



# DIRECTIONS TO A CAREER IN HEALTH CARE



**BROUGHT TO YOU BY:**



# CREDITS

This health careers guide is a modified replication of the “Directions to a Career In Healthcare,” created and published by the New Hampshire Area Health Education Center statewide network. The NH AHEC statewide network includes New Hampshire AHEC Program Office at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH; the Northern New Hampshire AHEC center office at the North Country Health Consortium in Littleton, NH; and, the Southern New Hampshire AHEC center office at Lamprey Health Care in Raymond NH. The NH AHEC networks worked closely with their academic and workforce development partners across northern New England to create the “Directions to a Career In Healthcare”.

This guide has been revised to feature programs and resources in Washington State, with permission from the New Hampshire AHEC network. We thank the New Hampshire AHECs for allowing us to share this amazing resource with students in Washington State.



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Visit the Northwest  
Health Careers Path website  
for more information on  
healthcare career paths.



[nwhealthcareerpath.uw.edu](http://nwhealthcareerpath.uw.edu)

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## FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

Dear Career Explorer,

As you look through this catalog at the more than 93 opportunities to work in health care, you are opening the door to the possibility of a very rewarding career. Recent national statistics reveal that 11 out of 20 occupations projected to grow the fastest in the next decade are in health care.

If you are currently in middle or high school, talk to your guidance counselor, teacher, or parent/guardian about the courses you should be taking to prepare for postsecondary school. To enter a health profession, many colleges and universities require that you complete four years of high school Mathematics and English, at least three years of Science, and often two to three years of a foreign language. Postsecondary schools are on the lookout for the overall quality of your academic work and also recognize work, volunteer experiences, and extracurricular courses in health care or health careers.

The Eastern Washington Area Health Education Center (AHEC) is committed to helping you identify a health career that is just right for you. We encourage you to begin your exploration by completing the exercise on the following page. This short survey will help you to recognize your strengths and preferences when considering a future occupation.

For more information, contact your school's career center, guidance counselors, local library, or community AHEC.

We wish you the best!

Your AHEC Staff

## WHAT IS AHEC?

Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) are community based organizations committed to improving access to health for underserved and at-risk populations. AHECs support the preparation of medical and other health professions students, provide continuing education and other services to practicing health providers, and offer programs to middle and high school students to nurture their interest in health careers. In addition to publishing this catalog, the Eastern Washington AHEC also offers annual health careers camps and has developed an educational video and other materials for classroom use. For additional information about the activities and programs offered by individual AHEC centers, please contact the AHEC in your community. See the back cover of this booklet for location contacts.

## SELF ASSESSMENT

We all think very generally about what we want to be “when we grow up.” This survey should help you to focus more particularly on the characteristics of employment you visualize in your future. The responses are personal to you and there are no right or wrong answers. This survey is your first step in making decisions leading to a satisfying future in a position that meets your needs and desires.

Check the response that best fits your vision of yourself in the world of work.

AS I THINK ABOUT MY FUTURE, I ENVISION MYSELF:

- Working mostly with data (information, numbers, reports, statistics)
- Working mostly with people (conversing, teaching, caring for)
- Working mostly with objects or animals (equipment, machines, materials, pets)

AS I THINK ABOUT MY FUTURE, I ENVISION MYSELF:

- Working in an office
- Working in my own home
- Working in a store
- Working in a laboratory
- Working in a hospital
- Working in a school
- Other (fill in your own vision) \_\_\_\_\_

AS I THINK ABOUT MY FUTURE, I ENVISION MYSELF:

- Working full time (40 hours per week)
- Working part time (less than 35 hours per week)
- Working structured hours (usually the same seven or eight hour schedule daily)
- Working flexible hours (different time patterns of my choice)
- Working structured but varying hours (daily or weekly time patterns vary based on employer)

AS I THINK ABOUT MY FUTURE, I ENVISION MYSELF:

- Working for a salary (being paid a set amount by the hour or month)
- Working on a freelance or commission basis (paid by the job regardless of time involved)

AS I THINK ABOUT MY FUTURE, I ENVISION MYSELF:

- Having the same job/career or the same type of job/career throughout my work life
- Having a series of related jobs/careers with increasing responsibilities throughout my work life
- Having a series of unrelated jobs/careers throughout my work life

AS I THINK ABOUT MY FUTURE, I ENVISION MYSELF:

- Working with and influencing a number of people
- Working alone without the responsibility of influencing others

AS I THINK ABOUT MY FUTURE, I ENVISION MYSELF:

- Balancing demands of work and family
- Committing myself to work without the flexibility needed for family life

AS I THINK ABOUT MY FUTURE, I ENVISION MYSELF:

- Providing a service to others
- Having security
- Earning money
- Providing leadership
- Having excitement
- Obtaining a status
- Exhibiting independence
- Experiencing variety
- Having a family
- Other personally desired characteristics \_\_\_\_\_

As you read through this catalog, look for career descriptions which best match the interests, styles, and needs you have checked above.

Congratulations on taking the first big step toward a rewarding future.

# ALLIED HEALTH

A variety of professionals contribute to meeting the health care needs of patients. Allied health practitioners work closely with other health professionals to provide specific therapies and comprehensive health care.

### CAREERS WITHIN THIS SECTION INCLUDE:

• Athletic Trainer

- Audiologist
- Medical Illustrator
- Occupational Therapist
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Physical Therapist
- Physical Therapy Assistant
- Respiratory Therapist
- Speech-Language Pathologist

## ATHLETIC TRAINER

### What would I do?

Certified Athletic Trainers are highly educated and skilled allied health care professionals, specializing in the prevention, assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation of injuries of physically active people and athletes. Athletic Trainers strive to prevent injuries and enhance athletic performance by using their knowledge of injuries, illnesses, nutrition, strength training, conditioning, and sports psychology. Athletic Trainers develop clinical and team education programs related to injury prevention, emergency response general and individualized health care, injury rehabilitation, and health care administration. There is also the opportunity to study for Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist accreditation.

### Where would I work?

Settings for Athletic Trainers include high schools, colleges, universities, health centers, physician offices, fitness centers, sports medicine clinics, hospitals, amateur and professional sporting events, insurance companies, and industrial settings.

### What would I earn?

\$41,598 – \$51,266

### What do I need to know?

Athletic Trainers must graduate from a college or university with an accredited athletic training curriculum, including exercise physiology, kinesiology, and sports medicine programs. Athletic training programs consist of core courses in anatomy and biology and include clinical experience under the supervision of a certified Athletic Trainer. In addition, a successful candidate for board certification must pass an examination that includes written questions and practical applications. To retain certification, credential holders must continue taking medical related courses and adhere to standards of practice.

### What schools can I attend?

Eastern Washington University  
Washington State University  
Whitworth University

## AUDIOLOGIST

### What would I do?

Audiologists evaluate and manage hearing and balance difficulties. They also provide rehabilitative communication assistance such as recommending, fitting, and repairing hearing instruments. Audiologists may recommend other assistive hearing equipment and/or counseling regarding improving communication techniques. Specialty areas may include: pediatrics, cochlear implantation, or industrial audiology.

### Where would I work?

Audiologists work in schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, speech and hearing centers, or in private practice.

### What would I earn?

\$75,394 - \$89,435

### What do I need to know?

The entry-level degree is a clinical doctorate degree (eight years after high school); the masters degree is no longer available. Audiologists must be licensed with the state of New Hampshire before they can work independently.

### What schools can I attend?

Washington State University  
Western Washington University  
University of Washington

## MEDICAL ILLUSTRATOR

### What would I do?

Medical Illustrators are interdisciplinary visual communicators who develop visual media to convey concepts and processes in biomedical science. These individuals rely on a graduate level understanding of science, a strong background in visual arts, and expertise across a wide range of skills from traditional media to computer technology. The product of their work may be used in medical textbooks, advertisements, professional journals, and patient education, in courtrooms for medical legal cases, as well in other media seen by the general public, such as television, movies, online, and in mobile devices. Some Medical Illustrators also function as art directors, consultants, and administrators within the field of

biocommunication.

### Where would I work?

Medical schools, hospitals, individual physicians or healthcare practitioners, research organizations, advertising agencies, publishing companies (traditional and interactive), legal firms, animation studios, and entertainment companies may use the services of Medical Illustrators. Many work independently and contract for their services.

### What would I earn?

Starting salary for a technical illustrator is \$51,379 - \$72,810 depending on location and the nature of the job.

### What do I need to know?

Medical Illustrators must have expertise in both art and science. The majority of Medical Illustrators in the profession have a masters degree from an accredited graduate program in medical illustration. To prepare, undergraduate training in art should include the principles of drawing (light and form), perspective, figure drawing, painting, as well as foundational graphic design. Undergraduate studies should also include biology, anatomy and physiology, and computer graphic courses. Admission requirements vary from one graduate program to another. In general, an undergraduate degree with a major in art and a minor in the biological sciences or a major in biological sciences and a minor in art is preferred.

### What schools can I attend?

University of Washington – Natural Science Illustration

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

### What would I do?

Occupational Therapists (OTs) help children and adults acquire, regain, or maintain daily living and working skills. OTs help people increase motor skills, dexterity, strength, and independence. They also help patients acquire skills such as cooking, cleaning, using computers, and utilizing adaptive equipment Occupational Therapists may specialize in working with specific types of injuries, such as hand injury or brain injury; specific populations such as geriatrics or pediatrics; or a

specific area, such as rehabilitation, mental health, or developmental disabilities. Others may train employees to use proper ergonomics, help people with poor vision maintain their independence, make buildings and homes more accessible, and promote health and wellness.

### Where would I work?

Occupational Therapists work in hospitals, outpatient clinics, rehabilitation centers, mental health centers, nursing homes, schools, home health agencies, and community settings.

### What would I earn?

\$79,511 - \$94,573

### What do I need to know?

Occupational Therapists currently must earn a master's degree or doctorate degree from a professional program. Fieldwork of at least six months is needed in order to sit for the national certification examination to become an Occupational Therapist.

### What schools can I attend?

Eastern Washington University  
University of Puget Sound, Tacoma  
University of Washington, Seattle

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

### What would I do?

Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTA) work with Occupational Therapists to help children and adults gain skills needed to take part in daily activities and meaningful occupations. They are also responsible for monitoring and recording patients' progress and reporting any concerns to the supervising Occupational Therapist. The field of Occupational Therapy makes it possible for individuals to regain independence and enjoy life to its fullest.

### Where would I work?

Occupational Therapy Assistants work in hospitals, outpatient clinics, rehabilitation centers, community mental health centers, nursing homes, schools, and home health agencies.

### What would I earn?

\$52,372 - \$63,870

### What do I need to know?

Occupational Therapy Assistants must earn a two-year associate's degree from an accredited occupational therapy assistant program. Field work of at least 16 weeks is required in order to sit for the national certification examination to become an Occupational Therapy Assistant. Each OTA, after completion of the certification examination, is eligible to apply for licensure in each state in which he or she plans to work. Faculty at an accredited agency will assist with the credentialing process.

### What schools can I attend?

Green River College  
Lake Washington Institute of Technology  
Pima Medical Institute  
Bates Technical College  
Spokane Falls Community College

## PHYSICAL THERAPIST

### What would I do?

Physical Therapists (PTs) help patients/clients recover from physical injuries or diseases. PTs complete examinations and then develop a plan of care, which may include the use of exercises, functional training, manual therapy, electrical stimulation, ultrasound, and/or massage. PTs also work to promote physical fitness and health by teaching patients stretching, strengthening exercises, injury prevention, and body mechanics.

### Where would I work?

Physical Therapists work in hospitals, physical therapy offices, sports facilities, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, home health agencies, school districts, early intervention programs, and industrial settings.

Areas of certified specialization within the physical therapy field include: cardiovascular and pulmonary, clinical electrophysiology, geriatrics, neurology, orthopedics, pediatrics, sports therapy, aquatics, and women's health.

### What would I earn?

\$89,331 - \$93,439

### What do I need to know?

Physical Therapist students are required to earn a master's or doctoral degree. Entrance into physical therapy programs is highly competitive. During the education process multiple clinical affiliations are required, as part of the curriculum, to obtain a degree.

### What schools can I attend?

Eastern Washington University  
University of Puget Sound  
University of Washington

## PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

### What would I do?

Physical Therapy Assistants assist Physical Therapists with patient treatment. Their duties include helping patients use special equipment and perform stretching and strengthening exercises. They monitor patients' progress and report outcomes to the supervising Physical Therapist.

### Where would I work?

Physical Therapy Assistants may work in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, home health agencies, and sports facilities.

### What would I earn?

\$49,122 - \$59,872

### What do I need to know?

Physical Therapy Assistants obtain an associate's degree from an accredited educational institution and then complete a national licensure examination. Admission into physical therapy assistant programs is highly competitive.

### What schools can I attend?

Green River Community College  
Lake Washington Institute of Technology  
Olympic College  
Pima Medical Institute  
Spokane Falls Community College  
Whatcom Community College

## RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

### What would I do?

Respiratory Therapists (RT)—also known as Certified Respiratory Therapists (CRT) and Registered Respiratory Therapists (RRT)—evaluate, treat, and care for patients with breathing abnormalities. They set up and operate testing equipment that measures lung capacity and oxygen and carbon dioxide concentrations. They compare measurements with the norm to determine if lung deficiencies exist and work with the physician to modify treatment. RTs treat all types of patients, including premature infants, patients with asthma or chronic lung disease (emphysema, cystic fibrosis), pneumonia, victims of a heart attack, stroke, or any condition that causes difficulty or cessation of breathing. They also teach homecare patients and their families how to use medications, ventilators, and other home therapy equipment.

### Where would I work?

Most RTs work in hospitals, but a growing number of therapists work in physician offices, respiratory therapy clinics, rehabilitation facilities, nursing homes, or homecare. Some take positions as traveling RTs in which they take hospital assignments in different states for several months at a time. Respiratory Therapists may specialize in neonatal care, pediatric care, geriatric care, cardiopulmonary diagnostics, sleep diagnostic centers, critical care, and subacute rehabilitation.

