Health Careers in Georgia 2025-27

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Georgia Statewide AHEC Network, Volume 13, 2025-2027

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What is an AHEC?

AHEC is an acronym used nationwide that stands for "Area Health Education Center." In Georgia, there are six unique not-for-profit AHECs comprising the Georgia Statewide AHEC Network that are dedicated to recruiting, training, and retaining a diverse healthcare professional workforce and to improving the supply and distribution of these professionals across their respective regions, particularly in medically underserved areas.

RECRUIT

AHECs promote healthcare careers to students of all ages as well as to those seeking a second career:

- Presenting in classrooms and at club meetings
- Providing one-on-one career counseling
- Exhibiting at career fairs
- Facilitating shadowing experiences and volunteer opportunities
- Coordinating camps and intensive programs with hands-on, interactive activities
- Collecting and sharing credible, high-quality information resources

TRAIN

AHECs assist current healthcare profession students to complete their training in underserved communities:

- Arranging clinical training with community-based preceptors
- Providing housing away from the academic campus when necessary
- Supporting travel to clinical sites if eligible

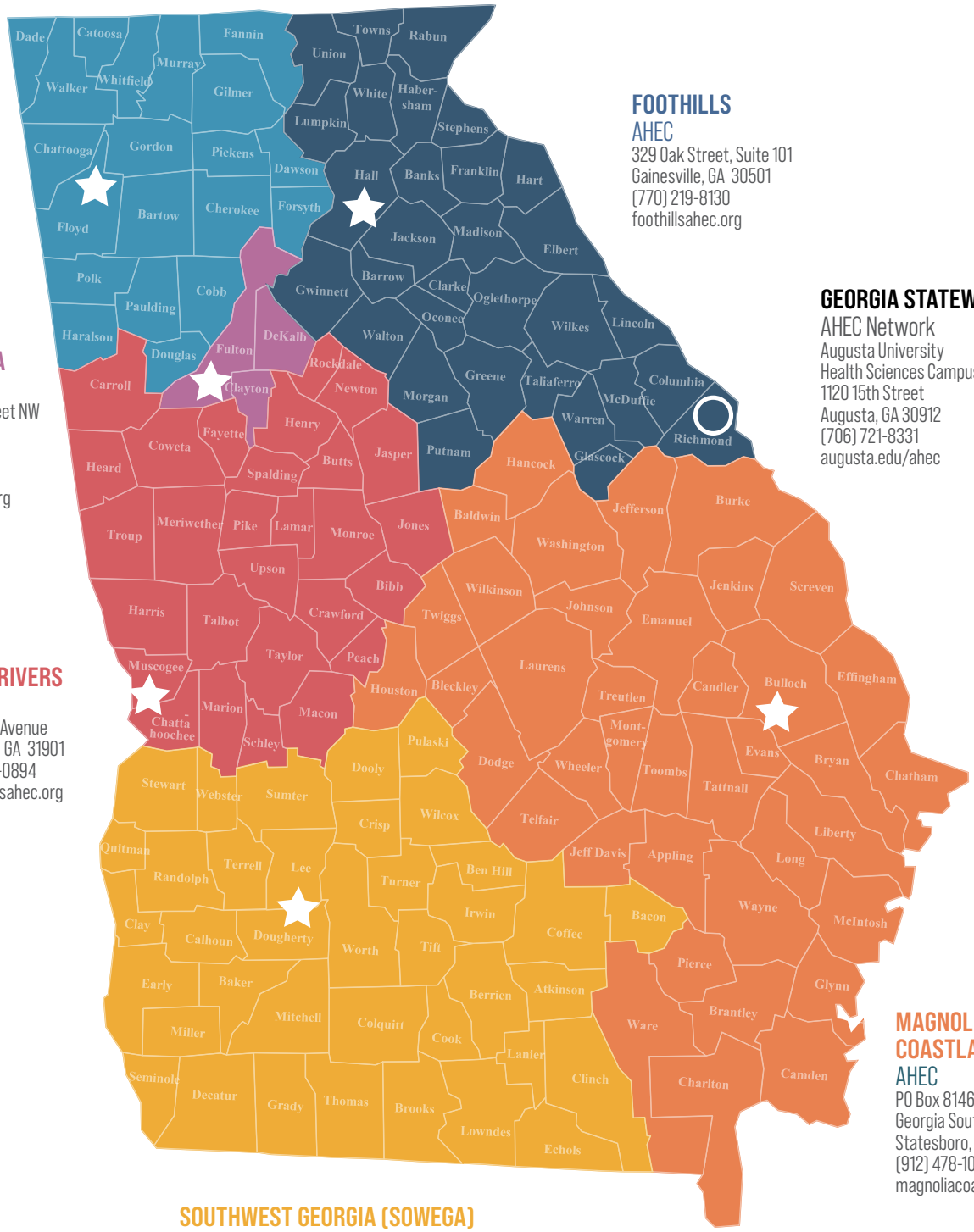
RETAIN

AHECs increase the availability of low-cost or cost-free continuing education programs and information resources for isolated health care practitioners to stay current in their respective fields:

- Coordinating face-to-face and online educational events for continuing education credit
- Collaborating with community partners to produce quality educational events and conferences
- Collecting and sharing online library and information resources

If you could benefit from an AHEC service listed above, contact the AHEC below that serves the county where you live, work, or attend school for assistance. The production and distribution of the Health Careers in Georgia publication is just one contribution that AHECs make toward meeting the healthcare workforce needs in the state.

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network



BLUE RIDGE
AHEC
7 Ivy Street NE
Rome, GA 30161
(706) 235-0776
blueridgeahec.org

FOOTHILLS
AHEC
329 Oak Street, Suite 101
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GEORGIA STATEWIDE
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Augusta University
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1120 15th Street
Augusta, GA 30912
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augusta.edu/ahec

SPCC ATLANTA
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THREE RIVERS
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2022 15th Avenue
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(706) 507-0894
threeriversahec.org

MAGNOLIA COASTLANDS
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SOUTHWEST GEORGIA (SOWEGA)
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(229) 439-7185 | sowega-ahec.org

AHEC Professional Spotlight

Dr. Christopher Kiker

Dr. Christopher Kiker, a family practice doctor in the rural Toccoa, Georgia, may have grown up on the other side of the state in the small town of Bremen, but his new home feels familiar.

"I didn't end up going back to my hometown once I became a doctor, but I ended up going to a town with lots of the same issues and struggles faced by it — and by all of rural Georgia," Kiker says. "I'm still able to sit on the front lines as I do this job every day."

This job is being a small-town family doctor, and it's all he's ever wanted to do.

"As you age and you go through the rigors of the different phases of academics, your reasons kind of change for wanting to be a doctor, but from as early as I can remember, I wanted to be a doctor in a town like mine."

However, as a first-generation college student, that dream didn't always seem possible. His parents worked in a factory in Tallapoosa, Georgia, and the public school he attended was small. His mom used to joke that she could help him up to middle school, but from that point on he was on his own.

He did well in school and eventually enrolled as an undergraduate at Mercer University in Macon because he wanted to be a doctor in a small town ... so much so that after he graduated, he defied convention and applied to only one medical school: Mercer.

"I wanted to be a small-town family doctor, and Mercer has that mission," he says.

It took him three years to get in — he was waitlisted twice — but thanks to the Nathan Deal Scholarship, which freed him up financially in exchange for doing four years in a rural practice (something he wanted to do anyway), he was able to make the most of his medical school education. He did his residency in South Carolina, with his intern year in Anderson and year two and three at a rural track family medicine program in Seneca. He loved it there, and since his wife is from South Carolina, when it came time to choose a job, they pulled out a map and found the clinic closest to where she lived.

So now he lives in South Carolina and works in Toccoa, which is small enough to qualify for the rural doctor program, and though he has completed his four-year requirement, he's chosen to stay ... and work with AHEC and other educational entities to ensure that those who want to experience rural medicine have as many opportunities to do it as possible.

"One way I do that is through the AHEC Pathway to Medical School that introduces college students to different health care physician professions," he says. "And when I've got them, I'm always trying to recruit them into rural medicine."

To that end, he has a faculty appointment at Mercer, where third- and fourth-year students can take an elective in rural medicine with him, and one at Augusta University, where third-

PROFESSIONAL SPOTLIGHT

To learn more about the Pathway to Med School programs offered by Foothills AHEC and Southwest Georgia AHEC (SOWEGA), scan and follow the corresponding codes.

foothillsahec.org/programs/pathway-med-school

sowega-ahec.org/recruit/pathway-to-med-school

"In 30 years, hopefully there's a slew of physicians across Georgia that have come through the programs of AHEC or shadowed physicians like me, because it takes a big, collaborative approach to fill the need of rural areas."

year students can do their whole family medicine clerkship with him. He is also adjunct faculty and hosts residents from Northeast Georgia Health System Gainesville training to become family medicine physicians, who travel to do a one-month rural elective with him.

"My goal in all of this is obviously to teach them medicine, but I think it's also important for anybody at the training level to get a glimpse of what it's like to be a small-town family doctor by working with a physician who's out of academics and in the private sector hustling in primary care," he says. "A lot of people who have the skills and resources to get into medicine and go to medical school are coming from more affluent areas with good education systems and parents who have been there before. So, exposing medical students to all walks of life and all parts of society is extremely important, because as physicians, I think our biggest calling is to be the voice of the voiceless and to advocate for our patients."

Though he grew up in a small town, even he was surprised by the problems his patients encounter.

"I've been kind of shocked by the level of hardship people face," he says. "The bread-and-butter stuff — the chronic conditions and the chronic diseases … those are the easy things, because I have tools in my toolbox for them. But there is a huge need for mental health counselors, behavioral health counselors, social workers. There are a lot of people with a lot of problems that they don't necessarily need a doctor for."

While he didn't participate in any AHEC programs as a student, he is one hundred percent supportive of the program.

"All the students I've had come through are really top-notch kids, and it's been a blessing to have a program that gives you such top candidates who are interested in medicine," he says. "Identifying kids like me who may not necessarily have parents who know how to get them there but are people who have the academic talent and prowess to be successful in medical school and go back and serve their communities, is a major undertaking. If we get that right, I think everything else will trickle down."

It all comes down to the mentoring and support that is at the heart of AHEC's mission, he says.

"That's why I've gotten involved in the education process," he says. "Because for my journey, I had some great mentors that really steered me the right way, and if I can be that for other people who need it, that's a satisfying calling as well. And in 30 years, hopefully there's a slew of physicians across Georgia that have come through the programs of AHEC or shadowed physicians like me."

Foothills AHEC

SOWEGA AHEC

HEALTHCARE TRENDS

Denise D. Kornegay, MSW

Executive Director and Associate Dean
Georgia Statewide AHEC Network

U.S. healthcare is a fluid industry, featuring the intersection of science, human behavior, financial and business models, and politics. Challenges facing the industry today will get bigger, and major demographic shifts will force stakeholders to rethink their roles and approaches.

Leading the trends is the phenomenon the literature refers to as "the silver tsunami."

The senior population is exploding. Between 2010 and 2020, the U.S. saw the largest increase in people 65 years or older since the 1880s. Seniors now account for 1-6 Americans (17%), up from 1-8 Americans (13%) in 2010. There are widespread impacts on society: decreasing productivity — a 10% rise in the share of the 60-plus population decreases growth in GDP per capita by 5.5% — increased healthcare costs, and shifting workforce and caregiver dynamics to account for this "grey wave". While the population is aging, the birth rate in the U.S. is falling. The ratio of working age to senior population will reach 2-1, down from 4-1 in 2015. This shift will increase pressure on healthcare utilization, workforce dynamics, provider economics, federal spending, and tax collection. Facilities and workforces will be reconfigured to focus on end-of-life care delivery for seniors. By 2035, seniors will make up about one in every four Americans (26%). This will increase demand on healthcare services: nearly 95% of older adults have one chronic condition, and 80% have two or more. Everyone in the workforce will begin to function as a caregiver, with many sandwiched between parents and child. New tools and incentive models will reward formal and informal caregivers to address the necessary expansion of the clinical workforce to serve the burgeoning senior population.

With aging comes retirements.

The ratio of worker-to-senior population has decreased from 4-1 in 2015 to 3-1 today. Healthcare is not immune. Further exacerbating these trends is burnout and the rising age of the health workforce, e.g., 40% of active physicians are 55 years of age or older. As the worker-to-senior ratio approaches 2-1 in the next decade, these staffing gaps, especially for physicians, will get worse, with projected demand gaps of 10.6% for primary care physicians, 7.5% for specialists, and 5.9% for nurses.

Today, 63% of clinicians feel that virtual primary care will bypass in person primary care by 2027. States like Tennessee and Texas are already pushing for regulation that will aid these movements by removing the burden of state-by-state licensing, a movement that will continue for the next decade.

The health status of Americans continues to decline, especially for younger Americans.

Mortality remains higher than pre-pandemic, with the largest increase in the 18-44 age group. Early onset cancers are rising, with higher volumes of patients 45 and younger for breast (6.6%), colon (10%), kidney (2.1%), and uterine (16%) cancers from 2018-2023. Behavioral health providers are becoming central to the care team, increasingly partnering and integrating with primary care. The average life expectancy for Americans is only negligibly higher than it was in 2000 and is almost four years lower than other member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Americans have higher rates of obesity and diabetes and more behavioral health conditions than ever before.

The U.S. spends twice as much per capita as other developed nations on healthcare, and healthcare expenditures consistently outpace inflation.

As a significant reduction in healthcare spending is unlikely, the large and ever-growing healthcare market will continue to attract investment, innovation, and public/government scrutiny, raising new risks but also new opportunities for healthcare companies that can adapt and rise to the challenge. Annual U.S. healthcare expenditures are now an estimated $4.5 trillion. The U.S. spends more than 1.75x per capita on healthcare than other developed nations and still lags on key health indicators. Over the past decade, U.S. healthcare expenditures have risen by approximately 5% annually, consistently outpacing inflation (1.8% annually). At the current pace, U.S. healthcare expenditures may reach $8 trillion by 2035, more than 20% of forecasted total U.S. gross domestic product.

The U.S. care delivery landscape has seen significant consolidation in recent years, with small independent physician groups merging into larger platforms and health systems acquiring a broad range of provider organizations in pursuit of scale and associated synergies.

Neither increases in provider organization scale nor the entry of nonhospital "disruptors" has so far delivered significant reductions in U.S. healthcare expenditure. In fact, studies have found that provider consolidation has increased prices and therefore total healthcare expenditure. These shifts are expected to continue through 2035, even as provider consolidation slows. Yet, as evidenced by historical shifts, these changes are more likely to redistribute U.S. healthcare spending than to reduce it.

Technology will improve efficiency and experience.

Consumer-facing technologies will continue to grow, with a focus on seamless integration across the care continuum. Tech-enabled health and well-being offerings will allow consumers to engage in their care in more meaningful ways. Increased data interoperability and rapid advancements in artificial intelligence will allow healthcare organizations to improve their insights, automate processes,

and drive down costs. Advances in diagnostic technology, medical devices, and medical procedures will make treating complex and acute conditions more efficient and with improved outcomes.

Artificial Intelligence (AI), which includes wearable technology, 3D printing, machine learning, and robotics, is helping to improve efficiency and accuracy.

With the growth of wearables, information technology, virtual reality, and the Internet, patients and providers have access to technological advances in healthcare that provide a wealth of health data and can potentially help make more mindful choices driven by these insights. The advancement of wearable health technology has been crucial to improving patient care. Devices like smartwatches and fitness trackers are not just for tracking physical activity. Many wearable devices can measure heart rate and blood oxygen levels, and even perform electrocardiograms. This data is invaluable for patients and providers, making it easier to assess how well certain treatment or management plans are working. As a caveat, actual usage of artificial intelligence (AI) remains low, with utilization by only 202,000 patients across all CPT codes between 2018 and 2023.

Machine learning models are being used to help predict outcomes in patient care based on historical data and imaging scans.

By continuously analyzing vast amounts of data, these models can forecast the likelihood of disease progression and help create more personalized treatment plans that take individual patient needs into account. It is revolutionizing the analysis of medical images from CT and MRI scans, making it possible to detect abnormalities with a higher level of precision. AI is being used to help improve cancer diagnostics and offers an effective alternative to invasive biopsies. In breast cancer care specifically, AI is reported to enable mammograms to be reviewed 30 times faster, with 99% accuracy.

Robotics in healthcare have been around since the 1980s.

However, their applications have increased exponentially since that time, and the future trajectory appears assured. Nanobots are being researched for their ability to tackle malignant tumors, reduce plaque in veins, and address dietary issues. Exoskeletons have been shown to help with physical therapy and robotic surgery has emerged as one of the most significant advancements in recent years. This technological advancement in healthcare is at its infancy. While remote surgeries were considered a pipe dream at one time, combining robotic surgery with superfast 5G technology will open new opportunities that could soon become the standard of practice. Outside the surgical realm, robotic-based companions like Aldebaran's Pepper — the world's first social humanoid robot — are being researched for their potential use in treating other issues such as loneliness and mental health problems, or even assisting children with chronic illnesses.

While 3D printers are used to design and produce implants and highly evolved prosthetics, many researchers are looking into their use in developing perfect-fit 3D-printed body parts, such as ears, corneas, bones, and even skin.

By creating a 3D structure of biological material, researchers are printing bodily tissues layer by layer, using a technology known as bioprinting. While still in its relative infancy, bioprinting has the potential to create replacement organs that can be successfully transplanted into patients, circumventing the risk of transplant rejections, and alleviating the relative scarcity of donors.

Pharmaceutical innovation will expand cures for hard-to-treat diseases such as sickle cell and rare cancers and improve treatment and care plans for conditions such as diabetes, obesity, and Alzheimer's disease.

Pharmaceutical spending is projected to hit $1.4 trillion in 2035, accounting for 16.2% of total healthcare expenditures. There will be a shift from the current product-centric model of care with limited connectivity between pharmaceutical companies, providers who select and administer therapies, and payers who cover the treatments will change. Future models will have pharmaceutical companies engaging in more partnerships with other stakeholders and becoming involved throughout the care continuum, facilitating delivery in novel ways. Gene therapy will be widely adopted. Based on today's experience, more than one million Americans will be treated by gene therapy by 2035. This is not without cost — over $80 billion will be spent globally on cell and gene therapy (CGT).

Spurred by new state payment models, rural hospitals will increasingly focus on preventive and outpatient care.

Community-based organizations will play a larger role in care delivery by helping providers meet cultural needs of each rural population and consumers will have greater access to at-home, virtual, and mobile care, minimizing disruption in their daily lives and reducing travel to larger tertiary centers.

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GEORGIA'S HOT HEALTH CAREERS TO 2032

The careers in this chart have it all!

Skills and Abilities
● advanced skills required ❍ moderate skills required

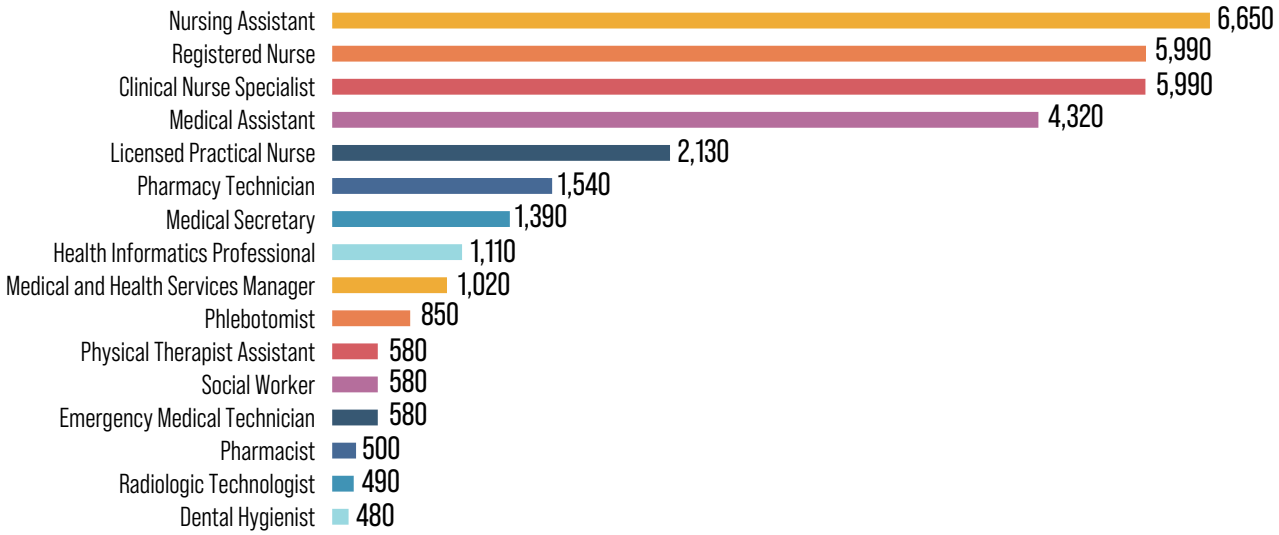
Work Activities
● frequently found ❍ occasionally found

	Skills and Abilities								Work Activities										
	Critical Thinkg/Problem Solving Skills	Judgement & Decision Making Skills	Service Oriented/Instructing Skills	Listening/Reading Skills	Oral Expression/Comprehension	Dexterity/Arm-Hand Steadiness	Reasoning	Written Expression/Comprehension	Assisting & Caring for Others	Coaching/Training & Teaching Others	Communicating Outside Organization	Control Machines/Inspect Equipment	Working with Computers	Monitor Processes, Matrls, Surroundgs	Physical Acts/Handle-Move Objects	Process/Analyze Data or Information	Schedule/Orgnize, Plan, & Prioritiz Wrk	Thinking Creatively	2022-32 Annual Openings
Doctoral or professional degree																			
Pharmacist	❍	●	●	●	●	❍	●	●	●	❍	●	❍	●	●	❍	●	❍		510
Physical Therapist	❍	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	370
Veterinarian	●	●	●	❍	●	❍	●	●	●	❍	●	❍	●	●	❍	●	❍		130
Master's degree																			
Nurse Practitioner	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	❍	●	●		●	●	●	920
Occupational Therapist	●	●	●	❍	●	❍	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	❍	●	●	●	260
Physician Assistant	●	●	●	●	●	❍	●	●	●	❍	●		●	●		●	❍	●	420
Speech-Language Pathologist	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●			●	●		●	●	●	340
Bachelor's degree																			
Dietician & Nutritionist	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●	●		●	❍	●	130
Healthcare Administrator	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	❍	●		●	●		●	●	●	1.030
Registered Nurse	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	❍	●	●	●	●	●	●	5,980
Therapist [All Other]	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	260
Associate's degree																			
Cardiovascular Technologist & Technician	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			❍	●	●	❍	●	❍		230
Physical Therapist Assistant	❍	●	●	❍	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	❍	●	●	❍	●	❍	●	570
Radiologic Technologist	●	●	❍	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	❍	●	●	❍	●	❍	●	490
Respiratory Therapist	●	●	●	❍	●	●	●	●	●	●		●		●	●	●	●		350

✓ Fast job growth ✓ Above average wages
✓ At least 400 expected annual job openings

GEORGIA'S GROWING HEALTH CAREERS

PROJECTED ANNUAL JOB OPENINGS TO 2032



Adapted from the Georgia Department of Labor's HOT Careers to 2032 (dol.georgia.gov/get-occupational-trends) and Labor Market Explorer (explorer.gdol.ga.gov).

GEORGIA AHEC HEALTH CAREER VIDEOS

A COMPLEMENT TO *HEALTH CAREERS IN GEORGIA*

These health career videos produced by the Georgia Statewide AHEC Network and its six centers allow students, teachers, and adults to visualize opportunities in engaging professions that pay high dividends with job satisfaction, earning capacity, and mobility as well as to tour facilities and departments in which these professionals work.

augusta.edu/ahec/videos.php

Learn more about careers in clinical/medical laboratory science, mental health, public health, and more!

Pathway to Med School Graduation

Respiratory Therapy Tour

Farmworker Family Health Program

For additional media produced by the AHEC centers in Georgia related to their service area, programs, and resources, follow the links below:

SPCC Atlanta AHEC Media
spcc-atlantaahec.org/photos-videos

Foothills AHEC Video Library
foothillsahec.org/video-library

Three Rivers AHEC Health Career Online Videos
threeriversahec.org/online-career-videos

A GUIDE TO

Health Careers in Georgia

You can use the career pages to explore more than 80 health careers.

Use the Table of Contents on the inside front cover or the Index on pages 142-143 to find a particular career.

CAREER TITLE: The job title by which the career is most often described. Alternate job titles for the career are listed in the Index for easy reference.

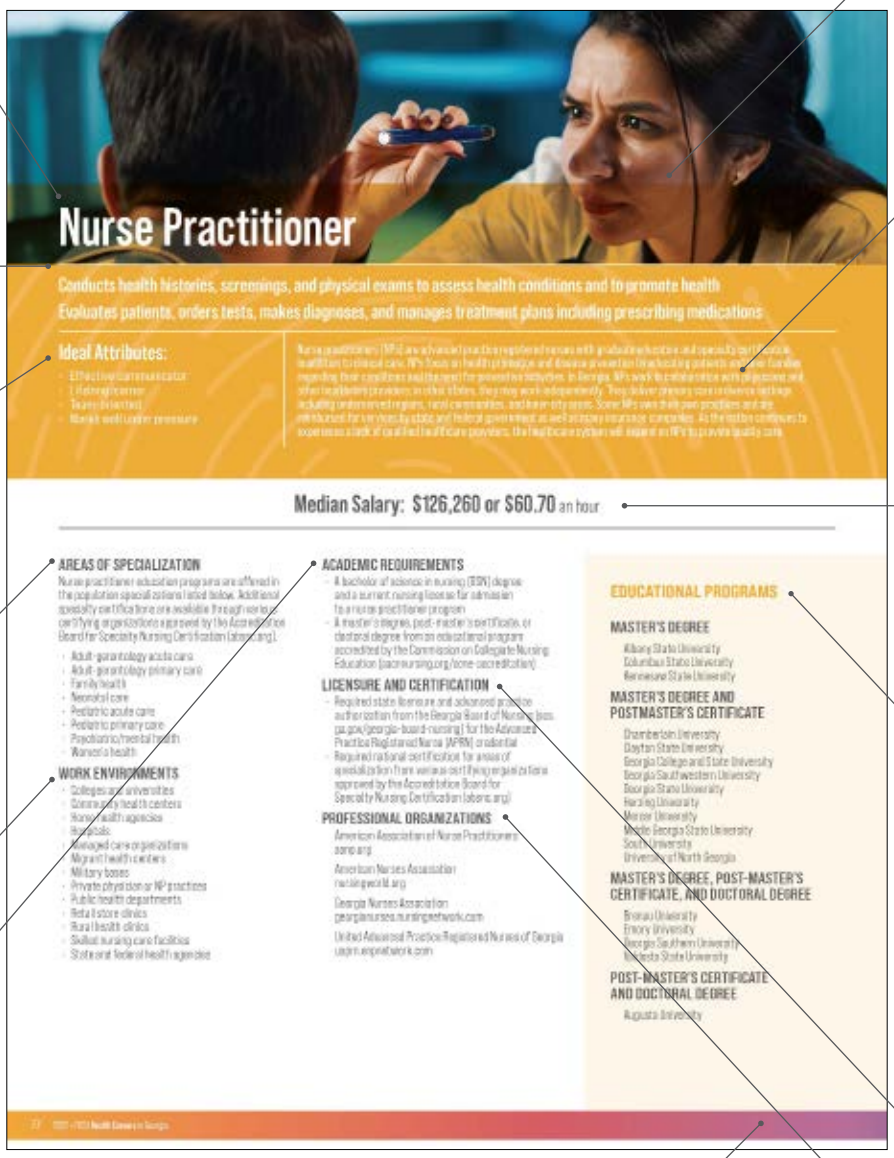
CAREER SUMMARY: A 1-2 sentence description of the job activities that the career entails.

IDEAL ATTRIBUTES: A list of personal qualities that would make someone well-suited for the career.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION: A list of official tracks for specialization. Sometimes these tracks are offered during your academic education, and other times they are certifications offered through professional organizations.

WORK ENVIRONMENTS: A list of places a person in this career might work.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS: The level and type of education required or preferred in order to pursue this career. You can find the careers organized by length of study in the Health Career Education Journey section on page 114-115.



Nurse Practitioner

Conducts health histories, screenings, and physical exams to assess health conditions and to promote health

Evaluates patients, orders tests, makes diagnoses, and manages treatment plans including prescribing medications

Ideal Attributes:

Median Salary: $126,260 or $60.70 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

MASTER'S DEGREE

MASTER'S DEGREE AND POSTMASTER'S CERTIFICATE

MASTER'S DEGREE, POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE, AND DOCTORAL DEGREE

POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE AND DOCTORAL DEGREE

CAREER PHOTO: An image depicting a person performing job tasks as part of his or her career.

CAREER DESCRIPTION: A more in-depth paragraph-long description of the career.

MEDIAN SALARY: The median annual and hourly salary in Georgia for the career. The amount listed is in the middle of the salary range, meaning half of workers in this career make more than this salary and half of workers make less than this salary. Remember that education, job experience, and location will significantly impact salary for all careers.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS: A list of accredited educational programs organized by level offered for that career in the state of Georgia or, if unavailable, in surrounding states.

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION: A list of required and voluntary licenses and certifications granted at the state or national level, as well the corresponding licensing or certifying organizations.

***HEALTH CAREERS IN GEORGIA* ONLINE:** The URL where the *2025-2027 Health Careers in Georgia* publication can be accessed online.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: A list of career-related professional organizations and their websites.

Complementary and Integrative Medicine

Complementary medicine refers to practices and products not generally considered a part of mainstream medicine.

Examples include—but are not limited to—acupuncture, chiropractic manipulation, dietary supplements, deep breathing exercises, herbal medicines, massage therapy, meditation, and yoga. When healthcare providers incorporate complementary medicine into mainstream healthcare, it is referred to as integrative medicine. Many areas of complementary medicine are gaining support in the traditional medical community, and according to the National Institutes of Health's National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, the number of Americans who use some form of complementary medicine has increased substantially over the last 20 years.

ACUPUNCTURIST

CHIROPRACTOR

MASSAGE THERAPIST GROWING

Acupuncturist

Inserts thin needles in specific points to relieve pain, improve organ function, and treat disease

Promotes maintenance and restoration of health and the prevention of disease

Ideal Attributes:

- Hand-eye coordination
- Manual dexterity
- Problem-solver
- Strong interpersonal skills

Acupuncture is a form of therapy developed from traditional and modern Chinese medicine concepts that employ Oriental medicine techniques, treatments, and adjunctive therapies. The practice is effectively used in modern healthcare to treat conditions including—but not limited to—acute or chronic pain, anxiety, digestive disorders, headaches, and insomnia. The practice of acupuncture involves insertion and manipulation of sterile, hair-thin, filiform acupuncture needles for a therapeutic purpose based upon both traditional theoretical understanding and modern scientific study of the musculoskeletal and nervous system. An acupuncturist may also employ other Oriental medicine such as acupressure, auricular therapy (ear points), cupping (suction), electro-acupuncture (electrical impulses), and moxibustion (heat).

Median Salary: $84,260 or $40.51 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Complementary health centers
- Healthcare organizations
- Hospice programs
- Hospitals
- Pain management clinics
- Private practices
- Public health clinics
- Veterans Affairs healthcare facilities

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- An associate or bachelor's degree usually required for admission to an accredited program
- A master's degree from an educational program accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (acaom.org) or a program that is substantially equivalent to an accredited school of acupuncture approved by the Georgia Composite Medical Board (medicalboard.georgia.gov)
- Doctoral programs also available

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required national certification from the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (nccaom.org) for the Diplomate of Acupuncture (Dipl. Ac.) credential
- Required successful completion of Clean Needle Technique course from the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ccaom.org)
- Required state licensure from the Georgia Composite Medical Board (medicalboard.georgia.gov)
- Physicians licensed to practice acupuncture after successfully completing acupuncture training

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
aaaomonline.org

American Society of Acupuncturists
asacu.org

Georgia Association of Acupuncture and Asian Medicine
gaaam.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

GEORGIA DOES NOT HAVE ANY ACUPUNCTURIST PROGRAMS

Programs listed are located in other states

MASTER'S AND DOCTORAL DEGREE

Virginia University of Integrative Medicine

Chiropractor

Provides a natural, whole-body approach to health and wellness and creates comprehensive patient care plans accordingly

Uses hands or specialized instruments to adjust bones of the spine or extremities

Ideal Attributes:

- Compassionate
- Lifelong learner
- Service-oriented
- Strong interpersonal skills

Chiropractors serve as primary healthcare providers and wellness partners. They focus care on the nervous system (brain, spinal cord, and nerves) which controls and coordinates all bodily functions. When the system functions properly, the body can better endure and overcome physical, emotional, and chemical stresses. Chiropractors take patient case histories, perform physical and neurological examinations, and order tests and x-rays to create comprehensive care plans. At the core of the plan is the chiropractic adjustment, allowing optimum nervous system function. Plans may also include counseling on nutrition, fitness routines, stress management, and physiotherapy interventions. Chiropractors do not prescribe medications, perform surgery, or use radiation.

Median Salary: $76,530 or $36.79 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Chiropractic acupuncture
- Forensic sciences
- Internal disorders
- Neurology
- Neuromusculoskeletal medicine
- Nutrition
- Occupational health
- Pediatrics
- Radiology
- Rehabilitation
- Sports medicine

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Athletic teams/facilities
- Chiropractic educational programs
- Military bases
- Private practices
- Public health clinics
- Wellness centers

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree in a related field and/or completion of specific college-level prerequisites, primarily in health sciences, necessary for acceptance into a Doctor of Chiropractic (DC) program
- A doctoral degree from an educational program accredited by the Council on Chiropractic Education (cce-usa.org)
- Optional post-graduate continuing education in specialty fields

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia Board of Chiropractic Examiners (sos.ga.gov/georgia-board-chiropractic-examiners)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Each chiropractic specialty has a corresponding specialty council. Visit acatoday.org/aca-membership/aca-specialty-councils/ for a listing.

American Chiropractic Association
acatoday.org

Georgia Chiropractic Association
gachiro.org

Georgia Council of Chiropractic
georgiachiropractic.org

International Chiropractors Association
chiropractic.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

DOCTORAL DEGREE

Life University

Massage Therapist

Applies massage techniques to soft tissue to increase joint flexibility, decrease pain, and improve postural disorders

Promotes stress reduction, relaxation, and well-being

Ideal Attributes:

- Compassionate
- Effective time manager
- Physical endurance
- Professional

Using touch to manipulate muscles and soft tissues of the body, massage therapists can reduce stress, relieve pain, improve circulation, and increase relaxation for their clients. Massage therapists may use their hands, forearms, feet, and massage instruments, as well as hydrotherapy during a massage. They may choose to specialize in several modalities—such as neuromuscular therapy, sports massage, craniosacral therapy, shiatsu, and manual lymphatic drainage—or to focus their practice on a particular special population—such as prenatal and postpartum women, athletes, or even animals.

