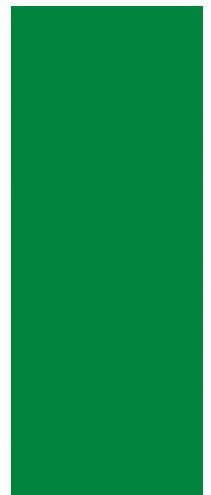
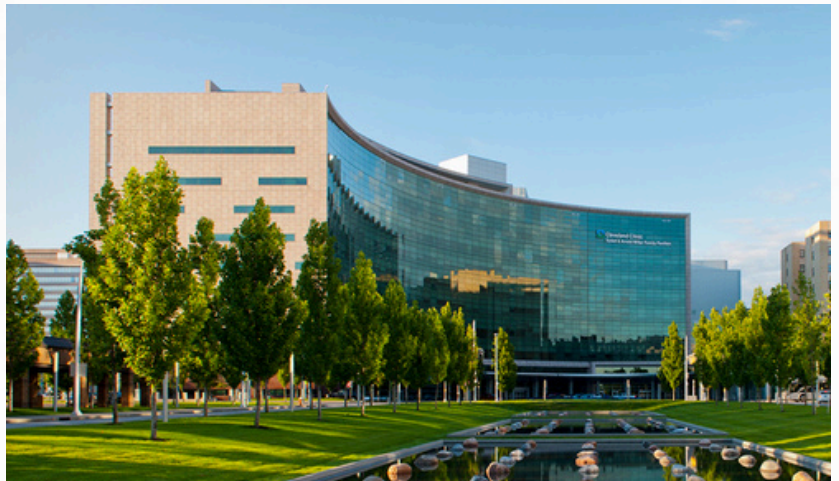


Healthcare Career Handbook

Cleveland Clinic
Center for Youth &
College Education





Acknowledgements

Handbook Content

This handbook was initially started as a project for the Center for Youth & College Education (CYCE) Summer Internship program. High school and college interns collaborated with members of the CYCE staff and a professional designer to create the content of this handbook and to revise its contents. Content was mostly drawn from the [Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) and the [Cleveland Clinic Center for Health Professions Education \(CHPE\) website](#). Educators within CHPE helped revise content to ensure its accuracy, and Microsoft Copilot was used to aid in the drafting of materials.

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About This Handbook

Introduction

Presently, the healthcare industry faces critical shortages in numerous professions that impact the health and wellbeing of patients. In many cases, these careers offer outstanding pay and benefits when compared to careers in other industries at the same education level. These stable, rewarding jobs have the potential to lift up communities, improve the safety and wellbeing of patients and bolster local economies. Unfortunately, many people are not aware of these opportunities. This handbook aims to address this issue.

Our Mission

At the Center for Youth & College Education, we aim to prepare the next generation of caregivers to join the healthcare workforce. After meeting with career counselors and other education professionals in the Cleveland area, it came to our attention that schools would benefit from a comprehensive catalogue of the many career avenues in healthcare. This handbook provides descriptions of dozens of careers across a variety of settings.



Handbook Organization



The sections of this handbook are organized in a way that will allow learners to explore careers by income or education requirements. Additionally, a section that focuses on medical doctors explains the process of becoming a doctor and highlights potential career pathways for physicians. If you are viewing the handbook digitally, note that all hyperlinks are active. They will either take you to another section of the book or to external resources where you can learn more.

Career/Education Resources

In the final sections of this handbook, you will find links and descriptions for programs that exist to give students active learning experiences in a healthcare environment. These programs allow students to see what a day is like in the life of a Cleveland Clinic caregiver.



Table of Contents

01	<u>Incomes of Growing Careers</u>	6
	Incomes of the Fastest Growing Careers	7
	Incomes of Other Growing Careers	8
02	<u>Explore Healthcare Careers</u>	9
	High School Diploma or GED	10
	Cleveland Clinic Apprenticeships	11
	Postsecondary Nondegree Award	18
	Associate Degree	27
	Bachelor's Degree	36
	Master's Degree	48
	Doctoral or Professional Degree	59
03	<u>All About Doctors</u>	69
	The Path to Your White Coat	70
	Doctor Specialties and Subspecialties	71
04	<u>Opportunities to Explore</u>	73
05	<u>Other Career Resources</u>	76
06	<u>References</u>	78

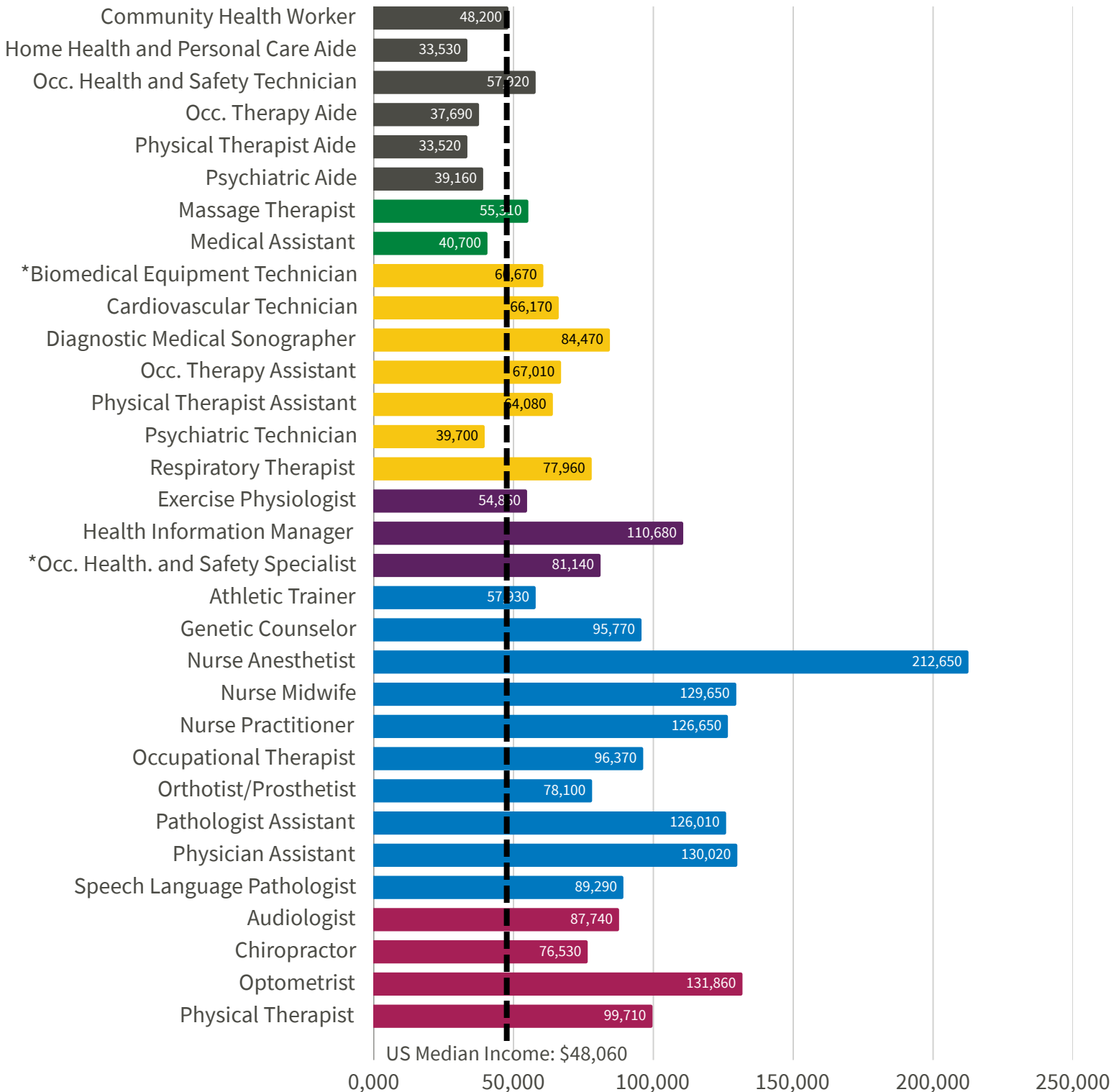


Incomes of Growing Careers

Now is an excellent time to consider a career in healthcare. The demand for jobs in this field is currently strong and expected to grow significantly over the next decade. Healthcare professionals often enjoy significantly higher incomes than their peers with the same level of education. In this section, you will see two graphics that depict the incomes of the fastest growing careers in healthcare according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Note that there are many other careers not included that are also great options.

Incomes of the Fastest Growing Careers

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the following careers are projected to grow **much faster than average** over the next 10 years.