### What would I earn?

\$55,837 - \$68,580

### What do I need to know?

Respiratory Therapists must complete an associate's degree program or bachelor's degree program and pass the entry-level CRT and/or advanced-level RRT examination given by the National Board for Respiratory Care. In addition, Respiratory Therapists must obtain state RT licensure.

### What schools can I attend?

Highline Community College  
Pima Medical Institute in Renton  
Seattle Community College – Central Campus  
Spokane Community College  
Tacoma Community College

## SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

### What would I do?

Speech-Language Pathologists diagnose, prevent, and treat speech and swallowing disorders. They also help individuals improve their voice and/or language skills. Some Speech-Language Pathologists research methods of communication or develop equipment or techniques for treatment of speech and/or language disorders. Speech-Language Pathologists may work with Audiologists.

### Where would I work?

Speech-Language Pathologists may work in schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, speech and hearing centers, and physician offices. Some are selfemployed

### What would I earn?

\$73,886 - \$87,638

### What do I need to know?

Speech-Language Pathologists must complete a master's degree program. Admission into speechlanguage programs is highly competitive. Following completion of a degree program, Speech-Language Pathologists must pass a national examination and complete at least a nine-month, full-time internship to obtain a clinical certification. State licensure is also required.

### What schools can I attend?

Eastern Washington University  
University of Washington  
Washington State University  
Western Washington University

# LABORATORY SCIENCE

Individuals working in Laboratory Science use equipment and technology to collect and prepare blood, tissue, and body fluids. They perform laboratory tests, which provide important information in the diagnosis of disease.

Careers within this section include:

- Cytotechnologist
- Histotechnician/Histotechnologist
- Medical Technologist
- Phlebotomist

## CYTOTECHNOLOGIST

### What would I do?

Cytotechnologists specialize in the microscopic study of cells. Using subtle clues in the cells themselves (changes in size, shape, structure, and pattern) Cytotechnologists determine the presence or absence of specific diseases and determine which cases warrant further review by a Pathologist. Cytotechnologists are involved in the diagnosis of cancer, precancerous lesions, benign tumors and infectious processes from a variety of body sites.

**Where would I work?** Cytotechnologists work in hospitals, private laboratories, research facilities, educational institutions, and government facilities.

### What would I earn?

\$69,880 - \$84,061

### What do I need to know?

Most Cytotechnologists earn a four-year bachelor's degree in Cytotechnology. Some students with a science-related college degree (such as biology) may go on to gain an additional year of clinical training in Cytotechnology at an accredited school or hospital. Cytotechnologists become certified by taking the national registry certification examination given by the American Society for

Clinical Pathology Board of Certification.

### What schools can I attend?

There are no schools for Cryotechnolgy (CT) in Washington at the current time.

## HISTOLOGY TECHNOLOGIST

### What would I do?

Histotechnicians (HTs) and Histotechnologists (HTLs) prepare tissue slides for microscopic examination to be used in diagnosis, research, or teaching. Slides are prepared by freezing and cutting tissues, mounting them on slides, and dyeing them to emphasize the details. Histotechnologists perform more complicated tasks than Histotechnicians and may serve as supervisors or teachers.

### Where would I work?

Most HTs and HTLs work in hospital laboratories but others may work in physician offices, research laboratories, pharmaceutical companies, or government agencies.

### What would I earn?

\$42,692 - \$71,556

### What do I need to know?

Histology Technologists need clinical education in a Histology Technology (HT) program accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences or an associate's degree from a community college and training at a hospital.

Histology Technologists first obtain a bachelor's degree and then complete a year of additional laboratory experience. They may also complete an accredited Histology Technology program.

Certification for both positions may be required and can be obtained after passing a national

examination available through the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification.

### What schools can I attend?

Clover Park Technical College

## MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

### What would I earn?

\$54,725 - \$62,213

### What schools can I attend?

Clover Park Technical College

## MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST

### What would I do?

Medical Technologists (MTs)—also known as Clinical Laboratory Scientists—collect, prepare, and analyze body tissues, blood, and fluids to aid doctors and researchers in the diagnosis of disease. They supervise and train medical laboratory technicians. MTs usually perform more complex tests than medical laboratory technicians.

Laboratories provide opportunities for MTs to specialize in one of many areas, including blood banking, chemistry, hematology, immunohematology, immunology, or microbiology. MTs may work as generalists or supervisors.

### Where would I work?

Most Medical Technologists work in hospitals, reference laboratories, or research laboratories. Others may work in physician offices, nursing homes, research facilities, pharmaceutical companies, and universities.

### What would I earn?

\$63,202 - \$76,959

### What do I need to know?

Medical Technologists complete a four-year bachelor's degree and may complete an additional year of clinical practice in an accredited health facility. Certification is available after passing a national competency examination.

### What schools can I attend?

Academic Course Work: Central Washington University Eastern Washington University Pacific Lutheran University Seattle Pacific University Seattle University  
University of Washington  
Washington State University

## PHLEBOTOMIST

### What would I do?

Phlebotomists collect and process blood to be analyzed in a laboratory. They are trained in laboratory safety and must adhere to strict policies and procedures. Phlebotomists may perform special laboratory tests such as activated clotting times or point of care glucose testing or the collection of throat culture samples. They are the first line of contact the patient has with the laboratory personnel so compassion and empathy for the patient are very important skills. Clerical duties and using computerized systems are a part of their job and attention to detail is critical.

### Where would I work?

Phlebotomists work in hospital or private laboratories, physician offices, blood banks, insurance companies, and home health agencies.

### What would I earn?

\$30,742 - \$38,123

### What do I need to know?

Phlebotomists complete either on-the-job training or a formal phlebotomy program which lasts four to eight months. Certification is available through many national credentialing associations; listed on this page are the most recognized associations.

### What schools can I attend?

Bates Technical College  
Bellevue College  
Bellingham Technical College  
Clark College  
Clover Park Technical College Columbia Basin College Edmonds Community College Everett Community College Highline Community College North Seattle Community College Olympic College  
PIMA Medical Institute Renton Technical College Seattle Vocational Institute Shoreline Community

College Skagit Valley College  
South Puget Sound Community College  
Spokane Community College

Walla Walla Community College  
Yakima Valley College

# COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE & THERAPIES

Individuals working in this field use complementary approaches to evaluate and treat clients. They apply theory and practice to maintain balance of an individual's holistic health.

Careers within this section include:

- Acupuncturist
- Massage Therapist
- Recreation Therapist

## ACUPUNCTURIST

### What would I do?

Acupuncturists treat patients using therapeutic techniques based on traditional Chinese philosophies. Therapeutic techniques may include needle acupuncture, massage, exercise, and herbal treatments. Acupuncturists aim to maintain or restore healthy balance within the body. Acupuncturists meet with patients to discuss and treat injuries or health problems. Acupuncturists may be referred to as Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners.

### Where would I work?

Acupuncturists can work in community health centers, sports facilities, or private clinics. They can be self-employed and work from home or may even

visit patients in their homes. Some may work alone while others work with other health professionals.

### What would I earn?

\$42,000 - \$112,000

### What do I need to know?

Acupuncturists need to have an understanding of how the human body works and understand traditional Chinese medicine. They must also know and abide by the medical profession codes of ethics. To be a successful Acupuncturist you should have an understanding of biology, and chemistry. Chinese language courses are also useful.

To become an Acupuncturist in New Hampshire, you will need to have a bachelor's degree, registered nurse's degree, or physician's assistant degree from an accredited institution. Formal education requirements call for completion of an Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine or board-approved program. College level courses in anatomy and physiology must be completed. A national diploma in Acupuncture is recommended. Postgraduate training may be obtained by receiving 1,200 additional hours of training focusing on traditional Chinese medicine diagnosis and acupuncture theory. All applicants that have graduated from a non-Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

college or apprenticeship program must show proof of successful completion of a college level course in anatomy and physiology. Students must pass a written examination to become a certified Acupuncturist in New Hampshire.

### What schools can I attend?

Bastyr University  
Middle Way Acupuncture Institute  
Seattle Institute of East Asian Medicine

## MASSAGE THERAPIST

### What would I do?

Massage Therapists use a variety of soft-tissue manipulation and stimulation techniques which improve the blood and lymph circulation, speed recovery from exercise and muscle injury, improve flexibility, boost production of endorphins (natural painkillers), lower stress levels, and promote relaxation.

### Where would I work?

Massage Therapists work at health clubs, medical clinics, holistic health centers, and athletic departments. Many Massage Therapists have portable equipment and can visit a person's home or office.

### What would I earn?

\$45,419 - \$58,296

### What do I need to know?

Requirements to practice as a Massage Therapist vary by state. To obtain a license in New Hampshire you need to graduate from a state-approved massage school (750 hours), be certified by the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork, and pass the New Hampshire state practical examination.

### What schools can I attend?

Alexander School of Natural Therapeutics  
Altura College  
Ananda Massage Training  
Ancient Arts Massage School Clinic  
Arlington School of Massage  
Bellevue Massage School  
Bluestone Academy of Massage  
Bodymechanics School of Myotherapy and Massage  
Capitol Hill Massage School

Carrington College  
Clover Park Technical College  
Columbia River Institute of Massage Therapy  
Day Spa Academy  
Discoverypoint School of Massage Elite Academy  
Everest College [Bremerton, Seattle, Vancouver]  
Friday Harbor School of Massage Inland Massage Institute, Inc. Institute of Structural Medicine  
Lake Washington Institute of Technology Northwest Academy for the Healing Arts [Seattle, Bellingham]  
Pacific Northwest Massage Academy  
Pacific Northwest School of Massage - Eastside Port Townsend School of Massage  
Rainier Massage Academy  
Renton Technical College Massage Program  
Sage Academy of Massage and Bodyworks  
Seattle Massage Therapy School  
Spectrum Center School of Massage  
Spokane Community College  
Still Waters Massage Institute  
Therapeutic Connection School of Massage  
Tri-City School of Massage  
Victoria's Academy of Cosmetology Wellness Education Center  
Whatcom Community College

## RECREATION THERAPIST

### What would I do?

Recreation Therapists (RTs) use activity-based therapy to treat physical and mental illnesses or disabilities. Treatments may include the use of arts and crafts, dance, sports, games, music, and other recreational activities. Working with individuals or in a group setting, Recreation Therapists help patients regain or improve physical, social, decision-making, and problem-solving skills. In addition, Recreation Therapists provide experiences that assist clients by increasing self-esteem, reducing stress and anxiety, and promoting independence.

Recreation Therapists can choose to specialize in a specific population of patients, such as geriatrics, adolescents, or pediatrics. They may also choose to specialize in a specific therapeutic activity, such as art, dance, or music, or in specific clinical areas such as physical medicine and rehabilitation, mental health, chemical dependency, gerontology, or oncology.



### Where would I work?

Recreation Therapists work in mental health agencies, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and rehabilitation centers.

### What would I earn?

\$49,589 - \$61,629

### What do I need to know?

Recreation Therapists have a bachelor's degree in therapeutic recreation, which includes completion

of an internship that meets state and national requirements for certification, registration, or licensure. A master's degree is often required for specialized fields.

### What schools can I attend?

Eastern Washington University  
Western Washington University

# DENTISTRY

Individuals working in the field of dentistry focus on the prevention and treatment of mouth, gum, and tooth disease. This includes providing education about good oral health.

Careers within this section include:

- Dental Assistant
- Dental Hygienist
- Dental Laboratory Technician
- Dentist

## DENTAL ASSISTANT

### What would I do?

Dental Assistants help Dentists and Dental Hygienists provide care for patients. The duties of a Dental Assistant include greeting patients, taking and developing patient X-rays, taking patients' medical histories, sterilizing instruments, providing Dentists with proper instruments, providing intra-oral care as allowed by state law, providing patient education, providing post-treatment instructions, and helping in other day-to-day management of the dental office. Some Dental Assistants process dental X-ray film and prepare materials for making impressions and

restoration. They may also remove sutures, apply anesthetics to gums, or apply materials that prevent cavities, including coronal polishing, orthodontic assisting duties, and monitoring nitrous oxide/oxygen administration.

Since duties allowed to be delegated to dental assistants and the requirements to perform these duties vary greatly by state, Dentists and Dental Assistants should check with their state's dental board to ensure compliance with the law. The Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) can provide information on what a dental assistant is allowed to do in each state, as well as links to each state's dental board.

### Where would I work?

Dental Assistants may work in private dental offices, group offices, hospitals, community health agencies, or dental and dental hygienist schools.

### What would I earn?

\$33,124 - \$41,264

### What do I need to know?

Many community colleges offer an accredited program, which takes nine to 12 months to complete.

### What schools can I attend?

Bates Technical College  
Bellingham Technical College  
Carrington College-Spokane  
Central Washington School of Dental Assisting  
Clover Park Technical College  
Dental Assistant Training Center  
Dental Assisting School of Washington  
Emerald School of Dental Assisting  
Everest College  
[Bremerton, Everest, Renton, Tacoma]  
Institute of Advanced Dental Assisting  
Lake Washington Technical College  
Northshore Dental Assisting Academy, LLC  
Northwest School of Dental Assisting  
PIMA Medical Institute [Seattle, Renton] Renton Technical College  
River City School of Dental Assisting  
School of Dental Assisting Puyallup  
Seattle Vocational Institute  
Smokey Point Institute of Dental Assisting  
South Puget Sound Community College  
Spokane Community College  
Vancouver Dental Assisting School  
Yakima Valley College

## DENTAL HYGIENIST

### What would I do?

Dental Hygienists conduct medical/dental histories, perform soft tissue exams and oral cancer screenings, assess periodontal health, teach clients how to practice good oral hygiene, and provide preventive dental hygiene procedures and instruction. Responsibilities include removing soft and hard deposits from teeth, taking, developing and interpreting dental X-rays, and applying cavity-preventive materials, such as fluorides and sealants. In some states, such as New Hampshire, Dental Hygienists can also become qualified to administer local anesthesia.

