



NURSING RELATED JOB OPTIONS FOR INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED NURSES WITHOUT A U.S. NURSING LICENSE

May 05, 2017

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Introduction

If you wish to receive your U.S. nurse licensure, it is a good idea to find a job in the nursing field while working on your licensure. This guide will introduce you to some jobs you may be able to have while waiting for your official license in nursing.

This guide has two sections: 1) A list of job titles in the field of nursing; 2) Some expanded information about those job titles. If you find that you would like more help or information, please contact GTI at: info@globaltalentidaho.org

The relicensing process can take years to complete. Taking an alternative job before you receive licensure can benefit you in the following ways:

- Employers may invest in you: they could possibly help with your tuition and fees associated with the NCLEX.
- You may find co-workers and colleagues who can support you in the licensing process.
- You will become more familiar with the U.S. healthcare work culture.
- After securing a position in the health care industry, you may be able to ask your employer about your long-term goals of wanting to relicense in the U.S. You may be able to ask about tuition reimbursement or schedule flexibility that will help support your long-term goals.

Potential Job Options without a U.S. Nursing License

In the jobs listed below, you do not need a U.S. nursing license, but you could draw on your nursing knowledge experience and expertise. Look regularly for these positions—about every 3 days. They may not be open the day you are looking, but could open up later.

Tier 1 Jobs Titles (Mid to Senior-level that generally DO NOT require certifications/license)

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MD or RN license may not be required; Number of open positions is lower than tier 2 positions & Number of applicants is fewer than tier 2 **for these jobs; you will need a strong resume, well-written cover letter, and high quality online application. If you are selected for an interview, you will need to practice for it.** GTI can help program participants with preparations.

(*) indicates sample job describe in this guide

- Biological Technician*
- Clinic Assistant
- Clinical Educator – Inter-professional (Non-RN)
- Clinical Research Associate*
- Clinical Research Coordinator (Non-RN)
- Clinical Coordinator
- Education Technician
- Family Advocate
- Healthy Connections Coordinator
- Health Educator
- Healthcare Interpreter*
- Health Navigator
- Health Program Specialist
- Healthcare Policy Analyst
- Health Screening Coordinator
- Health Technician
- Infection Disease Control/Prevention Specialist*
- Infection Prevention Practitioner

- Medical Lab Scientist
- Medical Scribe
- Medical Transcriptionists*
- Occupational Health and Safety Specialist*
- Patient Care Coordinator, Non-clinical
- Wholesale and Manufacturing Sales Representatives*

(*) indicates sample job describe in this guide

Sample Job Descriptions - Mid to Senior-level positions that generally do NOT require certifications/license

Biological Technician

What Biological Technicians Do

Biological technicians help biological and medical scientists conduct laboratory tests and experiments.

Work Environment

Biological technicians typically work in laboratories. Most biological technicians work full time.

How to Become a Biological Technician

Biological technicians typically need a bachelor's degree in biology or a closely related field. It is important for prospective biological technicians to gain laboratory experience while in school.

Pay: The Annual average wage for biological technicians in Idaho was \$32,320 in 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of biological technicians is projected to grow 5 percent from 2014 to 2024, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Continued growth in biotechnology and medical research is expected to increase demand for these workers.

Clinical Research Associate

What Clinical Research Associates Do

Clinical research associates (CRAs) organize and administer clinical trials of new or current drugs in order to assess the benefits and risks of using them, help to organize and monitor the different phases of clinical trials of drugs. Key responsibilities include:

- Writing drug trial methodologies (procedures)
- Identifying and briefing appropriate trial investigators (clinicians)
- Setting up and disbanding trial study centers
- Designing trial materials and supplying study centers with sufficient quantities
- Providing clinicians with instructions on how to conduct the trials
- Collecting and authenticating data collection forms (commonly known as case report forms)
- Monitoring progress throughout the duration of the trial
- Writing reports

Typical Employers of Clinical Research Associates

- Pharmaceutical companies
- Clinical contract agencies or houses
- Hospital academic departments

Qualifications and Training Required

To become a CRA it is necessary to hold an undergraduate or postgraduate qualification in nursing, life sciences (for example, biology, microbiology, toxicology, biochemistry, or pharmacology) or medical sciences (such as physiology, immunology, medicine, anatomy or pharmacy).

Key Skills for Clinical Research Associates

- Commercial awareness
- A logical and inquisitive mind
- Good organizational abilities
- Excellent numerical, written and verbal communication skills

- Confidence

Pay: Annual Base Salary in Idaho \$54,807

Healthcare Interpreter

If you are bilingual and a strong communicator, you may want to research opportunities for work in hospitals as an interpreter.

Certified Medical Interpreters is a course that you can take and become licensed. This type of role is regulated in Idaho, so standards for employment as well as pay and benefits may be very different depending on the employer. You are more likely to have benefits such as tuition reimbursement if you find work as a direct employee of a healthcare facility, instead of working for a company that provides interpretation services to hospitals. The following is one company that offers this training:

Lopez Translation and Training
107 S. Kimball Avenue
Caldwell, ID 83605
(208) 250-6507

Infection Disease Control/Prevention Specialist

What Infection Disease Control/Prevention Specialists Do:

Responsible for identification, investigation, reporting, prevention and control of healthcare associated infections at one or more of the Saint Alphonsus Medical Centers and their associated clinics. The IPS is responsible for conducting/assisting with educational programs related to infection control and prevention, developing policies, and implementing performance improvement measures that ensure the medical centers meet the Infection Control requirements of CDC, OSHA, TJC and other federal and state regulatory agencies. Some travel between sites may be required.

General Skills, Knowledge, Education and Experience (varies by hospital, city, etc.)

