

Quick Guide to Healthcare Careers (U.S./January 2024)

Notes: This list is not intended to be exhaustive (it does not cover every possible, e.g., healthcare role, sub-specialty, or job function). Please cross-reference with additional sources to ensure that you have accurate and up-to-date information, and note that information including but not limited to job titles, salaries, and licensing requirements may also vary from state to state within the United States. Last update: January 29, 2024.

Role	Summary	Education/Training	Licensing/Exams	Salary Range or National Average Salary	Resources
Advanced emergency medical technician (AEMT)	Performs interventions with ambulance equipment under medical oversight (https://www.nremt.org/AEMT/Certification)	Basic training around 150 hours, AEMT school (https://emtprep.com/resources/article/how-to-become-an-aemt-advanced-emergency-medical-technician)	Application process for AEMT certification, candidates can also apply for reciprocity (https://www.gemr.org/aemt/); cognitive and psychomotor exams (https://emtprep.com/resources/article/how-to-become-an-aemt-advanced-emergency-medical-technician)	\$44,049/year (https://www.talent.com/salary?job=Aemt)	National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians: https://www.nremt.org/
Advanced practice paramedic (APP)	Performs advanced patient care under medical oversight ("physician extender") as part of the emergency medical services (EMS) response (https://www.gemr.org/app/)	Complete an accredited APP course (https://www.gemr.org/app/)	Application process for APP certification (https://www.gemr.org/app/)	\$50,509/year (https://www.talent.com/salary?job=paramedic)	Global Emergency Medical Registry: https://www.gemr.org/
Advanced practice registered nurse (APRN)	See: clinical nurse specialist (CNS), nurse anesthetist, nurse midwife, nurse practitioner.				
Anesthesia technician	Performs technical, clerical, and care tasks (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/how-to-become-anesthesia-tech)	Entry-level position, usually available with high school diploma and formal coursework (https://www.ziprecruiter.com/career/Anesthesia-Technologist/What-Is-How-to-Become)	American Society of Anesthesia Technologists and Technicians (ASATT) no longer tests for certification (https://www.asatt.org/about-certification); ASATT formerly offered certification, but it is no longer available (https://www.medicaltechnologyschools.com/anesthesia-technician/how-to-become-an-anesthesia-technologist); certified technicians in good standing can sit for the anesthesia technologist certification exam by completing an advancement program (https://www.asatt.org/about-certification)	\$65,239/year (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/how-to-become-anesthesia-tech)	Professional organization: https://www.asatt.org/ ; certified individuals must earn continuing education credits (https://www.asatt.org/about-certification)
Anesthesia technologist	Assists with preparation and maintenance of equipment and supplies, support providers in surgical context (https://www.ziprecruiter.com/career/Anesthesia-Technologist/What-Is-How-to-Become)	Minimum two years of school, associate degree; complete associate in anesthesia technology or receive certificate of completion from accredited or approved program (https://www.medicaltechnologyschools.com/anesthesia-technician/how-to-become-an-anesthesia-technologist)	After completing study program, may be eligible to sit for national certification exam through American Society of Anesthesia Technologists and Technicians (ASATT) (https://www.medicaltechnologyschools.com/anesthesia-technician/how-to-become-an-anesthesia-technologist); can earn additional licenses or credentials such as Certified Surgical Technologist (https://www.ziprecruiter.com/career/Anesthesia-Technologist/What-Is-How-to-Become)	\$40-70,000+/year (https://www.ziprecruiter.com/career/Anesthesia-Technologist/What-Is-How-to-Become)	Professional organization: https://www.asatt.org/ ; certified individuals must earn continuing education credits (https://www.asatt.org/about-certification)
Anesthesiologist assistant	Works under direction of licensed anesthesiologist, is trained to assist with patient care (https://explorehealthcareers.org/career/allied-health-professions/anesthesiologist-assistant/)	Four-year undergraduate degree, two-year master's program in anesthesia (https://explorehealthcareers.org/career/allied-health-professions/anesthesiologist-assistant/)	Certification exam administered by National Commission for the Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants (https://explorehealthcareers.org/career/allied-health-professions/anesthesiologist-assistant/)	\$95-180,000/year (https://explorehealthcareers.org/career/allied-health-professions/anesthesiologist-assistant/)	Certification process includes examination, ongoing registration of continuing medical education, and interval examinations (https://www.nccaatest.org/)
Art therapist	Uses art media and creative processes to help people cope with mental health challenges (https://arttherapy.org/what-is-art-therapy/)	Master's degree or higher (https://arttherapy.org/becoming-art-therapist/)	Certification with Art Therapy Credentials Board (https://arttherapy.org/educational-standards/)	\$30-80,000/year in 2013 (https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2015/youre-a-what/art-therapist.htm)	American Art Therapy Association: https://arttherapy.org/

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Athletic trainer	Allied health care professional working under direction of or in collaboration with a physician (https://www.nata.org/about/athletic-training)	Must graduate from an accredited undergraduate or master's program, 70% have a master's degree (https://www.nata.org/about/athletic-training)	Typically licensed, hold Board of Certification credential of "Athletic Trainer Certified" (ATC), qualified to apply for a National Provider Identifier (https://www.nata.org/about/athletic-training)	\$54,418/year (https://www.salary.com/research/salary/benchmark/athletic-trainer-salary)	Sometimes confused with personal trainers (https://www.nata.org/about/athletic-training)
Audiologist	Identify, assess, and manage disorders of hearing and balance (https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/hearing-loss/what-is-an-audiologist)	Master's degree in audiology from an accredited university, many audiologists have a doctorate in audiology (https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/hearing-loss/what-is-an-audiologist)	Fellowship or externship year, board exams for licensing and accreditation, continuing education credits to fulfill licensing requirements (https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/hearing-loss/what-is-an-audiologist); typically certified by national association (ASHA) as well as state licensing (https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/hearing-loss/what-is-an-audiologist)	\$92,511/year (https://www.salary.com/research/salary/benchmark/audiologist-salary)	American Academy of Audiology (professional organization): https://www.audiology.org/
Autotransfusionist (autotransfusion technician)	Works on blood management processes under the direction of physicians, surgeons, or perfusionists (https://work.chron.com/autotransfusion-technician-30027.html)	High school diploma or equivalent (https://work.chron.com/autotransfusion-technician-30027.html)	Employers may require certification as preoperative blood management technologist with International Board of Blood Management, requires year's experience, evidence of 50 procedures, exam (https://work.chron.com/autotransfusion-technician-30027.html)	\$44,363/year (https://www.salary.com/research/salary/hiring/autotransfusionist-salary)	Association for Advancement of Blood & Biotherapies: https://www.aabb.org/news-resources/news/article/2021/09/22/applications-now-open-for-ibbm-amsect-certifications
Bereavement coordinator	Assists people through process of losing loved one to death or terminal disease, generally works in a healthcare organization (https://www.mhaonline.com/blog/day-in-the-life-of-a-bereavement-coordinator)	No standardized requirements, typically hold at least a bachelor's degree in a related field, master's degrees are becoming more common, coordinators may become licensed counselors (https://www.mhaonline.com/blog/day-in-the-life-of-a-bereavement-coordinator)	Employers may ask their bereavement coordinators to be certified or licensed counselors (https://www.mhaonline.com/blog/day-in-the-life-of-a-bereavement-coordinator)	\$66,942/year (https://www.salary.com/research/salary/benchmark/bereavement-coordinator-salary)	National Board for Certified Counselors: https://nbcc.org/
Board certified assistant behavior analyst (BCaBA)	Works under supervision of BCBA, may supervise work of RBT (https://www.bacb.com/bcaba/)	Undergraduate-level certification (https://www.bacb.com/bcaba/); ABAI-accredited undergraduate program or verified course sequence (https://www.bacb.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/BCaBAHandbook_231228-a.pdf)	BCaBA certification program (https://www.bacb.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/BCaBAHandbook_231228-a.pdf); supervised practical fieldwork (https://www.bacb.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/BCaBAHandbook_231228-a.pdf); pass examination (https://www.bacb.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/BCaBAHandbook_231228-a.pdf)	\$57,000/year (https://www.payscale.com/research/US/Certification=BACB_Board_Certified_Assistant_Behavior_Analyst_(BCaBA)/Salary)	Professional organization: https://www.bacb.com/bcaba/