### Where would I work?

Most Dental Hygienists work in private dental offices. Others may work in community health centers, hospitals, schools, correctional facilities, or nursing homes. Dental Hygienists may also be involved with education, public health, research, and sales and marketing. One feature of this job is flexibility. Full-time and part-time positions are available. Dental Hygienists may work only two or

three days a week and have jobs in more than one dental office.

### What would I earn?

\$63,311 - \$83,967

### What do I need to know?

Dental Hygienists must be licensed by the State in which they are employed. Qualifications for licensure include graduation from an American Dental Association accredited dental hygiene program with an associate's degree and passing a written as well as a clinical examination. In addition, most states require an examination on the legal aspects of dentistry and dental hygiene practice in that state. A bachelor's or master's degree is usually required for teaching, research, and public health programs.

### What schools can I attend?

Bellingham Technical College  
Clark College  
Columbia Basin College  
Eastern Washington University  
Pierce College at Fort Steilacoom  
PIMA Medical Institute-Seattle  
Seattle Community College-Central Campus  
Yakima Valley College

## DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

### What would I do?

Dental Laboratory Technicians make and repair dental appliances such as dentures, crowns, bridges, and braces. Using materials such as gold, silver, stainless steel, porcelain, and plastic, Technicians fill dentists' prescriptions for dental appliances. They may specialize in orthodontic appliances, crowns and bridges, partial and complete dentures, or ceramics.

### Where would I work?

Most Dental Laboratory Technicians work in commercial laboratories, which are usually small, employing fewer than five Technicians. However, there are some large laboratories, which may employ more than 50 Technicians. Also, some Technicians may work in dentist offices, hospitals, the military, or their own homes.

**What would I earn?**

\$26,000 - \$50,000

**What do I need to know?**

Prior to taking the national examination to become certified, Dental Laboratory Technicians attend a two- year program at a community or technical college to receive a certificate or an associate's degree. Dental Laboratory Technicians may also become certified by completing a five- year apprenticeship program prior to passing the national examination.

**What schools can I attend?**

Bates Technical College

## DENTIST

**What would I do?**

Dentists evaluate the oral health of their patients, integrating oral health care with total health care. Dentists have earned either the degree of Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) or Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS). They replace missing teeth and diagnose and treat tooth decay and periodontal disease. They help prevent dental disease, malocclusions, and oral-facial anomalies. Dentists also provide early detection of oral cancer and systemic conditions of the body that often first manifest themselves in the mouth. Although 80% of dentists are general practitioners, others practice in one of nine areas of specialization: endodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, oral and maxillofacial radiology, oral pathology, orthodontics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, prosthodontics, and public

health dentistry. The field of dentistry has evolved to encompass treatment of jaw and joint problems, snoring, nutritional counseling, forensic victim identification, and lip and skin problems.

**Where would I work?**

Most dentists work in private practice or with a dental group. Some dentists work in hospitals, teaching institutions, research facilities, uniformed services, or in federal, state, and local departments of health.

**What would I earn?**

\$137,855 - \$180,532

**What do I need to know?**

Most dental school students have a bachelor's degree, although dental schools may consider applicants with less than four years of undergraduate course work if they have a high grade-point average. The dental school curriculum is four years in length, preparing individuals for entry into practice. Some dental graduates immediately pursue advanced general dentistry or specialty education, ranging from one to five additional years. To be licensed, Dentists must graduate from an accredited dental school and pass a national written examination and a state or regional practical examination.

**What schools can I attend?**

Central Washington University  
Eastern Washington University  
University of Washington  
Washington State University  
Western Washington University

# DIAGNOSTIC & TECHNICAL INSTRUMENTATION

Individuals working in this field prepare and/or monitor patients for medical procedures. Technological improvements have allowed health professionals to use advanced equipment to diagnose disease.

Careers within this section include:

- Cardiovascular Technologist/Technician
- Electroneurodiagnostic Technologist
- Perfusionist

## CARDIOVASCULAR TECHNOLOGIST/ TECHNICIAN

**What would I do?**

Cardiovascular Technologists/Technicians assist Physicians in diagnosing and treating heart disorders by performing invasive and noninvasive tests. In addition to performing diagnostic procedures, Cardiovascular Technologists/Technicians prepare patients for the test by cleaning, shaving areas of the skin, and administering anesthesia. During procedures, they also monitor patients' blood pressure and heart rate.

Cardiovascular Technologists/Technicians may specialize in invasive technology, noninvasive technology, noninvasive peripheral vascular study, and electrophysiology. Cardiovascular Technicians who specialize in electrocardiograms (EKGs), stress testing, and Holter monitors are known as Cardiographic Technicians or EKG Technicians.

**Where would I work?**

Most Cardiovascular Technologists/Technicians work in hospitals, but some also work in medical

centers, physician offices, and mobile diagnostic units.

**What would I earn?**

\$41,000 - \$84,000

**What do I need to know?**

Although a few Cardiovascular Technologists/ Technicians are currently trained on the job, most receive training in two- to four-year programs. The majority of Cardiovascular Technologists/ Technicians complete a two-year junior or community college program, but four-year programs are increasingly available. The first year is dedicated to core courses and is followed by a year of specialized instruction in either invasive, noninvasive cardiovascular, or noninvasive vascular technology.

**What schools can I attend?**

Spokane Community College

## ELECTRO- ENCEPHALOGRAPHY TECHNOLOGIST

**What would I do?**

Electroencephalography Technologists use the electroencephalograph (EEG) machine and other instruments to record the electrical activity of the brain and central nervous system. The EEG produces a graph that Neurologists use to diagnose and monitor diseases of the central nervous system, like epilepsy or Alzheimer's disease. END Technologists prepare patients for the EEG test by placing electrodes on the scalp or other parts of the body. During diagnostic studies, END Technologists monitor instrument settings and prepare written reports for Physicians.

### Where would I work?

END Technologists may specialize in areas such as sleep disorder, interoperative monitoring, or long-term monitoring of epilepsy. END Technologists usually work in hospitals but others may work in neurology laboratories, neurologist offices, psychiatric facilities, or large medical centers.

### What would I earn?

\$47,593 - \$58,877

### What do I need to know?

Some END Technologists receive their training on the job but employers now prefer those who have completed a one- to two-year formal program at a community college.

### What schools can I attend?

Bellevue Community College

## CARDIAC PERFUSIONIST

### What would I do?

Perfusionists are important members of an open-

heart surgical team. During open-heart surgery, Perfusionists set up and operate the heart-lung machine that pumps and oxygenates the patient's blood while the heart is being operated on. Throughout the surgery, Perfusionists monitor the patient's blood circulation and keep the surgical team informed of the patient's condition.

### Where would I work?

Perfusionists are employed by hospitals, surgeons, and perfusion groups. They work under extremely stressful conditions.

### What would I earn?

\$119,344 - \$145,186

### What do I need to know?

Perfusionists complete a bachelor's degree before being admitted into a one- to two-year perfusionist training program. Admission into perfusionist programs is highly competitive.

### What schools can I attend?

Seattle Pacific University

Emergency Medical Dispatcher must carefully question the caller to quickly determine the type of emergency, extent of injuries or illness, geographic location, and appropriate actions to take.

The Emergency Medical Dispatcher will remain in contact with the caller and the Emergency Medical Service providers until they are in physical contact with each other. The EMD is often a link between medical staff at a hospital and Emergency Medical Technicians on the scene or on route from the scene. EMDs make decisions based on medically approved protocols. They have predetermined itemized steps for most situations and are able to relay this information so effective care is provided.

### Where would I work?

Emergency Medical Dispatchers work in a variety of settings including fire, police, or Emergency Medical Service stations; hospitals; or area dispatch centers.

### What would I earn?

\$33,762 - \$43,321

### What do I need to know?

Many EMDs are initially hired as basic communication officers and then receive medical-dispatch training on the job. State EMDs must be certified through a state- approved program. Local agencies are encouraged to provide medical training to their communicators.

Increasingly, public safety dispatchers receive training in stress and crisis management as well as family counseling. This training helps them to provide effective services to others. At the same time, it helps them manage the stress involved in their work.

### What schools can I attend?

Emergency Medical Services - Seattle & King County  
Washington State Criminal Justice Training  
Commission's Telecommunicator Program

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN- BASIC/ INTERMEDIATE/ PARAMEDIC

### What would I do?

The training of an Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P) is the same as an Emergency Medical Technician-Basic/Intermediate (EMT-B/I) plus additional lifesaving skills. Both EMT-B/Is and EMT-Ps administer initial care for sick and injured patients requiring immediate medical attention. Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) are trained in the emergency treatment of traumatic injuries (e.g. traffic accidents, poisonings) as well as medical emergencies (e.g. cardiac arrest, emergency childbirth). EMTs are often the first responders to violent and potentially dangerous situations. They are also the first to provide lifesaving care.

EMTs are responsible for the overall management of the medical scene, including safety for other emergency medical providers, patients, and bystanders. EMT-Ps provide the most advanced care of all emergency medical service providers. In addition to the skills of the EMT-B/I, EMT-Ps administer medications; monitor, pace, and convert irregular cardiac rhythms; interpret electrocardiograms; and intubate patients with airway problems. EMT-B/Is and EMT-Ps are also involved in many community-based health awareness and prevention initiatives including blood pressure and glucose testing clinics, teddy bear clinics for children, and public access defibrillation programs.

### Where would I work?

EMT-Ps receive the highest level of training and have the most versatile working environments in the field of Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Most EMT-Ps are paid personnel working in hospital emergency departments, clinics, industrial settings, intercept units, or fire and EMS departments. They also work as on-call staff or volunteers for their local community EMS. Most EMT-B/Is are paid, on-call staff, or they are volunteers for their local community EMS. EMTs work both indoors and outdoors, in all environments and weather conditions. The job requires long periods of bending, kneeling, standing, lifting, and walking.

### What would I earn?

\$32,464 - \$40,280

### What do I need to know?

Emergency Medical Technicians/Basic/Intermediate/Paramedic levels require certification from a state-approved education training program that

# EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Individuals working in this field manage medical emergencies. They act as medical liaisons, provide urgent care, and transport patients to appropriate health care facilities.

Careers within this section include:

- Emergency Medical Dispatcher
- Emergency Medical Technician- Basic/Intermediate/Paramedic

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCHER

### What would I do?

Emergency Medical Dispatchers (EMDs) are the first persons to receive incoming emergency calls. They prioritize incoming calls by severity through a unified system and determine the appropriate resources necessary for adequate response to the situation. When managing incoming calls, the

meets the National Standard Curriculum. EMT-B/Is in New Hampshire must be certified through the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians by passing a national written and practical examination. EMT-B/Is must be 18 years old at the time of the examination, be CPR certified, and hold a valid driver's license. EMT-B/I level courses are often offered at local hospitals, fire, and EMS departments. Contact the New Hampshire Bureau of Emergency Medical Services for a complete listing of EMT courses offered throughout New Hampshire.

**What schools can I attend?**

Bates Technical College  
Bellingham Technical College

Central Washington University College of Emergency Services  
Columbia Basin Community College  
Everett Community College  
Harborview Medical Center - University of Washington  
Inland Northwest Health Services Northwest  
Regional Training Center North Seattle College  
Peninsula College  
Resuscitation Group-Vancouver  
Spokane Community College  
Tacoma Community College  
Tacoma Fire Department  
Wenatchee Valley College  
Walla Walla Community College

managed care organizations, nursing homes, or other health care agencies.

**What would I earn?**

\$43,000 - \$131,000

**What do I need to know?**

A bachelor's degree is required for most administrative positions though many organizations prefer a master's degree in health administration, business administration, or a related field. Individuals take courses in accounting, organizational theory, financial management, marketing, health care systems and policy, health planning, health law and ethics, quantitative methods, and health economics. Most bachelor's degree and master's programs include an administrative internship component.

Nursing home administrators take a national licensing examination administered by the State of New Hampshire.

**What schools can I attend?**

City University of Seattle  
Eastern Washington University  
University of Washington  
Washington State University

and health maintenance organizations also hire Health Information Managers.

**What would I earn?**

\$41,000 - \$78,000

**What do I need to know?**

A bachelor's degree in medical records management or health information management is required. In addition, individuals may take a national registration examination to become registered Health Information Administrators.

**What schools can I attend?**

Clark College  
Shoreline Community College  
Spokane Community College  
Tacoma Community College  
University of Washington

# HEALTH ADMINISTRATION & INFORMATION

Health Administration professionals perform operational activities related to the delivery of health care services. These positions range from clerical to senior management.

Careers within this section include:

- Health Care Administrator
- Health Information Manager
- Health Information Technician
- Health Science Librarian
- Medical Coder
- Medical Interpreter
- Medical Office Manager
- Medical Secretary
- Medical Transcriptionist

## HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATOR

**What would I do?**

Health Care Administrators make policy and managerial decisions regarding public and private health care organizations and institutions. Key responsibilities include leadership, budgeting, strategic planning, contract negotiation, personnel and facility management, and overseeing patient services. Some administrators have a background in management while others specialize in certain operational areas such as policy analysis, planning, budgeting, finance, accounting, marketing, or human resources management.

**Where would I work?**

Health Care Administrators generally work in an office environment. In general, people holding such positions manage hospitals, community health centers, physician medical group practices,

## HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGER

**What would I do?**

Health Information Managers focus on planning and directing systems for collecting, securing, and distributing health-related information. This information may include patient medical records, billing information, and other data necessary for financial decision making. Key responsibilities include training staff in the use of automated systems, assuring confidentiality, managing health data, generating reports, and maintaining policies and procedures. Health Information Managers may also be known as Medical Records Administrators.

**Where would I work?**

Depending on the size of the organization, Health Information Managers may supervise Health Information Technicians and work in hospitals, physician offices, community health centers, and other health care facilities. Insurance companies

## HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNICIAN

**What would I do?**

Health Information Technicians (HITs) collect, summarize, and report data for quality management, utilization management, risk management, and other studies related to patient care. They use technology to compute and interpret descriptive health care statistics and other data. This data may be used to monitor health care expenditures, physician practice patterns, and medical research. This position can also be referred to as a Medical Records Technician.

