

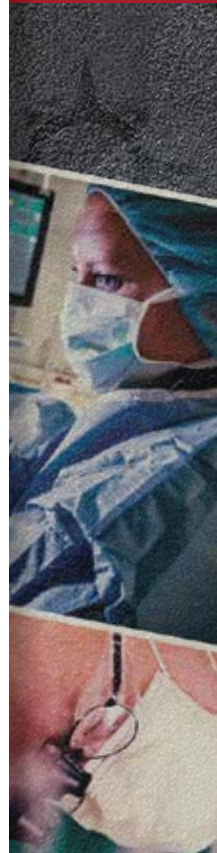


2024-2026

# CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE



**PICTURE YOURSELF IN HEALTHCARE**





# The Challenge of a Lifetime

If you are thinking about a career in healthcare, you're considering one of the most important jobs around. Working in the healthcare industry will give you a great sense of purpose and a chance to make a real difference in your community. These fields offer job security, competitive wages, and skills that are valuable anywhere in the world.

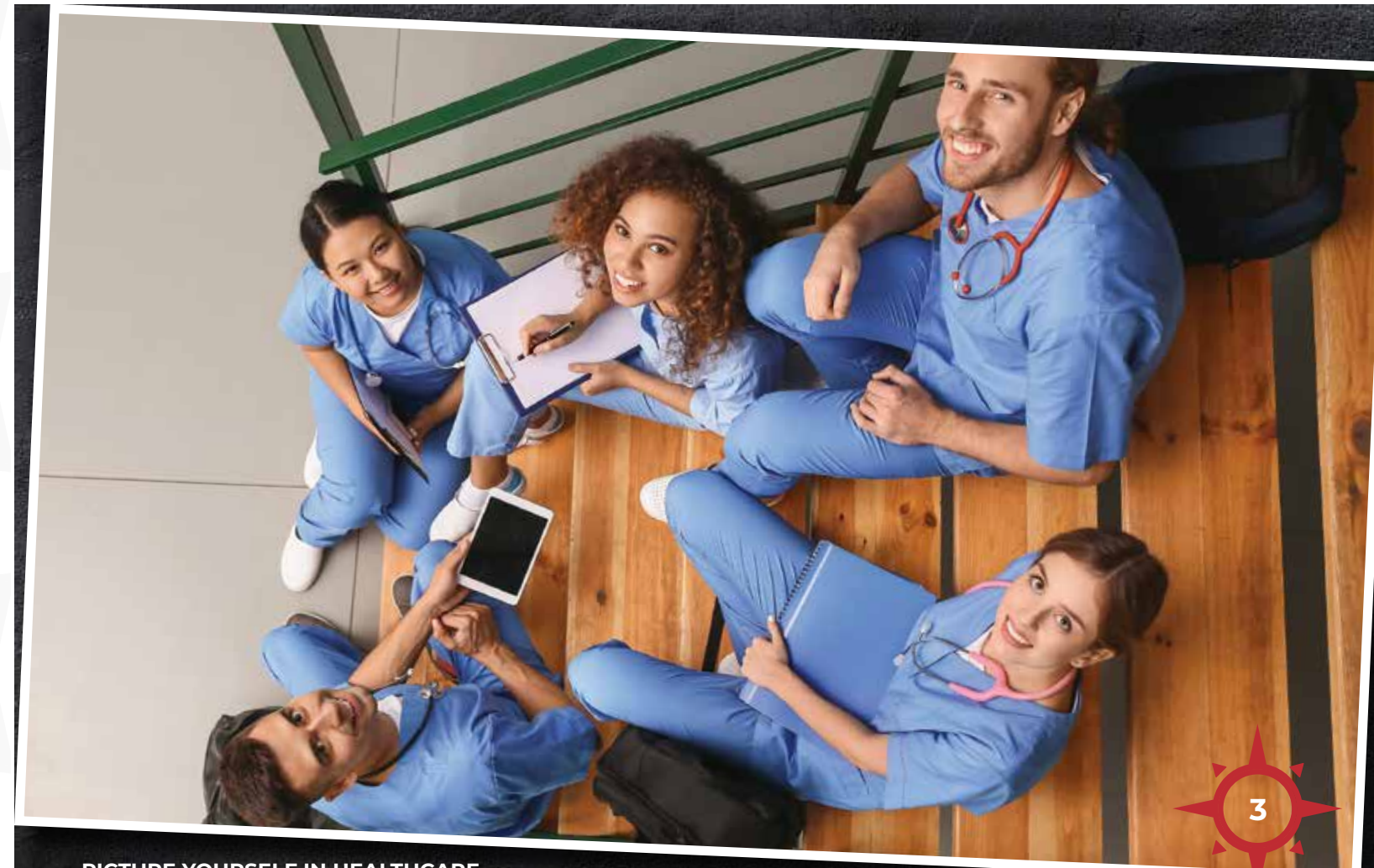
Healthcare is among the fastest growing industries in the U.S. economy. According to Bureau of Labor Statistics data, eight of the top 20 fastest-growing occupations are in healthcare.

Several factors are spurring this rapid growth. First, as life expectancies increase, a growing proportion of our population is elderly. Because older people have more healthcare needs, there will be increased demand for a wide variety of health services. Second, advances in both diagnostic and therapeutic technologies are dramatically improving the survival rate for

severely ill and injured patients, who will need continued therapy and care. Third, medical practices and integrated health systems are becoming larger and more complex. This increases the need for administrators and health information technologists.

Like many states, Nebraska has a shortage of trained healthcare professionals. There is an especially great need for health professionals to work in rural areas and in underserved urban communities. Because the need is widespread, most health careers offer job mobility, giving you considerable freedom to choose where you want to live and work. Should you choose to work in an underserved area, you will be helping to improve the health and vitality of that community.

**Wherever you choose to locate, health related jobs are varied, challenging, and in demand!**



PICTURE YOURSELF IN HEALTHCARE



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Please refer to the Nebraska AHEC Program Website for additional updates at:  
<https://www.unmc.edu/familymed/education/ahec/programs/careers-in-health-care-book.html>



# What Will I Learn About Each Career?

Each career page will look like the below so you can get a sense of what the day-to-day entails, the type of education you will need, and the skills needed to succeed.

## What does this profession do?

General overview of work involved for each career.

Includes information about potential work locations and the day-to-day tasks encountered by healthcare professionals.



### SKILLS

The abilities and skills required to proficiently perform in a particular career. Skills can be developed while on the job or may be natural skills of an employee.



### EDUCATION

The education requirements for each career or program. Some professions may require an Associate Degree, Baccalaureate Degree, Certificate, Doctorate Degree, Master's Degree, Diploma, or Post-Baccalaureate Certificate.



### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

An overview of the available programs, universities, and colleges in Nebraska that offer the training needed to start working in this career.



### LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Some career paths require a license or certification to start. This section will list any requirements you will need to complete.



### HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

This shows the average amount of money you can earn for each career in the state of Nebraska.



### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Professional associations are organizations that bring together individuals working in a specific profession. Professional associations often offer discounted or free memberships to students. There are many advantages to joining a professional society as a student. You are able to network with professionals, learn more about your desired career field, and discover internship or job opportunities.





# Nebraska AHEC Program

Connecting students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health.

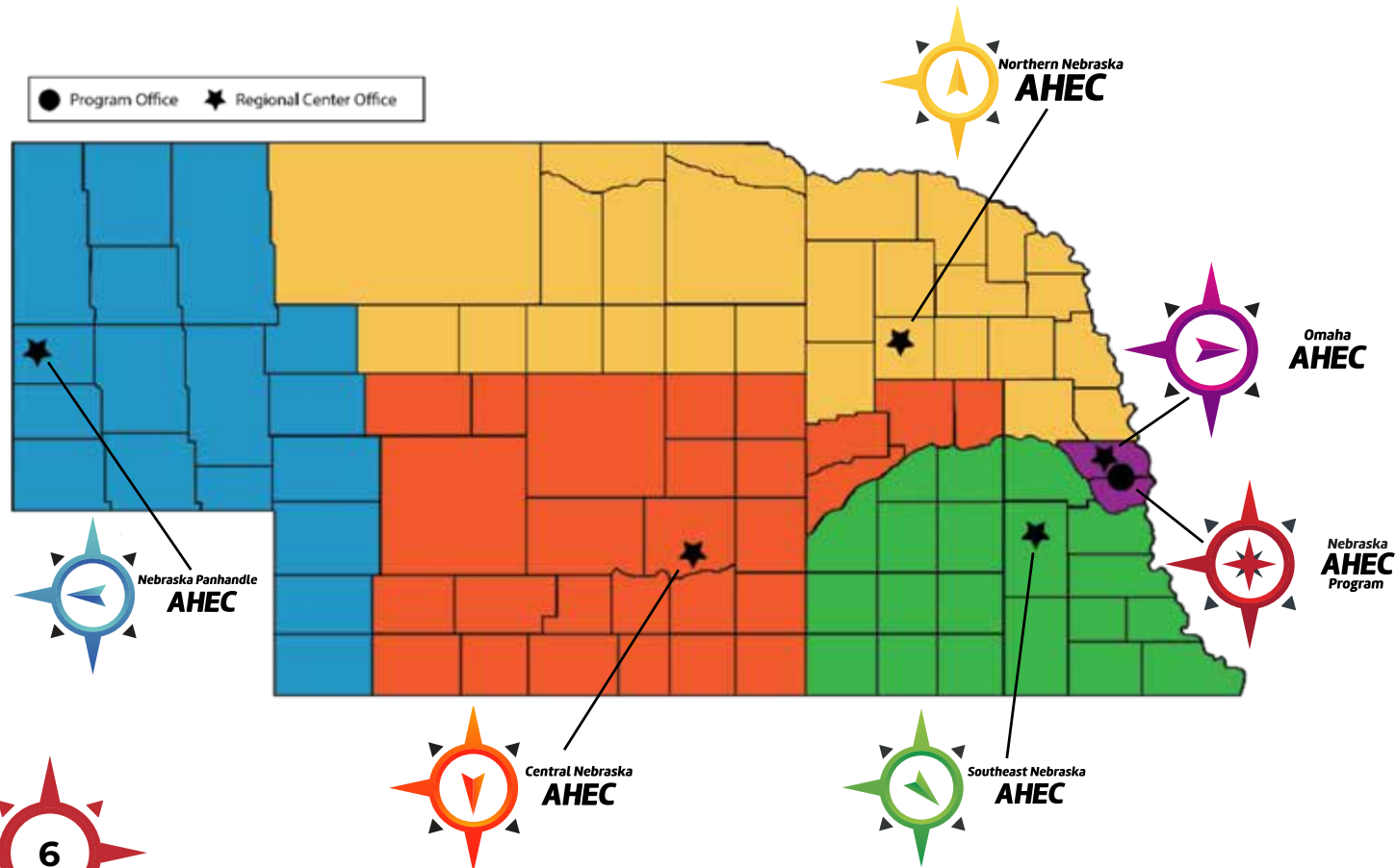
The Nebraska AHEC Program works to develop and enhance education and training networks within communities, academic institutions, and community-based organizations. In turn, these networks increase diversity among health professionals, broaden the distribution of the health workforce, and enhance healthcare quality and delivery to rural and underserved areas and populations across the state.

To recruit and retain a health workforce ready to meet the needs of the Nebraska's rural and underserved communities, AHEC programs expose students to health career options and enhance interprofessional community-based and clinical training opportunities for health profession students. Additionally, AHEC programs provide and support education and training activities to prepare students and practicing health professionals to effectively practice in a

transforming healthcare system. One example is the Nebraska AHEC Scholars Program that trains current health professional students to become leaders in rural and underserved communities.

In short, the Nebraska AHEC Program works to connect students to health careers, health professionals to communities, and communities to better health.

The Nebraska Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program Office is located at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) in the College of Medicine, Department of Family Medicine. The Program Office supports five regional AHEC centers across the state that collectively provide services to all 93 Nebraska counties.



PICTURE YOURSELF IN HEALTHCARE

# Contact Us

For more information about any health career or opportunities to be involved in your area, contact the AHEC in your region.



**Central Nebraska AHEC**  
 University of Nebraska at Kearney  
 Bruner Hall of Science, Room 170  
 2401 11th Ave - Kearney, NE 68849  
 Center Director: Sara McCarty  
[unk.edu/ahec](http://unk.edu/ahec)  
[Facebook](#)



**Nebraska Panhandle AHEC**  
 1601 E. 27th St., Scottsbluff, NE 69361  
 Center Director: Tammy Fehringer  
[np-ahec.org](http://np-ahec.org)  
[Facebook](#)



**Northern Nebraska AHEC**  
 PO Box 833, Norfolk, NE 68702  
 Center Director: Gretchen Forsell, MPH, RD, LMNT  
[nnahec.org](http://nnahec.org)  
[Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#) - [LinkedIn](#) - [Instagram](#)



**Omaha AHEC**  
 University of Nebraska at Omaha  
 Health Careers Resource Center  
 Allwine Hall, Room 308  
 6001 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68182  
 Center Director: Clare Berry  
[cas.unomaha.edu/ahec](http://cas.unomaha.edu/ahec)  
[Facebook](#) - [Instagram](#)



**Southeast Nebraska AHEC**  
 Southeast Community College  
 Health Science Building, Rm 120A  
 8800 O Street, Lincoln, NE 68520  
 Center Director: Vanessa Meinberg  
[www.southeast.edu/business-and-community/business/health-care/ahec/index.php](http://www.southeast.edu/business-and-community/business/health-care/ahec/index.php)



**Nebraska AHEC Program Office**  
 University of Nebraska Medical Center  
 983075 Nebraska Medical Center  
 Omaha, NE 68198  
 Program Director: Jeffrey Harrison, MD  
[www.unmc.edu/familymed/education/ahec/](http://www.unmc.edu/familymed/education/ahec/)

PICTURE YOURSELF IN HEALTHCARE



## Which Healthcare Career is Right for You?

The range of job opportunities in healthcare is tremendous. Not all health professionals are doctors, dentists, and nurses. As this book will clearly illustrate, there are health careers for people with widely varying skills, temperaments, and interests. Most health careers involve working directly with patients, but not all. Most require strong math and science skills, but again, not all. Some specialties, like clinical lab technicians, may have little or no patient contact. Some careers focus on the business aspects of healthcare, or the technical aspects of computers and information processing; and some involve social services and helping people find the care and community support they need.

Knowing your skills and interests will help you define the career choices that are right for you. High school and college is the time for you to explore and consider many different options. Job shadowing and volunteering can be very helpful ways to get a hands-on feel for what you like.

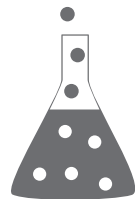
## What High School Courses to Take?

The majority of health professions require a college degree and, of course, many involve graduate or professional school as well. So for almost any health career, it is important to take high school classes that prepare you for college. Your guidance counselor can provide your school's recommended college preparatory curriculum, but here are some basic guidelines.

Because so many health fields require proficient math and science skills, you should take as much math and science as you can. Advanced courses in biology, anatomy, physiology, chemistry, and physics are advisable, along with algebra, geometry, and calculus. Communication is critical in all health fields, so English literature and composition are very important. Studying a foreign language can be helpful in communicating with various patient populations and in

Understanding your own temperament and personality is also extremely helpful. For example if you are the practical, realistic type who likes to work with tools or machines, being a dental assistant or working with biomedical equipment might be for you. If you're sociable and enjoy working directly with people, social work or nursing would be strong considerations. If you're highly analytical, being a physician or research scientist could fit you well. Your high school guidance counselor may have a skills test that could help you think about the areas that would make the most sense for you.

Finally, as you consider the possibility of your future in a health-related field, keep in mind that healthcare is increasingly a group activity. The patient's well-being depends on each member of the healthcare team performing his or her specialized function, and communicating and collaborating with other care team members. Being a team player is an indispensable asset to a successful health career.



comprehending cultures other than your own. Similarly, history and social studies prepare you to understand the broader world and are a key part of any college prep program.

Of course if you have special interests, you can take classes to build your skills in those areas. For example, if you like computers and think you might be interested in health information management, you can take courses in computer applications and business education. If you want the kind of hands-on patient interaction of fields like nursing, occupational therapy or physical therapy, you might want to add classes in psychology, health, and human development. If you are interested in food and nutrition, courses in family and consumer science could be helpful additions. The key is to explore your own interests while taking the most challenging college prep curriculum that you can.



## Health Science Career Clusters & Pathways

Nebraska Department of Education has adopted a career education system that develops skills for lifelong learning, earning, and living for Nebraska students.

The Health Science Career Cluster orients students to careers within the healthcare system. At the secondary level, students become more proficient in the Foundation Knowledge and Skills for Health Science.

### For more information, contact:

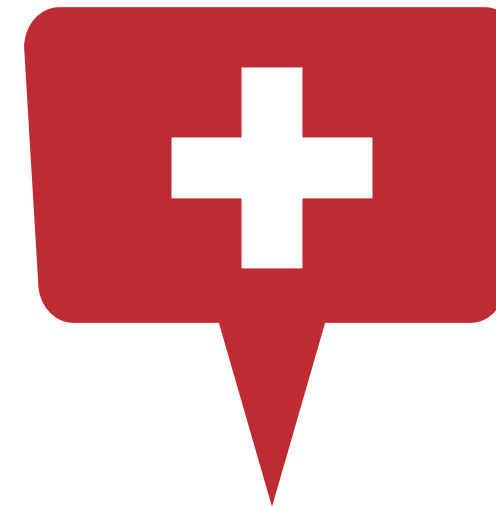
Jamelyn Denny  
Health Science Career Field Specialist  
(531) 229-3156  
Jamelyn.denny@nebraska.gov

Nebraska Department of Education  
500 S. 84th St. 2nd Floor  
Lincoln, NE 68510  
(402) 471-4813

## How Long will it Take?

People choose careers in healthcare for lots of different reasons. The opportunity to make our world a better place is key for many, but job security and income are also important factors. Because the number and variety of healthcare careers is so great, the compensation and the required education is also extremely varied. Training can range from several weeks of classroom and on the job training for a nurse aide to many years beyond college for a medical specialty. This booklet provides information about the training required for each health profession and also the educational opportunities that are available here in Nebraska.

hours on the job will also tend to be better paying than those that have a standard work week.



