

YOUR FUTURE IN HEALTHCARE

# TeenLife®

2025

**INSIDE:**

IMPACTFUL AND  
UNIQUE CAREERS  
IN HEALTHCARE

HEALTHCARE  
RESOURCES &  
SCHOLARSHIPS

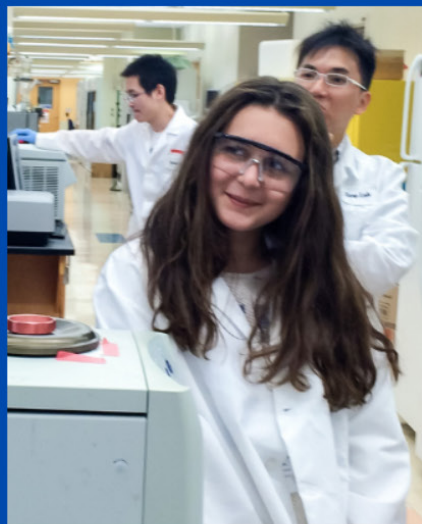
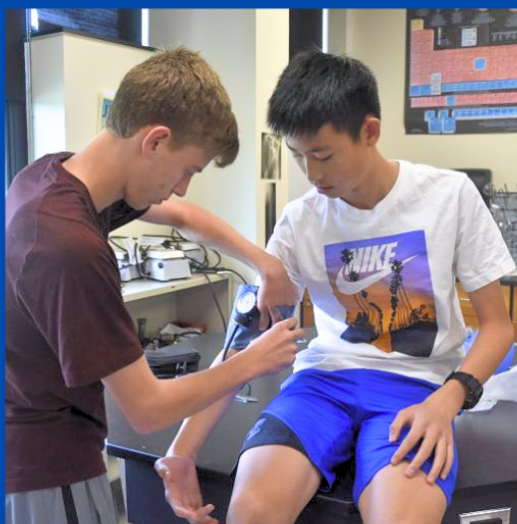
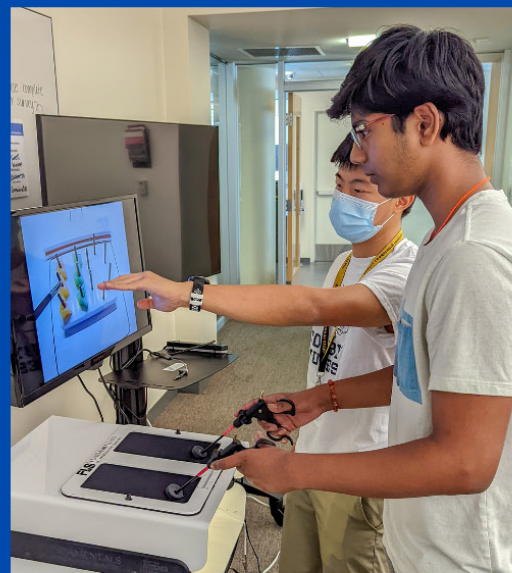
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**Marie Schwartz**  
Founder  
TeenLife Media, LLC

# PREPARING FOR YOUR FUTURE IN HEALTHCARE

**D**reaming of a healthcare career but feeling a little lost about where to start? We've got you covered. TeenLife invites you to explore our 2025 Your Future in Healthcare guide. Think of it as a personal healthcare career advisor. Inside, you'll discover your high school game plan: classes and activity recommendations that could make a huge difference. We cover money matters, like salaries you can earn in different healthcare careers.

Whether you're aiming for med school or something completely different, we can help you figure out a path and think outside the box. Love numbers and healthcare? Combine that passion as a medical statistician. Love the arts and want to find a way to connect filmmaking or drawing with something in healthcare? Consider a career as a medical illustrator! This guide introduces you to an amazing variety of healthcare jobs.

We packed the guide with information, articles, interviews, and resources to spark your curiosity and move you toward your dream career. TeenLife is here to help you turn your passion into a profession. Let's make your healthcare future happen!

**QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS?**  
Email me at [mschwartz@teenlife.com](mailto:mschwartz@teenlife.com)

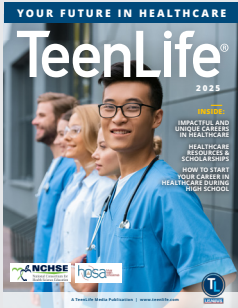


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*Welcome to "Your Future in Healthcare!" This digital guide strives to help students learn more about careers in specific career clusters, as well as the best ways to prepare themselves during high school and college for well-paying careers of the future! Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions to make this resource as helpful as possible.*

*Other publications in this series:*





To download a PDF of this Guide, go to:

[www.teenlife.com/your-future-in-healthcare](http://www.teenlife.com/your-future-in-healthcare)

# YOUR FUTURE IN HEALTHCARE

## PUBLISHER

Founder - Marie Schwartz, [mschwartz@teenlife.com](mailto:mschwartz@teenlife.com)

## EDITOR

Editor-in-Chief - Nancy Li, [nancy@teenlife.com](mailto:nancy@teenlife.com)

Managing Editor - Jodi Ireland, [jodi@teenlife.com](mailto:jodi@teenlife.com)

Associate Editor - Stefanie Tedards, [stedards@joincollegeadvisor.com](mailto:stedards@joincollegeadvisor.com)

## ADVERTISING SALES

Director of Sales - Brenda Boos, [brenda@teenlife.com](mailto:brenda@teenlife.com)

USNCA Director of Business Development - Nicki Alpern, [nicki@teenlife.com](mailto:nicki@teenlife.com)

Sales Account Manager - Jen Fisher, [jen@teenlife.com](mailto:jen@teenlife.com)

Sales Account Manager - Gina Messina, [gina@teenlife.com](mailto:gina@teenlife.com)

Sales & Support Associate - Regan Beiermann, [regan@teenlife.com](mailto:regan@teenlife.com)

## DISTRIBUTION

Digital Marketing Strategist - Dustin Silvaer, [dustin@teenlife.com](mailto:dustin@teenlife.com)

## DESIGNER

Kathy Tilton, [kbtilton@gmail.com](mailto:kbtilton@gmail.com)

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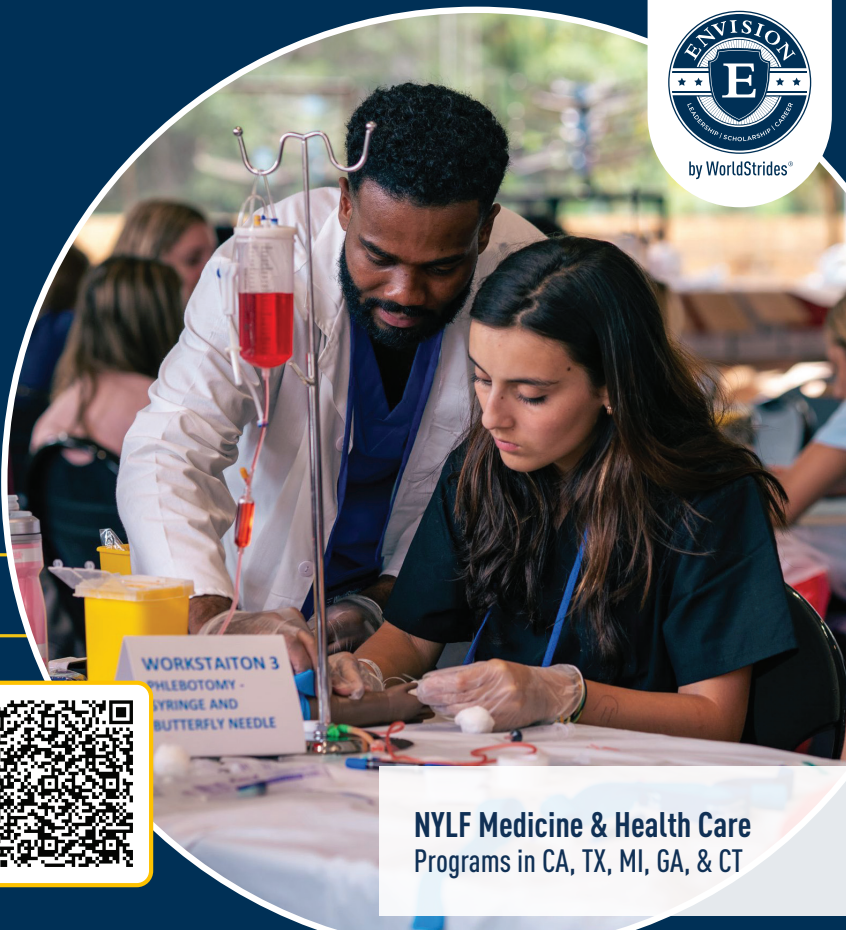
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# YOUR FUTURE IN HEALTHCARE



## WHAT'S INSIDE

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Top Careers in Healthcare .....	4
Ways High School Students Can Plan for a Career in Healthcare .....	8
Healthcare Resources .....	11

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Healthcare Programs & Services .....	14
Healthcare Colleges .....	20

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How Much Education Do I Need? .....	21
HOSA - Alumni Highlight: Jeremy Beane, DNP, FNP - The Power of Saying "Yes" .....	25
HOSA-Future Health Professionals Competitive Events Program.....	26
Impactful & Unique Healthcare Careers.....	28
Healthcare Scholarships for HS Students .....	33
What Can You Earn in Healthcare? .....	35
Growing Partnerships Between High Schools and Healthcare Systems .....	38

# TOP CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE



By Stefanie Tedards

**T**he healthcare industry encompasses a wide range of roles, all working together to provide comprehensive patient care. This diverse field includes everyone from scientists and physicians to support staff and administrators. Each plays a crucial part in the overall healthcare system, helping to ensure individuals receive the necessary care, treatment, and support they need to lead healthier lives.

Healthcare is both a critical field and a source of rapidly expanding career opportunities. The U.S. Bureau of Statistics projects healthcare employment to grow significantly faster than the average, with nearly 2 million new openings projected annually. This growth stems from an aging population and a growing shortage of healthcare professionals, specifically nurses, among other factors.