- Graduate of a university or college with a Baccalaureate degree in a health care related field.
- Acute care experience
- Experience in performance improvement, facilitation and adult education

- Strong computer skills including MS Word, Excel, Access and/or PowerPoint.
- Knowledge of federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines that affect infection control
- Knowledge of infection control requirements of CDC, OSHA, TJC, APIC recommendations and ability to interpret them in clinical settings
- Knowledgeable of epidemiologic principles, communicable diseases, and pharmacokinetics, microbiology, pathophysiology, sterilization, sanitation, and disinfection practices
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, both verbal & written.
- Experience in statistics and research methodology

Essential Functions:

- Meets Health System's Guiding Behaviors including interpersonal communication and professional conduct expectations.
- Demonstrates self-direction in providing systematic surveillance of patients to identify hospital acquired infections through established criteria.
- Maintains databases related to surveillance and process/outcome metrics.
- Analyzes displays and communicates infection prevention data.
- Identifies persons who are at high risk for infections or pose an infection risk to others and initiates preventative measures.
- Coordinates appropriate investigation and intervention when a patient or employee is exposed to a potentially infectious agent.
- Provides consultation on standards interpretation and implementation to hospital departments for the safety of health care services in relation to infection control.
- Participates as a member or consultant in organizational decision making, including the development of policies and procedures that affect the delivery of patient care.
- Demonstrates ability to work effectively with professional and supportive personnel throughout the medical centers to promote safety in relation to infection control
- Maintains current knowledge of evidence-based practice related to infection prevention and control.
- Identifies areas for performance improvement or study in the realm of infection prevention and control and leads/participates in performance improvement teams, as appropriate.
- Initiates changes in clinical practice based on current concepts and findings from regulatory and accrediting agencies, professional practice guidelines, and other research and /or studies

Pay: The average yearly salary for Infection Disease Control/Prevention Specialist in Idaho is \$74,256 in 2017.

Medical Transcriptionist

What Medical Transcriptionists Do

Medical transcriptionists sometimes referred to as healthcare documentation specialists, listen to voice recordings that physicians and other healthcare workers make and convert them into written reports. They may also review and edit medical documents created using speech recognition technology. Transcriptionists interpret medical terminology and abbreviations in preparing patients' medical histories, discharge summaries, and other documents.

Work Environment

Most medical transcriptionists work for hospitals, physicians' offices, and third-party transcription service companies that provide transcription services to healthcare establishments. Others are self-employed.

How to Become a Medical Transcriptionist

Medical transcriptionists typically need postsecondary education. Prospective medical transcriptionists must have an understanding of medical terminology, anatomy and physiology, grammar, and word-processing software.

Pay: The average annual wage for medical transcriptionists in Idaho was \$31,220 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of medical transcriptionists is projected to decline 3 percent from 2014 to 2024. The growing volume of healthcare services is expected to continue to increase demand for transcription services. However, employment is projected to decline because of increased productivity stemming from technological advances and outsourcing.

Occupational Health and Safety Specialist

What Occupational Health and Safety Specialists Do

Occupational health and safety specialists analyze many types of work environments and work procedures. Specialists inspect workplaces for adherence to regulations on safety, health, and the environment. They also design programs to prevent disease or injury to workers and damage to the environment.

Work Environment

Occupational health and safety specialists work in a variety of settings, such as offices, factories, and mines. Their jobs often involve fieldwork and travel. Most specialists work full time.

How to Become an Occupational Health and Safety Specialist

Occupational health and safety specialists typically need a bachelor's degree in occupational health and safety or in a related scientific or technical field.

Pay: The Annual average wage for occupational health and safety specialists in Idaho was \$66,650 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of occupational health and safety specialists is projected to grow 4 percent from 2014 to 2024, slower than the average for all occupations. Specialists will be needed to work in a wide variety of industries to ensure that employers are adhering to both existing and new regulations.

Wholesale and Manufacturing Sales Representatives

What wholesale and manufacturing sales representatives Do

Wholesale and manufacturing sales representatives sell goods for wholesalers or manufacturers to businesses, government agencies, and other organizations. They contact customers, explain product features, answer any questions that their customers may have, and negotiate prices.

How to become wholesale and manufacturing sales representatives

Educational requirements vary for sales representatives and depend on the type of product sold. If the products are not scientific or technical, **a high school diploma is generally enough for entry into the occupation.** If the products are scientific or technical, sales representatives typically need at least **a bachelor's degree.**

Job Outlook

Employment of wholesale and manufacturing sales representatives is projected to grow 7 percent from 2014 to 2024, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Employment growth for sales representatives is expected to follow the economy as a whole. Employment opportunities should be best in independent agencies, which operate on a fee basis and represent several manufacturers, instead of buying and holding the product they are selling.

Pay: The Annual mean wage for wholesale and manufacturing sales representatives in Idaho is \$73.420 for 2015

Tier 2 Job Titles (Entry to mid-level jobs that generally DO require short-term certifications)

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These are entry-level healthcare positions that **require short-term certifications**. Market demand is high, so usually positions are regularly open. Having a previous healthcare background combined with the certification makes you more competitive for the roles. Your resume, cover letter, application must be well-composed, with attention to details. GTI can help you prepare your written materials and practice interviewing.

(*) indicates sample job describe in this guide

- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)*
- Certified Surgical Technologist (CST)
- Dental assistant
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographer and Cardiovascular Technologist
- EMT and Paramedic*
- Health Record Specialist it is a similar program to EMR Data Integrity Analyst and EMR Document Specialist
- Medical Assistant*
- Medical Coder: also called (Medical Billing Specialist, Insurance Recovery Specialist (HB and Pb) ,Charge Capture Specialist 1 or 2and Physician Services Coder 2*
- Pharmacy Technician*
- Phlebotomist*

- Paramedic

(*) indicates sample job describe in this guide

Sample Job Descriptions - Entry to mid-level that generally DO require short-term certifications

Certified Nursing Assistant, (CAN)

CNA, also known as orderlies and nurses' aides, is a great short-term employment strategy that gets you into the nursing field, expands your professional network, and gives you contacts with companies that could potentially support you in the long term with relicensing. In order to become a CNA, you must pass the Idaho Nurse Aide Exam and a criminal background check before working as a CNA. CNAs typically earn approximately \$12 per hour.

What Does a CNA Do?

Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) provide intimate, hands-on healthcare to patients in medical settings, helping with bathing, dressing and the basic activities of life. A day in the life of a CNA might also include:

- Turning or repositioning bedridden patients
- Taking patients' temperature, blood pressure and other vital signs
- Answering patient calls
- Documenting patients' health issues and report to nurses
- Feeding patients, measuring and recording their food and liquid intake
- Cleaning rooms and bed linens
- Helping with medical procedures
- Dressing wounds

A certified nursing assistant job has peaks and valleys. It can be physically demanding at times with some unpleasant responsibilities, but the role also allows CNAs to build strong relationships with patients.

