Health Careers:

FIND YOUR FIT

The Hospital + Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania











Pennsylvania: Shaping the Future of Health Care Since 1751

Pennsylvania is considered the birthplace of American medicine.

DID YOU KNOW?

- America's first hospital was founded in Pennsylvania.
- America's first medical school was established in Pennsylvania.
- The first anatomy classes in North America were taught in Pennsylvania.
- The first maternity ward and first surgical amphitheater were created in Pennsylvania.
- Pennsylvania researchers helped pioneer X-rays, penicillin production, dialysis, gene therapy, and CAR-T cancer treatment.
- Pennsylvania has the oldest nursing school still in continuous operation in the U.S, training and educating nurses since 1884.

For more than 275 years, Pennsylvania has been a leader in health care education, innovation, and patient care.



Introduction

Are you looking for a career that allows you to make a difference, help others, and build a successful future? Health care offers countless opportunities for people with a variety of interests, talents, and goals.

Health care continues to grow across Pennsylvania, creating exciting opportunities for the next generation of professionals. As you explore this guide, you'll discover a wide range of career paths and determine whether a future in health care is right for you.

Pennsylvania is the sixth largest economy in the United States, and the health care and social services industry leads as the commonwealth's top employer.

Many of the careers featured in this guide can be found in hospitals, clinics, physician offices, and other health care settings. Some professionals work directly with patients and families, providing care and support during important moments in their lives. Others use science, technology, laboratory skills, business expertise, or computer systems to help deliver high-quality care behind the scenes. There are also dedicated team members who provide critical services that keep health care organizations operating around the clock.

No matter your interests—whether you enjoy working with people, solving problems, using technology, studying science, or supporting a team—there may be a health care career that's a perfect fit for you.

You may be surprised by the incredible variety of careers available in health care today. Take time to explore these pages, learn about the many opportunities that exist, and begin imagining where your future could lead.

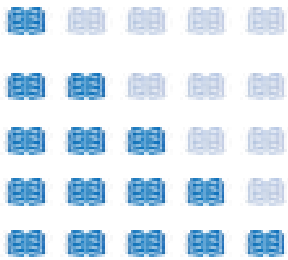
Your health care career journey starts here.

Connect with us online for more information.

www.haponline.org

Guide Key

Education



- High school diploma or equivalent, on-the-job training
- Specialized training, certification, or Associate's degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Doctoral or professional degree

Job Growth



- <2.0%
- 2-10%
- 10-15%
- 15-20%
- >20%

Salary



- <$30,000
- $30-50,000
- $50-100,000
- $100-150,000
- >$150,000

The Career Pathways featured in this guide are designed to show some of the many ways you can begin and grow a career in health care. Whether you're entering the workforce directly, pursuing additional education, or exploring specialized roles, there are often multiple pathways to achieve your career goals and advance within the profession.

The Grow PA Scholarship Grant Program provides financial grants for high-need occupations. Eligible programs may vary.

This symbol indicates eligible programs at time of publication.



May qualify for Grow PA grant

Learn more at **www.pheaa.org/funding-opportunities/grow-pa-scholarship-grant-program**.

Educational requirements reflect the amount of schooling or on-the-job training that need to be required for initial entry into the profession. Additional training and education may be required beyond the entry point.

Job growth projections were compiled from the Pennsylvania Occupational Employment 2022–2032 Long-Term Projections published by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Salary wage data reflects the average annual salary provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports, and recruitment sources. Average salary more accurately reflects mid-career income and may not be reflective of direct entry income following schooling.

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Administration

The hospital administrative team manages daily operations, ensures compliance, coordinates resources, and supports both clinical staff and patient care. For instance:

- Hospitals employ accountants to manage their complex financial operations, ensure compliance, and support the institution's mission of providing quality patient care.
- Hospital billing and collections involve managing patient-responsible balances (copays, deductibles, coinsurance, self-pay).
- Hospital chaplains are trained professionals who offer spiritual care, emotional support, and guidance to patients and their families, regardless of religious affiliation.
- Hospital receptionists greet patients, manage check ins, schedule appointments and coordinate patient flow within the facility.

ACCOUNTANT

Requirements

- Associate's degree, or
- Bachelor's degree in Accounting/Finance
- Professional certifications



Career Pathway

Associate or Bachelor's degree in Accounting or Finance → Accounts Payable Specialist → Accountant → Senior Accountant/Manager → Director of Finance → Controller or Chief Financial Officer (CFO)



May qualify for Grow PA grant

Combine finance, technology, and analytical skills to support health care organizations. This helps ensure resources are managed effectively so patients can continue to receive high-quality care.

- Manages the hospital's budgeting process, including the development, monitoring, and adjustment of departmental budgets in collaboration with department heads.
- Oversees the processing of payroll for hospital staff.
- Administers the hospital's accounts payable and receivable, ensuring timely billing of services, collection of revenues, and payment of obligations.

Administration

BILLING AND ACCOUNTS COLLECTION

Requirements

- High School Diploma/ GED
- Associate's degree
- Professional certifications



Career Pathway

Billing and Collections Specialist → Senior Billing/Patient Financial Services Specialist or Revenue Cycle Specialist → Billing Manager or Revenue Cycle Manager → Director of Finance or Revenue Cyle

Great option for those who enjoy working with numbers, problem-solving, and helping people in health care without providing direct patient care.

- Processes patient bills, insurance claims, and payments to help ensure services are accurately billed and reimbursed.
- Collections staff follow up on unpaid accounts, offer payment plans, and work with patients to resolve balances.

CHAPLAIN

Requirements

- Seminary degree/ Theological Education



Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree → Master's degree (often M.Div.) → Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) → Hospital Chaplain

Combine compassion, communication, and counseling skills to help patients, family, and staff navigate some of life's most challenging moments.

- Provides emotional and spiritual support through compassionate listening, prayer, grief support, and guidance.
- Leads worship or administers sacraments.
- Assists with ethical decisions or advance directives.

Administration

HEALTH CARE MARKETING

Requirements

- Associate's degree, or
- Bachelor's degree
- Additional certifications are available



Career Pathway

Associate's or Bachelor's degree in Communications or Marketing → Health Care Marketing Specialist → Marketing Manager → Director of Marketing or Chief Marketing Officer



May qualify for Grow PA grant

Many hospitals have a public relations department that is active in providing medical education, coordinating community events, and issuing public facing documents and advertisements.

- Work in communications, health care organizations, biotech companies, and other state and federal agencies.
- Monitor trends and determine demand for new programs and needs across the community and hospital service area and develop marketing campaigns, social media content, and community outreach programs.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Requirements

- Associate's degree, or
- Bachelor's degree
- Degrees may include HR Management, Business Admin, Health Care Admin, or similar fields
- Professional certifications (e.g. SHRM-CP or PHR)



Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree in Human Resources or Business → HR Assistant or HR Coordinator → Human Resources Generalist → HR Manager → Director of Human Resources



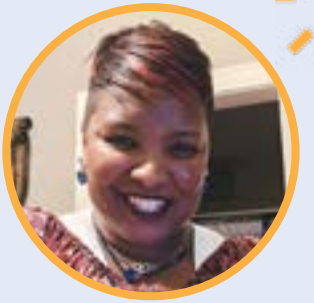
May qualify for Grow PA grant

HR professionals (such as HR or talent acquisition coordinators, recruiters, specialists, and managers) recruit and retain health care workers. They use communication, problem-solving, and organizational skills to support employees and organizations to succeed.

- Recruit, hire, and support employees to build a strong workforce.
- Assist with employee training, benefits, scheduling, and workplace policies.
- Helps to maintain a positive work environment by addressing employee questions.

HEALTH CAREER SPOTLIGHT:
MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Media



I have been in this profession for 28 years, working as a Certified Clinical Medical Assistant and Certified EMT.

I have had the opportunity to work in different health care settings and care for patients with many different needs.

I have developed a wide range of skills, including phlebotomy, sterile techniques, assisting with minor procedures, obtaining detailed vital signs, performing EKGs, providing wound care, and working with the EPIC system for patient documentation. These are just a few examples of what this profession as a Medical Assistant has allowed me to do.

As a trained Certified Clinical Medical Assistant, I have been privileged to work in both emergency and non-emergency care settings. Because of the level of training this profession has afforded me, I have also had the privilege and opportunity to serve as a preceptor and train others.

Health care is not only about what we know or what we can do clinically. It is also about how we make people feel. Compassion, empathy, patience, kindness, and genuine human connection are equally important.

" If someone asked me what I would say to a person considering becoming a Medical Assistant, I would tell them: Do it because you love people. Do it because you want to make a difference. Do it because you want to be part of something bigger than yourself. "

If someone asked me what I would say to a person considering becoming a Medical Assistant, I would tell them: Do it because you love people. Do it because you want to make a difference. Do it because you want to be part of something bigger than yourself.

Administration

MEDICAL SECRETARY

Requirements
- High School Diploma/GED
- Medical Terminology



Career Pathway

Medical Secretary → Senior Medical Secretary or Medical Office Coordinator → Office Manager or Health Care Administrator

Medical secretaries combine organizational, technology, and customer service skills to help patients receive efficient care:
- Manages schedules, appointments, and patient records to help health care offices and hospital departments run smoothly.
- Greets patients, answers phone calls, and provides information about services and procedures.
- Supports doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals by handling administrative and communication tasks.

RECEPTIONIST

Requirements
- High School Diploma/GED
- On-the-job training



Career Pathway

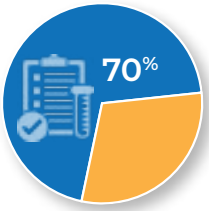
Hospital Receptionist → Patient Services Coordinator or Medical Secretary → Office Manager or Health Care Administrator

- Utilizes communication, organization, and customer service skills to create a positive experience for patients and help health care facilities operate efficiently.
- Greets and welcomes patients and visitors, directing people to the appropriate department or health care professional.
- Checks patients in for visits and assists with collecting and updating patient information.

Clinical Laboratory Services

In clinical lab services, professionals are essential to diagnosing, monitoring, and treating diseases. They work behind the scenes to provide the laboratory data that guide medical decisions.

About **70%** of medical decisions are influenced by laboratory test results.



Medical laboratory professionals often work behind the scenes but play a critical role in diagnosing disease and guiding treatment.