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Board certified behavior analyst (BCBA)	Independent practitioner providing behavior-analytic services, may supervise BCaBAs and RBTs (https://www.bacb.com/bcba/)	Graduate-level certification (https://www.bacb.com/bcba/); APBA-accredited or ABAI-accredited or recognized behavior analysis degree program or verified course sequence (https://www.bacb.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/BCBAHandbook_231227-a.pdf)	Multiple eligibility pathways involving coursework, teaching, research, postdoctoral experience, and/or fieldwork (https://www.bacb.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/BCBAHandbook_231227-a.pdf); pass examination (https://www.bacb.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/BCBAHandbook_231227-a.pdf)	\$61,000/year (https://psydprograms.org/salary-outlook-with-a-bcba-credential/)	Professional organization: https://www.bacb.com/bcba/
Board certified behavior analyst – doctoral (BCBA-D)	Similar functions to BCBA (https://www.bacb.com/bcba/)	BCBA with doctoral or postdoctoral training (https://www.bacb.com/bcba/)	BCBAs with additional training may apply for this designation (https://www.bacb.com/bcba/)	\$89,075/year (https://www.ziprecruiter.com/Salaries/BCBA-D-Salary)	Must meet BCBA maintenance requirements (https://www.bacb.com/bcba/)
Cardiovascular technician	Specializes in electrocardiograms, stress testing, and Holter monitoring (https://explorehealthcareers.org/career/allied-health-professions/cardiovascular-technologist-technician/)	High school diploma, on-the-job training, may choose to attend a certificate program or earn an associate degree (https://explorehealthcareers.org/career/allied-health-professions/cardiovascular-technologist-technician/)	Certified Cardiographic Technician (CCT) examination (https://cci-online.org/credentials/certified-cardiographic-technician/); exam qualification pathways (https://cci-online.org/credentials/certified-cardiographic-technician/)	\$56,100/year in 2015 (https://explorehealthcareers.org/career/allied-health-professions/cardiovascular-technologist-technician/)	Credentials are active 9-12 months after passing a CCI exam (https://cci-online.org/credentials/certified-cardiographic-technician/)
Cardiovascular technologist	Works in a cardiac catheterization lab and performs complex procedures (https://explorehealthcareers.org/career/allied-health-professions/cardiovascular-technologist-technician/)	Associate or bachelor's degree (https://explorehealthcareers.org/career/allied-health-professions/cardiovascular-technologist-technician/)	Licensing may apply depending on the state (https://www.healthcarepathway.com/certification/cardiovascular-technologist-certification/); certification through American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers or Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI) (https://www.healthcarepathway.com/certification/cardiovascular-technologist-certification/)	\$56,100/year in 2015 (https://explorehealthcareers.org/career/allied-health-professions/cardiovascular-technologist-technician/)	Note that requirements may vary by state (https://www.medicaltechnologyschools.com/cardiovascular-technologist/how-to-become-a-cardio-tech)
Certified midwife (CM)	Cares for mothers and newborns during labor, delivery, and after birth (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/certified-midwife)	Undergraduate degree, master's degree from an accredited program (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/certified-midwife)	Take the same certification exam as certified nurse midwives, national qualifying exam from the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/certified-midwife)	\$122,450/year (https://nurse.org/resources/certified-nurse-midwife/)	American Midwifery Certification Board: https://www.amcbmidwife.org/
Certified nursing assistant (CNA or LNA, "licensed nursing assistant")	Works under registered nurse to perform routine care, may work in hospital settings, long-term care facilities, interacts with patients (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/how-to-become-lna)	LNA course, prerequisite is a high school diploma or GED (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/how-to-become-lna)	Pass state exam to become a licensed or certified nurse assistant (https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/cna)	\$34,920/year (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/how-to-become-lna)	Professional association: https://www.nahcacna.org/

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Certified pedorthist	Responsible for design, manufacture, modification of footwear and orthotics to alleviate problems with the foot (https://academyofpedorthicscience.com/what-is-a-pedorthist/)	If pursuing certification from the American Board for Certification in Orthotics and Prosthetics (ABC), need pre-certification education course approved by the National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education (https://vault.com/professions/pedorthists/requirements)	Some states require pedorthists to be licensed (https://vault.com/professions/pedorthists/requirements)	\$56,770/year (https://www.salary.com/research/salary/hiring/certified-pedorthist-salary)	American Board for Certification in Orthotics and Prosthetics: https://www.abcop.org/
Certified professional midwife (CPM)	Focuses primarily on out-of-hospital births (https://nurse.org/education/midwife-vs-nurse-midwife/)	Certificate or associate's degree (https://nurse.org/education/midwife-vs-nurse-midwife/)	As of 2020, can legally practice in 35 states and the District of Columbia (https://nurse.org/education/midwife-vs-nurse-midwife/)	\$115,284/year (https://www.comparably.com/salaries/salaries-for-certified-professional-midwife)	North American Registry of Midwives: https://narm.org/
Chaplain	Provides spiritual guidance to patients and families (https://www.jobhero.com/resume/examples/religion)	Employers may require a bachelor's degree or prefer candidates with a master's degree, e.g., Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, or Master of Arts in theology or ministry (https://www.fst.edu/how-to-become-a-chaplain/)	Do not need to be ordained—through a process of approval to enter the clergy—to administer counseling or lead worship, need to be ordained to perform religious sacraments (https://www.fst.edu/how-to-become-a-chaplain/)	\$67,817/year (https://www.indeed.com/career/chaplain/salaries)	Clinical Pastoral Education training may be provided by a hospital or medical group, accredited training or a supervised residency may be required (https://www.fst.edu/how-to-become-a-chaplain/)
Chiropractor	Treats back pain and body aches, specializes in problems with bones, nerves, muscles, ligaments, and tendons (https://www.usnews.com/education/best-graduate-schools/articles/how-to-get-into-chiropractic-school-and-become-a-chiropractor)	Doctor of Chiropractic degree, typically four years, and at least three years of undergraduate education and/or a bachelor's degree (https://www.usnews.com/education/best-graduate-schools/articles/how-to-get-into-chiropractic-school-and-become-a-chiropractor); may earn post-doctoral certifications from the International Chiropractors Association and the American Chiropractic Association (https://www.nbce.org/about-nbce/chiropractic-care/certification-and-licensure/)	The National Board of Chiropractic Examiners prepares and administers examinations that state licensing boards use to evaluate candidates (https://www.nbce.org/about-nbce/chiropractic-care/certification-and-licensure/); license required in state of practice (https://www.usnews.com/education/best-graduate-schools/articles/how-to-get-into-chiropractic-school-and-become-a-chiropractor)	\$85,870/year in 2017 (https://www.forbes.com/sites/andrewdepietro/2019/03/31/chiropractor-salary-state/?sh=3a6e894f48db)	In most states, must earn continuing education units each year (https://www.nbce.org/about-nbce/chiropractic-care/certification-and-licensure/); International Chiropractors Association: https://www.chiropractic.org/who-we-serve/doctors/#:~:text=Continuing%20and%20Postgraduate,in%20Chiropractic%20Philosophy; American Chiropractic Association: https://www.acatoday.org/
Clinical neurophysiologist	Specializes in disorders of the nervous system and electrical aspects of the brain (https://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/what-is-neurophysiologist)	Bachelor's degree, medical degree (https://doctorly.org/how-to-become-a-clinical-neurophysiologist/)	American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc. (ABPN) offers certification in this subspecialty (https://doctorly.org/how-to-become-a-clinical-neurophysiologist/)	\$78-134,000/year (https://www.glassdoor.com/Salaries/clinical-neurophysiologist-salary-SRCH_KO0,26.htm)	American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.: https://abpn.org/
Clinical nurse specialist (CNS)	Advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) with advanced clinical expertise in a specialized area (https://nacns.org/about-us/what-is-a-cns/)	Become an APRN by earning an MSN (https://nursejournal.org/clinical-nurse-specialist/how-to-become/)	Licensing rules can vary from state to state (https://nacns.org/about-us/what-is-a-cns/); pass certification examination, employers require additional certifications depending on department (https://nursejournal.org/clinical-nurse-specialist/how-to-become/)	\$123,260/year (https://www.salary.com/research/salary/benchmark/nursing-education-specialist-salary)	National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists: https://nacns.org/

