

# Table of Contents

Area Health Education Centers .....	2	Health Information Management .....	21	Residency Training Programs .....	42
Which Health Care Career is Right for You? .....	4	Health Promotion Services.....	22	Physician Assistant .....	43
How Long Will It Take? .....	4	Human Services Worker.....	23	Psychology .....	44
What High School Courses to Take... 5		Invasive Cardiovascular		Public Health.....	45
Health Science Career Cluster and Pathway .....	5	Technologist .....	24	Radiation Therapy Technology.....	46
Athletic Trainer .....	7	Medical Assistant .....	25	Radiography .....	47
Clinical Laboratory Science/Medical Technology .....	8	Medical Interpreting .....	26	Recreational Therapy .....	48
Clinical Perfusion .....	9	Medical Office Services.....	27	Respiratory Therapy .....	49
Coding Technician.....	10	Medical Research Scientist .....	28	Social Work .....	50
Counseling.....	11	Medical Transcription.....	29	Speech-Language	
Cytotechnology.....	12	Nuclear Medicine Technology.....	30	Pathology & Audiology.....	51
Dental Assistant .....	13	Nursing - Licensed Practical Nurse ...	31	Substance Abuse Counseling .....	23
Dental Hygiene.....	14	Nursing - Nurse Anesthetist .....	32	Surgery Technologist/Assistant.....	52
Dentist .....	15	Nursing - Nurse Practitioner .....	33	Ultrasonography .....	53
Dietary Manager.....	16	Nursing - Nurse Aide.....	34	Other Medical Professions .....	54
Dietetic Technician, Registered .....	17	Nursing - Registered Nurse .....	35	Health Career Institutions	
Registered Dietitian .....	18	Occupational Therapy.....	36	in Nebraska.....	56
Emergency Medical Technology.....	19	Pharmacy .....	37	Rural Health	
Health Care Administration .....	20	Pharmacy Technician .....	38	Opportunities Program (RHOP) .....	60
		Physical Therapy .....	39	NU PATHS Program .....	61
		Physical Therapist Assistant .....	40	Career Exploration .....	62
		Physician.....	41	Nebraska Office of Rural Health .....	62
				Financial Aid .....	63

## Allied Health Careers

Clinical Perfusion.....	9
Cytotechnology.....	12
Dietary Manager.....	16
Dietetic Technician, Registered .....	17
Registered Dietitian .....	18
Emergency Medical Technology.....	19
Invasive Cardiovascular	
Technologist .....	24
Clinical Laboratory Science/Medical	
Technology .....	8
Nuclear Medicine Technology.....	30
Occupational Therapy.....	36
Physical Therapy .....	39
Physical Therapist Assistant .....	40
Physician Assistant .....	43
Radiation Therapy Technology.....	46
Radiography .....	47
Recreational Therapy .....	48
Respiratory Therapy .....	49
Ultrasonography .....	53

## Dental Careers

Dental Assistant .....	13
Dental Hygiene.....	14
Dentist .....	15

## Health Care Services Administration Careers

Coding Technician.....	10
Health Care Administration.....	20
Health Information Management .....	21
Health Promotion Services.....	22
Medical Assistant .....	25
Medical Interpreting .....	26
Medical Office Services.....	27
Medical Transcription.....	29
Public Health.....	45

## Behavioral Health & Human Service Careers

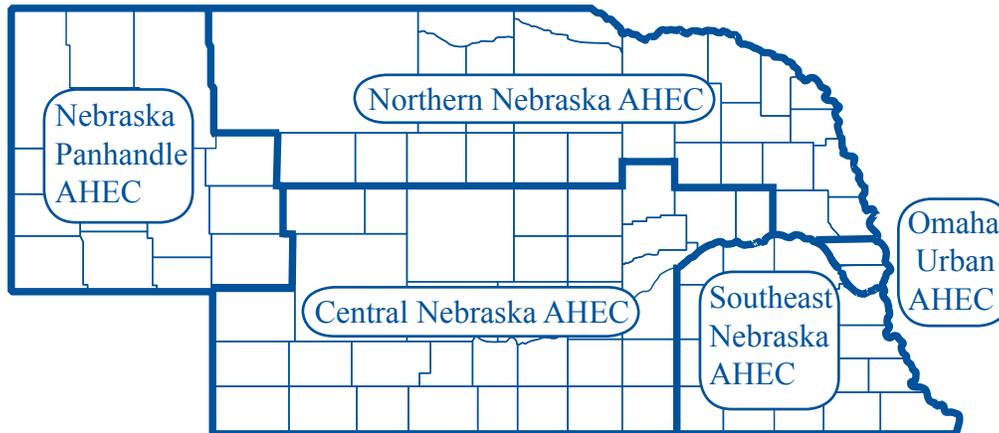
Counseling.....	11
Human Services Worker.....	23
Psychology .....	44
Social Work .....	50
Substance Abuse Counseling.....	23

## Nursing Careers

Licensed Practical Nurse.....	31
Nurse Anesthetist .....	32
Nurse Practitioner.....	33
Nurse Aide .....	34
Registered Nurse .....	35

# Nebraska Area Health Education Centers (AHECs)

"Connecting Students to Careers, Professionals to Communities and Communities to Better Health"



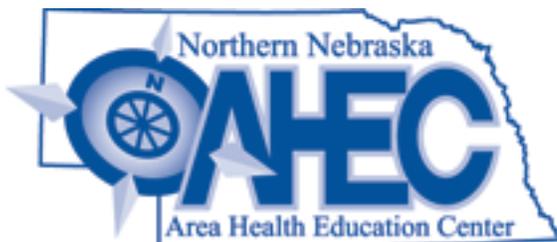
Nebraska's five AHEC centers provide a variety of programs and services. One of the key focus areas of AHECs is to expose youth to health careers and encourage them to consider becoming health care professionals. Three additional focus areas of AHECs include: arranging community-based educational opportunities for health professions students, providing continuing education opportunities for health professionals, and collaborating with local organizations to meet the special health care needs of their communities.



Central Nebraska AHEC  
[www.cn-ahec.org](http://www.cn-ahec.org)  
(308) 385-6677

Central Nebraska AHEC provides:

- regional science meets for 8th graders,
- health career camps,
- classroom presentations,
- small community grants,
- science curriculum materials,
- student rotation placement with limited financial support through the SEARCH Program (Student/Resident Experiences and Rotation in Community Health),
- and much more.



Northern Nebraska AHEC  
[www.nnahec.org](http://www.nnahec.org)  
(402) 644-7253

Northern Nebraska AHEC provides:

- three- and five-day health career camps for all ages,
- regional science meets for 8th graders,
- job shadowing and online HIPAA/confidentiality training,
- career counseling,
- Medical Careers Explorer Posts,
- resources for teachers and parents,
- student rotation placement with limited financial support through the SEARCH Program (Student/Resident Experiences and Rotation in Community Health),
- classroom presentations,
- small community grants,
- and much more.



Nebraska Panhandle AHEC  
[www.np-ahec.org](http://www.np-ahec.org)  
(308) 635-3711

Nebraska Panhandle AHEC provides:

- classroom presentations,
- health career camps,
- regional science meets for 8th graders,
- school staff workshops for guidance counselors, science teachers and administrators,
- student rotation placement with limited financial support through the SEARCH Program (Student/Resident Experiences and Rotation in Community Health),
- recruitment and retention workshops for health care professionals,
- small community grants,
- and much more.



Omaha Urban AHEC  
[www.ahecomaha.org](http://www.ahecomaha.org)  
(402) 502-1207

Omaha Urban AHEC provides:

- a heightened awareness of health professions with an emphasis on minority and other underserved students,
- hands-on curriculum materials,
- classroom presentations,
- assistance with planning medical-related field trips, science fairs and health career camps,
- Medical Careers Explorer Post,
- community placement and service learning opportunities for health professions students,
- small community grants,
- and much more.



Southeast Nebraska AHEC  
[www.se-ahec.org](http://www.se-ahec.org)  
(402) 228-9092

Southeast Nebraska AHEC provides:

- after-school programs (K-5),
- job shadowing opportunities (9-12),
- student rotation placement with limited financial support through the SEARCH Program (Student/Resident Experiences and Rotation in Community Health),
- classroom presentations (K-12),
- summer health career camps (9-12),
- Medical Careers Explorer Posts,
- regional science meets for 8th graders,
- mini grants to science teachers,
- small community grants,
- and much more.

