



# career guide

FIND YOUR HEALTH CARE CAREER!

MISSOURI HEALTH  
**careers**

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## key

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### SALARY

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$	\$25,000 or lower
\$ \$ \$ \$ \$	\$25,001 to \$39,999
\$ \$ \$ \$ \$	\$40,000 to \$59,999
\$ \$ \$ \$ \$	\$60,000 to \$99,999
\$ \$ \$ \$ \$	\$100,000 or higher

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### JOB OUTLOOK

★ ★ ★ ★ ★	4.9% increase or lower
★ ★ ★ ★ ★	5% - 9.9% increase
★ ★ ★ ★ ★	10% - 14.9% increase
★ ★ ★ ★ ★	15% - 19.9% increase
★ ★ ★ ★ ★	20% increase or higher

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### EDUCATION

🎓 🎓 🎓 🎓 🎓	High school diploma or equivalent
🎓 🎓 🎓 🎓 🎓	Postsecondary non-degree award or Associate's degree
🎓 🎓 🎓 🎓 🎓	Bachelor's degree
🎓 🎓 🎓 🎓 🎓	Master's degree
🎓 🎓 🎓 🎓 🎓	Doctoral or professional degree

*Data for salary, job outlook and education infographics were compiled from Missouri 2012-2022 Occupational Projections, published online by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) within the Missouri Department of Economic Development. When positions in this publication were not directly comparable to a position in MERIC's data, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, data for salary, job outlook, and education is used.*

# MISSOURI HEALTH careers

**So you're thinking about a health care career — well, you've made a great decision!**

*When most people think of health care careers, they think of doctors and nurses. The thing is, though, there are so many other jobs within health care that it can be a dizzying experience to narrow your options.*

- You may want to work in the lab or take pictures of the body through X-rays or computed tomography. You might want to work with people who have special dietary needs, hearing loss or breathing problems.
- You could find a job in management, finance or human resources. Or, maybe you'd prefer to be behind the scenes and do your work as a medical librarian or administer and maintain the health provider's computer network.
- You could help a child with a lisp, a dad who can no longer use an arm or a grandmother who needs to regain her strength.

The point is there are a lot of opportunities in health care, and not all of them require interacting with patients who are in a hospital bed — in fact, most don't. Think about your options as you thumb through this career directory.

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## administration/office support

Administration is the business side of health care. If you work in a hospital, office support and administrative positions play an important role in ensuring employees — like nurses, doctors and lab technicians — have the resources and equipment to provide excellent care for patients. Professionals in hospital administration monitor the hospital's finances and risk to ensure that the hospital and its employees comply with necessary state and federal regulations.

### executive secretaries



Salary



Growth



Education

- *provide high-level administrative support by conducting research, preparing reports or handling requests for information*
- *prepare correspondence, receive visitors, arrange conference calls and schedule meetings, may train or supervise clerical staff*

### medical secretaries



Salary



Growth



Education

- *perform secretarial duties using specific knowledge of medical terminology and hospital, clinic or laboratory procedures*
- *may schedule appointments, bill patients and compile and record medical charts*

### health care marketing managers



Salary



Growth



Education

- *work in the public relations, communications or policy creation departments of hospitals, health care organizations, biotech companies and federal health agencies*
- *plan, direct or coordinate marketing policies and programs to determine the demand for services offered by a hospital*
- *monitor trends that indicate the need for new services*

### medical and health services managers



Salary



Growth



Education

- *plan, direct or coordinate medical and health services in hospitals, clinics, managed care organizations or similar organizations*
- *through review and analysis, managers may help reduce risk and improve service*

### general and operations managers



Salary



Growth



Education

- *plan, direct or coordinate the operations of an organization*
- *develop policies, manage operations and plan the use of material and human resources*
- *review financial statements and reports, and may oversee staffing*
- *may be called the chief operating officer or general manager*



## chief executives



Salary



Growth



Education

- *direct the hospital or health system, and develop plans and policies to lead the organization*
- *coordinate activities at the highest level of management with the help of managers and supervisors*

## financial services

Although hospitals exist to care for sick and injured people, their financial operations are complex and require professionals to monitor and track the hospital's finances.

billing and  
account  
collectors

Salary



Growth



Education

- *keep track of overdue accounts, receive payments and post payments*
- *locate and notify customers of past-due bills*

bookkeepers  
and accounting  
clerks

Salary



Growth



Education

- *post transactions in ledgers, correct financial errors and prepare financial statements*
- *update and maintain accounting records, and calculate, post and verify financial data*

## accountants



Salary



Growth



Education

- *help ensure that a hospital runs efficiently and its financial records are kept accurately*
- *analyze and communicate financial information, budget analysis, and financial and investment planning*
- *prepare, analyze and verify financial documents to provide information to hospital administrators*

## hospital billing clerks



Salary



Growth



Education

- *responsible for reviewing medical records, communicating with insurance companies and billing patients*
- *use computer software and knowledge of insurance and billing practices to correctly translate verbal descriptions of diagnoses and procedures into numerical codes*

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## human resources

Human resource professionals in hospitals may work in various positions such as employment and placement, compensation and benefits, training and development, or employee relations.

