

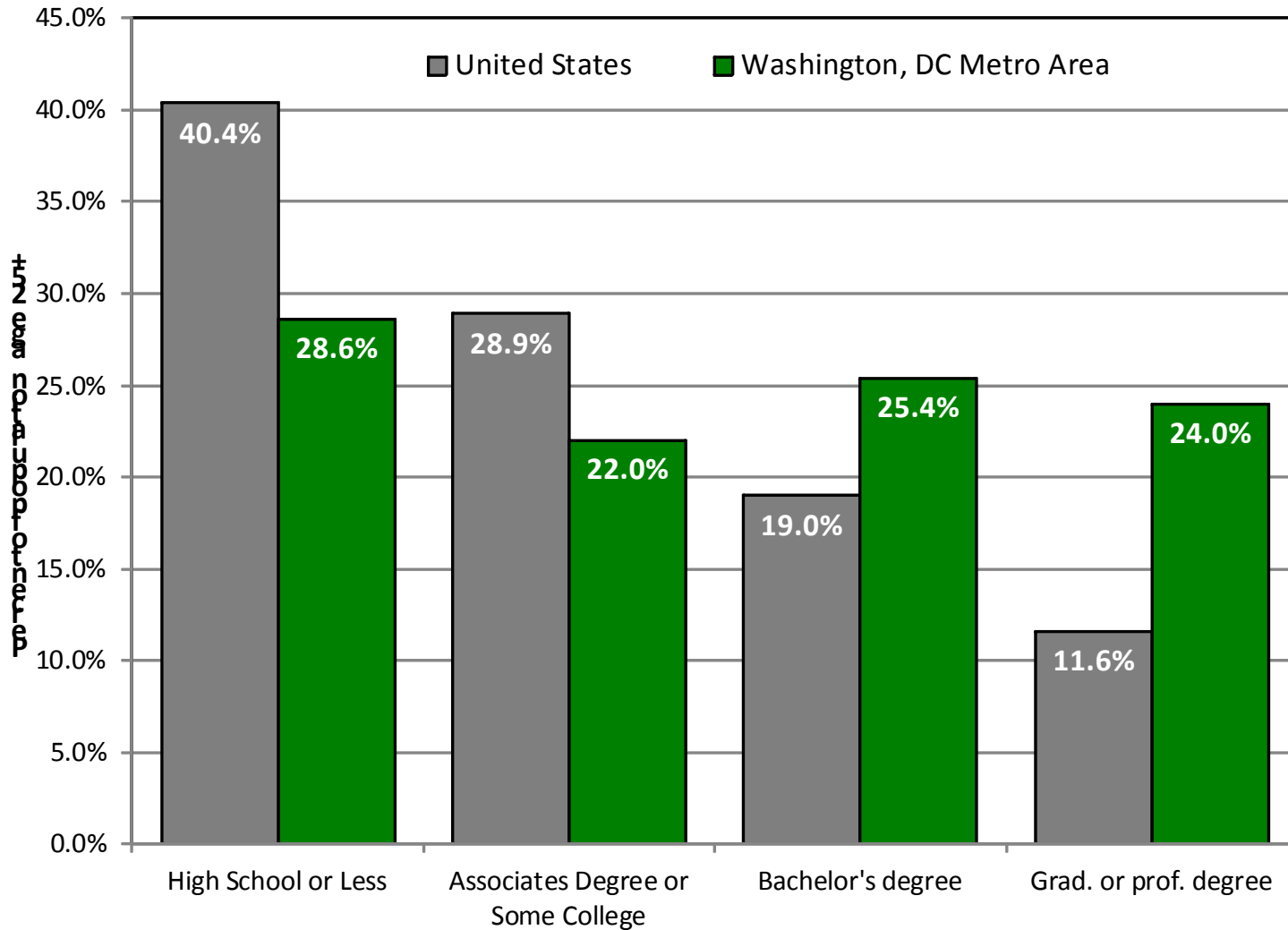
Career pathways for middle-skill jobs in the Greater Washington region's leading industry clusters