While CNAs can be found in hospitals, the majority of them work in nursing and residential care facilities, where CNAs interact with patients on a regular basis and get to know them personally. If you're interested in joining the booming health care field, becoming a CNA—also known as a nurses' aid, home health aide, orderly or attendant—can be a good place to start.

CNA Job Outlook & Salary

17% Job Growth

These days, the job prospects for CNAs are bright. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) estimates that demand for the profession will rise at a rate of 17 percent through 2024—much faster than typical job growth. As the population ages, demand for round-the-clock personal services is on the upswing.

In 2016-17, the BLS estimates a median income of \$25,090 for CNAs. But your earnings will vary according to where you live; the BLS found that the top 10 percent of nursing assistants earned more than \$36,000.

By taking on more training, CNAs can move into higher-paying roles as licensed practical nurses or registered nurses.

How to Become a CNA

You will need to earn a certificate and pass a competency exam. This may take 4-12 weeks. In CNA classes, you'll learn about infection control, taking vital signs and delivering personal care. Topics might also include communication skills and patients' rights. Upon completing your coursework, you'll take the CNA certification exam, which usually includes a multiple-choice exam and a manual skills test.

Many schools offer convenient online options for CNA certificate programs. Before you enroll, be sure to check that the course is accredited by a recognized agency. GTI can help you identify an acceptable certification program.

Pay: The Annual average wage for orderlies in Idaho was \$25,560 in May 2016. The Annual average wage for nursing assistants in Idaho was \$25,630 in May 2016.

Note: Individuals who can provide documentation of licensure as a nurse or physician from another state or country may be added to the registry without completing a CNA training course or testing. However, if any evidence exists of negative action on that license, the individual's application will be denied. The Long Term Care Supervisor makes the determination for all applicants as to whether or not they can be admitted onto the registry after reviewing the submitted documentation.

Please, contact the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's Bureau of Facility Standards CNA Registry for more information about what documentation you will need to submit for review. Their address is: 3232 W Elder Street Boise, ID 83705. Email:

IDNAP@DHW.IDAHO.GOV. Phone Number: (208) 334-6620

Certified Nursing Assistant								
"CNA's providing basic patient care under the direction of nursing staff. Perform duties such as feed, bathe, dress, groom, or move patients, or change linens. May transfer or transport patients" www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes311014.htm								
	School	\$/time	Program Length/ dates	FAFSA Available?	Average Pay	Pros+	Cons-	Other info
Short-Term	College of Western Idaho Certified Nursing Assistant Prep Classes Nampa, Idaho	\$1300 Total cost. (consists of Program fee of \$825 + ancillary costs)	3 months. July 2015 – rolling start date , no application required, just sign up and pay	Not FAFSA eligible ; CWI scholarships available	~\$9-\$14/hr. \$25,100/ year	Short training time, low barrier to entry, Adds 1 pt for CWI application to 2 year Nursing Program IDOL WIA/NEG funding eligible	Physically demanding, wage not sustainable. Low growth potential	n/a
Short-Term	Eastern Idaho Technical College Certified Nursing Assistant Idaho Falls, Idaho	Class: \$510, Computer fee \$15, Malpractice insurance \$20, Exams: \$71, CPR \$55 Total fees ~\$617	8 week non-credit program. The credit program lasts 1 semester	Not FAFSA eligible	~\$9-\$14/hr. \$25,100/ year	Classes are available in multiple areas: Idaho Falls, Rexburg, Salmon and Arco	Physically demanding, wage not sustainable. Low growth potential	All Immunizations are needed.
Short-Term	College of Southern Idaho Certified Nursing Assistant Twin Falls,	Class: \$550 Book: \$95 – 105 Tests: \$100 Total: \$745	8 week program. 120 hours of instruction	Not FAFSA eligible	~\$9-\$14/hr. \$25,000/ year	Classes are available each semester, short training time.	Class size is limited, register early	Consists of 120 hours of instruction – 80 in classroom, 40 clinical.

	Idaho							
Short-Term	Lewis and Clark State College Certified Nursing Assistant Lewiston, Idaho	\$1,399 Program cost	March 7 – June 6; April 15 – July 8; May 18 – August 3; July 29 – October 21; August 31 – November 30	CNA scholarship is available through LCSC. Applications due in September, awards made in October	~\$9-14/hr. \$25,100/ year	It is a pre-requisite for LCSC's Nursing Program and Radiographic Science Program. Short training time, low barrier to entry.	Physically demanding, wage not sustainable, low growth potential. Higher cost than other programs in Idaho	The on campus course consists of 84 hours of classroom instruction and skills training with an additional 40 hours of clinical rotations outside the classroom. Online/ on campus courses are available
Short-Term	Idaho State University Pocatello, Idaho Certified Nursing Assistant Idaho Falls, Idaho	Class= \$600+ other costs = \$1149 Approx. total cost	2-3 month long program consisting of 120 contact hours . Next program opens in April, then two open in May. Apply online through ISU's continuing workforce website	No	\$9-\$14/hour \$25,000/ year	This class is affordable and convenient, as courses are offered monthly and day and evening classes are available. Classes are located in either Pocatello or Montpelier.	Class is limited to 20 seats. This career is physically demanding	You must attend 100% of the course to pass. Limited make up opportunities are available.
Note: CNA courses may also be available at a hospital or clinic in your area.								

EMT and Paramedic

What EMTs and Paramedics Do

Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics care for the sick or injured in emergency medical settings. People's lives often depend on the quick reaction and competent care provided by these workers. EMTs and paramedics respond to emergency calls, performing medical services and transporting patients to medical facilities.

Work Environment

Most EMTs and paramedics work full time. Their work is physically strenuous and can be stressful, sometimes involving life-or-death situations.

How to Become an EMT or Paramedic

All emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics must complete a postsecondary educational program. All states require EMTs and paramedics to be licensed; requirements vary by state.

Pay: The Annual average wage for EMTs and paramedics in Idaho was \$37,360 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics is projected to grow 24 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Emergencies, such as car crashes, natural disasters, and acts of violence, will continue to create demand for EMTs and paramedics.