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Critical care nurse (ICU nurse)	Provides care for individuals recovering from life-threatening illnesses or injuries (https://www.wgu.edu/career-guide/healthcare/critical-care-nurse-career.html)	Bachelor's degree (https://www.wgu.edu/career-guide/healthcare/critical-care-nurse-career.html)	NCLEX-RN exam, state requirements for nursing licensure, certification in critical care nursing (CCRN certification) (https://www.wgu.edu/career-guide/healthcare/critical-care-nurse-career.html)	\$76,788/year (https://www.zippia.com/critical-care-nurse-jobs/salary/)	American Association of Critical Care Nurses: https://www.aacn.org/
Cytotechnologist	Laboratory professional, studies cells, can be employed by hospitals, universities, private labs (https://www.purdue.edu/science/careers/what-can-i-do-with-a-major/Career%20Pages/cytotechnologist.html)	Accredited certification or master's program in cytotechnology, 1 or 2 years of university- or hospital-based instruction, minimum degree required is bachelor's (https://www.purdue.edu/science/careers/what-can-i-do-with-a-major/Career%20Pages/cytotechnologist.html)	Licensing may or may not be required depending on the state (https://www.healthcarepathway.com/certification/cytotechnologist-certification/); experienced specialists may earn an additional designation (https://www.healthcarepathway.com/certification/cytotechnologist-certification/)	\$87,087/year in 2023 (https://www.purdue.edu/science/careers/what-can-i-do-with-a-major/Career%20Pages/cytotechnologist.html)	American Society of Cytopathology: https://cytopathology.org/? ; American Society for Clinical Pathology: https://www.ascp.org/content#
Dental assistant	Assists dentists with equipment, patient education, record keeping (https://www.worwic.edu/Programs-Courses/Non-Credit-Courses/Health-Care/Dental-Assisting)	Education and licensing requirements may or may not apply depending on the state (https://www.deltatechnicalcollege.com/resources/careers/how-to-become-a-dental-assistant/#h1)	Education and licensing requirements may or may not apply depending on the state (https://www.deltatechnicalcollege.com/resources/careers/how-to-become-a-dental-assistant/#h1); Certified Dental Assistant exam (https://www.danb.org/exams/exam/cda-exam)	\$18.31/hour (https://www.worwic.edu/Programs-Courses/Non-Credit-Courses/Health-Care/Dental-Assisting)	Dental Assisting National Board: https://www.danb.org/
Dental hygienist	Examines patients for signs of oral diseases and provides preventive care and oral hygiene (https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-hygienists.htm)	Typical entry-level education is an associate's degree (https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-hygienists.htm)	All states require licensure (https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-hygienists.htm)	\$81,400/year in 2022 (https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-hygienists.htm)	American Dental Hygienists' Association: https://www.adha.org/
Dental lab technician	Fills orders for dental appliances, creates tooth replacements (https://www.allalliedhealthschools.com/specialties/become-a-dental-lab-technician/)	Two-year dental lab technician program, associate's degree or certificate (https://www.allalliedhealthschools.com/specialties/become-a-dental-lab-technician/)	Certified Dental Technician credential (https://nbccert.org/certificants/certified-dental-technician/)	\$46,050/year (https://www.allalliedhealthschools.com/specialties/become-a-dental-lab-technician/)	National Board for Certification in Dental Laboratory Technology: https://nbccert.org/homepage.cfm
Dental therapist	Authorized by some states, provides basic dental care in an office or home setting (https://www.colgate.com/en-us/oral-health/adult-oral-care/what-is-a-dental-therapist)	Bachelor's degree (dental therapist) or master's degree (advanced dental therapist) (https://www.colgate.com/en-us/oral-health/adult-oral-care/what-is-a-dental-therapist)	Relatively new profession, most states have not yet licensed this practice (https://www.colgate.com/en-us/oral-health/adult-oral-care/what-is-a-dental-therapist)	\$65,549/year (https://www.salary.com/research/salary/posting/dental-therapist-salary)	For a list of states allowing dental therapists to practice as of 2020: https://www.colgate.com/en-us/oral-health/adult-oral-care/what-is-a-dental-therapist

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Dentist	Performs oral surgery and routing cleanings (https://www.indeed.com/hire/job-description/dentist)	Dental school following undergraduate education, most dental schools are four-year programs (https://www.colgate.com/en-us/oral-health/dental-visits/dentist-requirements-what-it-takes-to-become-a-dentist); schools may award a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) or Doctor of Medicine in Dentistry (DMD) degree (https://www.colgate.com/en-us/oral-health/dental-visits/dentist-requirements-what-it-takes-to-become-a-dentist)	Dental Admissions Test prior to dental school (https://www.colgate.com/en-us/oral-health/dental-visits/dentist-requirements-what-it-takes-to-become-a-dentist); series of exams for licensure (https://www.colgate.com/en-us/oral-health/dental-visits/dentist-requirements-what-it-takes-to-become-a-dentist)	\$155,040/year in 2022 (https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/dentist/salary)	American Dental Association: https://www.ada.org/
Diagnostic medical sonographer	Uses imaging equipment and soundwaves to image parts of the body (ultrasound) (https://college.mayo.edu/academics/explore-health-care-careers/careers-a-z/diagnostic-medical-sonographer/)	Associate's or bachelor's degree, certificate program in diagnostic medical sonography (https://college.mayo.edu/academics/explore-health-care-careers/careers-a-z/diagnostic-medical-sonographer/)	Employers may require candidates to have completed a professional sonography certification (https://college.mayo.edu/academics/explore-health-care-careers/careers-a-z/diagnostic-medical-sonographer/)	\$81,350/year in 2022 (https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes292032.htm)	Professional organization: https://www.ardms.org/
Dialysis technician	Administers dialysis under nurse or physician supervision (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/dialysis-technician); may be a biomedical nephrology technician (BNT) handling equipment or clinical nephrology technician (CCNT) working with patients (https://www.bestcolleges.com/healthcare/dialysis-technician/how-to-become-a-dialysis-technician/)	High school diploma or GED only, vocational schools may offer training 1-2 years (https://www.bestcolleges.com/healthcare/dialysis-technician/how-to-become-a-dialysis-technician/)	Certification or licensure not required in every state (https://www.bestcolleges.com/healthcare/dialysis-technician/how-to-become-a-dialysis-technician/)	\$54,180/year in 2020 (https://www.bestcolleges.com/healthcare/dialysis-technician/how-to-become-a-dialysis-technician/)	Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission: https://www.nncc-exam.org/
Direct-entry midwife	See: certified midwife, certified professional midwife, lay midwife.				
Doula	Supports clients before, during, and after childbirth (https://www.dona.org/what-is-a-doula-2/)	Training workshops (https://www.dona.org/become-a-doula/birth-doula-certification/)	Certification process (https://www.dona.org/become-a-doula/birth-doula-certification/)	\$47,911/year (https://www.salary.com/research/salary/hiring/doula-salary)	DONA International: https://www.dona.org/
ECG (EKG) technician	Performs diagnostic testing to assess heart rhythm and rate (https://www.ncctinc.com/certifications/ecg-technician)	Requires less education than other professions, training can be completed in months (https://nurse.org/healthcare/EKG-technician/)	NCET exam (https://www.ncctinc.com/certifications/ecg/)	\$63,020/year in 2022 (https://nurse.org/education/EKG-technician-salary/)	National Healthcareer Association: https://www.nhanow.com/
Emergency medical responder (EMR)	Provides care to patients within the emergency medical services (EMS) system (https://www.nremt.org/EMR/Certification)	Complete an approved emergency medical responder (EMR) course (https://www.nremt.org/Document/EMR-Full-Education-Program-Pathway)	Complete cognitive and psychomotor examinations (https://www.nremt.org/Document/EMR-Full-Education-Program-Pathway)	\$61,886/year (https://www.glassdoor.com/Salaries/emergency-medical-responder-salary-SRCH_KO0,27.htm)	National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians: https://www.nremt.org/
Emergency medical technician (EMT)	Provides out-of-hospital emergency medical care and transportation through the emergency medical services (EMS) system (https://www.nremt.org/EMT/Certification)	Complete 120-150 hours of training for certification (https://www.learnhowtobecome.org/paramedic-emt/)	National Registry EMT cognitive exam, state-approved psychomotor exam (https://www.nremt.org/Document/EMT-State-Licensed)	\$37,300/year (https://www.salary.com/research/salary/alternate/emt-salary)	National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians: https://www.nremt.org/