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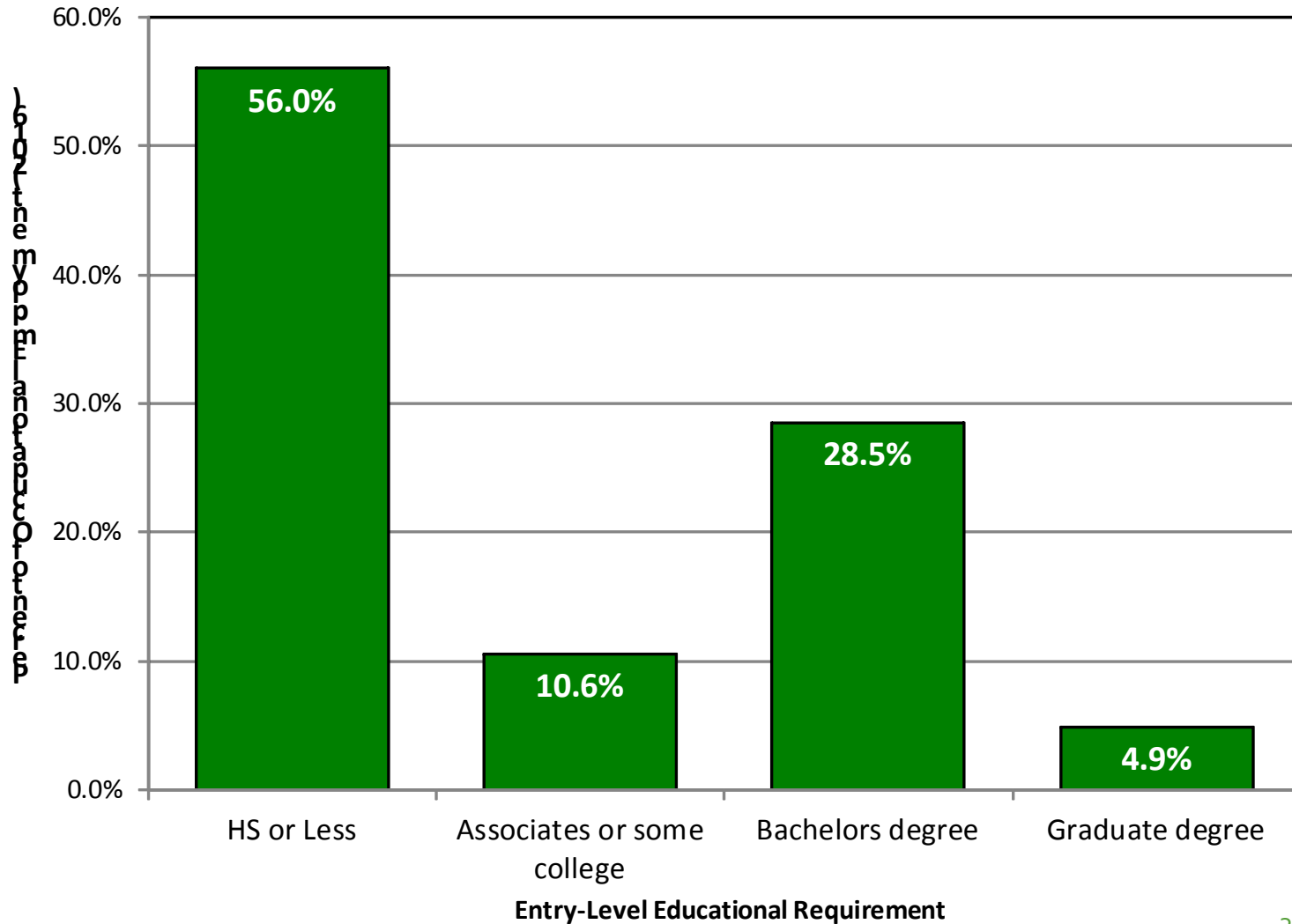
April 21, 2017

The DC metro area has a highly educated workforce



Source: US Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey

But it has a polarized job distribution





Middle skill jobs are a key element of more inclusive talent development

- Middle-skill jobs present real opportunities for workers that may lack post-secondary education
 - They tend to pay family-sustaining wages for workers without a 4-year college degree.
- Creating more middle-skill opportunities can grow the talent pool for existing employers.
 - They can make better use of the region's existing workforce; less reliant on attracting workers from outside the region.