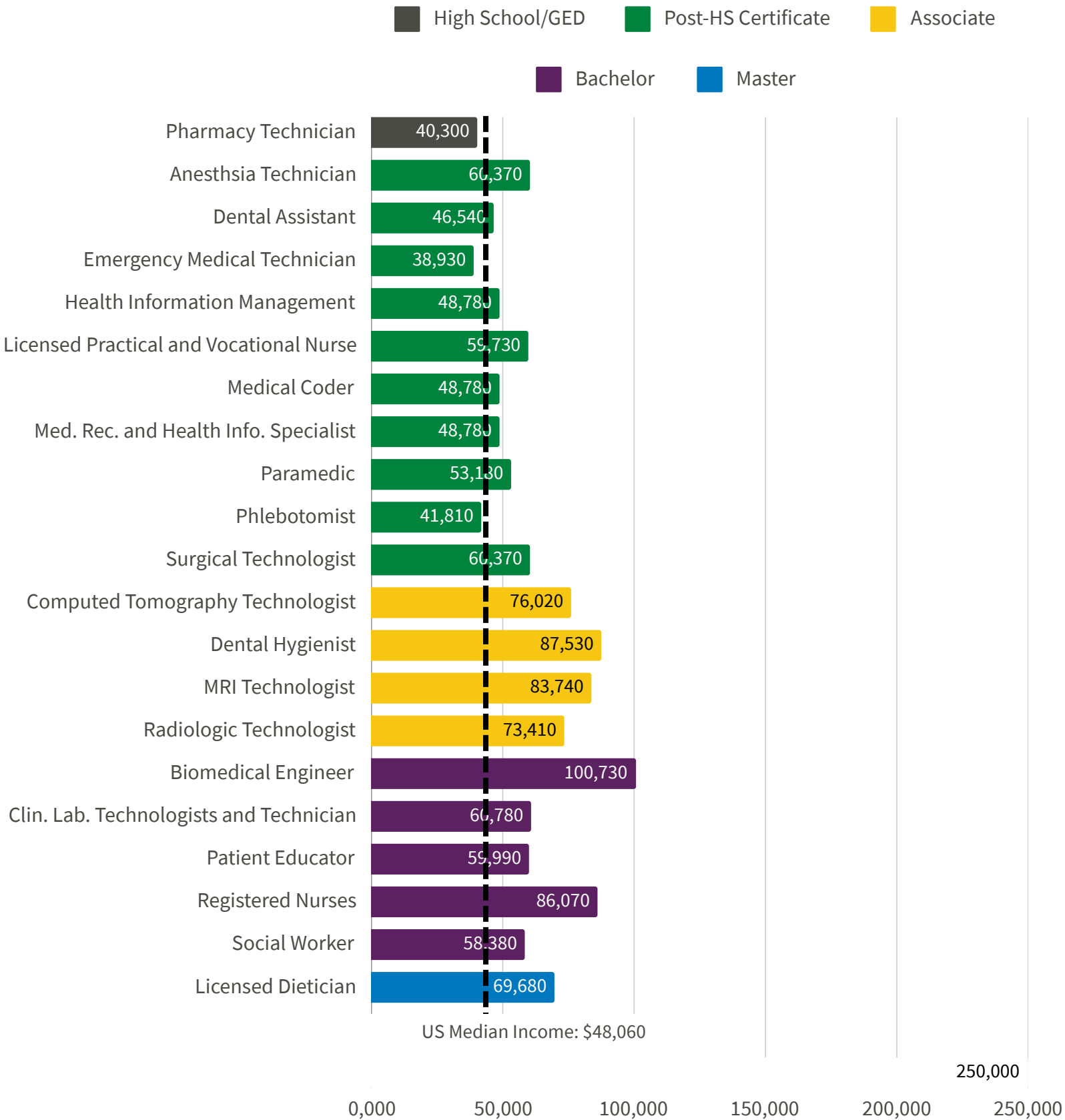


*Some Occupational Health and Safety jobs require a master's degree

*Biomedical Equipment Technicians may need a bachelor's degree in some areas

Incomes of Other Growing Careers

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the following careers are projected to grow **faster than average** over the next ten years.





Explore Healthcare Careers

A common misconception about careers in the healthcare sector is that they require high levels of education. However, there are healthcare careers available at every education level. The healthcare sector offers a wide variety of career options for people with a high school diploma or GED to a doctoral or professional degree. This section is organized based on the education level required for selected healthcare careers. For each career, you will see an icon representing which income range it falls into, its anticipated ten-year growth according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics and another interesting fact or benefit related to the career.

High School Diploma or GED

These careers require a high school diploma or GED, providing direct entry into the workforce. While often entry-level, positions in this section offer pathways to leadership.



Careers Included in This Section

Cleveland Clinic Apprenticeships
Community Health Worker
Environmental Services
Optician
Patient Transporter
Pharmacy Technician
Sterile Processing and Distribution Technologist

Careers Not Depicted

Home Health and Personal Care Aide
Occupational Health and Safety Technician
Occupational Therapy Aide
Physical Therapist Aid
Psychiatric Aide



Cleveland Clinic Apprenticeships

What Are They?

Cleveland Clinic offers apprenticeship programs where you can learn while you earn. As an apprentice, you will gain important skills and certifications for a successful career. These programs allow you to get experience in patient care by working with experts and preparing for certification with help of a mentor. By the end, you will be ready for your certification exam.

For more information and updates on new apprenticeship programs, check out [our apprenticeship career page](#).

What We Offer

- A competitive wage with healthcare benefits
- In-classroom and on-the-job training
- Guidance and support from knowledgeable professionals
- Certifications to help you advance your career

Our Programs



Electroencephalegram (EEG) Tech

Learn to use equipment to process and monitor a patient's nervous system activity.



Ophthalmic Assistant

Provide vision care under the guidance of an ophthalmologist.



Pharmacy Technician

Work under a pharmacist to prepare medications for patients.



Polysomnographic Technician

Perform sleep assessments to help diagnose sleep disorders.



Sterile Processing Tech

Learn to properly clean, sterilize, and distribute medical equipment and instruments.

Community Health Worker

[Click to learn more about Community Health Workers](#)



Community Health Workers help people in their community stay healthy. They teach people about good health habits, help them find medical care and support them in managing illnesses. Community Health Workers often visit homes, schools and local centers to share important health information. They work closely with doctors and nurses to make sure everyone gets the care they need, helping to improve the overall health of the community.

Job Outlook: Much Faster than Average

The job outlook for Community Health Workers is positive. As more people need help with health education and access to care, the demand for community health workers is growing. Positions are available in clinics, hospitals and community centers.

Qualifications:

To become a Community Health Worker, you typically need a high school diploma or equivalent, though some colleges and universities offer degree programs in community health. Some jobs may require additional training or certification in community health. Training programs, which can be found at community colleges, universities or health organizations, teach important skills like health education and communication. Hands-on experience through volunteer work or internships is also valuable. This education helps Community Health Workers support people and educate them about staying healthy.



50-70K median income



Much faster than
average growth



Ohio critical job

Environmental Services

[Click to learn more about Environmental Services](#)



Environmental Services workers, also known as janitors or custodians, are responsible for maintaining cleanliness and sanitation in various facilities such as schools, hospitals and offices. They perform tasks like sweeping, mopping, vacuuming and disinfecting surfaces to ensure a safe and healthy environment for occupants. Additionally, they may handle waste disposal, replenish supplies, and assist with minor repairs. Their efforts contribute to the overall well-being and comfort of the people who use these spaces.

Job Outlook: Little or No Change

The job outlook for Environmental Services workers is generally positive. As long as buildings and facilities exist, there will be a need for people to clean and maintain them. With an increased focus on cleanliness and sanitation in various industries, such as healthcare and hospitality, the demand for Environmental Services workers is expected to remain steady. Opportunities may be available in hospitals, hotels, schools and other public and private institutions.

Qualifications:

To become an Environmental Services worker, a high school diploma or equivalent is typically required. Some employers may provide on-the-job training to learn specific cleaning techniques and safety procedures. Additionally, certification programs in environmental services or related fields may be available, although they are not always required. Strong attention to detail, good communication skills, and the ability to follow instructions are essential for success in this role.



35-50K median
income



Little or no
change growth



In-demand
Cleveland Clinic

Optician

[Click to learn more about Opticians](#)



Opticians help people see better by fitting and dispensing glasses and contact lenses based on prescriptions from eye doctors. They assist customers in choosing frames and lenses that suit their needs and style. Opticians also measure customers' eyes and adjust frames for a comfortable fit. They educate clients on proper eyewear care and may repair broken glasses. Opticians work in eyewear stores, clinics and sometimes in eye doctors' offices.

Job Outlook: As Fast as Average

The job outlook for Opticians is positive. As the population ages and more people need vision care, the demand for Opticians is expected to grow. They are needed in eyewear stores, clinics and eye doctors' offices to help fit and adjust glasses and contact lenses. With advances in eyewear technology and styles, Opticians will continue to play an important role in helping people see clearly and look good.

Qualifications:

To become an Optician, you usually need a high school diploma or equivalent. Some Opticians learn on the job, while others complete a certificate or associate degree program in opticianry, which typically takes one to two years. These programs teach about eye anatomy, lens technology and fitting glasses. Some states require Opticians to be licensed, which may involve passing an exam. Continuing education is important to stay updated in the field.



35-50K median
income



As fast as average
10 yr growth



Diverse work settings

Patient Transporter

[Click to learn more about Patient Transporters](#)



Patient Transporters are essential members of healthcare teams responsible for safely moving patients within medical facilities. They transport patients between different areas such as examination rooms, operating rooms, and patient rooms using stretchers or wheelchairs. Patient Transporters ensure patients are comfortable during transit and maintain a calm and reassuring demeanor. They also communicate with nursing staff to ensure patients are transferred promptly and efficiently, contributing to the smooth operation of healthcare facilities.

Job Outlook: As Fast as Average

Patient Transporters typically have good job prospects as healthcare facilities continue to expand. With an aging population and advancements in medical technology, the need for patient transport services is expected to grow. Hospitals, clinics and long-term care facilities rely on Patient Transporters to ensure the safe and timely movement of patients.

Qualifications:

Patient Transporters typically need a high school diploma or equivalent. Some employers may provide on-the-job training to familiarize individuals with specific tasks and safety protocols. Strong communication skills, empathy, and physical stamina are essential for this role. While formal education beyond high school is not usually required, completing certification programs in patient transport or healthcare support services can enhance job prospects and provide additional skills for the role.



35-50K median
income



As fast as average
10 yr growth



High Patient
Interaction

Pharmacy Technician

[Click to learn more about Pharmacy Technicians](#)



Pharmacy Technicians help pharmacists by preparing and dispensing medications. They measure, mix and label prescriptions, making sure everything is correct. They also help customers by answering questions and processing insurance claims. Pharmacy Technicians keep track of inventory and make sure pharmacies stay organized. They work in places like drugstores, hospitals and clinics, making it easier for pharmacists to focus on patient care and safety.

Job Outlook: **Faster than Average**

The job outlook for Pharmacy Technicians is positive. As the population ages and the demand for medications increases, more Pharmacy Technicians will be needed. Positions are available in drugstores, hospitals, and clinics. The growing use of medications and expanding healthcare services mean steady job opportunities. New roles in online and mail-order pharmacies are also emerging, creating more options for Pharmacy Technicians.

Qualifications:

To become a Pharmacy Technician, you need a high school diploma or GED. Many complete a pharmacy technician training program at a community college or vocational school, which usually takes about a year. Some states require certification, which can be obtained by passing an exam like the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE). On-the-job training under a pharmacist's supervision is also common.



