



CaroMont Health Health Careers Guide

CaroMont Health Mission/Vision/Values

VISION

To be the community's most trusted healthcare partner.

MISSION

To provide compassionate, exceptional and highly reliable care.

Values

The values of our organization are what we believe and how we behave. They are the way we support each other and our patients, they are the basis for our decisions, and they are the way we hold ourselves and each other accountable.

C | Compassion

- Respect Everyone
- Be Kind
- Demonstrate Empathy

A | Accountability

- Take Ownership
- Demonstrate Integrity
- Honor CARES Culture

R | Reliability

- Be Reluctant to Simplify
- Be Sensitive to Operations
- Be Preoccupied with Failure
- Commit to Resilience
- Trust Experts

E | Excellence

- Be an Engaged Team Member
- Provide Exceptional Service
- Continually Improve and Innovate

S | Safety

- Strive for Zero Harm
- Anticipate Risk
- Identify and Correct Mistakes
- Create and Follow Standard Work

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Cardiopulmonary Services

Echocardiography (Cardiac Ultrasound)

Echocardiography is the study of cardiac anatomy through ultrasound. Echocardiography Technologists use sound waves (ultrasound) to create images that show the shape and composition of body tissues, organs, and pathologies.

Who delivers your services?

Echocardiograms are performed through Echocardiography by trained professionals who are registered or registry-eligible through the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers.

Where are your services delivered?

These professionals work at hospitals, doctor's offices, clinics and mobile units. At CaroMont Regional Medical Center, Echocardiograms are performed through the Cardiopulmonary Department.

What are the benefits of your services?

Benefits include assessment of overall heart function by evaluation of the four heart valves and blood flow through those valves. Physicians can better treat the patient due to the findings of this test.

Educational Training

High school preparation may include these courses:

Health Sciences or Health Occupations, Biology, Anatomy, Medical Terminology, Physics, Algebra, Communication Skills.

College and University programs providing certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees

Two-year degree: Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, Hudson, NC

Associate Degree: Cape Fear Community College; Forsyth Community College; Johnston Community

College; Pitt Community College; South Piedmont Community College and Southwestern Community College

Type of training (classes, practicum experience, certification, licensure)

Anatomy and Physiology, Echo I and II, Expository Writing, Sonographic Physics, CVS Clinical Education I, II, III, IV, and V, General Psychology, Basic PC Literacy, Argument Based Research, Vascular Sonography, Humanities, Interpersonal Communications

Salary range (list as hourly): \$32-\$46

Professional Organizations

ARDMS – American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers www.ardms.org

Neurodiagnostic Technology

Neurodiagnostic technology is a specialty for diagnosing patients with neurological disorder such as epilepsy, stroke, coma, multiple sclerosis, and other disorders.

Who delivers your services?

Neurodiagnostic Technologists do a variety of neurological testing in hospitals as well as other clinical settings. They perform EEGs (electroencephalograms), EPs (evoked potentials), and NCV (nerve conduction velocity) studies.

What are the benefits of your services?

It is an exciting job because EEGs can vary greatly as the patient changes from young to old, healthy to ill, awake to asleep. It is interesting to observe an EEG tracing the stages of wakefulness occurring in a patient. The waveforms change noticeably sometimes allowing us to capture the type of seizure a patient is having. Often a patient will be asked to stay awake at night. This will bring out abnormalities of the brain, like the results a treadmill will have on a patient with heart difficulties.

Educational Training

High school preparation may include these courses:

Health Sciences, Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, Physics, Chemistry

College and University programs providing certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees UNCC (BS) or Catawba Valley Community College (AAS)

Type of training (classes, practicum experience, certification, licensure)

Seminar and clinical practice courses are included in each program.

What is the projected demand for your field according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook?

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS 2021) projects that this field, which the organization classifies under the medical technologists and technicians, will grow 11 percent between 2020 and 2030, much faster than the average growth expected for all occupations during the same decade (8 percent).

Salary range (list as hourly): \$19-\$30

Respiratory Therapy

Respiratory Therapy is the evaluation, provision of treatment, and care for patients with breathing or other cardiopulmonary disorders. Respiratory Therapists perform a variety of therapeutic and diagnostic procedures which may include mechanical ventilation, oxygen and medication administration, chest physiotherapy, lung expansion therapy, pulmonary rehabilitation, smoking cessation, pulmonary function studies, and arterial blood gas analysis.

Who delivers your services?

Respiratory Therapy is provided by respiratory therapists who are certified and/or registered and licensed by the North Carolina Board for Respiratory Care.

Where are your services delivered?

Respiratory therapy services are offered in Hospitals, Home Care Agencies, Patient Transport, Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Facilities, Diagnostic Laboratories, and Educational Institutions. Currently at CaroMont Regional Medical Center, Respiratory Therapists are involved in some aspect of care for patients in every area or unit of the hospital 24 hours a day.

What other environments/industries may provide employment with this discipline?

Sleep Labs, Pharmaceutical Industry, Editor/Author, Lobbyist, Expert Witness, Federal/Armed Services, Case Manager, Consultant

What are the benefits of your services?

Prevention of complications, relief of or reversal of symptoms, assisting in treatment and diagnosis of disease processes, or assessment of patient needs to improve quality of life.

Educational Training

High school preparation may include these courses:

Health Sciences, Biology, Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics

College and University programs providing certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees

NC Colleges: AAS Degree

Carteret Community College – Morehead City

Catawba Valley Community College – Hickory

Central Piedmont Community College – Charlotte

Durham Technical Community College – Durham

Edgecombe Community College – Rocky Mount

Fayetteville Technical Community College – Fayetteville

Forsyth Technical Community College – Winston-Salem

Pitt Community College – Greenville

Rockingham Community College – Wentworth

Robeson Community College – Lumberton

Sandhills Community College – Pinehurst

Southwestern Community College – Sylva

Stanly Community College – Albemarle

BSRT degree- University of North Carolina Charlotte

Type of training (classes, practicum experience, certification, licensure)

Areas of study in respiratory therapy programs include human anatomy and physiology, pathophysiology, chemistry, physics, microbiology, pharmacology, and mathematics. Other courses deal with therapeutic and diagnostic procedures and tests, equipment, patient assessment, CPR, application of clinical practice guidelines, patient care outside of hospitals, cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation, respiratory health promotion and disease prevention, and medical recordkeeping and reimbursement.

What is the projected demand for your field according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook?

Job opportunities are expected to be very good for respiratory therapists. The Bureau of Labor Statistics expects employment of respiratory therapists to grow much faster than average. Respiratory therapists are in demand to care for the large aging population. Older people are more likely to experience lung and heart conditions that may benefit from respiratory therapy.

Salary range (list as hourly): \$28-\$39

Professional Organizations

American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) – www.aarc.org

North Carolina Society for Respiratory Care (NCSRC) – www.ncsrc.org

North Carolina Respiratory Care Board (NCRCB) – www.ncrcb.org

National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) – www.nbrc.org

Cardiac Catheterization/ Electrophysiology Lab

Cardiovascular Services

Invasive Cardiovascular Technologist (Cardiac Catheterization Lab/Cardiac Electrophysiology Lab) is a health care professional that, using specialized high-tech equipment and at the direction of a qualified Cardiologist, assists in performing procedures on patients in a surgical environment with the goal of diagnosing and treating heart disease and peripheral vascular disease. As a member of the cardiac catheterization team, the invasive cardiovascular technologist performs in any one of several roles, such as a surgical scrub assistant, monitoring the patient's condition, or operating specialized equipment within the Cardiac Cath Lab or Cardiac Electrophysiology Lab. The invasive cardiovascular technologist also works with physicians in the field of interventional cardiology, who attempts to prevent or treat heart attacks by restoring blood flow to diseased areas of the heart.

Procedures routinely performed by the cardiac catheterization labs/electrophysiology labs include:

- Coronary and cardiac angiography
- Coronary and peripheral angioplasty (using balloons and stents to open clogged arteries)
- Right heart catheterizations (measuring the flow of blood and obtaining cardiac pressures)
- Electrophysiology procedures (where irregular heartbeats are studied and treated)
- Implanting pacemakers and defibrillators to correct dangerous arrhythmias of the heart

Who delivers your services?

All cardiovascular technologists and nurses working in the Cardiac Catheterization Lab/Electrophysiology Lab must be graduates of an accredited educational program appropriate to the area.

Nurses must be registered by the State Board of Nursing and some experience in the field of Critical Care may be preferred.

Some hospitals may require Cardiovascular Technologists to obtain a specialty certification (RCIS - Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist or RCES - Registered Cardiovascular Electrophysiology Specialist).

Where are your services delivered?

Cardiac Catheterization Labs/Electrophysiology Labs are usually located within a medium to large size acute care hospital facility that offers other extensive cardiovascular services.

What other environments/industries may provide employment with this discipline?

Cardiovascular technologists or cath lab nurses are often sought in the medical device industry, either as clinical device specialists or in sales. There are several other avenues to pursue as well such as management, medical applications, consulting, or the ability to be a traveler to medical centers and hospitals around the country.

Educational Training

A High School diploma and at least a 2-year degree in a healthcare-related field are usually required for the positions in the Cardiac Cath Lab or Electrophysiology Lab.

College University Programs

Associate Degree: Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Brightwood College- Charlotte, NC (Diploma), Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute (*Hudson, NC*), Cape Fear Community College (Wilmington, NC), Carteret Community College (*Morehead City, NC*), Forsyth Technical Community College (*Winston Salem, NC*), Johnston Community College (*Smithfield, NC*), Miller-Motte College (*Cary, NC / Fayetteville, NC / Jacksonville, NC / Raleigh, NC / Wilmington, NC*), Pitt Community College (*Winterville, NC*), South College (*Asheville, NC*), South Piedmont Community College (*Polkton, NC*), Southwestern Community College (*Sylva, NC*)

Bachelor's Degree: South College (*Asheville, NC*)

What is the projected demand for your field?

The number of cardiovascular technologists may increase by 15% between 2016 and 2026 in North Carolina, according to O*Net (2018). The rapid growth may translate to job security for skilled technologists. Nationwide, there is a high need for cardiovascular invasive specialists. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the nationwide median salary is \$59,000 and the profession is expected to grow by 12% by the year 2029.

Salary range (list as hourly): \$20-\$30

Professional Organizations

The Alliance of Cardiovascular Professionals www.acp-online.org

American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) www.aacn.org

Cytotechnologist

A cytotechnologist (CT) is a laboratory specialist who is responsible for examining human cell samples under the microscope for early signs of cancer and other diseases. The cytotechnologist analyzes subtle cell changes- both nuclear and cytoplasmic –and compares these changes to normal cell finding for that body site. They are accurate, reliable, work well under pressure and can finish a task once started.

Who delivers your services?

A cytotechnologist examines human cell samples under the microscope, looking for early signs of cancer and other diseases. When abnormal cells are present, the cytotechnologist works with a pathologist to arrive at a final diagnosis. A cytotechnologist's findings directly affect the patient's course of treatment.

Where are your services delivered?

Cytotechnologists have a choice of practice settings which include hospitals, for-profit laboratories, clinics, public health facilities and businesses.