The program Available at:

- College of Western Idaho-Nampa, ID. [Emergency Medical Technician \(EMT\)](#). This program is 17 weeks long.
- College of Southern Idaho-Twin Falls ID. [Emergency Medical Technician \(EMT\)](#). This program is 51 weeks long.

Medical Assistant

What Medical Assistants Do

Medical assistants complete administrative and clinical tasks in the offices of physicians, hospitals, and other healthcare facilities. Their duties vary with the location, specialty, and size of the practice.

Work Environment

Most medical assistants work in physicians' offices, hospitals, outpatient clinics, and other healthcare facilities.

How to Become a Medical Assistant

Most medical assistants have postsecondary education such as a certificate. Others enter the occupation with a high school diploma and learn through on-the-job training. In Idaho a medical assistants almost always require to have a certification.

Pay: The Annual average wage for medical assistants in Idaho was \$31,150 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of medical assistants is projected to grow 23 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. The growth of the aging baby-boom population will continue to increase demand for preventive medical services, which are often provided by physicians. As their practices expand, physicians will hire more assistants to perform routine administrative and clinical duties, allowing the physicians to see more patients.

The program Available at:

- College of Western Idaho- Boise, ID: [Medical Assistant](#). This program is 9 months to 1 year long
- College of Southern Idaho- Twin Falls, ID: [Medical Assistant](#). This program is 10 months long.

Medical Biller/Coder Job Description

WHAT DO MEDICAL BILLER/CODERS DO?

The medical and insurance fields are booming industries, and if you are well organized and ready for a challenge, you might make your career as a medical biller/coder. Medical billers write down health and treatment information for input into written and electronic patient records. These records are used for insurance claims, medical histories and possible donor or patient registries. Because of the highly technical nature of this work, and the sensitivity of private health information, billers and coders must ensure that health information is secure at all times.

Billers and coders review the information written by doctors and nurses and add that to a patient's records, often using electronic health records (EHRs) to input information. They work with insurance companies to make sure that hospital bills are covered, and that bills for any copay a patient might owe are delivered.

HOW MUCH DO MEDICAL BILLER/CODERS MAKE?

The Annual average wage for Medical Billers and Coders in Idaho was \$31,350 in 2016.

WHAT ARE THE EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS?

Typically, one needs at least an associate's degree in health information technology or a similar area. Certification is also available and highly encouraged by employers, such as Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT).

JOB SKILLS AND REQUIREMENTS

- Analytical Skills: Medical biller/coders must be able to read medical records and decide the best way to record those records so that they are logical and understandable.
- Attention to Detail: Accuracy is very important in medical records, for diagnosis, treatment and billing. Attention is the key.
- Interpersonal Skills: Medical billers and coders work with doctors, nurses, insurance companies and other information techs to create medical records. Being personable and easy to work with helps.
- Technical Skills: Medical biller/coders often use specialized software to record medical information. Being able to quickly understand technology is necessary.

THE FUTURE OF MEDICAL BILLER/CODERS

Medical records and health information tech jobs will grow by 21% between 2010 and 2020, according to the BLS. This is faster than the average job.

The program Available at:

- College of Western Idaho- Boise, ID: [Medical Coding](#). This program is 26 weeks.
- Idaho State University- Pocatello, ID: [Medical Coding](#). This program is 1.5 year program long.

Pharmacy Technician

What Pharmacy Technicians Do

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

Work Environment

Pharmacy technicians work in pharmacies, including those found in grocery and drug stores, and in hospitals. Most work full time, but many work part time.

How to Become a Pharmacy Technician

Becoming a pharmacy technician usually requires earning a high school diploma or the equivalent. Pharmacy technicians typically learn through on-the-job training, or they may complete a postsecondary education program. Most states regulate pharmacy technicians, which is a process that may require passing an exam or completing a formal education or training program.

Pay: The Annual average wage for pharmacy technicians in Idaho was \$33,710 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of pharmacy technicians is projected to grow 9 percent from 2014 to 2024, faster than the average for all occupations. Increased demand for prescription medications will lead to more demand for pharmaceutical services.

The program Available at:

- College of Western Idaho-Boise, ID, Fruitland ID: [Certified Pharmacy Technician](#). This program is 10 months long.
- Idaho State University-Pocatello, ID: [Advanced Technical Certificate](#) .This program is 11 months to 1.5 year long.

Phlebotomist

What Phlebotomists Do

Phlebotomists draw blood for tests, transfusions, research, or blood donations. Some explain their work to patients and provide assistance when patients have adverse reactions after their blood is drawn.

Work Environment

Phlebotomists work mainly in hospitals, medical and diagnostic laboratories, blood donor centers, and doctors' offices

How to Become a Phlebotomist

Phlebotomists typically enter the occupation with a postsecondary non-degree award from a phlebotomy program. Almost all employers look for phlebotomists who have earned professional certification.

Pay: The Annual average wage for phlebotomists in Idaho was \$30,750 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of phlebotomists is projected to grow 25 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Hospitals, diagnostic laboratories, blood donor centers, and other locations will need phlebotomists to perform blood work.

The Program Available at:

- College of Western Idaho- Boise ID: [Phlebotomy and Specimen Processing Certificate](#). This program is 15 weeks long.
- Idaho State University-Pocatello ID: [Phlebotomy Technician](#) .This program is 120 hrs of classroom and 40 hours of clinical.

Tier 3 Job Titles (Entry-Level positions that generally DO NOT Require Certifications)

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These are entry level positions that generally **require no certification** or, in some cases, require basic certifications like CPR, Assist with Medications, etc. There are usually openings. About 100+ applicants generally apply for each opening because there are a lot of people with the required skill set. These could be considered health-care related survival jobs that could lead to advancement if you do a good job in the role.