35-50K median
income



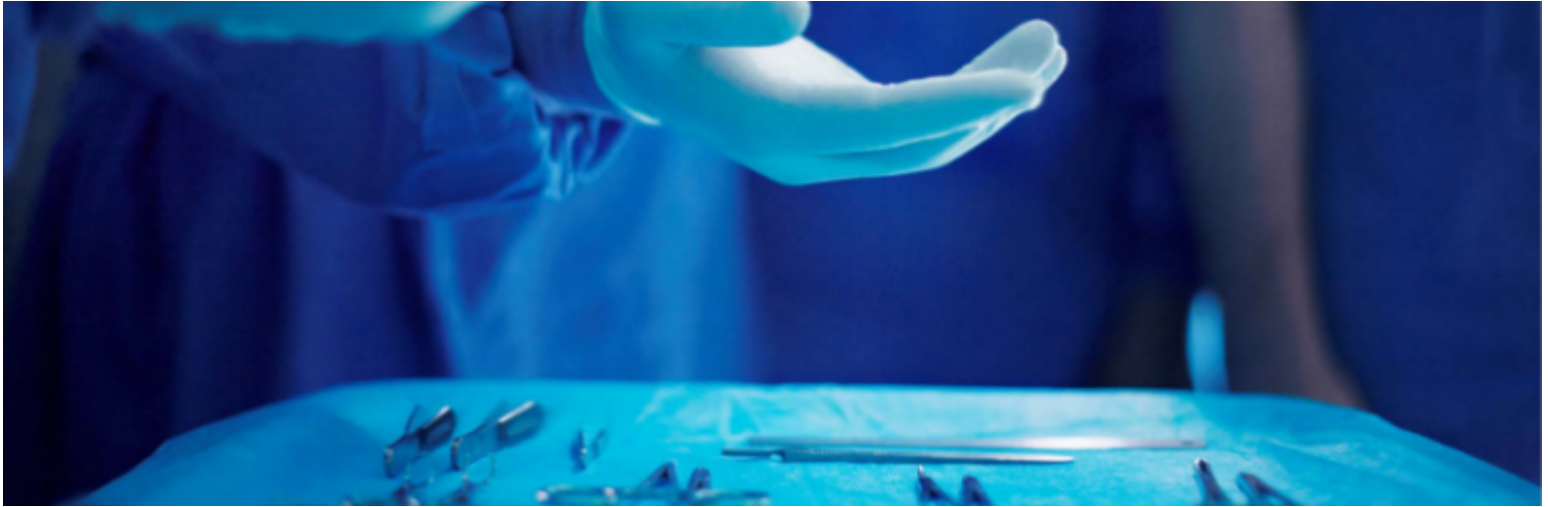
Faster than
average growth



Internal Education
Program

Sterile Processing & Distribution Technologist

[Click to learn more about Sterile Processing & Distribution Technologists](#)



Sterile Processing and Distribution Technologists are responsible for ensuring that medical equipment and instruments are properly cleaned, sterilized, and distributed for patient care. They work behind the scenes in hospitals and surgical centers, meticulously following protocols to prevent infections and ensure the safety of patients. This vital role involves inspecting instruments for defects and maintaining detailed records to track each item's sterilization history. They also adhere to manufacturer instructions for use (MIFU) regarding the disassembly, cleaning, reassembly, inspection, testing, and sterilization of instruments and equipment intended for patient use.

Job Outlook: Little or No Change

The job outlook for Sterile Processing and Distribution Technologists is promising, with a steady demand expected as healthcare facilities continue to grow. These technologists play a crucial role in ensuring the safety of patients by properly sterilizing medical equipment and instruments. With advancements in medical technology and an aging population requiring more medical care, there will be ongoing opportunities for skilled professionals in this field.

Qualifications:

To become a Sterile Processing and Distribution Technologist, you typically need a high school diploma or equivalent. Specialized training programs are available that teach skills in sterilization techniques, handling of medical instruments, and safety protocols. Some employers may require certification, which can be obtained through organizations like the Certification Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution.



35-50K median
income



Little or no
change growth



Cleveland Clinic
signing bonus

Postsecondary Nondegree Award

These careers do not require a traditional college degree, but there is some extra training required to get started.



Careers Included in This Section

Anesthesia Technician
Dental Assistant
Emergency Medical Technician / Paramedic
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurse
Medical Assistant
Medical Coder
Phlebotomist
Surgical Technologist

Careers Not Depicted

Health Information Management
Massage Therapist
Medical Records and Health Information Specialist
Medical Transcriptionist

Anesthesia Technician

[Click to learn more about Anesthesia Technicians](#)



Anesthesia Technicians have many responsibilities. They help anesthesiologists by getting anesthesia equipment ready and making sure it works properly. They also assist during surgeries by checking patients' vital signs and making sure all tools and medications are ready while keeping track of anesthesia supplies and following safety rules. They also help prepare patients before surgery and take care of them after anesthesia, making sure patients are comfortable and safe.

Job Growth Outlook: Much Faster Than Average

The future for Anesthesia Technicians looks good. There will be a steady demand because more people are getting older and medical technology is improving. Hospitals, surgical centers and other healthcare places usually hire Anesthesia Technicians. Also, as more surgeries and medical procedures happen, there will likely be more job opportunities for skilled people in this field.

Qualifications:

Anesthesia Technicians usually need a high school diploma or equivalent. After that, they complete a certification program which can take one to two years at a community college or technical school. Some people also gain experience by working in healthcare settings. Non-degree certification by groups like the American Society of Anesthesia Technologists and Technicians (ASATT) can help them get better jobs.



50-70K median
income



Much faster than
average growth



Learn on the
Job

Dental Assistant

[Click to learn more about Dental Assistants](#)



Dental Assistants help dentists care for patients. They prepare the exam room, sterilize tools and set up equipment. During appointments, Dental Assistants help by handing instruments to the dentist and taking X-rays. They also talk to patients about how to take care of their teeth, schedule appointments, and keep records. Dental Assistants play a key role in making sure dental offices run smoothly and patients feel comfortable.

Job Growth Outlook: **Faster than Average**

The job outlook for Dental Assistants is very good. As more people take care of their teeth and visit the dentist regularly, the demand for dental assistants grows. They are needed in dental offices, clinics, and hospitals. With the increasing focus on oral health, there will be plenty of job opportunities, making it a stable and promising career choice.

Qualifications:

To become a Dental Assistant, you usually need a high school diploma or equivalent. Some Dental Assistants learn on the job, while others complete a dental assisting program at a community college or vocational school, which can take about a year. These programs teach skills like taking X-rays, sterilizing tools and assisting during procedures. Certification might be required in some states, which involves passing an exam.



35-50K median
income



Faster than
average growth



Cleveland Clinic
signing bonus

EMT & Paramedic

[Click to learn more about EMTs & Paramedics](#)



EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians) and Paramedics help people in medical emergencies. They respond to 911 calls and provide immediate care to sick or injured people. EMTs assess patients, check vital signs and provide basic medical treatments like CPR and bandaging. Paramedics have more training and can give medications and perform advanced medical procedures. They work on ambulances, in hospitals and at emergency scenes, saving lives and providing critical care.

Job Growth Outlook: **Faster than Average**

The job outlook for EMTs and Paramedics is good. As medical emergencies continue to happen, there's a growing need for these professionals to provide quick and skilled care. They work in ambulances, hospitals and fire departments. With more focus on emergency preparedness and healthcare access, there will be many job opportunities for EMTs and Paramedics, making it a stable and rewarding career choice for those interested in helping others.

Qualifications:

To become an EMT or Paramedic, you need to complete a training program. EMTs usually complete a basic training program that lasts a few months, while Paramedics need more advanced training that can take up to two years. Training includes learning how to assess patients, provide first aid and use medical equipment. After completing training, EMTs and Paramedics must pass a certification exam to become licensed.



35-50K median
income



Faster than
average growth



Internal Education
Program

Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurse

[Click to learn more about Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses](#)



Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) and Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) provide basic nursing care. They check vital signs, administer medications, change bandages and help patients with daily activities like bathing and dressing. LPNs and LVNs work under the supervision of registered nurses and doctors. They help ensure patients are comfortable and well-cared for during their stay. Their work is crucial in supporting patient health and recovery.

Job Growth Outlook: Faster than Average

The job outlook for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) and Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) is strong. As the healthcare industry grows and the population ages, the demand for LPNs and LVNs increases. They are needed in hospitals, nursing homes and clinics. With a steady need for their skills, there will be many job opportunities, making this a stable and rewarding career choice.

Qualifications:

To become a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) or Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN), you need to complete a state-approved nursing program, which usually takes about one year. These programs are offered at community colleges or technical schools and include classroom learning and clinical practice. After finishing the program, you must pass the NCLEX-PN exam to get your license and start working as an LPN or LVN.



50-70K median
income



Faster than
average growth



Diverse work settings

Medical Assistant

[Click to learn more about Medical Assistants](#)



Medical Assistants help doctors and nurses provide patient care. They greet patients, take medical histories and prepare exam rooms. Medical Assistants assist during procedures, take vital signs and collect lab samples. They also handle administrative tasks like scheduling appointments and updating medical records. Working in various healthcare settings such as clinics and hospitals, Medical Assistants ensure smooth operations and provide support to both healthcare providers and patients.

Job Growth Outlook: Much Faster than Average

The job outlook for Medical Assistants is excellent. As healthcare facilities expand and the population grows, the demand for Medical Assistants increases. They work in doctors' offices, clinics and hospitals, assisting with patient care and administrative tasks. With more people seeking healthcare services, there will be many job opportunities for medical assistants, making it a stable and rewarding career choice in the healthcare field.

Qualifications:

To become a Medical Assistant, you typically need a high school diploma or equivalent. Positions may require completing a medical assisting program. These programs teach basic medical knowledge, such as taking vital signs and medical terminology, as well as administrative skills like scheduling appointments and managing medical records. After completing the program, Medical Assistants may need to pass an exam to become certified.



35-50K median
income



Much faster than
average growth



In-demand
Cleveland Clinic

Medical Coder

[Click to learn more about Medical Coding](#)



Medical Coders play a crucial role in healthcare by translating doctors' notes into codes. These codes help track diseases, treatments and medical procedures for insurance billing and research purposes. Medical Coders need to understand medical terminology and coding systems to accurately assign the right codes. Their work ensures that patient records are organized and accurate, and can be easily accessed by healthcare providers when needed.

Job Growth Outlook: **Faster than Average**

The job outlook for Medical Coders is promising. With the increasing demand for healthcare services and the transition to electronic health records, there's a growing need for skilled coders to accurately translate medical information into codes for billing and record-keeping. Medical Coders work in various healthcare settings, ensuring that patient records are organized and compliant with coding guidelines. This creates many job opportunities for those interested in this field.

Qualifications:

To become a Medical Coder, you typically need a high school diploma or equivalent. Some employers may prefer candidates with a postsecondary certificate or associate degree in medical coding or a related field. Training programs teach medical terminology, coding systems like ICD-10 and CPT, and coding guidelines. Certification from organizations like the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC) or the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) may be required or preferred.



50-70K median
income



Faster than
average growth



Low Patient
Interaction

Phlebotomist

[Click to learn more about Phlebotomists](#)



A **Phlebotomist** is a healthcare worker who draws blood from patients. They use needles to collect blood samples for tests, transfusions or donations. Phlebotomists make sure that blood is drawn safely and correctly, and that label the samples properly. They work in hospitals, clinics and blood donation centers. Their job is important for diagnosing illnesses and helping doctors understand patients' health.

Job Growth Outlook: **Faster than Average**

The job outlook for Phlebotomists is very good. As healthcare needs grow, the demand for blood tests and donations increases. Phlebotomists are needed in hospitals, labs and blood donation centers. This steady demand means there will be many job opportunities. The field is expected to grow faster than average, providing stable and rewarding careers for those entering the profession.

Qualifications:

To become a Phlebotomist, you typically need a high school diploma or equivalent. Some employers provide on-the-job training, while most prefer candidates who have completed a phlebotomy training program, which can last from a few weeks to a few months. These programs teach skills like proper blood collection techniques, safety procedures and medical terminology. Certification may also be required in some states or by certain employers.