For more information about job prospects and levels of compensation, please refer to the websites of the many professional associations referenced throughout this book. Another great resource is [www.explorehealthcareers.org](http://www.explorehealthcareers.org). This site provides excellent information on health careers, enrichment programs, and financial aid, along with current information about salary levels in the various professions.

Annual wage mean information about health professions in Nebraska can be found in the [May 2023 Nebraska Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates published by Bureau of Labor Statistics](http://www.bls.gov/publications/may2023/occupational-employment-and-wage-estimates). These occupational employment and wage estimates are calculated with data collected from employers in all industry sectors in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas in Nebraska. They may vary by location.

Salary information on a national level can be found on the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics website at [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov).

## How Much Will I Make?

Income also varies widely by health specialty and by geographical area. This booklet provides the Nebraska annual wage mean or range for each career. The careers that require longer periods of education will be higher paying. Similarly, more responsibility typically means higher compensation. Finally, careers that demand long





# Career Pathways

As you think about what healthcare career might be best for you, you can also consider that where you start doesn't have to be where you end up.

Starting your career in one area can allow you to gain experience and skills. However, you can also continue your education or go back to school to pursue additional certifications and degrees.

**This is called a career pathway.**

Look at some of the pathways to see where you could go in your healthcare career.

**Keep in mind these are just a few examples.**



**Your path is what you want it to be and there is no limit to where you can go!**



# Athletic Trainer

## What does this profession do?

Certified athletic trainers are healthcare professionals who specialize in the prevention, evaluation, rehabilitation, and management of injuries that result from physical activity, particularly those involving the musculoskeletal system. Working as part of the healthcare team, athletic trainers practice under the direction of a physician and in collaboration with other healthcare professionals, administrators, coaches, and parents.

Certified Athletic Trainers work with more than just athletes. They can be found almost anywhere that people are active. Athletic trainers are not the same as personal trainers, and practice in a wide variety of work settings including secondary schools, colleges and universities, hospitals and sports medicine clinics, and professional sports. There are also opportunities in non-traditional areas like the military, law enforcement, industrial settings, and the performing arts.



## SKILLS

- Ability to learn the complex science, math, methods and techniques of athletic training
- Good verbal and communication skills
- Good space and form perception, manual dexterity, and general coordination
- Ability to relate to a variety of people and to motivate and influence others
- Ability to make judgments based on data, observation, and experience
- Emotional maturity and patience



## EDUCATION

Students who want to become athletic trainers must complete a bachelor's degree from a school with an accredited athletic training curriculum. Course work will include formal instruction in areas such as injury/illness prevention, human anatomy and physiology, types of treatments and therapies, and nutrition. Classroom learning is supplemented by clinical experiences. More than 70% percent of certified athletic trainers also hold a master's degree or higher.



## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Midland University – Fremont (M)
- Nebraska Wesleyan University – Lincoln (M)
- University of Nebraska – Kearney (M)
- University of Nebraska – Lincoln (M)
- University of Nebraska – Omaha (M)



## LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

To be licensed to practice in Nebraska, individuals must graduate from an accredited education program. They must also pass the comprehensive examination administered by the Board of Certification of the National Athletic Trainers' Association. Once certified, athletic trainers must meet on-going continuing education requirements.



## HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$58,760



## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National Athletic Trainers' Association  
[www.nata.org](http://www.nata.org)  
Board of Certification for Athletic Trainer  
[www.bocatac.org](http://www.bocatac.org)  
Mid-America Athletic Trainers' Association  
[www.maataad5.org](http://www.maataad5.org)

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PICTURE YOURSELF AS AN **ATHLETIC TRAINER**

# Behavioral Health Professional

## What does this profession do?

Behavioral (mental) health is defined as how a person thinks, feels, and acts when faced with life's situations. It is how people see themselves, their lives, and the other people in their lives. It's how they evaluate their challenges and problems and explore choices. This includes handling stress, relating to other people, and making decisions. Source: The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

A behavioral health professional is a person who is licensed by the state and whose professional activities address a client's behavioral issues.

## Types of Licensed Behavioral Health Professions:

- Psychiatrist
- Nurse Practitioner (APRN-NP)
- Physician Assistant (PA)
- Psychologist
- Licensed Mental Health Professional: A counselor in the state of Nebraska who holds a license to offer or render mental health practice services. Mental health practitioners include social workers, professional counselors, and marriage and family therapists.
- Licensed Addiction Counselor



## SKILLS

- Excellent communication skills
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills
- Ability to listen and provide objective solutions
- Compassionate and empathetic
- High level of integrity and responsibility
- Good organizational skills



## EDUCATION

Psychiatrist, [Nurse Practitioner \(APRN-NP\)](#), [Physician Assistant \(PA\)](#), [Psychologist](#), Licensed Mental Health Professional: Typically a bachelor's degree followed by a master's degree in [counseling](#), [social work](#) or marriage and family therapy; [Licensed Addiction Counselor \(LADC\)](#)



## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Psychiatrist, [Nurse Practitioner \(APRN-NP\)](#), [Physician Assistant \(PA\)](#), [Psychologist](#)
- Licensed Mental Health Professional: University of Nebraska at Kearney (M), University of Nebraska at Omaha (M), University of Nebraska at Lincoln (M), Bellevue University (M), Chadron State College (M), Doane University (M), Wayne State College (M), Nebraska Wesleyan University (M)
- [Licensed Addiction and Drug Counselor \(LADC\)](#): Bellevue University, Central Community College, Metropolitan Community College, Northeast Community College, Peru State College, Southeast Community College, Union Adventist University, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Western Nebraska Community College, Training for Addiction Professionals (TAP)



## LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Psychiatrist, [Nurse Practitioner](#), [Physician Assistant](#), [Psychologist](#), Licensed Mental Health Professional (LMHP/LIMHP), Certified Marriage & Family Therapist, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Alcohol & Drug Counselor, Certified Professional Counselor, Licensed Addiction Counselor: LADC



## HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average Range: \$44,900 to \$190,330



## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The Association for Addiction Professionals  
[www.naadac.org](http://www.naadac.org)  
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy | [www.aamft.org](http://www.aamft.org)

\*Visit career pages for additional professional associations

Learn more about  
behavioral health career pathways at  
[www.unmc.edu/bhecn/career-pathways/index.html](http://www.unmc.edu/bhecn/career-pathways/index.html)

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PICTURE YOURSELF AS A  
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL**



# Cardiovascular Interventional Technologist

## What does this profession do?

Cardiovascular Interventional Technologists inject dye into blood vessels and take special images. These images show how well the blood vessel is working, and the techs use them during various treatments.

The CVIT Technologist is a key member of the radiology team that performs vascular and interventional procedures. The procedures are unique because they require the use of technical, radiologic, and clinical skills.

CVIT involves specialized radiographic techniques used in angiography, interventional procedures (i.e. angioplasty), and central venous access procedures.



## SKILLS

- Ability to work with a variety of people
- Detail oriented
- Good manual dexterity, space and form perception, and ability to see differences in objects
- Ability to learn scientific as well as mechanical information



## EDUCATION

The minimum educational requirement for an invasive cardiovascular technologist is usually completion of a program that may be two or more years in duration and is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.



## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

University of Nebraska Medical Center - Kearney, Omaha (PBC)



## LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Licensing is not currently required. To become registered, a person must take the credentialing examination from Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI).



## HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$80,000



## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Joint Review Committee on Education in Cardiovascular Technology | [www.jrccvt.org](http://www.jrccvt.org)  
Alliance of Cardiovascular Professionals  
[www.acp-online.org](http://www.acp-online.org)  
Cardiovascular Credentialing International  
[www.cci-online.org](http://www.cci-online.org)

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PICTURE YOURSELF AS AN  
INVASIVE CARDIOVASCULAR TECHNOLOGIST

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# Clinical/Medical Laboratory Science/Medical Technologists

## What does this profession do?

Clinical/medical laboratory scientists (also known as medical technologists) and medical laboratory technicians or clinical laboratory technicians are integral members of healthcare teams.

Clinical/medical laboratory scientists/medical technologists (CLS/MT) are responsible for the development, performance, and evaluation of clinical diagnostic laboratory testing that is needed for quality patient medical care and research. They analyze samples of blood, tissue, and body fluids using cutting-edge technology and a variety of analytical techniques. They are at the forefront of healthcare guiding other healthcare professionals. 70-80% of all medical decisions are based on laboratory results.

Clinical/medical laboratory technicians/medical laboratory technicians (CLT/MLT) perform routine laboratory procedures.



## SKILLS

- Ability to perform complex laboratory procedures
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills
- Ability to work well under stress
- Excellent communication skills
- Ability to work independently and with others
- High level of integrity and responsibility
- Good organizational skills



## EDUCATION

CLT/MLTs must have a two-year associate degree. CLS/MT certification requires a four-year baccalaureate degree.



## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

Clinical/Medical Laboratory Technician/Medical Laboratory Technician

- Central Community College – Grand Island (A)
- Mid-Plains Community College – North Platte (A)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (A)
- Western Nebraska Community College (A)
- Clinical Laboratory Science/Medical Technology
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (B)
- University of Nebraska – Kearney (B)
- Medical Lab Science
- Nebraska Methodist College (B)

Colleges offering educational requirements leading to a Baccalaureate Degree in Clinical/Medical Laboratory Science/Medical Technology upon completion of the student's professional education in a NAACLS accredited program:

- College of Saint Mary – Omaha (B)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Kearney (B)
- Wayne State College – Wayne (B)



## LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Certification requires a baccalaureate (CLS/MT) or an associate degree (CLT/MLT). In addition, it is necessary to pass a national examination given by the Board of Registry, American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) or the National Certifying Agency (NCA).



## HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$62,320



## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Society for Clinical Pathology  
[www.ascp.org](http://www.ascp.org)  
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science  
[www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org)  
American Medical Technologists  
[www.americanmedtech.org](http://www.americanmedtech.org)

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PICTURE YOURSELF AS A LAB TECHNICIAN

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# Clinical Perfusionist

## What does this profession do?

A perfusionist is a certified professional who operates the life-sustaining equipment that keeps patients alive during major surgical procedures.

This includes running a complicated machine that works like a person's heart and lungs. This keeps a person alive while their heart is stopped for open-heart surgery. The perfusionist also runs equipment that saves and cleans blood during operations.

A typical work week consists of a 40-hour schedule with additional on-call coverage for emergencies. Perfusionists may be called to work evenings and weekends. In most cases additional compensation in the range of 10-25 percent of base salary may be earned for "on-call time" and shift differentials.



## SKILLS

- Conscientiousness and reliability
- Manual dexterity and mechanical aptitude
- Ability to follow detailed instructions
- Emotional stability and confidence for handling the demands of the surgeons



## EDUCATION

Admission to a clinical perfusion program requires a bachelor's degree. Programs are generally one to four years in length, depending on the program design, objectives, prerequisites, and student qualifications.



## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (M)



## LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

To become a certified clinical perfusionist, an individual must first have a bachelor of science degree and then complete a one- or two- year perfusion education program that has been accredited by the Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation. A certifying examination given by the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (ABCP) is also required by most states, including Nebraska.



## HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$175,000



## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Academy of Cardiovascular Perfusion  
[www.theaacp.com](http://www.theaacp.com)  
American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (ABCP) – Certification Organization  
[www.abcp.org](http://www.abcp.org)  
American Society of Extra-Corporeal Technology (AmSECT) | [www.amsect.org](http://www.amsect.org)

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PICTURE YOURSELF AS A **CLINICAL PERFUSIONIST**

# Community Health Worker

## What does this profession do?

A community health worker (CHW) is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has unusually close relationships of the community served. They identify health-related issues, collect data, and discuss clients' health concerns within the community. For example, they might help identify barriers preventing clients from access to transportation and provide referrals to resources that provide it. CHWs provide culturally appropriate health and information resources to the communities they serve.

Community health workers may have different titles, depending on the population they serve. Some examples are, community health representatives, Promotora, peer support specialists, community health educator, or patient or health navigator.

Community health workers work closely with other healthcare and social service providers, including registered nurses, social workers, and substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors. CHWs may spend part of their day in an office for activities such as recordkeeping and writing reports. However, they spend much of their time in the field to interact with community members, hold events, and collect data.



## SKILLS

- Ability to convey health-related materials to the community members
- Ability to be respectful and have empathy
- Good verbal communication skills
- Ability to interact with people from a variety of backgrounds



## EDUCATION

Need to at least have a high school diploma or equivalent. Some employers prefer to hire candidates who have postsecondary education. Postsecondary programs range between a certificate to an associates degree.



## EDUCATION IN NEBRASKA

Clarkson College – Omaha (B)  
Creighton University – Omaha (C)  
\*Apprenticeship program  
Northeast Community College – Norfolk (C)  
University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (C)  
\*Apprenticeship program



## LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

There is no Nebraska specific licensure requirement. Some states require certification for community health workers, which may include completing an approved training program.



## HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$53,150



## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National Associate of Community Health Workers  
[www.nachw.org](http://www.nachw.org)  
American Public Health Association  
[www.apha.org/apha-communities/member-sections/community-health-workers](http://www.apha.org/apha-communities/member-sections/community-health-workers)

A = Associate Degree | B = Baccalaureate Degree | C = Certificate  
D = Doctorate | M = Master's Degree | P = Diploma  
PBC = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate



PICTURE YOURSELF AS A **COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER**



# Counselor

## What does this profession do?

Counselors assist people with personal, family, mental health, educational, and career decisions and problems. Their duties depend on the individuals they serve and the settings in which they work.

Rehabilitation counselors help people deal with the personal, social, and vocational effects of disabilities. They evaluate the strengths and limitations of individuals, provide personal and vocational counseling, and arrange for medical care, vocational training, and job placement.

Mental health counselors emphasize prevention and work with individuals and groups to promote mental health. They help individuals deal with substance abuse, suicide prevention, stress management, self-esteem problems, job and career concerns, educational decisions, and family, parenting, and marital problems. Mental health counselors work closely with other specialists including psychiatrists, psychologists, clinical social workers, psychiatric nurses, and school counselors.

School and college counselors work in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools. They help students evaluate their abilities, interests, talents, and personality characteristics to develop academic and career goals. Counselors use interviews, counseling sessions, tests, or other methods when evaluating and advising students. They operate career information centers and career education programs.

Other counseling specialties include marriage and family, alcohol/drug counselor, and gerontological counseling.



## ★ SKILLS

- Ability to learn and apply counseling theories and techniques
- Strong verbal abilities for talking with and listening to clients, reading professional literature, and writing reports
- Ability to work with a variety of people and a desire to help others
- Ability to make judgments based on data, observations, and experience
- Good math skills for interpreting test results

## 📖 EDUCATION

The minimum educational requirement is a master's degree in counseling. This requires a four-year bachelor's degree and a minimum of two years in a master's level program.

## 📍 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Bellevue University – Bellevue (M)
- Chadron State College – Chadron (M)
- Creighton University – Omaha (M)
- Concordia University – Seward (M)
- Doane University – Lincoln (M)
- University of Nebraska – Kearney (M), Lincoln (M, D), Omaha (M)
- Wayne State College – Wayne (B, M)

## 👤 LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for a license to practice as a mental health practitioner must have a master's degree, have three thousand (3,000) hours of supervised experience in mental health practice, and have passed the mental health practitioner exam.

## 💰 HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$58,720

## 👥 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Counseling Association  
[www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org)  
National Board for Certified Counselors  
[www.nbcc.org](http://www.nbcc.org)  
Nebraska Counseling Association  
[www.necounseling.org](http://www.necounseling.org)

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PICTURE YOURSELF AS A COUNSELOR

# Cytotechnologist

## What does this profession do?

Diagnostic Cytology is the study of cells. Cytologists perform microscopic evaluation of patient samples to diagnose cancer, precancerous lesions, benign tumors, infectious agents, and inflammatory processes.

This skill set can be taken to the patient bedside where cytologists assist on fine needle aspirations. By evaluating patient samples collected in real-time, cytologists contribute to patient satisfaction, hospital efficiency, and diagnostic support.

As high complexity technologists, cytologists are now performing ancillary laboratory techniques such as grossing small biopsies, molecular testing, evaluating special stains, etc.

A cytologist, also known as a cytotechnologist, can also be a molecular technologist, supervisor, manager, or educator.



## ★ SKILLS

- Ability to learn the principles and methods of cytotechnology
- Strong verbal and math ability to do tests, understand technical literature, and talk with other personnel
- Good space and form perception and ability to see differences in color
- Ability to make decisions based on data, handle a variety of duties, and work with exact standards
- Good manual dexterity
- Ability to do precise work accurately and timely

## 📖 EDUCATION

Applicants to the cytotechnology program must have a bachelor's degree in any field, from a regionally accredited institution. Degrees with a science background are suggested, but not required.

## 📍 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (PBC)

## 👤 LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Before entering UNMC's accredited program for cytotechnology, an individual must have a Bachelor of Science degree from an accredited institution. Licensing is not required by the State of Nebraska but must be certified by the Board of Registry of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP).

## 💰 HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$82,581

## 👥 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Society for Clinical Pathology  
[www.ascp.org](http://www.ascp.org)  
American Society for Cytotechnology  
[www.asct.com](http://www.asct.com)  
American Society of Cytopathology  
[www.cytopathology.org](http://www.cytopathology.org)

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PBC = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

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PICTURE YOURSELF AS A CYTOTECHNOLOGIST



# Dental Assistant

## What does this profession do?

Dental assistants work at chair-side as dentists examine and treat patients. They make patients as comfortable as possible in the dental chair, prepare them for treatment, and obtain dental records. Assistants hand dentists instruments and materials and keep the patient's mouth dry and clear by using suction or other devices.



### SKILLS

- Ability to learn basic practices and procedures of dentistry
- Verbal and numerical abilities
- Ability to follow instructions carefully and work according to set standards
- Hand-eye coordination and use of hands and fingers
- Ability to work with people who may be under stress and to work as a member of a team



### EDUCATION

Most employers require applicants to have completed a one-year diploma or certificate program, or a two-year associate degree program. Some assistants are trained on the job or through an apprenticeship program.



### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College – Hastings (A, P)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (C)
- Mid-Plains Community College – North Platte (P)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (P)



### LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Although it is not required, a person may be certified by graduating from an accredited program in dental assisting and passing an exam by the Dental Assisting National Board.



### HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$43,930



### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Dental Association  
[www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)  
Dental Assisting National Board  
[www.danb.org](http://www.danb.org)  
Nebraska Dental Association  
[www.nedental.org](http://www.nedental.org)

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PBC = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate



PICTURE YOURSELF AS A DENTAL ASSISTANT

# Dental Hygienist

## What does this profession do?

Dental hygienists are licensed oral health professionals who focus on preventing and treating oral diseases. Dental hygienists work together with dentists to help their patients achieve and maintain optimal oral health.

Dental hygienists:

- Perform oral healthcare assessments (reviewing patients' health history, dental charting, oral cancer screening and evaluation of gum health)
- Expose, process and interpret dental radiographs (x-rays)
- Remove plaque and tartar
- Apply cavity-preventive agents such as fluorides and sealants
- Administer local anesthetic and/or nitrous oxide analgesia
- Educate patients on proper oral hygiene techniques, administer smoking cessation programs and more
- Work as educators, researchers and administrators



### SKILLS

- Ability to learn the techniques and sciences related to dental hygiene
- Verbal ability to instruct others
- Good manual dexterity, space and form perception, and eye-hand coordination
- Ability to relate to a variety of people who may be tense and nervous
- Ability to do precise work
- Patience and tact



### EDUCATION

The educational requirement is a two-year associate degree or a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene.



### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College – Hastings (A)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Lincoln, Gering (B)



### LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for licensure as a dental hygienist must be at least 19 years of age, graduate from an accredited dental hygiene program, and pass the exams.



### HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$82,660



### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Dental Association  
[www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)  
American Dental Hygienists' Association  
[www.adha.org](http://www.adha.org)  
Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association  
[www.nedha.org](http://www.nedha.org)

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PBC = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate



PICTURE YOURSELF AS A DENTAL HYGIENIST



# Dentist

## What does this profession do?

Dentists diagnose, prevent, and treat problems of the teeth and tissues of the mouth. They remove decay and fill cavities, examine x-rays, place protective plastic sealants on children's teeth, straighten teeth, and repair fractured teeth. They also perform corrective surgery of the gums and supporting bones to treat gum diseases. Dentists extract teeth and make molds and measurements for dentures to replace missing teeth.

The majority of dentists work in private practice, either solo or with a dental group. Dentists typically work with dental hygienists and dental assistants, who help provide patient care. Dentists may also work in hospitals, public health clinics, teaching institutions, or research facilities.



## ★ SKILLS

- Ability to learn the complex science, math, and the methods and techniques of dentistry
- Strong verbal abilities for effective oral and written communication with the healthcare team
- Analytical abilities for measuring, calculating, and evaluating
- Strong manual dexterity and eye-hand coordination
- Good space and form perception
- Good observational skills and ability to relate to all kinds of people
- Scientific curiosity, emotional maturity, and empathy

## 📖 EDUCATION

Graduation from an accredited dental school is required, which usually takes four years. To enter a dental school, a person must have three to four years of college study in pre-dentistry, have a high grade point average, and pass the Dental Admissions Test. After graduation, a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) or Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) is awarded. To specialize or teach, a dentist must spend an additional two to four years in advanced dental training. Researchers in dentistry may pursue a master's or doctorate degree.

After the completion of dental school, graduates may enter the practice of general dentistry or pursue advanced training in specialty areas, which include:

- Endodontics - root canal and related therapy
- Oral/maxillofacial Surgery - surgery of the mouth and jaws
- Oral pathology - investigating the cause, process and effect of dental disease
- Orthodontics - correction of teeth placement and facial structures
- Pediatric dentistry - for infants through adolescents
- Periodontics - gum and supporting structure treatment
- Prosthodontics - treatment with artificial teeth/dentures
- Public health dentistry - preventing and controlling dental disease

## 📖 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Lincoln (D)
- Creighton Health Sciences – Omaha (D)

## 👤 LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for licensure as a dentist must graduate from an accredited school or college of dentistry and pass the exams.

## 💰 HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$167,990

## 👤 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Dental Association | [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)  
Nebraska Dental Association | [www.nedental.org](http://www.nedental.org)

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PBC = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

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PICTURE YOURSELF AS A DENTIST

# Dietary Manager

## What does this profession do?

Working together with registered dietitians, dietary managers provide food service supervision and nutritional care in a variety of settings including hospitals, schools, long-term care, and correctional facilities. They interview patients for diet history, instruct patients on dietary restrictions, calculate nutrient intake, coordinate food service to patients, order supplies, maintain sanitation, develop the annual budget, and supervise the work of food service employees.

## ★ SKILLS

- Ability to learn the basics of nutritional science and dietetics
- Good verbal abilities for reading, writing, and communicating
- Ability to keep records, visualize space and form relations, and work with scientific data
- Planning and organizing skills, resourcefulness, and ability to work under pressure
- Ability to supervise and train others
- Ability to get along with a variety of people

## 📖 EDUCATION

Training to become a dietary manager requires the completion of a formal 12-18-month program or on-the-job training in a hospital food service program.

## 📖 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (C)
- Southeast Community College - Online (C)

## 👤 LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Certification is voluntary; however, certification may command a higher rate of pay. Graduates from Dietary Managers Association (DMA) approved programs are eligible to take a certification exam offered by the Certifying Board of Dietary Managers (CBDM) to become a certified dietary manager (CDM).

## 💰 HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$51,811

## 👤 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Association of Nutrition & Foodservice Professionals  
[www.anfponline.org](http://www.anfponline.org)

A = Associate Degree | B = Baccalaureate Degree | C = Certificate  
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PBC = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate



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PICTURE YOURSELF AS A DIETARY MANAGER



# Emergency Medical Technician

## What does this profession do?

Heart attacks, near drowning, unscheduled childbirth, poisonings, gunshot wounds and injuries from automobile accidents all demand urgent medical attention. Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) give immediate care and then transport the sick or injured to medical facilities.

Following instructions from a dispatcher, EMTs determine the nature and extent of the patient's injury or illness while also trying to determine whether the patient has epilepsy, diabetes, or other pre-existing medical conditions. EMTs then give appropriate emergency care following strict guidelines for each procedure they may perform.

Levels of knowledge and responsibility increase from EMT-Basic to EMT-intermediate and then to paramedic.



## ★ SKILLS

- Ability to learn the practices and techniques of emergency medical treatment
- Good numerical and verbal abilities
- Good space and form perception, manual dexterity, general coordination, and physical strength
- Ability to relate to people, react calmly, and help others feel at ease
- Ability to make decisions based on observation and data
- Ability to make quick judgments and to take responsibility

## 📖 EDUCATION

A person must complete a 110-hour training course in emergency medical care approved by the United States Department of Transportation. The training programs are offered by the community colleges and by state-approved training agencies throughout Nebraska.

## 📍 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College – Columbus (C), Grand Island (A, P, C), Hastings (C), Holdrege (C), Kearney/Lexington (C)
- Creighton Health Sciences – Omaha (A, B, C, M)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (A, C)
- Mid-Plains Community College – McCook, North Platte (A, P) (Basic, Intermediate, Paramedic)
- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (A, C) (Basic, Paramedic)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (A)
- Western Nebraska Community College – Scottsbluff (A, C) (Basic, Intermediate, Paramedic)

## 👤 LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Applicants for certification as an emergency medical technician (EMT) must be at least 18 years of age, have a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification, complete the EMT course, and pass the EMT certifying exam or have a current EMT certification from the National Registry of Emergency Technicians.

## 💰 HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$45,170

## 👥 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians | [www.naemt.org](http://www.naemt.org)

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PBC = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

PICTURE YOURSELF AS AN  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

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# Genetic Counselor

## What does this profession do?

Genetic counselors are trained to educate patients seeking more information about how inherited diseases and conditions might affect them or their families. They collect family and medical histories through discussions with patients, healthcare providers, and reviewing medical records.

Genetic counselors then work with patients to offer guidance of risks and benefits in genetic testing as well as interpretation of results. They provide psychosocial support to patients who are navigating the complexities of genomic medicine and decision making. Genetic counselors can research hereditary disorders and developments in the field of genetics.

Healthcare providers increasingly recognize that genetic testing is a key component of precision medicine. As a result, genetic counseling is becoming more integrated into the healthcare system. Genetic counselors work primarily in hospitals, physicians' offices, outpatient care centers, university medical centers, and diagnostic laboratories.



## ★ SKILLS

- Ability to explain complex information in a way patients understand
- Ability to learn complex sciences
- Ability to have compassion and empathy
- Ability to make decisions based on data, experience, and observation
- Ability to work with a variety of people

## 📖 EDUCATION

Genetic counselors typically need a master's degree in genetic counseling and most programs take two years to complete. Nearly all states require genetic counselors to be licensed, and licensure typically requires board certification.

## 📍 EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (M)

## 👤 LICENSURE/CERTIFICATE

In order to practice as a genetic counselor you need to attend and graduate from an accredited program, sit and pass the national boards exam, and then apply for licensure in the state where you work. Not every state currently has licensure, but a great majority do, including Nebraska.

## 💰 HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$77,602

## 👥 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National Society for Genetic Counselors  
[www.nsgc.org](http://www.nsgc.org)  
American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics | [www.acmg.net](http://www.acmg.net)

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PBC = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

PICTURE YOURSELF AS A GENETIC COUNSELOR

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# Healthcare Administration

## What does this profession do?

The term health services administrator, or healthcare administrator, encompasses individuals in many different positions who plan, organize, coordinate, and supervise the delivery of healthcare. They also are concerned with community outreach, planning, policy making, and complying with government regulations.

Healthcare administration includes individuals who are hospital administrators, group practice executives, managed care executives, and many others. It also includes long-term care administrators, who are responsible for directing the overall management of a long-term care facility, such as a nursing home.



## SKILLS

- Ability to learn procedures related to the administration of a health facility
- Strong verbal and numerical skills
- Ability to work with a variety of people
- Ability to supervise others and plan and organize programs
- Qualities of leadership, diplomacy, and calmness under pressure
- Ability to make decisions based on observation and data
- Ability to handle a variety of tasks and detailed paperwork



## EDUCATION

The minimum educational requirement is a bachelor's degree, but competition in this field makes it necessary to have a master's degree in health services administration or hospital administration. There are some nursing homes that will hire administrators with an associate degree. People entering this field usually start as department heads or assistant administrators.



## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Bellevue University – Bellevue (B, M)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (B, M, PBC)
- Creighton University – Omaha (M, B, PBC)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (B, M, D)
- Southeast Community College (A)
- University of Nebraska – Omaha (MBA/MPA)



## LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Licensing requirements are for nursing home administrators only. No license is required for hospitals or public health facilities. Nursing home administrators are licensed by the Nebraska Board of Examiners in Nursing Home Administration. Applicants are required to have a bachelor's degree in health services administration or an associate degree in long-term care administration, allied health, or human services, and pass the required exams. Fifty hours of continuing education are required every two years.



## HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$115,090



## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American College of Healthcare Executives  
[www.ache.org](http://www.ache.org)  
American College of Healthcare Administrators  
[www.achca.org](http://www.achca.org)

A = Associate Degree | B = Baccalaureate Degree | C = Certificate  
D = Doctorate | M = Master's Degree | P = Diploma  
PBC = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

PICTURE YOURSELF AS A  
HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATOR

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# Health Information Management

## What does this profession do?

The field of Health Information Management (HIM) combines the disciplines of medicine, management, finance, information technology, and law. Because of this unique mixture, HIM graduates can select a variety of work settings with varying responsibilities. Career opportunities for health information managers can be found in hospitals, clinics, physicians' offices, university research departments, information technology vendors, and government. The positions held in these organizations range from managers of the health information management departments, information privacy officer, research associate, systems design consultant, data analyst, cancer registrar, and coding compliance analyst.



## SKILLS

- Communication skills and ability to work with a variety of people
- Analytical and problem solving skills
- Ability to utilize information to make decisions
- Organizational skills and attention to detail



## EDUCATION

Health Information Technician: An associate degree in health information technology from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management (CAHIIM) in cooperation with the American Health Information Management Association's Council on Accreditation. Health Information Administrator: A bachelor's degree in health information administration from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Educational Programs (CAAHEP) in cooperation with the American Health Information Management Association's Council on Accreditation.



## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College – Online (A, C, P)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (A, B, C, PBC)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (A, C)
- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (C, P)
- Western Nebraska Community College – Online (A)
- University of Nebraska at Omaha – (Health Informatics MS concentration)



## LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

To become an RHIT (registered health information technician), an individual must earn an associate degree from an accredited health information technology program and pass the national certification exam.

To become an RHIA (registered health information administrator), one must earn a bachelor's degree from an accredited health information administration program and pass the national exam.



## HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$49,410



## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Health Information Management Association | [www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org)  
Nebraska Health Information Management Association | [www.nhima.org](http://www.nhima.org)

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PBC = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

PICTURE YOURSELF AS A  
HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGER

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# Human Services Worker

## What does this profession do?

Human services worker is a generic term for people performing jobs such as social service technician, case management aide, social work assistant, residential counselor, alcohol or drug abuse counselor, mental health technician, child abuse worker, community outreach worker, or gerontology aide. These individuals generally work under the direction of social workers or, in some cases, psychologists.

Human service workers play a variety of roles in community settings. They may organize and lead group activities or assist clients in need of counseling or crisis intervention. In psychiatric clinics, they may help clients master everyday living skills, and teach them how to communicate more effectively and get along better with others.

The substance abuse counselor helps people who are physiologically or psychologically dependent on alcohol or drugs deal with their dependency. The substance abuse counselor also helps family members, former addicts, and those who are afraid they might become addicts.



## ★ SKILLS

- Strong desire to help others
- Ability to work with a variety of people
- Patience and understanding
- Good communication skills
- Strong sense of responsibility
- Ability to manage time effectively

## 📖 EDUCATION

Certificate or associate degree programs (18 months to two years) offer training in human services, mental health, and substance abuse counseling. There are also bachelor's degree and master's degree programs in human services administration.

## 📍 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Bellevue University – Bellevue (M)
- Central Community College – Grand Island (A, C, P)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (C)
- Doane University – Lincoln (B)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (A, C)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (A, C)

## 👤 LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Licensure is required for alcohol and drug abuse counselors. An applicant for a license to practice as an alcohol/drug abuse counselor must complete high school or equivalent, complete an approved program of drug/alcohol counseling, and pass a written and oral exam.

## 💰 HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$41,120

## 👥 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National Organization for Human Services  
[www.nationalhumanservices.org](http://www.nationalhumanservices.org)  
Council for Standards in Human Services Education  
[www.cshse.org](http://www.cshse.org)

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PBC = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

PICTURE YOURSELF AS A  
HUMAN SERVICES WORKER

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# Medical Assistant

## What does this profession do?

Medical assistants perform routine clinical and clerical tasks which help keep the offices of physicians, podiatrists, chiropractors, and optometrists running smoothly. Clinical duties vary according to state law and include taking medical histories and recording vital signs, explaining treatment procedures to patients, preparing patients for examination, and assisting during the examination.

## ★ SKILLS

- Ability to learn basic medical terminology and simple medical procedures
- Good verbal and numerical abilities
- Ability to follow instructions carefully and do routine tasks
- Ability to work with people who are ill or in pain and to remain calm in emergencies
- Ability to check written materials accurately

## 📖 EDUCATION

Employers prefer to hire applicants trained in specialized one- or two-year programs offered by hospitals, medical schools, vocational schools, or community colleges. Some medical assistants are trained on-the-job or through apprenticeship training.

## 📍 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College – Grand Island (A, P)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (C)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (A, C)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (P)

## 👤 LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

For professional recognition, a person may become a registered or certified medical assistant. To be registered or certified, a person must pass an exam.

## 💰 HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$42,280

## 👥 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The American Association of Medical Assistants  
[www.aama-ntl.org](http://www.aama-ntl.org)  
American Medical Technologists  
[www.americanmedtech.org](http://www.americanmedtech.org)

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## Interested in a medical assistant apprenticeship?

One is offered through the  
Health Center Association of Nebraska.

Learn more at  
[hcanebraska.org/page/MedicalAssistantApprenticeship](http://hcanebraska.org/page/MedicalAssistantApprenticeship)



PICTURE YOURSELF AS A MEDICAL ASSISTANT

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# Medical Coder

## What does this profession do?

Medical coders are professionals skilled in classifying medical data from patient records, generally in the hospital setting. These coding practitioners review patients' records and assign numeric codes for each diagnosis and procedure. To perform this task, they must have expertise in specialized coding systems.



### SKILLS

- Good reading and numeric skills
- Knowledge of medical terminology, disease processes, and pharmacology
- Good eye-hand coordination and manual dexterity
- Ability to work quickly and accurately following specific procedures
- Ability to use computers and other current office technology
- Ability to proofread numbers and see important details in written materials



### EDUCATION

The program is designed to prepare the student to enter the health information field with a certificate or diploma, and associate degree. Students receiving a degree will be prepared to work in entry-level positions as medical coders in a variety of healthcare settings.



### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College – Online (A, C, P)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (C)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (A)
- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (P)
- Western Nebraska Community College – Scottsbluff, Alliance, Sidney (P)



### LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

The American Health Information Management Association offers two certification exams for coders, the Certified Coding Specialist and Physician Based Coding Specialist. Potential candidates must possess a high school diploma. It is also recommended that an individual have at least three years of on-the-job coding experience and coding education from seminars and colleges.



### HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$39,700



### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) | [www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org)  
American Academy of Professional Coders  
[www.aapc.com](http://www.aapc.com)  
Nebraska Health Information Management Association | [www.nhima.org](http://www.nhima.org)

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PBC = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

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PICTURE YOURSELF AS A MEDICAL CODER

# Medical Interpreter

## What does this profession do?

Medical interpreters facilitate communication between patients and healthcare providers. They provide the language bridge between non-English speaking patients and English-speaking healthcare professionals. In some cases, they may be able to translate simple forms and instructions.