Median Salary: $55,310 or $26.59 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Clinical rehabilitative massage
- Holistic spa management
- Oncology massage
- Pain and palliative care
- Reflexology
- Sports massage

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Athletic teams/facilities
- Chiropractic practices
- Health clubs
- Hospitals
- Pain management clinics
- Physical therapy clinics
- Private practices
- Resorts
- Salons
- Spas
- Wellness centers

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A high school diploma or equivalent
- A minimum of 500 training hours from a program approved by the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy (sos.ga.gov/georgia-board-massage-therapy)

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy (sos.ga.gov/index.php/licensing/plb/33) for the Licensed Massage Therapist (LMT) credential
- The Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination, or MBLEx test, is a nationally recognized exam for massage therapy licensure. The test is used by 44 U.S. states to assess a massage therapist's educational background and understanding of key massage concepts. After passing the MBLEx, a massage therapist can obtain licensure in any of these states.
- National board certification available from the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (ncbtmb.org) after meeting educational and professional requirements for the Nationally Certified in Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCTMB) credential
- Certification in various specialties is also available and required for re-licensing on even numbered years.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA)
amtamassage.org

American Massage Therapy Association - Georgia Chapter
ga.wp.amtamassage.org

Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals
abmp.com

Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards
fsmtb.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

CERTIFICATE

Augusta School of Massage
Elaine Sterling Institute
Georgia Massage School
North Georgia Nursing Academy
Peachtree City School of Massage

DIPLOMA

Coastal Pines Technical College
Gwinnett College
International School of Skin, Nailcare & Massage Therapy
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

Dentistry

Dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants work together to diagnosis and treat oral health problems.

As the nature of oral health problems has come to be better understood, the emphasis in dentistry has changed from treatment to prevention. Using a team approach, dental care providers are committed to preventing oral health problems through patient education programs that deal with good oral hygiene. When problems occur, the dentist and their team can provide treatments to restore and repair oral tissues. The demand for cosmetic and dental treatments, along with the aging population, ensure that careers in dentistry will continue to be of great value and in high demand.

DENTAL ASSISTANT

DENTAL HYGIENIST — GROWING

DENTIST

Dental Assistant

Works alongside dentists to increase efficiency in providing quality oral healthcare

Prepares patients and materials for exams or treatments

Ideal Attributes:

- Compassionate and patient
- Dependable and responsible
- Detail-oriented
- Moves quickly between tasks

Dental assistants greet patients, make them comfortable, obtain and maintain dental records, take and develop dental x-rays, and monitor vital signs. They sterilize and disinfect instruments and equipment, prepare other dental materials, and perform laboratory duties. They also take teeth impressions used for study models. Dental assistants show patients how to floss and brush their teeth and instruct them on post-surgical oral care. With specialized training, they may assist in oral surgery procedures such as biopsies, implants, root canals, tooth extractions, and periodontal surgery. Expanded duty certification allows them to perform more advanced tasks like making temporary teeth and applying sealants. They are also trained in office management, such as scheduling, billing, filing insurance, and ordering supplies.

Median Salary: $43,000 or $21.00 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Community health agencies
- Correctional/detention facilities
- Dental and dental assisting schools
- General and specialty dental practices
- Hospitals
- Managed care organizations
- Military bases
- Private and state institutions
- Public health departments
- Veterans Affairs healthcare facilities

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A high school diploma or equivalent (Dental Assisting certificate or diploma preferred)
- CPR certificate
- On-the-job training sometimes available
- Radiation Safety and Hygiene certificate

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Five national certifications available from the Dental Assisting National Board (danb.org), including the Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) credential
- State certification available for the Expanded Duty Dental Assistant (EDDA) credential after successful completion of expanded duties course approved by the Georgia Board of Dentistry (gbd.georgia.gov)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Dental Assistants Association
adaausa.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

CERTIFICATE

Gwinnett Technical College
United Medical and Business Institute
University of Georgia
University of North Georgia
West Georgia Technical College

DIPLOMA

Albany Technical College
Athens Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Augusta Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College
Columbus Technical College
Fortis College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Gwinnett Technical College
Lanier Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Savannah Technical College
Southern Crescent Technical College
UEI College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

Dental Hygienist

Performs diagnostic and preventive dental services
Provides oral health education to patients

Ideal Attributes:

- Critical thinker
- Hand-eye coordination
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Works well under pressure

Dental hygienists are vital members of the oral healthcare team. They examine teeth and oral tissues for signs of disease, remove deposits, apply fluoride and sealants, perform non-surgical periodontal therapy, and deliver preventive services. They educate patients on maintaining oral health through proper brushing, flossing, and nutrition. Hygienists record medical histories, update charts, and take impressions to assist dentists in evaluating treatment options. They also conduct screenings for oral cancer, blood glucose, and blood pressure as well as take dental x-rays. In some cases, dental hygienists design and implement oral health programs in schools and communities to promote awareness and preventive care.

Median Salary: $87,530 or $42.08 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Community health agencies
- Dental and dental hygiene schools
- Dental companies
- Dental practices
- Managed care organizations
- Public health departments

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- An associate degree or bachelor's degree from an educational program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (coda.ada.org)
- Further education is optional at the bachelor's and master's levels in dental hygiene or related fields, such as biology, health education, or public health

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia Board of Dentistry (gbd.georgia.gov) for the Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) credential

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Dental Hygienists' Association
adha.org

Georgia Dental Hygienists' Association
gdha.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Albany State University
Athens Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Columbus Technical College
Fortis College
Georgia Highlands College
Georgia State University
Lanier Technical College
Savannah Technical College
Southeastern Technical College
Valdosta State University (administered with Wiregrass Georgia Technical College)
West Georgia Technical College

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Augusta University
Clayton State University
Georgia Highlands College

Dentist

Examines, diagnoses, and treats teeth, gums, oral tissues, and the maxillofacial region

Performs surgery to correct dental and maxillofacial deformities

Ideal Attributes:

- Compasstionate
- Critical thinker
- Hand-eye coordination
- Works well under pressure

Dentists evaluate, diagnose, and treat diseased and injured teeth, gums, oral tissues, and oral conditions impacting systemic health. They also educate people about oral health and prevention of dental problems. This involves guidance in both hygiene and nutrition. Dentists help improve their patients' physical appearance through dental treatments, such as braces and dentures. Through surgery, dentists with specialty training can correct dentofacial and dental deformities from accidents or birth defects. Usually self-employed, dentists run businesses and supervise staff. Dentistry offers a comfortable lifestyle with a good income and regular work hours.

Median Salary: $170,910 or $82.17 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Dental anesthesiology
- Dental public health
- Endodontics
- Oral and maxillofacial pathology
- Oral and maxillofacial radiology
- Oral and maxillofacial surgery
- Oral medicine
- Orofacial pain
- Orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics
- Pediatric dentistry
- Periodontics
- Prosthodontics

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Community health centers
- Corporately owned practices
- Dental schools
- Equipment manufacturing companies
- Military bases
- Private practices
- Public health departments
- Research facilities

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree or at least 3 years of college for admission to a dentistry program
- Competitive scores in the Dental Admission Test administered by the American Dental Association (ada.org)
- Other admissions requirements may apply
- A doctoral degree, either Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) or Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS), from a program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (coda.ada.org)
- Optional specialization by completing a CODA accredited post-doctoral program

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia Board of Dentistry (gbd.georgia.gov)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Each dental specialty has a corresponding professional organization. Visit the National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards (ncrbscb.ada.org) for more information.

American Dental Association
ada.org

American Dental Education Association
adea.org

Georgia Dental Association
gadental.org

National Dental Association
ndaonline.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

DOCTORAL DEGREE

Augusta University

Dietetics and Nutrition

The field of dietetics and nutrition is concerned with applying the principles of food and nutrition to health.

Professionals in dietetics are passionate about empowering people to take charge of their well-being by helping them make healthful food choices. The food we eat has a direct relationship with the maintenance and restoration of good health. Therefore, dietetics is crucial in preventing and treating illnesses, as well as in rehabilitation and recovery. Because of increased public interest in nutrition and disease prevention, dietetics is a vital and growing profession with many career possibilities.

DIETITIAN NUTRITIONIST

NUTRITION AND DIETETICS TECHNICIAN

Dietitian Nutritionist

Develops appropriate meal plans for individuals with specific dietary needs

Educates people on making positive lifestyle changes concerning food and nutrition

Ideal Attributes:

- Critical thinker
- Effective communicator
- Independent worker
- Strong math and science skills

Registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs), also known as registered dietitians, translate the science of nutrition into practical solutions for healthy living. They are advocates for advancing the nutritional status of all people. RDNs' job responsibilities depend upon their practice settings. In hospitals, they develop the most nutritious meal plans possible for patients who can eat traditional foods and modified diets for patients who cannot. They also educate patients about the best nutrition to aid recovery, address nutritional deficiencies, or maintain health. They may work with individuals who are at a higher risk of poor health including pregnant women, children, the elderly, and those with very limited resources. They also supervise dietary personnel, plan institutional menus, and manage budgets.

Median Salary: $69,680 or $33.50 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Clinical nutrition
- Diabetes education
- Gerontological nutrition
- Nutrition support
- Obesity and weight management
- Oncology nutrition
- Pediatric critical care nutrition
- Pediatric nutrition
- Public health
- Renal nutrition
- Sports dietetics

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Business and industry
- Colleges and universities
- Consulting firms
- Corporate wellness programs
- Foodservice industry
- Government agencies
- Health clubs
- Hospitals
- K-12 schools
- Private practices
- Public health departments
- Skilled nursing care facilities

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A master's or doctoral degree from a Didactic Program in Dietetics accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (eatrightpro.org/acend) and completion of a 1000-hour Dietetic Internship OR a degree from an ACEND-accredited Coordinated Program in Dietetics which includes supervised practice

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Dietitians (sos.ga.gov/georgia-board-examiners-licensed-dieticians) after passing the Commission on Dietetic Registration (cdrnet.org) examination for the Registered Dietitian (RD) or Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) credentials

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
eatright.org

Georgia Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
eatrightgeorgia.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

MASTER'S DEGREE

Augusta University
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
University of Georgia

DOCTORAL DEGREE

University of Georgia

Nutrition and Dietetics Technician

Delivers safe, culturally competent, and high-quality food and nutrition services and support

Plays an important role in managing foodservice and providing nutritional care

Ideal Attributes:

- Effective communicator
- Flexible and organized
- Problem-solver
- Strong interpersonal skills

Nutrition and dietetics technicians, also known as dietetic technicians, are an integral part of healthcare and foodservice management teams. As a team member in patient care settings under the supervision of a registered dietitian nutritionist, they may conduct screenings to identify nutritional problems in order to treat or prevent disease or assist in providing nutritional therapy. Working independently in other settings, they may teach classes about proper nutrition and help clients to plan meals within their budgets and diets. Nutrition and dietetics technicians are also involved in managing foodservice operations. They develop menus, prepare budgets, supervise foodservice personnel, and purchase and control inventory. They are often responsible for ensuring sanitation and safety standards.

Median Salary: $36,520 or $18.26 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Community health programs
- Company cafeterias
- Correctional/detention facilities
- Day care centers
- Foodservice industry
- Government agencies
- Health clubs
- Home health agencies
- Hospice programs
- Hospitals
- K-12 schools
- Long-term care facilities
- Managed care organizations
- Private practices with dietitian nutritionists
- Public health nutrition programs
- Research laboratories
- Restaurants

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Completion of an Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) (eatrightpro.org/acend) accredited associate degree Dietetic Technician Program that includes 450 hours of supervised practice or completion of an ACEND accredited bachelor's degree Didactic Program in Dietetics.

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required national certification from the Commission on Dietetic Registration (cdrnet.org) for the Dietetic Technician, Registered (DTR) or Nutrition and Dietetics Technician, Registered (NDTR) credentials

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
eatright.org

Georgia Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
eatrightgeorgia.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

GEORGIA DOES NOT HAVE ANY NUTRITION AND DIETETICS TECHNICIAN PROGRAMS.

Programs listed are located in other states

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Pierpoint Community and Technical College (WV)
pierpont.edu

Tarrant County College (TX)
tccd.edu

Health Administration & Information Services

The healthcare industry relies on the organized communication of information and the efficient management of complex organizations.

Professionals who work in the fields of health administration and information services provide behind-the-scenes services that ensure the delivery of high-quality healthcare. Healthcare administrators work to create smooth-running organizations and must be skilled in financial planning, human resource management, long-range planning, and public relations. Others in this professional area oversee medical records or organize and analyze data in reports, filling the need for accurate and reliable information. Others provide health information by locating, collecting, organizing, and distributing it or by creating visual materials through various forms of art media. These careers require a special flair for organization and detail. They often have limited patient contact and can range from the clerical level all the way to senior management.

- HEALTH INFORMATICS PROFESSIONAL — GROWING
- HEALTH INFORMATION ADMINISTRATOR
- HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNICIAN
- HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIAN
- HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATOR
- MEDICAL CODER
- MEDICAL ILLUSTRATOR
- MEDICAL SECRETARY
- MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONIST

Health Informatics Professional

Builds and manages computerized systems to collect, store, and retrieve health information

Analyzes and interprets data to facilitate decisions and actions in healthcare

Ideal Attributes:

- Detail-oriented
- Effective communicator
- Strong computing skills
- Strong project manager

Health informatics professionals work in an interdisciplinary field incorporating business, healthcare, and technology. They collaborate with clinicians, administrators, researchers, and public health professionals to develop new technologies and efficient health information systems, which allow secure access to complete and accurate data. This data may help clinicians and patients make vital decisions regarding diagnoses and treatments, administrators to solve problems and evaluate the quality of care, or public health professionals to conduct research, surveillance, and prevention/intervention campaigns. With the switch to electronic health records and the data-driven healthcare industry, there is a critical shortage of these professionals to meet the increasing demand.

Median Salary: $105,800 or $50.48 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Clinical informatics
- Clinical research informatics
- Dental informatics
- Mental health informatics
- Public health informatics

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Academic research centers
- Colleges and universities
- Government agencies
- Hospitals and health systems
- Insurance companies
- Long-term care facilities
- Medical and physician groups
- Mental and behavioral health facilities
- Outpatient clinics
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Private healthcare organizations
- Public health organizations

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's or graduate level degree with a concentration in health informatics
- Some post-baccalaureate certificate programs also available

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certification available from the American Health Information Management Association (ahima.org) for various credentials including Certified Health Data Analyst (CHDA)
- National certification available from the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (himss.org) for the Certified Associate or Professional in Healthcare Information and Management Systems (CAHIMS/CPHIMS) credentials

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Health Information Management Association
ahima.org

American Medical Informatics Association
amia.org

Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education
cahiim.org

Georgia Health Information Management Association
ghima.org

Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society
himss.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Georgia Southwestern
Georgia State University
Mercer University
Middle Georgia State University
University of North Georgia

POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE

Columbus State University
Georgia State University
Mercer University

MASTER'S DEGREE

Augusta University
Emory University
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
Kennesaw State University
Mercer University
Middle Georgia State University
Morehouse School of Medicine

DOCTORAL DEGREE

Emory University

Health Information Administrator

Creates systems to organize, analyze, and archive medical information

Ensures electronic health information meets administrative, privacy, and security regulations

Ideal Attributes:

- Detail-oriented and organized
- Strong computing skills
- Strong medical vocabulary
- Strong project manager

Health information administrators (HIAs), also called health information management professionals, use their knowledge of information technology and records management to form links between clinicians, administrators, information technology professionals, and technology designers. They are responsible for ensuring that data meets clinical, legal, and regulatory requirements. HIAs help other administrators manage costs and revenue, physicians assess healthcare quality, accrediting agencies evaluate healthcare delivery, and patients navigate the complicated healthcare system. Some HIAs ensure proper reimbursement amounts, establish department policies and procedures, formulate budgets, and oversee compliance with regulations. They may also hire, supervise, motivate, and evaluate employees.

Median Salary: $62,990 or $30.28 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Clinics
- Colleges and universities
- Consulting firms
- Health maintenance organizations
- Home health care services
- Hospitals and health systems
- Information systems vendors
- Insurance companies
- Law offices
- Long-term care facilities
- Medical software companies
- Mental health facilities
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Public health departments
- Research institutions
- State and federal health agencies

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree from a health information administration/management program

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certification available from the American Health Information Management Association (ahima.org) for the Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA) credential available for graduates of programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (cahiim.org)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Health Information Management Association
ahima.org

Georgia Health Information Management Association
ghima.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Augusta University
College of Coastal Georgia
DeVry University

Health Information Technician

Collects, analyzes, and interprets patient data to improve patient care

Ensures quality of medical records by verifying completeness, accuracy, and proper entry

Ideal Attributes:

- Detail-oriented
- Effective communicator
- Intense, sustained focus
- Strong computing skills

Health information technicians, also known as medical records specialists, have a unique career that combines technology, management, and healthcare. Working with computer information systems, they assemble and analyze patient health information and medical records that doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals rely on to provide quality patient care and control costs. As technology advances, the role of the health information technician expands. Their duty is to adapt to new methods of capturing healthcare information, storing that information, and easily accessing it electronically. This work is essential to maintain accurate, organized, and secure electronic data that allows daily healthcare routines to carry on smoothly with the new technological advancements.

Median Salary: $48,780 or $23.45 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Ambulatory care centers
- Behavioral health facilities
- Biopharmaceutical companies
- Clinics
- Consulting firms
- Correctional/detention facilities
- Healthcare vendors
- Home health care services
- Hospice programs
- Hospitals and health systems
- Information technology companies
- Insurance companies
- Law offices
- Long-term care facilities
- Managed care organizations
- Non-profit organizations
- Physician groups
- Rehabilitation centers
- State and federal health agencies

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- An associate degree from a health information management program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (cahiim.org)

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certification available from the American Health Information Management Association (ahima.org) for the Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) credential

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Health Information Management Association
ahima.org

Georgia Health Information Management Association
ghima.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Albany State University
Albany Technical College
Athens Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Augusta Technical College
Cambridge College of Healthcare & Technology
DeVry University
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Georgia Piedmont Technical College
Lanier Technical College
Miller-Motte College
Ogeechee Technical College
Southern Regional Technical College
West Georgia Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

Health Sciences Librarian

Supports healthcare providers, patients, and students with quality health information and literature searches

Provides access to medical books, journals, and other health information resources

Ideal Attributes:

- Detail-oriented and organized
- Effective communicator
- Problem-solver
- Strong computing skills

Health sciences librarians—also known as medical librarians, clinical librarians, or informationists—help health profession students, physicians, and other healthcare providers navigate biomedical resources. They may also help patients and their loved ones seek out consumer-focused health information to aid in their care. These librarians select, purchase, and catalog medical books, journals, and electronic databases. They manage library operations, plan budgets, market services, supervise staff, answer reference questions, and teach classes. Technology skills are very important to the role, and some health sciences librarians work closely with the electronic medical records team. Many health sciences librarians work side-by-side with healthcare providers to offer real-time research and reference services during patient care.

Median Salary: $64,870 or $31.19 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Consumer health information
- Data services

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Colleges and universities
- Consumer health libraries
- Health education consortia
- Hospitals and health systems
- Insurance companies
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Professional associations
- Research centers and foundations
- State and federal government agencies

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree for admission to a master's degree program in library and information science
- A master's degree from an educational program accredited by the American Library Association (ala.org)
- Optional supervised fieldwork or internship in a healthcare information setting
- Doctoral degrees available but not required

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certifications available from the Medical Library Association (mlanet.org) for the Academy of Health Information Professionals (AHIP)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Georgia Health Sciences Library Association
ghsla.org

Medical Library Association
mlanet.org

Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association
southernchaptermla.wildapricot.org

Special Libraries Association
sla.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

MASTER'S DEGREE

Valdosta State University

Healthcare Administrator

Oversees the general operation of hospitals, long-term care facilities, or other healthcare organizations
Manages budgets, sets policies, and leads staff

Ideal Attributes:

- Adaptable
- Effective communicator
- Ethical
- Strong leadership skills

Healthcare administrators, also called medical and health services managers or healthcare executives, serve as strategic and visionary leaders of hospitals and other healthcare organizations. Some head up specific departments or services while others manage entire facilities or systems such as long-term care facilities, physician practices, hospitals, home health care services, and health systems. Healthcare administrators ensure good communication between administration, committees, departments, and medical staff. They create a smooth-running organization with well-planned departments, such as nursing, marketing and public relations, finance, and human resources. They are responsible for the institution's resources and sound financial standing as well as for coordinating space and planning future expansions.

Median Salary: $110,680 or $53.21 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Clinics
- Community health organizations
- Government agencies
- Health insurance organizations
- Healthcare consulting firms
- Hospitals and health systems
- Long-term care facilities
- Mental health organizations
- Physician practices/groups
- Public health departments
- Rehabilitation facilities
- Skilled nursing care facilities
- Universities and research institutions

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree in healthcare administration, health policy, business administration, or business management may qualify some for entry-level positions
- A master's degree in healthcare administration, public administration, business administration, business management, or public health is the standard for most management positions

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure for long-term care facility administrators from the Georgia State Board of Long-Term Care Facility Administrators (sos.ga.gov/board-long-term-care-facility-administrators)
- National certifications available from the professional organizations listed and others

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American College of Healthcare Administrator
achca.org

American College of Healthcare Executives
ache.org

Association of University Programs in Health Administration
aupha.org

Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education
cahme.org

Medical Group Management Association
mgma.com

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Atlanta Metropolitan State College
Brewton-Parker College
College of Coastal Georgia
Georgia Highlands College
Herzing University
Piedmont University
Reinhardt University
Saint Leo University
Valdosta State University

BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S DEGREE

Albany State University
American Intercontinental University
Augusta University
Brenau University
Clayton State University
Dalton State College
DeVry University
Mercer University
Middle Georgia State University
South University

MASTER'S DEGREE

Berry College
Columbus State University
Emory University
Shorter University
Wesleyan College

MASTER'S AND DOCTORAL DEGREE

Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
University of Georgia

DOCTORAL DEGREE

Morehouse School of Medicine

Medical Coder

Assigns appropriate codes from medical documentation for the reimbursement of claims

Ideal Attributes:

- Detail-oriented
- Intense, sustained focus
- Strong computing skills
- Works well under pressure

Medical coders assign a code to each diagnosis, procedure, supply, and/or equipment that healthcare providers document in a medical record. These codes are used to ensure proper reimbursement for the provider who delivered the care, as well as for research, health planning analysis, clinical decisions, and performance indicators. Medical coders must possess many important skills such as a high degree of accuracy, excellent communication and research skills, and knowledge of medical terminology, anatomy, physiology, and human diseases. The ability to work independently, a strong sense of ethics, and critical thinking skills are also important qualities for these professionals, especially because there are so many opportunities for them to work remotely.

Median Salary: $48,780 or $23.45 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Behavioral health facilities
- Community health centers
- Freelance/contract
- Hospitals
- Insurance companies
- Law offices
- Long-term care facilities
- Managed care organizations
- Physician practices

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A high school diploma or equivalent
- Basic coding programs lead to a certificate
- Formal educational programs offered at the diploma and/or associate level
- Online courses available through the American Health Information Management Association (ahima.org) and the American Academy of Professional Coders (aapc.com)

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certifications available from the American Health Information Management Association for the Certified Coding Associate (CCA), Certified Coding Specialist (CCS), and Certified Coding Specialist - Physician-based (CCS-P) credentials or from the American Academy of Professional Coders for the Certified Professional Coder (CPC), Certified Outpatient Coder (COC), and Certified Inpatient Coder (CIC) credentials

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Academy of Professional Coders
aapc.com

American Health Information Management Association
ahima.org

Georgia Health Information Management Association
ghima.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

CERTIFICATE

Albany State University
Augusta Technical College
Cambridge College of Healthcare & Technology
Central Georgia Technical College
Coastal Pines Technical College
Columbus Technical College
DeVry University
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Georgia Piedmont Technical College
Kennesaw State University
Savannah Technical College
South Georgia Technical College
University of Georgia
University of North Georgia
University of West Georgia
West Georgia Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

DIPLOMA

Albany Technical College
Athens Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Georgia Piedmont Technical College
Lanier Technical College
Southern Regional Technical College
United Education Institute

ASSOCIATE DEGREEE

Gwinnett College

DIPLOMA AND ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Herzing University

Medical Illustrator

Creates visual materials using a variety of media to explain medical, scientific, and technical information

Ideal Attributes:

- Creative
- Detail-oriented
- Effective communicator
- Problem-solver

Medical illustrators are highly-trained, professional artists who transform complex information into visual images for students, physicians, patients, and consumers. They use a variety of classic and digital media including pen and ink, watercolor, acrylics, photography, animation, and computer graphics. Medical illustrators can choose to specialize in a single art medium, such as computer animation; in a specific market, such as medical publishing; or in a particular area of medicine, such as neurosurgery. While many medical illustrators still produce illustrations for books and journals, others now act as art directors and producers of a broad range of work from 3D animations and patient education programs to advanced interactive apps and augmented reality or virtual reality training simulations.

Median Salary: $83,500 or $41.75 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Advertising agencies
- Hospitals
- Medical, dental, and veterinary schools
- Medical education companies
- Medical practices
- Medical publishing companies
- Research and government institutes
- Science communication/animation studios
- Self-employed

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree with a major in art and a minor in the biological sciences or a major in science and a minor in art is preferred for admission into an accredited medical illustration graduate program
- A master's degree from a medical illustration program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (caahep.org)

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certification available through the Board of Certification of Medical Illustrators (ami.org/medical-illustration/board-certification) for the Certified Medical Illustrator (CMI) credential

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Association of Medical Illustrators
ami.org

Guild of Natural Science Illustrators
gnsi.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

MASTER'S DEGREE

Augusta University

Medical Secretary

Performs routine administrative tasks in a medical office setting

Answers calls, schedules appointments, greets patients, and maintains files

Ideal Attributes:

- Detail-oriented and organized
- Moves quickly between tasks
- Values confidentiality
- Works well under pressure

Medical secretaries, also known as medical administrative assistants or medical office assistants, perform a variety of administrative duties in order to keep a medical office running smoothly. They possess strong computer skills and knowledge of software applications used for word processing, data processing, and bookkeeping. Familiar with medical terminology, anatomy, and physiology, they can transcribe dictation. Medical secretaries establish patient charts, update records, prepare bills, record payments, and complete insurance forms. Speaking another language, such as Spanish, is very helpful in this career field.

Median Salary: $41,440 or $19.92 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Chiropractic practices
- Clinics
- Dental practices
- Home health agencies
- Hospitals and health systems
- Insurance companies
- Managed care organizations
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Physician practices
- Public health departments
- Veterinarian practices
- Workers' compensation offices

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A high school diploma or equivalent
- On-the-job training sometimes offered but formal education preferred

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certification available from the American Medical Technologists (americanmedtech.org) for the Certified Medical Administrative Specialist (CMAS) credential, from the International Association of Administrative Professionals (iaap-hq.org) for the Certified Administrative Professional (CAP) credential, and from the National Healthcareer Association (nhanow.com) for the Certified Medical Administrative Assistant (CMAA) credential
- Other useful certifications for patient accounting, medical coding, bookkeeping, billing, privacy, transcription, and reimbursement available

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of Healthcare Administrative Management
aaham.org

International Association of Administrative Professionals
iaap-hq.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

CERTIFICATE

Kennesaw State University
Lanier Technical College
United Medical and Business Institute
University of Georgia
University of North Georgia
University of Western Georgia

DIPLOMA

Atlanta Technical College
Gwinnett College
West Georgia Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

CERTIFICATE AND DIPLOMA

Columbus Technical College
Georgia Piedmont Technical College
Gwinnett Technical College

ASSOCIATE DEGREEE

Fortis College
Gwinnett College

CERTIFICATE, DIPLOMA, AND ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Albany Technical College
Augusta Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Coastal Pines Technical College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Oconee Fall Line Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Savannah Technical College
South Georgia Technical College
Southeastern Technical College
Southern Crescent Technical College
Southern Regional Technical College
West Georgia Technical College

Medical Transcriptionist

Types medical information into the electronic health record from dictation or verbatim by healthcare providers
Reviews and edits transcribed records for accuracy, spelling, grammar, and punctuation

Ideal Attributes:

- Detail-oriented
- Grammar knowledge
- Independent worker
- Intense, sustained focus

A medical transcriptionist, also known as a healthcare documentation specialist, medical language specialist, or scribe, listens to live or recorded information and transcribes the dictation into a clear and concise record. When necessary, medical transcriptionists must utilize appropriate problem-solving techniques if the content is inaccurate, inaudible, or contradictory. They use computer applications to complete many medical documents, including medical histories, physicals, operative reports, and consultations. They record procedures and treatments for the medical record and for the healthcare practitioner's reference.

Median Salary: $37,060 or $17.82 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Clinics
- Hospitals and health systems
- Insurance companies
- Physician practices
- Private transcription companies
- Self-employed

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A high school diploma or equivalent
- Completion of a certificate program, which typically last from 9 to 18 months
- Online programs available

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certification available from the Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity (ahdionline.org) for the Registered Healthcare Documentation Specialist (RHDS) credential for entry-level transcriptionists and the Certified Healthcare Documentation Specialist (CHDS) credential for those with 2 or more years of experience

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity
ahdionline.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

GEORGIA DOES NOT HAVE ANY MEDICAL TRANSCRPTIONIST PROGRAMS.

Program listed is located in neighboring region

CERTIFICATE

Big Sandy Community & Technical College

Laboratory Science

Careers in laboratory science are critical to the modern practice of medicine.

Although not typically seen by patients, laboratory specialists are the highly skilled professionals who conduct tests that provide crucial information used by healthcare providers for detecting, diagnosing, treating, and monitoring disease. Using sophisticated instruments, they examine and test cells, tissues, and fluids and report their findings to physicians and researchers. Those in this field of work must exhibit great precision, attention to detail, and patience. The laboratory environment offers exciting opportunities to discover clues as to the body's responses to injury and disease. These challenging careers are in great demand as there are always more discoveries to be made.

CLINICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN
CYTOGENETIC TECHNOLOGIST
CYTOTECHNOLOGIST
HISTOTECHNICIAN AND HISTOTECHNOLOGIST
MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTIST
PATHOLOGISTS' ASSISTANT
PHLEBOTOMIST

GROWING

Clinical Laboratory Technician

Examines and analyzes blood, body fluids, tissues, and cells

Gathers data used to determine absence or presence and extent of disease

Ideal Attributes:

- Critical thinker
- Detail-oriented
- Moves quickly between tasks

Clinical laboratory technicians, also known as medical laboratory technicians, work under the supervision of clinical laboratory scientists. They use microscopes, computers, and very complicated laboratory equipment to gather data that helps physicians determine the best course of treatment for their patients as well as monitor their patients' progress. Clinical laboratory technicians perform many duties such as counting and evaluating red and white blood cells and platelets, testing for various diseases, analyzing urine samples, staining and reading slides, and keeping records. They also group and type blood, perform antibody studies, and prepare blood for transfusion. As they gain experience, they are given more responsibility and perform more complex testing.

Median Salary: $60,780 or $29.22 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Blood donation centers
- Colleges and universities
- Commercial and private laboratories
- Crime laboratories
- Hospital laboratories
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Physician practices
- Public health departments
- Research facilities

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- An associate degree with laboratory experience from an educational program accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (naacls.org) or the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (abhes.org)

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required national certification from the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ascp.org/content/board-of-certification) for the Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT[ASCP]) or from the American Medical Technologists (americanmedtech.org) for the Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) credential

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Medical Technologists
americanmedtech.org

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
ascls.org

American Society for Clinical Pathology
ascp.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Albany State University
Cambridge College of Healthcare & Technology
Central Georgia Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College
Dalton State College
Georgia Piedmont Technical College
North Georgia Technical College
Southeastern Technical College
Southern Regional Technical College
West Georgia Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

Cytogenetic Technologist

Analyzes and interprets chromosomes and genes to aid in the study, diagnosis, or treatment of genetic and acquired diseases

Ideal Attributes:

- Detail-oriented and organized
- Problem-solver
- Strong visual perception
- Team-oriented

Cytogenetic technologists prepare and analyze chromosomes found in blood, amniotic fluid, bone marrow, and solid tissue specimens. Their work enables the diagnosis of prenatal and postnatal constitutional or inherited genetic disorders and is essential in the diagnosis and prognosis of acquired disorders such as leukemias, lymphomas, or tumors. They culture and harvest specimens, prepare slides, perform a variety of staining techniques, utilize microscopy, and analyze chromosomes and genes through digital computer imaging and karyotyping. Molecular cytogenetic/cytogenomic testing such as fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) and comparative genomic hybridization (aCGH) are also performed in most cytogenetic laboratories. Cytogenetic technologists report their findings to physicians for diagnosis and treatment.

Median Salary: $83,330 or $40.01 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Colleges and universities
- Government agencies
- Hospital laboratories
- Private laboratories
- Public health facilities
- Research laboratories

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree from an educational program accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science (naacls.org), a bachelor's degree in a biological science or chemistry along with 1 year full-time clinical experience in a cytogenetics laboratory, or a master's degree in genetics or molecular biology with 9 months clinical experience in a cytogenetics laboratory
- Advanced degrees in genetics or molecular biology also available

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certification available from the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ascp.org/content/board-of-certification) for the Technologist in Cytogenetics (CG[ASCP]) credential

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Society for Clinical Pathology
ascp.org

Association of Genetic Technologists
agt-info.org

College of American Pathologists
cap.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

GEORGIA DOES NOT HAVE ANY CYTOGENETIC TECHNOLOGIST PROGRAMS.

Program listed is located in neighboring region.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center [TX]
mdanderson.org

Cytotechnologist

Prepares cell specimens to be evaluated

Uses a microscope to study cell structure, color, shape, and size

Ideal Attributes:

- Critical thinker
- Detail-oriented
- Independent worker
- Strong visual perception

Cytotechnologists are highly skilled lab professionals who specialize in the study of human cells. They use microscopes to evaluate cell samples from various body sites by looking for abnormalities that could be signs of cancer, precancerous lesions, non-cancerous tumors, and infections. They work closely with pathologists (physicians who interpret and diagnose the changes caused by disease in tissues and body fluids) to provide an accurate diagnosis for the patient. New automated microscopes, digital imaging, and molecular technologies are enhancing the ability of cytotechnologists to provide a correct diagnosis. They help save lives by identifying certain diseases at an early stage and monitoring a patient's response to treatment.

Median Salary: $74,992 or $36.05 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Colleges and universities
- Commercial and private laboratories
- Hospital laboratories
- Research facilities
- Sales and marketing

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Three years of college-level education with required biology, chemistry, and math credits usually recommended before admission into a cytotechnology program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (caahep.org)
- One to two years of education in a cytotechnology program leading to a bachelor's degree, postbaccalaureate certificate, or master's degree

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certification available from the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ascp.org/content/board-of-certification) for the Cytotechnologist (CT[ASCP]) credential

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Society for Clinical Pathology
ascp.org

American Society for Cytotechnology
asct.com

American Society of Cytopathology
cytopathology.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

GEORGIA DOES NOT HAVE ANY CYTOTECHNOLOGIST PROGRAMS.

Programs listed are located in neighboring states.

POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE

Central Piedmont Community College (NC)
cpcc.edu

MASTER'S DEGREE

University of Tennessee Health Science Center (TN)
uthsc.edu

Histotechnician and Histotechnologist

Prepares slides from human, animal, or plant tissues for examination by a pathologist

Ideal Attributes:

- Detail-oriented
- Manual dexterity
- Patient
- Works well under pressure

Histology is the microscopic study of tissues and their structures. Histotechnicians and histotechnologists prepare sections of tissues on microscope slides by immersing the tissues in a series of fluids to prevent decay, eventually replacing the water content of the specimen with wax, slicing the tissue, and applying dyes. These slides are microscopically examined by a pathologist or scientist to detect tissue abnormalities and to diagnose diseases. Tissue sections may also be used for teaching and research. Histotechnologists perform more specialized procedures, such as electron microscopy to identify tissue parts and to relate them to body functions. They can also establish new laboratory and quality control procedures.