## HIGH-GROWTH HEALTHCARE CAREERS

**NURSE PRACTITIONERS**



**46%** growth

**MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES MANAGERS**



**29%** growth

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**



**28%** growth

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS**



**25%** growth

**OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANTS**



**22%** growth

Besides these roles, the ongoing challenges of an aging population, the nursing shortage, and advancements in technology — particularly telehealth and AI — are driving new and emerging careers:

- **Advanced Practice Providers (APP) roles** such as nurse practitioners, certified nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists, and certified nurse midwives.
- **Telehealth roles** such as digital health coaches, telemedicine coordinators, and telehealth technicians.
- **Senior care roles** such as geriatric physical therapists, health longevity specialists, chronic disease managers, palliative care specialists, and preventative care specialists.
- **AI/tech roles** such as health informatics specialists, clinical data analysts, AI healthcare analysts, and digital health project managers.

While in-demand jobs will be easier to find in the future, they're not necessarily the right fit for everyone. Consider: Will the pay work for you? Can you maintain a healthy work-life balance? Does it mesh with what you love to do?

Ready to explore further? Check out these top 25 healthcare careers, each with unique opportunities.

## TOP 25 HEALTHCARE CAREERS

1.	<b>REGISTERED NURSES</b>	5% projected growth - \$170,910 average salary	Provide patient care, administer medications, and assist in medical procedures while supporting overall patient health and recovery.
2.	<b>DENTISTS</b>	5% projected growth - \$170,910 average salary	Diagnose and treat oral health issues, perform procedures like fillings and extractions, and promote preventive dental care.
3.	<b>NURSE PRACTITIONERS</b>	40% projected growth - \$129,480 average salary	Assess, diagnose, and treat medical conditions, often working independently or in collaboration with physicians to provide comprehensive care.
4.	<b>PHYSICAL THERAPISTS</b>	14% projected growth - \$99,710 average salary	Design and guide patients through rehabilitation programs to improve mobility, strength, and function after injuries or surgeries.
5.	<b>PHYSICIANS</b>	4% projected growth - \$247,640 average salary	Diagnose and treat a wide range of medical conditions; often specialize in a particular area of medicine, such as cardiology or dermatology.
6.	<b>DENTAL HYGIENISTS</b>	9% projected growth - \$87,530 average salary	Clean teeth, take x-rays, and educate patients on oral health practices to prevent dental problems and maintain hygiene.
7.	<b>PHARMACISTS</b>	5% projected growth - \$136,030 average salary	Dispense prescriptions; educate patients on proper usage to ensure safe, effective use of medications.
8.	<b>SURGEONS</b>	4% projected growth - \$343,990 average salary	Perform surgeries to treat injuries, diseases, and deformities and provide pre-operative and post-operative care.
9.	<b>RADIOLOGY TECHNICIANS</b>	6% projected growth - \$76,020 average salary	Use imaging equipment such as X-rays and MRIs to capture images for diagnosing medical conditions.
10.	<b>RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS</b>	13% projected growth - \$77,960 average salary	Help patients with breathing difficulties by providing treatments like oxygen therapy and managing ventilators.
11.	<b>GENETIC COUNSELORS</b>	16% projected growth - \$95,770 average salary	Assess genetic risks and provide advice to individuals and families regarding inherited conditions and genetic testing results.
12.	<b>OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS</b>	11% projected growth - \$96,370 average salary	Assist patients in recovering or improving the skills needed for daily living and work through therapeutic activities.
13.	<b>OPTOMETRISTS</b>	9% projected growth - \$131,860 average salary	Examine, diagnose, and treat vision problems, prescribe corrective lenses, and manage eye health.
14.	<b>AUDIOLOGISTS</b>	11% projected growth - \$87,740 average salary	Diagnose and treat hearing and balance disorders; provide hearing aids and other interventions to improve patient quality of life.
15.	<b>SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS</b>	18% projected growth - \$89,290 average salary	Treat patients with speech, language, and swallowing disorders by helping them develop and improve their communication and swallowing abilities.
16.	<b>ANESTHESIOLOGISTS</b>	4% projected growth - \$339,470 average salary	Administer anesthesia to patients during surgeries and procedures, monitoring their vital signs and ensuring their comfort and safety.

## TOP 25 HEALTHCARE CAREERS CONT.

17.	<b>CHIROPRACTORS</b>	<b>10% projected growth - \$76,530 average salary</b>	Diagnose and treat musculoskeletal issues, especially those related to the spine, using manual manipulation and other therapeutic techniques.
18.	<b>PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS</b>	<b>28% projected growth - \$130,020 average salary</b>	Collaborate with physicians to diagnose and treat patients, prescribe medications, and perform various medical procedures.
19.	<b>NURSE PRACTITIONERS</b>	<b>40% projected growth - \$214,200 average salary</b>	Provide anesthesia care during surgeries, monitor patients' vital signs, and manage pain relief post-operation.
20.	<b>ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEONS</b>	<b>4% projected growth - \$334,310 average salary</b>	Perform surgeries to treat injuries, diseases, or deformities related to the mouth, teeth, jaw, and face.
21.	<b>ORTHOTISTS AND PROSTHETISTS</b>	<b>15% projected growth - \$78,100 average salary</b>	Design, fit, and maintain medical devices like braces, splints, and artificial limbs to support patients' mobility and function.
22.	<b>PSYCHIATRISTS</b>	<b>4% projected growth - \$256,930 average salary</b>	Diagnose and treat mental health disorders, prescribe medications, and offer therapy to improve psychological well-being.
23.	<b>EKG TECHNICIANS</b>	<b>11% projected growth - \$70,270 average salary</b>	Operate electrocardiogram machines to monitor heart activity and help doctors diagnose heart conditions.
24.	<b>MEDICAL RECORDS SPECIALISTS</b>	<b>9% projected growth - \$48,780 average salary</b>	Manage and organize patient health information, assign standardized codes to diagnoses and procedures, and ensure accurate documentation for billing and insurance claims processing.
25.	<b>PHLEBOTOMISTS</b>	<b>8% projected growth - \$41,810 average salary</b>	Draw blood samples for testing or donation while ensuring patient comfort and safety during the procedure.

### CHOOSING A CAREER IN HEALTHCARE

Choosing a healthcare career is a huge step — and yes, it's incredibly rewarding. But with so many options, how do you find the perfect fit? While exploring your options, ask yourself these questions:

- Do you want to roll up your sleeves and work directly with patients, or do you prefer working behind-the-scenes in an administrative role?
- Do you thrive in fast-paced, high-pressure environments, or do you prefer a more laid-back setting?
- Are you drawn to the hustle and bustle of a hospital, the quiet of a lab, or the calm of an office?
- Do you prefer to focus on one thing at a time or do you enjoy juggling multiple responsibilities simultaneously?

- Are you passionate about working with a specific age group (children, adults, elderly), or do you gravitate more toward animals?
- Do you prefer working independently or teaming up with others?
- How do you feel about working long hours or being on-call for emergencies?
- How much education are you willing to commit to?
- Do you see yourself going to college, or to medical school?

These questions are more than a checklist — they're your roadmap to finding a healthcare career aligned with your personality, values, and goals. Reflect on what piques your interest in healthcare, and use that insight to guide your next steps.

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# WAYS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CAN **PLAN FOR A CAREER IN HEALTHCARE**



By Jodi Ireland

**D**reaming of a healthcare career? Begin your journey before you graduate from high school. While the path to becoming a healthcare professional may feel intimidating, strategic preparation can set you up for success. Here are a few ways to create a solid foundation across academics, experiences, and personal skills to prepare you for an impactful career.

## **BUILDING AN ACADEMIC FOUNDATION**

Science and math classes form the cornerstone of your preparation, but communication skills are also important. Focus on developing strong writing and public speaking abilities, as you'll need to communicate complex medical information to patients, families, and colleagues. If your high school offers a medical terminology course — or you can take one through dual enrollment at a local community college — it'll give you a great head start. So will these other classes.

Biology is the gateway to understanding human anatomy, physiology, and disease processes. Chemistry teaches you the biochemical processes in the human body and even how

medications work. Physics introduces you to other scientific principles used by medical technologies. Take honors, AP, or IB biology courses for college-level preparation.

Math may seem distant from healthcare, but it's also a critical skill for calculating medication dosages and interpreting medical research, for example. Algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and calculus will sharpen your analytical abilities. Statistics can help you later when you're understanding population health trends and medical research methodologies.

## **EXPERIENCES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM**

Academics comprise just one piece of the puzzle. Extracurricular activities and hands-on experiences are important, too. Get real-world exposure by volunteering at a local hospital, clinic, nursing home, veterinary office, or community health organization. You'll gain insights into different healthcare environments and demonstrate your commitment to helping others.

Organizations like Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) also offer opportunities for aspiring healthcare

professionals. You can connect with like-minded peers through competitions, workshops, and leadership activities and learn about various healthcare career paths. Similarly, you can participate in science clubs, take first aid training, and get your CPR certification to enhance your practical skills (and resume).

Job shadowing is another powerful tool. Contact local healthcare professionals — doctors, nurses, physical therapists, pharmacists, physician assistants, occupational therapists, etc. — and ask to shadow them at work. This firsthand experience gives you a better idea of each job's responsibilities and can help you decide whether you want to pursue it.

Leverage your network; guidance counselors, teachers, and family can connect you with opportunities, too. Seek diverse experiences — even those not directly medical — to build transferrable skills like teamwork, communication, and empathy.

If you're 16, you can earn a basic EMT certification (and full certification when you're 18). The minimum age in some states for a certified nursing assistant (CNA) is 16, although many employers require you to be 18. Both certifications offer hands-on medical experience and training while you earn your credentials.

Explore entry-level roles in medical offices or clinics to learn about healthcare's administrative and operational aspects.

### **POLISHING YOUR COMPETENCIES**

Technical knowledge alone doesn't make a well-rounded healthcare professional. You need soft skills, too, like communication, active listening, and empathy. Healthcare is fundamentally about human connection and compassionate care, after all!

To sharpen your critical thinking and problem-solving skills, practice analyzing complex information, identifying challenges, and developing solutions. You'll get lots of opportunities in your high school career, especially if you take college prep, honors, and AP-level courses.

Look into summer programs, like pre-college healthcare, clinical laboratory science, or healthcare administration/management courses. You'll also learn teamwork in these programs, as healthcare is an industry where professionals from different disciplines collaborate to provide comprehensive patient care.