2030 Roadmap for the Region's Economic Future

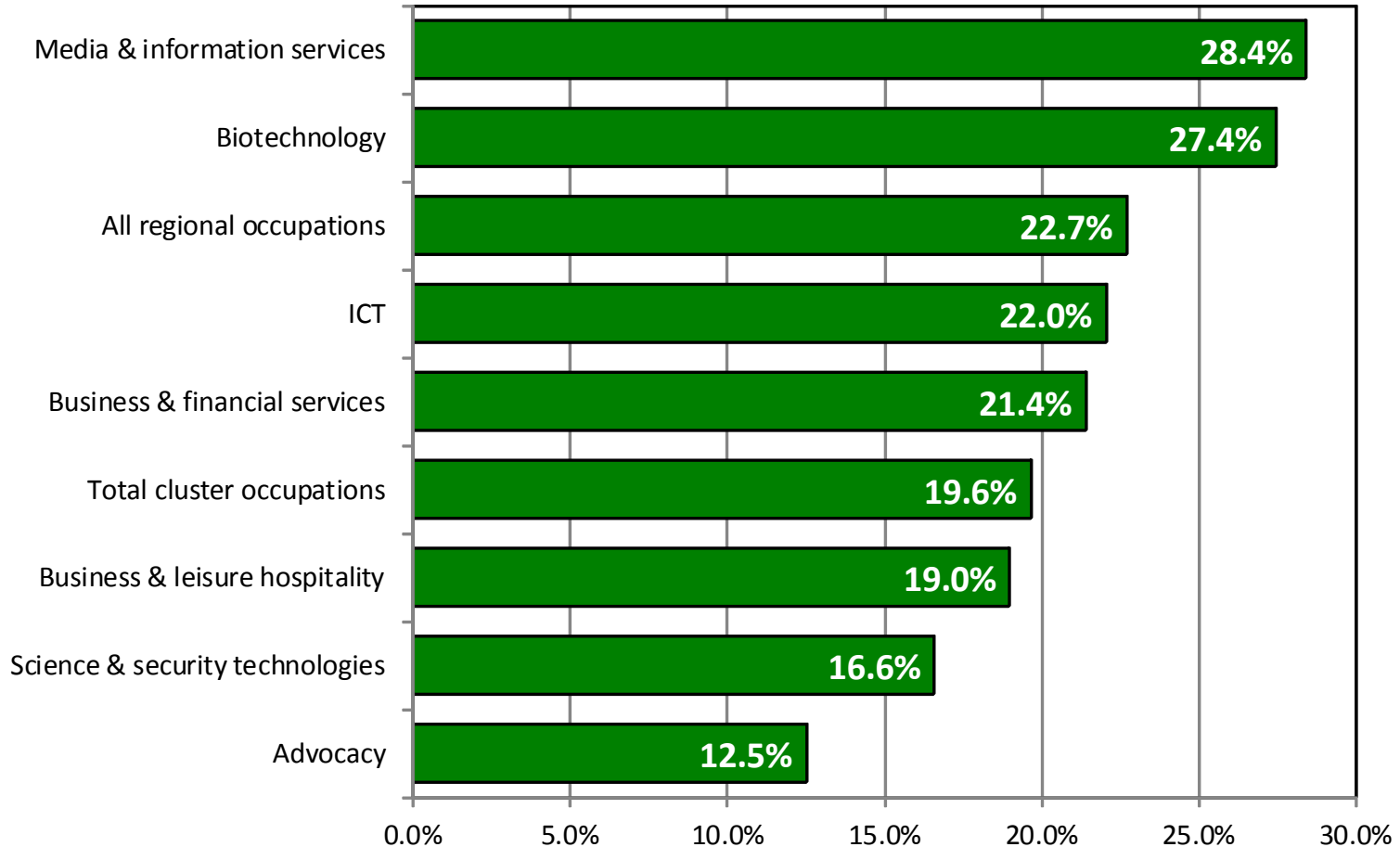
Growth Opportunities

Seven Advanced Industrial Clusters were identified as well positioned for economic growth over the coming decade based on these competitive advantages:



Middle-skill jobs

Middle-skill jobs* as a percent of total cluster employment



Source: Chmura Economics JobsEQ, 2016 Q4

*Defined as more than high school, but less than 4-year degree required and no OJT required, or more than 1 month of OJT, requiring education between a high school degree and Associates degree.

Middle-skill work in Roadmap industries

- 160,000 middle-skill jobs within the seven industry clusters
- 38,000 online job advertisements last month
- 5,000 projected annual job openings
- Highlighted occupations:
 - Computer user support specialists
 - Web developers
 - Medical records and health information technicians
 - Sales representatives
 - Paralegals and legal assistants
 - General maintenance and repair workers
 - Meeting, convention and event planners
 - Chemical technicians

Computer User Support Specialists

Computer User Support Specialists provide technical support to computer users by answering questions or resolving computer problems for clients. Assistance may be provided in person, via telephone, or electronically and is likely concerning the use of computer hardware and software. Common job titles include: Computer Specialist, Computer Technician, Help Desk Analyst, and IT Specialist. *Source: [O*Net Online](#)*



CERTIFICATIONS

Relevant certifications sought within the DC Metro Area include:

- ✓ DoD 8570 Certification
- ✓ CompTIA+ Security, CompTIA A+
- ✓ Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP), Systems Administrator, Systems Engineer
- ✓ Cisco Certified Network Associate



