

PICTURE YOURSELF IN A HEALTHCARE CAREER





PICTURE YOURSELF – IN A HEALTHCARE CAREER

Careers in healthcare are some of the fastest-growing jobs in our community, and the demand for healthcare workers means these jobs are some of the highest paying jobs in the state.

As Indiana's population ages and more people need healthcare services, opportunities expand for employees who like working with people and have mastered the basics in math, science, and communication. You don't need to go to school for years either as plenty of good healthcare jobs require only a certification, associate degree, or a bachelor's degree. Read on to find out if you've got what it takes for a career in healthcare!



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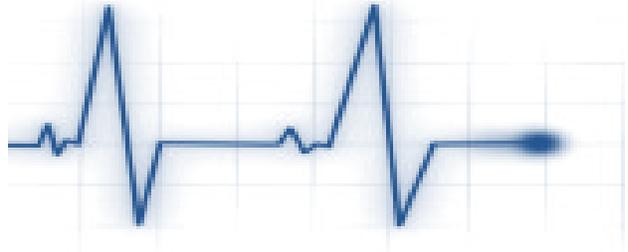
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WHY SHOULD YOU CHOOSE A CAREER IN HEALTHCARE?

TOP 5 REASONS TO WORK IN THE HEALTHCARE FIELD

1. Job Growth, Job Growth, and MORE Job Growth!

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, EIGHT of the Top 20 fastest growing professions are in the healthcare Industry! And the healthcare industry has over 13 million jobs. What does this mean for you? It means that as a healthcare professional, you will enjoy more options – and much better job security and stability. Thanks to advances in medicine, and the country's aging population, demand for medical professionals is continually increasing across the board.

2. Touch Lives - Make an Impact

Many healthcare professions require direct contact with patients. In what other profession can you touch lives the way you can in the healthcare industry? You could help bring a new life into the world, or help save a life from ending. Other healthcare professions, such as medical coding and billing or pharmacy technician require good customer service skills but no direct care responsibilities.

People in healthcare careers also work with animals (veterinarians and veterinary technicians), computers (medical records administrators), and teeth (dentists, dental hygienists and dental technicians).

3. Jobs Available for ALL Education and Experience Levels

Whether you have a GED or a PhD, there is an exciting healthcare career available to you. Sure you need many years of school to be a doctor, but there are hundreds of other jobs available in the healthcare industry to be explored. In fact, most of the people who work in healthcare careers are not physicians. The really booming jobs are those that play supporting roles in delivering healthcare. Some healthcare professions require several years of education. Others require only a few weeks or months of training. The majority of healthcare jobs require less than four years of education after high school.

4. Competitive Earning Potential

Due to the high demand for workers in the healthcare industry, careers in healthcare are some of the most lucrative options available. The more highly skilled you are, the higher your pay will be.

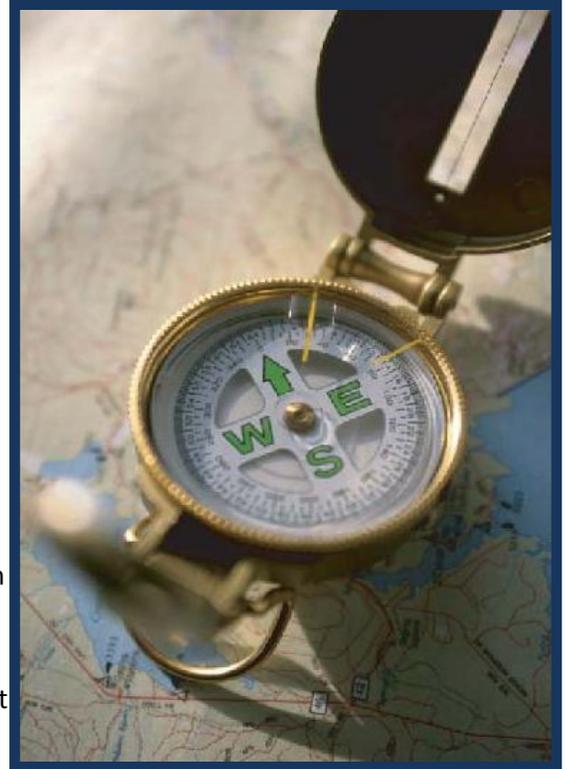
5. Never a Dull Moment!

