

Health Care Careers

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Are you interested in health care careers?

Do careers in health care, providing direct care or medical tests to patients, appeal to you?

There are many questions to consider when examining career choices:

- ▲ What are your likes and dislikes? What are you good at?
- ▲ What are the education or license requirements for the occupation?
- ▲ What does the job pay? Is there potential for increases?
- ▲ Are there opportunities for advancement?

Will I really find a good job fit?

Individuals find the greatest job satisfaction in occupations that match their personalities. Interests usually refer to the like or dislike of certain activities or tasks.

You may want to take an interest assessment as your first step when investigating future career choices. It is wise to know yourself well, before selecting a career or job training program. Taking an interest assessment will help you identify your personal interests. This information will help you select the best personal job match and ensure long-range job satisfaction before investing time and effort in an education or training program.

Ask your school counselor or advisor to schedule an interest assessment. There are a wide variety of interest assessment tools available. Or, report to your nearest One-Stop Office to request assistance to take the self-assessment Interest Profiler available through the Department of Labor Occupational Information Network (O*NET).

Health Care Careers briefly describes 48 health-related occupations. *Health Care Careers* summarizes health care occupations requiring a bachelor's degree or less and shows possible career pathways.

Introduction to Health Care Careers

The following headings describe the sections within each Health Care Career summary.

Requirements This section lists the basic entrance requirements for the occupation including:

- ▲ Education, or license requirements
- ▲ Physical requirements
- ▲ Special skills and abilities

Wages Wages are another important issue to consider when exploring career choices. Does the job pay well? Will the job realistically meet your cost of living requirements?

Health Care Careers provide the California statewide median (or the middle) hourly and average annual wage paid for the occupation as shown in the *Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008* by Employment Development Department (EDD)/Labor Market Information Division (LMID). Wages vary depending on geographic location, health care setting, and level of experience.

Job Outlook Another consideration when making career selections is to ask these questions: What is the future job growth expected for the occupation? Will I be able to find a job easily? You want reassurance that there will be plentiful future job openings before undertaking a job training program.

The Job Outlook section of *Health Care Careers* provides the estimated number of job openings through 2016 and the estimated annual openings in California as listed in the *Occupational Employment Projections Report*, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information Sources of Information furnishes additional resources to help you research an occupation in more depth. Generally, this section provides the name of professional associations for the occupation. These associations often offer detailed information about requirements, training, and certification.

When a *California Occupational Guide* is available for a specific health care occupation, the guide title and number are provided for additional research. Guides are available on-line at www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides.

Possible Career Paths

The Possible Career Paths section shows possibilities for career moves to related occupations. Additional education, training, or certification is usually required to advance in health-related occupations.

Individuals make many decisions about career moves and job training during their work lives. Moving “up” is not the only direction one may wish to go in a career. People may choose a lateral or sideways career move for many reasons: Dissatisfaction with their current job, to learn new skills, or more opportunity for advancement. Lateral career moves may provide the training and experience that may lead to future promotions.

This section displays potential pathways for career growth opportunities that are related to the key occupation. This information offers additional ideas for further career research.

Getting Started

Think about what you excel at and your personal likes and dislikes. Examine *Health Care Careers* to explore information on a variety of health careers. Select a few occupations that interest you the most. Then conduct more in-depth research by reviewing the *California Occupational Guides*.

Speak to a few people who currently work in the field to inquire about what their work-lives are like. What do they like about this type of work? How did they get where they are? If they had the opportunity to select a career all over again would they select the same career? What are their reasons? Also, ask if there are volunteer positions, or job shadowing opportunities, available. Such activities will allow you to observe the daily tasks of the health care occupations that interest you. This will help you decide what type of job suits you the best.

Contact your school counselor or One-Stop Center staff for more information about entry-level requirements, advancement opportunities, and available training programs for the occupations that interest you.

Work Search Resources

Applying directly to employers is a very effective job search method. Health services are listed in the yellow pages under ambulance services, clinics, convalescent homes and home care agencies, emergency medical and surgical services, hospitals, medical laboratories, medical transport, nurses’ registries, and physicians and surgeons.

California job openings can be found at online job-listing systems including CalJOBSSM at www.caljobs.ca.gov or at JOBcentral at www.jobcentral.com. Find further job search assistance at your nearest Workforce Services office at www.edd.ca.gov/Jobs_and_Training/Workforce_Services_Offices.htm or search for a One-Stop office close to you at www.servicelocator.org.

Ambulance Drivers and Attendants

(Except Emergency Medical Technicians)

AMBULANCE DRIVERS and ATTENDANTS drive an ambulance or assist ambulance drivers in transporting sick, injured, or convalescent patients to their destination. Ambulance Drivers place patients on a stretcher and load the stretcher into the ambulance usually with the help of an Ambulance Attendant. They also administer first aid as needed.

Ambulance Drivers and Attendants may report facts concerning an accident or injury to hospital personnel or law enforcement officials.

Drivers and Attendants replace ambulance supplies and disposable items, and change equipment to maintain sanitary conditions.

Requirements

- ▲ High school diploma or equivalent.
- ▲ Valid California driver's license with a good driving record.
- ▲ Physical stamina to lift and turn patients.
- ▲ Good judgment.
- ▲ Ability to work in stressful situations.
- ▲ Strong desire to help others.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Wages

- ▲ Ambulance Drivers and Attendants
Median hourly wage: \$11.54
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$28,812

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Ambulance Drivers and Attendants (Except Emergency Medical Technicians)

Job Outlook

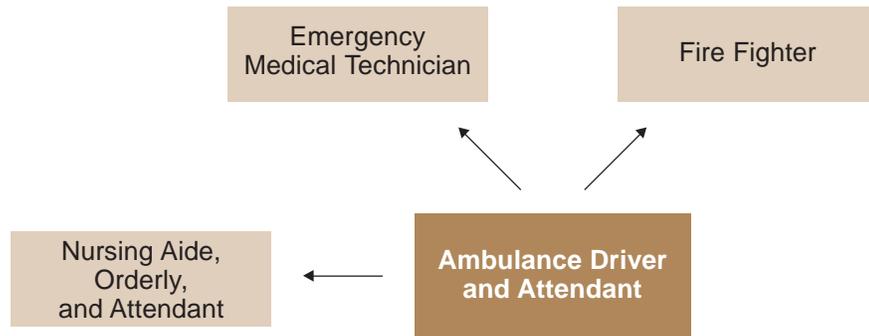
- ▲ Estimated number of Ambulance Drivers and Attendants in 2006: 1,600
- ▲ Estimated number of Ambulance Drivers and Attendants in 2016: 2,100
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 70

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ Emergency Medical Services Authority
(916) 322-4336
www.emsa.ca.gov

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

BIOMEDICAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIANS maintain, install, and repair a wide variety of equipment used in health care. They may work on diagnostic instruments such as x-ray, ultrasound, or electrocardiograph (EKG) machines.

Biomedical Equipment Technicians may also work on life support equipment like ventilators and dialysis machines or laboratory equipment used in health care. They repair broken instruments, install new equipment, and test or calibrate equipment to make sure it is working properly. Technicians also train health facility staff and advise them how to use biomedical equipment.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of a two-year degree from a community college or technical school.
- ▲ Most hospitals require practical experience; some training programs offer field study or internship that usually can count for the required experience.
- ▲ Some employers require certification by the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Wages

- ▲ Biomedical Equipment Technicians
Median hourly wage: \$27.73
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$58,893

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID. These wages are for the broad occupational group Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technicians that includes Biomedical Equipment Technicians.

Biomedical Equipment Technicians

Job Outlook

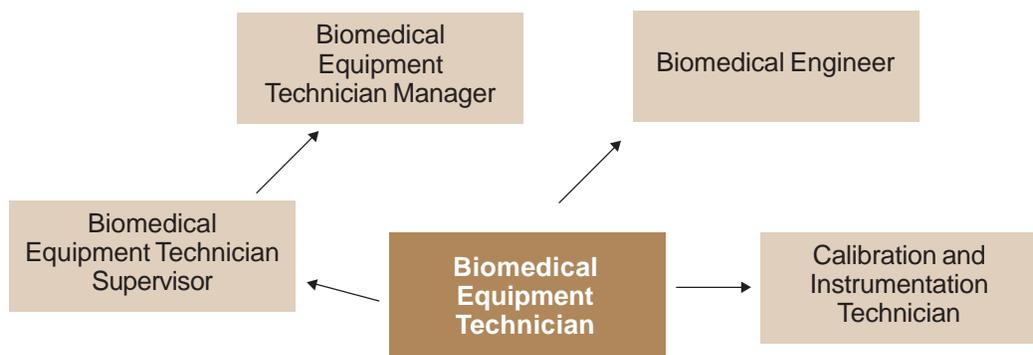
- ▲ Estimated number of Biomedical Equipment Technicians in 2006: 23,000
- ▲ Estimated number of Biomedical Equipment Technicians in 2016: 25,300
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 680

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID. These figures represent the broad occupational group Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technicians that includes Biomedical Equipment Technicians.

Sources of Information

- ▲ Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation
(800) 332-2264
www.aami.org
- ▲ *California Occupational Guides*
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search—Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technicians

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians

CARDIOVASCULAR TECHNOLOGISTS and TECHNICIANS assist physicians in diagnosing and treating cardiac (heart) and vascular (blood) ailments. Technologists may specialize in one of the following areas: Invasive cardiology, echocardiography, and vascular technology.

Invasive Cardiovascular Technologists assist physicians with cardiac catheterization procedures in which a small tube, or catheter, is wound through a patient's blood vessel from a spot on the patient's leg into the heart. The procedure can determine if a blockage exists in the blood vessels that supply the heart muscle. Part of the procedure may involve balloon angioplasty, which can be used to treat blockages of blood vessels or heart valves, without the need for heart surgery.

Echocardiograph Technologists perform non-invasive tests using ultrasound equipment. This procedure sends sound waves into the patient's body and processes echoes of the sound waves to form an image of the heart. The Technologists record the image for review and diagnosis by a physician.

Vascular Technologists assist physicians with the diagnosis of circulation disorders. They use ultrasound equipment to record vascular blood flow, blood pressure, limb volume changes, and oxygen saturation. These tests are generally performed during or immediately after surgery.

CARDIOVASCULAR TECHNICIANS see *Health Care Careers* on Electrocardiograph (EKG) Technicians.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of an associate of arts degree from a two-year community college program for Technologists.
- ▲ Voluntary Technologist certification is available through Cardiovascular Credentialing International or the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers.
- ▲ Completion of a one-year certificate-training program (is preferred by some employers), or on the job training for EKG Technicians.
- ▲ Ability to follow detailed instructions.
- ▲ Ability to exercise good judgment in stressful situations.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians

Wages

- ▲ Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians
Median hourly wage: \$26.78
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$56,175

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Job Outlook

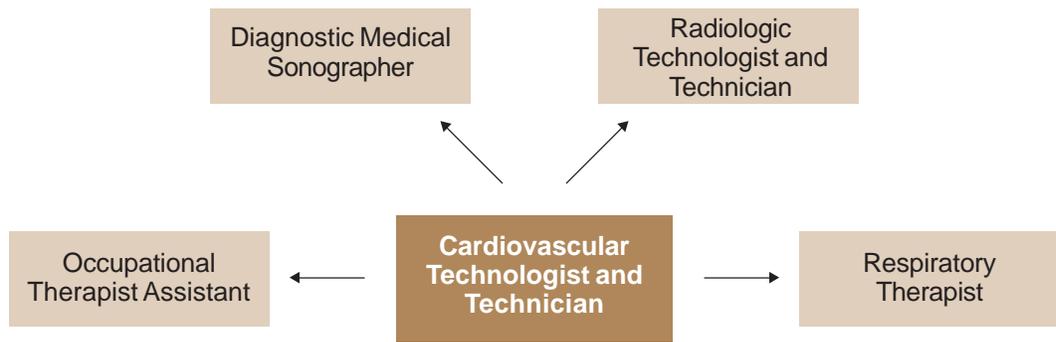
- ▲ Estimated number of Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians in 2006: 2,700
- ▲ Estimated number of Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians in 2016: 3,400
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 110

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ Society of Invasive Cardiovascular Professionals, (757) 497-3694, www.sicp.com.
- ▲ Cardiovascular Credentialing International, (800) 326-0268, www.cci-online.org.
- ▲ *California Occupational Guides*
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Cardiovascular Technologists

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

DENTAL ASSISTANTS work as team members along with dentists and dental hygienists and perform a variety of patient care, office, and laboratory duties. Assistants prepare patients for treatment and examinations and assure that dental records, supplies, and instruments are ready for the dentist to use. Assistants help the dentist at chair-side by handing instruments and materials to the dentist and keeping patients comfortable and relaxed. They also prepare patients for x-rays, take x-rays, process films, sterilize and disinfect instruments and equipment, take impressions, and instruct patients in post-treatment care.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of an accredited Dental Assistant training program is preferred.
- ▲ Good oral and written communication skills.
- ▲ Courteous, reliable, friendly, and sympathetic toward patients.
- ▲ Able to work in occasionally stressful situations.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Wages

- ▲ Dental Assistants
Median hourly wage: \$15.90
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$34,389

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Job Outlook

- ▲ Estimated number of Dental Assistants in 2006: 41,600
- ▲ Estimated number of Dental Assistants in 2016: 56,100
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 2,170

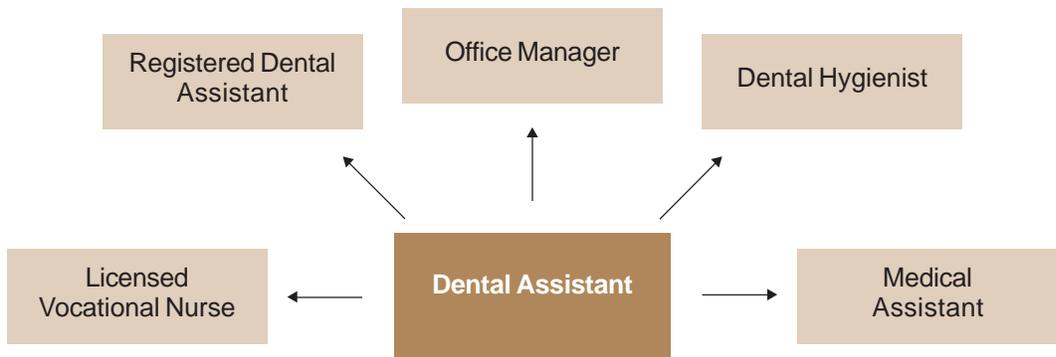
Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Dental Assistants

Sources of Information

- ▲ Dental Board of California
(916) 263-2300
www.dbc.ca.gov
- ▲ California Dental Assistants Association
(916) 491-4116
www.cdaaweb.org
- ▲ *California Occupational Guides*
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search—Dental Assistants

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

DENTAL HYGIENISTS are part of the dental care team that includes dentists, dental assistants, and dental technicians working together to prevent and control gum disease and the development of tooth decay. Dental Hygienists clean and polish teeth using scaling instruments and a rotating polisher. They apply decay preventive agents such as fluorides and sealants, chart medical and dental histories, and take and develop dental X-ray films. They also gather all of the patient data and information for the dentist and teach patients good oral hygiene practices.

Hygienists do not diagnose problems, but over time they acquire more responsibility. They can administer anesthesia for pain control and prepare clinical and laboratory tests for interpretation by dentists.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of a two-year degree from an accredited dental hygiene program.
- ▲ Successfully pass the National Board examination.
- ▲ Successfully pass the State Board practical examination.
- ▲ Licensed by the State Board of Dental Examiners.
- ▲ Ability to deal tactfully with people.
- ▲ Ability to tolerate stress.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Wages

- ▲ Dental Hygienists
Median hourly wage: \$41.71
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$83,812

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Dental Hygienists

Job Outlook

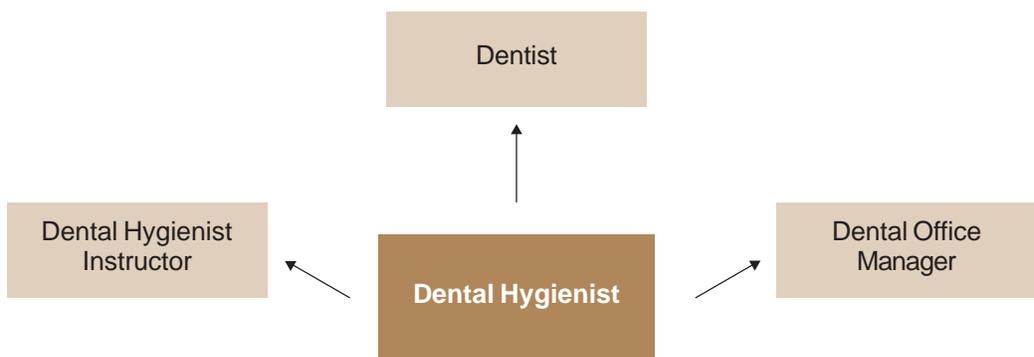
- ▲ Estimated number of Dental Hygienists in 2006: 22,400
- ▲ Estimated number of Dental Hygienists in 2016: 30,400
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 1,230

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ Committee on Dental Auxiliaries (916) 263-2595 www.comda.ca.gov
- ▲ California Occupational Guides www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Dental Hygienists

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNICIANS construct and repair dental appliances such as crowns, bridges, dentures, and orthodontic appliances. They use a variety of hand tools to perform tasks. The tasks may include mixing ingredients, filling dental-appliance molds, sculpting and building forms, bending and soldering wires, and grinding and polishing finished work. They follow instructions written by the dentist and use models and impressions of patients' teeth or mouth.

In some laboratories, Dental Laboratory Technicians are all-around workers having full responsibility for studying prescriptions, planning the work, and designing, constructing, repairing, reworking, or adjusting dental appliances. In most laboratories, however, each Technician concentrates on one aspect of the work.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of an accredited two-year course in dental laboratory technology is preferred by many employers.
- ▲ Finger and manual dexterity.
- ▲ Arm-hand steadiness.
- ▲ Attentiveness to detail.
- ▲ Ability to visualize how something will look when complete.