35-50K median
income



Faster than
average growth



Internal Education
Program

Surgical Technologist

[Click to learn more about Surgical Technologists](#)



Surgical Technologists assist in surgeries by preparing operating rooms, sterilizing equipment and helping surgeons during procedures. They ensure that all tools and supplies needed for surgery are ready and organize surgical instruments for easy access. During surgery, they pass instruments to surgeons and nurses and may also hold organs or tissues in place. After surgery, they clean and restock the operating room for the next procedure.

Job Growth Outlook: **Faster than Average**

The job outlook for Surgical Technologists is bright, with steady demand expected due to the growing number of surgeries performed and advancements in medical technology. Hospitals, surgical centers and outpatient clinics typically employ Surgical Technologists. As the population ages and more surgeries are needed, there will likely be ongoing opportunities for skilled professionals in this field.

Qualifications:

To become a Surgical Technologist, one typically needs a high school diploma or equivalent. Many surgical technology programs offer certificates, diplomas or associate degrees. These programs include both classroom instruction and hands-on clinical experience. Topics covered often include anatomy, medical terminology and surgical procedures. Certification may be required or preferred by employers and can be obtained through organizations like the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA).



50-70K median
income



Faster than
average growth



In-demand
Cleveland Clinic

Associate Degree

The following careers require an associate degree, which can usually be acquired through two years of community college. These careers offer quick entry into healthcare as well as paths to leadership and professional growth.



Careers Included in This Section

- Biomedical Equipment Technician
- Cardiovascular Technician
- Dental Hygienist
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologist
- Radiation Therapist
- Radiologic Technologist
- Respiratory Therapist

Careers Not Depicted (Link)

- Cardiovascular Technologist
- Computed Tomography Technologist
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
- Nuclear Medicine Technologist
- Occupational Therapy Assistant

Biomedical Equipment Technician

[Click to learn more about Biomedical Equipment Technicians](#)



Biomedical Equipment Technicians help keep medical equipment working properly in hospitals and clinics. They inspect, repair and maintain equipment like X-ray machines, defibrillators and patient monitors. Technicians also test equipment to make sure it's safe and accurate for patient use. They play a crucial role in ensuring that healthcare providers have reliable equipment to diagnose and treat patients, helping to keep medical facilities running smoothly.

Job Growth Outlook: **Faster than Average**

The job outlook for Biomedical Equipment Technicians is good. As medical technology continues to advance, more equipment is used in hospitals and clinics, creating a growing need for technicians to maintain and repair it. Biomedical Equipment Technicians are essential for keeping healthcare facilities running smoothly, making it a stable and in-demand career choice.

Qualifications:

To become a Biomedical Equipment Technician, you typically need an associate degree in biomedical technology or a related field. Some employers may require certification, which can be obtained through programs accredited by organizations like the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI). Training includes learning about medical equipment, studying electronics and developing troubleshooting skills. Hands-on experience through internships or apprenticeships is also valuable for this career.



50-70K median income



Faster than
average growth



Low Patient
Interaction

Cardiovascular Technician

[Click to learn more about Cardiovascular Technicians](#)



Cardiovascular Technicians help doctors diagnose and treat heart problems. They perform tests like EKGs and stress tests to check how well the heart is working. Technicians also assist during procedures like cardiac catheterizations, where they help insert tubes to see inside blood vessels. By working closely with doctors and using specialized equipment, cardiovascular technicians play a vital role in helping patients with heart conditions receive the care they need.

Job Growth Outlook: Much Faster than Average

The job outlook for Cardiovascular Technicians is promising. As heart-related conditions become more common, the demand for technicians to help diagnose and treat them is increasing. Hospitals and clinics will continue to hire cardiovascular technicians to perform tests and assist during procedures. With advancements in medical technology, there will be ongoing opportunities for skilled professionals in this field, making it a rewarding career choice for those interested in healthcare.

Qualifications:

To become a Cardiovascular Technician, you typically need a high school diploma or equivalent. Some jobs may require an associate degree or certification in cardiovascular technology, which can be obtained through community colleges or vocational schools. Training includes learning about heart anatomy and diagnostic procedures, and how to use specialized equipment. Hands-on experience through internships or on-the-job training is also important for this career.



50-70K median
income



Much faster than
average growth



Low Patient
Interaction

Dental Hygienist

[Click to learn more about Dental Hygienist](#)



Dental Hygienists help keep your teeth and gums healthy. They clean teeth by removing plaque and tartar, check for signs of gum disease and apply treatments like fluoride. Dental Hygienists also teach patients how to brush and floss properly. They work closely with dentists to ensure good oral health and help prevent dental problems. Their work is important in keeping smiles bright and preventing cavities and other issues.

Job Growth Outlook: **Faster than Average**

The job outlook for Dental Hygienists is excellent. As more people focus on dental health, the demand for hygienists increases. They are needed in dental offices, clinics and hospitals to provide essential care. With an aging population and greater awareness of oral health, there will be many job opportunities, making it a stable and rewarding career choice with strong growth prospects.

Qualifications:

To become a Dental Hygienist, you need to complete a dental hygiene program, which usually takes about two to three years and results in an associate degree. These programs teach how to clean teeth, take X-rays and educate patients on oral care. After graduating, you must pass a licensing exam to practice. Some Dental Hygienists choose to earn a bachelor's degree for more advanced opportunities in the field.



70-100K median
income



Faster than
average growth



High Patient
Interaction

Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologist

[Click to learn more about Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists](#)



Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Technologists operate MRI machines to create detailed images of the inside of the body. They prepare patients for scans, explain the procedure and ensure they are comfortable. MRI Technologists position patients and use computers to capture images that doctors use to diagnose medical conditions. They also maintain imaging equipment and follow safety guidelines to protect patients and themselves from excessive exposure to magnetic fields.

Job Growth Outlook: **Faster than Average**

The job outlook for MRI Technologists is positive. As medical technology advances and the population ages, the demand for MRI scans increases. MRI Technologists are needed in hospitals, imaging centers and clinics. This growing need ensures strong job opportunities and stability in the field. With the healthcare industry expanding, MRI Technologists can expect good employment prospects and the chance to work in various healthcare settings.

Qualifications:

To become an MRI Technologist, you usually need an associate degree in radiologic technology or a related field. This usually takes about two years. After completing the program, you must get specialized training in MRI technology. Certification is often required, which involves passing an exam from a recognized certifying body like the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). Continuous education is important to keep up with advances in MRI technology.



70-100K median
income



Faster than
average growth



Internal Education
Program

Physical Therapist Assistant & Aide

[Click to learn more about Physical Therapist Assistants & Aides](#)



Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides support physical therapists in helping patients recover from injuries or illnesses. They help patients with exercises and treatments, set up equipment and monitor their progress. Physical Therapist Assistants may also teach patients how to use mobility aids like crutches or walkers. Aides assist with tasks like cleaning equipment and preparing treatment areas. They work in hospitals, clinics and nursing homes, making rehabilitation more effective and accessible.

Job Outlook: Much Faster than Average

The job outlook for Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides is excellent. With an aging population and a growing emphasis on rehabilitation and preventative care, there is high demand for their services. They work in various healthcare settings, including hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes. The field is expected to grow rapidly, providing many job opportunities for those interested in helping patients regain mobility and improve their quality of life.

Qualifications:

To become a Physical Therapist Assistant or Aide, you typically need a high school diploma or equivalent. Assistants must complete a two-year associate's degree program, which includes coursework and hands-on training in areas like anatomy, physiology and rehabilitation techniques. Aides usually receive on-the-job training from experienced therapists. Some states require Assistants to be licensed or certified, which may involve passing an exam or meeting other requirements.



50-70K median
income



Much faster than
average growth



Diverse work settings

Radiation Therapist

[Click to learn more about Radiation Therapists](#)



Radiation Therapists help treat cancer patients by administering radiation therapy. They work closely with oncologists and other healthcare professionals to develop treatment plans tailored to each patient's needs. Radiation Therapists operate machines that deliver targeted doses of radiation to cancerous tumors while minimizing damage to healthy tissues. They also monitor patients' reactions to treatment and provide emotional support throughout the process, ensuring their comfort and well-being.

Job Growth Outlook: As Fast as Average

The job outlook for Radiation Therapists is good. As the population grows and ages, more people will need cancer treatment, including radiation therapy. This means there will be more job opportunities for Radiation Therapists in hospitals, cancer centers and clinics. With advances in technology, radiation therapy is becoming more effective, increasing the demand for skilled professionals in this field.

Qualifications:

To become a Radiation Therapist, you typically need an associate or bachelor's degree in radiation therapy. These programs include coursework in anatomy, physics, and radiation therapy techniques. After completing their education, Radiation Therapists must obtain certification from organizations like the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). Some states also require licensure. Continuing education is necessary to maintain certification and stay updated on advancements in the field.



100-150K
median income



As fast as average
10 yr growth



Ohio critical job

Radiologic Technologist

[Click to learn more about Radiologic & MRI Technologists](#)



Radiologic Technologists perform diagnostic imaging procedures to help doctors diagnose and treat medical conditions. They operate X-ray, MRI and other imaging equipment to produce images of the body's internal structures. Technologists ensure patients are positioned correctly and follow safety protocols during imaging procedures. They also work with radiologists to analyze images and provide accurate results to aid in patient diagnosis and treatment planning.

Job Growth Outlook: **Faster than Average**

The job outlook for Radiologic Technologists is good. With advances in medical imaging technology and an aging population, there is a growing need for diagnostic imaging services. Radiologic Technologists work in hospitals, clinics and imaging centers, helping doctors diagnose and treat various medical conditions. As the demand for medical imaging continues to rise, there will be plenty of job opportunities for technologists in this field.

Qualifications:

To become a Radiologic Technologist, you typically need an associate degree in radiography or a certification from an imaging school. These programs include coursework in anatomy, patient positioning and medical imaging techniques. After completing their education, technologists must obtain certification from organizations like the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). Some states also require licensure. After completing this training, many professionals pursue additional certifications.



50-70K median
income



Faster than
average growth



Numerous career
paths. [Learn more](#)

Respiratory Therapist

[Click to learn more about Respiratory Therapists](#)



Respiratory Therapists help patients with acute or chronic breathing conditions. They perform breathing tests to assess patients' lung function, administer treatments and teach patients how to use their respiratory equipment and inhalers. They work closely with physicians and nurses in ERs and ICUs to develop care plans for patients with breathing difficulties and are trained to manage patients on mechanical ventilators when they are unable to breathe on their own. They play a vital role in helping patients improve their quality of life.

Job Growth Outlook: Much Faster than Average

The job outlook for Respiratory Therapists is promising. With an aging population and an increase in respiratory conditions like COPD and asthma, there's a growing need for their services. Hospitals, clinics and home healthcare agencies all hire Respiratory Therapists. It's a rewarding career that offers stability and opportunities for those interested in helping people with breathing problems.

Qualifications:

To become a Respiratory Therapist, you typically need an associate degree in respiratory therapy from a community college or technical school. Some employers may prefer candidates with a bachelor's degree. After completing your education, you must pass a national certification exam to become a Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) or a Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT). Continuing education is also required to maintain certification.