What other environments/industries may provide employment with this discipline?

Some cytotechnologists work at universities as teachers or researchers.

What are the benefits of your services?

The cytotechnologist traces the clues to a disease in the cytoplasm and nucleus of cells that have been stained with special dyes. With expert eyes, the cytotechnologist looks for the smallest abnormalities in color, shape and size that can be clues to the presence of disease. The cytotechnologist correct analysis of microscopic cellular changes can directly affect a patient's course of treatment and may save the patient's life by early detection of cancer.

Educational Training

High school preparation may include these courses:

Biology, Chemistry, Math and Computer Science

College and University programs providing certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees

Two-year programs: Alamance Community College (*Graham, NC*), Carolinas College of Health Sciences (*Charlotte, NC*), Vance-Granville Community College (*Henderson, NC*), UNC-Chapel Hill (*Raleigh, NC*), CPCC (*Charlotte, NC*), Winston-Salem State University (*Winston-Salem NC*)

Four-year programs: Elon University (*Elon, NC*), UNC-Chapel Hill (*Raleigh, NC*), East Carolina University (*Greenville, NC*), Winston-Salem State University (*Winston-Salem NC*), East Carolina University (*Greenville, NC*), Duke University (*Durham, NC*)

Type of training (classes, practicum experience, certification, licensure)

Formal education leading to a Bachelor of Science degree, plus clinical education in a cytotechnology (CT) program accredited by the Commission of Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (ACCHEP).

Certification from Board of Registry of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists

What is the projected demand for your field according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook?

Career opportunities for cytotechnologists are expected to grow at a faster than average rate of 10-15% over the next 10 years. Jobs are open in both rural and metropolitan areas in all regions of the country. Positions are available in diagnostic cytology, as well as in research, education and administration. New screenings and techniques have been and continue to be developed, creating new opportunities for cytotechnologists.

Salary range (list as hourly): \$36-\$45

Professional Organizations:

American Society of Cytopathology (ASC) www.cytopathology.org

American Society of Cytotechnology www.asct.com

American Society of Clinical Pathology www.ascp.org

Histologic Technologists/Technician

Who delivers your services?

Histologic technicians (HTs) and Histotechnologists (HTLs) are clinical laboratory workers who prepare tissues for microscopic examination by pathologists. A histologic technician works closely with the pathologist and must work quickly and under pressure. Histologic technicians perform such tasks as sectioning and staining tissues, embedding tissues in paraffin or plastic, preparing frozen sections of tissues directly from the operating room, and operating intricate equipment.

Histotechnologists perform all the tasks of a technician and more complex procedures as well. They may supervise and teach others.

Both careers are vital to the early detection of disease and illness.

Where are your services delivered?

Histologic technicians have a choice of practice settings. Hospitals, for-profit laboratories, clinics, public health facilities, business and industry have positions for qualified histologic technicians.

What other environments/industries may provide employment with this discipline?

Opportunities for histologic technicians are also available in industrial research, veterinary pathology, marine biology and forensic pathology.

What are the benefits of your services?

With the information learned from the section of tissue biopsy, the pathologist and surgeon find out if disease is present and then determine the best course of treatment for the patient.

Educational Training

High school preparation may include these courses

Biology, Chemistry, Math, Computer Science

College and University programs providing certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees:

Contact the National Society of Histotechnology for information on programs at www.nsh.org or www.naacls.org/search/programs.asp

Type of training (classes, practicum experience, certification, licensure)

A certified histotechnologist may have a four-year bachelor's degree in histologic technology or complete a histological technology educational program after college. Histologic technicians complete a 12-month program, usually at a community college offering a diploma or complete on-the-job training, and then take an examination. Exams given by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP) www.ascp.org provide certification.

What is the projected demand for your field according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook?

Employment of clinical laboratory technologists and technicians is projected to grow 11 percent from 2020 to 2030, faster than the average for all occupations. With an aging population, there is a greater need to diagnose medical conditions through lab procedures. There is also an increased need for prenatal testing for genetic conditions. Medical laboratory technologists and technicians, including histology technicians, will be in demand to operate the equipment needed for diagnosis and treatment.

Salary range (list as hourly): \$22-32

Professional Organizations

American Society of Clinical Pathology www.ascp.org

American Society of Clinical Laboratory Science www.alcls.org

National Society for Histotechnology www.nsh.org

Opportunities for Advancement

A histology technician who earns a bachelor's degree and either has one year of experience or attends a NAACLS- accredited histotechnology program can become a histotechnologist. A histotechnologist can also teach, be a supervisor in a laboratory or be the director of a school for histologic technology.

Medical Technologist (MT)

A Medical Technologist (MT) performs a full range of laboratory tests – from simple pre-marital blood tests to more complex tests to uncover diseases such as AIDS, diabetes, and cancer. The MT is also responsible for confirming the accuracy of test results, and reporting laboratory findings to the pathologist and other physicians.

In their search for data on a patient's health, MTs do much more than examine specimens through a microscope. They operate complex electronic equipment, computers and precision instruments costing millions of dollars.

Where are your services delivered?

Medical Technologists have an unlimited choice of practice settings: Hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, public health facilities, business and industry currently have positions open for qualified MTs.

What other environments/industries may provide employment with this discipline?

In today's laboratories, areas of scientific exploration are the immune system, cell marker technology, bioengineering and cancer research.

In the clinical setting, drug testing, therapeutic drug monitoring and biogenetics are just a few of the specialties with openings.

In an industry setting, MTs are needed for positions in marketing, sales, quality assurance, environmental health and insurance, among others.

What are the benefits of your services?

MTs work quickly and carefully. They hold life and death in their hands because the information they give to the doctor influences the medical treatment a patient receives.

Educational Training

High school preparation may include these courses:

A solid foundation in high school sciences will prepare you for a career in Medical Technology – biology, chemistry, math and computer science.

College and University programs providing certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees:

University- based programs

East Carolina University; University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill; Winston-Salem State University.

Hospital-based programs

Bowman Gray School of Medicine at Wake Forest University; Carolinas College of Health Science; Duke University.

Universities and colleges with affiliate programs with the above programs

Belmont Abbey College; Catawba College; Greensboro College; NC State University; Duke University; Salem College; UNC-Charlotte; UNC-Greensboro

Type of training (classes, practicum experience, certification, licensure)

Common higher education requirements for medical laboratory scientist jobs include:

- Completing a bachelor's degree in medical technology or clinical laboratory science. A bachelor's degree in a science or health related field (e.g., chemistry or microbiology) may also be considered.
- Completing a clinical laboratory program or internship through a hospital-based program or as part of their education
- National certification as a medical technologist (MT), clinical laboratory scientist (CLS), or medical laboratory scientist (MLS)
- Previous experience in a health care setting

What is the projected demand for your field according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook?

Job growth and security is high for medical laboratory technicians and scientists. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there is currently a shortage of medical lab technicians and scientists in many parts of the country which guarantees ample employment opportunities and sometimes higher salaries for graduates. With the volume of laboratory tests continuing to increase due to both population growth and the development of new types of tests, job opportunities are expected to increase faster than average with over 24,000 new positions expected to be available by 2029.

Salary range (list as hourly): \$29-\$40

Professional Organizations

ASCP – American Society of Clinical Pathologists www.ascp.org

AMT – American Medical Technologists www.americanmedtech.org

Opportunities for Advancement

A medical technologist who gains experience in one of the special areas of the laboratory could gain additional certification or advance to the specialist level. In industry, medical technologists work in product development, marketing, sales, quality assurance, and environment health. Medical Technologists can advance their career to management.

Scholarships: www.ascp.org/careerlinks/scholarships/

Medical Laboratory Technician

A *Medical Laboratory Technician* (MLT) performs general tests in all laboratory areas. MLTs must be accurate, dedicated and skilled. They must also be self-motivated; to take initiative to do what must be done every day – to pitch in to help the healthcare team.

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Where are your services delivered?

Medical Laboratory Technicians have an unlimited choice of practice settings: Hospitals, clinics, public health facilities, business and industrial medical laboratories, and the armed forces.

What are the benefits of your services?

A medical laboratory technician searches for basic clues to the absence, presence, extent, and causes of diseases.

Educational Training

College and University programs providing certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees

Associate Degree: Stanly Community College (*Albemarle, NC*), Alamance Community College (*Graham, NC*), Sandhills Community College (*Pinehurst, NC*), Southwestern Community College (*Sylva, NC*), Wake Technical Community College (*Raleigh, NC*), Coastal Carolina Community College (*Jacksonville, NC*), Wayne Community College (*Goldsboro, NC*), Davidson County Community College (*Thomasville, NC*), Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College (*Asheville, NC*), Central Piedmont Community College (*Charlotte, NC*), College of the Albemarle (*Elizabeth City, NC*), Halifax Community College (*Weldon, NC*), Beaufort Community College (*Washington, NC*), Southeastern Community College (*Whiteville, NC*), Carolinas College of Health Sciences (*Charlotte, NC*)

Bachelor's Degree: UNC-Chapel Hill (*Chapel Hill, NC*), Elon University (*Elon, NC*), East Carolina University (*Greenville, NC*), Winston-Salem University (*Winston-Salem, NC*), UNC-Pembroke (*Pembroke, NC*)

Type of training (classes, practicum experience, certification, licensure)

Formal education (associate degree) plus clinical education in a MLT program accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS). For an exciting career as a MLT, you'll need an Associate Degree.

What is the projected demand for your field according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook?

Employment of clinical laboratory technologists and technicians is projected to grow 11 percent from 2020 to 2030, faster than the average for all occupations.

About 25,900 openings for clinical laboratory technologists and technicians are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire.

An increase in the aging population is expected to lead to a greater need to diagnose medical conditions, such as cancer or type 2 diabetes, through laboratory procedures. Prenatal testing for various types of genetic conditions also is increasingly common. Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians will be in demand to use and maintain the equipment needed for diagnosis and treatment.

Salary range (list as hourly): \$21-\$31

Professional Organizations

ASCP – American Society of Clinical Pathologists www.ascp.org

American Medical Technologist www.americanmedtech.org

Forum for the Concerns of Minorities Scholarship (ASCLS) www.explorehealthcareers.org

Opportunities for Advancement:

A MLT who earns a bachelor's degree and either has three years of experience or attends a National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) accredited Medical Technologist program, can become a Medical Technologist (MT).

The Medical Technologist performs a full range of laboratory tests, from the most routine to the most complex, with little or no supervision. Medical technologists can be teachers, supervisors or researchers.

Pathologist

Who delivers your services?

Pathologists test body tissue, fluids, and organs and review test results to diagnose diseases. These physicians may choose specializations that include clinical pathology, which focuses on laboratory analysis of bodily fluids, and anatomical pathology, which focuses on examinations of tissue and other samples acquired through autopsy or surgery.

Where are your services delivered?

Pathologists work mostly in community hospitals, university medical centers, reference laboratories, and private industry.

What other environments/industries may provide employment with this discipline?

Medical schools attract the second largest group of pathologists. The military and government agencies are other options for pathologists.

