

# CAREER PATHS IN HEALTH CARE

## MASTER'S DEGREE

Nurse Practitioner  
\$63.60

Physician Assistant  
\$63.68

## 4-YEAR OR MORE COLLEGE DEGREE AND/OR EQUIVALENT EXPERIENCE

Dietitians and Nutritionists  
\$30.91

Medical and Health Services Manager  
\$48.74

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Counselor  
\$24.40

## ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE\* OR POSTSECONDARY NON-DEGREE AWARD\*\*

Radiologic Technologist\*  
\$35.74

Surgical Technologist\*  
\$30.27

Medical Assistant\*\*  
\$24.05

Registered Nurse\*  
\$39.40

Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurse\*\*  
\$23.89

Nursing Assistant\*\*  
\$18.85

## HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR GED / ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

Optician, Dispensing  
\$22.13

Pharmacy Technician  
\$19.87

These jobs are in demand in the state of Minnesota and these are Minnesota median wages. Data collected from Department of Employment and Economic Development.

## WHY CHOOSE A CAREER IN HEALTH CARE?

According to DEED's 2020-2030 Employment projections, Minnesota is projected to see an additional 66,144 replacement and net new openings for healthcare practitioners and technical occupations, an increase of 8.1%, while an additional 141,270 replacement and net new openings in healthcare support are projected, an 18.6% increase. In all, openings in the two healthcare categories are projected to make up 14% of the total job openings projected for this time period. Because of this healthy projected growth and large numbers of labor market exits to replace, there are many health care-related occupations that will see a future need, at every education level and are also in high demand according to DEED's Occupations in Demand.

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View additional information regarding career paths in health care:  
<https://www.careeronestop.org/site-search.aspx?keyword=healthcare>

# CAREER PATHS IN HEALTH CARE

## MASTER'S DEGREE

**NURSE PRACTITIONER \$63.60** Diagnose and treat acute, episodic or chronic illness, independently or as part of a healthcare team. May focus on health promotion and disease prevention. May order, perform or interpret diagnostic tests such as lab work and X rays. May prescribe medication. Must be registered nurses who have specialized graduate education.

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT \$63.68** Provide healthcare services typically performed by a physician, under the supervision of a physician. Conduct complete physicals, provide treatment, and counsel patients. May, in some cases, prescribe medication. Must graduate from an accredited educational program for physician assistants.

## 4-YEAR OR MORE COLLEGE DEGREE AND/OR EQUIVALENT EXPERIENCE

**DIETITIANS AND NUTRITIONISTS \$30.91** Plan and conduct food service or nutritional programs to assist in the promotion of health and control of disease. May supervise activities of a department providing quantity food services, counsel individuals, or conduct nutritional research.

**MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES MANAGER \$48.74** Plan, direct or coordinate medical and health services in hospitals, clinics, managed care organizations, public health agencies or similar organizations.

**MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELOR \$24.40** Counsel and advise individuals, families, or groups to prevent or treat substance abuse problems, behavioral disorders, or a broad range of mental health issues in order to promote optimum mental and emotional health.

## ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE\* OR POSTSECONDARY NON-DEGREE AWARD\*\*

**RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST\* \$35.74** Take X rays and CAT scans or administer nonradioactive materials into patient's blood stream for diagnostic purposes. Includes technologists who specialize in other scanning modalities.

**REGISTERED NURSE\* \$39.40** Assess patient health problems and needs, develop and implement nursing care plans, and maintain medical records. Administer nursing care to ill, injured, convalescent or disabled patients. May advise patients on health maintenance and disease prevention or provide case management. Licensing or registration required.

**SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST\* \$30.27** Assist in operations, under the supervision of surgeons, registered nurses or other surgical personnel. May help set up operating room, prepare and transport patients for surgery, adjust lights and equipment, pass instruments and other supplies to surgeons and surgeon's assistants, hold retractors, cut sutures, and help count sponges, needles, supplies, and instruments.

**LICENSED PRACTICAL AND LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSE\*\* \$23.89** Care for ill, injured or convalescing patients or persons with disabilities in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, private homes, group homes, and similar institutions. May work under the supervision of a registered nurse. Licensing required.

**MEDICAL ASSISTANT\*\* \$24.05** Perform administrative and certain clinical duties under the direction of a physician. Schedule appointments, maintain medical records, bill and code information for insurance purposes as well as take and record vital signs and medical histories, prepare patients for an exam, draw blood, and administer medications as directed by physician.

**NURSING ASSISTANT\*\* \$18.85** Provide basic patient care under direction of nursing staff. Feed, bathe, dress, groom or move patients or change linens. May transfer or transport patients. Includes nursing care attendants, nursing aides, and nursing attendants.

## HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR GED / ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

**OPTICIANS, DISPENSING \$22.13** Design, measure, fit, and adapt lenses and frames for client according to written optical prescription or specification. Assist client with inserting, removing, and caring for contact lenses as well as selecting frames. Measure customer for size of eyeglasses and coordinate frames with facial and eye measurements and optical prescription. Prepare work order for optical laboratory containing instructions for grinding and mounting lenses in frames. Verify exactness of finished lens spectacles. Adjust frame and lens position to fit client. May shape or reshape frames.

**PHARMACY TECHNICIAN \$19.87** Prepare medications under the direction of a pharmacist. May measure, mix, count out, label, and record amounts and dosages of medications according to prescription orders.