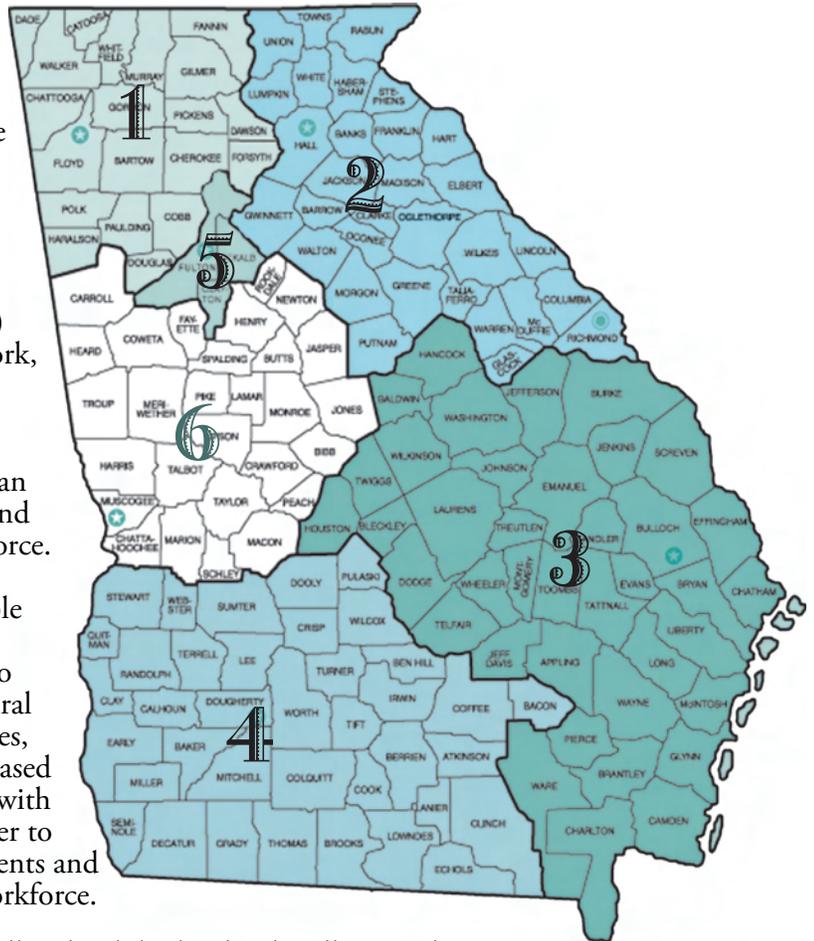


A H E C

WHAT THE HECK IS AN AHEC???

It sounds like a strange name but this resource can truly make life easier for those wanting to become a health professional. Six unique not-for-profit Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) comprise the Georgia Network, serve multiple counties, and all have a common mission: to improve the health of communities by developing an adequate, well-distributed, and competent healthcare workforce. This is done by promoting health careers to young people and adults, assisting current health professions students to complete their training in rural and underserved communities, and providing community-based providers and organizations with continuing education in order to meet credentialing requirements and maintaining a competent workforce.



Some of the ways that a middle school, high school, college student, or second career seeker might benefit from an association with an AHEC: learn about various careers through classroom presentations, counseling, mentoring, volunteering, shadowing experiences, attend camps where there are hands-on opportunities, intensive programs that allow students to view careers in-depth, view videos about health professionals, and attend clubs or career fairs.

For students currently enrolled in health professions training programs, AHECs can arrange quality clinical training in communities away from the main academic institution and provide housing or travel support when available and if the student is eligible.

Contact the AHEC that serves the area where you live, work, or attend school for further assistance. The production, distribution, and online version of this manual is just one way that AHECs are trying to meet the needs of Georgians and the healthcare workforce shortages in the state.

**GEORGIA
STATEWIDE
AHEC NETWORK**
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Room HT-2402
Augusta, GA 30912
(706) 721-8331
www.gru.edu/ahc

Georgia AHECs

1 Blue Ridge AHEC
2007 North Broad Street, NE
Rome, GA 30161
(706) 235-0776
www.blueridgeahec.org

2 Foothills AHEC
700 South Enota Drive, St. 102
Gainesville, GA 30501
(770) 219-8130
www.foothillsahec.org

3 Magnolia Coastlands AHEC
Georgia Southern University
62 Georgia Avenue
Hollis Building, Room 1115
Statesboro, GA 30458
(912) 478-1050
www.magnoliacoastlandsahec.org

4 SOWEGA-AHEC
1512 West Third Avenue
Albany, GA 31707
(229) 439-7185
www.sowega-ahec.org

5 SPCC/Atlanta AHEC
1720 Peachtree Street, NW
Suite 440
Atlanta, GA 30309
(404) 815-4996
www.spccatlantaahec.org

6 Three Rivers AHEC
P.O. Box 4177
2022 15th Avenue
Columbus, GA 31901
(706) 507-0894
www.threeriversahec.org

2013-2015 HEALTH CAREERS IN GEORGIA

A GEORGIA STATEWIDE AHEC NETWORK PUBLICATION

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COMPLEMENTARY & ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

Complementary and alternative medicine include therapies not generally considered a part of conventional medicine. Some examples are acupuncture, herbal medicines, dietary supplements, deep breathing exercises, meditation, chiropractic manipulation, massage and yoga. The number of Americans who use some form of complementary medicine is growing.

Acupuncturist	31
Chiropractor	39
Massage Therapist	76

DENTISTRY

Dentistry is a broad career field which includes dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants as healthcare providers. These professionals are responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of oral health problems. Using a team approach, dental health providers are committed to preventing oral health problems through patient education programs which deal with good oral hygiene. When problems occur, the dentist and the team can provide treatments to restore and repair oral tissues. Population growth in Georgia and the decline in the production of dentists nationwide have ensured that careers in dentistry will be of great value and in high demand.

Dental Assistant	48
Dental Hygienist	49
Dentist	50

DIETETICS

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

Dietetic Technician	51
Dietitian	52

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION & INFORMATION SERVICES

The healthcare delivery system is based on the organized communication of information and the management of a complex organization. Healthcare administrators work to create smooth-running organizations and must be skilled in financial planning, human resource management, public relations, and long range planning. These professionals work behind-the-scenes with limited patient contact. Some may manage personnel, organize and analyze data from reports, and oversee medical records. These careers, requiring a special flair for organization and detail, will always be in demand as there is a continuing need for accurate and reliable information while ensuring confidentiality.

Coder	43
Health Informatics Professional	66
Health Information Administrator	67
Health Information Technician	68
Health Sciences Librarian	69
Healthcare Administrator	70
Medical Illustrator	78
Medical Secretary	80
Medical Transcriptionist	81

LABORATORY SCIENCE

Careers in laboratory science are critical to the modern practice of medicine. Laboratory specialists provide data necessary for the detection, diagnosis, and monitoring of a disease and its treatment. Using sophisticated instruments, laboratory workers perform tests and report their findings to providers. These healthcare professionals must have great precision, attention to details, and patience. The laboratory environment offers daily opportunities to discover clues as to the body's responses to injury and disease. These challenging careers are in great demand as there are always more discoveries to be made.

Clinical Laboratory Scientist	40
Clinical Laboratory Technician	41
Cytotechnologist	47
Forensic Scientist	62
Histotechnician/Histotechnologist	71
Phlebotomist	97

MEDICAL SUPPORT

Technical advances and specialized procedures have created numerous exciting careers in the reinforcement and support work of the medical team. The concept of a team is critical for the delivery of good healthcare. Medical support personnel, key members of the team, perform a wide range of functions in a variety of settings. They may operate life-sustaining equipment, provide medical treatment at the scene of an accident, or assist surgeons in the operating room. Some perform direct patient care while others oversee office responsibilities. Whatever the position, these critically needed specialists are vital to the daily activities of the medical field.

Anesthesiologist Assistant	32
Emergency Medical Technician/ Paramedic	58
Home Health Aide/Personal & Home Care Aide	72
Medical Assistant	77
Medical Interpreter	79
Perfusionist	94
Physician Assistant	100
Polysomnographic Technologist	101
Surgical Technologist	111

MEDICINE

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

Doctor of Medicine	53
Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine	55
Doctor of Podiatric Medicine	56

MENTAL & SOCIAL SERVICES

The mental and social services field requires caring hearts as well as talented minds. Since pain often goes far beyond the physical body, these workers are needed to assist an individual in total recovery. Their responsibilities may include mental health promotion, the identification, treatment and rehabilitation of persons with psychological disorders, or serving as a bridge between people and resources needed to help resolve challenges. Many times, the team intervenes to help victims of abuse, family strife, and behavioral problems. These professionals often humanize and personalize the healthcare process. Although extremely challenging and diverse, these careers offer much satisfaction and personal reward.

Counselor	45
Genetic Counselor	63
Human Services Worker	73
Psychologist	103
Social Worker	108

NURSING

Nursing, a demanding but rewarding profession, is one of the most popular health careers. Nurses are critical because they expand access to care, improve the quality and safety of healthcare, and reduce healthcare costs. The profession of nursing offers a wide variety of career opportunities through multiple levels of education and professional practice. Becoming a nursing assistant can be achieved in only a few weeks through a certification program, while a licensed practical nurse program requires up to two years of study. Registered nursing programs, offered at the associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral level, offer advanced education and training in fields such as anesthesia and midwifery. As they provide personal and direct client care, nurses require excellent clinical skills, sensitivity, stamina, compassion and judgment in order to meet the physical and emotional needs of their patients.

Clinical Nurse Specialist	42
Licensed Practical Nurse	75
Nurse Anesthetist	83
Nurse Educator	84
Nurse-Midwife	85
Nurse Practitioner	86
Nurse, Registered	87
Nursing Assistant	89

PHARMACY

Members of the pharmacy team are some of the most accessible healthcare professionals. These individuals are responsible for providing their clients with confidence, guidance and awareness about using medications. Pharmacists work with physicians to accurately prepare prescriptions and dosages. Safely dispensing effective medicines to cure, prevent, or alleviate disease is a primary goal of these specialists. Individuals in this career must shoulder great responsibility, but they also enjoy the challenge and gratification of helping consumers make informed choices. Many pharmacists work at the patient's bedside with the rest of the team.

Pharmacist	95
Pharmacy Technician	96

PUBLIC HEALTH

Public health professionals are involved in the promotion of good health and the prevention of disease and injury. Rather than focusing on diagnosing and treating disease in individuals, public health professionals seek to improve the health of communities through prevention and health promotion. They may analyze statistical data to identify health trends in communities, work to ensure a healthy environment and workplace, study disease or teach health education programs. Public health achievements include the fluoridation of drinking water, car seat and seat belt use, tobacco-free environments, and vaccinations. For more information on careers in public health, visit www.pathwaystopublichealth.org.

Biostatistician	37
Community Health Worker	44
Environmental Health Specialist	60
Epidemiologist	61
Health Educator	65
Industrial Hygienist	74

RADIOLOGIC & IMAGING SCIENCE

Professionals in the field of radiologic and imaging science provide the healthcare team with diagnostic and therapeutic services. Using radiation, radio-activity, ultrasound and other methods, they produce images, treat cancer, explore body functions and structure, and provide diagnoses. The information they provide on the presence and extent of an injury, disease, or impairment is used by the healthcare team to make decisions on how to treat the identified problem. These professionals are trained to operate diagnostic equipment, keep accurate records, and when appropriate, protect the patient and themselves from any harmful effects of a procedure. A career in this field offers challenging and rewarding opportunities.

Cardiovascular Technologist	38
Dosimetrist	57
Nuclear Medicine Technologist	82
Radiation Therapist	104
Radiologic Technologist	105
Sonographer	109

SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

The field of medical engineering and scientific research offers you the opportunity to become a healthcare detective. Using scientific information, technology, and engineering skills, team members enjoy the challenge of making new discoveries and the satisfaction of finding innovative solutions. Biomedical engineers create solutions to patients' medical problems by designing medical devices. Geneticists study genes in humans, plants and animals and hunt for genes that may cause inherited diseases. Biomedical equipment technicians inspect, repair and test medical equipment. Naturally curious, these professionals are precise in their work.

Biomedical Engineer	35
Biomedical Equipment Technician	36
Geneticist	64

THERAPY & REHABILITATION

Sometimes considered the “human element” of recovery, therapy and rehabilitation help people return to independence and self-reliance. Therapy and rehabilitation programs are designed for patients of all ages, with physical, emotional, social, and mental limitations, who need stimulation of their minds and muscles. The creative arts therapy careers include many exciting opportunities to use music, art and dance to facilitate rehabilitation. Other challenging pursuits include respiratory, physical, and occupational therapy. These specialists demonstrate a high level of commitment, patience, and compassion while helping clients reach their greatest potential. In this rewarding and satisfying healthcare field, professionals often see their patients begin to lead more enjoyable lives.

Athletic Trainer	33
Audiologist	34
Creative Arts Therapist (Art, Dance, Drama, Music).....	46
Occupational Therapist	90
Occupational Therapy Assistant	91
Physical Therapist	98
Physical Therapist Assistant	99
Prosthetist/Orthotist	102
Recreational Therapist	106
Respiratory Therapist	107
Speech/Language Pathologist	110

VETERINARY MEDICINE

Veterinary professionals work closely with pets, livestock, and their owners. They must be patient with animals and sensitive to the feelings of the owners. Manual dexterity and good communication skills are necessary. Veterinarians and veterinary technicians often work long hours, including evenings and weekends. They may be bitten, kicked, or scratched while treating their patients. But for the person who loves animals and is fascinated by science and medicine, it is a rewarding career. These professionals enjoy diverse employment opportunities including public health, wildlife preservation, private practice, education, research and government.

Veterinarian	112
Veterinary Technician	114

VISION CARE

Because so many everyday activities involve vision, the gift of sight is one of our most valuable senses. Vision care professionals detect and correct optical problems through eye examinations, prescription glasses, contacts, and vision therapy exercises. These experts also promote the prevention of eye injury and good vision maintenance. Advances in technology, public awareness, and the aging population will increase the demand for vision care specialists faster than many healthcare occupations.

Optician	92
Optometrist	93

You can explore over 88 health careers using this manual! Use the Table of Contents or the Index to find the career in which you're interested.

1 PHARMACIST

2 **STARTING SALARY**
\$102,500 or
\$49.28/hour

3 **P**harmacists dispense prescribed drugs, help consumers select over-the-counter medications, and prepare ointments, powders, and capsules. These healthcare professionals serve as medication "specialists" on patient-care teams by providing information to assure optimal patient outcomes with drug therapy. Pharmacists partner with physicians to assist patients in managing chronic diseases such as diabetes. They may educate and counsel patients on aspects of their disease or condition. Many pharmacists own or manage pharmacies and may have other duties such as purchasing drugs and other health-related supplies and supervising pharmacy staff.



4 **Areas of Specialization**
The Board of Pharmacy Specialties offers certification for the following specializations:
Ambulatory Care Pharmacy
Nuclear Pharmacy
Nutrition Support Pharmacy
Oncology Pharmacy
Pharmacotherapy
Psychiatric Pharmacy

5 **Work Environment**
Clinics
Colleges and universities
Community pharmacies
Government
Health maintenance organizations
Hospitals
Military
Pharmaceutical industry
Public health departments
Retail drug chains

9 **Educational Programs**
Doctoral Degree
Mercer University
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine School of Pharmacy – Georgia Campus
South University
University of Georgia

6 **Academic Requirements**
All of Georgia's pharmacy schools require students to take the Pharmacy College Admissions Test prior to admission. A Doctor of Pharmacy degree (Pharm.D.) requires a minimum of six years of education: two years of pre-pharmacy study at the undergraduate level and four years in the pharmacy school program. Some schools offer accelerated programs condensing the program into three years. Students may elect additional training in a specialty area through a one- to two-year residency.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration 7
Licensure is required through the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy. To practice pharmacy all graduates are required to pass the North American Pharmacist Licensure Exam and a state specific pharmacy law exam. Specialty area certification is available from the Board of Pharmacy Specialties.

Professional Organizations 8
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
(703) 739-2330
www.aacp.org

American Pharmacists Association
(202) 628-4410
www.pharmacist.com

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
(866) 279-0681
www.ashp.org

Board of Pharmacy Specialties
(202) 429-7591
www.bpsweb.org



95

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network

Check It Out!!

Career Inventory, Page 2
The Educational Journey, Page 3
Georgia's Hot Careers, Page 4
High School Road Map, Page 6
HOSA & HSTE, Page 9
Financial Aid, Page 10

LEGEND

- 1 - Career title
- 2 - Average Georgia starting salary
- 3 - Career description
- 4 - Areas in which one can specialize
- 5 - Typical workplaces
- 6 - Educational preparation needed
- 7 - Credentials needed to practice
- 8 - Additional career information
- 9 - Programs available in Georgia
- 10 - QR code to view video of career
(scan using QR app on mobile device)

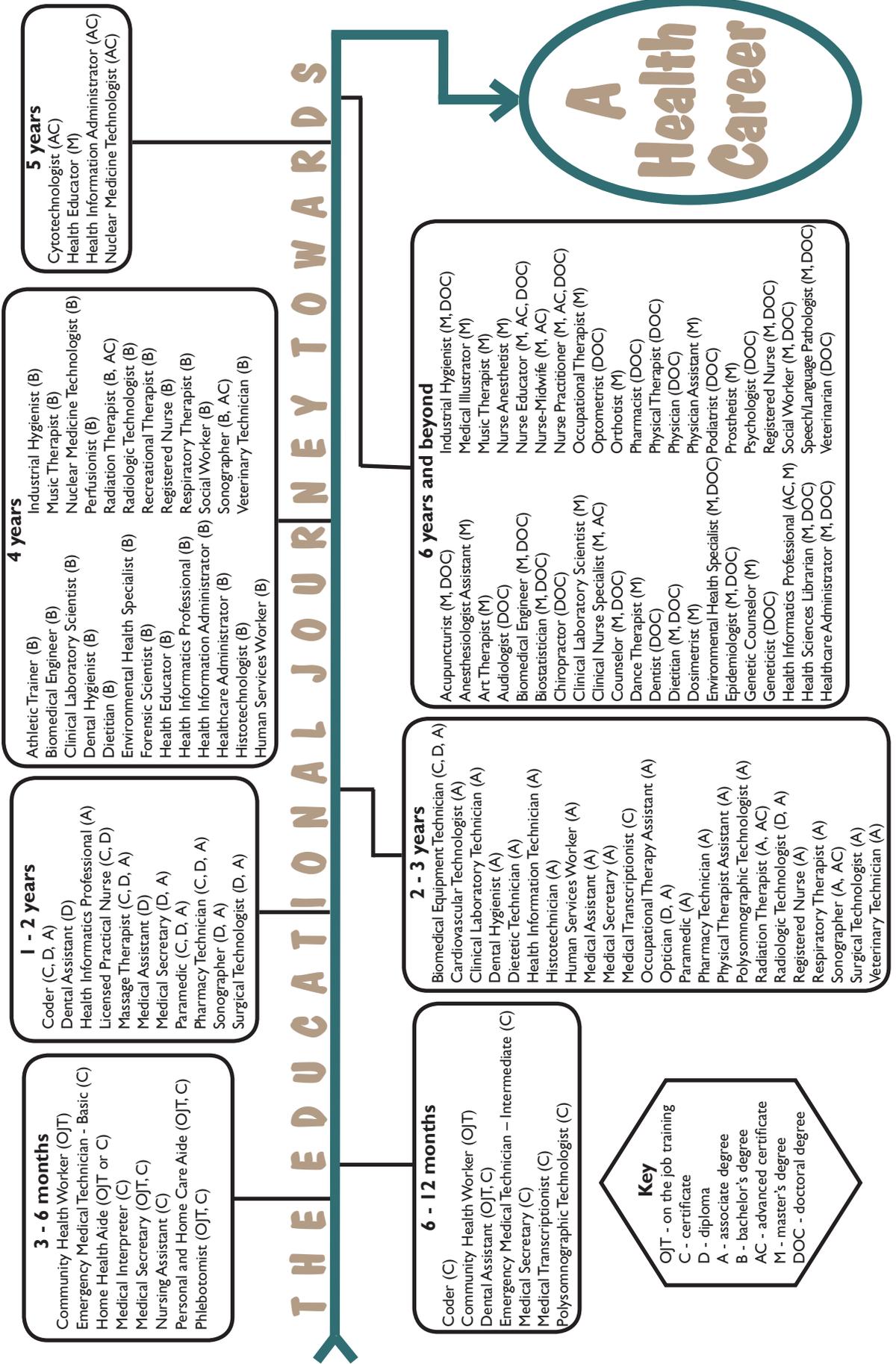
CAREER INVENTORY

Do something that matters!