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## human resource specialists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *maintain employment records and explain human resource policies, procedures, laws or regulations*
- *screen, recruit, interview and place workers, and help match potential employees to positions in the hospital*
- *ensure employee satisfaction*

### health care recruiters



Salary



Growth



Education

- *assist in finding qualified professionals to fill positions in the health care industry*
- *may write and place job ads, participate in job fairs, review resumes and job applications, conduct interviews and check references for job applicants*
- *understand the health care field and are proficient in keeping track of various applicants' credentials, certifications and licensure*

### compensation, benefits and job analysis specialists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *conduct programs of compensation, benefits and job analysis for hospitals*
- *specialize in specific areas, such as position classification and pension programs*
- *make sure the hospital is following the law*
- *help plan and improve how the employer selects, promotes, compensates, evaluates and trains employees*

### training and development specialists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *analyze training needs, design and conduct training, and develop programs to improve individual and organizational performance*
- *offer a way of developing skills, improving productivity and quality of work, while building employee loyalty and improving morale*

## human resource managers



Salary



Growth



Education

- *serve as the highest-level administrator of a hospital's HR department*
- *account for all aspects of a hospital's hiring and firing processes, training and development programs*
- *ensure the hospital's compensation (salary and benefits) is competitive with other businesses*

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## education and research

These professionals work to leverage research and education in hospitals, and promote health care improvement strategies through scientific research and quality educational initiatives.

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## health educators



Salary



Growth



Education

- *provide and manage health education programs that help individuals, families and their communities maximize and maintain healthy lifestyles*
- *collect and analyze data to identify community needs prior to planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating programs*
- *may serve as a resource to assist individuals, other health care workers or the community, and administer fiscal resources for health education programs*

## genetic counselors



Salary



Growth



Education

- *educate people about genetic disorders or diseases using information from a patient's family medical history*

- *explain possible testing options and provide support to patients and family members*

### clinical data managers



Salary



Growth



Education

- *involved with clinical research for pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies and other public, private and academic-related research centers*
- *oversee all aspects of program-related data, from design and framework to collection, processing, storage, and retrieval*
- *maintain compliance with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and other regulations*

### clinical research coordinators



Salary



Growth



Education

- *evaluate and analyze clinical data*
- *may supervise research analysts*
- *work with project investigators to evaluate research protocols, prepare for clinical trials and experiments, seek approval from regulatory and ethics committees, implement experiments and trials, and collect data*

### health specialties educators



Salary



Growth



Education

- *teach courses in health specialties' fields, such as dentistry, laboratory technology, medicine, pharmacy, public health, therapy and veterinary medicine*
- *plan, evaluate and revise curricula, course content, materials and methods of instruction*

## clinical laboratory services

Professionals in clinical laboratory services perform tests on blood and other bodily fluids (like amniotic fluid or fluid around the lungs) to find disease, infection and chemical imbalances in patients. These tests are very important in choosing the best way to treat patients. These professionals work with highly sophisticated equipment to run these important tests.



- draw blood from patients in a safe and sanitary manner
- collect fluid and tissue samples, and collect specimens for testing
- may transport specimens or fluid samples from collection sites to laboratories



- perform routine medical laboratory tests for diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease
- prepare blood, urine and tissue specimens for analysis
- use sophisticated equipment to look for bacteria, parasites and other microorganisms
- may analyze the chemicals in fluids or match blood to help people get the right blood type in a transfusion

### medical laboratory technologists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *prepare samples for analysis, monitor testing procedures, and analyze results for infection or chemical composition*
- *work in all areas of a clinical lab and perform a wide variety of tests on body fluids, including blood, urine or spinal fluid, to determine presence of normal or abnormal components*
- *confirm and report result to doctors and other health care professionals*

### cytogenetic technologists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *analyze chromosomes found in biological specimens, such as amniotic fluids, bone marrow and blood, to aid in the study, diagnosis or treatment of genetic diseases*
- *count numbers of chromosomes and identify the structural abnormalities by viewing culture slides through microscopes*

### blood bank technologists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *collect, label and prepare blood, plasma and other components for transfusions*
- *determine blood type and prepare blood and its components (red cells, white cells, platelets and plasma) for transfusion*
- *search for blood irregularities and process, test and label blood from blood donors*

## pathologists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *diagnose presence and stage of diseases using laboratory techniques and patient specimens*
- *study the nature, cause and development of diseases*
- *may perform autopsies*

## career spotlight

REBECCA, MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGIST

I knew I wanted to help people and I really enjoyed anatomy and physiology, but I did not particularly want patient contact. I toured a medical laboratory and knew this was the career for me. The best part of my job is making sure that patients are being taken care of with the best care possible. It is very rewarding as a technician when you get to track a patient from arrival and treatment to discharge, hoping they go home a lot healthier than they came in. Every day is different and that excites me.



