Careers in Healthcare

Your Map to a Career in Healthcare

2019

Nebraska
Area Health Education
Center Program

Chancellor's Letter

Dear Students,

As I travel across our state, to Nebraska's rural and urban areas, I take the opportunity to ask people how UNMC can make a difference in their lives and communities. The answer is always the same: Workforce, workforce and workforce.

You, too, can make a difference in the lives of people across Nebraska in this same way: by joining this workforce. This book details many exciting career paths in health sciences, and I urge you to explore these pages to find the opportunity that might be best for you.

No matter your aptitude or skillset – from athletic training, to ultrasonography, to everything in between – there are challenging, rewarding professions available. We all have heard of physicians, nurses, dentists, and others, and those are needed, too. But, there also may be a health sciences occupation within these pages that you had not previously thought of, but might end up being perfect for you.

And, if you have a desire to make a difference in the lives of your fellow Nebraskans, Nebraska is determined to help you find a way. Please consider the resources provided by our Nebraska Area Health Education Centers the roadmap to your career pathway. These AHECs can offer guidance on everything from which high school courses to take and how to apply for financial aid, to the all-important advice for the application process.

When communities across the state ask for health professions workforce, what they really are asking for is you. You can improve the lives of your fellow citizens, and you can become one of the highly respected professionals these communities need.

Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.

Sometimes, all it takes is a spark. I hope you will find that spark within the pages of this book. We are here to help you.

With warmest personal regards,

Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.
Chancellor, University of Nebraska Medical Center

The Challenge of a Lifetime

If you are thinking about a career in health care, you're considering one of the most important jobs around. Working in the health care industry will give you a great sense of purpose and a chance to make a real difference in your community. These fields offer job security, competitive wages and skills that are valuable anywhere in the world.

Health care is among the fastest growing industries in the U.S. economy. According to Bureau of Labor Statistics data, 8 of the top 20 fastest-growing occupations are in health care.

Several factors are spurring this rapid growth. First, as life expectancies increase, a growing proportion of our population is elderly. Because older people have more health care needs, there will be increased demand for a wide variety of health services. Second, advances in both diagnostic and therapeutic technologies are dramatically improving the survival rate for severely ill and injured patients, who will need continued therapy and care. Third, medical practices and integrated health systems are becoming larger and more complex. This increases the need for administrators, office support workers and health information technologists.

Like many states, Nebraska has a shortage of trained health care professionals. There is an especially great need for health professionals to work in rural areas and in underserved urban communities. Because the need is widespread, most health careers offer job mobility, giving you considerable freedom to choose where you want to live and work. Should you choose to work in an underserved area, you will be helping to improve the health and vitality of that community. Wherever you choose to locate, health related jobs are varied, challenging, and in demand!

If you haven't considered health care as a career option,
take the time to learn more about it.

You might just find that it's the "challenge of a lifetime."

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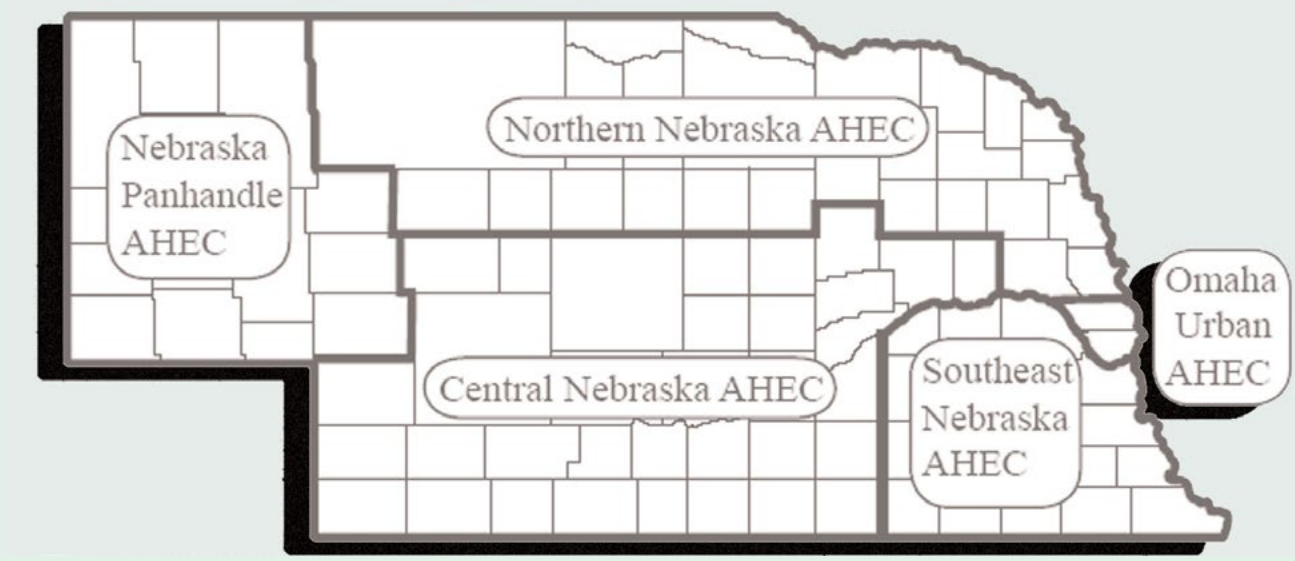
Nebraska AHEC Program

Connecting students to careers, professionals to communities and communities to better health



The Nebraska AHEC Program works to develop and enhance education and training networks within communities, academic institutions, and community-based organizations. In turn, these networks increase diversity among health professionals, broaden the distribution of the health workforce, and enhance health care quality and delivery to rural and underserved areas and populations across the state.

To recruit and retain a health workforce ready to meet the needs of the Nebraska's rural and underserved communities, AHEC programs expose students to health career options and enhance interprofessional community-based and clinical training opportunities for health profession students. Additionally, AHEC programs provide and support education and training activities to prepare students and practicing health professionals to effectively practice in a transforming health care system.

In short, the Nebraska AHEC Program works to connect students to health careers, health professionals to communities and communities to better health.

The Nebraska Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program Office is located at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) in the College of Medicine in the Department of Family Medicine. The Program Office supports five AHEC centers across the state that collectively provide services to all 93 Nebraska counties.

Nebraska Area Health Education Center Program

Nebraska AHEC Program Office
University of Nebraska Medical Center
983075 Nebraska Medical Center - Omaha, NE 68198
Program Director: Michael Sitorius, MD
Deputy Director and Program Manager: Nicole Carritt, MPH
www.unmc.edu/familymed/education/ahec

For more information about any health career or opportunities to be involved in your area, use the contact information on the next page to contact the AHEC in your region.

Central Nebraska AHEC
University of Nebraska at Kearney - Bruner Hall of Science, Room 170
2401 11th Ave - Kearney, NE 68849
Program Coordinator: Brandon Drozd
www.unk.edu//ahec
Facebook

Nebraska Panhandle AHEC
2620 College Park - Scottsbluff, NE 69361
Executive Director: Tammy Fehringer
www.np-ahec.org
Facebook

Northern Nebraska AHEC
110 N 16th Ste, Ste 2 - Norfolk, NE 68701
Executive Director: Gretchen Forsell, MPH, RD, LMNT
www.nnahec.org
Facebook - Twitter - Linkedin - Instagram

Southeast Nebraska AHEC
995 East Hwy 33, Suite 1
Crete, NE 68333
Executive Director: Carmen Chinchilla-Gutiérrez
se-ahec.phsneb.org
Facebook

Omaha AHEC
University of Nebraska at Omaha - Allwine Hall, Room 308
6001 Dodge Street - Omaha, NE 68182
Coordinator: Clare Maakestad
cas.unomaha.edu/ahec

Which Health Care Career Is Right For You?

The range of job opportunities in health care is tremendous. Not all health professionals are doctors, dentists and nurses. As this book will clearly illustrate, there are health careers for people with widely varying skills, temperaments, interests and aptitudes. Most health careers involve working directly with patients, but not all. Most require strong math and science skills, but again, not all. Some specialties, like clinical lab technicians, may have little or no patient contact. Some careers focus on the business aspects of health care, or the technical aspects of computers and information processing; and some involve social services and helping people find the care and community support they need.

Knowing your skills, interests, and aptitudes will help you define the career choices that are right for you. High school and college is the time for you to explore and consider many different options. Job shadowing and volunteering can be very helpful ways to get a hands-on feel for what you like.

Understanding your own temperament and personality is also extremely helpful. For example if you are the practical, realistic type who likes to work with tools or machines, being a dental assistant or working with biomedical equipment might be for you. If you're sociable and enjoy working directly with people, social work or nursing would be strong considerations. If you're highly analytical, being a physician or research scientist could fit you well. Your high school guidance counselor may have an aptitudes/skills test that could help you think about the areas that would make the most sense for you.

Finally, as you consider the possibility of your future in a health related field, keep in mind that health care is increasingly a group activity. The patient's well-being depends on each member of the health care team performing his or her specialized function, and communicating and collaborating with other care givers. Being a team player is an indispensable asset to a successful health career.

How Long Will It Take, And How Much Will I Make?

People choose careers in health care for lots of different reasons. The opportunity to make our world a better place is key for many, but job security and income are also important factors. Because the number and variety of health care careers is so great, the compensation and the required education is also extremely varied. Training can range from several weeks of classroom and on the job training for a nurse aide to many years beyond college for a medical specialty. This booklet provides information about the training required for each health profession and also the educational opportunities that are available here in Nebraska.

Income also varies widely by health specialty and by geographical area. This booklet provides the Nebraska annual wage mean for each career. The careers that require longer periods of education will be higher paying. Similarly, more responsibility typically means higher compensation. Finally, careers that demand long hours on the job will also tend to be better paying than those that have a standard work week.

For more information about job prospects and levels of compensation, please refer to the websites of the many professional associations referenced throughout this book. Another great resource is www.explorehealthcareers.org. This site provides excellent information on health careers, enrichment programs, and financial aid, along with current information about salary levels in the various professions.

Annual wage mean information about health professions in Nebraska can be found in the *May 2018 Nebraska Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates published by Bureau of Labor Statistics.* These occupational employment and wage estimates are calculated with data collected from employers in all industry sectors in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas in Nebraska.

Salary information on a national level can be found on the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics Web site at: www.bls.gov

What High School Courses To Take

The majority of health professions require a college degree and, of course, many involve graduate or professional school as well. So for almost any health career, it is important to take high school classes that prepare you for college. Your guidance counselor can provide your school's recommended college preparatory curriculum, but here are some basic guidelines.

Because so many health fields require proficient math and science skills, you should take as much math and science as you can. Advanced courses in biology, anatomy, physiology, chemistry, and physics are advisable, along with algebra, geometry and calculus. Communication is critical in all health fields, so English literature and composition are very important. Studying a foreign language can be helpful in communicating with various patient populations and in comprehending cultures other than your own. Similarly, history and social studies prepare you to understand the broader world and are a key part of any college prep program.

Of course if you have special interests, you can take classes to build your skills in those areas. For example, if you like computers and think you might be interested in health information management, you can take courses in computer applications and business education. If you want the kind of hands-on patient interaction of fields like nursing, occupational therapy or physical therapy, you might want to add classes in psychology, health, and human development. If you are interested in food and nutrition, courses in family and consumer science could be helpful additions. The key is to explore your own interests while taking the most challenging college prep curriculum that you can.

Health Science Career Cluster and Pathways

Nebraska Department of Education has adopted a career education system that develops skills for lifelong learning, earning, and living for Nebraska students.

The Health Science Career Cluster orients students to careers within the health care system. At the secondary level, students become more proficient in the Foundation Knowledge and Skills for Health Science.

For more information, contact:

Carol Packard
Health Science Career Field Specialist
Education and Training
Law and Public Safety
carol.packard@nebraska.gov

Nebraska Department of Education
301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln, NE 68509
(402) 471-4813

Health Career Description Guide

Nature of the Profession

General overview of work involved for each career.

Includes information about potential work locations and the day-to-day tasks encountered by health care professionals.

APTITUDES
The abilities and skills required to proficiently perform in a particular career. Aptitudes can be developed while on the job or may be natural skills of an employee.

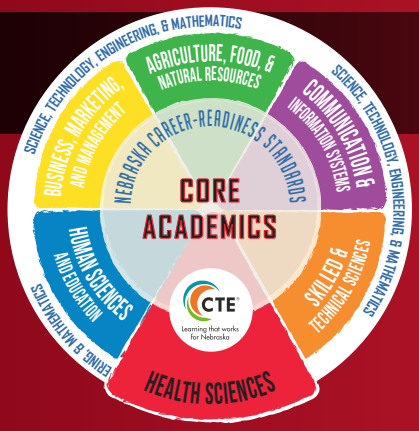
EDUCATION
The course work requirements for each career or program. Some professions may require an Associate Degree, Baccalaureate Degree, Certificate, Doctorate Degree, Master's Degree, Diploma, or Post-Baccalaureate Certificate.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA
An overview of the available programs, universities, and colleges in Nebraska that offer the courses required to obtain career appropriate licensures and certifications.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION
To be licensed to practice in Nebraska, individuals must graduate or complete certain education programs. May include passing comprehensive exams and complete on-going continuing education requirements.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE
The average yearly salary for each career. Figure denotes the average for the state of Nebraska. Range of wages may vary.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
Professional associations are typially a nonprofit organization seeking to further a particular profession, the interests of individuals engaged in that profession and the public interest. Professional associations often offer discounted or free memberships to students. There are many advantages to joining a professional society as a student. You are able to network with professionals, learn more about your desired career field, and discover internship or job opportunities.



Nebraska Career & Technical Education

Health Sciences

This career cluster prepares for careers that promote health, wellness, and diagnosis as well as treat injuries and diseases. Some of the careers involve working directly with people, while others involve research into diseases or collecting and formatting data and information.

"A career ready person capitalizes on personal strengths, talents, education and experiences to bring value to the workplace and the community through his/her performance, skill, diligence, ethics and responsible behavior."

— Definition of career readiness adopted by the Nebraska State Board of Education on May 5, 2010.

Nebraska is expecting an increase of 13,272 jobs in this Career Cluster between 2014 and 2024.

HEALTH SCIENCE OCCUPATIONS

HEALTH SCIENCE OCCUPATIONS	Average Entry Wage
Registered Nurses	$46,691
Medical and Health Services Managers	$62,760
Physical Therapists	$57,600
Physicians and Surgeons, All Other	$57,712
Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians	$28,016
Medical Records and Health Information Technicians	$29,641
Dental Assistants	$27,633
Radiologic Technologists	$40,993
Nurse Practitioners	$68,977
Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists	$42,695
Pharmacists	$69,321
Physical Therapist Assistants	$36,986
Dietitians and Nutritionists	$40,968

This H3 list based on projected highest number of openings in Nebraska through 2024.
Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Office of Labor Market Information.

Find more H3 jobs at: ***h3.ne.gov***

EXAMPLE OF A COURSE OF STUDY

MIDDLE SCHOOL 6–8:
- Exploratory Health Science

HIGH SCHOOL YEARS 9 & 10:
- Careers in Health Science
- Health Science I, II & III
- Anatomy/Physiology
- Medical Terminology

HIGH SCHOOL YEARS 11 & 12:
- Behavioral Health I &II
- Clinical Laboratory Science
- Health Informatics
- Sport Medicine
- Human Life Cycle Nutrition
- Health Management and Ethics
- Exercise Science
- Personal and Community Medical Issues/Public Health
- Nursing Assistant
- Medication Aide
- Work Based Learning Experience
- Performance Nutrition

INTRACURRICULAR CAREER & TECHNICAL STUDENT ORGANIZATION

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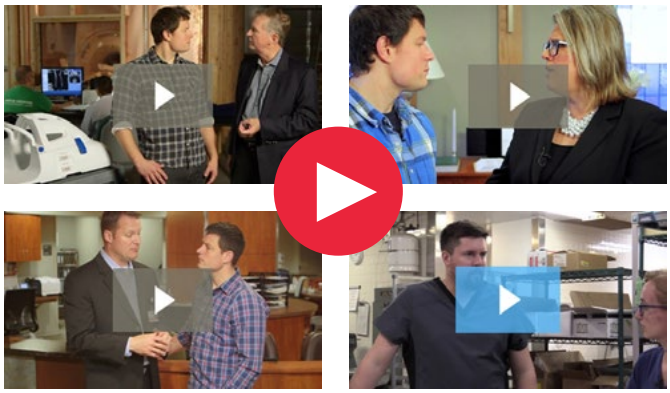
hosa future health professionals
Founded in 1976

hosa future health professionals NEBRASKA

VIRTUAL CAREER TOURS OF NEBRASKA BUSINESSES



www.necareertours.com

Education Pathways to begin your career	Certificate	Diploma	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Military
BIOTECHNOLOGY				✔	✔
CNA - CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT	✔				
DENTAL ASSISTING / DENTAL HYGIENE		✔	✔		✔
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES / TECHNICIAN	✔	✔	✔		✔
EMT - PARAMEDIC	✔	✔	✔		✔
FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCE / PHYSICAL SCIENCE/ SCIENCE TEACHER				✔	
HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY		✔	✔	✔	✔
MEDICAL ASSISTING	✔		✔		
MEDICAL INSURANCE CODING / BILLING / CLAIMS			✔		
MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY			✔		✔
MEDICATION AIDE	✔				
NURSING			✔	✔	✔
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT			✔		✔
PHARMACY TECHNICIAN		✔			✔
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT			✔		✔
POLYSOMNOGRAPHIC TECHNOLOGY	✔				✔
RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY			✔		✔
RESPIRATORY CARE			✔		✔
SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY			✔		✔

Advanced and professional degrees not included on this chart.