Wages

- | | |
|--|----------|
| ▲ Dental Laboratory Technicians
Median hourly wage: | \$17.76 |
| ▲ Average annual wage: | \$40,558 |

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Dental Laboratory Technicians

Job Outlook

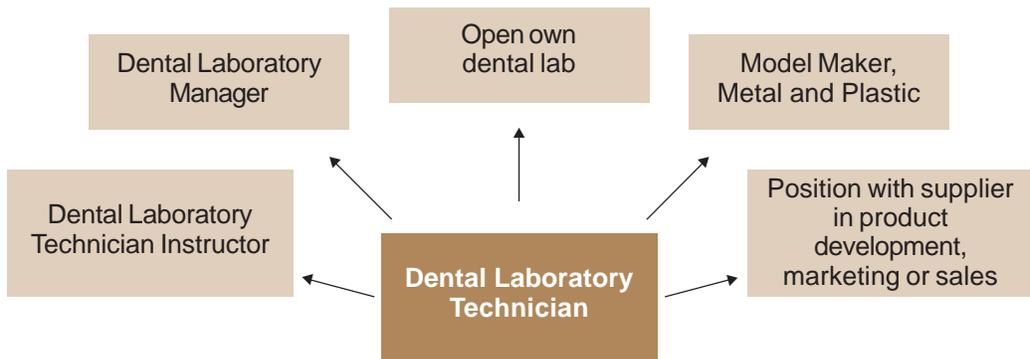
- ▲ Estimated number of Dental Laboratory Technicians in 2006: 5,900
- ▲ Estimated number of Dental Laboratory Technicians in 2016: 6,700
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 190

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ National Board for Certification in Dental Laboratory Technology (800) 950-1150 www.nbccert.org
- ▲ California Occupational Guides www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Dental Laboratory Technicians

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHERS also known as ultrasonographers, or ultrasound technologists, use special equipment to direct high frequency sound waves into areas of the patient's body. Sonographers operate the equipment, which collects reflected echoes and forms an image that may be videotaped, transmitted, or photographed for interpretation and diagnosis by a physician.

Sonographers begin by explaining the procedure to the patient and recording any medical history that may be relevant to the condition being viewed. Although techniques vary, Sonographers usually spread a special gel on the skin to aid the transmission of sound waves. They then select appropriate equipment settings and direct the patient to move into positions that will provide the best view. To perform the exam, Sonographers use a transducer, which transmits sound waves in a cone or rectangle-shaped beam.

Viewing the screen during the scan, Sonographers look for subtle visual cues that contrast healthy areas from unhealthy ones. They decide whether the images are satisfactory for diagnostic purposes and select which ones to show to the physician.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of training in hospitals, the Armed Forces, vocational-technical institutions or formal training at a college or university with either a two-year associate or four-year bachelor's degree.
- ▲ A State license is not required. However, registration with the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) is desirable.
- ▲ Completion of 30 hours of continuing education every three years to maintain current registration.
- ▲ Detail oriented.
- ▲ Good vision.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Diagnostic Medical Sonographers

Wages

- ▲ Diagnostic Medical Sonographers
Median hourly wage: \$33.75
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$69,937

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Job Outlook

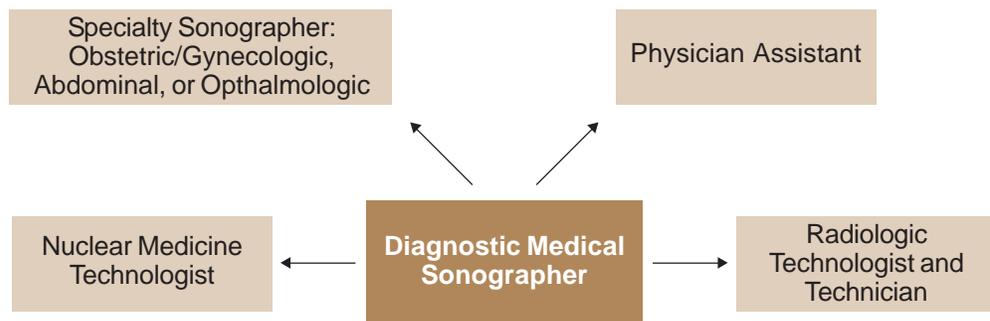
- ▲ Estimated number of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers in 2006: 3,300
- ▲ Estimated number of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers in 2016: 3,900
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 110

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography
(800) 229-9506
www.sdms.org
- ▲ American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers
(800) 541-9754
www.ardms.org
- ▲ *California Occupational Guides*
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Radiologic Technologists

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

DIETETIC TECHNICIANS are trained food and nutrition practitioners who work closely with Dietitians. Their main task is to assist the Dietitian in developing nutritional care plans, assessing dietary needs, and supervising food production in institutions such as prisons, daycare centers, and schools.

Under the supervision of dietitians, Dietetic Technicians may plan and produce meals based on established guidelines, evaluate dietary histories of clients to plan nutritional programs, teach principles of food and nutrition, or counsel individuals.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of an associate of arts degree.
- ▲ Practical experience.
- ▲ Scientific aptitude.
- ▲ Good organizational and administrative abilities.
- ▲ Interest in the care of clients.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Wages

- ▲ Dietetic Technicians
Median hourly wage: \$13.94
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$30,128

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Dietetic Technicians

Job Outlook

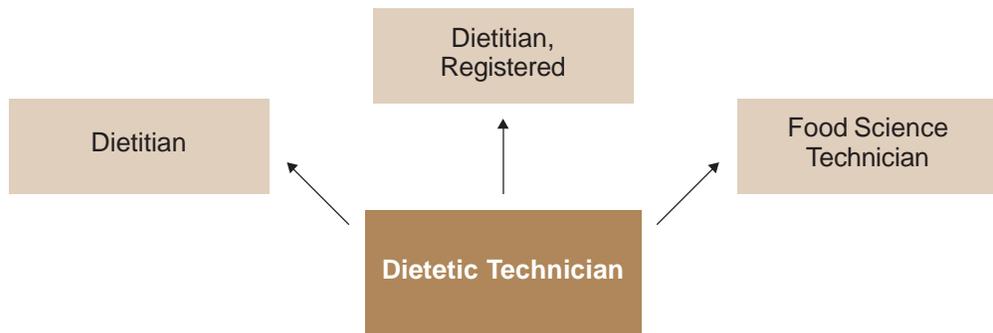
- ▲ Estimated number of Dietetic Technicians in 2006: 2,100
- ▲ Estimated number of Dietetic Technicians in 2016: 2,400
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 90

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ American Dietetic Association
(800) 877-1600
www.eatright.org
- ▲ California Dietetic Association
(310) 822-0177
www.dietitian.org
- ▲ California Occupational Guides
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Dietetic Technicians

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

DIETITIANS and NUTRITIONISTS work in a wide variety of settings such as schools, prisons, hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care facilities.

Dietitians and Nutritionists plan and supervise the preparation of meals for patients/clients and confer with physicians and other medical professionals about each patient's/client's nutritional needs and preferences. They may coordinate diet therapy and nutritional education programs, including teaching patients and their families about specific diets to be followed. They may also instruct groups or individuals about the nutritional care of conditions such as diabetes, obesity, and pregnancy. Some Dietitians may make nutritional presentations to medical professionals. Others may conduct nutritional research and write reports to communicate the research findings.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of a bachelor's degree in food service management, nutrition, or dietetics from a college accredited by the American Dietetic Association (ADA).
- ▲ Registered Dietitian certification is increasingly preferred by employers.
- ▲ Good judgment and decision making.
- ▲ Good written and oral communication skills.
- ▲ Interest in the care of clients.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Wages

- | | |
|---|----------|
| ▲ Dieticians and Nutritionists
Median hourly wage: | \$28.81 |
| ▲ Average annual wage: | \$59,518 |

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Dietitians and Nutritionists

Job Outlook

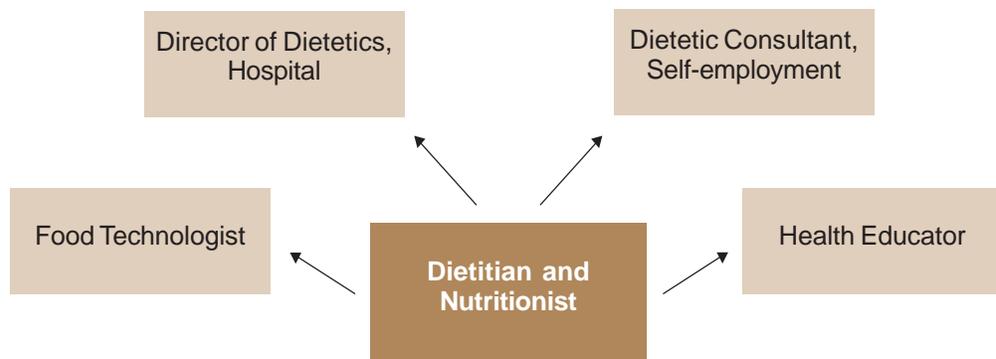
- ▲ Estimated number of Dietitians and Nutritionists in 2006: 5,800
- ▲ Estimated number of Dietitians and Nutritionists in 2016: 6,600
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 230

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ American Dietetic Association
(800) 877-1600
www.eatright.org
- ▲ California Dietetic Association
(310) 822-0177
www.dietitian.org
- ▲ *California Occupational Guides*
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Dietitians

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

Electrocardiograph (EKG) Technicians

ELECTROCARDIOGRAPH (EKG) TECHNICIANS operate and maintain EKG machines. An EKG machine detects and records the electronic impulses transmitted by the heart during and between heartbeats. When patients are suspected of having heart disease, a physician may refer them to an EKG Technician for testing.

EKG Technicians begin the testing procedure by relaxing the patient. The test is usually performed with the patient lying upon an examination table. Sometimes, a physician may order a stress EKG that requires the patient to walk on a treadmill while heart activity is recorded. In either case, the Technician attaches from 3 to 12 electrodes (also called leads) to the patient's chest, arms, and legs. The Technician then starts the machine that begins recording wave tracings on a roll of paper. Occasionally, the Technician relocates the electrodes, notes the replacement on the EKG tracing, and begins the recording again. After the test is completed, the Technician may mark sections of the report that the physician should review. Technicians with advanced training also perform Holter monitor and stress testing.

Requirements

- ▲ High School diploma and scholastic background in the physical sciences and biology.
- ▲ Most EKG technicians are trained on the job. Hospitals and clinics usually offer three to six month basic training programs. Completion of a one-year certificate-training program is preferred by some employers.
- ▲ Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training is helpful.
- ▲ Mechanical aptitude to properly set up the EKG machine.
- ▲ Ability to follow detailed instructions and remain calm during an emergency.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Electrocardiograph (EKG) Technicians

Wages

- ▲ Electrocardiograph (EKG) Technicians
Median hourly wage: \$26.78
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$56,175

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID. These wages represent the broad occupational group Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians that includes EKG Technicians.

Job Outlook

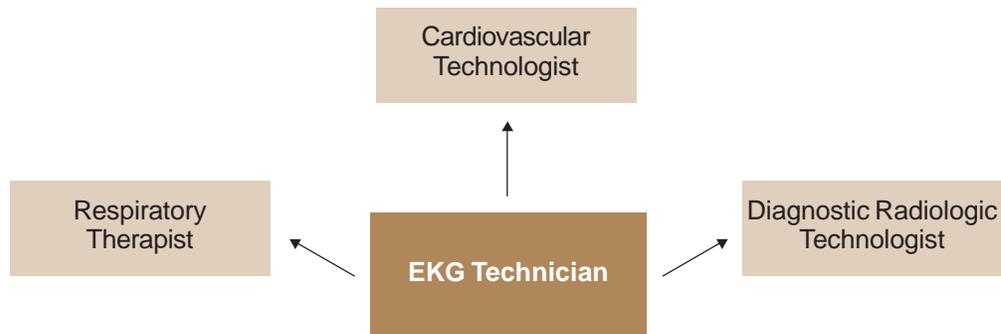
- ▲ Estimated number of EKG Technicians in 2006: 2,700
- ▲ Estimated number of EKG Technicians in 2016: 3,400
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 110

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ Alliance of Cardiovascular Professionals
(757) 497-1225
www.acp-online.org
- ▲ *California Occupational Guides*
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Electrocardiograph Technician

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

Electroencephalographic (EEG) Technologists

ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHIC (EEG) TECHNOLOGISTS record electrical activity arising from the brain, spinal cord, or motor nerve systems using a variety of techniques and instruments. The electroencephalograph test measures electrical impulses in the brain and helps doctors diagnose brain tumors, epilepsy, or strokes, and measures brain damage caused by injuries or disease.

EEG Technologists take medical histories of patients and prepare them for testing. Technologists record patient's behavior during the EEG testing. After testing, they send the results to the patient's physician. More advanced Electroneurodiagnostic Technologists record electrical potentials, calculate results, maintain equipment, and may work with specific treatments. They put patients at ease and comfort them during the recording procedure that can last from twenty minutes (for a single nerve conduction study) to eight hours (for an overnight sleep study).

Requirements

- ▲ High school diploma or equivalent.
- ▲ Completion of a one-year training program at a community college or vocational school.
- ▲ Additional training is required to work as an Electroneurodiagnostic Technologist conducting specialized tests.
- ▲ Some employers prefer to hire Technologists who are registered or certified by a professional organization.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Wages

- ▲ Electroencephalographic (EEG) Technologists
Median hourly wage: \$19.83
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$45,685

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID. These wages represent the broad occupational group Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other, that includes EEG Technologists.

Electroencephalographic (EEG) Technologists

Job Outlook

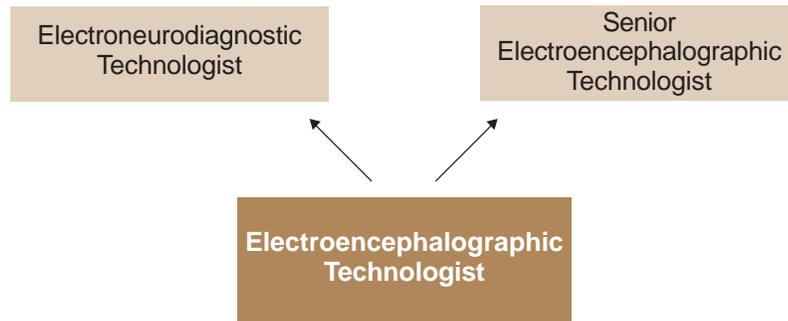
- ▲ Estimated number of EEG Technologists in 2006: 12,200
- ▲ Estimated number of EEG Technologists in 2016: 14,900
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 370

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID. These data represent the broad occupational group Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other, that includes EEG Technologists.

Sources of Information

- ▲ American Society of Electroneurodiagnostic Technologists, Inc.
(816) 931-1120
www.aset.org

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS (EMTs) and PARAMEDICS are skilled medical workers who respond by ambulance to medical emergencies for the injured and ill. They are sent to emergencies by specially trained dispatchers who maintain radio contact or patch them through to medical professionals for ongoing instructions. Following instructions, they examine victims to determine the nature and extent of injury or illness and administer first aid and emergency basic life support (BLS), such as giving oxygen and doing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). They continue the BLS treatment during transport to hospitals. They help the emergency room staff do pre-admittance treatment and obtain medical histories.

EMTs are trained on ambulance operations and procedures. They drive emergency vehicles with special communication and medical equipment, check their vehicles daily, and keep them in excellent condition and well stocked with medical supplies.

Advancement to either an EMT-II or EMT-Paramedic requires additional classroom and clinical training hours. EMT-IIs perform more complex procedures such as inserting intravenous catheters, and administering a limited number of drugs. Paramedics are the most highly trained workers of the EMT group. They provide all phases of emergency, pre-hospital care, including emergency advanced life support (ALS) treatment at the scene and during the ambulance ride.

Requirements

- ▲ Must be at least 18 years old.
- ▲ Successful completion of approved EMT training to obtain EMT State certification.
- ▲ Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic positions require a State license.
- ▲ Continuing education every two years to maintain certification or State license.
- ▲ Valid California driver's license.
- ▲ Desire to help others.
- ▲ Good judgment.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics

Wages

- ▲ EMTs and Paramedics
Median hourly wage: \$13.13
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$32,354

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Job Outlook

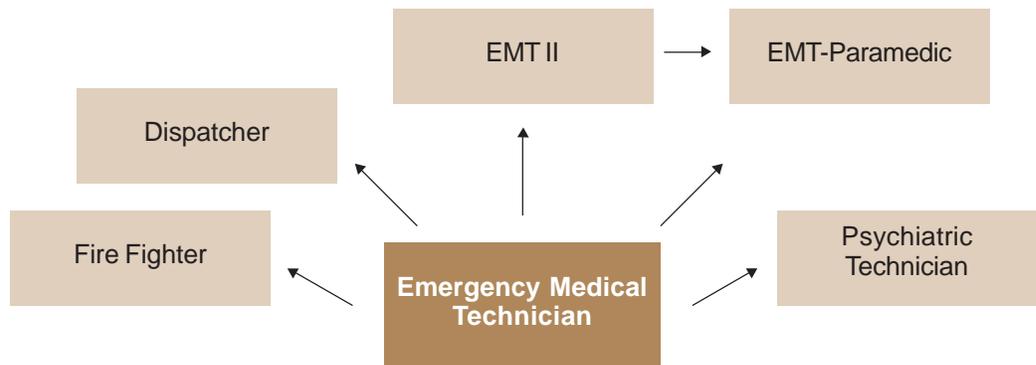
- ▲ Estimated number of EMTs and Paramedics in 2006: 12,100
- ▲ Estimated number of EMTs and Paramedics in 2016: 14,800
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 410

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ Emergency Medical Services Authority
(916) 322-4336
www.emsa.ca.gov
- ▲ California Occupational Guides
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Paramedics

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

HOME HEALTH AIDES, also known as home health care workers and home attendants, are employed by private and public health care agencies to provide home care for the aged or disabled. Home Health Aides assist patients with bathing, dressing, grooming, and moving about. They also prepare meals, clean rooms, do laundry and change bed linens. Workers provide emotional support and give instructions on self-care. They may also care for children living in the home.

Requirements

- ▲ Home Health Aide certificate issued by the State Department of Health Service.
- ▲ Desire to help others.
- ▲ Good judgment.
- ▲ Emotional stability.
- ▲ Ability to work with others in a personal setting.
- ▲ Valid California Driver's License.
- ▲ Access to an automobile.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance is required.

