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5 Exciting Jobs That Pay \$40K And Up!



These fast-paced jobs require quick feet and thinking.

By Tony Moton

Fast on the feet and fast in the seat.

This might be the best way to sum up the kind of career Brian Stevens has fashioned for himself. As president and CEO of Conference Direct, a Los Angeles-based meeting- and convention-planning firm, Stevens and his company are always on the go-go-go.

"It's fast-paced in terms of how you go about executing things," Stevens said. "We handle about 5,000 events a year, so we're booking a meeting every 20 minutes."

Sound like your type of gig? If you prefer an up-tempo environment where the work is always exciting, take a closer look at these five fast-paced jobs that pay \$40,000 and up.

1. Meeting and Convention Planners are responsible for everything that goes into the meetings and conventions you attend. As a planner, your work would involve everything from finding guest speakers and hotels and negotiating contracts to arranging transportation for meeting attendees.

Fast Factors: Because they are often juggling many duties at once, meeting and convention planners must be able to think - and move - quickly. Mental alertness and the ability to multi-task - especially under deadline pressure - are also musts in this profession.

Education: A bachelor's degree is generally preferred by employers for entry-level positions, but most training is done informally on the job. Educational backgrounds in [hotel and hospitality management](#), [business and business administration](#), public relations, and [marketing](#) are proven avenues to planning jobs.

Salary: \$47,500

2. Court Reporters create transcripts of legal proceedings, meetings, speeches, and other events using several methods, most notably stenographic. As a court reporter, it would be your job to ensure the accuracy and completeness of your transcripts.

Fast Factors: While court reporters aren't on their feet often, their work does require a high degree of speed and accuracy. To work for the federal government, you'll need to up your typing speed to 225 words per minute.

Education: On the average, it takes nearly three years to become a real-time stenotypist. Students generally train at the post-secondary level at vocational and technical schools and colleges or [court reporting programs](#) certified by the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA).

Salary: \$51,960

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3. Cyber Security Workers protect data and computer systems connected to the Internet. As a cyber security worker, you might find yourself installing, configuring, and monitoring computer systems or building and developing products that ensure and improve computer security.

Fast Factors: Specialists in cyber security often work on-call and are expected to respond quickly to network security breaches. Their responsibilities have increased in recent years as cyber attacks have become more frequent. It's a fast-paced job with near constant demands.

Education: The most common undergraduate majors for cyber security workers are [computer science](#), [software engineering](#), and [computer information systems](#). Software engineers with advanced [degrees in systems design](#) or mathematics tend to be sought after by software developers, government agencies, and consulting firms.

Salary: \$69,570

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4. Executive Chefs and Head Cooks orchestrate the efforts of the kitchen staff and guide meal preparation. As an executive chef or head cook, it would be your job to determine serving sizes, develop menus, order food supplies, and run kitchen operations. In some cases, an executive chef could be responsible for supervising more than one kitchen at a hotel, restaurant group, or corporate dining operation.

Fast Factor: Executive chefs and head cooks are constantly in motion, overseeing the delivery of foodstuffs early in the day, planning menus, and preparing menu items during hectic dining hours.

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Education: Employers prefer those with training after high school. Look into [culinary training programs](#), which can range from a few months to two or more years.

Salary: \$42,410

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5. Registered/Emergency Room Nurses provide medical care to patients in the aftermath of automobile accidents, fires, childbirth, and shootings. As a nurse, you may also be responsible for recording patients' medical histories and symptoms, conducting and analyzing diagnostic tests, and providing treatment and medications.

Fast Factors: Emergency room (ER) nurses - also known as trauma nurses - confront life-and-death situations nearly every day. They must provide quick and accurate assessments of in-coming patients and care for them under stressful conditions. Some emergency nurses might become qualified to serve as transport nurses, who provide medical care to patients who are flown by helicopter or airplane to nearby medical facilities.

Education: A trio of educational paths can lead to a career as a registered nurse in an emergency room - a [bachelor's degree in nursing](#), [associate's degree in nursing](#), or a [nursing diploma](#). Further training or education can qualify a nurse to work in an emergency room. For registered nurses seeking to qualify for careers in the emergency room, there is the Certified Emergency Nurse (CEN) certification, offered by the Board of Certification in Emergency Nursing (BCEN).

Salary: \$65,130

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