**Where would I work?**

Working under the supervision of a Health Information Manager, HITs may be employed by hospitals, medical group practices, health maintenance organizations, state and federal health departments, and other health care facilities.

**What would I earn?**

\$32,665 - \$42,232

**What do I need to know?**

Health Information Technicians entering the field usually have an associate's degree from a community or junior college. General education course work includes medical terminology, anatomy

and physiology, legal aspects of health information, coding and abstraction of data, statistics, database management, quality assurance methods, and computer training. Biology, chemistry, health, and computer courses should be taken in high school. Graduates are eligible to take a national examination to become a registered Health Information Technician.

#### **What schools can I attend?**

Bellevue College  
Bellingham Technical College  
Clark College  
Columbia Basin College  
Edmonds Community College  
Grays Harbor College  
North Seattle College  
Pierce College [Puyallup, Fort Steilacoom]  
Shoreline Community College  
Skagit Valley College  
Spokane Community College  
Tacoma Community College

## **HEALTH SCIENCE LIBRARIAN**

#### **What would I do?**

Health Science Librarians help health professionals access the most current knowledge-based information available on medical topics. They identify, compile, and maintain collections of resources, both print and electronic, such as texts, journals, CD-ROMs, and databases to assist providers in medical research and decision-making. They train health professionals in researching indexes and automated resources. They also help patients find information and answer consumers' questions about health-related topics.

#### **Where would I work?**

Most often, Health Science Librarians work in medical, nursing, or allied health schools; hospitals; and pharmaceutical and other medical-related corporations. They may also work at federal, state, and local government agencies.

#### **What would I earn?**

\$38,000 - \$82,000

#### **What do I need to know?**

A master's degree from a school accredited by the

American Library Association is required. Health Science Librarians must also be familiar with online biomedical databases (such as Medline from the U.S. National Library of Medicine), essential health care printed resources, the Internet, and the health care environment.

#### **What schools can I attend?**

University of Washington

## **MEDICAL RECORDS CODING TECHNICIAN**

#### **What would I do?**

Medical Records Coding Technicians assign numeric and alphanumeric codes that represent a patient's diagnosis and the procedures used to treat the patient. Medical Records Coding Technicians rely on official classification systems and base the application of specific diagnostic and procedure codes on the Physician's written documentation (i.e., the patient's medical chart).

#### **Where would I work?**

Medical Records Coding Technicians work in a variety of places and provide a range of services from hands-on coding, to compliance officers, and medical auditors. Medical Records Coding Technicians also work in vital statistics compiling mortality (cause of death) reports from death certificates. The majority, however, work in physician offices and either inpatient or outpatient hospital facilities. Some Medical Coders, after years of experience, may advance to consulting positions and travel around the country providing their expertise to others in the profession.

#### **What would I earn?**

\$26,000 - \$54,000

#### **What do I need to know?**

A minimum of a two-year associate's degree, a knowledge of medical terminology, and a basic understanding of anatomy is required. Medical Coders must be familiar with standardized coding systems such as ICD-9-CM, CPT, and HCPCS. A coder's understanding of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) is important.

#### **What schools can I attend?**

Bellingham Technical College  
Centralia College  
Clark College  
Clover Park Technical College  
Columbia Basin College  
Everest College [Bremerton, Everett, Renton, Tacoma, Vancouver]  
Everett Community College  
Grays Harbor College  
Green River Community College  
Highline College  
Lake Washington Institute of Technology  
Lower Columbia College  
Olympic College Peninsula College  
Renton Technical College  
Skagit Valley College  
South Seattle College  
Spokane Community College  
Whatcom Community College  
Yakima Valley College

## **MEDICAL INTERPRETER**

#### **What would I do?**

Medical Interpreters are people with knowledge of medical terminology who provide a vehicle for communication between individuals who do not speak the same language. Medical Interpreters do not just translate the words but act as a cultural broker between the health care provider and the patient to try to put the discussion in a cultural context. Medical Interpreters need excellent translation skills as well as knowledge of the health care system.

#### **Where would I work?**

Medical Interpreters can be self-employed and work on a contractual basis. They may also be employed by a medical interpretation company or be hired as an employee of a hospital or large health care organization. The work setting for a Medical Interpreter may vary based on patient needs.

#### **What would I earn?**

\$39,349 - \$49,023

#### **What do I need to know?**

Medical Interpreters need to be fluent in English and another language. They need to have an understanding of medical terminology, cross

cultural communication, and knowledge of the health care field. Although some interpreters receive on-the-job training many employers prefer candidates who have completed a formal medical interpreter certification program.

#### **What schools can I attend?**

Highline College  
The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) offers a Language Testing and Certification Program (LTC).

## **MEDICAL OFFICE MANAGER**

#### **What would I do?**

Medical Office Managers are health care professionals with skills in business and human resources management. They plan, direct, coordinate, and supervise the operations of a medical practice. The job of a Medical Office Manager requires comprehensive knowledge of insurance policies, risk management, accounting, contract management, data management, human resources, communication, marketing, health care law, and administration.

#### **Where would I work?**

Medical Office Managers work in physician medical group or solo practices, community health centers, home health care, long-term care, managed care organizations, or other health care agencies. Medical Office Managers may be called on at any time to deal with problems. They also travel frequently to attend meetings.

#### **What would I earn?**

\$34,000 - \$70,000

#### **What do I need to know?**

An associate's degree or a one-year certification program is preferred for an entry-level Medical Office Manager.

#### **What schools can I attend?**

Green River College  
Seattle Central College  
University of Washington

## MEDICAL SECRETARY

### What would I do?

Medical Secretaries provide clerical support to individuals working in the health care field. This administrative position requires computer skills in word processing, spreadsheets, and database programs, as well as filing and reception work. Knowledge of medical terminology is helpful.

### Where would I work?

Medical Secretaries may work in physician offices, hospitals, insurance companies, or other health care organizations.

### What would I earn?

\$35,919 - \$45,514

### What do I need to know?

An associate's degree is preferred although some high school graduates may qualify for entry-level positions. Individuals need to be familiar with medical terminology, insurance rules, billing, and hospital procedures.

### What schools can I attend?

Charter College (Fife, Pasco, Vancouver)  
Skagit Valley College  
Spokane Falls Community College

## MEDICAL RECORDS TRANSCRIPTIONIST

### What would I do?

Medical Transcriptionists translate dictation from physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, social workers, pharmacists, and other providers

and type it for insertion into the medical record. The position requires extensive knowledge of medical terminology and the ability to use sound judgment in interpreting provider comments. Knowledge of the laws regarding medical records documentation is essential.

### Where would I work?

Medical Transcriptionists can be self-employed and work on a contractual basis. They may also be employed by a medical transcription company or be hired as an employee of a hospital or medical practice.

### What would I earn?

\$40,784 - \$51,037

### What do I need to know?

Most Medical Transcriptionists have an associate's degree in medical transcription although some individuals are trained on the job and others obtain certificates. Courses in anatomy, medical terminology, English, and legal issues relating to health care documentation are very important.

### What schools can I attend?

Clark College  
Everett Community College  
Green River College  
Peninsula College  
South Seattle College  
Spokane Community College  
Tacoma Community College  
Walla Walla Community College  
Highline College  
Lower Columbia College  
University of Washington/Tacoma - KeyBank  
Yakima Valley College

# IMAGING TECHNOLOGY

Individuals working in this field use imaging technology to diagnose and treat medical conditions. Technological improvements have expanded both the roles of personnel and the process involved in imaging the interior of the human body.

Careers within this section include:

- Dosimetrist (Medical)
- Nuclear Medicine Technologist
- Radiation Therapist
- Radiologic Technologist
- Sonographer

## DOSIMETRIST (MEDICAL)

### What would I do?

A Dosimetrist is a key member of the radiation oncology team. They need to have knowledge of the overall characteristics and clinical relevance of radiation oncology treatment machines and equipment. In addition, they must have education and expertise necessary to generate radiation dose distributions and dose calculations. The Dosimetrist uses computer software to design radiation plans to treat tumors and cancerous lesions using both external X-ray beams and internal radiation sources. They work closely with physicians, radiation therapists, and physicists to ensure high quality treatment and patient care.

### Where would I work?

Medical Dosimetrists work in hospitals, cancer treatment centers, medical research laboratories, and medical schools. In some environments, Dosimetrists play a part in cutting-edge clinical research and education. They must be able to work well and maintain concentration under stressful conditions.

### What would I earn?

\$106,924 - \$127,281

### What do I need to know?

The Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board sets the standards for eligibility for the certification examination. Currently, there are many ways for Dosimetrists to obtain their degree and training in order to take their examination. Dosimetrists may come from many different backgrounds with some having a degree in radiation therapy first and then graduating from a JRCERT approved Medical Dosimetry program or extensive on-the-job training under the supervision of a Medical Physicist or Dosimetrist. Others may acquire a bachelor's degree in a science or related field and then graduate from a JRCERT approved program. The routes of eligibility are changing and effective for 2017, all candidates will be required to have a bachelor's degree and have graduated from an approved program to be eligible to take their certification examination.

### What schools can I attend?

Bellevue College

## NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGIST

### What would I do?

Nuclear Medicine Technologists (NMTs) prepare and administer radiopharmaceuticals (radioactive materials) to diagnose and treat diseases. NMTs prepare patients for medical procedures and work under the supervision of a board-certified Physician. NMTs calculate dosages and administer medications to patients by mouth, injection, or inhalation. NMTs must document the use and disposal of radioactive materials and follow safety regulations to limit radiation exposure.

### Where would I work?

NMTs work in hospitals, private clinics, diagnostic centers, research facilities, and public health departments. There is a potential for radiation exposure but it is kept to a minimum through safety precautions.

**What would I earn?**

\$72,278 - \$88,240

**What do I need to know?**

Nuclear Medicine Technologists may complete either a one- or two-year certificate program, a two-year associate's degree, or a four-year bachelor's degree. Certification is available through the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board or the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists.

**What schools can I attend?**

Bellevue College  
Columbia Basin College

## RADIATION THERAPY TECHNOLOGIST

**What would I do?**

Radiation Therapists work under the supervision of Radiation Oncologists (Physicians who use radiation to treat cancer). They administer radiation treatment to patients, care for patients who are being treated, and monitor them for side effects. They also protect patients and themselves from unwanted radiation.

**Where would I work?**

Radiation Therapists work in hospitals, cancer treatment centers, educational facilities, physician offices, and research laboratories. There is a potential for radiation exposure but it is kept to a minimum through safety precautions.

**What would I earn?**

\$75,071 - \$92,776

**What do I need to know?**

Radiation Therapists may complete either a one- or two-year certificate program, a two-year associate's degree, or a four-year bachelor's degree. Certification may be obtained through the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists.

**What schools can I attend?**

Bellevue College  
Bellingham Technical College  
Carrington College-Spokane  
Lower Columbia College  
Tacoma Community College  
University of Washington  
Yakima Valley College

## RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST

**What would I do?**

Radiologic Technologists may specialize in using a specific type of equipment or procedure that involves a specific body part. Among the specializations are mammography, computerized tomography (CT scan), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), cardiovascular technology, trauma radiology, and pediatric radiology.

**Where would I work?**

Most Radiologic Technologists are employed in hospitals. Some work in urgent care centers, operating rooms, physician offices, and research centers. Others work on traveling vans that bring equipment to different hospitals each day.

**What would I earn?**

\$39,000 - \$69,000

**What do I need to know?**

Radiologic Technologists complete a two-year associate's degree or a four-year bachelor's degree with didactic and clinical experience.

**What schools can I attend?**

Bellevue College  
Bellingham Technical College  
Carrington College-Spokane  
Clark College  
Columbia Basin College  
Lower Columbia College  
PIMA Medical Institute  
Spokane Community College  
Tacoma Community College  
University of Washington  
Wenatchee Valley College  
Yakima Valley College

## SONOGRAPHER

**What would I do?**

Sonographers, also known as Diagnostic Medical Sonographers, operate ultrasound equipment to produce images of internal structures that do not show on X-rays. The equipment used by Sonographers directs high-frequency sound waves into the area on the patient's body that result in

images viewed on a television screen and printed digitally. These images are then used by physicians to make diagnoses.

Sonographers prepare patients by explaining the procedure and positioning the patient. Sonographers may specialize in examining specific areas of the body, such as neurosonology (brain), echocardiography (heart), obstetric/gynecology (uterus), vascular (arteries and veins), and ophthalmology (eyes).

**Where would I work?**

Sonographers may work in hospitals, clinics, laboratories, or physician offices. Some work freelance or for mobile services.

**What would I earn?**

\$50,000 - \$85,000

**What schools can I attend?**

Bellevue College  
Seattle University  
Spokane Community College  
Tacoma Community College

# MEDICAL SUPPORT

Individuals working in this field provide medical support to other health professionals by preparing for and assisting with medical procedures.

Careers within this section include:

- Medical Assistant
- Surgical Technologist/Technician

## MEDICAL ASSISTANT

**What would I do?**

Medical Assistants perform both clinical and administrative tasks in a physician's office. Clinical duties may include taking vital signs, assisting the Physician with patient exams and minor surgeries, giving injections, administering EKGs, drawing blood, and preparing lab specimens for processing. Administrative duties include scheduling appointments, processing insurance claims, calling in prescriptions, transcribing medical documents, updating patient records, and arranging hospital admissions and laboratory services. Medical Assistants work under the direction of a Physician.

**Where would I work?**

Medical Assistants work in ambulatory care settings. These settings include primarily physician offices and clinics, and may also include administrative work in hospitals. Medical Assistants are found in most health care specialties.

**What would I earn?**

\$32,420 - \$37,975

**What do I need to know?**

After completing high school, Medical Assistants may complete a formal training program lasting from one to two years. Programs may award certificates as well as diplomas and associate degrees. Certification is not necessarily required for entry-level positions.