### SKILLS

- Able to speak fluently in English and another language
- Ability to learn the techniques and topics related to medical interpreting
- Competent in the culture of both languages, including body language and gestures
- Ability to work under stressful situations
- Ability to maintain focus on a single source of sound when working in a distracting environment
- Ability to speak clearly and at an appropriate volume
- Ability to work within a variety of medical settings
- Have patience and tact



### EDUCATION

Medical interpreters may earn a certificate from a community college or a four-year baccalaureate degree. On-the-job training may also be available.



### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- College of Saint Mary - Omaha (C)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (C, with concentration)



### LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

There is no licensing or certification required in Nebraska at this time



### HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$54,330



### PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

International Medical Interpreters Association  
[www.imiaweb.org](http://www.imiaweb.org)

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PICTURE YOURSELF AS A MEDICAL INTERPRETER



# Medical Research Scientist

## What does this profession do?

Those who specialize in medical research study diseases, drugs, microorganisms, genetics, and many other areas of human and animal health. They work toward improved understanding of diseases and of environmental hazards. They play a critical role in the development of new therapeutic treatments and innovative diagnostic techniques. The medicines we take, the inoculations that protect us from infectious diseases and the processes that preserve our food were all developed by medical research scientists.

Medical research scientists can pursue a variety of specialties. These include anatomy, biochemistry, biophysics, cell biology, embryology, genetics, immunology, microbiology, molecular biology, pathology, pharmacology, physiology, and many others. Medical researchers usually work in laboratories at universities, government agencies, or in private industry. Some work in management or administration or as consultants to business or government. Others are involved with testing foods, drugs, and other products, or writing for technical publications.



## SKILLS

- Ability to learn the complex science, math, and methods of scientific investigation
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to make judgments based on data and observation
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Patience and objectivity
- Creativity and independent thinking



## EDUCATION

The minimum education requirement is a bachelor's degree, but a master's or doctoral degree is needed to conduct advanced research and to be eligible for many jobs at university, private sector, and government research laboratories. Students entering college with an interest in medical research should establish a major in one of the physical or biological sciences or in mathematics.



## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

All accredited colleges offer undergraduate courses in the sciences. Those institutions with graduate programs may offer master's and doctoral degrees in various scientific disciplines. Health science centers offer master's and doctoral programs in medical sciences. The University of Nebraska Medical Center has M.S. and Ph.D. programs in biochemistry & molecular biology; cancer research; cellular & integrative physiology; genetics, cell biology & anatomy; pathology & microbiology; pharmaceutical sciences; pharmacology and experimental neuroscience.



## HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$65,763



## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Association for the Advancement of Science | [www.aaas.org](http://www.aaas.org)  
American Association for Cancer Research  
[www.aacr.org](http://www.aacr.org)  
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology | [www.asbmb.org](http://www.asbmb.org)  
American Society for Cell Biology  
[www.ascb.org](http://www.ascb.org)  
American Society for Microbiology  
[www.asm.org](http://www.asm.org)  
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics  
[www.aspet.org](http://www.aspet.org)

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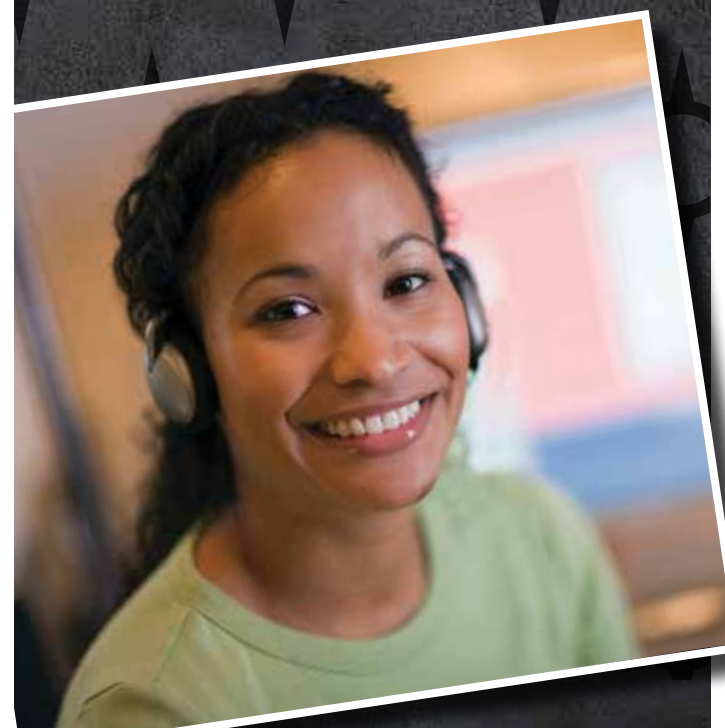
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PICTURE YOURSELF AS A MEDICAL RESEARCHER

# Medical Transcriptionist

## What does this profession do?

Medical transcriptionists use a reliable computer to listen to recorded or streaming materials from physicians or other healthcare professionals. These workers transcribe a variety of medical reports about emergency room visits, diagnostic imaging studies, operations, chart reviews, and final summaries. After reviewing and editing for grammar and clarity, the medical transcriptionist transcribes the dictated reports and returns them in either printed or electronic form to the dictator for review and signature, or correction. These reports eventually become part of the patient's permanent file.



## SKILLS

- Ability to proofread words and see important details in written materials
- Good English grammar and punctuation skills
- Understanding of the language of medicine, anatomy and physiology, diagnostic procedures, and treatment
- Good eye-hand coordination and manual dexterity
- Ability to work quickly and accurately following specific procedures
- Good hearing
- Skills in using computers and other current office technology



## EDUCATION

Employers prefer to hire transcriptionists who have completed postsecondary training in medical transcription. Completion of a two-year associate degree program – including coursework in anatomy, medical terminology, and medical/legal issues, English grammar and punctuation – is highly recommended. Many of these programs include supervised on-the-job experience.



## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (C)



## LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Although it is not required, the American Association for Medical Transcription awards the voluntary designation, Certified Medical Transcriptionist (CMT), to those who earn passing scores on written and practical exams.



## HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$35,810



## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity | [www.ahdionline.org](http://www.ahdionline.org)

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PICTURE YOURSELF AS A MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONIST



# Medication Aide

## What does this profession do?

Medication Aides (also known as med aides) assist in administering medication to patients. They work in long-term care, home care and other assisted living facilities.



### SKILLS

- Ability to give routine medications to another person
- Ability to chart medication(s) given on patient's record
- Works under the direction and oversight of a competent individual, caretaker, or licensed healthcare professional



### EDUCATION

Medication aide training programs range from training programs to certificate programs.



### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College – Grand Island, Hastings, Holdrege, Kearney, Lexington (C)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (C)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (C)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (C)
- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (C)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (C)
- Western Nebraska Community College – Scottsbluff (C)



### LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Upon completion of a certificate or medication aide program, students become eligible to sit for the state medical competency examination. Upon successfully passing the examination, medication aides are added to the Nebraska Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure, Credentialing Division



### HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$38,200

A = Associate Degree | B = Baccalaureate Degree | C = Certificate  
D = Doctorate | M = Master's Degree | P = Diploma  
PBC = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate



PICTURE YOURSELF AS A MEDICATION AIDE

# NURSING Nurse Aide

## What does this profession do?

Nurse aides, also called certified nursing assistants (CNAs), perform a variety of duties to care for sick and injured people under the direction of nurses. They answer patients' bell calls, deliver messages, serve meals, and make beds. They also feed, bathe, and dress patients; take temperatures; and help patients get around. Some store or move supplies and clean patients' rooms. Those who work in patients' homes may also clean, do laundry, shop for food, plan and prepare meals.



### SKILLS

- Ability to learn the methods and procedures of patient care
- Verbal and numerical skills
- Ability to move often from one task to another and to use several different skills
- Good space and form perception and manual dexterity
- Ability to work with people who are ill
- Ability to respond quickly in emergencies and keep accurate records



### EDUCATION

Most employers prefer to hire high school graduates or equivalent. On-the-job training is given through both supervised work and classroom instruction and may last several days or weeks. The Nebraska Healthcare Association offers a course for nurse aides, and a few schools offer short training programs. First-aid and home nursing classes and hospital volunteer work are helpful.



### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Bryan College of Health Sciences – Lincoln (C)
- Central Community College – Columbus, Grand Island, Hastings, Holdrege, Kearney, Lexington, Ord (C)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (C)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (C)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (C)
- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (C)
- Southeast Community College – Beatrice, Lincoln (C)
- Western Nebraska Community College – Scottsbluff, Alliance, Sidney (C)



### LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

The Nebraska Healthcare Association provides an approved book for nurse aides. To work in nursing homes or home health, an individual must be on the Nebraska Nurse Aide Registry. To be eligible to be on the registry, the individual must pass a state-approved course and a written and clinical exam.



### HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$38,470



### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National Association of Healthcare Assistants  
[www.nahcacna.org](http://www.nahcacna.org)

A = Associate Degree | B = Baccalaureate Degree | C = Certificate  
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PBC = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate



PICTURE YOURSELF AS A NURSE AIDE



# NURSING Licensed Practical Nurse

## What does this profession do?

Licensed practical nurses (LPNs) care for sick, injured, recovering, and disabled patients, under the direction of physicians and registered nurses. Most LPNs provide basic bedside care. They measure and record vital signs such as temperature, blood pressure, and pulse. They assist physicians with treatments and exams, administer medications, and they assist in recovery and rehabilitation. LPNs also direct and assign nursing interventions under the direction of a provider or registered nurse. They help patients with bathing, dressing, and personal hygiene. They feed patients, record their food and liquid intake and output, keep them comfortable, and care for their emotional needs.



### SKILLS

- Ability to learn basic medical terminology and nursing techniques
- Good verbal abilities for speaking and writing
- Ability to relate well to a variety of people
- Good space and form perception and manual dexterity
- Ability to work calmly in a stressful situation
- Ability to work accurately within set standards
- Sufficient strength for moderate lifting



### EDUCATION

The minimum educational requirement is graduation from a one- or two-year accredited program.



### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College – Columbus, Grand Island, Kearney (P)
- College of Saint Mary – Omaha (C)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (C)
- Mid-Plains Community College – McCook, North Platte (P)
- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (P)
- Southeast Community College – Beatrice, Lincoln, Milford (P)
- Western Nebraska Community College – Sidney, Scottsbluff, Alliance (P)



### LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for a license to practice as a practical nurse must complete high school or equivalent, complete an approved program of practical nursing, and pass the NCLEX-PN exam. After LPNs complete a certification course and take a state exam, they are certified to do IV-therapy.



### HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE

Average: \$56,120



### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National League for Nursing  
[www.nln.org](http://www.nln.org)  
National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service, Inc. | [www.napnes.org](http://www.napnes.org)

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PICTURE YOURSELF AS A  
LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE



# NURSING Registered Nurse

## What does this profession do?

Registered nurses (RNs) care for the sick and injured and help people stay well. They observe, assess, and record symptoms, reactions, and progress. They assist physicians during treatments and examinations, administer medications, and assist in recovery and rehabilitation.

Hospital nurses form the largest group of nurses. Most staff nurses provide bedside nursing care. Many advance to management positions.

In addition to hospitals, there are many employment opportunities for nurses: nursing home nurses, public health nurses, private duty nurses, office nurses, and occupational health or industrial nurses. Nurses with advanced degrees will be able to serve as nurse educators, nurse practitioners, or nurse scientists.

Registered nurses need to be prepared in critical thinking, leadership, and health promotion. They must be able to handle the complex demands of providing professional nursing services in a wide variety of healthcare settings.



### SKILLS

- Ability to learn complex science and math and the principles of nursing
- Skills with computers and other forms of technology
- Ability to work with a variety of people
- Good numerical and verbal skills
- Ability to make decisions based on data and observations, and uphold standards of ethics and professional practice
- Ability to remain calm in emergency situations



### EDUCATION

Educational programs range from a two-year associate degree to a four- or five-year bachelor's degree at colleges and universities, as well as master's and doctoral level degrees.



### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Bellevue University – Bellevue (B) RN to BSN program
- Bryan College of Health Sciences – Lincoln (B)
- Central Community College – Grand Island, Kearney, Columbus (A)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (B, M, D)
- College of Saint Mary – Omaha (B)
- Creighton University School of Nursing – Omaha (B, M)
- Hastings College (3 years) + Creighton Health Sciences on the Mary Lanning Healthcare campus (1 year) - Hastings (B)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (A)
- Mid-Plains Community College – McCook, North Platte (A)
- Midland University – Fremont (B)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (B, M, D)
- Nebraska Wesleyan University – Lincoln (B), Online (M)
- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (A)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (A), Beatrice (A)
- Union Adventist University – Lincoln (B)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha, Kearney, Lincoln, Norfolk, Scottsbluff (B, M, D)
- Western Nebraska Community College – Scottsbluff (A), LPN – RN Scottsbluff, Alliance, Sidney (A)



### LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for a license to practice as a registered nurse (RN) must complete high school or equivalent, complete an approved program of registered nursing, and pass the NCLEX-RN exam.



### HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$79,780



### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Nurses Association  
[www.nursingworld.org](http://www.nursingworld.org)  
Nebraska Nurses Association  
[www.nebraskanurses.org](http://www.nebraskanurses.org)  
National League for Nursing  
[www.nln.org](http://www.nln.org)

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PICTURE YOURSELF AS A REGISTERED NURSE





# NURSING Nurse Practitioner

## What does this profession do?

A nurse practitioner (NP) is a registered nurse with advanced academic and clinical experience. The nurse practitioner is able to diagnose and manage most common illnesses, either independently or as part of a healthcare team. The nurse practitioner provides some care previously offered only by physicians and, in most states, has the ability to prescribe medications. Working in collaboration with a physician, a nurse practitioner provides high quality, cost effective, and individualized care.

With a strong emphasis on primary care, nurse practitioners are employed within several specialties, including neonatology, nurse-midwifery, pediatrics, school health, family and adult health, psychiatric mental health, home care, and geriatrics.

Nurse practitioners are educated through programs that grant either a master's degree or a post master's certificate. A registered nurse should have extensive clinical experience before applying to a nurse practitioner program. An intensive preceptorship under the supervision of a physician or an experienced nurse practitioner, as well as instruction in nursing theory, are key components in most programs.



## ★ SKILLS

- Ability to learn biological sciences and practices of nursing
- Good math skills and strong verbal abilities for reading, writing, and speaking
- Good space and form perception, general coordination, and manual dexterity
- Ability to handle a variety of activities, make decisions based on data and observations
- Creativity, flexibility, ability to work under stress, and willingness to make decisions
- Good communication and interpersonal skills

## 📖 EDUCATION

To become a nurse practitioner, an applicant must first complete a baccalaureate degree in nursing and become licensed as a registered nurse. A registered nurse may then enter a master's degree program to become a nurse practitioner. Most master's degree programs require two years of full-time study.

## 📖 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Clarkson College – Omaha (M, D)
- Creighton Health Sciences – Omaha (M, D)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (D)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha, Kearney, Lincoln, Norfolk, Scottsbluff (M, D)

## 👤 LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for a license to practice as a nurse practitioner must be a registered nurse, complete an approved advanced registered nurse practitioner program at the master's level, and pass a national certifying exam.

## 💰 HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$121,680

## 👥 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American College of Nurse Practitioners  
[www.nurse.org/acnp/](http://www.nurse.org/acnp/)  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
[www.aanp.org](http://www.aanp.org)

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PICTURE YOURSELF AS A NURSE PRACTITIONER

# NURSING Nurse Anesthetist

## What does this profession do?

Nurse anesthetists are registered nurses who have completed additional specialized education and training in administering anesthetic treatments that keep people from feeling pain during surgery or other procedures.

Certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) are anesthesia specialists who provide anesthetics to patients in collaboration with surgeons, anesthesiologists, dentists, podiatrists, and other qualified healthcare professionals.

## ★ SKILLS

- Ability to learn advanced sciences necessary to nursing
- Good numerical abilities
- Good verbal ability for speaking, reading, and writing
- Ability to work with people, to make decisions based on data, observations, and experience, and to work under stress
- Good space and form perception and manual dexterity and sufficient strength for moderate lifting
- Ability to make accurate observations, keep records, and work within precise standards

## 📖 EDUCATION

Education and experience required to become a CRNA include:

- A Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) or other appropriate baccalaureate degree.
- A current license as a registered nurse.
- At least one year's experience in an acute care nursing setting.
- Graduation from an accredited school of nurse anesthesia educational program ranging from 24-36 months, depending on university requirements. These programs offer a graduate degree and include clinical training in university-based or large community hospitals.
- Passing a national certification examination following graduation.

## 📖 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Bryan Health – Lincoln (D)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (D)

## 👤 LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for licensure in the State of Nebraska must have a license as a registered nurse in the State of Nebraska and have national certification. Certification is issued by the Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs, a national body that administers the certification exam. CRNAs are licensed by the State of Nebraska as Advanced Nurse Practitioners (Anesthetist).

## 💰 HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$212,860

## 👥 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
[www.aana.com](http://www.aana.com)  
Nebraska Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
[www.neana.org](http://www.neana.org)

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PICTURE YOURSELF AS A NURSE ANESTHETIST





# Occupational Therapist

## What does this profession do?

Occupational therapists (OTs) enable people of all ages and abilities to engage in daily life activities they need and want to do. They evaluate and provide occupation-based intervention to compensate, remediate, or prevent injury or illness, and promote health and wellness. They engage with people wherever they live, play, work, learn, and rest.

When ability is diminished or impaired, OTs work to restore performance in everyday life activities including self-care, leisure, and work. For those with permanent disabilities, such as spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy or muscular dystrophy, occupational therapists develop ways for patients to accomplish tasks through compensation and modified actions. They provide adaptive equipment such as wheelchairs, splints, and aids for eating and dressing. They also design special equipment to help the patient function at home or work.

A career in occupational therapy supports expansion into many areas of emerging practice, especially preventive care and chronic disease management.



## ★ SKILLS

- Ability to learn the techniques of occupational therapy
- Good verbal abilities to read, write, and speak
- Good space and form perception and manual dexterity
- Ability to make decisions and to solve problems
- Objective view of illnesses and disabilities
- Ability to motivate people
- Patience and a desire to help others

## 📖 EDUCATION

The minimum educational requirement is an entry-level master's or clinical doctorate in occupational therapy from an accredited institution.