The medical field is exciting, ever-changing, and dramatic in nature. Healthcare is fast paced, you are dealing with life or death situations, and new patients come in every day, so you will never experience the same day twice.

CHARTING YOUR COURSE

Your future career can be fun, or it can make you miserable, depending on whether you choose one that fits your unique personality, interests, goals, and abilities. Planning to be a nurse, for example, makes no sense if you can't stand the sight of blood. And forget about being an engineer if you aren't going to tackle advanced math. If you love the outdoors, accounting may not be the best job for you. Earning a living for about 40 years is a lot more rewarding (financially and otherwise) if you find a profession that fits you perfectly. Explore your interests and options to start working toward your personal dream, whether it be a radiologist, teacher, nurse, or firefighter.

Taking charge of your life is not the easiest thing to do, but it is the most rewarding. Driving yourself and running your own life are a lot more fun than having someone else doing it for you. And with a few directions, it's not that hard to find your own way. The Career Maps on the next few pages are your guide to making your way to a future in healthcare. There are all sorts of jobs in healthcare, requiring all sorts of skills; everything from giving first aid at the scene of an accident to fitting people with eyeglasses. You must plan ahead for the career that suits you best.



You have many options and one of your first decisions will be to choose which broad career area you'd like to pursue. Keep in mind choosing a career cluster does not mean you are locked into a specific job. Each career cluster can be broken down into more specific areas of focus and there are many careers available in each of those focus areas. For example, Health Science is split into five focus areas:

- Diagnostic Services
- Health Informatics
- Support Services
- Therapeutic Services
- Biotechnology Research and Design

YOU CAN ALWAYS CHANGE DIRECTION –

What happens if you follow the road map and end up someplace you didn't really want to be? Don't worry. Your decision about a focus area and career is not permanent. As you move along through your high school career, you will have plenty of opportunities to review and change your choices. You are free to try different paths and opt for the one that best suits you.

CAREER MAP: DENTAL ASSISTANTS



"There is nothing more important than having a beautiful smile and I love being a part of that process! The hours are great and working as a team to achieve a common goal is very rewarding!" -Linda

Dental Assistants prepare patients, sterilize or disinfect instruments, set up instrument trays, prepare materials, or assist the dentist during dental procedures. They expose dental diagnostic x-rays, record treatment information in patient records, provide postoperative instructions prescribed by the dentist, assist the dentist in management of medical or dental emergencies, take and record medical and dental histories and vital signs of patients, instruct patients in oral hygiene and plaque control programs, order and monitor dental supplies and equipment inventory, and clean and polish removable appliances.

Education:

- High School: General Diploma or Core 40
- Suggested High School Classes: Biology, Chemistry, Health, and Office Practices
- Postsecondary: Associate degree and Moderate-term On-the-job training

Salaries/Wage:

Location	Period	Median
Indiana	Hourly	\$15.80
	Yearly	\$32,900
Region	Hourly	\$14.88
	Yearly	\$30,950

CAREER MAP: RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS



"I have enjoyed working as a Respiratory Therapist for nine years. I work in an exciting field which offers many opportunities to learn new skills." -Rolinda

Respiratory Therapists provide emergency care, such as artificial respiration, external cardiac massage, or assistance with cardiopulmonary resuscitation. They read prescriptions, measure arterial blood gases, and review patient information to assess patient condition; monitor patient's physiological responses to therapy, such as vital signs, arterial blood gases, or blood chemistry changes, and consult with the physician if adverse reactions occur; set up and operate devices such as mechanical ventilators, therapeutic gas administration apparatus, environmental control systems, or aerosol generators, following specified parameters of treatment; enforce safety rules and ensure careful adherence to physicians' orders; maintain charts that contain patients' pertinent identification and therapy information; and work as part of a team of physicians, nurses, or other healthcare professionals to manage patient care by assisting with medical procedures or related duties.