Prerequisites



Biology



Chemistry



Algebra



Statistics

MEDICAL AND CLINICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

Requirements

- Associate's degree in Medical Laboratory Technology
- Bachelor's degree in medical technology, clinical laboratory science or related field
- National certification through the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP)

Career Pathway

Associate's degree in Medical Laboratory Technology → Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technician → Medical Laboratory Scientist or Laboratory Supervisor



Education

Job Growth

Salary

Lab Technicians combine science, technology, and attention to detail to provide the laboratory data that health care teams rely on to diagnose and treat patients.



May qualify for Grow PA grant

- Performs routine medical laboratory tests on blood, urine, and other patient samples for diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of diseases while operating sophisticated laboratory equipment.
- Conducts analysis of body fluids and tissue samples following strict quality control, safety, and infection prevention procedures.

Clinical Laboratory Services

PATHOLOGIST

Requirements

- Doctoral degree
- Must pass licensure exam



Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree → Medical School → Pathology Residency → Board Certification → Pathologist

Play a vital role that combines medical knowledge, laboratory science, and analytical skills to help diagnose diseases and make informed decisions.

- Studies the nature, cause, and development of diseases. Diagnose diseases and conduct lab tests using organs, body tissues, and fluids.
- Oversees laboratory testing and ensures that test results are accurate, reliable, and available to diagnose conditions such as cancer, infections, and chronic diseases.

PATHOLOGIST ASSISTANT

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree Pathologists' Assistant program
- Successfully complete a pathologist's assistant program accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS)



Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree in Biology or Related Science → Master's degree in Pathologists' Assistant Studies → ASCP Certification → Pathologists Assistant

Ideal for students who enjoy biology, anatomy, and laboratory science and want a hands-on health care role that contributes directly to disease diagnosis without attending medical school.

- Performs pathology services including detailed specimen examination on tissue, organ, and surgical specimens in a laboratory setting.
- Works under the supervision of a pathologist to support accurate disease diagnosis.

Clinical Laboratory Services

PHLEBOTOMIST

Requirements

- Successful completion of an accredited phlebotomy training program
- Obtain national certification (e.g. Certified Phlebotomy Technician)

Career Pathway

Phlebotomy Training Program → Certification (if required) → Phlebotomist → Lead Phlebotomist or Laboratory Supervisor



Education

Job Growth

Salary

Offers a relatively quick entry into health care combining technical skills, attention to detail, and compassionate patient care in diagnosing diseases, monitoring health conditions, and supporting medical treatment.

- Draw blood samples from patients, blood donations, and other medical procedures.
- Properly labels, handles, and transports specimens to ensure accurate test results and patient safety.

Dental

DENTIST

Requirements

- Doctoral degree in Dental Surgery (DDS) or Dental Medicine (DMD)
- Must pass state licensure exam



Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree → Dental School → General Dentist → Specialty Areas Optional

Help people maintain healthy smiles and overall well-being through the combination of science, technical skills, and patient care to diagnose, treat, and prevent oral health problems.

- Examines, diagnoses, and treats diseases, injuries, and malformations of teeth, gums, and mouth.
- May treat diseases of nerve, pulp, and other dental tissues affecting oral hygiene and retention of teeth including fillings, crowns, extractions, and preventive treatment.
- Educates patients about oral hygiene, nutrition, and preventive care to support lifelong dental health.

DENTAL ASSISTANT

Requirements

- High School Diploma/GED
- Complete a dental assisting program
- On-the-job training



Career Pathway

Dental Assisting Program → Dental Assistant → Additional Certifications (e.g., EFDA) → Expanded Clinical Roles or Dental Office Management

Offers a relatively quick path into health care and is a great choice for students that enjoy working with people, using hands-on skills, and being part of a health care team.

- Supports dentists and oral surgeons by preparing patients, sterilizing instruments, assisting during procedures, taking X-rays, maintaining records, and helping manage dental emergencies.
- May perform administrative tasks such as scheduling, billing, and inventory management.

Dental

DENTAL HYGIENIST

Requirements

- Associate's degree
- On-the-job training
- Must pass licensure exam



Career Pathway

Associate's degree in Dental Hygiene → State Licensure → Dental Hygienist → Advanced Education or Leadership Roles



May qualify for Grow PA grant

Have the opportunity to make a lasting impact by helping people improve their oral health and prevent disease.

- Cleans teeth, removes plaque and tarter, and helps prevent cavities and gum disease.
- Examines patients for signs of oral health problems, takes dental X-rays, documents findings and works with a dentist.
- Educates patients on proper oral hygiene practices.

EXPANDED FUNCTION DENTAL ASSISTANT (EFDA)

Requirements

- High School Diploma/ GED
- Associate's degree, or
- Graduation from a dental hygiene school, or
- Completion of a Board-approved EFDA certificate/diploma program
- Pass EFDA written exam



Career Pathway

Dental Assisting Program → Dental Assistant → EFDA Training and Certification → Expanded Function Dental Assistant

This role builds upon the skills, education and training of a dental assistant and combines technical, hands-on, and communication skills to help dentists provide high-quality dental care and improve patients' oral health while working under the supervision of the dentist. Expanded functions include:

- Placing fillings, taking impressions, and applying sealants.
- Preparing patients for dental procedures and taking dental X-rays.
- Educate patients about oral health, proper brushing and flossing techniques, and preventive dental care.

Dental

ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEON



Education

Job Growth

Salary

Requirements

- Doctoral degree in Dental Surgery (DDS) or Dental Medicine (DMD)
- Complete surgery residency program
- Must pass state licensure exam

Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree → Dental School (DDS or DMD) → Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency → Licensure/ Board Certification → Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon

Highly trained dental specialists who combine expertise in dentistry, medicine, and surgery to treat diseases, injuries, and abnormalities of the face, mouth, and jaw.

- Diagnose and perform surgical treatments such as wisdom tooth extractions, dental implant placement, corrective jaw surgery, and reconstructive facial surgery.
- Works closely with dentists, orthodontists, physicians, and other providers to treat complex oral and facial conditions.

Diagnostic Imaging Services

Diagnostic imaging services include X-rays, computed tomography scans, and magnetic resonance imaging. These techniques help determine the causes of an injury or illness. The imaging tools allow practitioners to see the patient's bones, organs, muscles, tendons, nerves and cartilage. Imaging is a way practitioners can ensure that their diagnosis is accurate.

Medical imaging professionals use technology to see inside the body without surgery.



An MRI can create detailed images of organs, tissues, muscles, and even the brain.



COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY (CT) TECHNOLOGIST

Requirements

- Associate's degree
- Certification through American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)



Career Pathway

Associate's degree → Radiologic Technologist → CT Clinical Training/ Certification → CT Technologist → Lead CT Technologist or Department Leadership

- Operates computed tomography (CT) scanners to produce detailed cross-sectional images of the body for diagnostic purposes.
- Maintain and prepare CT equipment.

Diagnostic Imaging Services

HEALTH CAREER SPOTLIGHT:
DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

Angela



After shadowing in X-ray, I knew I had found the right career path. Since completing a 24-month radiography program, I have worked as an X-ray technologist for more than 30 years, and it has been an incredibly rewarding profession. I enjoy working directly with patients and physicians, embracing new technologies, and tackling the unique positioning challenges each case presents. One of the aspects I value most is the variety the field offers. Working across the Emergency Department, Operating Room, Fluoroscopy, and Outpatient settings ensures that no two shifts are ever the same. While I have been very satisfied in my current role, this career also provides opportunities for growth through cross-training in specialty areas such as CT, MRI, Mammography, and Interventional Radiology for those who wish to expand their expertise.

"I enjoy working directly with patients and physicians, embracing new technologies, and tackling the unique positioning challenges each case presents."

HEALTH CAREER SPOTLIGHT:
CT TECHNOLOGIST

Mandy

As a high school student, I chose a career in medical imaging because of my interest in anatomy and physiology and my fascination with advancing medical technology. What I didn't realize then was just how many opportunities this profession would give me to learn, grow, and help others. Today, I am fortunate to work as a technologist in the Computed Tomography department, alongside an incredible team of technologists, nurses, and physicians. Here, we work together caring for patients from all walks of life while helping to provide the imaging needed for the diagnosis and treatment of new and existing medical conditions. For me, the most meaningful part of this career is the connection I make with my patients. Whether I'm helping someone feel less anxious, answering their questions, making them smile on a difficult day, or celebrating good news along their medical journey, I know that even the smallest interaction can make a difference. Radiology combines patient care, science, and constantly advancing technology in a way that makes every day different and rewarding.



"Radiology combines patient care, science, and constantly advancing technology in a way that makes every day different and rewarding."

Diagnostic Imaging Services

DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHER

Requirements

- Associate's degree
- National certification through the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography



Career Pathway

Associate's degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography → Professional Certification → Diagnostic Medical Sonographer → Specialized Sonographer or Imaging Department Leader



May qualify for Grow PA grant

Help diagnose and monitor a wide range of medical conditions through the use of advanced imaging technology.

- Produce ultrasonic recordings of internal organs for use by physicians.
- Provide sonogram and oral or written summary of technical findings to physician for use in medical diagnosis.
- Operate ultrasound equipment to produce and record images of the motion, shape, and composition of blood, organs, tissues, or bodily masses, such as fluid accumulations.

ELECTROCARDIOGRAPH (EKG) TECHNICIAN

Requirements

- High school diploma/ GED
- On-the-job training
- Certification available



Career Pathway

EKG Technician Training Program → Certification (optional or employer-preferred) → EKG Technician → Cardiology Technician or Cardiovascular Technologist

Play an important role in diagnosing cardiac conditions and monitoring patients to help providers evaluate heart health.

- Uses specialized equipment to measure the heart's electrical activity.
- Provides report to physicians and other medical professionals to assist in the diagnosis and treatment of a patient's cardiac health.
- Additional certifications may be required in certain settings (e.g. CST, CMA, CPT).

Diagnostic Imaging Services

MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (MRI) TECHNOLOGIST

Requirements

- Associate's degree
- Certification through American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)



Career Pathway

Associate's degree in Radiologic Technology or MRI Technology → Professional Certification → MRI Technologist → Advanced Imaging Specialist or Imaging Department Supervisor

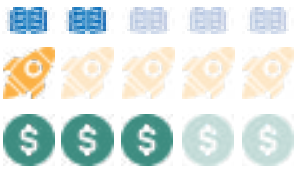
Work closely with radiologists and other professionals to produce high-quality images that support accurate diagnoses and treatment plans.

- Operate Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanners to create detailed images of organs, tissues, and other structures in the body.
- Prepares patient for exam, explains MRI procedures, and positions and monitors patient through the procedure.

NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGIST

Requirements

- Associate's degree
- National certification through the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists or Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board



Career Pathway

Associate or Bachelor's degree in Nuclear Medicine Technology → Professional Certification → Nuclear Medicine Technologist → Advanced Imaging Specialist, PET/CT Technologist, or Imaging Department Supervisor

Provide detailed testing about how the body is functioning, often identifying problems before they can be seen with other imaging methods.

- Prepare, administer, and measure radioactive isotopes in therapeutic, diagnostic, and tracer studies using a variety of radioisotope equipment.
- Use specialized imaging equipment to create detailed images that help physicians evaluate how organs and tissues are functioning.

Diagnostic Imaging Services

ONCOLOGIST

Requirements

- Doctoral degree
- Must pass licensure exam
- Specialty board certification recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)



Education

Job Growth

Salary

Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree → Medical School → Internal Medicine Residency → Oncology Fellowship → Board Certification → Oncologist

Specialized physicians who diagnose, treat, and manage cancer, offer comprehensive care including chemotherapy, radiation, surgery, and supportive services.

- Medical Oncologists: Focus on drug-based treatments like chemotherapy and immunotherapy; often serve as the primary cancer doctor.
- Radiation Oncologists: Use radiation therapy to shrink or eliminate tumors, sometimes in combination with surgery or chemotherapy.
- Surgical Oncologists: Perform operations to remove tumors and surrounding tissues.
- Hematologist-Oncologists: Specialize in blood cancers such as leukemia and lymphoma.
- Pediatric, Gynecologic, and Neurological Oncologists: Focus on cancers in children, female reproductive organs, or the nervous system.

Diagnostic Imaging Services

RADIOLOGIST

Requirements

- Doctoral degree
- Must pass licensure exam



Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree → Medical School → Radiology Residency → Board Certification → Subspecialty Fellowship (optional) → Radiologist

Physicians who specialize in medical imaging and play a critical role in diagnosing and monitoring a wide range of health conditions.

- Use medical imaging techniques, such as X-rays, CT scans, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), nuclear medicine, mammograms, and ultrasounds.
- Prepare comprehensive interpretive reports of findings to provide expert guidance on diagnosis, treatment planning, and patient care.

RADIATION THERAPIST

Requirements

- Associate's degree
- National certification through the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists



Career Pathway

Associate or Bachelor's degree in Radiation Therapy → ARRT Certification → Radiation Therapist → Senior Radiation Therapist, or Radiation Therapy Manager

Help patients receive safe, effective treatment while providing support to help treat cancer and other serious conditions.

- Administer radiation therapy through specialized equipment to patients as prescribed by a radiation oncologist according to established practices and standards.
- Duties include reviewing prescription and diagnosis; acting as liaison with physician and supportive care personnel; preparing equipment, such as immobilization, treatment, and protection devices; and maintaining records, reports, and files.

Diagnostic Imaging Services

HEALTH CAREER SPOTLIGHT:
CARE NAVIGATOR

Mary

What attracted me to radiology was the variety of specialties and imaging modalities, and over the years I became certified in X-ray, mammography, and bone densitometry. I spent most of my career as a mammography technologist, helping patients through screening and diagnostic breast imaging. Recently, I became a certified Breast Care Navigator, supporting patients throughout their breast cancer journey by assisting with biopsies, communicating results, and coordinating their care. The most rewarding part of my job is providing hope, reassurance, and support during a stressful and uncertain time. For students considering health care, I encourage you to explore the many opportunities available because the best part of health care is knowing your work truly matters.



"The most rewarding part of my job is providing hope, reassurance, and support during a stressful and uncertain time."

Diagnostic Imaging Services

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST

Requirements

- Associate's degree
- National certification through the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists



Career Pathway

Associate's degree in Radiologic Technology → ARRT Certification and State Licensure → Radiologic Technologist → Advanced Imaging Specialist or Imaging Department Supervisor



May qualify for Grow PA grant

Combine health care, science, and technology to produce medical images that help physicians diagnose and treat patients.

- Performs diagnostic imaging procedures, such as X-rays, to help diagnose injuries, illness, and other medical conditions.
- Prepares patients for imaging exams, positions them correctly, and operates equipment while ensuring safety and comfort.

ULTRASOUND TECHNICIAN

Requirements

- Associate's degree, or
- Bachelor's degree in diagnostic medical sonography
- Certification through the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS)



Career Pathway

Associate's degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography → Professional Certification → Ultrasound Technician → Specialized Sonographer or Imaging Department Supervisor

Also known as a diagnostic medical sonographer, they play an important role in patient care by producing detailed images utilizing specialized equipment.



May qualify for Grow PA grant

- Works closely with physicians, surgeons, and other health care staff, performing scans for both routine and emergency cases.
- Operates specialized ultrasound equipment to create images of internal organs, blood vessels, developing babies, and tissues.

Diet and Nutrition

Hospital diet and nutrition roles focus on using food and nutrition science to prevent, treat, and manage health conditions while supporting patient recovery.

COOK

Requirements

- High school diploma/ GED
- On-the-job training



Career Pathway

Hospital Cook → Lead Cook or Senior Cook → Food Service Supervisor → Dietary Services Manager

Contribute directly to patient health and recovery by preparing meals that meet important nutritional and medical needs.

- Prepares nutritious meals for patients, visitors, and hospital staff.
- Prepares large quantities of meals using standardized recipes for patients while following food safety, sanitation, and infection-control procedures.

DIETITIAN

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree
- Must pass licensure exam



Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree in Nutrition or Dietetics → Supervised Practice Experience → National Registration Exam → Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN)

Registered dietitian nutritionists help people improve their health through healthy eating.

- Plan and develop food service or nutritional programs to develop personalized meal plans.
- Advise patients and their families on nutritional principles, dietary plans, diet modifications, and food selection and preparation.

Diet and Nutrition

DIETARY AIDE

Requirements

- High school diploma/ GED
- Associate's degree



Career Pathway

Dietary Aide → Senior Dietary Aide or Food Service Worker → Food Service Supervisor → Dietary Services Manager

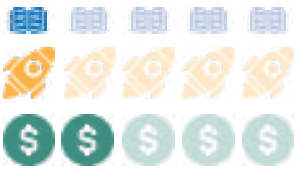
Work as part of the health care team by providing the right meal at the right time to patients while maintaining high standards of food safety and customer service.

- Implements dietary plans created by dietitians.
- Prepares and delivers meals according to patient dietary orders while following dietary guidelines and food safety standards.
- Educates patients/families on nutrition and any special dietary restrictions.

FOOD/PREP SERVICES

Requirements

- High school diploma/ GED
- On-the-job training



Career Pathway

Food Preparation and Food Service Worker → Lead Food Service Worker → Food Service Supervisor → Dietary Services Manager

Help ensure food service operation runs efficiently in delivering nutritious meals that support patient healing, recovery, and overall well-being.

- Assists cooks and kitchen staff with various tasks as needed.
- Cleans and sanitizes work areas, equipment, utensils, dishes, or silverware.
- Assists in the preparation of meals according to dietary requirements.

Emergency Services

Emergency services includes first responders to an emergency. Some of the roles in emergency services provide transportation or treatment to those in need. Other roles plan, manage, and coordinate disaster response plans. Overall, they ensure public safety and health during emergencies.

Health care careers include much more than doctors and nurses.



Health care professionals make a difference in people's lives every day.



911 CENTER DISPATCHER

Requirements

- High school diploma/ GED
- 104 hours of hands-on and classroom training, including CPR certification and the 16-hour Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) program
- Pass PEMA's certification review process after completing required training and exams

Education Programs

- In Pennsylvania, becoming a certified 911 dispatcher requires meeting state training requirements set by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), plus other employer-specific qualifications.



Career Pathway

911 Dispatcher Trainee → 911 Dispatcher → Senior Dispatcher → Communications Supervisor or Emergency Communications Center Manager

Emergency communications specialist that is the first point of contact during an emergency combining communication, problem-solving, and multitasking skills to help protect lives and ensure emergency responders have the information they need to provide timely care.

- Answers emergency and nonemergency calls.
- Coordinates response and dispatches police, fire, and medical services.
- Logs incident details into computer system.

Emergency Services

EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER (EMR)

Requirements

- High school diploma/GED
- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Complete a state-approved training program
- Pass certification exam

Career Pathway

Emergency Medical Responder Training → EMR Certification → Emergency Medical Responder → Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) → Paramedic



Often among the first to arrive at an emergency scene and provide quick thinking, teamwork, and basic medical skills to initiate care that can save lives and improve outcomes.

- Stabilizes patients and prepares them for the arrival of higher-trained EMTs and paramedics. This may involve delivering CPR, controlling bleeding, stabilizing injuries, and other basic emergency interventions.
- Support EMTs, paramedics, firefighters, and other responders during medical emergencies and disasters.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

Requirements

- Postsecondary training
- Complete a state-approved training program
- Pass certification exam
- Certification through the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians

Career Pathway

EMT Training Program → EMT Certification and State Licensure → Emergency Medical Technician → Advanced EMT → Paramedic



EMTs make a direct impact on patient outcomes and gain valuable health care experience using medical knowledge, quick decision-making, and teamwork to help stabilize patients and save lives in challenging situations.

- Administer first aid treatment or life support care to sick or injured persons in prehospital settings.
- Assess injuries and illnesses and administer basic emergency medical care.
- Respond to medical emergencies and safely transport injured or sick persons to medical facilities.

Emergency Services

PARAMEDIC

Requirements

- Postsecondary training
- Complete a state-approved training program
- Pass certification exams



Career Pathway

EMT Training and Certification → Paramedic Program → National/State Certification → Paramedic → Critical Care Paramedic, Flight Paramedic, or EMS Supervisor

Builds upon the skills taught in the EMT curriculum to acquire a higher level of knowledge to provide highly trained emergency health care in urgent and often unpredictable situations.

- Administer basic or advanced emergency medical care and assess injuries and illnesses.
- May administer medication intravenously.
- Administers advanced life support such as EKGs, airway management, and specialized equipment while following protocols for early care to sick or injured individuals.

Environmental Services

Environmental Services in hospitals are responsible for maintaining a clean, safe, and hygienic environment, playing a critical role in infection prevention and patient safety.

HOUSEKEEPING

Requirements

- High school diploma/GED
- On-the-job training



Career Pathway

Environmental Services Technician → Lead Environmental Services Technician → Environmental Services Supervisor → Environmental Services Manager

Referred to as environmental service technicians, this is an excellent entry point into health care for those that enjoy hands-on work and making a difference behind the scenes.