## 📚 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- College of Saint Mary – Omaha (M)
- Creighton Health Sciences – Omaha (D)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (M)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha, Kearney (D)

## 👤 LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for a license to practice as an occupational therapist must complete the requirements of an approved program, complete six months of supervised fieldwork, and pass the certification exam.

## 💰 HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$87,710

## 👥 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Occupational Therapy Association  
[www.aota.org](http://www.aota.org)  
Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.  
[www.notaonline.org](http://www.notaonline.org)

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PICTURE YOURSELF AS AN  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST



# Occupational Therapy Assistant

## What does this profession do?

Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTAs) work in collaboration with Occupational Therapists to provide health, wellness, and rehabilitative services in a multitude of areas and across the lifespan. Areas of employment may include schools, hospitals, nursing homes, home health, outpatient clinics, and community centers. The age range of patients being treated by an OTA is birth to end of life. OTAs assess individual and community needs, plan and implement treatment activities, and document progress toward the achievement of established goals. OTAs use purposeful activity, creative arts, environmental modifications, adaptive equipment and technology, specific intervention techniques and therapeutic use of self to prevent, remediate or compensate for impairments that may otherwise limit a person from fully engaging in daily activities such as work, play or leisure.



## ★ SKILLS

- Compassion for people of all abilities
- Willingness to utilize research to guide practice
- Welcoming of diversity
- Able to work in multidisciplinary team settings, and independently with limited supervision
- Adaptive, creative, and resourceful

## 📖 EDUCATION

Occupational therapy assistants must complete an educational program taking an average of 2 1/2 years of full-time study to complete. Typical programs of study include classroom, lab, and community practice opportunities, including 16 weeks of hands-on practical experience under the supervision of an OT or OTA. Coursework is focused on the physical, social, and behavioral sciences and on occupational therapy specific knowledge in the domains of art, theory, and technique. Upon completion of an OTA program, graduates receive an associate degree. Following graduation, graduates are eligible to sit for the National Registration Examination.

## 📚 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College – Grand Island (A)
- Union Adventist University – Lincoln (A)

## 👤 LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Occupational therapy assistants are licensed by the Nebraska Health and Human Services Department. To receive a license, the applicant must have completed an OTA program from an accredited institution and passed the national certification exam. Continuing education is mandatory for ongoing active licensure.

## 💰 HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$59,900

## 👥 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Occupational Therapy Association  
[www.aota.org](http://www.aota.org)  
Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.  
[www.notaonline.org](http://www.notaonline.org)

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PICTURE YOURSELF AS AN  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT





# Pharmacist

## What does this profession do?

Pharmacists interpret prescriptions from providers, then prepare and dispense the medications. They provide the provider and patients with information about the uses, effects, and interactions of medicines. They also assist patients in choosing nonprescription medicines and health products, and they may counsel a patient to seek the advice and treatment of a physician, dentist, or other health practitioner.

Pharmacists are important members of the healthcare team and part of a rapidly expanding industry. The career options are broad. Pharmacists may work in hospitals, community pharmacies, colleges or schools of pharmacy, or in public health facilities. They may also work in pharmaceutical research in public institutions or private industry.



### SKILLS

- Ability to learn chemical properties and compounding of drugs
- Good science and verbal skill to read technical materials and advise others
- Good communication skills to educate patients



### EDUCATION

Students must complete at least 60 credit hours of prerequisite study prior to entering a college of pharmacy. Most professional programs in pharmacy require four additional years leading to a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree.



### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Creighton Health Sciences – Omaha (D)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (D)



### LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Pharmacists must be licensed by the Nebraska Board of Pharmacy. To be licensed, a person must be 21 years of age, be a graduate of an accredited college/school of pharmacy, have completed an internship under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist, and pass the licensure exam. Continuing education requirements must be met.



### HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$130,120



### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Pharmacists Association  
[www.aphanet.org](http://www.aphanet.org)  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
[www.aacp.org](http://www.aacp.org)  
American Society of Health System Pharmacists  
[www.ashp.org](http://www.ashp.org)  
Nebraska Pharmacists Association  
[www.npharm.org](http://www.npharm.org)

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PICTURE YOURSELF AS A PHARMACIST

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# Pharmacy Technician

## What does this profession do?

Pharmacy technicians work under the direct supervision of a registered pharmacist and help prepare prescriptions and provide other health-care products.

Technicians perform routine tasks such as locating medications, measuring quantities, packaging containers, and preparing labels. In addition, they take care of many of the day-to-day operations of a pharmacy such as receiving and verifying prescriptions, answering phones, taking refill requests, receiving and storing supplies, verifying stock, and entering data in a computer to maintain inventory or patient records.



### SKILLS

- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Close attention to detail
- Ability to perform repetitive tasks accurately
- Ability to work with a variety of people and a desire to help others
- Strong work-ethic and good critical-thinking skills
- Good math skills



### EDUCATION

The minimum educational requirement is a high school diploma or equivalent. Pharmacy technicians must be at least 18 years old. Each pharmacy is responsible for on-the-job training according to their Pharmacy Technician Manual approved by the Board of Pharmacy. Students complete course work in classes and laboratories as well as gaining hands-on training working in pharmacies in hospitals, long term care facilities, and retail pharmacies.



### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College – Grand Island (P, A)
- Nebraska Methodist College - Omaha (C)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln, Online (P)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center - Omaha (C)



### LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

In Nebraska, all pharmacy technicians that are employed as a pharmacy technician in a healthcare facility shall be certified by a state or national certifying body approved by the Board of Pharmacy and are required to register with the State of Nebraska Health and Human Services, Public Health Licensure Unit.



### HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$40,610



### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National Pharmacy Technician Association  
[www.cpht.org](http://www.cpht.org)  
American Association of Pharmacy Technicians  
[www.pharmacytechnician.com](http://www.pharmacytechnician.com)

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PICTURE YOURSELF AS A PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

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# Phlebotomist

## What does this profession do?

Phlebotomists are trained to draw blood with the least possible anxiety and discomfort to the patient. They engage frequently with patients and help calm nervous patients before beginning the blood collection process.

Phlebotomists have a risk exposure to diseases and are trained in laboratory safety and careful collection of blood. They are usually supervised by a clinical laboratory scientist.



### SKILLS

- Emotional maturity and patience
- Good manual dexterity, space and form perception, and manual coordination
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Ability to work well under pressure



### EDUCATION

Students who want to become a phlebotomist must have a high school diploma or equivalent. One year of on-the-job training with instruction or formal education lasting several months from a phlebotomy program accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences ([www.naacls.org](http://www.naacls.org)) is preferred.



### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Bryan College of Health Sciences – Lincoln (C)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (C)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (C)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (C)
- Western Nebraska Community College – Scottsbluff (C)



### LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

The state of Nebraska does not require phlebotomists to be certified, however they highly encourage voluntary national certification from the American Society for Clinical Pathology, American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians, American Medical Technologists, American Certification Agency for Healthcare Professionals ([acacert.com](http://acacert.com)), and National Center for Competency Testing ([www.ncctinc.com](http://www.ncctinc.com))



### HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$38,700



### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Medical Technologists  
[www.americanmedtech.org](http://www.americanmedtech.org)  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
[www.ascp.org](http://www.ascp.org)  
American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians, Inc.  
[www.aspt.org](http://www.aspt.org)  
National Phlebotomy Association  
[www.nationalphlebotomy.org](http://www.nationalphlebotomy.org)

A = Associate Degree | B = Baccalaureate Degree | C = Certificate  
D = Doctorate | M = Master's Degree | P = Diploma  
PBC = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate



PICTURE YOURSELF AS A PHLEBOTOMIST

# Physical Therapist

## What does this profession do?

A physical therapist (PT) is a healthcare professional who evaluates and treats people with health problems resulting from injury or disease. PTs assess joint motion, muscle strength and endurance, function of heart and lungs, and performance of activities required in daily living, among other responsibilities. Treatment includes a broad range of therapeutic exercise techniques, cardiovascular endurance training, and training in activities of daily living.

The need for physical therapists is expected to remain strong as the US population ages and the demand for physical therapy services grows.

Physical therapists work in many healthcare settings including hospitals, outpatient clinics, nursing homes, home care agencies, schools, and rehabilitation centers. Therapists may elect to practice as generalists, or they may choose one of a number of specialty areas such as orthopedics, geriatrics, neurology, pediatrics, or cardiopulmonary physical therapy. In addition to patient care, physical therapists have many opportunities in administration, research, and clinical education.



### SKILLS

- Ability to learn the complex sciences on which physical therapy is based
- Good verbal skills to talk with patients, read technical materials, and write reports
- Good space and form perception, manual dexterity, and general coordination
- Ability to relate to a variety of people and direct and influence others
- Ability to make judgments based on data and observations and take responsibility for planning programs
- Emotional stability, creativity, patience, and understanding



### EDUCATION

The minimum educational requirement is a professional master's (MPT) or doctoral (DPT) degree in physical therapy. Most programs require three or four years of undergraduate preparation followed by two to three years of professional education.



### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- College of Saint Mary – Omaha (D)
- Creighton Health Sciences – Omaha (D)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha, Kearney (D)



### LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for a license to practice physical therapy must graduate from an approved physical therapy education program and pass the national licensure examination.



### HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$90,870



### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Physical Therapy Association  
[www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org)  
Nebraska Physical Therapy Association  
[www.npta.org](http://www.npta.org)

A = Associate Degree | B = Baccalaureate Degree | C = Certificate  
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PBC = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate



PICTURE YOURSELF AS A PHYSICAL THERAPIST



# Physical Therapist Assistant

## What does this profession do?

The physical therapist assistant (PTA) assists the physical therapist (PT) in the provision of physical therapy and may perform physical therapy interventions selected by the supervising physical therapist.

The PTA works under the direction and supervision of the PT, helping manage conditions such as back and neck injuries, sprains/strains and fractures, arthritis, burns, amputations, stroke, multiple sclerosis, birth defects, injuries related to work and sports, and others.



## SKILLS

- Ability to learn the techniques needed to assist a physical therapist
- Good verbal and numerical skills
- Ability to influence others
- Good space and form perception and manual dexterity
- Ability to make decisions based on observations and data
- Ability to relate to a variety of people and work as part of a team



## EDUCATION

Physical therapist assistants must complete a two-year education program, typically offered through a community college. Candidates receive an associate's degree upon graduation. The course of study usually includes one year of general education and one year of technical courses on physical therapy procedures and clinical experience.



## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Clarkson College – Omaha (A, B)
- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (A)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (A)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (A)



## LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Physical therapist assistants are licensed by the Nebraska Board of Examiners in Physical Therapy. To be licensed, an applicant must be at least 19 years old, have graduated from an approved program, and have passed the national exam.



## HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$56,920



## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Physical Therapy Association  
[www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org)  
Nebraska Physical Therapy Association  
[www.npta.org](http://www.npta.org)

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PBC = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

PICTURE YOURSELF AS A  
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

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# Physician Assistant

## What does this profession do?

Physician Assistants (PAs), also called Physician Associates, work collaboratively with physicians to provide care in a variety of settings, including physician offices, hospitals, nursing homes, and schools. After completing an intensive training program modeled after physician education, PAs can treat patients with significant autonomy.

PAs provide almost all the clinical services that physicians provide, including making clinical decisions and providing a broad range of diagnostic, therapeutic, preventive, and health maintenance services, including prescribing medications. The physician-PA team relationship is fundamental to the PA profession and enhances the delivery of high-quality healthcare.

PAs practice in virtually every medical specialty from family medicine to orthopedic surgery.



## SKILLS

- Ability to learn scientific concepts, especially in the biological sciences
- Good verbal abilities in reading, writing, and speaking
- Good math skills, space and form perception, and general coordination
- Ability to relate to a variety of people and make decisions based on data and observations



## EDUCATION

Programs usually take two to three years to complete and require that a person already has either two years of college study or a four-year bachelor's degree.



## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- College of Saint Mary – Omaha (M)
- Creighton Health Sciences – Omaha (M)
- Union Adventist University – Lincoln (M)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha, Kearney (M)



## LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for certification as a physician assistant must be at least 19 years of age, graduate from an approved physician assistant program, and pass the proficiency exam.



## HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$126,330



## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The American Academy of Physician Associates  
[www.aapa.org](http://www.aapa.org)  
Nebraska Academy of PAs  
[www.nebraskapa.org](http://www.nebraskapa.org)

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PICTURE YOURSELF AS A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

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# Physician

## What does this profession do?

Physicians examine patients, obtain medical histories, and perform and interpret diagnostic tests. They diagnose illnesses, prescribe medications, and administer treatment for people suffering from injury or disease. Physicians counsel patients on diet, hygiene, and preventive healthcare.

Pediatricians, family practitioners and general internists are often called primary care physicians because they are usually the first health professionals patients consult. They tend to see the same patients on a regular basis for a variety of ailments and preventive treatments. When appropriate, they refer patients to other specialists.

Other medical specialists include anesthesiologists, gynecologists/obstetricians, cardiologists, infectious disease specialists, ophthalmologists, pathologists, radiologists, psychiatrists, and surgeons, as well as many others. Some specialty areas also have subspecialties (for example, neurosurgery, pediatric gastroenterology, or geriatric psychiatry), requiring further years of training.



## SKILLS

- Ability to learn complex science, math, and methods and techniques of medicine
- Strong verbal skills
- Good space and form perception, manual dexterity, and general coordination
- Ability to plan, organize, and direct others
- Ability to relate to all kinds of people
- Ability to make decisions based on data, observation, and experience
- Scientific curiosity, emotional maturity, and empathy



## EDUCATION

To be admitted to a medical school, a person must complete three to four years of pre-medicine subjects, take a preadmissions test called the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT), and have a high grade-point average.

After graduating from medical school, physicians must complete three to seven years of residency training. The length of residency is determined by the chosen field. In addition to residency programs, some physicians will choose to continue their education in specialized programs called fellowships. Creighton University Medical Center (CUMC) and the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) offer residency and fellowship programs in Nebraska.



## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Creighton Health Sciences – Omaha (D)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (D)



## LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Physicians must be licensed by the Nebraska Board of Examiners in Medicine and Surgery. To be licensed, a person must be a graduate from an accredited college of medicine, have at least three years of post graduate medical education (residency), and pass a national board exam.



## HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$284,361

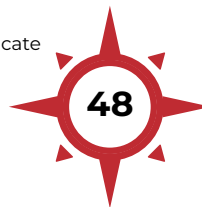


## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Medical Association  
[www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org)  
 Nebraska Medical Association  
[www.nebmed.org](http://www.nebmed.org)

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PICTURE YOURSELF AS A **PHYSICIAN**



# CONTINUED Physician

## Medical Residency and Fellowship Programs

After graduating from medical school, physicians must complete three to seven years of residency training.

Residency and Fellowship (*) Programs	Years	Institutions
<b>Anesthesia</b>	4	UNMC
*Cardiothoracic	1	UNMC
*Critical Care	1	UNMC
*Pain Management	1	UNMC
*Pediatric	1	UNMC
<b>Dermatology</b>	3	UNMC
<b>Diagnostic Radiology</b>	5	UNMC CUMC
*Interventional Radiology	1	UNMC
*Neuroradiology	1	UNMC
*Musculoskeletal Radiology	1	UNMC
*Pediatric Radiology	1	UNMC
<b>Emergency Medicine</b>	3	UNMC
<b>Family Medicine</b>	3	UNMC CUMC
*Sports Medicine	1	UNMC
*Addiction Medicine	1	UNMC
<b>Internal Medicine</b>	3	UNMC CUMC
*Allergy/Immunology	2	UNMC
*Cardiovascular Disease	3	UNMC CUMC
*Endocrinology & Metabolism	2	UNMC CUMC
*Gastroenterology	3	UNMC CUMC
*Geriatrics	1	UNMC
*Hematology/Oncology	3	UNMC
*Hepatology	1	UNMC
*Infectious Diseases	2	UNMC CUMC
*Interventional Cardiology	1	UNMC CUMC
*Nephrology	2	UNMC
*Pulmonary/Critical Care	3	UNMC CUMC
*Rheumatology	3	UNMC
*Sleep Medicine	1	UNMC
<b>Internal Medicine/Pediatrics</b>	4	UNMC
<b>Medical Genetics</b>	2	UNMC
<b>Neurology</b>	4	UNMC

PICTURE YOURSELF AS A **PHYSICIAN**

Residency and Fellowship (*) Programs	Years	Institutions
<b>Neurosurgery</b>	7	UNMC
<b>Obstetrics/Gynecology</b>	4	UNMC CUMC
<b>Ophthalmology</b>	4	UNMC
*Retina	1	UNMC
*Pediatric	1	UNMC
<b>Oral Surgery</b>	5	UNMC
<b>Orthopedics</b>	5	UNMC
<b>Otolaryngology</b>	5	UNMC
<b>Pathology</b>	4	UNMC CUMC
*Hematopathology	2	UNMC
*Molecular Genetics Pathology	1	UNMC
<b>Pediatrics</b>	3	UNMC
*Allergy/Immunology	2	CUMC
*Pediatric Gastroenterology	3	UNMC
*Pediatric Infectious Diseases	3	UNMC
*Pediatric Pulmonology	3	UNMC
*Pediatric Hematology/Oncology	3	UNMC
<b>Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation</b>	4	UNMC
<b>Plastic Surgery</b>	3	UNMC
<b>Psychiatry</b>	4	UNMC CUMC
*Child Adolescent Psychiatry	2	CUMC
<b>Radiation Oncology</b>	5	UNMC
<b>Surgery</b>	5	UNMC CUMC
*Bariatric	1	UNMC
*Colon & Rectal Surgery	1	CUMC
*Pediatric Surgery	2	UNMC
*Transplantation	2	UNMC
*Vascular Surgery	2	UNMC

\*indicates fellowship program





# Polysomnographic Technician

## What does this profession do?

Polysomnographic technicians monitor the activity of adults and children in sleep laboratories. They gather medical information, observe patients, collect data, and summarize information for the sleep physicians. They perform therapeutic interventions using CPAP, BiPaP, and oxygen titration. Polysomnographic technologists must comply with laws, guidelines, and standards of safety and infection control. They perform routine and complex equipment care and maintenance. They must be current in CPR or basic cardiac life support.