THE CAREER READY INDIVIDUAL:

- Applies appropriate academic and technical skills
- Communicates effectively and appropriately
- Contributes to employer and community success
- Makes sense of problems and perseveres in solving them
- Uses critical thinking
- Demonstrates innovation and creativity
- Models ethical leadership and effective management
- Works productively in teams and demonstrates cultural competency
- Utilizes technology
- Manages personal career development
- Attends to personal and financial well-being

EXPLORE MORE AT:

For all types of pathways, including professional degrees: **www.mynextmove.org**

For military careers: **www.careersinthemilitary.com or www.todaysmilitary.com**

It is the policy of the Nebraska Department of Education not to discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, age, national origin, or genetic information in its educational programs, admission policies, employment, or other agency programs.

This project was funded through the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V), administered through the Nebraska Department of Education. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the United States Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

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NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Athletic Trainer

Nature of the Profession

Certified athletic trainers are health care professionals who specialize in the prevention, evaluation, rehabilitation and management of injuries that result from physical activity, particularly those involving the musculoskeletal system. Working as part of the health care team, athletic trainers practice under the direction of a physician and in collaboration with other health care professionals, administrators, coaches, and parents.

Certified Athletic Trainers work with more than just athletes. They can be found almost anywhere that people are active. Athletic trainers are not the same as personal trainers, and certified athletic trainers work with more than just athletes. They can be found almost anywhere that people are active. Athletic trainers practice in a wide variety of work settings including secondary schools, colleges and universities, hospitals and sports medicine clinics, and professional sports. There are also opportunities in non-traditional areas like the military, law enforcement, industrial settings, and the performing arts.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn the complex science, math, methods and techniques of athletic training
- Good verbal and communication skills
- Good space and form perception, manual dexterity, and general coordination
- Ability to relate to a variety of people and to motivate and influence others
- Ability to make judgments based on data, observation and experience
- Emotional maturity and patience

EDUCATION

Students who want to become athletic trainers must complete a bachelor's degree from a school with an accredited athletic training curriculum. Course work will include formal instruction in areas such as injury/illness prevention, human anatomy and physiology, types of treatments and therapies, and nutrition. Classroom learning is supplemented by clinical experiences. More than 70% percent of certified athletic trainers also hold a masters degree or higher.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Nebraska Wesleyan University – Lincoln (B)
- University of Nebraska – Kearney (B, M)
- University of Nebraska – Lincoln (B)
- University of Nebraska – Omaha (B, M)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

To be licensed to practice in Nebraska, individuals must graduate from an accredited education program. They must also pass the comprehensive examination administered by the Board of Certification of the National Athletic Trainers' Association. Once certified, athletic trainers must meet on-going continuing education requirements.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$46,710

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National Athletic Trainers' Association
Web Address: www.nata.org
Board of Certification for Athletic Trainers
Web Address: www.bocatc.org
Mid-America Athletic Trainers' Association
Web Address: www.maata.net

Behavioral Health Professions

Nature of the Profession

Behavioral (mental) health is defined as how a person thinks, feels and acts when faced with life's situations. It is how people see themselves, their lives and the other people in their lives. It's how they evaluate their challenges and problems, and explore choices. This includes handling stress, relating to other people, and making decisions. Source: The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

A behavioral health professional is a person who is licensed by the state and whose professional activities address a client's behavioral issues.

Types of Licensed Behavioral Health Professions:

- Psychiatrist
- Nurse Practitioner (APRN-NP)
- Physician Assistant (PA)
- Psychologist
- Mental Health Professional: A counselor in the state of Nebraska who holds a license to offer or render mental health practice services. Mental health practitioners include social workers, professional counselors, and marriage and family therapists.
- Licensed Addiction Counselor

APTITUDES

- Excellent communication skills
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills
- Ability to listen and provide objective solutions
- Compassionate and empathetic
- High level of integrity and responsibility
- Good organizational skills

EDUCATION

Psychiatrist, Nurse Practitioner (APRN-NP), Physician Assistant (PA, Psychologist, Mental Health Professional: Typically a bachelor's degree followed by a master's degree in counseling, social work or marriage and family therapy; Licensed Addiction Counselor (LADC)

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Psychiatrist, Nurse Practitioner (APRN-NP), Physician Assistant (PA) , Psychologist
- Mental Health Professional: University of Nebraska at Kearney (M), University of Nebraska at Omaha (M), University of Nebraska at Lincoln (M), Bellevue University (M), Chadron State College (M), Doane University (M), Wayne State College (M)
- Licensed Addiction Counselor (LADC): Bellevue University, Central Community College, Metropolitan Community College, Northeast Community College, Peru State College, Southeast Community College, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Training for Addiction Professionals (TAP)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Psychiatrist, Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant, Psychologist, Licensed Mental Health Professional (LMHP/LIMHP), Certified Marriage & Family Therapist, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Alcohol & Drug Counselor, Certified Professional Counselor, Licensed Addiction Counselor: LADC

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

Ranges from an average of $40,900 to $180,260

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The Association for Addiction Professionals
Web Address: www.naadac.org
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
Web Address: www.aamft.org

**Visit career pages for additional professional associations*

Clinical Laboratory Science/Medical Technology

Nature of the Profession

Clinical laboratory scientists (also known as medical technologists) and medical laboratory technicians or clinical laboratory technicians are integral members of the health care team.

Clinical laboratory scientists/ medical technologists(CLS/MT) provide and supervise laboratory services for the diagnosis, treatment, and management of disease. They perform complex chemical, biological, and molecular techniques which are used in clinical and research laboratories.

Clinical laboratory technicians/ medical laboratory technicians(CLT/MLT) perform routine laboratory procedures.

APTITUDES

- Ability to perform complex laboratory procedures
- Strong analytical and problem solving skills
- Ability to work well under stress
- Excellent communication skills
- Ability to work independently as well as with others
- High level of integrity and responsibility
- Good organizational skills

EDUCATION

CLT/MLTs must have a 2-year associate degree. CLS/MT certification requires a 4-year baccalaureate degree.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

Clinical Laboratory Technician/Medical Laboratory Technician

- Central Community College – Hastings (A)
- Mid-Plains Community College – North Platte (A)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (A)

Clinical Laboratory Science/Medical Technology

- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (B)
- University of Nebraska at Kearney (B)

Medical Lab Science

- Nebraska Methodist College (B)

Colleges offering educational requirements leading to a Baccalaureate Degree in Clinical Laboratory Science/Medical Technology upon completion of the student's professional education in a NAACLS accredited program:

- Chadron State College – Chadron (B)
- College of Saint Mary – Omaha (B)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Kearney (B)
- Wayne State College – Wayne (B)

Pre-professional educational requirements (3 years of college) may be completed at:

Bellevue University – Bellevue	Midland University – Fremont
Concordia University – Seward	Nebraska Wesleyan University – Lincoln
Creighton University – Omaha	Peru State College – Peru
Doane University – Crete	Union College – Lincoln
Hastings College – Hastings	University of Nebraska – Kearney, Lincoln, Omaha

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Certification requires a baccalaureate (CLS/MT) or an associate degree (CLT/MLT). In addition, it is necessary to pass a national examination given by the Board of Registry, American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) or the National Certifying Agency (NCA).

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$39,040

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Society for Clinical Pathology
Web Address: www.ascp.org
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
Web Address: www.ascls.org
American Medical Technologists
Web Address: www.americanmedtech.org

Clinical Perfusion

Nature of the Profession

A perfusionist is a certified professional who deals with all phases of regulating and controlling blood flow outside the body, a process called extracorporeal circulation. The perfusionist has the knowledge to operate extracorporeal circulation equipment during any medical situation in which it is necessary to support or temporarily replace the patient's circulatory or respiratory function.

Perfusion procedures involve specialized instrumentation and advanced life support techniques, and may include a variety of related functions.

Perfusion is still a relatively new occupation. Perfusionists may be employed in hospitals, by surgeons, or as employees of a medical service group. Their schedules typically include weekend and night duty, including emergency call. They may also work in an on-call system, depending upon the number of perfusionists employed by the institution.

APTITUDES

- Conscientiousness and reliability
- Manual dexterity and mechanical aptitude
- Ability to follow detailed instructions
- Emotional stability and confidence for handling the demands of the surgeons

EDUCATION

Admission to a clinical perfusion program requires a bachelor's degree. Programs are generally one to four years in length, depending on the program design, objectives, prerequisites, and student qualifications.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (M)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

To become a certified clinical perfusionist, an individual must first have a bachelor of science degree and then complete a one- or two- year perfusion education program that has been accredited by the Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation. A certifying examination given by the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (ABCP) is also required by most states including Nebraska.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$118,000

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Academy of Cardiovascular Perfusion
Web address: www.theaacp.com
American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (ABCP) – Certification Organization
Web Address: www.abcp.org
American Society of Extra-Corporeal Technology (AmSECT)
Web Address: www.amsect.org
Nebraska Perfusion Society
Web address: www.neperfusion.org

Coding Technician

Nature of the Profession

Coding technicians are professionals skilled in classifying medical data from patient records, generally in the hospital setting. These coding practitioners review patients' records and assign numeric codes for each diagnosis and procedure. To perform this task, they must have expertise in specialized coding systems.

APTITUDES

- Good reading and numeric skills
- Knowledge of medical terminology, disease processes, and pharmacology
- Good eye-hand coordination and manual dexterity
- Ability to work quickly and accurately following specific procedures
- Ability to use word processor/computers and other current office technology
- Ability to proofread numbers and see important details in written materials

EDUCATION

The program is designed to prepare the student to enter the health information field with a certificate or diploma, and associate degree, or a bachelor's degree. Students receiving a diploma will be prepared to work in entry-level positions as coding technicians in a variety of health care settings.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College – Hastings (P)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (A, B, C)
- Metro Community College – Omaha (A,C)
- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (P)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (P)
- Western Nebraska Community College – Scottsbluff, Alliance, Sidney (P)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

The American Health Information Management Association offers two certification exams for coders, the Certified Coding Specialist and Physician Based Coding Specialist. Potential candidates must possess a high school diploma. It is also recommended that an individual have at least three years of on-the-job coding experience and coding education from seminars and colleges.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$39,110

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)
Web Address: www.ahima.org
American Academy of Professional Coders
Web Address: www.aapc.com
Nebraska Health Information Management Association
Web Address: www.nhima.org

Counseling

Nature of the Profession

Counselors assist people with personal, family, mental health, educational, and career decisions and problems. Their duties depend on the individuals they serve and the settings in which they work.

Rehabilitation counselors help people deal with the personal, social, and vocational effects of disabilities. They evaluate the strengths and limitations of individuals, provide personal and vocational counseling, and arrange for medical care, vocational training, and job placement.

Mental health counselors emphasize prevention and work with individuals and groups to promote mental health. They help individuals deal with substance abuse, suicide, stress management, self-esteem problems, job and career concerns, educational decisions, and family, parenting, and marital problems. Mental health counselors work closely with other specialists including psychiatrists, psychologists, clinical social workers, psychiatric nurses, and school counselors.

School and college counselors work in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools. They help students evaluate their abilities, interests, talents, and personality characteristics to develop realistic academic and career goals. Counselors use interviews, counseling sessions, tests, or other methods when evaluating and advising students. They operate career information centers and career education programs.

Other counseling specialties include marriage and family, multicultural, vocational, and gerontological counseling.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn and apply counseling theories and techniques
- Strong verbal abilities for talking with and listening to clients, reading professional literature, and writing reports
- Ability to work with a variety of people and a desire to help others
- Ability to make judgments based on data, observations, and experience
- Good math skills for interpreting test results

EDUCATION

The minimum educational requirement is a master's degree in counseling. This requires a four-year bachelor's degree and a minimum of two years in a master's level program.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Bellevue University (M)
- Chadron State College – Chadron (M)
- Creighton University – Omaha (M)
- Doane University – Grand Island (M), Lincoln (M)
- Nebraska Christian College (B, M)
- University of Nebraska – Kearney (M), Lincoln (M,D), Omaha (M)
- Wayne State College – Wayne (B,M)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for a license to practice as a mental health practitioner must have a master's degree, have three thousand (3,000) hours of supervised experience in mental health practice, and have passed the mental health practitioner exam.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$29,268 - $95,878
Nebraska Average - $58,893

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Counseling Association
Web Address: www.counseling.org
National Board for Certified Counselors
Web Address: www.nbcc.org
Nebraska Counseling Association
Web Address: www.necounseling.org

Cytotechnology

Nature of the Profession

Cytology is defined as the study of cells. Cytotechnologists perform microscopic evaluation of patient samples for the purposes of diagnosing cancer, precancerous lesions, benign tumors, infectious agents, and inflammatory processes. Cytotechnologists help save lives by discovering certain diseases early when treatment is most effective. Thus a career as a cytotechnologist can be both challenging and rewarding.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn the principles and methods of cytotechnology
- Strong verbal and math ability to do tests, understand technical literature, and talk with other personnel
- Good space and form perception and ability to see differences in color
- Ability to make decisions based on data, handle a variety of duties, and work with exact standards
- Good manual dexterity
- Ability to do precise work accurately and timely

EDUCATION

Admission to the cytotechnology program requires the applicant to possess a four-year bachelor's degree with 20 semester hours of biology, 8 semester hours of chemistry and 3 semester hours of math.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (PBC)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Before entering UNMC's accredited program for cytotechnology, an individual must have a bachelor of science degree from an accredited institution. Licensing is not required by the State of Nebraska, but must be certified by the Board of Registry of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP).

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

Unavailable

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

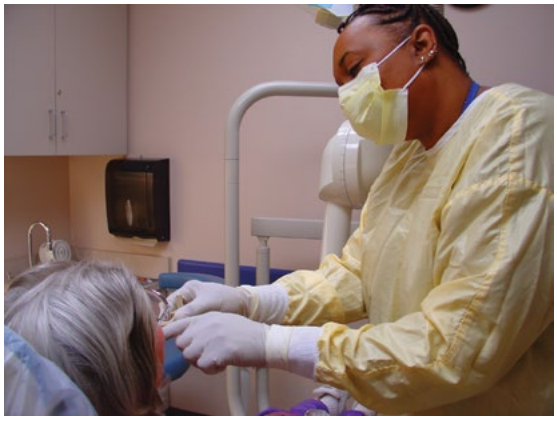
American Society for Clinical Pathology
Web Address: www.ascp.org
American Society of Cytotechnology
Web Address: www.asct.com
American Society of Cytopathology
Web Address: www.cytopathology.org

Dental Assistant

Nature of the Profession

Dental assistants work at chair-side as dentists examine and treat patients. They make patients as comfortable as possible in the dental chair, prepare them for treatment, and obtain dental records. Assistants hand dentists instruments and materials and keep the patient's mouth dry and clear by using suction or other devices.

APTITUDES



- Ability to learn basic practices and procedures of dentistry
- Average verbal and numerical abilities
- Ability to follow instructions carefully and work according to set standards
- Average hand-eye coordination and use of hands and fingers
- Ability to work with people who may be under stress and to work as a member of a team

EDUCATION

Most employers require applicants to have completed a one-year diploma or certificate program, or a two-year associate degree program. Some assistants are trained on the job or through an apprenticeship program.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College – Hastings (A, P)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (C)
- Mid-Plains Community College – North Platte (P)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (P)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Although it is not required, a person may be certified by graduating from an accredited program in dental assisting and passing an exam by the Dental Assisting National Board.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$35,220

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Dental Association Department of Guidance
Web Address: www.ada.org
Dental Assisting National Board, Inc.
Web Address: www.dentalassisting.com
Nebraska Dental Association
Web Address: www.nedental.org

Dental Hygiene

Nature of the Profession

Dental hygienists provide preventive dental care. They teach patients how to practice good oral hygiene. They use instruments to remove tartar, stain, and plaque from teeth. They also take and develop dental x-rays.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn the techniques and sciences related to dental hygiene
- Verbal ability to instruct others
- Good manual dexterity, space and form perception, and eye-hand coordination
- Ability to relate to a variety of people who may be tense and nervous
- Ability to do precise work
- Patience and tact

EDUCATION

The educational requirement is a two-year associate degree or a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College – Hastings (A)
- Creighton Univeristy – Omaha (B)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Lincoln, Gering (B)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for licensure as a dental hygienist must be at least 19 years of age, graduate from an accredited dental hygiene program, and pass the exams.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$66,490

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Dental Association Department of Guidance
Web Address: www.ada.org
American Dental Hygienists' Association
Web Address: www.adha.org
Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association
Web Address: www.nedha.org

Dentist

Nature of the Profession

Dentists diagnose, prevent, and treat problems of the teeth and tissues of the mouth. They remove decay and fill cavities, examine x-rays, place protective plastic sealants on children's teeth, straighten teeth, and repair fractured teeth. They also perform corrective surgery of the gums and supporting bones to treat gum diseases. Dentists extract teeth and make molds and measurements for dentures to replace missing teeth.