What are the benefits of your services?

The Pathologist functions as an investigator, a teacher, and diagnostician. Pathologists in hospital and clinical laboratories practice as consultant physicians, developing and applying knowledge of tissue and laboratory analysis to assist in the diagnosis and treatment of individual patients. The Pathologist is usually responsible for the administration of the pathology laboratory and researching ways to improve disease detection, prevention, and cure or treatment.

College and University programs providing certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees

Duke University Medical Center; Bowman Gray School of Medicine-Wake Forest University; University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill; East Carolina University-Pitt County Memorial Hospital

Type of training (classes, practicum experience, certification, licensure)

Some undergraduate schools offer a pre-medical school curriculum, which typically focuses on biology and chemistry, to prepare students for medical school. Minimum education requirement is satisfactory completion of medical school, an accredited student Resident program, and an approved residency in Pathology.

What is the projected demand for your field according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook?

The growing and aging population is expected to drive overall growth in the demand for physician services. As rates of chronic illnesses increase, consumers will seek high levels of care that use the latest technologies, diagnostic tests and therapies.

Professional Organizations

American College of Physicians, American Society of Clinical Pathology (www.ascp.org), College of American Pathologists, NC Medical Board, NC Medical Society

Pathologist Assistant

Who delivers your services?

A Pathologists' Assistant is an intensively trained allied health professional who provides anatomic pathology services under the direction and supervision of a Pathologist. Pathologists' Assistants interact with pathologists in the same manner that physicians' assistants carry out their duties under the direction of physicians in surgical and medical practice.

Where are your services delivered?

Most pathologists' assistants work in community hospitals. Pathologists' Assistants can work in government hospitals, reference laboratories, the medical examiners system, and academic centers, such as medical schools or university hospitals.

What are the benefits of your services?

Pathologists' Assistants contribute to the overall efficiency of the laboratory or pathology practice in a cost-effective manner by performing a variety of tasks, consisting primarily of gross examination of surgical pathology specimens and performance of autopsies.

College and University programs providing certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees

Drexel University (*Philadelphia, PA*), Duke University (*Durham, NC*), Eastern Virginia Medical School (*Norfolk, VA*), Loma Linda University (*Loma Linda, CA*), Quinnipiac University (*Hamden, CT*), Rosalind Franklin University (*North Chicago, IL*), Tulane University* (*North Orleans, LA*), University of Alberta* (*Edmonton, Alberta*) University of Calgary (*Calgary, Alberta*) University of Maryland (*Baltimore, MD*), University of Texas Medical Branch* (*Galveston, TX*), University of Toledo (*Toledo, OH*), University of Western Ontario (*London, Ontario*), Wayne State University (*Detroit, MI*), West Virginia University (*Morgantown, WV*) **Serious Applicant status*

Type of training (classes, practicum experience, certification, licensure)

The required curriculum includes courses in general pathology, systemic pathology, surgical pathology, clinical pathology, autopsy pathology, lab management, physiology, and structure and function (anatomy training). Programs are structured to comply with standards imposed by National Accrediting Agency for Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS).

What is the projected demand for your field according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook?

According to the American Association of Pathologists' Assistants, the demand for qualified pathologists' assistants is growing. This is due in part to increased pressure to control health care costs.

Professional Organizations

American Association of Pathologists' Assistants www.pathologistsassistants.org

American Society of Clinical Pathology, www.ascp.org

Phlebotomy Technician (PBT) and Donor Phlebotomy Technician

Who delivers your services?

Phlebotomy technicians collect blood from patients and prepare the samples for testing. Most work in hospitals and clinics, but some collect blood for donation purposes. Phlebotomy technicians are important members of the health care team and often need to explain the blood-drawing procedure and put patients at ease. With constantly evolving medical technologies, phlebotomy technicians must know the difference in blood test types and should be aware of how medications and diet impact blood samples.

Where are your services delivered?

The phlebotomist works in hospitals, clinical laboratories, blood centers, and other healthcare facilities. Phlebotomists are employed at large medical offices and private commercial laboratories.

What are the benefits of your services?

The phlebotomy technician ensures that blood samples are taken with safety, accuracy, and efficiency and with the least discomfort to the patient.

College and University programs providing certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees

Cleveland Community College, Gaston College, Davidson Community College, and many of the NC Community Colleges

Scholarships

<https://www.ascp.org/content/about-ascp/ascp-foundation/providing-scholarships#>

Type of training (classes, practicum experience, certification, licensure)

Training as a phlebotomist takes from a few weeks to several months, depending on the program. Training covers venipuncture skills, communication skills, record-keeping, and the safe care of samples. The phlebotomist may then become certified by passing a national certification examination.

What is the projected demand for your field according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook?

Phlebotomy is an expanding field with excellent career opportunities. The Bureau of Labor Statistics expects employment of phlebotomist technicians to grow much faster than average (17% in 10 years). Blood testing is an essential task in health care so demand for phlebotomy technicians is likely to increase since doctors use blood work for analysis and diagnosis.

Salary range (list as hourly): \$14-\$21

Professional Organizations

North Carolina Society for Clinical Laboratory Science www.ncscls.org

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science www.ascp.org

American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians www.aspt.org

Nutrition Services

Nutrition Services

Nutrition for health is the goal of the dietitian. Nutrition is the science of food and its effects on the body. Food becomes part of the body's chemistry when it is eaten and has a direct relationship to health.

Who delivers your services?

Registered Dietitians (RD), Registered Dietetic Technicians (DTR) and Certified Dietary Managers (CDM) RDs, DTRs and CDMs deliver services in food and nutrition services. Dietitians are nutrition experts who counsel individuals about food and their eating habits to improve health. People who are ill or injured or who have chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and kidney failure have special nutritional needs and registered dietitians develop plans to meet those needs. They may also specialize in promoting health and good habits through education, research and community programs. Dietitians may also supervise the buying, preparation and serving of food in hospitals, long-term care facilities and schools.

Diet Technicians

Diet Technicians work under the supervision of dietitians to promote health through proper nutrition.

Certified Dietary Managers

Certified Dietary Managers are trained food service professionals who partner with the RD to meet the basic nutrition needs of clients.

Where are your services delivered?

Registered Dietitians, Diet Technicians and Dietary Managers work in hospitals, clinics, long term care facilities, schools, public health departments, sports training facilities, health clubs, home health agencies, correctional facilities, the food industry and other community settings.

What are the benefits of your services?

Nutrition professionals work to improve the health and quality of life for individuals, groups and communities in a variety of roles and settings.

College and University programs providing certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees

Bachelor's Degree

Appalachian State University; East Carolina University; Meredith College; NC A&T State University; NC Central University, UNC – Chapel Hill; UNC – Greensboro; Western Carolina University; Winthrop University

Professional Practice Programs

East Carolina University; Meredith College; NC Central University; UNC – Chapel Hill; UNC – Greensboro; Western Carolina University; Winthrop University

Master's Degree Programs

East Carolina University; NC A&T State University; UNC – Greensboro; UNC – Chapel Hill; Winthrop University

Ph.D. Programs

UNC – Greensboro; UNC – Chapel Hill

Diet Technician/ Dietary Manager Programs
Gaston College; Lenoir Community College

Type of training (classes, practicum experience, certification, licensure)

Registered Dietitians

- Minimum of a bachelor's degree in food & nutrition, human nutrition, food service management or related area.
- Completion of supervised practice program at a healthcare facility, community agency and a food service corporation. Typically, a practice program will run six to 12 months.
- Pass a national examination by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR)

Diet Technicians

- Completion of at least a two-year associate degree
- Completion of a dietetic technician program
- Pass a national written examination by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR)

Certified Dietary Managers

- CDTs complete course work related to food, nutrition, communication, management, and sanitation as well as 150 clinical experience hours.
- Pass the National Dietary Managers Association (DMA) certification exam.

What is the projected demand for your field according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook?

The Bureau of Labor Statistics expects employment of dietitians and nutritionists in the U.S. to grow much faster than average out to 2029, especially in nursing homes, residential care facilities, and clinics. It is now well-known how food plays a role in preventing and treating diseases, so professionals are needed to help plan diets for those with health conditions and for those who are aging.

With additional training and experience, some dietitians become directors of nutritional services, self-employed consultants, teachers at universities or medical centers, or industry sales representatives. With a graduate degree, some dietitians advance to research, clinical, or public health positions. Other opportunities for advancement are available by specializing in a particular area of nutrition, such as diabetes or pediatrics.

Salary range (list as hourly):

Registered Dietitian \$26-\$37

Dietetic Technician \$14-\$25

Dietary Manager \$19-\$35

Professional Organizations

American Academy of Nutrition Dietetics www.eatright.org

North Carolina Dietetic Association www.eatrightnc.org

Certifying Board for Dietary Managers www.cbdmonline.org

Other professional organizations related to specialties within the field:

American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN) www.nutritioncare.org

National Restaurant Association www.restaurant.org

Society for Nutrition Education www.sneb.org

American College of Sports Medicine www.ascm.org

Imaging Services

Imaging Services

Imaging Services is a range of services that includes diagnostic and interventional, invasive and noninvasive procedures, intra-operative procedures, diagnostic and therapeutic nuclear medicine, and utilizes ionizing and non-ionizing radiation with and without non-ionic contrast media. Imaging Services is divided into functional or sub-specialty sections as follows:

Bone Densitometry

Technologists use bone density scanning which is an enhanced form of x-ray technology that is used to measure bone loss.

Computed Tomography

CT Technologist use computerized tomography to view patient anatomy and disease from a cross-sectional perspective.

Diagnostic Radiography

Diagnostic Radiography is a science that uses ionizing radiation (otherwise known as x-rays) to produce images of various parts of the body.

Mammography

Mammography technologists use diagnostic services to perform routine mammograms and mammograms for those who have been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging

MRI technologists are skilled in using magnetic fields and radiofrequency waves instead of ionizing radiation, to create images.

Nuclear Medicine

Nuclear Medicine Technologist use radiopharmaceuticals under a physician's supervision to produce images for diagnosis and treatment of diseases.

Special Procedures

Special Procedures Technologists perform radiographic procedures to demonstrate vascular structures for interpretation and/or therapeutic intervention.

Ultrasound

Sonographers use special equipment to direct sound waves into areas of a patient's body which forms an image that may be videotaped, transmitted or photographed for diagnosis and/or interpretation by a physician.

Who delivers your services?

All Imaging Technologists and Nurses must be graduates of an accredited educational program appropriate to the area of practice. They must be registered or licensed by a national or state recognized accrediting body or registry eligible and expected to achieve registration or licensing within one year of employment.

Where are your services delivered?

Services are delivered at hospitals, outpatient facilities, Physicians' offices, Industrial Sites, Forensics Labs, Museums, Veterinary Offices, Zoos, Nuclear Power Plants and mobile services. CaroMont Healthcare provides these services at CaroMont Regional Medical Center, the Diagnostic Center, CaroMont Imaging Services and CaroMont Imaging Service- Belmont.

What benefits do your services provide?