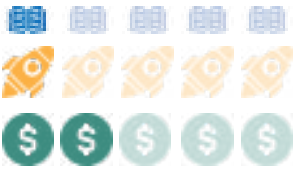
- Cleans patient rooms and clinical spaces using disinfectants and follows strict infection control protocols to prevent contamination and the spread of infections.
- Replenish toiletries, cleaning supplies, and other essentials in patient rooms.
- In isolation rooms or areas exposed to infectious diseases, perform deep cleaning, and terminal cleaning of discharged patient rooms to prepare them for new admissions. Commonly referred to as environmental services (EVS).

Environmental Services

LINEN SERVICES

Requirements

- High school diploma/GED
- On-the-job training



Career Pathway

Linen Services Technician → Lead Linen Services Technician → Linen Services Supervisor → Support Services Manager

Linen service technicians ensure hospitals have a continuous supply of clean, sanitized linens.

- Provides hygienic and durable materials for health care facilities, including bed sheets, pillowcases, patient gowns, blankets, and surgical linens.
- Inventories and resupplies hospital and clinic departments

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

Requirements

- Associate's degree, or
- Bachelor's degree in supply chain management
- Certification from the Association for Healthcare Resource & Materials Management (AHRMM)



Career Pathway



May qualify for Grow PA grant

Supply Chain Technician or Materials Management Associate → Supply Chain Coordinator or Purchasing Specialist → Supply Chain Manager → Director of Supply Chain

Supply chain and materials management professionals combine business, technology, logistics, and problem-solving skills to ensure hospital staff have the resources they need to provide care.

- Oversees that medical supplies, equipment, and pharmaceuticals are procured, stored, and delivered efficiently.
- Works closely with clinical, administrative, and financial teams to align supply chain strategies with hospital goals and patient care needs.
- Coordinates timely delivery of supplies across hospital departments, including operating rooms, pharmacies, and patient care units adhering to health care regulations.

Facility Management

Facility management in hospitals is the coordinated oversight of buildings, systems, and services to ensure a safe, compliant, and operational environment that supports patient care.

ELECTRICIAN

Requirements

- High School Diploma/ GED
- Associate's degree or,
- Complete an apprenticeship program



Education

Job Growth

Salary

Career Pathway

Electrical Apprentice → Licensed Electrician → Hospital Electrician → Master Electrician or Facilities Manager



May qualify for Grow PA grant

Play a critical role in ensuring that patient care areas, life-saving equipment, and essential building systems have reliable electrical power at all times.

- Licensed electrician specialized in installing, maintaining, and repairing the electrical systems in health care facilities.
- Performs preventative maintenance and manages emergency power systems.
- Follows the National Electrical Code (NEC), NFPA 99 Health Care Facilities Code, and other state/local regulations, ensuring all systems meet medical grade safety standards.

Facility Management

FACILITIES MANAGER

Requirements

- Associate's degree or,
- Bachelor's degree
- Certification completion



Career Pathway

Technical Trade, Associate's degree, or Bachelor's degree → Maintenance Technician or Building Operations Specialist → Facilities Supervisor → Facilities Manager → Director of Facilities



May qualify for Grow PA grant

Ensure hospitals and health care facilities operate safely, efficiently, and reliably.

- Oversees the maintenance, safety, and operational efficiency of a hospital.
- Ensures all hospital facilities are safe, clean, and functional.
- Supervises facility staff and coordinates contractors and service providers.

HVAC TECHNICIAN

Requirements

- Associate's degree, or
- Technical program/ apprenticeship
- Environmental Protection Agency Section 608 certification



Career Pathway

HVAC Training Program or Apprenticeship → HVAC Technician → Hospital HVAC Technician → Senior HVAC Technician → Facilities Supervisor or Facilities Manager



May qualify for Grow PA grant

Help provide clean air, proper ventilation, and comfortable temperature and humidity throughout the hospital.

- Ensures that specialized heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems run under strict infection control and safety standards.
- Installs, inspects, and repairs HVAC equipment that controls ventilation, humidity, temperature, and filtration in patient care areas.
- Diagnoses and fixes HVAC malfunctions, including handling urgent repairs during outages, extreme weather, or equipment failures.

Facility Management

PLUMBER

Requirements

- High School Diploma/ GED
- Complete an apprenticeship program
- Must pass licensure exam administered through the city/county health department under the Pennsylvania Construction Code

Career Pathway

Plumbing Apprentice → Licensed Plumber → Hospital Plumber → Master Plumber → Facilities Supervisor or Facilities Manager



Education

Job Growth

Salary

Keep critical water, drainage, and plumbing systems functioning properly, including medical gases critical to patient care.



May qualify for Grow PA grant

- Specialized plumbing professionals who install, maintain, and repair the complex water, drainage, and medical gas systems in health care facilities.
- Design and maintain systems that prevent backflow and contamination, supporting sterile environments for surgery and other medical procedures.
- Respond to urgent issues like leaks, pipe failures, or system outages to minimize disruption to patient care.

Facility Management

SECURITY SERVICES OFFICER

Requirements

- High school diploma/GED
- Security certification from International Association for Healthcare Security & Safety (IAHSS)
- State security licensing requirements may be applicable
  - **Unarmed work:** Requirements are usually set by the employer or the hospital's contract. Some hospitals may require a local or state-recognized background check.
  - **Armed work:** If the position involves carrying a lethal weapon as part of duties, must hold Act 235 certification from the Pennsylvania State Police.



Career Pathway

Hospital Security Officer → Senior Security Officer → Security Supervisor → Security Manager or Director of Security

- Patrols hospital premises, including entrances, parking lots, and sensitive areas such as ICUs, pharmacies, and operating rooms, to prevent unauthorized access, theft, vandalism, or disturbances and responds to emergencies.
- Monitor CCTV cameras and alarm systems to detect and respond to potential threats.
- Manage entry points, verify visitor identification, issue passes, and ensure only authorized personnel enter restricted areas.

Health Information Technology

Careers in health information technology play a critical role in the delivery of health care through the collection and use of quality data. They combine medicine and technology in that delivery of care.

Many of tomorrow's health care careers will combine patient care with technology.



Robots, artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and advanced data analytics are becoming important tools in health care.



Prerequisites



Computer



Science



Statistics



Communication

COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGER

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree
- Professional certifications available



Education

Job Growth

Salary

Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree in Information Technology or Computer Science → IT Support Specialist or Systems Administrator → Information Systems Analyst → Computer and Information Systems Manager → Chief Information Officer (CIO)



May qualify for Grow PA grant

Provide leadership and oversee technology and digital systems to ensure patient information is secure and reliable to enable health care providers to deliver high-quality care.

- Plan, direct, or coordinate activities in such fields as electronic data processing, information systems, systems analysis, computer programming, cybersecurity, and technology infrastructure.
- Assign and review the work of systems analysts, programmers, and other computer-related workers.

Health Information Technology

COMPUTER NETWORK ARCHITECT

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree
- Professional certifications available



Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree in Information Technology or Computer Science → Network Technician or Systems Administrator → Network Engineer → Computer Network Architect → Chief Information Officer (CIO) or Information Technology Director



May qualify for Grow PA grant

Combine technology, problem-solving, and strategic planning to create a secure and reliable network that supports modern health care information systems.

- Design and implement computer and information networks, such as local area networks (LAN), wide area networks (WAN), intranets, extranets, and other data communications networks.
- Perform network modeling, analysis, and planning, including analysis of capacity needs for network infrastructures.
- May also design network and computer security measures.

COMPUTER SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Requirements

- High school diploma or GED required
- Postsecondary training, or
- Associate's degree, or
- Bachelor's degree



Career Pathway

Certificate, Associate, or Bachelor's degree in Information Technology → Help Desk Technician or IT Support Technician → Computer Support Specialist → Systems Administrator or Network Administrator → Information Technology Manager

Also known as a health care IT support specialist, they keep technology systems running efficiently.



May qualify for Grow PA grant

- Provide technical assistance to staff.
- Answer questions or resolve computer problems for clients in person, via telephone, or electronically.
- May provide assistance concerning the use of computer hardware and software, including printing, installation, word processing, electronic mail, and operating systems.

Health Information Technology

COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYST

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree
- Professional certifications available



Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree in Information Systems, Computer Science, or Health Care Informatics → IT Analyst or Business Analyst → Computer Systems Analyst → Senior Systems Analyst → Information Systems Manager or Chief Information Officer (CIO)



May qualify for Grow PA grant

Bridges the gap between health care operation and technology by utilizing technical expertise to help hospital technology perform efficiently.

- Analyze science, engineering, business, and other data processing problems to develop and implement solutions to complex applications problems, system administration issues, or network concerns.
- Perform systems management and integration functions, improve existing computer systems, and review computer system capabilities, workflow, and schedule limitations.

INFORMATION SECURITY ANALYST

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree
- Professional certifications available



Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree in Cyber-security or Information Technology → IT Support Specialist or Systems Administrator → Information Security Analyst → Senior Security Analyst → Cybersecurity Manager or Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)



May qualify for Grow PA grant

Referred to as a health care cybersecurity analyst, protects sensitive patient information and technology systems.

- Plan, implement, upgrade, or monitor security measures for the protection of computer networks and information.
- Assess system vulnerabilities for security risks and propose and implement risk mitigation strategies.
- Monitor security systems and respond to computer security threats, data breaches, viruses, and unauthorized access.

Medical Careers

Medical careers include practitioners who work in a hospital, doctor's office, and other health care facilities. They can work directly with patients conducting medical procedures. They can also perform administrative and clinical duties.

There are hundreds of health care careers, from direct patient care to technology, research, administration, and public health.



Health care is one of the fastest-growing career fields in the United States, with about 1.9 million job openings projected each year over the next decade.



Prerequisites



Advanced Biology



Chemistry



Physics



Calculus



Psychology

ANESTHESIA TECHNOLOGIST

Requirements

- Associate's degree
- Completion of an accredited anesthesia technology program
- Certification is highly recommended and requires passing a national exam

Career Pathway

Anesthesia Technology Program → Certified Anesthesia Technologist → Senior Anesthesia Technologist → Lead Technologist or Anesthesia Department Supervisor



Combine technical, organizational, and problem-solving skills to support anesthesia teams and help patients receive safe care during surgery.

- Prepare and maintain anesthesia equipment, monitors, and supplies to maintain readiness before, during, and after a surgery to assist the anesthesiologist or nurse anesthetist.
- Helps ensure patient safety by troubleshooting equipment, stocking medication and supplies, and following strict infection-control procedures.