The majority of dentists work in private practice, either solo or with a dental group. Dentists typically work with dental hygienists and dental assistants, who help provide patient care. Dentists may also work in hospitals, public health clinics, teaching institutions, or research facilities.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn the complex science, math, and the methods and techniques of dentistry
- Strong verbal abilities for effective oral and written communication with the health care team
- Analytical abilities for measuring, calculating and evaluating
- Strong manual dexterity and eye-hand coordination
- Good space and form perception
- Good observational skills and ability to relate to all kinds of people
- Scientific curiosity, emotional maturity, and empathy

EDUCATION

Graduation from an accredited dental school is required, which usually takes four years. To enter a dental school, a person must have three to four years of college study in pre-dentistry, have a high grade point average, and pass the Dental Admissions Test. After graduation, a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) or Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) is awarded. To specialize or teach, a dentist must spend an additional two to four years in advanced dental training. Researchers in dentistry may pursue a master's or doctorate degree.
After the completion of dental school, graduates may enter the practice of general dentistry or pursue advanced training in specialty areas which include:

- Endodontics - root canal and related therapy
- Oral/maxillofacial Surgery - surgery of the mouth and jaws
- Oral pathology - investigating the cause, process and effect of dental disease
- Orthodontics - correction of teeth placement and facial structures
- Pediatric dentistry - for infants through adolescents
- Periodontics - gum and supporting structure treatment
- Prosthodontics - treatment with artificial teeth and dentures
- Public health dentistry - preventing and controlling dental disease

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Lincoln (D)
- Creighton Health Sciences – Omaha (D)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for licensure as a dentist must graduate from an accredited school or college of dentistry and pass the exams.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$158,770

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Dental Association
Web Address: www.ada.org
Nebraska Dental Association
Web Address: www.nedental.org

Dietary Manager

Nature of the Profession

Working together with registered dietitians, dietary managers provide food service supervision and nutritional care in a variety of settings including hospitals, schools, long-term care, and correctional facilities. They interview patients for diet history, instruct patients on dietary restrictions, calculate nutrient intake, coordinate food service to patients, order supplies, maintain sanitation, develop the annual budget, and supervise the work of food service employees.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn the basics of nutritional science and dietetics
- Good verbal abilities for reading, writing, and communicating
- Ability to keep records, visualize space and form relations, and work with scientific data
- Planning and organizing skills, resourcefulness, and ability to work under pressure
- Ability to supervise and train others
- Ability to get along with a variety of people

EDUCATION

Training to become a dietary manager requires the completion of a formal 12-18 month program or on-the-job training in a hospital food service program.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (C)
- Southeast Community College - Lincoln (C)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Certification is voluntary, however, certification may command a higher rate of pay. Graduates from Dietary Managers Association (DMA) approved programs are eligible to take a certification exam offered by the Certifying Board of Dietary Managers (CBDM) to become a certified dietary manager (CDM).

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$41,684

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Dietary Managers Association
Web Address: www.dmaonline.org
Association of Nutrition & Foodservice Professionals
Web Address: www.anfponline.org

Nutrition Dietetics Technician Registered (NDTR)

Nature of the Profession

The nutrition dietetics technician registered works on a health care team assisting the registered dietitian and specializing in either food service management or nutritional care services. In a large hospital, he or she works under the supervision of an administrative registered dietitian. In a small hospital or extended care facility, where he or she may be responsible for the daily food service operation, a consultant registered dietitian usually supervises the dietetic technician.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn the basics of nutritional science and dietetics
- Verbal abilities for reading, writing, and communicating
- Ability to keep records, visualize space and form relations, and work with scientific data
- Planning and organizing skills, resourcefulness, and ability to work under pressure
- Ability to get along with a variety of people

EDUCATION

Training to become a nutrition dietetics technician registered involves completion of a two-year associate degree program that combines classroom and supervised practical experience. Coursework includes a variety of classes in food and nutrition, food service systems management, and a range of general science courses.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (A)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

The State of Nebraska does not require licensure for nutrition dietetic technicians. However, graduates of programs approved or accredited by the Accreditation for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the American Dietetic Association are eligible to take the National Registration Examination for Dietetic Technicians to become credentialed as a nutrition dietetics technician, registered (NDTR).

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$32,650

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Dietetic Association
Web Address: www.eatright.org
Nebraska Dietetic Association
Web Address: www.eatrightnebraska.org

Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist (Medical Nutrition Therapist)

Nature of the Profession

Registered dietitians (RD)/ medical nutrition therapists are food and nutrition experts who work in a wide variety of employment settings, including health care, business, public health, education, research, and private practice.

In health care, registered dietitians/medical nutrition therapists educate patients about nutrition and administer medical nutrition therapy as part of the health care team. They may also teach nurses, physicians, other health care professionals and students about nutrition and its role in patient care. Registered dietitians with an administrative focus may also manage the food service operations in these settings. They may also conduct research relating to nutrition and health in university or private industry settings.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn the principles of nutritional science and dietetics
- Strong verbal abilities for reading, writing, and communicating
- Ability to keep records, visualize space and form relations, and work with scientific data
- Planning and organizing skills, resourcefulness, and ability to work under pressure
- Ability to supervise and train others
- Ability to get along with a variety of people

EDUCATION

For registered dietitians, the minimum educational requirement is a bachelor's degree and a dietetic internship (900 hours minimum) followed by passing a national exam administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR).

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- University of Nebraska – Lincoln (B, M)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (PBC)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

To become a registered dietitian, an applicant must complete a baccalaureate degree program and a supervised practice/dietetic internship program, both of which must be accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics, the accrediting agency for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.. Typically, the supervised practice program/dietetic internship follows the baccalaureate degree program and is six to twelve months in length. Then the applicant must pass a national examination administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration. To provide medical nutrition therapy in Nebraska, the registered dietitian must become licensed by the Nebraska Board of Examiners in Medical Nutrition Therapy.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$54,030

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Web Address: www.eatright.org
Nebraska Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Web Address: www.eatrightpro.org

Emergency Medical Technology

Nature of the Profession

Heart attacks, near drowning, unscheduled childbirth, poisonings, gunshot wounds and injuries from automobile accidents all demand urgent medical attention. Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) give immediate care and then transport the sick or injured to medical facilities.

Following instructions from a dispatcher, EMTs determine the nature and extent of the patient's injury or illness while also trying to determine whether the patient has epilepsy, diabetes, or other pre-existing medical conditions. EMTs then give appropriate emergency care following strict guidelines for each procedure they may perform.

Levels of knowledge and responsibility increase from EMT-B to EMT-intermediate and then to paramedic.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn the practices and techniques of emergency medical treatment
- Good numerical and verbal abilities
- Good space and form perception, manual dexterity, general coordination, and physical strength
- Ability to relate to people, react calmly, and help others feel at ease
- Ability to make decisions based on observation and data
- Ability to make quick judgments and to take responsibility

EDUCATION

A person must complete a 110-hour training course in emergency medical care approved by the United States Department of Transportation. The training programs are offered by the community colleges and by state-approved training agencies throughout Nebraska.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College – Columbus, Grand Island, Hastings, Holdrege, Kearney/Lexington (C)
- Creighton Health Sciences – Omaha (A, B)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (A, C)
- Mid-Plains Community College – McCook, North Platte (A,P) (Basic, Intermediate, Paramedic)
- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (A, C) (Basic, Paramedic)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (A)
- Western Nebraska Community College – Scottsbluff (A, C) (Basic, Intermediate, Paramedic)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Applicants for certification as an emergency medical technician (EMT) must be at least 18 years of age, have a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification, complete the EMT course, and pass the EMT certifying exam or have a current EMT certification from the National Registry of Emergency Technicians.

Applicants for certification as an emergency medical technician-paramedic must be at least 18 years of age, have a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification, complete the EMT-paramedic course, pass the EMT-paramedic exam, and have a current EMT-paramedic certificate from the National Registry of Emergency Technicians.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$28,860

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
Web Address: www.naemt.org

Health Care Administration

Nature of the Profession

The term health services administrator, or health care administrator, encompasses individuals in many different positions who plan, organize, coordinate, and supervise the delivery of health care. They also are concerned with community outreach, planning, policy making, and complying with government regulations.

Health care administration includes individuals who are hospital administrators, group practice executives, managed care executives, and many others. It also includes long-term care administrators, who are responsible for directing the overall management of a long-term care facility, such as a nursing home.

For information on the master of public health degree, see page 50.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn procedures related to the administration of a health facility
- Strong verbal and numerical skills
- Ability to work with a variety of people
- Ability to supervise others and plan and organize programs
- Qualities of leadership, diplomacy, and calmness under pressure
- Ability to make decisions based on observation and data
- Ability to handle a variety of tasks and detailed paperwork

EDUCATION

The minimum educational requirement is a bachelor's degree (a four year degree), but competition in this field makes it necessary to have a master's degree (an additional two years) in health services administration or hospital administration. There are some nursing homes who will hire administrators with the associate degree. People entering this field usually start as department heads or assistant administrators.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Bellevue University – Bellevue (B, M)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (B, M, C)
- Creighton University – Omaha (M)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (C)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (C)
- University of Nebraska, Omaha (MBA/MPA)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Licensing requirements are for nursing home administrators only. No license is required for hospitals or public health facilities. Nursing home administrators are licensed by the Nebraska Board of Examiners in Nursing Home Administration. Applicants are required to have a bachelor's degree in health services administration or an associate degree in long-term care administration, allied health, or human services, and pass the required exams. Fifty hours of continuing education are required every two years.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$100,220

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American College of Healthcare Executives
Web Address: www.ache.org
American College of Health Care Administrators
Web Address: www.achca.org

Health Information Management

Nature of the Profession

The field of Health Information Management (HIM) combines the disciplines of medicine, management, finance, information technology, and law. Because of this unique mixture, HIM graduates can select a variety of work settings with varying responsibilities. Career opportunities for health information managers can be found in hospitals, clinics, physicians' offices, university research departments, information technology vendors, and government. The positions held in these organizations range from managers of the health information management departments, information privacy officer, research associate, systems design consultant, data analyst, cancer registrar, and coding compliance analyst.

APTITUDES

- Communication skills and ability to work with a variety of people
- Analytical and problem solving skills
- Ability to utilize information to make decisions
- Organizational skills and attention to detail

EDUCATION

Health Information Technician: An associate degree in health information technology from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Educational Programs (CAAHEP) in cooperation with the American Health Information Management Association's Council on Accreditation. Health Information Administrator: A bachelor's degree in health information administration from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Educational Programs (CAAHEP) in cooperation with the American Health Information Management Association's Council on Accreditation.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College – Columbus, Grand Island, Hastings (A, C, P), Online program available
- Clarkson College – Omaha (A, B, C, PBC)
- Metro Community College – Omaha (A, C)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (C)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (P)
- Western Nebraska Community College – Scottsbluff, Alliance, Sidney (A)
- University of Nebraska at Omaha – (Health Informatics MS concentration)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

To become an RHIT (registered health information technician) an individual must earn an associate degree from an accredited health information technology program and pass the national certification exam.

To become an RHIA (registered health information administrator) one must earn a bachelor's degree from an accredited health information administration program and pass the national exam.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$39,110

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Health Information Management Association
Web Address: www.ahima.org
Nebraska Health Information Management Association
Web Address: www.nhima.org

A = Associate Degree; B = Baccalaureate Degree; C = Certificate; D = Doctorate; M = Master's Degree; P = Diploma; PBC = Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

Kinesiology and Exercise Science

Nature of the Profession

Kinesiology and Exercise Science specialists work within organizations, corporations, or business groups to promote and coordinate wellness programs, health, and safety. The responsibilities may include: developing corporate wellness programs; developing strategies to address liability and quality assurance issues; managing employee fitness facilities and programs; motivating participants and marketing wellness activities; and forecasting future wellness trends.

APTITUDES

- Strong verbal and numerical skills
- Ability to work with a variety of people
- Ability to supervise others and plan and organize programs
- Leadership, diplomacy, and calmness under pressure
- Ability to make decisions based on observation and data
- Ability to handle a variety of tasks and detailed paperwork

EDUCATION

The minimum educational requirement in the state of Nebraska is an 18-credit hour certificate program. A four-year bachelor's program is available, as well as a master's level program. This field combines the disciplines of health promotion and human resource management. This combination equips the individual to work with corporate management to create policies that will have a positive impact on an organization's culture, and to design comprehensive employee wellness plans.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Concordia University – (B)
- Creighton University – Omaha (B)
- Hastings College – (B)
- Midland University – Fremont – (concentration)
- Union College – Lincoln – (B)
- Peru State College – Peru – (B)
- University of Nebraska – Lincoln – (B, M, D)
- University of Nebraska at Omaha – Omaha (B, M)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (M)
- Nebraska Wesleyan University – (B)
- Northeast Community College – (concentration)
- Wayne State College – Wayne (B)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (M)

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Research

- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (M,D)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

None required.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

Range varies

Human Services Worker

Nature of the Profession

Human services worker is a generic term for people performing jobs such as social service technician, case management aide, social work assistant, residential counselor, alcohol or drug abuse counselor, mental health technician, child abuse worker, community outreach worker, or gerontology aide. These individuals generally work under the direction of social workers or, in some cases, psychologists.

Human service workers play a variety of roles in community settings. They may organize and lead group activities or assist clients in need of counseling or crisis intervention. In psychiatric clinics, they may help clients master everyday living skills, and teach them how to communicate more effectively and get along better with others.

The substance abuse counselor helps people who are physiologically or psychologically dependent on alcohol or drugs deal with their dependency. The substance abuse counselor also helps family members, former addicts, and those who are afraid they might become addicts.

APTITUDES

- Strong desire to help others
- Ability to work with a variety of people
- Ability to be patient and understanding
- Good communication skills
- Strong sense of responsibility
- Ability to manage time effectively

EDUCATION

Certificate or associate degree programs (18 months to 2 years) offer training in human services, mental health, and substance abuse counseling. There are also bachelor's degree and master's degree programs in human services administration.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Bellevue University – Bellevue (B, M)
- Central Community College – Grand Island (A, C, P)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (C)
- Doane University – Lincoln (B)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (A)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (A)
  [Drug/Alcohol Counseling & Long-term Care Administration]

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Licensure is required for alcohol and drug abuse counselor. An applicant for a license to practice as an alcohol/drug abuse counselor must complete high school or equivalent, complete an approved program of drug/alcohol counseling, and pass a written and oral exam.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$26,320

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National Organization for Human Service Education
Web Address: www.nohse.org
Council for Standards in Human Services Education
Web Address: www.cshse.org

Invasive Cardiovascular Technologist

Nature of the Profession

Invasive cardiovascular technologists assist the health care team with invasive diagnostic, interventional and electrophysiological cardiac procedures. These include such procedures as heart catheterizations. The work is done in a surgical setting.

APTITUDES

- Ability to work with a variety of people
- Detail oriented
- Good manual dexterity, space and form perception, and ability to see differences in objects
- Ability to learn scientific as well as mechanical information

EDUCATION

The minimum educational requirement for an invasive cardiovascular technologist is usually completion of a program that may be two or more years in duration and is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- None, currently

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Licensing is not currently required. To become registered, a person must take the credentialing examination from Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI).

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$51,610

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Joint Review Committee on Education in Cardiovascular Technology
Web Address: www.jrccvt.org
Alliance of Cardiovascular Professionals
Web Address: www.acp-online.org
Cardiovascular Credentialing International
Web Address: www.cci-online.org

Medical Assistant

Nature of the Profession

Medical assistants perform routine clinical and clerical tasks which help keep the offices of physicians, podiatrists, chiropractors, and optometrists running smoothly. Clinical duties vary according to state law and include taking medical histories and recording vital signs, explaining treatment procedures to patients, preparing patients for examination, and assisting during the examination.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn basic medical terminology and simple medical procedures
- Good verbal and numerical abilities
- Ability to follow instructions carefully and do routine tasks
- Ability to work with people who are ill or in pain and to remain calm in emergencies
- Ability to check written materials accurately

EDUCATION

Employers prefer to hire applicants trained in specialized one- or two-year programs offered by hospitals, medical schools, vocational schools, or community colleges. Some medical assistants are trained on-the-job or through apprenticeship training.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College – Columbus (A, PBC), Hastings (A, P)
- Metro Community College – Omaha (C)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (C)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (P)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Kearney (C)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

For professional recognition, a person may become a registered or certified medical assistant. To be registered or certified, a person must pass an exam.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$31,530

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The American Association of Medical Assistants
Web Address: www.aama-ntl.org
American Medical Technologists
Web Address: https://www.americanmedtech.org/

Medical Interpreting

Nature of the Profession

Medical interpreters facilitate communication between patients and health care providers. They provide the language bridge between non-English speaking patients and English speaking health care professionals. In some cases, they may be able to translate simple forms and instructions.