The polysomnographic technician can work in two areas of sleep medicine; diagnostics or research. They may work in a hospital-based sleep center or in an independent sleep center. Because most people sleep at night, the technician must enjoy working nights.



## SKILLS

- Ability to work with a variety of people
- Ability to follow instructions carefully and do routine tasks
- Ability to learn principles and techniques related to sleep study
- Ability to instruct clients to assure good cooperation in carrying out studies
- Ability to score, assess, and adjust studies to provide the best test results



## EDUCATION

A two-year associate degree is preferred, or certification added to respiratory care or nursing. Education training may range in length from six months to 24 months depending on whether the student is adding this credential or going through a basic program leading to becoming a polysomnographic technician.



## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Southeast Community College – Lincoln, Online (C)



## LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists (BRPT)



## HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$57,565



## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Association of Sleep Technologists (AASST) [www.aastweb.org](http://www.aastweb.org)  
The American Academy of Sleep Medicine [www.aasmnet.org](http://www.aasmnet.org)

A = Associate Degree | B = Baccalaureate Degree | C = Certificate  
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PBC = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

PICTURE YOURSELF AS A  
POLYSOMNOGRAPHIC TECHNICIAN



# Psychologist

## What does this profession do?

Psychologists study human behavior and mental processes to understand, explain, and change people's behavior. Psychologists specialize in many different areas.

Clinical psychologists help in diagnosing and treating serious mental health disorders, especially those with a psychosis. They conduct assessments, administer tests, provide therapy, and evaluate individuals to determine the nature of their mental health conditions. Counseling psychologists advise people on how to deal with problems of everyday living – personal, social, educational, or vocational.

Developmental psychologists study the patterns and causes of behavior change as people progress through life from infancy to adulthood.

Health psychologists promote good health through health maintenance counseling programs that are designed, for example, to help people stop smoking or lose weight.

Neuropsychologists study the relation between the brain and behavior. They often work in stroke and head injury programs. The emergence and growth of these specialties reflects the increasing participation of psychologists in providing direct services to special patient populations.

Professionals in behavior analysis use principles of learning to address behavioral needs of widely varying individuals in diverse settings. Examples include: building the skills and achievements of children in school settings; enhancing the development, abilities, and choices of children and adults with autism and other kinds of disabilities.



## SKILLS

- Ability to learn complex math, sciences, and theories and methods of psychology
- Strong verbal abilities to use in reading, writing, research, and speaking
- Good math skills to do research and testing
- Ability to work with a wide variety of people
- Ability to make decisions based on data, experience, and observation
- Ability to persuade people and handle a variety of activities
- Patience and objectivity



## EDUCATION

A doctoral degree is generally required for employment as a psychologist. Five to seven years of graduate work usually are required for a doctoral degree. Persons with a master's degree in psychology can administer tests as psychological assistants. Under the supervision of doctoral level psychologists, they can conduct research in laboratories, conduct psychological evaluations, counsel patients, or perform administrative duties.



## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Bellevue University – Bellevue (B, M)
- University of Nebraska – Omaha (B, M, D)
- University of Nebraska – Lincoln (B, M, D)
- University of Nebraska – Kearney (B) Behavior Analyst
- Midland University – Fremont (B)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (D)
- University of Nebraska Omaha/University of Nebraska Medical Center Munroe-Meyer Institute (M)



## LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for a license to practice as a psychologist must have a doctorate degree from an accredited program of graduate study in professional psychology, complete two years of supervised professional experience, and pass the national standardized examination.



## HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$83,040



## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Psychological Association [www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org)  
Nebraska Psychological Association [www.nebpsych.org](http://www.nebpsych.org)

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PICTURE YOURSELF AS A PSYCHOLOGIST





# Public Health

## What does this profession do?

Public health professionals seek to assure conditions in which people can be healthy through the promotion of health and the prevention of disease, illness, and injury. Public health professionals focus their activities on populations rather than individuals. They work in a variety of settings, including government and private agencies, hospitals, and community health centers. Public health work is organized and interdisciplinary in its approach.

Some educational institutions in Nebraska offer an associate's degree or certification in public health that allow entry into the career field of public health.



### SKILLS

- Ability to learn the principles and science of public health
- Good verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to work with a variety of people
- Analytical skills and ability to make decisions based on observation and data
- Ability to supervise others and plan and implement programs
- Commitment to social justice



### EDUCATION

Applicants to the Master of Public Health program must possess a minimum four-year baccalaureate degree in any discipline.



### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Bellevue University – Bellevue (B)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (C)
- Concordia University – Seward (B, MPH)
- Creighton University – Online (MPH)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (A, C)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (D - Doctor of Nurse Practitioner, emphasis Public Health Policy)
- Northeast Community College – Norfolk – (A)
- University of Nebraska – Omaha (B)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (M, D, PBC) The Master of Public Health (MPH) Program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center offers concentrations in biostatistics, emergency preparedness, environmental and occupational health, epidemiology, health promotion, maternal and child health, and public health administration and policy.

The Doctoral Program offers with concentrations in advocacy and leadership, emergency preparedness, and epidemiology. Learning opportunities are offered to public health graduate students through UNMC's network of community-based collaborations in Omaha, the state of Nebraska, the United States, and globally.



### LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Students who graduate from a Council on Education for Public Health accredited program or school are eligible to take the National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE) Certification in Public Health exam. More information can be found at [www.nbphe.org](http://www.nbphe.org).



### HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$76,053



### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Public Health Association  
[www.apha.org](http://www.apha.org)  
Public Health Association of Nebraska  
[www.publichealthne.org](http://www.publichealthne.org)

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PICTURE YOURSELF AS A  
PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONAL



# Radiation Therapy Technologist

## What does this profession do?

A radiation therapist is an integral part of the cancer care team that manages and cares for cancer patients and is responsible for simulation, daily treatments, and patient evaluation. Using state-of-the-art technology and developing supportive bonds with patients and their families are truly rewarding aspects of this challenging career.

Radiation Therapy is a clinical specialty using high energy x-rays to treat different types of cancer and non-malignant conditions. Radiation therapy may be used alone or in conjunction with surgery and/or chemotherapy.

The number of cancer patients in the United States is projected to increase due to the aging population. Approximately 60% of all cancer patients will receive radiation therapy as part of their course of treatment. Over the next decade, the need for certified radiation therapists is expected to increase.

Knowledge of how radiation interacts within the body, having the desire to use advanced technology in the treatment of malignant and some nonmalignant conditions and wanting daily interactions with patients are important characteristics of becoming an excellent radiation therapist.



### SKILLS

- Ability to apply theory of radiation biology in a clinical setting
- Good verbal and math skills
- Ability to see differences in images and adapt the treatment accordingly
- Ability to handle a variety of activities, keep accurate records, make judgments based on data, and work within precise standards of measurement
- Ability to work with a variety of people



### EDUCATION

Successful completion of an accredited, radiography program and an additional professional certificate (12 months) in radiation therapy.



### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (PBC)



### LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

To be certified in radiation therapy, an individual must first complete a program accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology and pass the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists certification exam. Once students have completed this course of study, they may become certified in radiation therapy by completing an additional year of study and passing the national certification exam.



### HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$136,510



### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Society of Radiologic Technologists  
[www.asrt.org](http://www.asrt.org)  
American Registry of Radiologic Technologists  
[www.arrt.org](http://www.arrt.org)

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PBC = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

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PICTURE YOURSELF AS A  
RADIATION THERAPY TECHNOLOGIST



# Radiologic Technologist

## What does this profession do?

A radiologic technologist creates quality diagnostic images of the human body.

Radiography is the use of ionizing radiation to produce detailed diagnostic images of the human body. The quality of the radiographs is dependent upon the judgment, knowledge, and skill of the radiologic technologist who assists the Radiologist (a physician specially trained in radiology to diagnose disease and injury) by operating highly technical equipment safely and efficiently. The radiologic technician must have a solid foundation in anatomy, physics, biology, and the professional and technical disciplines related to radiologic science.

Radiologic technologists often specialize in second certification modalities such as mammography, computerized tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, and cardiovascular interventional technology, sonography, and bone densitometry.



## SKILLS

- Ability to learn the principles and techniques of radiologic technology
- Good verbal communication skills and math abilities
- Good eye-hand coordination, manual dexterity, space and form perception, and ability to see differences in objects
- Ability to handle a variety of activities, keep accurate records, make judgments based on data, and work within precise standards of measurement
- Ability to work with a variety of people



## EDUCATION

Completion of an accredited radiography program offered by a hospital or college is required.



## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- CHI Health – Omaha (B)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (A, B, C)
- Mary Lanning Healthcare – Hastings (A, B, C)
- University of Nebraska – Kearney - Hastings College (B) and Mary Lanning both offer bachelor's degree in combination program
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (A, B, C)
- Regional West Medical Center – Scottsbluff (A)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (A)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Kearney, Omaha (B)



## LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An individual seeking certification must complete a program approved by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology and pass an exam to be certified by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. Registered technologists may become certified in radiation therapy or nuclear medicine by completing an additional year of study.



## HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$67,530



## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Society of Radiologic Technologists  
[www.asrt.org](http://www.asrt.org)  
American Registry of Radiologic Technologists  
[www.arrt.org](http://www.arrt.org)

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PBC = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate



PICTURE YOURSELF AS  
RADIOLOGIC TECHNICIAN

# Registered Dietitian Nutritionist

## What does this profession do?

Registered dietitian nutritionists (RDN)/ medical nutrition therapists are food and nutrition experts who work in a wide variety of employment settings, including healthcare, business, public health, education, research, and private practice.

In healthcare, registered dietitian nutritionists/medical nutrition therapists educate patients about nutrition and administer medical nutrition therapy as part of the healthcare team. They may also teach nurses, physicians, other healthcare professionals and students about nutrition and its role in patient care. Registered dietitian nutritionists with an administrative focus may also manage the food service operations in these settings. They may also conduct research relating to nutrition and health in university or private industry settings.



## SKILLS

- Ability to learn the principles of nutritional science and dietetics
- Strong verbal abilities for reading, writing, and communicating
- Ability to keep records, visualize space and form relations, and work with scientific data
- Planning and organizing skills, resourcefulness, and ability to work under pressure
- Ability to supervise and train others
- Ability to get along with a variety of people



## EDUCATION

Commission on Dietetics Registration (CDR) will require a minimum of a master's degree to be eligible to take the credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN).



## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- University of Nebraska – Lincoln (M)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (M)



## LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Effective January 1, 2024, the requirement for eligibility to take the registered dietitian nutritionist exam moved from a baccalaureate to a master's degree. The program and a supervised practice/dietetic internship program must be accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics, the accrediting agency for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Typically, the supervised practice program/dietetic internship follows the degree program and is six to twelve months in length. Then the applicant must pass a national examination administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration. To provide medical nutrition therapy in Nebraska, the registered dietitian must become licensed by the Nebraska Board of Examiners in Medical Nutrition Therapy.



## HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$61,570



## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
[www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org)  
Nebraska Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
[www.eatrightpro.org](http://www.eatrightpro.org)

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PBC = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate



PICTURE YOURSELF AS A  
REGISTERED DIETITIAN NUTRITIONIST



# Respiratory Therapist

## What does this profession do?

Respiratory therapists are healthcare professionals who evaluate and treat people with heart and lung diseases. These range from acute respiratory tract infections and pneumonia to asthma, chronic lower respiratory disease, and cystic fibrosis. These professionals work closely with physicians to create a treatment plan and determine the level of care through patient assessments and advanced diagnostic testing.

Respiratory therapists collaborate with patients throughout their lifespan, from a neonate that takes their first breaths, to older patients managing their pulmonary care plan. A respiratory therapist can educate on the prevention of chronic lung disease and save lives by working in emergency situations with patients and in critical care units.



## ★ SKILLS

- Ability to learn principles and techniques of respiratory therapy
- Good manual dexterity and general coordination
- Ability to work with a variety of people
- Ability to carry out a variety of tasks, work according to set standards, and make decisions based on data
- Good space and form perception
- Good numerical skills and verbal ability to understand orders and give directions

## 📖 EDUCATION

Educational training programs may range in length from 18 months to four years. A bachelor's degree is awarded to those completing four years of training; those studying for lesser time periods earn associate degrees or certificates.

## 📖 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Mary Lanning Healthcare – Hastings (A)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (A)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (A, B)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (A)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha, Kearney (M)
- Wayne State College – Wayne (B)

## 👤 LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for a license to practice respiratory care must be at least 18 years of age, complete a high school program or equivalent, finish an approved training program, and pass the licensure examination.

## 💰 HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$70,860

## 👥 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Association for Respiratory Care  
[www.aarc.org](http://www.aarc.org)  
The National Board for Respiratory Care  
[www.nbrc.org](http://www.nbrc.org)  
Nebraska Society for Respiratory Care  
[www.nsrc-online.org](http://www.nsrc-online.org)

A = Associate Degree | B = Baccalaureate Degree | C = Certificate  
D = Doctorate | M = Master's Degree | P = Diploma  
PBC = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

PICTURE YOURSELF AS A  
RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

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# Social Worker

## What does this profession do?

Social workers help people. They help individuals cope with problems such as inadequate housing, lack of job skills, financial mismanagement, prolonged illness, disability, substance abuse, or unintended pregnancy. They also work with families that have serious conflicts, including those involving child or spousal abuse.

Most social workers specialize in a clinical field. Clinical social workers offer psychotherapy or counseling and a range of services in public agencies, clinics, as well as in private practice.

Mental health social workers provide services for persons with mental or emotional disorders. These services include individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, social rehabilitation, and training in skills of everyday living. They may also help plan supportive services to ease patients' return to the community.

Medical social workers help patients and their families cope with chronic, acute, or terminal illnesses and handle problems that may stand in the way of recovery. They also advise family caregivers, and help plan for patient needs after discharge by arranging for at-home services. Some work on interdisciplinary teams that evaluate certain kinds of patients such as geriatric or transplant patients.



## ★ SKILLS

- Ability to learn the principles and methods of social work and community organization
- Good verbal and math skills
- Ability to listen to people and to be persuasive
- Ability to keep records and write reports
- Ability to direct, organize, and plan projects, treatments, and programs
- Ability to make decisions based on experience and observation
- Objectivity and sensitivity to people and their problems

## 📖 EDUCATION

A Master of Social Work (MSW) degree is usually the minimum requirement for employment. A Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree is adequate for a few entry-level positions. A doctoral degree is necessary for most teaching and some supervisory positions.

## 📖 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Chadron State College – Chadron (B)
- Creighton University – Omaha (B)
- Nebraska Wesleyan University – Lincoln (B, M)
- Union Adventist University – Lincoln (B)
- University of Nebraska – Kearney, Online Program (B)
- University of Nebraska – Omaha (B, M)

## 👤 LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for certification to practice as a social worker must have a bachelor's or master's degree in social work from an approved program.

To be certified to practice as a master social worker, an applicant must have a master's or doctorate degree in social work from an approved program, have three thousand (3,000) hours of experience practicing social work, and have passed the certification exam.

## 💰 HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$57,840

## 👥 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National Association of Social Workers  
[www.socialworkers.org](http://www.socialworkers.org)  
Nebraska Chapter: National Association of Social Workers | [www.naswne.org](http://www.naswne.org)

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PBC = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

PICTURE YOURSELF AS A SOCIAL WORKER

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# Speech-Language Pathologist & Audiologist

## What does this profession do?

Speech-language pathologists assess and treat patients with speech, language, voice, and fluency disorders. Audiologists assess and treat those with hearing and related disorders.

Speech-language pathologists work with people who cannot make speech sounds, or cannot make them clearly; those with speech rhythm and fluency problems, such as stuttering; people with speech quality problems, such as inappropriate pitch or harsh voice; and those with problems understanding and producing language. They may also work with people who have oral motor problems that cause eating and swallowing difficulties.

Audiologists work with people who have hearing and related problems. They use audiometers and other testing devices to measure the loudness at which a person begins to hear sounds, the ability to distinguish between sounds, and other tests of the nature and extent of their hearing loss.

Most speech-language pathologists and audiologists provide direct clinical services to individuals with communication disorders. In speech, language and hearing clinics, they may independently develop and carry out a treatment program. In medical facilities, they may work with physicians, social workers, psychologists, and other therapists to develop and execute a treatment plan.



## ★ SKILLS

- Ability to learn the principles and practices of audiology and speech pathology
- Good verbal skills to read scientific literature, evaluate physical problems, and communicate with people
- Ability to keep accurate records, direct projects, and make decisions based on data and observations
- Ability to hear well and speak clearly
- Patience and an interest in helping people
- Good space and form perception and manual dexterity

## 📖 EDUCATION

The minimum educational requirement is a four-year bachelor's degree in audiology or speech pathology or in teacher education with courses in speech and hearing therapy. Most employers in private practice require a master's degree.

## 📄 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

Audiology

- University of Nebraska – Lincoln (D)

Speech-Language Pathology

- University of Nebraska – Omaha (B, M, PBC)
- University of Nebraska – Kearney (B, M)
- University of Nebraska – Lincoln (B, M, D)

## 👤 LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for a license to practice audiology and speech-language pathology must be at least 19 years of age, have a master's degree in audiology or speech-language pathology from an approved program, complete a clinical fellowship year, and pass the licensure or obtain an endorsement by a nationwide professional accrediting organization.

## 💰 HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$80,080

## 👥 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
[www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)

Nebraska Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
[www.nslha.org](http://www.nslha.org)

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D = Doctorate | M = Master's Degree | P = Diploma  
PBC = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

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PICTURE YOURSELF AS A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST OR AUDIOLOGIST

# Surgical Technologist/Assistant

## What does this profession do?

A surgical technologist is an allied health professional who works closely with surgeons, anesthesiologists or anesthetists, registered nurses, and other surgical personnel delivering patient care and assuming appropriate responsibilities before, during, and after surgery.