# Which Health Care Career Is Right For You?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Income also varies widely by health specialty and by geographical area. Because there are so many factors, this booklet does not attempt to provide specific salary information. Generally speaking, however, the careers that require longer periods of education will be higher paying. Similarly, more responsibility typically means higher compensation. Finally, careers that demand long hours on the job will also tend to be better paying than those that have a standard work week.

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

# What High School Courses To Take

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

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

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

## Health Science Career Cluster and Pathways

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

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

For more information, contact:

Jan Brandt, Health Science Career Field Specialist

Nebraska Department of Education

301 Centennial Mall South

Lincoln, NE 68509

(402) 471-4814

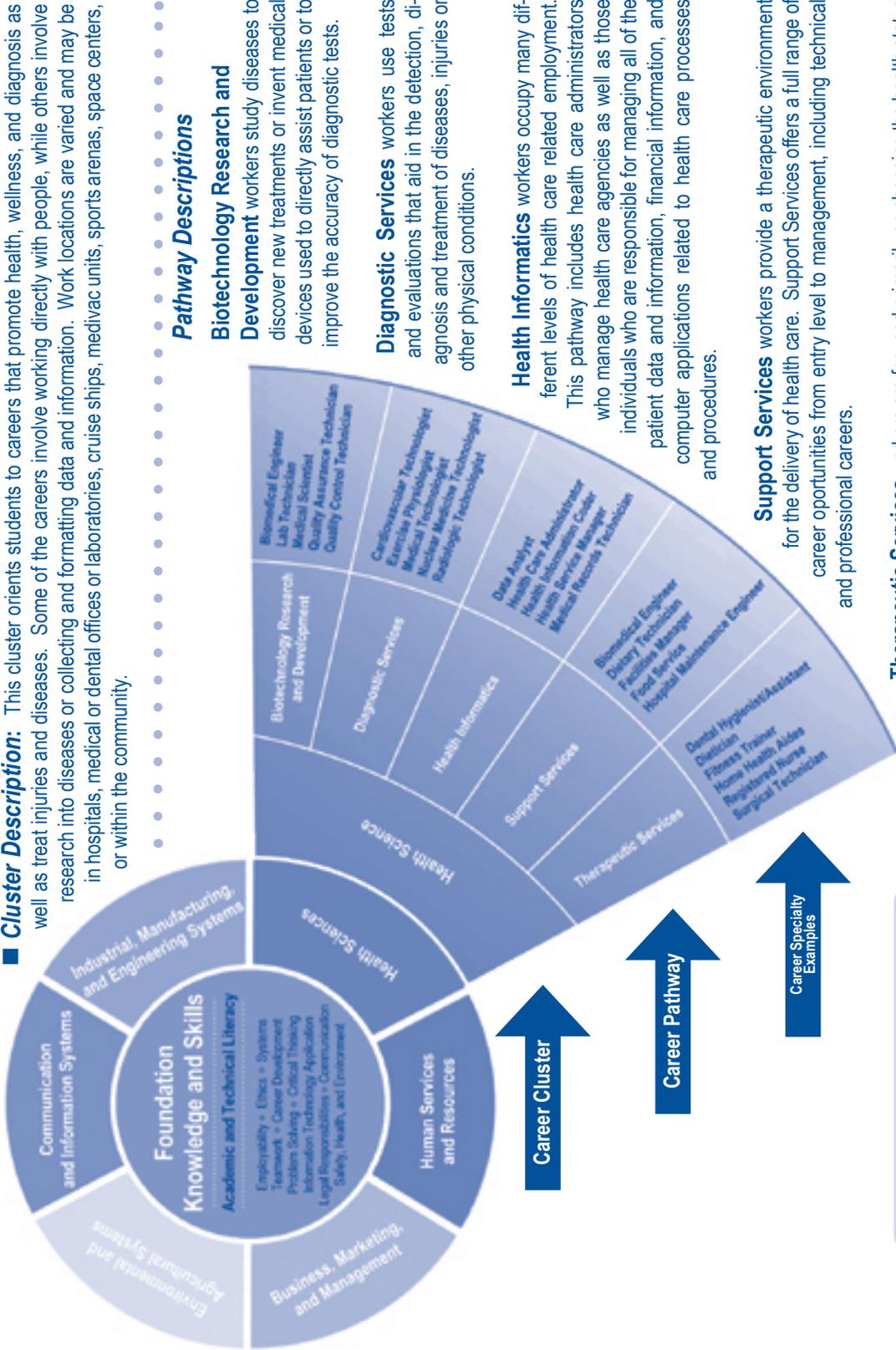
jan.brandt@nde.ne.gov

# Health Science Career Cluster

## ■ Career Field: Health Sciences

Nebraska Career Education has identified 6 Career Fields that group 16 Career Clusters into areas of common skill development. The Health Sciences Field consists of one cluster: Health Science.

■ **Cluster Description:** This cluster orients students to careers that promote health, wellness, and diagnosis as well as treat injuries and diseases. Some of the careers involve working directly with people, while others involve research into diseases or collecting and formatting data and information. Work locations are varied and may be in hospitals, medical or dental offices or laboratories, cruise ships, medivac units, sports arenas, space centers, or within the community.



## ■ Pathway Descriptions

### ■ Biotechnology Research and Development

workers study diseases to discover new treatments or invent medical devices used to directly assist patients or to improve the accuracy of diagnostic tests.

**Diagnostic Services** workers use tests and evaluations that aid in the detection, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, injuries or other physical conditions.

**Health Informatics** workers occupy many different levels of health care related employment. This pathway includes health care administrators who manage health care agencies as well as those individuals who are responsible for managing all of the patient data and information, financial information, and computer applications related to health care processes and procedures.

**Support Services** workers provide a therapeutic environment for the delivery of health care. Support Services offers a full range of career opportunities from entry level to management, including technical and professional careers.

**Therapeutic Services** workers are focused primarily on changing the health status of the patient over time. Health professionals in this pathway work directly with patients; they may provide care, treatment, counseling and health education information.

## ■ Coursework

- Accounting
- Algebra I and II
- Anatomy/Physiology
- Biology (Beginning and Advanced)
- Chemistry (Beginning and Advanced)
- Child Development
- Health and Wellness/Physical Education
- Human Development
- Nutrition
- Safety and First Aid/CPR

## ■ School Activities

- Athletics
- FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America)
- HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America)
- Medical Explorers
- Science Club
- Service Learning
- Wellness Club

## ■ Community Activities

- Take First Aid Courses
- Volunteer at Hospital/Nursing Home
- Health Science Camps
- Volunteer with Red Cross
- Certified CPR Classes
- EMT Certification
- Career Fairs at Hospitals and Schools
- Scrubby Bear Hand Washing Program
- NE Safety Patrol-Mock Disasters
- Health Fairs

For additional Career Cluster Information, visit: [www.NebraskaCareerConnections.org](http://www.NebraskaCareerConnections.org).

# Athletic Trainer

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

### **Clinical Laboratory Technician/Medical Laboratory Technician**

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

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

### ***National Athletic Trainers' Association***

Web Address: [www.nata.org](http://www.nata.org)

### ***Board of Certification for Athletic Trainers***

Web Address: [www.bocatc.org](http://www.bocatc.org)

### ***Mid-America Athletic Trainers' Association***

Web Address: [www.maata.net](http://www.maata.net)

# Clinical Laboratory Science / Medical Technology

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

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

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

### **Clinical Laboratory Technician / Medical Laboratory Technician**

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

### **Clinical Laboratory Science / Medical Technology**

- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (B)

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

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

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

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

## **LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

### ***American Society for Clinical Pathology***

Web Address: [www.ascp.org](http://www.ascp.org)

### ***American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science***

Web Address: [www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org)

### ***Nebraska Society for Clinical Laboratory Science***

Web Address: [www.ascls.org/subdomain/ne/index.html](http://www.ascls.org/subdomain/ne/index.html)

# Clinical Perfusion

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

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

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (M)

## **LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

### ***American Academy of Cardiovascular Perfusion***

Web address: [www.theaacp.com](http://www.theaacp.com)

### ***American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (ABCP) - Certification Organization***

Web Address: [www.abcp.org](http://www.abcp.org)

### ***American Society of Extra-Corporeal Technology (AmSECT)***

Web Address: [www.amsect.org](http://www.amsect.org)

# Coding Technician

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

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

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

***American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)***

Web Address: [www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org)

***American Academy of Professional Coders***

Web Address: [www.aapc.com](http://www.aapc.com)

***Nebraska Health Information Management Association***

Web Address: [www.nhima.org](http://www.nhima.org)