70-100K median
income



Much faster than
average growth



Ohio critical job

Bachelor's Degree

The following careers require a bachelor's degree, which is usually earned after four years of college. They offer competitive incomes and opportunities for career advancement.



Careers Included in This Section

- Biomedical Engineer
- Exercise Physiologist
- Licensed Dietitian
- Medical Dosimetrist
- Medical Laboratory Scientist and Technician
- Music Therapist
- Patient Educator
- Perfusionist
- Recreational Therapist
- Registered Nurse
- Social Worker

Careers Not Depicted

- Health Information Manager
- Occupational Health and Safety Specialist

Biomedical Engineer

[Click to learn more about Biomedical Engineers](#)



Biomedical Engineers use their knowledge of biology and engineering to create medical equipment and devices. They design things like artificial organs, prosthetic limbs and diagnostic machines to help improve healthcare. These engineers work in hospitals, research labs and companies to develop innovative solutions to medical problems. By combining their understanding of biology with engineering principles, they play a vital role in improving patient care and advancing medical technology.

Job Growth Outlook: **Faster than Average**

The job outlook for Biomedical Engineers is bright. As medical technology continues to advance, more engineers are needed to design and improve healthcare equipment and devices. Biomedical Engineers work in hospitals, research institutions and companies, creating innovative solutions to medical challenges. With a growing focus on improving patient care and outcomes, there will be plenty of job opportunities for skilled professionals in this field, making it a promising career choice.

Qualifications:

To become a Biomedical Engineer, you typically need a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering or a related field. Some jobs may require a master's or doctoral degree for advanced positions. Training includes learning about biology, engineering principles, and medical device design. Hands-on experience through internships or projects is also important.



100-150K
median income



Faster than
average growth



Diverse work settings

Exercise Physiologist

[Click to learn more about Exercise Physiologists](#)



Exercise Physiologists help people improve their health through exercise. They study how the body responds to physical activity and design exercise programs to meet individual needs. Exercise Physiologists work with people who have chronic conditions like heart disease or diabetes, as well as athletes who want to enhance their performance. They monitor progress, adjust exercise plans and educate clients on the benefits of staying active for a healthier life.

Job Growth Outlook: Much Faster than Average

The job outlook for Exercise Physiologists is positive. As more people focus on fitness and health, the demand for professionals who can design safe and effective exercise programs is increasing. Exercise Physiologists work in hospitals, fitness centers and research institutions. With a growing emphasis on preventive healthcare and wellness, there will be many job opportunities for Exercise Physiologists, making it a promising career choice for those interested in promoting physical well-being.

Qualifications:

To become an Exercise Physiologist, you typically need a bachelor's degree in exercise science or a related field. Some jobs may require a master's degree for more advanced positions. Training includes learning about how the body works during exercise and how to design fitness programs. Hands-on experience through internships or research projects is also important.



50-70K median
income



Much faster than
average growth



Diverse work settings

Licensed Dietitian

[Click to learn more about Dietitian and Nutritionist](#)



Dietitians help people make healthy food choices. They plan menus, teach about good nutrition, and manage special diets for people with medical conditions. They help improve overall health by giving advice on what to eat to stay healthy and fit. They also research how food affects our bodies and find new ways to keep people healthy.

Job Growth Outlook: **Faster than Average**

The job outlook for Dietitians is very positive. Jobs in this field are expected to grow faster than average. More people are interested in health and wellness, and this increases the demand for Dietitians. They work in various places like hospitals, schools and private practices, helping people eat better and live healthier lives.

Qualifications:

To become a Dietitian, you need to earn a bachelor's degree in dietetics, nutrition, or a related field. You also need to complete supervised training, usually through an internship. After that, you must pass a national exam to become a Registered Dietitian (RD). Some states require extra licenses. Continuing education is important to stay updated on the latest nutrition information.



70-100K median
income



Faster than
average growth



Diverse work settings

Medical Dosimetrist

[Click to learn more about Medical Dosimetrist](#)



Medical Dosimetrists work in radiation therapy, assisting oncologists in treating cancer patients. They calculate the correct dose of radiation for each patient's treatment plan using advanced computer software. They collaborate with radiation oncologists and medical physicists to ensure that radiation is delivered precisely to the tumor while minimizing exposure to surrounding healthy tissues. Their work plays a crucial role in effectively treating cancer while minimizing side effects for patients.

Job Growth Outlook: As Fast as Average

The job outlook for Medical Dosimetrists is positive. As cancer treatment technologies advance and more people require radiation therapy, the demand for skilled Dosimetrists increases. They work in hospitals, cancer centers and radiation therapy clinics, ensuring patients receive accurate and effective treatments. With advancements in cancer care and an aging population, there will be many job opportunities for Medical Dosimetrists, making it a promising career choice in healthcare.

Qualifications:

To become a Medical Dosimetrist, you typically need a bachelor's degree in a related field like radiation therapy or medical dosimetry. Some programs also require completion of a clinical internship. After completing the educational requirements, you must pass a certification exam to become certified. Continuing education is important to stay updated on advancements in radiation therapy technology and treatment techniques.



100-150K
median income



As fast as average
10 yr growth



Internal Education
Program

Medical Laboratory Scientist & Technician

[Click to learn more about Medical Laboratory Technologist & Technician](#)



Medical Laboratory Scientists/Technologists and Technicians perform tests on samples of body fluids, tissues and cells to help doctors diagnose and treat diseases. They use sophisticated equipment and techniques to analyze samples and report their findings accurately. These professionals work in hospitals, clinics and research laboratories, playing a crucial role in providing accurate information to healthcare providers. Their work helps ensure patients receive the appropriate care for their medical conditions.

Job Growth Outlook: **Faster than Average**

The job outlook for Medical Laboratory Scientists and Technicians is strong. As the need for medical tests continues to grow, more professionals will be needed to perform these tests accurately and efficiently. Hospitals, clinics and diagnostic laboratories will continue to hire technologists and technicians to help diagnose and treat diseases, making it a stable and in-demand career choice in the healthcare field.

Qualifications:

To become a Medical Laboratory Scientist, you typically need a bachelor's degree in medical technology or a related field, while technicians may require an associate degree or certificate program. Training includes learning about laboratory procedures, equipment and safety protocols. Certification via exam may be required by some employers or states.



50-70K median
income



Faster than
average growth



In-demand
Cleveland Clinic

Music Therapist

[Click to learn more about Music Therapists](#)



Music Therapists use music to help people improve their physical, emotional and mental health. They work with individuals or groups, using various musical activities to address therapeutic goals. Music Therapists assess clients' needs and develop personalized treatment plans to promote relaxation, self-expression and overall well-being. They work in hospitals, schools, rehabilitation centers and mental health facilities, supporting individuals of all ages and backgrounds.

Job Growth Outlook: **Faster than Average**

The job outlook for Music Therapists is positive. As more people recognize the benefits of music therapy for health and well-being, the demand for these professionals is growing. Music Therapists work in hospitals, schools and mental health facilities, providing services to diverse populations. With increasing awareness and acceptance of music therapy, there will be many job opportunities.

Qualifications:

To become a Music Therapist, you typically need a bachelor's degree in music therapy from a program accredited by the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA). These programs include coursework in music theory, psychology and clinical practice. After completing the degree, you must complete an internship and pass the certification exam to become a board-certified music therapist (MT-BC). Continuing education is required to maintain certification and stay updated on best practices in music therapy.



50-70K median
income



Faster than
average growth



Ohio critical job

Patient Educator

[Click to learn more about Patient Educators](#)



Patient Educators help people understand their health conditions and manage them effectively. They provide information about diseases, medications and lifestyle changes in easy-to-understand language. Patient educators teach patients how to monitor their health, follow treatment plans, and make healthy choices. They may also provide emotional support and connect patients with resources and support groups.

Job Growth Outlook: **Faster than Average**

The job outlook for Patient Educators is positive. As healthcare becomes more focused on preventive care and patient empowerment, there is a growing need for educators to help people manage their health conditions. Patient Educators work in hospitals, clinics and community health centers, providing valuable support and guidance to patients. With an increasing emphasis on patient education and self-management, there will be many job opportunities in this field.

Qualifications:

To become a Patient Educator, you typically need a bachelor's degree in a health-related field like nursing, health education or public health. Some positions may require additional certification or training in patient education techniques. Patient Educators often gain experience through internships or volunteer work in healthcare settings. Strong communication skills and the ability to explain medical information clearly are essential for this role.



50-70K median
income



Faster than
average growth



Diverse work settings

Perfusionist

[Click to learn more about Perfusionists](#)



Perfusionists operate heart-lung machines during surgeries to support the patient's heart and lungs. They monitor blood flow and oxygen levels, adjusting the machine as needed. Perfusionists also manage the patient's blood temperature and administer medications to prevent clotting. They work closely with surgeons and anesthesia teams to ensure the patient's safety and well-being during procedures. Perfusionists play a critical role in cardiac surgeries and other procedures requiring heart and lung support.

Job Growth Outlook: **Faster than Average**

The job outlook for Perfusionists is positive. As advancements in medical technology lead to more complex surgeries, the demand for perfusionists to operate heart-lung machines will increase. Perfusionists are needed in hospitals, surgical centers and specialized cardiac units. With an aging population and a rise in heart-related conditions, there will be many job opportunities for those interested in pursuing a career in perfusion.

Qualifications:

To become a Perfusionist, you need a bachelor's degree in a science-related field like biology or chemistry. After that, you must complete a perfusionist program, which typically takes one to two years. This program includes both classroom learning and hands-on training in operating heart-lung machines. Some states require Perfusionists to be certified, which may involve passing an exam. Continuing education is also important to stay updated in the field.



150K + median
income



Faster than
average growth



Internal Education
Program

Recreational Therapist

[Click to learn more about Recreational Therapists](#)



Recreational Therapists help people improve their physical and mental health through fun activities. They plan and lead games, sports, arts and other activities that help patients feel better, recover from injuries or manage disabilities. They work in places like hospitals, nursing homes and schools, helping people gain new skills, build confidence, and enjoy life more fully. Their goal is to make therapy enjoyable and beneficial for their patients.

Job Growth Outlook: As Fast as Average

The job outlook for Recreational Therapists is positive. Jobs are expected to grow faster than average because more people will need therapy services as they get older. Recreational Therapists will be needed in places like hospitals and nursing homes. This means there will be many job opportunities for new recreational therapists.

Qualifications:

To become a Recreational Therapist, you need a bachelor's degree in recreational therapy or a related field. After that, you usually need to pass a certification exam. Some jobs might also require you to get a license, depending on the state where you work. Educational programs teach about therapy techniques, health conditions and how to help people through activities.



