Starting Off:

This project may seem daunting, but there are a lot of sites out there to help. The government has some great resources, and we'll look at those.

Because we are not using Library databases, you still need to be critically aware of the sites we go to; how are we sure they are reliable? This is one very important research skill: being able to understand what resources best suit your needs.

This is one of the best sites to start with:

http://www.careeronestop.org/JobSearch/JobSearch.aspx

This is a conglomeration of various other sites that were previously in different places. It's sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, and brings together exactly the information you need.

Be sure to pay attention this drop-down menu right at the top of the page:
The Process:

We will go through the State Job Banks, then America's Career InfoNet, and O*Net. They're all found on this site.

State Job Banks

So first, find the ‘job bank’ link at the top right of the page:

Although you can register and get more content, you don’t have to for this assignment. Just click on ‘looking for a job.’

Over on the right side we’re going to go through ‘browse jobs,’ but look at the featured jobs!
Once you have chosen ‘browse,’ there are a number of things we can do:
Stay with a job title of engineering, and then we have to choose a part of Texas to look in. Using the drop down box below, let’s select the Houston / Galveston region:

We can choose any of these jobs and explore the working conditions, requirements and necessary education. You would need to register if you wanted to have access to the contact person’s information and actually apply for any of these jobs.

For this project, you may not need to do this, but in the future when you graduate and start looking for that first ‘real’ job, it will be worth it to investigate some of these sites.

The handout accompanying this one has much more information on general employment sites and places to contact, but you can also stop by the Reference Desk in the Library for more help.
Let’s go back to the drop-down menu from the home page again:

Select this and click ‘go.’

Find the phrase ‘occupation information’ and click that:

Next select the profile:

Create a customized occupation profile. Available data include wages, employment trends, knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs), education and training, and web resources. National, state, and local information is available, as well as trend and wage comparisons across occupations and geographical areas.
Expand the Architectural and Engineering tab:

- Architecture and Engineering
- Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media
- Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance
- Business and Financial Operations
- Community and Social Services
- Computer and Mathematical

...or you can use the keyword search. Notice what happens when we enter just the start of the keyword ‘mechanical’ in our efforts to find mechanical engineers:

**Keyword Search**

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ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS INSTALLERS AND REPAIRERS, TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT
ELECTRICAL POWER-LINE INSTALLERS AND REPAIRERS
ELECTRIC MOTOR, POWER TOOL, AND RELATED REPAIRERS
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS
ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT INSTALLERS AND REPAIRERS, MOTOR VEHICLES
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS
ELECTRICIANS
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS REPAIRERS, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS REPAIRERS, POWERHOUSE, SUBSTATION, AND RELAY
ELECTRO-MECHANICAL TECHNICIANS
ELECTRONIC DRAFTERS
ELECTRONIC ENGINEERS, EXCEPT COMPUTER ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT ASSEMBLERS
ELEMECHANICAL EQUIPMENT ASSEMBLERS
ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS
ELECTRICIAN
ELECTRICAL DRAFTERS
ELECTRONIC HOME ENTERTAINMENT EQUIPMENT INSTALLERS AND REPAIRERS
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Menu Search

Browse for an occupation by:

- Architecture and Engineering
- Arts, Design, Entertainment
- Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance
- Business and Financial Operations
- Community and Social Services
- Computer and Mathematical
- Construction and Extraction
- Education, Training, and Library
- Farming, Fishing, and Forestry
- Food Preparation and Serving
- Healthcare
- Installation, Maintenance
- Legal
- Life, Physical, and Social Science
- Management
- Office, Clerical, and Support
- Personal Care and Service
- Production and Transportation
- Sales and Related
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Computing
- Transportation and Moving
- Visual and Performing Arts
- Veterans
- Other
Lets simply choose ‘mechanical engineers’ and follow that to Texas. What we find is a page that contains the wages we can expect for both national and state, broken down by annual or hourly, the employment trend (is the field growing or shrinking), skill sets and knowledge, the tolls and software you would be expected to be proficient with, related occupations and a fantastic set of web resources.

At the top there are other links for content:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Find Related Content...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tools and Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fastest-Growing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Openings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largest Employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declining Employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest-Paying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compare Local Wages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compare Metro Wages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compare Employment Trends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry/Occupation Trends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation Outlook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certification Finder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Bank and Portal Links</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer Locator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employability Checkup</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Another thing you can do is select the ‘state profile’ for each state. Here is some sample information about Texas:

**Demographic Information:**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006 Population</td>
<td>23,507,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 Labor Force</td>
<td>11,487,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 Unemployment Rate</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 Median Household Income</td>
<td>$43,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 Per Capita Income</td>
<td>$35,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What do these ‘ranking’ links tell us?
But let’s return to the main menu drop down box under ‘more resources and choose O*Net.

Choose this option:

Find Occupations

Find occupations using keywords or O*NET-SOC codes, or by browsing Job Families, High Growth industries, STEM disciplines, or O*NET Descriptors.

And search for ‘nursing.’

Note that RN’s are hot jobs:

- 199 25-1072.00 Nursing Instructors and Teachers, Postsecondary
- 92 31-1012.00 Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants
- 91 29-1111.00 Registered Nurses

As you explore the information for Registered Nurses, you’ll see it is essentially the same information from Career InfoNet, but in a different format.