



## OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

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## Healthcare Occupations

PRINTER-FRIENDLY

Workers in these occupations help clients maintain and improve wellbeing.

Overall employment in healthcare occupations is projected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations from 2023 to 2033. About 1.9 million openings are projected each year, on average, in these occupations due to employment growth and the need to replace workers who leave the occupations permanently.

The median annual wage for healthcare practitioners and technical occupations (such as dental hygienists, physicians and surgeons, and registered nurses) was \$83,090 in May 2024, which was higher than the median annual wage for all occupations of \$49,500. Healthcare support occupations (such as home health and personal care aides, medical transcriptionists, and occupational therapy assistants) had a median annual wage of \$37,180 in May 2024, which was lower than the median annual wage for all occupations.

BLS employment projections, wage, and other data for related occupations not shown in the following table are available on the [Data for Occupations Not Covered in Detail](#) page. Information highlighting physical demands, cognitive and mental requirements, and other qualifications for workers in the [healthcare practitioners and technical](#) and [healthcare support](#) groups are available in BLS Occupational Requirements Survey (ORS) profiles.

## Image:

[Athletic Trainers](#)

## Job Summary:

Athletic trainers specialize in preventing, diagnosing, and treating muscle and bone injuries and illnesses.

## Entry-Level Education:

Master's degree

## 2024 Median Pay:

\$60,250

## Image:

[Audiologists](#)

## Job Summary:

Audiologists diagnose, manage, and treat patients who have hearing, balance, or related problems.

## Entry-Level Education:

Doctoral or professional degree

## 2024 Median Pay:

\$92,120

## Image:

[Chiropractors](#)

## Job Summary:

Chiropractors assess, treat, and care for patients by manipulating the spine and musculoskeletal system.

## Entry-Level Education:

Doctoral or professional degree

## 2024 Median Pay:

\$79,000

## Image:

[Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians](#)

## Job Summary:

Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians perform medical laboratory tests for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease.

## Entry-Level Education:

Bachelor's degree

## 2024 Median Pay:

\$61,890

## Image:

[Dental Assistants](#)

## Job Summary:

Dental assistants provide patient care, take x rays, keep records, and schedule appointments.

## Entry-Level Education:

Postsecondary nondegree award

## 2024 Median Pay:

\$47,300

**Image:**

### [Dental Hygienists](#)

**Job Summary:**

Dental hygienists examine patients for signs of oral diseases, such as gingivitis, and provide preventive care, including oral hygiene.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Associate's degree

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$94,260

**Image:**

### [Dentists](#)

**Job Summary:**

Dentists diagnose and treat problems with patients' teeth, gums, and related parts of the mouth.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Doctoral or professional degree

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$179,210

**Image:**

### [Diagnostic Medical Sonographers and Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians](#)

**Job Summary:**

Diagnostic medical sonographers and cardiovascular technologists and technicians operate special equipment to create images or to conduct tests.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Associate's degree

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$82,570

**Image:**

### [Dietitians and Nutritionists](#)

**Job Summary:**

Dietitians and nutritionists plan and conduct food service or nutritional programs to help people lead healthy lives.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Bachelor's degree

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$73,850

**Image:**

### [EMTs and Paramedics](#)

**Job Summary:**

Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics assess injuries and illnesses, provide emergency medical care, and may transport patients to medical facilities.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Postsecondary nondegree award

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$46,350

**Image:**

### [Exercise Physiologists](#)

**Job Summary:**

Exercise physiologists develop fitness and exercise programs to help people improve their health.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Bachelor's degree

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$58,160

**Image:**

### [Genetic Counselors](#)

**Job Summary:**

Genetic counselors assess clients' risk for a variety of inherited conditions, such as birth defects.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Master's degree

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$98,910

**Image:**

### [Health Information Technologists and Medical Registrars](#)

**Job Summary:**

Health information technologists and medical registrars advise organizations on computerized healthcare systems and analyze clinical data.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Associate's degree

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$67,310

**Image:**

### [Home Health and Personal Care Aides](#)

**Job Summary:**

Home health and personal care aides monitor the condition of people with disabilities or chronic illnesses and help them with daily living activities.