## diagnostic imaging services

Diagnostic imaging techniques help narrow the causes of an injury or illness, and ensure that the diagnosis is accurate. These techniques include X-rays, computed tomography scans and magnetic resonance imaging. These imaging tools let doctors “see” inside the body to get a “picture” of the patient’s bones, organs, muscles, tendons, nerves and cartilage. Imaging is a way doctors can determine if there are any abnormalities.

There are a number of specialties within radiologic technology. Some technicians or technologists perform X-rays, scans, or administer nonradioactive materials into a patient’s blood stream to diagnose health problems. There are several different types of technologists.

- *A radiographer works primarily with X-rays or radiographs. X-rays are the most common and widely available diagnostic imaging technique.*
- *Computed tomography technologists are radiologic technicians who specialize in taking cross-sectional X-ray images of the tissues, bones, organs and blood vessels in an area of a patient’s body. The X-rays are used to create a three-dimensional image. The scans that a CT technologist produces help doctors diagnose and treat patients with internal diseases or injuries.*
- *Magnetic resonance imaging technologists are specialized radiologic technicians who operate MRI equipment to create detailed pictures of internal body structures. They are responsible for preparing patients for their scans and safely using the equipment.*

radiologic  
technicians



Salary



Growth



Education

- *perform X-rays and CAT scans to administer nonradioactive materials into the blood stream to assist physicians in diagnosing medical ailments*
- *prepare patients for procedures, adjust imaging equipment and position and shield patients from excess radiation*

### diagnostic medical sonographers



Salary



Growth



Education

- *use ultrasound equipment to direct sound waves into the body to produce an image or video used for detecting abnormalities*
- *observe and care for patients throughout an exam*
- *obtain and record patient history, and maintain records and files*
- *aid in the diagnosis of diseases, injuries or other conditions*

### nuclear medicine technologists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *assist physicians and work directly with patients to explain nuclear medicine procedures*
- *administer and oversee nuclear medicine and radioactive procedures and substances*
- *use unstable atoms to help find and treat disease by administering them into patients, later monitoring how patients' tissues and organs respond*

### radiation therapists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *provide radiation therapy to patients as prescribed by a radiologist*
- *review prescription and diagnosis*
- *act as a liaison with physician and supportive care personnel*
- *prepare equipment, such as immobilization, treatment and protection devices*
- *maintain records, reports and files, and may assist in dosimetry procedures and tumor localization*

## dental

Dental professionals clean and check teeth for signs of disease. They may educate patients on brushing and flossing, develop X-rays or help treat diseases of the mouth. They also assist in setting up equipment and keeping records.

### dental assistants



Salary



Growth



Education

- *assist the dentist and keep patient records*
- *prep the patient and dental equipment*
- *instruct patients in proper teeth cleaning*
- *monitor supplies and inventory*

### dental hygienists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *clean teeth and remove stains and deposits from teeth, and apply fluoride or sealants on teeth*
- *examine teeth and gums for signs of disease*
- *educate patients on brushing and flossing*
- *take and develop X-rays*
- *sharpen and sterilize dental equipment*

dentists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *care for teeth, gums, muscles and bones within or supporting the mouth*
- *provide routine procedures, such as filling cavities, cleaning and repairing teeth*
- *may perform surgeries within or around the mouth to promote dental health, improve appearance and prevent disease*

oral and  
maxillofacial  
surgeons



Salary



Growth



Education

- *diagnose and treat diseases, injuries, and defects in the mouth, jaws, neck, face and skull regions*
- *perform treatments for impacted teeth, reconstructive surgery, lip reconstruction and insertion of dental implants*

career spotlight

MEGAN, CDA, EFDA, DENTAL ASSISTANT



I love working in a fast-paced environment. There is always something to do from sterilization to cleaning rooms. No patient or procedure is the same so you have to think and act fast and even anticipate. Patients compliment my work sometimes, too, and that makes me feel great. I love making people feel confident about their smiles and showing the home care that they can do. I work for a great doctor and office staff that make my job enjoyable.

## diet and nutrition

The field of nutrition is expanding with growing interest in how food and nutrition affects human health, wellness and prevention of diseases. The opportunities for nutrition professionals are extensive. Individuals who have a passion for food, nutrition and exercise are a good fit for this field. Nutrition professionals teach people about the foods they eat and how food affects their health. In hospitals and nursing homes, they design healthy meals that follow dietary guidelines.

### dietetic technicians



Salary



Growth



Education

- *develop nutritional plans to promote health, treat illnesses or prevent disease*
- *assist registered dietitians by helping people learn about foods they eat*
- *screen patients to find nutritional problems and provide education or counseling*

### dietitians and nutritionists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *develop and supervise diet programs that improve public health*
- *may serve as clinical dietitians in health care facilities, community dietitians in public health centers or management dietitians in food distribution facilities*

## emergency services

Emergency services ensures public safety and health by addressing different emergencies. Some of these positions provide transportation or treatment to those in need, while others plan, manage and coordinate disaster response plans.