Education:

- High School: General Diploma or Core 40 Diploma
- Suggested High School Classes: Mathematics, Physics, Science, and Biology
- Postsecondary: Associate degree

Salaries/Wage:

Location	Period	Median
Indiana	Hourly	\$24.39
	Yearly	\$50,730
Region	Hourly	\$23.80
	Yearly	\$49,500

CAREER MAP: MEDICAL RECORDS AND HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNICIANS



"I am really happy with my career choice! My job consists of working with the patients, assessing the patient's initial complaint, assisting the doctor, and filing medical records."
- Diana

Medical Records and Health Information Technicians protect the security of medical records to ensure that confidentiality is maintained; review records for completeness, accuracy, and compliance with regulations; retrieve patient medical records for physicians, technicians, or other medical personnel; release information to persons or agencies according to regulations; plan, develop, maintain, or operate a variety of health record indexes or storage and retrieval systems to collect, classify, store, or analyze information; enter data, such as demographic characteristics, history and extent of disease, diagnostic procedures, or treatment into computer; compile and maintain patients' medical records to document condition and treatment and to provide data for research or cost control and care improvement efforts.

Education:

- High School: General Diploma or Core 40
- Suggested High School Classes: Biology, Health, Computer Science, English Language and Office Practices
- Postsecondary: Moderate On-the-Job Training or Associate Degree

Salaries/Wage:

Location	Period	Median
Indiana	Hourly	\$13.91
	Yearly	\$28,930
Region	Hourly	\$14.13
	Yearly	\$29,390

CAREER MAP: PHARMACY TECHNICIAN



"I love my job because there is always something to learn, whether it's a new compound, a new insurance regulation, or just keeping up with the ever changing generic and brand drug names."
-Andy

Pharmacy Technicians receive written prescription or refill requests and verify that information is complete and accurate; establish or maintain patient profiles, including lists of medications taken by individual patients; maintain proper storage and security conditions for drugs; answer telephones, responding to questions or requests; prepack bulk medicines, fill bottles with prescribed medications, and type and affix labels; mix pharmaceutical preparations, according to written prescriptions; clean and help maintain equipment or work areas and sterilize glassware; price and file prescriptions that have been filled; assist customers by answering simple questions, locating items, or referring them to the pharmacist for medication information; receive and store incoming supplies, verify quantities against invoices, check for outdated medications in current inventory.

Education:

- High School: General Diploma or Core 40
- Suggested High School Classes: Mathematics, Chemistry, Computer Science, Physics, and English Language
- Postsecondary: Moderate On-the-Job Training or Associate Degree

Salaries/Wage:

Location	Period	Median
Indiana	Hourly	\$12.85
	Yearly	\$26,730
Region	Hourly	\$12.14
	Yearly	\$25,250

CAREER MAP: REGISTERED NURSE



"The nursing program has prepared me to enter one of the most trusted careers with the skills I need, confidence to complete them, and passion to uphold my oath."
 -Kyla

Registered Nurses Monitor, record, and report symptoms or changes in patients' conditions; maintain accurate, detailed reports and records; record patients' medical information and vital signs; order, interpret, and evaluate diagnostic tests to identify and assess patient's condition; modify patient treatment plans as indicated by patients' responses and conditions; direct or supervise less-skilled nursing or healthcare personnel or supervise a particular unit; consult and coordinate with healthcare team members to assess, plan, implement, or evaluate patient care plans; monitor all aspects of patient care, including diet and physical activity; instruct individuals, families, or other groups on topics such as health education, disease prevention, or childbirth and develop health improvement programs; prepare patients for and assist with examinations or treatments.