Medical Careers

ANESTHESIOLOGIST

Requirements

- Doctoral degree
- National certification through the American Board of Anesthesiology



Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree → Medical School → Anesthesiology Residency → Board Certification → Anesthesiologist

Specialize in anesthesia, pain management, and critical care medicine during surgical and medical procedures.

- Administer anesthetic or sedation during medical procedures.
- Monitor patient before, during, and after anesthesia and counteract adverse reactions or complications.
- Record type and amount of anesthesia and patient condition throughout procedure.

ATHLETIC TRAINER

Requirements

- Master's degree
- Must pass licensure exam
- Certification through the National Athletic Trainers Association Board of Certification



Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree → Master's degree in Athletic Training → BOC Certification and State Licensure → Athletic Trainer → Senior Athletic Trainer → Sports Medicine Program Manager or Director

Ideal for students who enjoy sports, science, fitness, and helping others recover from injuries.



May qualify for Grow PA grant

- Specialize in preventing, diagnosing, and treating muscle and bone injuries and illnesses by developing rehabilitation and recovery programs.
- Work in schools, colleges, professional sports organizations, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and clinics.

Medical Careers

BIOMEDICAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN (BMET)

Requirements

- Associate's degree
- Bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering technology or related fields for advanced roles
- Professional certification available

Career Pathway

Associate's degree in Biomedical Equipment Technology → Biomedical Equipment Technician → Senior Biomedical Equipment Technician → Clinical Engineering Manager or Director



Maintain medical equipment functioning properly so that health care professionals have the tools and equipment necessary for delivering high-quality care.

- Responsible for calibrating, maintaining, and repairing medical machinery used in hospitals, clinics, and specialized units.
- Performs routine inspections, preventive maintenance, and troubleshoots equipment issues.



May qualify for Grow PA grant

CARDIOVASCULAR TECHNICIAN

Requirements

- Cardiovascular technology training program
- Associate's degree
- Professional certifications available

Career Pathway

Professional Certification → Cardiovascular Technician → Specialized Cardiovascular Technologist → Cardiac Catheterization Lab Supervisor or Cardiovascular Services Manager



Support cardiologists and other health care professionals in cardiovascular care.

- Works closely with cardiologists, surgeons, and other cardiac professionals in a variety of hospital settings include catheterization labs, Electrophysiology labs, and operating rooms to provide advanced cardiac care.
- Conducts tests on pulmonary or cardiovascular systems of patients for diagnostic, therapeutic, or research purposes.
- May conduct or assist in electrocardiograms, cardiac catheterizations, electrophysiology procedures, pulmonary functions, surgeries, and similar tests.

HEALTH CAREER SPOTLIGHT:
CARDIOVASCULAR TECHNICIAN

Nicole

I chose this profession because I felt that looking at pictures like X-ray, MRI and CT was very interesting. You can see what is going on inside the body from the outside. I pursued a career as a radiology technician and quickly learned that I enjoyed learning about the heart and vascular systems of the body. I then took a job in a cath lab and took my RCIS boards. Afterward, I transitioned to a cardiac and vascular hybrid operating room where I work with a team of people doing cath procedures, structural heart procedures and vascular surgery. I find this job very rewarding because each case is different, it is like a new puzzle to figure out. I find this job very satisfying because the end result is giving our patients a longer better quality of life.



"I find this job very rewarding because each case is different, it is like a new puzzle to figure out."

Medical Careers

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER

Requirements

- High School Diploma/GED
- Complete a training program
- Certification may be required



Career Pathway

CHW Training Program → Community Health Worker → Optional Pennsylvania CCHW Certification

Bridge the gap between health care providers and the community they serve by helping patients navigate complex health care systems.

- Connect individuals and families with health care services, community resources, and programs that support their health and well-being.
- Builds trusted relationships and helps identify and overcome barriers through education, outreach, and guidance so that patients and families better understand and manage health conditions.

DOULA

Requirements

- High School Diploma/GED
- Completion of a specialized training program



Career Pathway

Doula Training Program → Certification (optional but recommended) → Birth Doula or Postpartum Doula

Use communication, advocacy, and supportive care skills to help families and patients navigate pregnancy and childbirth, promoting a positive and informed birth experience.

- Work directly with individuals and families to provide emotional, physical, and informational support during pregnancy, childbirth, and during the postpartum period.
- Help expectant parents navigate the birthing process by explaining options, preparing them for labor and delivery, and communicating their preferences with the health care team.

Medical Careers

EMERGENCY MEDICAL DOCTOR

Requirements
- Doctoral degree
- Must pass licensure exam



Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree → Medical School → Emergency Medicine Residency → Board Certification → Emergency Medicine Physician

Specially trained doctors who provide care during medical emergencies.
- Evaluates, diagnoses, and treats patients with illness, injuries, and life-threatening medical emergencies.
- Directs emergency medical staff in an emergency department to rapidly stabilize patients and determine the next steps in their care.

EPIDEMIOLOGIST

Requirements
- Bachelor's degree in relevant field
- Master's degree in public health (MPH) or epidemiology
- Optional doctoral training

Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree in Public Health, Biology, or Related Field → Master's degree in Epidemiology or Public Health → Epidemiologist → Senior Epidemiologist → Public Health Director or Research Scientist



Use science, data analysis, and critical thinking skills to investigate health trends and help protect the health of entire communities by looking at patterns, causes, and spread of disease.



May qualify for Grow PA grant

- Investigate disease outbreaks, risk factors, analyze health data, conduct interviews and research, and evaluate effectiveness of prevention programs.
- Most frequently work at public health departments, CDC and other governmental agencies, universities and research institutions, and health care systems.

Medical Careers

FAMILY MEDICINE PHYSICIAN

Requirements
- Doctoral degree
- Must pass licensure exam



Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree → Medical School → Family Medicine Residency → Board Certification → Family Medicine Physician

Provide comprehensive health care for patients of all ages by providing whole-person care for individuals and families.
- Diagnose, treat, and provide preventive care for a wide range of medical conditions, coordinate with specialists when needed, and promote healthy lifestyles and disease prevention.
- May refer patients to specialists when needed for further diagnosis or treatment.
- Prescribe or administer treatment, therapy, medication, vaccination, and other specialized medical care to treat or prevent illness, disease, or injury.

HOME HEALTH AIDE

Requirements
- High School Diploma/GED
- State-approved training program
- Competency test



Career Pathway

Home Health Aide Training Program → Home Health Aide → Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Patient Care Technician, or Advanced Caregiver Roles → Nursing or Other Health Care Careers

Compassionate caregivers who provide essential personal care and support, helping patients live safely and comfortably at home. Work in licensed, non-medical, hospice, residential and community-based facilities, or as independent providers.
- Assist patients with daily activities such as bathing, dressing, meal preparation, and light housekeeping.
- Provide companionship, help with recovery from illness and injury, observe and report changes in patients' health.

Medical Careers

HOSPITALIST PHYSICIAN

Requirements

- Doctoral degree
- Must pass licensure exam



Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree → Medical School → Residency Training → Board Certification → Hospitalist Physician

Physicians who specialize in caring for hospitalized patients combining medical expertise, teamwork, and communication skills to manage complex medical conditions throughout a patient's hospital stay.

- Diagnose, treat, or provide continuous care to hospital patients in settings such as medical wards, acute care units, intensive care units, rehabilitation centers, or emergency rooms.
- Manage and coordinate patient care throughout treatment.

INFECTION PREVENTIONIST

Requirements

- Associate's degree, or,
- Bachelor's degree
- Certification in Infection Control (CIC), administered by the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology



Career Pathway

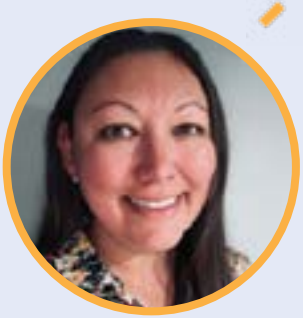
Associate or Bachelor degree in related field → Certification → Infection Preventionist → Lead or Senior Infection Preventionist → Infection Prevention Manager/ Director

Serves a critical role in protecting patients, visitors, and health care workers from infectious diseases.

- Detects, prevents, and controls the spread of infections in hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities, and other health care settings.
- Investigate and contain outbreaks, coordinating with local and national health agencies when necessary.

HEALTH CAREER SPOTLIGHT:
INFECTION PREVENTION

Lauren



I began my health care career in respiratory therapy but over time, discovered a passion for improving patient safety, which led me to Infection Prevention. A career in Infection Prevention means identifying risks, preventing the spread of infection, and protecting patients, health care workers, and communities. I love that it touches nearly every part of health care and offers opportunities to collaborate with diverse teams and settings. It is a lifelong-learning profession where every day brings new challenges and opportunities, and knowing this work helps keep people safe provides a strong sense of purpose. If you're considering a career in health care, stay curious, build relationships, and don't be afraid to explore paths you may not have considered, such as Infection Prevention. You may just discover a career you truly love.

"It is a lifelong-learning profession where every day brings new challenges and opportunities, and knowing this work helps keep people safe provides a strong sense of purpose."

Medical Careers

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Requirements

- High school diploma or GED required
- Postsecondary training



Career Pathway

Medical Assisting Program → Medical Assistant → Certified Medical Assistant → Lead Medical Assistant, Office Manager, or Other Health Care Career

Versatile health care professionals who combine patient care, administrative, and technical skills to help medical offices and clinics operate efficiently.

- Administrative duties may include scheduling appointments, maintaining medical records, billing, and coding information for insurance purposes.
- Clinical duties may include taking and recording vital signs and medical histories, preparing patients for examination, drawing blood, and administering medications as directed by physician.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT PROCESSOR/STERILE PROCESSING

Requirements

- High school diploma/GED
- On-the-job training
- Professional certification available



Career Pathway

Sterile Processing Training Program → Sterile Processing Technician → Lead/Senior Sterile Processing Technician → Sterile Processing Supervisor → Sterile Processing Manager

Also known as a sterile processing technician, plays a critical behind-the-scenes role in health care by ensuring that surgical instruments and medical equipment are properly cleaned and sterilized.

- Clean, disinfect, inspect, assemble, and sterilize surgical instruments and other medical equipment used to care for patients.
- Prepares and distributes sterile instruments and supplies while keeping records of maintenance, repairs, and disinfection.