Wages

- ▲ Home Health Aides
Median hourly wage: \$9.80
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$22,164

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Home Health Aides

Job Outlook

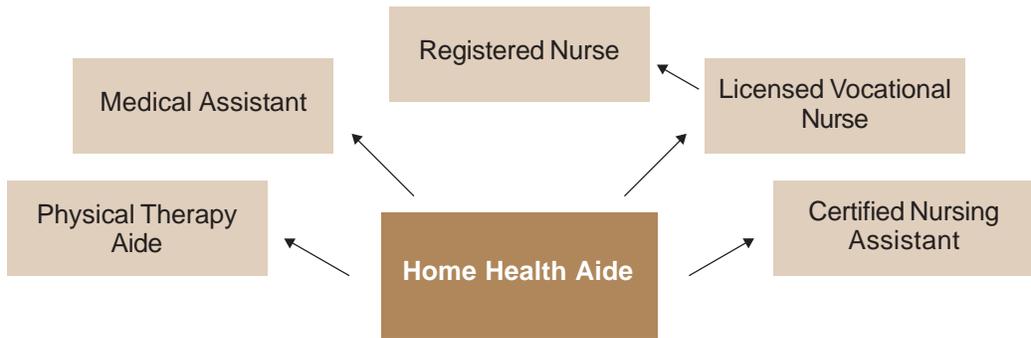
- ▲ Estimated number of Home Health Aides in 2006: 48,000
- ▲ Estimated number of Home Health Aides in 2016: 66,700
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 2,300

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ California Department of Public Health Licensing and Certification (800) 236-9747 www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/LnCContact.aspx
- ▲ California Occupational Guides www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides Keyword Search -- Home Health Aides

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses

LICENSED PRACTICAL and VOCATIONAL NURSES (LPNs, LVNs) are important members of a health team. They care for patients who are physically or mentally ill, including medical and surgical patients, convalescents, persons with disabilities, the frail elderly, and others. Under the supervision of doctors and registered nurses, they do nursing that requires technical knowledge.

Licensed Vocational Nurses take temperatures, pulse and blood pressure, keep medical charts, change dressings, and get patients ready for examination. They watch for changes in patients' conditions, know what these changes could mean, and take necessary action. They give prescribed medicine and injections. They may draw blood for testing and give intravenous fluids. These nurses assist doctors in diagnosis and therapy, and help the health team plan, implement, and evaluate nursing care. They may also supervise nurse aides. After specialized training, LVNs may work in psychiatry, surgery, intensive care, or coronary care.

Licensed Vocational Nurses work in hospitals, clinics, and in private offices. Some of them visit in-home patients.

Requirements

- ▲ Must be at least 17 years old.
- ▲ Sympathetic attitude toward the care of clients.
- ▲ Completion of a state-approved vocational nursing program.
- ▲ Receive a passing grade on the State Board of Vocational Nursing examination to qualify for a State license.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance is required.

Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses

Wages

- ▲ Licensed Vocational Nurses
Median hourly wage: \$22.59
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$48,187

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Job Outlook

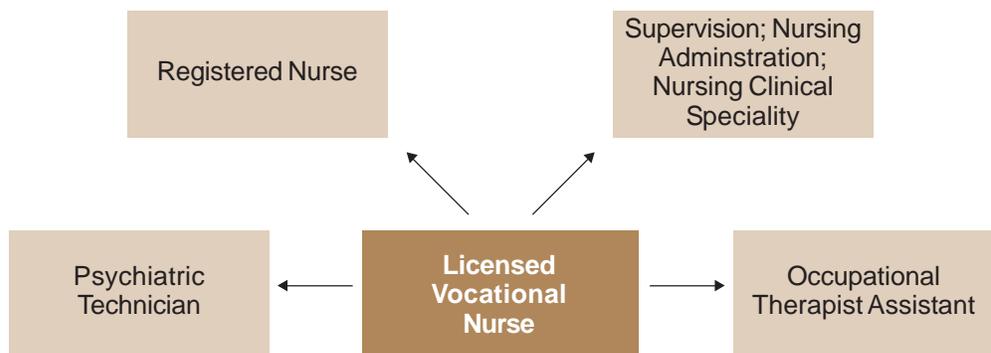
- ▲ Estimated number of LVNs in 2006: 57,700
- ▲ Estimated number of LVNs in 2016: 67,800
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 2,580

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ Bureau of Vocational Nurses and Psychiatric Technicians
(916) 263-7800
www.bvnpt.ca.gov
- ▲ California Occupational Guides
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Licensed Vocational Nurses

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians

MEDICAL and CLINICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIANS perform routine tests in a medical laboratory for use in treatment and diagnosis of disease. They prepare vaccines and serums for prevention of disease. They also prepare tissue samples for pathologists and perform such laboratory tests as urinalysis and blood counts. Technicians use microscopes, chemicals, complex precision instruments, and computers to do their work.

Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians work in health care laboratories under the general supervision of a medical and clinical laboratory technologist.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of an associate degree from a community college, or a certificate from a hospital, vocational or technical school, or from one of the U.S. Armed Forces.
- ▲ Detail oriented and accurate.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Wages

- ▲ Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians
Median hourly wage: \$17.81
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$40,270

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians

Job Outlook

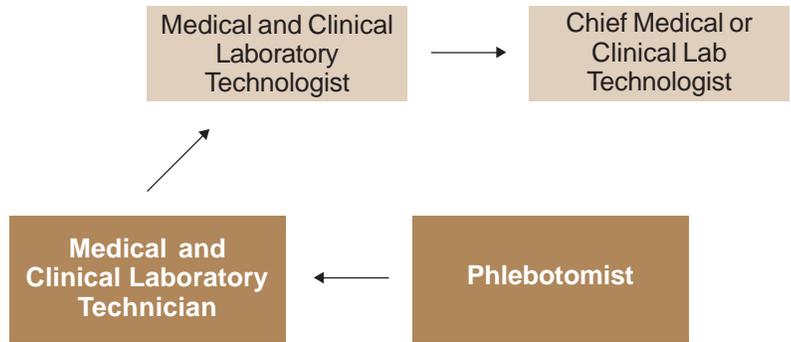
- ▲ Estimated number of Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians in 2006: 10,500
- ▲ Estimated number of Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians in 2016: 12,300
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 340

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences
(773) 714-8880
www.naacls.org
- ▲ Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools
(703) 917-9503
www.abhes.org

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists

MEDICAL and CLINICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS, also known as clinical laboratory scientists, examine and analyze body fluids, tissues, and cells. They look for bacteria, parasites, or other microorganisms; analyze the chemical content of fluids; and match blood for transfusions. They also prepare specimens for examination, count cells, and look for abnormal cells. Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists use automated equipment and instruments that perform a number of tests simultaneously, as well as microscopes, cell counters, and other sophisticated laboratory equipment. They analyze test results and relay them to physicians.

When conducting tests, Technologists follow well-defined procedures. They supervise lab assistants who use various computerized instruments. However, Technologists must set up and adjust the automated equipment and check its performance.

Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists may specialize as cytotechnologists or histotechnologists. Cytotechnologists prepare slides of body cells and microscopically examine the cells for signs that may reveal the beginning of a cancerous growth. Histotechnologists cut, stain, and prepare tissue slides for microscopic examination for use in research or diagnosis. They also identify tissue parts using electron microscopy.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of a bachelor's degree in medical technology or in one of the life sciences.
- ▲ One year of clinical laboratory training.
- ▲ California State license, including continuing education requirements.
- ▲ Analytical and detail oriented.
- ▲ Strong aptitude for science.
- ▲ Ability to use automated equipment and instruments to perform tests.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists

Wages

- ▲ Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists
Median hourly wage: \$34.57
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$70,101

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Job Outlook

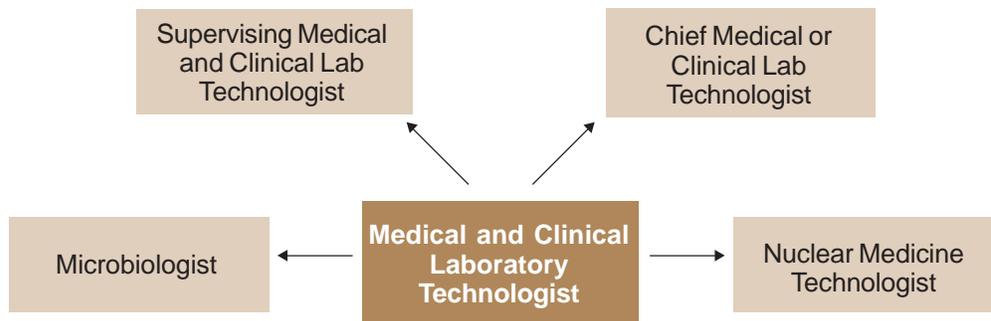
- ▲ Estimated number of Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists in 2006: 12,300
- ▲ Estimated number of Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists in 2016: 14,300
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 390

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ California Department of Public Health
Laboratory Field Services
(510) 620-3800
www.cdph.ca.gov/Pages/default.aspx
- ▲ California Association for Medical Laboratory Technology
(510) 792-4441
www.camlt.org
- ▲ *California Occupational Guides*
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

MEDICAL and HEALTH SERVICES MANAGERS plan, direct, coordinate, and supervise the delivery of healthcare. This occupation includes specialists and generalists. Specialists are in charge of specific clinical departments or services, while generalists manage or help to manage an entire facility or system.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of a master's degree in health services administration.
- ▲ Completion of a bachelor's degree combined with extensive work experience in related medical or health occupations may be accepted by some employers instead of a master's degree.
- ▲ Knowledge of management principles and practices.
- ▲ Tact, diplomacy, and flexibility.
- ▲ Strong interpersonal skills.

Wages

- ▲ Medical and Health Services Managers
Median hourly wage: \$44.98
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$101,082

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Job Outlook

- ▲ Estimated number of Medical and Health Services Managers in 2006: 21,500
- ▲ Estimated number of Medical and Health Services Managers in 2016: 25,300
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 780

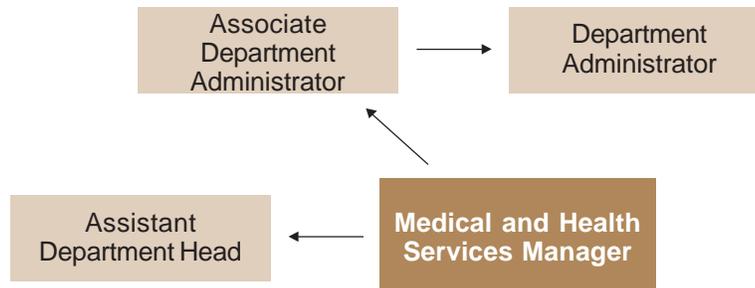
Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Medical and Health Services Managers

Sources of Information

- ▲ American College of Health Care Administrators
(888) 882-2422
www.achca.org
- ▲ Association of University Programs in Health Administration
(202) 638-1448
www.aupha.org
- ▲ *California Occupational Guides*
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Medical and Health Services Administrators

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health care occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

MEDICAL APPLIANCE TECHNICIANS construct, fit, maintain, or repair medical supportive devices, such as braces, artificial limbs, joints, arch supports, and other surgical and medical appliances.

Medical Appliance Technicians also perform the following duties:

- ▲ Carve, cut, grind, and weld wood, plastic or metal to make and repair medical devices, using hand and power tools.
- ▲ Lay out and mark dimensions of parts, using templates and precision measuring instruments.
- ▲ Read specifications to determine type of product or device to be fabricated and select required materials and tools.
- ▲ Fit appliance onto patient and adjust appliance as necessary.
- ▲ Instruct patient in use of prosthetic or orthotic device.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of an orthotics/prosthetics instructional program that prepares individuals to make and fit orthoses and prostheses. Training is under the supervision of a physician and in consultation with therapists.
- ▲ Instruction in design, crafting and production techniques, properties of materials, anatomy and physiology, and patient counseling.
- ▲ Strong reading skills. Ability to read and understand technical specifications.
- ▲ Good mathematical ability.
- ▲ Good vision and fine motor skills.
- ▲ Mechanical aptitude.
- ▲ Detail oriented.
- ▲ Desire to help others.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Medical Appliance Technicians

Wages

- ▲ Medical Appliance Technicians
Median hourly wage: \$16.36
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$37,643

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Job Outlook

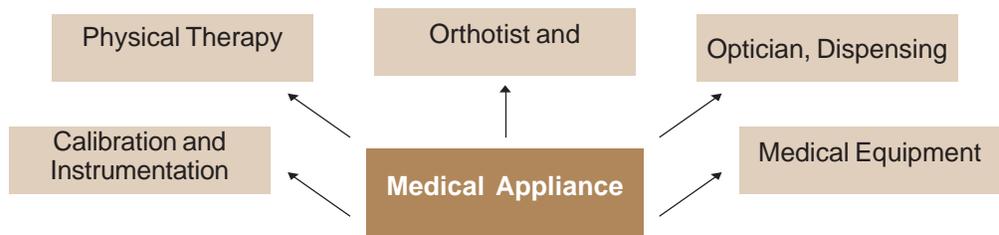
- ▲ Estimated number of Medical Appliance Technicians in 2006: 1,300
- ▲ Estimated number of Medical Appliance Technicians in 2016: 1,600
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 60

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association
(571) 431-0876
www.aopanet.org
- ▲ American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics & Pedorthics
(703) 836-7114
www.abcop.org

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

MEDICAL ASSISTANTS work in offices of doctors, dentists, optometrists, and all types of medical clinics and facilities. Medical Assistants perform a variety of tasks such as assisting physicians in treating patients, taking patient medical histories, preparing patients for examinations, arranging and caring for instruments and equipment in examination rooms. They also complete and maintain patient records, schedule appointments, and arrange for hospital admissions.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of medical assistant training.
- ▲ High school graduate or equivalent.
- ▲ Good health.
- ▲ Business-like appearance and good grooming.
- ▲ Good verbal skills.
- ▲ Pleasant and courteous personality.
- ▲ Certification by American Association of Medical Assistants is desirable.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance is required for certification.

Wages

- | | |
|---|----------|
| ▲ Medical Assistants
Median hourly wage: | \$14.34 |
| ▲ Average annual wage: | \$31,960 |

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Medical Assistants

Job Outlook

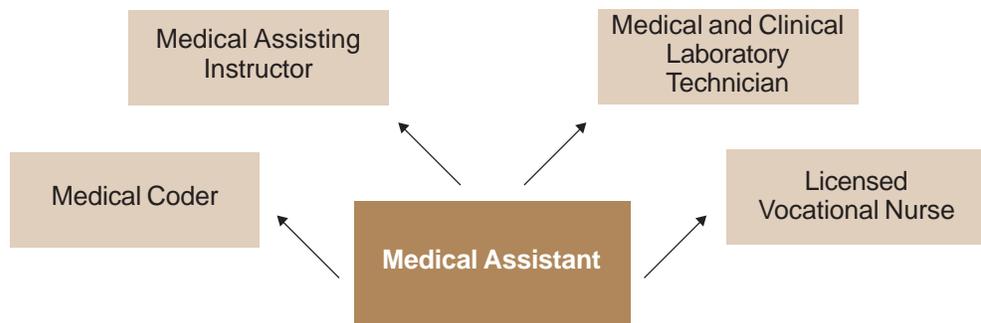
- ▲ Estimated number of Medical Assistants in 2006: 59,500
- ▲ Estimated number of Medical Assistants in 2016: 77,800
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 2,570

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ American Association of Medical Assistants
(312) 899-1500
www.aama-ntl.org
- ▲ California Occupational Guides
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Medical Assistants

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

MEDICAL CODERS, also called health information coders, begin by gathering patient health information from medical records. Medical Coders consult classification manuals and rely on their own knowledge of disease processes to assign a special code to each diagnosis and procedure. The codes are entered into computers. Correct coding is very important because this information is used to bill private health insurance providers and Medicare.

Medical Coders also use computer programs to gather and analyze data to help improve patient care, control costs, or for use in research studies. Most coders are employed by hospitals, doctor's offices, nursing homes, and insurance companies.

Requirements

- ▲ High school diploma or equivalent.
- ▲ Completion of a course in medial records coding is usually required.
- ▲ Possess knowledge of medical coding systems, medical terminology, diseases, and medications.
- ▲ Some hospitals require experience in medical coding as well as graduation from a course in medical records.
- ▲ Some employers prefer to hire certified Medical Coders.

Wages

Medical Coders entry-level through experienced annual salary range:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--|---------------|
| ▲ Southern California | | |
| Non-certified Coders: | | \$45–\$66,000 |
| Certified Coders: | | \$49–\$70,000 |
| ▲ Northern California | | |
| Non-certified Coders: | | \$40–\$55,000 |
| Certified Coders: | | \$47–\$63,000 |

Source: Hospital Association of Southern California, 2008.

Medical Coders

Job Outlook

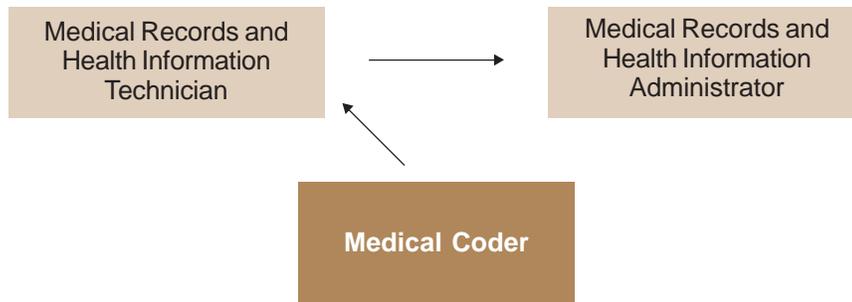
- ▲ Estimated number of Medical Coders in 2006: 13,700
- ▲ Estimated number of Medical Coders in 2016: 16,300
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 630

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID. These figures represent the broad occupational group Medical Records and Health Information Technicians that includes Medical Coders.

Sources of Information

- ▲ American Health Information Management Association
(312) 233-1100
www.ahima.org
- ▲ California Health Information Association
(559) 251-5038
www.californiahia.org
- ▲ California Occupational Guides
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Medical Record

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

Medical Equipment Preparers (Central Supply Technicians)

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT PREPARERS, also known as central supply technicians, use cleansing and sterilizing solutions to disinfect and sterilize laboratory or healthcare equipment, such as respirators, hospital beds, wheelchairs, and oxygen and dialysis equipment.

Medical Equipment Preparers use hand tools to install and set up equipment. They observe gauges and equipment operation to detect malfunctions to assure that equipment is operating properly. They also connect medical equipment to a water source to flush waste from the equipment.

Duties include delivering equipment to a specified hospital location or to a patient's private residence and maintaining inventory and equipment usage records.