# Counseling

## **Nature of the Profession**

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

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

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

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

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

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

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

### ***American Counseling Association***

Web Address: [www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org)

### ***National Board for Certified Counselors***

Web Address: [www.nbcc.org](http://www.nbcc.org)

### ***Nebraska Counseling Association***

Web Address: [www.n-c-a.org](http://www.n-c-a.org)

# Cytotechnology

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (PBC)

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

### ***American Society for Clinical Pathology***

Web Address: [www.ascp.org](http://www.ascp.org)

### ***American Society of Cytotechnology***

Web Address: [www.asct.com](http://www.asct.com)

### ***American Society of Cytopathology***

Web Address: [www.cytopathology.org](http://www.cytopathology.org)

# Dental Assistant

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

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

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

***American Dental Association Department of Guidance***

Web Address: [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)

***Dental Assisting National Board, Inc.***

Web Address: [www.dentalassisting.com](http://www.dentalassisting.com)

***Nebraska Dental Association***

Web Address: [www.nedental.org](http://www.nedental.org)

# Dental Hygiene

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

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

## **LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

***American Dental Association Department of Guidance***

Web Address: [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)

***American Dental Hygienists' Association***

Web Address: [www.adha.org](http://www.adha.org)

***Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association***

Web Address: [www.nedha.org](http://www.nedha.org)

# Dentist

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

After the completion of dental school, graduates may enter the practice of general dentistry or pursue advanced training in specialty areas which include:

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

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

## **LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

### ***American Dental Association***

Web Address: [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)

### ***Nebraska Dental Association***

Web Address: [www.nedental.org](http://www.nedental.org)

# Dietary Manager

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (C)

## **LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

### ***Dietary Managers Association***

Web Address: [www.dmaonline.org](http://www.dmaonline.org)

### ***Nebraska Dietary Managers Association***

Web Address: [www.nebraskadma.org](http://www.nebraskadma.org)

# Dietetic Technician, Registered

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (A)

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

The State of Nebraska does not require licensure for dietetic technicians. However, graduates of programs approved or accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) of the American Dietetic Association are eligible to take the National Registration Examination for Dietetic Technicians to become credentialed as a dietetic technician, registered (DTR).

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

### ***American Dietetic Association***

Web Address: [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org)

### ***Nebraska Dietetic Association***

Web Address: [www.eatrightnebraska.org](http://www.eatrightnebraska.org)

# Registered Dietitian (Medical Nutrition Therapist)

## **Nature of the Profession**

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

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

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

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

***American Dietetic Association***

Web Address: [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org)

# Emergency Medical Technology

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

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

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- Central Community College – Columbus, Grand Island, Hastings (C)
- Creighton Health Sciences – Omaha (A, B)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (A, C)
- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (A, C)  
(Basic, Paramedic)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (C)  
(Basic, Intermediate, Paramedic)
- Western Nebraska Community College – Scottsbluff (A, C)  
(Basic, Intermediate, Paramedic)

## **LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION**

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

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

***National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians***

Web Address: [www.naemt.org](http://www.naemt.org)

# Health Care Administration

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

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

*For information on the master of public health degree, see page 45*

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- Bellevue University – Bellevue (B, M)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (B, M)
- Creighton University – Omaha (M)

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

***American College of Healthcare Executives***

Web Address: [www.ache.org](http://www.ache.org)

***American College of Health Care Administrators***

Web Address: [www.achca.org](http://www.achca.org)

# Health Information Management

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- Central Community College – Columbus, Grand Island, Hastings (A, C, P)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (A, B, C)
- Metro Community College – Omaha (A, C)
- Western Nebraska Community College – Scottsbluff, Alliance, Sidney (A)

## **LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION**

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

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

***American Health Information Management Association***

Web Address: [www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org)

***Nebraska Health Information Management Association***

Web Address: [www.nhima.org](http://www.nhima.org)

# Health Promotion Services

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

*Community health educators plan and develop educational and community organization programs to reduce behavioral risk factors, reduce environmental hazards, and support health promotion initiatives.*

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- Hastings College – Hastings (B)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (M)

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

None required.

# Human Services Worker

## **Nature of the Profession**

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

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

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

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

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

***National Organization for Human Service Education***

Web Address: [www.nohse.org](http://www.nohse.org)

***Council for Standards in Human Services Education***

Web Address: [www.cshse.org](http://www.cshse.org)

# Invasive Cardiovascular Technologist

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- BryanLGH College of Health Sciences – Lincoln (A)

## **LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

***Joint Review Committee on Education in Cardiovascular Technology***

Web Address: [www.jrccvt.org](http://www.jrccvt.org)

***Society of Invasive Cardiovascular Professionals***

Web Address: [www.sicp.com](http://www.sicp.com)

***Alliance of Cardiovascular Professionals***

Web Address: [www.acp-online.org](http://www.acp-online.org)

***Cardiovascular Credentialing International***

Web Address: [www.cci-online.org](http://www.cci-online.org)

# Medical Assistant

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- Central Community College – Hastings (A, P)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (C)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (P)

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

***The American Association of Medical Assistants***

Web Address: [www.aama-nl.org](http://www.aama-nl.org)

***Registered Medical Assistants of American Medical Technologists***

Web Address: [www.amt1.com](http://www.amt1.com)

# Medical Interpreting

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- Central Community College – Columbus, Grand Island, Hastings, Holdrege, Lexington, Kearney (C)

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

***Nebraska Association for Translators and Interpreters (NATI)***

Web Address: [www.natihq.org](http://www.natihq.org)

***California Healthcare Interpreter's Association (CHIA)***

Web Address: [www.chia.ws](http://www.chia.ws)

***Massachusetts Medical Interpreter's Association (MMIA)***

Web Address: [www.mmia.org](http://www.mmia.org)

***Society of Medical Interpreters (SOMI)***

Web Address: [www.sominet.org](http://www.sominet.org)

# Medical Office Services

## ***Nature of the Profession***

*Most health care institutions employ medical secretaries and administrative assistants to perform and coordinate office activities and to ensure that information gets disseminated in a timely fashion to staff and patients.*

*These individuals work in office settings in hospitals, clinics, laboratories, physicians' offices, insurance companies, emergency and outpatient diagnostic centers, and extended-care facilities.*

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

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

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

### ***International Association of Administrative Professionals***

Web Address: [www.iaap-hq.org](http://www.iaap-hq.org)

### ***Lincoln Chapter: International Association of Administrative Professionals***

Web Address: [http://cornhusker\\_iaap.tripod.com](http://cornhusker_iaap.tripod.com)

### ***Omaha Chapter: International Association of Administrative Professionals***

Web Address: [www.iaap-aksarben.org](http://www.iaap-aksarben.org)

# Medical Research Scientist

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

***American Association for the Advancement of Science***

Web Address: [www.aaas.org](http://www.aaas.org)

***American Association for Cancer Research***

Web Address: [www.aacr.org](http://www.aacr.org)

***American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology***

Web Address: [www.asbmb.org](http://www.asbmb.org)

***American Society for Cell Biology***

Web Address: [www.ascb.org](http://www.ascb.org)

***American Society for Microbiology***

Web Address: [www.asm.org](http://www.asm.org)

***American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics***

Web Address: [www.aspet.org](http://www.aspet.org)

# Medical Transcription

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- Bryan LGH College of Health Sciences – Lincoln (C)
- Central Community College – Hastings, Grand Island, Columbus (P)
- Mid-Plains Community College – McCook, North Platte (C)
- Western Nebraska Community College – Scottsbluff, Alliance, Sidney (C, P)

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

***American Association for Medical Transcription***

Web Address: [www.aamt.org](http://www.aamt.org)

# Nuclear Medicine Technology

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (B)

## **LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

### ***Society of Nuclear Medicine***

Web Address: [www.snm.org](http://www.snm.org)

### ***Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board***

Web Address: [www.nmtcb.org](http://www.nmtcb.org)

### ***American Registry of Radiologic Technologists***

Web Address: [www.arrt.org](http://www.arrt.org)

# Nursing – Licensed Practical Nurse

## **Nature of the Profession**

*Licensed practical nurses (LPNs) care for sick, injured, convalescing, and handicapped patients, under the direction of physicians and registered nurses.*

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

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

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

### ***National League for Nursing***

Web Address: [www.nln.org](http://www.nln.org)

### ***National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service, Inc.***

Web Address: [www.napnes.org](http://www.napnes.org)

# Nursing – Nurse Anesthetist

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

Education and experience required to become a CRNA include:

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- BryanLGH Medical Center – Lincoln (M)

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

***American Association of Nurse Anesthetists***

Web Address: [www.aana.com](http://www.aana.com)

***Nebraska Association of Nurse Anesthetists***

Web Address: [www.neana.org](http://www.neana.org)

# Nursing – Nurse Practitioner

## ***Nature of the Profession***

*A nurse practitioner is a registered nurse with advanced academic and clinical experience.*

*The nurse practitioner is able to diagnose and manage most common illnesses, either independently or as part of a health care team. The nurse practitioner provides some care previously offered only by physicians and, in most states, has the ability to prescribe medications.*

*Working in collaboration with a physician, a nurse practitioner provides high quality, cost effective, and individualized care.*

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

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

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

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

### ***American College of Nurse Practitioners***

Web Address: [www.nurse.org/acnp/](http://www.nurse.org/acnp/)

### ***American Academy of Nurse Practitioners***

Web Address: [www.aanp.org](http://www.aanp.org)

# Nursing – Nurse Aide

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

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

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

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

# Nursing – Registered Nurse

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

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

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

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- BryanLGH College of Health Sciences – Lincoln (B)
- Central Community College – Grand Island (A)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (B, M)
- College of Saint Mary – Omaha (A, B, M, D)
- Creighton University School of Nursing – Hastings (B), Omaha (B, M)
- Grace University – Omaha (B)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (A)
- Mid-Plains Community College – McCook, North Platte (A)
- Midland Lutheran College – Fremont (B)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (B, M)
- Nebraska Wesleyan University – Lincoln, Omaha (B, M)
- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (A)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (A)
- Union College – Lincoln (B)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha, Kearney, Lincoln, Scottsbluff (B, M, D)
- Western Nebraska Community College - Scottsbluff (A)

## **LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

### ***American Nurses Association***

Web Address: [www.ana.org](http://www.ana.org)

### ***Nebraska Nurses Association***

Web Address: [www.nursingworld.org/SNAS/ne/index.htm](http://www.nursingworld.org/SNAS/ne/index.htm)

# Occupational Therapy

## **Nature of the Profession**

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

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

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

## **LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

**American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.**  
Web Address: [www.aota.org](http://www.aota.org)

**Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.**  
Web Address: [www.notaonline.org](http://www.notaonline.org)

# Pharmacy

## **Nature of the Profession**

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

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

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

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

## **LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

### ***American Pharmacists Association***

Web Address: [www.aphanet.org](http://www.aphanet.org)

### ***American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy***

Web Address: [www.accp.com](http://www.accp.com)

### ***American Society of Health System Pharmacists***

Web Address: [www.ashp.org](http://www.ashp.org)

### ***Nebraska Pharmacists Association***

Web Address: [www.npharm.org](http://www.npharm.org)

# Pharmacy Technician

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

The minimum educational requirement is a high school diploma or GED. Pharmacy technicians must be at least 18 years old. Each pharmacy is responsible for on-the-job training according to their Pharmacy Technician Manual approved by the Board of Pharmacy. Southeast Community College started a diploma program during the summer of 2007. It is a one-year (or four quarter) program. Students complete course work in classes and laboratories as well as gaining hands-on training working in pharmacies in hospitals, long term care facilities, and retail pharmacies.

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- Southeast Community College – Beatrice (P)

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

In Nebraska, pharmacy technicians are required to register with the State of Nebraska Health and Human Services, Public Health Licensure Unit. There is no certification or licensure required at this time.

A technician may opt to become a Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT) by passing the National Pharmacy Technician Certification Examination given by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB).

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

### ***National Pharmacy Technician Association***

Web Address: [www.pharmacytechnician.org](http://www.pharmacytechnician.org)

### ***American Association of Pharmacy Technicians***

Web Address: [www.pharmacytechnician.com](http://www.pharmacytechnician.com)

# Physical Therapy

## **Nature of the Profession**

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

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

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

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

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

### ***American Physical Therapy Association***

Web Address: [www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org)

### ***Nebraska Physical Therapy Association***

Web Address: [www.npta.org](http://www.npta.org)

# Physical Therapist Assistant

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- Clarkson College – Omaha (A)
- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (A)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (A) Program expected to begin in 2008

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

***American Physical Therapy Association***

Web Address: [www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org)

***Nebraska Physical Therapy Association***

Web Address: [www.npta.org](http://www.npta.org)

# Physician

## **Nature of the Profession**

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

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

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

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

## **LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

### **American Medical Association**

Web Address: [www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org)

### **Nebraska Medical Association**

Web Address: [www.nebmed.org](http://www.nebmed.org)

# Physician (continued)

## Medical Residency and Fellowship Programs

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

<u>Residency and Fellowship (*) Programs</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Institution</u>	
Anesthesia	four	UNMC	
* Pain Management	one	UNMC	
Emergency Medicine	three	UNMC	
Family Medicine	three	UNMC	CUMC
Internal Medicine	three	UNMC	CUMC
* Allergy/Immunology	two		CUMC
* Cardiovascular Disease	three	UNMC	CUMC
* Electrophysiology	one	UNMC	
* Endocrinology & Metabolism	two	UNMC	CUMC
* Gastroenterology	three	UNMC	
* Geriatrics	one	UNMC	
* Hematology/Oncology	three	UNMC	
* Hepatology	two	UNMC	
* Infectious Diseases	two		CUMC
* Interventional Cardiology	one	UNMC	CUMC
* Nephrology	two	UNMC	
* Pulmonary/Critical Care	three	UNMC	CUMC
* Rheumatology	three	UNMC	
* Sleep Medicine	one	UNMC	
Internal Medicine/Pediatrics	four	UNMC	CUMC
Neurology	four	UNMC	
Neurosurgery	six	UNMC	
Nuclear Medicine	two	UNMC	
Obstetrics/Gynecology	four	UNMC	CUMC
Ophthalmology	four	UNMC	
* Retina	one	UNMC	
* Glaucoma	one	UNMC	
Oral Surgery	five	UNMC	
Orthopedics	five	UNMC	
Otolaryngology	five	UNMC	
Pathology	four	UNMC	CUMC
* Hematopathology	two	UNMC	
* Surgical Pathology	one	UNMC	
Pediatrics	three	UNMC	CUMC
* Allergy/Immunology	two		CUMC
* Pediatric Gastroenterology	three	UNMC	
* Pediatric Infectious Diseases	three	UNMC	
Plastic Surgery	two	UNMC	
Psychiatry	four		CUMC
* Addiction Psychiatry	one		CUMC
* Child Psychiatry	two		CUMC
* Geriatric Psychiatry	one		CUMC
Diagnostic Radiology	five	UNMC	CUMC
* Interventional Radiology	one	UNMC	
Surgery	five	UNMC	CUMC
* Colon/Rectal Surgery	one		CUMC
* Minimally-Invasive	one	UNMC	
* Transplantation	two	UNMC	
Urology	six	UNMC	

\*indicates fellowship program

# Physician Assistant

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (M)
- Union College – Lincoln (M)

## **LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

***The American Academy of Physician Assistants***

Web Address: [www.aapa.org](http://www.aapa.org)

***Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants***

Web Address: [www.nebraskapa.org](http://www.nebraskapa.org)

# Psychology

## **Nature of the Profession**

*Psychologists study human behavior and mental processes to understand, explain, and change people's behavior. Psychologists specialize in many different areas.*

*Clinical psychologists – who constitute the largest specialty – generally work in independent or group practice or in hospitals and clinics. They help emotionally disturbed patients adjust to life, and they are increasingly helping all kinds of medical and surgical patients to deal with their illnesses or injuries.*

*Counseling psychologists use several techniques, including interviewing and testing, to advise people on how to deal with problems of everyday living – personal, social, educational, or vocational.*

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

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

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

A doctoral degree is generally required for employment as a psychologist. Five to seven years of graduate work usually are required for a doctoral degree.

Persons with a master's degree in psychology can administer tests as psychological assistants. Under the supervision of doctoral level psychologists, they can conduct research in laboratories, conduct psychological evaluations, counsel patients, or perform administrative duties.

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- University of Nebraska – Omaha (M, D)
- University of Nebraska – Lincoln (D)

## **LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

### **American Psychological Association**

Web Address: [www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org)

### **Nebraska Psychological Association**

Web Address: [www.nebpsych.org](http://www.nebpsych.org)

# Public Health

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

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

The Master of Public Health (MPH) Program at the University of Nebraska is a joint program in the College of Public Health between the University of Nebraska Medical Center and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The MPH Program currently offers concentrations in public health administration, biostatistics/epidemiology and in community health education.