PERSONALITY TYPE	DESCRIPTION	HEALTH CAREER OPTIONS
Realistic	Enjoys creating, fixing, or building things, working with equipment and machinery, and working outdoors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Biomedical Engineer ❖ Biomedical Equipment Technician ❖ Clinical Laboratory Scientist ❖ Dental Assistant ❖ Industrial Hygienist ❖ Perfusionist ❖ Veterinarian ❖ Veterinarian Technician
Investigative	Enjoys research, investigation and solving problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Clinical Laboratory Scientist ❖ Clinical Laboratory Technician ❖ Cytotechnologist ❖ Dentist ❖ Environmental Health Scientist ❖ Forensic Scientist ❖ Geneticist ❖ Phlebotomist ❖ Physician
Artistic	Enjoys using art, music, or drama to express oneself and designing and crafting things	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Creative Arts Therapist ❖ Medical Illustrator ❖ Music Therapist ❖ Recreational Therapist
Social	Enjoys working with others, teaching, healing, serving and is concerned with others' well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Athletic Trainer ❖ Community Health Worker ❖ Counselor ❖ Health Educator ❖ Nurse ❖ Psychologist ❖ Social Worker
Enterprising	Enjoys leading, encouraging, influencing others and working in a business setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Health Informatics Professional ❖ Health Information Administrator ❖ Healthcare Administrator
Conventional	Enjoys organizing, following procedures, planning events, and working with numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Biostatistician ❖ Coder ❖ Epidemiologist ❖ Health Sciences Librarian ❖ Medical Secretary ❖ Medical Transcriptionist

By matching your personality to one or more of the types listed above, you can determine in which career fields you will flourish. Want more information? Visit the Career Key, Inc., website at www.careerkey.org. This site provides invaluable information about matching you with the perfect career.

EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY



Georgia's **HOT** Careers to 2018

The careers in this chart have it all!

Personal Skills and Abilities

- advanced skills required
- moderate skills required

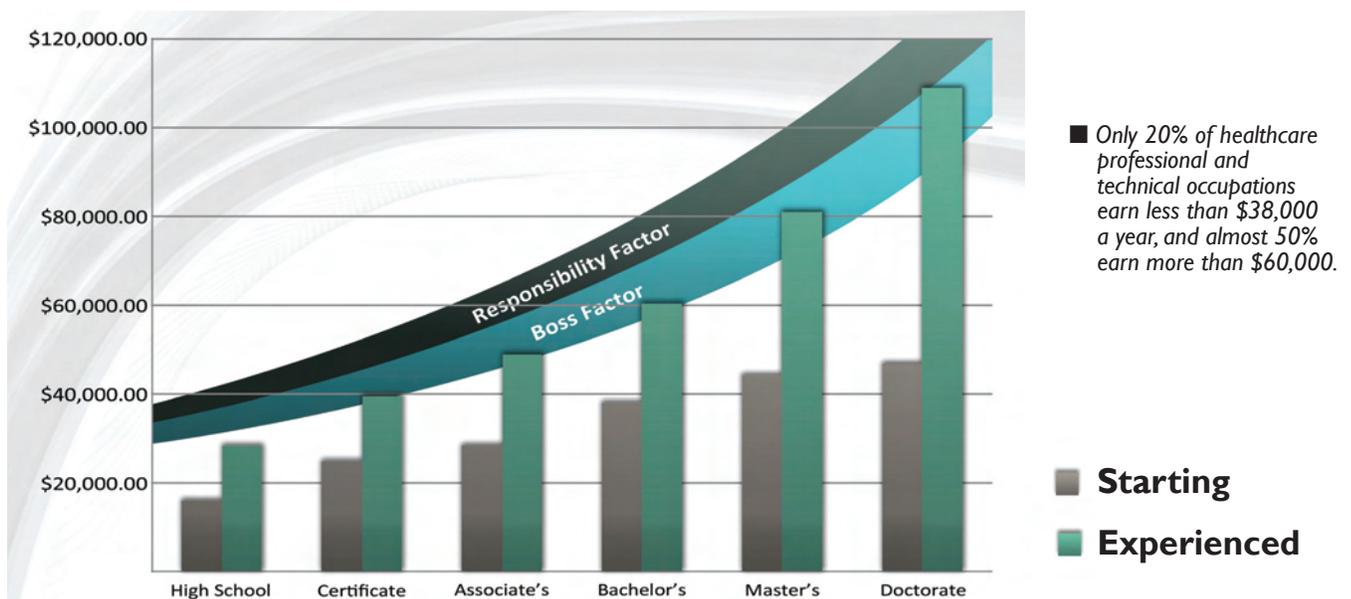
Work Characteristics

- frequently found
- occasionally found

	Math Skills	English Skills	Science Skills	Computer Skills	Artistic/Creative Skills	Persuasive/Interpersonal Skills	Mechanical Skills	Leadership/Managerial Ability	Travel/Between Work Sites	Hazardous Duties/Conditions	Operates Machines/Equipment	Irregular Work Schedule	Job Stress/Pressure	Physically Demanding
Clinical Laboratory Scientist	○	○	●	○						●	●	○		
Counselor		●		○	●		○							○
Dental Hygienist			○		○					●	●	○		○
Dentist	○	○	●	○	○	○			○	●				○
Dietitian	●	●	●	●		●	○	○						
Family Physician	○	●	●	○		●	○	○	●	●	●	●	○	
Health Educator	○	●	●	○		○	●	○			○			
Pharmacist	○	●	●	○		●					●	○		
Physical Therapist		●	●		●					●	○	●		
Physician Assistant	○	●	●	○		●		○	●	○	●	●	○	
Psychologist		●	○		○	●		●			○	○		
Social Worker		●	○		●			●			○	○		
Radiologic Technologist	○		○	○	○			○	●	●	●			
Registered Nurse	○	●	●	○		●	○		●	○	●	●	○	
Respiratory Therapist	○	●	●		●			○	●	●	○	○		

Source: Department of Labor, 2012

Salary by Education Level





SPOTLIGHT

Amanda Fischer, DO

An AHEC Success Story

"I loved music, but wondered what I would do with it. Then, I thought I wanted to be a Physical Therapist like my Dad." However, it was at an AHEC sponsored student organization meeting that the idea of going to medical school struck her as "the thing I wanted to do."

Amanda Fischer, DO, first year Resident at Rome's Family Practice Residency Program grew up in Claxton, Georgia and graduated from Georgia Southern University (GSU). Her path to becoming a doctor and entering the Georgia Campus of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM), was helped immensely through her exposure to people and experiences offered by Georgia's Area Health Education Centers (AHECs).

As she tells the story, "I joined the Pre-Health Professionals student organization that Magnolia Coastlands AHEC started on our campus at GSU. There, we had so many speakers from different professions" and through that experience, she began to consider a career in medicine. In the summer of her junior year, 2006, Southwest Georgia (SOWEGA) AHEC offered a new program for pre-med students called 'Pathway to Med School'. "I'm so glad I did that. It showed me what I wanted to do. It helped me decide which way to go." She also was able to look at several specialties inside medicine through shadowing experiences set up by SOWEGA-AHEC. "Primary care is what I wanted to do from the very beginning, even though I liked many of my experiences. It always came back to family medicine. Through Pathway, we were exposed to many doctors and residents." One day it hit her, "OK, I'm going to do this."

"The people in Albany really helped me. Pam Reynolds, Center Director at Southwest Georgia AHEC, helped me with a whole month of shadowing, and we did a research project that was presented at the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians Scientific Assembly. There, we met some of our

future preceptors [teachers] and that really helped a lot." Once the decision was made, Amanda said the assistance continued. "Through the Pathway program, Pam also helped me with the application process to medical school. She was hand-in-hand with me as I decided which way to go."



Two years in medical school at the Georgia PCOM campus prepared her well for the next phase of her education. Amanda was one of the first PCOM Anchor Program students in Columbus, Georgia. Hannah Lydiate, Preceptor Coordinator at Three Rivers AHEC staff, helped her obtain core and specialty rotations with local physicians and hospitals during her 3rd and 4th years of medical school. "I liked being in one place," unlike some of her peers who rotated throughout the state and even to other states, every four weeks to a new location. As she settled into the community, she found a two year home, living in her own apartment.

Amanda felt welcomed by the community, got to know people there, and "it prevented some of the isolation you have when going out to other areas."

She added a variety of training opportunities by exploring other towns during some of her specialty rotations,

two of which were in Rome, GA with Blue Ridge AHEC. "I wanted to bring more to the table for my residency." While in Rome, she met faculty and staff of another Family Residency Program (Floyd Family Medicine Residency Program-FFMRP), which is her training ground today.

Most AHECs have student housing in some towns which allows students to stay in that area for their clinical training with community-based faculty/health care professionals.

Amanda's story marks yet another success for Georgia's Statewide AHEC Network. The mission to "Grow Our Own" healthcare providers is met every time a Georgia medical/healthcare student comes back to the state to practice. AHECs work with many different colleges and healthcare programs to coordinate regional clinical training, recruit excellent community-based health professionals as faculty, and offer housing as available.

LIVING LIFE TO ITS FULLEST

WHAT'S ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?



All of us have numerous goals as we travel through life. Reaching them brings fulfillment, satisfaction, and sometimes relief! Some ambitions are practical matters like doing well in high school, graduating, being accepted in college, or getting a job. Other aspirations may involve our leisure time like training for a 10K race, learning to play a musical instrument, or traveling to another country.

Those who saw the movie “The Bucket List” may have been inspired to make a checklist of things to accomplish. Making a list is one thing and carrying it out another.

SETTING HIGH SCHOOL PRIORITIES TO REACH A CAREER GOAL

FRESHMAN YEAR

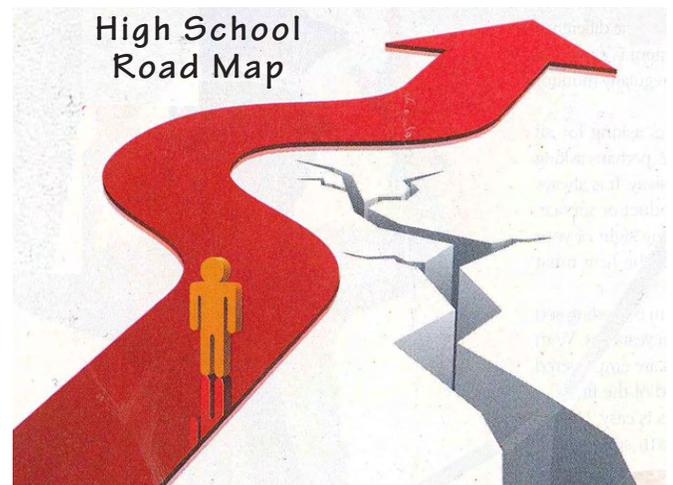
- ◆ Meet with counselor to update your Individual Graduation Plan (IGP). Take strong academic courses and keep your grades up!
- ◆ Explore different occupations in your electronic career portfolio. Use the assessments and tools available online (see “Useful Websites”). Interview people who work in the field that interests you.
- ◆ Get involved! Participate in school and community activities.
- ◆ Create a resume with awards, honors, school/community activities, and volunteer work.
- ◆ Check your GPA on GAcollege411. Try to earn the HOPE scholarship.
- ◆ Create a college savings account and add to it regularly. Begin investigating scholarships.
- ◆ Ask your counselor about dual enrollment opportunities.

SOPHOMORE YEAR

- ◆ Meet with counselor to update your IGP.
- ◆ Enroll in classes that prepare you for your next step.
- ◆ Check your GPA on GAcollege411.
- ◆ Explore the dual enrollment opportunities.
- ◆ See counselor prior to April 1 to discuss career plan.
- ◆ Attend College/PROBE Fairs.
- ◆ Continue/expand meaningful extracurricular involvements.
- ◆ Update college planning file and resume.
- ◆ Take the PSAT (free for 10th graders).

JUNIOR YEAR

- ◆ Update your IGP and consider dual enrollment.
- ◆ Study the admissions requirements for the colleges and universities that interest you. Choose a “dream” school and a “safety” school that you know you can get into, would be happy attending, and that you can afford. You need a “safety” school for financial and academic reasons.
- ◆ Take the End of Course Test and the Georgia High School Writing Test.
- ◆ Meet with counselor to ensure you are taking appropriate courses. Check your GPA.



- ◆ Attend College/PROBE fairs where you can talk face-to-face with college representatives about their programs, campus life, and financial assistance. Arrange college visits and meet with admissions officers.
- ◆ Set up a calendar for taking tests and completing college applications.
- ◆ Determine which admissions tests you will need prior to college application.
- ◆ Take the free online SAT course which contains drills, practice tests, and scores essays. Analyze test-taking strategies located on the College Board website.
- ◆ Register and take the PSAT in October, which is also the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. This is the only time you can test to qualify for a National Merit Scholarship.
- ◆ In spring, register for and take the SAT Reasoning Test or ACT (American College Test). Check with the schools where you plan to apply to see if you need to take the SAT Subject Tests. Take them immediately after completing that subject in school. For example, if you studied AP US History, take the US History exam on the May or June test date as you complete the class.
- ◆ Discuss your family’s financial resources and review plans for seeking financial aid. Continue to search for scholarships on GAcollge411 and utilize the “Financial Aid” tab information.
- ◆ Identify and ask those who might write you a recommendation—teachers, counselors, and employers.
- ◆ Ask counselor about and seek summer enrichment programs.
- ◆ Develop a short list of schools to which you want to apply. Utilize GAcollge411 under the tab “College Planning.”

SENIOR YEAR

July/August

- ◆ Visit selected college campuses; talk to graduates and students at the institution.

September/October/November

- ◆ Take strong academic courses and keep grades up. One predictor of how well students perform their freshmen year in college is the level of difficulty of the 12th grade curriculum.
- ◆ Verify which admissions tests are required by the college and the deadline for registering. Complete test registration.
- ◆ Finish college applications. Keep a file!
- ◆ Make sure to fulfill each college application requirements.
- ◆ Verify early decision admission deadlines. Some colleges accept outstanding candidates as early as December via early decision programs. Make certain you can meet the financial commitments required if you are accepted early decision.
- ◆ Sign up to take the ASVAB—Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. The career assessment tools can be helpful, even if you’re not going into the military.
- ◆ Attend College/PROBE fairs.
- ◆ Ask counselor to review application forms and have a teacher check over your application essays and comment.
- ◆ Mail completed admissions’ forms to colleges.
- ◆ Check military academy and ROTC application and scholarship deadlines if appropriate.
- ◆ Apply for merit-based scholarships.

December

- ◆ Give counselor all required forms at least two weeks before they are due.
- ◆ Finish applications to colleges before Christmas, unless otherwise indicated.
- ◆ Plan to file FAFSA—Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This is required to get any type of federal financial help—grants, loans, etc. Apply NOW for a FAFSA PIN at www.pin.ed.gov

January/February

- ◆ January 1st is a very big date. It's the first day you can file FAFSA. File electronically at www.fafsa.ed.gov or on GAcollge411 under the Financial Aid tab.
- ◆ Communicate with colleges to be sure your admissions' files are complete.
- ◆ Ask counselor to send first semester's grades to the colleges where you have applied, along with any other information not already forwarded.

March-June

- ◆ Apply for the HOPE Scholarship through your GAcollge411 account.
- ◆ If attending a technical college, you can receive the HOPE Grant regardless of your grades!
- ◆ Keep a record of acceptances, rejections, and financial aid awards.
- ◆ Reply promptly to colleges to notify them of your decision.
- ◆ Reply promptly when you are notified that you have been awarded a financial aid package.
- ◆ Meet the reply deadline and admissions deposit deadline or you may lose the acceptance/aid offers.
- ◆ Request that a final transcript be sent to the college of your choice.
- ◆ Check your HOPE status online at your GAcollge411 account in June.

USEFUL WEBSITES

- ◆ www.GAcollge411.org
- ◆ www.explorehealthcareers.com
- ◆ www.science.education.nih.gov/lifeworks
- ◆ www.bls.gov/ooh
- ◆ www.acinet.org
- ◆ www.medmyst.rice.edu
- ◆ www.mappingyourfuture.org
- ◆ www.gcic.peachnet.edu
- ◆ www.usg.edu
- ◆ www.tcsgeu.edu
- ◆ www.fastweb.com
- ◆ www.fnaid.org



HOSA & HSTE

Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA): Future Health Professionals

HOSA is an association of future health professionals that provides a unique program of skill development, motivation and recognition exclusively for middle school, secondary, post-secondary, collegiate students and advisors who have an interest in healthcare. It was created to enhance the delivery of compassionate, quality healthcare by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill and leadership development of all health science technology education students.

Since its inception in 1976, HOSA has grown steadily reaching nearly 150,000 members through 48 chartered HOSA State Associations. HOSA is a powerful instructional tool that works best when it is integrated into HSTE curriculum and classroom.