Median Salary: $63,873 or $30.70 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Commercial and private laboratories
- Crime laboratories
- Hospital laboratories
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Physician practices
- Public health facilities
- Research facilities

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Histotechnician: An associate degree or a certificate from a histology program accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (naacls.org) or an associate degree plus 1 year of laboratory experience
- Histotechnologist: A bachelor's degree, postbaccalaureate certificate, or master's degree from a NAACLS-accredited histology program

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certification available from the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ascp.org/content/board-ofcertification) for the Histotechnician (HT[ASCP]) and Histotechnologist (HTL[ASCP]) credentials

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
ascls.org

American Society for Clinical Pathology
ascp.org

Georgia Society for Histotechnology
georgiahistotech.org

National Society for Histotechnology
nsh.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Histotechnician Programs

ASSOCIATE DEGREE AND POST-ASSOCIATE CERTIFICATE

Albany State University

Histotechnologist Programs

GEORGIA DOES NOT HAVE ANY HISTOTECHNOLOGIST PROGRAMS.

Programs listed are located in neighboring states.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Barry University (FL)
barry.edu

POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE

Barry University (FL)
barry.edu

Carolinas College of Health Sciences (NC)
online.carolinascollege.edu

University of Tennessee Health Science Center (TN)
uthsc.edu

MASTER'S DEGREE

Barry University (FL)
barry.edu

University of Tennessee Health Science Center (TN)
uthsc.edu

Medical Laboratory Scientist

Performs a broad range of complex, quantitative lab tests, from biological screening to molecular analysis
Conducts detailed clinical laboratory tests for the detection, diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring of disease

Ideal Attributes:

- Independent worker
- Organized
- Problem-solver
- Works well under pressure

Medical laboratory scientists, also known as clinical laboratory scientists, are the backbone of every clinical laboratory. Using sophisticated instruments and technology, they test blood samples and other body fluids and tissues for bacteria, drugs, or diseases such as cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and leukemia. Medical laboratory scientists understand the reasons for doing specific tests and the significance of test results. They ensure a well-run operation by providing reliable results, controlling quality, and training and supervising medical laboratory technicians. They often choose to specialize in a particular area of laboratory science and are prepared for management positions in the laboratory.

Median Salary: $60,780 or $29.22 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Blood banking
- Chemistry
- Hematology
- Microbiology
- Molecular Diagnostics

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Blood banks/community blood services
- Colleges and universities
- Commercial and private laboratories
- Consulting firms
- Crime laboratories
- Government facilities
- Hospital laboratories
- Medical supply and sales companies
- Physician practices
- Public health departments
- Research facilities

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree including a clinical practice component from an educational program accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (naacls.org)
- Certificate and master's degree programs available for students with a bachelor's degree in other science or related area

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required national certification from the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ascp.org/content/board-of-certification) for the Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS[ASCP]) credential or from the American Medical Technologists (americanmedtech.org) for the Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS) credential
- Specialty certification available from the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Medical Technologists
americanmedtech.org

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
ascls.org

American Society for Clinical Pathology
ascp.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Augusta University
Georgia Southern University
Thomas University
Piedmont Augusta Hospital (administered with the University of South Carolina Aiken)

POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE

Emory Healthcare
Thomas University

MASTER'S DEGREE

Augusta University
PCOM

Pathologists' Assistant

Provides accurate macroscopic examination and evaluation of a variety of laboratory specimens, including from surgery

Performs autopsies

Ideal Attributes:

- Critical thinker
- Detail-oriented and precise
- Manual dexterity
- Strong visual perception

A pathologists' assistant works under the direction and supervision of a pathologist, a physician who specializes in the diagnosis and management of disease through laboratory methods. When tissue is removed during surgery, it is sent to the pathology laboratory where a pathologists' assistant will describe, dissect, and then submit pieces of the tissue to the pathologist so they can make a diagnosis. In addition, pathologists' assistants perform autopsies for hospitals and medical examiners. Similar to when tissue is received from a surgery, a pathologists' assistant will dissect the organs in an autopsy in order to submit tissue to the pathologist to help determine the cause of death.

Median Salary: $94,436 or $45.40 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Commercial or private laboratories
- Government agencies
- Hospital laboratories
- Hospital morgues
- Medical colleges and universities
- Medical examiner offices

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree, preferably in science, required for admission into an accredited program
- A master's degree from a pathologists' assistant program accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (naacls.org)

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required national certification from the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ascp.org/content/board-of-certification) for the Pathologists' Assistant (PA[ASCP]) credential

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of Pathologists' Assistants
pathassist.org

American Society for Clinical Pathology
ascp.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

GEORGIA DOES NOT HAVE ANY PATHOLOGISTS' ASSISTANT PROGRAMS.

Programs listed are located in neighboring states.

MASTER'S DEGREE

Duke University (NC)
duke.edu

Tulane University School of Medicine (LA)
medicine.tulane.edu

Phlebotomist

Collects and processes blood for donation, laboratory testing, medical research, or transfusion

Ideal Attributes:

- Empathetic and ethical
- Manual dexterity
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Works well under pressure

Phlebotomists, also known as phlebotomy technicians, are trained to draw blood with the least possible anxiety and discomfort to the patient. They have a great deal of patient contact and help calm nervous patients before beginning the blood collection process. Because they risk exposure to diseases, phlebotomists are trained in laboratory safety and careful collection of blood. They are usually supervised by a medical laboratory scientist.

Median Salary: $41,810 or $20.10 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Blood donation centers
- Clinics
- Home health agencies
- Hospitals
- Insurance companies
- Pheresis (blood separation) centers
- Physician practices
- Public health departments
- Reference laboratories

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A high school diploma or equivalent
- On-the-job training or formal education from a certificate program that includes classroom and clinical training

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certification available from the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ascp.org/content/board-of-certification), American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians (aspt.org), American Medical Technologists (americanmedtech.org), American Certification Agency for Healthcare Professionals (acacert.com), and National Center for Competency Testing (ncctinc.com)
- Certification requirements and credentials awarded vary

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Medical Technologists
americanmedtech.org

American Society for Clinical Pathology
ascp.org

American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians
aspt.org

National Phlebotomy Association
nationalphlebotomy.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

CERTIFICATE

Albany State University
Albany Technical College
Athens Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Cambridge College of Healthcare & Technology
Central Georgia Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College
Coastal Pines Technical College
Columbus Technical College
Dalton State College
Georgia Allied Health Institute
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Georgia Piedmont Technical College
Kennesaw State University
Lanier Technical College
North Georgia Technical College
Oconee Fall Line Technical College
Savannah Technical College
South College Atlanta
South Georgia Technical College
Southeastern Technical College
Southern Crescent Technical College
Southern Regional Technical College
University of West Georgia
West Georgia Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

Medical Support

Technical advances and specialized procedures have created numerous medical support careers.

As members of the medical team, professionals providing medical support perform a wide range of functions in a variety of settings. They may operate life-sustaining equipment, provide medical treatment at the scene of an accident, or assist surgeons in the operating room. Some perform direct patient care under a supervising physician while others oversee office responsibilities. Providing anesthesia or evaluating and treating sleep disorders are other roles in the medical support category. Whatever the position, these professionals are vital team players ensuring the delivery of quality healthcare.

ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT	GROWING
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN	GROWING
HOME HEALTH AIDE AND PERSONAL CARE AIDE	
MEDICAL ASSISTANT	GROWING
MEDICAL INTERPRETER	
NEURODIAGNOSTIC TECHNOLOGIST	
PARAMEDIC	
PERFUSIONIST	
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT	
POLYSOMNOGRAPHIC TECHNOLOGIST	
SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST	

Anesthesiologist Assistant

Works under the direction of a licensed physician anesthesiologist to provide anesthesia care in a variety of settings

Ideal Attributes:

- Detail-oriented
- Effective communicator
- Manual dexterity
- Works well under pressure

Anesthesiologist assistants are highly-skilled healthcare professionals trained extensively in the delivery and maintenance of quality anesthesia care as well as in advanced patient monitoring techniques. As part of the anesthesia care team, they perform preoperative patient assessment, help develop and implement the anesthesia care plan, administer drugs, obtain vascular access, apply and interpret monitors, establish and maintain the patient's airway, and perform regional anesthesia techniques. They are currently allowed to practice in 22 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam. With the growing demand for access to quality anesthesia care in rural and medically underserved areas, many other states will likely open their doors to these professionals.

Median Salary: $181,520 or $87.27 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Ambulatory surgery centers
- Gastroenterology centers
- Hospitals
- Pain centers

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree with completion of pre-medical curriculum for admission to an anesthesiologist assistant program
- A master's degree from an educational program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (caahep.org) including classroom and clinical work

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia Composite Medical Board (medicalboard.georgia.gov)
- National certification required from the National Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants (nccaa.org) for the Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant (CAA) credential

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants
anesthetist.org

American Society of Anesthesiologists
asahq.org

Georgia Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants
georgiaaaa.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

MASTER'S DEGREE

Emory University
South University

Emergency Medical Technician

Provides basic medical care and life support in emergency situations

Ideal Attributes:

- Assertive
- Compassionate
- Strong and agile
- Works well under pressure

Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) are highly-trained professionals who respond to varying degrees of medical- and trauma-related emergencies such as fires, car accidents, heart attacks, unexpected childbirth, and security or natural disasters. They are trained to assess and treat life-threatening conditions as well as skillfully operate ambulances to transport patients to a healthcare facility capable of providing appropriate treatment. They perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), control bleeding, place splints on broken bones, and deliver babies. EMTs with advanced training can also provide intravenous (IV) therapy and limited pharmacological interventions.

Median Salary: $37,256 or $17.91 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Ambulatory surgery centers
- Clinics
- Colleges and universities
- Fire departments
- Hospital ambulance services
- Hospital emergency departments
- Law enforcement agencies
- Physician practices
- Public and private ambulance services

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A high school diploma or equivalent
- Completion of a basic Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) educational program lasting 2 or more semesters or an Advanced EMT (AEMT) educational program lasting an additional 1 to 2 semesters

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia Department of Public Health Office of Emergency Medical Services (dph.georgia.gov/EMS)
- Required national certification from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (nremt.org)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
naemt.org

Georgia Emergency Medical Services Association
georgiaemsassociation.com

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Contact your Regional EMS Office (dph.georgia.gov/EMS/regional-ems-systems) for additional state-approved EMT programs in your area.

CERTIFICATE

Albany State University
Augusta Technical College
Grady Health System
North Georgia Nursing Academy
South Georgia Technical College
West Georgia Technical College

CERTIFICATE AND DIPLOMA

Albany Technical College
Athens Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Coastal Pines Technical College
Columbus Technical College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Georgia Piedmont Technical College
Gwinnett Technical College
Lanier Technical College
North Georgia Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Savannah Technical College
Southeastern Technical College
Southern Crescent Technical College
Southern Regional Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

DIPLOMA

Chattahoochee Technical College

Home Health Aide and Personal Care Aide

Offers care and support for people unable to care for themselves

Ideal Attributes:

- Compassionate and patient
- Dependable and responsible
- Discreet
- Effective communicator

Home health aides (HHAs) and personal care aides are two of the fastest growing occupations in Georgia and the United States. They provide an alternative to institutional living by providing care at a client's personal home or residential facility. HHAs help patients achieve maximum self-reliance. They may assist with personal care, ambulation and exercise, and medication administration. Often the first to notice issues with the patient, such as skin breakdown, they help nurses address problems promptly. Personal care aides provide companionship and assist with daily tasks such as planning and cooking meals, cleaning, and shopping. They can also help clients bathe, dress, groom, and eat. Both professionals may keep records and report to a supervisor, medical staff, or the family about the client's needs, condition, and progress.

Median Salary: $33,530 or $16.12 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Assisted living facilities
- Home health agencies
- Hospice programs
- Private residences
- Residential care facilities

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A high school diploma or equivalent
- On-the-job training sometimes provided by the client's family

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Nurse aide certification sometimes required by home health agencies for HHA positions
- See Nursing Assistant career page (p. 69) for more information

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Georgia Association for Home Health Agencies, Inc.
gahha.org

Georgia Association of Community Care Providers
gaccp.org

National Association for Home Care & Hospice
nahc.org

Private Duty Home Care at NAHC
nahc.org/about/about-pdhc-at-nahc

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Contact local colleges and home health agencies to find courses available in your area. Online training opportunities are also available.

See the Nursing Assistant Educational Programs section (p. 69) for a list of schools that offer nurse aide certification.

Medical Assistant

Prepares patients for exams by taking medical histories and recording vital signs
Schedules appointments and updates medical records

Ideal Attributes:

- Detail-oriented
- Effective communicator
- Empathetic
- Team-oriented

The versatility, knowledge, and skills medical assistants possess due to their cross-training in clinical and administrative duties make them valuable members of the healthcare team. Working in a variety of settings, they perform many clinical duties such as taking blood pressure, temperature, pulse, and respiration rate. They assist with first aid, collect and prepare laboratory specimens, perform procedures such as EKGs, and may assist with office surgery and physical exams. They also perform many administrative tasks including greeting patients, filing patient medical records, and arranging hospital admissions. They type reports, process health insurance forms, order supplies, and keep financial records. An experienced medical assistant can advance to other administrative positions.

Median Salary: $42,000 or $20.19 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Chiropractic practices
- Medical clinics
- Optometric practices
- Physical therapy clinics
- Physician practices
- Podiatrist practices

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A high school diploma or equivalent
- On-the-job training available, but a certificate, diploma, or associate degree from an educational program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (caahep.org) or the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (abhes.org) recommended

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certification available from the American Association of Medical Assistants (aama-ntl.org) for the Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) credential or from the American Medical Technologists (americanmedtech.org) for the Registered Medical Assistant (RMA) credential

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of Medical Assistants
aama-ntl.org

American Medical Technologists
americanmedtech.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

CERTIFICATE

Cambridge College of Healthcare & Technology
Genesis Career College
Herzing University
Kennesaw State University
Lincoln Tech
Miller-Motte College
Georgia Allied Health Institute
North Georgia Nursing Academy
South College
Woodruff Medical and Wellness Training

DIPLOMA

Athens Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Augusta Technical College
Coastal Pines Technical College
Columbus Technical College
Georgia Piedmont Technical College
Gwinnett Technical College
Helms College
Miller-Motte College
Oconee Fall Line Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Savannah Technical College
South Georgia Technical College
Southeastern Technical College
Southern Crescent Technical College
UEI College
United Medical and Business Institute
West Georgia Technical College

DIPLOMA AND ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Albany Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College
Fortis College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Gwinnett College
Lanier Technical College
North Georgia Technical College
Southern Regional Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Lincoln Tech
Point University
South College
South University

Medical Interpreter

Ensures accurate and effective communication between healthcare providers and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) patients
Improves healthcare outcomes and patient safety by removing language barriers

Ideal Attributes:

- Ethical
- Strong linguistic skills
- Strong medical vocabulary
- Values accuracy

With the increasing diversity in our country, healthcare providers are treating more and more Limited English Proficiency (LEP) patients. Language, cultural, and communication barriers can lead to serious healthcare problems including delay of treatment and lack of trust. The quality of care often depends as much on the interpreter as the provider. Medical interpreters are trained and qualified professionals who follow a code of ethics in interpreting. Everything spoken must be interpreted, and nothing can be added, omitted, or changed. In addition, confidentiality must be kept. Medical interpreters primarily interact directly with patients and providers, but they may also work with family members and other staff. They may also provide services over the phone or through video.

Median Salary: $57,090 or $27.45 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Child advocacy centers
- Community health centers
- Dental practices
- Federally-funded clinics
- Health insurance companies
- Hospitals
- Interpreting service agencies
- K-12 schools
- Mental health facilities
- Physical/occupational therapy clinics
- Physician practices
- Private clinics
- Public health departments
- Rehabilitation centers
- Skilled nursing care facilities

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A high school diploma or equivalent
- Proof of linguistic proficiency in English and at least one other language
- A certificate from a medical interpreter training program including a minimum of 40 hours of instruction and training or 3 credit hours of medical interpreting coursework from a college or university

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certification available from the National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters (certifiedmedicalinterpreters.org) for the Certified Medical Interpreter (CMI) credential and/or from the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (cchicertification.org) for the Certified Healthcare Interpreter (CHI) and Core Certification Healthcare Interpreter (CoreCHI) credentials

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Cross Cultural Health Care Program
xculture.org

International Medical Interpreters Association
imiaweb.org

Medical Interpreter Network of Georgia
mingweb.org

National Council on Interpreting in Health Care
ncihc.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Various organizations and healthcare facilities offer training programs for medical interpreters. Contact the professional organizations listed above for additional training opportunities.

CERTIFICATE

Grady Health System
Kennesaw State University
University of Georgia
University of Western Georgia

Neurodiagnostic Technologist

Measures and records electrical activity in the brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves

Ideal Attributes:

- Compassionate
- Good judgment
- Manual dexterity
- Reasoning skills

Neurodiagnostic technologists (NDTs), also called electroneurodiagnostic technologists, monitor and record nervous system function that neurologists use to diagnose, monitor, and effectively treat neurological diseases and conditions like Alzheimer's disease, brain trauma, epilepsy, and stroke. NDTs prepare patients for procedures by applying electrodes on the scalp or other parts of the body. They also comfort patients during the procedures, which can range from several minutes to several hours to multiple days for long term monitoring. They monitor instrument settings and are able to recognize normal and abnormal electrical activity. NDTs prepare descriptive reports of the recorded activity for the physician to review and interpret.

Median Salary: $47,470 or $22.82 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Autonomics
- Electroencephalography (EEG)
- Evoked potentials
- Intraoperative neurophysiologic monitoring
- Long term monitoring
- Magnetoencephalography
- Nerve conduction

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Clinics
- Hospitals
- Physician practices
- Research facilities
- Self-employed
- Specialized epilepsy and sleep centers

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- An associate degree or post-associate certificate from an educational program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (caahep.org)

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certification from ABRET: Neurodiagnostic Credentialing and Accreditation (abret.org) for the Certified Autonomic Professional (CAP) and others
- National certification for nerve conduction studies from the American Association of Electrodiagnostic Technologists (aaet.info) for the Registered Nerve Conduction Study Technologist (R.NCS.T.) credential or the American Board of Electrodiagnostic Medicine (aanem.org) for the Certified Nerve Conduction Technologist (CNCT) credential

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of Electrodiagnostic Technologists
aaet.info

American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine
aanem.org

ASET: The Neurodiagnostic Society
aset.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

GEORGIA DOES NOT HAVE ANY NEURODIAGNOSTIC TECHNOLOGIST PROGRAMS.

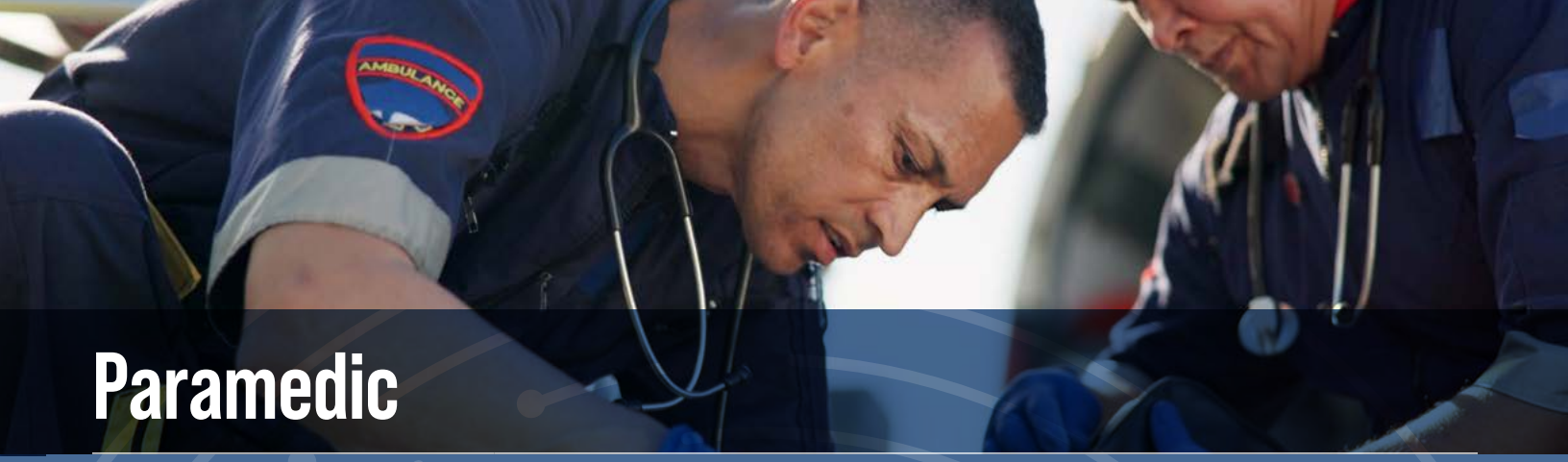
Programs listed are located in neighboring states. Visit aset.org for a list of online programs.

DIPLOMA AND ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Catawba Valley Community College (NC)
cvcc.edu

POST-ASSOCIATE CERTIFICATE

Vanderbilt University Medical Center (TN)
vumc.org



Paramedic

Provides advanced life support techniques in emergency situations

Ideal Attributes:

- Good judgment
- Strong and agile
- Strong leadership skills
- Works well under pressure

In addition to all the skills of an emergency medical technician (EMT), paramedics are trained to provide advanced life support techniques. Paramedics use monitors and other complex equipment to conduct electrocardiograms (EKGs), cardiac monitoring and defibrillation, and advanced airway management procedures, including endotracheal intubation. They can also administer medications and intravenous fluids under direction of an off-site designated physician. In some communities, paramedics provide home visits to people with chronic conditions such as asthma, diabetes, and high blood pressure in order to provide increased access to primary and preventive care and to decrease unnecessary ambulance transport and emergency department visits.

Median Salary: $53,180 or $25.57 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Community paramedic
- Critical care paramedic
- Flight paramedic
- Tactical paramedic

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Air ambulances
- Ambulance services
- Ambulatory surgery centers
- Clinics
- Colleges and universities
- Critical care transport units
- Fire departments
- Hospital emergency departments
- Law enforcement agencies
- Physician practices

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Completion of a 1 to 2 year educational program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (caahep.org) that builds upon Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) training

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia Department of Health Office of Emergency Medical Services (dph.georgia.gov/EMS)
- Required national certification from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (nremt.org) for the Nationally Registered EMT-Paramedic (NREMT-P) credential
- Specialty certification available from the International Board of Specialty Certification (ibscertifications.org)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Georgia Emergency Medical Services Association
georgiaemsassociation.com

National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
naemt.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Search the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs database (caahep.org/students/find-an-accredited-program) for programs offered by EMS and/or fire departments in your area.

CERTIFICATE

Albany State University
Augusta University
Grady Health System

DIPLOMA

Coastal Pines Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College

DIPLOMA AND ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Albany Technical College
Athens Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College
Columbus Technical College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Georgia Piedmont Technical College
Gwinnett Technical College
Lanier Technical College
North Georgia Technical College
Savannah Technical College
Southeastern Technical College
Southern Crescent Technical College
Southern Regional Technical College
West Georgia Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Albany State University

Perfusionist

Prepares and operates the heart-lung machine during medical procedures

Monitors and manages patients with advanced heart failure and implantable mechanical circulatory assist devices

Ideal Attributes:

- Detail-oriented
- Effective communicator
- Empathetic
- Independent worker

Perfusionists are members of the open-heart surgical team. They operate the heart-lung machine, which performs the function of the human heart and lungs and are responsible for maintaining the patient's physiological state during surgery. Perfusionists sometimes perform similar functions outside of the operating room such as monitoring and maintaining artificial hearts, ventricular assist devices, and other circulatory assist devices. They also provide blood conservation therapies in non-cardiac surgeries. They must have a thorough knowledge of the respiratory and circulatory systems to perform these duties competently and safely. Perfusion care is performed in a team-oriented setting and is considered to be highly stressful.

Median Salary: $151,048 or $72.56 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Cardiac surgical centers
- Equipment manufacturers
- Hospitals
- Perfusion service companies

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree, post-baccalaureate certificate, or master's degree from an educational program accredited by the Accreditation Committee - Perfusion Education (ac-pe.org)
- Strong background in science and experience in the clinical setting recommended by most programs for admission

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia Composite Medical Board (medicalboard.georgia.gov)
- Required national certification from the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (abcp.org) for the Certified Clinical Perfusionist (CCP) credential

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Academy of Cardiovascular Perfusion
theaacp.com

American Society of ExtraCorporeal Technology
amsect.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

MASTER'S DEGREE

Emory University

Physician Assistant

Conducts physical exams, diagnoses and treats illnesses, and prescribes medications
Orders and interprets tests, performs procedures, and assists in surgery

Ideal Attributes:

- Compassionate and dedicated
- Effective communicator
- Lifelong learner
- Team-oriented

Physician assistants (PAs) are healthcare professionals who provide medical and surgical services in collaboration with supervising physicians. Physicians may delegate to PAs those medical duties that are within the physician's scope of practice and the PA's training and experience. These highly trained healthcare professionals allow the increase in quality as well as quantity of medical care services. PAs perform a vital service in rural and medically underserved regions of Georgia by providing access to quality healthcare where there is a shortage of physicians. The demand for PAs is on the rise, and the profession is considered one of the fastest growing in the country with the profession expanding to other nations as well.

Median Salary: $130,020 or $62.51 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

PAs can practice in any medical or surgical specialty with adequate on-the-job training and appropriate physician supervision. Postgraduate residency/fellowship programs are also available.

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Clinics
- Community health centers
- Correctional/detention facilities
- Health maintenance organizations
- Hospitals
- Medical colleges and universities
- Military bases and deployment
- Pain management centers
- Physician practices
- Research institutions
- Skilled nursing care facilities
- Student health centers
- Trauma centers

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree and previous healthcare experience required for admission into a physician assistant program
- A master's degree from an educational program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (arc-pa.org) that includes classroom and laboratory instruction

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia Composite Medical Board (medicalboard.georgia.gov)
- Required national certification from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (nccpa.net) for the Physician Assistant-Certified (PA-C) credential
- National specialty certifications available from the NCCPA

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Academy of Physician Associates
aapa.org

Georgia Association of Physician Assistants
gapa.net

Physician Assistant Education Association
paeaonline.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

MASTER'S DEGREE

Augusta University
Barry University
Brenau University
Emory University
Mercer University
Morehouse School of Medicine
PCOM
South College
South University

Polysomnographic Technologist

Assists in evaluating, treating, and caring for patients with sleep disorders

Gathers data during a sleep study and generates a report

Ideal Attributes:

- Critical thinker
- Detail-oriented
- Strong organizational skills
- Strong troubleshooting skills

Over 80 sleep-related disorders such as obstructive sleep apnea, periodic limb movement disorder, narcolepsy, and REM behavior disorder have been linked to many health problems such as hypertension, cardiac failure, obesity, diabetes, and stroke. Under the direction of physicians, polysomnographic technologists—also known as sleep technologists—apply necessary equipment for testing and treatment, accumulate data throughout the recording process, score the data, and print a preliminary report. They use a great deal of independent judgment to make recommendations to the healthcare team regarding the patient's visit to the sleep lab.

Median Salary: $60,780 or $29.22 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Colleges and universities
- Home health agencies
- Hospitals
- Medical centers
- Portable labs
- Private clinics
- Research facilities

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A high school diploma or equivalent
- On-the-job training available but completion of a formal educational program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (coarc.com) preferred

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certification available from the Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists (brpt.org) for the entry-level Certified Polysomnographic Technician (CPSGT) credential and the advanced level Registered Polysomnographic Technologist (RPSGT) credential.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Academy of Sleep Medicine
aasm.org

American Association of Sleep Technologists
aastweb.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

DIPLOMA

Central Georgia Technical College

Surgical Technologist

Works with the surgical team to facilitate safe and effective surgery

Passes instruments and supplies to the surgeon, assists with surgical procedures, and operates specialty equipment

Ideal Attributes:

- Moves quickly between tasks
- Physical endurance
- Team-oriented
- Works well under pressure

Surgical technologists work closely with surgeons, anesthesiologists, and nurses to provide safe care for patients before, during, and after surgery. A surgical technologist in the scrub role handles the necessary instruments, supplies, and equipment during the surgical procedure. They must have an understanding of the procedure being performed, anticipate the needs of the surgeon, and have the necessary knowledge and ability to ensure quality patient care during the procedure while monitoring and maintaining the sterile field. A surgical technologist in the circulating role obtains additional instruments, supplies, and equipment during the surgical procedure. They monitor the conditions in the operating room and constantly assess the needs of the patient and surgical team.

Median Salary: $60,370 or $29.03 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Ambulatory surgery centers
- Animal hospitals
- Autopsy labs
- Colleges and universities
- Crime labs
- Hospitals
- Medical supply and equipment sales companies
- Organ procurement organizations
- Veterinary practices

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Completion of an educational program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (caahep.org)

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certification available from the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (nbstsa.org) for the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) credential

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Association of Surgical Technologists
ast.org

Georgia State Assembly of AST
ast-gasa.weebly.com

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

DIPLOMA

Athens Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Coastal Pines Technical College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Southern Crescent Technical College
Southern Regional Technical College

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Albany Technical College
Athens Technical College
Augusta Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College
Coastal Pines Technical College
Columbus Technical College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Georgia Piedmont Technical College
Gwinnett Technical College
North Georgia Nursing Academy
Savannah Technical College
South College
Southern Crescent Technical College
Southern Regional Technical College
West Georgia Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

Medicine

Professionals in the field of medicine are some of the most trusted and respected members of the healthcare team and community.

The profession requires responsible, hard-working individuals who can deal with considerable stress. They must possess a sincere commitment to helping others, much compassion, extensive patience, excellent judgment, good decision-making skills, and a willingness to make personal sacrifices. A desire to learn is essential because physicians must keep up with new advances in technology, equipment, procedures, and medications. They act as the "coach" of the team by overseeing other healthcare associates. A career in medicine is one of the most challenging positions in the world but also offers some of the most exciting and rewarding opportunities to serve people.

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

PODIATRIST

Doctor of Medicine

Takes medical histories, performs physical exams, prescribes medications, and advises patients on preventive healthcare
Orders, performs, and interprets lab and x-ray studies as well as other diagnostic and/or surgical procedures

Ideal Attributes:

- Empathetic and ethical
- Lifelong learner
- Strong leadership skills
- Works well under pressure

Doctors of medicine, also known as allopathic physicians or MDs, are trained to diagnose and treat illnesses and injuries, prescribe appropriate medications and lifestyle modifications, and perform therapeutic procedures. Physicians work in teams with other physicians and healthcare professionals. They advise people how to care for themselves by helping them to understand the effects of diet, exercise, and aging. In addition to caring for patients, physicians may choose to teach or to research new ways to diagnose, control, and cure diseases. Most physicians specialize in an area—such as internal medicine, obstetrics, pediatrics, or surgery. As the population continues to grow and age, the need for physicians, especially primary care physicians in rural and other medically underserved areas, continues to rise.

Median Salary: $239,200 or $115.00 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Primary and subspecialty board certification is available from the following American Board of Medical Specialties (abms.org) Member Boards:

- Allergy and immunology
- Anesthesiology
- Colon and rectal surgery
- Dermatology
- Emergency medicine
- Family medicine
- Internal medicine
- Medical genetics and genomics
- Neurological surgery
- Nuclear medicine
- Obstetrics and gynecology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopaedic surgery
- Otolaryngology
- Pathology
- Pediatrics
- Physical medicine and rehabilitation
- Plastic surgery
- Preventive medicine
- Psychiatry and neurology
- Radiology
- Surgery
- Thoracic surgery
- Urology

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Community health centers
- Correctional/detention facilities
- HIV/AIDS clinics
- Hospitals and health systems
- Indian Health Service facilities
- Managed care organizations
- Medical schools
- Military bases
- Private or group medical practices
- Public health departments
- Research facilities
- Substance use disorder treatment centers
- Urgent care centers
- Veterans Affairs healthcare facilities

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree with a strong foundation in math and science and completion of the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) required for admission to medical school
- A doctoral degree from an allopathic medical school accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (lcme.org)
- Completion of a residency program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (acgme.org)
- Specialty training requires 3-5 years
- Subspecialty training requires an additional 1-3 years

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia Composite Medical Board (medicalboard.georgia.gov)
- National primary and subspecialty certification available from the 24 ABMS Member Boards

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Medical Association
ama-assn.org

Georgia State Medical Association
gsmanet.org

Medical Association of Georgia
mag.org

National Medical Association
nmanet.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

DOCTORAL DEGREE

Augusta University
Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership (to be University of Georgia School of Medicine in 2027, pending accreditation)
Emory University
Mercer University
Morehouse School of Medicine

Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine

Takes medical histories, performs physical exams, prescribes medications, and advises patients on preventive healthcare

Orders, performs, and interprets lab and x-ray studies as well as other diagnostic and/or surgical procedures

Ideal Attributes:

- Compassionate and dedicated
- Empathetic and ethical
- Lifelong learner
- Team- and service-oriented

Using a whole-person, hands-on approach to medicine, doctors of osteopathic medicine (DOs) work in partnership with their patients to emphasize the role that preventive medicine plays in achieving a high level of wellness. They take a holistic approach to healthcare, diagnosing and treating the patient, not just the disease. This approach involves assessing the patient's lifestyle and considering how an injury or illness in one part of the body may cause symptoms in another. Also known as osteopathic physicians, their training includes the art of osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM), which recognizes the role of the musculoskeletal system in disease, illness, and injury. OMM is used to help alleviate pain, restore motion, support the body's natural functions, and influence the body's structure to help it function more efficiently.

Median Salary: $239,200 or $115.00 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Primary and subspecialty board certification from the American Board of Medical Specialties (abms.org) Member Boards and/or from the American Osteopathic Association (certification.osteopathic.org) Specialty Certifying Boards can be obtained in the following areas:.

- Allergy and immunology
- Anesthesiology
- Colon and rectal surgery
- Dermatology
- Emergency medicine
- Family medicine
- Internal medicine
- Medical genetics and genomics
- Neurological surgery
- Neurology
- Neuromusculoskeletal medicine
- Nuclear medicine
- Obstetrics and gynecology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopedic surgery
- Otolaryngology
- Pathology
- Pediatrics
- Physical medicine and rehabilitation
- Plastic surgery
- Preventive medicine
- Proctology
- Psychiatry
- Radiology
- Surgery
- Thoracic surgery
- Urology

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Colleges and universities
- Community health centers
- Correctional/detention facilities
- HIV/AIDS clinics
- Hospitals
- Indian Health Service facilities
- Managed care organizations
- Military bases
- Private or group medical practices
- Public health departments
- Research facilities
- Substance use disorder treatment centers
- Urgent care centers
- Veterans Affairs healthcare facilities

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree with a strong foundation in math and science and completion of the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) required for admission to medical school
- A doctoral degree from a college of osteopathic medicine accredited by the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (osteopathic.org/accreditation)
- Completion of a residency program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (acgme.org)
- Specialty training requires 3-7 years
- Subspecialty training requires an additional 1-3 years

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia Composite Medical Board (medicalboard.georgia.gov)
- National specialty and subspecialty certification available from the 24 ABMS Member Boards and/or from the 18 AOA Specialty Certifying Boards

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
aacom.org

American Osteopathic Association
osteopathic.org

Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association
goma.org

Student Osteopathic Medical Association
studentdo.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

DOCTORAL DEGREE

PCOM

Podiatrist

Diagnoses and treats disorders, diseases, and injuries of the foot, ankle, and leg

Ideal Attributes:

- Effective communicator
- Lifelong learner
- Manual dexterity
- Works well with all ages

Podiatrists, also called doctors of podiatric medicine (DPMs), are physicians who can prescribe medications, admit patients to hospitals, treat emergencies in the emergency room, order physical therapy, and perform surgery. Podiatrists treat conditions such as calluses, ingrown toenails, hammertoes, bunions, and injuries to the foot, ankle, and leg. They are trained to apply braces, design custom-made shoes, and fit corrective inserts—called orthotics—inside the shoes of patients. The foot is sometimes the first part of the human body to reveal a serious condition, such as diabetes. As a result of the growing aging population and rates of obesity and diabetes, podiatrists will be in high demand and have job security.