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

There are currently no licensing or certification requirements for persons with a public health degree.

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

### ***American Public Health Association***

Web Address: [www.apha.org](http://www.apha.org)

### ***Public Health Association of Nebraska***

Web Address: [www.publichealthne.org](http://www.publichealthne.org)

# Radiation Therapy Technology

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

*Primary responsibilities of the radiation therapist include:*

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

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (B)

## **LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

***American Society of Radiologic Technologists***

Web Address: [www.asrt.org](http://www.asrt.org)

***American Registry of Radiologic Technologists***

Web Address: [www.arrt.org](http://www.arrt.org)

# Radiography

## **Nature of the Profession**

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

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- Alegent Health/Immanuel Medical Center – Omaha (C)
- Chadron State College – Chadron (B)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (A, B, C)
- Hastings College – Hastings (B)
- Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital – Hastings (C)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (A,B)
- Regional West Medical Center – Scottsbluff (C)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (A)
- University of Nebraska – Kearney (B)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (B)
- Western Nebraska Community College – Scottsbluff (A)

## **LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

### ***American Society of Radiologic Technologists***

Web Address: [www.asrt.org](http://www.asrt.org)

### ***American Registry of Radiologic Technologists***

Web Address: [www.arrt.org](http://www.arrt.org)

# Recreational Therapy

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- University of Nebraska – Omaha (B)

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

***National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification***

Web Address: [www.nctrc.org](http://www.nctrc.org)

# Respiratory Therapy

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- Alegent Health/Midland Lutheran College – Omaha (B)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (A)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (A, B)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (A)
- University of Nebraska – Kearney (B)
- Wayne State College – Wayne (B)

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

***American Association for Respiratory Care***

Web Address: [www.aarc.org](http://www.aarc.org)

***The National Board for Respiratory Care, Inc.***

Web Address: [www.nbrc.org](http://www.nbrc.org)

***Nebraska Society for Respiratory Care***

Web Address: [www.nsrc-online.org](http://www.nsrc-online.org)

# Social Work

## **Nature of the Profession**

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

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

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

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- Chadron State College – Chadron (B)
- Creighton University – Omaha (B)
- Dana College – Blair (B)
- Nebraska Wesleyan University – Lincoln (B)
- Union College – Lincoln (B)
- University of Nebraska – Kearney (B)
- University of Nebraska – Omaha (B, M)

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

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

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

**National Association of Social Workers**

Web Address: [www.naswdc.org](http://www.naswdc.org)

**Nebraska Chapter: National Association of Social Workers**

Web Address: [www.naswne.org](http://www.naswne.org)

# Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology

## **Nature of the Profession**

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

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

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

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

Audiology

- University of Nebraska – Lincoln (D)

Speech-Language Pathology

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

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

***American Speech-Language-Hearing Association***

Web Address: [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)

***Nebraska Speech-Language-Hearing Association***

Web Address: [www.nslha.org](http://www.nslha.org)

# Surgery Technologist/Assistant

## **Nature of the Profession**

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

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

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

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

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

***Association of Surgical Technologists***

Web Address: [www.ast.org](http://www.ast.org)

# Ultrasonography

## ***Nature of the Profession***

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

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

## **APTITUDES**

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

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

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

## **LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

***American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers***

Web Address: [www.ardms.org](http://www.ardms.org)

***Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography***

Web Address: [www.jrcdms.org](http://www.jrcdms.org)

***Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography***

Web Address: [www.sdms.org](http://www.sdms.org)

# Other Medical Professions

The purpose of this book is to increase awareness about health careers and highlight those careers for which Nebraska's many institutions of higher learning can provide the education and training. Other health professions for which training is not available in Nebraska are noted here. For more information about these professions, you can explore the websites listed below. You can also look for information on the American Medical Association (AMA) site at [www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/14598.html](http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/14598.html), and at [www.explorehealthcareers.org](http://www.explorehealthcareers.org)

**Acupuncturist** – Practices a form of traditional Chinese medicine which involves the insertion of fine needles into precise locations on the body to stimulate the body's own healing processes.

**Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine**

Web Address: [www.acaom.org](http://www.acaom.org)

**Biomedical Engineer** – Uses engineering techniques to solve medical problems. Designs and develops medical equipment and instruments such as artificial limbs, pacemakers, or imaging equipment.

**Biomedical Engineering Society**

Web Address: [www.bmes.org](http://www.bmes.org)

**Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation**

Web Address: [www.aami.org](http://www.aami.org)

**Child Life Specialist** – Works with children and families in hospitals and other health care settings; uses play and other forms of communication to reduce the stress of the hospital/treatment experience.

**Child Life Council**

Web Address: [www.childlife.org](http://www.childlife.org)

**Chiropractor** – Practices a drug-free, hands-on approach to health care that includes patient examination, diagnosis, and treatment emphasizing the spine and its relationship to the joints.

**American Chiropractic Association**

Web Address: [www.amerchiro.org](http://www.amerchiro.org)

**Genetic Counselor** – Provides information and support to families who have members with birth defects or genetic disorders, and to families at risk for a variety of inherited conditions.

**National Society of Genetic Counselors**

Web Address: [www.nsgc.org](http://www.nsgc.org)

**Gerontologist** – Studies the process of aging; may also work directly with the elderly by developing programs, providing care, or administering services to the elderly population.

**Gerontological Society of America**

Web Address: [www.geron.org](http://www.geron.org)

**Optician** – Makes prescription eyeglasses and contact lenses according to the specifications of optometrists or ophthalmologists.

**Opticians Association of America**

Web Address: [www.oaa.org](http://www.oaa.org)

**Optometric Assistant/Tech** – Works directly for a doctor of optometry, performing a variety of tasks which may include record-keeping, assisting with frame selection, dispensing contact lenses and operating eye testing equipment.

***American Optometric Association***

Web Address: [www.aoa.org](http://www.aoa.org)

**Optometrist** – Diagnoses and treats eye conditions; evaluates vision and determines if corrective lenses are needed.

***American Academy of Optometry***

Web Address: [www.aaopt.org](http://www.aaopt.org)

**Orthotist/Prosthetist** – The orthotist designs and fits devices for patients who have disabling conditions of the limbs and spine. The prosthetist designs and fits devices for patients who have partial or total absence of a limb.

***American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists***

Web Address: [www.oandp.org](http://www.oandp.org)

**Podiatrist** – Diagnoses and treats disorders of the foot and ankle, using medical, surgical and biomechanical techniques.

***American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine***

Web Address: [www.aacpm.org](http://www.aacpm.org)

**Veterinarian** – The doctor of veterinary medicine (DVM) protects the health and welfare of animals, diagnoses and treats sick animals, prevents the transmission of animal diseases to people, and advises owners on proper care of pets and livestock.

***American Veterinary Medical Association***

Web Address: [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)

***Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges***

Web Address: [www.aavmc.org](http://www.aavmc.org)

**Veterinary Technician** – Assists veterinarians in providing medical and other services to animals; takes animals to treatment rooms, prepares animals for surgery, performs tests, and provides client education.

***National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America***

Web Address: [www.navta.net](http://www.navta.net)

# Health Career Institutions in Nebraska

## ALLIANCE

### Western Nebraska Community College

Alliance Campus  
1750 Sweetwater  
Alliance, NE 69301  
www.wncc.net

- Coding Technician (P)  
pwofff@wncc.net
- Health Information Management (A)  
pwofff@wncc.net
- Licensed Practical Nurse (P)  
ahippe@wncc.net
- Medical Transcription (C, P)  
pwofff@wncc.net
- Nurse Aide (C)  
alliance@wncc.net

## BEATRICE

### Southeast Community College

Beatrice Campus  
4771 W. Scott Rd.  
Beatrice, NE 68310-7042  
(402) 228-3468 or (800) 233-5027  
www.southeast.edu  
chiggins@southeast.edu

- Licensed Practical Nurse (P)
- Nurse Aide (C)
- Pharmacy Technician (P)

## BELLEVUE

### Bellevue University

1000 Galvin Road South  
Bellevue, NE 68005  
(402) 291-8100 or (800) 756-7920  
www.bellevue.edu  
info@bellevue.edu

- Health Care Administration (B, M)
- Human Services Worker (B, M)

## BLAIR

### Dana College

2848 College Drive  
Blair, NE 68008-1099  
(402) 426-9000 or (800) 444-3262  
www.dana.edu  
admissions@dana.edu

- Social Work (B)

