

CTE: HEALTH

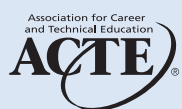
DEVELOPING THE CARE WORKFORCE

Career and technical education (CTE) supports America's health care needs by

preparing learners to enter this critical workforce, which employs more than **17 million**¹ people nationwide with approximately **1.9 million**² individuals needed each year to meet demand.

CTE programs in health science develop students' technical, academic and employability skills through work-based and hands-on learning, ensuring that they are prepared to enter a **high-wage, in-demand** career in areas such as allied health, nursing and behavioral health.

This infographic describes a small sample of the career opportunities available in the health care sector.



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ALLIED HEALTH



- Allied health professionals who work in disease prevention, diagnostic services and rehabilitation are in high demand: jobs for respiratory therapists are expected to grow by **14%**³ and jobs for occupational therapy assistants by **25%**⁴ through 2031.
- Many people working in allied health earn more than the national median wage, from **\$46,600**⁵ per year for medical records specialists to almost **\$83,000**⁶ for radiation therapists.
- Allied health careers typically require a **postsecondary certificate or degree** as well as a **license** from a state licensing agency.
- People working in support roles, such as occupational therapy assistants, can pursue **additional education** to move into more advanced positions like occupational therapists.

NURSING



- The nursing workforce includes more than **6 million**⁷ registered nurses, licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and licensed vocational nurses (LVNs), with demand for LPNs/LVNs projected to grow faster than supply.⁸
- Nursing has well-established **career ladders** from LPN/LVN to registered nurse (RN) to specialist roles like nurse anesthetist (CRNA), nurse midwife (CNM) or nurse practitioner (NP).
- LPNs/LVNs earn a median salary of **\$48,000**⁹ annually, rising to more than **\$77,000**¹⁰ for registered nurses (RN) and nearly **\$200,000**¹¹ for nurse anesthetists (CRNA).
- **Degrees and specialty certifications** can help individuals elevate their skills to build a fulfilling career in nursing.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



- About **160 million**¹² Americans live in communities with shortages of mental health professionals.
- Counselors who help people with substance abuse and mental health issues are in particular demand, with job openings projected to grow by **22%**¹³ through 2031.
- Median earnings for mental health and substance abuse counselors are **\$48,500**¹⁴ per year, while psychologists can make **\$81,000**¹⁵ annually.
- Bachelor's and advanced **degrees and licenses** are key to career growth in behavioral health.

MORE JOBS IN HEALTH CARE

Beyond the previously mentioned careers in health care, CTE prepares youth and adults for these additional occupations:

- Athletic trainer
- Optician
- Paramedic
- Physician
- Dental hygienist
- Clinical laboratory technician
- Phlebotomist
- Patient navigator
- Physical therapist
- Audiologist

The North Dakota State College of Science pharmacy technician program partners with PioneerRx, a pharmacy software system, to simulate the functions of a real pharmacy. Learners also participate in an eight-week internship in a community or hospital setting. The program has had a 100% job placement rate since 1994.¹⁶

HOW CTE PREPARES THE HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

CTE programs of study and career pathways prepare secondary, postsecondary and adult learners for the health care workforce in many ways:

- **Courses** in emergency medical technology, health care diagnostics, respiratory therapy, biotechnology, medical coding and transcription, sports medicine and more spanning secondary and postsecondary education.
- Opportunities to earn **postsecondary certificates and degrees** in diagnostic medical sonography, health information technology, dental hygiene, registered nursing, medical assisting and more.
- Opportunities to earn **licenses** from state agencies and credentials from organizations like the National Healthcareer Association, among others.
- **Work-based learning** experiences like job shadowing and clinical experiences.
- Competitive events, service learning and leadership development through **career and technical student organizations** such as HOSA–Future Health Professionals and SkillsUSA.
- **Activities** that build technical, academic and employability skills such as teamwork, communication and problem solving.

Learn More

This Sector Sheet highlights just a few occupations within the health care workforce. To learn more, please visit the U.S. Department of Labor at www.CareerOneStop.org/ExploreCareers and MyNextMove.org.

Citations

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