(*) indicates sample job describe in this guide

- Administrative Assistant
- Administrative Specialist
- Caregiver*
- Central Processing Associate*
- Central Processing Tech
- Credentialing Assistant
- Diet Clerk
- Distribution Clerk
- Electroneurodiagnostic Tech
- Employee Health Services Specialist

- Environmental Services Tech
- Film Librarian – maintain accurate records of patient films
- Health Records Specialist
- Healthcare Resource Specialist
- Home Health Aide*
- Lab Office Assistant
- Meals on Wheels Coordinator
- Medical Receptionist
- Medical editing
- Medical Tech
- Office Assistant
- Optician, Dispensing*
- Patient Access Specialist
- Patient Accounts Representative
- Patient Advocate*
- Patient care attendant*
- Patient Care Representative
- Patient Services Representative
- Patient Specialist
- Patient Transporter*
- Production Operator
- Pharmacy Aide
- Psychiatric Technician and Aide*
- Sterile Processing Tech
- Technical writing/scientific writing

(*) indicates sample job describe in this guide

Sample Job Descriptions - Entry-Level positions that generally DO NOT Require Certifications

Caregiver

What Nursing Caregivers Do

Nursing Caregiver, sometimes called nursing aides, help provide basic care for patients in hospitals, homes, and residents of long-term care facilities, such as nursing homes. They are frequently physically active and may need to help lift or move patients. Orderlies transport patients and clean treatment areas.

How to Become a Nursing Caregiver

Nursing Caregiver must complete a state-approved education program and must pass their state's competency exam to become certified.

Pay: The Annual average wage for Caregiver in Idaho was \$21,770 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of nursing caregiver is projected to grow 17 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Because of the growing elderly population, many nursing assistants and orderlies will be needed to assist and care for these patients.

Home Health Aide

What Home Health Aides Do

Home health aides help people with disabilities, chronic illness, or cognitive impairment with activities of daily living. They often help older adults who need assistance. In some states, home health aides may be able to give a client medication or check the client's vital signs under the direction of a nurse or other healthcare practitioner.

Work Environment

Home health aides held about 913,500 jobs in 2014. They work in a variety of settings, including clients' homes, group homes, and day services programs.

How to Become a Home Health Aide

There are no formal education requirements for home health aides, but most aides have at least a high school diploma. Home health aides working in certified home health or hospice agencies must complete formal training and pass a standardized test.

Pay: The Annual average wage for home health aides in Idaho was \$22,110 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of home health aides is projected to grow 38 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. As the baby-boom population ages and the elderly population grow, demand for the services of home health aides to provide assistance will continue to increase.

Patient Advocate

What Patient Advocate Do

Patient advocates are the Horse Whisperers of modern healthcare. They work with patients to help them navigate the confusing and murky waters of healthcare, from insurance, to costs for procedures and much more. Patient advocates meet one-on-one with patients; helping them understand procedures, connect with doctors and specialists, looking at options for treatment, financial responsibilities and more.

How to Become a Patient Advocate

Since this is a very new job, very few degree or accreditation programs exist. Because of the highly technical and medical based nature of the job, many people come from a nursing or similar healthcare background, using their years of experience in the field to help them understand both the patient's needs and the complexity of healthcare.

Pay: The Annual average wage for Patient Advocate in Idaho was \$37,065 in 2017.

Patient Care Attendant

What Patient care attendant Do

A patient care attendant helps patients with basic grooming and dressing needs, administers medication, and, when working in a patient's home, often attends to basic housekeeping duties which the patient cannot get to. Throughout these routine tasks, a patient care attendant keeps the patient company, keeping an eye out for any changes in the patient's physical, emotional, or mental condition. The patient care attendant communicates the status of the patient, including any changes, periodically, to a supervisor, case manager, or nurse.

Work Environment

Patient Care Attendants are assigned to support the provision of a safe environment for patients who meet the following criteria:

- **Critical Primary Criteria**
 - a. Suicidal patient
 - b. Administrative hold patient
 - c. Pediatric patient not boarded in a secured area and/or at risk of harm
- **Limited, non-critical Secondary Criteria**
 - a. Impulsive
 - b. Self-injurious
 - c. Cognitively impaired / confused
 - d. Unsteady gait

Skills, knowledge, Education and Experience:

Education for this position usually comes from on-the-job training with supervisors, High School Diploma preferred, previous experienced patient care attendants, and registered nurses. Workers receive training in housekeeping duties, emergency response procedures, safety techniques, American Heart Association HeartSaver AED or HeartSaver First Aid CPR AED Adult/Child/Infant certification required and special patient care considerations. The exact length of the training varies based on the employer; an evaluation may be completed at the end of the training to ensure that the individual can properly perform the necessary work duties.

Pay: The Annual average wage for Patient care attendant in Boise is \$24,790 in May 2017.

Optician, Dispensing

What Dispensing Opticians Do

Dispensing opticians help fit eyeglasses and contact lenses, following prescriptions from ophthalmologists and optometrists. They also help customers decide which eyeglass frames or contact lenses to buy.

Work Environment

About half of opticians worked in offices of optometrists or offices of physicians in 2014. Other opticians worked in stores that sell eyeglasses, contact lenses, visual aids, and other optical goods. These stores may be stand-alone businesses or parts of larger retail establishments, such as department stores.

How to Become a Dispensing Optician

Opticians typically have a high school diploma or equivalent and some form of on-the-job training. Some opticians enter the occupation with an associate's degree or a certificate from a community college or technical school. About half of the states require opticians to be licensed.

Pay: The Annual average wage for opticians, dispensing in Idaho was \$33,260 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of opticians is projected to grow 24 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. An aging population and increasing rates of chronic disease are expected to lead to greater demand for corrective eyewear.

Psychiatric Technician and Aide

What Psychiatric Technician and Aide Do

Psychiatric technicians and aides care for people who have mental illness and developmental disabilities. Technicians typically provide therapeutic care and monitor their patients' conditions. Aides help patients in their daily activities and ensure a safe, clean environment.

Work Environment

Psychiatric technicians and aides work in psychiatric hospitals, residential mental health facilities, and related healthcare settings. They may spend much of their shift on their feet, and they have high injury and illness rates.

How to Become a Psychiatric Technician or Aide

Psychiatric technicians typically need postsecondary education, and aides need at least a high school diploma. Both technicians and aides get on-the-job training.

Pay: The Annual average wage for psychiatric technicians in Idaho was \$29,060 in May 2016. The Annual base wage for psychiatric aides in Idaho is \$29,004 in 2017.