Meeting and exceeding the important aspects of care for our patients:

1. Medical utilization of radiology services regarding appropriateness of procedure and use of test results are reviewed on an ongoing basis.
2. Timeliness of exam performance and reporting.
3. Technically sound exam performance – quality control
4. Accuracy of interpretation and diagnosis
5. Minimize complications and adverse reaction
6. Customer satisfaction

Imaging Services strives to maintain the performance standards as established by the American College of Radiology, the North Carolina Department of Facility Radiation Services, Radiation Protection Division, Radioactive Materials Section, FDA, Mammography Accreditation Standards, and Joint Commission of Accreditation of Vascular Laboratories.

College and University programs providing certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees:

Radiology

Hospital-based programs (Certificate):

Carolinas College of Health Sciences; Presbyterian College of Health Sciences; and Wilkes Regional Medical Center

Community Colleges (Associates Degree):

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute; Catawba Valley Community College; Cleveland Community College; and many others

University Programs (Bachelor's Degree):

UNC-Chapel Hill

Nuclear Medicine

Caldwell Community College; Forsyth Technical Community College; Midlands Technical College; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and Pitt Community College

Ultrasound

Caldwell Community College; Cape Fear Community College; Forsyth Community College; Johnston Community College; Pitt Community College; South Piedmont Community College; and Southwestern Community College

Type of training (classes, practicum experience, certification, licensure)

Core Classes – As outlined by each school program

Practicum Experience – hospitals, outpatient facilities

Certification – Employers hire candidates who are registered or registry eligible. The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (www.aart.org) is the national registry agency.

What is the projected demand for your field according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook?

With a large aging population, the need to diagnose medical conditions using affordable imaging technology is likely to increase. Sonographers are needed to provide an alternative to radiation imaging techniques.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics expects this profession to grow much faster than average over the next decade. The average salary for a diagnostic medical sonographer is \$75,900, with that figure dependent on experience, certification and location.

With additional training and education, some sonographers may move into supervisory positions or become an advanced sonographer. Earning an advanced degree will allow some sonographers to become educators and researchers.

Salary range (list as hourly):

Radiologic Technologist \$22-\$35

Mammography Technologist \$25-\$37

Computed Tomography Technologist \$27-\$47

Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologist \$33-\$57

Special Procedures Technologist \$30-\$43

Ultrasound Technologist \$32-\$46

Nuclear Medicine Technologist \$33-\$48

Professional Organizations

American Society of Radiologic Technologist www.asrt.org

American Registry of Radiologic Technologist www.arrt.org

North Carolina Society of Radiologic Technologist www.ncsrt.org

Medical Social Work Services

Medical Social Work

Who delivers your services?

A medical social worker, sometimes referred to as a health care social worker, helps patients and their families cope with illnesses. They help patients understand their illness or condition and provide them with information about the resources available to help them cope with the emotional, financial and social needs that arise with a diagnosis. As an advocate for the patient, a social worker assures that patients' emotional and social needs are met through their medical treatment.

Where are your services delivered?

Hospitals, nursing homes, rest homes, adult day care facilities, home setting, local department of social services, adoption agencies, foster homes, social security administration, veterans' administration and other community agencies.

What other environments/industries may provide employment with this discipline?

Hospice, home healthcare, private practice counseling, Department of Social Services, mental health, adoption agencies, health department, public/private schools, colleges/universities, group homes, nursing homes, Red Cross and the United Way.

What are the benefits of your services?

Nursing home placement, adoption assistance, financial services/government assistance, counseling, education, indigent services/programs, home health needs for those needing medical attention, in-home sitter service.

College and University programs providing certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees:

Bachelor's degrees

Appalachian State University; Barton College; Bennett College; Campbell University; East Carolina University; Johnson C. Smith University; Mars Hill College; Meredith College; Methodist College; NC A&T University; NC Central University; NC State University; UNC-Charlotte; UNC-Greensboro; UNC-Pembroke; UNC-Wilmington; Warren Wilson College; Western Carolina University

Master's degrees

East Carolina University; UNC-Chapel Hill; UNC-Greensboro; NC A&T University; Winthrop University & USC

Doctorate degree

UNC-Chapel Hill

Type of training (classes, practicum experience, certification, licensure)

Internships, Social Work-related courses, Human service (volunteer). Certification is required for Master's prepared Social Work, but not required for Bachelor of Social Work. There are some specific areas in social work that recommend certification to be eligible for the job.

What is the projected demand for your field according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook?

The Bureau of Labor Statistics expects employment of social workers, including medical social workers, to grow much faster than average (13% by 2029). This is due to the aging baby-boom population who are more likely to rely on social workers to provide support.

With additional experience and training, a medical social worker can move into managerial roles such as a supervisor, director, or program manager.

Salary range (list as hourly): \$26-\$37

Professional Organizations

National Association for Social Workers www.socialworkers.org

NC Council on Aging, ACSW Program www.ncdhhs.gov

Social Service Organizations

Nursing Services

Nursing Services

Who delivers your services?

Being a registered nurse opens a wide variety of healthcare settings. The sky is the limit. Listed below are just a few of the areas where an RN can work:

- Clinician/Clinical Staff Nurse – Provides scientific, psychological and technological knowledge in the care of patients and families (\$31,000 - \$50,000/yr.)
- Advanced Practice Nurse – Provides primary care and specialized advanced nursing services to patients and families. Includes: Clinical Specialist; Nurse Practitioner; Nurse Anesthetist; Nurse Midwife (\$50,000 - \$90,000/yr.+)
- Doctor of Nursing Practice – The recommended education level by 2015 for the Nurse Practitioner (\$70,000 - \$90,000/yr.+)
- Educator – Utilizes educational methodologies to present current information in patient care settings, universities, and communities. (\$40,000 - \$80,000/yr.+)
- Researcher – utilizes statistical methodologies to discover or establish facts, principles or relationships (\$50,000 - \$80,000/yr.+)
- Administrator – Coordinates the use of human, financial, and technological resources to provide patient care (\$50,000 - \$120,000/yr.+)

Career Diversity – Nurses may follow their personal and professional interest by working with any group of people, in any setting, at any time. The settings in which nurses work are reflective of the specialties in nursing. There is no profession which offers as many opportunities for diversified roles as nursing does.

Where are your services delivered?

Hospital Settings:

Critical Care

Emergency

Maternal/Child Care

Medical: Cardiology; Diabetes; Gastroenterology; Gerontology; Nephrology; Neurology; Oncology; Pulmonary; Rehabilitation; Renal; Rheumatology; Urology Pediatrics

Psychiatric/Mental Health

Operating Room/Recovery Room

Surgical: Burn; Cardiovascular; Ear/Nose/Throat; Gastroenterology; Orthopedics; Plastic/Reconstructive; Transplant

Non-Hospital Settings:

Public/Community Health/Mental Health Agencies, Home Healthcare, Physician's Office, Health Maintenance Organizations and Managed Care Companies, Insurance, Occupational Health, Research Centers, Extended Care Facilities, Clinics, Outpatient Surgery Centers, Military Branches, Independent Practice, Schools of Nursing, Senior Centers, Shelters and Churches.

In addition, some nurses have combined two careers (i.e., Nurse Attorney). Others have served as consultants to businesses, schools and healthcare institutions. Some are combining the field of nursing and computer technology (Information Specialist).

What are the benefits of your services?

- Nurses care for individuals who are healthy and ill, of all ages and cultural backgrounds, and who have physical, emotional, psychological, intellectual, social and spiritual needs.
- Nursing is a profession that combines physical science, social science, nursing theory and technology in the care of others.
- Nurses provide complex patient care monitoring and evaluation.
- Nurses are the coordinators of patient care.
- Nurses provide patient education.
- Nurses apply research in practice.
- Nursing is the nation's largest healthcare profession with 3.1 million nurses.
- The current RN workforce is aging. Retirements are expected to peak in the next decade adding to the demand for RNs.
- Nursing students account for more than half of all health profession students in the United States.
- Nurses comprise the largest single component of hospital staff, are the primary providers of hospital care and deliver most of the nation's long-term care.
- While 62.2% of RNs are employed in hospitals, increasingly nurses are delivering care in a wide range of settings including home care, clinics, short-stay surgery centers, transitional care, rehabilitation, health centers, hospices, schools and businesses.
- The demand for masters and doctoral prepared nurses for advance practice, clinical specialties, teaching, and research continues to increase.

Educational Training

College and University programs providing certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees

Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (BSN):

Barton College, Cabarrus College of Health Sciences; Duke University; East Carolina University; Fayetteville State University; Gardner-Webb University; Lees-McRae College; Lenoir-Rhyne College; North Carolina A&T State University North Carolina; Central University; Queens College; UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC-Charlotte; UNC-Greensboro; UNC-Pembroke; UNC-Wilmington; Western Carolina University; Winston-Salem State University

Master of Science Degree in Nursing (MSN):

Duke University Medical Center; East Carolina University; Gardner-Webb University; Queens College; UNC-Chapel Hill; UNC-Charlotte; UNC-Greensboro; UNC-Wilmington; Western Carolina University

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP):

Gardner-Webb University; Duke University Medical Center

Doctorate (PhD):

UNC-Greensboro; UNC-Chapel Hill; East Carolina University; Duke University Medical Center

Hospital-based Programs (Associate Degree in Nursing):

Cabarrus College of Health Sciences; Carolinas College of Health Sciences; Presbyterian Healthcare System; Watts School of Nursing

Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN and AAS):

Alamance Community College; Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College; Beaufort County; Community College; Bladen Community College; Blue Ridge Community College; Brunswick Community College; Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute; Cape Fear Community College; Carteret Community College; Catawba Valley Community College; Central Carolina Community College; Central Piedmont Community College, Cleveland Community College; Coastal Carolina Community College; College of the Albemarle; Craven Community College; Davidson County Community College; Durham Technical Community College; Edgecombe Community College; Fayetteville Technical Community College; Forsyth Technical Community College; Gaston College; Guilford Technical Community College; Halifax Community College; Haywood Community College; Isothermal Community College; James Sprunt Community College; Johnston Community College; Lenoir Community College; Mayland Community College; McDowell Technical Community College; Mitchell Community College; Montgomery Community College; Nash Community College; Piedmont Community College; Pitt Community College; Randolph Community College; Richmond Community College; Roanoke-Chowan Community College; Robeson Community College; Rockingham Community College; Rowan-Cabarrus Community College; Sampson Community College; Sandhills Community College; South Piedmont Community College; Southeastern Community College; Southwestern Community College; Stanly Community College; Surry Community College; Tri-County Community College; Vance-Granville Community College; Wake Technical Community College; Wayne Community College; Western Piedmont Community College; Wilkes Community College; and Wilson Technical Community College

Type of training (classes, practicum experience, certification, licensure)*Core classes*

English, Basic Math, Sociology, Psychology, Biology, Anatomy & Physiology, Microbiology, Chemistry

Practicum Areas

Adult Nursing 1& 2, Physical Assessment, Mental Health Nursing, Pediatric Nursing, Maternal-Fetal Nursing, Community Nursing

Licensure

Each state has licensure exam- NC—NCLEX www.ncsbn.org

What is the projected demand for your field according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook?