The American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) publishes a list of premed competencies that all incoming medical students are expected to have. You'll develop and polish these skills as an undergrad, but you can also start working on them in high school. They include:

- **Cultural awareness**
- **Empathy and compassion**
- **Ethical responsibility to self and others**
- **Reliability and dependability**
- **Resilience and adaptability**
- **Human behavior**
- **Living systems**
- **Quantitative reasoning**
- **Critical thinking**
- **Scientific inquiry**

### **PREPARING FOR YOUR UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE... AND BEYOND**

As your high school graduation date nears, start researching programs aligned with your healthcare career goals. Look for universities with strong pre-med, nursing, or specialized healthcare tracks. Check for programs offering research opportunities, clinical experiences, and mentorship programs.

Standardized tests and college applications also require early preparation. Start studying for the ACT or SAT well in advance. You can take the PSAT as a sophomore to get a sense of what to expect. Then, plan to take a few practice tests in the summer between 10th and 11th grade and take advantage of some of the available online study resources. Bonus: Many are free!

### **CONTINUOUS LEARNING AND EXPLORATION**

Stay curious and engaged in the healthcare world. Whether you want to be a surgeon or physical therapist, research and develop cancer treatments, or join the veterinary team at a zoological garden or aquarium, you can:

- **Read medical journals or articles relevant to your interests**
- **Watch documentaries**
- **Attend health conferences**
- **Volunteer in your community**
- **Enroll in summer programs**

The dynamic healthcare field is constantly evolving, and your ability to grow and adapt will be a great asset. Remember that your journey isn't a marathon — it's a sprint. Each experience, each course, and each volunteer hour is a step toward your goal. Stay motivated, be patient with yourself, and never stop learning.

The healthcare world awaits the next generation of dedicated, compassionate, driven professionals. Your high school years are the perfect time to establish a strong foundation for a meaningful, impactful career.

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- » Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy  
<https://www.amcp.org/membership/become-member/amcp-student-pharmacist-membership>
- » American Academy of Family Physicians  
<https://www.aafp.org/membership/join/student.html>
- » American Pre-Veterinary Medical Association  
<https://apvma.org/join-the-apvma.html>
- » American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
<https://www.aanp.org/>
- » American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC)  
<https://www.aarc.org/>
- » American College of Healthcare Executives  
<https://www.ache.org/about-ache/join-ache/student-associate>
- » American College of Physicians  
<https://www.acponline.org/membership/medical-students>
- » American Dental Education Association (ADEA)  
<https://www.adea.org/home/education/ADEA-Scholarships-Awards-and-Fellowships/for-students>
- » American Dental Hygienists' Association  
<https://www.adha.org/membership/students/>
- » American Massage Therapy Association  
<https://www.amtamassage.org/join/>
- » American Medical Student Association  
<https://www.amsa.org/>
- » American Medical Women's Association  
<https://www.amwa-doc.org/students/>



## ORGANIZATIONS WITH STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS CONT.

- » **American Occupational Therapy Association**  
<https://www.aota.org/Students.aspx>
- » **American Optometric Student Association**  
<https://theaosa.org/>
- » **American Psychological Association**  
<https://www.apa.org/members/your-membership/join>
- » **American Public Health Association**  
<https://www.apha.org/membership/membership-categories>
- » **American Society of Health-System Pharmacists**  
<https://www.ashp.org/membership-center/member-information>
- » **American Student Dental Association**  
<https://www.asdanet.org/index/join>
- » **Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S. (AMSUS)**  
<https://amsus.org/>
- » **Association of Native American Medical Students**  
<https://www.anamstudents.org/>
- » **Association of Surgical Technologists**  
<https://www.ast.org/>
- » **Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)**  
<https://www.himss.org/>
- » **International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation**  
<https://www.ipsf.org/>
- » **The Latino Medical Student Association**  
<https://national.lmsa.net/join/>
- » **National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO)**  
<https://www.naccho.org/>
- » **National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT)**  
<https://www.naemt.org/>
- » **National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA)**  
<https://www.nata.org/>
- » **National Student Nurses' Association**  
<https://www.nсна.org/membership.html>
- » **The Naturopathic Medical Student Association**  
<https://naturopathicstudent.org/>
- » **Student National Medical Association**  
<https://snma.org/page/joinus>
- » **Student Osteopathic Medical Association**  
<https://studentdo.org/>





## GENERAL RESOURCES

- » **Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics**  
<https://www.eatright.org/>
- » **Alternative Healthcare Careers**  
<https://www.alternativehealthcarecareers.com/>
- » **American Association of Colleges of Nursing**  
<https://www.aacnnursing.org/>
- » **American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine**  
<https://www.aacom.org/>
- » **American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACCP)'s Pharmacy is Right for Me**  
<https://pharmacyforme.org/>
- » **American Association of Medical Assistants**  
<https://www.aama-ntl.org/>
- » **American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges**  
<https://www.aavmc.org/>
- » **American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC)'s VetMed Pathways**  
<https://vetmedpathways.com/>
- » **American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)**  
<https://ahima.org/>
- » **American Medical Technologists (AMT)**  
<http://www.americanmedtech.org/>
- » **American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)'s PT Moves Me**  
<https://www.apta.org/your-career/careers-in-physical-therapy/pt-moves-me>
- » **American Psychiatric Association Foundation (APAF)**  
<https://www.psychiatry.org/>
- » **American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT)**  
<https://www.asrt.org/>
- » **American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA)**  
<https://www.asha.org/>
- » **American Veterinary Medical Association**  
<https://www.avma.org/>
- » **Association of American Medical Colleges**  
<https://www.aamc.org/>
- » **Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL)**  
<https://www.aphl.org/Pages/default.aspx>
- » **Biomedical Science Careers Program**  
<https://www.bscp.org/>
- » **Girls Health**  
<https://girlshealth.gov/>
- » **Health Professions Network (HPN)**  
<https://hpnonline.org/>
- » **Health Career Connection**  
<https://www.healthcareers.org/>
- » **Health Sciences Career Cluster**  
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers/career-clusters/health-sciences>
- » **Medical School HQ**  
<https://medicalschoollhq.net/>
- » **MyPABox - PA School Finder**  
<https://mypabox.com/paschoolfinder>
- » **Medical School Headquarters**  
<https://medicalschoollhq.net/thepremedyears/>
- » **National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM)**  
<https://www.nasm.org/>
- » **National Healthcareer Association (NHA)**  
<https://www.nhanow.com/>
- » **The PA Education Association (PAEA)**  
<https://paeasonline.org/>
- » **Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB)**  
<https://www.ptcb.org/>
- » **Roadmap to Med**  
<https://www.roadmaptomed.com/>
- » **Society of Nuclear Medicine**  
<https://snmmi.org/>
- » **Student Doctor Network**  
<https://www.studentdoctor.net/>
- » **The Physician Assistant Education Association**  
<https://paeasonline.org/>
- » **The PA Platform**  
<https://www.thepaplatform.com/>
- » **U.S. News and World Report Top Medical Schools**  
<https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-medical-schools>
- » **What is Pop? (Prosthetics, Orthotics, Pedorthics)**  
<https://whatispop.org/>
- » **Why Choose OT? (Occupational Therapy)**  
<https://whychooseot.com/>

# HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS & SERVICES







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-  \$1,285
-  9th, 10th, 11th & 12th
-  In-Person
-  3 Days





The Congress of Future Medical Leaders is a 3-day, honors-only program for HS students who are dedicated to the service of humanity through medicine. The purpose of the Congress is to honor, inspire, and motivate the top students in our country and help them stay true to their dreams. During the event, students will: receive mentoring from Nobel Prize winners and groundbreaking medical innovators, connect with young inventors, learn from medical school deans, and witness a live surgery in real-time. [Learn more »](#)

ENVISION BY WORLDSTRIDES: NYLF – MEDICINE | [View Website](#)

-  \$3,795
-  9th, 10th, 11th & 12th
-  In-Person
-  1 Week

National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF): Medicine & Health Care is your chance to step into the shoes (and scrubs) of a physician and gain transformative medical school and career knowledge. Discover the right path for your future through a fun and interactive curriculum that will allow you to test your personal and academic strengths in true-to-life simulations and hands-on clinical training, while you gain the confidence needed to give yourself a leg up in the future. [Learn more »](#)

FUTURE PHYSICIANS AMERICA | [View Website](#)

-  \$1,600 - \$10,700
-  7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th & College
-  In-Person & Online
-  1 - 6 Weeks

FPA summer camps offer hands-on clinical courses with certifications in Trauma & Surgical Skills, Cardiology & Resuscitation, Neurology, Dermatology & Plastic surgery. Our students present at the Society of Academic Emergency Medicine and have published their work in the Archives of Dermatologic Research, Orthopedic Reviews, Journal of Craniofacial Surgery, JACEP Open, Health Psychology Research, International Journal of Emergency Medicine, Case reports in Neurology, Radiology Case Reports, BMC Psychology, Journal of the National Medical Association, and the New England Journal of Medicine, to name a few. [Learn more »](#)

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY PRE-COLLEGE ONLINE HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS

[View Website](#)

-  \$1,795 Enrichment; \$3,995 College Credit
-  8th, 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th
-  Online
-  Varies

Are you interested in medicine? Do you picture yourself as a surgeon, nurse, or medical researcher? Get a behind the scenes look at these fields through Georgetown University's pre-college online courses in medicine for students ages 13 and older. Each course features dynamic video lessons by renowned Georgetown faculty and access to mentors. You can even earn college credit for select courses. The program is available year-round, and the online format enables you to study anywhere, anytime, on your schedule. [Learn more »](#)

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-  9th, 10th, 11th, 12th & College
-  In-Person
-  9 Days

Our Global Health Travel Programs in Guatemala, Belize, Thailand and West Virginia offer a unique opportunity for you to learn through hands-on-service. You will have direct access to the community, working alongside our local health partners to offer clinical screenings and health education activities. You will gain a different perspective about how social, economic, and human rights inequities impact health accessibility and services in comparison to your own.

[Learn more »](#)





HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL PRE-COLLEGE HMX PROGRAM | [View Website](#)

-  \$1,795
-  8th, 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th
-  Online
-  Varies

Designed for motivated high school students ages 13 and older, the Harvard Medical School Pre-College HMX Program offers the opportunity for aspiring health professionals to explore the world of medicine. Our online medical science courses provide a rigorous and engaging curriculum led by Harvard Medical School faculty. Through real-world applications and interactive tools, students will gain a deeper understanding of human biology, disease, and the innovative technologies shaping the future of health.