Median Salary: $141,650 or $68.10 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Orthopedics
- Primary podiatric medicine
- Surgery

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Ambulatory surgery centers
- Athletic teams/facilities
- Community health departments
- Health professions schools
- Hospitals
- Long-term care facilities
- Managed care organizations
- Military bases
- Private or group practices
- Public health departments
- Veterans Affairs healthcare facilities

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree required for admission to a podiatry program
- A doctoral degree including clinical rotations from a podiatry program accredited by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (cpme.org)
- Completion of an additional 3-4 year post-graduate residency program
- Post-residency fellowship programs also available

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia State Board of Podiatry Examiners (sos.ga.gov/georgia-state-board-podiatry-examiners)
- National board certification available from the American Board of Podiatric Medicine (podiatryboard.org) in podiatric orthopedics and primary podiatric medicine and from the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (abfas.org) in foot surgery and reconstructive rearfoot/ankle surgery

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
aacpm.org

American Podiatric Medical Association
apma.org

Georgia Podiatric Medical Association
gapma.com

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

GEORGIA DOES NOT HAVE ANY PODIATRIST PROGRAMS.
Programs listed are located in neighboring states.

DOCTORAL DEGREE

Barry University (FL)
barry.edu

Mental Health and Social Services

The mental health and social services field requires caring hearts as well as talented minds.

Since pain often goes far beyond the physical body, these workers are needed to assist an individual in total recovery. Their responsibilities may include promoting mental health; identifying, treating, and rehabilitating persons with psychological disorders; or serving as a bridge between people and the resources needed to help resolve challenges. Many times, these professionals are needed to help those experiencing abuse, family strife, and behavioral problems. These professionals often humanize and personalize the healthcare process. Although extremely challenging and diverse, these careers offer significant satisfaction and personal reward.

COUNSELOR — HOT CAREER

GENETIC COUNSELOR

HUMAN SERVICES PROFESSIONAL

PSYCHOLOGIST

SOCIAL WORKER — GROWING

Counselor

Helps people solve their personal, psychological, social, and vocational problems

Ideal Attributes:

- Emotionally stable
- Empathetic and sensitive
- Good listener
- Objective and discreet

Counseling is defined by the American Counseling Association as a professional relationship that empowers diverse individuals, families, and groups to accomplish mental health, wellness, education, and career goals. Depending on their specialty, counselors may help people struggling with substance use disorders or other addictions, such as gambling; help people with emotional, mental, physical, or social challenges become more self-sufficient; or help individuals, couples, and families work through conflicts by improving communication and relationships. They often collaborate with other professionals to assist clients in recovery. Some counselors help the elderly population with the difficulties of aging. Others help people make career decisions. The demand for counselors is expected to continue growing.

Median Salary: $53,710 or $25.82 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Addictions counseling
- Career counseling
- Child and adolescent counseling
- Clinical mental health counseling
- Gerontological counseling
- Marriage, couple, and family counseling
- Pastoral counseling
- Rehabilitation counseling
- School counseling
- Student affairs and college counseling

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Career resource centers
- Colleges and universities
- Correctional/detention facilities
- Halfway houses
- Hospice programs
- Hospitals
- Human resources departments
- K-12 schools
- Mental health centers
- Private practices
- Religious organizations
- Skilled nursing care facilities
- Social service agencies
- State and federal government agencies
- Substance use disorder treatment programs

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree in education, social work, sociology, psychology, criminal justice, or health science often required for admission to a graduate-level counseling program
- A master's degree, including 600 hours of supervised clinical work, from a program accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (cacrep.org) or equivalent
- Education Specialist post-master's and doctoral programs available
- Some areas of counseling require either a PhD or both counseling and teaching certificates

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage & Family Therapists (sos.ga.gov/board-professional-counselors-social-workers-and-marriage-family-therapists) for the Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) credential
- Required state certification for school counselors from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (gapsc.com)
- National certification available from the National Board for Certified Counselors (nbcc.org) for the National Certified Counselor (NCC) and the National Certified School Counselor (NCSC) credentials
- National specialty certifications available from the National Board for Certified Counselors (nbcc.org), Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (crccertification.com), American Mental Health Counselors Association (amhca.org), and others

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Counseling Association
counseling.org

American School Counselor Association
schoolcounselor.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

MASTER'S DEGREE

Albany State University
Augusta University
Brenau University
Clark Atlanta University
Clayton State University
Columbus State University
Fort Valley State University
Georgia Southern University
LaGrange College
Piedmont University
Richmont Graduate University
South University
Thomas University
Truett McConnell University
University of North Georgia
Valdosta State University

MASTER'S AND DOCTORAL DEGREE

Georgia State University
Mercer University
University of Georgia
University of West Georgia

POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE

University of Georgia
University of West Georgia
Valdosta State University

Genetic Counselor

Provides genetic risk assessment, education, and support to those impacted by conditions with a genetic component

Ideal Attributes:

- Analytical and curious
- Compassionate
- Effective communicator
- Strong interpersonal skills

Genetic counselors (GCs) have master's level training in medical genetics and counseling. GCs provide services to patients and families with a diverse set of genetic or genomic indications. They interpret family and medical histories to perform risk assessment, provide education about inheritance, genetic testing options and management, and offer counseling support and resources. GCs specialize in a variety of clinical areas including reproductive, pediatric, cancer, and cardiovascular genetics. They also serve as an educational resource in genetics for other healthcare professionals and the general public. An increasing number of GCs are involved in clinical genetics research. Due to the rapid advances in genetic medicine, the demand for GCs is expected to continue growing.

Median Salary: $95,770 or $46.05 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Clinics
- Colleges and universities
- Disease support organizations
- Genetic testing laboratories
- Government agencies
- Hospitals
- Managed care organizations
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Physician practices
- Private practices
- Public health organizations
- University medical centers

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree in a relevant field including biology, genetics, nursing, psychology, public health, or social work
- A master's degree in genetic counseling from an educational program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling (gceducation.org)

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia Composite Medical Board (medicalboard.georgia.gov)
- Required national certification from the American Board of Genetic Counseling (abgc.net) for the Certified Genetic Counselor (CGC) credential

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Georgia Association of Genetic Counselors
georgiagenetics.org

Minority Genetic Professionals Network
westernstatesgenetics.org/mgpn-resources

National Society of Genetic Counselors
nsgc.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

MASTER'S DEGREE

Emory University

Human Service Professional

Serves as a liaison between people and the resources that can meet their needs

Ideal Attributes:

- Analytical problem-solver
- Culturally competent
- Empathetic and sensitive
- Good listener

Human service professionals, also known as community service managers or social service specialists, help people who are not always able to take care of their own needs. After evaluating the needs of an individual, family, or group, they connect them to resources such as public health clinics, food banks, crisis stabilization units, substance use disorder treatment programs, and mental health centers that can provide the appropriate services. The goal of the human services professional is to empower people to function as effectively and independently as possible in their homes, communities, and places of employment. They serve consumers in a variety of public outreach organizations while working alongside social workers, probation officers, family and children's services workers, detectives, physicians, and other specialists.

Median Salary: $77,030 or $37.03 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Adult day service programs
- Advocacy centers
- Case management offices
- Community mental health centers
- Correctional/detention facilities
- Councils on Aging
- Crisis units
- Day treatment centers
- Domestic violence shelters
- Group homes
- Homeless shelters
- Hospice programs
- K-12 schools
- Military bases
- Non-profit organizations
- Public health departments
- Public welfare agencies
- Residential treatment centers
- Skilled nursing care facilities
- Social service agencies
- Substance use disorder treatment programs

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- An associate, bachelor's, or master's degree in human service

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certification available from the Center for Credentialing & Education (cce-global.org) for the Human Services-Board Certified Practitioner (HS-BCP) credential

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Public Human Services Association
aphsa.org

Council for Standards in Human Service Education
cshse.org

National Organization for Human Services
nationalhumanservices.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Georgia Highlands College

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Clayton State University
College of Coastal Georgia
Georgia Gwinnet College
Gordon State College
Kennesaw State University
Mercer University
Piedmont University
Point University
Shorter University
Spelman College
University of North Georgia

MASTER'S DEGREE

Mercer University
University of North Georgia

Psychologist

Identifies and treats problems with mental health, personal relationships, substance misuse, and other issues

Ideal Attributes:

- Analytical problem-solver
- Effective communicator
- Emotionally stable
- Self-aware

Psychologists specialize in human behavior. With tools like interviews, tests, and questionnaires, they find out about a person's thoughts, feelings, development, information processing, intellectual level, perceptions, and relationships. Depending upon their specialty area, psychologists are committed to preventing, identifying, and treating problems with clients' mental health, personal relationships, and academic or occupational functioning. Working with all ages, they deal with issues such as stress, depression, anxiety, self-esteem, eating disorders, anger management, aggressive/violent behavior, relationship conflict, and substance use disorders. They also work with people with autism, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, learning disabilities, and traumatic brain injury.

Median Salary: $92,740 or $44.59 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Behavioral and cognitive psychology
- Clinical child and adolescent psychology
- Clinical health psychology
- Clinical neuropsychology
- Clinical psychology
- Counseling psychology
- Couple and family psychology
- Forensic psychology
- Geropsychology
- Group psychology
- Organizational and business consulting psychology
- Police and public safety psychology
- Psychoanalysis
- Rehabilitation psychology
- School psychology

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Colleges and universities
- Consulting firms
- Corporations
- Correctional/detention facilities
- Federal and state agencies
- Market research firms
- Medical hospitals
- Mental health clinics
- Military bases
- Private practices
- Psychiatric hospitals
- Rehabilitation centers
- Veterans Affairs healthcare facilities

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree in a relevant field for admission to graduate-level psychology programs
- For Clinical/Counseling Psychologists: A doctoral degree from an educational program accredited by the American Psychological Association (accreditation.apa.org) that includes a year-long internship in a specialty area followed by 1500 hours of postdoctoral Supervised Work Experience
- For School Psychologists: A specialist or doctoral degree from an educational program approved by the National Association of School Psychologists (www.nasponline.org) along with a 1200 hour supervised internship
- Optional post-doctoral training

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (sos.ga.gov/georgia-state-board-examiners-psychologists)
- Required state certification for school psychologists from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (gapsc.com)
- National specialty certifications available from the American Board of Professional Psychology (abpp.org)
- National certification available from the National Association of School Psychologists (www.nasponline.org) for the Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) credential

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Psychological Association
apa.org

Georgia Psychological Association
gapsychology.org

National Association of School Psychologists
nasponline.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Clinical and Counseling Psychologist
DOCTORAL DEGREE

Brenau University
Emory University
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
Mercer University
University of Georgia

School Psychologist
POST-MASTER'S AND DOCTORAL DEGREE

Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
University of Georgia

Social Worker

Improves the lives of others by helping them cope with and resolve needs, conditions, and crises

Ideal Attributes:

- Analytical problem-solver
- Empathetic
- Respectful
- Team-oriented

Social workers ensure that individuals, families, and communities have the resources they need to address problems such as discrimination, social injustice, child abuse, homelessness, substance misuse, and poverty. They provide counseling to clients in every stage of life on issues such as divorce, death, stress, and unemployment. Social workers seek social justice for vulnerable and oppressed populations and are committed to positive social change. These professionals often assist with placing people back into society after hospitalization or rehabilitation. They may also organize support groups for families of patients suffering from cancer, AIDS, Alzheimer's disease, or other physical and mental health challenges. Simply put, social workers help people help themselves.

Median Salary: $58,380 or $28.07 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

The National Association of Social Workers (socialworkers.org) offers credentials for the following specialty practice areas:

- Addictions
- Case management
- Clinical
- Education
- Gerontology
- Healthcare
- Hospice and palliative care
- Military
- Youth and family

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Advocacy and lobbying groups
- Colleges and universities
- Correctional/detention facilities
- Government agencies
- Group homes
- HIV/AIDS clinics
- Home health agencies
- Hospice programs
- Hospitals and health systems
- K-12 schools
- Mental health centers
- Non-profit organizations
- Skilled nursing care facilities
- Social service agencies
- Substance use disorder treatment facilities

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree in social work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (cswe.org) for entry-level positions
- A master's degree in social work from a CSWE accredited program usually pursued after gaining work experience, often necessary to work in clinical settings, considered the terminal degree for professional practice, and required for licensure
- Doctoral degree programs focused on research also available

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage & Family Therapists (sos.ga.gov/board-professional-counselors-social-workers-and-marriage-family-therapists) for the Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) or the Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) credentials
- National certification available from the National Association of Social Workers (socialworkers.org) for the Academy of Certified Social Workers (ACSW) and Diplomate in Clinical Social Work (DCSW) credentials and for listed areas of specialization

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
socialworkers.org

NASW Georgia Chapter
naswga.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

BACHELOR'S, MASTER'S, AND DOCTORAL DEGREE

Clark Atlanta University
University of Georgia

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Albany State University
Augusta University
Dalton State College
Fort Valley State University
Georgia State University
Middle Georgia State University
Point University
Savannah State University
Thomas University

MASTER'S DEGREE

Albany State University
Chamberlain University
Georgia State University
Kennesaw State University
Savannah State University
Valdosta State University

Nursing

Nursing, a challenging but rewarding profession, is one of the most in-demand health careers.

Our nation is facing a serious nursing shortage that is expected to continue over the next decade. Nurses are critical because they expand access to healthcare, improve the quality and safety of healthcare, and reduce healthcare costs. Because they provide personal and direct patient care, nurses require excellent clinical skills combined with high levels of sensitivity, stamina, compassion, and judgment in order to meet the physical and emotional needs of their patients.

The profession of nursing offers a wide variety of career opportunities through multiple levels of education and professional practice. Becoming a nursing assistant can be achieved in a short time through a certification program, while a licensed practical nurse program requires up to 2 years of study. Registered nursing programs are offered at the associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels, and graduate-level programs provide advanced education and training in fields such as anesthesia and midwifery. Across the country, thousands of qualified applicants are turned away from nursing programs due to the insufficient number of nursing faculty; therefore, nurse educators are in high demand to fill this void.

CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST	GROWING
LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE	GROWING
NURSE ANESTHETIST	
NURSE EDUCATOR	HOT CAREER
NURSE MIDWIFE	
NURSE PRACTITIONER	HOT CAREER
NURSING ASSISTANT	GROWING
REGISTERED NURSE	GROWING

Clinical Nurse Specialist

Provides direct patient care and education to individuals, families, groups, and communities

Promotes the advancement of nursing practice in a variety of healthcare settings

Ideal Attributes:

- Able to multi-task
- Analytical thinker
- Effective communicator
- Works well under pressure

Clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) are advanced practice registered nurses who improve outcomes in patient care through their expertise in clinical practice, patient education, evidence-based practice, and consultation. They practice in a specialized area of nursing that focuses on a type of disease or medical subspecialty (such as diabetes or oncology), a setting (such as the emergency room or the intensive care unit), a population (such as neonatal, pediatric, adult, or geriatric), a type of problem (such as pain or wound care), or a type of care (such as rehabilitation). CNSs can also provide consultation, education, and training for nursing staffs, implement improvements in healthcare delivery systems, and assist in health-related research and innovation.

Median Salary: $93,218 or $44.82 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Adult-gerontology
- Adult-gerontology critical care
- Neonatal
- Pediatric

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Community agencies
- Hospitals and health systems
- Primary care or ambulatory specialty settings
- Public health departments/clinics
- Skilled nursing or long-term care facilities

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) degree and a current nursing license for admission to a clinical nurse specialist program
- A master of science in nursing (MSN) degree or post-MSN certificate from an educational program accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (aacnnursing.org/ccne-accreditation) or the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (acenursing.org)

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure and advanced practice authorization from the Georgia Board of Nursing (sos.ga.gov/georgia-board-nursing) for the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) credential
- National specialty certifications available from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (nursingworld.org/ancc), American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (aacn.org), and other organizations accredited by the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (absnc.org)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Nurses Association
nursingworld.org

Georgia Nurses Association
georgianurses.nursingnetwork.com

National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
nacns.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

GEORGIA DOES NOT HAVE ANY CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST PROGRAMS.

Programs listed are located in neighboring states.

MASTER'S DEGREE

East Carolina University (NC)
ecu.edu

University of South Alabama (AL)
southalabama.edu

POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE

East Carolina University (NC)
ecu.edu

Licensed Practical Nurse

Provides basic nursing care and treatment to patients in a variety of healthcare settings

Ideal Attributes:

- Detail-oriented and flexible
- Follows instructions well
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Works well under pressure

Licensed practical nurses (LPNs) work under the supervision of a physician or a registered nurse to provide basic nursing care. Their duties include collecting specimens for laboratory tests, changing dressings, assessing patient needs, and following care plans. LPNs evaluate vital signs such as temperature, pulse, respiration, and blood pressure. In some states they may administer prescribed injections, medications, and intravenous fluids. They also observe and document patient reactions to medications and treatments. In an office setting, LPNs may help with administrative tasks such as making appointments and keeping patient records. In a home setting, LPNs can instruct families on nursing care. In addition to their nursing duties, experienced LPNs may supervise nursing assistants.

Median Salary: $59,730 or $28.72 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Community health clinics
- Dialysis centers
- Hospitals
- K-12 schools
- Long-term care facilities
- Mental health facilities
- Military bases
- Medical practices
- Private residences
- Public health departments
- Skilled nursing care facilities
- Visiting nurse associations

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A high school diploma or equivalent
- A certificate or diploma from an educational program accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (acenursing.org)

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia Board of Nursing (sos.ga.gov/georgia-board-nursing) for the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) credential
- National certification available from the National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service, Inc. (napnes.org) in long-term care, pharmacology, and IV therapy

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

National Association of Licensed Professional Nurses
nalpn.org

National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service, Inc.
napnes.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

CERTIFICATE

Albany Technical College
Athens Technical College
Augusta Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College
Coastal Pines Technical College
Columbus Technical College
Dalton State College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Georgia Piedmont Technical College
Herzing University
Lanier Technical College
North Georgia Technical College
Oconee Fall Line Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Savannah Technical College
South College
South Georgia Technical College
Southeastern Technical College
Southern Crescent Technical College
Southern Regional Technical College
West Georgia Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

DIPLOMA

Herzing University

Nurse Anesthetist

Administers and adjusts the dosage of anesthetic drugs and other medications

Monitors vital signs, manages the airway, and controls breathing during surgery

Ideal Attributes:

- Analytical problem-solver
- Intense, sustained focus
- Manual dexterity
- Works well under pressure

Anesthesia is the use of drugs, gases, and nerve blocks to provide a partial or total loss of awareness and pain during surgery. Caring for patients before, during, and after surgical procedures, nurse anesthetists blend nursing skills with the practice of anesthesia. They provide services similar to those of anesthesiologists and may work independently or in collaboration with a physician. Nurse anesthetists are often the sole anesthesia provider in rural areas. They interview patients before surgery and design a customized plan of care based on medical history and type of surgery. During surgery, they assure optimal patient safety and comfort. The critical responsibility of safeguarding surgical patients makes this job one of the most demanding advanced practice registered nurse roles.

Median Salary: $212,650 or $106.33 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Nonsurgical pain management
- Regional anesthesia

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Ambulatory surgery centers
- Dental practices
- Hospitals
- Military bases
- Pain clinics
- Public health services

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A minimum of a bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) degree, a current unencumbered registered nursing license, and 1 to 2 years of experience as a registered nurse in critical care required for admission to a nursing anesthesia program
- A doctoral degree from an educational program accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (coacrna.org)

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure and advanced practice authorization from the Georgia Board of Nursing (sos.ga.gov/georgia-board-nursing) for the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) credential
- Required national certification from the National Board of Certification & Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (nbcrna.com) for the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) credential

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
aana.com

Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists
gana.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

DOCTORAL DEGREE

Augusta University
Emory University

Nurse Educator

Educates the next generation of nurses

Designs, teaches, and evaluates nursing curriculum and standards

Ideal Attributes:

- Critical thinker
- Motivational and supportive
- Passionate
- Professional

Nurse educators are registered nurses with graduate-level education in nursing and extensive clinical experience who play a vital role in preparing future generations of nurses to meet the ever-changing need of a global community. They are employed as faculty members in nursing schools, or they may work as hospital-based staff development educators or clinical supervisors. Nurse educators specialize in using active teaching and learning techniques, such as high-fidelity simulation, so students can apply their knowledge and develop clinical reasoning skills. They design education programs, develop lesson plans, teach courses, oversee students' clinical practice, and promote research focused on best nursing practices; however, many choose to continue clinical practice as well.

Median Salary: $84,380 or $40.57 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Colleges and universities
- Community health agencies
- Healthcare facilities
- Healthcare research centers
- Home health agencies
- Hospital-based schools of nursing
- Hospitals and health systems
- Long-term care facilities

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A master's degree, post-master's certificate, and/or doctoral degree from an educational program accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (aacnnursing.org/ccne-accreditation)
- A doctoral degree with a focus in nursing education preferred for academic-based nurse educators

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia Board of Nursing (sos.ga.gov/georgia-board-nursing)
- National certification available from the National League for Nursing (nln.org) for the Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) and Certified Academic Clinical Nurse Educator (CNEcl) credentials
- Specialty certification as a nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, nurse midwife, or nurse anesthetist required if teaching in those specific areas

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of Colleges of Nursing
aacnnursing.org

American Nurses Association
nursingworld.org

Georgia Association for Nursing Education, Inc.
gane.nursingnetwork.com

National League for Nursing
nln.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

MASTER'S DEGREE

Albany State University
Columbus State University
Georgia Southern University
Kennesaw State University
Reinhardt University
University of West Georgia

MASTER'S DEGREE AND POSTMASTER'S CERTIFICATE

Chamberlain University
Georgia College
Georgia Southwestern State University
Herzing University
South University
Thomas University
University of North Georgia

DOCTORAL DEGREE

Emory University
Georgia State University
Mercer University
University of North Georgia
University of West Georgia

Nurse Midwife

Provides care for healthy women before, during, and after pregnancy and childbirth

Gives regular well-woman care from teen years to after menopause

Ideal Attributes:

- Compassionate and patient
- Effective communicator
- Strong collaboration skills
- Works well under pressure

Certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) are advanced practice registered nurses who are educated in midwifery and receive additional training in women's healthcare. They provide labor support, independently manage vaginal birth, assess and care for healthy newborns, assist with breast- or other feeding plans, and are advocates for informed decision-making. CNMs are prized members of the childbirth team because they offer safe, empowering prenatal and birth care. Accessibility to this high-quality care is especially valuable in rural and inner-city areas with few physicians. CNMs have helped to reduce maternal and infant mortality by providing comprehensive healthcare and by expanding prenatal care services. CNMs also provide annual exams, contraception, and hormone therapy as indicated and desired.

Median Salary: $92,560 or $44.50 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Birthing centers
- Clinics
- Hospitals
- Managed care organizations
- Physician practices
- Private practices
- Private residences
- Public health departments

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) degree and a current nursing license required for admission into many nurse midwifery programs; nursing experience may be also be required
- A bachelor's degree in another field acceptable for some accelerated master's level midwifery programs that include both nursing and midwifery education
- A graduate degree or a post-graduate certificate from an educational program accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (midwife.org/acme)

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure and advanced practice authorization from the Georgia Board of Nursing (sos.ga.gov/index.php/licensing/plb/45) for the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) credential
- Required national certification from the American Midwifery Certification Board (amcbmidwife.org) for the Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM) credential

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American College of Nurse-Midwives
midwife.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

MASTER'S DEGREE AND POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE

Emory University
Georgia College & State University

Nurse Practitioner

Conducts health histories, screenings, and physical exams to assess health conditions and to promote health

Evaluates patients, orders tests, makes diagnoses, and manages treatment plans including prescribing medications

Ideal Attributes:

- Effective communicator
- Lifelong learner
- Team-oriented
- Works well under pressure

Nurse practitioners (NPs) are advanced practice registered nurses with graduate education and specialty certification. In addition to clinical care, NPs focus on health promotion and disease prevention by educating patients and their families regarding their conditions and the need for preventive activities. In Georgia, NPs work in collaboration with physicians and other healthcare providers; in other states, they may work independently. They deliver primary care in diverse settings including underserved regions, rural communities, and inner-city areas. Some NPs own their own practices and are reimbursed for services by state and federal government as well as many insurance companies. As the nation continues to experience a lack of qualified healthcare providers, the healthcare system will depend on NPs to provide quality care.

Median Salary: $126,260 or $60.70 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Nurse practitioner education programs are offered in the population specializations listed below. Additional specialty certifications are available through various certifying organizations approved by the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (absnc.org).

- Adult-gerontology acute care
- Adult-gerontology primary care
- Family health
- Neonatal care
- Pediatric acute care
- Pediatric primary care
- Psychiatric/mental health
- Women's health

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Colleges and universities
- Community health centers
- Home health agencies
- Hospitals
- Managed care organizations
- Migrant health centers
- Military bases
- Private physician or NP practices
- Public health departments
- Retail store clinics
- Rural health clinics
- Skilled nursing care facilities
- State and federal health agencies

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) degree and a current nursing license for admission to a nurse practitioner program
- A master's degree, post-master's certificate, or doctoral degree from an educational program accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (aacnnursing.org/ccne-accreditation)

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure and advanced practice authorization from the Georgia Board of Nursing (sos.ga.gov/georgia-board-nursing) for the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) credential
- Required national certification for areas of specialization from various certifying organizations approved by the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (absnc.org)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of Nurse Practitioners
aanp.org

American Nurses Association
nursingworld.org

Georgia Nurses Association
georgianurses.nursingnetwork.com

United Advanced Practice Registered Nurses of Georgia
uaprn.enpnetwork.com

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

MASTER'S DEGREE

Albany State University
Columbus State University
Kennesaw State University

MASTER'S DEGREE AND POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE

Chamberlain University
Clayton State University
Georgia College and State University
Georgia Southwestern University
Georgia State University
Herzing University
Mercer University
Middle Georgia State University
South University
University of North Georgia

MASTER'S DEGREE, POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE, AND DOCTORAL DEGREE

Brenau University
Emory University
Georgia Southern University
Valdosta State University

POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE AND DOCTORAL DEGREE

Augusta University

Nursing Assistant

Provides routine patient care

Ideal Attributes:

- Compassionate and patient
- Follows instructions well
- Physical endurance
- Strong interpersonal skills

Certified nursing assistants (CNAs), also known as certified nurse aides, play a vital role in healthcare delivery working under the supervision of a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or physician. They answer patient call lights, serve meals, and check blood pressure, temperature, pulse, and respiration. CNAs visit with patients while helping them change position, walk, bathe, and eat. They generally have a great deal of patient contact and are important in developing patient relationships that foster trust. CNAs employed by home health agencies allow patients who need additional care to recover at home rather than in hospitals or skilled nursing care facilities. CNAs who complete a medication aide training program can assist with medications in an assisted living community setting.

Median Salary: $38,130 or $18.33 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Assisted living facilities
- Home health agencies
- Hospice programs
- Hospitals
- Mental health facilities
- Physician practices
- Private residences
- Skilled nursing care facilities

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A high school diploma or equivalent recommended
- A certificate from a state-approved educational program including at least 85 hours of classroom and laboratory instruction and 24 hours of supervised clinical experience

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state certification for the Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) credential and registration with the Georgia Nurse Aide Registry

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

National Association of Health Care Assistants
nahcacna.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

In addition to the programs listed, the Georgia Medicaid Management Information System (mmis.georgia.gov) offers a list of state-approved educational programs offered by skilled nursing care facilities, acute care facilities, home health agencies, high schools, technical colleges, colleges, and private post-secondary schools. Click on the Nurse Aide/Medication Aide tab.

CERTIFICATE

Albany Technical College
Athens Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Augusta Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College
Coastal Pines Technical College
Columbus Technical College
Georgia Highlands College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Georgia Piedmont Technical College
Gwinnett Technical College
Kennesaw State University
Lanier Technical College
Georgia Allied Health Institute
North Georgia Nursing Academy
North Georgia Technical College
Oconee Fall Line Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Savannah Technical College
South Georgia Technical College
Southeastern Technical College
Southern Crescent Technical College
Southern Regional Technical College
University of West Georgia
West Georgia Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

Registered Nurse

Delivers direct care and health education to individuals, families, groups, and communities in a variety of healthcare settings

Ideal Attributes:

- Compassionate
- Critical Thinker
- Service-oriented
- Works well under pressure

Registered nurses (RNs) work closely with physicians and other professionals as part of a healthcare team. RNs use a broad knowledge base to assess and understand problems, administer treatments, and make decisions about patient care. They interpret and respond to patient symptoms, reactions, and progress. RNs also teach patients and families about health promotion, assist in patient rehabilitation, and provide emotional and physical support to promote recovery and well-being. RNs may supervise nurse aides, nursing assistants, and licensed practical nurses. Nursing is a challenging and rewarding career that will continue to be in high demand well into the future.

Median Salary: $86,070 or $41.38 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

There are many work environments, patient populations, and medical conditions in which an RN can specialize such as pediatrics, geriatrics, psychiatric/mental health, school nursing, public health nursing, and informatics. Visit the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (absnc.org) to see a list of all accredited specialty nursing certification programs.

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Ambulatory surgery centers
- Birthing centers
- Colleges and universities
- Community health centers
- Correctional/detention facilities
- Dialysis centers
- Hospitals
- Industry
- K-12 schools
- Long-term care facilities
- Mental health facilities
- Migrant centers
- Military bases
- Physician practices
- Private residences
- Public health departments
- Rehabilitation centers

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- An associate degree or a bachelor's degree from an educational program approved by the Georgia Board of Nursing (sos.ga.gov/georgia-board-nursing)
- Optional advanced education and training leading to master's or doctoral degree for specialists including clinical nurse specialists, nurse anesthetists, nurse educators, nurse informaticists, nurse leaders, nurse midwives, and nurse practitioners

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia Board of Nursing (sos.ga.gov/georgia-board-nursing) for the Registered Nurse (RN) credential
- National specialty certifications available from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (nursingworld.org/ancc) and other nurse certification organizations accredited by the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (absnc.org)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of Colleges of Nursing
aacnnursing.org

American Nurses Association
nursingworld.org

Georgia Nurses Association
georgianurses.nursingnetwork.com

National League for Nursing
nln.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Many of the following schools offer bridge or completion programs (examples: LPN to RN, EMT to RN, RN to BSN, RN to MSN) that allow you to move to the next career level while giving credit for skills already learned through school or work experience. Many schools offer online classes as well as satellite programs for registered nursing education on other college campuses. Contact the individual schools for more information or visit the Georgia Board of Nursing website (sos.ga.gov/georgia-board-nursing) to see a list of approved schools and satellite programs.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
Albany State University
Albany Technical College
Andrew College
Athens Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Augusta Technical College
Cambridge College of Healthcare and Technology
Central Georgia Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College
Coastal Pines Technical College
College of Coastal Georgia
Columbus Technical College
Dalton State College
Fort Valley State University
Georgia Highlands College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Georgia Southwestern State University
Gordon State College
Gwinnett Technical College
Lanier Technical College
Middle Georgia State University
North Georgia Technical College
Oconee Fall Line Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Perimeter College at Georgia State University
South College
South Georgia State College
Southeastern Technical College
Southern Crescent Technical College
Southern Regional Technical College
West Georgia Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
Albany State University
Augusta University
Berry College
Brenau University
Brewton Parker College
Chamberlain University
Clayton State University
College of Coastal Georgia
Columbus State University
Dalton State College
Emory University
Fort Valley State University
Georgia College and State University
Georgia Gwinnett College
Georgia Highlands College
Georgia Southern University
Georgia Southwestern State University
Georgia State University
Gordon State College
Herzing University
Kennesaw State University
LaGrange College
Mercer University
Middle Georgia State University
Piedmont University
Reinhardt University
Shorter University
South College
South Georgia State College
South University
Thomas University
Toccoa Falls College
Truett McConnell University
University of North Georgia
University of West Georgia
Valdosta State University
Wesleyan College

MASTER'S DEGREE

Albany State University
Augusta University
Brenau University
Chamberlain University
Clayton State University
Columbus State University
Emory University
Georgia College and University
Georgia Southern University
Georgia Southwestern State University
Georgia State University
Herzing University
Kennesaw State University
Mercer University
Middle Georgia State University
Reinhardt University
South University
Thomas University
University of North Georgia
University of West Georgia
Valdosta State University

DOCTORAL DEGREE

Augusta University
Brenau University
Emory University
Georgia College
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
Kennesaw State University
Mercer University
South University
University of North Georgia
University of West Georgia

Pharmacy

Members of the pharmacy team are some of the most accessible healthcare professionals.

These individuals are responsible for providing their clients with confidence, guidance, and awareness about using medications. Pharmacists work with physicians to accurately prepare prescriptions and dosages. Safely dispensing effective medicines to cure, prevent, or alleviate disease is a primary goal of these specialists. Individuals in this career shoulder great responsibility, but they also enjoy the challenge and gratification of helping consumers make informed choices.

PHARMACIST	HOT CAREER
PHARMACY TECHNICIAN	GROWING

Pharmacist

Verifies the accuracy and appropriateness of medications prescribed by physicians or advanced practice providers

Counsels patients on appropriate medication use, safety, and side effect management

Ideal Attributes:

- Detail-oriented and precise
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills
- Moves quickly between tasks
- Strong interpersonal skills

Pharmacists serve as medication specialists on patient care teams by providing information to assure optimal health outcomes with drug therapy. Pharmacists partner with physicians to assist patients in managing chronic diseases such as diabetes or hypertension. They educate and counsel patients on aspects of their disease or condition and the medications used to treat it. They also help consumers select the proper over-the-counter medications for minor health problems. In some pharmacies, pharmacists compound and dispense patient-specific medications that are not commercially available. Many pharmacists own or manage pharmacies and may have other duties such as supervising pharmacy staff and purchasing medications and other health-related supplies.