50-70K median
income



As fast as average
10 yr growth



Ohio critical job

Registered Nurse

[Click to learn more about Registered Nurses](#)



Registered Nurses (RN) take care of patients in hospitals, clinics, and other healthcare settings. They check vital signs, give medications and help with treatments. RNs also educate patients and their families about health conditions and care plans. They work with doctors and other healthcare professionals to ensure patients receive the best care. RNs play a crucial role in helping patients recover and stay healthy.

Job Growth Outlook: **Faster than Average**

The job outlook for RNs is very good. There is a high demand for RNs due to an aging population and more people needing healthcare. Many job openings are expected in hospitals, clinics, and home healthcare settings. The need for RNs will keep growing, making it a stable and promising career choice for the future.

Qualifications:

To become a Registered Nurse, you need to complete a nursing program, which can be a diploma, an associate degree or a bachelor's degree in nursing. After finishing the program, you must pass the NCLEX-RN exam to get your nursing license. Some nurses also choose to get extra certifications in specialties to advance their careers.



70-100K median
income



Faster than
average growth



In-demand
Cleveland Clinic

Social Worker

[Click to learn more about Social Workers](#)



Social Workers help individuals and families cope with challenges and improve their well-being. They provide counseling, connect people with community resources and advocate for their clients' rights. Social Workers may specialize in areas like child welfare, mental health or substance abuse. They often work in schools, hospitals, or government agencies, striving to make a positive impact on the lives of those in need.

Job Growth Outlook: **Faster than Average**

The job outlook for Social Workers is promising, with a growing demand for their services expected in various fields. As communities face social issues like poverty, substance abuse and mental health challenges, the need for compassionate professionals who can provide support and guidance continues to increase. Social Workers play a vital role in helping individuals and families navigate these complex issues and access the resources they need for a better quality of life.

Qualifications:

Social Workers typically need at least a bachelor's degree in social work (BSW) for entry-level positions. Some roles may require a master's degree in social work (MSW), which opens up more opportunities for advancement and specialization. Courses cover topics like human behavior, social policy, and ethics. Additionally, most states require Social Workers to be licensed, which involves passing an exam after completing the necessary education and supervised experience.



50-70K median
income



Faster than
average growth



Diverse work settings

Master's Degree

These careers need enhanced skills which come from around two additional years in graduate school. These are usually high-paying jobs but are also highly demanding.



Careers Included in This Section

Anesthesiologist Assistant
Art Therapist
Athletic Trainer
Genetic Counselor
Nurse Midwife
Nurse Practitioner
Occupational Therapist
Pathologists' Assistant
Physician Assistant
Speech-Language Pathologist

Careers Not Depicted

Orthotist and Prosthetist

Anesthesiologist Assistant

[Click to learn more about Anesthesiologist Assistants](#)



Anesthesiologist Assistants help anesthesiologists during surgeries. They prepare and check the equipment, give medicines to make patients sleep or feel numb and monitor vital signs like heart rate and breathing while making sure the patient stays safe and comfortable during the operation. After surgery, they help manage the patient's pain and recovery, working closely with the anesthesiologist to provide the best care.

Job Growth Outlook: Much Faster than Average

The job outlook for Anesthesiologist Assistants is very good. As the demand for surgeries and medical procedures increases, more Anesthesiologist Assistants are needed. Hospitals and surgical centers will continue to hire them to help with patient care. This means there will be plenty of job opportunities and a steady need for skilled professionals in this field.

Qualifications:

To become an Anesthesiologist Assistant, you need a bachelor's degree, usually in science or a health-related field. After that, you must complete a two-year master's program in anesthesia. This program includes classroom learning and hands-on training in a hospital. Finally, you need to pass a certification exam to work as an Anesthesiologist Assistant.



100-150K
median income



Much faster than
average growth



Cleveland Clinic
signing bonus

Art Therapist

[Click to learn more about Art Therapists](#)



Art Therapists help people express their feelings and solve problems through art. They use drawing, painting and other creative activities to help clients explore their emotions. Art Therapists work with people of all ages, including kids and adults, and help with issues like stress, anxiety and trauma. By creating art, clients can better understand themselves and improve their mental health with the guidance of the therapist.

Job Growth Outlook: Much Faster than Average

The job outlook for Art Therapists is good. As more people understand the benefits of art therapy for mental health, the demand for Art Therapists is growing. They are needed in places like schools, hospitals and counseling centers. With more focus on mental health care, there will be more job opportunities for Art Therapists to help people through creative expression.

Qualifications:

To become an Art Therapist, you need a bachelor's degree, often in psychology or art. Then, you must complete a master's degree in art therapy, which includes learning about therapy techniques and doing hands-on training. After finishing school, you need to get licensed or certified, which usually means passing an exam and getting supervised work experience. This education helps Art Therapists learn how to help people through art.



50-70K median income



Much faster than
average growth



Ohio critical job

Athletic Trainer

[Click to learn more about Athletic Trainers](#)



Athletic Trainers help people stay safe and healthy while playing sports. They teach athletes how to prevent injuries and provide first aid if someone gets hurt. They also help athletes recover from injuries by creating exercise plans and giving advice on how to heal. Athletic Trainers work with teams, schools, and clinics to ensure athletes are in the best shape and can perform well.

Job Growth Outlook: Much Faster than Average

The job outlook for Athletic Trainers is positive. As people become more active and aware of health, the demand for Athletic Trainers continues to grow. They are needed in schools, colleges, sports teams and clinics. With more focus on preventing and treating sports injuries, there will be more job opportunities for Athletic Trainers to help athletes stay safe and healthy.

Qualifications:

To become an Athletic Trainer, you need a bachelor's degree in athletic training or a related field. In most states, you also need a master's degree. After that, you must pass a certification exam. The education includes learning about the human body, injury prevention and first aid. This training helps Athletic Trainers care for athletes and keep them healthy.



50-70K median
income



Much faster than
average growth



Diverse work settings

Genetic Counselor

[Click to learn more about Genetic Counselors](#)



Genetic Counselors help people understand how genetic conditions may affect them or their families. They provide information about genetic testing, interpret test results and offer support and guidance. Genetic Counselors work with individuals and families to assess their risk of inherited conditions and discuss options for managing or preventing them. They play a crucial role in helping people make informed decisions about their health and genetic risks.

Job Growth Outlook: Much Faster than Average

The job outlook for Genetic Counselors is very good. As genetic testing becomes more common and people seek information about their genetic risks, the demand for Genetic Counselors is growing. They work in hospitals, clinics and research institutions. With advancements in genetics and personalized medicine, there will be many job opportunities for Genetic Counselors, making it a stable and rewarding career choice for those interested in genetics and healthcare.

Qualifications:

To become a Genetic Counselor, you need a master's degree in genetic counseling or a related field. Training includes learning about genetics, counseling techniques, and medical ethics. Programs also include clinical experience working with patients and families. After graduating, Genetic Counselors must pass a certification exam to become licensed. This education prepares Genetic Counselors to provide support and guidance to individuals and families facing genetic conditions or concerns.



70-100K median
income



Much faster than
average growth



High Patient
Interaction

Nurse Midwife

[Click to learn more about Nurse Midwives](#)



Nurse Midwives are advanced practice registered nurses who help women during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period. They provide prenatal care, assist during labor and delivery and offer postnatal support. Nurse midwives also give advice on family planning, gynecological exams and newborn care. They work in hospitals and birthing centers, and they sometimes make home visits to ensure the health and well-being of both mother and baby.

Job Growth Outlook: Much Faster than Average

The job outlook for Nurse Midwives is very positive. Like with the other advanced practice nursing positions, employment for Nurse Midwives is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations. There is a growing demand for midwives to provide primary and maternity care, especially in underserved areas.

Qualifications:

To become a Nurse Midwife, start by earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree and becoming a registered nurse (RN). Next, complete a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) or a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program with a focus on midwifery. After that, pass a national certification exam and obtain a state license. This process typically takes around six to eight years.



100-150K
median income



Faster than
average growth



High Patient
Interaction

Nurse Practitioner

[Click to learn more about Nurse Practitioners](#)



Nurse Practitioners (NP) are nurses with advanced training who can diagnose and treat illnesses, prescribe medications and manage patient care. NPs perform physical exams, order tests and create treatment plans. They can work in various healthcare settings, such as hospitals, clinics and private practices. NPs often focus on specific areas like family medicine, pediatrics or geriatrics, providing comprehensive and personalized care to their patients.

Job Growth Outlook: Much Faster than Average

The job outlook for Nurse Practitioners is very positive. The demand for NPs is expected to grow much faster than average, with a projected increase of 45% from 2020 to 2030. This is due to a growing emphasis on preventive care and an aging population needing more healthcare services. NPs are essential in providing primary and specialized care, making their roles increasingly important in the healthcare system.

Qualifications:

To become a Nurse Practitioner, you first need a bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN) and must be a registered nurse (RN). After that, you need a master's degree or a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) from an accredited program. Finally, you must pass a national certification exam in your specialty area. This education allows you to provide advanced care, including diagnosing and treating patients.



100-150K
median income



Much faster than
average growth



Ohio critical job

Occupational Therapist

[Click to learn more about Occupational Therapists](#)



Occupational Therapists help people of all ages overcome challenges and live more independently. They work with individuals who have physical, mental or developmental difficulties, helping them improve their ability to perform everyday tasks like dressing, cooking or going to school. Occupational Therapists create personalized plans and use activities and exercises to build skills and confidence. Their goal is to help clients lead fulfilling and meaningful lives despite their challenges.

Job Growth Outlook: Much Faster than Average

The job outlook for Occupational Therapists is promising. With a growing aging population and increased awareness of the benefits of occupational therapy, there's a rising demand for these professionals. Occupational Therapists work in hospitals, schools, rehabilitation centers and private practice environments, helping people of all ages overcome challenges and improve their quality of life. As healthcare needs evolve, there will be many opportunities for those interested in pursuing a career in occupational therapy.

Qualifications:

To become an Occupational Therapist, you need a master's degree in occupational therapy from an accredited program. These programs typically take about two to three years to complete and include coursework and supervised clinical fieldwork. After graduation, you must pass a national certification exam to become licensed. Continuing education may be required to maintain licensure and stay updated on advancements in the field of occupational therapy.



70-100K median
income



Much faster than
average growth



Ohio critical job

Pathologists' Assistant

[Click to learn more about Pathologists' Assistants](#)



Pathologists' Assistants help pathologists study diseases by examining tissues and organs. They prepare samples for testing, assist in autopsies and help diagnose medical conditions. They work in labs, hospitals and medical schools. Pathologists' Assistants make sure all the tools are ready and keep records of their findings. Their work helps doctors understand and treat illnesses better.

Job Growth Outlook: **Faster than Average**

The job outlook for Pathologists' Assistants is positive. As the demand for medical and diagnostic services grows, more Pathologists' Assistants will be needed to support pathologists. This means more opportunities for people who want to work in labs and help diagnose diseases.

Qualifications:

To become a Pathologists' Assistant, you need a bachelor's degree in a science field, like biology. Then, you must complete a master's program in pathology assisting, which takes about two years. Some programs require clinical training in a lab or hospital. Pathologists' Assistants are also required to pass an exam offered by the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) in order to become certified.