**What schools can I attend?**

Bellevue College  
Big Bend Community College  
Carrington College Centralia College Charter College Clark College  
Clover Park Technical College  
Columbia Basin College  
Everest College  
Everett Community College  
Health Professionals Institute

Highline Community College  
 Horizon Medical Institute  
 Lake Washington Institute of Technology  
 Lower Columbia College North Seattle College  
 Olympic College Peninsula College  
 Perry Technical Institute  
 PIMA Medical Institute [Renton, Seattle] Renton  
 Technical College  
 Royal College of Medical Training  
 South Puget Sound Community College  
 Spokane Community College  
 Skagit Valley College  
 Walla Walla Community College  
 Washington Association of Community Health  
 Wenatchee Valley College Whatcom Community  
 College Yakima Valley College

## SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST/ TECHNICIAN

### What would I do?

Surgical Technologists/Technicians assist surgical teams before, during, and after surgery. Prior to surgery, Surgical Technologists/Technicians prepare the operating room with all necessary equipment and instrumentation needed for a given procedure. They gown and glove the Surgeons, provide sterile sheets for the patients, and assist in positioning the patient on the operating-room bed. During surgery, Surgical Technologists/Technicians pass

instruments to the Surgeon. They operate lights, suction machines, and other diagnostic equipment. After surgery, they may help transport patients to recovery or help clean and restock the operating room.

Surgical Technologists/Technicians may specialize in specific surgical procedures such as open heart surgery, neurosurgery, organ transplantation, plastic surgery, or orthopedic surgery.

### Where would I work?

Most Surgical Technologists/Technicians/ work in hospitals; some work in physician offices or for day surgery centers. Surgical Technologists/Technicians may be required to be on call for emergencies.

### What would I earn?

\$40,867 - \$50,667

### What do I need to know?

Surgical Technologists/Technicians complete a formal program lasting from nine months to two years, resulting in a diploma, a certificate, or an associate's degree.

### What schools can I attend?

Bellingham Technical College Clover Park Technical  
 College Columbia Basin College  
 Everest College  
 Renton Technical College Seattle Central College  
 Spokane Community College  
 Yakima Valley College

# MEDICINE

Those working in the field of medicine diagnose and treat injuries and diseases. Medical professionals often counsel patients to prevent recurring problems.

Careers within this section include:

- Chiropractor
- Doctor of Medicine
- Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine
- Physician Assistant
- Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (Podiatrist)

## CHIROPRACTOR

### What would I do?

Chiropractors, also known as Doctors of Chiropractic (DC), care for patients of all ages, with or without symptoms. Chiropractic care is based on the principle that the nervous system controls the overall health of the body. Chiropractic care may help people recover from pains and illnesses of all kinds and in preventing illness as well as optimizing performance for the achievement of human potential.

Specifically, Chiropractors adjust the spine, usually by hand, realigning the bones for the express purpose of normalizing neurological function so that the body can bring about healing.

Adjunctive procedures are sometimes included to assist with the process of recovery. Examples are massage therapy, hot and cold treatment, acupuncture, and other physiological therapeutics. Chiropractors also counsel patients regarding a wellness lifestyle including good diet, exercise, sleep patterns, and positive mental attitude. Chiropractors may specialize in athletic injuries, neurology, nutrition, orthopedics, internal disorders, specific age groups, or diagnostic imaging.

### Where would I work?

Most Chiropractors are self-employed or work in a group practice

### What would I earn?

\$125,994 - \$204,401

### What do I need to know?

Chiropractors attend a four-year chiropractic college after completing at least two years of undergraduate education with a focus on the sciences. Many states now require a bachelor's degree prior to Chiropractic College matriculation.

### What schools can I attend?

Tacoma Community College

## DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

### What would I do?

Doctors of Medicine (MDs) diagnose and treat patients with illnesses, injuries, and diseases, as well as perform examinations on healthy people. Also known as Allopathic Physicians, MDs order tests and lab studies, prescribe medication, and perform surgeries to help patients get well. They also counsel patients on diet, exercise, and other methods of preventive care.

To practice medicine, one needs to understand business and politics as well as health care. Family support is also important for the practicing physician. MDs are Primary Care Physicians which include general and family medicine, general internal medicine, and pediatrics. Obstetrics/ gynecology may also be considered primary care. Areas of specialization include:

Allergy and Immunology Anesthesiology  
 Cardiovascular Disease Colon and Rectal Surgery  
 Critical Care  
 Dermatology Emergency Medicine Family Practice  
 Endocrinology Forensic Pathology Gastroenterology  
 Geriatrics Hematology Infectious Disease



Internal Medicine Medical Genetics Nephrology  
Neurological Surgery Neurology  
Nuclear Medicine Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Oncology  
Ophthalmology  
Orthopedic Surgery  
Otolaryngology  
Pathology  
Pediatrics  
Physical Medicine and Pediatrics  
Plastic Surgery  
Preventive Medicine  
Psychiatry  
Pulmonary Disease  
Radiation  
Oncology  
Radiology  
Rheumatology  
Sports Medicine  
Surgery  
Thoracic Surgery  
Urology  
Women's Health

#### Where would I work?

MDs may work in private practice, group practice, hospitals, community health centers, urgent care centers, research facilities, medical schools, and the military.

#### What would I earn?

\$57,000 - \$62,000 (during the three to eight years of residency); \$168,000 - \$193,000

#### What do I need to know?

MDs undergo many years of education and training: four years of undergraduate school, four years of medical school, and three to eight years of internship and residency.

#### What schools can I attend?

University of Washington  
Washington State University

## DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

#### What would I do?

Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (DOs) are physicians who place a special emphasis on the "whole person" focusing on preventive medicine

and holistic patient care. DOs prescribe medicine, order laboratory tests, and perform surgeries. They also counsel patients on diet, exercise and other methods of preventive care. DOs are also trained to practice osteopathic manipulation, a noninvasive, hands-on procedure to diagnose, treat, and, in some cases, prevent injury or illness. DOs may obtain a board certificate or a subspecialty board certification in any of the following areas:

Addiction Medicine  
Allergy and Immunology  
Anesthesiology Dermatology  
Emergency Medicine  
Family Medicine  
Forensic Pathology I  
Internal Medicine  
Neurology and Psychiatry  
Nuclear Medicine  
Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology  
Orthopedics  
Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine  
Pathology  
Pediatrics  
Preventive Medicine  
Proctology Radiology  
Rehabilitation Medicine  
Rheumatology  
Sports Medicine  
Surgery

#### Where would I work?

DOs may work in private practice, group practice, hospitals, community health centers, urgent care centers, research facilities, medical schools, and the military.

#### What would I earn?

\$55,000 - \$59,000 (during the three to eight years of residency); \$186,000 - \$249,000; for specialties this could be much higher.

#### What do I need to know?

DOs undergo many years of education and training: four years of undergraduate school, four years of osteopathic medical school, and three to eight years of internship and residency. Most DOs serve a 12-month rotating internship after graduation and before entering a residency, which may last two to six years.

#### What schools can I attend?

Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences

## PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

#### What would I do?

Physician Assistants (PAs) provide a wide spectrum of care with the supervision of a Physician. They take medical histories, counsel patients on preventive health, examine patients, and order and interpret laboratory tests and X-rays. They diagnose and treat all types of medical conditions and assist in surgery. In all states they may prescribe medications. PAs provide quality care and allow Physicians to handle more complex patient problems.

#### Where would I work?

PAs are found in a broad range of medical and surgical specialties. They often work in family or internal medicine but some choose a specialty practice area such as anesthesiology, emergency medicine, geriatrics, neonatology, obstetrics, occupational medicine, orthopedics, and surgery.

PAs are employed in virtually all health care settings including physician offices, community health centers, hospitals, medical centers, government facilities, health maintenance organizations, Bureau of Prisons, and in the military. Many also work in the areas of health administration, research, public health, and medical education.

#### What would I earn?

\$86,000 - \$131,000

#### What do I need to know?

PAs usually complete four years of college and some health care experience before being admitted into an accredited two plus year PA program. Most PAs hold a bachelor's degree. A master's degree has recently been endorsed as the entry-level and terminal degree for the profession. After 2020, all students who enroll in PA programs must be awarded master's degrees. After graduation, PAs are required to pass the Physician Assistants National Certifying Examination and then be licensed by the state in which they practice. Once certified, PAs must complete 100 hours of continuing medical education every two years and pass a recertification examination every six years in order to maintain their national certification. PAs must be committed

to lifelong learning to keep abreast of medical advances.

#### What schools can I attend?

Heritage University  
University of Washington

## DOCTOR OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE (PODIATRIST)

#### What would I do?

Doctors of Podiatric Medicine (DPMs), also known as Podiatrists, specialize in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of foot-and-ankle disorders, diseases, and injuries. They prescribe medications, order physical therapy, perform surgery, design custom-made shoes, and fit corrective inserts inside patients' shoes. Because the foot is often the first area to show signs of serious disease, Podiatrists are important members of the health care team. Podiatric specialties include sports medicine, surgery, and orthopedics/ biomechanics.

#### Where would I work?

Doctors of Podiatric Medicine are often self-employed but many work in group practices, hospitals, or nursing homes.

#### What would I earn?

\$120,271 - \$212,000

#### What do I need to know?

Most Podiatrists have obtained a bachelor's degree prior to admittance into a four-year college of podiatric medicine. After completing four years of podiatric medical studies, the Podiatrist is required to complete three years of postgraduate residency training in an approved healthcare institution. Three years of residency training are required for board certification. A residency provides an interdisciplinary experience with rotations such as anesthesiology, internal medicine, infectious disease, surgery, Emergency Room, and pediatrics.

Residency training also provides a combination of medical and surgical experiences that are resource based, competency driven, and assessment validated. Podiatric medical graduates select a comprehensive thirty-six month Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Residency. Many residency programs

include an additional qualification in reconstructive rearfoot and ankle surgery.

### What schools can I attend?

At the current time there are no podiatric colleges

in Washington. For a listing of podiatric schools nationwide, contact the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine.

# MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health professionals work in a variety of settings providing support, counseling, and psychotherapy. They may work with individuals, families, or groups. Mental health professionals also assist people with social, emotional, or behavioral problems.

Careers within this section include:

- Counselor
- Human Service Worker
- Psychologist
- Social Worker

## COUNSELOR

### What would I do?

Counselors help clients solve personal problems or conflicts and may specialize in substance abuse, marriage and family counseling, and children and elderly services. They guide individuals or families as they work through difficulties like substance abuse, depression, anxiety, marital problems, suicidal feelings, and relationship issues. Counselors work closely with other professionals—such as Psychiatrists, Psychologists, and Social Workers—to assist in clients' recoveries. Counselors may also conduct personality, aptitude, or achievement tests; conduct research; direct workshops; or teach in a university or college.

### Where would I work?

Counselors are employed in a variety of settings: community mental health centers, drug rehabilitation centers, halfway houses, hospice

programs, hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, schools and universities. Master's prepared Counselors with experience may obtain licensure which allows them to work in private practice.

### What would I earn?

\$36,000 - 57,000

### What do I need to know?

Counselors must have a minimum of a master's degree in counseling or a related area such as psychology or social work. An internship and supervised practice is required after receiving a degree. Counselors may also pursue a doctoral degree in counseling. To be licensed, Counselors must pass a written examination from the National Board of Certified Counselors.

### What schools can I attend?

Antioch University Seattle  
Central Washington University  
Eastern Washington University  
Gonzaga University  
Seattle University  
Western Washington University  
Whitworth University  
University of Puget Sound

## HUMAN SERVICE WORKER

### What would I do?

Human Service Workers assist people with emotional, mental, cognitive, or behavioral

challenges in living a full and meaningful life. This may involve assisting and supporting people in their daily lives or connecting them to community resources. These resources may include employment, education, housing, medical, and/or mental health services. Human Service Workers are professionals in their own right and may work under the supervision of medical professionals, social workers, or administrators. They generally work as part of a service provision team.

### Where would I work?

Human service practice is community based. Most Human Service Workers are employed by community mental health centers, organizations serving people with developmental disabilities, residential homes, child and youth programs, rehabilitation centers, education centers, and family services.

### What would I earn?

\$21,000 – 41,000

### What do I need to know?

Students interested in pursuing a career as a Human Service Worker must obtain a minimum of an associate's degree. Many programs offer certificates in specialized areas such as addictions and/or gerontology. Students enrolled in two-year programs take human service classes as well as required classes (e.g. English, mathematics, and science). Bachelor degree programs introduce students to management, coordination, and supervisory skills. Students are prepared for work in roles such as: case worker, family support worker, residential counselor, residential manager, social service aide, and crisis intervention counselor. Graduate degrees often focus on administration.

### What schools can I attend?

Clover Park Technical College  
Edmonds Community College  
Olympic College  
Seattle Central College  
Skagit Valley College  
Tacoma Community College  
Western Washington University  
Whitworth University

## PSYCHOLOGIST

### What would I do?

Psychologists study the human mind and behavior. Many Psychologists conduct research, teach, or practice professionally in the area of health services. They usually work as part of a health care team in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of behavioral and mental health problems. Other Psychologists work on problems of human learning, applying the science of psychology to schooling and education, workplaces and organizations, sports teams, or human interface with technology.

Psychologists may specialize in a variety of fields, including clinical, cognitive, counseling, developmental, educational, exercise and sports, experimental, industrial, organizational, neuropsychology, personality, psychoanalysis, psychometrics, forensic psychology, and social psychology.

### Where would I work?

Psychologists work in hospitals, schools, universities, prisons, businesses, government agencies, community mental health centers, rehabilitation centers, and private practices. Many Psychologists work in multiple settings, for example, combining a private practice with teaching at a university.

### What would I earn?

\$55,000 – 104,000

### What do I need to know?

Licensed Psychologists must possess a PhD, PsyD, or EdD in psychology from an accredited university. For a specialty, two years of supervised postdoctoral study is required.