Job Outlook

Employment of psychiatric technicians and aides is projected to grow 5 percent from 2014 to 2024, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Demand for this occupation will stem from the growth of the older population. Older people typically experience aging population and increasing rates of chronic disease are expected to lead to greater demand for corrective eyewear.

Patient Transporter

What Patient Transporter Do

Patient Transporter, transports patients by assisting patients in and out of taxis, ambulances, cars, and helicopters; lifting patients on and off beds; moving them to and from special service and treatment areas, and operating rooms; using wheelchairs or moveable beds, also offers comfort and support to patients and their families, transports medical equipment, supplies and laboratory specimens to designated treatment, diagnostic and patient care areas. Moves deceased patients and their belongings to the mortuary. Respects and protects patient confidence and hospital confidentiality by keeping all sensitive and patient information private, and follows all protocols and procedures to ensure safe delivery of patients, their possessions, supplies and laboratory specimens, and maintains a secure, clean and healthy work environment by adhering to the standards and regulations that are set forth by the hospital and local, state and federal governments

How to Become a Patient Transporter

Patient Transporter typically needs High School Diploma or GED and one year in experience in a healthcare setting, ability to lift 50 pounds. Customer service experience preferred with excellent communication skills and impeccable organization and time management skills.

Pay: The median annual Patient Transporter salary in Boise, ID is \$26,087, as of April 27, 2017.

Tier 4 Job Titles (Entry to mid-level jobs requiring longer-term formal education programs)

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In this part, the job titles described require to hold associate degree or higher to be eligible for the job, usually its 2 years education program, with the possibility to take more credit to reach a bachelor. These job wage is higher and the competition for the position is low that jobs that require just certification.

(*) indicates sample job description

- Dental Hygienist*
- Emergency medical technician (EMT)*
- Epidemiologist*
- Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologist and Technician*
- Medical Records and Health Information Technician*
- Occupational Health and Safety Technician*
- Physician Assistant*
- Physical Therapist Assistant and Aide*
- Physiology, Personal Training *
- Radiation Therapist*
- Radiologic and MRI Technologist*
- Registered Nurse*
- Surgical Technologist*
- Therapist*

(*) indicates sample job description

Sample Job Descriptions- Entry to mid-level jobs requiring longer-term formal education programs

Dental Hygienist

What Dental Hygienists Do

Dental hygienists clean teeth, examine patients for signs of oral diseases such as gingivitis, and provide other preventive dental care. They also educate patients on ways to improve and maintain good oral health.

Work Environment

In 2014, almost all dental hygienists worked in dentists' offices, and more than half worked part time.

How to Become a Dental Hygienist

Dental hygienists need an associate's degree in dental hygiene. Programs typically take 3 years to complete. All states require dental hygienists to be licensed; requirements vary by state.

Pay: The Annual average wage for dental hygienists in Idaho was \$73,630 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of dental hygienists is projected to grow 19 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Ongoing research linking oral health to general health will continue to spur demand for preventive dental services, which are provided by dental hygienists.

The program Available at:

- College of Southern Idaho-Twin Falls, ID: [Associate of Applied Science - Dental Hygiene](#), this program is 2 years long.
- Idaho State University-Pocatello, ID: [Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene](#), this program is 4 years long.

Emergency medical technician (EMT)

What EMTs and Paramedics Do

Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics care for the sick or injured in emergency medical settings. People's lives often depend on the quick reaction and competent care provided by these workers. EMTs and paramedics respond to emergency calls, performing medical services and transporting patients to medical facilities.

Work Environment

Most EMTs and paramedics work full time. Their work is physically strenuous and can be stressful, sometimes involving life-or-death situations.

How to Become an EMT or Paramedic

All emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics must complete a postsecondary educational program. All states require EMTs and paramedics to be licensed; requirements vary by state.

Pay: The Annual average wage for EMTs and paramedics in Idaho was \$37,360 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics is projected to grow 24 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Emergencies, such as car crashes, natural disasters, and acts of violence, will continue to create demand for EMTs and paramedics.

- Idaho State University-Pocatello, ID: [Associate of Science in Paramedic Science](#) , this program will last 4 semesters, about 64 credits.
- College of Southern Idaho-Twin Falls, ID [Associate of Applied Science – Paramedic](#), this program is 3 semesters long.

Epidemiologist

What Epidemiologists Do

Epidemiologists are public health professionals who investigate patterns and causes of disease and injury in humans. They seek to reduce the risk and occurrence of negative health outcomes through research, community education, and health policy.

Work Environment

Epidemiologists work in offices and laboratories, usually at health departments for state and local governments, in hospitals, and at colleges and universities. Some do fieldwork to conduct interviews and collect samples for analyses. Fieldwork may bring epidemiologists into contact with infectious disease, but the risk is minimal because they receive appropriate training and take extensive precautions before interacting with samples or patients.

How to Become an Epidemiologist

Epidemiologists need at least a master's degree from an accredited college or university. Most epidemiologists have a master's degree in public health (MPH) or a related field, and some have completed a doctoral degree in epidemiology or medicine.

Pay: The median annual wage for epidemiologists in Idaho was \$60,515 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of epidemiologists is projected to grow 6 percent from 2014 to 2024, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Epidemiologists are likely to have good job prospects overall.

The program Available at:

- Idaho State University-Pocatello and Meridian, ID: [Master of Public Health](#), this program is 2 years program
- Idaho State University-Pocatello and Meridian, ID [Master of Health Education](#) , this program is one year long, 30 credits
- Boise State University-Boise, ID: [Master of Health Science \(MHS\)](#), this program is 2 years long

For more information about the admission of the above degrees please go the links attach to them.

[Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologist and Technician](#)

What Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians Do

Medical laboratory technologists (commonly known as medical laboratory scientists) and medical laboratory technicians collect samples and perform tests to analyze body fluids, tissue, and other substances.

Work Environment

About half of all medical laboratory technologists and technicians were employed in hospitals in 2014. Others worked in doctors' offices or diagnostic laboratories.

How to Become a Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologist or Technician

Medical laboratory technologists typically need a bachelor's degree. Technicians usually need an associate's degree or a postsecondary certificate. Some states require technologists and technicians to be licensed.