[Learn more »](#)

HARVARD UNIVERSITY: SECONDARY SCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS | [View Website](#)

-  Varies
-  9th, 10th, 11th & 12th
-  In-Person
-  2 & 7 Week Options

Harvard Summer School is your chance to immerse yourself in a world-class academic experience. Learn from leading academics and share classes and activities with bright students from around the world, all while adding Harvard to your college applications. Discover what a Harvard Summer experience can do for your future. [Learn more »](#)

IMPERIAL GLOBAL SUMMER SCHOOL: MEDICINE AND LIFE SCIENCES | [View Website](#)





-  £7,260
-  10th, 11th & 12th
-  In-Person
-  2 Weeks

Elevate your passion for healthcare and make friends from around the world at our pre-university programme for students aged 16 and 17. Our two-week residential programme in the heart of London is a great way to develop your subject knowledge in medicine and life sciences and add weight to a future university application. You'll take your knowledge to the next level through a challenging academic programme that includes lectures, laboratory sessions and a high level of practical work. [Learn more »](#)




## NATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (NSLC) | MEDICINE &amp; HEALTH CARE

[View Website](#)

-  \$4,195 - \$4,395
-  9th, 10th, 11th & 12th
-  In-Person
-  9 Days




At the National Student Leadership Conference on Medicine & Health Care, serving as a health professional becomes a reality. While at the NSLC, you will perform clinical rounds, learn medical examination and surgical techniques, and participate in diagnosis and treatment while solving the mystery of a fatal outbreak sweeping the nation. You and your team will grapple with controversial medical issues, learn about today's health care challenges and explore advanced scientific research in areas such as cancer and HIV/AIDS.

[Learn more »](#)NORTHWESTERN PRE-COLLEGE ONLINE HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS | [View Website](#)

-  \$1,795
-  8th, 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th
-  Online
-  2 & 4 Week Options


Explore the world of medicine with Northwestern's Pre-College Online Program, designed for high school students ages 13 and up. If you aspire to a career in medicine, our engaging courses delve into cutting-edge topics in emergency medicine, medical research, and more. Learn from expert faculty through dynamic online lessons and interactive tools. Discover your passion and gain valuable insights into the medical profession, all from the comfort of your own home, at your own pace. [Learn more »](#)

NYU SUMMER PROGRAM: EXPLORING CAREERS IN MEDICINE | [View Website](#)

-  \$3,000+
-  9th, 10th, 11th & 12th
-  In-Person
-  1 Week

Immerse yourself in a one-of-a-kind college and career readiness experience at NYU's Career Edge Summer High School Program. These one-week summer sessions allow you to explore career possibilities from health and medicine to psychology. Meet friends from around the world, explore NYC, and live in an NYU dorm! Get a taste of the real-world workplace while preparing for college life — only at NYU SPS! [Learn more »](#)





SUMMER DISCOVERY: HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS | [View Website](#)

-  \$3,999 - \$9,199
-  9th, 10th, 11th & 12th
-  In-Person
-  2 - 6 Weeks

Summer Discovery offers courses in health sciences and medicine across prestigious universities including: UC Berkeley, Dartmouth, University of Texas at Austin, UCLA, University of Michigan, Georgetown, Vanderbilt, Yale, University of Cambridge and University of Oxford. Led by experienced healthcare professionals, our hands-on curriculum may include dissecting specimens, conducting experiments or exploring medical ethics. Our courses provide insights and practical skills for aspiring healthcare professionals. Be inspired and empowered as you start your transformative educational journey. [Learn more »](#)







SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY SUMMER COLLEGE: HEALTHCARE AND STEM | [View Website](#)

-  \$1,995 - \$7,795
-  10th, 11th & 12th
-  In-Person & Online
-  1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 Week Options

For 65 years, Syracuse University Office of Pre-College Programs has been providing high school students with the opportunity to explore college majors and potential careers through its renowned pre-college programs. Students choose from over 100 credit or noncredit courses either On Campus, Online, and On Location. Courses are taught by Syracuse University faculty and instructors. Students learn to balance freedom and responsibility much like a college student and they return home feeling confident, enthusiastic, and college-ready.

[Learn more »](#)





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-  \$1,300+
-  10th, 11th & 12th
-  In-Person, Online & Hybrid
-  Varies

Give your teen a head start in Bioengineering with UC San Diego's hands-on, research-driven courses! Designed for high-achieving high school students, our programs offer engaging lab activities, expert mentorship, and real-world experience — either on campus or remotely. From foundational techniques to advanced research projects, students gain valuable skills for college and beyond. Spots are limited, and demand is high — apply today to secure a place in this exciting opportunity! [Learn more »](#)







UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER ONLINE HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS | [View Website](#)

-  \$1,495
-  8th, 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th
-  Online
-  2 & 4 Week Options

The University of Rochester's Pre-College Online Program is a great way to determine if your passions could lead to a college major or a future career. We offer courses in medicine, orthopedic surgery, biomedical engineering, and more. Our online courses are developed for students ages 13 and older, designed by Rochester faculty who are experts in their respective fields, supported by mentors to enrich your learning experience, and delivered through dynamic videos allowing you to learn at your own pace. [Learn more »](#)

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY ONLINE HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS | [View Website](#)

-  \$1,495
-  8th, 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th
-  Online
-  2 & 4 Week Options

The Wake Forest Online Immersion Program for high school students provides the opportunity to explore your interests in the medical field before college. We offer medicine-related courses spanning specialties like sports, cancer, women's and more. Our online courses, which include dynamic videos that allow self-paced learning, are designed for students ages 13 and up, and taught by Wake Forest University physician experts who also provide mentoring. [Learn more »](#)

WESTCOAST CONNECTION: COSTA RICA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE | [View Website](#)

-  \$4,799
-  9th, 10th & 11th
-  In-Person
-  11 Days

Learn what it takes to run a mobile clinic in Costa Rica on this medical program for high school students. Under the guidance of MEDLIFE doctors and other medical professionals, help provide free healthcare to the community of Tamarindo, a beautiful coastal town. Teens will walk away with hands-on medical support experience and a greater understanding of the challenges of public health in remote communities. Amazing adventures like surf lessons, zip-lining and a catamaran snorkel cruise are also included!

[Learn more »](#)

WORLD SCHOLARS ACADEMY | WORLD-CLASS ACADEMICS | [View Website](#)

-  \$2,195 - \$2,795
-  7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th
-  Online
-  2 - 4 Weeks





World Scholars Academy offers summer medical courses and research internships taught live online by world-leading instructors selected from top academic institutions. Study for success with individual feedback and personalized academic guidance in our exclusive small-group classes (max 6 students), providing high-level instruction in state-of-the-art medical theory and practice. Secure a letter of recommendation or a research publication for university applications, and connect with other ambitious peers from around the world. Limited summer 2025 places available for aspiring doctors ages 12-18.

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# HEALTHCARE COLLEGES

MCPHERSON COLLEGE: HEALTH SCIENCE | [View Website](#)

-  \$38,818
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-  McPherson, KS
-  Health Sciences, Healthcare Administration

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## HOW MUCH EDUCATION DO I NEED?

By Stefanie Tedards

**H**ealthcare encompasses countless different types of jobs, fields, and specialties — each with requirements for entry. While it's true you need a university degree for more advanced roles, not every job requires a bachelor's degree. You can enter numerous healthcare careers with sub-bachelor qualifications, bypassing the need for a four-year degree before entering the workforce.

Healthcare offers diverse training paths. Some roles, like paramedics or surgical technologists, require 1-2 years of training; others, such as phlebotomists or hemodialysis technicians, take less than a year. Conversely, advanced positions like medical physicist, nurse midwife, or physical therapist require 6-8 years of education.

With so many fields and directions to explore, it can be hard to know how much education you actually need to build a career in healthcare. To help guide your journey, here's a list of 41 healthcare jobs across six degree levels.

## HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR EQUIVALENT

1.	<b>OCCUPATIONAL/PHYSICAL THERAPY AIDES:</b> Support therapists by performing non-clinical tasks, such as preparing treatment areas and equipment.
2.	<b>HOME HEALTH AIDES:</b> Provide basic care in patients' homes, assisting with daily living tasks such as bathing or dressing and monitoring vitals.
3.	<b>PHARMACY TECHNICIANS:</b> Work under the supervision of a pharmacist, maintaining inventory records, ordering supplies, and filling prescriptions.
4.	<b>ORDERLIES:</b> Provide patient care through non-medical tasks like transport and assistance with daily living activities.
5.	<b>HEARING AID SPECIALISTS:</b> Administer hearing tests and help fit patients for hearing aids.
6.	<b>OPTICIAN DISPENSERS:</b> Fit eyeglasses and contact lenses based on ophthalmologist or optometrist-issued prescriptions.
7.	<b>VETERINARY ASSISTANTS:</b> Assist in treating animals, including feeding and weighing patients, sterilizing equipment, and scheduling appointments.

## NON-DEGREE CERTIFICATE

1.	<b>SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS:</b> Prepare the operating room and pass sterile instruments and supplies to surgeons during surgery.
2.	<b>LPNS/LVNS:</b> Provide basic medical care, including taking vitals and changing bandages, under the supervision of more advanced nurses.
3.	<b>EMTS/PARAMEDICS:</b> Respond to emergency calls, assess patient conditions, provide critical lifesaving treatment, and transport patients to hospitals.
4.	<b>MEDICAL/NURSING ASSISTANTS:</b> Help with basic care for patients in hospitals, including monitoring vitals, serving meals, dispensing medications, and reporting concerns to the medical team.
5.	<b>DENTAL ASSISTANTS:</b> Perform administrative and non-medical tasks in a dental office, including record keeping, appointment scheduling, instrument sterilizing, and x-ray processing.
6.	<b>PHLEBOTOMISTS:</b> Draw blood from patients for testing or donation, keeping patients calm and safe during the procedure.
7.	<b>MEDICAL RECORDS AND HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNICIANS:</b> Organize and maintain patient health records by accurately assigning clinical codes and documenting insurance reimbursements.

## ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE

1.	<b>TECHNOLOGISTS (MRI, RADIOLOGIC, CARDIOVASCULAR):</b> Operate imaging equipment to produce diagnostic images; prepare and position patients.
2.	<b>DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHERS:</b> Specialize in ultrasounds, including patient communication, equipment operation, and image analysis for diagnostic purposes.
3.	<b>THERAPISTS (RADIATION, RESPIRATORY):</b> Administer treatment to patients; radiation therapists deliver radiation doses, while respiratory therapists give oxygen and help patients manage breathing problems.
4.	<b>OCCUPATIONAL/PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANTS:</b> Help provide treatments as directed by occupational/physical therapists.
5.	<b>DENTAL HYGIENISTS:</b> Perform dental cleanings and work with dentists to ensure patient tooth and gum health.
6.	<b>MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIANS:</b> Conduct routine laboratory tests on biological specimens, including fluids and tissue samples, under the supervision of a lab scientist.
7.	<b>VETERINARY TECHNOLOGISTS AND TECHNICIANS:</b> Perform animal medical procedures, including x-rays and medication administration, under a veterinarian's supervision.

## BACHELOR'S DEGREE

1.	<b>MEDICAL LAB SCIENTISTS:</b> Conduct in-depth analyses of biological specimens, supervise laboratory technicians, and ensure test result accuracy.
2.	<b>DIETITIANS AND NUTRITIONISTS:</b> Develop personalized nutrition plans to improve patient health and well-being.
3.	<b>EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGISTS:</b> Develop exercise programs to help treat injuries, manage chronic conditions, and improve overall health.
4.	<b>MEDICAL DOSIMETRISTS:</b> Plan and manage radiation therapy for cancer patients, optimizing treatment effectiveness and minimizing healthy tissue damage.
5.	<b>RECREATIONAL THERAPISTS:</b> Develop recreation-based treatment programs to improve patients' physical and emotional health through activities like sports, art, and music.
6.	<b>REGISTERED NURSES:</b> Provide comprehensive patient care, including assessment, medication administration, monitoring, and physician/medical team consultation.



### MASTER'S DEGREE

1.	<b>ATHLETIC TRAINERS:</b> Help treat patients, including athletes, with bone and muscle injuries by providing immediate care and creating rehabilitation programs.
2.	<b>GENETIC COUNSELORS:</b> Leverage DNA tests and medical histories to evaluate patients for genetic conditions and congenital abnormalities.
3.	<b>ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES:</b> Provide advanced clinical care to patients through specialized roles, including nurse anesthetists, nurse midwives, and nurse practitioners.
4.	<b>OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS:</b> Enable patients to participate in meaningful daily activities by assessing functional limitations and developing personalized interventions.
5.	<b>ORTHOTISTS AND PROSTHETISTS:</b> Design and fit orthotic and prosthetic devices such as braces, splints, and artificial limbs to support and improve patient mobility.
6.	<b>PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS:</b> Take medical histories, conduct examinations, order tests, and prescribe medication under the supervision of a physician.
7.	<b>SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS:</b> Treat speech, language, and swallowing disorders by implementing therapies focused on improving communication and enhancing muscle function.

### DOCTORAL OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE (MD, DO, DVM, DDS, PHARM.D)

1.	<b>AUDIOLOGISTS:</b> Specialize in treating hearing and balance issues, including treatment plans and progress monitoring.
2.	<b>DENTISTS:</b> Specialize in gum and teeth health, including decay removal, cavity fillings, and tooth restoration.
3.	<b>OPTOMETRISTS:</b> Specialize in eye health, diagnosing and treating eye diseases and evaluating patients for corrective lenses.
4.	<b>PHARMACISTS:</b> Specialize in medications, collaborating with doctors and patients to optimize drug dosage and usage.
5.	<b>PHYSICAL THERAPISTS:</b> Specialize in physical rehabilitation, guiding patients through treatment plans and exercises to improve mobility and reduce pain.
6.	<b>PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS:</b> Specialize in patient care within specific medical fields, such as dermatology, neurology, and pediatrics.
7.	<b>VETERINARIANS:</b> Specialize in animal health and treatment, diagnosing illnesses, performing surgery, and prescribing medication.

### EXPERIENCES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

If you're graduating soon and still trying to figure out what's next, know that there are countless opportunities to start building a career in healthcare. For those applying to four-year universities, look for schools with strong pre-med programs

or specialized healthcare degrees. Alternatively, if a bachelor's degree isn't right for you, consider your local community college's associate or certificate programs. Whatever path you choose, remember it's never too early to gain work experience — or too late to return to school to advance your career.

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# HOSA ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT: **JEREMY BEANE, DNP, FNP - THE POWER OF SAYING "YES"**



By Noni Kigera

Jeremy Beane, DNP, FNP, a dedicated nurse practitioner and HOSA alumnus, began his healthcare journey in 2002. What started with a dual credit program became the foundation of a decades-long relationship with HOSA – Future Health Professionals.

Beane's involvement with HOSA began when he was a high school student participating in dental terminology. He earned first place nationally and attributes much of his success to the mentorship and encouragement of Ms. Cassandra Thompson, his HOSA advisor and dual-credit teacher. Her work ethic, commitment to students, and passion for nursing inspired Beane to become more active as a state officer for North Carolina. This role refined his leadership skills, an experience that significantly transformed him.

"Before [HOSA], I was shy and didn't get involved," Beane recalled. "The defining moment came when I stood on stage at a podium, facing thousands of people, and realized, 'I can do this.' Now, if I have ideas, I'm definitely not afraid to share them."

Beane also played an active role in establishing a HOSA chapter at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where he completed his undergraduate degree. Under his leadership, the student-driven chapter emphasizes teamwork and collaboration through events such as a large-scale jump rope competition among multiple campus organizations.

Despite his active participation in HOSA, Beane resisted becoming a nurse practitioner. But, working for years as a certified nurse assistant (CNA) exposed him to other nursing possibilities.

"Nursing is one of the most diverse jobs out there," he said. "The social mobility in nursing allows you to keep elevating and leveling up. There's a pathway that can lead to financial independence."

Beane became a first-generation college graduate and a nurse and later earned a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). Today, Beane works at Novant Health in an outpatient family practice setting, caring for patients from birth through end-of-life care. He is deeply involved in mentoring students and precepts nurse practitioner and physician assistant students.

"Teaching is something I really enjoy," Beane said. "The patient often likes the extra attention, and you can see on the student's face the moment they finally get it."

He co-chairs the Advanced Practice Provider Business Resource Group, focusing on community engagement and health equity, and serves on the North Carolina HOSA Board of Directors, advocating for the organization's role in preparing future healthcare professionals.

Beane advises current HOSA members to get involved, shadow, and take advantage of opportunities. He consistently highlights the social mobility and diverse specialties within nursing and, more importantly, emphasizes the importance of saying 'yes.'

"Take initiative and take on leadership, but commit within reason," Beane said. "If it's not now, it doesn't mean not ever—but taking advantage of opportunities can put you on a springboard to success."

Beane's journey from a shy high school student to a confident, accomplished healthcare provider exemplifies HOSA's transformative power. His experiences in leadership, mentorship, and professional development have shaped his career and continue to inspire future healthcare professionals.

Just as his work at Novant Health positively impacts his community, Beane also remains committed to fostering the growth and development of those following in his footsteps.

➔ *Learn more about HOSA and how its student-led programs and alumni network can help you build meaningful connections and contribute to the future of healthcare. Visit <https://hosa.org/>.*

# HOSA-FUTURE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS COMPETITIVE EVENTS PROGRAM

**D**on't just imagine a future in healthcare — actively prepare for one with HOSA's engaging competitive events program. Instead of merely dreaming about a future in healthcare, transform passion into practice by preparing actively to start (or continue) this journey. Master clinical skills in Health Professions, develop innovative solutions in Leadership and Emergency Preparedness, and cultivate collaborative expertise in Teamwork events.

HOSA recognizes service as one of its core values and is dedicated to serving others with compassion. Discover your strengths, hone your knowledge, and ignite a lifelong dedication to healthcare. Prepare to be inspired, challenged, and empowered as you explore the vast landscape of healthcare careers through HOSA-Future Health Professionals.

We're still developing and updating the 2025-2026 competitive events program. To learn more about each event, visit <https://hosa.org/guidelines/>. If your school doesn't have a HOSA chapter, email [info@hosa.org](mailto:info@hosa.org).



## HEALTH SCIENCE EVENTS

- Behavioral Health
- Dental Terminology
- Health Informatics
- Human Growth & Development
- Medical Law and Ethics
- Medical Math
- Medical Reading
- Medical Spelling
- Medical Terminology
- Nutrition
- Pathophysiology
- Pharmacology
- World Health & Disparities



## HEALTH PROFESSIONS EVENTS

- Biotechnology
- Clinical Laboratory Science
- Clinical Nursing
- Clinical Specialty
- Dental Science
- Family Medicine Physician
- Home Health Aide
- Medical Assisting
- Nursing Assisting
- Occupational Therapy
- Patient Care Technician
- Personal Care\*
- Pharmacy Science
- Phlebotomy
- Physical Therapy
- Respiratory Therapy
- Sports Medicine
- Veterinary Science



## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EVENTS**

CERT Skills  
 CPR/First Aid  
 Emergency Medical Technician  
 Epidemiology  
 Life Support Skills\*  
 Mental Health Promotion  
 MRC Partnership  
 Public Health



## **TEAMWORK EVENTS**

Biomedical Debate  
 Community Awareness  
 Creative Problem Solving  
 Forensic Science  
 Health Career Display  
 Health Education  
 HOSA Bowl  
 Medical Innovation  
 Parliamentary Procedure  
 Public Service Announcement



## **LEADERSHIP EVENTS**

Extemporaneous Writing-Health Policy  
 Health Career Photography  
 Healthy Living  
 Interviewing Skills\*  
 Job Seeking Skills  
 Organizational Leadership  
 Prepared Speaking  
 Researched Persuasive Writing & Speaking  
 Research Poster  
 Speaking Skills\*  
 Sports Medicine  
 Veterinary Science



## **RECOGNITION EVENTS**

America's Blood Centers & HOSA Blood Drive  
 American Red Cross Volunteer Service  
 Barbara James Service Award  
 Healthcare Issues Exam  
 Emotional Well-Being Challenge  
 Health Literacy Ambassador  
 HOSA Happenings  
 HOSA Service Project – NMDP  
 Outstanding HOSA Achievement  
 Outstanding HOSA Leader

*\*Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*

# IMPACTFUL AND UNIQUE HEALTHCARE CAREERS

By Jodi Ireland

Chances are when you think about healthcare careers, what comes to mind is working as a physician, surgeon, or nurse. But the healthcare industry has so many other options. If you have different passions and feel torn about what to study in college or trade school, you should know that it's possible to combine your love of music or art, for example, with your interest in helping others.