Median Salary: $136,030 or $65.40 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Though many graduates will work in community pharmacies and focus on patient care and business management without requiring additional certification, the Board of Pharmacy Specialties (bpsweb.org) provides specialty certification in the following areas:

- Ambulatory care pharmacy
- Cardiology pharmacy
- Compounded sterile preparations pharmacy
- Critical care pharmacy
- Emergency Medicine pharmacy
- Geriatric pharmacy
- Infectious disease pharmacy
- Nuclear pharmacy
- Nutrition support pharmacy
- Oncology pharmacy
- Pain Management pharmacy
- Pediatric pharmacy
- Pharmacotherapy
- Psychiatric pharmacy
- Solid organ transplantation pharmacy

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Clinics
- Colleges and universities
- Community pharmacies
- Government agencies
- Hospitals
- Managed care organizations
- Military bases
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Public health departments
- Retail pharmacies

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Completion of 2 to 3 years of pre-pharmacy undergraduate coursework
- A doctoral degree in pharmacy (PharmD) from an educational program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (acpe-accredit.org)
- Optional 1 to 2 years of residency training for clinical and specialty practice

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia Board of Pharmacy (gbp.georgia.gov)
- National specialty certifications available from the Board of Pharmacy Specialties (bpsweb.org)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
aacp.org

American Pharmacists Association
pharmacist.com

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
ashp.org

National Community Pharmacists Association
ncpa.org

Georgia Pharmacy Association
gpha.org

Georgia Society of Health-System Pharmacists
gshp.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

DOCTORAL DEGREE

Mercer University
PCOM
South University
University of Georgia

Pharmacy Technician

Prepares and distributes medications under the direct supervision of a pharmacist

Ideal Attributes:

- Dependable and flexible
- Hand-eye coordination
- Effective communicator
- Team-oriented

Pharmacy technicians perform many routine pharmacy operations. They are trained to receive and verify prescription orders for completeness and accuracy. Then, with a great deal of precision, these health professionals fill orders by measuring, compounding (mixing), counting, and labeling medications. Pharmacy technicians also prepare intravenous solutions. They order, stock, package, and maintain the inventory of medications. Pharmacy technicians must be skilled in performing basic computer operations, determining drug charges, processing insurance claims, and providing excellent customer service.

Median Salary: $40,300 or $19.37 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Clinics
- Compounding pharmacies
- Correctional/detention facility pharmacies
- Home health pharmacies
- Home infusion pharmacies
- Hospitals
- Mail order pharmacies
- Managed care organizations
- Military bases
- Nuclear pharmacies
- Retail pharmacies
- Skilled nursing care and long-term care pharmacies

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A high school diploma or equivalent
- On-the-job training available
- Formal training available at the certificate, diploma, and associate degree levels

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state registration from the Georgia Board of Pharmacy (gbp.georgia.gov)
- National certification available from the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (ptcb.org) for the Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT), Advanced Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT-Adv), and other credentials

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Pharmacists Association
pharmacist.com

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
ashp.org

Georgia Pharmacy Association
gpha.org

Georgia Society of Health-System Pharmacists
gshp.org

National Pharmacy Technician Association
pharmacytechnician.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

CERTIFICATE

Albany Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Augusta Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Kennesaw State University
University of Georgia
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

DIPLOMA

Augusta Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College

DIPLOMA AND ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Albany Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Columbus Technical College
Oconee Fall Line Technical College
West Georgia Technical College

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Miller-Motte Technical College

Public Health

Public health professionals are committed to the promotion of good health and the prevention of disease and injury.

Rather than focusing on diagnosing and treating disease in individuals, public health professionals seek to improve the health of communities through prevention and health promotion. They may analyze statistical data to identify health trends in communities, work to ensure a healthy environment and workplace, study disease, or teach health education programs. These professionals have contributed to public health achievements including the fluoridation of drinking water, increased car seat and seat belt use, tobacco-free environments, and control of infectious diseases.

BIOSTATISTICIAN

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST — HOT CAREER

EPIDEMIOLOGIST

HEALTH EDUCATOR — HOT CAREER

Biostatistician

Develops and applies methods of collecting, interpreting, and analyzing medical and health science data

Ideal Attributes:

- Effective communicator
- Strong analytical skills
- Strong computing skills

Biostatisticians use their knowledge of statistics to design innovative studies, compile relevant information, and convey findings using graphs, tables, and text. They work closely with epidemiologists, survey researchers, local community planners, health policy analysts, and government officials to identify risk factors for diseases and injuries and to identify health trends in communities. Their duties include planning and directing research studies related to public health, designing and monitoring clinical trials, and developing surveys to assess health status. Biostatisticians analyze and interpret clinical or survey data related to topics including the occurrence of gun violence, the efficacy of new drugs, trends in cancer incidence, or morbidity and mortality from specific diseases.

Median Salary: $115,850 or $55.70 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Colleges and universities
- Consulting firms
- Health insurance companies
- Hospitals and health systems
- Industry
- International health agencies
- Local, state, and federal government agencies
- Non-profit organizations
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Private health agencies
- Public health departments
- Research institutions
- Research laboratories

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in biostatistics from an educational program accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (ceph.org), or in a closely related field such as statistics, data science, bioinformatics, or quantitative methods

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certification available from the American Statistical Association (amstat.org) for the Graduate Statistician (GStat) and Accredited Professional Statistician (PStat) credentials

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Public Health Association
apha.org

American Statistical Association
amstat.org

International Biometric Society
biometricsociety.org

Society for Clinical Trials
sctweb.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

MASTER'S DEGREE

Augusta University
Emory University
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
University of Georgia

DOCTORAL DEGREE

Augusta University
Emory University
Georgia Southern University
University of Georgia

Community Health Worker

Improves access to healthcare, social services, and education for communities

Provides clinical care coordination and patient follow-up for healthcare providers

Ideal Attributes:

- Effective communicator
- Good judgment
- Problem-solver
- Resourceful

Community health workers improve the well-being of communities that lack access to adequate healthcare and social services due to cultural, economic, geographic, and/or language barriers. They understand the attitudes, cultures, languages, and perspectives of the community members they serve and use that knowledge to improve the quality and cultural appropriateness of the services and information offered. They build the capacity of community members to participate in their own care by promoting healthy behaviors such as prenatal care, breastfeeding, healthy eating, exercise, and compliance with prescribed treatments and care plans for chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and hypertension. They may also provide informal counseling and social support as well as first aid and health screenings.

Median Salary: $48,200 or $23.17 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Businesses
- Clinics
- Community centers
- Faith-based organizations
- Hospitals
- K-12 schools
- Private residences
- Public health departments
- Shelters
- Social service agencies

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A high school diploma or equivalent
- On-the-job training provided by employers
- Formal education and training at the certificate or diploma level sometimes available through community colleges and/or health and social service agencies

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- State certification programs available in some states, but Georgia does not currently offer this option

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Public Health Association - Community Health Worker Section
apha.org/apha-communities/membersections/community-health-workers

Georgia Department of Public Health Community Health Workers
dph.georgia.gov/chronic-disease-prevention/community-health-workers

National Association of Community Health Workers
nachw.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Check with the Georgia Department of Public Health (chwprogram@dph.ga.gov), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (cdc.gov), American Cancer Society (cancer.org), American Red Cross (redcross.org), or your local AHEC for courses that offer beneficial training.

CERTIFICATE

Morehouse School of Medicine

Environmental Health Specialist

Evaluates and responds to the environmental quality of a community

Works with businesses to ensure safety of products and services being sold/offered to communities.

Ideal Attributes:

- Analytical, critical thinker
- Effective communicator
- Problem-solver
- Strong science skills

Environmental health specialists inspect, collect, and analyze data related to air, food, soil, water, sewage, pests, and disease vectors to determine if a hazard to public health and safety exists and respond with prevention and elimination strategies to protect the environment. They may pursue careers in community planning and development, food safety, legislation, risk assessment, toxicology, waste management, integrated pest management, or occupational health and safety. They are responsible for enforcing state and federal regulations that pertain to environmental issues such as air and water quality, cleanliness and safety of housing and institutional environments, and handling of hazardous and infectious wastes. They inspect childcare facilities, food establishments, schools, sewage and water systems, spas, and swimming pools.

Median Salary: $78,980 or $37.97 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Colleges and universities
- Consulting firms
- Environmental and other government agencies
- Industry
- Local and state health departments
- Non-profit or community organizations
- Private and commercial research facilities
- Private companies

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree in environmental health or related field with strong science background for entry-level positions
- A graduate degree in public health with an environmental health focus from a program accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (ceph.org) for career advancement or the National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council (EHAC) for the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (usphs.gov).

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certifications available from the National Environmental Health Association (neha.org) including the Registered Environmental Health Specialist/ Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS) credential
- National certification available from the American Board of Industrial Hygiene (abih.org), including the Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) credential

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Industrial Hygiene Association
aiha.org

Georgia Environmental Health Association
geha-online.org

National Center for Environmental Health
cdc.gov/nceh

National Environmental Health Association
neha.org

Georgia Public Health Association
www.gapha.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Dalton State University
Emory University
Georgia Southern University
University of Georgia

MASTER'S DEGREE

Emory University
Fort Valley State University
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
University of Georgia

DOCTORAL DEGREE

Emory University
Georgia State University
University of Georgia

Epidemiologist

Investigates the causes of diseases and ways to predict, prevent, and control them

Collects data and uses statistics to identify and measure patterns of disease occurrence in populations

Ideal Attributes:

- Analytical problem-solver
- Critical thinker
- Effective communicator
- Strong math skills

Epidemiologists collect and analyze data to investigate the risk factors, causes, and impact of diseases, injuries, and other health-related conditions in populations and how diseases work inside the body. They study the development of both infectious and chronic health conditions and their impacts across the lifespan. They are involved with disease surveillance and health assessment (knowing what needs to be done), policy development (being part of the solution), and assurance (making sure it happens). Epidemiologists evaluate disease in communities, healthcare systems, and broader global settings and construct programs for effective prevention, intervention, and control of the disease. Research epidemiologists study both infectious and chronic diseases that can affect the entire body, attempting to eradicate or control these diseases. Clinical epidemiologists work primarily as consultants for hospitals who inform the medical staff of infectious outbreaks and provide containment solutions. They often collaborate with clinicians, policy makers, community leaders, statisticians, and other health professionals.

Median Salary: $81,390 or $39.13 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Colleges and universities
- Consulting firms
- Hospitals
- Local, state, and federal government
- Non-profit organizations
- Private companies
- Public health departments
- Research institutions
- Research laboratories

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree for admission to a graduate program
- A master's degree in public health (MPH or MSPH) with a concentration in epidemiology from an educational program accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (ceph.org)
- A doctoral degree (PhD or DrPH) suggested for research/academia or leadership/management, respectively

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certification available from the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc. (cbic.org) for the Certified in Infection Control (CIC) credential
- National certification available from the National Board of Public Health Examiners (nbphe.org) for the Certified in Public Health (CPH) credential

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American College of Epidemiology
acepidemiology.org

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
apic.org

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
cste.org

International Epidemiological Association
ieaweb.org

Society for Epidemiologic Research
epiresearch.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

MASTER'S DEGREE

Augusta University
Emory University
Fort Valley State University
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
University of Georgia

DOCTORAL DEGREE

Emory University
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
Mercer University
University of Georgia

Health Educator

Promotes, maintains, and improves health and wellness by encouraging healthy behaviors, environments, and outcomes

Ideal Attributes:

- Desires to serve others
- Effective communicator
- Flexible and organized
- Strong interpersonal skills

Health educators, also known as health education specialists, collect and analyze data using assessments and evaluations to determine the health and wellness needs of the people they serve. They plan and implement culturally appropriate programming and education to improve their audience's well-being and then monitor and evaluate the interventions to determine their effectiveness. They often focus on specific populations and communities or issues such as chronic or infectious diseases, safety, health equity, and substance use disorders. They may also assist individuals or groups to secure grants, collaborate with organizations to solve health problems, and advocate for policy and environmental changes that encourage healthy lifestyles. They are skilled in community mapping and organizing, advocacy, teaching, and writing for diverse audiences.

Median Salary: $62,860 or $30.22 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Business and industry
- Colleges and universities
- Community health organizations
- Faith-based organizations
- Hospitals and other healthcare facilities
- International organizations
- K-12 schools
- Local, state, and federal government agencies
- Private companies

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree in public health, health education, community health, health promotion and behavior, or related area
- Master's (MPH or MSPH) and doctoral (PhD or DrPH) degrees in public health for career advancement

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certification available from the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (nchec.org) for the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) and Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) credentials

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Public Health Association
apha.org

Georgia Public Health Association
gapha.org

Georgia Society for Public Health Education
gasophe.com

Society for Public Health Education
sophe.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Agnes Scott College
Augusta University
Brenau University
Clayton State University
College of Coastal Georgia
Columbus State University
Dalton State University
Georgia College
Georgia Gwinnett College
Georgia Highlands College
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
Gordon State College
Kennesaw State University
Mercer University
Middle Georgia State University
Piedmont University
Point University
South University
Toccoa Falls College
University of Georgia
University of West Georgia
Valdosta State University
Wesleyan College

MASTER'S DEGREE

Augusta University
Columbus State University
Emory University
Georgia College
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
Mercer University
Morehouse School of Medicine
Piedmont University
South University
University of Georgia
University of West Georgia

DOCTORAL DEGREE

Augusta University
Emory University
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
Mercer University
University of Georgia

Radiologic and Imaging Science

Professionals in the field of radiologic and imaging science provide the healthcare team with diagnostic and therapeutic services.

They produce images, provide diagnoses, treat cancer, and explore body functions and structures using radiation, radioactivity, ultrasound, and other methods. The information they provide on the presence and extent of an injury, disease, or impairment is used by the healthcare team to make decisions on how to treat the identified problem. These professionals are trained to operate diagnostic equipment, keep accurate records, and protect the patient and themselves from any harmful effects of a procedure. A career in this field offers challenging and rewarding opportunities.

CARDIOVASCULAR TECHNOLOGIST	HOT CAREER
DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHER	HOT CAREER
MEDICAL DOSIMETRIST	
NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGIST	
RADIATION THERAPIST	
RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST	HOT CAREER

Cardiovascular Technologist

Performs diagnostic tests to determine how well the heart and blood vessels function

Assists physicians in interventional roles to treat specific cardiovascular diseases during procedures

Ideal Attributes:

- Detail-oriented
- Lifelong learner
- Manual dexterity
- Works well under pressure

Cardiovascular technologists (CVTs) assist physicians in diagnosing and treating various cardiovascular disorders. Some CVTs specialize in invasive procedures that involve entering the body, such as heart catheterization and angioplasty. They may also help examine and repair blood vessels in the brain, neck, abdomen, and extremities. Other CVTs who specialize in non-invasive procedures use sonography (ultrasound) to produce images of the heart's chambers and valves and of other non-cardiac vessels. They also use electrocardiography or stress tests to monitor the heart's condition during exercise. CVTs can also specialize in cardiac electrophysiology to assist cardiologists in diagnosing and treating patients with cardiac arrhythmias. CVTs also obtain medical histories, monitor patients, and draw blood.

Median Salary: $80,850 or $38.87 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Cardiac electrophysiology
- Invasive cardiovascular technology
- Non-invasive echocardiography (ECG/EKG)
- Non-invasive vascular ultrasound

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Clinics
- Hospitals
- Medical centers
- Mobile units
- Physician practices
- Military bases

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A diploma, degree, or certificate from an educational program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs Joint Review Committee on Education in Cardiovascular Technology (jrccvt.org)

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certification for specialty areas available from Cardiovascular Credentialing International (cci-online.org) including the Registered Cardiac Electrophysiology Specialist (RCES), Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist (RCIS), Registered Cardiac Sonographer (RCS), and Registered Vascular Specialist (RVS) credentials and from the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ardms.org) for the Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer (RDCS) and Registered Vascular Technologist (RVT) and other applicable credentials.
- Certification required by most employers

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Alliance of Cardiovascular Professionals
acp-online.org

American Society of Echocardiography
asecho.org

Society for Vascular Ultrasound
svu.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

CERTIFICATE

Northside Hospital

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Augusta Technical College (administered with Piedmont Augusta Hospital)
Central Georgia Technical College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Gwinnett Technical College
Southern Crescent Technical College

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Georgia Southern University

Diagnostic Medical Sonographer

Produces diagnostic images using ultrasound (high-frequency sound waves)

Ideal Attributes:

- Critical thinker
- Effective communicator
- Problem-solver
- Strong technological aptitude

Diagnostic medical sonographers use ultrasound equipment to produce dynamic images of internal structures—including the heart, blood vessels, abdomen, pelvis, and breasts—as well as to measure fetal growth and development in expectant mothers. Diagnostic medical sonographers prepare patients for exams, explain procedures, select appropriate equipment, and operate the ultrasound machine. They display images on a video monitor and are able to identify the anatomy and pathology of various organs. The images they produce are reviewed and interpreted by a physician in order to assess and diagnose abnormalities or medial conditions. They keep accurate records, including patient information and sonographic data, and may also be responsible for some preliminary image interpretation.

Median Salary: $80,850 or $38.87 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Abdomen
- Adult echocardiography (ECG/EKG)
- Breast
- Fetal echocardiography (ECG/EKG)
- Musculoskeletal
- Obstetrics and gynecology
- Pediatric echocardiography (ECG/EKG)
- Pediatric sonography
- Vascular technology

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Clinics
- Colleges and universities
- Hospitals
- Imaging centers
- Mobile units
- Physician practices
- Veterinary practices

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A degree or certificate from an educational program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (caahep.org)

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certification available from the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ardms.org) for the Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (RDMS) credential and other specialty credentials or from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (arrt.org) for the Registered Technologist, Sonography credential (RT[S]) and other specialty credentials
- Certification required by most employers

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine
aium.org

American Society of Radiologic Technologists
asrt.org

Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography
sdms.org

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Educational Programs
caahep.org

Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography
jrcdms.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

DIPLOMA

Institute of Medical Ultrasound

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Albany State University
Augusta Technical College
Cambridge College of Healthcare & Technology
Columbus Technical College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Gwinnett Technical College
North Georgia Nursing Academy
Oconee Fall Line Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
South College

POST-ASSOCIATE CERTIFICATE

Grady Health System

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Georgia Southern University
South College

Medical Dosimetrist

Creates treatment plans to accurately deliver radiation prescribed by a radiation oncologist

Ideal Attributes:

- Adaptive to new technology
- Critical thinker
- Effective communicator
- Works well with others

Medical dosimetrists are vital members of the radiation oncology team who work in collaboration with radiation oncologists (physicians specializing in the treatment of cancer through radiation) and medical physicists (scientists assuring the safe and effective delivery of radiation) in creating radiation treatment plans for patients. They use digital imaging of the patient's anatomy and specialized 3-D computer software to deliver high doses of radiation to a tumor while limiting the amount of radiation reaching the surrounding normal structures. They may also be involved in research and in the development of new therapy techniques. These medical professionals must be good communicators and work well under stressful conditions while maintaining a high level of concentration.

Median Salary: $132,880 or $63.88 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Cancer treatment centers
- Colleges and universities
- Hospitals
- Vendor sales/support

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree, post-baccalaureate certificate,or master's degree from an educational program accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (jrcert.org)

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certification available from the Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board (mdcb.org) for the Certified Medical Dosimetrist (CMD) credential .

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of Medical Dosimetrists
medicaldosimetry.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

GEORGIA DOES NOT HAVE ANY MEDICAL DOSIMETRIST PROGRAMS.

Programs listed are located in neighboring states.

POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE

Carolinas College of Health Sciences (NC)
atriumhealth.org

University of Miami (FL)
welcome.miami.edu

University of North Carolina School of Medicine (NC)
med.unc.edu

Nuclear Medicine Technologist

Uses radioactive materials and complex instruments to visualize organs and body functions

Ideal Attributes:

- Adaptive to new technology
- Analytical problem-solver
- Independent worker
- Team-oriented

Nuclear medicine technologists work under the direction of nuclear medicine physicians, radiologists, or cardiologists to prepare and administer radioactive materials used to diagnose and treat diseases. They use sophisticated radiation-detecting instruments to visualize organs or organ systems where radioactive material concentrates. The resulting images are used by physicians for diagnostic interpretation. The use of new nuclear imaging technologies, including positron emission tomography/computed tomography systems (PET/CT) and single photon emission computed tomography/computed tomography systems (SPECT/CT), are expected contribute to employment growth. The wider use of this type of imaging to observe metabolic and biochemical changes during neurology, cardiology, and oncology procedures will also spur demand.

Median Salary: $92,500 or $44.47 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Advanced nuclear medicine
- Computed tomography (CT)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- Nuclear cardiology technology (NCT)
- Nuclear Medicine Advanced Associate (NMAA)
- Positron emission tomography (PET)
- Radiation safety (RS)

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Cancer centers
- Cardiology centers
- Clinics
- Government agencies
- Hospitals
- Imaging centers
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Research facilities

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree from an educational program accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology (jrcnmt.org)

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certification available from the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (nmtcb.org) for the Certified Nuclear Medicine Technologist (CNMT) credential and other specialty credentials
- National certification available from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (arrt.org) for the Registered Technologist, Nuclear (RT[N]) credential
- Certification required by most employers

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Society of Nuclear Cardiology
asnc.org

American Society of Radiologic Technologists
asrt.org

Society of Nuclear Medicine & Molecular Imaging
snmmi.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Augusta University
Georgia Southern University

Radiation Therapist

Administers radiation treatments to cancer patients

Ideal Attributes:

- Detail-oriented and precise
- Effective communicator
- Empathetic and patient
- Strong technological aptitude

Radiation plays a major role in treating cancer and other diseases by relieving symptoms and, many times, producing a cure. Radiation therapists work closely with nurses, medical physicists (scientists assuring the safe and effective delivery of radiation), and radiation oncologists (physicians specializing in using radiation to treat cancer) to skillfully deliver prescribed doses of radiation. They educate patients, provide emotional support, and ensure proper positioning to avoid overexposure during procedures. They are responsible for the operation of machines such as linear accelerators and computed tomography (CT) scanners. They also use computer systems to verify the treatment parameters and the radiation dosage, perform quality assurance of radiation machinery, and keep detailed records.

Median Salary: $98,300 or $47.26 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Colleges and universities
- Hospitals
- Outpatient cancer centers

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- An associate or bachelor's degree from an educational program accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (jrcert.org) or acceptable to the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (arrt.org)
- A certificate for graduates with an associate or bachelor's degree in radiologic science

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required national certification from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (arrt.org) for the Registered Technologist, Radiation Therapy (RT[T]) credential

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Society of Radiologic Technologists
asrt.org

Georgia Society of Radiologic Technologists, Inc.
gsrt.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Cambridge College of Healthcare & Technology

POST-ASSOCIATE CERTIFICATE

Grady Health System

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Augusta University
Georgia Southern University

Radiologic Technologist

Produces radiographic images used to diagnose disease or injury using a variety of techniques

Ideal Attributes:

- Effective communicator
- Follows instructions well
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Strong technological aptitude

Radiologic technologists, also called radiographers, work closely with radiologists (physicians who specialize in the use of radiation for the diagnosis and treatment of disease). They use their knowledge of radiation, equipment, computers, and anatomy to produce high-quality images. Radiologic technologists understand the benefits and hazards of radiation and are experts in safeguarding their patients and personnel from excessive radiation exposure. They educate patients on procedures and ensure accurate positioning in order to obtain a quality diagnostic image. They may choose to specialize in one or more specific imaging techniques such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), sonography, nuclear medicine, computed tomography (CT), or radiation therapy.

Median Salary: $76,020 or $36.55 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Bone densitometry
- Breast sonography
- Cardiac-interventional
- Computed tomography (CT)
- Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)
- Mammography
- Nuclear medicine
- Radiation therapy
- Registered radiologist assistant
- Sonography
- Vascular-interventional
- Vascular sonography

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Clinics
- Colleges and universities
- Equipment sales companies
- Government facilities
- Hospitals
- Mobile units
- Physician practices
- Public health departments
- Specialized imaging centers
- Urgent care centers

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- An associate or bachelor's degree from an educational program accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (jrcert.org) preferred for credential
- Certificate programs available for students with an associate degree or higher

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required national certification from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (arrt.org) for the Registered Technologist,Radiography (RT[R]) credential and for specialty certification for other credentials

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Society of Radiologic Technologists
asrt.org

Georgia Society of Radiologic Technologists, Inc.
gsrt.wildapricot.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Albany State University
Albany Technical College
Athens Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Augusta Technical College
Cambridge College of Healthcare & Technology
Central Georgia Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College
Coastal Pines Technical College
College of Coastal Georgia
Columbus Technical College
Dalton State College
Fortis College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Gwinnett Technical College
Lanier Technical College
Oconee Fall Line Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
South College
Southeastern Technical College
Southern Crescent Technical College
Southern Regional Technical College
West Georgia Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Emory University
Georgia Southern University
South College

POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE

Emory Decatur Hospital
Grady Health System
Piedmont Augusta Hospital

Science and Engineering

The field of medical engineering and scientific research offers the opportunity to become a healthcare detective.

Using science, technology, and engineering skills, professionals in this field enjoy the challenge of making new discoveries and the satisfaction of finding innovative solutions. Biomedical engineers create solutions to patients' medical problems by designing medical devices, products, and therapies. Biomedical equipment technicians install, inspect, repair, and test medical equipment. Geneticists study genes in humans, plants, and animals and hunt for genes that may cause inherited diseases. Naturally curious, these professionals are precise in their work and enjoy solving problems.

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEER

BIOMEDICAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN

GENETICIST

Biomedical Engineer

Develops and evaluates new medical devices and therapies in order to advance or improve medical treatment and healthcare

Ideal Attributes:

- Analytical problem-solver
- Effective communicator
- Inquisitive
- Strong science and math skills

Biomedical engineers combine their biology, medical, and engineering knowledge to create healthcare solutions that will improve the quality of life for many people. Some work with other engineers, scientists, and healthcare professionals to design medical devices such as battery-powered artificial limbs, cardiac pacemakers, heart valves, medical imaging systems, and neurostimulators. Others use software to model parts of the human body to design and improve medical devices, assist doctor diagnosis, or improve medical procedures and treatments. Biomedical engineers may also develop materials or processes to grow replacement tissues and organs or design new ways to deliver drugs or therapies to specific parts of the body. They might also help companies test devices or drugs for clinical trials by serving as the person who interfaces with doctors and nurses.

Median Salary: $100,730 or $48.43 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

A broad spectrum of specializations are available in the field of biomedical engineering. Visit the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering website (navigate.aimbe.org) to learn more:

- Bioinformatics
- Bioinstrumentation
- Biomaterials
- Biomechanics
- Biomechatronics
- Biomedical electronics
- Biometrics
- Bionanotechnology
- Bioprocess engineering
- Biotechnology
- Clinical engineering
- Medical imaging
- Neural engineering
- Orthopedic and rehabilitation bioengineering
- Pharmaceutical engineering
- Regenerative medicine
- Synthetic biology
- Systems biology
- Systems physiology
- Telehealth
- Tissue engineering and regenerative medicine

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Biotechnology companies
- Colleges and universities
- Government regulatory agencies
- Health information technology
- Hospitals and health systems
- Medical device companies
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Research facilities
- Space and undersea programs

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering or bioengineering or in mechanical, electrical, or chemical engineering with an emphasis/specialty in biomedical engineering
- A master's or doctoral degree helpful for specialization or career advancement

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- State licensure available from the Georgia Board of Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors (sos.ga.gov/Georgia-professional-engineers-and-land-surveyors-board)
- National certification available from the American College of Clinical Engineering (accenet.org) for the Certified Clinical Engineer (CCE) credential

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American College of Clinical Engineering
accenet.org

Biomedical Engineering Society
bmes.org

Georgia BIO
gabio.org

IEEE Engineering in Medicine & Biology Society
embs.org

Society for Biomaterials
biomaterials.org

Tissue Engineering & Regenerative Medicine International Society
termis.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S DEGREE

Georgia Institute of Technology
Mercer University
University of Georgia

DOCTORAL DEGREE

Georgia Institute of Technology
(administered with Emory University)
University of Georgia

Biomedical Equipment Technician

Installs, inspects, and maintains electronic medical equipment

Ideal Attributes:

- Detail-oriented
- Problem-solver
- Strong math and science skills
- Strong technological aptitude

Biomedical equipment technicians, also known as medical equipment repairers, are specialists in electronic and computerized mechanical equipment used to sustain life and to diagnose, analyze, and treat diseases. They install sophisticated devices and diagnostic equipment such as anesthesia machines, artificial kidney machines, electrocardiograph machines, patient monitoring systems, fetal monitoring systems, sterilizers, ventilators, and x-ray equipment. They also test and inspect equipment for patient and operator safety and make calibrations and repairs to ensure proper operation. They maintain service records, keep an adequate supply of spare parts in inventory, and ensure all regulatory procedures are in compliance. They also demonstrate the use of equipment for other medical personnel and propose new purchases or modifications.

Median Salary: $60,670 or $29.17 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Clinics
- Dialysis centers
- Government agencies
- Hospitals
- Independent third-party service organizations
- Medical equipment manufacturers
- Medical schools
- Private companies

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A diploma or associate degree in biomedical equipment technology, electronics, or an engineering-related field
- On-the-job training sometimes available for technicians with electronics experience

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certification available from the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation Credentials Institute (aami.org/training) for the Certified Biomedical Equipment Technician (CBET), Certified Radiology Equipment Specialist (CRES), and other credentials
- National certification available from the Electronics Technician Association International (eta-i.org) for the Biomedical Electronics Technician (BMD) and Biomedical Imaging Equipment Technician (BIET) credentials

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation
aami.org

Electronics Technician Association International
etai.org

Georgia Biomedical Instrumentation Society
gbisociety.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

DIPLOMA AND ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Albany Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Georgia Piedmont Technical College
West Georgia Technical College

DIPLOMA

Coastal Pines Technical College
Oconee Fall Line Technical College

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Chattahoochee Technical College

Geneticist

Studies genes, genomes, and variations passed from parent to offspring

Ideal Attributes:

- Adaptive to new technology
- Analytical problem solver
- Detail-oriented
- Strong science skills

Geneticists analyze genes and gene products found in living organisms and breed a variety of organisms to study inherited traits. They analyze and compare the genome sequence of humans and other organisms and scrutinize large populations for variation that make some more susceptible to inherited diseases or birth defects. They hunt for new genes that cause disease, diagnose inherited diseases, help patients understand genetic information, and manage or treat patients with genetic conditions. Geneticists may specialize in forensics using DNA analysis in criminal investigation, establishment of family relationships, or mass fatality identification. Some geneticists modify plant genes to improve crop production and disease resistance or develop new plants, drugs, and foods to improve quality of life worldwide.

Median Salary: $95,770 or $46.05 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Clinical biochemical genetics
- Clinical genetics and genomics
- Computational genetics
- Evolutionary genetics
- Genetic research scientist
- Genomics
- Laboratory genetics and genomics
- Medical biochemical genetics
- Molecular genetic pathology
- Plant genetics
- Population genetics
- Statistical genetics

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Agricultural companies
- Biotechnology companies
- Clinics
- Colleges and universities
- Crime or forensic laboratories
- Hospitals
- Medical schools
- Obstetrics practices
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Public health agencies
- Research laboratories

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree in genetics, biology, or another branch of life sciences
- A master's or doctoral degree in genetics usually required
- Two or more years of post-doctoral research in a specialized area of genetics after completion of a doctoral degree
- Clinical laboratory directors attain specialization through accredited fellowship programs
- Physicians attain specialization in clinical genetics through accredited residency programs

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure for physicians who work as clinical geneticists from the Georgia Composite Medical Board (medicalboard.georgia.gov)
- National certification available from the American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics (abmgg.org) for clinical biochemical genetics, clinical genetics and genomics, laboratory genetics and genomics, medical biochemical genetics, and molecular genetic pathology

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics
acmg.net

American Society of Human Genetics
ashg.org

Genetics Society of America
genetics-gsa.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S DEGREE

University of Georgia

DOCTORAL DEGREE

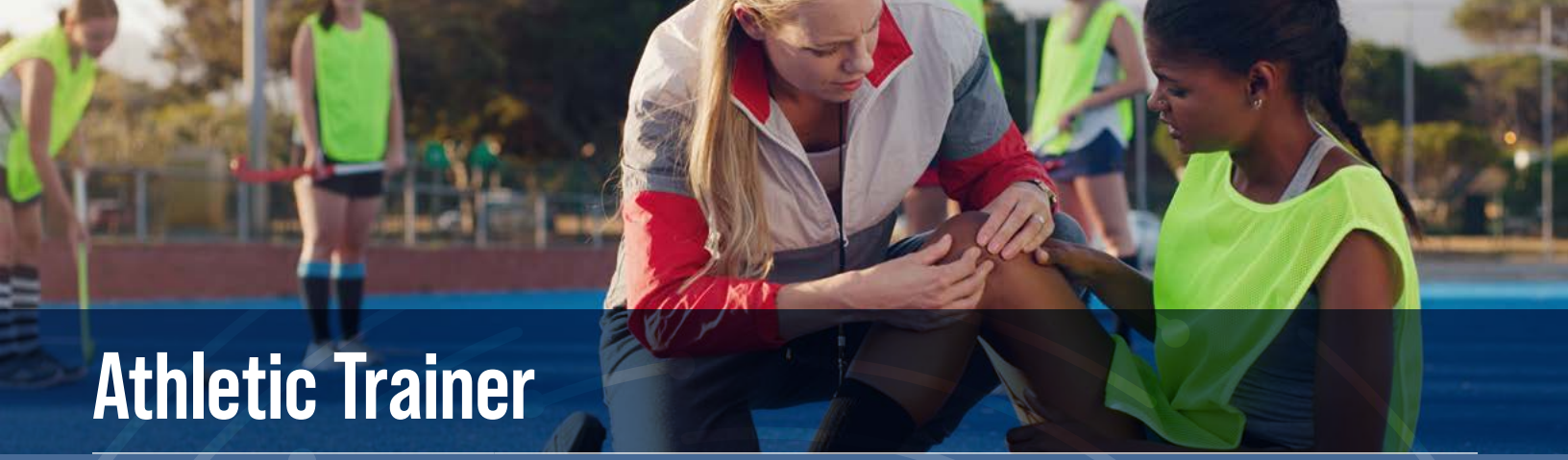
Augusta University
Emory University
University of Georgia

Therapy and Rehabilitation

Often considered the "human element" of recovery, therapy and rehabilitation help people return to independence and self-reliance.

Professionals in this field specialize in a variety of modalities to facilitate recovery and design programs for patients of all ages with physical, emotional, social, and mental challenges who need stimulation of their muscles and minds. Some apply the benefits of art, dance, drama, music, or recreation, while others develop therapeutic treatment plans to reduce pain and increase mobility or to teach skills for completing everyday activities. Treating hearing and balance disorders or language, speech, and swallowing disorders are other challenging pursuits. Some careers involve developing and executing exercise and nutrition programs to increase fitness or rehabilitate injuries. Other opportunities include designing, fabricating, and fitting artificial limbs or helping people breathe easier. In this rewarding and satisfying field, specialists are highly committed, patient, and compassionate while helping patients reach their potential and lead more enjoyable lives.

ATHLETIC TRAINER	HOT CAREER
AUDIOLOGIST	
CREATIVE ARTS THERAPIST	
EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGIST	
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST	HOT CAREER
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT	
ORTHOTIST AND PROSTHETIST	
PHYSICAL THERAPIST	
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT	
RECREATIONAL THERAPIST	
RESPIRATORY THERAPIST	HOT CAREER
SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPIST	HOT CAREER



Athletic Trainer

Prevents, examines, diagnoses, and treats injuries and medical conditions
Provides therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions

Ideal Attributes:

- Critical thinker
- Effective communicator
- Works well under pressure
- Strong interpersonal skills

Athletic trainers are allied healthcare professionals who provide medical services to patients of all ages and ability levels, not just to athletes participating in sports. In collaboration with a physician, their duties involve the prevention, evaluation, and treatment of emergency, acute, and chronic injuries and medical conditions in a variety of settings. Athletic trainers are risk managers who understand how environmental factors, physical conditioning, nutritional programming, and correct protective equipment interact to prevent injury and illness. When injuries do occur, they determine the nature and severity, develop and execute treatment and rehabilitation plans, and design patient education strategies to improve functional outcomes and to reduce healthcare costs.