Pay: The Annual average wage for medical and clinical laboratory technologists in Idaho was \$62,200 in May 2016, The Annual average wage for medical and clinical laboratory technicians in Idaho was \$34,160 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of medical laboratory technologists and technicians is projected to grow 16 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. An increase in the aging population is expected to lead to a greater need to diagnose medical conditions, such as cancer and diabetes type 2, as it requires laboratory procedures.

The program Available at:

- College of Southern Idaho Twin Falls, Idaho: [Radiologic Technology Associates](#). This program is a 22 months long 4 regular semesters, 1 short semester.
- Boise State University: Bachelor of Science. [Diagnostic Radiography Emphasis](#). The program is approximately 4 years long.

Medical Record and Health Information Technician

What Medical Records and Health Information Technicians Do

Medical records and health information technicians, commonly referred to as health information technicians, organize and manage health information data. They ensure that the information maintains its quality, accuracy, accessibility, and security in both paper files and electronic systems. They use various classification systems to code and categorize patient information for insurance reimbursement purposes, for databases and registries, and to maintain patients' medical and treatment histories.

Work Environment

Health information technicians held about 188,600 jobs in 2014. Most health information technicians work in hospitals or physicians' offices.

How to Become a Medical Records or Health Information Technician

Health information technicians typically need a postsecondary certificate to enter the occupation, although some may need an associate's degree. Certification is often required.

Pay: The Annual average wage for medical records and health information technicians in Idaho was \$36,220 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of health information technicians is projected to grow 15 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. The demand for health services is expected to increase as the population ages.

The program Available at:

- Idaho State University-Pocatello, ID: [Health Information Technology Associate Degree](#). This program is 2 years long.
- Boise State University-Boise, ID: [Health Informatics and Information management \(HIIM\) emphasis Bachelor Degree](#). This program is 4 years long.

Occupational Health and Safety Technician

What Occupational Health and Safety Technicians Do

Occupational health and safety technicians collect data on the health and safety conditions of the workplace. Technicians work with occupational health and safety specialists in conducting tests and measuring hazards to help prevent harm to workers, property, the environment, and the general public.

Work Environment

Occupational health and safety technicians work in a variety of settings, such as offices, factories, and mines. Their jobs often involve considerable fieldwork and travel. Most work full time.

How to Become an Occupational Health and Safety Technician

Occupational health and safety technicians typically enter the occupation through one of two paths. Some technicians learn through on-the-job training; others enter with postsecondary education such as an associate's degree or certificate.

Pay: The Annual average wage for occupational health and safety technicians in Idaho was \$43,160 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of occupational health and safety technicians is projected to grow 9 percent from 2014 to 2024, faster than the average for all occupations. Technicians will be needed to conduct tests, measure hazards, and ensure that employers are adhering to existing and new safety and health regulations.

The program Available at:

- Boise State University- Boise, ID: [Pre-Occupational Therapy Program](#). This program may vary in length between: 2- 3 years.
- Idaho State University -Pocatello, ID: [Master of Occupational Therapy](#). This is 8 semester program.

Physician Assistant

What Physician Assistants Do

Physician assistants, also known as PAs, practice medicine on teams with physicians, surgeons, and other healthcare workers. They examine, diagnose, and treat patients.

Work Environment

Physician assistants work in physicians' offices, hospitals, and other healthcare settings. Most work full time.

How to Become a Physician Assistant

Physician assistants typically need a master's degree from an accredited educational program. All states require physician assistants to be licensed.

Pay: The Annual average wage for physician assistants in Idaho was \$98,140 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of physician assistants is projected to grow 30 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. As demand for healthcare services grows, physician assistants will be needed to provide care to patients.

The program Available at:

- Idaho State University-Pocatello, ID: [Masters of Physician Assistant Studies](#). This program is 2 years (24 month) long
- University of Idaho-Moscow-ID: [Pre-Physician's Assistant Studies](#) . This program is and4 years long.
- Boise State University Boise, Boise: [Pre-Physician Assistant Program](#) .This program is 4 years long.

Physical Therapist Assistant and Aide

What Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides Do

Physical therapist assistants sometimes called *PTAs*, and physical therapist aides work under the direction and supervision of physical therapists. They help patients who are recovering from injuries and illnesses regain movement and manage pain.

Work Environment

Most physical therapist assistants and aides work in physical therapists' offices or in hospitals. Physical therapist assistants and aides are frequently on their feet and moving as they set up equipment and help care for patients.

How to Become a Physical Therapist Assistant or Aide

Physical therapist assistants entering the profession need an associate's degree from an accredited program. All states require physical therapist assistants to be licensed or certified. Physical therapist aides usually have a high school diploma and receive on-the-job training.

Pay: The Annual average wage for physical therapist assistants in Idaho was \$44,650 in May 2016, The Annual average wage for physical therapist aides in Idaho was \$26,110 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of physical therapist assistants and aides is projected to grow 40 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Demand for physical therapy services is expected to increase in response to the healthcare needs of an older population and individuals with chronic conditions, such as diabetes and obesity.

The program Available in 3 places:

- Idaho State University-Pocatello, ID: [Physical Therapist Assistant](#). This program is 2 years long consisting of 5 semesters.

- College of Western Idaho- Nampa, ID: [Physical Therapist Assistant](#). This program is 2 years long.
- Brigham Young University- Rexburg, ID: [Physical Therapist Assistant](#). This program is 2 years long program

Personal Training

What Personal Training Do

Personal trainers talk with their clients and to find out their exercise goals, their ability and work with them to create personalized plans for attaining those goals, which may include diet and nutrition information. As the client visits again and again, personal trainers help them track their progress. Many personal trainers work in gyms, but some will work in a client's home.

Work Environment

Fitness trainers and instructors held about 279,100 jobs in 2014. They work in facilities such as health clubs, fitness or recreation centers, gyms, and yoga and Pilates studios.

How to Become a Personal Training

Many employers are starting to look at applicants with at least an associate's degree in kinesiology, physical education, or similar. Certification depends on what type of fitness instructor you want to be. But typically, you will need certification in whatever type of fitness you are interested in, and most gyms will want you to be certified in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

Pay: The Annual average wage for Personal Training in Idaho was \$30,660 in May 2016.

The program Available at:

- College of Western Idaho-Nampa, ID: [Exercise Science Associate of Arts](#), this program is 2 years long.