Requirements

- ▲ High school diploma or equivalent.
- ▲ Knowledge of sterilization procedures.
- ▲ Mechanical aptitude.
- ▲ Detail oriented.
- ▲ Good manual dexterity.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Wages

- ▲ Medical Equipment Preparers
Median hourly wage: \$23.59
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$53,431

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Medical Equipment Preparers (Central Supply Technicians)

Job Outlook

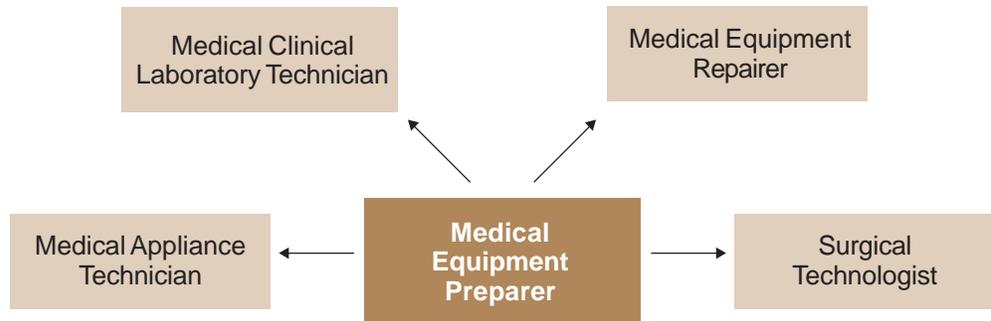
- ▲ Estimated number of Medical Equipment Preparers in 2006: 4,100
- ▲ Estimated number of Medical Equipment Preparers in 2016: 4,700
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 110

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ Radiological Society of North America (RSNA)
(800) 381-6660
www.rsna.org

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

The work of MEDICAL EQUIPMENT REPAIRERS differs significantly from other precision instrument and equipment repair work. Although Medical Equipment Repairers work on fine mechanical systems, the larger scale of their tasks requires less precision. The machines that they repair include electric wheelchairs, mechanical lifts, hospital beds, and customized vehicles.

Medical Equipment Repairers use various tools, including ammeters, voltmeters, and other measuring devices to diagnose problems. They use hand tools and machining equipment, such as small lathes and other metalworking equipment, to make repairs.

Requirements

- ▲ High school diploma or equivalent.
- ▲ On the job training with an experienced worker for about three to six months.
- ▲ Ability to read and understand technical manuals.
- ▲ Good vision and fine motor skills.
- ▲ Mechanical aptitude.
- ▲ Detail oriented.
- ▲ Ability to work independently with little supervision.

Wages

- ▲ Medical Equipment Repairers
Median hourly wage: \$23.59
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$53,431

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Medical Equipment Repairers

Job Outlook

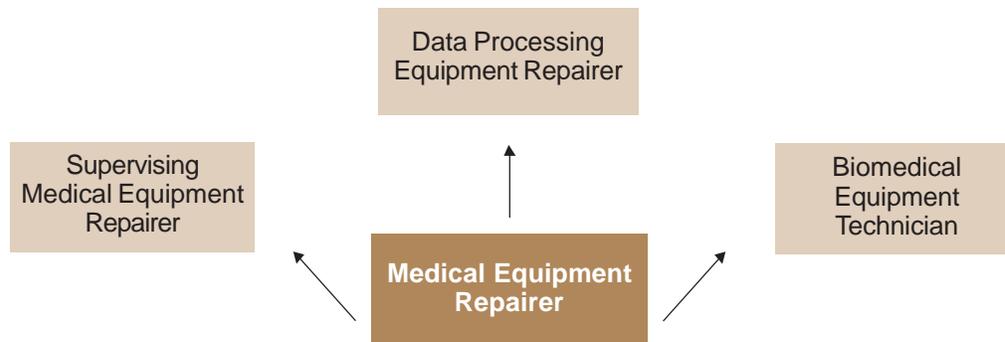
- ▲ Estimated number of Medical Equipment Repairers in 2006: 4,100
- ▲ Estimated number of Medical Equipment Repairers in 2016: 5,100
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 220

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ Radiological Society of North America (RSNA)
(800) 381-6660
www.rsna.org

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

Medical Records and Health Information Technicians

MEDICAL RECORDS and HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNICIANS ensure the quality of medical records by verifying their completeness, accuracy, and proper entry into computer systems. They may also use computer applications to assemble and analyze patient data for the purpose of improving patient care or controlling costs. They may specialize in coding diagnoses and procedures in patient records for reimbursement and research. They may serve as cancer registrars who gather and maintain data on cancer patients.

Requirements

- ▲ High school diploma or equivalent.
- ▲ Completion of an associate degree from a school accredited by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA). (California has nine of these schools located throughout the State.)
- ▲ Pass a certification test given by AHIMA to become a Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT).
- ▲ Detail oriented and accurate.

Wages

- ▲ Medical Records and Health Information Technicians
Median hourly wage: \$15.98
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$36,056

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Job Outlook

- ▲ Estimated number of Medical Records and Health Information Technicians in 2006: 13,700
- ▲ Estimated number of Medical Records and Health Information Technicians in 2016: 16,300
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 630

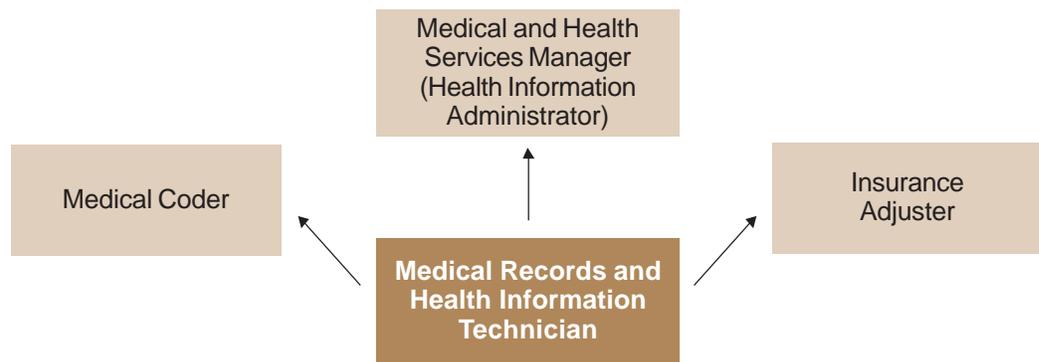
Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Medical Records and Health Information Technicians

Sources of Information

- ▲ American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)
(312) 233-1100
www.ahima.org
- ▲ California Health Information Association
(559) 251-5038
www.californiahia.org
- ▲ *California Occupational Guides*
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Medical Record

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

MEDICAL SECRETARIES are responsible for the administrative and clerical work in medical offices, hospitals, other medical facilities, or private physician offices. They keep records, answer phone calls, order supplies, handle correspondence, bill patients, complete insurance forms, and transcribe dictation. They may keep financial records and handle credits, collections, and other bookkeeping duties. They greet patients, schedule appointments, obtain medical histories, arrange hospital admissions, and schedule surgeries.

Requirements

- ▲ High school diploma or equivalent.
- ▲ Type between 60 and 90 words per minute.
- ▲ Know medical terms and office procedures.
- ▲ Computer literacy and the ability to use medical software programs.
- ▲ Good written and verbal communication skills and basic math skills.
- ▲ Ability to complete and explain medical insurance forms.
- ▲ Good judgment and discretion in dealing with confidential medical records.
- ▲ Confidence in dealing with the public, both in person and on the telephone.

Wages

- ▲ Medical Secretaries
Median hourly wage: \$14.38
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$31,411

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Medical Secretaries

Job Outlook

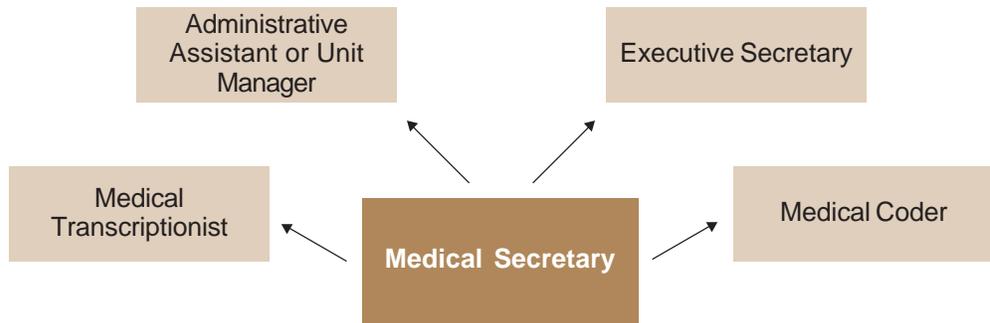
- ▲ Estimated number of Medical Secretaries in 2006: 59,000
- ▲ Estimated number of Medical Secretaries in 2016: 69,400
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 1,980

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ International Association of Administrative Professionals
(816) 891-6600
www.iaap-hq.org
- ▲ California Occupational Guides
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Medical Secretaries

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONISTS (MTs) are medical language specialists who interpret and transcribe dictation by physicians and other healthcare professionals. They transcribe dictated information about patient assessment, workup, therapeutic procedures, clinical course, diagnosis, prognosis, and other medical processes to document patient care and facilitate delivery of healthcare services. They edit dictated material for grammar and clarity.

Medical Transcriptionists work in hospitals, clinics, physician offices, laboratories, medical libraries, government medical facilities, or at home. Many MTs telecommute from home-based offices as employees or subcontractors for hospitals and transcription services or as self-employed independent contractors.

Requirements

- ▲ High school diploma or equivalent.
- ▲ Completion of a postsecondary Medical Transcriptionist training program or a two-year associate degree or one-year certificate program.
- ▲ Strong English grammar and punctuation skills.
- ▲ Familiar with personal computers and word processing software.
- ▲ Ability to work independently.

Graduates of a Medical Transcriptionist training program are eligible to take the Certified Medical Transcriptionist (CMT) exam given by the Medical Transcription Certification Program at the American Association for Medical Transcriptionists (AAMT).

Wages

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| ▲ Medical Transcriptionists | |
| Median hourly wage: | \$19.44 |
| ▲ Average annual wage: | \$40,824 |

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Medical Transcriptionists

Job Outlook

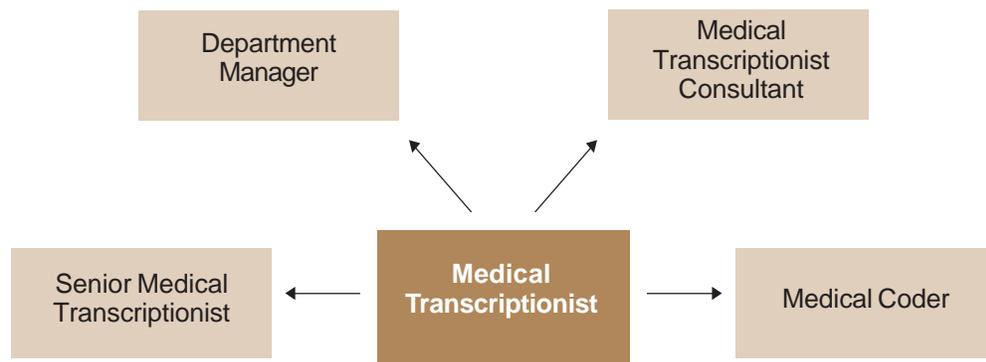
- ▲ Estimated number of Medical Transcriptionists in 2006: 7,500
- ▲ Estimated number of Medical Transcriptionists in 2016: 8,300
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 170

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity (AHDI)
(800) 982-2182
www.ahdionline.org
- ▲ California Occupational Guides
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword search -- Medical Transcriptionists

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

MUSIC THERAPISTS plan and direct treatment programs using musical activities to help rehabilitate patients with physical or emotional disabilities, or mental illness. Therapists analyze the patient, consider the patients' musical interests, and set treatment objectives.

As part of a treatment program, therapists may instruct an individual or large group how to play a musical instrument. Music Therapists also may encourage patients to sing, write songs, or listen to music to promote positive changes in physical or emotional health.

Therapists regularly evaluate the patient's progress and effectiveness of the treatment plan. They work closely with the entire health care team, physicians, nurses, and psychologists when planning and modifying the patient's treatment program.

Music Therapists typically work in State psychiatric hospitals, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and correctional facilities.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of a bachelor's or a master's degree in music therapy.
- ▲ 1200 hours of clinical training that includes a supervised internship.
- ▲ Board certification by the Certification Board for Music Therapists.
- ▲ Board certification renewal every five years.
- ▲ Strong verbal and written communication skills.
- ▲ Ability to identify things that must be changed to achieve a goal.
- ▲ Emotional stability.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Wages

- ▲ Music Therapists
Median hourly wage: \$22.55
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$47,787

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID. These wages represent the occupational group Recreational Therapists that includes Music Therapists.

Music Therapists

Job Outlook

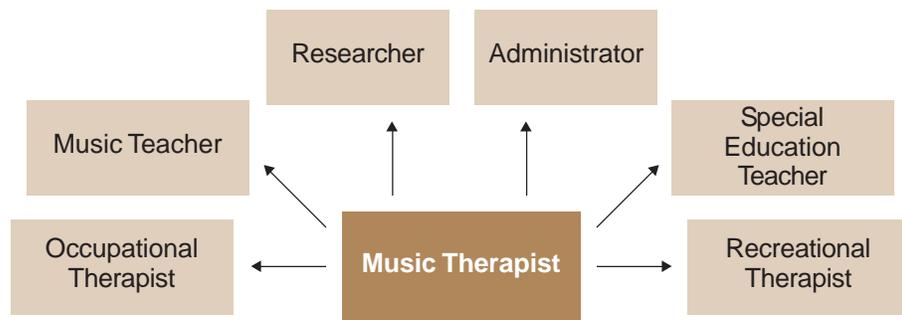
- ▲ Estimated number of Music Therapists in 2006: 1,500
- ▲ Estimated number of Music Therapists in 2016: 1,600
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 30

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID. These figures represent the occupational group Recreational Therapists that includes Music Therapists.

Sources of Information

- ▲ American Music Therapy Association
(301) 589-3300
www.musictherapy.org
- ▲ The Certification Board for Music Therapists
(800) 765-2268
www.cbmt.org
- ▲ California Occupational Guides
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Therapists

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

Under direction of a physician, NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGISTS prepare, administer, and measure radioactive isotopes in therapeutic, diagnostic, and tracer studies using a variety of radioisotope equipment. They prepare stock solutions of radioactive materials and administer it by mouth, injection, or other means to patients. They take patient's medical history and explain test procedures. They keep records of treatments and disposal of radionuclides usage and disposal.

Most Nuclear Medicine Technologists work in hospitals, but are also employed by physicians' offices and clinics.

Requirements

- ▲ Background course work in physical and biological sciences.
- ▲ Completion of two to four years of education or training in certificate or degree programs accredited by the Joint Review committee on Education Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology.
- ▲ Adherence to strict safety guidelines.
- ▲ Certification or registration preferred.
- ▲ Physical stamina to lift and turn patients.
- ▲ Ability to work as part of a team.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Wages

- ▲ Nuclear Medicine Technologists
Median hourly wage: \$37.06
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$79,812

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Nuclear Medicine Technologists

Job Outlook

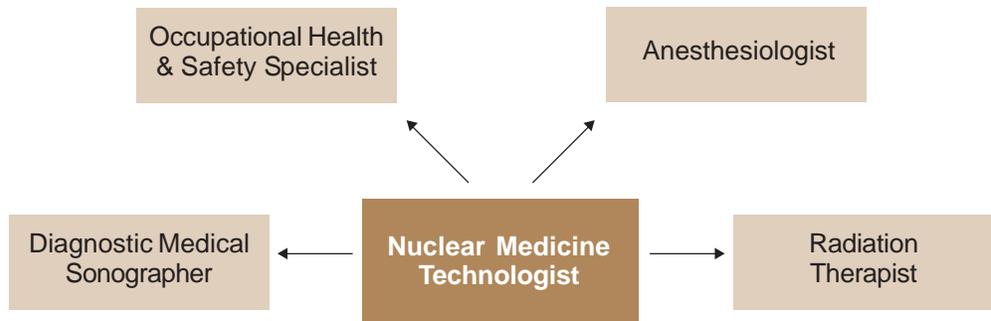
- ▲ Estimated number of Nuclear Medicine Technologists in 2006: 1,600
- ▲ Estimated number of Nuclear Medicine Technologists in 2016: 1,900
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 50

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ Society of Nuclear Medicine
(703) 708-9000
www.snm.org
- ▲ Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board
(404) 315-1739
www.nmtcb.org
- ▲ American Registry of Radiologic Technologists
(651) 687-0048
www.arrt.org

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

NURSING AIDES, ORDERLIES, and ATTENDANTS provide general care to patients in hospitals, nursing homes, residential care facilities and other medical health settings under the supervision of nursing and medical staff. Nursing Aides may also be called nurse assistants, certified nursing assistants, or hospital attendants. Routine tasks include taking and recording patient's temperature, pulse, respiration rate, and blood pressure, measuring food and liquid intake and output; and reporting changes to the medical staff. They also answer patient calls for assistance, take messages, serve meals, make beds, and assist patients in bathing, dressing, and personal hygiene.

Requirements

- ▲ Must be at least 16 years old.
- ▲ Must be healthy.
- ▲ Ability to lift patients.
- ▲ Good verbal ability.
- ▲ Desire to help others.
- ▲ Ability to work well with others.
- ▲ Successful completion of a state-approved Nursing Assistant Program.
- ▲ Pass a state nursing assistant certification and competency exam.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance is required.

Wages

- ▲ Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants
Median hourly wage: \$12.27
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$27,124

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants

Job Outlook

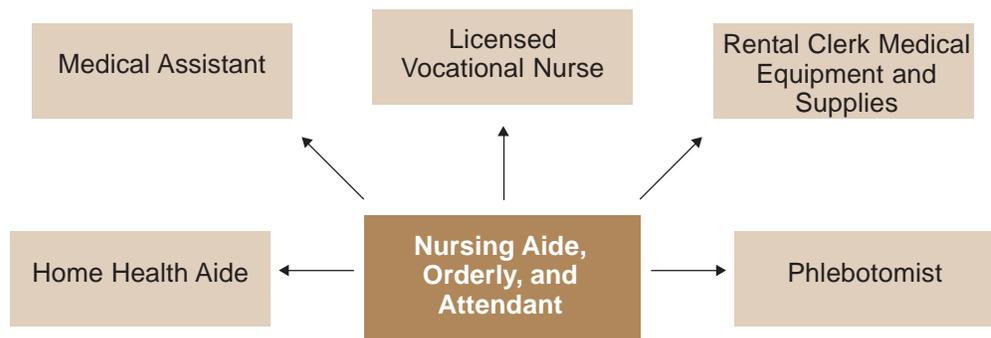
- ▲ Estimated number of Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants in 2006: 100,400
- ▲ Estimated number of Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants in 2016: 122,200
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 3,080

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ California Department of Public Health
Licensing and Certification
(800) 236-9747
www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/occupations/Pages/HealthCareProfessionals.aspx
- ▲ California Occupational Guides
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Nursing Aides

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST AIDES work under the supervision of occupational therapists or occupational therapist assistants to provide rehabilitative services to persons with mental, physical, emotional, or developmental impairments. The ultimate goal is to improve clients' quality of life by helping them compensate for limitations.

