



## HEALTH CAREER TRAINING PATHWAYS

This table lists the required education needed for different health careers.

The information in the table can change any time and you should do research to be sure you have correct information.

Learn more about health careers at [ExploreHealthCareers.org](http://ExploreHealthCareers.org).

<i>R = required</i> <i>P1 = path option 1, P2 = path option 2</i> <i>O = optional</i> <i>V = varies by state</i>	High School/ GED	On-the-job training	Few college courses	Certificate/ Diploma	Associate degree	Bachelor degree/equiv	Post-bachelor certificate	Master degree	Doctoral degree	Residency
<b>MEDICAL PHYSICIANS</b>										
Allopathic (MD) and Osteopathic (DO) Specialties include: pediatrics, obstetrics, surgery, neurology, cardiology, radiology, pathology, psychiatry, and more	R					R			R	R
Podiatric (DPM)	R					R			R	R
Naturopathic (ND)	R					R			R	O
<b>MID-LEVEL PROVIDERS/PHYSICIAN EXTENDERS</b>										
Physician Assistant (PA)	R					R		R		O
Advanced Practice Nurse Includes: nurse practitioners (NP), nurse midwives (CNM), and nurse anesthetists (CRNA)	R				P1	P2		R		
<b>DENTISTRY</b>										
Dentist/orthodontist/oral surgeon (DDS/DMD)	R					R			R	V
Dental Hygienist	R				P1	P2				
Dental Assistant	R			P1	P2					
Dental Lab Technician	R	P1		P2						
<b>OPTOMETRY</b>										
Optometrist (OD)	R					R			R	O
Optician	R	P1		P2	P3					
Ophthalmic Lab Technician	R	P1		P2						
<b>PHARMACY</b>										
Pharmacist (PharmD)	R					R			R	O
Pharmacy Technician	R			P1	P2					
<b>NURSING</b>										
Registered Nurse (RN)	R			P1	P2	P3				
Advanced Practice Nurse Includes: nurse practitioners (NP), nurse midwives (CNM), and nurse anesthetists (CRNA)	R				P1	P2		R		
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)/Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)	R			R						
Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)/Patient Care Technician	R	P1		P2						
Medical Assistant (MA)	R			R						
<b>PHYSICAL THERAPY</b>										
Physical Therapist (PT)	R					R			R	
Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA)	R				R					
Physical Therapy Technician/Aide	R	P1		P2						
<b>OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY</b>										
Occupational Therapist (OT)	R					R		P1	P2	
Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA)	R				R					
Occupational Therapy Technician/Aide	R	P1		P2						
<b>SPEECH/HEARING</b>										
Speech-Language Pathologist/Therapist (SLP)	R					R		R		
Audiologist (AuD/PhD)	R					R			R	
<b>RESPIRATORY THERAPY</b>										
Respiratory Therapist (RT)	R				P1	P2				
Respiratory Therapy Technician	R			P1	P2					
<b>IMAGING &amp; DIAGNOSTIC TECHNOLOGY</b>										
Radiology Technologist/Technician	R			P1	P2	P3				
Radiation Therapist	R				P1	P2				
Sonographer	R				P1	P2				
Cardiovascular Technologist/Technician	R				P1	P2				
Nuclear Medicine Technologist	R				P1	P2				
<b>SUPPORT TECHNOLOGY</b>										
Surgical Assistant	R					R	R			
Surgical Technologist	R			P1	P2					
Anesthesiologist Assistant	R					R		R		

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Anesthesia Technician	R				R					
Medical Scribe	R	R								
<b>LABORATORY</b>										
Pathologists' Assistant	R					R		R		
Medical Laboratory Scientist/Medical Technologist	R					R				
Lab Technician	R				R					
Phlebotomist	R	P1		P2						
<b>PUBLIC &amp; OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH</b>										
Health Educator	R					P1		P2		
Community Health Worker (CHW)	V	P1		P2						
Environmental Health Specialist/Sanitarian	R	R				R				
Environmental Health Technician	R	R		P1	P2					
Occupational Health and Safety Specialist	R	R				R				
Occupational Health and Safety Technician	R	R		P1	P2					
Epidemiologist/Biostatistician	R					R		P1	P2	
Public Health Management or Policy	R					R		P1	P2	
<b>GENETICS</b>										
Genetic Counselor	R					R		R		
<b>SCIENTISTS</b>										
Health Scientist/Researcher	R					R		P1	P2	
Forensic Scientist	R					R		P1	P2	
<b>BEHAVIORAL/MENTAL HEALTH</b>										
Psychologist (PhD)	R					R			R	
Counselor/Therapist/Social Worker (LPC/LCSW)	R					R		R		
Psychiatric Technician/Aide	R	R	P1	P2		P3				
<b>SOCIAL &amp; HEALTH SERVICES</b>										
Social Worker (LCSW)	R					R		R		
Case Manager (commonly Social Worker or RN)	R				P1	P2				
Community Health Worker (CHW)	V	P1		P2						
Patient Navigator	V	P1			P2	P3				
<b>DIETETICS</b>										
Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist (RD/RDN)	R					P1		P2		
Registered Dietetic Technician (RDT)	R				R					
<b>EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES</b>										
Paramedic	R			P1	P2					
Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)	R			R						
Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-B)	V			R						
<b>EXERCISE SCIENCES</b>										
Athletic Trainer (ATC)	R					R		R		
Exercise Physiologist	R					P1		P2		
<b>ORTHOTICS &amp; PROSTHETICS</b>										
Orthotist/Prosthetist (O&P Practitioner)	R					R		R		R
Pedorthist	R	R		R						
O&P Assistant	R	R	R							
O&P Technician	R	P1		P2						
O&P Fitter	R	R		R						
<b>ALTERNATIVE MEDICINES &amp; MASSAGE</b>										
Chiropractor (DC)	R					R			R	O
Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine	R					R		P1	P2	
Massage Therapist	R			R						
Recreational Therapist	R					P1		P2	P3	
<b>ENGINEERING &amp; HEALTH</b>										
Biomedical Engineer	R					P1		P2	P3	
Chemical Engineer	R					P1		P2	P3	
Industrial Engineer	R					P1		P2	P3	
<b>VETERINARY MEDICINE</b>										
Veterinarian (DVM/VMD)	R					R			R	O
Veterinary Technologist/Technician	R				P1	P2				
Animal Care Worker	R	P1		P2						