Education:

- High School: General Diploma or Core 40
- Suggested High School Classes: Mathematics, Chemistry, Computer Science, Physics, and English Language
- Postsecondary: Associate Degree

Salaries/Wage:

Location	Period	Median
Indiana	Hourly	\$26.92
	Yearly	\$56,000
Region	Hourly	\$25.75
	Yearly	\$53,560

CAREER MAP: HOME HEALTH AIDES



"I love my job because I get to meet amazing people and work one on one with my clients. I love helping others"

-Donna

Home Health Aides maintain records of patient care, condition, progress, or problems to report and discuss observations with supervisor or case manager; check patients' pulse, temperature, and respiration; provide patients with help moving in and out of beds, baths, wheelchairs, or automobiles and with dressing and grooming; care for patients by changing bed linens, washing and ironing laundry, cleaning, or assisting with their personal care; administer prescribed oral medications, under the written direction of physician or as directed by home care nurse or aide, and ensure patients take their medicine; plan, purchase, prepare, or serve meals to patients or other family members, according to prescribed diets; accompany clients to doctors' offices or on other trips outside the home, providing transportation, assistance, and companionship; provide patients and families with emotional support and instruction in areas such as caring for infants, preparing healthy meals, living independently, or adapting to disability or illness.

Education:

- High School: General Diploma or Core 40 Diploma
- Suggested High School Classes: Psychology, Health, and English Language
- Postsecondary: Short Term On-the-Job Training

Salaries/Wage:

Location	Period	Median
Indiana	Hourly	\$9.87
	Yearly	\$20,530
Region	Hourly	\$9.79
	Yearly	\$20,360

CAREER MAP: EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS AND PARAMEDICS



*"Being an EMT is very rewarding. There is no better feeling than making a difference in someone's life."
-Britany*

Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics administer first aid treatment or life support care to sick or injured persons in pre-hospital settings; perform emergency diagnostic and treatment procedures, during ambulance ride; observe, record, and report to physician the patient's condition or injury, the treatment provided, and reactions to drugs or treatment; immobilize patient for placement on stretcher and ambulance transport; assess nature and extent of illness or injury to establish and prioritize medical procedures; communicate with dispatchers or treatment center personnel to provide information about situation, to arrange reception of victims, or to receive instructions for further treatment; decontaminate ambulance interior following treatment of patient with infectious disease and report case to proper authorities; operate equipment, such as electrocardiograms (EKGs), external defibrillators, or bag valve mask resuscitators, in advanced life support environments

Education:

- High School: General Diploma or Core 40
- Suggested High School Classes: Chemistry, Computer Science, Psychology, and English Language
- Postsecondary: Moderate On-the-Job Training or Associate Degree

Salaries/Wage:

Location	Period	Median
Indiana	Hourly	\$13.77
	Yearly	\$28,640
Region	Hourly	\$13.53
	Yearly	\$28,140

CAREER MAP: RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS AND TECHNICIANS



*"I wanted to work "hands on" in a medical field, and I do. I wanted the satisfaction of doing something that really helps people. I feel like I make a stressful situation easier for both the patient and the family."
-Sherry*

Radiologic Technologists and Technicians use beam-restrictive devices and patient-shielding techniques to minimize radiation exposure to patient and staff; position x-ray equipment and adjust controls to set exposure factors, such as time and distance; position patient on examining table and set up and adjust equipment to obtain optimum view of specific body area as requested by physician; explain procedures to patients to reduce anxieties and obtain cooperation; determine patients' x-ray needs by reading requests or instructions from physicians; operate mobile x-ray equipment in operating room, emergency room, or at patient's bedside; prepare and set up x-ray room for patient; assure that sterile or non-sterile supplies such as contrast materials, catheters, films, chemicals, or other required equipment, are present and in working order or requisition materials; process exposed radiographs using film processors or computer generated methods; and make exposures necessary for the requested procedures, rejecting and repeating work that does not meet established standards.

Education:

- High School: General Diploma or Core 40 Diploma
- Suggested High School Classes: Physics, Computer Science, Mathematics, Biology, and Health
- Postsecondary: Moderate On-the-Job Training and Associate Degree

Salaries/Wage:

Location	Period	Median
Indiana	Hourly	\$24.24
	Yearly	\$50,420
Region	Hourly	\$26.20
	Yearly	\$54,500

REAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Healing is a complicated art supported by centuries of scientific research. No one practices healthcare without hitting the books in a serious way. By the same token, no one can play a successful part in the healthcare system without understanding the hands-on art.