Radiation Therapist

What Radiation Therapists Do

Radiation therapists treat cancer and other diseases in patients by administering radiation treatments.

Work Environment

Radiation therapists work in hospitals, offices of physicians, and outpatient centers. Most radiation therapists work full time.

How to Become a Radiation Therapist

Most radiation therapists complete programs that lead to an associate's degree or a bachelor's degree in radiation therapy.

Radiation therapists must be licensed or certified in most states. Requirements vary by state, but often include passing a national certification exam.

Pay: The Annual average wage for radiation therapists in Idaho was \$88,360 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of radiation therapists is projected to grow 14 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. The risk of cancer increases as people age, so an aging population may increase demand for radiation therapists.

In Idaho there are 3 places that offer the program:

- College Of Southern Idaho-Twin Falls, ID: [Radiologic Technology Associate of Science](#). This program is 22 months long
- Boise State University-Boise, ID: [Diagnostic Radiography Bachelor of Science](#). This program is 38 months long
- Idaho State University-Pocatello, ID: [Radiologic Technology Bachelor of Radiologic Science](#). This program is 18 months long.

Radiologic and MRI Technologist

What Radiologic and MRI Technologists Do

Radiologic technologists, also known as radiographers, perform diagnostic imaging examinations, such as x-rays, on patients. MRI technologists operate magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanners to create diagnostic images.

Work Environment

Radiologic and MRI technologists work in healthcare facilities, and more than half work in hospitals.

How to Become a Radiologic or MRI Technologist

Radiologic technologists and MRI technologists typically need an associate's degree. Many MRI technologists start out as radiologic technologists and specialize later in their career. Radiologic technologists must be licensed or certified in most states. Few states license MRI technologists. Employers typically require or prefer prospective technologists to be certified even if the state does not require it.

Pay: The Annual average wage for radiologic technologists in Idaho was \$53,080 in May 2016, the Annual average wage for magnetic resonance imaging technologists in Idaho was \$65,240 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of radiologic and MRI technologists is projected to grow 9 percent from 2014 to 2024, faster than the average for all occupations. As the population grows older, there will be an increase in medical conditions that require imaging as a tool for making diagnoses.

The program Available at:

- College of Southern Idaho-Twin Falls, ID: [Radiologic Technology Associates](#), this program is 22 months long.
- Boise State University -Boise, ID: [Diagnostic Radiography Emphasis](#), this program is 48 months long.

Registered Nurse

What Registered Nurses Do

Registered nurses (RNs) provide and coordinate patient care, educate patients and the public about various health conditions, and provide advice and emotional support to patients and their family members.

Work Environment

Registered nurses work in hospitals, physicians' offices, home healthcare services, and nursing care facilities. Others work in correctional facilities or schools, or serve in the military.

How to Become a Registered Nurse

Registered nurses usually take one of three education paths: a bachelor's degree in nursing, an associate's degree in nursing, or a diploma from an approved nursing program. Registered nurses also must be licensed.

Pay: The Annual average wage for registered nurses in Idaho was \$62,470 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of registered nurses is projected to grow 16 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Growth will occur for a number of reasons, including an increased emphasis on preventive care; growing rates of chronic conditions, such as diabetes and obesity; and demand for healthcare services from the baby-boom population, as they live longer and more active lives.

The program Available at:

- College of Western Idaho-Nampa, ID: [Associates of Science Degree in Nursing](#), this program is 24 months long
- College of Southern Idaho-Twin Falls, ID: [Associate Degree Nursing](#), this program is 4 semesters, 2 years long.
- Boise State University-Boise, ID: [RN to BS Online Completion Track](#), this program is 3 semester long online program
- Idaho State University – Meridian, ID: [Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing](#), this program is 3 semesters long.

Surgical Technologist

What Surgical Technologists Do

Surgical technologists, also called operating room technicians, assist in surgical operations. They prepare operating rooms, arrange equipment, and help doctors during surgeries.

Work Environment

Most surgical technologists work in hospitals. They spend much of their time on their feet.

How to Become a Surgical Technologist

Surgical technologists typically need a postsecondary certificate or an associate's degree. Certification can be beneficial in finding a job. A small number of states regulate surgical technologists.

Pay: The Annual average wage for surgical technologists in Idaho was \$47,790 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of surgical technologists is projected to grow 15 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Advances in medical technology have made surgery safer, and more operations are being done to treat a variety of illnesses and injuries.

The program Available at:

- College of Western Idaho-Boise, ID: [Surgical Technology Associate](#) , this program is 2 years long (24 months). [Technical Certificate in Surgical](#), this program is 1 year long (12 months).
- College of Southern Idaho- Twin Falls, ID: [Surgical Technology](#) , this program is 2 years long.

Therapist

What Respiratory Therapists Do

Respiratory therapists care for patients who have trouble breathing—for example, from a chronic respiratory disease, such as asthma or emphysema. Their patients range from premature infants with undeveloped lungs to elderly patients who have diseased lungs. They also provide emergency care to patients suffering from heart attacks, drowning, or shock.

Work Environment

Respiratory therapists held about 120,700 jobs in 2014. Most respiratory therapists work in hospitals.

How to Become a Respiratory Therapist

Respiratory therapists typically need an associate's degree, but some have bachelor's degrees. Respiratory therapists are licensed in all states except Alaska; requirements vary by state.

Pay: The Annual average wage for respiratory therapists in Idaho was \$55,100 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of respiratory therapists is projected to grow 12 percent from 2014 to 2024, faster than the average for all occupations. Growth in the middle-aged and elderly population will lead to an increased incidence of respiratory conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and pneumonia. These respiratory disorders can permanently damage the lungs or restrict lung function.

The program Available at:

- Idaho State University-Pocatello, ID: [Associate of Science in Respiratory](#), this program is 3 years long.
- Stevens-Henager-Boise, ID: [Associate's Degree in Respiratory Therapy](#), this program is 20 months long
- Boise State University-Boise, ID: [Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care](#), this program is a 4 year long.

Note:

For more information related degree programs and availability look at the guide in this link:

<http://globaltalentidaho.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Healthcare-Education-Pathways-Guide.pdf>

For more details about health care jobs and statistics look in this link:

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/home.htm>