Medical Careers

OBSTETRICIAN AND GYNECOLOGIST (OB-GYN)

Requirements
- Doctoral degree
- Must pass licensure exam



Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree → Medical School → OB-GYN Residency → Board Certification → Obstetrician and Gynecologist

Physicians who specialize in women's health, pregnancy, and reproductive care.
- Provide medical care for women throughout all stages of life, including preventive care, reproductive health, pregnancy, and childbirth.
- Diagnose, treat, and help prevent diseases of women, particularly those affecting the reproductive system.
- Deliver babies, perform medical and surgical procedures to help patients and their families.

OPHTHALMIC TECHNICIAN

Requirements
- High School Diploma/GED
- On-the-job training, or
- Complete a formal training program
- Professional certification available



Career Pathway

Ophthalmic Assistant → Ophthalmic Technician → Certified Ophthalmic Technician → Senior Ophthalmic Technician or Ophthalmic Practice Manager

Help eye doctors provide high-quality vision and eye care to patients of all ages by supporting the diagnosis and treatment of eye conditions.
- Assists ophthalmologists to help diagnose, treat, and manage eye conditions through vision tests, measuring eye function, and assisting during the exam.
- Collects medical history, reviews medications, operates specialized equipment to detect vision changes, and documents symptoms.

Medical Careers

Did you know that certain medical conditions affect vision?



And that vision tests may help detect early signs of certain medical conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure?



OPTOMETRIST

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in a science-related field
- Doctor of Optometry (O.D.)
- Pass the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) exam
- May require completion of a residency for specialized treatments



Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree → Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) Degree → State Licensure → Optometrist

Combine science, technology, and patient care skills to help people maintain healthy vision and improve their quality of life. These professionals:

- Examine eyes and vision, diagnose vision problems, and prescribe glasses or contact lenses.
- Educate patients on eye health, vision care, and ways to protect eyesight.

PEDIATRICIAN

Requirements

- Doctoral degree
- Must pass licensure exam



Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree → Medical School → Pediatrics Residency → Board Certification → Pediatrician

Doctors who treat children from birth through young adulthood.

- Diagnose, treat, and help prevent diseases and injuries in children.
- Examine children regularly to assess their growth and development.
- Treat minor illnesses, acute and chronic health problems, growth and development concerns, and help families make informed decisions about their child's health.

Medical Careers

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT



Requirements

- Must graduate from an accredited educational program for physician assistants
- Master's degree
- Must pass licensure exam

Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree → Master's degree Physician Assistant Program → PANCE Certification and State Licensure → Physician Assistant (PA)



May qualify for Grow PA grant

Highly trained health care professionals who provide medical care as part of a physician-led team.

- Provide health care services, interpret diagnostic tests, assist with medical procedures, and prescribe medications under the supervision of and collaboration with a physician.
- Conduct complete physical exams, develop treatment plans, and counsel patients in a variety of health care settings.

PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN



Requirements

- Doctoral degree
- Must pass licensure exam

Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree → Medical School → Residency Training (Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, or Pediatrics) → Board Certification → Primary Care Physician

Make a lasting impact on patients' lives by helping prevent disease, promoting healthy lifestyles, and providing coordinated care throughout the lifespan.

- Diagnose, treat, and provide comprehensive health care, including preventive care, routine checkups, screenings, communicate diagnosis to individuals and families.
- Helps patients manage their overall health by coordinating care, prescribing medications, and making referrals to specialists when needed for additional diagnosis or treatment.

Medical Careers

PERFUSIONIST

Requirements

- Master's degree in a scientific field
- Certification from the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion



Career Pathway

Master's degree in a Science-Related Field → Accredited Perfusion Program → Certification → Perfusionist → Senior Perfusionist → Chief Perfusionist or Perfusion Program Director

Operate advanced technology and utilize clinical expertise to support patients during heart surgery and other procedures.

- Works alongside the surgical team to care for people undergoing a heart procedure by operating the heart-lung machine and other specialized equipment including extracorporeal circulation machines.
- Monitors patient's blood circulation, oxygen levels, blood pressure, and other critical functions throughout the surgical procedure.

RENAL DIALYSIS TECHNICIAN

Requirements

- High school diploma/GED
- Specialized training in an accredited dialysis technician program
- Certification through the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC)



Career Pathway

Dialysis Technician Training Program → Renal Dialysis Technician → Certified Dialysis Technician → Lead Dialysis Technician → Dialysis Program Manager

Dialysis technicians as they are commonly referred, help patients manage chronic kidney disease and kidney failure.



May qualify for Grow PA grant

- Provides management and treatment of patients with kidney failure throughout dialysis and reports any concerns to nurses and physicians.
- Operates and monitors dialysis machines to filter waste, excess fluid, and toxins from a patient's blood.

Medical Careers

SPORTS MEDICINE PHYSICIAN

Requirements
- Doctoral degree
- Must pass licensure exam



Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree → Medical School → Residency Training → Sports Medicine Fellowship → Board Certification → Sports Medicine Physician

Doctors who specialize in caring for athletes and physically active individuals of all ages.
- Diagnose, treat, and help prevent injuries that occur during sporting events, athletic training, and physical activities.
- Develop treatment plans and rehabilitation plans to help athletes recover from injury.
- Work with athletic trainers, physical therapists, coaches, and others to promote health and injury prevention.

SURGEON

Requirements
- Doctoral degree
- Must pass licensure exam
- Must complete a surgical residency program



Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree → Medical School → Surgical Residency → Board Certification → Surgeon

Specialized physicians who use advanced medical knowledge and specialized surgical skills to diagnose and treat a wide variety of heath conditions.
- A general surgeon performs most of the common surgery operations.
- Diagnose and manage a broad array of medical conditions before, during, and after surgery to help treat disease, correct deformities and deliver needed surgical care.

Medical Careers

SURGICAL FIRST ASSISTANT

Requirements

- High school diploma/GED
- Certified Surgical Assistant program
- Surgical Technologist with additional training; certification
- Bachelor's degree in related field preferred

Career Pathway

Accredited Surgical Technology Program → Surgical Technologist → Certified Surgical First Assistant Program → Surgical First Assistant (CSFA)



Education

Job Growth

Salary

Combine advanced clinical knowledge, technical skills, and teamwork to play an important role in successful surgical procedures and patient outcomes while under the supervision of a surgeon.

- Assisting during operations to help control bleeding, handling tissues, placing drains, closing incisions, and supporting other critical surgical tasks.
- Preparing the room, surgical instruments, and equipment to ensure procedures are performed safely and efficiently.

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST

Requirements

- Certificate/Diploma/ Associate's degree
- Accredited Surgical Technician Program
- Professional certification available

Career Pathway

Surgical Technology Program → Surgical Technologist → Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) → Surgical First Assistant or Surgical Services Leader



Education

Job Growth

Salary

Members of the operating room team to combine technical skills, attention to detail, and teamwork to support surgeons by ensuring they are performed safely and efficiently.

- Prepare operating rooms for surgery by setting up surgical instruments, equipment, and sterile supplies.
- Assist surgeons during surgery by passing them instruments and other sterile supplies, maintaining a sterile field, and anticipating the needs of the surgical team.
- Verify supplies and surgical instruments are properly accounted for before and after surgery.



May qualify for Grow PA grant

Mental and Social Health

These practitioners are part of a team that provides treatment to people with mental or social issues. They may work in a hospital, counseling center, or in private practice.

Mental health is increasingly recognized as an important part of total wellness.



Behavioral health professionals help people manage emotional, mental, and social challenges that affect overall health.

Prerequisites

- Psychology
- Sociology
- Biology
- Statistics

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TECHNICIAN

Requirements

- High School Diploma/GED
- On-the-job training
- May need additional education in psychology, human services or related field
- Associate's or Bachelor's degree preferred

Career Pathway

Behavioral Health Technician → Senior Behavioral Health Technician → Behavioral Health Supervisor or Case Manager → Advanced Careers in Counseling, Social Work, Nursing, or Psychology



Education

Job Growth

Salary

Support individuals as they work toward improved mental health and recovery.

- Provide nursing support, psychiatric, or personal care to patients with cognitive, intellectual, or developmental disabilities, following the instructions of physicians or other health practitioners.
- Monitor patients' physical and emotional well-being, report unusual behavior or physical ailments, and assist with implementing treatment plans.

Mental and Social Health

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST

Requirements

- Doctoral degree
- Must pass licensure exam



Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree in Psychology or Related Field → Doctoral Degree (Ph.D. or Psy.D.) → Clinical Internship → State Licensure → Clinical Psychologist

Mental health professionals help people understand, manage, and overcome emotional, behavioral, and psychological challenges.

- Assess, diagnose, and treat mental and emotional disorders of individuals through observation, interview, and psychological tests.
- Provide individual or group counseling services to assist individuals in achieving more effective personal, social, educational, and vocational development and adjustment.

LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER

Requirements

- Doctoral degree
- Must pass licensure exam
- Gain supervised clinical experience and meet state-specific requirements



Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree → Master of Social Work (MSW) → Supervised Clinical Experience → State Licensure (LCSW) → Licensed Clinical Social Worker



May qualify for Grow PA grant

Help people improve their emotional health and navigate life's challenges by utilizing counseling skills, advocacy, and a deep understanding of human behavior.

- Provide individuals, families, and groups with the psychosocial support needed to cope with chronic, acute, or terminal illnesses. Services include advising family caregivers.
- Provide patients with information, counseling and make referrals for other services to promote health, prevent disease, and address barriers to access to health care.

Mental and Social Health

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR

Requirements
- Doctoral degree
- Must pass licensure exam



Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree → Master's degree in related field → Supervised Clinical Experience → State Licensure (LPC or equivalent) → Mental Health Counselor



May qualify for Grow PA grant

Use communication, empathy, and evidence-based counseling techniques to support individuals dealing with anxiety, depression, trauma, and other mental health concerns.
- Counsel and advise individuals and groups to promote optimum mental and emotional health, with an emphasis on prevention.
- May help individuals deal with a broad range of mental health issues, such as those associated with addictions and substance use disorder; family, parenting, and marital problems; stress management; self-esteem; or aging.

PSYCHIATRIST

Requirements
- Doctoral degree
- Must pass licensure exam



Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree → Medical School → Psychiatry Residency → Board Certification → Psychiatrist

Medical doctors who specialize in mental health with expertise in medicine, neuroscience, and behavioral health.
- Diagnose, treat, and help prevent mental health conditions and substance use disorders.
- Evaluates patients' emotional, behavioral, and mental health needs and develops personalized treatment plans.

