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When going for an advanced education, there are those who really don't need a bachelor's degree. This does not mean they should not be considered skilled professionals. As it happens, there are a number of careers out there where all one needs is an associate's degree at most. What's also interesting is that many of these occupations are some of the most in-demand careers in the U.S.

For instance, there's massage therapy. It's a job for those who don't mind a seriously hands-on approach to working with people. It's a field full of misconceptions, as it is a very physical type of job that can leave the therapist quite exhausted after a session. It's also one that involves a lot of discipline as it's a highly intimate form of therapy that still requires a special sense of emotional detachment. At the same time, a patient's appreciation for relieving their pain can also be quite gratifying. If you need more information about [graduate degree programs](#), look on the internet.

Interestingly, most people think this is the type of profession that can only be taught at a brick-and-mortar school. As it turns out, there are a number of online schools that offer the courses as well. The virtual schools get around things by offering video, audio and perhaps even live interactions over Skype (a web-based platform). True, sooner or later one will have to practice on real people. Then again, try to find a person who won't enjoy a good back or foot massage!

In regards to wages, the job usually pays hourly or by session. The Bureau of Labor Statistics states the average masseur makes \$16.00 an hour. Top ones can earn \$25 an hour and quite a bit more if they manage to network with the right people. What is also helping the occupation considerably is the general populace is becoming more and more engaged in the field as their interest in alternative therapy grows.

Another thing the Bureau recently reported is message therapy is one of the fastest growing occupations in the U.S. There currently are 122,000 licensed therapists in the country and the Bureau projects the need for an additional 23,000 by 2018. It also notes that most masseurs are freelancers, but over 40% of them are now being employed by a number of health care institutions.

Getting back to the concept of a getting an education in a vocational field, it should be noted this is something that can be mixed and matched into a more white-collar occupation. There are a number of psychologists who have learned message therapy as a way to enhance their practice. After all, it's a good way to relieve stress for a number of their patients. There is an abundance of information about [online courses](#) on the web.

What this all leads to is there are a wide variety of vocations that can be profitable for those who don't want to go for a full four year educational program or someone who is looking for a creative way to expand beyond what they've already learned.

The key thing is there are a number of vocational [online programs](#) offered at both [online certificate course programs](#) and brick-and-mortar schools, and with some planning and initiative they can end up becoming satisfying careers.

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