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Role	Summary	Education/Training	Licensing/Exams	Salary Range or National Average Salary	Resources
Exercise physiologist	Assists with patient participation in exercise programs (https://online.maryville.edu/online-bachelors-degrees/exercise-science/careers/what-is-an-exercise-physiologist/)	Bachelor's degree, and likely need master's degree to work in cardiac rehabilitation (https://explorehealthcareers.org/career/sports-medicine/exercise-physiologist/)	Exercise Physiologist Certified (EPC) examination (https://www.asep.org/epc-online/education-requirements/)	\$51,350/year in 2022 (https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/exercise-physiologists.htm)	American Society of Exercise Physiologists: https://www.asep.org/
Flight medic (flight paramedic)	Provides medical care during airlifts to hospitals (https://www.thecareerproject.org/job-title/flight-paramedic/)	Train first as a ground paramedic (https://www.ems1.com/ems-education/articles/how-to-become-a-flight-paramedic-op7Ug5liYrMGwX4S/)	NREMT accreditation exam (https://www.ems1.com/ems-education/articles/how-to-become-a-flight-paramedic-op7Ug5liYrMGwX4S/); Flight Paramedic (FP-C) exam (https://www.ems1.com/ems-education/articles/how-to-become-a-flight-paramedic-op7Ug5liYrMGwX4S/)	\$102,170/year (https://www.glassdoor.com/Salaries/flight-paramedic-salary-SRCH_KO0,16.htm)	International Board for Specialty Certification (IBSC): https://www.ibscertifications.org/exam/exam-preparation
Genetic counselor	Provides education, counseling, and support to patients, families with genetic disorders or risk for inherited conditions (https://jobdescriptions.unm.edu/detail.php?id=S1008)	Master's degree (https://www.forbes.com/advisor/education/psychology-and-counseling/become-a-genetic-counselor/)	Licensing requirements vary by state, usually include Certified Genetic Counselor credential from American Board of Genetic Counseling (https://www.forbes.com/advisor/education/psychology-and-counseling/become-a-genetic-counselor/)	\$89,990/year in 2022 (https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/genetic-counselors.htm)	National Society of Genetic Counselors: https://www.nsgc.org/
Health information technician	Works "behind the scenes" organizing and managing electronic health record data (https://nurse.org/healthcare/health-information-technician/)	Typically holds a bachelor's degree (https://www.wgu.edu/career-guide/healthcare/health-information-tech-career.html)	Certification by the American Health Information Management Association (https://nurse.org/healthcare/health-information-technician/); Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) exam (https://www.wgu.edu/career-guide/healthcare/health-information-tech-career.html)	\$38,149/year (https://nurse.org/healthcare/health-information-technician/)	American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA): https://www.ahima.org/
Histology technician (histologic technician, histotechnologist)	Specialized medical lab worker (https://college.mayo.edu/academics/explore-health-care-careers/careers-a-z/histology-technician/)	Typically associate degree, some employers accept postsecondary certificate in Histology and hands-on experience (https://www.goodwin.edu/enews/how-to-become-a-histotechnician-or-histotechnologist/)	Licensing requirements vary by state, may be no requirement to receive a certification or licensure (https://www.goodwin.edu/enews/how-to-become-a-histotechnician-or-histotechnologist/)	\$60,828/year (https://www.salary.com/research/salary/benchmark/histology-technician-salary)	National Society for Histotechnology: https://www.nsh.org/home
Home health aide	Assists in clients' homes with activities of daily living, checks vital signs, gives medication (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/medical-job-types-and-roles-with-descriptions)	No formal requirement (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/medical-job-types-and-roles-with-descriptions)	Can be certified through a training program (https://www.care.com/c/how-to-become-certified-home-health-aide/)	\$14.52/hour (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/medical-job-types-and-roles-with-descriptions)	National Association for Home Care & Hospice (https://nahc.org/)
Lactation consultant	Provides clinical support to breastfeeding mothers (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/how-to-become-lactation-consultant)	Attend program at a training school, community college, or university (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/how-to-become-lactation-consultant)	Certifications include International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) and Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC) (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/how-to-become-lactation-consultant)	\$73,158/year (https://www.zipppia.com/lactation-consultant-jobs/salary/)	International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners: https://ibclce.org/
Lay midwife	See: https://www.lawinsider.com/dictionary/lay-midwife	Typically self-taught or informally trained (https://nurse.org/education/midwife-vs-nurse-midwife/)	Note that states can require specific certifications or licensure to practice midwifery (https://nurse.org/education/midwife-vs-nurse-midwife/)	\$54,201/year (source comparing Oklahoma City average to national average: https://www.comparably.com/salaries/salaries-for-lay-midwife-in-oklahoma-city-ok)	More information: https://www.healthline.com/health/pregnancy/intrapartum-care-midwife

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Role	Summary	Education/Training	Licensing/Exams	Salary Range or National Average Salary	Resources
Licensed practical nurse (LPN; or licensed vocational nurse, LVN)	Patient care tasks, gathering and recording patient information (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/medical-job-types-and-roles-with-descriptions)	Complete a diploma in practical nursing through an approved program, typically one year (https://www.herzing.edu/become/practical-nurse#knowtherole)	National Council Licensing Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN) (https://www.herzing.edu/become/practical-nurse#knowtherole)	\$32.24/hour (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/medical-job-types-and-roles-with-descriptions)	National Association of Licensed Practical Nurses: https://nalpn.org/
Lithotripsy technologist	Radiologic technologists focused on treatment for kidney stones that uses x-ray fluoroscopy (https://careertrend.com/salary-of-a-lithotripsy-technologist-13660743.html)	Associate or bachelor's degree, many people entering this field begin their careers as x-ray technicians (https://www.ziprecruiter.com/career/Lithotripsy-Technologist/What-Is-How-to-Become)	Voluntary certification through the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (https://work.chron.com/become-lithotripsy-technologist-19351.html)	\$55,730/year in 2010 (https://careertrend.com/salary-of-a-lithotripsy-technologist-13660743.html)	Council for Urological Interests: https://urologicalinterests.org/
Marriage and family therapist	Diagnoses and treats mental and emotional disorders within the marriage and family context (https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/21-1013.00)	Master's degree (2-3 years), doctoral program (3-5 years), post-graduate clinical training program (3-4 years) (https://www.aamft.org/About_AAMFT/About_Marriage_and_Family_Therapists.aspx)	After graduation from an accredited program, usually two years of post-degree supervised clinical experience needed for licensure or certification (https://www.aamft.org/About_AAMFT/About_Marriage_and_Family_Therapists.aspx)	\$63,300/year in 2022 (https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes211013.htm)	American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy: https://www.aamft.org/
Massage therapist	Provides relaxation or treatment of pain through massage (https://www.indeed.com/hire/job-description/massage-therapist)	Massage therapy programs generally require 500-1,000 hours (https://www.indeed.com/hire/job-description/massage-therapist)	Regulated by most states in the form of registration, certification, or licensure (https://www.amtamassage.org/state-regulations/credentials-massage-therapy-profession/)	\$49,860/year in 2022 (https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/massage-therapist/salary)	American Massage Therapy Association: https://www.amtamassage.org/state-regulations/credentials-massage-therapy-profession/
Medical administrative assistant (medical secretary, medical receptionist, medical office assistant, medical office manager)	Performs clerical or office tasks in hospitals, doctor's offices; in contrast with medical assistants, not directly involved in care (https://www.chcp.edu/blog/what-does-a-medical-administrative-assistant-do/)	No formal education in most states (https://www.chcp.edu/blog/what-does-a-medical-administrative-assistant-do/)	No federal requirement for certification or license (https://www.indeed.com/hire/job-description/medical-receptionist)	\$15.83/hour in 2024 (https://www.payscale.com/research/US/Job=Medical_Receptionist/Hourly_Rate)	More information: https://www.zippia.com/medical-receptionist-jobs/what-does-a-medical-receptionist-do/
Medical assistant	Clinical and administrative tasks (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/medical-job-types-and-roles-with-descriptions)	High school diploma or associate degree (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/medical-job-types-and-roles-with-descriptions)	CMA (AAMA) credential (https://www.aama-ntl.org/medical-assisting/what-is-a-cma)	\$17.52/hour (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/medical-job-types-and-roles-with-descriptions)	American Association of Medical Assistants: https://www.aama-ntl.org/index
Medical billing specialist	Acts as a liaison between medical office and insurance companies, generates invoices (https://www.ultimatemedical.edu/blog/what-is-a-medical-billing-specialist/)	Training programs available (examples: https://www.scitraining.com/medical-billing-specialist and https://www.ultimatemedical.edu/program/medical-office-and-billing-specialist/)	Not required by every employer (https://www.ultimatemedical.edu/blog/what-is-a-medical-billing-specialist/)	\$45,914/year (https://www.salary.com/research/salary/benchmark/medical-billing-specialist-salary)	American Medical Billing Association: https://www.americanmedicalbillingassociation.com/
Medical coder	Converts provider's diagnostic and procedural notes into codes for record-tracking and billing (https://www.ultimatemedical.edu/blog/what-is-a-medical-billing-specialist/)	No formal education requirements (https://www.rasmussen.edu/degrees/health-sciences/blog/guide-to-become-medical-coder/)	Not required by every employer (https://www.ultimatemedical.edu/blog/what-is-a-medical-billing-specialist/)	\$54,506/year (https://www.salary.com/research/salary/posting/medical-coder-salary)	American Medical Billing Association: https://www.americanmedicalbillingassociation.com/