The rapidly changing industry needs dedicated workers who, in addition to their technical skills, are people-oriented and capable of playing a leadership or followership role as a member of the healthcare team. If you do not have a chapter at your school contact your healthcare science teacher about starting one today!

~ Helpful Websites ~

www.georgiahosa.org

www.hosa.org

“ This is my first year in the Health Science Program. This manual has not only helped me to decide what I want to do in life, but it has helped me to see every option I could explore within this field. This manual is a God-send for the lost soul.

**I love it! I love it! I love it!” ~ S. Henderson
Student**

Healthcare Science Technology Education (HSTE)

HSTE programs are designed to provide students the opportunity to explore careers in healthcare. This course of study allows students a smooth transition into post-secondary nursing, medical or allied health education or the ability to acquire an entry level medical position in the workforce or the military. Students are exposed to general healthcare knowledge and skills and are then encouraged to pursue a more in depth study in the interested career area.

The pathways that are currently available are: Therapeutic Services -- Nursing, Therapeutic Medical Services, Emergency Services, Health Informatics, Diagnostics, Biotechnology and Physical Medicine. A new curriculum is now available to middle school students.

In the program, a strong emphasis is placed on academic integration as well as foundation skills such as problem-solving, teamwork, and critical thinking which are necessary to enter the workforce. Students in the HSTE have possible opportunities for work-based learning experiences, earning dual enrollment credit, and taking national certification exams. Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) is offered through HSTE and complements the classroom experience.

Employment in the healthcare industry provides a financially stable and rewarding career of service to others. Having a chance to begin this quest while still in middle or high school is a wonderful way to prepare for the future.

FINANCIAL AID

WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?

Financial aid is money awarded to a student to help pay educational costs. The federal government, the state government and many private organizations provide financial aid to eligible students in the form of grants, scholarships, loans, alternative loans, and employment. In addition, most individual colleges offer their own scholarships, grants and other aid to students who attend. **Be sure to check with each school to see what is available.**

Some financial aid is **merit-based**; an academic scholarship is one example. A great deal of aid is **need-based**; all federal grants and some federal loans are awarded based on the financial need of the student and the student's family.

Another important distinction is that some aid is considered a gift, meaning that it does not have to be repaid. Scholarships and grants are examples of **gift** aid. Most forms of aid must be repaid. Most loans **must be repaid** in cash. Students can repay some financial aid by working at a part-time job while in school.

HOW MUCH NEED-BASED FINANCIAL AID AM I ENTITLED TO?

The total cost of attending a school minus the expected family contribution, equals your eligibility for need-based funds otherwise known as your financial need.

- **What is the "total cost of attending" a school?**

For the purposes of calculating financial aid, the total educational costs of attending a college include: tuition and fees, books and supplies, housing, meals, transportation, and personal expenses such as clothes, laundry, recreation, medicine, and health care. Add all those items and you've got the cost of attending. Obviously, the cost of attending varies greatly from one school to another. In general, costs will be lowest at a public technical college, higher at a community/junior college, still higher at a public four-year college, and highest at a private college. The total cost of attending college in Georgia today may range from about \$1,500 per year to more than \$40,000 per year.

- **What is the "expected family contribution (EFC)"?**

This is the share of the total cost of attending that the student and his or her family is expected to pay. The EFC is calculated by whatever organization is awarding the financial aid - usually the federal government or the college the student will attend. The family's assets, family size, number of family members currently attending college, and income (including any income the student may earn from part-time jobs), are some of the factors taken into account when calculating the EFC.

The first step in determining the EFC is for the student to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Financial Aid (FAFSA). This should be done as early as possible in the year that the student plans to start college. The form asks for a great deal of detailed information about the financial situation of the student's family. It's a good idea for you and your parents to complete your income tax returns before filling out the FAFSA, as a lot of the same information is asked for on both forms. The Federal Government is working on a way to connect your income tax filing to the FAFSA to automatically fill portions of the FAFSA. Ask your parents to prepare their IRS forms as early as possible this year. Follow the instructions on FAFSA carefully, fill out the information completely, and send in the form as soon as possible. Based on the information on FAFSA, federal processors will determine your EFC. The result will be sent to you and to all of the colleges that you listed on the FAFSA.

Once your college financial aid office has your EFC, it will prepare a proposed financial aid package. Typically, this will be a combination of Stafford loans, PLUS loans, and perhaps student employment or work study opportunities. The goal is to devise a package that equals your family's financial need.

NOTE: Most colleges use the EFC that is generated by the FAFSA form. However, some schools use other means to determine EFC. **Be sure to look at each financial aid application packet provided by the colleges you are interested in to determine what each school requires.**

STATE AND FEDERAL

Program	Objective	Under-Graduate/ Graduate	Georgia Residency Required
SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANTS			
Georgia's HOPE Scholarship and Grant	To provide scholarships and grants to recent high school graduates and non-traditional students attending public and eligible private institutions in Georgia	U	Yes
Georgia Tuition Equalization Grant (GTEG)	To provide non-repayable funds to Georgia residents attending eligible private colleges in Georgia	U	Yes
University of North Georgia (ROTC Grant)	To assist students enrolled in the Army ROTC program at University of North Georgia	U	Yes
HERO Scholarship	To provide assistance to members of the Georgia National Guard and U.S. Military Reservists who served in combat zones and their children and spouses	U	Yes
Law Enforcement Personnel Dependents (LEPD) Grant	To assist children of Georgia law enforcement officers, firefighters, prison guards, and Georgia EMTs who have been disabled or killed in the line of duty	U	Yes
Georgia Public Safety Memorial Grant	To assist children of Georgia law enforcement officers, firefighters, prison guards, and Georgia EMTs who have been disabled or killed in the line of duty	U	Yes
Federal Pell Grant	To provide non-repayable funds to students for education expenses	U	No
Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG)	To provide non-repayable funds to students for education expenses	U	No
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)	To provide non-repayable funds to students for education expenses	U	No
Federal College Work-Study Program	To provide jobs for students who must earn part of their educational expenses	U/G	No
Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) Grant	To provide non-repayable funds to students for education expenses	U	Yes
STUDENT AND PARENT LOANS			
Federal Stafford Loan	To provide low-interest repayable funds to students for education expenses	U/G	No
Federal PLUS Loan	To provide low-interest repayable funds to parents of dependent undergraduate students	U	No
Federal GRAD PLUS Loan	To provide low-interest repayable funds to graduate students	G	No
Federal Perkins Loan	To provide low-interest repayable funds to students for education expenses	U/G	No
Georgia Service Cancelable Loans	To assist students enrolled in critical fields of study (e.g., Nursing, Physical Therapy, Pharmacy, etc.). Visit GAcollege411.org for a complete listing	U/G	Yes
Georgia Military Scholarships	To assist Georgia students seeking a military career enrolled at Georgia Military College or University of North Georgia	U	Yes
Other Georgia Student Finance Commission scholarship, grant, and loan programs	A variety of programs that serve smaller numbers of students by providing financial assistance for education expenses	U/G	Yes

FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

Academic Year Maximums	Institution Restrictions	Need-Based	Comments
Varies	Eligible colleges, universities, technical colleges, and career colleges in Georgia	No	Contact your high school guidance counselor, college financial aid administrator, or GSFC at (770) 724-9000 in Metro Atlanta or toll-free in GA at 1-800-505-4732. Funded by the Georgia Lottery for Education.
\$1,050 (Subject to change)	Eligible private colleges and universities in Georgia	No	Recipients must be full-time students (12 hours per term).
\$1,500 (Subject to change)	University of North Georgia	No	Contact University of North Georgia for more information.
\$2,000	Eligible colleges, universities, and technical colleges in Georgia	No	HERO recipients may receive up to \$8,000 for four years of study. Additional documents (e.g., military record) required for submission. Please contact the financial aid administrator at your college for other requirements.
\$2,000 (Subject to change)	Eligible colleges, universities, technical colleges, and career colleges in Georgia	No	LEPD recipients may receive up to \$8,000 for four years of undergraduate study.
Varies	Eligible public colleges, universities, and technical colleges in Georgia	No	The Public Safety Memorial Grant award covers the cost of attendance minus any other aid received. Funded by the Georgia Lottery for Education.
\$5,350	N/A	Yes	Submit additional documents (e.g., tax records) if requested by the school's financial aid administrator.
\$750-1st year academic study \$1300-2nd year academic study	N/A	Yes	Only available for 1st and 2nd year undergraduate students. Contact the financial aid administrator for other requirements.
Varies	N/A	Yes	Exceptional need is required.
Varies	N/A	Yes	Contact the college financial aid administrator.
Varies	Eligible colleges, universities, colleges, and career colleges in Georgia	Yes	Submit additional documents (e.g., tax records) if requested by the college financial aid administrator.
Varies	Participating colleges, universities, technical colleges, and career colleges	Yes**	The rates for Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans are 5.6% fixed and 6.8% fixed, respectively. NOTE: Students who do not demonstrate need may qualify for an Unsubsidized Loan.
Varies	Participating colleges, universities, technical colleges, and career colleges	No	The current interest rate is 8.5% fixed.
Varies	Participating colleges	No	The current interest rate is 8.5% fixed.
Varies	N/A	Yes	5% interest rate. Contact the college financial aid administrator regarding the loan amount.
\$2,000 to \$4,500	GSFC-approved colleges, universities, and technical colleges	No	Visit GAcollege411.org regarding program requirements, application procedures, loan amounts, and service repayment obligations. You may also contact the college financial aid administrator for information.
Amount covers the cost of tuition, fees, room/board, books, supplies and uniforms	Georgia Military College or University of North Georgia	No	Recipients are obligated to serve in the Georgia National Guard after graduation. Contact Georgia Military College or University of North Georgia for more information.
Varies	Eligible colleges and universities	No	Includes Robert C. Byrd Scholarship and more.

FINANCIAL AID

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SCHOLARSHIP AND A GRANT?

- Usually, scholarships are awarded to students who demonstrate some kind of skill, or talent, or achievement. Georgia's HOPE Scholarship, for instance, is awarded on the basis of academic achievement - earning an overall B average in four years of high school. Scholarships also are awarded to students who excel at sports, music, debating, or some other area.
- The federal PELL Grant is based on financial need; other grants are awarded to students simply because they fall into some special category. The Tuition Equalization Grant is awarded to any Georgia student who attends a private college in Georgia. There is no academic requirement and no need requirement. Another example is the HOPE Grant, which pays tuition and fees, plus a book allowance, to any Georgia resident enrolled in a diploma or certificate program at a HOPE-eligible college or technical college. Again, there is no academic requirement and no need requirement.

Scholarships and grants do have one very important thing in common: they are both considered "gift aid." That is, students who receive grants or scholarships are not obligated to make any kind of repayment.

CAN STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR LOANS?

Absolutely. Billions of dollars are loaned to students every year. Parents of students also can borrow money to help pay for their children's education. The biggest source of educational loans is the federal government. Stafford loans are federal loans made to students. PLUS loans are federal loans made to parents of students. Unlike scholarships and grants, loans, plus interest, must be repaid. Interest charged on Stafford and PLUS loans is relatively low, and can be repaid over a long period - up to 10 years. Still, repaying a loan is **serious** business, and every student should be aware of his or her financial obligations regarding loan repayment. In fact, students who take out federal loans are required to receive loan counseling when a loan is first made and just before a student graduates or for any other reason leaves college.

WHAT ARE SERVICE-CANCELABLE LOANS?

These programs encourage students to pursue an education, and eventually a career, in a particular "critical-need" field. For example, it might be determined that a particular region of Georgia is experiencing a severe shortage of trained nurses. That shortage, in that location, constitutes a critical need. Students who receive service-cancelable loans have two repayment options:

- They can repay the loan in cash, plus interest or
- After satisfactory completion of their courses of study, they can cancel the loan debt by working in their critical need field, in an agreed-upon region of the state, for a certain number of years. Of course, the borrower earns a regular salary at the same time they are canceling their loan debt through service.

In Georgia, some service-cancelable loans are funded by the federal government and some by the state government. All service cancelable loans are subject to change or elimination based upon changes in State appropriations. The GSFC is the only agency that offers service-cancelable loans in Georgia.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- GAcollge411.org / 1-800-505-4732
 - ✓ explore careers
 - ✓ prepare for the SAT, ACT, GRE, COMPASS, and ASSET
 - ✓ compare and apply to Georgia colleges, universities and technical colleges
 - ✓ learn about and apply for financial aid
- Georgia Higher Education Savings Plan
www.gacollegesavings.org
- Federal Student Aid
www.studentaid.ed.gov
- The College Board/College Scholarship
www.collegeboard.com
- FastWeb
www.fastweb.com

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

The following is a list of educational programs available at colleges and universities in Georgia for the health careers identified in this guide. Some programs are jointly administered with other institutions. Many schools have satellite campuses and online programs that increase accessibility to their educational programs. Graduation from an accredited program is often required in order to obtain certification, registration or licensure. Ask about the accreditation status of programs in which you are interested.

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

www.abac.edu
Tifton
(229) 391-5001
Registered Nurse

Albany State University

www.asurams.edu
Albany
(229) 430-4600
Counselor
Forensic Scientist
Healthcare Administrator
Nurse Educator
Nurse Practitioner
Registered Nurse
Social Worker

Argosy University

www.argosy.edu
Atlanta
(770) 671-1200
Counselor
Healthcare Administrator
Psychologist

Armstrong Atlantic State University

www.armstrong.edu
Savannah
(912) 344-2576
Athletic Trainer
Cardiovascular Technologist
Clinical Laboratory Scientist
Clinical Nurse Specialist
Health Educator
Healthcare Administrator
Nuclear Medicine Technologist
Nurse Practitioner
Physical Therapist
Radiation Therapist
Radiologic Technologist
Registered Nurse
Respiratory Therapist
Sonographer
Speech/Language Pathologist

Atlanta Metropolitan State College

www.atlm.edu
Atlanta
(404) 756-4000
Health Information Technician
Human Services Worker

Bainbridge College

www.bainbridge.edu
Bainbridge
(229) 248-2500
Emergency Medical Technician
Licensed Practical Nurse
Medical Assistant
Medical Secretary
Nursing Assistant
Paramedic
Phlebotomist
Registered Nurse

Brenau University

www.brenau.edu
Gainesville
(770) 534-6100
Counselor
Healthcare Administrator
Nurse Educator
Nurse Practitioner
Occupational Therapist
Registered Nurse

Clark Atlanta University

www.cau.edu
Atlanta
(404) 880-8000
Counselor
Social Worker

Clayton State University

www.clayton.edu
Morrow
(678) 466-4000
Dental Hygienist
Forensic Scientist
Healthcare Administrator

Human Services Worker
Nurse Educator
Psychologist
Registered Nurse

College of Coastal Georgia

www.ccca.edu
Brunswick
(912) 279-5700
Clinical Laboratory Technician
Health Informatics Professional
Health Information Administrator
Human Services Worker
Radiologic Technologist
Registered Nurse

Columbus State University

www.columbusstate.edu
Columbus
(706) 507-8800
Counselor
Health Educator
Healthcare Administrator
Registered Nurse

Dalton State College

www.daltonstate.edu
Dalton
(706) 272-4436
Clinical Laboratory Technician
Dental Hygienist
Licensed Practical Nurse
Medical Assistant
Nursing Assistant
Phlebotomist
Radiologic Technologist
Registered Nurse
Respiratory Therapist
Social Worker

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

Darton State College

www.darton.edu

Albany

(229) 317-6000

Cardiovascular Technologist

Clinical Laboratory Technician

Coder

Dental Hygienist

Emergency Medical Technician

Health Information Technician

Histotechnician

Human Services Worker

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Paramedic

Phlebotomist

Physical Therapist Assistant

Polysomnographic Technologist

Radiologic Technologist

Registered Nurse

Respiratory Therapist

Sonographer

Emory University

www.emory.edu

Atlanta

(404) 727-6123

Anesthesiologist Assistant

Biostatistician

Doctor of Medicine

Environmental Health Specialist

Epidemiologist

Genetic Counselor

Geneticist

Health Educator

Health Informatics Professional

Healthcare Administrator

Industrial Hygienist

Nurse-Midwife

Nurse Practitioner

Physical Therapist

Physician Assistant

Psychologist

Radiologic Technologist

Registered Nurse

Fort Valley State University

www.fvsu.edu

Fort Valley

(478) 825-6211

Counselor

Dietitian

Environmental Health Specialist

Social Worker

Veterinary Technician

Georgia College & State University

www.gcsu.edu

Milledgeville

(478) 445-5004

Art Therapist

Athletic Trainer

Health Educator

Music Therapist

Nurse Practitioner

Registered Nurse

Georgia Highlands College

www.highlands.edu

Rome

(706) 802-5000

Dental Hygienist

Human Services Worker

Registered Nurse

Georgia Institute of Technology

www.gatech.edu

Atlanta

(404) 894-2000

Biomedical Engineer (with Emory University)

Orthotist

Prosthetist

Georgia Perimeter College

www.gpc.edu

Dunwoody

(770) 274-5000

Dental Hygienist

Radiologic Technologist

Registered Nurse

Georgia Regents University

www.gru.edu

Augusta

(706) 721-0211

Biostatistician

Clinical Laboratory Scientist

Clinical Nurse Specialist

Counselor

Dental Hygienist

Dentist

Doctor of Medicine

Health Informatics Professional

Health Information Administrator

Medical Illustrator

Nuclear Medicine Technologist

Nurse Anesthetist

Nurse Practitioner

Occupational Therapist

Physical Therapist

Physician Assistant

Radiation Therapist

Registered Nurse

Respiratory Therapist

Social Worker

Georgia Southern University

www.georgiasouthern.edu

Statesboro

(912) 478-4636

Athletic Trainer

Biostatistician

Counselor

Dietitian

Environmental Health Specialist

Epidemiologist

Health Educator

Healthcare Administrator

Industrial Hygienist

Nurse Educator

Nurse Practitioner

Psychologist

Recreational Therapist

Registered Nurse

Georgia Southwestern State University

www.gsw.edu

Americus

(220) 928-1273

Registered Nurse

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

Georgia State University

www.gsu.edu
Atlanta
(404) 413-2000
Clinical Nurse Specialist
Counselor
Dietitian
Health Educator
Health Informatics Professional
Healthcare Administrator
Medical Interpreter
Nurse Practitioner
Physical Therapist
Psychologist
Registered Nurse
Respiratory Therapist
Social Worker
Speech/Language Pathologist

Gordon State College

www.gdn.edu
Barnesville
(678) 359-5555
Health Information Technician
Registered Nurse

Kennesaw State University

www.kennesaw.edu
Kennesaw
(770) 423-6000
Coder
Forensic Scientist
Human Services Worker
Medical Secretary
Medical Transcriptionist
Nurse Educator
Nurse Practitioner
Nursing Assistant
Pharmacy Technician
Phlebotomist
Registered Nurse
Social Worker

