

of \$52,000 per year after completing a two-year program. These positions are also great for those that wish to work in a flexible work environment.

#### Web Designer

If you've got a creative mind mixed with strong technical skill, graphic or web design is a great career option for you. Companies always require talented designers to modify or create websites, and this career option also offers great potential for workers to start their own businesses. According to PayScale, website designers can expect to earn an average salary in the range of \$49,000 annually, though the sky is the limit if you go into business for yourself or work freelance.

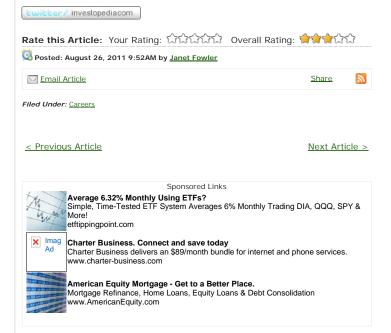
# **Physical Therapy Assistant**

The medical field is always a fairly stable career option, and physical therapy is no different. Jobs in this field are definitely on the rise, especially as the population continues to age and has an increased need for physical therapy. Individuals in this field can expect to earn over \$46,000 per year on average.

#### The Bottom Line

It's definitely true that no education is ever wasted, so whether you opt for the four-year degree or if you decide that two years is all you're willing to invest, those that go to college often have greater earning potential than those that don't. However, some two-year programs can definitely lead to high paying jobs; at times perhaps even higher paying than some four-year programs. Some employers in particularly high-demand industries may even offer incentives to those that complete educational programs that enable them to work in the field. These incentives can come in the form of tuition rebates or tax

Do your homework before you head back to school and know what the prospects are in the industries you're considering. (Effectively using your commute time could place you miles ahead of your competition. Check out Commuters' University: On-The-Road Learning.)



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