### What schools can I attend?

Eastern Washington University  
Gonzaga University  
Seattle University  
University of Puget Sound  
University of Washington  
Walla Walla University  
Washington State University  
Western Washington University  
Whitman College  
Whitworth University

## SOCIAL WORKER

### What would I do?

Social Workers provide counseling, care coordination, case management, and psychotherapy to individuals and families struggling with an array of emotional, relationship, and mental dysfunctions. They refer patients to other professionals for assistance, organize support groups, and help patients obtain community services, education, and job training. Social Workers engage in community organizations, policy development, and advocacy for individuals, groups, and communities.

### Where would I work?

Social Workers at the bachelor's level often work within systems such as state child protective agencies, nursing homes, residential treatment settings, and substance abuse treatment agencies. At the bachelor's level most of the work consists of providing practical support, interventions, linkage and referral, and vocational services. At the master's level, licensed Social Workers are qualified to provide independent psychotherapy and they often supervise or administer nonprofit agencies.

### What would I earn?

\$37,000 – 70,000

### What do I need to know?

A Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) is required for entry-level positions. Accredited BSW programs require four years of study, including 450 practicum hours. A Master of Social Work (MSW) is required for advanced positions, such as management, and is usually necessary to work in mental health settings. A MSW usually requires one to two years of study including 900 practicum hours. Doctorate degrees are also available in social work and graduates often teach in a university.

### What schools can I attend?

Eastern Washington University  
Gonzaga University  
Heritage University  
Pacific Lutheran University  
Saint Martin's University  
Seattle University  
University of Washington  
Walla Walla University  
Washington State University

procedures; monitoring the patients' vital statistics; and communicating these statistics to the Surgeon. Serious responsibilities come with the job of CRNA and, as a result, it is one of the highest paid nursing specialties.

### Where would I work?

CRNAs work in settings that use anesthesia: hospitals, birthing centers, dental offices, emergency rooms, plastic surgery centers, outpatient surgery facilities, and pain clinics.

### What would I earn?

\$167,982 - \$199,397

### What do I need to know?

CRNAs must hold a Bachelor of Science in nursing, be a licensed Registered Nurse, and have at least one year of critical-care nursing experience before applying to a nurse anesthesia program which grants a master's degree. Most CRNA education programs consist of 24 to 36 months of graduate work emphasizing anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, biochemistry, chemistry, physics, and pharmacology. CRNAs must pass a national certification examination. Through continuing education, CRNAs must be recertified every two years.

### What schools can I attend?

Gonzaga University

## LICENSED NURSING ASSISTANT

### What would I do?

Licensed Nursing Assistants (LNAs) work under the direction of Registered Nurses (RNs) and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) and assist with nursing procedures. They provide basic patient care and help with the activities of daily living, such as bathing, dressing, and walking. LNAs have a great deal of patient contact and are responsible for monitoring and observing and reporting patients' vital signs, conditions, and changes. They answer patient call lights, assist patients in and out of bed, serve meals and feed patients, and perform light housekeeping duties.

The LNA career provides several leadership opportunities such as teaching or specializing in

a specific health field such as Alzheimer's Care or Hospice care. Restorative Care is an important duty of the LNA and includes progressive walking, range of motion, teaching transfer techniques and small shifts of weight and self feeding.

### Where would I work?

LNAs work in health care facilities and in home health care, where they are called Home Health Aides, under the direction of Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses. LNAs may work in hospitals, mental health institutions, nursing homes, physician offices, private homes, and long-term care units of prisons. LNAs are on their feet most of the time and may be required to lift and move patients.

### What would I earn?

\$27,593 – 34,103

### What do I need to know?

A high school diploma is usually required. Training to become an LNA, which includes a minimum of 100 hours of classroom and practical instruction, is available in many schools and nursing homes in Washington. The American Red Cross offers a program that requires 142 hours of instruction and a 12-hour CPR course. It is important to note that OBRA 87—an important federal mandate—requires individual states design their own programs for training of nursing assistants. Training programs, therefore, may differ in curriculum, requirements, and titles. State approved LNAs in other states may be called Certified, Registered, or State Tested and Approved. The state requires an educational program and a mandatory practical and written examination for licensing. Nursing homes and home care agencies require a federal competency examination.

### What schools can I attend?

Wenatchee Valley College  
Clark College  
Columbia Basin College  
Big Bend Community College  
Grays Harbor College  
Skagit Valley College  
Bellevue College  
Green River Community College  
Highline Community College  
Lake Washington Institute of Technology  
Renton Technical College  
Seattle Central Community College

# NURSING

The field of nursing offers many exciting opportunities to provide health care. In addition to diagnosing and treating injuries and diseases, nurses also care for the emotional well-being of patients. They also provide guidance for disease prevention and healthy lifestyles.

Careers within this section include:

- Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
- Licensed Nursing Assistant
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Nurse Educator
- Nurse Midwife
- Nurse Practitioner

- Psychiatric Nurse
- Registered Nurse

## CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETIST

### What would I do?

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs), an important part of the surgical team, administer anesthetics to patients undergoing medical, dental, and obstetrical procedures. Combining nursing skills with the science of anesthesia, CRNAs are responsible for patients before, during, and after

Shoreline Community College  
South Seattle Community College  
Olympic College  
Bates Technical College  
Clover Park Technical College  
Pierce College  
Edmonds Community College  
Spokane Community College  
Everett Community College  
South Puget Sound Community College  
Walla Walla Community College  
Bellingham Technical College  
Whatcom Community College  
Yakima Valley College

## LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

### What would I do?

A Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) provides routine care for patients of all ages. An LPN's duties may include giving injections; taking, recording, and monitoring patients' vital signs; performing diagnostic tests and treatments; changing dressings; and evaluating patients' needs or reactions to treatments or medications. LPNs may start and give intravenous medications after completing an intravenous course.

### Where would I work?

LPNs are employed in hospitals, physician offices, private homes, community health clinics, mental health institutions, and nursing homes.

### What would I earn?

\$44,058 – 54,246

### What do I need to know?

LPNs are required to pass a state licensing examination after completing a year-long program at a vocational or technical college. A high school diploma is required prior to enrollment in an LPN program.

### What schools can I attend?

Bates Technical College  
Clover  
Columbia Basin College  
Edmonds Community College  
Green River Community College  
North Seattle College  
Olympic College

Park Technical College  
Skagit Valley College  
Spokane Community College  
Walla Walla Community College

## NURSE EDUCATOR

### What would I do?

Nurse Educators are responsible for the classroom teaching and supervision of clinical nursing experiences at the different schools of nursing. Nurse Educators may teach in Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) programs or in two-year associate's degree and four-year bachelor's degree nursing programs that lead to licensure as a Registered Nurse (RN). They teach courses in their specialty areas, supervise students in clinical practice settings, participate in curriculum development, and evaluate student outcomes.

### Where would I work?

Nurse Educators work in technical schools that prepare Licensed Practical Nurses, in two-year colleges which prepare Registered Nurses or Licensed Practical Nurses, and in four-year colleges and universities that prepare Registered Nurses. Nurse Educators provide supervision of clinical experiences in hospitals, nursing homes, outpatient settings, home care, and community health agencies. Nurse Educators may also work in master's and doctoral programs.

### What would I earn?

\$44,000 – 85,000

### What do I need to know?

Nurse Educators who teach in a program preparing Licensed Practical Nurses must obtain a bachelor's degree in nursing. In order to teach in a two-year program that prepares Registered Nurses, Nurse Educators must first complete a bachelor's degree in nursing and successfully complete the Registered Nurse licensure examination. They must then obtain a master's degree in nursing with a focus on a clinical specialty and teaching. Nurse Educators who teach in a four-year bachelor's program must obtain a master's degree in nursing and are frequently prepared at the doctoral level. Those who teach at the graduate level are generally required to have the doctoral degree.

### What schools can I attend?

Seattle Pacific University  
University of Washington  
Washington State University

## NURSE MIDWIFE

### What would I do?

Nurse Midwives are one type of Nurse Practitioner. They provide primary health care along with emotional and physical support to women before, during, and after childbirth and deliver babies. The duties of Nurse Midwives also include preconception counseling, family planning services, and gynecological care. They monitor women and their babies during pregnancy, assist women with labor and childbirth, examine newborns, and consult or refer to Physicians when pregnancy or labor becomes high risk. Nurse Midwives also counsel women on infant growth, nutrition, and other reproductive health issues. They care for women of all ages focusing on maintaining health and encouraging women to make informed decisions about their health care.

### Where would I work?

Nurse Midwives work in hospitals, physician offices, community health centers, and birthing centers. Nurse Midwives may assist women who give birth at home.

### What would I earn?

\$99,714 – 122,884

### What do I need to know?

Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs) must hold an Registered Nurse (RN) license and a bachelor's degree (which can be in nursing or another field) prior to enrolling in a midwifery program. Most Certified Nurse Midwives attend a master's in a nursing program. Certified Midwives (CMs) are not required to hold an RN license before enrolling in a program of study. Courses for both include gynecology, family planning, pre- and post-birth management, newborn care, pharmacology, and health assessment. Within 24 months of completing an education program, one must pass the national certifying examination to become a Certified Nurse Midwife or Certified Midwife.

### What schools can I attend?

Seattle University  
University of Washington

## NURSE PRACTITIONER

### What would I do?

Nurse Practitioners (NPs) have obtained advanced education and training enabling them to provide primary care to patients of all ages. When caring for patients, NPs may collaborate with physicians and other health professionals or practice independently. NPs may specialize in one or more areas. Their responsibilities include performing physical examinations, diagnosing and treating a full range of health problems, ordering and interpreting tests, and prescribing medications. Educating patients about their medical conditions, family planning, disease prevention, and preventive care is another role of a NP. Nurse Practitioners may specialize in one or more of the following areas: adult health, family health, geriatrics, neonatology, oncology, pediatrics, school health, women's health, psychiatric/mental health, emergency/trauma, anesthesia, midwifery, reproductive health, or palliative care.

### Where would I work?

Nurse Practitioners may work in a variety of environments depending on their interests and specialization including: hospitals, clinics, community health centers, home health agencies, nursing homes, or physician offices. NPs work in both rural and urban settings and may have their own practices.

### What would I earn?

\$99,708 – 116,728

### What do I need to know?

A Nurse Practitioner must be licensed as a Registered Nurse. To be licensed to practice as an advanced practice Nurse Practitioner, the RN must complete a master's degree in one of the specialty areas. Individuals with a bachelor's degree in a field other than nursing may be eligible to attend a program preparing nurse practitioners without first attending a separate nursing school. All NP programs are graduate level and last from one to three years offering a master's degree upon

completion. Post-master's certification is also possible.

#### **What schools can I attend?**

Gonzaga University  
Pacific Lutheran University  
Seattle Pacific University  
Seattle University  
University of Washington  
Washington State University

## **PSYCHIATRIC NURSE**

#### **What would I do?**

Psychiatric Nurses provide counseling to individuals, families, and groups. They assess the mental and physical health needs of individuals, determine nursing diagnoses, and develop treatment plans. They assist individuals with self-care, administer medications and other treatments, and assess these interventions for effectiveness. Psychiatric nurses with advanced training, such as Nurse Practitioners, may assess, diagnose, prescribe, and treat patients or families with psychiatric problems and disorders. They may also provide primary mental health care, function as psychotherapists, educators, consultants, case managers, and administrators.

#### **Where would I work?**

The Psychiatric Nurse may work in hospital psychiatric units or emergency departments, private or public psychiatric hospitals, school-based and community based clinics, private health offices, research centers, and industry.

#### **What would I earn?**

\$47,000 – 91,000

#### **What do I need to know?**

A Psychiatric Nurse must be licensed as a Registered Nurse and receive additional education in the specialty of mental health at his or her place of employment, preferably through a formal residency program. Advanced training programs can be obtained by earning a master's degree in the specialty area of mental health nursing after at least one year of clinical practice. Psychiatric Nurses can also obtain a doctoral degree (PhD, DNSc, EdD) and become teachers, researchers, or administrators in hospitals, agencies, or schools of nursing.

#### **What schools can I attend?**

Gonzaga University  
Seattle University  
University of Washington  
Washington State University

## **REGISTERED NURSE**

#### **What would I do?**

Registered Nurses (RNs) provide patients with treatment and education for health care issues. Responsibilities of RNs include: observing, assessing, and recording patients' symptoms, reactions, and progress; making nursing diagnoses; and implementing patient education. Depending on their area of specialization, RNs are responsible for administering treatments, performing therapeutic procedures, conducting health screenings, and supervising other nursing staff such as Licensed Practical Nurses or Licensed Nursing Assistants. RNs can receive advanced training and graduate education in a nursing specialty area to become a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS). RNs can also work in nondirect roles such as administrators, researchers, consultants, and educators.

A RN may choose to specialize in one or many areas including community health, emergency care, gerontology, intensive care, medical-surgical care, neonatology, occupational health, oncology, pediatrics, psychiatry, public health, school health, anesthesiology, orthopedics, operating room, and many other clinical specialties.

#### **Where would I work?**

Registered Nurses may work in a variety of settings depending on their interests and area of specialization, including hospitals, community health centers, forensics, schools, physician offices, private homes, rehabilitation centers, mental health institutions, nursing homes, industrial or corporate sites, and colleges and universities.

#### **What would I earn?**

\$47,000 – 91,000

#### **What do I need to know?**

Registered Nurses have to go through one of the three types of accredited nursing programs: a diploma offered from a few hospitals, an associate's degree offered from community and liberal arts colleges, or a bachelor's degree offered from

colleges and universities.

#### **What schools can I attend?**

Bellevue Community College  
Big Bend Community College  
Centralia College  
Clark College  
Columbia Basin College  
Eastern Washington University  
Everett Community College  
Gonzaga University  
Grays Harbor College  
Heritage University  
Highline Community College  
Lake Washington Institute of Technology  
Lower Columbia College Northwest University  
North Seattle College  
Olympic College  
Pacific Lutheran University

Peninsula College  
Pierce College  
Renton Technical College  
Seattle Central Community College  
Seattle Pacific University Seattle University  
Shoreline Community College  
Skagit Valley College  
South Puget Sound Community College  
Whatcom Community College  
Spokane Community College  
Tacoma Community College  
University of Washington  
Walla Walla Community College  
Walla Walla University  
Washington State University  
Wenatchee Valley College  
Whitworth College  
Whatcom Community College  
Yakima Valley College

# **NUTRITION**

Individuals working in Nutritional Sciences are interested in the connection between food/nutrition and health. Responsibilities include providing education and counseling about the connection between food, fitness, and health; managing food service operations; and delivering medical nutrition therapy.