**Entry-Level Education:**

High school diploma or equivalent

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$34,900

**Image:**

### [Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses](#)

**Job Summary:**

Licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) provide basic medical care.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Postsecondary nondegree award

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$62,340

**Image:**

### [Massage Therapists](#)

**Job Summary:**

Massage therapists treat clients by applying pressure to manipulate the body's soft tissues and joints.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Postsecondary nondegree award

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$57,950

**Image:**

### [Medical Assistants](#)

**Job Summary:**

Medical assistants complete administrative and clinical tasks, such as scheduling appointments and taking patients' vital signs.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Postsecondary nondegree award

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$44,200

**Image:**

### [Medical Dosimetrists](#)

**Job Summary:**

Medical dosimetrists calculate doses of radiation and design and oversee treatment plans for patients with cancer and other serious diseases.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Bachelor's degree

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$138,110

**Image:**

### [Medical Records Specialists](#)

**Job Summary:**

Medical records specialists compile, process, and maintain patient files.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Postsecondary nondegree award

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$50,250

**Image:**

### [Medical Transcriptionists](#)

**Job Summary:**

Medical transcriptionists use electronic devices to convert voice recordings from physicians and other healthcare workers into formal reports.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Postsecondary nondegree award

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$37,550

**Image:**

### [Nuclear Medicine Technologists](#)

**Job Summary:**

Nuclear medicine technologists prepare and administer radioactive drugs for imaging or treatment.

**Entry-Level Education:**

<p>Associate's degree</p> <p><b>2024 Median Pay:</b> \$97,020</p>
<p><b>Image:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwives, and Nurse Practitioners</a></p> <p><b>Job Summary:</b> Nurse anesthetists, nurse midwives, and nurse practitioners coordinate patient care and may provide primary and specialty healthcare.</p> <p><b>Entry-Level Education:</b> Master's degree</p> <p><b>2024 Median Pay:</b> \$132,050</p>
<p><b>Image:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Nursing Assistants and Orderlies</a></p> <p><b>Job Summary:</b> Nursing assistants provide basic care and help patients with activities of daily living. Orderlies transport patients and clean treatment areas.</p> <p><b>Entry-Level Education:</b> <a href="#">See How to Become One</a></p> <p><b>2024 Median Pay:</b> \$39,430</p>
<p><b>Image:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Occupational Health and Safety Specialists and Technicians</a></p> <p><b>Job Summary:</b> Occupational health and safety specialists and technicians collect data on, analyze, and design improvements to work environments and procedures.</p> <p><b>Entry-Level Education:</b> <a href="#">See How to Become One</a></p> <p><b>2024 Median Pay:</b> \$78,900</p>
<p><b>Image:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Occupational Therapists</a></p> <p><b>Job Summary:</b> Occupational therapists evaluate and treat people who have injuries, illnesses, or disabilities to help them with vocational, daily living, and other skills that promote independence.</p> <p><b>Entry-Level Education:</b> Master's degree</p> <p><b>2024 Median Pay:</b> \$98,340</p>
<p><b>Image:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Occupational Therapy Assistants and Aides</a></p> <p><b>Job Summary:</b> Occupational therapy assistants and aides help occupational therapists provide treatments and procedures to clients, or they do routine tasks such as preparing treatment rooms.</p> <p><b>Entry-Level Education:</b> <a href="#">See How to Become One</a></p> <p><b>2024 Median Pay:</b> \$66,050</p>
<p><b>Image:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Opticians</a></p> <p><b>Job Summary:</b> Opticians fit customers for eyeglasses and contact lenses and help them select which frames and lenses to buy.</p> <p><b>Entry-Level Education:</b> High school diploma or equivalent</p> <p><b>2024 Median Pay:</b> \$46,560</p>
<p><b>Image:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Optometrists</a></p> <p><b>Job Summary:</b> Optometrists diagnose, manage, and treat conditions and diseases of the human eye and visual system, including examining eyes and prescribing corrective lenses.</p> <p><b>Entry-Level Education:</b> Doctoral or professional degree</p> <p><b>2024 Median Pay:</b> \$134,830</p>
<p><b>Image:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Orthotists and Prosthetists</a></p> <p><b>Job Summary:</b></p>

Orthotists and prosthetists measure, design, fit, and adapt medical devices, such as supportive braces and artificial limbs, for patients who have disabling conditions.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Master's degree

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$78,310

**Image:**

**[Pharmacists](#)**

**Job Summary:**

Pharmacists dispense prescription medications and provide information to patients about the drugs and their use.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Doctoral or professional degree

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$137,480

**Image:**

**[Pharmacy Technicians](#)**

**Job Summary:**

Pharmacy technicians help pharmacists dispense prescription medication to customers or health professionals.