The Bureau of Labor Statistics expects employment of nurses to grow faster than average, and jobs may increase by 15 percent until 2026. Opportunities should be excellent for nurses with advanced education and training. Some states report current and projected shortages of nurses, primarily due to an aging workforce and recent declines in nursing school enrollments.

Salary range (list as hourly): \$28-\$45

The median salary nationwide is around \$75,000 for registered nurses and \$48,800 for L.P.N.s, though pay will differ based on location and employer. Since nursing degrees can be applied to many sectors of health care or industry, there is a consistent potential for salary growth with greater experience and promotion to leadership roles.

With experience, L.P.N.s may advance to supervisory positions or complete an education program to become an R.N.

With experience and continuous education, R.N.s can move into supervisory or leadership roles such as assistant clinical nurse manager, charge nurse, head nurse, assistant director or director of nursing, vice president of nursing, or chief nursing officer.

Some R.N.s complete a graduate degree to become A.P.R.N.s, while some nurses move into the business side of health care or work as professors or researchers at colleges and universities.

Professional Organizations

American Nurses Association (ANA) www.nursingworld.org

North Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists (NCANA) www.ncana.com

North Carolina Association of Nursing Students (NCANS) www.ncans.org

North Carolina Association of Occupational Health Nurses (NCAOHN) www.ncaohn.nursingworld.com

North Carolina Board of Nursing (NCBON) www.ncbon.com

North Carolina Center for Nursing (NCCN) www.ncnurses.org

North Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Practitioners (NAPNAP) www.napnap.org

North Carolina Emergency Nurses Association (NCENA) www.ncena.nursingworld.com

North Carolina Nurses Association (NCNA) www.ncnurses.org

School Nurse Association of North Carolina (SNANC) www.snac.com

OB Nursing in the Birthplace

OB Nursing is a discipline that involves assisting patients and their families with the birth of their infant utilizing a family-centered care philosophy. This includes prenatal education, active labor support and postpartum care.

Who delivers your services?

RN (Labor & Delivery, Mother-Baby), PCT, Surgical Technologist, UCC (Sec/Tech), Certified Nurse Midwife, OB/GYN Physicians & Family Practice Physicians, Anesthesiologists, Pediatricians, Respiratory Therapists, Neonatologists, Neonatal Nurse Practitioners, Statisticians, Housekeeping Staff, Dietary Staff, Lactation Consultants, Social Worker

Where are your services delivered?

In the hospital setting, OB/GYN Offices, Family Planning Facilities, Primary Care Physician Offices, Occupational Health or Emergency Departments.

What are the benefits of your services?

- Assess the family structure and need for extra support or education.
- Provide & teach patient & family methods used to cope with pain during labor.
- Facilitate the bonding process within the new family structure.
- Coordinate outside services needed for the family.

Educational Training

The most common degree for Ob/Gyn Nurses is bachelor's degree 46% of Ob/Gyn Nurses earn that degree. A close second is Associate Degree with 32% and rounding it off is master's degree with 9%.

Professional Organizations

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses www.awhonn.com

National Perinatal Association www.nationalperinatal.org

American Medical Women's Association www.amwa-doc.org

Critical Care Nursing

Who delivers your services?

Critical care nursing is a specialty within nursing that deals specifically with human responses to life-threatening problems. The patient population consists of acutely ill and critically ill individuals. A critical care nurse is a licensed professional nurse who is responsible for ensuring that these patients and their families receive optimal care. These nurses often must use sophisticated equipment and are also responsible for the emotional welfare of patients and their families.

Where are your services delivered?

The critical care nurse delivers these services in the hospital setting. Currently at CaroMont Regional Medical Center, critical care services are delivered in Progressive Coronary Care, Coronary Care, Intensive Care, Post Intensive Care, Cardiovascular Surgical, Cardiovascular Recovery, and Surgical Intensive Care.

What other environments/industries may provide employment with this discipline?

Employment may also be available with Critical Care Transport Services (A mobile unit or Med Center Air, etc.).

What are the benefits of your services?

Benefits of critical care nursing services include but are not limited to lower nurse to patient ratio, continuous monitoring (bedside and central monitor at Nurse's Station), more frequent assessments of patient, high-tech beds equipped with more features and functions.

Professional Organizations

AACN (American Association of Critical Care Nurses) www.aacn.org

Emergency Services

Emergency services offer quality, competent, and compassionate care to the community and answer to any need at any time. Emergency nurses work in the ER departments of hospitals, aiding people in critical condition or with life-threatening injuries. They carry out crucial decisions based on triage, stabilize patients and are central to the plan of care.

Who delivers Emergency Services?

Registered nurses, emergency care technicians, x-ray technicians, unit care coordinators, phlebotomists, transporters, and physicians collaborate in the emergency care given.

Where are Emergency Services delivered?

Services are delivered in emergency departments and urgent care centers. Emergency care is also delivered by paramedics in the community wherever they are needed.

What other environments/industries may provide employment with this discipline?

Emergency care can be delivered pre-hospital by paramedics and emergency medical technicians. Also, MICN's (mobile intensive care nurses) are used in the pre-hospital setting and at hospital emergency rooms to give orders via radio to paramedics in the field.

What are the benefits of your services?

Making a difference in the medical care delivered to the community by giving top notch emergency care quickly and improving the outcomes of emergency situations. We have an opportunity to decrease the mortality rate for trauma patients in our community by acknowledging the "Golden Hour" and giving efficient, quality medical care.

Type of training (classes, practicum experience, certification, licensure)

Registered Nurse licensure, Trauma Nurse Core Curriculum, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Mobile Intensive Care Nurse, Neonatal Resuscitation Course and Emergency Nurse Pediatric Course.

Professional Organizations

Emergency Nurses Association www.ena.org

Medical/Surgical/Oncology

Medical-surgical nurses provide patient care to adults with a variety of complex medical conditions, as well as before and after surgical procedures. Depending on the medical setting, they evaluate patient condition, prioritize patient needs, and are central to the health care team in coordinating patient care. These nurses often pursue specializations in subfields such as orthopedics, wound care and oncology.

Oncology registered nurses care for cancer patients across the lifespan, monitoring their progress, administering medication and treatments, and providing information and support to patients and family members. They typically work in teams with physicians and nurse practitioners in hospitals, cancer-treatment clinics and hospice facilities.

Who delivers your services?

Nurses, care managers, techs/aids, unit secretaries, social workers, nutritionists, physical therapists, respiratory therapists, oncology counselors, pastors (pastoral care), IV team, radiologist techs, pharmacists, nursing students, pain management, lab techs, and nurse clinicians all deliver services. All play a role in the care of med/surgical patients and they all have had education or certification for their area of expertise.

Where are your services delivered?

Hospitals, community centers, nursing homes, physician offices, urgent care centers, outpatient clinics, patient's homes (home health agencies), schools

What other environments/industries may provide employment with this discipline?

Correctional institutions, dialysis clinics, ambulatory surgery centers, hospice, workplace, educational facilities, church parishes

What are the benefits of your services?

- Assessment of a client's physical, mental, emotional/spiritual needs.
- Treatment services provide the client the services that will return him/her to their optimum health.
- Monitor the progression of the client's achievement of obtaining optimal health by utilizing inter-departments resources.
- Reassessment of client's potential to their present state then integrates or discards services.
- Interventions may include but not limited to: Accessing new service agencies, or available public agencies.

Professional Organizations

Oncology Nursing Society www.ons.org

Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses www.aphon.org

Association of periOperative Nurses www.aorn.org

Anesthesia

Who delivers your services?

A nurse anesthetist provides pain medication (anesthesia) care for patients before, during and after surgery. They administer medications to keep patients asleep or pain-free during surgery and constantly monitor every biological function of the patient's body.

Where are your services delivered?

Nurse anesthetists work in hospitals, doctors' offices, surgical clinics, the military, psychiatric institutions, respiratory therapy departments, emergency rooms and outpatient care centers.

What are the benefits of your services?

Anesthesia is the use of special drugs that temporarily block sensation in an area of the body or enable a patient to be kept unconscious and pain free during invasive procedures. Anesthesia is administered by an anesthesiologist or a nurse anesthetist. It requires the combination of professional nursing skills with the science of anesthesia, and in most settings is done in collaboration with a doctor or dentist.

Type of training (classes, practicum experience, certification, licensure)

Course work includes principles of anesthesia practice, pharmacology, respiratory care, anatomy, and physiology. After completing the training course, you must pass an examination by the Council on Certification for Nurse Anesthetists to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA).

Career Opportunities and Outlook

Nurse anesthetists are some of the most highly paid nurses and can expect a median salary range of \$183,500. Career opportunities for nurse anesthetists are outstanding. The Bureau of Labor Statistics expects employment of nurse anesthetists to grow much faster than average (45% until 2029). This is due to an increase in demand for health care services, especially by the large aging baby-boom population.

Professional Organizations

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists www.aana.com

Pharmacy Services

Pharmacists

Pharmacists optimize drug therapy for patients by providing information to patients about medications and their use, modifying medication regimens due to interactions with other medications and diseases and are ultimately responsible for appropriate dispensation of medications. They advise physicians and other healthcare practitioners on the selection, dosages, interactions and side effects of medications. Pharmacists also monitor the health and progress of patients in response to drug therapy to ensure continued safe and effective use of medication. Pharmacists must understand the use, clinical effects, and composition of drugs, including their chemical, biological and physical properties.

Who delivers your services?

Pharmacy services are provided by professionals who are trained and licensed as a pharmacist in the state in which they practice.

Where are your services delivered?

Hospital

Pharmacists monitor the health and progress of patients in response to drug therapy to ensure safe and effective use of medication. Clinical pharmacists visit patients daily and dose many medications to provide optimal pharmaceutical care during a patient's admission. Many hospitals have satellite pharmacy services in areas of high acuity, like neonatal intensive care units, surgical suites, and critical care services; pharmacists in these areas verify medication orders for optimal usage, dosage, and follow-up, participate in respiratory/cardiac arrest emergencies, collaborate on multidisciplinary rounds with physicians, and perform patient medication education. In addition, pharmacists' staff in outpatient clinics which manage anticoagulation, lipid management, diabetes and modify medication regimens to best care for each individual patient. Pharmacists may specialize in ambulatory care, critical care, nuclear, nutrition support, oncology, pediatric or psychiatric pharmacy.

What other environments/industries may provide employment with this discipline?

Retail

In addition to dispensation of medications, pharmacists in community and retail pharmacies counsel patients and answer questions about prescription drugs, including questions regarding possible side effects or interactions among various drugs. They recommend over-the-counter drugs and serve as an outpatient coordinator of a patient's various treatment plans. Often, the pharmacist is the most likely health-care provider to see the entire patient's treatment regimen. They also may give advice about diet, exercise, or stress management, or about durable medical equipment and home healthcare supplies. They also may complete third-party insurance forms and other paperwork. Some pharmacists specialize in compounding medications on site to provide medications in dosage forms that are not commercially available.