APTITUDES

- Able to speak fluently in English and another language
- Ability to learn the techniques and topics related to medical interpreting
- Competent in the culture of both languages, including body language and gestures
- Ability to work under stressful situations
- Ability to maintain focus on a single source of sound when working in a distracting environment
- Ability to speak clearly and at an appropriate volume
- Ability to work within a variety of medical settings
- Have patience and tact

EDUCATION

Medical interpreters may earn a certificate from a community college or a 4-year baccalaureate degree. On-the-job training may also be available.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College – Columbus, Grand Island, Hastings, Holdrege, Lexington, Kearney (C)
- College of Saint Mary - Omaha (C)
- Metro Community College – Omaha (C, with concentration)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (C)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

There is no licensing or certification required in Nebraska at this time

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$39,720

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Nebraska Association for Translators and Interpreters (NATI)
Web Address: www.natihq.org
Society of Medical Interpreters (SOMI)
Web Address: www.sominet.org

Medical Office Services

Nature of the Profession

Most health care institutions employ medical secretaries and administrative assistants to perform and coordinate office activities and to ensure that information gets disseminated in a timely fashion to staff and patients. These individuals work in office settings in hospitals, clinics, laboratories, physicians' offices, insurance companies, emergency and outpatient diagnostic centers, and extended-care facilities.

Medical secretaries and administrative assistants schedule appointments, give information to callers, organize and maintain files, and fill out forms. They also take dictation and transcribe the notes that physicians dictate on patients' medical conditions and treatments.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn office procedures
- Good verbal skills
- Good eye-hand coordination and manual dexterity
- Ability to move from one task to another quickly
- Ability to work with people
- Ability to work within set standards and keep accurate records
- Attention to detail and proofreading skills

EDUCATION

Medical secretaries must be high school graduates, and most employers prefer applicants with some training beyond high school. Associate degree programs in secretarial science with special training in medical areas are available at community colleges and business and technical schools.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College – Columbus, Grand Island, Hastings (A, P)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (A)
- Mid-Plains Community College – McCook, North Platte (A)
- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (A, C)
- Southeast Community College – Beatrice, Lincoln (A)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Licensing is not required, but a secretary may become a Certified Professional Secretary by passing a series of exams given by Professional Secretaries International.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$34,190

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

International Association of Administrative Professionals
Web Address: www.iaap-hq.org

Medical Research Scientist

Nature of the Profession

Research scientists use scientific methods to study countless aspects of our world. Those who specialize in medical research study diseases, drugs, microorganisms, genetics and many other areas of human and animal health. They work toward improved understanding of diseases and of environmental hazards. They play a critical role in the development of new therapeutic treatments and innovative diagnostic techniques. The medicines we take, the inoculations that protect us from infectious diseases and the processes that preserve our food were all developed by medical research scientists.

Medical research scientists can pursue a variety of specialties. These include anatomy, biochemistry, biophysics, cell biology, embryology, genetics, immunology, microbiology, molecular biology, pathology, pharmacology, physiology and many others. Medical researchers usually work in laboratories at universities, government agencies, or in private industry. Some work in management or administration or as consultants to business or government. Others are involved with testing foods, drugs, and other products, or writing for technical publications.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn the complex science, math, and methods of scientific investigation
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to make judgments based on data and observation
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Patience and objectivity
- Creativity and independent thinking

EDUCATION

The minimum education requirement is a bachelor's degree, but a masters or doctoral degree is needed to conduct advanced research and to be eligible for many jobs at university, private sector, and government research laboratories. Students entering college with an interest in medical research should establish a major in one of the physical or biological sciences or in mathematics.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

All accredited colleges offer undergraduate courses in the sciences. Those institutions with graduate programs may offer masters and doctoral degrees in various scientific disciplines. Health science centers offer masters and doctoral programs in medical sciences. The University of Nebraska Medical Center has M.S. and Ph.D. programs in biochemistry & molecular biology; cancer research; cellular & integrative physiology; genetics, cell biology & anatomy; pathology & microbiology; pharmaceutical sciences; pharmacology and experimental neuroscience.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$51,830

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Association for the Advancement of Science
Web Address: www.aaas.org
American Association for Cancer Research
Web Address: www.aacr.org
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Web Address: www.asbmb.org
American Society for Cell Biology
Web Address: www.ascb.org
American Society for Microbiology
Web Address: www.asm.org
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics
Web Address: www.aspet.org

Medical Transcription

Nature of the Profession

Medical transcriptionists use headsets and transcribing machines to listen to recordings by physicians and other healthcare professionals. These workers transcribe a variety of medical reports about emergency room visits, diagnostic imaging studies, operations, chart reviews, and final summaries. After reviewing and editing for grammar and clarity, the medical transcriptionist transcribes the dictated reports and returns them in either printed or electronic form to the dictator for review and signature, or correction. These reports eventually become part of the patient's permanent file.

APTITUDES

- Ability to proofread words and see important details in written materials
- Good English grammar and punctuation skills
- Understanding of the language of medicine, anatomy and physiology, diagnostic procedures, and treatment
- Good eye-hand coordination and manual dexterity
- Ability to work quickly and accurately following specific procedures
- Good hearing
- Skills in using word processors/computers and other current office technology

EDUCATION

Employers prefer to hire transcriptionists who have completed postsecondary training in medical transcription. Completion of a 2-year associate degree program – including coursework in anatomy, medical terminology, medical/legal issues, English grammar and punctuation – is highly recommended. Many of these programs include supervised on-the-job experience.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Mid-Plains Community College – McCook, North Platte (C)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (P)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Although it is not required, the American Association for Medical Transcription awards the voluntary designation, Certified Medical Transcriptionist (CMT), to those who earn passing scores on written and practical exams.

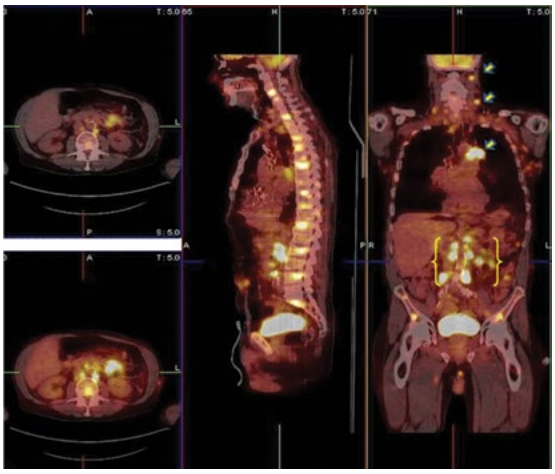
ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$35,270

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity
Web Address: www.ahdionline.org

Nuclear Medicine Technology



Nature of the Profession

Nuclear medicine uses very small amounts of radioactive materials (radiopharmaceuticals) to diagnose and treat disease. In imaging, the radiopharmaceuticals are detected by special types of cameras that work with computers to provide very precise pictures about the area of the body being imaged. In treatment, the radiopharmaceuticals go directly to the organ being treated. New and innovative nuclear medicine treatments that target and pinpoint molecular levels within the body are revolutionizing our understanding of and approach to a range of diseases and conditions.

The nuclear medicine technologist prepares and administers the radiopharmaceuticals, acquires and processes the diagnostic images and assists in the therapeutic treatments and care of the patients.

APTITUDES

- Ability to work with people
- Ability to see slight differences in objects
- Ability to follow instructions and attend to details
- Ability to use numbers well and calculate dosages
- Ability to interpret test results and report findings

EDUCATION

Educational programs range from one-year certificate, two-year associate, or four-year bachelor degree programs.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (B)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Certification as a Certified Nuclear Medicine Technologist is available through the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board or the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$66,710

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Society of Nuclear Medicine
Web Address: www.snmmi.org
Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board
Web Address: www.nmtcb.org
American Registry of Radiologic Technologists
Web Address: www.arrt.org

Nursing - Nurse Aide

Nature of the Profession

Nurse aides, also called certified nursing assistants, perform a variety of duties to care for sick and injured people under the direction of nurses. They answer patients' bell calls, deliver messages, serve meals, and make beds. They also feed, bathe, and dress patients; take temperatures; and help patients get around. Some store or move supplies and clean patients' rooms. Those who work in patients' homes may also clean, do laundry, shop for food, plan and prepare meals.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn the methods and procedures of patient care
- Average verbal and numerical skills
- Ability to move often from one task to another and to use several different skills
- Good space and form perception and manual dexterity
- Ability to work with people who are ill
- Ability to respond quickly in emergencies and keep accurate records

EDUCATION

Most employers prefer to hire high school graduates. On-the-job training is given through both supervised work and classroom instruction, and may last several days or weeks. The Nebraska Health Care Association offers a course for nurse aides, and a few schools offer short training programs. First-aid and home nursing classes and hospital volunteer work are helpful.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Bryan College of Health Sciences – Lincoln (C)
- Central Community College – Columbus, Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney (C)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (C)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (C)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (C)
- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (C)
- Southeast Community College – Beatrice, Lincoln (C)
- Western Nebraska Community College – Scottsbluff, Alliance, Sidney (C)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

The Nebraska Health Care Association provides an approved book for nurse aides. To work in nursing homes or home health, an individual must be on the Nebraska Nurse Aide Registry. To be eligible to be on the Registry, the individual must pass a State approved course and a written and clinical exam.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$26,260

Nursing - Licensed Practical Nurse

Nature of the Profession

Licensed practical nurses (LPNs) care for sick, injured, convalescing, and handicapped patients, under the direction of physicians and registered nurses. Most LPNs provide basic bedside care. They measure and record vital signs such as temperature, blood pressure, and pulse. They assist physicians with treatments and exams, administer medications, and they assist in convalescence and rehabilitation. LPNs also direct and assign nursing interventions under the direction of a physician or RN. They help patients with bathing, dressing, and personal hygiene. They feed patients, record their food and liquid intake and output, keep them comfortable, and care for their emotional needs.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn basic medical terminology and nursing techniques
- Good verbal abilities for speaking and writing
- Ability to relate well to a variety of people
- Good space and form perception and manual dexterity
- Ability to work calmly in a stressful situation
- Ability to work accurately within set standards
- Sufficient strength for moderate lifting

EDUCATION

The minimum educational requirement is graduation from a one- or two-year accredited program.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College – Columbus, Grand Island, Kearney (P)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (P)
- College of Saint Mary – Omaha (C)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (C)
- Mid-Plains Community College – McCook, North Platte (P)
- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (P)
- Southeast Community College – Beatrice, Lincoln (P)
- Western Nebraska Community College – Scottsbluff, Alliance (P)
  Sidney - Advanced Placement Nursing - LPN to RN (A)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for a license to practice as a practical nurse must complete high school or equivalent, complete an approved program of practical nursing, and pass the NCLEX-PN exam. After LPNs complete a certification course and take a state exam, they are certified to do IV-therapy.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$40,630

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National League for Nursing
Web Address: www.nln.org
National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service, Inc.
Web Address: www.napnes.org

Nursing - Registered Nurse

Nature of the Profession

Registered nurses (RNs) care for the sick and injured and help people stay well. They observe, assess, and record symptoms, reactions, and progress. They assist physicians during treatments and examinations, administer medications, and assist in convalescence and rehabilitation.

Hospital nurses form the largest group of nurses. Most staff nurses provide bedside nursing care. Many advance to management positions.

In addition to hospitals, there are many employment opportunities for nurses: nursing home nurses, public health nurses, private duty nurses, office nurses, and occupational health or industrial nurses. Nurses with advanced degrees will be able to serve as nurse educators, nurse practitioners, or nurse scientists.

Registered nurses need to be prepared in critical thinking, leadership and health promotion. They must be able to handle the complex demands of providing professional nursing services in a wide variety of health care settings.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn complex science and math and the principles of nursing
- Skills with computers and other forms of technology
- Ability to work with a variety of people
- Good numerical and verbal skills
- Ability to make decisions based on data and observations, and uphold standards of ethics and professional practice
- Ability to remain calm in emergency situations

EDUCATION

Educational programs range from a two-year associate degree to a four- or five-year bachelor's degree at colleges and universities, as well as master's and doctoral level degrees.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Bellevue University – Omaha (B)
- Bryan College of Health Sciences – Lincoln (B)
- Central Community College – Grand Island (A)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (B, M, D)
- College of Saint Mary – Omaha (A, B, M, D)
- Creighton University School of Nursing – Hastings (B), Omaha (B, M)
- Hastings College (3 years) + Creighton University College of Nursing on the Mary Lanning Healthcare campus (1 year) - Hastings (B)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (A)
- Mid-Plains Community College – McCook, North Platte (A)
- Midland University – Fremont (B)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (B, M)
- Nebraska Wesleyan University – Lincoln, Omaha (B,M)
- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (A)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (A)
- Union College – Lincoln (B)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha, Kearney, Lincoln, Norfolk, Scottsbluff (B, M, D)
- Western Nebraska Community College – Scottsbluff (A)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for a license to practice as a registered nurse (RN) must complete high school or equivalent, complete an approved program of registered nursing, and pass the NCLEX-RN exam.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$60,370

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Nurses Association
Web Address: www.nursingworld.org
Nebraska Nurses Association
Web Address: www.nebraskanurses.org
National League for Nursing
Web Address: www.nln.org

Nursing - Nurse Practitioner

Nature of the Profession

A nurse practitioner is a registered nurse with advanced academic and clinical experience. The nurse practitioner is able to diagnose and manage most common illnesses, either independently or as part of a health care team. The nurse practitioner provides some care previously offered only by physicians and, in most states, has the ability to prescribe medications. Working in collaboration with a physician, a nurse practitioner provides high quality, cost effective, and individualized care.

With a strong emphasis on primary care, nurse practitioners are employed within several specialties, including neonatology, nurse-midwifery, pediatrics, school health, family and adult health, psychiatric mental health, home care, and geriatrics.

Nurse practitioners are educated through programs that grant either a certificate, a masters degree, or a post masters certificate. A registered nurse should have extensive clinical experience before applying to a nurse practitioner program. An intensive preceptorship under the supervision of a physician or an experienced nurse practitioner, as well as instruction in nursing theory, are key components in most programs.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn biological sciences and practices of nursing
- Good math skills and strong verbal abilities for reading, writing, and speaking
- Good space and form perception, general coordination, and manual dexterity
- Ability to handle a variety of activities, make decisions based on data and observations
- Creativity, flexibilty, ability to work under stress, and willingness to make decisions
- Good communication and interpersonal skills

EDUCATION

To become a nurse practitioner, an applicant must first complete a baccalaurate degree in nursing and become licensed as a registered nurse. A registered nurse may then enter a master's degree program to become a nurse practitioner. Most master's degree programs require two years of full-time study.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Clarkson College – Omaha (M, D)
- Creighton Health Sciences – Omaha (M, D)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (D)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center
  – Omaha, Kearney, Lincoln, Norfolk, Scottsbluff (M, D)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for a license to practice as a nurse practitioner must be a registered nurse, complete an approved advanced registered nurse practitioner program at the master's level, and pass a national certifying exam.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$94,130

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American College of Nurse Practitioners
Web Address: www.nurse.org/acnp/
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
Web Address: www.aanp.org

Nursing - Nurse Anesthetist

Nature of the Profession

Nurse anesthetists are registered nurses who have completed additional specialized education and training in administering anesthetics. Certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) are anesthesia specialists who provide anesthetics to patients in collaboration with surgeons, anesthesiologists, dentists, podiatrists and other qualified health care professionals.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn advanced sciences necessary to nursing
- Good numerical abilities
- Good verbal ability for speaking, reading, and writing.
- Ability to work with people, to make decisions based on data, observations, and experience, and to work under stress
- Good space and form perception and manual dexterity and sufficient strength to do moderate lifting
- Ability to make accurate observations, keep records, and work within precise standards

EDUCATION

Education and experience required to become a CRNA include:

- A Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) or other appropriate baccalaureate degree.
- A current license as a registered nurse.
- At least one year's experience in an acute care nursing setting.
- Graduation from an accredited school of nurse anesthesia educational program ranging from 24-36 months, depending on university requirements. These programs offer a graduate degree and include clinical training in university-based or large community hospitals.
- Passing a national certification examination following graduation.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Bryan Health – Lincoln (M)
- Clarkson College - Omaha (M, D)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for licensure in the State of Nebraska must have a license as a registered nurse in the State of Nebraska, and have national certification. Certification is issued by the Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs, a national body that administers the certification exam. CRNAs are licensed by the State of Nebraska as Advanced Nurse Practitioners (Anesthetist).

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$179,410

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Web Address: www.aana.com
Nebraska Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Web Address: www.neana.org

Occupational Therapy

Nature of the Profession

Occupational therapists (OTs) help individuals with physically, developmentally or emotionally disabling conditions to recover and improve daily living and work skills. They help patients to enhance basic motor functions and reasoning abilities. They also help patients to compensate for permanent loss of function. Their goal is to enable patients to achieve independent, productive and satisfying lives.