**Entry-Level Education:**

High school diploma or equivalent

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$43,460

**Image:**

**[Phlebotomists](#)**

**Job Summary:**

Phlebotomists draw blood for tests, transfusions, research, or blood donations.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Postsecondary nondegree award

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$43,660

**Image:**

**[Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides](#)**

**Job Summary:**

Physical therapist assistants and aides are supervised by physical therapists to help patients regain movement and manage pain after injuries and illnesses.

**Entry-Level Education:**

[See How to Become One](#)

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$60,050

**Image:**

**[Physical Therapists](#)**

**Job Summary:**

Physical therapists help injured or ill people improve movement and manage pain.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Doctoral or professional degree

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$101,020

**Image:**

**[Physician Assistants](#)**

**Job Summary:**

Physician assistants examine, diagnose, and treat patients under the supervision of a physician.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Master's degree

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$133,260

**Image:**

**[Physicians and Surgeons](#)**

**Job Summary:**

Physicians and surgeons diagnose and treat injuries or illnesses and address health maintenance.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Doctoral or professional degree

**2024 Median Pay:**

This wage is equal to or greater than \$239,200 per year.

**Image:**

### **Podiatrists**

**Job Summary:**

Podiatrists provide medical and surgical care for people with foot, ankle, and lower leg problems.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Doctoral or professional degree

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$152,800

**Image:**

### **Psychiatric Technicians and Aides**

**Job Summary:**

Psychiatric technicians and aides care for people who have mental conditions or developmental disabilities.

**Entry-Level Education:**

[See How to Become One](#)

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$42,200

**Image:**

### **Radiation Therapists**

**Job Summary:**

Radiation therapists administer doses of radiation to patients who have cancer or other serious diseases.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Associate's degree

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$101,990

**Image:**

### **Radiologic and MRI Technologists**

**Job Summary:**

Radiologic technologists perform diagnostic imaging examinations on patients. MRI technologists operate magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanners to create diagnostic images.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Associate's degree

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$78,980

**Image:**

### **Recreational Therapists**

**Job Summary:**

Recreational therapists plan, direct, and coordinate recreation-based medical treatment programs for people with disabilities, injuries, or illnesses.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Bachelor's degree

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$60,280

**Image:**

### **Registered Nurses**

**Job Summary:**

Registered nurses (RNs) provide and coordinate patient care and educate patients and the public about various health conditions.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Bachelor's degree

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$93,600

**Image:**

### **Respiratory Therapists**

**Job Summary:**

Respiratory therapists care for patients who have trouble breathing—for example, because of a chronic condition such as asthma.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Associate's degree

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$80,450

**Image:**

### **Speech-Language Pathologists**

**Job Summary:**

Speech-language pathologists assess and treat people who have communication disorders.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Master's degree

**2024 Median Pay:**  
\$95,410

**Image:**

**Surgical Assistants and Technologists**

**Job Summary:**

Surgical assistants and technologists help with surgical operations.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Postsecondary nondegree  
award

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$62,480

**Image:**

**Veterinarians**

**Job Summary:**

Veterinarians care for the health of animals and work to protect public health.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Doctoral or professional  
degree

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$125,510

**Image:**

**Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers**

**Job Summary:**

Veterinary assistants and laboratory animal caretakers handle routine animal care and help scientists, [veterinarians](#), and others with their daily tasks.

**Entry-Level Education:**

High school diploma or  
equivalent

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$37,320

**Image:**

**Veterinary Technologists and Technicians**

**Job Summary:**

Veterinary technologists and technicians do medical tests that help diagnose animals' injuries and illnesses.

**Entry-Level Education:**

Associate's degree

**2024 Median Pay:**

\$45,980

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