Industry

Pharmacists are involved in research for pharmaceutical manufacturers, developing new drugs and therapies and testing their effects on people. Others work in marketing or sales, providing expertise to clients on a drug's use, effectiveness, and possible side effects. Some pharmacists also work for health insurance companies, developing pharmacy benefit packages and carrying out cost-benefit analyses on certain drugs. Other pharmacists work for the government and pharmacy associations.

What are the benefits of your services?

The mission of a pharmacist is to provide optimal pharmaceutical care. Pharmaceutical care is the direct, responsible provision of medication-related care for the purpose of achieving definite outcomes that improve a patient's quality of life. The principal elements of pharmaceutical care are that it is medication related; it is care that is directly provided to the patient; it is provided to produce definite outcomes; these outcomes are intended to improve the patient's quality of life; and the provider accepts personal responsibility for the outcomes.

Educational Training

College and University programs providing certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees

A Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree is required from any accredited Pharmacy School in the US. No bachelor's degree is required for admission into pharmacy school. In North Carolina, accredited schools of pharmacy include the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Campbell University, and Wingate University. In South Carolina, the University of South Carolina at Columbia and the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston have accredited programs.

Type of training (classes, practicum experience, certification, licensure)

Core Classes:

At least two years of core curriculum classes are required before acceptance into a pharmacy school.

These courses would change depending on the school of choice. This would include courses in General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Anatomy, and Calculus. Refer to the particular schools' website for more detailed information.

Practicum Areas:

The Pharm.D. is a 4-year program that requires at least 2 years of college study prior to admittance, although most applicants have 3 years prior to entering the program. Completion of the Pharm.D. program would take at least 6 years (2 years of undergraduate college courses and 4 years of Pharmacy School). Most colleges require the applicant to take the Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT) prior to admission.

Licensure:

North Carolina Board of Pharmacy exams must be taken along with National exams to obtain licensure in NC.

Additional Core Classes

Include basic classes required for pre-medical curriculum as well as individual class requirements designated by the specific school – can include English, economics, statistics, foreign language and religion.

What is the projected demand for your field according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook?

According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook, Pharmacists held about 322,200 jobs in 2020. About 42 percent work in community pharmacies that are either independently owned or part of a drugstore chain, grocery store, department store, or mass merchandiser. Most community pharmacists are salaried employees, but some are self-employed owners. About 27 percent of salaried pharmacists work in hospitals, and others work in clinics, mail-order pharmacies, pharmaceutical wholesalers, home healthcare agencies, or the Federal Government. Employment of skilled pharmacists is expected to grow in hospitals and clinics, due to the increased pharmaceutical needs of a growing elderly population and increased use of medications.

Salary range (list as hourly): \$60-\$75

Professional Organizations

ASHP – American Society of Health-System Pharmacists www.ashp.org

APhA – The American Pharmacists Association www.pharmacist.com

NCAP – North Carolina Association of Pharmacists www.ncpharmacist.org

Pharmacy Technician

A pharmacy technician works closely with a pharmacist to ensure the health and safety of their patients. They locate, dispense, pack and label a prescribed medication for a patient that is then reviewed for accuracy by a pharmacist before dispensed to the patient. They might also help pharmacists with administrative tasks such as processing insurance claims, tracking inventory and filing paperwork.

Who delivers your services?

Pharmacy services are provided by professionals who are trained, certified and licensed as a pharmacist in the state in which they practice or pharmacy technicians who are registered in the state in which they practice.

Where are services delivered?

Pharmacy Technicians work in hospitals, home health pharmacies, long-term care pharmacies, ambulatory care centers, managed care organizations, health insurance companies, mail-order prescription pharmacies and retail pharmacies.

Educational Training

High School preparation may include these courses: Classes related to math and science

Colleges and Universities:

Cape Fear Community College, Coastal Carolina Community College, Davidson County Community College

Durham Technical Community College, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Guilford Technical Community College

Southeastern Community College awards the credential in collaboration with:

Bladen Community College, James Sprunt Community College, Vance-Granville Community College, Wilkes Community College

Pharmacy Technicians meet the following criteria:

- Minimum of a High School Diploma
- Pharmacy Technician training
- Annual registration with the state board of pharmacy
- Pharmacy Technician certification

What is the projected demand for your field according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook?

The employment projection data for pharmacy technicians through 2020-30 is 4%. The increased number of middle-aged and elderly people— who use more prescription drugs than younger people—will spur demand for technicians throughout the projection period. In addition, as scientific advances bring treatments for an increasing number of conditions, more pharmacy technicians will be needed to fill a growing number of prescriptions.

As cost-conscious insurers begin to use pharmacies as patient-care centers, pharmacy technicians will assume responsibility for some of the more routine tasks previously performed by Pharmacists. In addition, they will adopt some of the administrative duties that were previously performed by pharmacy aides, such as answering phones and stocking shelves.

Reducing the need for pharmacy technicians to some degree, however, will be the growing use of drug dispensing machines. These machines increase productivity by completing some of the pharmacy technician's duties, namely counting pills and placing them into prescription containers. These machines are only used for the most common medications, however, and their effect on employment should be minimal.

Salary range (list as hourly): \$11-\$22

Professional Organizations:

American Association of Pharmacy Technicians www.pharmacytechnician.com

Psychiatric Services

Academic Liaison

Who delivers your services?

Master's level teachers or special education teachers.

Where are your services delivered?

Services may be delivered in the classroom or on a psychiatric unit.

What other environments/industries may provide employment with this discipline?

The public, private, technical or vocational sector in schools.

What are the benefits of your services?

- Assessment of the patient's educational status and school history.
- Collaboration with parents and staff to facilitate school assignments.
- Treatment services designed to assist with school assignments or school testing, individualized instruction and feedback, age-appropriate resources and preparation for discharge.
- Maintain communication with community-based schools and mental health resources.

Educational Training

College and University programs providing certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees: Most 4-year colleges like UNCC provide teacher training courses that culminate with a semester of student teaching.

Type of training (classes, practicum experience, certification, licensure)

Student teaching:

State licensure requirements vary from state to state. Continued education and training is needed to maintain licensure.

What is the projected demand for your field according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook?

Special education teachers held a total of about 463,000 jobs in 2020. A great majority, almost 85 percent, work in public schools. Another nine percent work at private schools. About half work in elementary schools. A few work for individual and social assistance agencies or residential facilities, or in homebound or hospital environments. For 2020-2030 jobs will increase by about eight percent.

Salary range (list as hourly): \$16-\$40

Professional Organizations

Council for Exceptional Children, American Federation of Teachers, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Global School Net Foundation (GSN), National Association of State Boards of Education, National Education Association, National Parent and Teacher Association, United Federation of Teachers

Psychiatric Assessment Specialist

Who delivers your services?

A counselor typically licensed and trained in counseling or clinical social work.

Where are your services delivered?

In the emergency room, from an office for phone conversations or from a medical floor. Services may also be delivered in community mental health settings.

What are the benefits of your services?

Neuropsychological and psychological assessments (or evaluations) identify areas of cognitive, behavioral and emotional strength and weakness and identify specific disorders. They provide information about medical, academic, vocational and social functioning that can help provide a starting point for positive life changes.

Educational Training

College and University programs providing bachelor's degrees, master's degrees:

BSW: Appalachian State University, Barton College, Bennett College, Campbell University, East Carolina University, Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville State University, Johnson C. Smith University, Livingstone College, Mars Hill University, Meredith College, Methodist University, North Carolina A&T University, North Carolina Central University, NC State, Shaw University, UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Greensboro, UNC-Pembroke, UNC-Wilmington, Warren Wilson College, Western Carolina University and Winston-Salem State University

MSW: Appalachian State University, East Carolina University, Fayetteville State University, Johnson C. Smith University, North Carolina A&T University/UNC-Greensboro (collaborative), North Carolina Central University, NC State, UNC-Chapel Hill (PhD available), UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Pembroke, UNC-Wilmington, and Western Carolina University

Type of training (classes, practicum experience, certification, licensure)

Core Classes:

May include counseling theory, ethics, statistics, developmental psychology, career counseling, psychological testing and diagnosis of mental disorders.

Licensure:

Typical licensures required are LCSW or LPC.

What is the projected demand for your field according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook?

The projected demand for assessment specialists is expected to grow much faster than average at a 23% increase through 2030. The discipline held about 327,500 jobs in 2020 with almost 75% working within healthcare and social assistance.

Salary range (list as hourly): \$24-\$41

Professional Organizations

NASW – National Association of Social Workers www.naswdc.org

LPC – Licensed Professional Counselor www.ncblpc.org

NBCC – National Board of Certified Counselors www.ncbb.org

NBSW – National Board of Social Work www.socialworkers.org

Psychologist

Psychology is the scientific study of mental functions and behaviors.

Who delivers your services?

Master and Doctorate level Psychologists

Where are your services delivered?

Hospital settings, outpatient public and private therapy practices and agencies, residential settings, correctional facilities and in various industries and businesses.

What other environments/industries may provide employment with this discipline?

Personnel and human resource departments of businesses, correctional/police settings, FBI.

What are the benefits of your services?

Psychological assessments are used to assist in identifying intellectual, emotional, and personality factors that influence an individual's functioning. Psychotherapy makes use of behavioral and emotional research to assist individuals in making changes to improve their lives.

Educational Training

College and University programs providing certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees

Master's degree is the basic working degree in the field. Doctorates include (PhD) in psychology and Doctor of Psychology (PsyD). Master's level psychologists typically are required to have supervision by doctorates.

Master's degrees:

Appalachian State University; Duke University; East Carolina University; Fayetteville State University; North Carolina Central University; North Carolina State University; UNC; UNC Charlotte; UNC Greensboro; UNC-Wilmington; Western Carolina University

Doctoral Degrees:

Duke University; UNC; UNC Greensboro; North Carolina State University

Type of training (classes, practicum experience, certification, licensure)

Core Classes:

May include classes on personality assessment, psychotherapy, medical/neurological influences, statistics and research.

Practicum areas:

Programs may include both practicum placements and research thesis.

Licensure: Must pass an examination by the licensing board for Licensed Practicing Psychologist (PsyD, PhD), and Licensed Psychological Associate (MA, MS).

What is the projected demand for your field according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook?

Psychologist employment is expected to grow at an 8% average rate in the next 10 years. Growth will be most rapid in outpatient mental health offices and local education support services.

Salary range (list as hourly): \$28-\$60

Professional Organizations

American Psychological Association www.psych.org

National Association of Master's Level Psychologists www.cga.ct.org

Social Worker

Social workers help people cope with challenges in their lives. They help with a wide range of situations, such as adopting a child or being diagnosed with a terminal illness.

Advocacy is an important aspect of social work. Social workers advocate or raise awareness with and on behalf of their clients and the social work profession on local, state and national levels.

Some social workers—referred to as **bachelor’s social workers** (BSW)—work with groups, community organizations and policymakers to develop or improve programs, services, policies and social conditions. This focus of work is referred to as macro social work.