LaGrange College

www.lagrange.edu
LaGrange
(706) 880-8000
Registered Nurse

Life University

www.life.edu
Marietta
(770) 426-2600
Chiropractor
Dietitian

Mercer University

www.mercer.edu
Atlanta
(678) 547-6000
Macon
(478) 301-2700
Savannah
(912) 350-1734
Biomedical Engineer
Clinical Nurse Specialist
Counselor
Doctor of Medicine
Health Educator
Human Services Worker
Nurse Educator
Nurse Practitioner
Pharmacist
Physical Therapist
Physician Assistant
Psychologist
Registered Nurse

Middle Georgia State College

www.mga.edu
Macon
(478) 471-2700
Cochran
(478) 934-6221
Health Information Administrator
Healthcare Administrator
Human Services Worker
Occupational Therapy Assistant
Registered Nurse
Respiratory Therapist

Morehouse School of Medicine

www.msm.edu
Atlanta
(404) 752-1500
Doctor of Medicine

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (Georgia Campus)

www.pcom.edu
Suwanee
(678) 225-7500
Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine
Pharmacist

Piedmont College

www.piedmont.edu
Demorest
(706) 788-3000
Registered Nurse

Richmont Graduate University

www.richmont.edu
Atlanta
(404) 233-3949
Counselor

Savannah State University

www.savannahstate.edu
Savannah
(912) 358-4778
Social Worker

Shorter University

www.shorter.edu
Rome
(706) 291-2121
Human Services Worker
Registered Nurse

South Georgia State College

www.sgsc.edu
Douglas
(912) 260-4211
Registered Nurse

South University

www.southuniversity.edu
Savannah
(912) 201-8000
Anesthesiologist Assistant
Counselor
Healthcare Administrator
Medical Assistant
Pharmacist
Physical Therapist Assistant
Physician Assistant

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

Spelman College

www.spelman.edu
Atlanta
(404) 681-3643
Human Services Worker

Thomas University

www.thomasu.edu
Thomasville
(229) 226-1621
Clinical Laboratory Scientist
Counselor
Nurse Educator
Registered Nurse
Social Worker

University of Georgia

www.uga.edu
Athens
(706) 542-3000
Athletic Trainer
Biostatistician
Counselor
Dietitian
Environmental Health Specialist
Epidemiologist
Geneticist
Health Educator
Healthcare Administrator
Industrial Hygienist
Medical Interpreter
Music Therapist
Pharmacist
Psychologist
Social Worker
Speech/Language Pathologist
Veterinarian

University of North Georgia

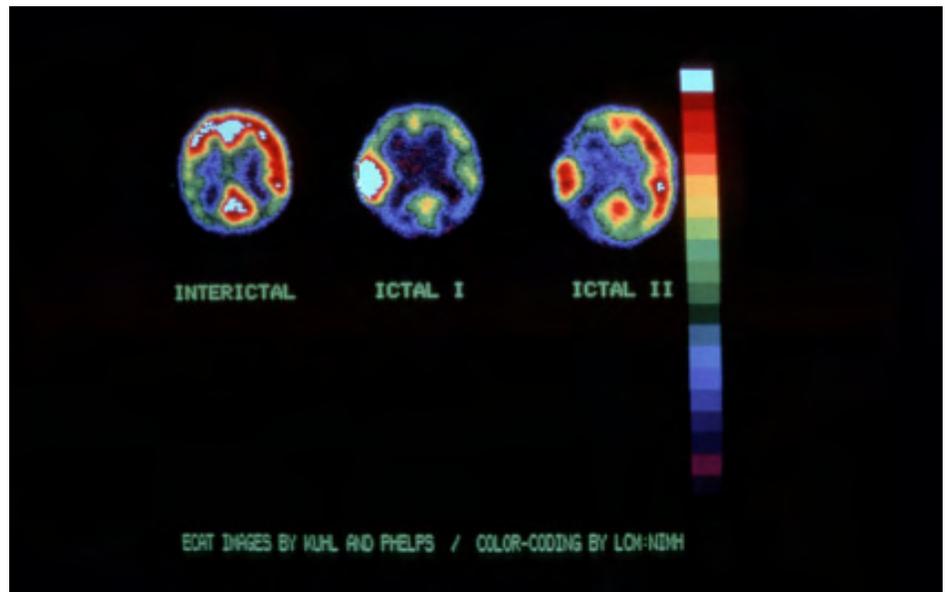
www.ung.edu
Dahlonega
(706) 864-1400
Oakwood
(678) 717-3639
Athletic Trainer
Counselor
Dental Hygienist (with Lanier Technical College)
Human Services Worker
Nurse Educator
Nurse Practitioner
Physical Therapist
Registered Nurse

University of West Georgia

www.westga.edu
Carrollton
(678) 839-5000
Counselor
Nurse Educator
Psychologist
Registered Nurse
Speech/Language Pathologist

Valdosta State University

www.valdosta.edu
Valdosta
(229) 333-5800
Athletic Trainer
Counselor
Dental Hygienist (with Wiregrass Georgia Technical College)
Health Sciences Librarian
Nurse Educator
Nurse Practitioner
Psychologist
Registered Nurse
Social Worker
Speech/Language Pathologist



TECHNICAL COLLEGE PROGRAMS

The following is a list of educational programs that are available in Georgia for the health careers identified in this guide. Many schools have multiple campuses and online programs that increase accessibility to their educational programs. Schools with more than one campus may not offer every program at every campus. Graduation from an accredited program is often required in order to obtain certification, registration or licensure. Ask about the accreditation status of programs in which you are interested.

Albany Technical College

www.albanytech.edu

Albany

(229) 430-3500

Coder

Dental Assistant

Emergency Medical Technician

Health Information Technician

Licensed Practical Nurse

Medical Assistant

Medical Secretary

Paramedic

Pharmacy Technician

Radiologic Technologist

Surgical Technologist

Dental Hygienist

Emergency Medical Technician

Health Information Technician

Licensed Practical Nurse

Medical Assistant

Nursing Assistant

Paramedic

Phlebotomist

Physical Therapist Assistant

Radiologic Technologist

Registered Nurse

Sonographer

Surgical Technologist

Veterinary Technician

Cardiovascular Technologist (with Harry T. Harper, Jr., M.D., School of Cardiac and Vascular Technology)

Coder

Dental Assistant

Emergency Medical Technician

Licensed Practical Nurse

Medical Assistant

Medical Secretary

Medical Transcriptionist

Nursing Assistant

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Pharmacy Technician

Radiologic Technologist

Respiratory Therapist

Surgical Technologist

Altamaha Technical College

www.altamahatech.edu

Jesup Campus (Main)

(912) 427-5800

Baxley Campus

(912) 367-1700

Golden Isle Campus

(912) 280-4000

Coder

Emergency Medical Technician

Licensed Practical Nurse

Medical Assistant

Medical Secretary

Medical Transcriptionist

Nursing Assistant

Paramedic

Atlanta Technical College

www.atlantatech.edu

Atlanta

(404) 225-4400

Coder

Dental Assistant

Dental Hygienist

Emergency Medical Technician

Health Information Technician

Licensed Practical Nurse

Medical Assistant

Medical Transcriptionist

Nursing Assistant

Paramedic

Pharmacy Technician

Phlebotomist

Physical Therapist Assistant

Radiologic Technologist

Surgical Technologist

Central Georgia Technical College

www.centralgatech.edu

Macon Campus (Main)

(478) 757-3400

Milledgeville Campus

(478) 445-2300

Cardiovascular Technologist

Clinical Laboratory Technician

Coder

Dental Hygienist

Emergency Medical Technician

Licensed Practical Nurse

Medical Assistant

Medical Secretary

Medical Transcriptionist

Nursing Assistant

Paramedic

Pharmacy Technician

Phlebotomist

Polysomnographic Technologist

Radiologic Technologist

Surgical Technologist

Athens Technical College

www.athenstech.edu

Athens Campus (Main)

(706) 355-5038

Elbert County Campus

(706) 213-2100

Greene County Campus

(706) 453-7435

Walton County Campus

(770) 207-4080

Dental Assistant

Augusta Technical College

www.augustatech.edu

Augusta Campus (Main)

(706) 771-4000

Thomson Campus

(706) 595-0166

Waynesboro Campus

(706) 437-6801

TECHNICAL COLLEGE PROGRAMS

Chattahoochee Technical College

www.chattahoocheetech.edu

Appalachian Campus
(706) 253-4500
Austell Campus
(770) 732-5900
Canton Campus
(770) 345-0172
Marietta Campus
(770) 528-4545
North Metro Campus
(770) 975-4000
Paulding Campus
(770) 443-3600
Biomedical Equipment Technician
Clinical Laboratory Technician
Coder
Emergency Medical Technician
Health Information Technician
Licensed Practical Nurse
Medical Assistant
Medical Secretary
Nursing Assistant
Occupational Therapy Assistant
Paramedic
Physical Therapist Assistant
Radiologic Technologist
Registered Nurse
Surgical Technologist

Columbus Technical College

www.columbustech.org

Columbus
(706) 649-1800
Coder
Dental Assistant
Dental Hygienist
Licensed Practical Nurse
Medical Assistant
Medical Secretary
Nursing Assistant
Pharmacy Technician
Phlebotomist
Radiologic Technologist
Registered Nurse
Respiratory Therapist
Sonographer
Surgical Technologist

Georgia Northwestern Technical College

www.gntc.edu

Floyd County Campus (Main)
(706) 295-6963
Gordon County Campus
(706) 624-1100
Polk County Campus
(706) 684-5696
Walker County Campus
(706) 764-3510
Cardiovascular Technologist
Coder
Dental Assistant
Emergency Medical Technician
Health Information Technician
Licensed Practical Nurse
Massage Therapist
Medical Assistant
Medical Secretary
Medical Transcriptionist
Nursing Assistant
Occupational Therapy Assistant
Paramedic
Pharmacy Technician
Phlebotomist
Radiation Therapist
Radiologic Technologist
Registered Nurse
Respiratory Therapist
Sonographer
Surgical Technologist

Georgia Piedmont Technical College

www.gptc.edu

DeKalb Campus
(404) 297-9522
Newton Campus
(404) 297-9522
Clinical Laboratory Technician
Emergency Medical Technician
Licensed Practical Nurse
Medical Assistant
Nursing Assistant
Paramedic
Phlebotomist

Gwinnett Technical College

www.gwinnettech.edu

Lawrenceville
(770) 962-7580
Cardiovascular Technologist
Coder
Dental Assistant
Emergency Medical Technician
Health Information Technician
Medical Assistant
Medical Secretary
Nursing Assistant
Paramedic
Polysomnographic Technologist
Radiologic Technologist
Registered Nurse
Respiratory Therapist
Sonographer
Surgical Technologist
Veterinary Technician

Lanier Technical College

www.laniertech.edu

Oakwood Campus (Main)
(770) 531-6300
Dawson Campus
(706) 216-5461
Forsyth Campus
(770) 781-6800
Jackson Campus
(706) 335-1931
Winder-Barrow Campus
(770) 868-4080
Clinical Laboratory Technician
Coder
Dental Assistant
Dental Hygienist (with University of North Georgia)
Emergency Medical Technician
Licensed Practical Nurse
Medical Assistant
Medical Secretary
Nursing Assistant
Paramedic
Pharmacy Technician
Phlebotomist
Radiologic Technologist
Surgical Technologist

TECHNICAL COLLEGE PROGRAMS

Moultrie Technical College

www.moultrietech.edu
Moultrie Campus (Main)
(229) 891-7000
Tifton Campus
(229) 391-2600
Coder
Emergency Medical Technician
Licensed Practical Nurse
Massage Therapist
Medical Assistant
Medical Secretary
Medical Transcriptionist
Nursing Assistant
Radiologic Technologist
Surgical Technologist

North Georgia Technical College

www.northgatech.edu
Clarksville Campus (Main)
(706) 754-7700
Blairsville Campus
(706) 439-6300
Currahee Campus
(706) 779-8100
Clinical Laboratory Technician
Coder
Emergency Medical Technician
Licensed Practical Nurse
Medical Assistant
Medical Secretary
Pharmacy Technician

Oconee Fall Line Technical College

www.oftc.edu
North Campus (Sandersville)
(478) 553-2050
South Campus (Dublin)
(478) 275-6589
Emergency Medical Technician
Health Information Technician
Licensed Practical Nurse
Medical Assistant
Medical Secretary
Nursing Assistant
Paramedic
Pharmacy Technician
Radiologic Technologist
Respiratory Therapist

Ogeechee Technical College

www.ogeecheetech.edu
Statesboro
(912) 681-5500
Coder
Dental Assistant
Emergency Medical Technician
Forensic Scientist
Health Information Technician
Licensed Practical Nurse
Medical Assistant
Medical Secretary
Nursing Assistant
Optician
Paramedic
Pharmacy Technician
Phlebotomist
Radiologic Technologist
Sonographer
Surgical Technologist
Veterinary Technician

Okefenokee Technical College

www.okefenokeetech.edu
Waycross Campus (Main)
(912) 287-6584
Alma Campus
(912) 632-0951
Biomedical Equipment Technician
Clinical Laboratory Technician
Emergency Medical Technician
Health Information Technician
Licensed Practical Nurse
Medical Assistant
Nursing Assistant
Paramedic
Phlebotomist
Radiologic Technologist
Respiratory Therapist
Surgical Technologist

Savannah Technical College

www.savannahtech.edu
Savannah Campus (Main)
(912) 443-5700
Effingham Campus
(912) 754-2880
Fort Stewart Campus
(912) 408-2430
Liberty Campus
(912) 408-3024

Coder
Dental Assistant
Emergency Medical Technician
Licensed Practical Nurse
Medical Assistant
Medical Secretary
Nursing Assistant
Paramedic
Phlebotomist
Surgical Technologist

South Georgia Technical College

www.southgatech.edu
Americus Campus (Main)
(229) 931-2394
Crisp County Campus
(229) 271-4040
Coder
Emergency Medical Technician
Licensed Practical Nurse
Medical Assistant
Medical Secretary
Phlebotomist

Southeastern Technical College

www.southeasterntech.edu
Swainsboro Campus
(478) 289-2200
Vidalia Campus
(912) 538-3100
Clinical Laboratory Technician
Coder
Dental Hygienist
Emergency Medical Technician
Licensed Practical Nurse
Medical Assistant
Medical Secretary
Nursing Assistant
Paramedic
Pharmacy Technician
Phlebotomist
Radiologic Technologist
Surgical Technologist

TECHNICAL COLLEGE PROGRAMS

Southern Crescent Technical College

www.sctech.edu

Flint River Campus (Thomaston)

(706) 646-6148

Griffin Campus

(770) 228-7348

Coder

Dental Assistant

Emergency Medical Technician

Forensic Scientist

Health Information Technician

Licensed Practical Nurse

Medical Assistant

Nursing Assistant

Paramedic

Pharmacy Technician

Phlebotomist

Polysomnographic Technologist

Radiologic Technologist

Respiratory Therapist

Surgical Technologist

Southwest Georgia Technical College

www.southwestgatech.edu

Thomasville Campus (Main)

(229) 225-4096

Grady County Campus

(229) 378-2901

Biomedical Equipment Technician

Clinical Laboratory Technician

Coder

Emergency Medical Technician

Health Information Technician

Licensed Practical Nurse

Medical Assistant

Medical Secretary

Medical Transcriptionist

Paramedic

Pharmacy Technician

Phlebotomist

Radiologic Technologist

Registered Nurse

Respiratory Therapist

Surgical Technologist

Veterinary Technician

West Georgia Technical College

www.westgatech.edu

Carroll Campus

(770) 836-6800

Coweta Campus

(770) 755-7440

Douglas Campus

(770) 947-7200

LaGrange Campus

(706) 845-4323

Murphy Campus

(770) 537-6000

Clinical Laboratory Technician

Coder

Dental Assistant

Dental Hygienist

Emergency Medical Technician

Health Information Technician

Licensed Practical Nurse

Massage Therapist

Medical Assistant

Medical Secretary

Medical Transcriptionist

Nursing Assistant

Phlebotomist

Radiologic Technologist

Registered Nurse

Surgical Technologist

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

www.wiregrass.edu

Valdosta Campus

(229) 333-2100

Ben-Hill Irwin Campus (Fitzgerald)

(229) 468-2000

Coffee County Campus

(912) 389-4303

Clinical Laboratory Technician

Coder

Dental Assistant

Dental Hygienist (with Valdosta State University)

Emergency Medical Technician

Health Information Technician

Licensed Practical Nurse

Medical Assistant

Medical Secretary

Medical Transcriptionist

Nursing Assistant

Optician

Paramedic

Pharmacy Technician

Phlebotomist

Radiologic Technologist

Surgical Technologist



HOSPITAL-BASED & PROPRIETARY SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The following is a list of educational programs for the health careers identified in this guide that are offered through Georgia hospitals and proprietary schools. Some proprietary schools offer online programs that increase accessibility to their educational programs. Only proprietary schools that are authorized by the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission and accredited by an agency recognized by the US Department of Education are included in this directory. The schools that follow are accredited by one or more of the following agencies: Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology, Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools, Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools, Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training, and Council on Occupational Education.