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Role	Summary	Education/Training	Licensing/Exams	Salary Range or National Average Salary	Resources
Medical interpreter	Interprets and translates medical information in direct service to healthcare providers seeing patients (https://jobdescriptions.unm.edu/detail.php?id=T0047)	General education requirements for Certified Medical Interpreter (CMI) and Hub-CMI credentials (https://www.certifiedmedicalinterpreters.org/assets/docs/NBCMI_Handbook.pdf?v=20231011)	Certified Medical Interpreter (CMI) and Hub-CMI credentials (https://www.certifiedmedicalinterpreters.org/)	\$30.79/hour (https://www.indeed.com/career/medical-interpreter/salaries)	National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters: https://www.certifiedmedicalinterpreters.org/
Medical science liaison	Role in pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device, CRO industries (https://themsls.org/what-is-an-msl/)	Typically doctorate or comparable terminal degree in the life sciences (PhD, PharmD, MD) (https://explorehealthcareers.org/career/pharmacology/medical-science-liaison/)	Medical Science Liaison - Board Certification (https://themsls.org/msl-board-certification/)	\$145,718/year (https://www.zipppia.com/medical-science-liaison-jobs/salary/)	The Medical Science Liaison Society: https://themsls.org/
Medical scribe	Provides documentation assistance to clinicians (https://www.ohsu.edu/medical-scribes/job-description)	Education requirements apply to certain certifications (https://www.4cornerresources.com/job-descriptions/medical-scribe/)	Unlicensed (https://www.ohsu.edu/medical-scribes/job-description); may have certifications such as ophthalmic scribe certification (OSC), certified medical transcriptionist (CMT), registered health information technician (RHIT) (https://www.4cornerresources.com/job-descriptions/medical-scribe/)	\$18/hour (https://www.salary.com/research/salary/benchmark/medical-scribe-hourly-wages)	More information: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6248201/
Medical transcriptionist (healthcare documentation specialist)	Listens to recordings made by healthcare providers and converts them to text (https://nurse.org/healthcare/medical-transcriptionist/)	High school diploma, certificate, associate degree (https://www.allalliedhealthschools.com/specialties/how-to-become-medical-transcriptionist/)	Registered Healthcare Documentation Specialist (RHDS) exam, Certified Healthcare Documentation Specialist (CHDS) exam (https://blackstone.edu/online-medical-transcription-training-courses/)	\$19.16/hour (https://www.indeed.com/career/medical-transcriptionist/salaries)	Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity: https://www.ahdionline.org/
Medical writer	Technical writer (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/how-to-become-medical-writer)	Employers likely prefer at least a bachelor's degree (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/how-to-become-medical-writer); many employers prefer writers with a PhD in life sciences (https://www.gcu.edu/blog/medical-studies-sciences/how-become-medical-writer)	License or certification not required (https://www.gcu.edu/blog/medical-studies-sciences/how-become-medical-writer)	\$100,000/year (https://www.talent.com/salary?job=medical+writer)	American Medical Writers Association: https://www.amwa.org/
Mental health counselor	Offer guidance to individuals, couples, families, and groups facing issues affecting mental health and wellbeing (https://www.allpsychologyschools.com/mental-health-counseling/job-description/)	Most states require two years post-graduate supervised work (2,000-4,000 hours of clinical experience) (https://www.allpsychologyschools.com/mental-health-counseling/job-description/)	The National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE) is a requirement for licensure in many states (https://www.nbcc.org/exams/ncmhce); requirements vary by state (https://www.allpsychologyschools.com/mental-health-counseling/job-description/)	\$51,240/year in 2022 (https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/mental-health-counselor/salary)	American Counseling Association: https://www.counseling.org/
MRI technologist	Operates MRI machines (https://www.betterteam.com/mri-technologist-job-description)	Associate degree (https://www.betterteam.com/mri-technologist-job-description)	License or certification may be required (https://www.betterteam.com/mri-technologist-job-description)	\$55.21/hour (https://www.indeed.com/career/mri-technologist/salaries)	American Registry of Radiologic Technologists: https://www.arrt.org/

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Role	Summary	Education/Training	Licensing/Exams	Salary Range or National Average Salary	Resources
Music therapist	Works, alongside peers in other therapeutic specialties, with individuals on pain, stress, emotion, memory, communication, physical rehabilitation (https://www.berklee.edu/careers/roles/music-therapist)	Undergraduate degree in music therapy, clinical training, specialized internship (https://www.berklee.edu/careers/roles/music-therapist)	Board-certified practitioner (https://www.berklee.edu/careers/roles/music-therapist)	\$53,665/year (https://www.salary.com/research/salary/recruiting/music-therapist-salary)	American Music Therapy Association: https://www.musictherapy.org/
Nurse anesthetist (CRNA, “certified registered nurse anesthetist”)	Collaborates with other professionals while overseeing use of anesthesia in medical procedures (https://www.allnursingschools.com/nurse-anesthetist/job-description/)	APRN requiring more education than traditional registered nurse (RN) (https://www.allnursingschools.com/nurse-anesthetist/job-description/)	Licensure differs by state (https://www.locumcrna.com/licensure)	\$203,090/year (https://nurse.org/resources/nurse-anesthetist-salary/)	American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology: https://www.aana.com/
Nurse assistant (CNA)	Assists nurses or licensed vocational nurses (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/medical-job-types-and-roles-with-descriptions)	Associate degree or trade school training (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/medical-job-types-and-roles-with-descriptions)	Pass a state exam to become a licensed or certified nurse assistant (https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/cna)	\$19.17/hour (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/medical-job-types-and-roles-with-descriptions)	NAHCA (“The CNA Association”): https://www.nahcacna.org/
Nurse midwife (CNM, “certified nurse midwife”)	Advanced practice registered nurse with certification in midwifery (https://nurse.org/education/midwife-vs-nurse-midwife/)	APRN with minimum of Master’s of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree, Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is an option but not required at the entry level (https://www.registerednursing.org/nurse-midwife/)	American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) exam (https://nurse.org/education/midwife-vs-nurse-midwife/)	\$120,880/year (https://nurse.org/education/midwife-vs-nurse-midwife/)	American College of Nurse-Midwives: https://www.midwife.org/
Nurse practitioner	Provides primary or specialty care under physician supervision (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/medical-job-types-and-roles-with-descriptions)	Master’s or doctoral degree program, advanced clinical training beyond professional registered nurse (RN) preparation (https://www.aanp.org/about/all-about-nps/whats-a-nurse-practitioner)	Licensed in all states and the District of Columbia (https://www.aanp.org/about/all-about-nps/whats-a-nurse-practitioner)	\$83.65/hour (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/medical-job-types-and-roles-with-descriptions)	American Association of Nurse Practitioners: https://www.aanp.org/
Nutritionist (certified nutrition specialist)	Creates meal plans based on patient dietary needs and restrictions (https://www.indeed.com/hire/job-description/nutritionist)	Typically have a bachelor’s degree or associate degree, training in the form of an internship during or after degree studies (https://www.indeed.com/hire/job-description/nutritionist)	Usually required to be licensed, some only need registration or certification (https://www.indeed.com/hire/job-description/nutritionist)	\$22.15/hour (https://www.indeed.com/career/nutritionist/salaries)	Listing professional organizations for nutritionists: https://www.bestmastersdegrees.com/lists/5-great-professional-organizations-nutritionists/
Occupational therapist	Assists with evaluation and treatment of patients to help with activities of daily living (https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/occupational-therapists.htm)	Master’s degree or professional doctorate (e.g., OTD) (https://www.aota.org/career/become-an-ot-ota/start-your-career-journey/program-admissions-and-formats)	All 50 states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam require licensing for occupational therapists and assistants (https://www.aota.org/career/state-licensure)	\$43.62/hour (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/medical-job-types-and-roles-with-descriptions)	American Occupational Therapy Association: https://www.aota.org/
Occupational therapy assistant	Assists with development, recovery, or improvement of activities of daily living (https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/occupational-therapy-assistants-and-aides.htm)	Associate degree (https://www.aota.org/career/become-an-ot-ota/start-your-career-journey/program-admissions-and-formats)	All 50 states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam require licensing for occupational therapists and assistants (https://www.aota.org/career/state-licensure)	\$66,280/year in 2022 (https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes312011.htm)	American Occupational Therapy Association: https://www.aota.org/