## CHADRON

### Chadron State College

1000 Main Street  
Chadron, NE 69337  
(308) 432-6000 or (800) 242-3766  
www.csc.edu  
inquire@csc.edu

- Counseling (M)
- Medical Technology (B)
- Radiography (B)
- Social Work (B)

## COLUMBUS

### Central Community College

4500 63rd Street  
P.O. Box 1027  
Columbus, NE 68602-1027  
(402) 564-7132 or (877) 222-0780  
www.ccneb.edu  
twallace@cccneb.edu

- Emergency Medical Technology (C)
- Health Information Management (A, C, P)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (P)
- Medical Interpreting (C)
- Medical Office Services (A, P)
- Medical Transcription (P)
- Nurse Aide (C)

## FREMONT

### Midland Lutheran College

900 North Clarkson  
Fremont, NE 68025-4200  
(402) 721-5480 or (800) 642-8382  
www.mlc.edu  
admissions@mlc.edu

- Registered Nurse (B)
- Respiratory Therapy (A, B)

## GERING

### University of Nebraska Medical Center

#### College of Dentistry Dental Hygiene-West Division

Panhandle Community Services  
975 Crescent Drive  
Gering, NE 69341-1700  
(308) 632-2540 ext 330  
www.unmc.edu/dentistry  
rcharles@unmc.edu

- Dental Hygiene (B)

## GRAND ISLAND

### Central Community College

3134 West Highway 34  
P.O. Box 4903  
Grand Island, NE 68802-4903  
(308) 398-4222 or (877) 222-0780  
www.ccneb.edu  
ekohout@cccneb.edu

- Emergency Medical Technology (C)
- Health Information Management (A, C, P)
- Human Services Worker (A, C, P)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (P)
- Medical Interpreting (C)
- Medical Office Services (A, P)
- Medical Transcription (P)
- Nurse Aide (C)
- Registered Nurse (A)

## HASTINGS

### Central Community College

East Highway 6  
P.O. Box 1024  
Hastings, NE 68902-1024  
(402) 463-9811 or (877) 222-0780  
www.ccneb.edu  
dbrennan@cccneb.edu

- Coding Technician (P)
- Dental Assistant (A, P)
- Dental Hygiene (A)
- Emergency Medical Technology (C)
- Health Information Management (A, C, P)
- Human Services Worker (A, C, P)
- Medical Assistant (A, P)
- Medical Interpreting (C)
- Medical Laboratory Technician (A)
- Medical Office Services (A, P)
- Medical Transcription (P)
- Nurse Aide (C)

### Creighton University School of Nursing

Mary Lanning Campus  
715 N. St. Joseph  
Hastings, NE 68901  
(402) 461-5281 or (888) 736-2876  
www.creighton.edu  
jsowl@creighton.edu

- Registered Nurse (B)

### Hastings College

710 North Turner Ave  
Hastings, NE 68901  
(402) 463-2402  
www.hastings.edu  
mmolliconi@hastings.edu

- Health Promotion Services (B)
- Radiography (B)

### Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital

School of Radiologic Technology  
715 North St. Joseph  
Hastings, NE 68901  
(402) 461-5177  
www.mlmh.org  
radschool@mlmh.org

- Radiography (C)

## HOLDREGE

### Central Community College

Holdrege Center  
1308 2nd Street  
Holdrege, NE 68949  
(308) 995-8133 or (877) 222-0780  
www.ccneb.edu  
dwatson@cccneb.edu

- Medical Interpreting (C)

# Health Career Institutions in Nebraska

## KEARNEY

### Central Community College Kearney Center

3519 2nd Avenue, Suite A  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 338-4000  
www.cccneb.edu

- Licensed Practical Nurse (P)
- Medical Interpreting (C)
- Nurse Aide (C)

### University of Nebraska-Kearney

905 West 25th Street  
Kearney, NE 68849  
(308) 865-8620  
www.unk.edu/acad/health\_prog  
abelsp@unk.edu

- Athletic Trainer (B)
- Counseling (M)
- Medical Technology (B)
- Radiography (B)
- Respiratory Therapy (B)
- Social Work (B)
- Speech Language Pathology (B, M)

### University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing – Kearney Division

1917 West 24th Street  
West Center Bldg.  
Kearney, NE 68849-4510  
(308) 865-8322  
www.unmc.edu/nursing  
develoff@unmc.edu

- Nurse Practitioner (M, D)
- Registered Nurse (B, M, D)

## LEXINGTON

### Central Community College Lexington Center

608 North Lincoln Street  
Lexington, NE 68850  
(308) 324-5936 or (877) 222-0780  
www.cccneb.edu  
csmith@cccneb.edu

- Medical Interpreting (C)

## LINCOLN

### BryanLGH College of Health Sciences

5035 Everett Street  
Lincoln, NE 68506-1398  
(402) 481-8697 or (800) 742-7844 ext 18697  
www.bryanlghcollege.org  
admissions@bryanlghcollege.org

- Invasive Cardiovascular Technologist (A)
- Medical Transcription (C)
- Nurse Aide (C)
- Registered Nurse (B)
- Ultrasonography (A)

### BryanLGH Medical Center

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

- Nurse Anesthetist (M)

## Doane College

303 North 52nd Street  
Lincoln, NE 68504  
(402) 466-4774  
www.doane.edu  
janice.hadfield@doane.edu

- Counseling (M)
- Human Services Worker (B)

## Nebraska Wesleyan University

5000 Saint Paul Avenue  
Lincoln, NE 68504-2796  
(402) 466-2371 or (800) 541-3818  
www.nebrwesleyan.edu  
admissions@nebrwesleyan.edu

- Athletic Trainer (B)
- Registered Nurse (B, M)
- Social Work (B)

## Southeast Community College

Lincoln Campus  
8800 "O" Street  
Lincoln, NE 68520-1299  
(402) 437-2600 or (800) 642-4075  
www.southeast.edu

- Coding Technician (P)
- Dental Assistant (P)
- Dietetic Technician (A)
- Emergency Medical Technician (C)  
[Basic, Intermediate, Paramedic]
- Human Services Worker (A)  
[Drug/Alcohol Counseling & Nursing  
Home Administration]
- Licensed Practical Nurse (P)
- Medical Assistant (P)
- Medical Laboratory Technician (A)
- Nurse Aide (C)
- Radiography (A)
- Registered Nurse (A)
- Respiratory Therapy (A)
- Surgery Technologist (A)

## Union College

3800 South 48th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68506  
(402) 488-2331 or (800) 228-4600  
www.ucollege.edu  
ucenroll@ucollege.edu

- Physician Assistant (M)
- Registered Nurse (B)
- Social Work (B)

## University of Nebraska-Lincoln

P.O. Box 880417  
Lincoln, NE 68588-0417  
(402) 472-2023 or (800) 742-8800  
www.unl.edu

- Athletic Trainer (B)
- Counseling (M, D)
- Psychology (D)
- Registered Dietitian (B, M)
- Speech Language Pathology (B, M, D) & Audiology (D)

## University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry

40th & Holdrege Street  
Lincoln, NE 68583-0740  
(402) 472-1301  
www.unmc.edu/dentistry

- Dental Hygiene (B)  
rcharles@unmc.edu
- Dentist (D)  
gmcanfie@unmc.edu

## University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing – Lincoln Division

1230 O Street  
P.O. Box 880220  
Lincoln, NE 68588-0220  
(402) 472-7343  
www.unmc.edu/nursing  
develoff@unmc.edu

- Nurse Practitioner (M, D)
- Registered Nurse (B, M, D)

## McCOOK

### McCook Community College

A division of Mid-Plains Community College  
1205 East 3rd Street  
McCook, NE 69001  
(308) 345-8100 or (800) 658-4348  
www.mpcca.edu

- Licensed Practical Nurse (P)
- Medical Office Services (A)
- Medical Transcription (C)
- Registered Nurse (A)

## NORFOLK

### Northeast Community College

801 East Benjamin Avenue  
P.O. Box 469  
Norfolk, NE 68702-0469  
(402) 371-2020 or (800) 348-9033  
www.northeastcollege.com

- Coding Technician (P)
- Dietary Manager (C)
- Emergency Medical Technology (A, C)  
[Basic, Paramedic]
- Licensed Practical Nurse (C)
- Medical Office Services (A, C)
- Nurse Aide (C)
- Physical Therapist Assistant (A)
- Registered Nurse (A)