### ambulance drivers and attendants



Salary



Growth



Education

- *transport patients from an emergency situation to a hospital or other health facility*
- *may be required to have the requisite training to perform emergency medical procedures*

### emergency medical technicians



Salary



Growth



Education

- *assess injuries, administer emergency medical care and extricate trapped individuals before transporting injured and sick people to medical facilities*

### paramedics



Salary



Growth



Education

- *serve as highly trained emergency medical technicians who are responsible for providing care to accident victims*
- *combine and build upon the skills of an EMT-Basic and an EMT-Intermediate*

## emergency management directors



Salary



Growth



Education

- *plan and direct disaster response or crisis management activities*
- *provide disaster preparedness training and prepare emergency plans and procedures for natural, wartime or technological (nuclear power plant emergencies or hazardous materials spills) disasters, or hostage situations*

## career spotlight

**JASON, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICER  
(CORPORATE), EMERGENT CARE**



The 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the United States ultimately changed my life.

As an emergency room nurse, I was approached with the opportunity to take the lead for emergency planning for my hospital. Although I did not fully understand the impact this type of role can have in health care, I jumped at the challenge and have never looked back. I have since obtained my Bachelor's in Emergency and Disaster Management and I am a Certified Healthcare Emergency Professional (CHEP). Since 2007, I have molded and shaped an additional "responsibility" into the role of corporate Emergency Management Officer. I am now responsible for all of the emergency planning, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities for the entire health care system, integrating safety, quality and regulatory measures. Surprisingly, the field of Emergency Management fulfills all of the desires I previously longed for: business, law enforcement, health care, and the military. I interact with experts from each of these fields every day, for a variety of reasons. There is rarely a typical day at the office and there are new threats and vulnerabilities identified on a continual basis. From exercise planning to vulnerability assessments to managing crises; Emergency Management keeps me excited and fulfilled as I indirectly impact patient care and protection. If you are looking for flexibility and enjoy critical thinking, specifically looking at "what-if" scenarios, Emergency Management may just be the career for you.

health information management

These careers combine medicine and technology. In hospitals, they play a critical role in the delivery of health care through their focus on the collection, maintenance and use of quality data.

coders



Salary



Growth



Education

- review patient’s medical records, and using a universal coding system, assign codes to each procedure for insurance billing purposes

medical transcriptionists



Salary



Growth



Education

- listen to voice recordings that physicians and other health care professionals make and convert them into written reports
- may review and edit medical documents created using speech recognition technology
- interpret medical terminology and abbreviations in preparing patients’ medical histories, discharge summaries and other documents

medical records and health information technicians



Salary



Growth



Education

- compile, process and maintain patient medical records in a manner consistent with medical, administrative, ethical, legal and regulatory requirements of the health care system and numerical coding system



### medical librarians



Salary



Growth



Education

- *work in hospitals, clinics, universities and academic medical or research centers*
- *provide access to medical and health-related information for health professionals, researchers, students and patients. The information they provide can assist doctors in treating illness or injury.*

### health information managers



Salary



Growth



Education

- *handle patient records — an important and confidential job*
- *play a part in the quality of a patient's health care by organizing medical data*
- *are skilled in health care database systems, as well as medical classification systems*
- *have great knowledge of how financial information relates to clinical data, medical legal issues and security systems*

## health information technology

Hospitals, like any other business, rely more and more on technology. A well-functioning electronic network is critical to an efficient health care system. Jobs in health information technology, also called HIT, are varied and may include providing computer support, technical assistance and service to your customer — the health care professionals who treat patients.

computer support specialists



Salary



Growth



Education

- troubleshoot problems and provide technical assistance, support, and advice for hardware, software and systems to users within the hospital to resolve problems

computer systems analysts



Salary



Growth



Education

- develop, test, expand or modify computer systems to improve efficiency
- review information and performance indicators to locate problems and correct errors by fixing codes
- work with health care administrators to agree on best ways to solve problems and provide new technology to staff

### information security analysts



Salary



Growth



Education

- *protect, plan, implement, upgrade or monitor security of networks and confidential information, and respond to computer security breaches and viruses*
- *ensure appropriate security controls are in place keeping digital and vital electronic files safe*

### computer network architects



Salary



Growth



Education

- *design and implement computer and information networks, such as local-area networks, wide-area networks, intranets, extranets and other data communications networks*
- *perform network modeling, analysis, planning and design of security measures while recommending new hardware and software*

### computer systems managers



Salary



Growth



Education

- *design, install and support a hospital's computer systems, including network security and efficiency*
- *are responsible for LANs, WANs, network segments and internet and intranet systems*
- *maintain network hardware and software, analyze problems, and monitor networks to ensure they are available to users*

medical careers

These positions often work in hospitals or doctors' offices working directly with the patient conducting medical procedures, exams or working the front office.

medical assistants



Salary



Growth



Education

- *perform administrative and certain clinical duties under the direction of a physician*
- *may schedule appointments and maintain medical records, billing and coding information for insurance purposes*
- *may take and record vital signs and medical histories, prepare patients for examinations, and draw blood*

physician assistants



Salary



Growth



Education

- *provide health care services typically performed by a physician, under a physician's supervision, including conducting physical exams, providing treatment, counseling patients and perhaps prescribing medications*