Median Salary: $68,907 or $33.13 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Orthopedic

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Athletic teams/facilities
- Colleges and universities
- Fitness and recreational sports centers
- High schools
- Hospitals
- Industrial and commercial enterprises
- Military and other government agencies
- Orthopedic and other physician practices
- Performing arts organizations
- Public safety agencies
- Sports medicine clinics

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A master's degree from an educational program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (caate.net)

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers (sos.ga.gov/georgia-board-athletic-trainers)
- National certification required from the Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer (bocatc.org) for the Athletic Trainer, Certified (ATC) credential

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Georgia Athletic Trainers' Association
athletictraining.org

National Athletic Trainers' Association
nata.org

Southeast Athletic Trainers' Association
seata.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

MASTER'S DEGREE

Albany State University
Georgia College
Georgia Southern University
Mercer University
Piedmont University
University of Georgia
University of North Georgia

DOCTORAL DEGREE

University of Georgia

Audiologist

Identifies and provides management services for auditory and balance disorders

Promotes hearing health to improve patients' quality of life

Ideal Attributes:

- Adaptive to new technology
- Compassionate
- Effective communicator
- Problem-solver

Audiologists prevent, diagnose, evaluate, and treat hearing and balance disorders at all stages of life. They identify and assess the nature and degree of hearing, balance, and related problems and evaluate their impact on an individual's daily life. Audiologists work closely with educators, psychologists, physicians, and speech-language pathologists to make a diagnosis and determine appropriate treatment. They provide counseling, communication strategies, and other assistance to patients and their families to help them adapt. Audiologists may also conduct research, perform monitoring during surgical procedures, provide hearing conservation programs, work as professors, or service patients who are candidates for or recipients of cochlear and other implantable devices.

Median Salary: $87,740 or $42.19 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Auditory processing
- Balance disorders
- Cochlear implants
- Educational audiology
- Geriatric audiology
- Hearing aids
- Intraoperative monitoring
- Pediatric audiology
- Tinnitus

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Colleges and universities
- Hearing aid and equipment manufacturers
- Hearing conservation programs
- Hospitals
- K-12 schools
- Local, state, and federal government agencies
- Outpatient clinics
- Physician practices
- Private practices
- Public health departments
- Rehabilitation centers
- Research laboratories
- Residential care facilities
- Self-employed
- Speech and hearing centers
- Veterans Affairs healthcare facilities

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A doctoral degree from an educational program accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (caa.asha.org)

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia Board of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology (sos.ga.gov/board-speech-pathology-and-audiology)
- National certification available from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (asha.org) for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology (CCC-A) credential
- National board certification and specialty certifications available from the American Board of Audiology (boardofaudiology.org) and the American Audiology Board of Intraoperative Monitoring (aabiom.com)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Academy of Audioloy
audiology.org

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
asha.org

Academy of Doctors of Audiology
audiologist.org

Georgia Academy of Audiology
georgiaaudiology.org

Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association
gsa.memberclicks.net

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

GEORGIA DOES NOT HAVE ANY AUDIOLOGIST PROGRAMS

Programs listed are located in neighboring states.

DOCTORAL DEGREE

Auburn University (AL)
auburn.edu

East Carolina University (NC)
ecu.edu

East Tennessee State University (TN)
etsu.edu

University of Florida (FL)
ufl.edu

University of Memphis (TN)
memphis.edu

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (NC)
unc.edu

University of South Alabama (AL)
southalabama.edu

University of South Florida (FL)
usf.edu

University of Tennessee Health Science Center (TN)
uthsc.edu

Vanderbilt University (TN)
vanderbilt.edu

Creative Arts Therapist

Uses art, dance, drama, or music processes to achieve therapeutic goals

Ideal Attributes:

- Creative
- Empathetic and ethical
- Motivational and supportive
- Strong interpersonal skills

Many healthcare providers acknowledge the value of creative arts therapies (e.g., art, dance, drama, and music) to encourage physical and mental healing, improve wellbeing, and promote quality of life. Therapists in these disciplines work with people of all ages who have neurologic, developmental, medical, social, physical, or mental health challenges. They conduct assessments and design and implement therapy sessions for both individuals and groups using evidence-based techniques to help clients improve health, motor skills, cognition, and executive functioning as well as relieve stress, build self-confidence, and increase social and communication skills. These interventions can create a non-threatening, relaxed, and engaging atmosphere in which to achieve therapeutic goals through creative and experiential processes.

Median Salary: $57,120 or $27.46 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Behavioral health facilities (inpatient and outpatient)
- Colleges and universities
- Correctional/detention facilities
- Home health agencies
- Homeless shelters
- Hospice programs
- Hospitals
- K-12 schools
- Long-term care facilities
- Mental health centers
- Neonatal intensive care units
- Non-profit organizations
- Outpatient clinics
- Private practices
- Refugee centers
- Rehabilitation facilities
- Residential treatment centers
- Skilled nursing care facilities
- Substance use disorder treatment programs
- Wellness centers

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- **Art Therapist**: A master's degree from an educational program approved by the American Art Therapy Association (arttherapy.org) or accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (caahep.org) plus 100 hours of supervised practicum and 600 hours of supervised art therapy clinical internship
- **Dance/Movement Therapist**: A master's degree from an educational program approved by the American Dance Therapy Association (adta.org) or a master's degree with completion of ADTA-approved Alternate Route Training and 700 supervised clinical hours
- **Drama Therapist**: A master's degree from an educational program accredited by the North American Drama Therapy Association (nadta.org) or a related master's degree with completion of the NADTA Alternative Training Program plus an internship of 800 hours, 500 hours of theater experience, 1000 hours of professional experience, and 500 hours of additional training/work experience
- **Music Therapist**: A bachelor's degree or Music Therapy Equivalency approved by the American Music Therapy Association (musictherapy.org) and 1200 clinical hours with a board-certified music therapist

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- **Art Therapist**: National certification available from the Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc. (atcb.org) for the Registered Art Therapist (ATR) and Board Certified Registered Art Therapist (ATR-BC) credentials
- **Dance/Movement Therapist**: National certification available from the Dance/Movement Therapy Certification Board (adta.org/dmtcb) for the Registered Dance/Movement Therapist (R-DMT) and Board Certified Dance/Movement Therapist (BC-DMT) credentials
- **Drama Therapist**: National certification available from the North American Drama Therapy Association (nadta.org) for the Registered Drama Therapist (RDT) and Board Certified Trainer (BCT) credentials
- **Music Therapist**: Required state licensure from Georgia's Professional Licensing Boards Division (sos.ga.gov/georgia-board-music-therapy) and national certification available from the Certification Board for Music Therapists (cbmt.org) for the Music Therapist-Board Certified (MT-BC) credential

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

ART THERAPIST:

GEORGIA DOES NOT HAVE ANY ART THERAPIST PROGRAMS.
Program listed is located in neighboring state.

MASTER'S DEGREE
Florida State University (FL)
fsu.edu

DANCE/MOVEMENT THERAPIST:

POST-BACHALORIATE CERTIFICATE
Brenau University

DRAMA THERAPIST:

CONTACT NADTA ABOUT ALTERNATIVE TRAINING PROGRAMS.
Contact Emory University Continuing Education for drama therapy course offerings (ece.emory.edu).

MUSIC THERAPIST:

BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S DEGREE
Georgia College
University of Georgia

POST-BACHALORIATE CERTIFICATE
University of Georgia

Exercise Physiologist

Helps individuals improve fitness, recover from injury, or manage chronic diseases through personalized exercise programs

Applies scientific principles to improve health outcomes and physical performance across various populations

Ideal Attributes:

- Analytical problem-solver
- Empathetic and patient
- Detail-oriented
- Lifelong learner

Exercise physiologists work with clients ranging from healthy athletes to patients with chronic medical conditions. Clinical exercise physiologists work with physicians to provide medically-supervised exercise programs for people who suffer from medical concerns such as cancer, diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular, pulmonary, or neuromuscular diseases. Using exercise as medicine, they develop programs designed to speed recovery and to improve cardiovascular function. Applied exercise physiologists help healthy individuals or those with controlled disease reach fitness goals. After evaluating medical histories and conducting fitness tests, they customize programs to help clients lose weight, improve fitness, or enhance performance by addressing the cardiorespiratory and neuromuscular systems.

Median Salary: $54,850 or $26.38 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Clinical exercise physiology
- Research and human performance laboratories
- Strength and conditioning
- Wellness coaching

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Athletic teams/facilities
- Cardiopulmonary rehabilitation centers
- Colleges and universities
- Community fitness and wellness centers
- Corporate wellness programs
- Fitness centers
- Government agencies
- Hospitals
- Military bases
- Outpatient care centers
- Physician practices
- Rehabilitation facilities
- Residential care facilities
- Skilled nursing care facilities

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree in exercise physiology, exercise science, kinesiology, sport science, human performance, or other related disciplines
- A master's degree in exercise physiology, exercise science, or kinesiology often required
- A doctoral degree may be required for some rules in research or academia

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certification available from the American Society of Exercise Physiologists (asep.org) for the Exercise Physiologist Certified (EPC) credential
- National certification available from the American College of Sports Medicine (acsm.org) for the Certified Exercise Physiologist (ACSM-EP) and Certified Clinical Exercise Physiologist (ACSM-CEP) credentials

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation
aacvpr.org

American College of Sports Medicine
acsm.org

American Society of Exercise Physiologists
asep.org

Clinical Exercise Physiology Association
acsm-cepa.org

National Strength and Conditioning Association
nsca.com

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Albany State University
Berry College
Brenau University
Brewton-Parker College
College of Coastal Georgia
Columbus State University
Georgia Gwinnett College
Georgia Southwestern State University
LaGrange College
Mercer University
Morehouse College
Piedmont University
Thomas University
Truett McConnell University

BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S DEGREE

Augusta University
Emmanual University
Georgia College
Georgia Southern University
Kennesaw State University
Life University
Point University
University of North Georgia
Valdosta State University

BACHELOR'S, MASTER'S, AND DOCTORAL DEGREE

Georgia State University
University of Georgia

Occupational Therapist

Helps people to develop or regain the ability to do the activities needed or wanted for everyday living

Ideal Attributes:

- Creative
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Empathetic and ethical
- Team-oriented

Occupational therapists (OTs) help people of all ages lead independent, productive, and satisfying lives. Many of their clients have physical, developmental, social, or emotional conditions that impact their ability to engage in everyday activities such as self-care, education, work, and play. OTs enable them to function in their chosen environments including home, work, school, and community by teaching new skills and/or adapting the activity or environment to support participation in desired activities. They may also recommend and/or design orthotics, adaptive equipment, and assistive technology to promote and maintain independent functioning. The OT's ultimate goal is to enhance the client's quality of life by helping them achieve their goals for participation and independence in daily life activities.

Median Salary: $96,370 or $46.33 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Driving and community mobility
- Environmental modification
- Feeding, eating, and swallowing
- Gerontology
- Hand Therapy
- Low vision
- Mental health
- Pediatrics
- Physical rehabilitation
- School systems

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Adult day service programs
- Assisted living communities
- Community programs
- Correctional/detention facilities
- Early intervention programs
- Home health agencies
- Hospice programs
- Hospitals
- K-12 schools
- Long-term care facilities
- Mental health centers
- Outpatient clinics
- Outpatient pediatric practices
- Physician practices
- Rehabilitation centers
- Retirement communities
- Skilled nursing care facilities

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A master's or doctoral degree including fieldwork from an educational program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (acoteonline.org)

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia State Board of Occupational Therapy (sos.ga.gov/georgia-state-board-occupational-therapy)
- Required national certification from the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (nbcot.org) for the Registered Occupational Therapist (OTR) credential
- National advanced board certifications, specialty certifications, and residencies available from the American Occupational Therapy Association (aota.org)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Occupational Therapy Association
aota.org

Georgia Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.
gaota.com

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

MASTER'S DEGREE

Augusta University
Brenau University
Middle Georgia State University

DOCTORAL DEGREE

Brenau University
Georgia State University
South College

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Uses therapeutic activities and daily occupations to help people adapt to disabilities and improve quality of life

Ideal Attributes:

- Compassionate and patient
- Creative
- Independent thinker and worker
- Works well with others

Occupational therapy assistants (OTAs) work with people of all ages—from newborns to the very old—helping them develop, improve, or recover skills needed for daily living through selected treatment interventions. OTAs help individuals whose abilities may be impaired by the aging process, physical injury, or disease; who have psychological, social, or learning disabilities; or who face other challenges that affect their day-to-day functioning. They are directly involved in providing educational, recreational, vocational, and self-care activities designed to restore independence and self-reliance. Partnering with the occupational therapist, they participate in evaluations, develop and deliver individualized treatment and interventions, and document and review patient progress.

Median Salary: $65,450 or $31.47 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

The American Occupational Therapy Association (aota.org) offers specialty and advanced certification in the areas listed below:

- Driving and community mobility
- Environmental modification
- Feeding, eating, and swallowing
- Gerontology
- Low vision
- Pediatrics
- Physical rehabilitation
- School systems

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Assisted living communities
- Community programs
- Early intervention programs
- Home health agencies
- Hospitals
- K-12 schools
- Outpatient clinics
- Pediatric clinics
- Rehabilitation centers
- Skilled nursing care facilities

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- An associate or bachelor's degree from an educational program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (acoteonline.org)

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia State Board of Occupational Therapy (sos.ga.gov/georgia-state-board-occupational-therapy)
- Required national certification from the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (nbcot.org) for the Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA) credential
- Physical agent modalities certification offered in Georgia allowing practitioners to utilize physical agents like ultrasound and electrical stimulation.
- Specialty certifications available from the American Occupational Therapy Association (aota.org) and other organizations

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Occupational Therapy Association
aota.org

Georgia Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.
gaota.com

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Augusta Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College
Middle Georgia State University

Orthotist and Prosthetist

Creates treatment plans and designs, fabricates, and fits artificial limbs and orthopedic braces

Ideal Attributes:

- Detail-oriented
- Effective communicator
- Independent worker
- Problem-solver

Orthotists and prosthetists evaluate people who have physical impairments and mobility issues and create solutions for them. They work with a team to achieve rehabilitation objectives and to tailor a plan of care to the client's lifestyle and goals. Orthotists specifically treat people with weakness or deformities of the limbs, spine, or head by utilizing treatments such as a Halo for life threatening neck injuries and ankle/foot orthoses for children with cerebral palsy while prosthetists design and fit prostheses (artificial limbs) for people with limb loss, such as amputation due to diabetes, vascular disease, or accidents. Developing the plan of care combines specialized component parts, hand skills and techniques, computer-aided design, and construction using lightweight materials.

Median Salary: $78,100 or $37.55 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Government agencies
- Hospitals
- Long-term care facilities
- Privately-owned facilities
- Rehabilitation centers
- Research and design laboratories
- Private practices
- Private residences
- Veterans Affairs healthcare facilities

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A master's degree from an educational program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (caahep.org) and supervised clinical experience in a residency accredited by the National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education (ncope.org)

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia Composite Medical Board (medicalboard.georgia.gov)
- Required national certification from the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics (abcop.org) for the Certified Orthotist (CO), Certified Prosthetist (CP), and/or Certified Prosthetist-Orthotist (CPO) credentials

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Academy of Orthotists & Prosthetists
oandp.org

Georgia Society of Orthotists and Prosthetists
georgiasop.com

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

MASTER'S DEGREE

Kennesaw State University

Physical Therapist

Prescribes therapeutic treatment plans to help clients improve or restore mobility, reduce pain, and increase quality of life

Ideal Attributes:

- Compassionate
- Critical thinker
- Effective communicator
- Lifelong learner

Physical therapists (PTs) are movement experts who use prescribed exercise, hands-on care, and patient education with people of all ages and abilities to maximize their quality of life. They help people rehabilitate from injuries, manage health conditions, avoid surgery and prescription medications, prevent future problems, and live a healthier life. PTs examine, evaluate, test, and alleviate impairments. They help patients and clients with mechanical, physiological, and/or developmental impairments, activity limitations, participation restrictions, or other movement-related conditions to reduce their risk of injury and to promote their health and wellness using a variety of interventions such as exercise, mobility and assistive device training, joint mobilization/manipulation, dry needling, and the application of physical agents.

Median Salary: $99,710 or $47.94 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Cardiovascular and pulmonary
- Clinical electrophysiology
- Geriatrics
- Neurology
- Oncology
- Orthopedics
- Pediatrics
- Sports
- Women's health
- Wound management

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Athletic teams/facilities
- Colleges and universities
- Home health care services
- Hospice programs
- Hospitals
- Industry
- K-12 schools
- Long-term care facilities
- Military and other government agencies
- Outpatient physical therapy clinics
- Private or group practices
- Rehabilitation centers (inpatient and outpatient)
- Research centers
- Skilled nursing care facilities
- Wellness centers

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree for application to a doctoral-level physical therapy program
- A doctoral degree from an educational program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (capteonline.org)
- Post-professional residency programs in specialty areas and fellowship programs in subspecialty areas available

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy (sos.ga.gov/georgia-state-board-physical-therapy) for the Physical Therapist (PT) credential
- National board certification in listed areas of specialization available from the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties (specialization.apta.org)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Academy of Physical Therapy
americanptacademy.com

American Physical Therapy Association
apta.org

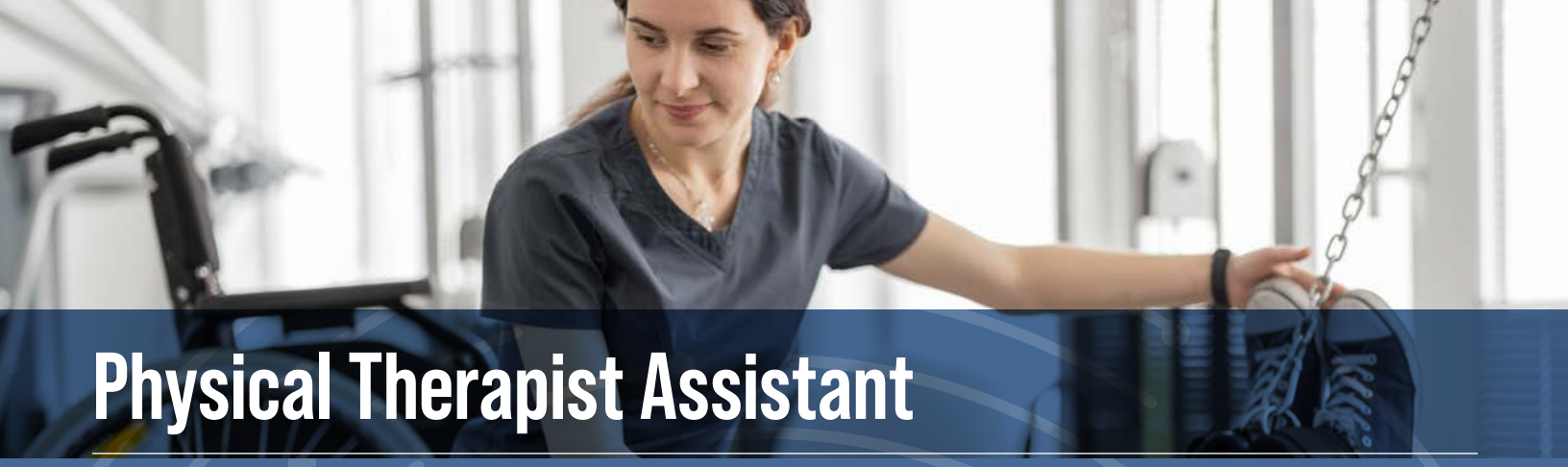
APTA Georgia
aptageorgia.org

World Physiotherapy
world.physio

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

DOCTORAL DEGREE

Augusta University
Brenau University
Emory University
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
Mercer University
PCOM
South College
University of North Georgia



Physical Therapist Assistant

Carries out physical therapy interventions designed to help clients regain functional movement and manage pain

Ideal Attributes:

- Dependable and flexible
- Effective communicator
- Physical endurance
- Strong interpersonal skills

Physical therapist assistants (PTAs) provide physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist. PTAs help people of all ages with health-related conditions that interfere with their ability to function in their daily lives. PTAs perform many of the same functions as physical therapists but do not evaluate clients or develop their plan of care. PTAs duties include carrying out the plan of care designed by a physical therapist, implementing treatments based on patient goals, educating patient, and providing treatments using special equipment. PTA treatments may include therapeutic exercise, therapeutic activities, neuromuscular reeducation, gait training, and manual therapy. PTAs measure and document their clients' response to treatment and communicate changes to the physical therapist.

Median Salary: $58,740 or $28.24 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Acute care
- Cardiovascular/pulmonary
- Geriatrics
- Oncology
- Orthopedics
- Pediatrics
- Wound management

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Colleges and universities
- Home health agencies
- Hospitals
- K-12 schools
- Outpatient physical therapy clinics
- Rehabilitation centers
- Skilled nursing care facilities
- Sports medicine clinics
- Workplace wellness programs

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- An associate degree from an educational program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (capteonline.org)
- Advanced Proficiency Pathways program for specialty areas available from the American Physical Therapy Association (apta.org)

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy (sos.ga.gov/georgia-state-board-physical-therapy)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Physical Therapy Association
apta.org

APTA Georgia
aptageorgia.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Albany State University
Athens Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College
Lanier Technical College
South University

Recreational Therapist

Implements purposeful recreation and activity interventions and measures individual improvement

Improves the functional abilities and quality of life for individuals with disabilities and disabling conditions

Ideal Attributes:

- Creative
- Empathetic and patient
- Flexible
- Problem-solver

Recreational therapists, also known as therapeutic recreation specialists, use recreation and leisure activities to improve the health, quality of life, functional ability, and independence of individuals of all ages with temporary or permanent disabilities or illnesses. They plan and implement treatment programs utilizing a variety of techniques including adventure therapy, anger management, animal-assisted therapy, aquatic therapy, exercise or other physical activity, expressive arts, leisure education, play therapy, relaxation strategies, social skill interventions, and therapeutic reminiscence. Recreational therapists set goals and objectives developed from individual assessments that identify clients' needs, abilities, and interests to improve their physical, cognitive, emotional, or social health.

Median Salary: $57,120 or $27.46 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Adaptive sports and recreation
- Behavioral health
- Community inclusion services
- Developmental disabilities
- Geriatrics
- Pediatrics
- Physical medicine/rehabilitation

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Adult day service programs
- Camps
- Correctional/detention facilities
- Disability-specific programs
- Hospice programs
- Hospitals
- K-12 school systems
- Mental health centers
- Parks and recreation departments
- Private practices
- Psychiatric hospitals
- Rehabilitation facilities
- Residential treatment centers
- Retirement communities
- Senior Centers
- Skilled nursing care facilities/Assisted living facilities
- Substance use disorder treatment facilities
- Veterans Affairs healthcare facilities

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree in recreational therapy (or in recreation with an emphasis in recreational therapy) along with an internship of at least 560 hours/14 weeks under the supervision of a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist
- Graduate programs also available

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- National certification available from the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (nctrc.org) for the Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) credential and for listed specialty certifications
- Licensure is not currently required in the state of Georgia

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Therapeutic Recreation Association
atra-online.com

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

GEORGIA DOES NOT HAVE ANY RECREATIONAL THERAPIST PROGRAMS

Programs listed are located in neighboring states.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Alabama State University (AL)
alasu.edu

Clemson University (SC)
clemson.edu

Florida International University (FL)
fiu.edu

University of South Alabama (AL)
southalabama.edu

University of Tennessee Knoxville (TN)
utk.edu

Respiratory Therapist

Administers respiratory care and life support to patients with heart and lung disorders.

Ideal Attributes:

- Critical thinker
- Problem-solver
- Strong mechanical aptitude
- Works well with others

Respiratory therapists (RTs), under the direction of physicians, care for people with respiratory ailments and cardiopulmonary diseases including asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, pneumonia, and heart disease. RTs serve on the frontline of treating patients hospitalized for respiratory diseases, such as COVID-19, as well as heart or lung transplant patients, heart attack and stroke patients, trauma victims, and premature infants. They measure lung function, analyze blood samples for gases, initiate, adjust and monitor life support equipment, and use equipment that delivers oxygen and other gases to enhance breathing. RTs may also participate in pulmonary rehabilitation, home health care, smoking cessation counseling, and polysomnography. They use independent judgment to make recommendations to the healthcare team regarding patients' respiratory care.

Median Salary: $77,960 or $37.48 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Adult critical care
- Air transport
- Asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease management
- Asthma education
- Emergency care
- Neonatal/pediatric care
- Pulmonary disease education
- Pulmonary function
- Sleep disorders

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Colleges and universities
- Home health agencies
- Hospice programs
- Hospitals
- Insurance companies
- Medical supply and equipment sales
- Private companies
- Physician practices
- Public health agencies
- Skilled nursing care facilities
- Sleep laboratories

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- An associate, bachelor's degree or master's entry program from an educational program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (coarc.com)

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia Composite Medical Board (medicalboard.georgia.gov)
- Required national certification from the National Board for Respiratory Care (nbrc.org) to receive license to practice in Georgia and for the advanced practice Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential.
- National certifications available for specialty areas

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Association for Respiratory Care
aarc.org

Georgia Society for Respiratory Care
gsrc.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Albany State University
Andrew College
Augusta Technical College
Coastal Pines Technical College
Columbus Technical College
Dalton State College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Gwinnett Technical College
Oconee Fall Line Technical College
South College
Southern Crescent Technical College
Southern Regional Technical College

BACHELOR'S DEGREEE

Augusta University
Dalton State College
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
Middle Georgia State University

MASTER'S DEGREE

Georgia State University

Speech-Language Pathologist

Assesses and treats speech, language, voice fluency, and swallowing disorders

Ideal Attributes:

- Critical thinker
- Effective communicator
- Problem-solver
- Works well with others

Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) address problems involving auditory comprehension, cognition, aphasia, articulation, stuttering, language disorders, swallowing disorders, and voice disorders. These problems could be a result of developmental issues, hearing loss, intellectual disability, learning barriers, medical complications, brain injury, or stroke. SLPs conduct evaluations to determine the extent of the problem and then develop treatment programs accordingly. They may work alongside audiologists, due to the importance of hearing to oral communication, as well as with case managers, dietitian nutritionists, lactation consultants, nurses, occupational therapists, otolaryngologists, physical therapists, physicians, social workers, and teachers.

Median Salary: $89,290 or $42.93 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Child language and language disorders
- Fluency and fluency disorders
- Swallowing and swallowing disorders
- Voice and voice disorders

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Colleges and universities
- Early intervention centers
- Home health agencies
- Hospitals
- K-12 schools
- Outpatient clinics
- Physician practices
- Private practices
- Public health departments
- Rehabilitation centers
- Skilled nursing care facilities
- Speech and hearing centers

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A master's degree from an educational program accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (caa.asha.org)
- Doctoral degree programs available

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology (sos.ga.gov/georgia-board-speech-pathology-and-audiology)
- National certification available from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (asha.org) for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP) credential
- Required state certification from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (gapsc.com) to work in school settings

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
asha.org

Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association
gsha.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

MASTER'S DEGREE

Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
Piedmont University
University of Georgia
University of West Georgia
Valdosta State University

DOCTORAL DEGREE

University of Georgia

Veterinary Medicine

Veterinary professionals work closely with pets, livestock, and their owners.

They must be patient with animals and sensitive to the feelings of the owners. Manual dexterity and good communication skills are necessary. Veterinarians and veterinary technicians often work long hours, including evenings and weekends. They may be bitten, kicked, or scratched while treating their patients; however, for the person who loves animals and is fascinated by science and medicine, these are rewarding careers. These professionals enjoy diverse employment opportunities in public health, wildlife preservation, private practice, education, research, and government.

VETERINARIAN

VETERINARY TECHNICIAN

Veterinarian

Works to maintain the health of animals, humans, and the environment

Diagnoses, treats, and researches diseases that impact all species

Ideal Attributes:

- Compassionate
- Effective communicator
- Effective team leader
- Lifelong learner

Veterinarians, or doctors of veterinary medicine, provide healthcare for animals. They may choose a focus from a number of areas within the field. Many treat companion animals such as dogs, cats, birds, reptiles, and horses. Others provide veterinary services to food and fiber animals such as cattle, sheep, and alpacas. Veterinarians also help prevent the spread of diseases in the animals supporting food production industries such as cattle, poultry, and swine by teaching food producers better animal care, management, and production techniques. Other veterinarians work with government agencies to investigate infectious disease outbreaks. They play a critical role in the research to prevent, treat, and limit the transmission of diseases like avian influenza, rhinovirus, rabies, salmonella, and tuberculosis.

Median Salary: $119,100 or $57.26 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

There are currently 22 recognized specialty organizations representing 41 distinct veterinary specializations. For more information, contact the American Board of Veterinary Specialties (www. avma.org/ professionaldevelopment/ education/specialties).

- Anesthesia
- Animal behavior
- Animal welfare
- Dentistry
- Dermatology
- Emergency and critical care
- Internal medicine
- Laboratory animal medicine
- Microbiology
- Nutrition
- Ophthalmology
- Pathology
- Pharmacology
- Poultry medicine
- Preventive medicine
- Radiology
- Sports medicine and rehabilitation
- Surgery
- Theriogenology
- Toxicology
- Veterinary practice
- Zoological medicine

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Agribusiness
- Aquariums
- Emergency care centers
- Food animal industries
- Government agencies
- Military bases
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Private practice
- Public health departments
- Research institutions
- Veterinary colleges
- Wildlife conservation/rehabilitation facilities
- Zoos

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree or completion of required courses, Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores, and 250 hours of veterinary experience directly supervised by a veterinarian
- A Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree from a college accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education
- Optional 1-year internship for additional training in a particular area
- Optional 2 to 3 years of residency training for specialty areas

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine (sos.ga.gov/index.php/licensing/plb/53)
- National specialty certifications available from veterinary specialty organizations recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association (avma.org)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges
aavmc.org

American Veterinary Medical Association
avma.org

Georgia Veterinary Medical Association
gvma.net

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

DOCTORAL DEGREE

University of Georgia

Veterinary Technician

Performs routine laboratory and clinical procedures on animals

Ideal Attributes:

- Compassionate and patient
- Detail-oriented and flexible
- Effective communicator and team-oriented
- Moves quickly between tasks

Veterinary technicians (associate degree level) and veterinary technologists (bachelor's degree level) work closely with supervising veterinarians in a role similar to a nurse. They are trained to take an animal's medical history from its owner, collect samples and perform laboratory tests, sterilize instruments, dress wounds, induce and monitor anesthesia, perform dental cleanings, assist during diagnostic and surgical procedures, take x-rays, and communicate with clients. These professionals allow a veterinarian to function at peak capacity. Veterinary technicians may also find employment in unique areas of the veterinary field such as veterinary office management, industry, higher education, and government.

Median Salary: $43,740 or $21.03 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Anesthesia and analgesia
- Behavior
- Clinical pathology
- Clinical practice
- Dentistry
- Dermatology
- Diagnostic imaging
- Emergency and critical care
- Equine nursing
- Internal medicine
- Laboratory animal medicine
- Nutrition
- Ophthalmology
- Physical rehabilitation
- Surgery
- Zoological medicine

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Agribusiness
- Aquariums
- Colleges and universities
- Government agencies
- Pharmaceutical and pet food companies
- Research institutions
- Veterinarian/veterinary technician schools
- Veterinary associations and organizations
- Veterinary practices
- Veterinary sales companies
- Wildlife conservation/rehabilitation facilities
- Zoos

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- An associate or bachelor's degree from an educational program accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine (sos.ga.gov/georgia-state-board-veterinary-medicine) for the Licensed Veterinary Technician (LVT) credential
- National specialty certification available from specialty academies recognized by the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (navta.net)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Veterinary Medical Association
avma.org

Georgia Veterinary Medical Association
gvma.net

Georgia Veterinary Technician Association
gvta.info

National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America
navta.net

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Athens Technical College
Gwinnett Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Southern Regional Technical College

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Fort Valley State University

Vision Care

The gift of sight is one of our most valuable senses.

Vision care professionals detect and correct optical problems through eye examinations, prescription glasses, contact lenses, and vision therapy exercises. These experts also promote the prevention of eye injury and good vision maintenance. Advances in technology, public awareness, and the aging population will keep vision care specialists vital members of the overall healthcare team.

OPTICIAN

OPTOMETRIST

Optician

Fills the prescriptions of optometrists and ophthalmologists for both glasses and contact lenses

Ensures that frame and lens choice are compatible for the best visual acuity

Ideal Attributes:

- Coordinated
- Effective communicator
- Good listener
- Physical endurance

Opticians help patients select glasses according to lifestyle, occupation, and facial features. They prepare the glasses order according to the prescription, curvature placement, lens size and material, and frame style, material, and color. They are trained to use specialized equipment for cutting, grinding, edging, and finishing glasses to very strict manufacturing and optical standards. They verify the prescription after it is filled and make adjustments to ensure proper fit and lens positioning. They also fit contact lenses according to the measurements provided by an optometrist or ophthalmologist. Opticians may own and operate eyewear manufacturing laboratories or their own business where office management, sales, and repairs are part of their daily routine.

Median Salary: $44,170 or $21.23 an hour

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Department stores
- Eyewear manufacturers
- Ophthalmologist or optometrist practices
- Optical sales departments
- Private, optician-owned stores
- Retail chain and independent stores
- Wholesale labs

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A diploma or associate degree from a state-approved ophthalmic dispensing educational program or 3,000 hours in a state-registered apprenticeship under a licensed optician, optometrist, or ophthalmologist

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia Board of Dispensing Opticians (sos.ga.gov/georgia-state-board-dispensing-opticians) for the Licensed Dispensing Optician (LDO) credential
- Required national certification from the American Board of Opticianry and National Contact Lens Examiners (abo-ncle.org) for the basic American Board of Opticianry Certification (ABOC) and National Contact Lens Certification (NCLEC) credentials
- Advanced certification also available from the ABOC/NCLE after several years of experience for the ABOC-AC and NCLE-AC credentials

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Contact Lens Society of America
clsa.info

National Academy of Opticianry
nao.org

United Opticians Association
opticians.org

Opticians Association of Georgia
oagonline.org

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

CERTIFICATE

University of Georgia
University of West Georgia

DIPLOMA AND ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Georgia Piedmont Technical College

Optometrist

Diagnoses and treats conditions of the human visual system

Ideal Attributes:

- Critical thinker
- Effective communicator
- Lifelong learner
- Problem-solver

Optometrists, also called optometric physicians, are independent healthcare professionals who are specifically licensed to diagnose and treat eye diseases as well as difficulties with vision that are not related to disease. Optometrists usually treat patients with medications, eyeglasses, contact lenses, or vision therapy. Since many general health problems may affect the eyes, optometrists are often the first to find signs of conditions such as diabetes and hypertension. Many optometrists choose to specialize in an area of practice such as low vision rehabilitation, contact lenses, family practice, and vision therapy by completing a residency program. While optometrists practice in a variety of settings, many are self-employed and therefore must know how to develop and manage a business.

Median Salary: $131,860 or $63.39 an hour

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Brain injury vision rehabilitation
- Community health optometry
- Cornea and contact lenses
- Family practice optometry
- Geriatric optometry
- Low vision rehabilitation
- Ocular disease
- Pediatric optometry
- Primary eye care
- Refractive and ocular surgery
- Vision therapy and rehabilitation

WORK ENVIRONMENTS

- Colleges and universities
- Hospital-based clinics
- Military bases
- Multi-doctor practices
- Private practices
- Public health departments
- Research institutions
- Retail eye care centers

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree with completion of prerequisite courses and a competitive score on the Optometry Admissions Test (oat.ada.org) required for admission into an optometry program
- A doctoral degree from an educational program accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education
- One-year minimum residency in an area of emphasis recommended

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- Required state licensure from the Georgia Board of Optometry (sos.ga.gov/georgia-state-board-optometry)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Academy of Optometry
aaopt.org

American Optometric Association
aoa.org

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
optometriceducation.org

Georgia Optometric Association
goaeyes.com

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

GEORGIA DOES NOT HAVE ANY OPTOMETRIST PROGRAMS.