Surgical technologists perform a wide variety of tasks in the operating room. Their main role is to maintain the sterile field and hand the necessary instruments, supplies and equipment to the surgeon and members of the operating room team during surgery. Surgical technologists may also assist during surgery by holding retractors, cutting sutures, suctioning the wound, and applying dressings.

Additional responsibilities include setting up the operating room in preparation for a procedure, care and handling of instruments after the procedure, and gathering supplies, instruments and equipment for the next day's procedures.



## ★ SKILLS

- Ability to learn operating room procedures
- Ability to communicate with staff and follow written and spoken directions
- Good spatial and form perception, physical coordination, and dexterity
- Ability to make decisions based on prescribed standards or directions and to handle paperwork and detailed procedures accurately
- Ability to relate to a variety of people
- Ability to stand for long periods of time
- Ability to react calmly in emergency situations

## 📖 EDUCATION

Most employers prefer to hire surgical technologists who have been trained in one- to two-year specialized programs in vocational and technical schools or community colleges.

## 📄 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (A)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln, Available Online (A)
- Western Nebraska Community College – Scottsbluff (A)

## 👤 LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Licensing is not required, but certification by the Association of Surgical Technologists adds professional prestige and increases job opportunities. Continuing education or reexamination is required to maintain certification, which must be renewed every six years.

## 💰 HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$60,270

## 👥 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Association of Surgical Technologists  
[www.ast.org](http://www.ast.org)

A = Associate Degree | B = Baccalaureate Degree | C = Certificate  
D = Doctorate | M = Master's Degree | P = Diploma  
PBC = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

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PICTURE YOURSELF AS A SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST/ASSISTANT



# Sonographer

## What does this profession do?

Sonographers are healthcare professionals who utilize their technical expertise, knowledge of human anatomy, and the physical principles of ultrasound to produce diagnostic images of the body.

Ultrasound is used to evaluate many parts of the body, including the heart, abdomen, blood vessels, developing fetus, superficial body structures, and neonatal brains. The sound waves used to obtain these images are at a frequency above the range of human hearing. Sonographers create images of structures by scanning the patient with a transducer that emits high frequency sound waves. The images are interpreted by a physician who provides the medical diagnosis.

Sonographers must take a thorough patient history, explain the procedure to the patient and put the patient at ease. They must operate equipment to produce quality images and review all of the findings with the radiologist.



## ★ SKILLS

- Interact compassionately and effectively with people who range from healthy to critically ill
- Operate high-tech equipment to create and interpret images used by physicians to make a medical diagnosis
- Use independent judgment and critical thinking to extend the scope of the procedure according to the diagnostic findings
- Analyze technical information
- Provide an oral or written summary of the technical findings to the physician for medical diagnosis
- Collaborate and communicate with other members of the healthcare team

## 📖 EDUCATION

The minimum educational requirement for a sonographer is usually completion of a CAAHEP accredited program that may be two or four years in duration.

## 📚 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Bryan College of Health Sciences – Lincoln **(B)**
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha **(A, B)**
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha **(B, PBC)**

## 👤 LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Licensing is not required, but to demonstrate proficiency, a person must take the national certifying exams from the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers.

## 💰 HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I MAKE?

Average: \$80,900

## 👥 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers | [www.ardms.org](http://www.ardms.org)  
Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography  
[www.jrcdms.org](http://www.jrcdms.org)  
Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography  
[www.sdms.org](http://www.sdms.org)

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**PBC** = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

# Other Health Professions

The purpose of this book is to increase awareness about health careers and highlight those careers for which Nebraska's many institutions of higher learning can provide education and training. For more information about these professions, you can explore the websites listed below. Some of the professions listed do not have training programs in Nebraska. Note, this list is not meant to be exhaustive.

You can also look for information on the American Medical Association (AMA) site at [www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org) and at [www.explorehealthcareers.org](http://www.explorehealthcareers.org)

## ACUPUNCTURIST

Practices a form of traditional Chinese medicine which involves the insertion of fine needles into precise locations on the body to stimulate the body's own healing processes. Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine | [www.acaom.org](http://www.acaom.org)

## BIOMEDICAL ENGINEER

Uses engineering techniques to solve medical problems. Designs and develops medical equipment and instruments such as artificial limbs, pacemakers, or imaging equipment. Biomedical Engineering Society | [www.bmes.org](http://www.bmes.org)  
Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation | [www.aami.org](http://www.aami.org)

## BIOMEDICAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN (BMET)

Is responsible for servicing and maintaining medical equipment and technology. Skilled technicians help acquire, install, use, maintain, and train healthcare personnel to use cutting-edge medical equipment. Heartland Biomedical Association | [heartlandbiomed.org](http://heartlandbiomed.org)  
Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation | [www.aami.org](http://www.aami.org)

## CHILD LIFE SPECIALIST

Works with children and families in hospitals and other healthcare settings; uses play and other forms of communication to reduce the stress of the hospital/treatment experience. Association of Child Life Professionals | [www.childlife.org](http://www.childlife.org)

## CHIROPRACTOR

Practices a drug-free, hands-on approach to healthcare that includes patient examination, diagnosis, and treatment emphasizing the spine and its relationship to the joints. American Chiropractic Association | [www.acatoday.org](http://www.acatoday.org)

## GERONTOLOGIST

Studies the process of aging; may also work directly with the elderly by developing programs, providing care, or administering services to the elderly population. Gerontological Society of America | [www.geron.org](http://www.geron.org)

## OPTICIAN

Makes prescription eyeglasses and contact lenses according to the specifications of optometrists or ophthalmologists. Opticians Association of America | [www.oaa.org](http://www.oaa.org)



CONTINUED  
**Other Health  
Professions**

**OPTOMETRIC ASSISTANT/TECH**

Works directly for a doctor of optometry, performing a variety of tasks, which may include record-keeping, assisting with frame selection, dispensing contact lenses and operating eye testing equipment.

American Optometric Association | [www.aoa.org](http://www.aoa.org)

**OPTOMETRIST**

Diagnoses and treats eye conditions; evaluates vision and determines if corrective lenses are needed.

American Academy of Optometry | [www.aaopt.org](http://www.aaopt.org)

**ORTHOTIST/PROSTHETIST**

The orthotist designs and fits devices for patients who have disabling conditions of the limbs and spine. The prosthetist designs and fits devices for patients who have partial or total absence of a limb.

American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists

[www.oandp.org](http://www.oandp.org)

**PODIATRIST**

Diagnoses and treats disorders of the foot and ankle, using medical, surgical, and biomechanical techniques.

American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine

[www.aacpm.org](http://www.aacpm.org)

**VETERINARIAN**

The Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) protects the health and welfare of animals, diagnoses and treats sick animals, prevents the transmission of animal diseases to people, and advises owners on proper care of pets and livestock.

American Veterinary Medical Association

[www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges

[www.aavmc.org](http://www.aavmc.org)

**VETERINARY TECHNICIAN**

Assists veterinarians in providing medical and other services to animals; takes animals to treatment rooms, prepares animals for surgery, performs tests, and provides client education.

National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America

[www.navta.net](http://www.navta.net)

*Nebraska*  
**Health Career  
Institutions**

**ALLIANCE**

**Western Nebraska  
Community College**

Alliance Campus  
1750 Sweetwater  
Alliance, NE 69301  
(308) 763-2000

[www.wncc.edu](http://www.wncc.edu)

**BEATRICE**

**Southeast Community College**

Beatrice Campus  
4771 W. Scott Rd.  
Beatrice, NE 68310-7042  
(402) 228-3468 / (800) 233-5027

[www.southeast.edu](http://www.southeast.edu)

**BELLEVUE**

**Bellevue University**

1000 Galvin Road South  
Bellevue, NE 68005  
(402) 293-2000 / (800) 756-7920

[www.bellevue.edu](http://www.bellevue.edu)

**CHADRON**

**Chadron State College**

1000 Main Street  
Chadron, NE 69337  
(308) 432-6000 / (800) 242-3766

[www.csc.edu](http://www.csc.edu)

**COLUMBUS**

**Central Community College**

4500 63rd Street  
P.O. Box 1027  
Columbus, NE 68602-1027  
(402) 564-7132 / (877) 222-0780

[www.cccneb.edu](http://www.cccneb.edu)

**FREMONT**

**Midland University**

900 North Clarkson  
Fremont, NE 68025-4200  
(402) 941-6503 / (800) 642-8382

[www.midlandu.edu](http://www.midlandu.edu)

**GERING**

**University of Nebraska Medical  
Center**

College of Dentistry  
Dental Hygiene-West Division  
Community Action Partnership  
of Western Nebraska  
3350 10th Street  
Gering, NE 69341-1700  
(308) 633-3330

[www.unmc.edu/dentistry](http://www.unmc.edu/dentistry)

**GRAND ISLAND**

**Central Community College**

3134 West Highway 34  
P.O. Box 4903  
Grand Island, NE 68802-4903  
(308) 398-4222 / (877) 222-0780

[www.cccneb.edu](http://www.cccneb.edu)

**HASTINGS**

**Central Community College**

East Highway 6  
P.O. Box 1024  
Hastings, NE 68902-1024  
(402) 463-9811 / (877) 222-0780

[www.cccneb.edu](http://www.cccneb.edu)

**Mary Lanning Memorial  
Hospital**

715 North St. Joseph  
Hastings, NE 68901  
(402) 461-5128

[www.marylanning.org/education](http://www.marylanning.org/education)

**HOLDREGE**

**Central Community College**

Holdrege Center  
1308 2nd Street  
Holdrege, NE 68949  
(308) 995-8133 / (877) 222-0780

[www.cccneb.edu](http://www.cccneb.edu)

**KEARNEY**

**Central Community College**

Kearney Center  
1215 30th Ave, PO Box 310  
Kearney, NE 68848  
(308) 338-4000

[www.cccneb.edu](http://www.cccneb.edu)

**University of Nebraska-  
Kearney**

905 West 25th Street  
Kearney, NE 68849  
(308) 865-8620

[www.unk.edu](http://www.unk.edu)





# Nebraska Health Career Institutions

CONTINUED

## University of Nebraska Medical Center

College of Nursing – Kearney Division  
2402 University Drive  
Kearney, NE 68849-4510  
(308) 865-8323  
[www.unmc.edu/nursing](http://www.unmc.edu/nursing)

## LEXINGTON

### Central Community College

Lexington Center  
1501 Plum Creek Pkwy,  
P.O. Box 827  
Lexington, NE 68850  
(308) 324-8480 / (877) 222-0780  
[www.cccneb.edu](http://www.cccneb.edu)

## LINCOLN

### Bryan College of Health Sciences

1535 S 52nd Street  
Lincoln, NE 68506-1398  
(402) 481-3801 /  
(800) 742-7844 ext 13801  
[www.bryanhealthcollege.edu/bcohs/](http://www.bryanhealthcollege.edu/bcohs/)

### Doane University

1014 Bosell Ave  
Crete, NE 68333  
(402) 826-2161  
[www.doane.edu](http://www.doane.edu)

### Nebraska Wesleyan University

5000 Saint Paul Avenue  
Lincoln, NE 68504-2796  
(402) 466-2371 / (800) 541-3818  
[www.nebrwesleyan.edu](http://www.nebrwesleyan.edu)

### Southeast Community College

Lincoln Campus  
8800 “O” Street  
Lincoln, NE 68520-1299  
(402) 471-3333 / (800) 642-4075  
[www.southeast.edu](http://www.southeast.edu)

### Union Adventist University

3800 South 48th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68506  
(402) 488-2331 / (800) 228-4600  
[www.uau.edu](http://www.uau.edu)

### University of Nebraska-Lincoln

1400 R Street  
Lincoln, NE 68588  
(402) 472-2711 or (800) 742-8800  
[www.unl.edu](http://www.unl.edu)

### University of Nebraska Medical Center

College of Dentistry  
4000 East Campus Loop South  
Box 830470  
Lincoln, NE 68583-0740  
(402) 472-1333  
[www.unmc.edu/dentistry](http://www.unmc.edu/dentistry)

### University of Nebraska Medical Center

College of Nursing – Lincoln Division  
550 N 19th St  
Lincoln, NE 68588  
(402) 472-3657  
[www.unmc.edu/nursing](http://www.unmc.edu/nursing)

## MCCOOK

### McCook Community College

A division of Mid-Plains Community College  
1205 East 3rd Street  
McCook, NE 69001  
(308) 345-8100 / (800) 658-4348  
[www.mpcc.edu](http://www.mpcc.edu)

## NORFOLK

### Northeast Community College

801 East Benjamin Avenue  
P.O. Box 469  
Norfolk, NE 68701  
(402) 371-2020 / (800) 348-9033  
[www.northeast.edu](http://www.northeast.edu)

### University of Nebraska Medical Center

College of Nursing – Northern Division  
801 East Benjamin Avenue  
Norfolk, NE 68701-0812  
(402) 844-7890  
[www.unmc.edu/nursing](http://www.unmc.edu/nursing)

## NORTH PLATTE

### Mid-Plains Community College

South Campus  
601 West State Farm Road  
North Platte, NE 69101  
(800) 658-4308  
[www.mpcc.edu](http://www.mpcc.edu)

### Mid-Plains Community College

North Campus  
1101 Halligan Drive  
North Platte, NE 69101  
(800) 658-4308  
[www.mpcc.edu](http://www.mpcc.edu)

## OMAHA

### Clarkson College

101 South 42nd Street  
Omaha, NE 68131  
(402) 552-3100  
[www.clarksoncollege.edu](http://www.clarksoncollege.edu)

### College of Saint Mary

7000 Mercy Road  
Omaha, NE 68106  
(402) 399-2400 / (800) 926-5534  
[www.csm.edu](http://www.csm.edu)

### Creighton Health Sciences

2500 California Plaza  
P.O. Box 3266  
Omaha, NE 68178  
(402) 280-2703  
[www.creighton.edu](http://www.creighton.edu)

### Metropolitan Community College

P.O. Box 3777  
Omaha, NE 68103-0777  
(402) 457-2400 / (800) 228-9553  
[www.mccneb.edu](http://www.mccneb.edu)

### Nebraska Methodist College

720 North 87th Street  
Omaha, NE 68114  
(402) 354-7000 / (800) 335-5510  
[www.methodistcollege.edu](http://www.methodistcollege.edu)

### University of Nebraska Medical Center

School of Allied Health Professions  
985150 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198-6673  
(402) 559-6673  
[www.unmc.edu/alliedhealth](http://www.unmc.edu/alliedhealth)

### University of Nebraska Medical Center

College of Medicine  
986585 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198-6585  
(402) 559-2259  
[www.unmc.edu/com](http://www.unmc.edu/com)

### University of Nebraska Medical Center

College of Nursing  
985330 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198-5330  
(402) 559-4113  
[www.unmc.edu/nursing](http://www.unmc.edu/nursing)

### University of Nebraska Medical Center

College of Pharmacy  
986000 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198-6000  
(402) 559-4333  
[www.unmc.edu/pharmacy](http://www.unmc.edu/pharmacy)

### University of Nebraska Medical Center

College of Public Health  
987850 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198-7850  
(402) 559-4960  
[www.unmc.edu/publichealth/](http://www.unmc.edu/publichealth/)

### University of Nebraska Medical Center

Munroe Meyer Institute  
985450 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198-5450  
(402) 559-6418  
[www.unmc.edu/mmi](http://www.unmc.edu/mmi)

### University of Nebraska – Omaha

6001 Dodge Street  
Omaha, NE 68182  
(402) 554-2800 / (800) 858-8648  
[www.unomaha.edu](http://www.unomaha.edu)

## SCOTTSBLUFF

### Regional West Medical Center

4021 Avenue B  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361  
(308) 630-1155  
[www.rwhs.org/sort](http://www.rwhs.org/sort)

### University of Nebraska Medical Center

College of Nursing, West Nebraska Division  
WNCC – Harms Building  
1601 E 27th Street  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361  
(308) 632-0410  
[www.unmc.edu/nursing](http://www.unmc.edu/nursing)

### Western Nebraska Community College

1601 East 27th Street  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361  
(308) 635-3606  
[www.wncc.edu](http://www.wncc.edu)

## SIDNEY

### Western Nebraska Community College

Sidney Campus  
371 College Drive  
Sidney, NE 69162  
(308) 254-5450  
[www.wncc.edu](http://www.wncc.edu)

## WAYNE

### Wayne State College

1111 Main Street  
Wayne, NE 68787  
(866) WSC-CATS  
[www.wsc.edu](http://www.wsc.edu)





Use this grid to see what health profession programs are offered at the institution you are interested in.