When ability is diminished or impaired, OTs work to restore performance in everyday life activities including self-care, leisure and work. For those with permanent disabilities, such as spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy or muscular dystrophy, occupational therapists develop ways for patients to accomplish tasks through compensation and modified actions. They provide adaptive equipment such as wheelchairs, splints, and aids for eating and dressing. They also design special equipment to help the patient function at home or work.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn the techniques of occupational therapy
- Good verbal abilities to read, write, and speak
- Good space and form perception and manual dexterity
- Ability to make decisions and to solve problems
- Objective view of illnesses and disabilities
- Ability to motivate people
- Patience and a desire to help others

EDUCATION

The minimum educational requirement is an entry-level masters or clinical doctorate in occupational therapy from an accredited institution.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- College of Saint Mary – Omaha (M)
- Creighton Health Sciences – Omaha (D)
- Nebraska Methodist College - Omaha (M)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for a license to practice as an occupational therapist must complete the requirements of an approved program, complete six months of supervised fieldwork, and pass the certification exam.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$75,810

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.
Web Address: www.aota.org
Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.
Web Address: www.notaonline.org

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Nature of the Profession

Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTAs) work in collaboration with Occupational Therapists to provide health, wellness and rehabilitative services in a multitude of areas and across the lifespan. Areas of employment may include schools, hospitals, nursing homes, home health, outpatient clinics and community centers. The age range of patients being treated by an OTA is birth to end of life. OTAs assess individual and community needs, plan and implement treatment activities, and document progress toward the achievement of established goals. OTAs use purposeful activity, creative arts, environmental modifications, adaptive equipment and technology, specific intervention techniques and therapeutic use of self to prevent, remediate or compensate for impairments that may otherwise limit a person from fully engaging in daily activities such as work, play or leisure.

APTITUDES

- Compassion for people of all abilities
- Willingness to utilize research to guide practice
- Welcoming of diversity
- Able to work in multidisciplinary team settings, and independently with limited supervision
- Adaptive, creative and resourceful

EDUCATION

Occupational therapy assistants must complete an educational program taking an average of 2 1/2 years of fulltime study to complete. Typical programs of study include classroom, lab and community practice opportunities, including 16 weeks of hands-on practical experience under the supervision of an OT or OTA. Coursework is focused on the physical, social and behavioral sciences and on occupational therapy specific knowledge in the domains of art, theory and technique. Upon completion of an OTA program graduates receive an associate degree. Following graduation, graduates are eligible to sit for the National Registration Examination.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College – Grand Island (A)
- Union College – Lincoln (A)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Occupational therapy assistants are licensed by the Nebraska Health and Human Services Department. To receive a license the applicant must have completed an OTA program from an accredited institution and passed the national certification exam. Continuing education is mandatory for ongoing active licensure.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$55,290

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Occupational Therapy Association
Web Address: www.aota.org
Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association
Web Address: www.notaonline.org

Pharmacy

Nature of the Profession

Pharmacy is the health profession that links the science of drug action in living systems with the use of medicine in patients. The goal of pharmacy is the development and use of medicine to cure, prevent, or ease the symptoms of disease. Pharmacists are the link between the science of pharmacy and the patient.

Pharmacists interpret prescriptions from physicians, then prepare and dispense the medications. They provide the physician and patients with information about the uses, effects and interactions of medicines. They also assist patients in choosing nonprescription medicines and health products, and they may counsel a patient to seek the advice and treatment of a physician, dentist, or other health practitioner.

Pharmacists are important members of the health care team and part of a rapidly expanding industry. The career options are broad. Pharmacists may work in hospitals, community pharmacies, colleges or schools of pharmacy, or in public health facilities. They may also work in pharmaceutical research in public institutions or private industry.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn chemical properties and compounding of drugs
- Good science and verbal skill to read technical materials and advise others
- Good communication skills to educate patients

EDUCATION

Students must complete at least 60 credit hours (two years) of prerequisite study prior to entering a college of pharmacy. Most professional programs in pharmacy require four additional years leading to a doctor of pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Creighton Health Sciences – Omaha (D)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (D)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Pharmacists must be licensed by the Nebraska Board Pharmacy. To be licensed, a person must be 21 years of age, be a graduate of an accredited college/school of pharmacy, have completed an internship under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist, and pass the licensure exam. Continuing education requirements must be met.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$108,670

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Pharmacists Association
Web Address: www.aphanet.org
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
Web Address: www.aacp.org
American Society of Health System Pharmacists
Web Address: www.ashp.org
Nebraska Pharmacists Association
Web Address: www.npharm.org

Pharmacy Technician

Nature of the Profession

Pharmacy technicians work under the direct supervision of a registered pharmacist and help prepare prescriptions and provide other health-care products. Technicians perform routine tasks such as locating medications, measuring quantities, packaging containers and preparing labels. In addition, they take care of many of the day-to-day operations of a pharmacy such as receiving and verifying prescriptions, answering phones, taking refill requests, receiving and storing supplies, verifying stock, and entering data in a computer to maintain inventory or patient records.

APTITUDES

- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Close attention to detail
- Ability to perform repetitive tasks accurately
- Ability to work with a variety of people and a desire to help others
- Strong work-ethic and good critical-thinking skills
- Good math skills

EDUCATION

The minimum educational requirement is a high school diploma or GED. Pharmacy technicians must be at least 18 years old. Each pharmacy is responsible for on-the-job training according to their Pharmacy Technician Manual approved by the Board of Pharmacy. Students complete course work in classes and laboratories as well as gaining hands-on training working in pharmacies in hospitals, long term care facilities, and retail pharmacies.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College – Grand Island (P,A)
- Nebraska Methodist College - Omaha (C, P)
- Southeast Community College – Beatrice (P)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center - Omaha (C)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

In Nebraska, all pharmacy technicians that are employed as a pharmacy technician in a health care facility shall be certified by a state or national certifying body approved by the Board of Pharmacy. are required to register with the State of Nebraska Health and Human Services, Public Health Licensure Unit.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$30,400

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National Pharmacy Technician Association
Web Address: www.pharmacytechnician.org
American Association of Pharmacy Technicians
Web Address: www.pharmacytechnician.com

Physical Therapy

Nature of the Profession

Physical therapy is an integral part of the health care system. As a member of a multi-disciplinary group of health personnel, the physical therapist plays a unique role in helping individuals overcome the effects of disease, injury and developmental abnormalities.

Physical therapists evaluate and treat patients who have problems with movement that impair normal function. Physical therapists assess joint motion, muscle strength and endurance, heart and lung function, and the performance of activities required in daily living. Treatment includes therapeutic exercise, cardiovascular endurance training, and rehabilitation in the activities of daily living.

Physical therapists work in many health care settings including hospitals, outpatient clinics, nursing homes, home care agencies, schools, and rehabilitation centers. Therapists may elect to practice as generalists, or they may choose one of a number of specialty areas such as orthopedics, geriatrics, neurology, pediatrics, or cardiopulmonary physical therapy. In addition to patient care, physical therapists have many opportunities in administration, research and clinical education.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn the complex sciences on which physical therapy is based
- Good verbal skills to talk with patients, read technical materials, and write reports
- Good space and form perception, manual dexterity, and general coordination
- Ability to relate to a variety of people and direct and influence others
- Ability to make judgments based on data and observations and take responsibility for planning programs
- Emotional stability, creativity, patience, and understanding

EDUCATION

The minimum educational requirement is a professional master's (MPT) or doctoral (DPT) degree in physical therapy. Most programs require 3 or 4 years of undergraduate preparation followed by 2 to 3 years of professional education.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Creighton Health Sciences – Omaha (D)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha, Kearney (D)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for a license to practice physical therapy must graduate from an approved physical therapy education program and pass the national licensure examination.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$74,780

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Physical Therapy Association
Web Address: www.apta.org
Nebraska Physical Therapy Association
Web Address: www.npta.org

Physical Therapist Assistant

Nature of the Profession

The physical therapist assistant (PTA) is a technically educated health provider who assists the physical therapist (PT) in the provision of physical therapy and may perform physical therapy interventions selected by the supervising physical therapist. The PTA works under the direction and supervision of the PT, helping manage conditions such as back and neck injuries, sprains/strains and fractures, arthritis, burns, amputations, stroke, multiple sclerosis, birth defects, injuries related to work and sports, and others.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn the techniques needed to assist a physical therapist
- Good verbal and numerical skills
- Ability to influence others
- Good space and form perception and manual dexterity
- Ability to make decisions based on observations and data
- Ability to relate to a variety of people and work as part of a team

EDUCATION

Physical therapist assistants must complete a two-year education program, typically offered through a community or junior college. Candidates receive an associate's degree upon graduation. The course of study usually includes one year of general education and one year of technical courses on physical therapy procedures and clinical experience.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Clarkson College – Omaha (A, B)
- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (A)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (A)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (A)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Physical therapist assistants are licensed by the Nebraska Board of Examiners in Physical Therapy. To be licensed, an applicant must be at least 19 years old, have graduated from an approved program, and have passed the national exam.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$47,560

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Physical Therapy Association
Web Address: www.apta.org
Nebraska Physical Therapy Association
Web Address: www.npta.org

Physician

Nature of the Profession

Physicians examine patients, obtain medical histories, and perform and interpret diagnostic tests. They diagnose illnesses, prescribe medications and administer treatment for people suffering from injury or disease. Physicians counsel patients on diet, hygiene and preventive health care.

In today's highly sophisticated medical environment, virtually all physicians specialize. Pediatricians, family practitioners and general internists are often called primary care physicians since they are usually the first health professionals patients consult. They tend to see the same patients on a regular basis for a variety of ailments and preventive treatments. When appropriate, they refer patients to other specialists.

Other medical specialists include anesthesiologists, gynecologist/ obstetricians, cardiologists, infectious disease specialists, ophthalmologists, pathologists, radiologists, psychiatrists, and surgeons, as well as many others. Some specialty areas also have sub- specialties (for example, neurosurgery, pediatric gastroenterology or geriatric psychiatry) requiring further years of training.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn complex science, math, and methods and techniques of medicine
- Strong verbal skills
- Good space and form perception, manual dexterity, and general coordination
- Ability to plan, organize, and direct others
- Ability to relate to all kinds of people
- Ability to make decisions based on data, observation, and experience
- Scientific curiosity, emotional maturity, and empathy

EDUCATION

To be admitted to a medical school, a person must complete three to four years of pre-medicine subjects, take a preadmissions test called the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT), and have a high grade-point average.

After graduating from medical school, physicians must complete three to seven years of residency training. The length of residency is determined by the chosen field. In addition to residency programs, some physicians will choose to continue their education in specialized programs called fellowships. Creighton University Medical Center (CUMC) and the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) offer residency and fellowship programs in Nebraska.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Creighton Health Sciences – Omaha (D)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (D)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Physicians must be licensed by the Nebraska Board of Examiners in Medicine and Surgery. To be licensed, a person must be a graduate from an accredited college of medicine, have at least three years of post graduate medical education (residency), and pass a national board exam.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$163,730

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Medical Association
Web Address: www.ama-assn.org
Nebraska Medical Association
Web Address: www.nebmed.org

Physician (continued)

Medical Residency and Fellowship Programs

After graduating from medical school, physicians must complete three to seven years of residency training.

Residency and Fellowship (*) Programs	Years	Institution	
Anesthesia	four	UNMC	
* Cardiothoracic	one	UNMC	
* Critical Care	one	UNMC	
* Pain Management	one	UNMC	
* Pediatric	one	UNMC	
Diagnostic Radiology	five	UNMC	CUMC
* Body Imaging	one	UNMC	
* Interventional Radiology	one	UNMC	
* Magnetic Resonance Imaging	one	UNMC	
* Musculoskeletal Radiology	one	UNMC	
* Pediatric Radiology	one	UNMC	
Emergency Medicine	three	UNMC	
Family Medicine	three	UNMC	CUMC
Internal Medicine	three	UNMC	CUMC
* Allergy/Immunology	two		CUMC
* Cardiovascular Disease	three	UNMC	CUMC
* Endocrinology & Metabolism	two	UNMC	CUMC
* Gastroenterology	three	UNMC	CUMC
* Geriatrics	one	UNMC	
* Hematology/Oncology	three	UNMC	
* Hepatology	one	UNMC	
* Infectious Diseases	two		CUMC
* Interventional Cardiology	one	UNMC	CUMC
* Nephrology	two	UNMC	
* Pulmonary/Critical Care	three	UNMC	CUMC
* Rheumatology	three	UNMC	
*Sleep Medicine	one	UNMC	
Internal Medicine/Pediatrics	four	UNMC	
Medical Genetics	two	UNMC	
Neurology	four	UNMC	
Neurosurgery	six	UNMC	
Obstetrics/Gynecology	four	UNMC	CUMC
Ophthalmology	four	UNMC	
* Retina	one	UNMC	
* Glaucoma	one	UNMC	
Oral Surgery	five	UNMC	
Orthopedics	five	UNMC	
Otolaryngology	five	UNMC	
Pathology	four	UNMC	CUMC
* Hematopathology	two	UNMC	
* Molecular Genetics Pathology	one	UNMC	
Pediatrics	three	UNMC	
* Allergy/Immunology	two		CUMC
* Pediatric Cardiology	three	UNMC	
* Pediatric Gastroenterology	three	UNMC	
* Pediatric Infectious Diseases	three	UNMC	
* Pediatric Pulmonology		UNMC	
* Pediatric Hematology/Oncology	three	UNMC	
Plastic Surgery	three	UNMC	
Psychiatry	four	UNMC	CUMC
* Child Adolescent Psychiatry	two		CUMC

*indicates fellowship program

Physician (continued)

Medical Residency and Fellowship Programs

After graduating from medical school, physicians must complete three to seven years of residency training.

Residency and Fellowship (*) Programs	Years	Institution	
Surgery	five	UNMC	CUMC
* Cardiothoracic Surgery	two	UNMC	
* Pediatric Surgery	two	UNMC	
* Transplantation	two	UNMC	
* Vascular Surgery	two	UNMC	
Urology	six	UNMC	

*indicates fellowship program

Physician Assistant

Nature of the Profession

Physician assistants (PAs) are licensed health professionals who practice medicine with physician supervision. As part of the physician-PA team, PAs exercise autonomy in diagnosing and treating illnesses.

A PA is able to provide patient care, obtain patient histories, perform physical examinations, diagnose and treat illnesses, care for acute injuries, assist in surgery, and provide follow-up counseling and patient education. PAs practice in virtually every medical specialty from family medicine to orthopedic surgery.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn scientific concepts, especially in the biological sciences
- Good verbal abilities in reading, writing, and speaking
- Good math skills, space and form perception, and general coordination
- Ability to relate to a variety of people and make decisions based on data and observations

EDUCATION

Programs usually take two years to complete and require that a person already has either two years of college study or a four-year bachelor's degree.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- College of Saint Mary – Omaha (M)
- Creighton University – Omaha (M)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha, Kearney (M)
- Union College – Lincoln (M)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for certification as a physician assistant must be at least 19 years of age, graduate from an approved physician assistant program, and pass the proficiency exam.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$98,010

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The American Academy of Physician Assistants
Web Address: www.aapa.org
Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants
Web Address: www.nebraskapa.org

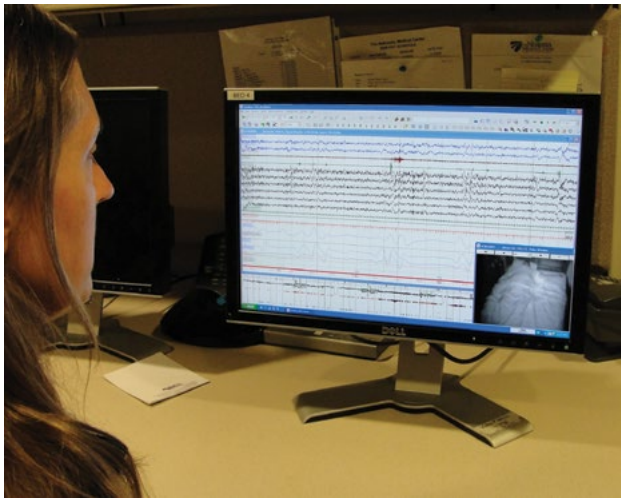
Polysomnographic Technician

Nature of the Profession

Polysomnographic technicians monitor the activity of adults and pediatrics in sleep laboratories. They gather medical information, observe patients, collect data, and summarize information for the sleep physicians. They perform therapeutic interventions using CPAP, BiPaP, and oxygen titration. Polysomnographic technologists must comply with laws, guidelines, and standards of safety and infection control. They perform routine and complex equipment care and maintenance. They must be current in CPR or basic cardiac life support.

The polysomnographic technician can work in two areas of sleep medicine; diagnostics or research. They may work in a hospital based sleep center or in an independent sleep center. Because most people sleep at night, the technician must enjoy working nights.

APTITUDES



- Ability to work with a variety of people
- Ability to follow instructions carefully and do routine tasks
- Ability to learn principles and techniques related to sleep study
- Ability to instruct clients to assure good cooperation in carrying out studies.
- Ability to score, assess, and adjust studies to provide the best test results.

EDUCATION

A two year associate degree is preferred or certification added to respiratory care or nursing. Education training may range in length from 6 months to 24 months depending on whether the student is adding this credential or going through a basic program leading to becoming a polysomnograhic technician.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (C – online)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists (BRPT)

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$49,920

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Association of Sleep Technologists (AAST)
Web Address: www.aastweb.org
The American Academy of Sleep Medicine
Web Address: www.aasmnet.org

Psychology

Nature of the Profession

Psychologists study human behavior and mental processes to understand, explain, and change people's behavior. Psychologists specialize in many different areas.
Clinical psychologists help emotionally disturbed patients adjust to life, and they are increasingly helping all kinds of medical and surgical patients to deal with their illnesses or injuries.

Counseling psychologists advise people on how to deal with problems of everyday living – personal, social, educational, or vocational.