The Occupational Therapist Aides are entry-level positions that do not require a state license. Occupational Therapist Aides perform a less complex and narrower range of tasks than occupational therapist assistants. The typical tasks for an Aide include preparing materials and assembling equipment used during treatment and scheduling appointments, answering the telephone, restocking or ordering depleted supplies, and filling out insurance forms or other paperwork.

Requirements

- ▲ High school diploma or equivalent.
- ▲ Strong written and oral communication skills.
- ▲ Strong interpersonal skills.
- ▲ Desire to help others.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Wages

- ▲ Occupational Therapist Aides
Median hourly wage: \$13.53
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$31,263

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Occupational Therapist Aides

Job Outlook

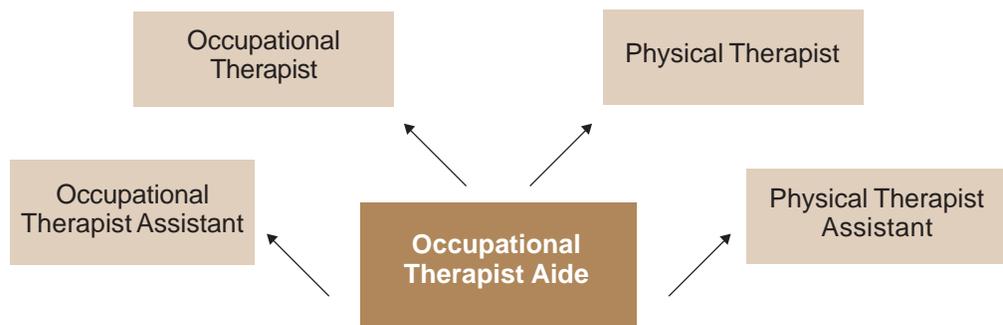
- ▲ Estimated employment of Occupational Therapist Aides in 2006: 1,200
- ▲ Estimated employment of Occupational Therapist Aides in 2016: 1,400
- ▲ Estimate annual job openings: 40

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ California Board of Occupational Therapy
(916) 322-3394
www.bot.ca.gov
- ▲ California Occupational Guides
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Occupational Therapy Aide

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS (OTAs) support occupational therapists by providing assistance during client examinations, treatment administration, and monitoring. They maintain client health records and related information, and also perform a wide range of practice-related duties.

Occupational Therapist Assistants help clients with rehabilitative activities as outlined in a treatment plan. The work includes activities such as teaching an ailing elderly person the proper method of moving from a bed into a wheelchair or teaching a client with arthritis how to perform daily living activities more effectively. Occupational Therapist Assistants monitor a client's treatment activities to make sure they are performed correctly and provide encouragement to clients. They also record their client's progress and track time for billing purposes.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of an associate's degree or certificate from a college or technical school accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education.
- ▲ Pass examination offered by the National Board of Occupational Therapists.
- ▲ Certification by the California Board of Occupational Therapy.
- ▲ Ability to effectively communicate with others verbally and in writing and to follow instructions.
- ▲ Ability to listen to or observe the reactions of others and respond appropriately.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance is required.

Wages

- ▲ Occupational Therapist Assistants
Median hourly wage: \$26.30
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$54,667

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Occupational Therapist Assistants

Job Outlook

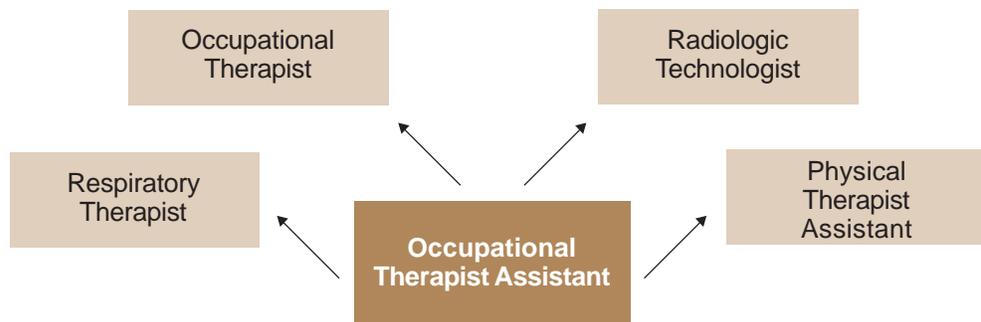
- ▲ Estimated number of Occupational Therapist Assistants in 2006: 1,300
- ▲ Estimated number of Occupational Therapist Assistants in 2016: 1,800
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 70

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ California Board of Occupational Therapy
(916) 322-3394
www.bot.ca.gov
- ▲ National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc.
(301) 990-7979
www.nbcot.org
- ▲ *California Occupational Guides*
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Occupational Therapy Assistants

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS assist people with mental, developmental, physical disabilities, or temporary injuries to help them develop or recover daily living, work, and social skills. Occupational Therapists frequently work with other health care professionals to develop a rehabilitation plan that meets the patient's physical and psychological needs.

Therapists may introduce clients to a variety of activities to restore function, such as physical coordination exercises, paper and pencil exercises or computer programs. They also instruct those with permanent disabilities in the use of adaptive equipment such as wheelchairs and aids for eating and dressing.

Therapist duties include writing evaluations and progress reports to track the client's progress and to update the treating physician. Occupational Therapists may also supervise the work activities of occupational therapist assistants, or aides who assist clients with the less complex tasks of the treatment plan. The goal of the Occupational Therapist is to help individuals lead independent, productive, and satisfying lives.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of a bachelor's degree in Occupational Therapy at an institution accredited by the American Occupational Therapy Association's Accreditation Council.
- ▲ Completion of a master's degree.
- ▲ Completion of a minimum of 960 hours of supervised fieldwork.
- ▲ Pass examination offered by the National Board of Occupational Therapists.
- ▲ Licensed by the California Board of Occupational Therapy.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance is required.

Wages

- ▲ Occupational Therapists
Median hourly wage: \$37.97
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$79,423

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Occupational Therapists

Job Outlook

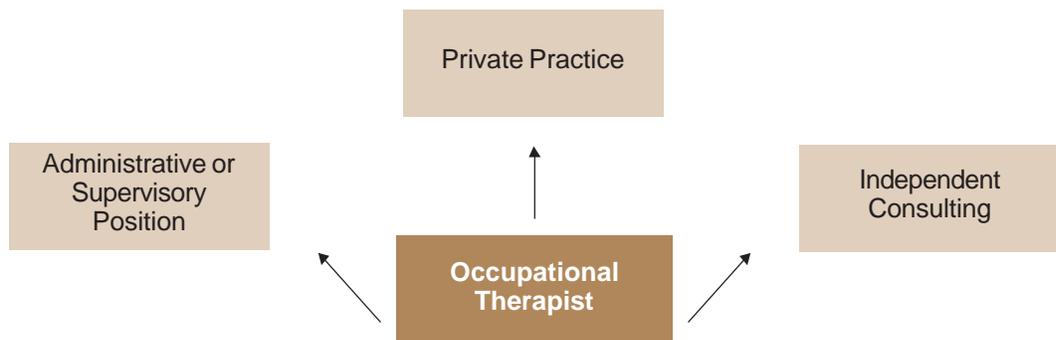
- ▲ Estimated number of Occupational Therapists in 2006: 7,900
- ▲ Estimated number of Occupational Therapists in 2016: 10,100
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 340

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.
(301) 652-2682
www.aota.org
- ▲ Occupational Therapy Association of California
(916) 567-7000
www.otaonline.org
- ▲ California Board of Occupational Therapy
(916) 322-3394
www.bot.ca.gov
- ▲ National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc.
(301) 990-7979
www.nbcot.org
- ▲ *California Occupational Guides*
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Occupational Therapists

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

DISPENSING OPTICIANS design, measure, fit, and adapt lenses and frames for the client according to written optical prescription or specification. They assist the client with selecting frames. Opticians measure the client for size of eyeglasses and coordinate frames with facial and eye measurements and optical prescription. They prepare work order for optical laboratory containing instructions for grinding and mounting lenses in frames. They verify exactness of finished lens spectacles. They adjust frame and lens position to fit client and may shape or reshape frames.

Some Opticians specialize in fitting contacts by measuring eye shape and size, selecting the type of contact lens material, and preparing work orders specifying the prescription and lens size. Opticians show the client how to insert, remove, and care for their contacts, and ensure the fit is correct.

Opticians keep records on client prescriptions, work orders, and payments; track inventory and sales; and perform other administrative duties.

Requirements

- ▲ Training is generally offered as on-the-job training by the employer for up to two years.
- ▲ Manual dexterity and ability to do precision work.
- ▲ Skills to communicate with the public with tact and patience.
- ▲ Aptitude for math and physics.
- ▲ Registration is not required for opticians employed by ophthalmologists, optometrists, or working under the registration of spectacle lens dispensers or contact lens dispensers.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Wages

- | | |
|--|----------|
| ▲ Opticians, Dispensing
Median hourly wage: | \$17.46 |
| ▲ Average annual wage: | \$37,717 |

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Opticians, Dispensing

Job Outlook

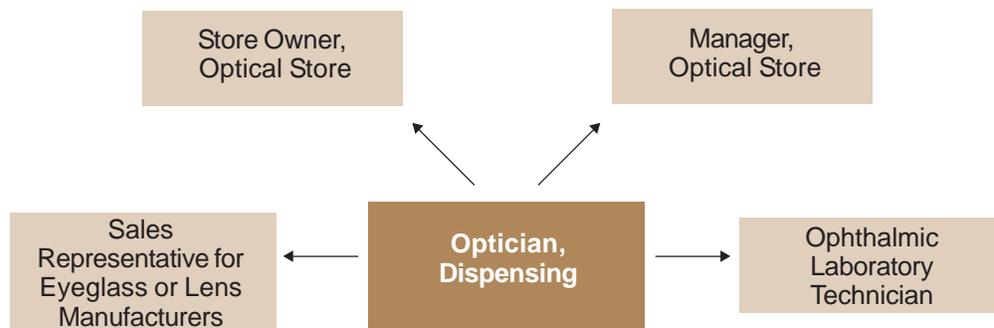
- ▲ Estimated number of Opticians, Dispensing in 2006: 6,400
- ▲ Estimated number of Opticians, Dispensing in 2016: 7,400
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 310

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ Opticians Association of America
(703) 916-8856
www.oaa.org
- ▲ American Board of Opticianry
(703) 719-5800
www.abo.org
- ▲ Medical Board of California
(916) 263-2382
www.medbd.ca.gov
- ▲ *California Occupational Guides*
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Opticians

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

PERSONAL and HOME CARE AIDES provide services to patients in their places of residence such as taking temperature and blood pressure readings and making sure medicine is taken on time. Sometimes the Personal and Home Care Aides provide extra services such as cooking, cleaning, and shopping for patients who can't do these things on their own. Work routines and work environments vary depending on the needs of the patient. There are patients who need a lot of help, while others need only a very little. Male attendants are especially in demand to help elderly men and AIDS patients.

Requirements

- ▲ Understand and follow written and verbal instructions exactly.
- ▲ Empathy to share feelings of others.
- ▲ Desire to help the elderly, sick, and disabled.
- ▲ Physical stamina.
- ▲ Ability to talk and relate to sick and disabled people.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Wages

- ▲ Personal and Home Care Aides
Median hourly wage: \$10.11
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$21,754

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Job Outlook

- ▲ Estimated number of Personal and Home Care Aides in 2006: 284,200
- ▲ Estimated number of Personal and Home Care Aides in 2016: 361,100
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 12,510

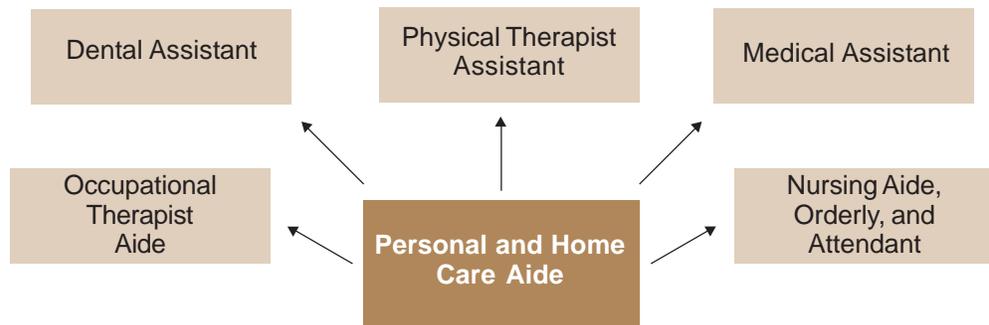
Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Personal and Home Care Aides

Sources of Information

- ▲ California Association for Health Services at Home
(916) 443-8055
www.caahsa.org
- ▲ *California Occupational Guides*
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/ocguides
Keyword Search – Home Health Aides

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

PHARMACY AIDES help licensed pharmacists with the administrative duties in running a pharmacy. Aides are clerks or cashiers who answer telephones, handle money, clean pharmacy equipment, stock shelves, and perform other clerical duties. They work closely with pharmacy technicians. Aides refer any questions regarding prescriptions, drug information, or health matters to a pharmacist.

Pharmacy Aides maintain patient profiles, prepare insurance claim forms, and stock and take inventory of prescription and over-the-counter medications. They inform the supervisor of stock needs to ensure that the pharmacy has critical medications available to meet customer needs.

Requirements

- ▲ High school diploma or equivalent.
- ▲ No history of drug abuse.
- ▲ Strong interpersonal and communications skills.
- ▲ Strong spelling, reading, and mathematics skills.
- ▲ Good manual dexterity.
- ▲ Good computer skills.
- ▲ Detail oriented.
- ▲ Ability to work as part of a team.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Wages

- | | |
|---|----------|
| ▲ Pharmacy Aides
Median hourly wage: | \$10.19 |
| ▲ Average annual wage: | \$24,019 |

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Pharmacy Aides

Job Outlook

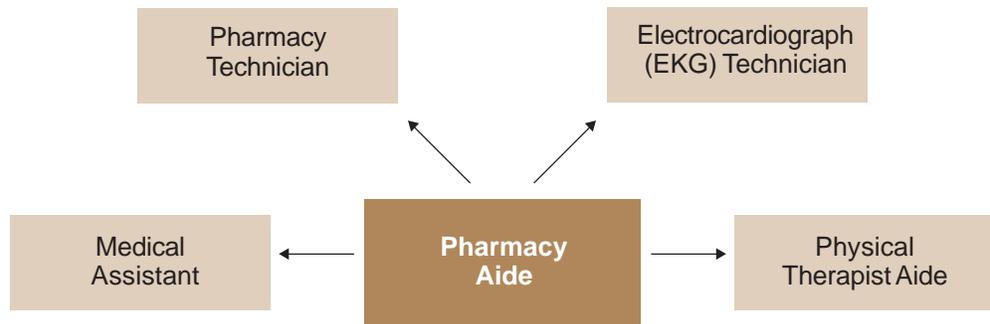
- ▲ Estimated number of Pharmacy Aides in 2006: 7,300
- ▲ Estimated number of Pharmacy Aides in 2016: 6,800
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 90

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ California Board of Pharmacy
(916) 445-5014
www.pharmacy.ca.gov

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

PHARMACY TECHNICIANS prepare medications under the direction of a pharmacist. They measure, mix, count out, label, and record amounts and dosages of medications. They process records of medication and equipment dispensed to hospital patients, compute charges, and enter data in a computer. Technicians count stock and enter data in a computer to maintain inventory records. Technicians who work in hospitals prepare intravenous (IV) packs, using sterile techniques, under the supervision of a hospital pharmacist. They clean equipment and sterilize glassware according to prescribed methods.

Requirements

- ▲ High school diploma or equivalent.
- ▲ Completion of a two-year associate degree in health, biological, physical or natural sciences. Or, completion of a State board approved Pharmacy Technician training program. Training must consist of a minimum of 240 hours theoretical and practical instruction.
- ▲ Strong mathematics, spelling, and reading skills.
- ▲ No history of drug abuse.
- ▲ Keyboarding skills for computer data entry.
- ▲ Good communication skills.
- ▲ Ability to work independently or as part of a team.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance is required.

Wages

- | | |
|---|----------|
| ▲ Pharmacy Technicians
Median hourly wage: | \$17.29 |
| ▲ Average annual wage: | \$36,353 |

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Pharmacy Technicians

Job Outlook

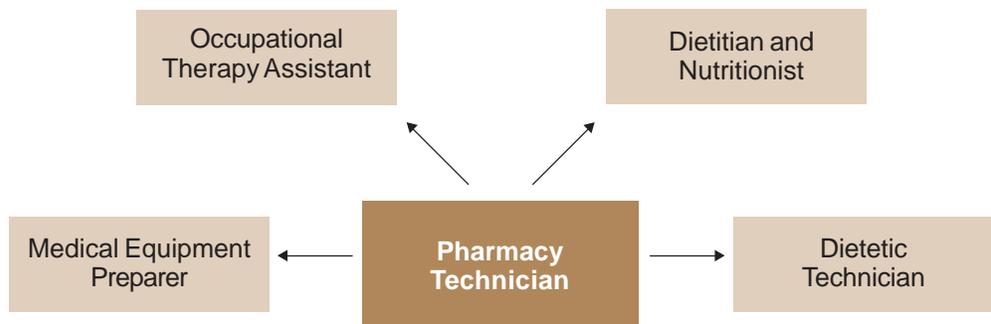
- ▲ Estimated number of Pharmacy Technicians in 2006: 23,300
- ▲ Estimated number of Pharmacy Technicians in 2016: 31,700
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 1,550

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ California Board of Pharmacy
(916) 445-5014
www.pharmacy.ca.gov
- ▲ California Occupational Guide
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Pharmacy Technicians

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST AIDES work under the direct supervision of a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant to provide help when a patient is receiving treatment. They prepare patients by helping them dress and undress and by putting on and taking off supports and other helpful devices. They put patients into therapy equipment and supports and turn and keep them stable during treatment.