	Bellevue University	Bryan College HS	Central Community College	Chadron State	CHI Health	Clarkson College	College of St. Mary	Concordia University	Creighton University	Doane University	Hastings College	Mary Lanning Hospital
Athletic Trainer												
Behavioral Health	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Lab Science/Med Technologist			✓									
Cardiovascular Interventional Tech												
Clinical Perfusionist												
Community Health Worker					✓			✓				
Counselor	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓			
Cytotechnologist												
Dental Assistant			✓									
Dental Hygienist			✓									
Dentist								✓				
Dietary Manager												
EMT			✓					✓				
Genetic Counselor												
Healthcare Administrator	✓					✓		✓				
Health Information Services			✓			✓						
Human Services Worker	✓		✓			✓			✓			
Medical Assistant			✓			✓						
Medical Interpreter							✓					
Medical Coder			✓			✓						
Medical Research Scientist	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Medical Transcriptionist												
Medication Aide				✓		✓						
Nursing - CNA		✓	✓			✓						
Nursing - LPN			✓				✓					
Nursing - RN	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Nursing - NP						✓			✓			
Nursing - Nurse Anesthetist		✓				✓						
Occupational Therapist						✓		✓				
Occupational Therapist Assistant			✓									
Pharmacist									✓			
Pharmacy Tech			✓									
Phlebotomist		✓				✓						
Physical Therapist							✓		✓			
Physical Therapist Assistant						✓						
Physician									✓			
Physician Assistant							✓		✓			
Polysomnographic Technologist												
Psychologist	✓											
Public Health	✓					✓		✓				
Radiation Therapy Tech												
Radiologic Technologist				✓	✓					✓	✓	
Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist												
Respiratory Therapist												✓
Social Worker				✓				✓				
Sonographer		✓										
Speech Lang Path/Audiologist												
Surgical Technologist/Assistant												

	Metropolitan Community College	Midland University	Mid-Plains Community College	NE Methodist College	NE Wesleyan	Northwest Community College	Peru State	Regional W. Med Center	Southeast Community College	Union Adventist Univ	Univ of NE - Kearney	Univ of NE - Lincoln	Univ of NE - Omaha	Univ of NE - Med Center	Wayne State College	Western Nebraska Community College
Athletic Trainer		✓			✓					✓	✓	✓				
Behavioral Health	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lab Science/Med Technologist			✓	✓					✓				✓		✓	
Cardiovascular Interventional Tech													✓			
Clinical Perfusionist													✓			
Community Health Worker						✓							✓			
Counselor										✓	✓	✓			✓	
Cytotechnologist													✓			
Dental Assistant	✓		✓						✓							
Dental Hygienist													✓			
Dentist													✓			
Dietary Manager								✓		✓						
EMT	✓		✓					✓		✓						✓
Genetic Counselor													✓			
Healthcare Administrator						✓			✓				✓			
Health Information Services	✓								✓				✓			✓
Human Services Worker	✓		✓			✓				✓						
Medical Assistant	✓		✓			✓				✓						
Medical Interpreter	✓															
Medical Coder	✓								✓							✓
Medical Research Scientist		✓				✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Medical Transcriptionist	✓															
Medication Aide	✓			✓		✓				✓						✓
Nursing - CNA	✓			✓		✓				✓						✓
Nursing - LPN	✓		✓				✓			✓						✓
Nursing - RN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓
Nursing - NP														✓		
Nursing - Nurse Anesthetist																
Occupational Therapist								✓							✓	
Occupational Therapist Assistant										✓						
Pharmacist																✓
Pharmacy Tech										✓						✓
Phlebotomist	✓															✓
Physical Therapist																✓
Physical Therapist Assistant										✓						
Physician																✓
Physician Assistant														✓		
Polysomnographic Technologist										✓						
Psychologist											✓	✓	✓	✓		
Public Health	✓												✓	✓		
Radiation Therapy Tech																✓
Radiologic Technologist									✓	✓		✓				✓
Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist													✓			✓
Respiratory Therapist	✓	✓		✓						✓					✓	
Social Worker	✓									✓	✓		✓			
Sonographer																✓
Speech Lang Path/Audiologist											✓	✓	✓			
Surgical Technologist/Assistant										✓						✓



# PLACES TO WORK

## USUAL PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

Consider exploring various options to find the best fit for your interests and career goals. While this list highlights many potential places of employment, there are numerous other settings where you can make a meaningful impact in healthcare.



Hospitals, including community, psychiatric and other specialty hospitals



Home health organizations



Medical and dental laboratories



Dental offices and clinics



Durable medical equipment distributors



Pharmacies



Public health



Professional education programs that train healthcare professionals



Nursing and personal care facilities, including skilled nursing care facilities, memory care facilities and rehabilitation facilities



Physician's offices and clinics, as well as offices and clinics of non-physician providers such as physical therapy



Public health departments



Federally qualified health centers (FQHC) / community health centers



Rural health clinics



Emergency Medical Service Providers





# High School Alliance



Started in 2010 and under the leadership of the vice chancellor for external affairs and then moved to academic affairs, the High School Alliance is a health sciences enrichment program that partners with the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and public school districts in the greater Omaha area.

### What is the High School Alliance?

The UNMC High School Alliance is a partnership between the University of Nebraska Medical Center and public school districts in the greater Omaha area. The program is designed to offer unique and innovative health science classes to high school juniors and seniors.

Alliance students will take classes that are not available in the traditional high school setting. These classes are taught in partnership by UNMC faculty and certified high school teachers on the UNMC campus.

### Who is involved in this program?

School districts that participate in the program include:

- |                               |                                  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Bellevue Public               | Gretna Public                    |
| Bennington Public             | Millard Public                   |
| Council Bluffs Community      | Omaha Public                     |
| Douglas County West Community | Ralston Public                   |
| ESU #3*                       | Springfield Platteview Community |
| Elkhorn Public                | Westside Community               |

\* Non Douglas/Sarpy county schools with school district approval

### How do I apply for the HSA program?

Applications are available online. Visit [www.unmc.edu/alliance](http://www.unmc.edu/alliance) to find the application. Please review eligibility requirements before applying. Applications become available in November and must be submitted to UNMC by January.

### Who is eligible?

Students from participating school districts are eligible to apply. Eligible students must meet each of the following criteria:

- Be a junior or senior and at least 16 years of age at the beginning of the school year.
- Have completed and received a grade of "B" or above in Algebra 1, Biology, a physical science course, and a third year of science.
- Obtain parent/guardian permission.
- Be enrolled in a participating high school for the entire school year.
- Be on track for graduation.
- Complete an in-person interview.

# Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP)

**Healthcare.** These are two special words when you live in the sparsely populated regions of rural Nebraska.

If your career interest is in healthcare, you can help meet the needs of rural Nebraska through the Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP), a cooperative venture of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), Chadron State College (CSC), Wayne State College (WSC), and Peru State College (PSC).

### What is the Rural Health Opportunities Program?

This program addresses the special needs of rural Nebraska by encouraging rural residents to pursue healthcare careers. If selected, you obtain admission into participating UNMC colleges upon completion of studies at CSC, WSC, or PSC.

### Who is involved in this program?

The program involves UNMC, CSC, WSC, and PSC students. RHOP includes preparatory courses for dental hygiene, dentistry, medical laboratory science, medicine\*, nursing, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant, public health, and radiography programs. \*Medicine is offered at CSC and WSC only.

### How do I apply for the RHOP program?

Online applications are available from Health Professions websites at CSC, PSC, and WSC.

For programs at Chadron, go to: <https://www.csc.edu/academics/sci/pre-health-professions/rhop/>

For programs at Peru, go to: [www.peru.edu/rhop](http://www.peru.edu/rhop)

For programs at Wayne, go to: [www.wsc.edu/rhop](http://www.wsc.edu/rhop)

### How will students be selected?

RHOP was designed for rural Nebraska students who are interested in practicing in small communities throughout Nebraska. The criteria for selection include:

- Academic potential
- Commitment to practice in rural Nebraska
- Residency in a rural Nebraska community

## CONTACT

UNMC High School Alliance  
985330 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198-5330  
(402) 559-3027  
[unmchsalliance@unmc.edu](mailto:unmchsalliance@unmc.edu)  
[www.unmc.edu/alliance](http://www.unmc.edu/alliance)

## HOW TO APPLY

For an application or more information about the Rural Health Opportunities Program

### Health Professions Office

Chadron State College  
1000 Main Street  
Chadron, NE 69337  
(308) 432-6278  
[hpoffice@csc.edu](mailto:hpoffice@csc.edu)

### Health Professions Office

Wayne State College  
1111 Main Street  
Wayne, NE 68787  
(402) 375-7329  
[preprof@wsc.edu](mailto:preprof@wsc.edu)

### Peru State College

600 Hoyt Street  
Peru, NE 68421  
(402) 872-2208  
[admissions@peru.edu](mailto:admissions@peru.edu)

### Visit

[Chadron State College RHOP](#) | [Wayne State College RHOP](#) | [Peru State College RHOP](#)



# Kearney Health Opportunities Program (KHOP)

# Urban Health Opportunities Program (UHOP)

## What is the KHOP program?

The Kearney Health Opportunities Program (KHOP) is a cooperative program between the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK) and the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). The purpose is to recruit high school students from rural Nebraska and prepare them to return and practice healthcare in rural Nebraska. This program represents a commitment and dedication to the education of Nebraskans and quality healthcare for citizens of the state.

## KHOP Program Highlights

- Receive a full tuition scholarship at UNK for up to 120 credit hours
- Participate in a Freshmen Learning Community and mentoring program for KHOP students that includes a partial room scholarship
- Follow a special curriculum and participate in professional development activities at UNK that will prepare them for their healthcare program at UNMC
- Receive admission to their specified healthcare program at UNMC upon satisfactory completion of all requirements within the prescribed timeline

## Requirements for KHOP Eligibility

- Have a sincere interest in becoming a healthcare provider in: Dental Hygiene, Dentistry, Medical Laboratory Science, Medicine, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant, Public Health, or Radiography.
- Have a willingness to practice healthcare in rural Nebraska.
- Must receive a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Have scored a minimum ACT composite of 23 or above before the application deadline.
  - Must be a rural Nebraska resident. Students from the following cities and towns are not considered rural and therefore are not eligible: Omaha, Ralston, Boys Town, Elkhorn, Lincoln, Bellevue, Papillion, LaVista, Chalco, Offutt Air Force Base.

## How are program participants selected?

KHOP applications will be reviewed by a committee and finalists will be selected in January. Finalists will participate in an interview with representatives from UNMC and UNK.

All students accepted to the KHOP program must maintain the academic requirements set forth in the Program Standards.

Students are also expected to participate in professional development activities.

## HOW DO I APPLY?

The application deadline is December 1st. Students must apply to UNK as the first step in the process. Once admitted, students may access the KHOP application inside the My Blue student portal anytime after September 1.

## Contact Information:

KHOP Scholars Program  
Peggy Abels, Program Director  
University of Nebraska at Kearney UNK Health Sciences  
2401 11th Avenue  
Kearney, NE 68849  
(308) 865-8260  
Email: [abelsp@unk.edu](mailto:abelsp@unk.edu)

## What is the UHOP program?

The purpose of the Urban Health Opportunities Program is to enhance the healthcare workforce serving medically underserved populations in urban Nebraska by identifying and preparing qualified students to enter and succeed in health professions training.

UHOP is expanding. Check the UHOP website at [cas.unomaha.edu/uhop](http://cas.unomaha.edu/uhop) for currently available health professions programs.

## UHOP Program Highlights

- Tuition remission and assistance at UNO
- Automatic UNO Pre-medical Committee sponsorship for UHOP Medicine scholars
- Mentoring by UNMC health professions students
- Entrance exam preparation assistance
- Opportunities to provide mentorship
- Successful program completion results in guaranteed admission to the applicable UNMC Professional School program

## Requirements for UHOP Eligibility

- Apply as a high school senior
- U.S. Citizenship or Permanent Residency
- Nebraska Residency
- High School GPA and ACT Composite and Math Score as listed for the specified programs on the [UHOP webpage](#)
- Recommendation letters
- Demonstrate a strong interest in a health career in medically underserved areas of urban Nebraska

## How are program participants selected?

UHOP applicants are reviewed by a committee, and finalists are notified in January. The final selection of program participants includes an interview with University of Nebraska representatives.

Successful candidates will meet all program requirements during undergraduate study while maintaining a minimum GPA, and achieve a minimum score on relevant entrance exams.

## CONTACT

UHOP Program  
University of Nebraska at Omaha  
Allwine Hall 307  
Health Careers Resource Center  
6001 Dodge Street  
Omaha, NE 68182  
(402) 554-5980  
[UNOHealthCareers@unomaha.edu](mailto:UNOHealthCareers@unomaha.edu)  
For more information, visit the [UHOP webpage](#)



The Nebraska Department of Labor has Nebraska Workforce Development Career Centers located across the state. These centers provide access to additional information on career exploration, finding a job, preparing a resume, as well as serving as a resource center for America's Job Bank and Talent Bank on the Internet. This listing is alphabetical by city:

2317 N 6th St., Suite #3  
Beatrice, NE 68310-1204  
(402) 223-6060

1501 Plum Creek Parkway,  
Ste. 3  
Lexington, NE 68850  
(308) 324-2064

600 East Francis, Suite 9  
North Platte, NE 69101-4160  
(308) 535-8320

3100 23rd St., Ste. 22  
Columbus, NE 68601-3161  
(402) 564-7160

American Job Center  
1330 N St., Suite A  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
(402) 441-1640

American Job Center  
5752 Ames Ave.  
Omaha, NE 68104  
(402) 444-4700

2727 W. 2nd St., Ste 338  
Hastings, NE 68901-4684  
(402) 462-1867

917 Wildwood Lane,  
Room 104  
Nebraska City, NE  
68410-3312  
(402) 873-3384

505A Broadway, Ste. 300  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361-2708  
(308) 632-1420

American Job Center  
203 East Stolley Park Rd,  
Ste. A  
Grand Island, NE 68801  
(308) 385-6300

105 East Norfolk Ave.,  
Suite 120  
Norfolk, NE 68701  
(402) 370-3430

371 S College Dr., Room 148  
Sidney, NE 69162  
(308) 254-4429

16 West 11th St.  
Kearney, NE 68848  
(402) 326-4885

## Nebraska Office of Rural Health

The Nebraska Office of Rural Health was created in statute in 1990 and offers a variety of programs to enhance access to healthcare services. Its mission is to define and promote the development of a healthcare system that assures the accessibility of quality healthcare service to meet the needs of residents in rural Nebraska.

The office administers the state student loan and loan repayment programs and provides coordination for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) programs. The state programs have placed over 500 healthcare providers in shortage areas and the NHSC program has placed over 175 healthcare providers. Currently, over 116 healthcare providers are providing state program obligated service and over 16 healthcare providers are providing federal obligated service through the NHSC. More information regarding these programs is available on our web site at: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Rural-Health.aspx>

For further information, contact: Heidi Peirce at (402) 471-2337.

### Resources

There are many excellent, free resources for you to use as you explore financial aid for college and professional training. These include your high school guidance counselor and the financial aid offices at the institutions to which you are applying. There are also several on-line resources which can help you to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and to search for local and national awards. These web sites are:

EducationQuest Foundation  
[www.educationquest.org](http://www.educationquest.org)

Federal Student Aid Programs  
<https://studentaid.gov/>

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)  
<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

The Smart Student Guide to Financial Aid  
[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

### Additional Tips

- Apply for admission before you complete the FAFSA. Colleges only send award letters to students they have accepted for admission.
- Try to complete your tax return before you complete the FAFSA. Actual tax figures are ideal, regardless of when the tax return is actually filed.
- Inquire about merit and need-based awards at each college you're considering and be sure to check application dates. Some schools have separate scholarship application forms, while some use the admission application.
- Compare the total financial aid package offered by each college to which you have been accepted. Schools vary greatly in cost, but they also may offer quite different scholarship and aid packages. You want to know what your final out-of-pocket expenses will be at each institution.

### Checklist

- Attend the financial aid program at your high school or at the college fair in your area.
- Talk to your guidance counselor for local awards; contact your prospective colleges for their scholarships; and search online for other local and national awards.
- Watch your deadlines, and complete scholarship applications.
- Submit your applications for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as early as possible your senior year to improve your chances of receiving financial aid that is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. You're also more likely to meet state or college deadlines if you file the FAFSA as soon as possible. Check the website listed above or call 1-800-4-FED-AID for more information on deadlines or on how to file electronically.
- Expect the Student Aid Report (SAR) within 72 hours of filing the FAFSA. The SAR acknowledges that your form was processed and can be used to make corrections to the FAFSA.
- Look for award letters from the colleges that have accepted you. These will detail the assistance being offered. Sign and return the award letter to your chosen institution. Notify the other schools of your decision.
- If necessary, apply for educational loans based on your school's guidelines.



# Acknowledgments

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**Central Nebraska AHEC**  
 University of Nebraska at Kearney  
 Bruner Hall of Science, Room 170  
 2401 11th Ave - Kearney, NE 68849  
 Center Director: Sara McCarty  
[unk.edu/ahec](http://unk.edu/ahec)  
[Facebook](#)



**Nebraska Panhandle AHEC**  
 1601 E. 27th St., Scottsbluff, NE 69361  
 Center Director: Tammy Fehring  
[np-ahec.org](http://np-ahec.org)  
[Facebook](#)



**Northern Nebraska AHEC**  
 PO Box 833, Norfolk, NE 68702  
 Center Director: Gretchen Forsell, MPH, RD, LMNT  
[nnahec.org](http://nnahec.org)  
[Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#) - [LinkedIn](#) - [Instagram](#)



**Omaha AHEC**  
 University of Nebraska at Omaha  
 Health Careers Resource Center  
 Allwine Hall, Room 308  
 6001 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68182  
 Center Director: Clare Berry  
[cas.unomaha.edu/ahec](http://cas.unomaha.edu/ahec)  
[Facebook](#) - [Instagram](#)



**Southeast Nebraska AHEC**  
 Southeast Community College  
 Health Science Building, Rm 120A  
 8800 O Street, Lincoln, NE 68520  
 Center Director: Vanessa Meinberg  
[www.southeast.edu/business-and-community/business/health-care/ahec/index.php](http://www.southeast.edu/business-and-community/business/health-care/ahec/index.php)



**Nebraska AHEC Program Office**  
 University of Nebraska Medical Center  
 983075 Nebraska Medical Center  
 Omaha, NE 68198  
 Program Director: Jeffrey Harrison, MD  
[unmc.edu/familymed/education/ahec](http://unmc.edu/familymed/education/ahec)



“ You just learn so much that benefits you professionally. I don't know why anyone wouldn't do it. ”

- AHEC Scholar

## After High School - You May Be Able To Gain the Edge by Becoming an AHEC Scholar

### Join the Nebraska AHEC Scholars Program.

- ✓ Create lifetime connections with Nebraska health professionals.
- ✓ Be recognized as an emerging health care leader.
- ✓ Nationally known program that looks great to employers.
- ✓ Real world experience with rural and underserved populations.

Learn how this free, 2-year program will help your career.



[ahecscholars@unmc.edu](mailto:ahecscholars@unmc.edu)



Learn More

The mark of a healthcare leader.



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# Free educational materials

for students in grades 6 – 12

uBEATS provides students with educational resources on top of what they learn in class, sparking their confidence to pursue science and health science careers and setting them apart on college applications.

#### VERIFIED BY:

- » University of Nebraska Omaha STEM faculty
- » University of Nebraska Medical Center health sciences faculty
- » Omaha STEM Ecosystem (approved resource)
- » Nebraska Department of Education

#### ENDORSED BY & MEMBER OF:

- » National Consortium for Health Science Education

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[NEBRASKAHOSPITALS.ORG](http://NEBRASKAHOSPITALS.ORG)



[CENTER4NURSING.NE.GOV](http://CENTER4NURSING.NE.GOV)