Programs listed are located in neighboring states.

DOCTORAL DEGREE

University of Alabama at Birmingham (AL)
uab.edu

Nova Southeastern University (FL)
nova.edu

Southern College of Optometry (TN)
sco.edu

HOW TO PURSUE A HEALTH CAREER

PURSUING A HEALTH CAREER

Recommendations on how to prepare academically for a health career, explore health careers to identify professional preferences, network within the healthcare industry, and gain experience in and exposure to healthcare settings

HEALTH CAREER EDUCATION JOURNEY

Health careers organized by the length of study needed

ON THE HEALTH CAREER EDUCATION JOURNEY

Resources for academic preparation, career exploration, and financial aid planning including information about the Georgia Department of Education's Health Science Career Pathways and HOSA

AHEC STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: MUSTAPHA CONTEH

Profile of a student who has maximally utilized AHEC programs and resources in successful pursuit of a health career

HEALTH CAREER EDUCATION FINANCIAL AID OPPORTUNITIES

Scholarship and grant information specific to health career educational programs organized by career category

HEALTH CAREER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN GEORGIA

A listing of the institutions in Georgia and the educational programs they offer to prepare students for the health careers featured in this publication

HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS IN GEORGIA

A listing of hospitals and health systems in Georgia

PURSUING A HEALTH CAREER

PREPARE for your career with appropriate core curriculum classes and choose elective classes in Healthcare Science Technology Education (HSTE).

Follow recommended planning checklists: gafutures.org

Follow a Georgia Department of Education Health Science Plan of Study: gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/CTAE/Pages/Healthcare-Science-.aspx

Enroll in Health Science classes: gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/CTAE/Pages/cluster-HS.aspx

Enroll in challenging math and science classes, such as Advanced Placement or Honors courses.

Participate in a work-based learning program as a junior or senior in high school to gain work experience and networking opportunities.

Consider dual enrollment with a college or technical college for healthcare courses (e.g., Certified Nursing Assistant [CNA], Medical Terminology).

- **Technical College System of Georgia**: tcsg.edu/dualenrollment
- **University System of Georgia**: usg.edu/student_affairs/prospective_students/opportunities

EXPLORE health careers to find your interests, your desired salary range, a positive job outlook, and obtainable academic requirements.

Create a GAfutures profile to generate a list of potential health careers that may interest you: www.gafutures.org

Utilize the *Health Careers in Georgia* manual:

- For career information.
- To explore the planning resources provided on the following pages.
- To link to the websites of professional organizations listed on each career page.
- To investigate the websites of the accredited colleges and universities listed on each career page.

Interview individuals working in your career(s) of interest.

Search careers online with caution to make sure the information is accurate and from reliable sources (e.g., .org, .edu, and .gov websites).

Research scholarships and grants now to be aware of the eligibility requirements (e.g., On the Health Education Journey [p. 114], Health Education Financial Aid Opportunities [p. 116-121], HOPE Program [gafutures.org/hope-state-aid-programs], community clubs, local healthcare organizations). Be conscious of scholarship scams: finaid.org/scholarships/scams.phtml

Attend college, career, and Probe fairs (gaprobe.org).

Although opportunities specific to high school are listed, the majority of these suggestions are appropriate for all ages.

NETWORK within the healthcare industry.

Talk to counselors and others about your career interests and ask for referrals to professionals in the healthcare industry to gather additional information and guidance.

Contact the professional organizations listed on the career pages in *Health Careers in Georgia*.

Connect with health professionals whenever you are in a healthcare environment and question them about their careers (influences, pathway, challenges, rewards, daily duties, balance with lifestyle, etc.).

3

GAIN EXPERIENCE and exposure in healthcare settings.

Volunteer at workplaces and events related to your health career interests (e.g., teen volunteer programs at hospitals, healthcare facilities, and blood drives).

Inquire with local facilities and personal contacts to shadow in the healthcare industry. Follow professionals on the job to learn the benefits and challenges of the career.

Work a part-time job in the healthcare industry.

Participate in clubs, particularly HOSA, as a member and in leadership roles: www.georgiahosa.org

Participate in AHEC-sponsored programs

Blue Ridge AHEC: www.blueridgeahec.org/k-12-education

Foothills AHEC: www.foothillsahec.org/recruit

Magnolia Coastlands AHEC: magnoliacoastlandsahec.org/recruitment-for-health-careers

Southwest Georgia AHEC: sowega-ahec.org/recruit

SPCC Atlanta AHEC: spcc-atlantaahec.org/health-career-exploration

Three Rivers AHEC: www.threeriversahec.org/health-careers-exploration

4

Participate in other health-related extra-curricular activities: Healthcare programs sponsored by colleges and universities (e.g., Augusta University Summer Academy, Brenau University Medical Scholars Program, Emory University Summer Science Academy, Georgia Southern University Health Career Camp, Piedmont College-Foothills AHEC Health Scholars Program, University of Georgia-Foothills AHEC Health Careers Youth Conference); National Youth Leadership Forum) National Youth Leadership Forum

– Medicine (envisionexperience.com/explore-our-programs/national-youth-leadership-forum-medicine); Health Care Career Exploring (exploring.org/health-care)

5

JOURNAL your experiences including program names, dates, contact information, lessons learned, and reflections to have readily available for scholarship applications, college-entry applications, and resumes.

HEALTH CAREER EDUCATION JOURNEY

3 - 6 mos.

Community Health Worker (OJT, C)
Home Health Aide (OJT, C)
Medical Interpreter (C)
Medical Secretary (OJT, C)
Nursing Assistant (C)
Personal Care Aide (OJT, C)
Pharmacy Technician (C)
Phlebotomist (C)

6 - 12 mos.

Dental Assistant (C)
Emergency Medical Technician (C)
Massage Therapist (C)
Medical Assistant (C)
Medical Coder (C)
Medical Transcriptionist (C)
Phlebotomist (OJT)

1 - 2 years

Biomedical Equipment Technician (D)
Dental Assistant (OJT, D)
Emergency Medical Technician (D)
Licensed Practical Nurse (D)
Massage Therapist (D)
Medical Assistant (D)
Medical Coder (D)
Medical Secretary (D)
Optician (D)
Paramedic (C, D)
Pharmacy Technician (D)
Polysomnographic Technologist (D)
Surgical Technologist (D)

2 - 3 years

Biomedical Equipment Technician (A)
Cardiovascular Technologist (A)
Clinical Laboratory Technician (A)
Dental Hygienist (A)
Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (A, PAC)
Nutrition and Dietetics Technician (A)
Health Information Technician (A)
Histotechnician (A, PAC)
Human Services Professional (A)
Medical Assistant (A)
Medical Secretary (A)
Neurodiagnostic Technologist (A, PAC)
Occupational Therapy Assistant (A)
Optician (A)
Paramedic (A)
Pharmacy Technician (A)
Physical Therapist Assistant (A)
Radiation Therapist (A, PAC)
Radiologic Technologist (A)
Registered Nurse (A)
Respiratory Therapist (A)
Surgical Technologist (A)
Veterinary Technician (A)

UP TO 5 years

Biomedical Engineer (B)
Cardiovascular Technologist (B)
Cytogenetic Technologist (B)
Cytotechnologist (B, PBC)
Dental Hygienist (B)
Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (B)
Dietitian (B)
Environmental Health Specialist (B)
Exercise Physiologist (B)
Geneticist (B)
Healthcare Administrator (B)
Health Educator (B)
Health Informatics Professional (B, PBC)
Health Information Administrator (B)
Histotechnologist (B, PBC)
Human Services Professional (B)
Medical Dosimetrist (B, PBC)
Medical Laboratory Scientist (B, PBC)
Music Therapist (B)
Nuclear Medicine Technologist (B)
Perfusionist (B, PBC)
Radiation Therapist (B, PBC)
Radiologic Technologist (B, PBC)
Recreational Therapist (B)

5+ years

Acupuncturist (M, DOC)
Anesthesiologist Assistant (M)
Art Therapist (M)
Athletic Trainer (M, DOC)
Audiologist (DOC)
Biomedical Engineer (M, DOC)
Biostatistician (M, DOC)
Chiropractor (DOC)
Clinical Laboratory Scientist (M)
Clinical Nurse Specialist (M)
Counselor (M, DOC)
Cytotechnologist (M)
Dance/Movement Therapist (M)
Dentist (DOC)
Dietitian Nutritionist (M, DOC)
Doctor of Medicine (DOC)
Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DOC)
Drama Therapist (M)
Environmental Health Specialist (M, DOC)
Epidemiologist (M, DOC)
Exercise Physiologist (M)
Genetic Counselor (M)
Geneticist (M, DOC)
Healthcare Administrator (M, DOC)
Health Educator (M, DOC)
Health Informatics Professional (M, DOC)
Health Sciences Librarian (M)
Histotechnologist (M)
Human Services Professional (M)
Medical Dosimetrist (M)
Medical Illustrator (M)
Music Therapist (M)
Nurse Anesthetist (DOC)
Nurse Educator (M, PMC, DOC)
Nurse Midwife (M, PMC)
Nurse Practitioner (M, PMC, DOC)

Registered Nurse (B)
Respiratory Therapist (B)
Social Worker (B)
Veterinary Technician (B)

Occupational Therapist (M, DOC)
Optometrist (DOC)
Orthotist (M)
Pathologists' Assistant (M)
Perfusionist (M)
Pharmacist (DOC)
Physical Therapist (DOC)
Physician Assistant (M)
Podiatrist (DOC)
Prosthetist (M)
Psychologist (DOC)
Registered Nurse (M, DOC)
Social Worker (M, DOC)
Speech-Language Pathologist (M, DOC)
Veterinarian (DOC)

OJT = on-the-job training
C = certificate
D = diploma
A = associate degree
PAC = post-associate certificate
B = bachelor's degree
PBC = post-baccalaureate certificate
M = master's degree
PMC = post-master's certificate
PMD = post-master's degree
DOC = doctoral degree

ON THE HEALTH CAREER EDUCATION JOURNEY

As you move forward on the path to a health career, you will take an educational journey that involves academic preparation, career exploration, and financial aid planning. The resources listed below will help you on this journey, however long it may be.

GAFUTURES
gafutures.org
GAfutures provides a one-stop shop for career, high school, college, and financial aid planning resources, including an individualized portfolio to help you keep track of what you have accomplished and what you have left to do. You can access planning timelines, check your GPA, explore dual enrollment opportunities, compare costs and financial aid awards among schools, learn about the HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarships, and more.

BIGFUTURE
bigfuture.collegeboard.org
BigFuture is a source for exploring careers you're interested in, finding colleges as well as planning and paying for college hosted by the College Board, a non-profit organization that helps students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services, such as the SAT and the Advanced Placement Program.

CAREERONESTOP
careeronestop.org
CareerOneStop, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, is a place to explore careers, find training and local help, search for jobs, utilize the job toolkit, and access resources unique to your needs.

EXPLOREHEALTHCAREERS
explorehealthcareers.org
ExploreHealthCareers is a multi-disciplinary, interactive website that gives students and educators a reliable, comprehensive source of accurate, up-to-date information about the health professions including education/training programs, financial aid resources, and current healthcare issues.

INTOCAREERS/CAREER INFORMATION SYSTEM
portal.cis.intocareers.org
intoCareers provides current and accurate occupational and educational information for schools and agencies to help people make informed career choices. Ask your counselor or administrator for the username and password.

HEALTH CARE CAREER EXPLORING
exploring.org/health-care
Health Care Career Exploring, sponsored by the Learning for Life organization, is a hands-on program open to young men and women from the 6th grade to 20 years old with an interest in learning more about careers in the healthcare field. Visit joinexploring.org to find Exploring near you.

MY NEXT MOVE
Mynextmove.org
My Next Move, developed and maintained by the National Center for O*NET Development under the sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration, is an interactive tool for job seekers and students to learn more about their career options. My Next Move has tasks, skills, salary information, and more for over 900 different careers and access to the O*NET Interest Profiler, a tool that offers personalized career suggestions based on interests and level of work experience.

FEDERAL STUDENT AID
studentaid.gov
Federal Student Aid, an office of the US Department of Education, is the federal government's source for learning more about types of financial aid, eligibility for financial aid, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid Application (FAFSA), and how to repay your student loans.

FINAID
finaid.org
Finaid is a nationally-recognized, comprehensive source of college financial aid information, advice, and tools.

PATH2COLLEGE
path2college529.com
Path2College 529 Plan is a tax-advantaged college savings plan provided by the State of Georgia that helps families and individuals save for the cost of higher education.

Take a look at pages 120-125 for a list of scholarships specific to health career education. Consult the resources below for more general financial aid planning information.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION HEALTH SCIENCE CAREER CLUSTER AND PATHWAYS

The Georgia Department of Education's Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) program ensures students have the skills they need to thrive in the future workforce. The Health Science Career Cluster is one of 17 in the CTAE program, and it includes 19 pathways, with sequenced courses for each, to be followed as a guide through high school to help prepare for post-secondary studies. These Health Science Career Pathways provide opportunities for middle and high school students to explore health careers and to receive a foundation of healthcare knowledge and skills as well as a smooth transition into postsecondary nursing, medical, or allied health education. Program participation can also potentially prepare students to acquire an entry-level medical position in the workforce or the military. Employment in the healthcare industry will provide students with a financially stable and rewarding career of service to others. Having a chance to begin this quest while still in middle or high school helps students prepare for their future, and their participation in this program offers healthcare business and industry a more defined pipeline of students who are interested in health careers.

The high school level curriculum exposes students to general healthcare knowledge and skills. By following one of the 19 career pathways, more in-depth study of the career area of interest is gained. A strong emphasis is placed on the integration of academics into the curriculum with the necessary employability skills such as problem-solving, teamwork, and critical thinking. Students may also have opportunities to participate in work-based learning, dual enrollment, and state or national certification or credentialing exams.

HEALTH SCIENCE CAREER CLUSTER PATHWAYS

gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/CTAE/Pages/Healthcare-Science-.aspx

- Allied Health and Medicine
- Biotechnology Research and Development
- Clinical Lab
- Dental Science
- Emergency Medical Responder
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Exercise Physiology
- Health Information Management
- Health Information Technology
- Mental Health Professional
- Non-Invasive Technology in Healthcare
- Patient Care
- Pharmacy
- Phlebotomy
- Public Health
- Public Safety Communications
- Sports Medicine
- Support Services
- Surgical Technology

HEALTH SCIENCE CAREER CLUSTER PATHWAY COURSES

gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/CTAE/Pages/cluster-HS.aspx

For more information, please contact CTAE Program Specialist Sandra Martin at sandra.martin@doe.k12.ga.us

HOSA-FUTURE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

HOSA is global student-led organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services and several federal and state agencies. HOSA's mission is to empower HOSA-FUTURE Health Professionals to become leaders in the global health community through education, collaboration, and experience. HOSA actively promotes career opportunities in the health industry and to enhance the delivery of quality healthcare to all people. HOSA's goal is to encourage all health science instructors and students to affiliate and be actively involved in the HSE-HOSA Partnership.

Since its inception in 1976, HOSA has grown steadily reaching over 260,000 members through 54 chartered HOSA Associations. If you do not have a chapter at your school, speak with your healthcare science teacher about starting one today.

Each year Georgia HOSA holds a number of conferences aimed at providing middle school, secondary, and postsecondary students with professional development, job-related skills, and access to current healthcare experts.

HOSA
hosa.org

GEORGIA HOSA
georgiahosa.org

AHEC STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Mustapha Conteh

While no academic journey can ever be considered "typical," Mustapha Conteh's path to a healthcare career is certainly unique.

A native of the West African country of Gambia, Conteh came to the United States in 2016, and though he knew he wanted to start his career in oral health, it took him four years to earn his associate degree in dental hygiene because of the pressures of adjusting to life in a new country and the fact that many of his academic achievements didn't transfer. However, he remained committed to his objective because he knew first-hand how great the need for oral care was in his community.

"I grew up in a country where oral health is neglected for many reasons," he says. "There is no oral health policy to address the burden of oral health diseases, let alone an institution that trains students in the profession."

During his time as a population field officer in Gambia, he noticed people with serious oral diseases, but the only treatment option available was to extract infected or cavitated teeth. There was no prevention of these issues because dental hygiene there is nonexistent.

"I decided to pursue a career in dental hygiene to improve the oral health status of people in all communities — especially underserved communities — and to improve access to care by addressing the issues of transportation and income barriers," he says.

Conteh earned an associate degree from Atlanta Technical College in 2020 and then a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene from Clayton State University in 2022.

Currently, he works three days a week as a traveling dental hygienist within the Metro Atlanta area, and though he's achieved his initial goal, he's now undertaken a different challenge: working on his Master of Public Health from Georgia Southern University, after which he's looking forward to working with underserved communities, particularly West African Communities, where he knows the need goes far beyond oral health.

But why choose public health?

"I believe prevention is the key to a successful outcome, and the people we serve are people who are living in areas where accessing healthcare is difficult," he says. "It's important to educate people so that we can all work together and solve our common problems as far as public health is concerned."

Though his academic journey has been long and difficult, he has not been alone. All along the way he has enjoyed AHEC's support while also benefiting from the many opportunities it provides.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

AHEC Scholars is a multidisciplinary program designed to provide health professions students the opportunity to practice hands-on training in rural and underserved areas.

Learn more by visiting the statewide AHEC Scholars page or your local AHEC center.

augusta.edu/ahec/ahec-scholars.php

"I believe prevention is the key to a successful outcome, and the people we serve are people who are living in areas where accessing healthcare is difficult," he says. "It's important to educate people so that we can all work together and solve our common problems as far as public health is concerned."

"I interned at the SOWEGA-AHEC in Albany and took part in the farm worker project for six weeks, participating in data collection and analysis," he says. "The team also worked to identify barriers to health for the migrant workers of the farming communities and proposed recommendations."

As an intern, his eagerness to learn caused him to tackle several tasks all at once, which quickly overwhelmed him. But he did not struggle for long.

"The executive director noticed, and after meeting about it, we decided I should tackle work activities based on priorities and deadlines," he says. "This approach helped me immensely."

Later, at Magnolia Coastlands AHEC, he participated in the poverty simulation exercise that exposes students to the challenges faced by many U.S. families when it comes to paying for healthcare.

"This activity has given me an insight into the social determinants of health and how these factors impact healthcare nationwide," he says.

He is also part of the AHEC Scholars program, which introduces students to the daily realities faced by marginalized communities in accessing healthcare.

"The program connects students to health careers in rural areas as a means to bridge the gap that exists in the rural healthcare workforce," he says.

AHEC Scholars are also trained in several fields, including telehealth, community health and the social determinants of health, and learn how they impact access to healthcare.

As a student from an impoverished country, Conteh has found it challenging to obtain educational resources and supplies, but boasts he's discovered an ally in AHEC.

"I had to work two jobs to get funds to pay for tuition fees and, at the same time, purchase the materials needed for my courses," he says. "The Magnolia Coastlands AHEC has been supporting me in getting trained, getting access to resources online and providing a stipend to support my educational journey."

And soon, with his Master of Public Health, he'll be able to broaden the work he's already done by helping communities in need reduce the economic burden of disease and lower the pressure on the healthcare infrastructure.

"Now, as a dental hygienist, I work in a clinical setting where I work on individual health," he says. "But my goal is to be out in the community working with groups of people to make sure they get the care they need."

HEALTH EDUCATION FINANCIAL AID OPPORTUNITIES

	PROGRAM	FUNDER	WEBSITE	OBJECTIVE
COMP & INT MEDICINE	AMTA Scholarship	American Massage Therapy Association	amtamassage.org/scholarships	Provide financial support for students enrolled in a massage therapy program
	Trudy McAllister Scholarship	Trudy McAllister Foundation	trudymcallisterfoundation.org	Support students who show promise of making significant contributions either to clinical practice and/or to the understanding of the role of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (AOM) in a modern context
DENTISTRY	ADA Foundation Dental Student Scholarship Program	American Dental Association	adafoundation.org	Recognize dental students who are strong academically and who demonstrate outstanding promise in leadership, public service/volunteerism, and/or research
	ADAA Student Achievement Award	American Dental Assistants Association	adaausa.org/student-achievement-award	Reward a student who has demonstrated leadership ability through some activity related to dentistry
	Sandra Waller Neville Endowed Scholarship	Community Foundation for the Central Savannah River Area	cfcsra.org/how-we-grant/scholarships	Provide funding for dental hygiene students in their last year of study
DIETETICS	Academy Foundation Student Scholarships	Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics Foundation	eatrightfoundation.org/why-it-matters/scholarships	Assist dietetic program students in their academic endeavors
	Georgia Dietetics Foundation Scholarships	Georgia Dietetic Foundation	eatrightgeorgia.org/georgia-dietetic-foundation.html	Promote the health and well-being of Georgia citizens through nutrition education by supporting the education of dietetic professionals
HEALTH ADMINISTRATION & INFORMATION SERVICES	AAHAM National Scholarship	American Association of Healthcare Administrative Management	aaham.org/page/Scholarship	Promote the advancement of the patient account management profession and the individual growth of its members through education programs
	AHIMA Foundation Merit Scholarship	American Health Information Management Association	ahimafoundation.ahima.org/programs-partnerships/education/scholarships	Attract and support new talent in the health information management industry by improving educational opportunities
	Albert W. Dent and Foster G. McGaw Graduate Student Scholarships	American College of Healthcare Executives	ache.org/membership/student-resources/dent-and-mcgaw-graduate-student-scholarship	Help offset tuition costs, student loans, and expenses for students in healthcare management
	AMI Scholarships	Association of Medical Illustrators through the Vesalius Trust	ami.org/medical-illustration/enter-the-profession/education/scholarships	Support students in the field of visual communications in the health sciences
	GHIMA Scholarship	Georgia Health Information Management Association	ghima.org/members/scholarship/	Support and recognize Georgia students pursuing their education in health information management
	HIMSS Foundation Scholarships	Healthcare Information & Management Systems Society	himss.org/initiatives/himss-foundation/	Reward student members who have achieved academically and have the potential to lead in healthcare information and management systems
	MLA Scholarships	Medical Library Association	mlanet.org/professional-development/grants-scholarships-fellowships/	Support a student who shows excellence in scholarship and potential for accomplishment in health sciences librarianship
LABORATORY SCIENCE	AMT Scholarships & Awards	American Medical Technologists	americanmedtech.ort/blog/blog-post/student-awards	Enhance educational and competency opportunities for current and future allied healthcare professionals
	ASCP Foundation Scholarship Fund	American Society for Clinical Pathology Foundation	ascp.org/membership-resources/scholarships-grants	Help build a well-trained and strong workforce of laboratory professionals
	Barbara J. Kaplan Scholarship	Foundation for Genetic Technology	agt-info.org	Acknowledge and honor outstanding undergraduate and certificate students in cytogenetics and molecular genetic technology
	Dolbey Graduate & Undergraduate Scholarships	American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science Education & Research Fund	ascls.org/edward-c-dolbey-graduate-and-undergraduate-scholarships	Provide scholarships for students enrolled in clinical laboratory science, clinical laboratory technician, histotechnology, or cytotechnology programs
	Geraldine Colby Zeiler Award	American Society of Cytopathology Foundation	cytopathology.org	Stimulate and reward high achievement by cytotechnology students during their training
	NSH Scholarships & Awards	National Society for Histotechnology	nsh.org/membership/awardscholarships	Recognize outstanding histology students
MEDICAL SUPPORT	ASET Foundation Tuition Grants	ASET Foundation	asetfoundation.org/grants/tuition-grants/	Assist and encourage qualified students to further or continue their interest in selecting neurodiagnostic technology as a new or continued career
	FFST Student Scholarship	Foundation for Surgical Technologists	ffst.org/scholarships/academic-scholarships	Encourage and reward educational excellence and respond to the financial need demonstrated by the surgical technology student
	GAPA Scholarships	Georgia Association of Physician Assistants	gapa.net/gapa-students/	Provide educational assistance to deserving physician assistant students
	AMT Scholarships & Awards	American Medical Technologists	americanmedtech.org	Enhance educational and competency opportunities for current and future allied healthcare professionals
	Maxine Williams Scholarship Fund	American Association of Medical Assistants	aama-ntl.org/about/the-maxine-williams-scholarship-fund	Provide educational assistance to deserving medical assisting students
	Physician Assistant Loan Repayment Program	Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce	healthcareworkforce.georgia.gov/physician-assistant-loan-repayment-program	Assist PAs in repaying outstanding PA education loan debt who agree to provide direct patient care in medically underserved, rural areas of Georgia
	Physician Assistant Student Scholarships	Physician Assistant Foundation	pa-foundation.org/scholarships-fellowships/pa-student-scholarships	Provide educational assistance to deserving physician assistant students

UNDERGRAD/GRADUATE	GA RESIDENCY REQUIRED	ANNUAL AWARD	INSTITUTION RESTRICTIONS	NEED-BASED
U	N	$5,000	A 500-hour minimum entry-level massage therapy program	N
G	N	$500-5,000	A U.S. school accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acuputure and Oriental Medicine	N
G	N	Varies	A dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation	N
U	N	Varies	A dental assisting program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation	N
U	Y	$1,000	Eligible applicants must attend Augusta University and reside in Wilkes, Burke, Lincoln, McDuffie, Warren, Glasscock, Jefferson, Richmond or Columbia counties	Y
U/G	N	$500-10,000	An educational program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)	N
U/G	N	$1,500	An accredited didactic program in Dietetics or an ACEND-accredited program	N
U	N	$1,000-2,500	N/A	N
U/G	N	$3,000-7,000	An educational program related to health information management	Y
G	N	$5,000	N/A	Y
G	N	Varies	A medical illustration program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs	N
U/G	Y	Varies	An educational program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education	N
U/G	N	$5,000	An accredited educational program related to healthcare information and managemnt systems	N
G	N	$5,000	A master's degree program accredited by the American Library Association	N
U	N	$135-500	An educational program that will lead to a career in one of the disciplines certified by the American Medical Technologists	Y
U/G	N	$500-2,000	An educational program accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science	N
U	N	Varies	A cytogenetics program accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science	N
U/G	N	$1,500-3,000	An educational program accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science	N
G	N	$2,000	A cytotechnology program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs	N
U	N	Varies	A histology program accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science	N
U	N	$500-1,000	A neurodiagnostic technology program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs	N
U	N	Varies	A surgical technology accredited by the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting	Y
G	Y	$1,000-1,500	A physician assistant program in Georgia accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant	N
U	N	$500	Course of study must lead to a career in one of the disciplines certified by the American Medical Technologists	N
U	N	Varies	Postsecondary medical assisting program accredited by Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs	N
G	N	$40,000	N/A	N
G	N	$1,000-2,500	A physician assistant program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission of Education for the Physician Assistant	Varies

HEALTH EDUCATION FINANCIAL AID OPPORTUNITIES

	PROGRAM	FUNDER	WEBSITE	OBJECTIVE
MEDICINE	Georgia Physician Loan Repayment Program/Physicians for Rural Areas Assistance	Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce	healthcareworkforce.georgia.gov/physician-loan-repayment-programs	Assist physicians in repaying outstanding medical education loan debt who agree to provide direct patient care in Health Professional Shortage Areas and medically underserved, rural areas of Georgia
	Physicians of Tomorrow Scholarship	American Medical Association Foundation	amafoundation.org/programs/scholarships	Provide financial assistance to deserving medical students
	Primary Care Loans	US Dept. of HHS Health Resources & Services Administration	bhw.hrsa.gov/programs/primary-care-loans-pcl	Provide long-term, low interest rate loans to full-time, financially needy students to pursue a degree in allopathic or osteopathic medicine
MENTAL HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES	ACA Graduate Student Awards of Excellence	American Counseling Association	counseling.org/membership/awards	Recognize counselors of tomorrow as they prepare for careers in the field of professional counseling
	APF Graduate Student Scholarships	American Psychological Foundation	ampsyfdn.org/funding/	Help graduate students further their education in psychology
	NASP Scholarships & Grants	National Association of School Psychologists	nasponline.org/membership-and-community/nasp-awards-scholarships-and-grants	Help graduate students further their education in school psychology
	NASW Foundation Fellowships, Scholarships, & Research Awards	National Association of Social Workers Foundation	naswfoundation.org/Our-Work/Scholarships-Fellowships-Awards	Help graduate students further their education in social work
	NOHS Awards, Scholarships, and Grants	National Organization for Human Services	nationalhumanservices.org/awards-scholarships	Help students further their education in human services
NURSING	AACN Student Scholarships & Financial Aid	American Association of Colleges of Nursing and various partners	accnnursing.org/students/scholarships-financial-aid	Support students who are seeking a baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral degree in nursing
	Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Loan Repayment Program	Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce	gbpw.georgia.gov/loan-repayment-programs	Assist APRNs in repaying outstanding APRN education loan debt who are willing to provide direct patient care in medically underserved, rural areas of Georgia
	GANE Scholarships & Awards Opportunities	Georgia Association for Nursing Education	gane.nursingnetwork.com/page/96017-scholarships-awards-opportunities	Support students enrolled in Georgia's associate and baccalaureate nursing programs
	GNA Scholarships	Georgia Nurses Association	georgianurses.nursingnetwork.com/page/93349-scholarships	Provide financial assistance to qualified applicants studying nursing in an accredited school, college, or university
	NURSE Corps Scholarship Program	US Dept. of HHS Health Resources & Services Administration	bhw.hrsa.gov/funding/apply-scholarship/nurse-corps	Fund educational costs for nursing students in exchange for working at an eligible NURSE Corps site upon graduation
	Nursing Student Loans	US Dept. of HHS Health Resources & Services Administration	bhw.hsra.gov/nursing-programs	Provide long-term, low-interest rate loans to students pursuing a course of study leading to a diploma, associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degree in nursing
PHARMACY	AFPE Fellowship & Award Programs	American Foundation for Phamaceutical Education	afpepharm.org/index.php/contact/grants-scholarships-and-awards	Advance and support pharmaceutical sciences education at U.S. schools and colleges of pharmacy
	APhA Student Scholarship Program	American Pharmacists Association Foundation	aphafoundation.org/student-scholarships	Recognize students who choose to invest their time in their school's APhA - ASP chapter to help shape the future of the profession
	ASHP Student Leadership Award	American Society of Health System Parmacists Research and Education Foundation	ashp.org/about-ashp/awards/student-awards/ashp-student-leadership-award	Regocnize students with an interest in pharmacy practice in health-systems who have demonstrated leadership ability
	CVS Health/AACP Community Pharmacy Award	CVS	aacp.org/resource/financial-aid-and-scholarships	Recognize student pharmacists who face financial barriers in their pursuit of education
	Georgia Pharmacy Foundation Scholarships	Georgia Pharmacy Foundation	gpha.org/foundation	Attract and develop the best and brightest in Georgia pharmacy
	NCPA Foundation Scholarships	National Community Pharmacists Association Foundation	ncpafoundation.org/scholarships	Recognize students with demonstrated leadership qualities, academic achievement, and an interest in pharmacy management
PUBLIC HEALTH	GEHA Awards	Georgia Environmental Health Association	geha-online.wildapricot.org/Awards	Recognize outstanding individuals who show excellent promise for success in environmental health practice
	NEHA/AAS Scholarship	National Environmental Health Association & American Academy of Sanitarians	neha.org/scholarships	Positively impact the future of environmental health
	SHAPE Scholarships	Society of Health and Physical Educators	shapeamerica.org/MemberPortal/scholarships	Reward outstanding students in health education programs
	SOPHE Student Awards & Scholarships	Society of Public Health Education	sophie.org/professtional-development/awards-fellowships-scholarships	Support students pursuing a health education degree

UNDERGRAD/GRADUATE	GA RESIDENCY REQUIRED	ANNUAL AWARD	INSTITUTION RESTRICTIONS	NEED-BASED
G	N	Up to $150,000 total	N/A	N
G	N	$10,000	A medical school accredited by the Liason Committee on Medical Education	N
G	N	Varies	An accredited U.S. school	Y
G	N	$100-2,500	N/A	N
G	N	Varies	An accredited U.S. school	N
G	N	$1,000-5,000	A school psychology program approved by the National Association of School Psychologists	N
G	N	Varies	N/A	Varies
G	N	Varies	An educational program with "human services" in the title	N
U/G	N	Varies	An American Association of Colleges of Nursing member institution	N
G	N	Up to $40,000 total	N/A	N
U	Y	Varies	An eligible Georgia institution	N
U/G	Y	Varies	N/A	N
U/G	N	Monthly stipend	N/A	Y
U/G	N	Varies	A participating school	Y
G	N	Varies	A college or school of pharmacy accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education	N
G	N	Varies	A college or school of pharmacy accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education	N
G	N	$2,000	A college or school of pharmacy accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education	N
G	N	$20,000	A college or school of pharmacy accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education	N
G	N	$1,500	A college or school of pharmacy in Georgia accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education	N
G	N	Varies	A college or school of pharmacy accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education	N
U	Y	$2,000	A college or school of public health accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health	N
U/G	N	$2,650-3,750	A college or school of public health accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health	N
U/G	N	$1,000-1,250	A college or school of public health accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health	N
U/G	N	$440-2,500	A college or school of public health accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health	N

HEALTH EDUCATION FINANCIAL AID OPPORTUNITIES

	PROGRAM	FUNDER	WEBSITE	OBJECTIVE
RADIOLOGIC & IMAGING SCIENCE	AAMD Foundation Student Scholarships	American Association of Medical Dosimetrists Education Foundation	aamdfoundation.org/scholarships	Help students enrolled in medical dosimetry programs
	ASRT Foundation Scholarships	American Society of Radiologic Technologists	foundation.asrt.org/what-we-do/scholarships	Help students get the support they need to achieve a successful, sustainable career in radiologic technology
	GSRT Scholarships	Georgia Society of Radiologic Technologists, Inc.	gsrt.wildapricot.org/scholarship	Help student members actively pursuing a career in radiologic technology
	SDMS Foundation Sonography Student Scholarships	Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography Foundation	sdms.org/foundation/programs/scholarships/sonography-student	Reward a deserving sonography student
SCIENCE & ENGINEER	ASHG Annual DNA Day Essay Contest	American Society of Human Genetics	ashg.org/dna-day	Promote students' examination, questioning, and reflection on important concepts in genetics
	Kilmer Fund/Michael J. Miller Scholarship Program	Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation	aami.org/awards-and-scholarships/awards/aami-foundation-scholarships	Provide funding to students aspiring to become biomedical equipment technicians and clinical engineers
THERAPY & REHABILITATION	AATA Student Scholarships	American Art Therapy Association	arttherapy.org/awards-and-scholarships/	Honor student members that have made outstanding contributions of lasting importance to the art therapy community
	AMTA Student Level Scholarships	American Music Therapy Association	musictherapy.org/careers/scholars	Provide opportunities to qualified members to support the education of music therapy students
	AOTA Scholarships	American Occupational Therapy Association	aota.org/education/find-a-school/aota-ek-wise-scholarship	Support student members enrolled in occupational therapy programs at all levels
	APTA Scholarships and Awards for Students	American Physical Therapy Association	apta.org/for-students/scholarships-awards	Help physical therapy students at all levels with the rising costs of higher education
	ARCF Student Awards	American Respiratory Care Foundation	arcfoundation.org/how-we-give/student-awards	Support respiratory care students
	Chester Haddan Scholarship Fund	Orthotic and Prosthetic Education and Research Foundation	oandpfoundation.org/professional-awards-2	Provide grants to individuals who are pursuing an education in orthotics and prosthetics
	GFPT Scholarships	Georgia Foundation for Physical Therapy	gfptonline.org/scholarships	Provide financial assistance to physical therapy and physical therapy assistant students who demonstrate superior capabilities
	GSRC Scholarships	Georgia Society for Respiratory Care	gsrc.org	Support Georgia respiratory care students
	GSHA Student Success Scholarships	Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association	ghsa.org/scholarships	Support speech-language pathology and audiology students studying communication disorders
	Lori Mobley Groover Leadership Program	Georgia Athletic Training Association	athletictraining.org/scholarships	Recognize students who show leadership potential and a passion for the athletic training profession
VET	Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program	USDA National Institute of Food & Agriculture (NIFA)	nifa.usda.gov/program/veterinary-medicine-loan-repayment-program	Pay educational loans of eligible veterinarians who agree to serve in a NIFA designated veterinarian shortage situation for a period of three years
VIS	Optometry Cares Scholarships and the Endowment	American Optometric Association Foundation	aoafoundation.org/our-programs/student-scholarships	Provide lasting annual scholarships for optometry students

UNDERGRAD/GRADUATE	GA RESIDENCY REQUIRED	ANNUAL AWARD	INSTITUTION RESTRICTIONS	NEED-BASED
G	N	Varies	A medical dosimetry program accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology	N
U	N	Varies	An educational program accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology	N
U	N	Varies	An educational program accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology	N
U	N	$2,500.00	An an educational program in diagnostic medical sonography or cardiovascular technology accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Educational Programs	N
U	N	$100-1,000	N/A	N
U/G	N	$5,000	N/A	N
G	N	Varies	N/A	N
G	N	Varies	N/A	N
U/G	N	$2,500	An educational program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education	N
U/G	N	Varies	An educational program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education	N
U/G	N	$1,000-7,500	A respiratory care program accredited by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care	N
G	N	$2,500	An orthotics and prosthetics program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs	Y
U/G	Y	$2,000	An educational program in Georgia accredited by the Commission of Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education	N
U	Y	Varies	A respiratory care program accredited by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care	Varies
U/G	Y	Varies	An educational program in Georgia accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology	N
U/G	Y	$750	An educational program in Georgia accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education	N
G	N	$40,000	A college or school of veterinary medicine accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association	N
G	N	Varies	A college or school of optometry accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education	N

HEALTH CAREER EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN GEORGIA

The following is a list of accredited health career education programs available at colleges, universities, technical colleges, proprietary schools, and hospitals in Georgia for the health careers identified in this publication. Many schools have multiple campuses and online courses that increase accessibility to their programs. Institutions with more than one campus may not offer every program at every campus. Some programs are jointly administered with other institutions. Graduation from an accredited program is often required in order to obtain certification, registration, or licensure. Ask about the accreditation status of programs in which you are interested.