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Role	Summary	Education/Training	Licensing/Exams	Salary Range or National Average Salary	Resources
Optometrist	Performs eye exams, diagnoses vision conditions, prescribes corrective therapy (https://medicalaid.org/how-to-become-an-optometrist-training-licensing-and-certification-requirements/)	Has a medical or graduate school education (https://medicalaid.org/how-to-become-an-optometrist-training-licensing-and-certification-requirements/); Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree, typically four years (https://college.mayo.edu/academics/explore-health-care-careers/careers-a-z/orthoptist/)	Board certification is voluntary and goes above and beyond licensing requirements (https://americanboardofoptometry.org/become-certified/what-is-board-certification/)	\$141,364/year (https://www.salary.com/research/salary/benchmark/optometrist-salary/)	American Board of Optometry: https://americanboardofoptometry.org/ ; note difference from ophthalmology, which involves surgical and medical interventions (https://medicalaid.org/how-to-become-an-optometrist-training-licensing-and-certification-requirements/)
Orthodontist	Examines and treats dental malocclusions and oral cavity anomalies, designs and makes appliances to improve function and appearance (https://www.careeronestop.org/Toolkit/Careers/Occupations/occupation-profile.aspx?keyword=Orthodontists&location=US&onetcode=29102300)	Bachelor's degree, dental school, three years of residency training after dental school (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/what-is-an-orthodontist)	All must be licensed according to state requirements (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/what-is-an-orthodontist)	\$286,437/year (https://www.indeed.com/career/orthodontist/salaries)	American Board of Orthodontics: https://www.americanboardortho.com/
Orthoptist	Specializes in evaluation and treatment of eye movement problems and binocular vision (https://college.mayo.edu/academics/explore-health-care-careers/careers-a-z/orthoptist/)	Bachelor's degree, two-year fellowship certification (https://college.mayo.edu/academics/explore-health-care-careers/careers-a-z/orthoptist/)	License to practice (https://college.mayo.edu/academics/explore-health-care-careers/careers-a-z/orthoptist/)	\$97,270/year (https://www.recruiter.com/salaries/orthoptists-salary/)	American Association of Certified Orthoptists: https://www.orthooptics.org/
Orthotist (prosthetist)	Provides orthotic and prosthetic treatment (https://www.uwhealth.org/files-directory/position-descriptions/rehabilitation/sr.orthotist.prosthetics.900025.pdf)	Typically at least a master's degree and residency (https://www.healthcaredegree.com/physical/prosthetist)	Examples include American Board Certified Orthotist (ABC Orthotist), Certified Orthotist (CO), Licensed Prosthetist/Orthotist (LPO) (https://www.purdue.edu/science/careers/what_can_i_do_with_a_major/Career%20Pages/orthotists_and_prosthetists.html)	\$87,695/year (https://www.salary.com/research/salary/benchmark/prosthetist-orthotist-salary/)	American Academy of Orthotists & Prosthetists (https://www.oandp.org/)
Osteopathic physician	In addition to medical treatment, practices osteopathic manipulative medicine (https://www.calu.edu/academics/undergraduate/bachelors/biology/pre-professional/osteopathic-medicine-career-options.aspx)	Bachelor's degree and four years of medical school, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) degree (https://www.calu.edu/academics/undergraduate/bachelors/biology/pre-professional/osteopathic-medicine-career-options.aspx)	Board-certified, licensing to practice (https://www.calu.edu/academics/undergraduate/bachelors/biology/pre-professional/osteopathic-medicine-career-options.aspx); in contrast with MDs, who take the USMLE, DO graduates take the COMLEX-USA exam (https://www.nu.edu/blog/how-to-become-a-psychiatrist/)	\$207,353/year (https://www.salary.com/research/salary/posting/osteopathic-physician-salary/)	American Osteopathic Association: https://osteopathic.org/
Paramedic	Provides emergency medical care and transportation (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/paramedic-license-requirements)	Complete 1,200-1,800 hours of training for certification (https://www.learnhowtobecome.org/paramedic-emt/); program lasts 6-12 months (https://www.cpc.mednet.ucla.edu/node/27); generally need EMT training and experience to be eligible for a paramedic course (https://www.cpc.mednet.ucla.edu/node/27)	Every state issues its own licenses and states can differ in terms of requirements (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/paramedic-license-requirements); recertification, often after two years (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/paramedic-license-requirements)	\$26.38/hour (https://www.indeed.com/career/paramedic/salaries)	National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians: https://www.nremt.org/

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Role	Summary	Education/Training	Licensing/Exams	Salary Range or National Average Salary	Resources
Patient care technician	Provides basic medical care under supervision of nurses, doctors, other healthcare professionals (https://fvi.edu/patient-care-technician/patient-care-tech-program/patient-care-technician-job-description-duties-and-everything-you-need-to-know/)	High school diploma, training program (https://www.floridacareercollege.edu/vocational-school-programs/patient-care-technician/how-to-become-patient-care-technician/)	Certified Patient Care Technician/Assistant (CPCT/A) credential (https://www.nhanow.com/certification/nha-certifications/certified-patient-care-technician-assistant-(cpct-a))	\$36,283/year (https://www.salary.com/research/salary/listing/patient-care-technician-salary)	National Healthcareer Association: https://www.nhanow.com/
Perfusionist	Responsible for extracorporeal oxygenation of the blood during open-heart surgery (https://med.uth.edu/perfusion/about-us/what-is-a-perfusionist/)	Requirements vary, some perfusion programs require 60-80 credit hours of coursework before training, some require a bachelor's degree or formal education and practical work experience (https://perfusion.com/how-long-does-it-take-to-become-a-perfusionist/); can pursue a master's degree including clinical rotations (https://perfusion.com/how-long-does-it-take-to-become-a-perfusionist/)	Licensed in some states, and certification is available through the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (https://www.healthcarepathway.com/certification/perfusionist-certification/)	\$153,506/year (https://www.indeed.com/career/perfusionist/salaries)	The American Academy of Cardiovascular Perfusion: https://www.theaacp.com/
Pharmacist—clinical	Performs duties beyond dispensing and processing orders, works in physicians' offices, emergency departments, outpatient clinics, nursing homes (https://www.zipppia.com/answers/what-is-the-difference-between-a-pharmacist-and-a-clinical-pharmacist/)	Doctor of Pharmacy degree, experience in a hospital setting (https://doctorly.org/how-to-become-a-clinical-pharmacist/)	Pharmacy College Admissions Test needed to apply to pharmacy school (https://doctorly.org/how-to-become-a-clinical-pharmacist/); take the North American Pharmacists Licensure Examination (NAPLEX) and fulfill state licensure requirements (https://doctorly.org/how-to-become-a-clinical-pharmacist/); additional certifications can indicate specialized knowledge (https://doctorly.org/how-to-become-a-clinical-pharmacist/)	\$143,362/year (https://www.salary.com/research/salary/benchmark/clinical-pharmacist-salary)	American College of Clinical Pharmacy: https://www.accp.com/about/clinicalpharmacists.aspx
Pharmacist—retail	Review prescriptions, compounds and dispenses drugs according to retail environment guidelines (https://www.salary.com/research/job-description/benchmark/pharmacist-retail-job-description)	Doctor of Pharmacy degree (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/hospital-pharmacist-vs-retail-pharmacist)	National licensing exam, state exam, other licensing requirements, additional certifications may be needed for certain tasks (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/hospital-pharmacist-vs-retail-pharmacist)	\$162,228/year (https://www.salary.com/research/salary/benchmark/pharmacist-retail-salary)	Providing a list of professional organizations: https://www.uspharmacist.com/professional-organizations
Pharmacologist	Develops and tests drugs (https://www.betterteam.com/pharmacologist-job-description)	Bachelor's degree, master's degree in pharmacology, PhD in pharmacology, medical degree (https://www.masterspublichealth.net/faq/how-do-you-become-a-pharmacologist/)	Licensing varies by state, all pharmacologists take a two-step exam focused on (1) pharmacology practices and (2) industry laws and regulations (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/careers/what-does-a-pharmacologist-do)	\$80,771/year (https://www.payscale.com/research/US/Job=Pharmacologist/Salary)	Providing a list of professional organizations: https://www.uspharmacist.com/professional-organizations
Pharmacy clerk	Performs administrative and customer service tasks, non-medical aspects of pharmacy operations (https://www.ziprecruiter.com/career/Pharmacy-Clerk/What-Is-How-to-Become)	No formal education requirements (https://www.ziprecruiter.com/career/Pharmacy-Clerk/What-Is-How-to-Become)	Do not need certifications (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/pharmacy-tech-vs-clerk-vs-pharmacist)	\$24-30,000/year (https://www.ziprecruiter.com/career/Pharmacy-Clerk/What-Is-How-to-Become)	Providing a list of professional organizations: https://www.uspharmacist.com/professional-organizations