# Health Career Institutions in Nebraska

## NORTH PLATTE

### Mid-Plains Community College

South Campus  
601 West State Farm Road  
North Platte, NE 69101  
(308) 535-3600 or (800) 658-4308  
www.mpcca.edu  
rippenk@mpcca.edu

- Medical Office Services (A)
- Medical Transcription (C)

### Mid-Plains Community College

North Campus  
1101 Halligan Drive  
North Platte, NE 69101  
(308) 535-3600 or (800) 658-4308  
www.mpcca.edu

- Dental Assistant (A, P)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (P)
- Medical Laboratory Technician (A)
- Registered Nurse (A)

## OMAHA

### Alegent Health/Midland Lutheran College

School of Respiratory Therapy  
6901 North 72nd Street  
Omaha, NE 68122  
(402) 572-2312  
tklopfen@alegent.org

- Respiratory Therapy (B)

### Alegent Health

Bergan Mercy Medical Center  
7500 Mercy Road  
Omaha, NE 68124-2386  
(402) 398-5527  
lbaylor@alegent.org

- Radiography (C)

### Clarkson College

101 South 42nd Street  
Omaha, NE 68131-2739  
(402) 552-3100 or (800) 647-5500  
www.clarksoncollege.edu  
admiss@clarksoncollege.edu

- Coding Technician (A, B, C)
- Health Information Management (A, B, C)
- Health Care Administration (B, M)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (P)
- Nurse Aide (C)
- Nurse Practitioner (M)
- Physical Therapist Assistant (A)
- Radiography (A, B)
  - Medical Imaging PACS (C)
- Registered Nurse (B, M)

### College of Saint Mary

7000 Mercy Road  
Omaha, NE 68106  
(402) 399-2405 or (800) 926-5534  
www.csm.edu  
enroll@csm.edu

- Licensed Practical Nurse (C)
- Medical Technology (B)
- Occupational Therapy (M)
- Registered Nurse (A, B, M, D)

### Creighton Health Sciences

2500 California Plaza  
P.O. Box 3266  
Omaha, NE 68178  
(402) 280-2703  
www.creighton.edu

- Athletic Trainer (B)
  - thomasbaechle@creighton.edu
- Counseling (M)
  - bbraden@creighton.edu
- Dentist (D)
  - wbark@creighton.edu
- Emergency Medical Technology (A, B)
  - cuemse@creighton.edu
- Health Care Administration (M)
  - mclean@creighton.edu
- Nurse Practitioner (M)
  - llazure@creighton.edu
- Occupational Therapy (D)
  - bcoppard@creighton.edu
- Pharmacy (D)
  - phaadmis@creighton.edu
- Physical Therapy (D)
  - phaadmis@creighton.edu
- Physician (D)
  - medical@creighton.edu
- Registered Nurse (B, M)
  - trautyk@creighton.edu
- Social Work (B)
  - jwalsh@creighton.edu

### Grace University

1311 South 9th Street  
Omaha, NE 68108-3629  
(402) 449-2800 or (800) 383-1422  
www.graceuniversity.edu

- Counseling (M)
  - chris@graceu.edu
- Registered Nurse (B)
  - kpullen3825@graceu.edu

### Metropolitan Community College

P.O. Box 3777  
Omaha, NE 68103-0777  
(402) 457-2400 or (800) 228-9553  
www.mccneb.edu  
krodgers@mccneb.edu

- Coding Technician (A, C)
- Dental Assistant (C)
- Emergency Medical Technology (A, C)
- Health Information Management (A, C)
- Human Services Worker (A)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (C)
- Medical Office Services (A)
- Nurse Aide (C)
- Registered Nurse (A)
- Respiratory Therapy (A)

### Nebraska Methodist College

720 North 87th Street  
Omaha, NE 68114  
(402) 354-7200 or (800) 335-5510  
www.methodistcollege.edu  
admissions@methodistcollege.edu

- Health Promotion Services (M)
- Medical Assistant (C)
- Nurse Aide (C)
- Physical Therapist Assistant (A)
  - Program expected to begin in 2008
- Radiography (A, B)
- Registered Nurse (B, M)
- Respiratory Therapy (A, B)
- Surgery Technologist (C)
- Ultrasonography (A, B)

### Nebraska Wesleyan University

11815 M Street, Suite 100  
Omaha, NE 68137  
(402) 827-3555  
www.nebrwesleyan.edu  
advantage@nebrwesleyan.edu

- Registered Nurse (B, M)

### University of Nebraska Medical Center School of Allied Health Professions

985150 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198-5150  
(402) 559-7428  
www.unmc.edu/alliedhealth

- Clinical Perfusion (M)
  - cskarda@unmc.edu
- Cytotechnology (PBC)
  - addonnelly@unmc.edu
- Clinical Laboratory Science (B)
  - lmdonner@unmc.edu
- Nuclear Medicine Technology (B)
  - mhesssmith@unmc.edu
- Physical Therapy (D)
  - ptedu@unmc.edu
- Physician Assistant (M)
  - dklandon@unmc.edu
- Radiation Therapy Technology (B)
  - labarten@unmc.edu
- Radiography (B)
  - clmitche@unmc.edu
- Registered Dietitian (PBC)
  - gwoscyna@nebraskamed.com
- Ultrasonography (B)
  - kkmichael@unmc.edu

### University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Medicine

986585 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198-6585  
(402) 559-2259  
www.unmc.edu/UNCOM  
grrogers@unmc.edu

- Physician (D)

### University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing

985330 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198-5330  
(402) 559-5184  
www.unmc.edu/nursing  
develoff@unmc.edu

- Nurse Practitioner (M, D)
- Registered Nurse (B, M, D)

# Health Career Institutions in Nebraska

## OMAHA (continued)

### University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Pharmacy

986000 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198-6000  
(402) 559-4333  
www.unmc.edu/pharmacy  
copadmin@unmc.edu

- Pharmacy (D)

### University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Public Health

987850 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198-7850  
(402) 559-4960  
www.unmc.edu/publichealth/  
jtschirren@unmc.edu

- Public Health (M)

### University of Nebraska – Omaha

6001 Dodge Street  
Omaha, NE 68182  
(402) 554-2800 or (800) 858-8648  
www.unomaha.edu

- Athletic Trainer (B, M)
- Counseling (M)
- Psychology (M, D)
- Public Health (M)  
jtschirren@unmc.edu
- Recreational Therapy (B)
- Social Work (B, M)
- Speech Language Pathology (B, M)

## SCOTTSBLUFF

### Regional West Health Services

4021 Avenue B  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361  
(308) 630-1155  
www.rwhs.org  
gilberd@rwhs.net

- Radiography (C)

### University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing, West Nebraska Division

4502 Avenue I  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361-4939  
(308) 632-0413  
www.unmc.edu/nursing  
develoff@unmc.edu

- Nurse Practitioner (M, D)
- Registered Nurse (B, M, D)

### Western Nebraska Community College

1601 East 27th Street  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361  
(308) 635-6060 or (800) 348-4435  
www.wncc.net

- Coding Technician (P)  
pwolff@wncc.net
- Emergency Medical Technology (A, C)  
ahippe@wncc.net
- Health Information Management (A)  
pwolff@wncc.net
- Licensed Practical Nurse (P)  
ahippe@wncc.net
- Medical Transcription (C, P)  
pwolff@wncc.net
- Nurse Aide (C)  
enroll@wncc.net
- Radiography (A)  
ahippe@wncc.net
- Registered Nurse (A)  
ahippe@wncc.net

## SIDNEY

### Western Nebraska Community College

Sidney Center  
371 College Drive  
Sidney, NE 69162  
(308) 254-5450  
www.wncc.net

- Coding Technician (P)  
pwolff@wncc.net
- Health Information Management (A)  
pwolff@wncc.net
- Licensed Practical Nurse (P)  
ahippe@wncc.net
- Medical Transcription (C, P)  
pwolff@wncc.net
- Nurse Aide (C)  
sidney@wncc.net

## WAYNE

### Wayne State College

1111 Main Street  
Wayne, NE 68787  
(402) 375-7000 or (800) 228-9972  
www.wsc.edu  
preprof@wsc.edu

- Counseling (B, M)
- Medical Technology (B)
- Respiratory Therapy (B)

# Rural Health Opportunities Program

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

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

## What is the Rural Health Opportunities Program?

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

## Who is involved in this program?

The program involves UNMC, CSC, and WSC. At Chadron, RHOP includes preparatory courses for medicine, pharmacy, nursing, dentistry, dental hygiene, clinical laboratory science, physician assistant, physical therapy and radiography programs. At Wayne, RHOP includes preparatory courses for medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, dental hygiene and clinical laboratory science.