We did a little research to see what other healthcare careers are growing in demand — and that pay well, too.

## 1. ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE (APRN)

APRNs are an important component in the healthcare system. Under this umbrella are distinct specializations, each with its own focus and responsibilities.

**Nurse practitioners** provide primary, acute, and specialty healthcare to all patient demographics. Many serve as primary care providers, managing chronic conditions and emphasizing preventive care. They work in clinics, hospitals, and private practices and play a vital role in increasing access to healthcare, particularly in underserved areas.

**Nurse anesthetists** specialize in administering anesthesia and providing pain management before, during, and after surgical and other medical procedures. They collaborate with surgeons, anesthesiologists, and other healthcare team members to ensure patient safety and comfort.

Nurse-midwives provide prenatal, labor, and postpartum care. They also offer gynecological care, family planning services, and health education. Nurse-midwives emphasize a holistic approach to care and often work in hospitals, birthing centers, and clinics.

## 2. ANIMAL-ASSISTED THERAPIST

These healthcare professionals incorporate animals into therapeutic interventions. They facilitate interactions between trained therapy animals like dogs and horses and people based on the patient's therapeutic goals.

These sessions guide patients to achieve outcomes like reducing stress, improving social skills and communication, increasing motivation and engagement, or enhancing physical mobility and coordination.

Animal-assisted therapists work as part of a multidisciplinary team, collaborating with other healthcare professionals to develop and implement treatment plans. They assess client needs, monitor progress, and adjust settings as needed. They have a deep understanding of animal behavior and welfare and work in various settings, including hospitals, nursing homes, schools, rehabilitation centers, and private practices.

## 3. ART, DANCE, OR MUSIC THERAPIST

These therapists use creative expression as a tool to improve patients' physical, emotional, and mental well-being. While each type of therapist has a unique approach, they share a common goal of facilitating healing and growth through artistic engagement, encouraging individuals to explore their thoughts and feelings through art, dance, or music.

Dance and movement therapists can improve motor skills, coordination, and body awareness. Music therapy can enhance cognitive function, memory, and communication skills. Art therapy can help with fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. All of these therapies can help people develop coping mechanisms, build self-esteem, and improve emotional regulation.

## 4. ATHLETIC TRAINERS

These healthcare providers specialize in preventing, diagnosing, and treating injuries and illnesses related to physical activity. They design and implement injury prevention programs like conditioning exercises and flexibility training. Athletic trainers provide clinical evaluation and diagnoses, and when an athlete gets hurt, develop and oversee rehabilitation programs to facilitate recovery.

## 5. CLINICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGIST AND TECHNICIAN

These technologists and technicians conduct tests on biological specimens to obtain data for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of diseases. While both analyze body fluids, tissues, and other samples, operate lab equipment, and record and report test results, there are a few differences.

Technologists, who need a bachelor's degree, perform more complex tests and procedures, may supervise technicians, and often specialize in areas like blood banking, microbiology, or chemistry. Technicians only need an associate's degree and perform more routine tests and procedures.

## 6. CYTOTECHNOLOGIST

A cytotechnologist examines cells to detect abnormalities, screening cell samples for signs of cancer, precancerous conditions, and other diseases. Their work is crucial for early detection so intervention and treatment can happen faster. Cytotechnologists work closely with pathologists, providing essential information to help with the final diagnosis.

## 7. EMBRYOLOGIST

These highly specialized scientists work in reproductive medicine, primarily in in vitro fertilization (IVF) clinics, helping individuals and couples with infertility issues. Embryologists perform various lab procedures, including egg retrievals, embryo transfers, intracytoplasmic sperm injection, and embryo biopsy. They also culture and monitor embryo development, evaluate embryo quality at various developmental stages, conduct cryopreservation and ensure viability for future use, and conduct genetic testing.

## 8. EPIDEMIOLOGIST

These “public health detectives” investigate patterns, causes, and effects of health-related conditions in defined populations. Their work is vital for understanding and controlling diseases and other health issues. Epidemiologists study how viruses spread within populations, identifying factors contributing to outbreaks, pandemics, and epidemics. Their research helps pinpoint environmental factors, lifestyle choices, and genetic predispositions leading to disease/health issues.

Based on their findings, epidemiologists develop strategies to prevent and control the spread of disease, like

vaccination campaigns, health education programs, and policy recommendations. They're vital for protecting and improving public health.

## 9. GENETIC COUNSELOR

These healthcare professionals collect and analyze family and medical histories to assess the risk of inherited conditions, using their knowledge to calculate the chance of someone developing a genetic disorder. Genetic counselors also help people make informed decisions about genetic testing and healthcare management and support those dealing with the emotional, psychological, and social implications of results.

## 10. HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGISTS AND MEDICAL REGISTRAR

Both of these professionals are vital to the accurate, efficient management of healthcare data. While their roles intersect, each has a different focus area, but essentially, they're the people managing the information physicians and healthcare institutions use.

**Health information technologists** focus on the technical elements of health information, working with electronic health records (EHRs), implementing and maintaining health information systems, and ensuring the accuracy, security, and accessibility of patient data.

**Medical registrars** specialize in maintaining databases of patient information related to specific conditions or treatments. For example, cancer registrars track patient data for cancer registries. They are heavily involved with data collection, analysis, and reporting for quality improvement, research, and public health purposes.

## 11. MEDICAL DOSIMETRISTS

These specialized healthcare professionals work closely with radiation oncologists and medical physicists to develop treatment plans that maximize radiation dosage to tumors while minimizing exposure to healthy tissues. They use computer software and imaging techniques (CT and MRI scans) to create detailed 3D radiation dose distributions.

## 12. MEDICAL EXAMINER TECHNICIAN

Also known as morgue or autopsy technicians, these professionals assist the medical examiner or coroner and pathologists to determine the manner or cause of death. They help with autopsies, collect, process and preserve



specimens, keep and maintain detailed records — including photographs, diagrams, and written descriptions — and may collaborate with police departments to help with evidence collection.

### 13. MEDICAL & HEALTH SERVICES MANAGER

Also known as healthcare administrators, these managers plan, direct, and coordinate services within a healthcare facility or system. Medical and health services managers develop and implement policies, procedures, and programs

to improve service delivery, implement and evaluate quality improvement initiatives, control budgets, negotiate contracts, and ensure regulatory compliance.

### 14. MEDICAL ILLUSTRATOR & FILMMAKER

These healthcare professionals combine art and science to create visual materials used for medical education, research, and communication. While their mediums differ, they aim to convey complex medical information accurately and effectively.

**Medical illustrators** produce visuals for textbooks, journals, presentations, websites, and patient education materials. In some cases, their work is used to guide surgical planning. They have a strong understanding of anatomy, physiology, and other medical sciences and use drawing, painting, digital imaging, and 3D modeling.

**Medical filmmakers** create videos and animations that explain procedures, illustrate disease processes, and document surgical techniques. Their work is used for medical training, patient education, scientific presentations, and documentaries. In addition to medical knowledge, they have solid videography, editing, animation, and sound design skills.

## 15. MEDICAL STATISTICIAN

Essential in the world of healthcare research, medical statisticians design, analyze, and interpret data from medical studies and clinical trials. Their work is crucial for generating evidence-based conclusions and informing medical practice and public health policies.

Medical statisticians collaborate with researchers to design studies, analyze data, identify patterns and trends, and interpret the results' clinical significance by translating complex findings into clear, understandable language. They also create and refine statistical models to predict disease risk, assess treatment effectiveness, and understand the factors influencing health outcomes.

## 16. NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGIST

Nuclear medicine technologists use radioactive materials to diagnose and treat diseases. They administer drugs containing small amounts of radioactive substances and then use imaging equipment (PET scanners, gamma cameras) to capture images of the body's internal organs and structures. Diseases these technologists help to diagnose and treat include cancer, heart disease, and neurological disorders.

## 17. ORTHOTISTS, PROSTHETISTS & PEDORTHISTS

These allied health professionals specialize in designing, fabricating, and fitting orthoses and prostheses to improve the function and mobility of patients who may have lost limbs or have musculoskeletal issues.

**Orthotists** work with patients of all ages and match patients to the proper orthoses, including braces, splints, and shoe inserts used to treat conditions like scoliosis, cerebral palsy, and sports injuries.

**Prosthetists** work with patients who have amputations,

congenital limb differences, or other conditions requiring artificial replacements.

**Pedorthists** design and modify footwear and foot orthoses to address lower limb problems, including foot pain, diabetes-related foot complications, and other conditions affecting the feet and ankles.

## 18. PATHOLOGIST (AND ALL THE SUB-CATEGORIES)

These medical doctors specialize in the diagnosis and study of diseases. They examine tissues, cells, and body fluids to identify each illness's cause and nature. Pathology is a broad field with subspecialties focused on specific areas of disease diagnosis.

**Anatomic pathology** focuses on the examination of tissues and organs to diagnose diseases. Sub-fields include surgical pathology, cytopathology, dermatopathology, forensic pathology, neuropathology, and pediatric pathology.

**Clinical pathology** focuses on analyzing body fluids like blood and urine to diagnose and monitor diseases. Sub-fields include hematopathology, medical microbiology, clinical chemistry, transfusion medicine, and molecular genetic pathology.

## 19. PERFUSIONIST

Perfusionists operate the heart-lung machine during cardiac surgery and other medical procedures where a patient's circulatory or respiratory function requires temporary support or replacement. They monitor blood flow, blood pressure, and other vital signs to keep the patient physiologically stable.

Perfusionists may also help with other procedures like extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (longer cardiac/respiratory support to patients with severe heart or lung failure) or hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (delivering heated chemotherapy directly to the abdomen during cancer surgery).

## 20. PHARMACIST/COMPOUND PHARMACIST

Pharmacists dispense medications and provide advice on drug therapies. They also monitor patient outcomes, assess medication effectiveness, and recommend adjustments as needed. Many pharmacists administer vaccinations like flu and shingles shots and provide health screenings such as blood pressure checks.

Compound pharmacists prepare customized medications for patients with unique needs, like those with allergies to certain ingredients or those requiring specific formulations

(liquids instead of pills, for example). They have expertise in compounding sterile preparations (injections) and non-sterile preparations (creams, ointments).