Developmental psychologists study the patterns and causes of behavior change as people progress through life from infancy to adulthood.

Health psychologists promote good health through health maintenance counseling programs that are designed, for example, to help people stop smoking or lose weight.

Neuropsychologists study the relation between the brain and behavior.
They often work in stroke and head injury programs. The emergence and growth of these specialties reflects the increasing participation of psychologists in providing direct services to special patient populations.

Professionals in behavior analysis use principles of learning to address behavioral needs of widely varying individuals in diverse settings.
Examples include: building the skills and achievements of children in school settings; enhancing the development, abilities, and choices of children and adults with autism and other kinds of disabilities.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn complex math, sciences, and theories and methods of psychology
- Strong verbal abilities to use in reading, writing, research, and speaking
- Good math skills to do research and testing
- Ability to work with a wide variety of people
- Ability to make decisions based on data, experience, and observation
- Ability to persuade people and handle a variety of activities
- Patience and objectivity

EDUCATION

A doctoral degree is generally required for employment as a psychologist. Five to seven years of graduate work usually are required for a doctoral degree. Persons with a master's degree in psychology can administer tests as psychological assistants. Under the supervision of doctoral level psychologists, they can conduct research in laboratories, conduct psychological evaluations, counsel patients, or perform administrative duties.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Bellevue University – Bellevue (B,M)
- Nebraska Christian College – Papillion (B,M)

University of Nebraska – Omaha (M, D)

- University of Nebraska – Lincoln (D)

Behavior Analyst

- Midland University – Fremont (C)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (D)
- University of Nebraska Omaha/University of Nebraska Medical Center Munroe-Meyer Institute (M)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for a license to practice as a psychologist must have a doctorate degree from an accredited program of graduate study in professional psychology, complete two years of supervised professional experience, and pass the national standardized examination.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$71,310

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Psychological Association
Web Address: www.apa.org
Nebraska Psychological Association
Web Address: www.nebpsych.org
Heartland Association for Behavior Analysis
Web Address: www.hlaba.org

Public Health

Nature of the Profession

Public health professionals seek to assure conditions in which people can be healthy through the promotion of health and the prevention of disease, illness and injury. Public health professionals focus their activities on populations rather than individuals. They work in a variety of settings, including government and private agencies, hospitals, and community health centers. Public health work is organized and interdisciplinary in its approach.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn the principles and science of public health
- Good verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to work with a variety of people
- Analytical skills and ability to make decisions based on observation and data
- Ability to supervise others and plan and implement programs
- Commitment to social justice

EDUCATION

Applicants to the Master of Public Health program must possess a minimum four year baccalaureate degree in any discipline.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Bellevue University – Bellevue (B)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (C)
- Concordia University – Seward (BS, MPH)
- Metro Community College – Omaha (C)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (D - Doctor of Nurse Practitioner, emphasis Public Health Policy)
- University of Nebraska – Omaha (B)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (M, D)

The Master of Public Health (MPH) Program at the University of Nebraska offers concentrations in biostatistics, community oriented primary care, eviromental and occupational health, epidemiology, health promotion, maternal and child health, public health administration and policy, and public health practice.

The Doctoral Program offers a Ph.D. in 1) Biostatistics, 2) Environmental Health, Occupational Health & Toxicology, 3) Epidemiology, 4) Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Research, 5) Health Services Research, Administration and Policy

Learning opportunities are offered to public health graduate students through UNMC's network of community-based collaborations in Omaha, the state of Nebraska, the United States , and globally.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Students who graduate from a Council on Education for Public Health accredited program or school are elibible to take the National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE) Certification in Public Health exam. More information can be found at www.publichealthexam.org.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

Range varies

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Public Health Association
Web Address: www.apha.org
Public Health Association of Nebraska
Web Address: www.publichealthne.org

Radiation Therapy Technology

Nature of the Profession

The radiation therapist plays an important role in the cancer treatment process.

Primary responsibilities of the radiation therapist include: 1) assisting in simulation and treatment planning procedures to delineate the area to be treated, 2) administering treatments and providing patient support and education during the course of treatment, 3) monitoring and assessing the patient and communicating with the members of the cancer care team regarding the patient's condition, 4) performing quality control procedures on highly technological equipment, and 5) working closely with oncologists, nurses, dosimetrists and physicists to provide the most effective care possible.

Knowledge of how radiation interacts within the body, having the desire to use advanced technology in the treatment of malignant and some nonmalignant conditions and wanting daily interactions with patients are important characteristics of becoming an excellent radiation therapist.

APTITUDES

- Ability to apply theory of radiation biology in a clinical setting
- Good verbal and math skills
- Ability to see differences in images and adapt the treatment accordingly
- Ability to handle a variety of activities, keep accurate records, make judgments based on data, and work within precise standards of measurement
- Ability to work with a variety of people

EDUCATION

Successful completion of an accredited, radiography program and 35 hours of general college coursework is required.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (A)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (B)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

To be certified in radiation therapy, an individual must first complete a program accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology and pass the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists certification exam. Once students have completed this course of study, they may become certified in radiation therapy by completing an additional year of study and passing the national certification exam.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$79,780

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Society of Radiologic Technologists
Web Address: www.asrt.org
American Registry of Radiologic Technologists
Web Address: www.arrt.org

Radiography

Nature of the Profession

Radiologic technologists (radiographers) are allied health professionals who perform diagnostic imaging examinations. As part of the radiology team, the technologist uses x-ray units and other modalities to produce images of the tissues, organs, bones and vessels of the human body. Radiographers are educated in anatomy, patient positioning, examination techniques, equipment protocols, radiation safety, radiation protection, and basic patient care.

Radiologic technologists are responsible for accurately positioning patients and ensuring that a quality diagnostic image is produced with minimal exposure to the patient. They work closely with radiologists, physicians specially trained in radiology, to interpret the images. Radiologic technologists often specialize in second certification modalities such as mammography, computerized tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, and cardiovascular interventional technology, sonography and bone densitometry.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn the principles and techniques of radiologic technology
- Good verbal communication skills and math abilities
- Good eye-hand coordination, manual dexterity, space and form perception, and ability to see differences in objects
- Ability to handle a variety of activities, keep accurate records, make judgments based on data, and work within precise standards of measurement
- Ability to work with a variety of people

EDUCATION

Completion of an accredited radiography program offered by a hospital or college is required.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- CHI Health – Omaha (C)
- Chadron State College – Chadron (B)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (A, B, C)
- Hastings College – Hastings (B)
- Mary Lanning Healthcare – Hastings (B,C)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (A, B, C)
- Regional West Medical Center – Scottsbluff (A)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (A)
- University of Nebraska – Kearney - Hastings College and Mary Lanning both offer bachelors degree in combination program (B)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Kearney, Omaha (B)
- Western Nebraska Community College – Scottsbluff (A)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An individual seeking certification must complete a program approved by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology and pass an exam to be certified by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. Registered technologists may become certified in radiation therapy or nuclear medicine by completing an additional year of study.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$52,030

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Society of Radiologic Technologists
Web Address: www.asrt.org
American Registry of Radiologic Technologists
Web Address: www.arrt.org

Recreational Therapy

Nature of the Profession

Recreational therapists, also known as therapeutic recreational specialists, help to rehabilitate patients who have chronic physical, psychological or social handicaps. Activities may include sports, games, dance, drama, arts and crafts, music, and field trips. The recreational therapist encourages patients to develop interests and skills which will assist in recovering from and coping with illness or disability.

Recreational therapists work in many health care settings including hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes and community recreation departments. They may work with doctors, nurses and other members of the health care team to treat and rehabilitate individuals with specific medical problems. They may also use group-oriented activities to improve the general health and well-being of individuals in chronic care and residential facilities. Recreational therapists should not be confused with recreational workers who organize leisure activities primarily for enjoyment.

APTITUDES

- Ability to direct group activities
- Good verbal skills
- Ability to relate to a variety of people and direct and influence others
- Ability to make decisions and change easily from one task to another
- Interest in recreational, musical, or artistic pursuits, depending on the types of therapy

EDUCATION

The minimum educational requirement is a four-year bachelor's degree in recreational therapy, music therapy, art therapy, or dance therapy. In some cases, art therapists are required to have a master's degree. In addition to course work, 360 hours of internship under the supervision of a certified therapeutic recreationist may be required.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

None

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Certification is voluntary in Nebraska. Optional national certification can be obtained through the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC). Certified therapeutic recreation specialists (CTRSs) are recognized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as professionals who are qualified to provide recreation as a therapeutic service.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$37,000

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification
Web Address: www.nctrc.org

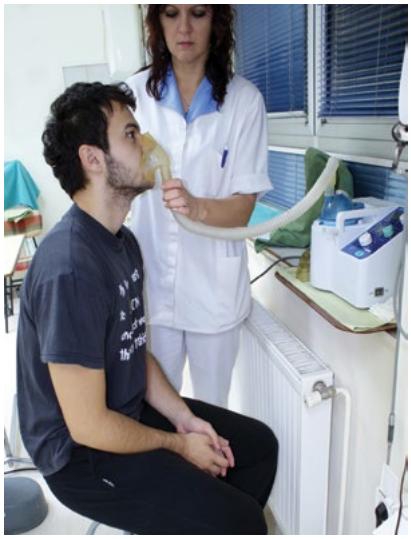
Respiratory Therapy

Nature of the Profession

Respiratory therapists, also known as respiratory care practitioners, evaluate, treat, and care for patients with breathing disorders. In evaluating the patients, therapists test the capacity of the lungs and analyze the oxygen and carbon dioxide concentration. They also measure potential of hydrogen, an indication of the acidity or alkalinity level of the blood.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn principles and techniques of respiratory therapy
- Good manual dexterity and general coordination
- Ability to work with a variety of people
- Ability to carry out a variety of tasks, work according to set standards, and make decisions based on data
- Good space and form perception
- Good numerical skills and verbal ability to understand orders and give directions



EDUCATION

Educational training programs may range in length from eighteen months to four years. A bachelor's degree is awarded to those completing four years of training; those studying for lesser time periods earn associate degrees or certificates.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- CHI Healthcare – Omaha (B)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (A)
- MIdland University - Fremont (B)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (A,B)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (A)
- University of Nebraska – Kearney (B)
- Wayne State College – Wayne (B)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for a license to practice respiratory care must be at least 19 years of age, complete a high school program or equivalent, finish an approved training program, and pass the licensure examination.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$52,530

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Association for Respiratory Care
Web Address: www.aarc.org
The National Board for Respiratory Care, Inc.
Web Address: www.nbrc.org
Nebraska Society for Respiratory Care
Web Address: www.nsrc-online.org

Social Work

Nature of the Profession

Social workers help people. They help individuals cope with problems such as inadequate housing, lack of job skills, financial mismanagement, prolonged illness, disability, substance abuse, or unwanted pregnancy. They also work with families that have serious conflicts, including those involving child or spousal abuse.

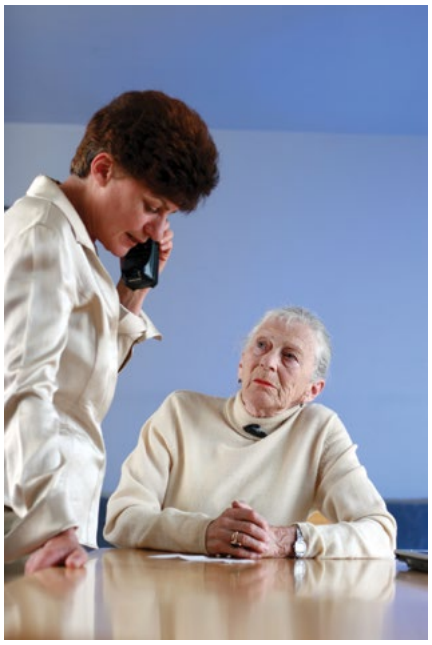
Most social workers specialize in a clinical field. Clinical social workers offer psychotherapy or counseling and a range of services in public agencies, clinics, as well as in private practice.

Mental health social workers provide services for persons with mental or emotional problems. These services include individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, social rehabilitation, and training in skills of everyday living. They may also help plan supportive services to ease patients' return to the community.

Medical social workers help patients and their families cope with chronic, acute, or terminal illnesses and handle problems that may stand in the way of recovery. They also advise family caregivers, and help plan for patient needs after discharge by arranging for at-home services. Some work on interdisciplinary teams that evaluate certain kinds of patients such as geriatric or transplant patients.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn the principles and methods of social work and community organization
- Good verbal and math skills
- Ability to listen to people and to be persuasive
- Ability to keep records and write reports
- Ability to direct, organize, and plan projects, treatments, and programs
- Ability to make decisions based on experience and observation
- Objectivity and sensitivity to people and their problems



EDUCATION

A master's of social work (MSW) degree is usually the minimum requirement for employment. A bachelor's of social work (BSW) degree is adequate for a few entry-level positions. A doctoral degree is necessary for most teaching and some supervisory positions.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Chadron State College – Chadron (B)
- Creighton University – Omaha (B)
- Metro Community College – Omaha (A)
- Nebraska Wesleyan University – Lincoln (B)
- Union College – Lincoln (B)
- University of Nebraska – Kearney (B, M)
- University of Nebraska – Omaha (B, M)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for certification to practice as a social worker must have a bachelor's or master's degree in social work from an approved program.

To be certified to practice as a master social worker, an applicant must have a master's or doctorate degree in social work from an approved program, have three thousand (3,000) hours of experience practicing social work, and have passed the certification exam.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$45,040

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National Association of Social Workers
Web Address: www.socialworkers.org
Nebraska Chapter: National Association of Social Workers
Web Address: www.naswne.org

Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology

Nature of the Profession

Speech-language pathologists assess and treat patients with speech, language, voice, and fluency disorders. Audiologists assess and treat those with hearing and related disorders.

Speech-language pathologists work with people who cannot make speech sounds, or cannot make them clearly; those with speech rhythm and fluency problems, such as stuttering; people with speech quality problems, such as inappropriate pitch or harsh voice; and those with problems understanding and producing language. They may also work with people who have oral motor problems that cause eating and swallowing difficulties.

Audiologists work with people who have hearing and related problems. They use audiometers and other testing devices to measure the loudness at which a person begins to hear sounds, the ability to distinguish between sounds, and other tests of the nature and extent of their hearing loss.

Most speech-language pathologists and audiologists provide direct clinical services to individuals with communication disorders. In speech, language and hearing clinics, they may independently develop and carry out a treatment program. In medical facilities, they may work with physicians, social workers, psychologists, and other therapists to develop and execute a treatment plan.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn the principles and practices of audiology and speech pathology
- Good verbal skills to read scientific literature, evaluate physical problems, and communicate with people
- Ability to keep accurate records, direct projects, and make decisions based on data and observations
- Ability to hear well and speak clearly
- Patience and an interest in helping people
- Good space and form perception and manual dexterity

EDUCATION

The minimum educational requirement is a four-year bachelor's degree in audiology or speech pathology or in teacher education with courses in speech and hearing therapy. Most employers in private practice require a master's degree.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

Audiology
- University of Nebraska – Lincoln (D)

Speech-Language Pathology
- University of Nebraska – Omaha (B, M)
- University of Nebraska – Kearney (B, M)
- University of Nebraska – Lincoln (B, M, D)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for a license to practice audiology and speech-language pathology must be at least 19 years of age, have a master's degree in audiology or speech-language pathology from an approved program, complete a clinical fellowship year, and pass the licensure or obtain an endorsement by a nationwide professional accrediting organization.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$65,860

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Web Address: www.asha.org
Nebraska Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Web Address: www.nslha.org

Surgery Technologist/Assistant

Nature of the Profession

A surgical technologist is an allied health professional who works closely with surgeons, anesthesiologists or anesthetists, registered nurses and other surgical personnel delivering patient care and assuming appropriate responsibilities before, during, and after surgery.

Surgical technologists perform a wide variety of tasks in the operating room. Their main role is to maintain the sterile field and hand the necessary instruments, supplies and equipment to the surgeon and members of the operating room team during surgery. Surgical technologists may also assist during surgery by holding retractors, cutting sutures, suctioning the wound and applying dressings.

Additional responsibilities include setting up the operating room in preparation for a procedure, care and handling of instruments after the procedure, and gathering supplies, instruments and equipment for the next day's procedures.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn operating room procedures
- Ability to communicate with staff and follow written and spoken directions
- Good spacial and form perception, physical coordination, and dexterity
- Ability to make decisions based on prescribed standards or directions and to handle paperwork and detailed procedures accurately
- Ability to relate to a variety of people
- Ability to stand for long periods of time
- Ability to react calmly in emergency situations

EDUCATION

Most employers prefer to hire surgical technologists who have been trained in one- to two-year specialized programs in vocational and technical schools or community colleges.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (A)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (A)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Licensing is not required, but certification by the Association of Surgical Technologists adds professional prestige and increases job opportunities. Continuing education or reexamination is required to maintain certification, which must be renewed every six years.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$42,520

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Association of Surgical Technologists
Web Address: www.ast.org

Ultrasonography

Nature of the Profession

Sonographers use special equipment to direct sound waves into areas of a patient's body to generate images for diagnostic purposes. As the sound waves bounce off the area being examined (the liver, for example) they create an echo that is captured by a computer and converted into images on a screen. The sonographer records these images for interpretation and diagnosis by a physician.