Careers within this section include:

- Dietetic Technician, Registered
- Nutritionist
- Registered Dietitian

## **DIETETIC TECHNICIAN, REGISTERED**

#### **What would I do?**

Dietetic Technicians, Registered, work independently or as a team member in a variety

of employment settings: healthcare, business, community/public health, food service, and research.

#### **Where would I work?**

Dietetic Technicians, Registered, mostly work in hospitals, clinics, community health centers, school systems, nursing homes, and retirement centers.

#### **What would I earn?**

\$33,623 – 45,477

#### **What do I need to know?**

Dietetic Technicians, Registered, complete a two-year associate's degree program that includes both classroom and practical experience. Students must pass the registration examination for Dietetic Technicians to become a Dietetic Technician, Registered.

**What schools can I attend?** Central Washington University

Seattle Pacific University  
University of Washington  
Washington State University

## NUTRITIONIST

### What would I do?

Nutritionists are responsible for educating people on healthy eating and ways to prevent chronic diseases such as obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes. Nutritionists help decrease malnutrition, promote health, and control disease. Most Nutritionists are Registered Dietitians with advanced education.

### Where would I work?

Nutritionists work for international, federal, state, and local health agencies; schools; various sports programs; and food related industries.

### What would I earn?

\$45,000 – 72,000

### What do I need to know?

Nutritionists obtain at least a bachelor's degree. Master's degrees are required for advancement in the field.

### What schools can I attend?

University of Washington  
Central Washington University  
Washington State University

## REGISTERED DIETITIAN

### What would I do?

Registered Dietitians (RDs) develop and implement medical nutrition therapy for hospital patients and other individuals who may be at risk of poor health. They counsel and teach individuals and groups about food, fitness, and health. Specific areas include:

- educating clients about the connection between food, fitness, and health in sports nutrition and corporate wellness programs;
- working in communications, consumer affairs, public relations, marketing, or product development in food and nutrition related businesses and industries;

- working under contract with health care or food companies, or in their own business in the private sector;
- providing services to foodservice or restaurant managers, food vendors, and distributors;
- teaching, monitoring, and advising the public, and helping to improve quality of life through healthy eating habits in community and public health settings;
- teaching physicians, nurses, dietetics students, and others the sophisticated science of foods and nutrition in universities and medical centers;
- directing or conducting experiments to answer critical nutrition questions and find alternative foods or nutrition recommendations for the public in research programs.

### Where would I work?

Registered Dietitians work in a wide variety of employment settings, including health care, business and industry, public health, education, research, and private practice. Many work environments, particularly those in medical and health care settings, require that an individual be credentialed as an RD. RDs work in hospitals, Health Maintenance Organizations or other health care facilities, educating patients about nutrition, and administering medical nutrition therapy as part of the health care team. They may also manage the foodservice operations in these settings, as well as in schools, day-care centers, and correctional facilities. RDs oversee everything from food purchasing and preparation to managing staff.

### What would I earn?

\$56,202 – 67,850

### What do I need to know?

Registered Dietitians must obtain a bachelor's degree in an academic program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Dietetic Association. RDs must complete a supervised internship and pass the national examination given by the Commission on Dietetic Registration.

### What schools can I attend?

University of Washington  
Central Washington University  
Bastyr University  
Seattle Pacific University  
Washington State University

# PERSONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Individuals working in this field are essential to family and friends who are helping a loved one to remain as independent as possible. They provide one-on-one services, in-home support, and care.

Careers within this section include:

- Personal Care Service Provider/  
Homemaker/Companion

## PERSONAL CARE SERVICE PROVIDER/ HOMEMAKER/ COMPANION

### What would I do?

Personal Care Service Providers (PCSPs) provide one-on-one services to individuals, helping them with personal hygiene (bathing, toileting, etc.) and mobility (walking, wheelchairs, transfers). They assist with shopping, food preparation, and other routine activities, and may assist with medications if the recipient is able to direct the PCSP. PCSPs provide "consumer-directed care" with the recipient or a family member providing the training, direction, and supervision of the worker. When the PCSP is employed by a home health agency, some of the training and supervision is provided by the agency. Homemakers and Companions are

in-home support personnel who do not provide hands-on care but instead do light housework, grocery shopping, errands, laundry, and meal preparation, as well as offer companionship and general supervision of the patient or client. All of these professionals play a critical role in helping individuals to remain as independent as possible for as long as possible.

### Where would I work?

PCSPs, Homemakers, and Companions usually provide care in the home, in a group home, or other residential care facility. PCSPs may work independently but sometimes they work for a home health agency or other qualified agency. Homemakers and Companions usually work for a home health agency or home care agency.

### What would I earn?

\$20,800 – 29,120

### What do I need to know?

A high school diploma is preferred.

### What schools can I attend?

Training is available from home health agencies and other qualified agencies. PCSPs are often trained by the consumer or their authorized representative, such as a family member.

# PHARMACY

Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians dispense drugs prescribed by health care practitioners. They counsel and educate patients about drug use, interactions, and side effects.

Careers within this section include:

- Pharmacist
- Pharmacy Technician

## PHARMACIST

### What would I do?

Pharmacists dispense prescription drugs to patients and help them select over-the-counter medications. Serving as medication specialists, they answer patients' questions about drug interactions and adverse reactions. Pharmacists frequently give patients advice on home health care equipment and supplies. They also advise medical personnel on the selection and effects of drugs. Other duties of the Pharmacist include weighing, mixing, and measuring compounds to form prescription tablets, capsules, and solutions. Pharmacists may be educators or they may be Clinical Specialists directing their focus on one particular field.

### Where would I work?

Many Pharmacists work in either independent or national chain pharmacies. Others work in hospitals, clinics, managed care organizations, long-term care facilities, and home health care agencies. They can also work for pharmaceutical companies in sales or administration conducting research and development. Others may work for the insurance industry or the government.

### What would I earn?

\$100,300 – 152,970

### What do I need to know?

To become a Registered Pharmacist, one must

complete a four-year degree program (or a three-year accelerated degree program), pass a state and federal law examination, pass a national examination, and work as an intern under a licensed Pharmacist. Once licensed, Pharmacists must partake in continuing education to renew their licenses. All pharmacy schools offer the advanced Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree which requires a total of six years of study.

### What schools can I attend?

Charter College (Fife)  
Clover Park College  
Edmonds Community College  
Everett Community College  
North Seattle College  
Renton Technical College  
Skagit Valley College  
University of Washington  
Washington State University Spokane

## PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

### What would I do?

The primary responsibilities of Pharmacy Technicians include assisting the Pharmacist with the preparation of prescriptions for dispensing to patients (in hospital practice, the preparation of I.V. admixtures), purchasing and inventory control, and billing.

### Where would I work?

Pharmacy Technicians work under the direct supervision of a Pharmacist. They are employed in community and chain pharmacies, hospitals, nursing homes and home health agencies, managed care offices, and drug wholesalers.

### What would I earn?

\$31,217 – 38,614

### What do I need to know?

Most Pharmacy Technicians are trained on the job. In New Hampshire, Pharmacy Technicians must register with the State Board of Pharmacy within 30-days of start of employment at a pharmacy. All registrations must be renewed on an annual basis and expire on March 31.

Although it is not required in New Hampshire, the Board of Pharmacy strongly encourages Pharmacy

Technicians to gain national certification. Currently nationally recognized certification is available through the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB).

### What schools can I attend?

Carrington College Spokane  
Everest College  
PIMA Medical Institute  
Spokane Community College

# PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health professionals study, promote, and implement interventions that benefit communities as a whole.

Careers within this section include:

- Biostatistician
- Community Health Worker
- Environmental Health Specialist
- Epidemiologist
- Health Educator

## BIOSTATISTICIAN

### What would I do?

Biostatisticians use statistical methods and theories to design studies and analyze health data to evaluate factors associated with human health and disease. Many Biostatisticians work in tandem with Clinical Researchers to design efficient studies, analyze data, plan for contingencies, and deliver reports. Workplace examples include: drug development teams evaluating the efficacy of new drugs, health insurance programs and understanding factors contributing to hospital costs, and governments monitoring disease outbreaks.

### Where would I work?

Biostatisticians work for pharmaceutical companies,

health insurance companies, universities, state and local health departments, and other health related government agencies.

### What would I earn?

\$70,127 – 90,766

### What do I need to know?

A strong background in math and quantitative sciences is needed for this career. Entry-level Biostatisticians have a master's degree; a doctoral degree facilitates advancement in research and academic settings.

### What schools can I attend?

University of Washington

## COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER

### What would I do?

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are public health workers who act as a bridge between members of the community and the health and social services systems. They are trusted members of the community who most often represent the same ethnic, racial, and linguistic background as the communities they serve. CHWs often help link people to needed health care resources and

services. They are also known as outreach workers, home visitors, community health educators, patient navigators, and promotor(a) de salud.

#### Where would I work?

CHWs may be employed by a hospital system, a community health center, or community based organization assisting in the delivery of health services.

#### What would I earn?

\$43,420 – 65,990

#### What do I need to know?

CHWs need to have excellent interpersonal skills and be familiar with the health system of their state and local area. They need to possess organizational and culturally effective communication skills as well as have a basic knowledge of health conditions.

#### What schools can I attend?

Trainings are offered through the Washington State Department of Health and the Healthy Communities Washington

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST

#### What would I do?

Environmental Health Specialists are concerned with the interaction of the environment with human health. They inspect and collect samples from schools, child care centers, restaurants, workplaces, recreational areas, and health care facilities to ensure a safe, healthy environment. They also investigate outbreaks of diseases associated with food and water to identify the source.

Environmental Health Specialists may specialize in milk and dairy production, food protection, sewage disposal, land and solid waste pollution, pesticide management, air and/or water pollution, occupational health, hazardous waste disposal, and wildlife health/ management.

#### Where would I work?

Environmental Health Specialists may work in state, county, or local health departments; departments of environmental services or resources protection; wildlife parks; hospitals; private businesses; or private nonprofit organizations.

#### What would I earn?

\$40,000 – 87,000

#### What do I need to know?

Most Environmental Health Specialists have a bachelor's degree in environmental health or biological chemical sciences. Master's and doctoral degrees are increasingly becoming the standard. Certification is optional and may be obtained through the National Environmental Health Association.

#### What schools can I attend?

University of Washington

## EPIDEMIOLOGIST

#### What would I do?

Epidemiology is the study of the patterns and causes of health and disease and the application of that knowledge to improving the health of populations. These studies provide the basis for preventive approaches in medicine and public health. Because of the investigative nature of tracking and reporting information, Epidemiologists are often called "the disease detectives."

There are many subspecialties of epidemiology including: infectious disease epidemiology which investigates food borne or other infectious disease outbreaks; chronic disease epidemiology which is the study of disease states that take years to develop such as cancer and cardiovascular disease; environmental epidemiology which is concerned with external exposures such as indoor and outdoor pollutants; and occupational epidemiology which studies health and disease in the work world.

#### Where would I work?

Epidemiologists work within government, academia, and private industry including but not limited to federal, state, and local health departments; large health care providers; pharmaceutical companies; research-oriented universities; hospitals; and major health organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO); the United States Department of Health and Human Services; and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

#### What would I earn?

\$81,940 – 114,481

#### What schools can I attend?

University of Washington  
Eastern Washington University

## HEALTH EDUCATOR

#### What would I do?

Health Educators are professionals who educate the public to improve individual, family, and community health. They support behavior change in order to prevent disease and promote healthy living. Health Educators design, conduct, and evaluate activities on a variety of health issues including wellness, nutrition, stress management and fitness. They also coordinate programs, act as a resource, and communicate information about health to the public. Health Educators develop programs on a variety of wellness issues and work with people of all ages. Health Educators are employed under a range of job titles such as patient educators, health education teachers, trainers, community organizers, and health program managers.

#### Where would I work?

Health Educators may work in health departments, community public health centers, businesses, hospitals, clinics, government agencies and schools.

They may also work as Prevention Specialists or in public and private colleges as teachers. Programs in school health education and college health education in academic settings are also common.

#### What would I earn?

\$55,525 – 71,409

#### What do I need to know?

Health Educators possess at least a bachelor's degree in health promotion, health education, public health, or community health. Graduate degrees are often required. Professional certification as a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing is encouraged. Students graduating with a major of health education with a teacher certification option are eligible for K-12 health education teacher certification in the State of New Hampshire and many other states. Students should look for an approved health education program and a college which is certified at both the state and national level by the New Hampshire Department of Education and the National Council of Accreditation of Teacher Education.

#### What schools can I attend?

Western Washington University  
Eastern Washington University  
Washington State University

## SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

Individuals working in this field use their expertise to improve human health. They design, build, and maintain medical equipment and instruments. They also research and develop innovative medical techniques and treatments.

Careers within this section include:

- Biomedical Engineer
- Biomedical Equipment Technician

- Industrial Hygienist
- Orthotist/Prosthetist
- Research Scientist

## BIOMEDICAL ENGINEER

#### What would I do?

Biomedical Engineers combine their knowledge of science and engineering to design and develop



medical equipment and instruments that improve the quality of life of patients. They also develop medical procedures and methods to solve problems in medicine. Biomedical Engineers have designed devices such as pacemakers, artificial kidneys, heart valves, surgical lasers, and life support equipment. Some Biomedical Engineers teach and manage laboratories. Biomedical Engineers may specialize in bioinstrumentation, biomaterials, biomechanics, clinical engineering, computers, rehabilitation engineering, systems physiology, telemedicine, and teleradiology.