#### 21. PHLEBOTOMIST

These healthcare professionals specialize in drawing blood for medical testing, transfusions, and blood donations. They ensure the safe collection of blood via venipuncture and capillary puncture and, in some settings, also perform basic lab tests like blood typing or glucose monitoring.

#### 22. RADIATION THERAPIST

These key members of the healthcare team administer radiation therapy to patients diagnosed with cancer and other diseases. They work with radiation oncologists to deliver precise radiation doses to targeted areas of the body to shrink tumors and destroy cancer cells. Radiation therapists use various sophisticated equipment, including linear accelerators and CT scanners.

#### 23. RECREATIONAL THERAPIST

Therapeutic recreation specialists (or recreational therapists) use leisure activities and interventions to improve individuals' physical, cognitive, emotional, and social well-being. Some of the therapies include arts and crafts, sports, games, music, dance, and community outings to help each

patient achieve their therapeutic goals. They work in various environments, such as adult care programs, community health centers, correctional facilities, hospitals, nursing homes, parks and recreation departments, and school districts.

#### 24. SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST (SLP)

SLPs assess, diagnose, and treat people with communication (speech sound, language, fluency, voice, cognitive-communication) and swallowing (dysphagia) disorders. They work with patients of all ages, from infants to the elderly, evaluating the nature of the issue, developing treatment plans that incorporate exercises, activities, and strategies, and providing support and education to the patients and their families.

#### 25. WOUND CARE SPECIALIST

These healthcare specialists have expertise in treating acute, chronic, and non-healing wounds. They can help treat chronic wounds, diabetic ulcers, and pressure sores. They diagnose wound causes and issues preventing healing and create treatment plans that may include skin grafting, hyperbaric oxygen therapy, or regenerative medicine. They also educate patients and caregivers on wound care and work in hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities, and other healthcare settings.

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# HEALTHCARE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HS STUDENTS

**T**hinking about a healthcare career? Awesome! You're already on a path to helping others. Tons of scholarships are available to help you pay for your education, whether you want an associate's degree or are planning for med school. Don't miss out on free money — it makes a huge difference.

There are all kinds of scholarships for future healthcare workers, from nurses and doctors to technicians, therapists,

## AMBER D. HUDSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

 \$1,500  June

This memorial scholarship is open to female students pursuing a career as a certified nutritionist. Submit a short essay about how you would help patients and families understand the impact of good nutrition on their overall health. [Learn more »](#)

## AVACARE MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP

 \$1,000  December

Students pursuing a career in medicine, nursing, dentistry, and other health-related careers can apply for this project-based scholarship. Win this scholarship by submitting the best essay, video, or image showing an act of kindness that inspired you. [Learn more »](#)

## DAR OCCUPATIONAL/PHYSICAL THERAPY SCHOLARSHIP



 \$5,000  January

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) offers several health-related scholarships, including one for students pursuing programs in occupational therapy. To qualify, you must show financial need, have an acceptance letter, and be accepted into an art, music, or physical therapy program. [Learn more »](#)

and more. Some scholarships reward you for community service, unique hobbies, or specific experiences, while others focus on your goals and how you'll use your degree.



While many scholarships target students pursuing graduate and medical degrees, that doesn't mean you should wait to start your scholarship search. Here are 12 scholarships that high school seniors should explore now.

## EXPLORE MEDICAL CAREERS SCHOLARSHIP

 \$500 - \$1,500  December



Applying for this essay-based scholarship requires writing a 1000+ word essay titled "How to remedy the healthcare industry in the United States and provide affordable care." First-, second-, and third-place essay submissions receive \$1,500, \$1,000, and \$500 scholarships. [Learn more »](#)

## FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE HEALTHCARE SCHOLARSHIP

 Varies  May

High school seniors accepted into a healthcare program can apply for this essay-based scholarship. You must demonstrate financial need and involvement in community service, extracurricular activities, and past employment or internships. [Learn more »](#)

## HEADBANG FOR SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

 Three scholarships, each worth \$11,066  June

If you have a passion for healthcare — and heavy metal music — this scholarship is for you! Submit five short essay responses discussing your academic/professional goals, financial circumstances, and the impact of heavy metal music on your life. [Learn more »](#)



### MICHAEL MOODY FITNESS SCHOLARSHIP

 \$1,500  August



This fitness scholarship is open to high school seniors pursuing various health-related degrees, from personal training and sports and recreation management to biology and nursing. This scholarship is only open to the first 1,000 applicants, so submit your application early! [Learn more »](#)

### SAVE A LIFE SCHOLARSHIP

 \$1,500  Spring/Fall

The American Academy of CPR and First Aid awards this scholarship biannually to students pursuing various health-related careers, including mental health, administrative roles, and non-profit work. You must submit a 750-1,000 word essay outlining your goals, inspirations, and plans in healthcare. [Learn more »](#)

### NORMAN C. NELSON IV MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

 Two scholarships, each worth \$2,000  May



This scholarship is only open to high school seniors with financial need and a 3.0 or higher GPA. To qualify, submit an essay explaining what has inspired you to pursue a healthcare career. [Learn more »](#)

### SOCIETY OF DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY (SDMS) FOUNDATION SONOGRAPHY STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

 \$2,500  June/December

If you're a member of the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography, you can apply for this essay-based scholarship by submitting three short essays. These essays should outline your goals, achievements, and reasons for wanting to become a sonographer. [Learn more »](#)

### PRO-CARE MEDICAL TRACK SCHOLARSHIP

 \$500  July

If you're considering a career as a doctor, nurse, chiropractor, or other medical specialist, check out this essay-based scholarship. You must maintain a 3.5 GPA and submit two essays: one on your motivation and the other on how education will shape your healthcare career.

[Learn more »](#)

### WASHINGTON STATE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP CAREER AND TECHNICAL SCHOLARSHIP

 Varies  April

If you're a Washington state student with financial need and want to attend community or technical college, check out this scholarship. Complete the FAFSA or WASFA (the Washington Application for State Financial Aid) to qualify. [Learn more »](#)

This list represents just a sampling of scholarship programs for students considering a medical career. Looking for more options? Check out these healthcare scholarship lists from

Bold.org, Scholarships.com, and Unigo. If you've already been accepted to a program, see if your school offers scholarship aid — and research location-based scholarships, too.

# WHAT CAN YOU EARN IN HEALTHCARE?

By Stefanie Tedards

**H**ealthcare workers provide essential services crucial to the health and well-being of others, but compensation varies drastically between roles. Some of the more accessible entry-level positions, such as veterinary assistants or orderlies, make under \$40K a year. However, you can significantly increase your earning potential as you gain more skills, knowledge, and expertise (and the required degrees or licenses).

In general, there tends to be a split between higher- and lower-paying jobs in healthcare — those that practice medicine and

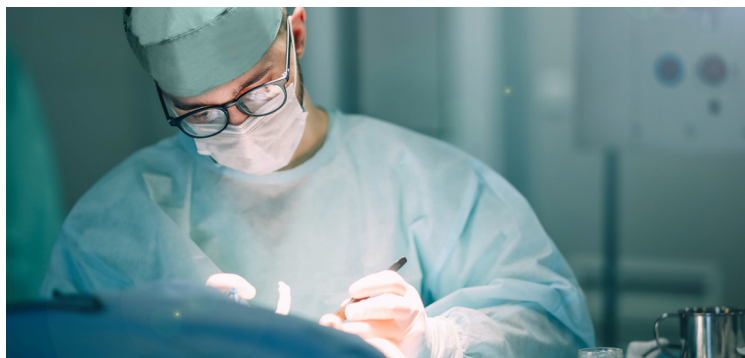
perform more technical, knowledge-based roles and those in support-level roles requiring less education. The difference in annual wages for these two groups is substantial. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports the average annual salary for healthcare practitioners and technical occupations at \$80,820 versus \$36,140 for healthcare support occupations.

These healthcare categories encompass a wide salary spectrum, with some annual earnings exceeding six figures. Here are the median salaries of over 20 healthcare occupations, as reported by the BLS.

## MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE OF HEALTHCARE OCCUPATIONS

HOME HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE AIDES	\$33,530	REGISTERED NURSES	\$86,070
MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONISTS	\$37,060	DENTAL HYGIENISTS	\$87,530
NURSING ASSISTANTS AND ORDERLIES	\$38,130	SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS	\$89,290
PHARMACY TECHNICIANS	\$40,300	OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS	\$96,370
PHLEBOTOMISTS	\$41,810	RADIATION THERAPISTS	\$98,300
VETERINARY TECHNOLOGISTS AND TECHNICIANS	\$43,740	PHYSICAL THERAPISTS	\$99,710
EMTS AND PARAMEDICS	\$44,780	VETERINARIANS	\$119,100
MEDICAL RECORDS SPECIALISTS	\$48,780	NURSE ANESTHETISTS, NURSE MIDWIVES, AND NURSE PRACTITIONERS	\$129,480
SURGICAL ASSISTANTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS	\$60,370	PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS	\$130,020
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANTS AND AIDES	\$65,450	OPTOMETRISTS	\$131,860
DIETITIANS AND NUTRITIONISTS	\$69,680	PHARMACISTS	\$136,030
RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS	\$77,960	PODIATRISTS	\$141,650
ORTHOTISTS AND PROSTHETISTS	\$78,100	DENTISTS	\$170,910
		PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS	OVER \$239,200

As expected, physicians and surgeons lead in healthcare earnings — a direct result of their decade (or more) of rigorous education and training. While this career path demands a substantial educational investment, it offers the highest earning potential. Here are the average annual salaries for 10 physician and surgeon specialties.



### HIGHEST PAID PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

<b>NEUROLOGISTS</b>	<b>\$271,470</b>
<b>OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS</b>	<b>\$271,470</b>
<b>EMERGENCY MEDICINE PHYSICIANS</b>	<b>\$306,640</b>
<b>OPHTHALMOLOGISTS</b>	<b>\$312,120</b>
<b>ANESTHESIOLOGISTS</b>	<b>\$339,470</b>
<b>DERMATOLOGISTS</b>	<b>\$342,860</b>
<b>RADIOLOGISTS</b>	<b>\$353,960</b>
<b>ORTHOPEDIC SURGEONS</b>	<b>\$378,250</b>
<b>CARDIOLOGISTS</b>	<b>\$423,250</b>
<b>PEDIATRIC SURGEONS</b>	<b>\$449,320</b>

The specialized nature of their work demands a level of expertise and experience that is exceptionally challenging to achieve. And the education isn't cheap — according to the AMA, the average med student graduates with over \$200k in medical school debt.