COST OF LIVING

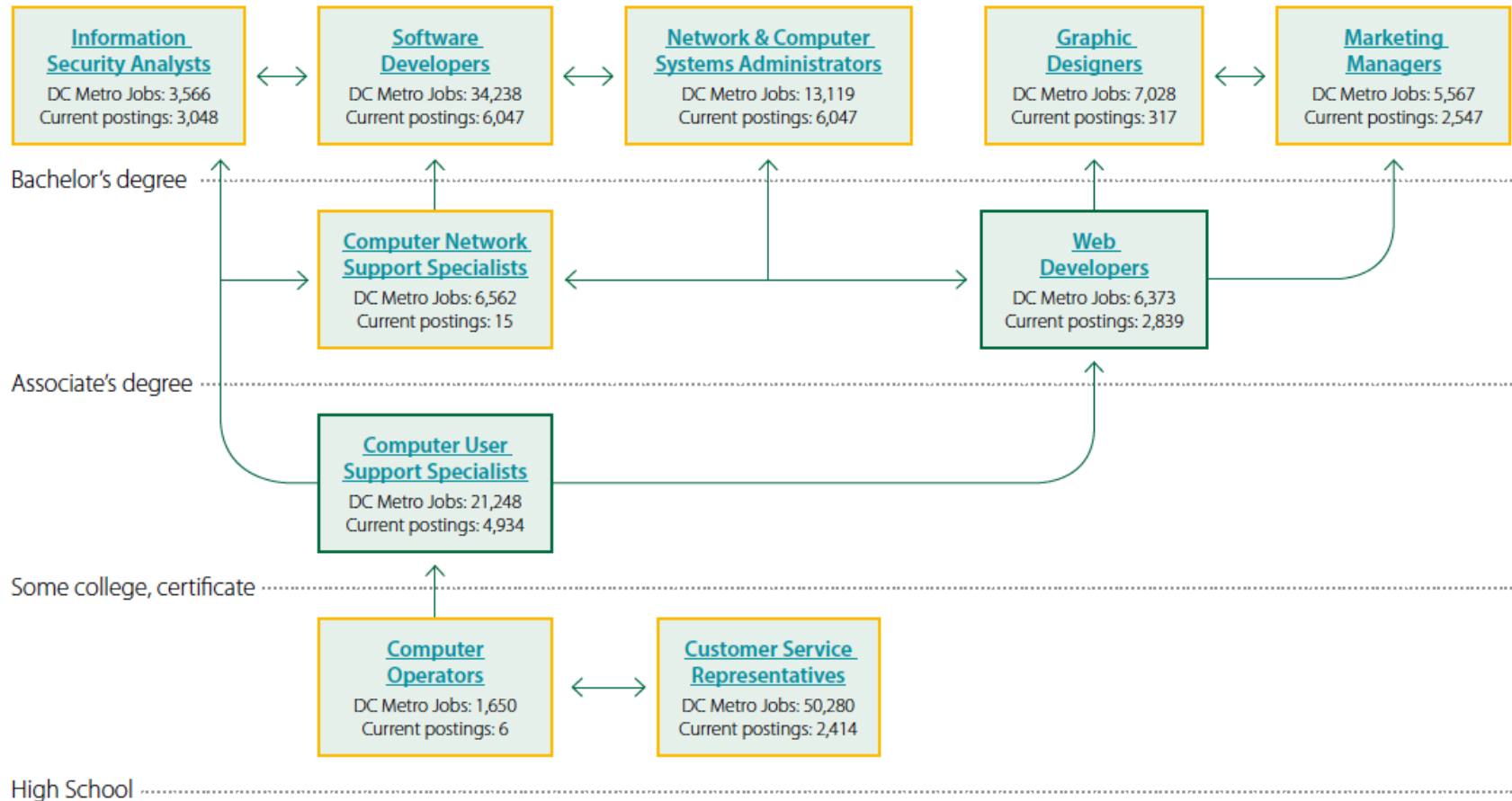
Within the Washington, DC metro area, an individual needs to make approximately **\$42,000*** annually to sustain a modest, yet adequate standard of living. The median income for individuals (aged 25+) in the region is **\$52,468****. People working as Computer User Support Specialists have a median income of **\$58,150** and can typically make anywhere from \$33,120 to \$94,100***.

**Economic Policy Institute Family Budget Calculator,*

***2015 American Community Survey,*

****Bureau of Labor, 2015 Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics.*

Career Pathways for Computer User Support Specialists / Web Developers



Source: O*Net; Employment from Chmura Economics JobsEQ Average of 4 quarters ending in Q4 2016, Current postings represent online ads in 30 Days between 2/15/2017 and 3/16/2017.

Many regional programs can help move workers into middle-skill jobs and new career pathways

- Year Up
 - “Year Up empowers low-income young adults to go from poverty to professional careers in a single year.”
 - Classroom and soft skills training to prepare for internships with partner companies
- Summer R.I.S.E.
 - WorkSource Montgomery + Montgomery County Public Schools
 - Career shadowing for rising juniors and seniors
- Uncommon Coders
 - NOVA coding bootcamp; to support veterans and transitioning military
 - Supported by local businesses, industry associations and workforce development organizations



We want this report to spur further efforts to promote middle-skill jobs

- Prepare more comprehensive list of relevant credential and training programs
- Engage the business community
- Identify and address some region-specific issues
- Share this information among relevant stakeholder groups

For more information

- Middle-skills research
 - Full report:
<http://cra.gmu.edu/regional-workforce-research/>
 - Two-page profiles of nine middle-skill jobs, including:
 - Occupation description
 - Education profile
 - Relevant certifications
 - Regional education and training programs
 - Career pathways
 - Wage data
- The Roadmap
 - <http://2030roadmap.com>

Contact us

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