100-150K
median income



Faster than
average growth



Low Patient
Interaction

Physician Assistant

[Click to learn more about Physician Assistants](#)



Physician Assistants (PAs) work under the supervision of doctors to provide medical care. They examine patients, diagnose illnesses and prescribe treatments. PAs can order tests, interpret results and assist in surgeries. They work in various healthcare settings, including hospitals, clinics and physician offices. PAs play a crucial role in improving access to healthcare, especially in underserved areas, by providing primary and specialty care services.

Job Growth Outlook: Much Faster than Average

The job outlook for Physician Assistants is excellent. With a growing demand for healthcare services, especially in rural and underserved areas, there is a need for more PAs to provide primary care and assist physicians. PAs can work in various specialties, from family medicine to surgery, and their versatile skills make them valuable members of healthcare teams. As the population ages and healthcare needs increase, the demand for PAs is expected to grow.

Qualifications:

To become a Physician Assistant, a master's degree from an accredited physician assistant program is required, which takes about two to three years to complete. These programs include classroom instruction in medical and behavioral sciences, along with clinical rotations in various healthcare settings. After graduation, PAs must pass a national certification exam and obtain a state license to practice. Continuing education is also required to maintain licensure.



100-150K
median income



Much faster than
average growth



Ohio critical job

Speech-Language Pathologist

[Click to learn more about Speech-Language Pathologists](#)



Speech-Language Pathologists help people with communication and swallowing disorders. They develop treatment plans, and provide therapy to improve communication skills. They work with people of all ages, from infants to the elderly, in various settings such as schools, hospitals and rehabilitation centers. Speech-Language Pathologists play a vital role in helping individuals overcome communication challenges and improve their quality of life.

Job Growth Outlook: Much Faster than Average

The job outlook for Speech-Language Pathologists is promising, with a growing demand expected due to increased awareness of communication disorders and aging populations. Opportunities exist in schools, healthcare facilities and private practices. As more people recognize the importance of early intervention for speech and language issues, the need for Speech-Language Pathologists continues to rise.

Qualifications:

Speech-Language Pathologists typically need a master's degree in speech-language pathology from an accredited program. Coursework covers anatomy, physiology, communication disorders and therapy techniques. Clinical practicum experiences are also required for hands-on training. After completing their education, they may need to obtain state licensure or certification to practice. Continuing education may be necessary to maintain licensure and stay updated on advancements in the field.



70-100K median
income



Much faster than
average growth



Ohio critical job

Doctoral or Professional Degree

These careers need a high level of education, which usually comes from more than three years of higher education after earning a bachelor's degree. These are often high paying jobs that require specialized skills and sometimes require extra training after completing the degree.



List of Included Careers

- Audiologist
- Chiropractor
- Clinical Psychologist
- Dentist
- Nurse Anesthetist
- Optometrist
- Pharmacist
- Physical Therapist
- Physician (Medical Doctor)

Careers Not Depicted

- Podiatrist
- Veterinarian

Audiologist

[Click to learn more about Audiologists](#)



Audiologists help people with hearing and balance problems. They test hearing to find out if someone has hearing loss and provide solutions like hearing aids. Audiologists also help with ear-related issues, such as tinnitus (ringing in the ears) and balance disorders. They work with patients of all ages, from babies to older adults, to improve their hearing and quality of life through treatments and technology.

Job Growth Outlook: Much Faster than Average

The job outlook for Audiologists is strong. As people live longer, more will need help with hearing and balance problems. This means more jobs for Audiologists in places like hospitals, clinics and schools. New technology for hearing aids and treatments also creates more opportunities. Overall, the demand for Audiologists is growing, making it a good career choice.

Qualifications:

To become an Audiologist, you need a doctoral degree in audiology, which takes about four years to complete after a bachelor's degree. During this time, you learn about hearing and balance disorders, diagnostic testing and treatments. After graduating, you may need to get licensed by passing an exam. This education prepares Audiologists to help people of all ages with hearing and balance problems, using tests, technology and therapies.



70-100K median
income



Much faster than
average growth



High Patient
Interaction

Chiropractor

[Click to learn more about Chiropractors](#)



Chiropractors help people by treating problems with their muscles, bones and joints, especially in the back and neck. They use hands-on techniques to adjust the spine and other parts of the body to relieve pain and improve function. Chiropractors also give advice on exercises, lifestyle changes and overall health. They work in clinics and sometimes in hospitals, helping patients feel better without surgery or medication.

Job Growth Outlook: Much Faster than Average

The job outlook for Chiropractors is positive. As more people seek natural and non-surgical treatments for pain and health issues, the demand for chiropractic care is expected to grow. Chiropractors are needed in private practices, clinics and wellness centers. An aging population and increased interest in holistic health will also contribute to job opportunities, making this a promising career choice.

Qualifications:

To become a Chiropractor, you need to earn a Doctor of Chiropractic (D.C.) degree. This requires completing at least three years of undergraduate college courses, followed by a four-year chiropractic program. The program includes classroom learning and hands-on clinical training. After earning the degree, you must pass national and state exams to get a license to practice. Continuing education is important to stay updated in the field.



70-100K median
income



Much faster than
average growth



High Patient
Interaction

Clinical Psychologist

[Click to learn more about Clinical Psychologists](#)



Clinical Psychologists help people with mental health issues like anxiety, depression and stress. They talk with patients to understand their problems and use different therapies to help them feel better. Clinical Psychologists also teach people how to cope with challenges and improve their well-being. They work in places like hospitals, schools and private offices, helping people of all ages live healthier and happier lives.

Job Growth Outlook: As Fast as Average

The job outlook for Clinical Psychologists is very good. As more people seek help for mental health issues, the demand for Clinical Psychologists is growing. They are needed in hospitals, schools, clinics and private practices. With a greater focus on mental health awareness, there will be more job opportunities, making it a stable and promising career choice for those interested in helping others.

Qualifications:

To become a Clinical Psychologist, you need a bachelor's degree in psychology or a related field, followed by a doctoral degree (Ph.D. or Psy.D.) in psychology. This takes about five to seven years of graduate study. You also need to complete a supervised internship and pass a licensing exam. This education and training prepare clinical psychologists to understand and treat mental health issues effectively.



100-150K
median income



As fast as average
10 yr growth



Ohio critical job

Dentist

[Click to learn more about Dentists](#)



Dentists take care of people's teeth and gums. They check for cavities, clean teeth and fix problems like broken teeth. Dentists also teach patients how to keep their teeth healthy by brushing and flossing. They can fill cavities, remove teeth and make dentures. Dentists use tools like drills, x-rays and special lights. They work in dental offices and help people have healthy, strong and beautiful smiles.

Job Growth Outlook: **Faster than Average**

The job outlook for Dentists is very good. As more people seek dental care and the population grows, the demand for Dentists increases. Dentists are needed to replace those who retire and to provide ongoing care for children's and adults' teeth. With a focus on oral health and preventive care, there will be many job opportunities in dental offices, clinics, and hospitals.

Qualifications:

To become a Dentist, you need to complete a bachelor's degree, usually with courses in science. After that, you attend dental school for four years to earn a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) or Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) degree. Dental school includes classroom learning and hands-on practice. After graduation, you must pass a licensing exam to practice. Some Dentists also choose to specialize, which requires additional training.



150K + median
income



Faster than
average growth



Internal Education
Program

Nurse Anesthetist

[Click to learn more about Nurse Anesthetists](#)



Nurse Anesthetists are advanced practice registered nurses who specialize in giving anesthesia to patients during surgeries and other medical procedures. They monitor patients' vital signs, like heart rate and breathing, to ensure they stay safe and comfortable. Nurse Anesthetists work closely with doctors and surgeons in hospitals, clinics and even in the military. They play a key role in helping patients manage pain and stay calm during medical treatments.

Job Growth Outlook: Much Faster than Average

The job outlook for Nurse Anesthetists is very good. Demand for healthcare services is growing, and Nurse Anesthetists are needed to provide anesthesia care. Employment is expected to grow much faster than average for all jobs. This is due to an aging population and the need for more medical procedures. Nurse Anesthetists often have opportunities in hospitals, clinics, and surgical centers.

Qualifications:

To become a Nurse Anesthetist, you need to first become a registered nurse (RN) by earning a bachelor's degree in nursing. After that, you need at least one year of work experience in a critical care setting. Then, you must complete a doctoral degree program in nurse anesthesia, which typically takes three years. Finally, you must pass a national certification exam.



150K + median
income



Much faster than
average growth



Ohio critical job

Optometrist

[Click to learn more about Optometrists](#)



Optometrists help people see better by checking their eyes for vision problems and diseases. They perform eye exams, prescribe glasses and contact lenses, and provide treatments for conditions like dry eyes or infections. Optometrists can also detect serious health issues, such as diabetes or high blood pressure, through eye exams. They work in eye care clinics, stores and sometimes hospitals, helping patients maintain good vision and overall eye health.

Job Growth Outlook: Much Faster than Average

The job outlook for Optometrists is positive. As more people need vision care, there is a growing demand for Optometrists to provide eye exams, prescribe glasses and contact lenses and treat eye conditions. Optometrists work in clinics, stores and hospitals, helping people of all ages maintain good vision and eye health. With advances in eye care technology and an aging population, there will be many job opportunities in this field.

Qualifications:

To become an Optometrist, you need a Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree, which typically takes four years to complete after earning a bachelor's degree. Optometry school includes both classroom learning and clinical training. After graduation, Optometrists must pass a licensing exam to practice. Continuing education is required to maintain licensure and stay updated on advancements in eye care.



100-150K
median income



Much faster than
average growth



High Patient
Interaction

Pharmacist

[Click to learn more about Pharmacists](#)



Pharmacists prepare and dispense medications prescribed by doctors. They ensure that patients receive the correct medicine and dosage. Pharmacists also provide advice on how to take medications safely and inform patients about potential side effects. They work in pharmacies, hospitals and clinics, helping manage chronic conditions and answering health-related questions. Pharmacists play a key role in patient care by ensuring medications are used effectively and safely.

Job Growth Outlook: As Fast as Average

The job outlook for Pharmacists is stable but competitive. As healthcare needs grow, there will be continued demand for Pharmacists in hospitals, clinics and retail pharmacies. However, automation and online pharmacies may affect job growth in some areas. Specialized roles in healthcare settings and clinical pharmacies are expanding, offering new opportunities. Overall, Pharmacists will continue to be essential for patient care and medication management.

Qualifications:

To become a Pharmacist, you need to complete a Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree, which usually takes four years. Before entering a Pharm.D. program, you must complete at least two years of college, focusing on science courses like biology and chemistry. After earning the degree, you must pass a licensing exam. Some Pharmacists also complete a residency for advanced training in specialized areas.