Healthcare is a hands-on endeavor. Blending course work with real-life clinical learning enables you to:

- Study healing in the clinics where it happens
- Get a look at possible healthcare careers
- Fine tune your focus on the future
- Make informed choices
- Build your career portfolio and resume
- Jump start your career and/or college education

GET TO WORK

While job shadowing gives you a taste of working in a particular profession, you will also want to engage in an internship, co-operative program, summer employment at local hospitals, clinics and healthcare facilities and regional healthcare camp.

While getting a paycheck certainly helps, you'll typically find plenty of learning opportunities in the healthcare field by volunteering. Long term care facilities, hospitals, and other caring facilities in our community likely need and use volunteer aides to help meet patient needs. Donating your time and the skills you've learned in the classroom to community service is a great way to gain experience and serve others at the same time.

Whatever the exact arrangement, work based learning in healthcare offers advantages in the job market, no matter what career you finally pursue.

For more information about a career in healthcare contact:

- Your school guidance counselor
- Your JAG specialist if you are in Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) class

Check out these on-line resources:

- Top 60 Critical Occupations in West Central Indiana www.workonewestcentral.org
- Ivy Tech-Kokomo www.ivytech.edu/kokomo
- Ivy Tech-Lafayette www.ivytech.edu/lafayette
- North Central Area Health Education Center www.ahec.iupui.edu



25 CAREER CHOICES

Occupation	Description
Dentists, general	Examine, diagnose, and treat diseases, injuries, and malformations of teeth and gums.
Pharmacists	Dispense drugs prescribed by physicians and other health practitioners and provide information to patients about medications and their use.
Physical therapists	Assess, plan, organize, and participate in rehabilitative programs that improve mobility, relieve pain, increase strength, and improve or correct disabling conditions resulting from disease or injury.
Occupational therapists	Assess, plan, organize, and participate in rehabilitative programs that help build or restore vocational, homemaking, and daily living skills.
Dental hygienists	Clean teeth and examine oral areas, head, and neck for signs of oral disease. May educate patients on oral hygiene, take and develop x-rays, or apply fluoride or sealants.
Veterinarians	Diagnose, treat, or research diseases and injuries of animals. Includes veterinarians who conduct research and development, inspect livestock, or care for pets and companion animals.
Speech-language pathologists	Assess and treat persons with speech, language, voice, and fluency disorders. May select alternative communication systems and teach their use.
Radiologic technologists and technicians	Take x-rays and CAT scans or administer nonradioactive materials into patient's blood stream for diagnostic purposes. Includes technologists who specialize in other scanning modalities.
Registered nurses	Assess patient health problems and needs, develop and implement nursing care plans, and maintain medical records. Administer nursing care to ill, injured, convalescent, or disabled patients.
Nuclear medicine technologists	Prepare, administer, and measure radioactive isotopes in therapeutic, diagnostic, and tracer studies using a variety of radioisotope equipment.
Medical and clinical laboratory technologists	Perform complex medical laboratory tests for diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease. May train or supervise staff.
Respiratory therapists	Assess, treat, and care for patients with breathing disorders. Assume primary responsibility for all respiratory care modalities, including the supervision of respiratory therapy technicians.
Physical therapist assistants	Assist physical therapists in providing physical therapy treatments and procedures.
Dietitians and nutritionists	Plan and conduct food service or nutritional programs to assist in the promotion of health and control of disease. May supervise activities of a department providing quantity food services, counsel individuals, or conduct nutritional research.
Surgical technologists	Assist in operations, under the supervision of surgeons, registered nurses, or other surgical personnel.
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	Care for ill, injured, or convalescing patients or persons with disabilities in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, private homes, group homes, and similar institutions.
Medical and clinical laboratory technicians	Perform routine medical laboratory tests for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease. May work under the supervision of a medical technologist.
Dental assistants	Assist dentist, set up equipment, prepare patient for treatment, and keep records.
Medical records and health information technicians	Compile, process, and maintain medical records of hospital and clinic patients in a manner consistent with medical, administrative, ethical, legal, and regulatory requirements of the health care system.
Emergency medical technicians and paramedics	Assess injuries, administer emergency medical care, and extricate trapped individuals. Transport injured or sick persons to medical facilities.
Medical assistants	Perform administrative and certain clinical duties under the direction of a physician. Administrative duties may include scheduling appointments, maintaining medical records, billing, and coding information for insurance purposes.
Veterinary technologists and technicians	Perform medical tests in a laboratory environment for use in the treatment and diagnosis of diseases in animals. Prepare vaccines and serums for prevention of diseases.
Pharmacy technicians	Prepare medications under the direction of a pharmacist. May measure, mix, count out, label, and record amounts and dosages of medications according to prescription orders.
Nursing assistants	Provide basic patient care under direction of nursing staff. Perform duties such as feed, bathe, dress, groom, or move patients, or change linens.
Home health aides	Provide routine individualized healthcare such as changing bandages and dressing wounds, and applying topical medications to the elderly, convalescents, or persons with disabilities at the patient's home or in a care facility.