Because they are not licensed, Aides do not perform the clinical tasks of a physical therapist assistant. They give water treatments, paraffin baths, and apply hot and cold packs. In addition, they keep track of patients' condition during treatment and report signs of tiredness, distress or other problems. They take patients to and from treatment centers, using proper techniques according to the patients' condition.

Aides change bed sheets and pillowcases, keep treatment supplies in order, clean treatment areas, and sterilize or disinfect equipment and instruments. Clerical duties include ordering supplies, filing medical records, and delivering messages.

Requirements

- ▲ High school diploma or equivalent.
- ▲ Clinical on-the-job-training.
- ▲ Strong verbal and writing skills.
- ▲ Ability to read and follow instructions.
- ▲ Desire to help others.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Wages

- ▲ Physical Therapist Aides
Median hourly wage: \$12.35
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$27,113

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Physical Therapist Aides

Job Outlook

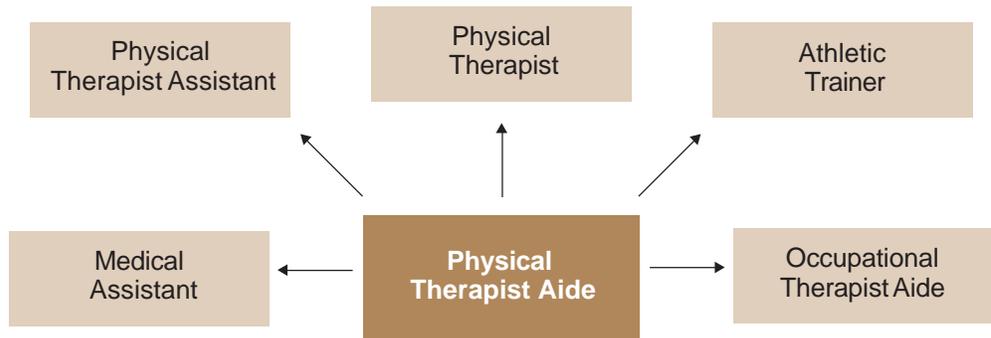
- ▲ Estimated number of Physical Therapist Aides in 2006: 5,100
- ▲ Estimated number of Physical Therapist Aides in 2016: 6,700
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 230

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ American Physical Therapy Association
(800) 999-2782
www.apta.org
- ▲ California Occupational Guides
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Physical Therapist Aides

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS work under the direction of physical therapists to assist and administer treatment to patients. Typical duties include giving heat, light, and ultrasound treatments. Physical Therapist Assistants also give patients massages and exercises that help heal muscles, nerves, bones, and joints. They teach and encourage patients to learn or improve necessary activities such as walking, climbing, and general mobility. Patients are watched during treatment, and their reactions and progress are recorded and reported to therapists by the Assistants. They fit patients for and teach them to use corrective equipment such as braces or artificial arms and legs or supportive devices such as wheelchairs. They also observe the patients' progress, instruct, and motivate them during treatment.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of an associate degree in physical therapy assisting from an accredited school.
- ▲ Licensed by the Physical Therapy Board of California.
- ▲ Good written and oral communication skills.
- ▲ Interest in working with, teaching, and providing a service to others.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance is required.

Wages

- ▲ Physical Therapist Assistants
Median hourly wage: \$27.10
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$54,975

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Physical Therapist Assistants

Job Outlook

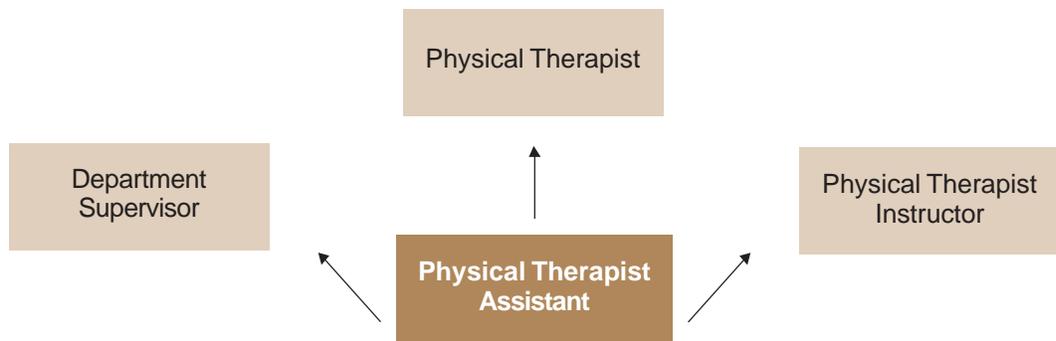
- ▲ Estimated number of Physical Therapist Assistants in 2006: 3,600
- ▲ Estimated number of Physical Therapist Assistants in 2016: 4,900
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 180

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ Physical Therapy Board of California
(916) 561-8200
www.ptb.ca.gov
- ▲ American Physical Therapy Association
(800) 999-2782
www.apta.org
- ▲ *California Occupational Guides*
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Physical Therapy Assistant

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS are formally trained to work under the supervision of a medical doctor, assisting in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and injuries. They perform the less complex time-consuming tasks generally done by doctors. Physician Assistants interview patients, take medical histories, give physical examinations, and order laboratory tests. They perform routine therapeutic procedures: giving injections and immunizations, cleaning and stitching minor wounds, applying splints, removing casts, and routine laboratory procedures. By completing the more routine tasks, Physician Assistants allow doctors more time to treat gravely ill patients.

Some Physician Assistants help physicians in such specialty areas as pediatrics or surgery. Physician Assistants specialties include child health associates, urologic Physician Assistants, surgeon assistants, and emergency room Physician Assistants.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of either an associate or bachelor's degree in a physician assistant program at an accredited school. (Approximately two-thirds of all applicants to physician assistant programs hold a bachelor's degree.)
- ▲ Licensed by the Medical Board of California, Physician Assistant Committee.
- ▲ Emotional stability.
- ▲ Active listening skills.
- ▲ Patience and the ability to deal with all kinds of people.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Wages

- ▲ Physician Assistants
Median hourly wage: \$40.29
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$80,110

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Physician Assistants

Job Outlook

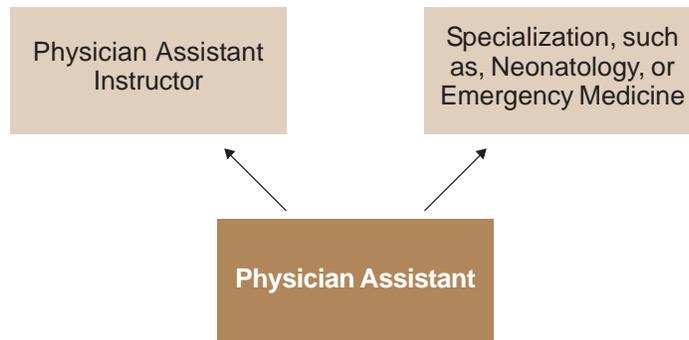
- ▲ Estimated number of Physician Assistants in 2006: 6,000
- ▲ Estimated number of Physician Assistants in 2016: 7,500
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 230

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ Physician Assistant Committee
(800) 555-8038
www.physicianassistant.ca.gov
- ▲ California Academy of Physician Assistants
(714) 427-0321
www.capanet.org
- ▲ *California Occupational Guides*
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Physician Assistants

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

PSYCHIATRIC AIDES, also called psychiatric technician assistants, work under the supervision of psychiatrists, psychologists, psychiatric nurses, and social workers to provide nursing and personal care to developmentally disabled, mentally ill or substance abuse patients in State or private hospitals or private nursing facilities. The most common tasks include assisting patients with bathing, dressing or feeding; encouraging patients to participate in educational and recreational activities; recording patient blood pressure, pulse and temperature; and aiding or restraining patients to prevent injuries. Psychiatric Aides report any health or behavioral changes to the supervising medical staff.

Psychiatric Aides may play games such as cards with the patients, watch television with them, or participate in group activities such as sports or field trips. They observe patients and report any physical or behavioral signs that might be important for the professional staff to know. They accompany patients to and from examinations and treatments. Because they have such close contact with patients, Psychiatric Aides can have a great deal of influence on their outlook and treatment.

Requirements

- ▲ High school diploma or equivalent.
- ▲ Desire to help others.
- ▲ Tact.
- ▲ Emotional stability.
- ▲ Nursing Assistant Certification issued by the Department of Health Services is preferred.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance is required for certification.

Wages

- ▲ Psychiatric Aides
Median hourly wage: \$12.97
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$28,107

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Psychiatric Aides

Job Outlook

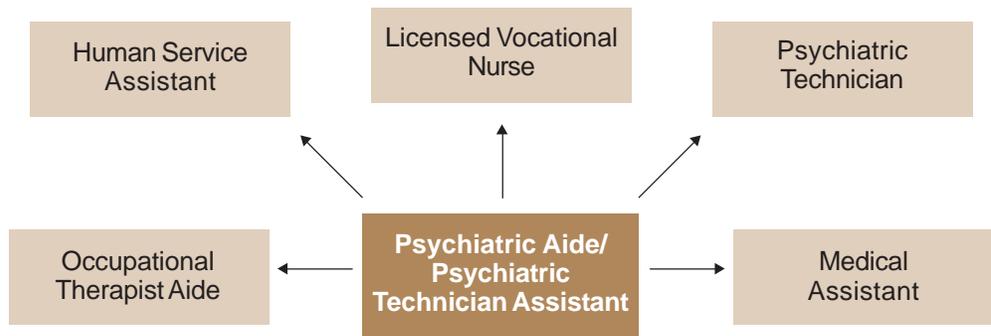
- ▲ Estimated number of Psychiatric Aides in 2006: 1,200
- ▲ Estimated number of Psychiatric Aides in 2016: 1,400
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 30

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ California Association of Psychiatric Technicians
(800) 677-2278
www.psych-health.com
- ▲ California Department of Public Health
Licensing and Certification
(800) 236-9747
www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/LnCContact.aspx
- ▲ *California Occupational Guides*
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Psychiatric Aides

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS care for mentally impaired or emotionally disturbed individuals, following physician instructions and hospital procedures. They monitor patients' physical and emotional well being and report to medical staff. They may participate in rehabilitation and treatment programs, help with personal hygiene, and administer oral medications and hypodermic injections.

Requirements

- ▲ Must be at least 18 years old.
- ▲ High school diploma or equivalent.
- ▲ Graduation from a Board-approved 12-month Psychiatric Technician program or a combination of nursing science coursework and paid work experience.
- ▲ Qualifying scores on the written licensing exam.
- ▲ Licensed by the California Board of Vocational Nurse and Psychiatric Technician Examiners.
- ▲ Able to respond to needs of emotionally disturbed or developmentally disabled patients.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance is required.

Wages

- ▲ Psychiatric Technicians
Median hourly wage: \$20.60
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$42,434

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Psychiatric Technicians

Job Outlook

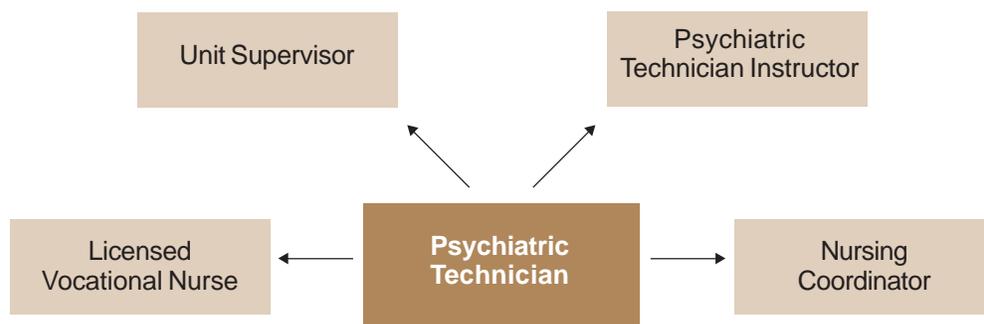
- ▲ Estimated number of Psychiatric Technicians in 2006: 10,600
- ▲ Estimated number of Psychiatric Technicians in 2016: 12,200
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 480

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians
(916) 263-7800
www.bvnpt.ca.gov
- ▲ California Association of Psychiatric Technicians
(800) 677-2278
www.psychtechs.net
- ▲ *California Occupational Guides*
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Psychiatric Technicians

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

RADIATION THERAPISTS provide radiation therapy to cancer patients as prescribed by a radiologist according to established practices and standards. Duties may include reviewing prescription and diagnosis, acting as liaison with physician and supportive care personnel, preparing equipment such as immobilization, treatment, and protection devices, and maintaining records, reports, and files. May assist in dosimetry procedures and tumor localization.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of State-approved radiation therapy training program and passage of a written examination.
- ▲ Licensed by the State Department of Health Services.
- ▲ Strong background in the math and the physical and biological sciences.
- ▲ Computer technology skills.
- ▲ Ability to communicate effectively with medical therapy team and patients.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Wages

- ▲ Radiation Therapists
Median hourly wage: \$40.21
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$83,350

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Radiation Therapists

Job Outlook

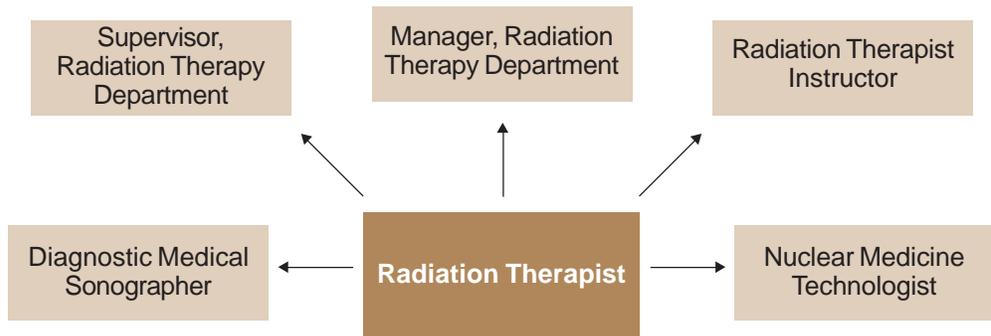
- ▲ Estimated number of Radiation Therapists in 2007: 1,300

Source: OES Employment & Wages by Occupation, EDD/LMID. Projections information is not available for this occupation.

Sources of Information

- ▲ California Department of Public Health
Radiologic Health Branch
(916) 445-0931
www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/RadiologicHealthBranch.aspx
- ▲ Radiological Society of North America
(630) 571-2670
www.rsna.org
- ▲ *California Occupational Guides*
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Radiation Therapists

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

Radiologic Technologists and Technicians

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS and TECHNICIANS prepare and process images of designated portions of the body. They set up the examination room as required and take patient histories. Technologists and Technicians work from doctors' order, written for specific procedures. Sometimes Technologists and Technicians prepare and administer chemical mixtures to patients to make the internal organs more visible. After positioning patients properly, Technologists and Technicians obtain the correct image for the type of equipment used. Technologists and Technicians must constantly monitor the patient's condition and reactions and report any abnormal signs to a physician.

Experienced Radiologic Technologists and Technicians may perform more complex imaging procedures and specialize as Mammographic Radiologic Technologists, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Technologists, or Computer Tomography (CT) Technologists. CT Technologists operate computerized tomography scanners to produce cross section images of patients. MRI Technologists operate machines that use strong magnets and radio waves rather than radiation to create an image.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of a State-approved radiation therapy training program.
- ▲ Licensed by the State Department of Health Services.
- ▲ Strong background in math and the physical and biological sciences.
- ▲ Computer technology skills.
- ▲ Able to communicate effectively with medical therapy team and patients.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Wages

- ▲ Radiologic Technologists and Technicians
Median hourly wage: \$29.12
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$60,585

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Radiologic Technologists and Technicians

Job Outlook

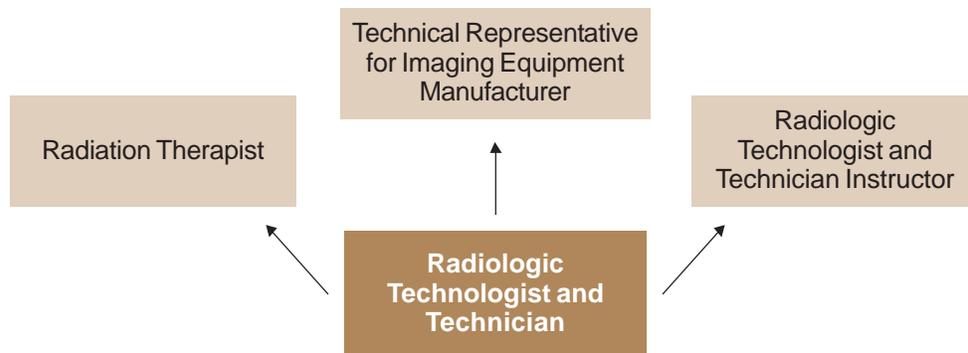
- ▲ Estimated number of Radiologic Technologists and Technicians in 2006: 15,200
- ▲ Estimated number of Radiologic Technologists and Technicians in 2016: 17,700
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 460

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ California Department of Public Health
Radiologic Health Branch
(916) 327-5106
www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/RadiologicHealthBranch.aspx
- ▲ Radiological Society of North America
(630) 571-2670
www.rsna.org
- ▲ *California Occupational Guide*
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Radiologic Technologists

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

RECREATION WORKERS conduct leisure activities with groups in public, private, volunteer agencies, or recreation facilities. They organize and promote activities, such as arts and crafts, sports, games, music, dramatics, social recreation, camping, and hobbies, taking into account the needs and interests of individual members. For each group session, Recreation Workers lead the program and lay out materials or equipment needed. They also promote interest and motivate people to participate in creative activities and programs.