100-150K
median income



As fast as average
10 yr growth



Diverse work settings

Physical Therapist

[Click to learn more about Physical Therapists](#)



Physical Therapists help people improve their mobility and manage pain through exercises, stretches and other techniques. They work with patients who have injuries, illnesses or disabilities, helping them regain strength and function. Physical Therapists assess patients' needs and develop personalized treatment plans to address their specific goals. They may use equipment like exercise machines and therapy balls to assist with rehabilitation.

Job Growth Outlook: Much Faster than Average

The job outlook for Physical Therapists is very good. As people live longer and stay active, the demand for physical therapy services grows. Physical Therapists are needed in hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes to help patients recover from injuries, surgeries and illnesses. With an increasing focus on preventive care and overall wellness, the field of physical therapy is expected to continue expanding, providing many job opportunities.

Qualifications:

To become a Physical Therapist, you need a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree, which typically takes three years to complete after earning a bachelor's degree. DPT programs include coursework in anatomy, physiology, and rehabilitation techniques, along with supervised clinical experience. After graduation, you must pass a licensure exam to practice. Some Physical Therapists pursue additional certifications or specialize in areas like sports medicine or pediatric therapy.



70-100K median
income



Much faster than
average growth



Ohio critical job

Physician (Medical Doctor)

[Click to learn more about Physicians](#)



Physicians are medical doctors who help people stay healthy or get better when they are sick. They examine patients, diagnose illnesses, and prescribe treatments or medications. Physicians can specialize in different areas, like pediatrics (children's health) or cardiology (heart health). They work in various settings, such as hospitals, clinics or private practices, and play a vital role in maintaining and improving public health.

Job Growth Outlook: As Fast as Average

The job outlook for Physicians is positive. The demand for doctors is expected to grow due to an aging population and a need for healthcare services. Job opportunities will be plentiful, especially in rural and underserved areas. Advances in technology and medical research will also create new opportunities in various medical fields. Overall, becoming a Physician offers a stable and rewarding career with many job prospects.

Qualifications:

To become a Physician, you need to complete a bachelor's degree, usually in a science-related field. Then, you must attend medical school for four years to earn a Doctor of Medicine (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) degree. After medical school, you must complete a residency program, which lasts three to seven years, depending on your specialty. Finally, you must pass licensing exams to practice medicine.



150K + median
income



As fast as average
10 yr growth



High Patient
Interaction



All About Doctors

While all physicians share the title of “doctor,” they practice within various specialties. There is a diverse range of medical specialties that can have wide ranges of training requirements, incomes, and lifestyles. This section will provide information about medical doctors, including how to become one, and the different specialties they can pursue. You can explore opportunities to pursue a career in medicine through programs hosted by the Center for Youth & College Education at Cleveland Clinic.

The Path to Your White Coat

High School

The initial step to become a medical doctor is to do well in high school. Earning good grades and getting into college will get you started on your professional journey.



MCAT

During college, you need to take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) and do well enough to be admitted to medical school. This test is challenging and requires extensive studying. Doing well is a real time commitment.



Residency

After medical school, you must undergo a residency in your chosen specialty if you want to practice. A resident is a supervised doctor at a teaching hospital. Residency length can vary significantly by specialty and usually takes between three and seven years to complete.



Continuing Education

Medicine is constantly evolving, so your education will continue even after you start practicing. Doctors are required to keep learning for as long as they practice medicine.



College

The next step is earning a bachelor's degree. You need to complete all required courses such as biology, chemistry, math, physics, and English in order to qualify for medical school. There are some combined undergraduate/medical programs, but these are definitely not the norm.

Medical School

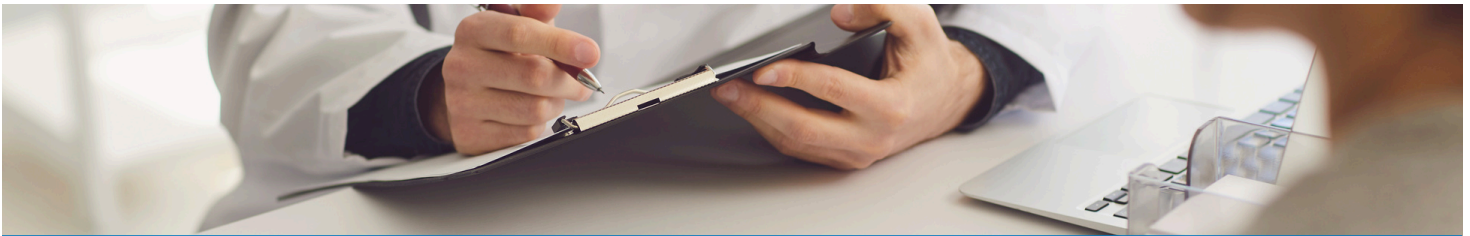
Getting into medical school requires an application process that usually includes interviews. Once you're admitted, medical school includes classroom and laboratory instruction, along with clinical rotations.

Fellowship (optional)

After completing your residency, you have the option to pursue a fellowship. During a fellowship, you complete specialized training in a subspecialty. This gives you knowledge and skills that go beyond what you learned in your residency.

Doctor Specialties and Subspecialties

There are many types of doctors, and they practice all over the healthcare system. Some doctors focus on specific parts of the body, while others concentrate on completely different approaches to medicine, or on things that we can't see with the naked eye. Read below to learn about some of the many specialties that exist in medicine.



Internal Medicine

These specialties diagnose and treat adult diseases



Cardiology

Heart

2024 Mean Pay

\$525,000

Pulmonary Medicine

Lungs

2024 Mean Pay

\$397,000

Nephrology

Kidneys

2024 Mean Pay

\$341,000

Family Medicine

Primary care

2024 Mean Pay

\$272,000



Surgery

Surgeons perform operative procedures to treat diseases and injuries



Otolaryngology

Ears, nose, throat

2024 Mean Pay

\$459,000

Orthopedics

Bones, muscles,
joints

2024 Mean Pay

\$558,000

Plastic Surgery

Repair or enhance

2024 Mean Pay

\$536,000

General Surgery

Various surgeries

2023 Median Pay

\$423,000

Doctor Specialties and Subspecialties



Intensive Care and Recovery

These specialties involve intensive patient care as well as rehabilitation aimed at restoring patients to their normal lives

Critical Care

Life-threatening injuries or illnesses

2024 Mean Pay
\$401,000

Emergency Medicine

Medical emergencies

2024 Mean Pay
\$379,000

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Restoring movement and function

2024 Mean Pay
\$341,000

Psychiatry

Mental, emotional, and behavioral care

2024 Mean Pay
\$323,000



Behind the Scenes

These specialties operate behind the scenes, but are critical to saving lives

Pathology

Diagnosis

2024 Mean Pay
\$366,000

Anesthesiology

Pain management

2024 Mean Pay
\$472,000

Radiology

Imaging

2024 Mean Pay
\$498,000

Infectious Disease

Infections

2024 Mean Pay
\$261,000

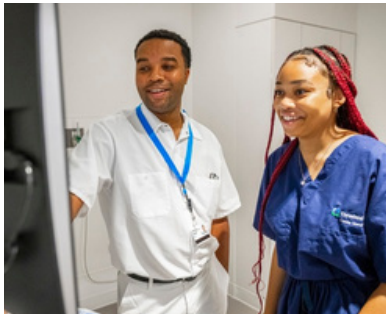


Opportunities to Explore

If you're considering a career in healthcare, the Center for Youth & College Education (CYCE) offers numerous pathways to explore your options. CYCE provides extensive opportunities to gain hands-on experience in your chosen healthcare field of interest.

Center for Youth & College Education

The Center for Youth & College Education (CYCE) offers programming that prepares the next generation of caregivers to join the healthcare workforce.



Internships

CYCE offers three paid summer internship programs focused on healthcare careers (clinical, non-clinical and technological) and workforce development:

- CYCE High School Summer Internship
- CYCE College Summer Internship
- College Discovery Accelerator/ IBM Internship

These programs provide high school and college students opportunities to learn and work alongside respected caregivers at Cleveland Clinic's Main Campus, regional hospitals, family health centers, and administrative campuses.

Student Pathways Program

Student Pathways offers a career exploration experience to high school juniors and seniors who have an interest in healthcare. The six-week program takes place in the evenings during the school year and provides a unique first step in professional life.

Adult Pathways Program

Adult Pathways provides valuable experience for adults who have an interest in the healthcare field but may not be aware of the many avenues available. Participants learn through virtual workshops, onsite observations, and skills training directly from our talent acquisition team.



Student Shadowing Program

Participants may shadow a healthcare professional in a clinical or non-clinical setting for a defined period of time. Opportunities are open to high school students 16 and older, college students and adult learners. Individuals gain experience and understanding to help them make an informed decision about their career of interest.

High School Senior Project and Curriculum-Related Projects

This academic program allows high school students to perform their for-credit senior projects in all fields except nursing, pharmacy and pediatrics at Cleveland Clinic. The Center for Youth & College Education encourages academic institutions to provide their students with a curriculum-related project at Cleveland Clinic.

Connected Career Rounds

Every other week, teams of Cleveland Clinic caregivers walk through care scenarios and discuss the journeys that brought them to their healthcare careers in live online lessons for middle school and high school classrooms. All sessions are available on-demand on the course website within a week of each live session.

Speakers Bureau

The CYCE Speakers Bureau provides schools and other organizations an opportunity to invite Cleveland Clinic caregivers from a wide variety of careers to engage directly with members of their communities. Speaking requests can be made through an online form.

Field Trips

CYCE offers field trip experiences for local K-12 schools. For more information, please visit our website.





Other Career Resources

In addition to the resources and opportunities provided by the Center for Youth & College Education, numerous other ways to explore careers in healthcare are available. This section highlights additional valuable resources for your reference.

A background image showing two people in business attire shaking hands, with a blue semi-transparent banner overlaid on top.

Other Career Resources

Click the links below to learn more

[Center for Nursing Career Exploration](#)

Interested in exploring a career as a nurse? Cleveland Clinic's CNCE offers numerous programs for students who want to enter this hot field in healthcare. Go to this site to learn more about [nurse shadowing](#), [internships](#), [educational boot camps](#), or the [Howley ASPIRE programs](#).

[Center for Health Professions Education](#)

Cleveland Clinic's Center for Health Professions Education offers [internal certification programs](#) and training opportunities for students who attend affiliated schools. Health professions students include individuals who want to work in healthcare but who want to be something other than a doctor or nurse. [You can explore dozens of careers](#) on the CHPE website.

[Lerner Research Institute High School Research](#)

Cleveland Clinic's Lerner Research Institute offers research opportunities for undergraduate and high school students.

[Bureau of Labor Statistics Healthcare Occupations](#)

The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics offers a wealth of information about careers in every industry. Visit this page to explore all types of careers.

[Ohio's Top Jobs](#)

The State of Ohio provides this useful dashboard to explore which jobs in the state have the highest levels of demand.

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