IN HEALTH SCIENCE

2011 Median Hourly Wage	2011 Annual Median Wage	% Projected Growth 2010-2018	Education Required
\$79.95	\$166,296	12%	Doctorate Degree
\$48.68	\$101,254	14%	Doctorate Degree
\$32.79	\$68,203	20%	Master's Degree
\$31.33	\$65,166	19%	Master's Degree
\$29.55	\$61,464	23%	Associate's Degree/ Bachelor's Degree
\$29.03	\$60,382	23%	Doctorate Degree
\$26.33	\$54,766	10%	Master's Degree
\$26.20	\$54,496	16%	Associate's Degree
\$25.73	\$53,518	24%	Associate's Degree
\$24.30	\$50,544	18%	Associate's Degree/ Bachelor's Degree
\$24.19	\$50,315	8%	Associate's Degree/ Bachelor's Degree
\$23.80	\$49,504	27%	Associate's Degree
\$22.52	\$46,842	18%	Associate's Degree
\$18.35	\$38,168	8%	Bachelor's Degree
\$18.08	\$37,606	28%	Associate's Degree
\$17.30	\$35,984	17%	Associate's Degree
\$14.89	\$30,971	10%	Associate's Degree/ Bachelor's Degree
\$14.88	\$30,950	22%	Associate's Degree
\$14.13	\$29,390	17%	Associate's Degree
\$13.53	\$28,142	13%	12- or 18-month Certificate
\$13.29	\$27,643	18%	12- or 18-month Certificate
\$12.57	\$26,146	24%	Associate's Degree
\$12.14	\$25,251	21%	12- or 18-month Certificate
\$11.11	\$23,109	18%	12- or 18-month Certificate
\$9.79	\$20,363	38%	Short-term on-the-job training



About This Chart

This chart is a sampling of 25 of the hundreds of occupations that fall within the Health Science sector of the Economic Growth Region 4 job market.

The professions are listed from highest to lowest hourly salary.

For more information about any Health Science occupation, check out the Indiana Hoosiers By the Numbers website at www.hoosierdata.in.gov.





Region 4
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Board
Tecumseh Area Partnership, Inc.

WorkOne
West Central

West Central Indiana Economic Growth Region 4 serves, Benton, Carroll, Cass Clinton, Fountain, Howard, Miami, Montgomery, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Warren and White counties. Visit www.WorkOneWestCentral.org to find a WorkOne Center near you.

An initiative of the West Central Indiana Region 4 Workforce Board. Funding for this project has been provided by Indiana Department of Workforce Development. The WorkOne System is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate in the programs and services offered. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Oversight provided by Region 4 Workforce Board
www.region4workforceboard.org