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Role	Summary	Education/Training	Licensing/Exams	Salary Range or National Average Salary	Resources
Pharmacy technician	Performs administrative and pharmacy tasks depending on pharmacist's needs (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/pharmacy-tech-vs-clerk-vs-pharmacist)	Many pharmacies require high school diploma or GED and two years of experience (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/pharmacy-tech-vs-clerk-vs-pharmacist)	Can take certification exam without prior education (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/pharmacy-tech-vs-clerk-vs-pharmacist); need certifications to work with patients, may need state license (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/pharmacy-tech-vs-clerk-vs-pharmacist); Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/pharmacy-tech-vs-clerk-vs-pharmacist)	\$37,790/year in 2022 (https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/pharmacy-technician/salary)	National Pharmacy Technician Association: https://www.pharmacytechnician.org/npta/default.asp
Phlebotomist	Draws blood for testing, transfusion, research, blood donation (https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/phlebotomists.htm)	Commonly phlebotomy certificate program, less than one year (https://www.allalliedhealthschools.com/phlebotomist/education-requirements/)	Few states require certification or licensing (https://www.allalliedhealthschools.com/phlebotomist/education-requirements/)	\$38,530/year in 2022 (https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/phlebotomist/salary)	American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians, Inc.: https://www.aspt.org/
Physical therapist	Diagnoses physical problems, teaches exercises, provides hands-on therapy to assist with pain management (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/medical-job-types-and-roles-with-descriptions)	Doctor of Physical Therapy from a Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education-accredited program (https://www.apta.org/your-career/careers-in-physical-therapy/becoming-a-pt)	Pass state licensure exam (https://www.apta.org/your-career/careers-in-physical-therapy/becoming-a-pt)	\$49.86/hour (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/medical-job-types-and-roles-with-descriptions)	American Physical Therapy Association: https://www.apta.org/
Physical therapy assistant	Assists physical therapist (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/medical-job-types-and-roles-with-descriptions)	Associate degree (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/medical-job-types-and-roles-with-descriptions)	Must pass state-administered national exam to be licensed or certified, in most states (https://www.apta.org/your-career/careers-in-physical-therapy/becoming-a-pta)	\$31.54/hour (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/medical-job-types-and-roles-with-descriptions)	American Physical Therapy Association: https://www.apta.org/
Physician assistant	Works under supervision of licensed physician, provides medical care (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/medical-job-types-and-roles-with-descriptions)	Most PA programs are approximately 27 months and award master's degrees (https://www.aapa.org/career-central/become-a-pa/)	Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE) to become a Physician Assistant-Certified (PA-C) (https://www.aapa.org/career-central/become-a-pa/); obtain license in state of practice (https://www.aapa.org/career-central/become-a-pa/)	\$66.00/hour (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/medical-job-types-and-roles-with-descriptions)	The American Academy of PAs: https://www.aapa.org/
Physician— anesthesiologist	Perioperative physician, “puts patients to sleep” (https://www.medschool.umaryland.edu/anesthesiology/patient-information/role-of-the-anesthesiologist/)	Medical school followed by four-year residency (https://thebestschools.org/careers/career-guide/anesthesiologist-overview/)	Must pass board exam and be licensed (https://thebestschools.org/careers/career-guide/anesthesiologist-overview/)	\$427,800/year (https://www.salary.com/research/salary/alternate/anesthesiologist-salary)	American Society of Anesthesiologists: https://www.asahq.org/
Physician— oncologist	Treats patients with cancer and related diseases (https://careertrend.com/many-years-training-become-oncologist-6236.html)	Medical school followed by 5-6 years of residency training (https://careertrend.com/many-years-training-become-oncologist-6236.html)	Board-certified (https://careertrend.com/many-years-training-become-oncologist-6236.html)	\$316,846/year (https://www.payscale.com/research/US/Job=Physician%20F%20Doctor%20Oncologist/Salary)	American Society of Clinical Oncology: https://www.asco.org/

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Role	Summary	Education/Training	Licensing/Exams	Salary Range or National Average Salary	Resources
Physician—pediatrician	Specializes in treatment of physical, emotional, and social health of children from birth to young adulthood (https://residency.wustl.edu/choosing-a-specialty/specialty-descriptions/pediatrics/)	Medical school followed by three-year residency (https://residency.wustl.edu/choosing-a-specialty/specialty-descriptions/pediatrics/)	Pediatrics certification exam (https://work.chron.com/much-er-pediatrician-make-23899.html)	\$190,350/year in 2022 (https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/pediatrician/salary)	American Academy of Pediatrics: https://www.aap.org/
Physician—psychiatrist	Applies medical knowledge to treatment of mental illness (https://www.psychiatry.org/residents-medical-students/medical-students/choosing-a-career-in-psychiatry)	Residency, 4+ years (https://www.psychiatry.org/residents-medical-students/medical-students/choosing-a-career-in-psychiatry)	Take medical licensing examination and obtain mandatory certification from the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN), which is subject to renewal (https://www.nu.edu/blog/how-to-become-a-psychiatrist/)	\$251,371/year (https://www.salary.com/research/salary/benchmark/psychiatrist-salary)	American Psychiatric Association: https://www.psychiatry.org/
Physician—radiologist	Specializes in medical imaging (https://www.betterteam.com/radiologist-job-description)	Complete residency program after medical school, usually 4-5 years (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/how-to-become-radiologist)	Licensing, board certification (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/how-to-become-radiologist)	\$344,970/year (https://www.ziprecruiter.com/Salaries/Radiologist-Salary-per-Month#Yearly)	American College of Radiology: https://www.acr.org/
Physician—surgeon	General surgeon performs surgery related to a range of illnesses (https://www.betterteam.com/general-surgeon-job-description)	Residency after medical school, five years for general surgery (https://residency.wustl.edu/residencies/length-of-residencies/)	Medical licensing, board certification (https://www.topsurgery.net/how-to-research-surgeon-background-credentials.htm)	\$433,349/year (https://www.salary.com/research/salary/benchmark/surgeon-salary)	The American College of Surgeons: https://www.facs.org/
Podiatrist	Clinician specializing in health conditions affecting the feet, ankles, and lower legs (https://www.usnews.com/education/best-graduate-schools/articles/2019-10-18/how-to-apply-to-podiatry-school-and-become-a-podiatrist)	Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree from accredited podiatry school, typically four years, most states require residency typically lasting 36 months (https://www.usnews.com/education/best-graduate-schools/articles/2019-10-18/how-to-apply-to-podiatry-school-and-become-a-podiatrist)	DPMs are licensed in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico (https://aacpm.org/becoming-a-podiatric-physician/)	\$226,478/year (https://www.salary.com/research/salary/benchmark/physician-podiatry-salary)	American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA): https://www.apma.org/
Psychologist—clinical	Assesses and treats individuals with mental, emotional, behavioral disorders (https://www.allpsychologyschools.com/clinical-psychology/job-description/)	Master's degree in psychology, one or two years, and many psychologists earn doctoral degrees (5-6 years) (https://www.allpsychologyschools.com/clinical-psychology/job-description/)	Meet certification or licensing requirements in all states and the District of Columbia (https://www.verywellmind.com/psychologist-accreditation-and-licensing-requirements-2794924)	\$193,570/year (https://www.indeed.com/career/clinical-psychologist/salaries)	American Academy of Clinical Psychology: https://www.aacpsy.org/
Psychologist—educational	Diagnoses learning disabilities, designs IEPs, educates teachers and families (https://www.psychology.org/careers/educational-psychologist/)	Generally requires a doctorate, PhD or PsyD, need doctorate in most states (https://www.psychology.org/careers/educational-psychologist/)	Most states require 1-2 years practicing under a licensed educational psychologist before independent practice, licensing requirements vary by state (https://www.psychology.org/careers/educational-psychologist/)	\$82,180/year (https://psychologyjobs.com/educational-psychologist-salary/)	American Psychological Association: https://www.apa.org/
Radiation therapist	Administers radiation to patients with cancer or other diseases (https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/radiation-therapists.htm)	Associate degree program, certificate program in radiation therapy (https://www.nwhealth.edu/blog/how-to-become-a-radiation-therapist/)	Register with The American Registry of Radiological Technologists (ARRT), take registry exam (https://www.nwhealth.edu/blog/how-to-become-a-radiation-therapist/)	\$98,340/year in 2022 (https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes291124.htm)	The American Registry of Radiological Technologists: https://www.arrt.org/