Requirements

- ▲ High school diploma or equivalent.
- ▲ Ability to effectively communicate instructions.
- ▲ Interest in helping people.
- ▲ Sensitivity to the needs of others.
- ▲ Ability to work as part of a team.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Wages

- ▲ Recreation Workers
Median hourly wage: \$10.84
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$25,166

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Recreation Workers

Job Outlook

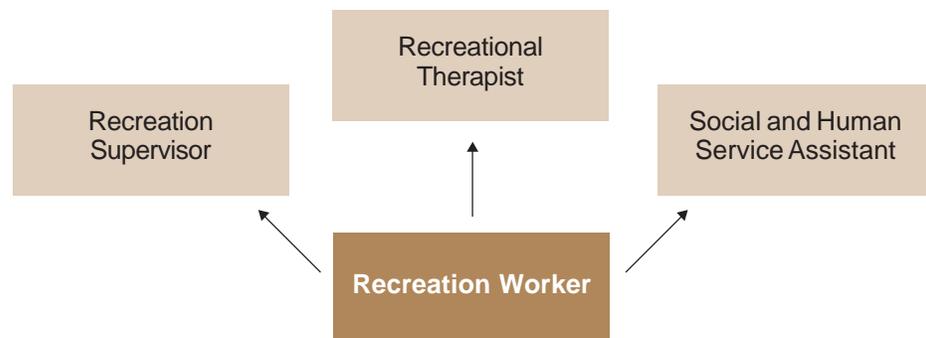
▲ Estimated number of Recreation Workers in 2006:	39,700
▲ Estimated number of Recreation Workers in 2016:	44,800
▲ Estimated annual job openings:	1,250

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ American Therapeutic Recreation Association
(601) 450-2872
atra-online.com
- ▲ California Occupational Guides
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Recreation Workers

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

RECREATIONAL THERAPISTS provide treatment services and recreation activities to individuals with disabilities, illnesses, or other disabling conditions. Therapists treat and maintain the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of clients using a variety of techniques, such as, arts and crafts, animals, sports, games, dance and movement, drama, music, and community outings. Therapists help individuals reduce depression and anxiety. They also help individuals recover basic motor functioning and reasoning abilities, build confidence, and socialize effectively to enable greater independence as well as reduce or eliminate the effects of illness or disability. Recreational Therapists also help integrate people with disabilities into the community by helping them use community resources and recreational activities.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of a bachelor's degree in therapeutic recreation.
- ▲ Certification by the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC) is preferred by most employers.
- ▲ Tact.
- ▲ Strong listening skills.
- ▲ Strong interpersonal skills.
- ▲ Comfortable working with persons who are ill or have disabilities.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Wages

- | | |
|--|----------|
| ▲ Recreational Therapists
Median hourly wage: | \$22.55 |
| ▲ Average annual wage: | \$47,787 |

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Recreational Therapists

Job Outlook

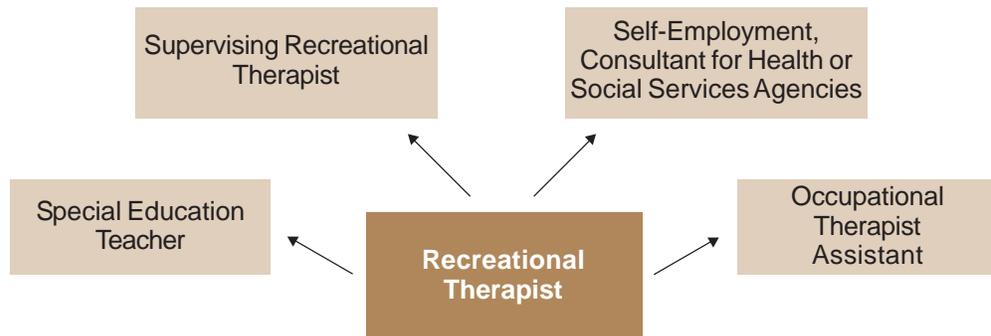
- ▲ Estimated number of Recreational Therapists in 2006: 1,500
- ▲ Estimated number of Recreational Therapists in 2016: 1,600
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 30

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ American Therapeutic Recreation Association
(601) 450-2872
atra-online.com
- ▲ National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification
(845) 639-1439
www.nctrc.org
- ▲ *California Occupational Guides*
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Recreation Workers

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

REGISTERED NURSES (RNs) are the largest group among all health occupations. Most RNs work as hospital nurses, but many of them care for patients in private clinics and some work in private homes. They provide nursing care to ill, injured, convalescent, or disabled patients. They assess patient health problems and needs, develop and implement nursing care plans, and maintain medical records. They may do case management or advise patients on health maintenance and disease prevention. Nurses may also provide public health education.

Requirements

- ▲ High school diploma or equivalent.
- ▲ Completion of a State board approved nursing program:
Either two-year associate degree in Nursing, or
A four-year bachelor's degree in Nursing.
- ▲ A passing grade on the State Board of Registered Nursing examination to obtain a State license.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance is required.

Wages

- ▲ Registered Nurses
Median hourly wage: \$37.71
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$80,551

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Job Outlook

- ▲ Estimated number of RNs in 2006: 238,400
- ▲ Estimated number of RNs in 2016: 298,000
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 9,900

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

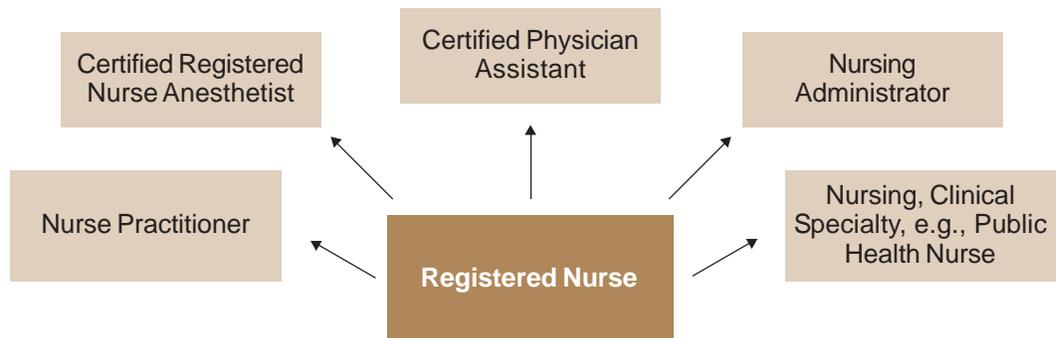
Critical RN shortages are expected over the next 10 years; hospitals and clinics have ongoing, active recruitment programs, some offering unique benefits, to attract applicants.

Registered Nurses

Sources of Information

- ▲ California Board of Registered Nursing
(916) 322-3350
www.rn.ca.gov
- ▲ California Nurses Association
(510) 273-2200
www.calnurse.org
- ▲ *California Occupational Guides*
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Registered Nurses

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS assess, treat, and care for patients with breathing disorders. They assume primary responsibility for all respiratory care methods, including the supervision of respiratory therapy technicians. Respiratory Therapists carefully follow physicians' orders. They set up and operate respirators, masks, incubators, and positive breathing machines designed to give respiratory assistance to patients. They use other mechanical devices to stimulate the flow of mucus from the lungs, as well as aerosol inhalants and sprays that supply the lungs with medication. They do blood-gas analyses.

Therapists monitor equipment, observe patient reactions, assess conditions, assure comfort, and recommend changes in therapy to physicians. They record relevant information on patients' charts. They may also use a variety of testing techniques to assist doctors in medical research and to diagnose disorders.

Requirements

- ▲ High school diploma or equivalent.
- ▲ Graduation from a respiratory therapy program approved by the Respiratory Care Board of California (RCB).
- ▲ Licensure by the RCB as a Respiratory Care Practitioner.
- ▲ Completion of 15 hours of RCB approved continuing education every two years.
- ▲ Interest in helping people.
- ▲ Able to handle stress.
- ▲ Manual dexterity and mechanical aptitude.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance is required.

Respiratory Therapists

Wages

- ▲ Respiratory Therapists
Median hourly wage: \$29.82
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$63,684

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Job Outlook

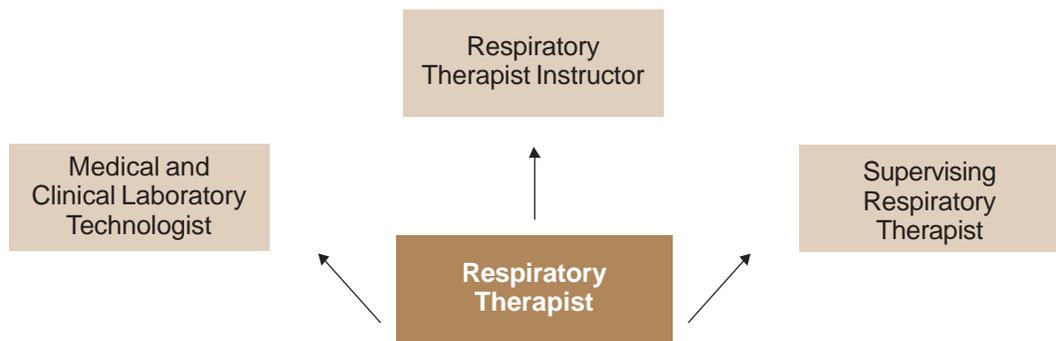
- ▲ Estimated number of Respiratory Therapists in 2006: 10,800
- ▲ Estimated number of Respiratory Therapists in 2012: 13,400
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 420

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ Respiratory Care Board of California
(866) 375-0386
www.rcb.ca.gov
- ▲ California Occupational Guides
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Respiratory Therapists

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

SOCIAL and HUMAN SERVICE ASSISTANTS provide many types of assistance to people in the community, from determining eligibility for welfare and health programs and counseling on child care to helping clients with physical and mental problems and those involved in drug and substance abuse. They help determine and locate appropriate social service agencies such as those providing health care and physical and mental rehabilitation. They work under the direction and supervision of nurses, counselors, social workers, psychologists, or other professionals and may be a member of a treatment team.

Many Human Service Assistants serve clients in hospitals, halfway houses, detoxification centers, residential care facilities, rehabilitation centers, and outpatient clinics where they provide training in daily living skills, personal communications, and personal and vocational counseling.

Requirements

- ▲ High school diploma or equivalent and some college.
- ▲ Good communication skills.
- ▲ Ability to motivate others while being sensitive to their needs.
- ▲ Interest in helping people and providing service to others.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Wages

- ▲ Social and Human Service Assistants
Median hourly wage: \$14.90
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$33,441

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Social and Human Service Assistants

Job Outlook

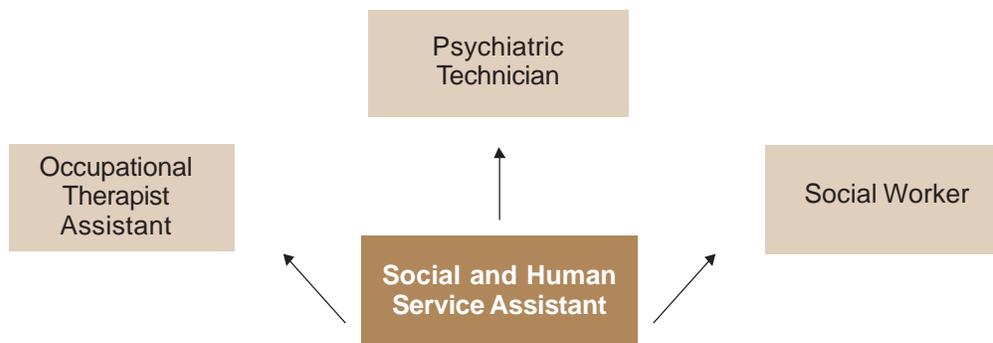
- ▲ Estimated number of Social and Human Service Assistants in 2006: 29,100
- ▲ Estimated number of Social and Human Service Assistants in 2016: 37,000
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 1,130

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ National Organization for Human Services
(770) 924-8899
www.nationalhumanservices.org
- ▲ California Occupational Guides
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Human Service

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS, also called surgical or operating room technicians, assist in operations, under the supervision of surgeons, registered nurses, or other surgical personnel. They prepare operating rooms with surgical instruments, equipment, and sterile linens needed during an operation. Technologists also may prepare patients for surgery by cleaning, shaving, and disinfecting body areas where the surgeon will operate. They may transport patients to operating rooms, help position them on the operating table, and drape linens over the patient to prevent exposure.

During surgery, Surgical Technologists pass instruments and other sterile supplies to surgeons and surgeons' assistants. They hold retractors, cut sutures, and keep inventory of sponges, needles, and instruments used during the operation. Technologists also help in the care and disposal of specimens removed for testing during operations and help apply dressings or bandages. They may also operate sterilizers, lights, suction machines, and diagnostic equipment. After an operation, Surgical Technologists help transfer patients to the recovery room and assist nurses in cleaning and restocking the operating room for the next operation.

Requirements

- ▲ High school diploma or equivalent.
- ▲ Completion of a one-year Surgical Technician/Technology training program accredited by the American Medical Association's Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation.
- ▲ Some hospitals require certification by the Liaison Council on Certification of Surgical Technologists.
- ▲ Ability to interact with different kinds of patients and other health professionals.
- ▲ Ability to follow technical instructions.
- ▲ Manual dexterity and ability to work precisely and accurately.
- ▲ Capacity to perform well under stress or in emergencies.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

Surgical Technologists

Wages

- ▲ Surgical Technologists
Median hourly wage: \$21.64
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$46,556

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2008 by EDD/LMID.

Job Outlook

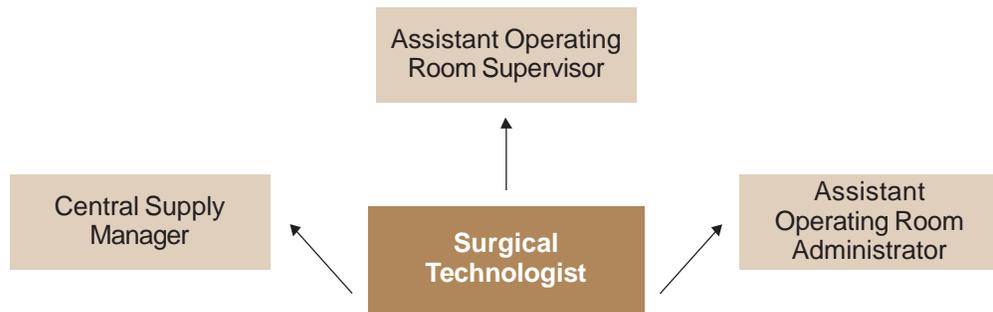
- ▲ Estimated number of Surgical Technologists in 2006: 8,200
- ▲ Estimated number of Surgical Technologists in 2016: 10,400
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 470

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ Association of Surgical Technologists
(800) 637-7433
www.ast.org
- ▲ National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting
(800) 707-0057
www.nbtsa.org
- ▲ *California Occupational Guides*
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides
Keyword Search – Surgical Technician

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

Appendix

Looking at Yourself	A
Find a Match for Your Interests	B
Satisfy Your Values in Health Care Careers	C
Factors in a Career Choice	D

Tools to help you get to know yourself better

The first important step when exploring career options is to get to know yourself well. What are your interests, your likes and dislikes? What are your strengths and weaknesses? Do you prefer to work with the public or large groups of people with a lot of activity, or do you prefer to work independently and quietly at a computer keyboard?

When beginning your career research, it is wise to visit your school counselor to request an interest assessment survey. An interest assessment will help you identify your personal interests and select a career that matches your interest profile.

The resources in the appendices are self-help tools that will help you study yourself and take stock of your personal interests as related to health careers.

Find a match for your interests in the health care industry

This table arranges health care industry occupations into six broad categories or themes according to John L. Holland, Ph.D.'s theory that people with similar interests are often found in the same work environment. Read through the first column to find the category that describes you best. Look at the occupations associated with that category. People and occupations are a blend of themes. Which category is the next closest match to you? Look at those associated occupations as well. The occupations printed in **bold** type are found only in health care. The other occupations are found in health care and in other industries.

Satisfy your values in health care careers

Work values are the general characteristics of work that are important to a person's job satisfaction. In the same way that a student or job seeker examines his/her interests, it is important for an individual to be familiar with his/her work values. The values table lists six different work values and matching needs in the first column. Read through the work values in column one to find those values that are the most important to you. Read across the page to the second column to find occupations in health care services that are best suited to the work values that you prize the most highly. The occupations printed in **bold** type are health care occupations that offer a significant or reasonable opportunity to satisfy the work value and corresponding needs.

Looking at Yourself

Factors in a career choice

This table is a worksheet that helps you compare occupations. The first column lists factors to consider when making a career choice. Begin by reviewing the occupations in the *Health Care Careers*. Select up to three occupations that interest you the most. Enter the names of the occupations in columns two through four. Review each factor in column one. Enter either a “+” or “-” sign to indicate if the occupation satisfies your liking for each factor. (Refer to the example in column five.) Add the total number of positive answers (+) for each occupation. The occupation totaling the highest number of positive answers is the best match for the criteria you chose. If more than three occupations appeal to you, make a copy of the sheet and repeat the process. After you have narrowed your choice to one or two occupations you want to investigate further, use the resources suggested in *Health Care Careers* for further exploration.

Find a Match for Your Interests

Find a Match for Your Interests in the Health Care Industry

Large health care facilities operate around the clock, seven days a week and employ many kinds of workers. Few industries offer such a wide variety of occupations. Occupations below in **bold** are found only in health care. The other occupations listed are found in health care as well as other industries.

Interests generally refer to the like or dislike of activities. Many interest assessment tools used in schools, colleges, and one stop centers draw upon the personality-based theory of John L. Holland which advocates you will function best and find job fulfillment in work environments that are in harmony with your personality.

Human personalities and work environments can be broadly classified into the six broad categories of vocational personalities and environments described below. Personalities and occupations are combinations of more than one interest area. Occupations are listed below under their highest interest category.