Beyond their rigorous qualifications, these high-stress, demanding jobs involve long hours, emergency situations, and the pressure of making life-altering decisions. Although physically, mentally, and emotionally demanding, the roles are rewarding for those committed to their work.

### UNDERSTANDING KEY WAGE FACTORS

Ultimately, how much you can earn in healthcare comes down to three important factors: field, education, and location.

Certain healthcare roles pay more than others — no matter where you work, physicians and dentists earn more than nutritionists or EMTs. Higher education levels, including certifications and advanced degrees, correlate with higher wages across all healthcare fields, whether you want to work in dentistry, pharmaceuticals, optometry, or another area. Where you work also influences your wages, with coastal metropolitan areas paying the most.

To see these factors in action, let's look at wages within the context of the nursing profession.

#### Field

What you can earn as a nurse varies quite a bit. Nurses typically earn between \$60K to \$200K+, depending on specialty. Knowing the difference between LPNs vs. RNs vs. APRNs will help you narrow down your potential salary range.

#### Education

Different nurse specializations require different educational levels. The more advanced your education, the higher your earning potential:

- **Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN):** High school diploma or equivalent + certification program; median pay is \$59,730.
- **Registered Nurses (RN):** Bachelor's or associate degree in nursing + exam; median pay is \$86,070.
- **Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN):** Master's degree in a specialized nursing field; median pay is \$129,480.

#### Location

For registered nurses (RNs), California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Alaska pay the highest annual wages, with California leading at \$120,560 annually and Alaska averaging \$95,270.

Healthcare salaries vary greatly, with your earning potential influenced by your chosen profession, education level, and geographic location. Researching these factors will help you estimate your potential future earnings — and where you'd like to settle once you're ready to begin your career.

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# GROWING PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOLS AND HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

By Jodi Ireland

Imagine learning by *doing*. You don't simply memorize facts — you actively use them, which helps you understand the material more deeply and develop practical skills. Applying your knowledge to real-world challenges increases engagement, builds self-confidence, and cultivates resilience.

Experiential learning allows you to explore your future. Trying different roles lets you see how your skills translate to the professional world and can help you decide what you want to do after graduation.

Many U.S. high schools are taking experiential learning to the next level by partnering with local healthcare networks. While these programs may look different, the goals remain the same: showing high school students the possibilities of a healthcare career.

## HEALTHCARE HIGH SCHOOLS

In 2024, Bloomberg Philanthropies launched a \$250M initiative to pair public schools with health systems in 10 urban and rural communities in Alabama, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Texas, to address healthcare workforce shortages.

Approximately 6,000 students will engage in specialized coursework, including real-world learning, and potentially earn professional certifications. The healthcare organizations guarantee job placements for those successfully completing the program, offering the option to start work immediately or continue to college.

The programs, launching between 2024 and 2026, offer a dual approach, combining standard academic courses with specialized healthcare training delivered through a collaborative curriculum where healthcare professionals co-teach alongside traditional educators. Schools may use a blended learning approach, incorporating online and face-to-face instruction.

The program's key component? Practical, real-world experience. During the first two years, students observe

professionals in healthcare settings and develop their skills through simulated scenarios. As upperclassmen, students can access paid internships, professional mentorships, and other work-based learning opportunities within the partner health system.

Students can choose to enter the workforce immediately after graduation or to pursue their healthcare degree. The partnering hospitals offer tuition assistance to full- or part-time students who've pledged to work for them.

Graduates are well-prepared for entry-level positions in high-demand healthcare fields like surgical technology (ave. salary \$56K), radiology technology (ave. salary \$65K), and respiratory therapy (ave. salary \$71K).

But this isn't the only program offering high school students experiential learning and exposure to healthcare careers.

## LEHIGH VALLEY HEALTH NETWORK (LVHN) SPOTLIGHT

Jeanne Reilly is an education consultant with Lehigh Valley Health Network's Center for Healthcare Education. The center provides hands-on healthcare experiences for high school students to expand their understanding of healthcare careers. The center offers diverse opportunities, primarily in clinical areas, across multiple school sites, including those in rural communities within the Lehigh Valley, PA.

"For senior-focused programs, we offer intensive experiences like clinical observations, cadaver labs, and simulation center visits," said Reilly. "Students also engage with medical school projects and can volunteer at one of the local hospitals or clinics. These programs aim to expose students to various healthcare roles beyond traditional ones we think of, like doctors and nurses."

Director of LVHN's Healthcare Career Development and Healthcare Academy, Kerri Green, said, "Our most consistently successful programs are in career and technical education, largely because of dedicated on-site instructors who bridge the gap between students and opportunities. Post-COVID,

recognizing a decline in healthcare interest, our network increased its investment in the local community, leading to the creation of the Healthcare Member Pathways program. This program has helped scale our reach and engage more students.”

LVHN education consultant Lisa Keller provides healthcare curriculum to high schools, supplementing courses like anatomy, AP bio, or health clubs. “The program is flexible, from 8-10 weeks to shorter modules, designed to introduce students to diverse healthcare careers beyond typical roles like doctors.

“We focus on career coaching, covering education, certification, and career paths, helping students understand what they don’t want as much as what they do,” she said. Program components include:

- **Online resources:** Micro-sites with career profiles, salary information, and job outlooks.
- **Enrichment activities:** Guest speakers prepped with questions to maximize learning. Field trips to hospitals, simulation centers, and other healthcare facilities.
- **Academic partnerships:** Connecting schools with our 80+ academic partners, arranging university tours and admissions connections, and exposing students to post-secondary options.

“Our goal,” Keller said, “is to provide students, especially those planning further education, with comprehensive exposure to various healthcare careers and pathways.”

## INTRODUCTORY PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Here are a few other introductory programs.

### OhioHealth Marion General Hospital

This healthcare system reinstated its Grow Your Own Medical Staff Program, which invites high school seniors to shadow physicians. Five former program participants now practice in Marion.

### NYU Langone Health

NYU Langone Health collaborated with NYC’s Department of Education to launch a program introducing Brooklyn South High School students to nursing and clinical research careers. The program, which awards course credit, includes monthly visits to the Brooklyn area hospital and faculty-mentored research projects.

### Cleveland Clinic

The Howley Foundation awarded \$13M to support the Howley ASPIRE Pathways program, a 12-week enrichment experience

giving students a glimpse into respiratory therapy, sterile processing, and surgical technology careers. Students may work as part-time caregivers while they participate.

### Duke Health

Duke partnered with the Durham Public Schools and the North Carolina School of Science to create HackBio, a four-day summer program challenging participants to collaboratively develop solutions addressing the intersection of cancer and environmental issues. It runs concurrently during the school year, offering participants “professional development sessions, experimental education, mentorship from undergraduate students, field trips to relevant sites within the local community, and a hackathon.”

## ADVICE FROM THE EXPERTS

If you’re considering a healthcare career but aren’t sure where to start, talk to your guidance counselor. They’ll provide information on the coursework you need, like advanced biology or anatomy and physiology, to prepare for college. Focus on taking the right courses from freshman year onward to meet future program requirements.

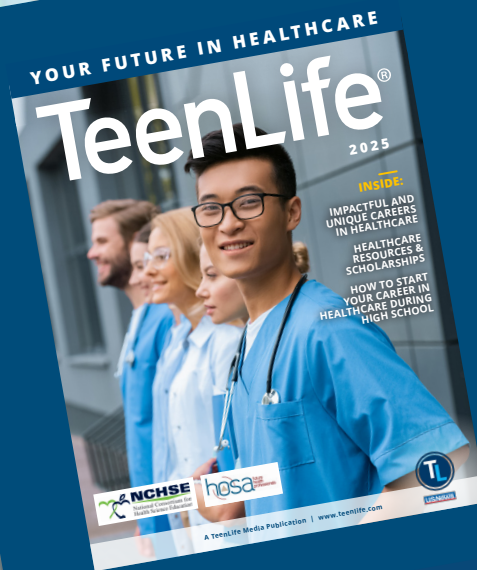
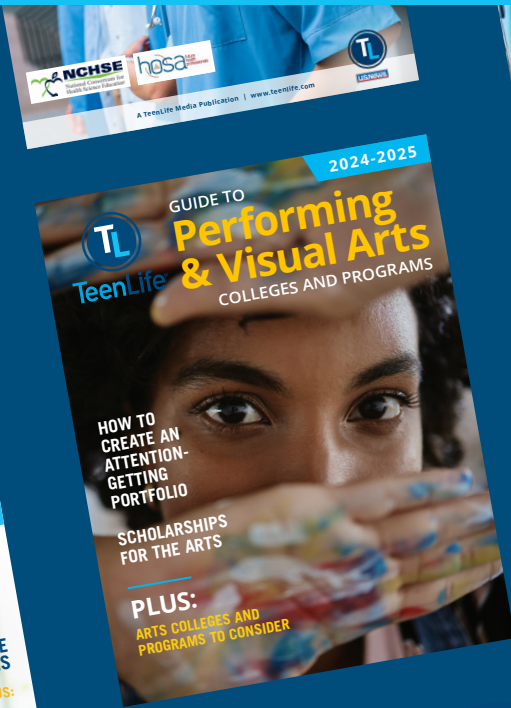
Here are five more tips to jumpstart your career in healthcare:

- **Explore interests and skills:** Use career exploration tools, like those based on the Holland theory or TeenLife’s Guide to Career Exploration, to identify your interests, skills, and values.
- **Network and interview:** Talk to people in healthcare, starting with your primary care doctors or others you know, to learn about their career paths.
- **Seek supplemental opportunities:** Look for partnerships between schools and local hospitals or healthcare networks that offer job shadowing, guest speakers, or simulated lab experiences — ask your guidance counselor if your school participates in any of these programs.
- **Create a specialized network:** If your school doesn’t have healthcare-specific programs, find a teacher willing to help you start one.
- **Use career counselors:** If available, meet with career counselors at your school or through programs like Gear Up.

A growing number of school-healthcare network partnerships are introducing more students to diverse medical careers. If you want to gain practical, hands-on experience, boost college applications, and see if a healthcare career is for you, ask whether your high school participates.

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