HOSPITAL-BASED PROGRAMS

DeKalb Medical Center

www.dekalbmedical.org
Decatur
(404) 501-5307
Radiologic Technologist

Grady Health System

www.gradyhealthsystem.org
Atlanta
(404) 616-3610
Radiation Therapist (applicant must be a
Radiologic Technologist)
Radiologic Technologist
Sonographer

University Health Care System

www.universityhealth.org
Augusta
(706) 774-5010
Radiologic Technologist

PROPRIETARY SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Academy of Somatic Healing Arts

www.ashamassage.com
Norcross
(770) 368-2661
Massage Therapist

Albany Therapeutic Massage Program

www.albanytmc.com
Albany
(229) 435-9008
Massage Therapist

American Professional Institute

www.api.edu
Decatur
(404) 371-3338
Duluth
(678) 473-7820
Gainesville
(770) 297-8080
Macon
(478) 314-4444
Milledgeville
(478) 452-3900
Coder
Massage Therapist
Medical Assistant
Nursing Assistant
Pharmacy Technician
Surgical Technologist

Atlanta Beauty and Barber Academy

www.atlantabeautyacademy.com
Atlanta
(770) 449-1741
Massage Therapist

Atlanta School of Massage

www.atlantaschoolofmassage.com
Atlanta
(770) 454-7167
Massage Therapist

Augusta School of Massage

www.augustamassage.com
Evans
(706) 863-4799
Massage Therapist

Brown Mackie College

www.brownmackie.edu/atlanta
Atlanta
(404) 799-4500
Medical Assistant
Occupational Therapy Assistant
Pharmacy Technician
Surgical Technologist

DeVry University

www.devry.edu
Alpharetta
(770) 619-3600
Cobb Galleria
(770) 916-3704
Decatur
(404) 270-2700
Perimeter
(404) 236-1310
Stockbridge
(678) 284-4700
Health Informatics Professional
Health Information Technician
Healthcare Administrator

HOSPITAL-BASED & PROPRIETARY SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Everest Institute

www.everest.edu

Atlanta

(678) 500-3400

Jonesboro

(770) 603-0000

Marietta

(770) 303-7997

Norcross

(770) 921-1085

Coder

Dental Assistant

Massage Therapist

Medical Assistant

Medical Secretary

Nursing Assistant

Pharmacy Technician

Surgical Technologist

Georgia Career Institute

www.gci.com

Conyers

(770) 922-7653

Massage Therapist

Georgia Massage Institute

www.gamassageinstitute@yahoo.com

Winder

(770) 307-0873

Massage Therapist

Gwinnett College

www.gwinnettcollege.com

Lilburn

(770) 381-7200

Sandy Springs

(877) 527-3504

Massage Therapist

Medical Assistant

Medical Secretary

Herzing University

www.herzing.edu

Atlanta

(404) 816-4533

Coder

Health Information Administrator

Healthcare Administrator

International School of Skin, Nailcare and Massage Therapy

www.issnschoolspa.com

Atlanta

(404) 843-1005

Massage Therapist

Laurus Technical Institute

www.laurus.edu

Decatur

(404) 303-2929

Coder

Medical Assistant

Medical Secretary

Lincoln College of Technology

www.lincolnedu.com

Marietta

(770) 226-0056

Coder

Medical Assistant

Sanford-Brown College

www.sanfordbrown.edu

Atlanta

(888) 740-1333

Cardiovascular Technologist

Coder

Massage Therapist

Medical Assistant

Sonographer

Savannah School of Massage Therapy

www.ssomt.com

Savannah

(912) 355-3011

Massage Therapist

Touch for Healing

www.touchforhealing.net

Jasper

(706) 792-0255

Massage Therapist

Westwood College

www.westwood.edu

Atlanta Midtown

(800) 613-4595

Atlanta Northlake

(866) 821-6145

Health Information Technician

Healthcare Administrator

Medical Assistant

Medical Secretary



HOSPITALS IN GEORGIA

Anchor Hospital

Atlanta
(770) 991-6044
www.anchorhospital.com

Appling HealthCare System

Baxley
(912) 367-9841
www.appling-hospital.org

Archbold Memorial Hospital (John D.)

Thomasville
(229) 228-2000
www.archbold.org

Athens Regional Medical Center

Athens
(706) 475-7000
www.armc.org

Atlanta Medical Center

Atlanta
(404) 265-4000
www.atlantamedcenter.com

Atlanta VA Medical Center

Decatur
(404) 321-6111
www.atlanta.va.gov

Bacon County Hospital and Health System

Alma
(912) 632-8961
www.baconcountyhospital.com

Barrow Regional Medical Center

Winder
(770) 867-3400
www.barrowregional.com

Berrien County Hospital

Nashville
(229) 543-7100
www.berrienhospital.com

Bleckley Memorial Hospital

Cochran
(478) 934-6211

The Bradley Center

Columbus
(706) 320-3770
www.sfhga.com/the-bradley-center

Brooks County Hospital

Quitman
(229) 263-4171
www.archbold.org

Burke Medical Center

Waynesboro
(706) 554-4435
www.burkemedical.net

Calhoun Memorial Hospital

Arlington
(229) 725-4272
www.haac-ga.com

Candler County Hospital

Metter
(912) 685-5741
www.candlercohospital.com

Candler Hospital

Savannah
(912) 819-6000
www.sjchs.org

Carl Vinson VA Medical Center

Dublin
(478) 272-1210
www.dublin.va.gov

Cartersville Medical Center

Cartersville
(770) 382-1530
www.cartersvillemedical.com

Central Georgia Rehabilitation Center

Macon
(478) 201-6500
www.centralgarehab.com

Central State Hospital

Milledgeville
(478) 445-4128
www.centralstatehospital.org

Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center

Augusta
(706) 733-0188
www.augusta.va.gov

Charlton Memorial Hospital

Folkston
(912) 496-2531

Chatuge Regional Hospital

Hiawassee
(706) 896-2222
www.chatugeregionalhospital.org

Chestatee Regional Hospital

Dahlonega
(706) 864-6136
www.chestateeregionalhospital.com

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston

Atlanta
(404) 785-6000
www.choa.org

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Hughes Spalding

Atlanta
(404) 785-9500
www.choa.org

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Scottish Rite

Atlanta
(404) 785-5252
www.choa.org

Children's Hospital of Georgia

Augusta
(706) 721-5437
www.mcghealth.org

Clearview Regional Medical Center

Monroe
(770) 267-8461
www.clearviewregionalmedicalcenter.com

Clinch Memorial Hospital

Homerville
(912) 487-5211
www.sgmc.org

Coastal Harbor Treatment Center

Savannah
(912) 354-3911
www.coastalharbor.com

Cobb Memorial Hospital

Royston
(706) 245-5071
www.tycobbhealthcare.com

HOSPITALS IN GEORGIA

Coffee Regional Medical Center

Douglas
(912) 384-1900
www.coffeeregional.org

Coliseum Center for Behavioral Health

Macon
(478) 741-1355
www.coliseumhealthsystem.com

Coliseum Medical Centers

Macon
(478) 765-7000
www.coliseumhealthsystem.com

Coliseum Northside Hospital

Macon
(478) 757-8200
www.coliseumhealthsystem.com

Colquitt Regional Medical Center

Moultrie
(229) 985-3420
www.colquittregional.com

Columbus Specialty Hospital

Columbus
(706) 321-6712
www.columbusspecialtyhospital.net

Crescent Pines Hospital

Stockbridge
(770) 474-8888
www.crescentpineshospital.com

Crisp Regional Hospital

Cordele
(229) 276-3100
www.crispregional.org

DeKalb Medical at Downtown Decatur

Decatur
(404) 501-6260
www.dekalbmedical.org

DeKalb Medical at Hillandale

Lithonia
(404) 501-8000
www.dekalbmedical.org

DeKalb Medical at North Decatur

Decatur
(404) 501-1000
www.dekalbmedical.org

Devereux Georgia Treatment Network

Kennesaw
(770) 427-0147
www.devereuxga.org

Doctors Hospital of Augusta

Augusta
(706) 651-3232
www.doctors-hospital.net

Doctors Hospital of Columbus

Columbus
(706) 494-4262
www.columbusregional.com

Dodge County Hospital

Eastman
(478) 448-4000
www.dodgecountyhospital.com

Donalsonville Hospital

Donalsonville
(229) 524-5217
www.donalsonvillehospital.org

Dorminy Medical Center

Fitzgerald
(229) 424-7100
www.dorminymedical.org

East Central Regional Hospital Augusta Campus

Augusta
(706) 792-7000
www.echr.dhr.state.ga.us

East Central Regional Hospital Gracewood Campus

Gracewood
(706) 792-7000
www.echr.dhr.state.ga.us

East Georgia Regional Medical Center

Statesboro
(912) 486-1000
www.eastgeorgiaregional.com

Eastside Medical Center

Snellville
(770) 979-0200
www.eastsidemedical.com

Effingham Health System

Springfield
(912) 754-6451
www.effinghamhealth.org

Eisenhower Army Medical Center

Fort Gordon
(706) 787-5811
www.ddeamc.amedd.army.mil

Elbert Memorial Hospital

Elberton
(706) 283-3151
www.emhcare.net

Emanuel Medical Center

Swainsboro
(478) 289-1100
www.emanuelmedical.org

Emory-Adventist Hospital at Smyrna

Smyrna
(770) 434-0710
www.emoryadventist.org

Emory Johns Creek Hospital

Johns Creek
(678) 474-7000
www.emoryjohnscreek.com

Emory University Hospital

Atlanta
(404) 712-2000
www.emoryhealthcare.org

Emory University Hospital Midtown

Atlanta
(404) 686-4411
www.emoryhealthcare.org

Emory University Orthopedics and Spine Hospital

Tucker
(404) 251-3000
www.emoryhealthcare.org

HOSPITALS IN GEORGIA

Evans Memorial Hospital

Claxton
(912) 739-2611
www.evansmemorial.org

Fairview Park Hospital

Dublin
(478) 275-2000
www.fairviewparkhospital.com

Fannin Regional Hospital

Blue Ridge
(706) 632-3711
www.fanninregionalthospital.com

Flint River Hospital

Montezuma
(478) 472-3100
www.flintriverhospital.com

Floyd Medical Center

Rome
(706) 509-5000
www.floyd.org

Georgia Regents Medical Center

Augusta
(706) 721-2273
www.mcghhealth.org

Georgia Regional Hospital at Atlanta

Decatur
(404) 243-2100
www.dbhdd.georgia.gov

Georgia Regional Hospital at Savannah

Savannah
(912) 356-2011
www.garegionalsavannah.com

Gordon Hospital

Calhoun
(706) 629-2895
www.gordonhospital.com

Grady General Hospital

Cairo
(229) 377-1150
www.archbold.org

Grady Memorial Hospital

Atlanta
(404) 616-1000
www.gradyhealth.org

Greenleaf Center

Valdosta
(229) 247-4357
www.greenleafcounseling.net

Gwinnett Medical Center – Duluth

Duluth
(678) 312-6800
www.gwinnettmedicalcenter.org

Gwinnett Medical Center – Lawrenceville

Lawrenceville
(678) 312-1000
www.gwinnettmedicalcenter.org

Habersham Medical Center

Demorest
(706) 754-2161
www.habershammedical.com

Hamilton Medical Center

Dalton
(706) 272-6000
www.hamiltonhealth.com

Hart County Hospital

Hartwell
(706) 856-6900
www.tycobbhealthcare.com

Higgins General Hospital

Bremen
(770) 824-2000
www.tanner.org

Hillside Hospital

Atlanta
(404) 875-4551
www.hside.org

Houston Medical Center

Warner Robins
(478) 922-4281
www.hhc.org

Hughston Hospital

Columbus
(706) 494-2100
www.columbusregional.com

Hutcheson Medical Center

Fort Oglethorpe
(706) 858-2000
www.hutcheson.org

Irwin County Hospital

Ocilla
(229) 468-3800
www.irwincntyhospital.com

Jasper Memorial Hospital

Monticello
(706) 468-6411
www.jaspermemorialhospital.org

Jeff Davis Hospital

Hazlehurst
(912) 375-7781
www.jeffdavishospital.org

Jefferson Hospital

Louisville
(478) 625-7000
www.jeffersonhosp.com

Kindred Hospital - Atlanta

Atlanta
(404) 873-2871
www.kindredatlanta.com

Laurel Heights Hospital

Atlanta
(404) 888-7860
www.laurelheightshospital.com

Liberty Regional Medical Center

Hinesville
(912) 369-9400
www.libertyregional.org

Lighthouse Care Center of Augusta

Augusta
(706) 651-0005
www.lighthousecarecenters.com

Louis Smith Memorial Hospital

Lakeland
(229) 482-8440
www.sgmc.org

Lower Oconee Community Hospital

Glenwood
(912) 523-5113
www.lochosp.org

Martin Army Community Hospital

Fort Benning
(706) 544-2273
www.martin.amedd.army.mil

HOSPITALS IN GEORGIA

Mayo Clinic Health System in Waycross

Waycross
(912) 283-3030
www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org

McDuffie Regional Medical Center

Thomson
(706) 595-1411
www.mrmc.org

Meadows Regional Medical Center

Vidalia
(912) 535-5555
www.meadowsregional.org

The Medical Center

Columbus
(706) 571-1000
www.columbusregional.com

Medical Center of Central Georgia

Macon
(478) 633-1000
www.mccg.org

Memorial Hospital and Manor

Bainbridge
(229) 246-3500
www.mh-m.org

Memorial Hospital of Adel

Adel
(229) 896-8000
www.memorialofadel.com

Memorial University Medical Center

Savannah
(912) 350-8000
www.memorialhealth.com

Miller County Hospital

Colquitt
(229) 758-3385
www.millercountyhospital.com

Mitchell County Hospital

Camilla
(229) 336-5284
www.archbold.org

Monroe County Hospital

Forsyth
(478) 994-2521
www.monroehospital.org

Morgan Memorial Hospital

Madison
(706) 342-1667
www.mmh.org

Mountain Lakes Medical Center

Clayton
(706) 782-3100
www.mountainlakesmedicalcenter.com

Murray Medical Center

Chatsworth
(706) 695-4564
www.murraymedical.org

Newton Medical Center

Covington
(770) 786-7053
www.newtonmedical.com

North Fulton Hospital

Roswell
(770) 751-2500
www.nfultonhospital.com

North Georgia Medical Center

Ellijay
(706) 276-4741
www.northgeorgiamedicalcenter.com

Northeast Georgia Medical Center

Gainesville
(770) 219-9000
www.nghs.com

Northridge Medical Center

Commerce
(706) 335-1000
www.northridgemc.com

Northside Hospital - Atlanta

Atlanta
(404) 851-8000
www.northside.com

Northside Hospital - Cherokee

Canton
(770) 720-5100
www.northside.com

Northside Hospital - Forsyth

Cumming
(770) 844-3200
www.northside.com

Oconee Regional Medical Center

Milledgeville
(478) 454-3505
www.oconeeregional.com

Optim Medical Center-Jenkins

Millen
(478) 982-4221
www.orthocentersav.com

Optim Medical Center-Screven

Sylvania
(912) 564-7426
www.orthocentersav.com

Optim Medical Center-Tattnall

Reidsville
(912) 557-1000
www.orthocentersav.com

Peach Regional Medical Center

Fort Valley
(478) 825-8691
www.peachregional.org

Peachford Hospital

Atlanta
(770) 455-3200
www.peachford.com

Perry Hospital

Perry
(478) 987-3600
www.hhc.org

Phoebe North

Albany
(229) 434-2000
www.phoebeputney.com

Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital

Albany
(229) 312-1000
www.phoebeputney.com

Phoebe Sumter Medical Center

Americus
(229) 924-6011
www.phoebesumter.org

Phoebe Worth Medical Center

Sylvester
(229) 776-6961
www.phoebeputney.com

HOSPITALS IN GEORGIA

Piedmont Fayette Hospital

Fayetteville
(770) 719-7000
www.piedmontfayette.org

Piedmont Henry Hospital

Stockbridge
(678) 604-1000
www.piedmonthenry.org

Piedmont Hospital

Atlanta
(404) 605-5000
www.piedmonthospital.org

Piedmont Mountainside Hospital

Jasper
(706) 692-2441
www.piedmontmountainsidehospital.org

Piedmont Newnan Hospital

Newnan
(770) 400-1000
www.piedmont.org

Pioneer Community Hospital of Early

Blakely
(229) 723-4241
www.pcheearly.com

Polk Medical Center

Cedartown
(770) 748-2500
www.polkhospital.org

Putnam General Hospital

Eatonton
(706) 485-2711
www.putnamgeneral.com

Redmond Regional Medical Center

Rome
(706) 291-0291
www.redmondregional.com

Ridgeview Institute

Smyrna
(770) 434-4567
www.ridgeviewinstitute.com

Rockdale Medical Center

Conyers
(770) 918-3000
www.rockdalemedicalcenter.org

Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation

Warm Springs
(706) 655-5000
www.rooseveltrehab.org

St. Francis Hospital

Columbus
(706) 596-4000
www.sfhga.com

St. Joseph's Hospital

Savannah
(912) 819-4100
www.sjchs.org

St. Joseph's Hospital of Atlanta

Atlanta
(678) 843-7001
www.stjosephsatlanta.org

St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital

Greensboro
(706) 453-7331
www.stmarysgoodsam.org

St. Mary's Health Care System

Athens
(706) 389-3000
www.stmarysathens.com

St. Simons By-The-Sea Hospital

St. Simons Island
(912) 638-1999
www.ssbythesea.com

Select Specialty Hospital - Atlanta

Atlanta
(404) 686-2270
www.selectspecialtyhospitals.com

Select Specialty Hospital - Augusta

Augusta
(706) 731-1200
www.selectspecialtyhospitals.com

Select Specialty Hospital - Savannah

Savannah
(912) 819-7972
www.selectspecialtyhospitals.com

Shepherd Center

Atlanta
(404) 352-2020
www.shepherd.org

SMITH Northview Hospital

Valdosta
(229) 671-2000
www.smithhospital.com

South Fulton Medical Center

East Point
(404) 466-1170
www.southfultonmedicalcenter.com

South Georgia Medical Center

Valdosta
(229) 333-1000
www.sgmc.org

Southeast Georgia Health System Brunswick Campus

Brunswick
(912) 466-7000
www.sghs.org

Southeast Georgia Health System Camden Campus

St. Marys
(912) 576-6200
www.sghs.org

Southern Regional Medical Center

Riverdale
(770) 991-8000
www.southernregional.org

Southwest Georgia Regional Medical Center

Cuthbert
(229) 732-2181
www.phoebeputney.com

Southwestern State Hospital

Thomasville
(229) 227-3020
www.swsh.org

Spalding Regional Medical Center

Griffin
(770) 228-2721
www.spaldingregional.com

Stephens County Hospital

Toccoa
(706) 282-4200
www.stephenscountyhospital.com

HOSPITALS IN GEORGIA

Stewart-Webster Hospital

Richland
(229) 887-3366

SummitRidge Hospital

Lawrenceville
(678) 442-5800
www.summitridgehospital.net

Sylvan Grove Hospital

Jackson
(770) 775-7861
www.sylvangrovehospital.com

Talbott Recovery

Atlanta
(770) 994-0185
www.talbottcampus.com

Tanner Medical Center-Carrollton

Carrollton
(770) 836-9666
www.tanner.org

Tanner Medical Center-Villa Rica

Villa Rica
(770) 456-3000
www.tanner.org

Taylor Regional Hospital

Hawkinsville
(478) 783-0200
www.taylorregional.org

Tift Regional Medical Center

Tifton
(229) 382-7120
www.tiftregional.com

Trinity Hospital of Augusta

Augusta
(706) 481-7000
www.trinityofaugusta.com

Turning Point Hospital

Moultrie
(229) 985-4815
www.turningpointcare.com

Union General Hospital

Blairsville
(706) 745-2111
www.uniongeneralhospital.com

University Hospital

Augusta
(706) 722-9011
www.universityhealth.org

Upson Regional Medical Center

Thomaston
(706) 647-8111
www.urmc.org

Walton Rehabilitation Hospital

Augusta
(706) 724-7746
www.wrh.org

Warm Springs Medical Center

Warm Springs
(706) 655-3331
www.warmspringsmc.org

Washington County Regional Medical Center

Sandersville
(478) 240-2000
www.wcrmc.com

Wayne Memorial Hospital

Jesup
(912) 427-6811
www.wmhweb.com

WellStar Cobb Hospital

Austell
(770) 732-4000
www.wellstar.org

WellStar Douglas Hospital

Douglasville
(770) 949-1500
www.wellstar.org

WellStar Kennestone Hospital

Marietta
(770) 793-5000
www.wellstar.org

WellStar Paulding Hospital

Dallas
(770) 445-4411
www.wellstar.org

WellStar Windy Hill Hospital

Marietta
(770) 644-1000
www.wellstar.org

Wesley Woods Geriatric Hospital

Atlanta
(404) 728-6200
www.emoryhealthcare.org

West Central Georgia Regional Hospital

Columbus
(706) 568-5000
www.wcgrh.org

West Georgia Health

LaGrange
(706) 882-1411
www.wghealth.org

Wildwood Lifestyle Center & Hospital

Wildwood
(706) 820-1493
www.wildwoodsc.org

Willingway Hospital

Statesboro
(800) 242-9455
www.willingway.com

Wills Memorial Hospital

Washington
(706) 678-2151
www.willsmemorialhospital.com

Winn Army Community Hospital

Fort Stewart
(912) 435-6965
www.winn.amedd.army.mil

Youth Villages Inner Harbor Campus

Douglasville
(770) 852-6300
www.youthvillages.org

ALPHABETIZED CAREER LIST

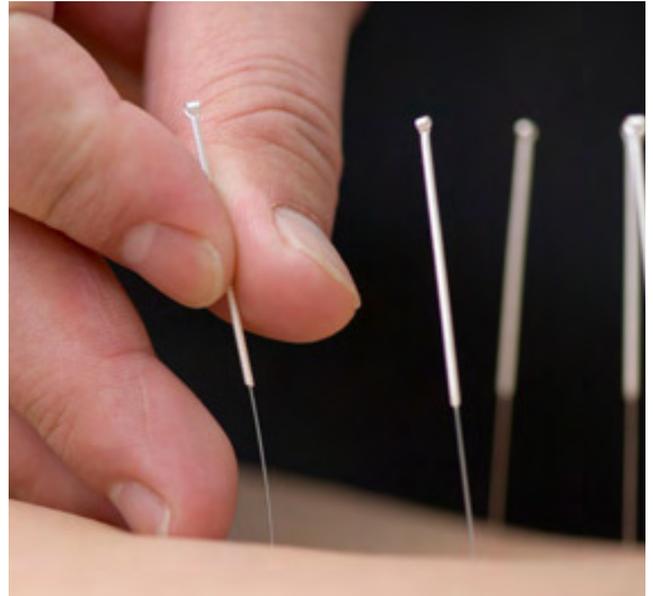
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Athletic Trainer.....	33	Massage Therapist	76
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Biomedical Equipment Technician	36	Medical Interpreter.....	79
Biostatistician	37	Medical Secretary	80
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ACUPUNCTURIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$33,300 or
\$16.00/hour*