Social workers who are licensed to diagnose and treat mental, behavioral and emotional disorders are called **clinical social workers** (CSW) or **licensed clinical social workers** (LCSW). They provide individual, group, family and couples therapy. They work with clients to develop strategies to change behavior or cope with difficult situations and refer clients to other resources or services, such as support groups or other mental health professionals. Clinical social workers can develop treatment plans with the client, doctors and other healthcare professionals and may adjust the treatment plan, if necessary, based on their client’s progress. They may work in a variety of specialties. Clinical social workers who have not completed two years of supervised work are often called **master’s social workers** (MSW).

Who delivers your services?

Bachelor level and master level social workers. A master’s degree has become the standard for many positions, including the position of social worker on the psychiatric unit at CaroMont Regional Medical Center and other similar hospitals. Many social workers also obtain their LCSW (Licensed Clinical Social Worker).

Where are your services delivered?

Social workers often provide services in health-related settings. Social workers work in schools, hospitals, social service agencies including mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse settings. They may also work for Department of Social Services to assist in protecting children and adults. Social workers may work in other government programs and non-profit organizations. Social workers can work as social planners or policy makers.

What are the benefits of your services?

Social workers provide social services and assistance to improve the social and psychological functioning of individuals and families. They assist in finding foster placements, assist with adoptions and work to address problems such as teen pregnancy and substance abuse. Social workers may work for EAP (Employment Assistance Programs) helping employees and their families with stress and other issues. They may work in a setting where they provide individuals and families with psychosocial support needed to deal with issues such as chronic, acute or terminal illness, or to assist them in dealing with other issues. Social workers may advise family caregivers, counsel patients, and help plan for discharge by arranging needed services.

Educational Training

- High school preparation may include these courses: College preparatory classes, psychology and human development classes
- College and University programs providing certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees

There are 436 BSW programs, 149 MSW programs, and 78 Doctoral programs. In North Carolina:

Bachelor's degrees:

Appalachian State University; Barton College; Bennett College; Campbell University; East Carolina University, Livingstone College; Mars Hill College; Meredith College; Methodist College; North Carolina Central University; North Carolina State; UNCC; UNC Greensboro; UNC Pembroke; UNC Wilmington; Warren Wilson College; and Western Carolina University

Master's degrees:

East Carolina University; UNC Charlotte; UNC; University of NC; and NC A&T Joint Program

PhD degrees:

UNC

Type of training (classes, practicum experience, certification, licensure)

Completion of a bachelor's degree in social work is the minimum requirement. A master's degree is typically required for health settings and is required for clinical work. Most managed care companies require licensure to do therapy. Classes include courses in social work values and ethics, dealing with culturally diverse clients, human behavior, social environment, policy and research. A practicum is required for both Bachelor and Master levels. A BSW program requires a minimum of 400 hours of supervised field experience. A MSW program requires 900 hours of supervised field experience. To obtain a LCSW a social worker must have an MSW, receive two years of supervision while working in a full-time social work position and pass an exam. A person can complete an LCSW while working only part time in a social work setting, however the supervision period will be extended.

What is the projected demand for your field according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook?

Employment of healthcare social workers is projected to grow 13 percent from 2020 to 2030, faster than the average for all occupations. Healthcare social workers will continue to be needed to help aging populations and their families adjust to new treatments, medications and lifestyles.

Salary range (list as hourly): Masters \$21-\$34

Professional Organizations

National Association of Social Workers www.socialworkers.org

Council on Social Work Education www.cswe.org

Association of Social Work Boards www.aswb.org

Recreational Therapist

Recreational Therapy is the provision of treatment services and the provision of recreation services to persons with illnesses or disabling conditions. The primary purposes of treatment services are to restore, remediate or rehabilitate to improve functioning and independence as well as reduce or eliminate the effects of illness or disability. The primary purpose is to provide recreation resources and opportunities to improve health and well-being.

Who delivers your services?

Therapeutic Recreation is provided by professionals who are trained and certified, registered and/or licensed to provide Therapeutic Recreation.

Where are your services delivered?

Recreational therapists work with doctors, nurses, psychologists, social workers, physical therapists and occupational therapists to care for patients of all ages, from infants to the elderly. Therapists provide different services for patients depending on where they work. They may use structured group activities or work individually with patients to develop physical or social skills through exercise, mental stimulation, creativity and fun. Some of the things they help their patients with include maintaining their physical, mental and emotional well-being, reducing depression and anxiety, improving basic reasoning skills and strengthening confidence.

What other environments/industries may provide employment with this discipline?

Employment may also be available in the community within parks and recreation departments, independent living centers, community reintegration programs, the school system, private practice, universities, group homes, outpatient clinics, correctional facilities, hospice services and administration.

What are the benefits of your services?

- Assessment of the patient's leisure, social, and recreational abilities, deficiencies, interests, barriers, life experiences, needs and potential.
- Treatment services designed to improve social, emotional, cognitive, and physical functional behaviors as necessary prerequisites to future leisure/social involvement.
- Monitoring the extent to which goals are achieved relative to the use of leisure time and the acquisition of socialization skills.
- Reassessment of each patient when a significant change occurs in the patient's condition.
- Interventions may include but not limited to: aerobic activity, anger management, art, assertiveness training, behavior management, cognitive retraining, conflict resolution, creative expression, dance/movement, fine/gross motor skills, grief and loss counseling, group therapy, humor therapy, leisure counseling/education, relaxation therapy, reminiscence therapy, pain management, problem solving, reality orientation, sensory stimulation, social skills, stress management, values clarification.

Educational Training

College and University programs providing certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees

Associate degrees (For RT assistant license only)

Western Piedmont Community College

Bachelor's degree

Catawba College, East Carolina University, Mount Olive College, North Carolina Central University, Shaw University, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Western Carolina University, Winston Salem State University

Master's degree

East Carolina University, North Carolina Central University, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Type of training (classes, practicum experience, certification, licensure)

Core Classes

Introduction to recreation and leisure studies, recreational therapy foundations, programming/lab, disability survey for recreational therapy services, research and evaluation methods, philosophy, program design, leadership and group dynamics, practicum, interventions and techniques, assessment/documentation/evaluation, organization and management of recreational therapy services, internship preplacement seminar, internship/work experience, English, humanities, math, health and exercise, science, social science, psychology, medical terminology and elective courses.

Practicum areas

Physical rehabilitation, pediatrics, mental health/addiction, geriatrics, municipal/community wellness, business industry

Certification

Employers hire candidates who are certified therapeutic recreation specialists (CTRS) or certified leisure professionals. The National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification is the certificatory agency. To become certified, specialist must have a bachelor's degree, pass a written certification examination, and complete an internship of 480 hours. Additional requirements apply in order to maintain certification and to recertify.

Licensure

Effective October 5, 2005, NC became the 2nd state in the nation to license individuals to provide RT services. To comply with NC law, persons providing RT services in the state must possess the NC license. Individuals who are nationally certified as recreational therapists must also possess the state license in order to practice in the state. Being nationally certified as a CTRS does not satisfy the NC law. You can visit www.ncbrtl.org.

What is the projected demand for your field according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook?

Recreational Therapists held about 20,800 jobs in the United States during 2020. According to the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Outlook Handbook, employment for recreational therapists is expected to increase 10% between 2020 and 2030. Employment growth of therapists is expected to increase in following areas: services for elderly and individuals with disabling conditions, outpatient therapists' offices, specialty hospitals and other social assistance facilities.

Salary range (list as hourly): \$26-\$46

Professional Organizations

American Therapeutic Recreation Association www.atra-tr.org

The Coalition of Child Life and Therapeutic Recreation Professionals National Council on Therapeutic Recreation Certification

National Therapeutic Recreation Society

North Carolina Recreational Therapy Association www.ncrta.org

North Carolina RPS – TR Section

North Carolina Recreation and Park Society

Radiation Oncology Services

Radiation Oncology or Radiation Therapy

A radiation therapist is part of the care team that treats patients with cancer and other diseases using radiation treatments. They work with doctors who specialize in radiation therapy (radiation oncologists) and oncology nurses who specialize in caring for cancer patients. Radiation therapy is used to treat cancer by shrinking or removing cancer or tumors.

Who delivers your services?

Registered Radiation Therapist

Where are your services delivered?

Radiation therapists work in hospitals, doctors' offices, universities, and outpatient centers

Radiation Oncology Equipment and pharmaceutical sales.

What are the benefits of your services?

Radiation therapists work with radiation oncologists, nurses, and medical physicists to treat cancer patients of all ages, from infants to the elderly.

Educational Training

College and University programs providing certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees:
Forsyth Technical Community College and Pitt Community College – South Piedmont Community College-
Associates Degree, UNC - Chapel Hill –Bachelor's Degree Radiation Therapy, Carolinas College of Health Science

Type of training (classes, practicum experience, certification, licensure)

- Classes in progressive clinical experience
- After graduation eligible to take state boards for licensure

What is the projected demand for your field according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook?

The Bureau of Labor Statistics expects employment of radiation therapists to grow faster than average. With a large aging population and advances in radiation treatments, demand will likely increase for radiation therapists.

Salary range (list as hourly): \$27 - \$58

Professional Organizations

ASRT – American Society of Radiation Therapist

ARRT – American Registry of Radiologic Technologist www.rrt.org

Rehabilitation Services

Rehabilitation Services

Who delivers your services?

Physical Therapists and Physical Therapy Assistants, Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants, Speech-Language Pathologists

Where are your services delivered?

Schools, hospitals, nursing homes, home healthcare, outpatient clinics

What are the benefits of your services?

Helping people in the community regain their independence.

Educational Training

Type of training (classes, practicum experience, certification, licensure)

State Licensure is required for all rehabilitation professionals. P.T. and O.T. Assistants require Associate degrees. P.T., O.T. and Speech Pathologists require a master's degree. All rehabilitation professionals must complete practicums in their courses.

What is the projected demand for your field according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook?

The Bureau of Labor Statistics expects the employment of **speech-language pathologists** to grow much faster than average (25% through 2029). This is due to the large baby-boom population ages, there will be more instances of health conditions that cause speech or language impairments, such as strokes and hearing loss. Secondly, medical advances are improving the survival rate of premature infants and trauma victims, who may benefit from speech therapy.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics expects job openings for **occupational therapists** in the U.S. to grow much faster than average. This is due to the growth in the number of people with disabilities who require therapy services and as the large baby-boom generation ages and remain active later in life. There is also an employment growth in schools that need therapists to serve children with disabilities.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of **physical therapists** in the U.S. is expected to grow much faster than average. This is due to the aging baby-boomer population who are staying active later in life and are more likely to deal with health conditions that can benefit from physical therapy. Secondly, there has been an increase in chronic conditions such as diabetes and obesity so physical therapists are needed to help these patients manage the effects of these conditions.

Salary range (list as hourly):

Physical Therapist \$32 - \$43

Physical Therapy Assistants \$23 - \$37

Occupational Therapist \$29-\$46

Occupational Therapy assistants \$17- \$34

Speech Language Pathologist \$37 -\$57

Professional Organizations

APTA (American Physical Therapy Association) www.apta.org

ASHA (American Speech-Language and Hearing Association) www.asha.org

AOTA (American Occupational Therapy Association) www.aota.org

Surgical Technology Services

Surgical Technologist

Surgical technologists, also called operating room technicians, work alongside and assist surgeons, nurses, and other members of the health care team throughout a surgical operation. The role of the surgical technologist is incredibly important because they ensure a sterile and organized environment.