Mental and Social Health

PSYCHIATRIC/MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TECHNICIAN

Requirements

- High school diploma/GED
- On-the-job training, or
- Additional coursework or education in psychology or related field





May qualify for Grow PA grant

Career Pathway

Psychiatric/Mental Health Services Technician → Senior Mental Health Technician → Behavioral Health Unit Supervisor

Important members of the behavioral health team who help patients achieve treatment goals and improve their well-being.

- Provide nursing, psychiatric, or personal care to patients with cognitive, intellectual, or developmental disabilities, following the instructions of physicians or other health practitioners.
- Monitor patients' physical and emotional well-being and report unusual behavior or physical ailments to medical staff.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND BEHAVIORAL DISORDER COUNSELOR

Requirements

- Doctoral degree
- Must pass licensure exam
- Professional certification available



Career Pathway

Associate or Bachelor's degree → Addiction Counseling Training → Supervised Clinical Experience → State Certification/Licensure → Substance Abuse and Behavioral Disorder Counselor



May qualify for Grow PA grant

Help individuals overcome addiction and manage behavioral health challenges on their journey toward recovery, improved mental health, and a healthier future.

- Counsel and advise individuals with alcohol, tobacco, drug, or other problems, such as gambling and eating disorders.
- May counsel individuals, families, or groups or engage in prevention programs.

Nursing

Nurses provide care to ill, injured, convalescent, or disabled patients. They may advise patients on health maintenance and disease prevention or provide case management. Most nurses work as part of a team with physicians and other health care professionals.

Nurses are consistently ranked among the most trusted professionals in America.



Nursing careers range from bedside care to leadership, research, education, and advanced practice roles.



Prerequisites



Biology



Anatomy & Physiology



Chemistry



Statistics



Psychology

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE (LPN)

Requirements

- High school diploma/ GED
- Successful completion of a practical nursing education program
- Must pass licensure exam

Career Pathway

Practical Nursing Program → NCLEX-PN Examination → Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) → Charge Nurse or Specialty LPN → Registered Nurse (RN) through an LPN-to-RN Bridge Program



Compassionate heath care professionals who provide direct patient care and play an important role in supporting the health and well-being of patients in various settings.

- Provides basic nursing care supervised by a registered nurse and physician.
- Administers prescribed medications or starts intravenous fluids in settings such as hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities, physician offices, and home settings.
- Takes basic vital signs, such as blood pressure and temperature and assists with daily care needs.

Nursing

NURSE ANESTHETIST

Requirements

- Must be a registered nurse who has specialized graduate education
- Master's degree, Registered Nurse
- Doctoral degree in nursing practice or nurse anesthesia practice
- Must pass a national certification exam



Career Pathway

Registered Nurse (RN) → Critical Care Nursing Experience → Nurse Anesthesia Doctoral Program → National Certification → Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)

A Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) provide advanced practice nursing care with a specialty in anesthesia and pain management.

- Prepares and administers anesthesia and oversees patient recovery from anesthesia.
- May work with anesthesiologists, surgeons, and other physicians or dentists.
- Ensures patients receive enough oxygen and monitors vital signs and responses.

NURSE INFORMATICS SPECIALIST

Requirements

- Must be a registered nurse who has specialized graduate education
- Associate's degree or,
- Master's degree
- Professional certification available



Career Pathway

Registered Nurse (RN) → Clinical Nursing Experience → Nurse Informatics Specialist → Senior Informatics Specialist → Director of Clinical Informatics or Chief Nursing Informatics Officer (CNIO)

Bridge the gap between health care and technology by using their knowledge of nursing, data, and information systems to help organizations improve patient care through better use of technology.

- Helps analyze, design, develop, and modify computerized health care systems for data management.
- Combines nursing expertise and technology to educate staff and assists in problem-solving with computerized systems.

Nursing

NURSE-MIDWIFE

Requirements

- Must be a registered nurse who has specialized graduate education
- Master's degree
- Must pass a national certification exam

Career Pathway

Registered Nurse (RN) → Graduate Nurse-Midwifery Program (MSN or DNP) → National Certification → Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM)



A Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM) provides advanced practice registered nursing skills and specialize in pregnancy, childbirth, women's health, and newborn care.

- Diagnoses and coordinates all aspects of the birthing process from pregnancy, labor, childbirth, and the postpartum period.
- May work independently or as part of a health care team to perform prenatal exams, deliver babies, provide family planning services, and offer preventive and reproductive health care.

NURSE PRACTITIONER

Requirements

- Must be a registered nurse who has specialized graduate education
- Master's degree
- Must pass a national certification exam

Career Pathway

Registered Nurse (RN) → MSN or DNP Nurse Practitioner Program → National Certification → Nurse Practitioner (NP) or (CRNP)



A Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (CRNP) is an advanced practice registered nurse who provides high-quality patient care across a variety of health care settings

- Orders, performs or interprets results of blood tests, EKGs, and X-rays to develop the right diagnosis and treatment for both sudden and long-term conditions.
- May conduct physical exams and physical therapies, including prescribing medications, or orders tests and therapies for patients.

HEALTH CAREER SPOTLIGHT:
NEONATAL NURSE PRACTITIONER

Kelly

I chose a nursing career because I wanted to help people when they needed it most, the hours provided incredible flexibility, and there was a variety of specialties to choose from. After working for 9 years as a Neonatal nurse, I knew that I had found my passion in caring for sick newborns, both full term and preterm, and I wanted to further my skills and knowledge into the NP role. As a Neonatal NP I perform daily exams, manage the plan of care, write orders and notes, perform life saving procedures, and attend high risk deliveries for infants likely needing resuscitation. The best part of being a Neonatal NP is getting to see the positive impact of the care you provide, as the majority of sick babies will recover and go on to have a long and full life at home with their parents. As a Neonatal NP, you will always make an impact on a new life and have families that will be forever grateful for the work you have done.



As a Neonatal NP, you will always make an impact on a new life and have families that will be forever grateful for the work you have done.”

Nursing

NURSING ASSISTANT OR PERSONAL CARE AIDE

Requirements

- High school diploma/GED
- On-the-job training
- Complete a state-approved or hospital training program
- May have to pass a state competency examination to become certified

Career Pathway

Nursing Assistant Training Program → Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) → Patient Care Technician or Senior CNA → Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) → Registered Nurse (RN)



Support the registered and licensed practicing nurses in providing hands-on support to patients in hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, and other health care settings.

- Provides basic care to patients, helping them eat, dress, bathe, get medications and treatments, and apply clean dressings or bandages under the direction of a nurse.
- Measures and records vital signs, observes for changes in patients' conditions, and reports important information to nurses and other health care professionals.

NURSING INSTRUCTOR AND TEACHER, POSTSECONDARY

Requirements

- Must be a registered nurse who has specialized graduate education
- Master's degree or Doctoral degree
- Professional certification is available

Career Pathway

Registered Nurse (RN) → Clinical Nursing Experience → MSN, DNP, or Ph.D. → Nursing Instructor/Nurse Educator



Nursing instructors or nurse educators combine clinical nursing expertise with teaching skills to prepare the next generation of nurses.



May qualify for Grow PA grant

- Leads, develops, and organizes teaching programs and lesson plans in classrooms, laboratories, simulation centers, and clinical settings.
- Teach nursing students and evaluate knowledge and skills needed to provide safe, high-quality patient care.

Nursing

PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE

Requirements

- Associate's degree, or
- Bachelor's degree as a Registered Nurse
- Professional certification is available



Career Pathway

Nursing Degree (ADN or BSN) → Registered Nurse (RN) → Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Certification → Psychiatric Nurse Leader, Nurse Manager or Director



May qualify for Grow PA grant

A psychiatric mental health nurse (PMHN) specializes in caring for individuals with mental health and behavioral health needs.

- Promotes mental health through the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of behavioral health conditions, mental health disorders, and other psychiatric illnesses.
- Assesses patients, administers medications, monitors treatment programs, and helps develop care plans in collaboration with psychiatrists, therapists, and other professionals.

PSYCHIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER

Requirements

- Master's degree
- Must pass licensure exam
- Must pass national certification exam



Career Pathway

Registered Nurse (RN) → MSN or DNP Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program → National Certification → Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)

A psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP) provides advanced practice registered nursing education specialized in mental health care.

- Works closely with psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, and other health care professionals to ensure coordinated care.
- Conducts comprehensive psychiatric evaluations, develops treatment plans, provides therapy, and administers medications. Assesses, diagnoses, and treats patients with mental health conditions, providing both medication management and psychotherapy in coordination with multidisciplinary team.

Nursing

REGISTERED NURSE (RN)

Requirements

- High school diploma/GED
- Successful completion of a nursing education program
- Types of degrees available:
  - Diploma (hospital-based training program)
  - Associate's degree (2-year program)
  - Bachelor's degree (4-year program)
- Must pass licensure exam (NCLEX)
- Professional certification is available

Career Pathway

Graduate from a State Board of Nursing Approved School → NCLEX-RN Examination → Registered Nurse (RN) → Specialty Certification or Advanced Practice Nursing Roles



Education

Job Growth

Salary

Registered nurses are among the largest and most important groups of health care professionals.



May qualify for Grow PA grant

- Works closely with patients and families by providing compassionate care, health education, and guidance throughout treatment, recovery, and wellness.
- Assesses patient health problems and needs to develop and implement nursing care plans, provide direct patient care, administering medications and treatments, monitoring patient progress, and educating patients about their care.
- Works in a wide range of settings such as hospitals, clinics, schools, home health agencies, and many other health care settings.

Pharmacy

Prepare medications prescribed by doctors and other health providers. May counsel patients about medications and their side effects.

Pharmacists are medication experts who help ensure medicines are safe and effective.



Many pharmacists work directly with health care teams to improve patient outcomes.



Prerequisites



Chemistry



Biology



Calculus

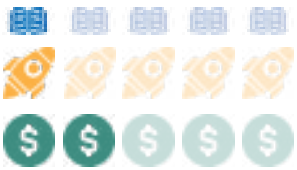


Statistics

PHARMACY AIDE

Requirements

- High school diploma/GED
- On-the-job training



Education

Job Growth

Salary

Career Pathway

Pharmacy Aide → Pharmacy Technician → Certified Pharmacy Technician

Provide a supporting role in hospital and retail pharmacy settings.

- Help manage supplies by recording drugs delivered to the pharmacy, store incoming merchandise, and inform the supervisor of stock needs.
- May operate cash register and accept prescriptions for filling.