Sonographers must take a thorough patient history, explain the procedure to the patient and put the patient at ease. They must operate equipment to produce quality images and review all of the findings with the radiologist.

APTITUDES

- Ability to work with a variety of people
- Detail oriented
- Good manual dexterity, space and form perception, and ability to see differences in objects
- Ability to learn scientific as well as mechanical information

EDUCATION

The minimum educational requirement for a sonographer is usually completion of a CAAHEP accredited program that may be two or four years in duration.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Bryan College of Health Sciences – Lincoln (B)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (A, B)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (B, PBC)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Licensing is not required, but to demonstrate proficiency, a person must take the national certifying exams from the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers.

ANNUAL MEAN WAGE

$65,390

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers
Web Address: www.ardms.org
Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography
Web Address: www.jrcdms.org
Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography
Web Address: www.sdms.org

Other Medical Professions

The purpose of this book is to increase awareness about health careers and highlight those careers for which Nebraska's many institutions of higher learning can provide the education and training. Other health professions for which training is not available in Nebraska are noted here. For more information about these professions, you can explore the websites listed below. You can also look for information on the American Medical Association (AMA) site at www.ama-assn.org and at www.explorehealthcareers.org

Acupuncturist - Practices a form of traditional Chinese medicine which involves the insertion of fine needles into precise locations on the body to stimulate the body's own healing processes.
Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
Web Address: www.acaom.org

Behavioral Health Careers- Behavioral health careers involve providing services for children, adolescents and adults who may be dealing with behavioral and emotional problems, mental illness, life stresses and substance abuse and includes a wide range of career options, with many requiring advanced degrees and specialized training. The Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska provides basic information on several career pathways in behavioral health.
Web Address: www.unmc.edu/bhecn
The Path to Licensed Behavioral Health Careers
PDF Infographic - PDF Pathways Brochure

Biomedical Engineer - Uses engineering techniques to solve medical problems. Designs and develops medical equipment and instruments such as artificial limbs, pacemakers, or imaging equipment.
Biomedical Engineering Society
Web Address: www.bmes.org
Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation
Web Address: www.aami.org

Biomedical Equipment Technician (BMET) – Is responsible for servicing and maintaining medical equipment and technology. Skilled technicians help acquire, install, use, maintain, and train health care personnel to use cutting-edge medical equipment.
Heartland Biomedical Association
Web Address: heartlandbiomed.org
Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation
Web Address: www.aami.org

Child Life Specialist - Works with children and families in hospitals and other health care settings; uses play and other forms of communication to reduce the stress of the hospital/treatment experience.
Child Life Council
Web Address: www.childlife.org

Chiropractor - Practices a drug-free, hands-on approach to health care that includes patient examination, diagnosis, and treatment emphasizing the spine and its relationship to the joints.
American Chiropractic Association
Web Address: www.acatoday.org

Genetic Counselor - Provides information and support to families who have members with birth defects or genetic disorders, and to families at risk for a variety of inherited conditions.
National Society of Genetic Counselors
Web Address: www.nsgc.org

Gerontologist - Studies the process of aging; may also work directly with the elderly by developing programs, providing care, or administering services to the elderly population.
Gerontological Society of America
Web Address: www.geron.org

Optician - Makes prescription eyeglasses and contact lenses according to the specifications of optometrists or ophthalmologists.
Opticians Association of America
Web Address: www.oaa.org

Optometric Assistant/Tech - Works directly for a doctor of optometry, performing a variety of tasks which may include record-keeping, assisting with frame selection, dispensing contact lenses and operating eye testing equipment.
American Optometric Association
Web Address: www.aoa.org

Optometrist - Diagnoses and treats eye conditions; evaluates vision and determines if corrective lenses are needed.
American Academy of Optometry
Web Address: www.aaopt.org

Orthotist/Prosthetist - The orthotist designs and fits devices for patients who have disabling conditions of the limbs and spine. The prosthetist designs and fits devices for patients who have partial or total absence of a limb.
American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists
Web Address: www.oandp.org

Podiatrist - Diagnoses and treats disorders of the foot and ankle, using medical, surgical and biomechanical techniques.
American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
Web Address: www.aacpm.org

Veterinarian - The doctor of veterinary medicine (DVM) protects the health and welfare of animals, diagnoses and treats sick animals, prevents the transmission of animal diseases to people, and advises owners on proper care of pets and livestock.
American Veterinary Medical Association
Web Address: www.avma.org
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Web Address: www.aavmc.org

Veterinary Technician - Assists veterinarians in providing medical and other services to animals; takes animals to treatment rooms, prepares animals for surgery, performs tests, and provides client education.
National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America
Web Address: www.navta.net

Health Career Institutions in Nebraska

ALLIANCE
Western Nebraska Community College
Alliance Campus
1750 Sweetwater
Alliance, NE 69301
308-635-6062
www.wncc.edu
- Coding Technician (P)
- Dental Hygiene (A)
- Health Information Technology (A)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (P)
- Nurse Aide (C)

BEATRICE
Southeast Community College
Beatrice Campus
4771 W. Scott Rd.
Beatrice, NE 68310-7042
(402) 228-3468 or (800) 233-5027
www.southeast.edu
- Licensed Practical Nurse (P)
- Medical Office Services (A)
- Nurse Aide (C)
- Pharmacy Technician (P)

BELLEVUE
Bellevue University
1000 Galvin Road South
Bellevue, NE 68005
(402) 291-8100 or (800) 756-7920
www.bellevue.edu
- Health Care Administration (B, M)
- Human Services Worker (B, M)

CHADRON
Chadron State College
1000 Main Street
Chadron, NE 69337
(308) 432-6000 or (800) 242-3766
www.csc.edu
- Clinical Laboratory/Medical Technology (B)
- Counseling (M)
- Radiography (B)
- Social Work (B)

COLUMBUS
Central Community College
4500 63rd Street
P.O. Box 1027
Columbus, NE 68602-1027
(402) 564-7132 or (877) 222-0780
www.cccneb.edu
- Emergency Medical Technology (C)
- Health Information Management (A, C, P)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (P)
- Medical Interpreting (C)
- Medical Office Services (A, P)
- Medical Transcription (P)
- Nurse Aide (C)

FREMONT
Midland University
900 North Clarkson
Fremont, NE 68025-4200
(402) 721-5480 or (800) 642-8382
www.mlc.edu
- Behavior Analyst (C) (see Psychology)
- Nurse Aide (C)
- Registered Nurse (B)
- Respiratory Therapy (B)

GERING
University of Nebraska Medical Center
College of Dentistry
Dental Hygiene-West Division
Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska
3350 10th Street
Gering, NE 69341-1700
(308) 633-3330
www.unmc.edu/dentistry
- Dental Hygiene (B)

GRAND ISLAND
Central Community College
3134 West Highway 34
P.O. Box 4903
Grand Island, NE 68802-4903
(308) 398-4222 or (877) 222-0780
www.cccneb.edu
- Emergency Medical Technology (C)
- Health Information Management (A, C, P)
- Human Services Worker (A, C, P)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (P)
- Medical Interpreting (C)
- Medical Office Services (A, P)
- Medical Transcription (P)
- Nurse Aide (C)
- Occupational Therapy Assistant (A)
- Registered Nurse (A)

HASTINGS
Central Community College
East Highway 6
P.O. Box 1024
Hastings, NE 68902-1024
(402) 463-9811 or (877) 222-0780
www.cccneb.edu
- Coding Technician (P)
- Dental Assistant (A, P)
- Dental Hygiene (A)
- Emergency Medical Technology (C)
- Health Information Management (A, C, P)
- Human Services Worker (A, C, P)
- Medical Assistant (A, P)
- Medical Interpreting (C)
- Medical Laboratory Technician (A)
- Medical Office Services (A, P)
- Medical Transcription (P)
- Nurse Aide (C)

Creighton University
School of Nursing
Mary Lanning Campus
715 N. St. Joseph
Hastings, NE 68901
(402) 461-5281 or (888) 736-2876
www.creighton.edu
- Registered Nurse (B)

Hastings College
710 North Turner Ave
Hastings, NE 68901
(402) 463-2402
www.hastings.edu
- Health Promotion Services (B)
- Radiography (B)

Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital
School of Radiologic Technology
715 North St. Joseph
Hastings, NE 68901
(402) 461-5177
www.mlmh.org
- Radiography (C)

HOLDREGE
Central Community College
Holdrege Center
1308 2nd Street
Holdrege, NE 68949
(308) 995-8133 or (877) 222-0780
www.cccneb.edu
- Medical Interpreting (C)

KEARNEY

Central Community College
Kearney Center
3519 2nd Avenue, Suite A
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 338-4000
www.cccneb.edu
- Licensed Practical Nurse (P)
- Medical Interpreting (C)
- Nurse Aide (C)

University of Nebraska-Kearney
905 West 25th Street
Kearney, NE 68849
(308) 865-8620
www.unk.edu/acad/health_prog
- Athletic Trainer (B)
- Counseling (M)
- Medical Technology (B)
- Physical Assistant (M)
- MRI (B, PBC)
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography (B, PBC)
- Medical Laboratory Science (B)
- Medical Nutrition (M, PBC)
- Physical Therapy (D)
- Radiography (B)
- Respiratory Therapy (B)
- Social Work (B)
- Speech Language Pathology (B, M)

University of Nebraska Medical Center
College of Nursing – Kearney Division
1917 West 24th Street
West Center Bldg.
Kearney, NE 68849-4510
(308) 865-8323
www.unmc.edu/nursing
- Nurse Practitioner (M, D)
- Registered Nurse (B, M, D)

LEXINGTON

Central Community College
Lexington Center
608 North Lincoln Street
Lexington, NE 68850
(308) 324-5936 or (877) 222-0780
www.cccneb.edu
- Medical Interpreting (C)

LINCOLN

Bryan College of Health Sciences
5035 Everett Street
Lincoln, NE 68506-1398
(402) 481-8697 or (800) 742-7844 ext 18697
www.bryanhealthcollege.edu/bcohs/
- Invasive Cardiovascular Technologist (A)
- Nurse Aide (C)
- Registered Nurse (B)
- Ultrasonography (A)

Bryan Health
School of Nurse Anesthesia
1600 South 48th Street
Lincoln, NE 68506-1299
(402) 481-3194
www.bryanlgh.org
- Nurse Anesthetist (M)

Doane University
303 North 52nd Street
Lincoln, NE 68504
(402) 466-4774
www.doane.edu
- Counseling (M)
- Human Services Worker (B)

Nebraska Wesleyan University
5000 Saint Paul Avenue
Lincoln, NE 68504-2796
(402) 466-2371 or (800) 541-3818
www.nebrwesleyan.edu
- Athletic Trainer (B)
- Registered Nurse (B, M)
- Social Work (B)

Southeast Community College
Lincoln Campus
8800 "O" Street
Lincoln, NE 68520-1299
(402) 437-2600 or (800) 642-4075
www.southeast.edu
- Coding Technician (P)
- Dental Assistant (P)
- Dietetic Technician (A)
- Emergency Medical Technician (A) [Paramedic]
- Health Information Management (P)
- Human Services Worker (A) [Drug/Alcohol Counseling & Long-term Care Administration]
- Licensed Practical Nurse (P)
- Medical Assistant (P)
- Medical Interpreting (C)
- Medical Laboratory Technician (A)
- Medical Office Services (A)
- Medical Transcription (P)
- Nurse Aide (C)
- Physical Therapist Assistant (A)
- Polysomnographic Technician (C)
- Radiography (A)
- Registered Nurse (A)
- Respiratory Therapy (A)
- Surgery Technologist (A)

Union College
3800 South 48th Street
Lincoln, NE 68506
(402) 488-2331 or (800) 228-4600
www.ucollege.edu
- Physician Assistant (M)
- Registered Nurse (B)
- Social Work (B)

University of Nebraska-Lincoln
P.O. Box 880417
Lincoln, NE 68588-0417
(402) 472-2023 or (800) 742-8800
www.unl.edu
- Athletic Trainer (B)
- Counseling (M,D)
- Psychology (D)
- Registered Dietitian (B, M)
- Speech Language Pathology (B,M) & Audiology (D)

University of Nebraska Medical Center
College of Dentistry
40th & Holdrege Street
Lincoln, NE 68583-0740
(402) 472-1301
www.unmc.edu/dentistry
- Dental Hygiene (B)
- Dentist (D)

University of Nebraska Medical Center
College of Nursing – Lincoln Division
1230 O Street, Suite 131
P.O. Box 880220
Lincoln, NE 68588-0220
(402) 472-3657
www.unmc.edu/nursing
- Nurse Practitioner (M, D)
- Registered Nurse (B, M, D)

McCOOK

McCook Community College
A division of Mid-Plains Community College
1205 East 3rd Street
McCook, NE 69001
(308) 345-8100 or (800) 658-4348
www.mpcc.edu
- Emergency Medical Technology (A,P
- Licensed Practical Nurse (P)
- Medical Office Services (A)
- Medical Transcription (C)
- Registered Nurse (A)

NORFOLK

Northeast Community College
801 East Benjamin Avenue
P.O. Box 469
Norfolk, NE 68702-0469
(402) 371-2020 or (800) 348-9033
www.northeastcollege.edu
- Athletic Training (A)
- Coding Technician (P)
- Dietary Manager (C)
- Emergency Medical Technology (A, C) [Basic, Paramedic]
- Health Information Management (A)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (C)
- Medical Office Services (A, C)
- Nurse Aide (C)
- Physical Therapist Assistant (A)
- Radiologic Technology (A)
- Registered Nurse (A)

University of Nebraska Medical Center
College of Nursing – Northern Division
601 East Benjamin Avenue, Suite 104
Norfolk, NE 68701-0812
(402) 881-7076
www.unmc.edu/nursing
- Nurse Practitioner (M, D)
- Registered Nurse (B, M, D)

NORTH PLATTE

Mid-Plains Community College
South Campus
601 West State Farm Road
North Platte, NE 69101
(308) 535-3600 or (800) 658-4308
www.mpcc.edu
- Emergency Medical Technology (A,P)
- Medical Office Services (A)
- Medical Transcription (C)

Mid-Plains Community College
North Campus
1101 Halligan Drive
North Platte, NE 69101
(308) 535-3600 or (800) 658-4308
www.mpcc.edu
- Dental Assistant (A, P)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (P)
- Medical Laboratory Technician (A)
- Registered Nurse (A)

OMAHA

Alegent Health
Bergan Mercy Medical Center
7500 Mercy Road
Omaha, NE 68124-2386
(402) 398-5527
- Radiography (C)

Clarkson College
101 South 42nd Street
Omaha, NE 68131-2739
(402) 552-3100 or (800) 647-5500
www.clarksoncollege.edu
- Coding Technician (A, B, C)
- Health Information Management (A, B, C)
- Health Care Administration (B, M)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (P)
- Nurse Aide (C)
- Nurse Practitioner (M)
- Physical Therapist Assistant (A, B)
- Radiography (A, B)
  Medical Imaging PACS (C)
- Registered Nurse (B, M)

College of Saint Mary
7000 Mercy Road
Omaha, NE 68106
(402) 399-2405 or (800) 926-5534
www.csm.edu
- Licensed Practical Nurse (C)
- Medical Technology (B)
- Occupational Therapy (M)
- Registered Nurse (A, B, M, D)
- Physician Assistant (M)

Creighton Health Sciences
2500 California Plaza
P.O. Box 3266
Omaha, NE 68178
(402) 280-2703
www.creighton.edu
- Athletic Trainer (B)
- Counseling (M)
- Dental Hygiene (B)
- Dentist (D)
- Emergency Medical Services (M)
- Emergency Medical Technology (A, B)
- Health Care Administration (M)
- Nurse Practitioner (M)
- Occupational Therapy (D)
- Pharmacy (D)
- Physical Therapy (D)
- Physician (D)
- Physician Assistant (M)
- Public Health (M)
- Registered Nurse (B, M)
- Social Work (B)

Metropolitan Community College
P.O. Box 3777
Omaha, NE 68103-0777
(402) 457-2400 or (800) 228-9553
www.mccneb.edu
- Coding Technician (A, C)
- Dental Assistant (C)
- Emergency Medical Technology (A, C)
- Health Information Management (A, C)
- Human Services Worker (A)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (C)
- Medical Office Services (A)
- Nurse Aide (C)
- Registered Nurse (A)
- RespiratoryTherapy (A)

Nebraska Methodist College
720 North 87th Street
Omaha, NE 68114
(402) 354-7200 or (800) 335-5510
www.methodistcollege.edu
- Health Promotion Services (M)
- Medical Assistant (C)
- Nurse Aide (C)
- Physical Therapist Assistant (A, B)
- Radiography (A, B)
- Registered Nurse (B, M)
- RespiratoryTherapy (A, B)
- Surgery Technologist (A, B)
- Ultrasonography (A, B)

Nebraska Wesleyan University
11815 M Street
Omaha, NE 68137
(402) 827-3555
www.nebrwesleyan.edu
- Registered Nurse (B, M)