## medicine

Physicians diagnose illness and injury, prescribe and administer treatment, and advise patients about how to prevent and manage disease. There are two paths to becoming a doctor — allopathic medicine, which leads to an M.D. (medical doctor), or osteopathic medicine, which leads to a D.O. (doctor of osteopathic medicine).

family and  
general  
practitioners  
(primary care  
physicians)



Salary



Growth



Education

- *diagnose, treat and help prevent disease and injuries*
- *refer patients to doctors who are experts in certain diseases, called specialists, when further treatment is needed*

pediatricians



Salary



Growth



Education

- *diagnose, treat and help prevent children's diseases and injuries*
- *may recommend a treatment plan when child becomes ill*

internists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *diagnose and provide nonsurgical treatment of disease and injuries of internal organ systems to mainly adults*

# MEDICAL CAREERS

## surgeons



Salary



Growth



Education

- *perform surgery to prevent and treat diseases, repair injuries or restore patient's abilities*
- *examine patients to obtain information on medical history and surgical risk*

## dermatologists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *diagnose and treat skin conditions related to the scalp, hair and nails*
- *perform skin surgery and recommend diagnostic tests based on physical examination findings*

## ophthalmologists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *specialize in treating and diagnosing ailments of the eye*
- *perform laser cataract, glaucoma, refractive or corneal surgeries, in addition to providing or directing a patient's postoperative care*

## podiatrists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *specialize in treatment of the feet and ankles while working with patients to prevent injuries and diagnose and heal existing injuries*
- *order X-rays, set fractures and treat other injuries, as well as prescribe physical therapy and medication*

## obstetricians and gynecologists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *specialize in treating female patients in regards to pregnancies and the reproductive system*
- *identify, treat and monitor ailments related to the female anatomy, including breast cancer, cervical cancer, pelvic disorders, urinary tract infections and hormonal disorders*

## anesthesiologists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *deliver pain-relieving medications during surgical procedures and monitor patients' vital signs while working closely with surgeons and other physicians to formulate a treatment plan before, during and after a surgical procedure*
- *provide pain relief services to people who suffer from chronic pain, during labor and delivery, and to patients in the intensive care unit*

## immunologists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *study the functions and disorders of the immune system, including asthma, allergies, arthritis, lupus and Crohn's disease via direct patient care or research of diagnoses and treatment options*

# MEDICAL CAREERS

## hospitalists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *provide inpatient care in settings such as medical units, acute care units, intensive care units, rehabilitation centers or emergency rooms while managing and coordinating patient care throughout treatment*

## physiatrists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *specialize in physical medicine and rehabilitation, diagnosing and treating disorders to provide physical, mental and occupational rehabilitation without surgery*

## sports medicine physicians



Salary



Growth



Education

- *prescribe treatments for professional and amateur athletes who are injured, upon completion of a sports medicine fellowship*
- *may work in hospitals and clinics, or with high school, collegiate or professional sports organizations*

## urologists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *diagnose, treat and help prevent benign and malignant medical and surgical disorders of the genitourinary system and the renal glands*



## medical equipment/biomedicine

For being behind-the-scenes, the work they do is so important! They may get equipment ready for procedures and ensure it is working correctly. Medical equipment workers might repair or do regular maintenance on medical equipment.

### medical equipment preparers



Salary



Growth



Education

- *sterilize, organize and assemble surgical instrument trays and other supplies, including checking equipment before use to make sure it is working properly*
- *maintain records of inventory and equipment use*

### medical equipment repairers



Salary



Growth



Education

- *test and calibrate equipment, and keep records of maintenance, repair and required updates*
- *repair and replace defective equipment*
- *ensure that medical equipment is being used safely and may train health care providers on proper use*

### biomedical engineers



Salary



Growth



Education

- *apply engineering principles to solve biological and medical problems*
- *design machines like artificial organs, prostheses, instrumentation, medical information systems and health management and care delivery systems*

mental and social health

Employees who choose professions in this field assist people who have many types of mental or social difficulties. They might work with a patient’s doctor in a hospital or work at a counseling center. In most cases, they are part of a team that provides treatment to people with mental or social issues.

health care  
social workers

  
Salary

  
Growth

  
Education

- provide individuals, families and groups with the support they need to cope with serious illnesses
- advise and support family caregivers, provide patient education and counseling, and make referrals when needed
- provide care and manage treatment plans designed to promote health, prevent disease and address barriers to health care access

substance abuse  
and behavioral  
disorder  
counselors

  
Salary

  
Growth

  
Education

- provide all-around counseling and treatment to people who have alcohol, tobacco, drug or other problems, such as gambling or eating disorders in an individual, family or group setting under the direction of a patient’s doctor

## mental health counselors



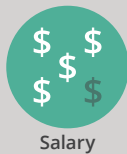
- *work as primary mental health caregivers conducting mental health assessments, developing individualized treatment plans and leading therapy sessions, potentially making treatment referrals*

## clinical psychologists



- *assess and treat patients with mental health issues, including emotional or social disorders*
- *develop and supervise mental health programs*

## psychiatrists



- *are physicians who diagnose, analyze and treat mental health disorders*
- *may work in private practices, mental health organizations and hospitals, with individuals, families, couples or groups of all ages*

nursing

Nurses provide care for sick, injured or disabled people. They help people recover from sickness or injury. They may assess a patient’s health problems or help teach patients how to be healthy.