## How do I apply for the RHOP program?

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

For programs at Chadron, go to: [www.csc.edu/mathsci/healthprofessions/](http://www.csc.edu/mathsci/healthprofessions/)

For programs at Wayne, go to: [www.wsc.edu/schools/nss/RHOP](http://www.wsc.edu/schools/nss/RHOP)

Students must submit an application for admission to the state college along with the RHOP application. All materials must be postmarked to the state college no later than December 1<sup>st</sup> for application consideration the following academic year.

## How will students be selected?

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

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

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

## How to Apply

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

### Health Professions Office

Chadron State College  
1000 Main Street  
Chadron, NE 69337  
(308) 432-6278  
(888) 293-2293  
E-Mail: [hpoffice@csc.edu](mailto:hpoffice@csc.edu)

### Health Professions Office

Wayne State College  
1111 Main Street  
Wayne, NE 68787  
(402) 375-7329  
(800) 228-9972  
E-Mail: [preprof@wsc.edu](mailto:preprof@wsc.edu)

### University of Nebraska Medical Center

Rural Health Education Network (RHEN)  
986660 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198-6660  
(402) 559-3398  
E-Mail: [akraft@unmc.edu](mailto:akraft@unmc.edu)  
Web Address: [www.unmc.edu/RHEN](http://www.unmc.edu/RHEN)

# NU-PATHS (Pre-Admission to the Health Sciences)

## What is the NU-PATHS program?

The objective of this program is to recruit and educate academically talented students to the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). Candidates must demonstrate, through life experiences and personal motivation, a desire to become health care professionals who are willing to serve people in need of health care in medically underserved communities. It is anticipated that program graduates will practice in medically underserved urban communities. The NU-PATHS program assists selected students in their undergraduate pre-health curricula at one of the University of Nebraska undergraduate campuses, and guarantees admission to the selected UNMC program upon successful, and timely, completion of their undergraduate pre-professional program of study.

## Who is involved in the program?

The NU-PATHS program is a collaborative effort involving UNMC and each of the University of Nebraska undergraduate campuses: UNL, UNO and UNK. The UNMC professional programs participating in the NU-PATHS program are: clinical laboratory science, dental hygiene, dentistry, graduate studies, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant, public health, and radiation sciences.

## How do I apply for the NU-PATHS program?

Program applications are available on each participating undergraduate campus. Only completed applications will be processed. A complete application includes the application form, the personal response page(s), and four letters of reference. All applications, including letters of reference, must be received on or before March 1st for consideration.

## How are program participants selected?

The NU-PATHS program was designed for academically strong students (current students at UNL, UNO or UNK) who have serious interest in becoming health care practitioners, serving the economically and/or socially disadvantaged, within urban communities. Ethnic minority and other under-represented students are encouraged to apply. Preference is given to Nebraska residents.

To qualify for selection, the student must:

- Have strong academic ability
- Be currently enrolled full-time in an undergraduate degree program
- Have demonstrated the desire to enter a health care profession
- Have a personal commitment to practice with economically and/or socially disadvantaged populations
- Be a U.S. citizen or have a Green Card

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

Contact Information:

### **NU-PATHS Program: University of Nebraska – Lincoln**

Dean Rita Kean  
Office of Undergraduate Studies  
Seaton Hall 201  
Lincoln, NE 68588-0683  
(402) 472-1185

### **NU-PATHS Program: University of Nebraska at Omaha**

James Freeman  
Office of Multicultural Affairs  
MBSC 1st Floor  
Omaha, NE 68182  
(402) 554-2248

### **NU-PATHS Program: University of Nebraska at Kearney**

UNK  
Peggy Abels  
Department of Health Science  
Bruner Hall of Science 212  
Kearney, NE 68849-1130  
(308) 865-8260

# Career Exploration

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

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

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

1033 East 3rd St., Suite 1  
Chadron, NE 69337-0930  
(308) 432-0537

3020 18th St., Suite 1  
Columbus, NE 68601-4254  
(402) 564-7160

1705 Stone St.  
Falls City, NE 68355-2653  
(402) 245-4401

406 East 6th St.  
Fremont, NE 68025-5136  
(402) 727-3250

1306 West 3rd St.  
Grand Island, NE 68801  
(308) 385-6300

Landmark Center  
2727 West 2nd St., Suite 338  
Hastings, NE 68901-4684  
(402) 462-1867

502 East Ave. Second Floor  
Holdrege, NE 68949-0073  
(308) 995-5627

124 West 46th St., Suite 106  
Kearney, NE 68847-8348  
(308) 865-5404

1308 North Adams  
Lexington, NE 68850  
(308) 324-2064

1010 "N" Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
(402) 471-2275

220 West 1st St.  
McCook, NE 69001-3601  
(308) 345-8470

905 Third Corso  
Nebraska City, NE 68410-0700  
(402) 873-3384

105 East Norfolk Ave., Suite 100  
Norfolk, NE 68701  
(402) 370-3430

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

5404 Cedar St.  
Omaha, NE 68106-2365  
(402) 595-3000

2421 North 24th St.  
Omaha, NE 68110-2282  
(402) 444-4700

1930 East 20th Place, Suite 200  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361-2708  
(308) 632-1420

923 8th Ave.  
Sidney, NE 69162  
(308) 254-6937

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

# Nebraska Office of Rural Health

The Nebraska Office of Rural Health (NORH) was created in 1988 by administrative order and received statutory authorization in 1990. Its mission is to define and promote the development of a health care system that assures the accessibility of quality health care service to meet the needs of residents in rural Nebraska.

The office administers the state student loan and loan repayment programs and provides state-level coordination for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) programs. The state programs have placed over 400 providers in shortage areas. Currently, over 90 health professionals are providing obligated service. Seventeen practitioners now serve in Nebraska shortage areas through NHSC.

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

# Financial Aid

## Resources

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

EducationQuest Foundation  
[www.educationquest.org](http://www.educationquest.org)

Federal Student Aid Programs  
[www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)  
[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

National Student Loan Database System  
[www.nsls.ed.gov](http://www.nsls.ed.gov)

The Smart Student Guide to Financial Aid  
[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

## Checklist

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

## Additional Tips

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

# Acknowledgements

Information published in this document has been gathered from various sources. The 2008 edition of **Careers in Health Care** is published and distributed through the cooperation of the following agencies. For more information or to comment on the publication, please contact:

## **Rural Health Education Network Nebraska AHEC Program Office**

University of Nebraska Medical Center  
986660 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198-6660  
(402) 559-3398  
[www.unmc.edu/RHEN](http://www.unmc.edu/RHEN)

## **Nebraska Hospital Association**

3255 Salt Creek Circle, Suite 100  
Lincoln, NE 68504-4761  
(402) 742-8140  
[www.nhanet.org](http://www.nhanet.org)

## **Nebraska Community College Association**

601 South 12th Street, Suite 200  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
(402) 471-4685  
[www.ncca.state.ne.us](http://www.ncca.state.ne.us)

## **Central Nebraska AHEC**

College Park  
3180 West Highway 34  
Grand Island, NE 68801-7279  
(308) 385-6677  
[www.cn-ahec.org](http://www.cn-ahec.org)

## **Northern Nebraska AHEC**

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

## **Nebraska Panhandle AHEC**

2620 College Park  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361  
(308) 635-6711  
[www.np-ahec.org](http://www.np-ahec.org)

## **Southeast Nebraska AHEC**

5109 West Scott Road  
Adams Hall, Room A211  
Beatrice, NE 68310  
(402) 228-9092  
[www.se-ahec.org](http://www.se-ahec.org)

## **Omaha Urban AHEC**

302 South 36th Street, Suite 216  
Omaha, NE 68131  
(402) 502-1207  
[www.ahecomaha.org](http://www.ahecomaha.org)

Funded in part through the Health Resources & Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions Federal Grant #U76HP00592.

Photographs on cover were provided by: UNMC RHEN Office/Nebraska AHEC Program Office, Northern Nebraska AHEC, Southeast Nebraska AHEC, Panhandle Nebraska AHEC and Omaha Urban AHEC. We are specially grateful to Joshua Sappenfield, UNMC student; Dr. Pete Johnson, Horizons West Medical Group in Scottsbluff; Restedesa Kossman, AMH Tilden Clinic; and Candace Dusenberry, Cherry County Hospital in Valentine.