Acupuncture is a type of traditional Chinese medicine that has been used for thousands of years to treat conditions such as hypertension, depression, drug dependencies, headaches, and a variety of other health problems. At the core of Chinese medicine is a belief that there is a form of energy circulating in the body, known as Qi, which must be of sufficient quantity and move freely in order for us to be healthy and free of pain. Acupuncturists access this energy from the surface of the body by inserting very fine acupuncture needles into specific points in order to relieve pain, affect organ function and treat disease. In addition, an acupuncturist may use other techniques during treatment such as acupressure, electro-acupuncture, auricular therapy, moxibustion, and cupping. These techniques use finger pressure, electrical impulses, ear points, heat, and suction, respectively, to enhance the therapeutic effect. Acupuncturists may also recommend herbal medicines.



Work Environment

Complementary health centers
Hospice centers
Hospitals
Pain clinics
Private clinics
Public health clinics
Self-employed

Academic Requirements

Admission requirements vary by school, but generally a bachelor's or associate's degree (or 60 semester credits) is required for admission into an acupuncture program. A master's degree is the entry-level degree for this profession. Doctoral programs are also available. Educational programs last three to four years.

Educational Programs

There are currently no programs in Georgia.

Florida

Academy for Five Element Acupuncture
www.acupuncturist.edu

Dragon Rises College of Oriental Medicine
www.dragonrises.edu

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

To be eligible for certification, one must complete a formal accredited education program or one in candidacy status for accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. Applicants are required to complete a Clean Needle Technique course and pass the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) exam. Licensure is required in Georgia through the Georgia Composite Medical Board and leads to the title of Licensed Acupuncturist (LAc.). Physicians who wish to practice acupuncture must be authorized by the Georgia Composite Medical Board after successfully completing acupuncture training.

Professional Organizations

Accreditation Commission for
Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
(301) 313-0855
www.acaom.org

American Association of Acupuncture and
Oriental Medicine
(866) 455-7999
www.aaaomonline.org

Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and
Oriental Medicine
(301) 476-7790
www.ccaom.org

Georgia Composite Medical Board
(404) 656-3913
www.medicalboard.georgia.gov

National Certification Commission for
Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
(904) 598-1005
www.nccaom.org

ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT

STARTING SALARY

*\$127,500 or
\$61.30/hour*

Anesthesiologist assistants work directly under the supervision of a licensed anesthesiologist to provide quality anesthesia care. Unlike nurse anesthetists, anesthesiologist assistants cannot work independently, or under the direction of any physician other than an anesthesiologist. They are trained to administer drugs, obtain vascular access, apply and interpret monitors, establish and maintain the patient's airway, and assist with preoperative assessment. Anesthesiologist assistants are currently allowed to practice in 14 states and another 4 states through physician delegation, but with the growing demand, many other states will likely open their doors to these professionals.



Work Environment

Ambulatory surgical centers
Hospitals
Pain centers

Academic Requirements

Prior to applying to an anesthesiologist assistant program, one must have a bachelor's degree and completed the required pre-medical curriculum. Programs leading to a master's degree last 24 to 28 months and include both classroom and clinical work. Two of the nation's seven anesthesiologist assistant programs are located in Georgia.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required in Georgia and can be obtained through the Georgia Composite Medical Board. Certification is obtained through the National Commission for the Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants and leads to the title Anesthesiologist Assistant-Certified (AA-C).

Professional Organizations

American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants
(804) 565-6353
www.anesthetist.org

American Society of Anesthesiologists
(847) 825-5586
www.asahq.org

National Commission for the Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants
(919) 573-5439
www.aa-nccaa.org

Educational Programs

Master's Degree

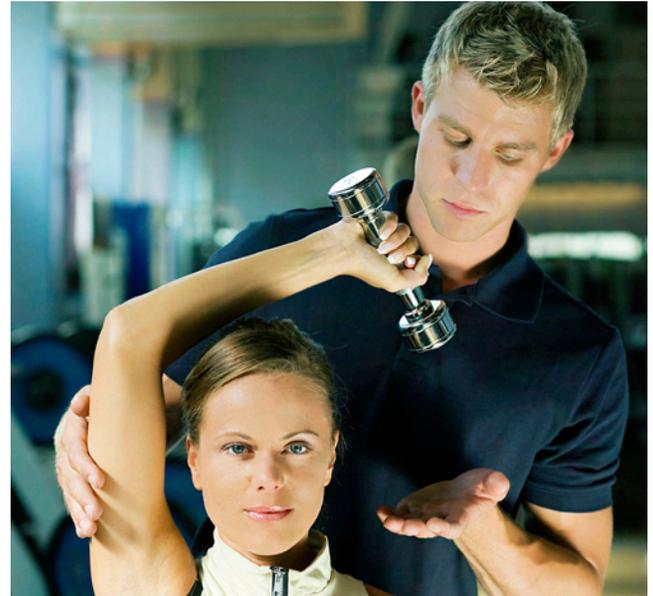
Emory University
South University

ATHLETIC TRAINER

STARTING SALARY

*\$35,553 or
\$17.09/hour*

Athletic trainers are healthcare professionals who collaborate with physicians to optimize the physical activity and participation of patients, clients and athletes. Their duties involve the prevention, evaluation, and intervention of emergency, acute, and chronic medical conditions that happen during physical activity, exercise, or sporting events. To help people prevent injuries, certified athletic trainers screen clients for risk factors and develop conditioning and nutrition programs. They must be knowledgeable about risk management, environmental factors contributing to injury and illness, and protective equipment and safety. When injuries occur, athletic trainers develop and carry out the prescribed treatment and rehabilitation in collaboration with a physician. In addition to a broad knowledge of anatomy, physiology, psychology, pharmacology, nutrition, and conditioning, athletic trainers must be skilled in first aid procedures, CPR, and therapeutic rehabilitation.



Work Environment

Colleges and universities
Corporate health programs
Health clubs
High schools
Hospitals
Industrial medicine
Professional sports teams
Sports medicine clinics

Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree from an accredited athletic training program is the minimum education level for practice in this field, however, more than 70 percent of athletic trainers have a master's degree or higher.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required through the Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers. Certification by the Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer is considered the standard qualification for the practice of athletic training. Only graduates of athletic training programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education are eligible to take the certification exam.

Professional Organizations

Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer
(402) 559-0091
www.bocatc.org

Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education
(512) 733-9700
www.caate.net

Georgia Athletic Trainers' Association, Inc.
www.athletictraining.org

Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/trainer

National Athletic Trainers' Association
(214) 637-6282
www.nata.org

Educational Programs

Bachelor's Degree

Armstrong Atlantic State University
Georgia College & State University
Georgia Southern University
University of Georgia
University of North Georgia
Valdosta State University

Master's Degree

Armstrong Atlantic State University
University of Georgia

Doctoral Degree

University of Georgia

AUDIOLOGIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$54,500 or
\$26.20/hour*

Audiologists work with people of all ages to prevent, diagnose, evaluate, and treat communication disorders. They use equipment such as audiometers and computers to identify and assess the nature and degree of hearing, balance, and related problems and also evaluate the impact of these problems on an individual's daily life. Audiologists work closely with physicians, speech pathologists, educators, and psychologists to make a diagnosis and determine appropriate treatment. Audiologists may perform monitoring during surgical procedures, conduct research, provide hearing conservation and audiology services related to legal issues, serve as a teacher to audiology students, and/or provide services to patients who are candidates for, or recipients of, cochlear implantation. Experts in the non-medical management of hearing and balance problems, audiologists also provide counseling, information regarding communication strategies, and assistance to individuals and their families in their adjustment to hearing and balance problems.



Work Environment

Colleges and universities
Federal, state and local government
Health departments
Hospitals
Industry – hearing conservation programs
Outpatient centers
Physicians' offices
Public and private schools
Rehabilitation centers
Research laboratories
Residential health facilities
Self-employed/private practice
Speech and hearing centers
Veteran's administration health facilities

Academic Requirements

A Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) is the entry-level degree for this profession. Prerequisites for admission to audiology programs vary among universities, so admissions personnel should be consulted. In general, undergraduate coursework in communication disorders and in basic science is considered a good foundation for doctoral study in audiology.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

A license is required in Georgia through the State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. The national credential for audiologists is the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology (CCC-A) awarded by the

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association to those professionals who have met academic and professional standards.

Professional Organizations

American Academy of Audiology
(800) AAA-2336
www.audiology.org

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
(301) 296-5700
www.asha.org

Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association
(561) 477-8100
www.gsha.org

Georgia State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/speech

Educational Programs

There are no programs in Georgia.

Alabama

Auburn University
www.auburn.edu

University of South Alabama
www.southalabama.edu

Florida

University of Florida
www.ufl.edu

Tennessee

East Tennessee State University
www.etsu.edu

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEER

STARTING SALARY

*\$57,500 or
\$27.64/hour*

Biomedical engineers combine their expertise in engineering, biology and medicine to create solutions in the field of medical care and improve healthcare. They analyze and design artificial organs and body parts such as cardiac pacemakers, heart valves, blood vessels, battery-powered artificial limbs, and joints. To design such wonders, they use computers to simulate parts of the human body, much like video games can simulate flight in a plane. They also design surgical lasers, patient monitoring devices, and medical imaging systems including computer assisted tomography (CAT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and positron emission tomography (PET). The work of a biomedical engineer may also include testing new products for safety, advising hospitals on the selection of medical equipment, and working as a member of a research team along with other health professionals. Biomedical engineers work in an exciting field that gives them the opportunity to improve the quality of life for many people.



Areas of Specialization

- Biomechanics
- Biomedical Instrumentation
- Cellular and Biomolecular Engineering
- Clinical Engineering
- Computational Fluid Dynamics
- Integrative Biosystems
- Medical Imaging
- Neuroengineering
- Orthopedic Bioengineering

Work Environment

- Biotechnology companies
- Government regulatory agencies
- Hospitals
- Industry
- Medical device companies
- Pharmaceutical industry
- Research facilities
- Space and undersea programs
- Universities

Academic Requirements

Most biomedical engineers hold bachelor's degrees in biomedical engineering; however, others choose mechanical, electrical, or chemical engineering with a specialty in biomedical engineering. Either choice often requires continued education in master's or doctoral degree programs.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure of biomedical engineers is not required in Georgia. After three years of experience, clinical engineers working in hospitals may choose to be certified by the American College of Clinical Engineering.

Professional Organizations

American College of Clinical Engineering
(610) 825-6067
www.accenet.org

Biomedical Engineering Society
(301) 459-1999
www.bmes.org

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers/Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society
(732) 981-3433
www.embs.org

Educational Programs

Bachelor's Degree

Georgia Institute of Technology
Mercer University

Master's Degree

Mercer University
Georgia Institute of Technology

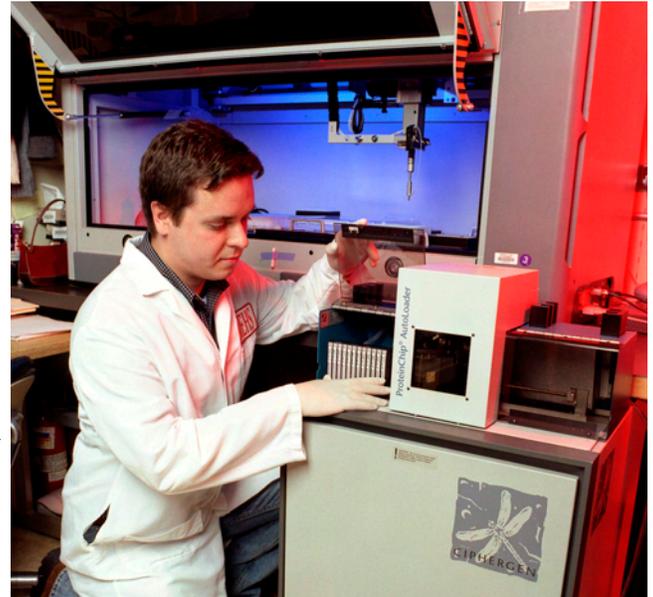
Doctoral Degree

Georgia Institute of Technology
(with Emory University)

BIOMEDICAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN

STARTING SALARY
*\$37,445 or
\$18.00/hour*

Biomedical equipment technicians are specialists in electronic and/or computerized mechanical equipment used to diagnose, clinically analyze, and treat diseases. They install electronic devices and sophisticated diagnostic equipment such as patient monitoring systems, fetal monitoring systems, sterilizers, operating room tables, electrocardiograph machines, and artificial kidney machines. Biomedical technicians also adjust and test equipment for proper operation. Also known as biomedical engineering technicians, they periodically inspect machines, calibrate and repair them when necessary, and make sure they keep an adequate supply of spare parts in inventory. They perform safety inspections on electrical and radiation equipment. Technicians demonstrate the use of equipment for other medical personnel, propose new equipment purchases or modifications, maintain adequate records on service and calibrations, and ensure all regulatory procedures are in compliance.



Work Environment

- Clinics
- Dialysis centers
- Government agencies
- Hospitals
- Industry
- Medical equipment manufacturers
- Medical schools
- Third party independent service organizations

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Biomedical equipment technicians complete one- to three-year programs leading to certificates, diplomas, or associate degrees in biomedical equipment technology, electronics, or an engineering-related field. Four-year bachelor's degrees are offered by some universities and colleges. Some technicians with electronics experience may train on-the-job.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Voluntary certification enhances earnings and may be obtained through the International Certification Commission for Clinical Engineering and Biomedical Technology. The following certifications are available: Certified Biomedical Equipment Technician (CBET), Certified Radiology Equipment Specialist (CRES), and Certified Laboratory Equipment Specialist (CLES).

Professional Organizations

Association for the Advancement of
Medical Instrumentation
(703) 525-4890
www.aami.org

Georgia Biomedical Instrumentation
Society
(229) 228-8015
www.gbisonline.org

Educational Programs

Certificate

Southwest Georgia Technical College

Diploma

Okefenokee Technical College

Associate Degree

Chattahoochee Technical College

BIostatistician

STARTING SALARY
Master's \$61,500 or \$29.57/hour
Doctorate \$86,250 or \$41.47/hour

Bio statisticians use statistical reasoning and methods to pinpoint the cause of disease and injuries and to identify health trends in communities. Biostatisticians work closely with epidemiologists, survey researchers, local community planners, state and national health policy analysts and government officials to solve public health problems. They may analyze such things as the occurrence of gun violence, drunken driving injuries, the efficacy of new drugs, trends in cancer incidence, or morbidity and mortality from specific diseases. Their duties include designing public health studies and clinical trials, analyzing and interpreting statistical results, identifying risk factors associated with various diseases, and creating new statistical methods, models, and software.



Work Environment

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

Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree is required for admission into a graduate program. Programs leading to a Master's of Public Health or Master of Science degree usually take two years to complete. A doctoral degree takes 4 to 6 years and leads to a Doctor of Public Health (DPH) or PhD.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

State licensure is not required in Georgia. No professional certification is required. The American Statistical Association offers statisticians voluntary certification/accreditation for professional recognition.

Professional Organizations

American Public Health Association
(202) 777-APHA
www.apha.org

American Statistical Association
(703) 684-1221
www.amstat.org

International Biometric Society
(202) 712-9049
www.tibs.org

Educational Programs

Master's Degree

- Emory University
- Georgia Regents University
- Georgia Southern University
- University of Georgia

Doctoral Degree

- Emory University
- Georgia Regents University
- Georgia Southern University
- University of Georgia

CARDIOVASCULAR TECHNOLOGIST

STARTING SALARY
Associate's \$47,000 or
\$22.60/hour

Cardiovascular technologists (CVTs) work under the direction of physicians (cardiologists, vascular surgeons, and interventional radiologists) to perform diagnostic tests that determine how well the heart and blood vessels function. They can specialize in invasive and non-invasive procedures. Those who specialize in invasive procedures perform tests that actually go into the body such as heart catheterization. They may also help perform examinations and repair procedures on blood vessels in the brain, neck, abdomen, and extremities. CVTs who specialize in non-invasive procedures use ultrasound waves (sonography) to produce images of the heart's chambers and valves and other non-cardiac vessels throughout the vascular system. Monitoring the heart's condition during exercise with electrocardiography or stress tests is another example of a non-invasive procedure. Technologists who specialize in cardiac electrophysiology assist cardiologists in various procedures used to diagnose and treat patients with cardiac arrhythmias. In addition to performing these complex procedures, CVTs prepare patients for examinations by taking medical histories, drawing blood samples, and explaining procedures.