- provide basic care to patients, helping them eat, dress, bathe, get medications and treatments, and apply clean dressings or bandages under the direction of a nurse



- provide care to sick, injured, recovering or disabled patients, may be supervised by a registered nurse
- administer prescribed medications or start intravenous fluids, observing and noting information on charts
- take basic vital signs, such as blood pressure and temperature, perhaps dressing wounds and treating bedsores

### registered nurses



Salary



Growth



Education

- *provide care for sick and/or injured patients while working closely with patients and their families*
- *assess patient health problems/needs to develop and implement nursing care plans, maintain medical records and report any changes to physicians*
- *maintain detailed reports, record vital signs, and order, interpret and evaluate tests to identify and assess patients' conditions*

## advanced nursing

Advanced nurses have obtained an advanced level of education and can perform tasks that a registered nurse cannot. Some tasks include diagnosing and treating illness as part of a health care team. Some nurses focus on health promotion and disease prevention, and some may order, perform or interpret diagnostic tests. Others are educators.

### nurse practitioners



Salary



Growth



Education

- *order, perform or interpret results of blood tests, EKGs and X-rays to develop the right diagnosis and treatment for both sudden and long-term conditions*
- *may conduct physical exams and physical therapy or order tests and therapies for patients*

## nurse midwives



Salary



Growth



Education

- *diagnose and coordinate all aspects of the birthing process*
- *may work independently or as part of a health care team and may provide preventive care to women*

## nurse anesthetists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *prepare and administer anesthesia, and oversee patient recovery from anesthesia*
- *may work with anesthesiologists, surgeons other physicians or dentists*
- *ensure patients receive enough oxygen and monitor vital signs and responses, such as skin color, pupil dilation, pulse, heart rate, blood pressure or other vital signs*

## nursing instructors and teachers, postsecondary



Salary



Growth



Education

- *lead, develop, and organize teaching programs, and teach nursing in classroom and clinical settings*
- *remain informed about developments in the nursing field, while collaborating with other faculty to address teaching and research issues*

### nurse informatics specialists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *apply the knowledge of nursing and informatics to help design, develop and modify computerized health care systems, while educating staff and assisting in problem solving to promote implementation of the new system*
- *work with nurses and computer engineers to design systems to assist data management or resolve problems*

### clinical nurse specialists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *plan, direct and coordinate the daily patient care activities in a clinical practice collaborating with other health care professionals and service providers in areas such as patient discharge or clinical procedures*
- *ensure adherence to clinical policies, protocols, regulations and standards, and evaluate programs regarding quality and effectiveness of nursing practices*

## career spotlight

BRIGITTE, R.N., BSN



I chose nursing because I felt that it was a career that would provide many opportunities in the health care field. I was right! I have worked in numerous departments and have had many roles as an R.N. — Medical/Telemetry, Intensive Care, School Nursing, Surgery, Endoscopy and Cardiology. My work experiences have provided me with various skill sets and numerous experiences that have enhanced my career growth. I enjoy learning and I enjoy the days when I feel like I have made a difference. I am very thankful for the opportunities that my career has provided, and I look forward to further opportunities down the road. Nursing is challenging. It is hard work, but it also can be very rewarding.

pharmacy

Pharmacy workers help people by getting medications ready that have been prescribed by doctors and other health providers. They give information about the medicines to patients, recommend the right dose, and also may talk to the patient about side effects.



- *receive, store and inventory pharmaceutical supplies or medications, operate a cash register, and accept pre-  
scriptions for filling*
- *check for outdated medications and notify the pharma-  
cist when inventory levels are low, prepare prescription  
labels, answer customer calls and refer callers to the  
pharmacist*



- *receive prescriptions or refill requests and make sure  
information is complete and accurate*
- *measure, count, label and record the amounts and  
doses of medicines*
- *make sure drugs are stored and secured correctly*



## medical science liaison



Salary



Growth



Education

- *involved with research and development, drug safety, regulatory affairs, marketing and sales*
- *keep health care providers and researchers updated on latest research, attend conferences, and present new product information to physicians*

## pharmacists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *responsible for correctly filling patients' prescriptions, educating patients about medicines and the proper way to take them*
- *work with doctors on choosing the right medicines, making sure they will work with other medications taken by the patient and explaining side effects*

## academic pharmacists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *train future pharmacists and conduct research*
- *share pharmaceutical knowledge and information with other health care professionals and students*
- *speak at industry events, contribute to science and education publications, and may have direct contact with patients*