<i>What Are Your Interests?</i>	<i>Find Matching Occupations in the Health Care Industry</i>
<p>REALISTIC OCCUPATIONS frequently involve work activities that include practical, hands-on problems and solutions. They often deal with plants, animals, and real-world materials like wood, tools, and machinery. Many of the occupations require working outside, and do not involve a lot of paperwork or working closely with others.</p>	<p>Biomedical Equipment Technicians ☞ Carpenters ☞ Computer Operators ☞ Couriers & Messengers ☞ CT Technologists ☞ Dental Laboratory Technicians ☞ Dining Room and Cafeteria Attendants ☞ Dishwashers ☞ EKG Technicians ☞ Electricians ☞ Food Concession Counter Attendants ☞ Food Preparation Workers ☞ General Maintenance & Repair Workers ☞ Heating and Air Conditioning Mechanics ☞ Institution or Cafeteria Cooks ☞ Janitors and Cleaners ☞ Landscaping & Groundskeeping Workers ☞ Laundry Workers ☞ Light Truck Drivers ☞ Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners ☞ Mechanical Engineers ☞ Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians ☞ Medical Appliance Technicians ☞ Medical Equipment Preparers ☞ Medical Equipment Repairers ☞ MRI Technologists ☞ Painters ☞ Parking Lot Attendants ☞ Phlebotomists ☞ Plumbers ☞ Radiologic Technologists and Technicians ☞ Short Order Cooks ☞ Stationary Engineers and Boiler Operators ☞ Surgical Technologists ☞ Taxi Drivers and Chauffeurs ☞ Ultrasound Technologists</p>
<p>INVESTIGATIVE OCCUPATIONS frequently involve working with ideas, and require an extensive amount of thinking. These occupations can involve searching for facts and figuring out problems mentally.</p>	<p>Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians ☞ Chiropractors ☞ Compensation, Benefits, and Job Analysis Specialists ☞ Computer Support Specialists ☞ Computer Programmers ☞ Computer Systems Analysts ☞ Cytotechnologists ☞ Database Administrators ☞ Dentists ☞ Dietitians and Nutritionists ☞ Environment Science and Protection Technicians ☞ Epidemiologists ☞ Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary ☞ Histotechnicians ☞ Histotechnologists ☞ Management Analysts ☞ Medical and Clinical Lab Technologists ☞ Medical Scientists ☞ Microbiologists ☞ Nuclear Medicine Technologists ☞ Operations Research Analysts ☞ Optometrists ☞ Perfusionists ☞ Pharmacists ☞ Physician Assistants ☞ Physicians and Surgeons ☞ Psychologists ☞ Respiratory Therapists</p>

What Are Your Interests?	Find Matching Occupations in the Health Care Industry
<p>ARTISTIC OCCUPATIONS frequently involve working with forms, designs, and patterns. They often require self-expression and the work can be done without following a clear set of rules.</p>	<p>Art Therapists Dance Therapists Medical Illustrators Medical Photographers Music Therapists</p>
<p>SOCIAL OCCUPATIONS frequently involve working with, communicating with, and teaching people. These occupations often involve helping or providing service to others.</p>	<p>Ambulance Drivers and Attendants ✎ Audiologists ✎ Certified Nursing Assistants ✎ Clinical Psychologists ✎ Dental Assistants ✎ Dental Hygienists ✎ Dietetic Technicians ✎ Dispatchers, Police, Fire, and Ambulance ✎ Educational, Vocational, and School Counselors ✎ Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics ✎ Home Health Aides ✎ Librarians ✎ Licensed Vocational Nurses ✎ Medical and Public Health Social Workers ✎ Medical Assistants ✎ Mental Health & Substance Abuse Social Workers ✎ Non-restaurant Food Servers ✎ Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants ✎ Nursing Instructors ✎ Occupational Therapist Aides & Assistants ✎ Occupational Therapists ✎ Orthotists ✎ Personal and Home Care Aides ✎ Physical Therapist Aides ✎ Physical Therapist Assistants ✎ Physical Therapists ✎ Podiatrists ✎ Prosthetists ✎ Psychiatric Aides ✎ Psychiatric Technicians ✎ Radiation Therapists ✎ Recreation Workers ✎ Recreational Therapists ✎ Registered Nurses ✎ Security Guards ✎ Social and Human Service Assistants ✎ Speech-Language Pathologists ✎ Training and Development Specialists ✎ Vocational Education Teachers</p>
<p>ENTERPRISING OCCUPATIONS frequently involve starting up and carrying out projects. These occupations can involve leading people and making many decisions. Sometimes they require risk taking and often deal with business.</p>	<p>Administrative Service Managers ✎ Claims Adjusters, Examiners, and Investigators ✎ Computer and Information Systems Managers ✎ Cosmetologists ✎ Dispensing Opticians ✎ Employment, Recruitment, and Placement Specialists ✎ Financial Managers ✎ Food Service Managers ✎ Housekeeping Supervisors ✎ Human Resource Managers ✎ Insurance Sales Agents ✎ Marketing Managers ✎ Medical and Health Service Managers ✎ Public Relations Managers ✎ Public Relations Specialists ✎ Purchasing Agents ✎ Purchasing Managers</p>
<p>CONVENTIONAL OCCUPATIONS frequently involve following set procedures and routines. These occupations can include working with data and details more than with ideas. Usually there is a clear line of authority to follow.</p>	<p>Accountants and Auditors ✎ Bill and Account Collectors ✎ Billing and Posting Clerks and Machine Operators ✎ Bookkeeping, Auditing, and Accounting Clerks ✎ Budget Analysts ✎ Cashiers ✎ Customer Service Representatives ✎ Data Entry Keyers ✎ File Clerks ✎ General Office Clerks ✎ Human Resources Assistants ✎ Insurance Claims & Policy Processing Clerks ✎ Interviewers ✎ Mail Clerks & Mail Machine Operators ✎ Medical Coders ✎ Medical Records and Health Info Technicians ✎ Medical Secretaries ✎ Medical Transcriptionists ✎ Order Clerks ✎ Payroll and Timekeeping Clerks ✎ Pharmacy Technicians ✎ Procurement Clerks ✎ Receptionists and Information Clerks ✎ Shipping, Receiving, and Traffic Clerks ✎ Statistical Assistants ✎ Stock Clerks ✎ Switchboard Operators ✎ Word Processors & Typists</p>

Source: J.L. Holland, *Making Vocational Choices: A theory of vocational personalities and work environments*, (3rd ed.), Psychological Assessment Resources, Inc., Odessa, FL, 1997, cited by James Rounds et al, *Development of Occupational Interest Profiles for O*NET*, National Center for O*NET Development, Raleigh, N.C., 1999, p.2. Data retrieved from O*Net Online at online.onetcenter.org/main.htm.

Satisfy Your Values in Health Care Careers!

<p><i>Work Values and Corresponding Needs</i></p>	<p><i>Health Care Occupations That Offer Moderate or Considerable (bolded titles) Opportunity to Satisfy Value and Needs</i></p>
<p>ACHIEVEMENT Occupations that satisfy this work value are results oriented and allow employees to use their strongest abilities, giving them a feeling of accomplishment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ <u>Achievement</u> Workers on this job get a feeling of accomplishment ♦ <u>Ability Utilization</u> Workers on this job make use of their individual abilities 	<p>Ambulance Drivers ☞ Art Therapists ☞ Audiologists ☞ Cardiovascular Technologists & Technicians ☞ Chiropractors ☞ CT Technologists ☞ Cytotechnologists ☞ Dance Therapists ☞ Dental Assistants ☞ Dental Hygienists ☞ Dental Laboratory Technicians ☞ Dentists ☞ Dietetic Technicians ☞ Dietitians & Nutritionists ☞ Educational, Vocational, and School Counselors ☞ EKG Technicians ☞ Emergency Medical Technicians ☞ Environmental Science & Protection Technicians ☞ Epidemiologists ☞ Licensed Vocational Nurses ☞ Medical & Clinical Lab Technicians & Technologists ☞ Medical & Health Service Managers ☞ Medical Appliance Technicians ☞ Medical Assistants ☞ Medical Coders ☞ Medical Equipment Repairers ☞ Medical Scientists ☞ Microbiologists ☞ MRI Technologists ☞ Nuclear Medicine Technologists ☞ Nursing Instructors ☞ Occupational Therapist Aides & Assistants ☞ Occupational Therapists ☞ Opticians ☞ Optometrists ☞ Orthotists ☞ Pharmacists ☞ Pharmacy Techs ☞ Physical Therapist Aides & Assistants ☞ Physical Therapists ☞ Physician Assistants ☞ Physicians & Surgeons ☞ Podiatrists ☞ Prothetists ☞ Psychiatric Technicians ☞ Psychologists ☞ Radiation Therapists ☞ Radiologic Technologists ☞ Recreation Workers ☞ Recreational Therapists ☞ Registered Nurses ☞ Respiratory Therapists ☞ Social & Human Service Assts ☞ Social Workers ☞ Speech-Language Pathologists ☞ Surgical Technologists ☞ Ultrasound Technologists ☞ Vocational Education Teachers</p>
<p>INDEPENDENCE Occupations that satisfy this work value allow employees to work on their own and make decisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ <u>Autonomy</u> Workers on this job plan their work with little supervision ♦ <u>Creativity</u> Workers on this job try out their own ideas ♦ <u>Responsibility</u> Workers on this job make decisions on their own 	<p>Art Therapists ☞ Audiologists ☞ Chiropractors ☞ CT Technologists ☞ Cytotechnologists ☞ Dance Therapists ☞ Dentists ☞ Dietitians & Nutritionists ☞ Educational, Vocational, and School Counselors ☞ EKG Technicians ☞ Environmental Science & Protection Technicians ☞ Epidemiologists ☞ Medical & Clinical Lab Technologists ☞ Medical & Health Service Managers ☞ Medical Appliance Technicians ☞ Medical Equipment Repairers ☞ Medical Scientists ☞ Microbiologists ☞ MRI Technologists ☞ Nursing Instructors ☞ Occupational Therapists ☞ Opticians ☞ Optometrists ☞ Orthotists ☞ Pharmacists ☞ Physical Therapists ☞ Physicians & Surgeons ☞ Podiatrists ☞ Prothetists ☞ Psychologists ☞ Radiologic Technologists ☞ Recreation Workers ☞ Recreational Therapists ☞ Respiratory Therapists ☞ Social & Human Service Assts ☞ Social Workers ☞ Speech-Language Pathologists ☞ Surgical Technologists ☞ Ultrasound Technologists ☞ Vocational Education Teachers</p>
<p>RECOGNITION Occupations that satisfy this work value offer advancement potential for leadership and are often considered prestigious.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ <u>Social Status</u> Workers on this job are looked up to by others in their company and their community ♦ <u>Advancement</u> Workers on this job have opportunities for advancement ♦ <u>Authority</u> Workers on this job give directions and instructions to others ♦ <u>Recognition</u> Workers on this job receive recognition for the work they do 	<p>Art Therapists ☞ Audiologists ☞ Cardiovascular Technologists & Technicians ☞ Chiropractors ☞ CT Technologists ☞ Cytotechnologists ☞ Dance Therapists ☞ Dental Hygienists ☞ Dentists ☞ Dietitians & Nutritionists ☞ Educational, Vocational, & School Counselors ☞ EKG Technicians ☞ Environmental Science & Protection Technicians ☞ Epidemiologists ☞ Medical & Clinical Lab Technologists ☞ Medical & Health Service Managers ☞ Medical Scientists ☞ Microbiologists ☞ MRI Technologists ☞ Nursing Instructors ☞ Occupational Therapists ☞ Opticians ☞ Optometrists ☞ Orthotists ☞ Pharmacists ☞ Physical Therapists ☞ Physician Assistants ☞ Physicians & Surgeons ☞ Podiatrists ☞ Prothetists ☞ Psychologists ☞ Radiologic Technologists ☞ Recreational Therapists ☞ Respiratory Therapists ☞ Social & Human Service Assts ☞ Social Workers ☞ Speech-Language Pathologists ☞ Ultrasound Technologists ☞ Vocational Education Teachers</p>

Satisfy Your Values in Health Care Careers!

Work Values and Corresponding Needs

Health Care Occupations That Offer Moderate or Considerable (bolded titles) Opportunity to Satisfy Value and Needs

RELATIONSHIPS

Occupations that satisfy this work value allow employees to provide service to others and work with co-workers in a friendly non-competitive environment.

- Social Service Workers on this job have work where they do things for other people
- Moral Values Workers on this job are never pressured to do things that go against their sense of right and wrong
- Co-workers Workers on this job have co-workers who are easy to get along with

Art Therapists ☞ Ambulance Drivers ☞ **Audiologists** ☞ Cardiovascular Technologists & Technicians ☞ Certified Nursing Assistants ☞ Chiropractors ☞ CT Technologists ☞ **Dance Therapists** ☞ Dental Assistants ☞ **Dental Hygienists** ☞ Dental Laboratory Technicians ☞ Dentists ☞ Dietetic Technicians ☞ Dietitians & Nutritionists ☞ Educational, Vocational, and School Counselors ☞ EKG Technicians ☞ **Emergency Medical Technicians** ☞ Epidemiologists ☞ Home Health Aides ☞ **Licensed Vocational Nurses** ☞ Medical & Clinical Lab Technicians & Technologists ☞ Medical & Health Service Managers ☞ Medical Appliance Technicians ☞ Medical Assistants ☞ Medical Equipment Preparers ☞ Medical Equipment Repairers ☞ Medical Records & Health Info Techs ☞ Medical Scientists ☞ Medical Secretaries ☞ MRI Technologists ☞ Nuclear Medicine Technologists ☞ Nursing Instructors ☞ Occupational Therapist Aides & Assistants ☞ **Occupational Therapists** ☞ Opticians ☞ Optometrists ☞ Orthotists ☞ Personal & Home Care Aides ☞ Pharmacists ☞ Pharmacy Techs ☞ Physical Therapist Aides & Assistants ☞ **Physical Therapists** ☞ **Physician Assistants** ☞ **Physicians & Surgeons** ☞ Podiatrists ☞ Prothetists ☞ Psychiatric Aides ☞ **Psychiatric Technicians** ☞ Psychologists ☞ Radiation Therapists ☞ Radiologic Technologists ☞ Recreation Workers ☞ **Recreational Therapists** ☞ **Registered Nurses** ☞ **Respiratory Therapists** ☞ Social & Human Service Assts ☞ Social Workers ☞ **Speech-Language Pathologists** ☞ Surgical Technologists ☞ Ultrasound Technologists ☞ Vocational Education Teachers

SUPPORT

Occupations that satisfy this work value offer supportive management that stands behind employees.

- Supervision, Human Relations Workers on this job have supervisors who back up their workers with management
- Company Policies and Practices Workers on this job are treated fairly by the company
- Supervision, Technical Workers on this job have supervisors who train their workers well

Ambulance Drivers ☞ Cardiovascular Technologists & Technicians ☞ Certified Nursing Assistants ☞ Dental Assistants ☞ Dental Laboratory Technicians ☞ Dietetic Technicians ☞ Emergency Medical Technicians ☞ Environmental Science & Protection Technicians ☞ Licensed Vocational Nurses ☞ Medical & Clinical Lab Technicians & Technologists ☞ Medical Appliance Technicians ☞ Medical Assistants ☞ Medical Coders ☞ Medical Equipment Preparers ☞ Medical Equipment Repairers ☞ Medical Records & Health Info Techs ☞ Medical Secretaries ☞ Nursing Aides, Orderlies, & Attendants ☞ Nursing Instructors ☞ Occupational Therapist Aides & Assistants ☞ Orthotists ☞ Personal & Home Care Aides ☞ Pharmacy Techs ☞ Physical Therapist Aides & Assistants ☞ Prothetists ☞ Psychiatric Aides ☞ Psychiatric Technicians ☞ Radiation Therapists ☞ Recreation Workers ☞ Social & Human Service Assts ☞ Social Workers ☞ Surgical Technologists ☞ Vocational Education Teachers

WORKING CONDITIONS

Occupations that satisfy this work value offer job security and good working conditions.

- Security Workers on this job have steady employment
- Activity Workers on this job are busy all the time
- Variety Workers on this job have something different to do every day
- Independence Workers on this job do their work alone
- Working Conditions Workers on this job have good working conditions
- Compensation Workers on this job are paid well in comparison with other workers

Art Therapists ☞ Audiologists ☞ Cardiovascular Technologists & Technicians ☞ Chiropractors ☞ CT Technologists ☞ Cytotechnologists ☞ Dance Therapists ☞ Dental Assistants ☞ Dental Hygienists ☞ Dental Laboratory Technicians ☞ Dentists ☞ Dietetic Technicians ☞ Dietitians & Nutritionists ☞ Educational, Vocational, and School Counselors ☞ EKG Technicians ☞ Environmental Science & Protection Technicians ☞ **Epidemiologists** ☞ Home Health Aides ☞ Medical & Clinical Lab Technicians & Technologists ☞ Medical & Health Service Managers ☞ Medical Appliance Technicians ☞ Medical Assistants ☞ Medical Coders ☞ Medical Equipment Preparers ☞ Medical Equipment Repairers ☞ Medical Records & Health Info Techs ☞ **Medical Scientists** ☞ Medical Secretaries ☞ Microbiologists ☞ MRI Technologists ☞ Nuclear Medicine Technologists ☞ Nursing Instructors ☞ Occupational Therapist Aides & Assistants ☞ Occupational Therapists ☞ Opticians ☞ Optometrists ☞ Orthotists ☞ Nursing Instructors ☞ Pharmacists ☞ Pharmacy Techs ☞ Physical Therapist Aides & Assistants ☞ Physical Therapists ☞ Physician Assistants ☞ **Physicians & Surgeons** ☞ Podiatrists ☞ Prothetists ☞ Psychiatric Aides ☞ Psychiatric Technicians ☞ Psychologists ☞ Radiation Therapists ☞ Radiologic Technologists ☞ Recreation Workers ☞ Recreational Therapists ☞ Registered Nurses ☞ Respiratory Therapists ☞ Social & Human Service Assts ☞ Social Workers ☞ Speech-Language Pathologists ☞ Surgical Technologists ☞ Ultrasound Technologists ☞ Vocational Education Teachers

Factors in a Career Choice

Listed below are aspects of a career or job choice that can make the difference between your satisfaction and dissatisfaction. Consider each factor in relation to your preferences and needs. Use career center staff and resources to help you find the information. Talk to people in the fields you are considering. Indicate with a “+” or “-” sign whether an occupation satisfies your preferences for each factor.

	Occupation #1	Occupation #2	Occupation #3	Example
Specific Work Performed <i>What tasks are performed in the job? Would I be primarily working with people, information, or things? Is that what I want to do? Are these the kind of people I like to help or serve?</i>				+
Skills, Knowledge, and Abilities <i>Do I possess the skills and abilities needed to enter the occupation? Do I have the potential to develop them? Do I enjoy using these skills?</i>				+
Work Setting <i>Where would I work? Is this a setting I would like? What are the conditions (indoors/outdoors, noisy, etc?)</i>				+
Physical Capability <i>Am I physically able to do this kind of work?</i>				+
Employment Opportunity <i>What are my chances for finding work in this field? Are there job openings now? In the future? Where are they? Will I be competitive?</i>				+
Compensation <i>What salary could I expect at the entry level? What do experienced workers earn? Are there chances for overtime or bonuses? What kind of benefits could I expect in this field? Does the salary meet my needs?</i>				-
Hours <i>What are the usual hours? Full-time or part-time? Is shift work required?</i>				-
Preparation <i>Am I willing and able to get the training required? Do I have the time and money needed for training? Are there different ways to enter the occupation?</i>				+
Licenses and Certificates <i>Are certificates or licenses required? Can I qualify for them?</i>				n/a
Opportunity for Advancement <i>What are my chances of moving up in the field? What is the typical way to advance? Am I willing and able to do what it takes to advance?</i>				+
Values <i>Is this work compatible with my values? Will this kind of work help me reach my long-range goals?</i>				+
Interests <i>Would I like this type of work enough to make it a career?</i>				+
Other				n/a
Results <i>Total the number of positive responses (+) for each occupation under consideration. Which occupation is the best match for you?</i>				9