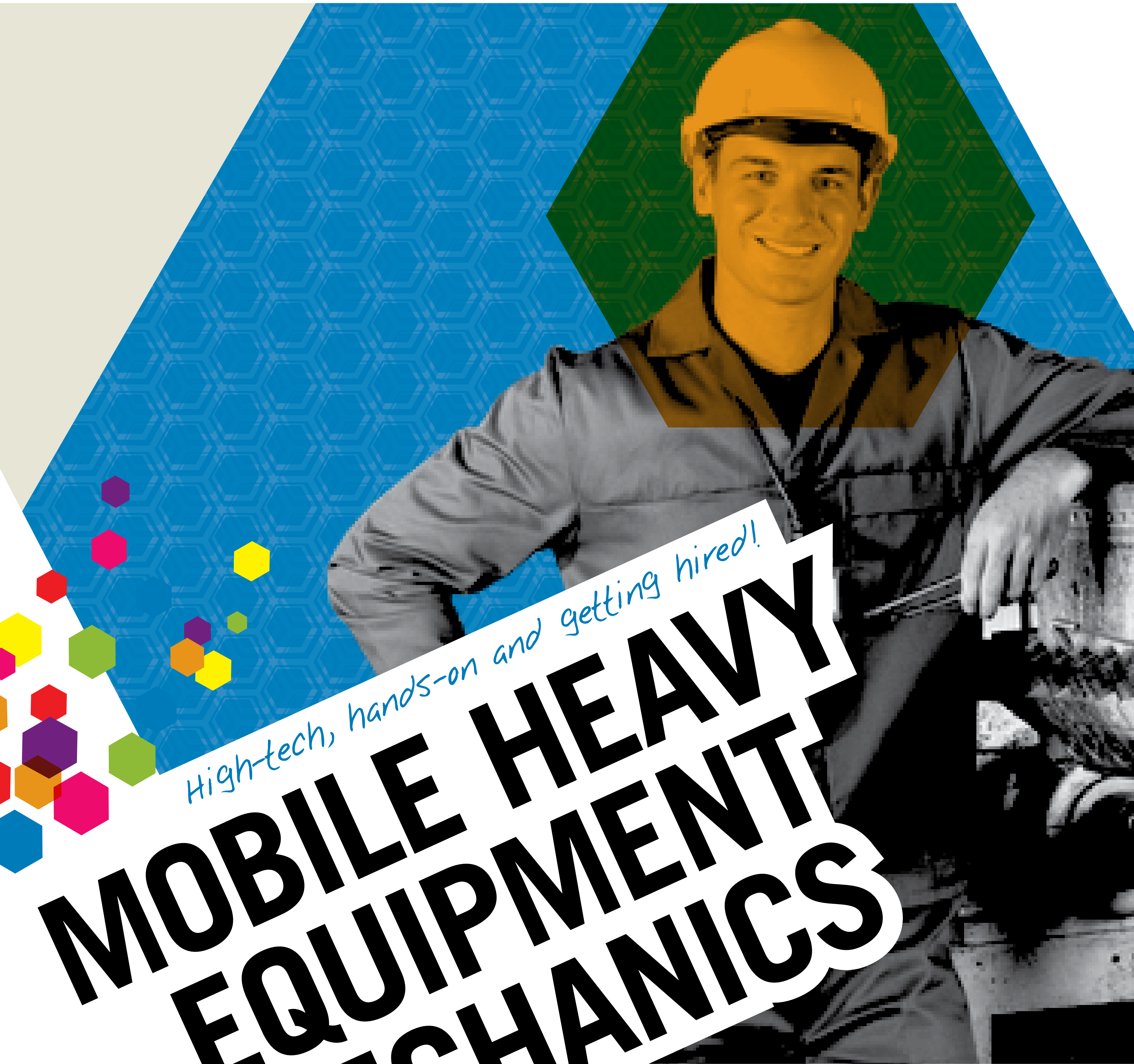
This career starts with training at a community college, technical school or union apprenticeship program. The average pay is \$24.68 per hour.

Plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters are needed everywhere to install, maintain and repair gas and water pipe systems. Getting a dual certification as a welder-pipefitter maximizes career opportunities.

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High-tech, hands-on and getting hired!

MOBILE HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANICS

Heavy equipment mechanics diagnose, adjust, repair or overhaul mobile mechanical, hydraulic and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders and conveyors. With a large concentration of construction and industrial companies in the Gulf Coast Region there are big opportunities for mobile heavy equipment mechanics, who can make more than **\$46,000 per year**.

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Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) mechanics and installers can be trained at a community college or complete training at a technical institute. The average **hourly wage is \$19.84.**

HVAC mechanics and installers work for commercial maintenance companies or as independent contractors. They apply high-tech tools to diagnose and fix a wide variety of heating and cooling appliances and equipment.

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make it all add up as a

COST ESTIMATOR

Cost estimators work for architectural or construction firms. Employers generally prefer college degrees related to construction management, engineering, architecture, math, or other disciplines as well as commercial construction experience. The average **annual salary can easily be more than \$65,000** per year.

Cost estimators compile and analyze costs for manufacturing and construction projects across various industries, including energy.

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