Who delivers your services?

Surgical technologists who have graduated from an accredited surgical technology program.

Where are your services delivered?

- Operating rooms, ambulatory surgical centers, labor and delivery, emergency department, physician's offices, dentist's offices, private technologist for a physician, travel with an agency to work in different hospitals.
- Surgical technologists work in clean, well-lighted, cool environments. They must stand for long periods and remain alert during operations. At times they may be exposed to communicable diseases and unpleasant sights, odors, and materials.
- Most surgical technologists work a regular 40-hour week, although they may be on call or work nights, weekends and holidays on a rotating basis.

What other environments/industries may provide employment with this discipline?

Medical sales, manager of sterile processing department, materials management, veterinarian's office, all branches of the military (which provides training).

What are the benefits of your services?

Transportation of patients to and from the operating room, preparation of operating rooms by setting up sterile instruments, supplies & equipment, scrubbing during invasive procedures to pass instruments, hold retractors, cut sutures, count sponges, care for specimens, and care of instruments before and after surgical procedures.

Educational Training

High school preparation may include these courses:

Classes may include health sciences, biology, anatomy, chemistry, and medical terminology. Those interested in Surgical Technology should be able to watch a surgical operation on television without feeling uncomfortable. A Surgical Technologist is calm and relaxed in very intense environments, works well with their hands, and is curious about how the body works.

College and University programs providing certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees

Training is usually about 1 year but can vary from 9-24 months and leads to a certificate, diploma, or associate degree. Currently there are over 400 accredited surgical technology programs in the United States.

Hospital Based programs include:

Cabarrus College of Health Sciences, Carolinas College of Health Sciences and Novant Health.

One-year programs include: Blue Ridge Community College, Catawba Valley Community College, Cleveland Community College, Coastal Carolina Community College, Durham Technical Community College, Edgecombe Community College, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Guilford Technical Community College, Lenoir Community College, Rockingham Community College, Sandhills Community College, South Piedmont Community College, Wilson Technical Community College, York Technical College

Type of training (classes, practicum experience, certification, licensure)

Course of study includes basics such as English and general psychology as well as medical terminology, communications, anatomy and physiology, microbiology, and pharmacology. Classroom instruction is followed by hands-on training in a skills laboratory and then clinical training in actual hospital operating rooms. Many programs are 1 year in length but may require that some courses are completed before entry into the program. After graduation, Surgical Technologists may become certified. Certification is strongly suggested and preferred by many employers. The most common, Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) credential is offered by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA).

What is the projected demand for your field according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook?

The Bureau of Labor Statistics expects the employment of surgical technologists to grow faster than average. This is due to advances in medical technology and more operations are being done to treat many types of illnesses and injuries.

With additional experience and education, some surgical technologists become first surgical assistants or registered nurses. Others advance by specializing in a particular area of surgery. Some technologists manage central supply departments in hospitals or take positions with insurance companies, sterile supply services, and surgical equipment firms.

Hospitals will continue to be the primary employer, although much faster employment growth is expected in offices of physicians and in outpatient care centers, including ambulatory surgical centers.

Salary range (list as hourly): \$16-\$30

Professional Organizations

Association of Surgical Technologists www.ast.org

Health Information Technology

Health Information Technology

Medical records and health information specialists organize, manage, and code health information data. They use various classification systems to code and categorize patient information for insurance reimbursement purposes, for databases and registries, and to maintain patients' medical and treatment histories.

Who delivers your services?

Certified Coder, Health Information Administrator and Health Information Technician

Where are your services delivered?

These professionals can find employment in hospitals, doctors' offices, pharmaceutical firms, insurance companies, software companies, government agencies, home health agencies, nursing homes, and consulting firms. Due to the increased use of electronic medical records, many health information managers enjoy teleworking or working from home.

What are the benefits of your services?

Although medical records and health information specialists do not provide direct patient care, they work regularly with registered nurses and other healthcare workers. They meet with these workers to clarify diagnoses or to get additional information.

Medical records and health information specialists use electronic health records (EHRs) software, following EHR security and privacy practices to analyze electronic data and improve healthcare information.

Educational Training

High school preparation may include which courses: Medical Terminology, Anatomy & Physiology

College and University programs providing certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees

Associate Degree: Brunswick Community College, Catawba Valley Community College, Central Carolina Community College, Central Piedmont Community College, Craven Community College, Davidson County Community College, Durham Technical Community College, Pitt Community College, Edgecombe Community College, McDowell Technical Community College, Southwestern Community College

Bachelor's degree and master's degree: East Carolina University

Type of training (classes, practicum experience, certification, licensure)

RHIA Registered Health Information Administrator- requires BS in HA plus successful passing of national examination through AHIMA (American Health Information Management Association)

RHIT Registered Health Information Technician – requires Associate degree in Health Information Technology plus successful passing of national examination through AHIMA (American Health Information Management Association)

CCS Certified Coding Specialist (or CCS-P) – represents mastery skills in clinical coding, examination offered through AHIMA (American Health Information Management Association); candidates should have three or more years work experience before taking these examinations (CCS-P represents certification in the field of physician office practice rather than hospital inpatient and/or outpatient coding)

CCA Certified Coding Associate – represents entry level skills in clinical coding, examination offered through AHIMA (American Health Information Management Association)

What is the projected demand for your field according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook?

The outlook for medical and health services managers, including health information managers, is expected to be good, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Growth from 2019-2029 is expected to be much faster than average, at 32%. Individuals who have experience working in the field and a degree are more likely to find desirable positions.

The number of jobs in the field of medical and health services management is expected to grow because of the increasing number of people who are becoming older and more in need of care. In addition, the complexity of the healthcare industry continues to increase as more facilities open. Additional health information managers are necessary for capturing, collating and reporting patient data in a usable format. The BLS mentions that there will especially be demand for managers at nursing care facilities, health practitioners' offices and medical group practices.

Salary range (list as hourly):

The salaries of health information management professions will vary according to education and experience. The American Health Information Management Association reports that new health information graduates with associate degrees earn \$20,000 to \$30,000 annually while those with bachelor's degrees earn between \$30,000 and \$50,000. With a few years of experience, managers can earn \$50,000 to \$75,000 annually.

Certified Coder \$20.73-\$32.39

HIA-\$19.74- \$30.85

HIT- \$10.10 - \$26.44

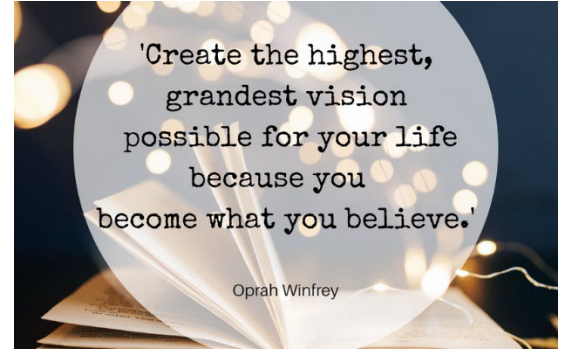
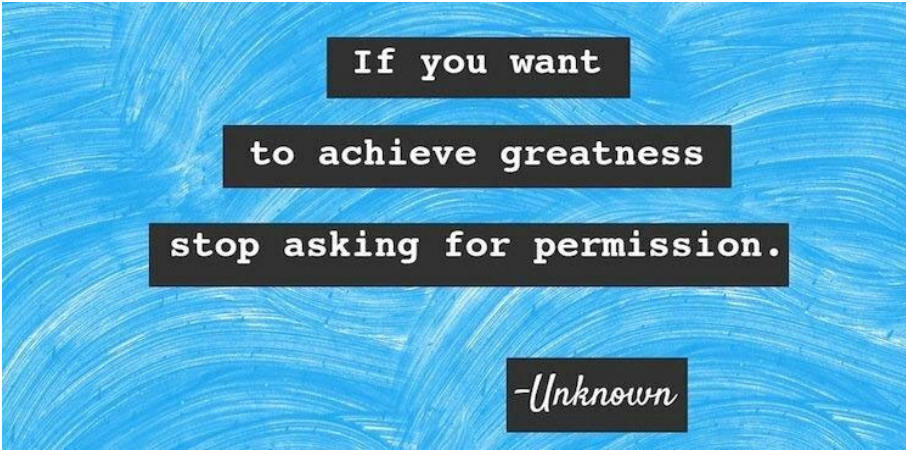
Professional Organizations

Registered Health Information Administrators (RHIA) or Registered Health Information Technicians (RHIT)

www.ahima.org

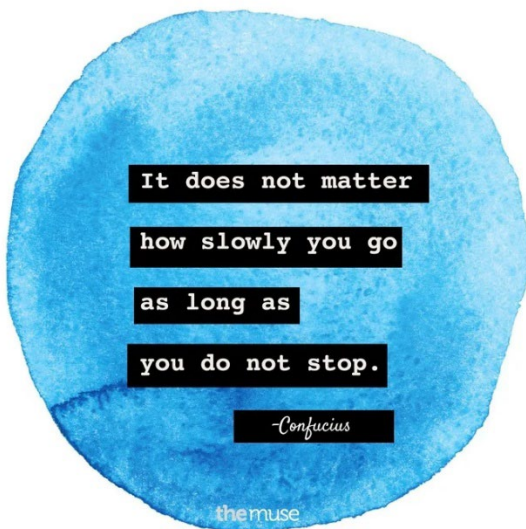
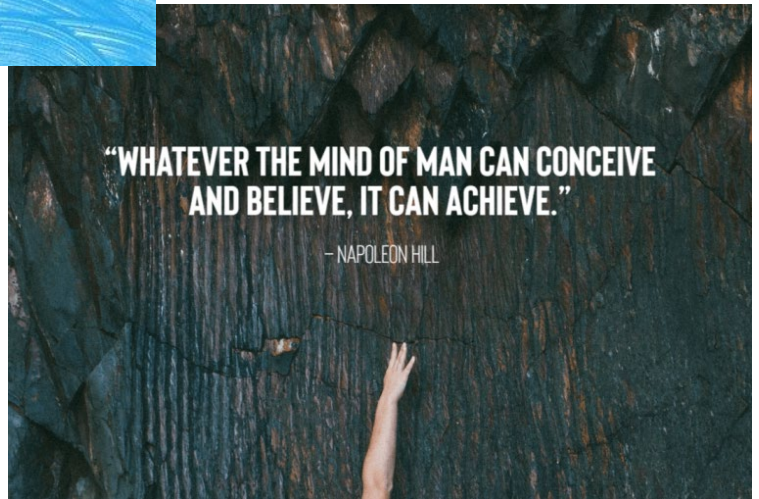
Certified Coding Specialist (CCS) www.aapc.com

Certified Coding Specialist-Physicians (CCS-P) www.ahima.org



“
the best WAY
TO PREDICT THE FUTURE
IS *to CREATE it.*

”
— ABRAHAM LINCOLN



the
difference
between
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are and
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want to
be is what
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