Proprietary schools included are indicated by an asterisk (*) and are authorized by the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission and accredited by an agency recognized by the US Department of Education. Recognized agencies include Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools, Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training, Higher Learning Commission, Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools, and Council on Occupational Education. Massage therapy schools included are approved by the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy.

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
Tifton
(800) 733-3653
abac.edu
- Registered Nurse

AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE
Decatur
(800) 868-8602
agnesscott.edu
- Health Educator

ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY
East Albany (Main) Campus
West Albany Campus
(229) 500-2000
asurams.edu
- Athletic Trainer
- Clinical Laboratory Technician
- Counselor
- Dental Hygienist
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Exercise Physiologist
- Health Information Technician
- Healthcare Administrator
- Histotechnician
- Medical Coder
- Nurse Educator
- Nurse Practitioner
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Paramedic
- Phlebotomist
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse
- Respiratory Therapist
- Social Worker

ALBANY TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Albany
(229) 430-3500
albanytech.edu
- Biomedical Equipment Technician
- Dental Assistant
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Health Information Technician
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Coder
- Medical Secretary
- Nursing Assistant
- Paramedic
- Pharmacy Technician
- Phlebotomist
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse
- Surgical Technologist

AMERICAN INTERCONTINENTAL UNIVERSITY*
Atlanta Campus
(855) 377-1888
aiuniv.edu
- Healthcare Administrator

ANDREW COLLEGE
Cuthbert
(800) 664-9250
andrewcollege.edu
- Registered Nurse
- Respiratory Therapist

ATHENS TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Athens (Main) Campus
Elbert County Campus - Elberton
Walton County Campus - Monroe
(706) 355-5000
athenstech.edu
- Dental Assistant
- Dental Hygienist
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Health Information Technician
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Coder
- Nursing Assistant
- Paramedic
- Phlebotomist
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse
- Surgical Technologist
- Veterinary Technician

ATLANTA METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE
Atlanta
(404) 756-4000
atlm.edu
- Healthcare Administrator

ATLANTA SCHOOL OF MASSAGE
Atlanta
(770) 454-7167
atlantaschoolofmassage.com
- Massage Therapist

ATLANTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Main Campus - Atlanta
(404) 225-4400
atlantatech.edu
- Dental Assistant
- Dental Hygienist
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Health Information Technician
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Coder
- Medical Secretary
- Nursing Assistant
- Paramedic
- Pharmacy Technician
- Phlebotomist
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse

AUGUSTA SCHOOL OF MASSAGE
Evans
(706) 863-4799
augustamassage.com
- Massage Therapist

AUGUSTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Augusta (Main) Campus
(706) 771-4000
Grovetown Campus
(706) 651-7368
Summerville Campus
(706) 771-4175
Thomson Campus
(706) 595-0166
Waynesboro Campus
(706) 437-6801
augustatech.edu
- Cardiovascular Technologist (administered with Piedmont Augusta Hospital Harry T. Harper, Jr., MD School of Cardiac and Vascular Technology)
- Dental Assistant
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Health Information Technician
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Coder
- Medical Secretary
- Nursing Assistant
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Pharmacy Technician
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse
- Respiratory Therapist
- Surgical Technologist

AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY
Augusta
(706) 721-0211
augusta.edu
- Biostatistician
- Counselor
- Dental Hygienist
- Dentist
- Dietitian Nutritionist
- Doctor of Medicine
- Epidemiologist
- Exercise Physiologist
- Geneticist
- Health Educator
- Health Informatics Professional
- Health Information Administrator
- Healthcare Administrator
- Medical Illustrator
- Medical Laboratory Scientist
- Nuclear Medicine Technologist
- Nurse Anesthetist
- Nurse Practitioner
- Occupational Therapist
- Paramedic
- Physical Therapist
- Physician Assistant
- Radiation Therapist
- Registered Nurse
- Respiratory Therapist
- Social Worker

BERRY COLLEGE
Mount Berry
(706) 232-5374
berry.edu
- Exercise Physiologist
- Healthcare Administrator
- Physician Assistant
- Registered Nurse

BRENAU UNIVERSITY
Gainesville (Main) Campus
North Atlanta Campus - Norcross
(706) 534-6100
brenau.edu
- Counselor
- Exercise Physiologist
- Health Educator
- Healthcare Administrator
- Nurse Practitioner
- Occupational Therapist
- Physical Therapist
- Physician Assistant
- Psychologist
- Registered Nurse

BREWTON-PARKER COLLEGE
Mt. Vernon
(800) 342-1087
bpc.edu
- Exercise Physiologist
- Registered Nurse

CAMBRIDGE COLLEGE OF HEALTHCARE AND TECHNOLOGY*
Atlanta
(404) 255-4500
cambridgehealth.edu
- Clinical Laboratory Technician
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
- Health Information Administrator
- Health Information Technician
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Coder
- Phlebotomist
- Radiation Therapist
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse

CENTRAL GEORGIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Warner Robins (Main) Campus
(478) 988-6800
Macon Campus
(478) 757-3400
Milledgeville Campus
(478) 445-2300
centralgatech.edu
- Biomedical Equipment Technician
- Cardiovascular Technologist
- Clinical Laboratory Technician
- Dental Assistant
- Dental Hygienist
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Coder
- Medical Secretary
- Nursing Assistant
- Paramedic
- Pharmacy Technician
- Phlebotomist
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Polysomnographic Technologist
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse
- Surgical Technologist

HEALTH CAREER EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN GEORGIA

CHAMBERLAIN UNIVERSITY
Atlanta Campus
Sandy Springs
Stockbridge
(877) 751-5783
chamberlain.edu
- Nurse Educator
- Nurse Practitioner
- Registered Nurse
- Social Worker

CHATTAHOOCHEE TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Marietta (Main) Campus
Appalachian Campus - Jasper
Austell Campus
Canton Campus
Mountain View Campus - Marietta
North Metro Campus - Acworth
Paulding Campus - Dallas
Woodstock Campus
(770) 528-4545
chattahoocheetech.edu
- Biomedical Equipment Technician
- Clinical Laboratory Technician
- Dental Assistant
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Secretary
- Nursing Assistant
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Paramedic
- Phlebotomist
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse
- Surgical Technologist

CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
Atlanta
(404) 880-8000
cau.edu
- Counselor
- Social Worker

CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY
Morrow
(678) 466-4000
clayton.edu
- Counselor
- Dental Hygienist
- Health Educator
- Healthcare Administrator
- Human Services Professional
- Nurse Practitioner
- Registered Nurse

COASTAL PINES TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Waycross (Main) Campus
Alma Campus
Baxley Campus
Camden Campus
Golden Isles Campus
Hazlehurst Campus
Jesup Campus
(877) 332-8682
coastalpines.edu
- Biomedical Equipment Technician
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Massage Therapist
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Coder
- Medical Secretary
- Nursing Assistant
- Paramedic
- Phlebotomist
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse
- Respiratory Therapist
- Surgical Technologist

COLLEGE OF COASTAL GEORGIA
Brunswick
(912) 279-5700
ccga.edu
- Exercise Physiologist
- Health Educator
- Health Information Administrator
- Healthcare Administrator
- Human Services Professional
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse

COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY
Columbus
(866) 264-2035
columbusstate.edu
- Counselor
- Exercise Physiologist
- Health Educator
- Health Informatics Professional
- Healthcare Administrator
- Nurse Educator
- Nurse Practitioner
- Registered Nurse

COLUMBUS TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Columbus
(706) 649-1800
columbustech.edu
- Dental Assistant
- Dental Hygienist
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Coder
- Medical Secretary
- Nursing Assistant
- Paramedic
- Pharmacy Technician
- Phlebotomist
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse
- Respiratory Therapist
- Surgical Technologist

DALTON STATE COLLEGE
Dalton (Main) Campus
Mountain Campus - Ellijay
(706) 272-4436
daltonstate.edu
- Clinical Laboratory Technician
- Environmental Health Specialist
- Health Educator
- Healthcare Administrator
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Phlebotomist
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse
- Respiratory Therapist
- Social Worker

DEVRY UNIVERSITY*
Decatur Campus
(404) 270-2706
devry.edu
- Healthcare Administrator
- Health Information Administrator
- Health Information Technician
- Medical Coder

ELAINE STERLING INSTITUTE*
Atlanta
(470) 705-1425
elainesterling.com
- Massage Therapist

EMMANUEL UNIVERSITY
Franklin Springs
(800) 860-8800
eu.edu
- Exercise Physiologist

EMORY DECATUR HOSPITAL
School of Radiologic Technology
Decatur
(404) 501-5307
emoryhealthcare.org
- Radiologic Technologist

EMORY HEALTHCARE
Medical Laboratory Science Program
Tucker
emoryhealthcare.org/careers/medical-technology
- Clinical Laboratory Scientist

EMORY UNIVERSITY
Atlanta
(404) 727-6123
emory.edu
- Anesthesiologist Assistant
- Biomedical Engineer (with Georgia Institute of Technology)
- Biostatistician
- Doctor of Medicine
- Environmental Health Specialist
- Epidemiologist
- Genetic Counselor
- Geneticist
- Health Educator
- Health Informatics Professional
- Healthcare Administrator
- Medical Assistant
- Nurse Anesthetist
- Nurse Practitioner
- Nursing Assistant
- Perfusionist
- Pharmacy Technician
- Physical Therapist
- Physician Assistant
- Psychologist
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse

FORT VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
Fort Valley (Main) Campus
Warner Robbins Campus
(877) 462-3878
fvsu.edu
- Counselor
- Environmental Health Specialist
- Epidemiologist
- Registered Nurse
- Social Worker
- Veterinary Technician

FORTIS COLLEGE*
Smyrna
(770) 980-0002
fortis.edu
- Dental Assistant
- Dental Hygienist
- Medical Assistant
- Radiologic Technologist

GENESIS CAREER COLLEGE*
Dalton Campus
(706) 278-1300
–Smyrna Campus
(706) 933-0234
genesiscareer.edu
- Medical Assistant

GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY
Milledgeville
(800) 342-0471
gcsu.edu
- Athletic Trainer
- Exercise Physiologist
- Health Educator
- Music Therapist
- Nurse Educator
- Nurse-Midwife
- Nurse Practitioner
- Registered Nurse

GEORGIA GWINNETT COLLEGE
Lawrenceville
(678) 407-5000
ggc.edu
- Exercise Physiologist
- Health Educator
- Human Services Professional
- Registered Nurse

GEORGIA HIGHLANDS COLLEGE
Rome
(706) 802-5000
highlands.edu
- Dental Hygienist
- Health Educator
- Healthcare Administrator
- Human Services Professional
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Coder
- Nursing Assistant
- Phlebotomist
- Registered Nurse

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Atlanta
(404) 894-2000
gatech.edu
- Biomedical Engineer

GEORGIA MASSAGE SCHOOL
Suwanee
(678) 482-1100
georgiamassageschool.com
- Massage Therapist

GEORGIA NORTHWESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Floyd County (Main) Campus - Rome
Catoosa County Campus - Ringgold
Gordon County Campus - Calhoun
Polk County Campus - Rockmart
Walker County Campus - Rock Spring
Whitfield Murray Campus - Dalton
(866) 983-4682
gntc.edu
- Cardiovascular Technologist
- Dental Assistant
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Health Information Technician
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Coder
- Medical Secretary
- Medical Transcriptionist
- Nursing Assistant
- Paramedic
- Phlebotomist
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse
- Respiratory Therapist
- Surgical Technologist

GEORGIA PIEDMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE
DeKalb (Main) Campus - Clarkston
Newton Campus - Covington
Rockdale County Campus - Conyers
(404) 297-9522
gptc.edu
- Biomedical Equipment Technician
- Clinical Laboratory Technician
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Health Information Technician
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Coder
- Medical Secretary
- Nursing Assistant
- Optician
- Paramedic
- Phlebotomist
- Surgical Technologist

HEALTH CAREER EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN GEORGIA

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
Statesboro (Main) Campus
Armstrong Campus - Savannah
Liberty Campus - Hinesville
(912) 478-4636
georgiasouthern.edu
- Athletic Trainer
- Biostatistician
- Cardiovascular Technologist
- Counselor
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
- Dietitian Nutritionist
- Environmental Health Specialist
- Epidemiologist
- Exercise Physiologist
- Health Educator
- Health Informatics Professional
- Healthcare Administrator
- Medical Laboratory Scientist
- Nuclear Medicine Technologist
- Nurse Educator
- Nurse Practitioner
- Physical Therapist
- Psychologist
- Radiation Therapist
- Radiologic Technologist
- Respiratory Therapist
- Registered Nurse
- Speech-Language Pathologist

GEORGIA SOUTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
Americus
(877) 871-4594
gsw.edu
- Exercise Physiologist
- Health Informatics Professional
- Nurse Educator
- Nurse Practitioner
- Registered Nurse

GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY
Atlanta (Main) Campus
(404) 413-2000
Alpharetta Campus
(678) 240-6000
Clarkston Campus
(678) 891-3200
Decatur Campus
(678) 891-2300
Dunwoody Campus
(770) 274-5000
Newton Campus
(770) 278-1200
gsu.edu
- Biostatistician
- Counselor
- Dental Hygienist
- Dietitian Nutritionist
- Environmental Health Specialist
- Epidemiologist
- Exercise Physiologist
- Health Educator
- Health Informatics Professional
- Healthcare Administrator
- Nurse Educator
- Nurse Practitioner
- Occupational Therapist
- Physical Therapist
- Psychologist
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse
- Respiratory Therapist
- Social Worker
- Speech-Language Pathologist

GORDON STATE COLLEGE
Barnesville
(678) 359-5555
gordonstate.edu
- Health Educator
- Human Services Professional
- Registered Nurse

GRADY HEALTH SYSTEM
Atlanta
(404) 616-1000
gradyhealth.org/education-training
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Medical Interpreter
- Paramedic
- Radiation Therapist
- Radiologic Technologist

GWINNETT COLLEGE*
Lilburn Campus
(770) 381-7200
Marietta Campus
(770) 859-9779
Roswell Campus
(770) 457-2021
gwinnettcollege.edu
- Massage Therapist
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Coder
- Medical Secretary

GWINNETT TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Lawrenceville (Main) Campus
(770) 962-7580
Alpharetta - North Fulton Campus
(470) 282-5400
gwinnetttech.edu
- Cardiovascular Technologist
- Dental Assistant
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Secretary
- Nursing Assistant
- Paramedic
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse
- Respiratory Therapist
- Surgical Technologist
- Veterinary Technician

HANBIT UNIVERSITY
Duluth
(678) 477-5275
atlantauniv.org
- Massage Therapist

HELMS COLLEGE*
Augusta Campus
(706) 651-9707
Macon Campus
(478) 471-4394
helms.edu
- Medical Assistant

HERZING UNIVERSITY*
Atlanta Campus – Sandy Springs
(404) 586-4265
herzing.edu/atlanta
- Health Information Administrator
- Healthcare Administrator
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Coder
- Medical Secretary
- Nurse Educator
- Nurse Practitioner
- Registered Nurse
- Social Worker

INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL ULTRASOUND*
Atlanta
(404) 881-1916
imu.edu
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographer

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF SKIN, NAILCARE AND MASSAGE THERAPY*
Sandy Springs
(866) 738-9806
issnschool.com
- Massage Therapist

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY
Kennesaw (Main) Campus
Marietta Campus
(470) 578-4636
kennesaw.edu
- Exercise Physiologist
- Health Educator
- Health Informatics Professional
- Human Services Professional
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Coder
- Medical Interpreter
- Medical Secretary
- Nurse Educator
- Nurse Practitioner
- Nursing Assistant
- Orthotist
- Pharmacy Technician
- Phlebotomist
- Prosthetist
- Registered Nurse
- Social Worker

LAGRANGE COLLEGE
LaGrange
(706) 880-8005
lagrange.edu
- Counselor
- Exercise Physiologist
- Registered Nurse

LANIER TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Hall (Main) Campus - Gainesville
(770) 533-7000
Barrow Campus - Winder
(770) 297-4500
Dawson Campus - Dawsonville
(706) 216-5461
Forsyth Campus - Cumming
(678) 341-6600
Jackson Campus - Commerce
(706) 335-1931
laniertech.edu
- Dental Assistant
- Dental Hygienist
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Health Information Technician
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Coder
- Medical Secretary
- Nursing Assistant
- Paramedic
- Phlebotomist
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse

LIFE SOLUTIONS FOR HEALTH*
Decatur
(770) 808-7788
lifesolutionsforhealth.com
- Medical Assistant
- Nursing Assistant
- Phlebotomist

LIFE UNIVERSITY
Marietta
(770) 426-2600
life.edu
- Chiropractor
- Exercise Physiologist

LINCOLN TECH*
Marietta Campus
(770) 226-0056
lincolntech.edu
- Medical Assistant

MDT INSTITUTE*
Duluth
(770) 415-1198
mdt.atsinstitute.edu
- Dental Assistant
- Medical Assistant

MERCER UNIVERSITY
Macon Campus (Main)
Atlanta Campus
Columbus Campus
Savannah Campus
(800) 637-2378
mercer.edu
- Athletic Trainer
- Biomedical Engineer
- Counselor
- Doctor of Medicine
- Epidemiologist
- Exercise Physiologist
- Health Educator
- Health Informatics Professional
- Healthcare Administrator
- Human Services Professional
- Nurse Educator
- Nurse Practitioner
- Pharmacist
- Physical Therapist
- Physician Assistant
- Psychologist
- Registered Nurse

MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY
Macon (Main) Campus
(478) 471-2700
Cochran Campus
Dublin Campus
Eastman Campus
Warner Robbins Campus
mga.edu
- Health Educator
- Health Informatics Professional
- Healthcare Administrator
- Nurse Practitioner
- Occupational Therapist
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Registered Nurse
- Respiratory Therapist
- Social Worker

MILLER-MOTTE COLLEGE*
Augusta Campus
(706) 447-9264
Columbus Campus
(706) 610-0943
Macon Campus
(478) 200-7936
miller-motte.edu
- Health Information Technician
- Medical Assistant
- Pharmacy Technician

MOREHOUSE COLLEGE
Atlanta
(470) 639-0999
morehouse.edu
- Exercise Physiologist

HEALTH CAREER EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN GEORGIA

MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Atlanta
(404) 752-1500
msm.edu
- Doctor of Medicine
- Health Educator
- Health Informatics Professional
- Physician Assistant

NORTH GEORGIA NURSING ACADEMY*
Flowery Branch
(770) 534-1373
ngnanursing.org
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Massage Therapist
- Medical Assistant
- Nursing Assistant
- Surgical Technologist

NORTH GEORGIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Clarkesville (Main) Campus
(706) 754-7700
Blairsville Campus
(706) 439-6300
Currahee Campus - Toccoa
(706) 779-8100
northgatech.edu
- Clinical Laboratory Technician
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Medical Assistant
- Nursing Assistant
- Paramedic
- Phlebotomist
- Registered Nurse

OCONEE FALL LINE TECHNICAL COLLEGE
North (Main) Campus - Sandersville
(877) 399-8324
South Campus - Dublin
(800) 200-4484
oftc.edu
- Biomedical Equipment Technician
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Secretary
- Nursing Assistant
- Pharmacy Technician
- Phlebotomist
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse
- Respiratory Therapist

OGEECHEE TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Statesboro
(800) 646-1316
ogeecheetech.edu
- Dental Assistant
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Health Information Technician
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Secretary
- Nursing Assistant
- Paramedic
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse
- Veterinary Technician

PEACHTREE CITY SCHOOL OF MASSAGE
Peachtree City
(678) 723-8990
ptcsom.com
- Massage Therapist

PCOM
Georgia Campus - Suwanee
(678) 225-7500
South Georgia Campus - Moultrie
(229) 668-3110
pcom.edu
- Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine
- Medical Laboratory Scientist
- Pharmacist
- Physical Therapist
- Physician Assistant

PIEDMONT AUGUSTA HOSPITAL
Harry T. Harper Jr., MD School of Cardiac & Vascular Technology
Stephen W. Brown, MD School of Radiography
School of Clinical Laboratory Science
Augusta
(706) 774-8976
piedmont.org/medical-professionals/allied-health
- Cardiovascular Technologist (administered with Augusta Technical College)
- Clinical Laboratory Scientist
- Radiologic Technologist

PIEDMONT UNIVERSITY
Demorest Campus
Athens Campus
(800) 277-7020
piedmont.edu
- Athletic Trainer
- Counselor
- Exercise Physiologist
- Health Educator
- Healthcare Administrator
- Human Services Professional
- Registered Nurse
- Speech-Language Pathologist

POINT UNIVERSITY
West Point
(855) 377-6468
point.edu
- Exercise Physiologist
- Health Educator
- Human Services Professional
- Medical Coder
- Social Worker

REINHARDT UNIVERSITY
Waleska
(770) 720-5600
reinhardt.edu
- Healthcare Administrator
- Nurse Educator
- Registered Nurse

RICHMONT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY
Atlanta Campus
(888) 924-6774
richmont.edu
- Counselor

SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY
Savannah Education Center
(912) 999-1029
saintleo.edu/savannah-education-center
- Healthcare Administrator
- Social Worker

SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY
Savannah
(912) 358-4162
savannahstate.edu
- Social Worker

SAVANNAH TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Savannah (Main) Campus
(912) 443-5700
Crossroads Campus - Savannah
(912) 443-3010
Effingham Campus - Rincon
(912) 443-4100
Liberty Campus - Hinesville
(912) 408-3024
savannahtech.edu
- Dental Assistant
- Dental Hygienist
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Coder
- Medical Secretary
- Nursing Assistant
- Paramedic
- Phlebotomist
- Surgical Technologist

SHORTER UNIVERSITY
Rome
(800) 868-6980
shorter.edu
- Healthcare Administrator
- Human Services Professional
- Registered Nurse

SOUTH COLLEGE
Atlanta Campus
(470) 322-1200
south.edu/locations/atlanta
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Medical Assistant
- Nurse Practitioner
- Occupational Therapist
- Phlebotomist
- Physical Therapist
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Physician Assistant
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse
- Respiratory Therapist
- Surgical Technologist

SOUTH GEORGIA STATE COLLEGE
Douglas (Main) Campus
(912) 260-4200
Waycross Campus
(912) 449-7600
sgsc.edu
- Registered Nurse

SOUTH GEORGIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Americus
(229) 931-2394
southgatech.edu
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Coder
- Medical Secretary
- Nursing Assistant
- Phlebotomist

SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Savannah Campus
Atlanta Campus
(855) 884-2408
southuniversity.edu
- Anesthesiologist Assistant
- Counselor
- Health Educator
- Healthcare Administrator
- Medical Assistant
- Nurse Educator
- Nurse Practitioner
- Pharmacist
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Physician Assistant
- Registered Nurse

SOUTHEASTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Vidalia (Main) Campus
(912) 538-3100
Swainsboro Campus
(478) 289-2200
southeasterntech.edu
- Clinical Laboratory Technician
- Dental Hygienist
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Secretary
- Nursing Assistant
- Paramedic
- Phlebotomist
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse

SOUTHERN CRESCENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Griffin (Main) Campus
(770) 228-7348
Flint River Campus - Thomaston
(706) 646-6148
sctech.edu
- Cardiovascular Technologist
- Dental Assistant
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Secretary
- Nursing Assistant
- Paramedic
- Phlebotomist
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse
- Respiratory Therapist
- Surgical Technologist

SOUTHERN REGIONAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Thomasville (Main) Campus
(888) 205-3449
Bainbridge Campus
(229) 243-4251
Blakely Campus
(229) 724-2400
Cairo Campus
(229) 378-2901
Moultrie Campus
(229) 891-7000
Tifton Campus
(229) 391-2600
southernregional.edu
- Clinical Laboratory Technician
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Health Information Technician
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Coder
- Medical Secretary
- Nursing Assistant
- Paramedic
- Phlebotomist
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse
- Respiratory Therapist
- Surgical Technologist
- Veterinary Technician

SPELMAN COLLEGE
Atlanta
(404) 681-3643
spelman.edu
- Human Services Professional

HEALTH CAREER EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN GEORGIA

THOMAS UNIVERSITY
Thomasville
(229) 226-1621
thomasu.edu
- Counselor
- Exercise Physiologist
- Medical Laboratory Scientist
- Nurse Educator
- Registered Nurse
- Social Worker

TOCCOA FALLS COLLEGE
Toccoa Falls
(706) 886-7299
tfc.edu
- Health Educator
- Registered Nurse

TRUETT MCCONNELL UNIVERSITY
Cleveland
(706) 865-2134
truett.edu
- Counselor
- Exercise Physiologist
- Registered Nurse

UNITED EDUCATION INSTITUTE*
Morrow
(678) 902-6440
Stone Mountain
(470) 741-2444
uei.edu
- Dental Assistant
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Coder

UNITED MEDICAL AND BUSINESS INSTITUTE*
College Park
(404) 761-2335
umbi.edu
- Dental Assistant
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Secretary

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Athens (Main) Campus
(706) 542-3000
Buckhead Campus
(404) 842-4825
Griffin Campus
(770) 228-7306
Gwinnett Campus - Lawrenceville
(678) 985-6800
Tifton Campus
(229) 386-3442
uga.edu
- Athletic Trainer
- Biomedical Engineer
- Biostatistician
- Counselor
- Dental Assistant
- Dietitian Nutritionist
- Doctor of Medicine (Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership to be University of Georgia School of Medicine in 2027, pending accreditation)
- Environmental Health Specialist
- Epidemiologist
- Exercise Physiologist
- Geneticist
- Health Educator
- Healthcare Administrator
- Medical Coder
- Medical Interpreter
- Medical Secretary
- Music Therapist
- Optician
- Pharmacist
- Pharmacy Technician
- Psychologist
- Social Worker
- Speech-Language Pathologist
- Veterinarian

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA
Dahlonega (Main) Campus
(706) 864-1800
Blue Ridge Campus
(706) 946-5462
Cumming Campus
(470) 239-3102
Gainesville Campus
(678) 717-3641
Oconee Campus - Watkinsville
(706) 310-6201
ung.edu
- Athletic Trainer
- Counselor
- Dental Assistant
- Exercise Physiologist
- Health Informatics Professional
- Human Services Professional
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Coder
- Medical Secretary
- Nurse Educator
- Nurse Practitioner
- Physical Therapist
- Registered Nurse

UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA
Carrollton (Main) Campus
(678) 839-5000
Douglasville Campus
(470) 591-0579
Newnan Campus
(678) 839-2300
westga.edu
- Counselor
- Health Educator
- Home Health Aide
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Coder
- Medical Interpreter
- Medical Secretary
- Nurse Educator
- Nursing Assistant
- Optician
- Pharmacy Technician
- Phlebotomist
- Registered Nurse
- Speech-Language Pathologist

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
Valdosta
(229) 333-5800
valdosta.edu
- Counselor
- Dental Hygienist (administered with Wiregrass Georgia Technical College)
- Exercise Physiologist
- Health Educator
- Healthcare Administrator
- Nurse Practitioner
- Registered Nurse
- Social Worker
- Speech-Language Pathologist

WESLEYAN COLLEGE
Macon
(800) 477-6610
wesleyancollege.edu
- Health Educator
- Healthcare Administrator
- Registered Nurse

WEST GEORGIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Carroll (Main) Campus - Carrollton
(770) 836-6800
Coweta Campus - Newnan
(770) 755-7800
Douglas Campus - Douglasville
(770) 947-7300
LaGrange Campus
(706) 845-4323
Murphy Campus - Waco
(770) 537-6000
westgatech.edu

- Biomedical Equipment Technician
- Clinical Laboratory Technician
- Dental Assistant
- Dental Hygienist
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Health Information Technician
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Coder
- Medical Secretary
- Nursing Assistant
- Paramedic
- Pharmacy Technician
- Phlebotomist
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse
- Surgical Technologist

WIREGRASS GEORGIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Valdosta (Main) Campus
(229) 333-2100
Ben Hill-Irwin Campus - Fitzgerald
(229) 468-2000
Coffee County Campus - Douglas
(912) 389-4303
wiregrass.edu

- Dental Assistant
- Dental Hygienist (administered with Valdosta State University)
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Health Information Technician
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Massage Therapist
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Coder
- Medical Secretary
- Nursing Assistant
- Paramedic
- Pharmacy Technician
- Phlebotomist
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse
- Surgical Technologist

WOODRUFF MEDICAL AND WELLNESS TRAINING*

Tucker
(888) 874-2802
woodruffmedical.edu

- Medical Assistant

HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS IN GEORGIA

ADVENTHEALTH GORDON
Calhoun
(706) 602-7800
adventhealth.com

ADVENTHEALTH MURRAY
Chatsworth
(706) 695-4564
adventhealth.com

ADVENT HEALTH REDMOND
Rome
(706) 291-0291
adventhealth.com

ANCHOR HOSPITAL
Atlanta
(678) 251-3200
anchorhospital.com

APPLING HEALTHCARE
Baxley
(912) 367-9841
ahcs.org

ARCHBOLD BROOKS
Quitman
(229) 263-4171
archbold.org/brooks

ARCHBOLD GRADY
Cairo
(229) 377-1150
archbold.org/grady

ARCHBOLD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Thomasville
(229) 228-2000
archbold.org

ARCHBOLD MITCHELL COUNTY HOSPITAL
Camilla
(229) 336-4600
archbold.org/mitchell

ARTHUR M. BLANK HOSPITAL
Brookhaven
(404) 785-5437
choa.org

ATLANTA VA MEDICAL CENTER
Decatur
(404) 321-6111
va.gov/atlanta-health-care

ATRIUM HEALTH FLOYD MEDICAL CENTER
Rome
(706) 509-5000
floyd.org

ATRIUM HEALTH FLOYD POLK MEDICAL CENTER
Cedartown
(770) 748-2500
floyd.org

ATRIUM HEALTH NAVICENT BALDWIN
Milledgeville
(478) 776-4000
navicenthealth.org

ATRIUM HEALTH NAVICENT PEACH
Byron
(478) 654-2000
navicenthealth.org

ATRIUM HEALTH NAVICENT REHABILITATION HOSPITAL
Macon
(478) 201-6500
navicenthealth.org

ATRIUM HEALTH NAVICENT THE MEDICAL CENTER
Macon
(478) 633-1000
navicenthealth.org

BACON COUNTY HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SYSTEM
Alma
(912) 632-8961
baconcountyhospital.com

BLECKLEY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Cochran
(478) 934-6211
bleckleymemorial.com

THE BRADLEY CENTER OF ST. FRANCIS
Columbus
(706) 320-3700
mystfancis.com

BURKE HEALTH
Waynesboro
(706) 554-4435
burkehealth.com

CITY OF HOPE - ATLANTA
Newnan
(888)852-1083
cancercenter.com

CANDLER COUNTY HOSPITAL
Metter
(912) 685-5741
candlercountyhospital.com

CANDLER HOSPITAL
Savannah
(912) 819-6000
sjchs.org

CARL VINSON VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER
Dublin
(478) 272-1210
va.gov/dublin-health-care

CARTERSVILLE MEDICAL CENTER
Cartersville
(470) 490-1000
cartersvillemedical.com

CENTRAL STATE HOSPITAL
Milledgeville
(478) 445-4128
dbhdd.georgia.gov

CHARLIE NORWOOD DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER
Augusta
(706) 733-0188
va.gov/augusta-health-care

CHATUGE REGIONAL HOSPITAL
Hiawassee
(706) 896-2222
uniongeneralhealthsystem.com/crh

CHI MEMORIAL HOSPITAL GEORGIA
Fort Oglethorpe
(706) 858-2000
memorial.org

CHILDREN'S HUGHES SPALDING HOSPITAL
Atlanta
(404) 785-5437
choa.org

CHILDREN'S SCOTTISH RITE HOSPITAL
Atlanta
(404) 785-5437
www.choa.org

CLINCH MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Homerville
(912) 487-5211
clinchmh.org

COASTAL HARBOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
Savannah
(912) 354-3911
coastalharbor.com

COASTAL HARBOR TREATMENT CENTER
Savannah
(912) 354-3911
coastalharbor.com

COFFEE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
Douglas
(912) 384-1900
coffeeregional.org

COLISEUM CENTER FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
Macon
(478) 464-1359
coliseumhealthsystem.com

COLISEUM MEDICAL CENTERS
Macon
(478) 765-7000
coliseumhealthsystem.com

COLISEUM NORTHSIDE HOSPITAL
Macon
(478) 757-8200
coliseumhealthsystem.com

COLQUITT REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
Moultrie
(229) 985-3420
colquittregional.com

COLUMBUS SPECIALTY HOSPITAL
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