Pharmacy

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

Requirements

- High school diploma/ GED
- Must successfully complete a Board approved pharmacy technician training program
- On-the-job training
- Professional certification available

Career Pathway

Pharmacy Technician Training Program → Pharmacy Technician → Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT) → Senior Pharmacy Technician → Pharmacy Supervisor, Pharmacy Buyer, or Other Advanced Health Care Roles



Helps pharmacists safely prepare and distribute medications.

- Process prescriptions, manage medication inventory, maintain pharmacy records to assure availability when needed.
- May measure, mix, count out, label, and record amounts and dosages of medications according to prescription orders under the supervision of a pharmacist.

PHARMACIST

Requirements

- Doctoral degree
- Must pass licensure exam
- Additional residency training may be required

Career Pathway

Pharmacy Coursework or Bachelor's degree → Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree → Licensure Examinations → Pharmacist



Medication experts who play a vital role in patient care by educating and dispensing medications.

- Dispense drugs prescribed by physicians and other health practitioners and provide information to patients about medications and their use.
- May advise physicians and other health practitioners on the selection, dosage, interactions, and side effects of medications.

HEALTH CAREER SPOTLIGHT:
PHARMACY TECH SUPERVISOR

Lindsay



Being a pharmacy technician has allowed me to care for patients in the community. By providing the medications they need while they are staying in the hospital, it makes me feel a sense of pride and a responsibility to care for these people. After covid I decided to look into being a pharmacy technician and I have been working for around 4 1/2 years now. I work in a hospital setting dealing with our logistics and the inventory side of things while using a packager machine to repackage medications. Making sure the pharmacy is fully stocked with medications and allowing it to run smoothly is something I take great pride in, and I enjoy my job every day I come to work! I enjoy helping others and feeling a sense of community and helping other people. I care a lot about other people and being a pharmacy technician has allowed me to help others when they are the most vulnerable.

Making sure the pharmacy is fully stocked with medications and allowing it to run smoothly is something I take great pride in, and I enjoy my job every day I come to work!

Therapies and Rehabilitation

There are different types of therapy and rehabilitation practitioners that work with patients one-on-one to improve their health:

Physical therapy—helps patients improve their movement or reduce pain.

Occupational therapy—helps patients restore the skills they need to do daily tasks.

Respiratory therapy—treats and cares for patients with breathing difficulties.

Occupational therapists help people regain skills needed for everyday life, from getting dressed to returning to work.



Physical therapists help athletes return to sports and assist patients recovering from injuries, surgeries, and strokes.



Prerequisites



Biology



Anatomy & Physiology



Physics



Psychology



Statistics

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

Requirements

- Associate's degree
- Must pass national licensure exam



Education

Job Growth

Salary

Career Pathway

Associate's degree in Occupational Therapy Assisting → NBCOT Certification and State Licensure → Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) → Senior/Lead OTA



May qualify for Grow PA grant

Work directly with patients to help them regain or develop the skills needed for everyday life following recovery from injury, illness, or disability.

- Assist in providing occupational therapy treatments and procedures only under the supervision of an occupational therapist.
- May, in accordance with state laws, assist in development of treatment plans, carry out routine functions, direct activity programs, and document the progress of treatments.

Therapies and Rehabilitation

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

Requirements

- Master's degree or,
- Doctoral degree
- Must pass national certification exam



Education

Job Growth

Salary

Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree → Master's or Doctoral Degree in Occupational Therapy → NBCOT Certification and State Licensure → Occupational Therapist (OT)



May qualify for Grow PA grant

Help people of all ages live more independently and participate in the activities that are meaningful to them by helping patients overcome challenges and achieve their goals.

- Assess, plan, and organize rehabilitative programs that help build or restore vocational, homemaking, and daily living skills, as well as general independence, to persons with disabilities or developmental delays.
- Use therapeutic techniques, adapt the individual's environment, teach skills, and modify specific tasks that present barriers to the individual.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Requirements

- Doctoral degree
- Must pass national certification exam



Education

Job Growth

Salary

Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree → Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Degree → NPTE Examination → State Licensure → Physical Therapist (PT)



May qualify for Grow PA grant

Help people of all ages improve movement, reduce pain, recover from injuries, and maintain physical independence to achieve their highest level of function and quality of life.

- Assess, plan, organize, and participate in rehabilitative programs that improve mobility, relieve pain, increase strength, and improve or correct disabling conditions resulting from disease or injury.
- Use exercises, stretching techniques, manual therapy, and specialized equipment to help patients recover.

HEALTH CAREER SPOTLIGHT:
PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Leanne

I have worked over 20 years as a physical therapist primarily in the outpatient physical therapy setting. I have worked with a variety of age groups, from infants to 100 year-old patients. One of the most rewarding aspects of physical therapy is being able to create relationships with patients and help them through some of the toughest points physically in their life. Teaching them how to listen to their bodies, ease their pain, and regain function. For those that we are not able to help fully recover you then have the opportunity to be an advocate for them and direct them in the proper means of care. There are many opportunities after graduation to further your education and receive more specific certifications depending on the environment you decide to focus in (acute, rehab, pediatric, outpatient, or long-term care) along with the opportunities to step into management roles.



One of the most rewarding aspects of physical therapy is being able to create relationships with patients and help them through some of the toughest points physically in their life.

Therapies and Rehabilitation

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

Requirements

- Associate's degree
- Must pass national certification exam



Career Pathway

Associate's degree in Physical Therapist Assisting → NPTE Examination → State Licensure → Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) → Senior/Lead PTA



May qualify for Grow PA grant

Assist the physical therapist through hands-on patient care, communication, and teamwork to support rehabilitation and recovery in a variety of health care settings.

- Assist physical therapists in providing physical therapy treatments and procedures.
- May, in accordance with state laws, assist in the development of treatment plans, carry out routine functions, document the progress of treatment, provide therapeutic exercises, mobility training, balance activities, and use of specialized equipment.

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

Requirements

- Associate's degree
- Must pass national certification exam



Career Pathway



May qualify for Grow PA grant

Associate's degree in Respiratory Therapy → Credentialing Examinations and State Licensure→ Respiratory Therapist (RT) → Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) → Respiratory Therapy Supervisor or Manager

Specialized professionals who help patients breathe easier and improve lung health.

- Assess, treat, and care for patients with breathing disorders by administering oxygen therapy, breathing treatments, and other respiratory care procedures.
- Operate and manage life-support equipment, including ventilators, and work closely with health care professions.
- Initiate and conduct therapeutic procedures; maintain patient records; and select, assemble, check, and operate equipment.

Therapies and Rehabilitation

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

Requirements

- Master's degree, or higher
- Graduate of an accredited agency
- Pass the Praxis examination in speech-language pathology

Career Pathway

Bachelor's degree → Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology → Clinical Fellowship → National Certification and State Licensure → Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP)



Education

Job Growth

Salary



May qualify for Grow PA grant

Combine health care, science, and communication skills to help people of all ages improve their ability to speak, understand, and connect with others. Sometimes called a speech therapist.

- Evaluate and treat children and adults who have difficulty with speech, language, communication, swallowing, or cognitive skills.
- Work closely with patients and families to develop personalized treatment plans to help improve their ability to communicate and participate in daily activities.

Preparing for a Career in Health Care

No matter which health care career interests you, building a strong foundation in school can help you succeed.

Recommended Courses



Biology



Chemistry



Anatomy & Physiology



Algebra & Statistics



Psychology



English & Communications



Computer Applications

Gain Real-World Experience

- Volunteer at a hospital or health care organization
- Participate in job shadowing opportunities
- Join HOSA or other health/ science clubs
- Complete internships or career exploration programs when available

Build Important Skills

Health care professionals need more than technical knowledge. Employers value:

- Communication
- Teamwork
- Problem-solving
- Critical thinking
- Compassion and empathy
- Professionalism
- Leadership

Start Preparing Now

Students who take challenging science courses, stay involved in school and community activities, and explore health care careers early will be well prepared for future education and training opportunities in health care.

TIP: There is a health care career for every interest and skill set. Whether you enjoy science, technology, helping people, business, or working behind the scenes, health care offers a wide variety of rewarding career paths.

Shadowing Opportunities

Job shadowing is a short-term, observational experience where you follow a professional in their work environment to learn about their role, workplace culture, gain exposure to patient care environments, make professional connections and to more clearly understand their workplace expectations and responsibilities. Many hospitals offer shadowing opportunities with their health care professionals. These opportunities may require a formal application process with varying amounts of required information in advance. Check with your local health care provider to see what they require. In addition to shadowing many Pennsylvania health care organizations offer:

- Career exploration days
- Student volunteer programs
- Summer health care academies

Pennsylvania Student Success Tips to Remember:

1. Start your search early.
2. Be professional in all communications.
3. Complete required paperwork promptly.
4. Respect patient privacy and confidentiality.
5. Dress professionally.
6. Ask thoughtful questions.
7. Send a thank-you note.
8. Shadow several different health care careers before making a college or career decision.

During the Shadowing Experience Be Curious

Bring questions and take notes when appropriate.

Possible questions include:

- What do you enjoy most about your career?
- What challenges do you face?
- What education is required?
- What skills are most important?
- How has health care changed over the years?
- What advice would you give students interested in this field?

Keep a Career Exploration Journal

After each shadowing experience, record:

- Career observed
- Responsibilities you witnessed
- What surprised you
- What you enjoyed
- What you learned
- Whether the profession interests you

This can be extremely helpful when applying to colleges, health care programs, scholarships, and jobs.

Shadowing is one of the most valuable steps a student can take when exploring health care careers. A few hours of observation can provide insights that no website, classroom, or career quiz can offer.

Resources



Grow PA Scholarship Grant Program

This site provides information on a funding program that offers grants of up to $5,000 per year for in-state students who attend college in Pennsylvania, pursue a degree in an in-demand occupation, and agree to work in that occupation in Pennsylvania after graduation. Grant funding amounts, and specific program eligibility is subject to change. Access the scholarship grant website for current eligibility and program specifics.

O*Net Online

This site provides tools for career exploration and job analysis.

Pennsylvania Area Health Education Centers (AHEC)

Pennsylvania AHEC offers a variety of programs, services, and benefits to people exploring and pursuing health careers.

PA Department of Labor & Industry Center for Workforce Information and Analysis

This site includes workforce and economic data, including industry and occupational data, income statistics, and career information.

HOSA Pennsylvania

A student-run program for future health care professionals that promotes career opportunities and enhances the quality of care. Your school may have a chapter, or could be eligible to start a chapter.

Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education

State agency that oversees 10 state-owned universities.

Pennsylvania Workforce Development Board

This site provides information regarding economic growth and workforce training in the state.

- PA CareerLink



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