Areas of Specialization

- Cardiac Electrophysiology
- Invasive Cardiovascular Technology
- Non-invasive Echocardiography
- Non-invasive Vascular Ultrasound

Work Environment

- Clinics
- Hospitals
- Medical centers
- Mobile units
- Physicians' offices

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Most programs require two years of study and award an associate degree. Bachelor level programs are also available.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia at this time. Credentialing for specialty areas is available through Cardiovascular Credentialing International. Non-invasive cardiology professionals can also receive registration through the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonographers. Most employers require registration after one year of work.

Professional Organizations

Alliance of Cardiovascular Professionals
(804) 632-0078
www.acp-online.org

Cardiovascular Credentialing International
(800) 326-0268
www.cci-online.org

Joint Review Committee on Education in
Cardiovascular Technology
(214) 206-3117
www.jrccvt.org

Educational Programs

Associate Degree

- Augusta Technical College (with Harry T. Harper, Jr., M.D., School of Cardiac and Vascular Technology)
- Central Georgia Technical College
- Darton State College
- Georgia Northwestern Technical College
- Gwinnett Technical College
- Sanford-Brown College

Bachelor's Degree

- Armstrong Atlantic State University

CHIROPRACTOR

STARTING SALARY

*\$48,000 or
\$23.08/hour*

Chiropractors, or Doctors of Chiropractic (DC), serve as primary healthcare providers and wellness partners by providing a whole-body approach to patient care. They do this by focusing care on the central nervous system (brain, spinal cord and nerves) which controls and coordinates every function in the body. When the nervous system is functioning properly, the body is better able to adapt and overcome physical stresses (like a virus or trauma), emotional stresses (like depression), and chemical stresses (like allergies). Chiropractors use tools such as medical histories, physical and neurological examinations, laboratory tests and x-rays to help them create comprehensive care plans. At the core of the care plan is the chiropractic adjustment. During an adjustment, a DC uses his or her hands or specialized instruments to realign bones and tissues in the spine and other joints, allowing the nervous system to function properly. Chiropractic care plans often include counseling on the topics of nutrition, fitness and stress management, and may also include alternative therapies using water, light, ultrasound, heat or cold. They do not prescribe medications, perform surgery or use radiation to treat patients. Most practicing chiropractors own or co-own their practices.



Areas of Specialization

- Geriatrics
- Neurology
- Orthopedics
- Pediatrics
- Prenatal
- Sports/Athletics

Work Environment

- Athletics
- Chiropractic schools
- Military
- Private practice
- Wellness organizations

Educational Programs

Doctoral Degree
Life University

Academic Requirements

All chiropractic schools require applicants to have completed specific prerequisites in the biological sciences. Some require a bachelor's degree in a related field. Chiropractic programs entail three to four years of rigorous study and practice. Students may choose elective tracks in specialty areas such as pediatrics, orthopedics, nutrition, sports injuries, neurology and occupational health as a part of their curriculum or in post-graduate studies.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

To practice in Georgia, chiropractors must graduate from an accredited chiropractic school and pass all parts of the National Board Examination. Licensure is available through the Georgia Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

Professional Organizations

- American Chiropractic Association
(703) 276-8800
www.acatoday.org
- Georgia Board of Chiropractic Examiners
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/chiro
- Georgia Chiropractic Association
(770) 723-1100
www.gachiro.org
- Georgia Council of Chiropractic
(678) 667-4567
www.georgiachiropractic.org
- International Chiropractors Association
(800) 423-4690
www.chiropractic.org

CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENTIST

STARTING SALARY
*\$44,784 or
\$21.53/hour*

Clinical laboratory scientists (CLSs), also known as medical technologists or medical laboratory scientists, are the backbone of every medical laboratory. They ensure a well run operation by providing reliable results, controlling quality, and training and supervising lab technicians. They provide data so doctors and researchers can determine the presence and extent of disease and evaluate the effectiveness of treatment. Using microscopes, computer-interfaced equipment, and chemicals, CLSs prepare and study body tissues and fluids. They test for bacteria, drugs, or diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, leukemia, diabetes, and cancer. CLSs understand the reasons for doing specific tests and the significance of those results. CLSs often choose to specialize in a particular area. They also are prepared for supervisory and management positions in the laboratory.



Areas of Specialization

- Blood Banking
- Clinical Chemistry
- Hematology
- Immunology/Serology
- Microbiology
- Molecular Biology

Work Environment

- Blood banks/community blood services
- Colleges and universities
- Consulting
- Forensics
- Government facilities
- Hospital laboratories
- Medical supply and sales
- Physicians' offices
- Private and commercial laboratories
- Public health departments
- Research facilities

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Georgia does not require state licensure, but does require certification. Certification can be obtained by successfully completing an exam administered through the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification or American Medical Technologists. Certification allows these professionals to use either the MLS(ASCP) credential or the MT(AMT) credential, respectively, after their names.

Academic Requirements

Bachelor degree programs include three to four years of course work and 12 months of clinical practice. In some colleges, science degree graduates can complete a one-year program which leads to a certificate or degree in medical laboratory science. Certified clinical laboratory technicians and students who have completed two years of general college courses may enroll in medical laboratory science programs as a junior and complete the program in two years.

Professional Organizations

American Medical Technologists
(847) 823-5169
www.amtl.com

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
(571) 748-3770
www.ascls.org

American Society for Clinical Pathology
(800) 267-2727
www.ascp.org

Educational Programs

Bachelor's Degree

- Armstrong Atlantic State University
- Georgia Regents University
- Thomas University

Master's Degree

- Georgia Regents University

CLINICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

STARTING SALARY
*\$32,494 or
\$15.62/hour*

Clinical laboratory technicians (CLTs), also known as medical laboratory technicians, work under the supervision of clinical laboratory scientists. CLTs examine and analyze blood, body fluids, tissues and cells. They use microscopes, computers, and very complicated laboratory equipment to gather data that is used to determine the presence, absence and extent of disease. This data helps physicians determine the best course of treatment for their patients as well as monitor their patients progress. CLTs perform many duties such as evaluating and counting red and white blood cells and platelets, testing for various diseases, analyzing urine samples, staining and reading slides, and keeping records. They also group and type blood, perform antibody studies, and prepare blood for transfusion. CLTs may also occasionally collect blood for testing. As they gain experience, CLTs are given more responsibility and perform more complex testing. Some clinical laboratory technicians choose to continue their education to a bachelor's degree in order to become a medical laboratory scientist.



Work Environment

- Blood donation centers
- Commercial laboratories
- Crime labs
- Hospital labs
- Nursing homes
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Physicians' offices
- Private industry
- Public health departments
- Research facilities
- Universities

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. CLT programs include two or more years of course work and laboratory experience and award an associate degree.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification is required and is available through the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification. Certification allows these professionals to use the credential MLT after their names.

Professional Organizations

American Medical Technologists
(847) 823-5169
www.amtl.com

American Society for Clinical Pathology
(800) 267-2727
www.ascp.org

American Society of Clinical Laboratory Scientists
(301) 657-2768
www.ascls.org

Educational Programs

Associate Degree

- Central Georgia Technical College
- Chattahoochee Technical College
- College of Coastal Georgia
- Dalton State College
- Darton State College
- Georgia Piedmont Technical College

- Lanier Technical College
- North Georgia Technical College
- Okefenokee Technical College
- Southeastern Technical College
- Southwest Georgia Technical College
- West Georgia Technical College
- Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$70,903 or
\$34.09/hour*

Clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) are advanced practice registered nurses that function in one of nursing's many areas of specialization. They may choose to practice in a specialty area that focuses on a type of disease (such as diabetes or cancer), a setting (such as the emergency room, home health or rehabilitation), a population (such as pediatric, adult or geriatric), or a procedure (such as surgery). Clinical nurse specialists provide direct care to patients and teach patients, families and peers in a variety of healthcare settings. They can also work as consultants, nurse managers and assist in health related research and innovation.



Areas of Specialization

There are many nursing specialties that a CNS may select. Specialty certification is available from several organizations. The American Nurses Credentialing Center offers specialty certification for clinical nurse specialists in the following areas:

- Adult Health
- Adult Psychiatric and Mental Health
- Child/Adolescent Psychiatric and Mental Health
- Diabetes Management
- Gerontology
- Home Health
- Pediatrics
- Public/Community Health

Educational Programs

Master's Degree

- Armstrong Atlantic State University
- Georgia State University
- Mercer University

Advanced Certificate

- Armstrong Atlantic State University
- Georgia Regents University
- Georgia State University

Work Environment

- Colleges and universities
- Community agencies
- Hospitals
- Industry
- Nursing homes
- Physicians' offices
- Public health departments/clinics
- Schools

Academic Requirements

In order to enter a clinical nurse specialist program, one must be prepared as a registered nurse with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree and hold a current nursing license. CNS programs are focused on specific specialties such as medical/surgical, adult health, community health, psychiatric and mental health, or acute/critical care. Programs last one to two years and lead to a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) or a post-MSN certificate.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Registered nursing licensure is required by the Georgia Board of Nursing. National certification is offered in many specialties through the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Specialty certifications are also available from other organizations accredited by the American Board of Nursing Specialties.

Professional Organizations

American Nurses Association
(800) 274-4262
www.nursingworld.org

Georgia Board of Nursing
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/rn

Georgia Nurses Association
(404) 325-5536
www.georgianurses.org

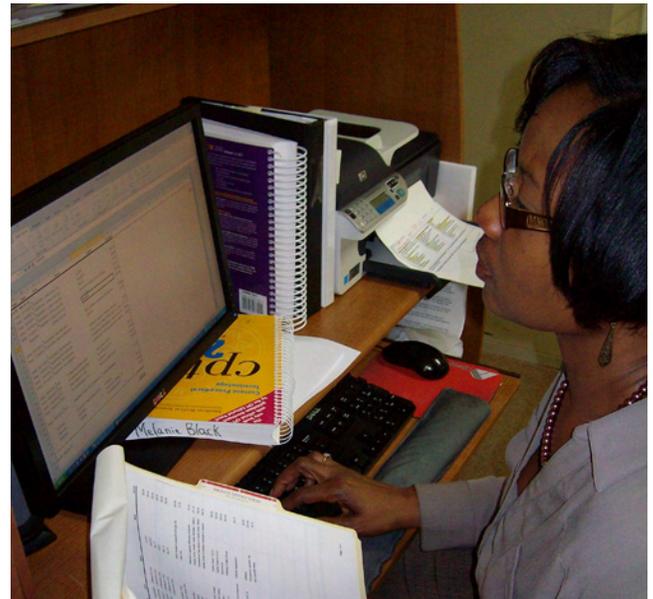
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
(717) 234-6799
www.nacns.org

CODER

STARTING SALARY

*\$34,041 or
\$15.89/hour*

Medical coders are members of the health information service team. The coding professional uses a classification system to assign code numbers and letters to each symptom, diagnosis, disease, procedure, and operation that appears in the patient's chart. These codes are used for insurance reimbursement for the provider who delivered the care, research, health planning analysis, and to make clinical decisions. Medical coders must possess many important skills such as a high degree of accuracy, excellent communication and research skills, and knowledge of medical terminology, anatomy, physiology, and human diseases. The ability to work independently, a strong sense of ethics, and critical thinking skills are also important qualities for these professionals.



Work Environment

Attorneys' offices
Behavioral health facilities
Community health centers
Freelance/contract
Health maintenance organizations
Hospitals
Insurance companies
Long-term care facilities
Physicians' offices

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. An associate degree with a curriculum that includes medical terminology, anatomy, and physiology is helpful. Basic coding programs lead to a certificate. A self-paced course is available through the American Health Information Management Association and usually takes 15 months to complete.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Professional certification is available through the American Health Information Management Association and the American Academy of Professional Coders.

Professional Organizations

American Academy of Professional Coders
(800) 626-2633
www.aapc.com

American Health Information Management Association
(312) 233-1100
www.ahima.org

Educational Programs

Certificate

Altamaha Technical College
American Professional Institute
Atlanta Technical College
Augusta Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College
Columbus Technical College
Darton State College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Gwinnett Technical College
Kennesaw State University
Lanier Technical College
Laurus Technical Institute
Lincoln College of Technology
Moultrie Technical College
North Georgia Technical College

Ogeechee Technical College
Sanford-Brown College
Savannah Technical College
South Georgia Technical College
Southeastern Technical College
West Georgia Technical College

Diploma

Albany Technical College
Everest Institute
Herzing University
Southern Crescent Technical College
Southwest Georgia Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

Associate Degree

Herzing University

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER

STARTING SALARY

*\$27,247 or
\$13.10/hour*

All across our nation, there are disadvantaged communities that are lacking adequate access to healthcare due to cultural, economic, geographic, and/or language barriers. Community health workers (CHWs) are frontline public health professionals who play a key role in improving the health and well-being of these communities by improving access to care and health education they need. CHWs are trusted members of the community, who understand the beliefs, attitudes, language, culture and perspective of the communities they serve. They use that knowledge to improve the quality of care and the cultural appropriateness of the way healthcare services and health information are offered. They encourage and empower the community members to participate in their own care by complying with prescribed treatments, increasing their health knowledge and adopting healthy behavior changes, especially in regard to managing chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, hypertension and heart disease. CHWs are trained to conduct outreach and implement health education and promotion programs in schools, private homes, shelters, community centers, churches and other community-based settings. They must know how to access information, make referrals, coordinate services and navigate the healthcare system. They may provide informal counseling and social support, and direct services such as first aid and health screenings.



Work Environment

- Businesses
- Churches
- Clinics
- Community centers
- Hospitals
- Private homes
- Public health departments
- Schools
- Shelters
- Social service agencies

Academic Requirements

The most common type of education community health workers receive is on-the-job training from their employers. However, the benefit of formal education and training is recognized and some states are developing educational programs at the certificate or diploma level through community colleges and health and social service agencies.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Georgia does not require licensure. There is not a national certification in place at this time. A few state-level certification programs have been developed, but Georgia does not currently offer this option.

Professional Organizations

American Public Health Association
Community Health Worker Section
(202) 777-APHA
www.apha.org/membergroups/sections/aphasections/chw

National Association of Community Health Representatives
www.nachr.net

Educational Programs

Georgia does not offer a formal educational program at this time. Check with the CDC, American Cancer Society, American Red Cross, or your local AHEC for training courses that offer beneficial training.

COUNSELOR

STARTING SALARY

*\$41,435 or
\$19.92/hour*

The American Counseling Association defines counseling as a professional relationship that empowers diverse individuals, families, and groups to accomplish mental health, wellness, education, and career goals. Through this relationship, counselors help people solve their personal, psychological, and social problems. Depending upon the specialty chosen, counselors may counsel people struggling with substance abuse or other addictions such as gambling. They may help physically, emotionally, mentally, or socially impaired people become more self-sufficient. Counselors can help individuals, couples and families work through conflicts by improving communication and relationships. Some counselors help the elderly population with the challenges of aging. Others are trained to help people make career decisions. They often collaborate with other professionals to assist clients in their recoveries. The demand for counselors is expected to continue to grow.



Areas of Specialization

- Addiction Counseling
- Career Counseling
- Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- Marriage, Couple and Family Counseling
- Pastoral Counseling
- Rehabilitation Counseling
- School Counseling
- Student Affairs and College Counseling

Educational Programs

Master's Degree

- Albany State University
- Argosy University
- Brenau University
- Clark Atlanta University
- Columbus State University
- Fort Valley State University
- Georgia Regents University
- Georgia Southern University
- Georgia State University
- Mercer University
- Richmont Graduate University
- South University
- Thomas University
- University of Georgia
- University of North Georgia
- University of West Georgia
- Valdosta State University

Doctoral Degree

- Argosy University
- Georgia State University
- Mercer University
- University of Georgia

Work Environment

- Career resource centers
- Churches
- Drug rehabilitation centers
- Halfway houses
- Hospice programs
- Hospitals
- Mental health centers
- Nursing homes
- Prisons
- Private practice
- Schools, colleges, and universities
- Social service agencies

Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree in education, social work, sociology, psychology, criminal justice, or health science is often required to enter a graduate program in counseling. Programs grant a master's degree which is considered the entry-level degree for professional practice. These are typically two-year programs including supervised clinical work. Doctorate programs are also available. Some areas of counseling require either a Ph.D. or both counseling and teaching certificates.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Georgia requires licensure through the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists. An exam is required to become licensed; this requires a master's degree and three years of experience. Certification is available through the National Board for Certified Counselors and the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification. School counselors working in Georgia must be certified by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. Many employers require certification.

Professional Organizations

American Counseling Association
(800) 347-6647
www.counseling.org

American School Counselor Association
(703) 683-2722
www.schoolcounseling.org

Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/counselors.com

National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc.
(336) 547-0607
www.nbcc.org

CREATIVE ARTS THERAPIST

STARTING SALARY

\$29,560 or

\$14.21/hour

Many physicians, mental health professionals, and other healthcare providers support the use of creative therapies such as music, art, dance and drama to encourage healing, improve well-being, and promote quality of life. Therapists in these disciplines work with people of all ages who may have developmental, medical, social, physical or mental health needs. They conduct assessments and develop treatment plans in collaboration with other healthcare providers as part of the interdisciplinary treatment team. Creative arts therapists design and implement therapy sessions using music, art, dance or drama to help their clients relieve stress, build self-confidence, increase social and communication skills, and improve health, all within a non-threatening environment.



Work Environment

Adult day treatment centers
Correctional facilities
Home health agencies
Hospice
Hospitals
Mental health centers
Neonatal intensive care units
Nursing homes
Outpatient clinics
Private practice
Rehabilitation facilities
Schools
Substance abuse programs
Wellness centers

Academic Requirements

Programs for music therapists are offered at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree levels. Music therapists must complete a bachelor's degree or Music Therapy Equivalency and 1200 hours of clinical training under a Board Certified Music Therapist before graduation. Art therapists must earn a master's degree and complete a minimum of 900 hours of supervised clinical training. Dance therapists must earn a master's degree and complete a 700 hour supervised clinical internship. Drama therapists must earn a master's degree. Extensive drama/theater experience and drama therapy experience is required after graduation for certification eligibility.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required in Georgia for music therapists. Licensure is not required in Georgia for art, drama, or dance therapists. Music therapists obtain certification from the Certification Board for Music Therapists and are given the credential Board Certified Music Therapist. Art therapists obtain registration from the Art Therapy Credentials Board and are given the credential Art Therapist Registered (ATR). Dance therapists obtain registration through the American Dance Therapy Association and receive the credential Registered – Dance Movement Therapist (R-DMT). Drama therapists obtain Registered Drama Therapist (RDT) certification from the North American Drama Therapy Association.