## career spotlight

MIRANDA, INDEPENDENT RETAIL PHARMACIST



Pharmacy is such a rewarding career. I couldn't have picked a better career path. When I was in high school, I struggled with what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I knew I wanted to do something in the health care field, and always assumed I would be a doctor. After some thorough reading and thinking, I knew that was not the best option for me. So I looked into what being a pharmacist was like and decided I was interested in pursuing this career path. I then decided to get a job in a pharmacy as a pharmacy technician. After a few weeks, I knew this was the right choice for me. The thing I love most about pharmacy is the patient contact. I love being able to visit with patients when they come in and answer their questions when needed. Getting to know my patients, seeing them on a regular basis and helping solve their problems is what makes my job so great and rewarding. I also like that there are so many different career options for a pharmacist. From retail, hospital to clinical pharmacy, the options are endless depending on what you like to do. A career in the health care field is a great option so definitely take a look at becoming a pharmacist.

## food services

Jobs in health care are not just related to medicine and treating patients. A hospital is like a small city, needing all kinds of workers to keep the facility running smoothly, and that includes preparing and serving food. In food service, customers are not only patients and their families, but also employees.

### cooks



Salary



Growth



Education

- *prepare and serve large quantities of food for institutions, such as hospitals or cafeterias, following food preparation rules to ensure food is healthy and safe to eat*
- *make sure equipment, kitchen appliances and work areas are clean and functional*

### first-line supervisors of food preparation and serving workers



Salary



Growth



Education

- *supervise and coordinate activities of workers engaged in preparing and serving food*
- *may inspect supplies, equipment and work areas, and keep food inventory*

### food service managers



Salary



Growth



Education

- *manage the operations of all food service activities, with duties related to customer service, administration and management*

environmental services

People in environmental services make sure that patient rooms, lobby areas and staff rooms are clean and sanitized.

hospital housekeeping



Salary



Growth



Education

- routinely clean patient rooms, nursing units, surgical areas, administrative offices, waiting areas and public restrooms wiping equipment, cleaning furniture, emptying trash, collecting dirty laundry and distributing clean linens*

janitors



Salary



Growth



Education

- keep buildings orderly by performing heavy cleaning duties, such as cleaning floors, shampooing rugs, washing walls, removing rubbish, repairing furnaces and boilers, performing routine maintenance activities, notifying management of repair needs, and cleaning snow or debris from sidewalks*

first-line supervisors of housekeeping and janitorial workers



Salary



Growth



Education

- coordinate work activities of cleaning personnel, inspect employees' work, plan work schedules and may assist with cleaning duties when needed*
- direct activities to stop the spread of infections and coordinate with other hospital departments to ensure areas are cleaned efficiently*

## technical instrumentation

These employees help prepare an operating room or operate complex equipment to help doctors diagnose heart and brain problems. Others in this field operate intricate machines that assist during surgeries or use equipment to provide treatment for cancers.

### surgical technician/ technologists



Salary



Growth



Education

- assist surgeons, anesthesiologists, registered nurses and other surgical personnel with surgical procedures
- help ensure patient and operating room safety, as well as the functionality and sanitation of surgical equipment

### cardiovascular technologists and technicians



Salary



Growth



Education

- assist with the diagnosis and treatment of heart issues by conducting tests on pulmonary or cardiovascular systems of patients for diagnostic purposes
- may conduct or assist in electrocardiograms, cardiac catheterizations, pulmonary functions, lung capacity and similar tests

### electro- neurodiagnostic or neurodiagnostic technologists



Salary



Growth



Education

- use specialized machines to monitor the electrical activity of a patient's brain to observe and diagnose irregularities, such as stroke, epilepsy and multiple sclerosis

perfusionists

\$ \$ \$

\$ \$ \$

Salary

★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★

Growth

🎓 🎓

🎓 🎓

Education

- assemble, operate and monitor equipment that keeps oxygen-rich blood pumping through the circulatory system. When cardiac surgeons perform open-heart surgery, they rely on a perfusionist to operate machinery that pumps oxygenated blood through the patient.*

dosimetrists

\$ \$ \$

\$ \$ \$

Salary

★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★

Growth

🎓 🎓

🎓 🎓

Education

- use training in anatomy, physics and radiobiology to calculate effective radiologic treatment doses for cancer patients, while minimizing side effects. This is a highly specialized skill since radiation can shrink the tumor, but also can damage healthy tissues and organs.*
- determine exactly how to deliver the prescribed dose using a 3D computer model of the patient*
- help calibrate radiation equipment and work on research teams to improve radiation techniques*

career spotlight

WAYNE, NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGIST



I worked as a radiology transporter during college. I was really intrigued by the modalities offered by radiology and all the exams that encompass radiology. Because I knew I wanted to be in the medical field, it felt like a natural fit. I am now a nuclear medicine technologist and happy to be in that field.

## physical therapy

Physical therapy workers help patients of all ages improve their movement or reduce pain. They help patients increase their strength and decrease or prevent problems they may have because of disease or injury.