University of Nebraska Medical Center
School of Allied Health Professions
985150 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-5150
(402) 559-7428
www.unmc.edu/alliedhealth
- Clinical Perfusion (M)
- Cytotechnology (PBC)
- Clinical Laboratory Science (B)
- Nuclear Medicine Technology (B)
- Physical Therapy (D)
- Physician Assistant (M)
- Radiation Therapy Technology (B)
- Radiography (B)
- Registered Dietitian (PBC)
- Ultrasonography (B)

University of Nebraska Medical Center
College of Medicine
986585 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-6585
(402) 559-2259
www.unmc.edu/com
- Physician (D)

University of Nebraska Medical Center
College of Nursing
985330 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-5330
(402) 559-5184
www.unmc.edu/nursing
- Nurse Practitioner (M, D)
- Registered Nurse (B, M, D)

OMAHA (continued)

University of Nebraska Medical Center
College of Pharmacy
986000 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-6000
(402) 559-4333
www.unmc.edu/pharmacy
- Pharmacy (D)

University of Nebraska Medical Center
College of Public Health
987850 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-7850
(402) 559-4960
www.unmc.edu/publichealth/
- Public Health (M, D, C)

University of Nebraska Medical Center
Munroe Meyer Institute
985450 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-5450
(402) 559-6430
- Behavior Analyst (D) (see Psychology)

University of Nebraska – Omaha
6001 Dodge Street
Omaha, NE 68182
(402) 554-2800 or (800) 858-8648
www.unomaha.edu
- Athletic Trainer (B, M)
- Counseling (M)
- Psychology (M, D)
- Recreational Therapy (B)
- Social Work (B, M)
- Speech Language Pathology (B, M)

SCOTTSBLUFF

Regional West Medical Center
4021 Avenue B
Scottsbluff, NE 69361
(308) 630-1155
www.rwhs.org/sort
- Radiologic Technology (A)

University of Nebraska Medical Center
College of Nursing, West Nebraska Division
WNCC – Harms Building
1601 E 27th Street
Scottsbluff, NE 69361
(308) 632-0410
www.unmc.edu/nursing
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (D)
- Nurse Practitioner (M, D)
- Registered Nurse (B, M, D)

Western Nebraska Community College
1601 East 27th Street
Scottsbluff, NE 69361
(308) 635-6060 or (800) 348-4435
www.wncc.edu
- Coding Technician (P)
- Emergency Medical Technology (A, C)
- Health Information Technology (A)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (P)
- Nurse Aide (C)
- Radiography (A)
- Registered Nurse (A)

SIDNEY

Western Nebraska Community College
Sidney Campus
371 College Drive
Sidney, NE 69162
(308) 254-5450
www.wncc.edu
- Advanced Placement Nursing (A)
- Coding Technician (P)
- Health Information Management (A)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (P)
- Nurse Aide (C)
- Practical Nursing (P)

WAYNE

Wayne State College
1111 Main Street
Wayne, NE 68787
(402) 375-7000 or (800) 228-9972
www.wsc.edu
- Counseling (B,M)
- Medical Technology (B)
- Respiratory Therapy (B)

High School Alliance

Started in 2010 and under the leadership of the vice chancellor for academic affairs, the High School Alliance is a health sciences enrichment program that partners with the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and public school districts in the greater Omaha area. The program provides high school juniors and seniors with the opportunity to observe, shadow and work alongside health care professionals and researchers at UNMC.

What is the High School Alliance?

The UNMC High School Alliance is a partnership between the University of Nebraska Medical Center and public school districts in the greater Omaha area. The program is designed to offer unique and innovative health science classes to high school juniors and seniors.

Alliance students will take classes that are not available in the traditional high school setting. These classes are taught in partnership by UNMC faculty and cerified high school teachers on the UNMC campus.

Who is involved in this program?

School districts that participate in the program include:

Bellevue Public
Bennington Public
Council Bluffs Community
Douglas County West Community
ESU #3*
Elkhorn Public
Gretna Public
Millard Public
Omaha Public
Papillion-La Vista School District
Ralston Public
Springfield Platteview Community
Westside Community

** Non Douglas/Sarpy county schools with school district approval*

How do I apply for the HSA program?

Applications are available online. Visit www.unmc.edu/alliance to find the application. Please review eligibility requirements before applying. Applications become available in December and must be submitted to UNMC by March.

Who is eligible?

Students from participating school districts are eligible to apply. Eligible students must meet each of the following criteria:

- Be a junior or senior and at least 16 years of age at the beginning of the school year.
- Have completed and received a grade of “B” or above in Algebra 1, Biology, a physical science course, and a third year of science.
- Obtain parent/guardian permission.
- Be enrolled in a participating high school for the entire school year.
- Be on track for graduation.
- Complete an in-person interview.

UNMC High School Alliance
985330 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-5330
Phone: 402.559.3027
Fax: 402.559.9862

unmchsalliance@unmc.edu
unmc.edu/alliance

Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP)

Health care. These are two special words when you live in the sparsely populated regions of rural Nebraska.

If your career interest is in health care, you can help meet the needs of rural Nebraska through the Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP), a cooperative venture of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), Chadron State College (CSC), Wayne State College (WSC), and Peru State College (PSC).

What is the Rural Health Opportunities Program?

This program addresses the special needs of rural Nebraska by encouraging rural residents to pursue health care careers. If selected, you obtain admission into participating UNMC colleges upon completion of studies at CSC, WSC, or PSC.

Who is involved in this program?

The program involves UNMC, CSC, WSC and PSC students. At Chadron and Wayne, RHOP includes preparatory courses for medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, dental hygiene, clinical laboratory science, physician assistant, physical therapy and radiography programs. The RHOP program for nursing is offered at Chadron State College while Peru State College participates in the pharmacy and nursing programs.

How do I apply for the RHOP program?

Applications are available from the Health Professions office at Wayne State College, Chadron State College, or Peru State College or you can download forms from the Web.

For programs at Chadron, go to: www.csc.edu/sci/rhop
For programs at Wayne, go to: www.wsc.edu/schools/nss/RHOP
For programs at Peru, go to: www.peru.edu/RHOP/

Students must submit an application for admission to the state college along with the RHOP application.

How will students be selected?

RHOP was designed for rural Nebraska students who are interested in practicing in small communities throughout Nebraska. The criteria for selection include:

- Academic potential
- Commitment to practice in rural Nebraska
- Residency in a rural Nebraska community

Nontraditional students who are willing to begin their work at CSC, WSC, or PSC as freshmen reqardless of previous education are also encouraged to apply. An interview and final selection of students will involve representatives of CSC, WSC, PSC and UNMC. Students will be notified of acceptance within one week of their interview.

How to Apply

For an application or more information about the Rural Health Opportunities Program and its participating colleges, talk with your counselor or write or call:

Health Professions Office
Chadron State College
1000 Main Street
Chadron, NE 69337
(308) 432-6278
E-Mail: hpoffice@csc.edu

Health Professions Office
Wayne State College
1111 Main Street
Wayne, NE 68787
(402) 375-7329
E-Mail: preprof@wsc.edu

Peru State College
Dr. Dennis Welsh
Office, Hoyt 123
402-872-2208
Email: DWelsh@peru.edu

Visit

www.csc.edu/sci/rhop

Kearney Health Opportunities Program (KHOP)

What is the KHOP program?

The Kearney Health Opportunities Program (KHOP) is a cooperative program between the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK) and the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). The purpose of the program is to recruit and educate students from rural Nebraska who are committed to returning to rural Nebraska to practice healthcare. This program represents a commitment and dedication to the education of Nebraskans and quality health care for citizens of the state.

KHOP Program Highlights

- Receive a full tuition scholarship at UNK
- Follow a special curriculm and participate in professional development activities at UNK that will prepare them for their healthcare program at UNMC
- Receive admission to their specified healthcare program at UNMC upon satisfactory completion of all requirements within the prescribed timeline.

Requirements for KHOP Eligibility

- Apply as a high school senior
- U.S. Citizenship or Permanent Residency
- Residency in a rural Nebraska community
- Have scored a minimm ACT composite of 23 or above before application deadline
- Have a sincere interest in becoming a healthcare provider
- Have a willingness to practice in rural Nebraska

How are program participants selected?

All students accepted to the KHOP program must maintain the academic requirements set forth in the Program Standards. Students are also expected to participate in professional development activities.

The final selection of program participants includes an interview with representatives from UNMC and UNK.

Contact Information:

KHOP Scholars Program
Peggy Abels
University of Nebraska at Kearney
Director UNK Health Sciences
2805 11th Avenue
Kearney, NE 68849
(308) 865-8260

abelsp@unk.edu

Public Health Early Admissions Student Track (PHEAST)

What is the PHEAST program?

The Public Health Early Admissions Student Track (PHEAST) is a health professions pipeline program designed to recruit, educate, and graduate passionate public health leaders committed to improving population health outcomes in Nebraska. The PHEAST program is a collaborative initiative between the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) College of Public Health (CoPH), the University of Nebraska Kearney (UNK), and the Nebraska State College System (Chadron State College, Peru State College, and Wayne State College).

PHEAST Program Highlights

- Receive full tuition reimbursement while completing their undergraduate education (during their junior and senior year).
- Benefit from a three credit hour scholarship provided by the UNMC CoPH to complete the required three graduate credit hour Foundation of Public Health (web-based) course, which is designed to introduce emerging public health leaders to the Public Health System and the 10 Essential Public Health Services.
- Engage in activities that allow them to practice their public health leadership and community/civic engagement skills.
- Participate in annual visits to UNMC CoPH where they are immersed in a daylong curriculum and activities designed to familiarize themselves with the UNMC CoPH campus, and MPH program concentration areas, and to learn about public health career opportunities, all while developing warm relationships with MPH program faculty and staff.

Requirements for PHEAST Eligibility

Students eligible to apply to PHEAST shall be Nebraska residents who will have completed approximately 60 credit hours, but no more than 80 credit hours, towards their undergraduate program of study at the time of entry into the PHEAST Program. Students must complete and submit a projected plan of study along with their application documents. “If the 3 campus slots are not filled, students who have completed more than 80 credit hours at time of entry into PHEAST may be considered on a case-by-case basis for admission into the program.”

Aside from being able to maintain good academic standing, successful applicants are able to demonstrate a sincere interest in pursuing a graduate education in public health through personal and professional references that attest to the applicant’s involvement in public health related activities through either work, curricular/extracurricular, or community engagement activities, and/or other life experiences.

How are program participants selected?

Students interested in applying to PHEAST should complete and submit the PHEAST Application Form, their official transcript, three letters of recommendation, their personal statement, and a projected plan of study indicating anticipated martriculation to UNMC CoPH, along with their professional resume, to the PHEAST Campus Representative at their respective undergraduate institution by March 15th.

The PHEAST Campus Representative will forward your application in pdf format to the UNMC PHEAST Coordinator. The UNMC CoPH will provisionally accept up to three students from each academic partner institution per academic year and will notify applicants of their acceptance status by April 30th.

Contact Information:

Rura Health Education Network
University of Nebraska Medical Center
College of Public Health
Sonja Tutsch
984373 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-4373
(402) 559-3674

sonja.tutsch@unmc.edu

Urban Health Opportunities Program (UHOP)

What is the UHOP program?

The purpose of the UHOP program is to diversify the urban Nebraska primary care medical workforce by identifying and preparing qualified students from underrepresented groups to enter and succeed in medical school.

UHOP scholars will include those considered underrepresented by the Association of American Medical Colleges.

UHOP Program Highlights

- Tuition assistance at UNO starting freshman year for UHOP scholars
- Automatic UNO Pre-medical Committee sponsorship
- Mentoring by UNMC medical students
- MCAT preparation assistance
- Opportunities to provide mentorship
- Successful program completion results in guaranteed admission to the UNMC Medical Doctorate (M.D.) program

Requirements for UHOP Eligibility

- Apply as a high school senior
- U.S. Citizenship or Permanent Residency
- Nebraska Residency
- High School GPA $\geq$3.0 and ACT Composite and Math Score $\geq$24
- Recommendation letters
- Demonstrate a strong interest in a career of medicine

How are program participants selected?

Successful candidates will meet all program requirements during undergraduate study while maintaining a 3.25 cumulative and BCPM (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics) GPA, and achieve a minimum score on the MCAT.

The final selection of program participants includes an interview with University of Nebraska representatives.

Contact Information:

UHOP Scholars Program
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Allwine Hall 307
Dr. Paul H. Davis
Health Careers Resource Center
6001 Dodge Street
Omaha, NE 68182
(402) 554-5980

UNOHealthCareers@unomaha.edu

Career Exploration

The Nebraska Department of Labor has Nebraska Workforce Development Career Centers located across the state. These centers provide access to additional information on career exploration, finding a job, preparing a resume, as well as serving as a resource center for America's Job Bank and Talent Bank on the Internet. This listing is alphabetical by city:

302 Box Butte Ave.
Alliance, NE 69301-3342
(308) 763-2935

5109 West Scott Rd., Suite 413
Beatrice, NE 68310-7059
(402) 223-6060

3100 23rd St., Ste. 22
Columbus, NE 68601-3161
(402) 564-7160

2727 W. 2nd St., Ste 338
Hastings, NE 68901-4684
(402) 462-1867

American Job Center
203 East Stolley Park Rd,
Ste. A
Grand Island, NE 68801
(308) 385-6029

1501 Plum Creek Parkway,
Ste. 3
Lexington, NE 68850
(308) 324-2064

American Job Center
1111 O Street, Suite 205
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 441-6038

1111 O Street, Suite 222
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 471-2275

917 Wildwood Lane, Room 104
Nebraska City, NE 68410-3312
(402) 873-3384

105 East Norfolk Ave.,
Suite 120
Norfolk, NE 68701
(402) 370-3430

306 East 6th St., Suite 140
North Platte, NE 69101-4160
(308) 535-8320

American Job Center
5752 Ames Ave.
Omaha, NE 68104
(402) 444-4700

505A Broadway, Ste. 300
Scottsbluff, NE 69361-2708
(308) 632-1420

510 Lincoln Ave.
York, NE 68467-2997
(402) 362-5891

Nebraska Office of Rural Health

The Nebraska Office of Rural Health was created in statute in 1990 and offers a variety of programs to enhance access to health care services. Its mission is to define and promote the development of a health care system that assures the accessibility of quality health care service to meet the needs of residents in rural Nebraska.

The office administers the state student loan and loan repayment programs and provides coordination for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) programs. The state programs have placed over 500 health care providers in shortage areas and the NHSC program has placed over 175 health care providers. Currently, over 116 health care providers are providing state program obligated service and over 16 health care providers are providing federal obligated service through the NHSC. More information regarding these programs is available on our web site at: http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/RuralHealth

For further information, contact: Tom Rauner or Marlene Janssen at (402) 471-2337

Financial Aid

Resources

There are many excellent, free resources for you to use as you explore financial aid for college and professional training. These include your high school guidance counselor and the financial aid offices at the institutions to which you are applying. There are also several on-line resources which can help you to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and to search for local and national awards. These web sites are:

EducationQuest Foundation
www.educationquest.org

Federal Student Aid Programs
www.studentaid.ed.gov

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
www.fafsa.ed.gov

National Student Loan Database System
www.nslds.ed.gov

The Smart Student Guide to Financial Aid
www.finaid.org

Checklist

- Attend the financial aid program at your high school or at the college fair in your area.
- Talk to your guidance counselor for local awards; contact your prospective colleges for their scholarships; and search online for other local and national awards.
- Watch your deadlines, and complete scholarship applications.
- Complete the FAFSA after January 1 of your senior year (requires current income tax information). Submit by the required deadline. Check the website listed above, or call 1-800-4-FED-AID for more information on deadlines or on how to file electronically.
- Expect the Student Aid Report (SAR) within 72 hours of filing the FAFSA. The SAR acknowledges that your form was processed and can be used to make corrections to the FAFSA.
- Look for award letters from the colleges that have accepted you. These will detail the assistance being offered. Sign and return the award letter to your chosen institution. Notify the other schools of your decision.
- If necessary apply for educational loans based on your school's guidelines.

Additional Tips

- Apply for admission before you complete the FAFSA. Colleges only send award letters to students they have accepted for admission.
- Try to complete your tax return before you complete the FAFSA. Actual tax figures are ideal, regardless of when the tax return is actually filed.
- Inquire about merit and need-based awards at each college you're considering, and be sure to check application dates. Some schools have separate scholarship application forms, while some use the admission application.
- Compare the total financial aid package offered by each college to which you have been accepted. Schools vary greatly in cost, but they also may offer quite different scholarship and aid packages. You want to know what your final out-of-pocket expenses will be at each institution.

Acknowledgements

Information published in this document has been gathered from various sources. The 2019 edition of Careers in Health Care is distributed through the cooperation of the following agencies. For more information or to comment on the publication, please contact:

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(402) 559-3398
www.unmc.edu/familymed/education/ahec

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University of Nebraska at Kearney
Bruner Hall of Science, Room 170
2401 11th Avenue
Kearney, NE 68849

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110 No. 16 Street, Suite 2
Norfolk, NE 68701
(402) 644-7253
www.nnahec.org

Nebraska Panhandle AHEC
2620 College Park
Scottsbluff, NE 69361
(308) 635-6711
www.np-ahec.org

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995 East Hwy 33, Ste 1
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se-ahec.phsneb.org

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