#### **Where would I work?**

Biomedical Engineers may work alone or with hospital operating teams, scientists, or other specialists. They are employed in industry, research facilities, hospitals, government agencies, and undersea or space programs.

#### **What would I earn?**

\$51,850 – 94,180

#### **What do I need to know?**

Most Biomedical Engineers have a Bachelor of Biomedical Engineering. Others have a bachelor's degree in another engineering field and have a Masters of Biomedical Engineering. Doctoral degrees are also available and are required for teaching at the university level.

**What schools can I attend?** University of Washington  
Walla Walla University  
Washington State University

## **BIOMEDICAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN**

#### **What would I do?**

Biomedical Equipment Technicians (BMETs) install, inspect, maintain, calibrate, modify, and repair medical equipment and instruments used to diagnose and treat disease. BMETs may be involved in the procurement, operation, supervision, and control of equipment. They also train medical personnel to operate the equipment safely. BMETs may specialize in certain types of biomedical equipment used in radiology, nuclear medicine, surgery, dialysis, intensive care, or clinical

laboratory.

#### **Where would I work?**

Most Biomedical Equipment Technicians work in hospitals, medical centers, or large clinics. Others work for manufacturers in engineering, sales, or service. They are usually supervised by Biomedical or Clinical Engineers.

#### **What would I earn?**

\$25,000 – 49,000

#### **What do I need to know?**

Biomedical Equipment Technicians complete a two-year associate's degree from an accredited technical college. Some employers will hire people with an electronics background and offer on-the-job training. Certification is available.

#### **What schools can I attend?**

Spokane Community College North Seattle College  
Bates Technical College  
Bellingham Technical College

## **INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST**

#### **What would I do?**

Industrial Hygienists anticipate, recognize, and evaluate health hazards in the workplace and suggest procedures to eliminate them. They review reports and conduct studies to determine if diseases or illnesses are work related, and they recommend measures to protect employees. They also collaborate with other health professionals and management to control or remove hazardous or potentially hazardous materials from occupational environments. Industrial Hygienists may be administrators, teachers, researchers, or consultants.

#### **Where would I work?**

Industrial Hygienists may work alone or with a team. They are employed by industries, government agencies, labor unions, consulting firms, insurance agencies, or environmental agencies.

#### **What would I earn?**

\$73,321 – 101,456

#### **What do I need to know?**

Industrial Hygienists have a bachelor's degree in one of the sciences or engineering. Most have

master's degrees in industrial hygiene, occupational safety and health, environmental health engineering, or environmental health sciences.

#### **What schools can I attend?**

University of Washington

## **ORTHOTIST/PROSTHETIST**

#### **What would I do?**

Orthotists and Prosthetists make artificial limbs and orthopedic devices for patients. Working with computers, drills, hammers, rotary saws, and other machines, they cut, grind, carve, and bend a variety of material to create special devices to help people walk or otherwise regain active lives. Orthotists create braces and strengthening devices to assist the patient. Prosthetists design, make, and adjust artificial limbs.

#### **Where would I work?**

Orthotists and Prosthetists may be self-employed or work in rehabilitation centers, laboratories, specialty clinics, nursing homes, or hospitals.

#### **What would I earn?**

\$65,280 – 92,433

#### **What do I need to know?**

Most Orthotists and Prosthetists complete a bachelor's degree in orthotics or prosthetics and complete a residency program. Others earn a bachelor's degree in engineering, kinesiology, biology, or bioengineering before completing a one-year certificate program. A certification examination is required to practice.

#### **What schools can I attend?**

University of Washington Shoreline Community College Spokane Falls Community College

## **RESEARCH SCIENTIST: PHYSICS AND VIROLOGY**

#### **What would I do?**

Research Scientists study disease, drugs, microorganisms, behavior, the environment, and other areas related to human health. Their work helps to prolong life by preventing and curing illness. They research disease and the body's response to disease, develop new vaccines and treatments to combat disease, and develop tests to detect disease or other abnormalities. They design and build laboratory instruments, space vehicles, and underwater equipment. They also conduct survey research and health services evaluation.

Research Scientists may specialize in anatomy, bacteriology, behavioral science, biochemistry, biophysics, embryology, epidemiology, forensics, genetics, immunology, marine biology, microbiology, molecular biology, parasitology, pathology, pharmacology, physics, and virology.

#### **Where would I work?**

Research Scientists may work alone or with a team and often have laboratory assistants to perform routine work. Most Research Scientists work in government, university, or commercial laboratories and must adhere to strict safety procedures to avoid exposure to dangerous organisms or toxic substances. Some Research Scientists teach in universities or act as consultants to business firms or government agencies.

#### **What would I earn?**

\$55,000–120,000

#### **What do I need to know?**

Research Scientists have at least a master's degree in a scientific field. A doctoral degree is required for advanced research positions or a teaching position.

#### **What schools can I attend?**

University of Washington Washington State University

# VETERINARY SCIENCE

Individuals working in the field of veterinary medicine provide quality health care to animals. Veterinarians diagnose and treat animal diseases, perform surgeries, and counsel pet owners on proper animal care. Veterinary Technicians assist with routine medical procedures, animal care, and administrative tasks.

Careers within this section include:

- Veterinarian
- Veterinary Assistant/Technician/Technologist

## VETERINARY

### What would I do?

Veterinarians (DVMs or VMDs) provide both large and small animals with medical care. They diagnose and treat animal illnesses, prevent the transmission of animal diseases, perform surgeries, and advise owners on proper pet care. Those specializing in large animals help maintain the health of food animals. Veterinarians may specialize in a particular species or a medical specialization. There are 40 specializations within the veterinary medicine field. Some DVMs may conduct research on animal or human diseases. Others may be involved in wildlife preservation and conservation.

### Where would I work?

Veterinarians may work in private practice or in a group practice. They can also teach and perform research. Veterinarians may work in regulatory medicine, public health, or private industry.

### What would I earn?

\$74,069 – 119,647

### What do I need to know?

Veterinarians must possess a bachelor's degree before entering a four-year veterinary medical

college. Admission into veterinary school is highly competitive and applicants should have at least a 3.0 undergraduate grade point average.

**What schools can I attend?** Tacoma Community College University of Washington Washington State University

## VETERINARY ASSISTANT/TECHNICIAN/TECHNOLOGIST

### What would I do?

Veterinary Assistants, Technicians, and Technologists help Veterinarians provide medical care to animals.

Veterinary Technicians and Technologists are educated to be the Veterinarian's Nurse, Laboratory Technician, Radiography Technician, Anesthetist, Surgical Nurse, Critical Care Technician, Dental Technician and Client Educator. Veterinary Assistants assist the Veterinarian, Veterinary Technician or Technologist with daily tasks, in addition to setting up equipment and cleaning key areas. They also provide routine animal care.

### Where would I work?

Veterinary Assistants, Technicians, and Technologists work in veterinary offices, clinics, kennels, animal shelters, biomedical research, zoo/wildlife medicine, industry, the military, and livestock health management. They usually work under the supervision of a Veterinarian.

### What would I earn?

\$24,549 – 36,750

### What do I need to know?

Veterinary Technicians complete a two-year American Veterinary Medical Association accredited

program. Veterinary Technologists complete an American Veterinary Medical Association accredited bachelor's degree program. At the present time, New Hampshire does not require Veterinary Technicians and Technologists to pass a written examination to become licensed. Veterinary Assistants often receive on-the-job training by the Veterinarian or Veterinary Technician or Technologist.

### What schools can I attend?

Bellingham Technical College  
Pierce College at Fort Steilacoom  
Pima Medical Institute  
Renton Technical College  
Skagit Valley College  
Tacoma Community College  
Walla Walla Community College  
Yakima Valley College

# VISION

Individuals working in this field are involved in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of eye diseases and disorders. They prescribe and administer corrective lenses, medications, and exercises to improve overall patient health.

Careers within this section include:

- Ophthalmic Assistant/Technician/Technologist
- Optician
- Optometric Assistant/Technician (Paraoptometrics)
- Optometrist (Doctor of Optometry)

## OPHTHALMIC ASSISTANT

### What would I do?

Ophthalmic Assistants, Technicians and Technologists perform procedures under the supervision of an Ophthalmologist (a medically trained eye doctor). These professionals are part of an eye care team who supply important information to the medical doctor treating the patient. Some of the duties performed by ophthalmic health professionals include, but are not limited to, taking patient histories, providing patient services, taking eye measurements, administering diagnostic tests and eye evaluations, maintaining ophthalmic instruments, and performing a variety of clinical skills.

### Where would I work?

Ophthalmic Assistants, Technicians and Technologists are employed by Ophthalmologists in private practice, clinics, or hospitals.

### What would I earn?

\$40,582 – 53,098

### What do I need to know?

Ophthalmic health personnel may have on-the-job training while working in an ophthalmic office setting. They may also obtain and complete an independent study course and, after one year, pass a Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA) examination. After another year, an individual is eligible to take an examination to become a Certified Ophthalmic Technician (COT). After three years in the field, that individual is eligible to take an examination to become a Certified Ophthalmic Technologist (COMT). The other option is to complete an Ophthalmic Training Program, pass an examination, and then begin to work in an ophthalmic office setting. Certification is available for all three levels of personnel and may be obtained from the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology.

### What schools can I attend?

Pima Medical Institute  
Renton Technical College

## OPTICIAN

### What would I do?

Opticians interpret the prescriptions that Optometrists and Ophthalmologists prescribe and design either eyeglasses or contact lenses that best fulfill the patient's needs. They do not examine patients but do help patients select their eyeglasses or contact lenses and fit them accordingly. They also repair and adjust glasses for patients.

### Where would I work?

Opticians may own their own businesses, work for Optometrists or Ophthalmologists, or work for retail chain stores.

### What would I earn?

\$43,441 – 56,697

### What do I need to know?

Opticians complete either a two-year associate's degree program or a three-year apprenticeship under the supervision of a Licensed Optician.

### What schools can I attend?

Highline College  
Seattle Central Community College  
Spokane Community College

## OPTOMETRIST (DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY)

### What would I do?

Optometrists (Doctor of Optometry) examine, diagnose, treat, and manage disease and disorders

of the visual systems and eye. By prescribing glasses or contact lenses, they are able to correct vision problems. Also, they provide pre- and post-operative care to patients undergoing cataract and other eye surgeries.

### Where would I work?

Optometrists are located in a variety of settings, including rural communities, suburban areas, and large metropolitan cities. Optometrists also practice with other health care professionals in multidisciplinary settings. Whatever the setting, optometrists can make additional choices regarding the nature of their practice. Examples include the following: private practice (solo or group), public health/government service, teaching institutions, hospitals and clinics, community health centers, military, corporate practice, and ophthalmic industry.

### What would I earn?

\$109,659 – 137,245

### What do I need to know?

Most schools and colleges require the completion of a bachelor's degree. Otherwise, a minimum of 90 semester hours of college credit is required. Prerequisites include courses in biology, general and organic chemistry, physics, mathematics, and English.

### What schools can I attend?

University of Washington  
Pacific University  
Washington State University  
Western Washington University

## LISTING OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN WASHINGTON STATE

### FOUR-YEAR STATE INSTITUTIONS

University of Washington  
Seattle, Bothell, North Sound, Tacoma

Washington State University  
Pullman, Spokane, Tri-Cities, Vancouver

Western Washington University  
Bellingham

Eastern Washington University  
Cheney

Central Washington University  
Ellensburg, Des Moines, Everett, Lynnwood,  
Moses Lake, Pierce County, Wenatchee, Yakima

Evergreen State College  
Olympia

### TWO-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

Bates Technical College  
Tacoma

Bellingham Technical College  
Bellingham

Big Bend Community College  
Moses Lake

Cascadia College  
Bothell

Centralia College  
Centralia

Clover Park Technical College  
Lakewood

Community Colleges of Spokane

Spokane Community College  
Spokane

Spokane Falls Community College  
Spokane

Edmonds Community College  
Lynnwood

Everett Community College  
Everett

Grays Harbor College  
Aberdeen

Green River College  
Auburn, Kent

Highline College  
Des Moines, Federal Way

Lake Washington Institute of Technology  
Kirkland, Redmond

Lower Columbia College  
Longview

Northwest Indian College  
Bellingham

Olympic College  
Bremerton

Peninsula College  
Port Angeles

Pierce College  
Lakewood, Puyallup

Renton Technical College  
Renton

Seattle Colleges District (formerly  
Seattle Community Colleges)

Shoreline Community College  
Shoreline  
Skagit Valley College  
Mount Vernon

South Puget Sound Community College  
Olympia

Tacoma Community College  
Tacoma

Walla Walla Community College  
Walla Walla

Wenatchee Valley College  
Wenatchee

Whatcom Community College  
Bellingham

**PRIMARILY TWO-YEAR INSTITUTIONS  
THAT ALSO GRANT FOUR-YEAR  
DEGREES**

Bellevue College  
Bellevue

Centralia College  
Centralia

Columbia Basin College  
Pasco

Lake Washington Institute of Technology  
Kirkland

Seattle Central College  
Seattle

Clark College  
Vancouver

Highline College  
Des Moines

Green River College  
Auburn

Spokane Falls Community College  
Spokane

Tacoma Community College  
Tacoma

Yakima Valley College  
Yakima

Olympic College  
Bremerton

**PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

Pacific Lutheran University  
Tacoma

University of Puget Sound  
Tacoma

Walla Walla University  
College Place

Whitman College  
Walla Walla

Whitworth University  
Spokane

Antioch University  
Seattle

Argosy University/Seattle  
Seattle

The Art Institute of Seattle  
Seattle

Bastyr University  
Kenmore

City University of Seattle  
Bellevue, Seattle

Cornish College of the Arts  
Seattle

DigiPen Institute of Technology  
Redmond

Gonzaga University  
Spokane

Heritage University  
Toppenish

Northeastern University  
Seattle Campus, Seattle

Northwest University  
Kirkland

Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences  
Yakima

St. Martin's University  
Lacey

Seattle Pacific University  
Seattle

Seattle University  
Seattle