### physical therapist assistants



Salary



Growth



Education

- assist the physical therapist in treating patients and developing treatment plans
- help patients exercise, apply hot or cold packs, or perform special ultrasound or electrical treatments
- help patients increase their strength and track progress

### athletic trainers



Salary



Growth



Education

- help patients prevent and recover from injuries
- diagnose and treat injuries caused by stress to the musculoskeletal system and teach injury prevention methods



- *assess patients and create plans to help them improve movement, relieve pain and increase strength*
- *evaluate the effects of treatment and adjust to maximize benefits*
- *test patient’s strength, motor skills and functions, sensory perceptions, and respiratory or circulatory efficiency*
- *show patients how to perform prescribed exercises and review progress*
- *help decrease or prevent problems due to disease or injury*

## occupational therapy

Therapists and assistants help patients restore the skills they need to do daily tasks. The tasks may be related to a person’s job, household chores or daily living skills.



- *assist occupational therapist in treating patients*
- *help patients improve their lives and perform daily tasks*
- *ensure exercises are done correctly and provide assistance*



## occupational therapists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *use practical movement and exercise to rehabilitate patients with disabilities or injuries*
- *design work or home environments to suit an individual's needs enabling them to succeed in daily activities*

## respiratory therapy

Respiratory therapists assess, treat and care for patients with breathing problems. They often work throughout the hospital assisting patients with breathing problems.

## respiratory therapy technicians



Salary



Growth



Education

- *assist respiratory therapists with monitoring patients and performing diagnostic tests*

## registered respiratory therapists



Salary



Growth




Education

- *work under a physician's supervision to take care of patients with lung problems or chronic asthma, or who have suffered a heart attack, stroke or other disease or illness*


other therapies and rehabilitation

There are many different types of therapy and rehabilitation that include working with patients one-on-one to improve some aspect of their lives and can have a great impact on their health and improvement.


speech-language pathologists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *assess, diagnose and treat disorders related to speech, fluency, language, cognitive-communication and voice*
- *work with people who have trouble producing speech sounds or who have speech rhythm and fluency problems, such as stuttering*
- *treat speech problems that can be congenital, developmental or acquired due to a health problem or disorder*

recreational therapists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *work with people who have physical, social or emotional disabilities*
- *help ill or disabled people by providing treatments and recreation activities*
- *help patients improve or maintain their physical, mental and emotional well-being, thus reducing depression, stress and anxiety*

## orthotists and prosthetists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *make and fit devices that help people move*
- *certified prosthetists make and fit devices that replace the arms or legs of patients who lost them through injury or disease*
- *certified orthotists design and fit braces, such as surgical supports and corrective shoes*
- *may use computers to create the devices and tools to manufacture prosthetics*

## rehabilitation counselors



Salary



Growth



Education

- *help disabled people who may have physical, mental or social disabilities get back to satisfying and productive lives*
- *may counsel patients about job training, finding a job and/or adjusting to a new work environment*

## audiologists



Salary



Growth



Education

- *identify, study, diagnose and treat hearing loss and balance disorders*
- *conduct ear exams, train clients in speech and lip reading, and teach people how to use hearing aids or other devices*

### financial aid

Financial aid is designed to cover the educational costs that may be difficult to pay. There are four basic types of financial aid: scholarships, grants, work-study and loans.

- **Explore all your options. Don't assume you won't be eligible for financial assistance. There are many types available.**
- **Financial aid can be based on need, income, merit or academics.**
- **Talk with the schools you are interested in attending.**
- **Ask your current employer about tuition reimbursement programs.**
- **Ask your counselor to help you identify information on financial aid.**
- **Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). It's used to apply for student federal financial aid and is often required by other financial assistance programs.**
- **Don't limit yourself to just one type of assistance.**
- **Start early so you don't miss any deadlines.**
- **Don't be afraid to ask for help.**
- **Beware of scams — do not pay or give your credit card number to anyone who says they will guarantee you a scholarship or a grant.**

The cost of an education varies depending on the type of school you choose and your study program. If you'll be working towards a bachelor's degree, you may want to spend your first two years at a community college and then transfer to a four-year school. Community colleges are typically less expensive. Make sure your courses will transfer to the school in which you are interested.

Remember that scholarships may make a more expensive school affordable.

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**need additional information?  
visit the following websites!**

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Missouri Health Careers

**[www.missourihealthcareers.com](http://www.missourihealthcareers.com)**

Missouri Hospital Association

**[www.mhanet.com](http://www.mhanet.com)**

Missouri Area Health Education Centers

**[www.mahec.org](http://www.mahec.org)**

Missouri Connections

**[www.missouriconnections.org](http://www.missouriconnections.org)**

Missouri Department of Elementary  
and Secondary Education

**[www.dese.mo.gov](http://www.dese.mo.gov)**

Missouri Department of Higher Education

**[www.dhe.mo.gov](http://www.dhe.mo.gov)**

Missouri Economic Research and Information  
Center

**[www.missourieconomy.org](http://www.missourieconomy.org)**





[missourihealthcareers.com](http://missourihealthcareers.com)



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