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Role	Summary	Education/Training	Licensing/Exams	Salary Range or National Average Salary	Resources
Radiologic technologist (“x-ray tech”)	Performs medical imaging examinations (https://www.nwhealth.edu/blog/how-to-become-a-radiologic-technologist/)	Associate or bachelor’s degree (https://www.nwhealth.edu/blog/how-to-become-a-radiologic-technologist/)	May not need to be registered (https://www.nwhealth.edu/blog/how-to-become-a-radiologic-technologist/)	\$65,140/year in 2022 (https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/radiologic-technologist/salary)	American Society of Radiologic Technologists: https://www.asrt.org/
Recreational therapist	Plans and directs recreation-based treatment programs for people with disabilities, injuries, illnesses (https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/recreational-therapists.htm)	Typically requires a bachelor’s degree (https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/recreational-therapists.htm)	Many employers require certification (https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/recreational-therapists.htm)	\$47,940/year (https://www.careerexplorer.com/careers/recreational-therapist/salary/)	National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification: https://www.nctrc.org/
Registered behavior technician	Works under supervision (https://www.bacb.com/rbt/)	High school education or equivalent (https://www.bacb.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/BACB_December2023_Newsletter-231227-a.pdf); 40-hour training (https://www.bacb.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/BACB_December2023_Newsletter-231227-a.pdf)	Paraprofessional certification in behavior analysis (https://www.bacb.com/rbt/); applicants must be at least 18 years old and pass a criminal background and abuse registry check (https://www.bacb.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/BACB_December2023_Newsletter-231227-a.pdf); annual renewal requirement (https://www.bacb.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/BACB_December2023_Newsletter-231227-a.pdf)	\$40,950/year (https://www.talent.com/salary?job=registered+behavior+technician)	Behavior Analyst Certification Board: https://www.bacb.com/
Registered nurse (RN)	Administers treatment, performs diagnostic tests, records symptoms and medical history (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/medical-job-types-and-roles-with-descriptions)	Undergraduate degree (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/medical-job-types-and-roles-with-descriptions)	All states license registered nurses (https://www.nursinglicensure.org/articles/rn-licensing/)	\$41.57/hour (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/medical-job-types-and-roles-with-descriptions)	American Nurses Association: https://www.nursingworld.org/ana/
Rehabilitation counselor	Develops rehabilitation plans for individuals with physical, mental, emotional, or social disabilities (https://www.betterteam.com/rehabilitation-counselor-job-description)	Most states require a master’s degree for licensure (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/how-to-become-rehabilitation-counselor)	Certified by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (https://onlinecounselingprograms.com/become-a-counselor/counseling-careers/rehabilitation-counselor/)	\$50,511/year (https://www.payscale.com/research/US/Job=Rehabilitation_Counselor/Salary)	Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification: https://crrcertification.com/
Respiratory therapist	Cares for patients with trouble breathing, e.g., due to a chronic condition such as asthma (https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/respiratory-therapists.htm)	Associate degree, some employers prefer a bachelor’s degree (https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/respiratory-therapists.htm)	Typically licensed, requirements vary by state (https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/respiratory-therapists.htm)	\$74,310/year in 2022 (https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes291126.htm)	American Association for Respiratory Care: https://www.aarc.org/

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Role	Summary	Education/Training	Licensing/Exams	Salary Range or National Average Salary	Resources
Social worker – clinical (LCSW, LICSW)	Works directly with clients, focus areas may include children and families, trauma and interpersonal violence, mental health, addiction, aging (https://online.simmons.edu/blog/differences-clinical-non-clinical-social-work/)	Graduate-level education (https://online.simmons.edu/blog/differences-clinical-non-clinical-social-work/); Master of Social Work degree (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/how-to-become-a-social-worker)	State-regulated occupation (https://www.ihiresocialservices.com/resourcecenter/jobseeker/pages/which-career-is-right-for-you-clinical-or-non-clinical-social-work-); most states require a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) credential (https://www.ihiresocialservices.com/resourcecenter/jobseeker/pages/which-career-is-right-for-you-clinical-or-non-clinical-social-work-); requirements and credentials can vary based on state rules (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/how-to-become-a-social-worker and https://www.publichealthonline.org/human-services/florida-social-work-license/)	\$58,560/year (https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/how-to-become-a-social-worker)	Providing a list of professional organizations for social workers: https://www.socialwork.org/resources/professional-organizations/
Social worker – non-clinical	Work may include a mix of administrative and counseling duties (https://online.simmons.edu/blog/differences-clinical-non-clinical-social-work/)	Graduate-level education (https://online.simmons.edu/blog/differences-clinical-non-clinical-social-work/)	Many social workers with an LMSW work in non-clinical roles (https://socialworklicensemap.com/become-a-social-worker/lmsw-vs-lcsw/)	\$55,350/year in 2022 (general BLS listing for social workers: https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/social-workers.htm)	Providing a list of professional organizations for social workers: https://www.socialwork.org/resources/professional-organizations/
Speech and language pathologist	Expert in communication (https://www.asha.org/public/who-are-speech-language-pathologists/)	Two-year master’s degree typically needed (https://www.bestcolleges.com/healthcare/careers/how-to-become-a-speech-pathologist/)	Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech Language Pathology (CCC-SLP) (https://speechpathologymastersprograms.com/become-speech-pathologist/ccc-slp-guide/ccc-slp-importance/)	\$84,140/year in 2022 (https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/speech-language-pathologists.htm)	American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA): https://www.asha.org/
Sterile processing technician (medical equipment preparer)	Prepares laboratory and healthcare equipment for surgeries, examinations, procedures (https://www.betterteam.com/sterile-processing-technician-job-description)	College degree or professional certificate is not always required (https://www.herzing.edu/become/sterile-processing-technician)	Exam, certification (https://myhspa.org/certification/become-certified/)	\$44,940/year (https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes319093.htm)	Healthcare Sterile Processing Association: https://myhspa.org/
Surgical nurse (perioperative nurse)	Works in the operating room with patients before, during, and after surgery (https://www.wgu.edu/blog/surgical-nurse-job-description-career-guide2008.html); may be a scrub nurse, circulating nurse, RN first assistant, PACU nurse (https://www.wgu.edu/blog/surgical-nurse-job-description-career-guide2008.html)	Master’s degree or higher in a nurse practitioner program (https://nurse.org/resources/perioperative-surgical-nurse/#how-to-become-a-surgical-nurse)	Obtain certification in a perioperative subspecialty (https://nurse.org/resources/perioperative-surgical-nurse/#how-to-become-a-surgical-nurse)	\$104,559/year (https://nurse.org/education/surgical-nurse-salary/)	Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses: https://amsn.org/
Surgical technologist	Assists with surgical operations (https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/surgical-technologists.htm)	Typically need associate degree or certificate (https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/surgical-technologists.htm)	Not licensed (https://www.wgu.edu/blog/surgical-nurse-job-description-career-guide2008.html); Certified Surgical Technologist examination (CST-ERC) (https://www.nbstsa.org/cst-certification); regulated in some states (https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/surgical-technologists.htm)	\$57,500/year (https://www.herzing.edu/salary/surgical-technologist)	Association of Surgical Technologists: https://www.ast.org/AboutUs/AboutAST/

Notes: This list is not intended to be exhaustive (it does not cover every possible, e.g., healthcare role, sub-specialty, or job function). Please cross-reference with additional sources to ensure that you have accurate and up-to-date information, and note that information including but not limited to job titles, salaries, and licensing requirements may also vary from state to state within the United States. Last update: January 29, 2024.

Role	Summary	Education/Training	Licensing/Exams	Salary Range or National Average Salary	Resources
Travel nurse	Traveling nurse with contracts in different locations for different lengths of time (https://www.travelnursing.org/become-a-travel-nurse/)	Minimum RN education (2-4 years) (https://www.travelnursing.org/become-a-travel-nurse/)	Pass NCLEX-RN exam, other certifications may be needed (https://www.travelnursing.org/become-a-travel-nurse/)	\$2,109/week (https://www.indeed.com/career/travel-nurse/salaries)	More information: https://www.travelnursing.org/