Educational Programs

ART THERAPY

Master's Degree
Georgia College and State University

MUSIC THERAPY

Bachelor's Degree
Georgia College & State University
University of Georgia

Master's Degree
Georgia College & State University
University of Georgia

DANCE THERAPY

There are no formal education programs in the southeast; however, alternate route training is available. Contact the American Dance Therapy Association for more information.

DRAMA THERAPY

There are no formal education programs in the southeast; however, alternate route training is available. Contact the North American Drama Therapy Association for more information.

Professional Organizations

American Art Therapy Association
(703) 548-5860
www.arttherapy.org

American Dance Therapy Association
(410) 997-4040
www.adta.org

American Music Therapy Association
(301) 589-3300
www.musictherapy.org

CYTOTECHNOLOGIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$48,054 or
\$23.10/hour*

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



Work Environment

- Commercial laboratories
- Educational institutions
- Government facilities
- Hospitals
- Industry
- Private laboratories
- Research facilities

Academic Requirements

Pre-admission requirements vary, but three years of education emphasizing biology, chemistry and math are usually recommended before beginning a cytotechnology program. These programs generally require one to two years of study and award a bachelor's degree, post-baccalaureate certificate, or master's degree upon completion.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Georgia does not require licensure. The American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification offers a national certification exam. To qualify for the exam, candidates must have completed a cytotechnology program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. Certified Cytotechnologists may use the credential CT.

Professional Organizations

American Society for Clinical Pathology
(800) 267-2727
www.ascp.org

American Society of Cytotechnology
(800) 948-3947
www.asct.com

American Society of Cytopathology
(302) 543-6583
www.cytopathology.org

Educational Programs

Georgia does not have an educational program for Cytotechnology.

Alabama

University of Alabama at Birmingham
www.uab.edu

Tennessee

University of Tennessee Health Science Center
www.uthsc.edu

DENTAL ASSISTANT

STARTING SALARY
\$27,565 or
\$13.25/hour

Dental assistants work side by side with dentists to increase efficiency in providing direct patient care. They greet patients, make them comfortable, and prepare them for examinations. Assistants take and develop dental x-rays, record patient histories and monitor vital signs. They sterilize instruments and pass them to the dentist during exams and treatments. Dental materials that are needed for dental procedures are prepared by assistants, as well as impressions of teeth used as study models. Dental assistants show patients how to brush and floss their teeth and instruct them on oral care following surgery, placement of a filling, or other treatments. With specialized training, they may assist in a variety of oral surgery procedures such as periodontal surgery, implants, root canals, tooth extractions and biopsies. An expanded functions certification allows dental assistants to perform more advanced duties such as making temporary teeth and applying sealants. Assistants also help in the day-to-day office management, such as scheduling, billing, filing insurance and ordering supplies.



Work Environment

Community health agencies
Dental and dental assisting schools
General and specialty dental offices
Health maintenance organizations
Hospitals
Military bases
Prisons
Private and state institutions
Public health departments
VA hospitals

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Most dental assistants enter the field through one- to two-year academic programs leading to certificates, diplomas, or associate degrees. On-the-job training is also available, but formal education programs enable students to advance more quickly in salary and responsibility. Graduation from a program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or at least two years of work experience is required for certification eligibility.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification examinations are given by the Dental Assisting National Board. Upon passing the exam, dental assistants may use the credential CDA (Certified Dental Assistant) after their names. Most employers prefer to hire certified dental assistants.

Professional Organizations

American Dental Assistants Association
(312) 541-1550
www.dentalassistant.org

Dental Assisting National Board, Inc.
(800) 367-3262
www.danb.org

Educational Programs

Certificate

Gwinnett Technical College
West Georgia Technical College

Diploma

Albany Technical College	Gwinnett Technical College
Athens Technical College	Lanier Technical College
Atlanta Technical College	Ogeechee Technical College
Augusta Technical College	Savannah Technical College
Columbus Technical College	Southern Crescent Technical College
Everest Institute	Wiregrass Georgia Technical College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College	

DENTAL HYGIENIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$58,933 or
\$28.33/hour*

Dental hygienists are important members of the dental healthcare team. Working with dentists, they provide dental hygiene care by examining teeth and tissues in the mouth for abnormalities, removing tooth deposits, applying fluoride and sealants, and performing preventive services. They instruct patients on methods to improve and maintain their oral health, including brushing, flossing, and eating the proper foods. Dental hygienists record patient histories, update patient charts, and make impressions of teeth so treatment options can be evaluated by a dentist. They also do oral cancer and blood pressure screenings and take x-rays. Some hygienists design and implement school and community health programs.



Work Environment

Community health agencies
Dental and dental hygiene schools
Dental companies
Dental offices
Health maintenance organizations
Public health departments

Academic Requirements

Dental hygiene programs are available at associate degree and bachelor degree levels. Some hygienists enter post-associate dental hygiene programs to earn bachelor's degrees in dental hygiene or related fields, such as biology or health education. A dental hygienist may also pursue a master's degree in dental hygiene, health education, adult education or public health.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Graduation from an accredited program, successful completion of the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination, and successful completion of the state clinical board examination given by the Central Regional Dental Testing Service are required for licensure. Upon licensure by the Georgia Board of Dentistry, dental hygienists may use the credential RDH (Registered Dental Hygienist).

Professional Organizations

American Dental Hygienists' Association
(312) 440-8900
www.adha.org

Georgia Board of Dentistry
(478) 207-2400
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/dentistry

Georgia Dental Hygienists' Association
www.gdha.org

Educational Programs

Associate Degree

Athens Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Columbus Technical College
Dalton State College
Darton State College
Georgia Highlands College

Georgia Perimeter College
Lanier Technical College
(with University of North Georgia)
Southeastern Technical College
Valdosta State University
West Georgia Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

Bachelor's Degree

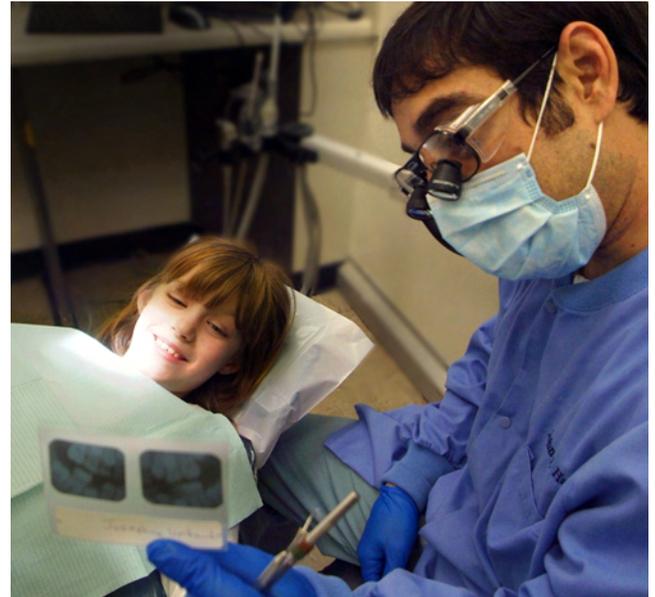
Clayton State University
Georgia Regents University

DENTIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$96,471 or
\$46.38/hour*

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



Areas of Specialization

Specialty status can be achieved by completing an ADA-accredited residency and passing a board exam. Specialty areas include:

- Endodontics
- Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology
- Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
- Orthodontics and Dentofacial
- Orthopedics
- Pediatric Dentistry
- Periodontics
- Prosthodontics
- Public Health

Work Environment

- Community health centers
- Dental schools
- Equipment manufacturing companies
- Industrial or pharmaceutical research
- Military
- Private practice
- Public health departments

Academic Requirements

Each dental school has its own admissions requirements. Research these criteria before planning any pre-professional curriculum. Dental students must apply for admission and take a national admissions test before entering dental school. A bachelor's degree or at least three years of college is usually required to enter dental school. Most dental schools conduct a four-year program leading to a doctoral degree in dentistry. An additional one to four years are required to practice in a specialty area.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required in Georgia and can be obtained through the Georgia Board of Dentistry after graduation from an accredited program. Dental schools grant either a D.M.D. (Doctor of Dental Medicine) or a D.D.S. (Doctor of Dental Surgery). These are simply different names for the same degree.

Professional Organizations

American Dental Association
(312) 440-2500
www.ada.org

American Dental Education Association
(202) 289-7201
www.adea.org

Georgia Board of Dentistry
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/dentistry

Georgia Dental Association
(404) 636-7553
www.gadental.org

Educational Programs

Doctoral Degree
Georgia Regents University

DIETETIC TECHNICIAN

STARTING SALARY
\$22,835 or
\$10.98/hour

Dietetic technicians play an important role in managing foodservice and providing nutritional care. They can work in a wide variety of settings and their duties vary depending upon the work environment. Usually under the direction of a registered dietitian, they may conduct screenings to identify nutritional problems in order to treat and prevent disease. Dietetic technicians often develop and teach classes educating clients about proper nutrition and help patients with planning meals within their budgets and diets. Dietetic technicians are also involved in managing foodservice operations. They develop menus, prepare budgets, supervise foodservice personnel, and purchase and control inventory. They are often responsible for ensuring sanitation and safety standards.



Work Environment

- Community health programs
- Company cafeterias
- Correctional facilities
- Day care centers
- Foodservice industry
- Government
- Health clubs
- Health maintenance organizations
- Home health agencies
- Hospice
- Hospitals
- Long-term care facilities
- Private practice with dietitians
- Public health nutrition programs
- Research laboratories
- Restaurants
- Schools

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Completion of a dietetic technician program approved by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics is required. Two-year associate degree programs combine classroom and supervised practice experiences. Students with a bachelor's degree from an accredited university or college may become a dietetic technician by completing the required coursework for a Didactic Program or Coordinated Program in Dietetics.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Graduates of approved programs are eligible to take the exam given by the Commission on Dietetic Registration. Once the exam is passed, technicians may use the credential DTR (Dietetic Technician, Registered). The DTR credential is required by many employers and will provide the opportunity for higher monetary compensation.

Professional Organizations

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
(800) 877-1600
www.eatright.org

Georgia Dietetic Association
(404) 539-6667
www.gda-online.org

Educational Programs

Georgia currently has no dietetic technician programs.

Tennessee

Southwest Tennessee Community College
www.southwest.tn.edu

Florida

Florida State College at Jacksonville
www.fscj.org

Hillsborough Community College
www.hccfl.edu

DIETITIAN

STARTING SALARY

*\$41,666 or
\$20.03/hour*

Dietitians are experts in food, nutrition, and good health. They are involved in every aspect of nutrition to assist in improving the quality of life. Registered dietitians' job responsibilities depend upon their practice settings. In hospitals, dietitians educate people about good nutrition. They may work with individuals who are most at risk of poor health including pregnant women, children, elderly, and citizens with very limited resources. They develop the most nutritious food plans possible for patients who can eat traditional foods; for patients who cannot tolerate traditional foods, they provide other diets. They supervise dietary personnel, plan institutional menus, and manage budgets.



Areas of Specialization

- Clinical Dietetics
- Community Dietetics
- Diabetes Education
- Gerontological Nutrition Management
- Nutrition Support
- Oncology Nutrition
- Pediatric Nutrition
- Renal Nutrition
- Sports Dietetics

Work Environment

- Business and industry
- Colleges and universities
- Corporate wellness programs
- Food service
- Government agencies
- Health clubs
- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- Private practice (consultant)
- Public health departments
- Public schools

Academic Requirements

The path to becoming a registered dietitian requires two components. Dietitians must first complete an academic (didactic) program of study approved by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics. Most of these programs of study are at the undergraduate level, although it may be possible to complete the required course work while enrolled in a graduate program. The second component of education is completion of an approved supervised practice program. This component can be satisfied along with the didactic preparation in a coordinated program or can be satisfied after didactic preparation in a Dietetic Internship Program.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

After completion of the required educational components, students are eligible to take the Registration Examination for Dietitians administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration. After passing the examination, students become Registered Dietitians (RD). Licensure of dietitians is required and is administered through the Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Dietitians and has the same basic requirements as registration. Licensed dietitians may use the initials LD.

Professional Organizations

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
(800) 877-1600
www.eatright.org

Georgia Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
(404) 539-6667
www.eatrightgeorgia.org

Society for Nutrition Education
(800) 235-6690
www.sneb.org

Educational Programs

Bachelor's Degree

- Fort Valley State University
- Georgia Southern University
- Georgia State University
- Life University
- University of Georgia

Master's Degree

- Georgia State University
- Life University
- University of Georgia

Doctoral Degree

- University of Georgia

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

STARTING SALARY
\$123,000 - \$187,000 or
\$59.14 - \$89.90/hour

Doctors of Medicine, known as allopathic physicians or MDs, take care of people who are ill to help them get better and those who are healthy to assist them to remain that way. In order to diagnose and treat illnesses and injuries and prescribe the appropriate treatment, physicians may talk with patients and their families, perform physical examinations, take medical histories, request lab studies, and order tests. They also advise people how to care for themselves by teaching them to understand the effects of diet, exercise, and aging. Most physicians choose an area of specialization such as surgery, pediatrics (care for children), or internal medicine (care for adults). There is currently a shortage of primary care physicians, including family physicians, pediatricians, internists, and obstetricians and gynecologists. These doctors are especially needed in rural and other underserved areas. In addition to caring for patients, physicians may choose to teach or research to find new ways to diagnose, control and cure diseases. Doctors who have their own practices must oversee personnel, payroll, billing, and other business-related functions.



Areas of Specialization

The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) certifies more than 145 specialties and subspecialties. There are member boards for the following specializations:

- Allergy and Immunology
- Anesthesiology
- Colon and Rectal Surgery
- Dermatology
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine
- General Surgery
- Internal Medicine
- Medical Genetics
- Neurological Surgery
- Neurology
- Nuclear Medicine
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Otolaryngology
- Pathology
- Pediatrics
- Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Plastic Surgery
- Preventive Medicine
- Psychiatry
- Radiation Oncology
- Radiology
- Thoracic Surgery
- Urology

Work Environment

- Community health centers
- Health maintenance organizations
- HIV/AIDS clinics
- Hospitals
- Indian Health Service
- Medical schools
- Military
- Prisons
- Private or group medical practices
- Public health departments
- Research facilities
- Substance abuse treatment centers
- Urgent care centers
- Veterans' Affairs

Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree that includes a strong foundation in math and science is often required to apply to medical school; some medical schools have early admissions programs. Applicants must take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). Medical school generally requires four years of study. Some schools offer combined bachelor's and medical degrees; training lasts from six to eight years. Physicians undergo graduate medical training (residency) after completion of medical school. Residency training in a

general specialty requires three to five years. Subspecialty training can take an additional one to three years. Visit the websites below to learn more about physician specialties including the nature of the work, training, length of residency, and salary information.

American Board of Medical Specialties
(312) 436-2600
www.abms.org

Association of American Medical Colleges
– Careers in Medicine
(202) 828-0400
www.aamc.org/students/medstudents/cim

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

To practice medicine in Georgia, physicians and resident physicians must have a license through the Georgia Composite Medical Board. During residency training, physicians generally work toward obtaining certification from one of the 24 American Board of Medical Specialties Member Boards. Board certification is a voluntary procedure but one that is chosen by most physicians.

Professional Organizations

Note: There are also professional organizations for each area of specialization.

American Medical Association
(800) 621-8335
www.ama-assn.org

Liaison Committee on Medical Education
(312) 464-4933
www.lcme.org

Georgia Composite Medical Board
(404) 656-3913
www.medicalboard.georgia.gov

Medical Association of Georgia
(800) 282-0224
www.mag.org

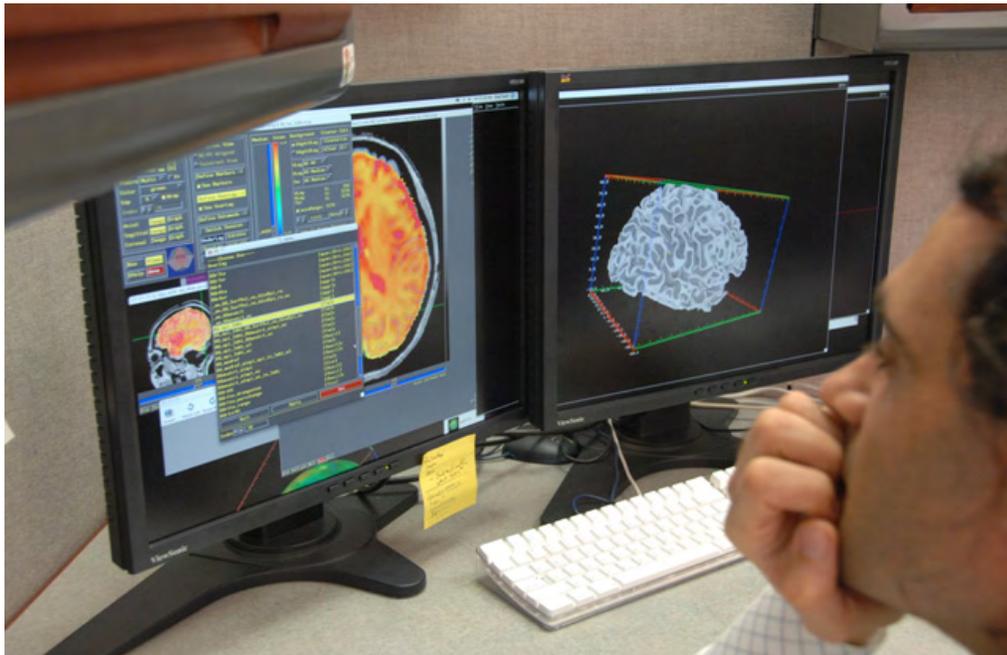
Georgia State Medical Association
(404) 752-1564
www.gsmanet.org

National Medical Association
(202) 347-1895
www.nmanet.org

Educational Programs

Doctoral Degree

Emory University
Georgia Regents University
Mercer University
Morehouse School of Medicine



“Happiness is experienced through a meaningful life, achieved if one exercises one’s unique strengths and virtues for a purpose greater than oneself.”

~ Dr. Martin Seligman
Psychologist

DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

STARTING SALARY
\$123,000 - \$187,000 or
\$59.14 - \$89.90/hour

Doctor of osteopathic medicine (DO) uses a patient-centered, holistic, hands-on approach to medicine. DOs work in partnership with their patients to emphasize the role that disease and injury prevention, health education, diet, and exercise play in achieving a high level of wellness. Also known as osteopathic physicians, their training includes approximately 200 hours of training in the art of osteopathic manipulative medicine. This system of therapy recognizes the role of the musculoskeletal system (nerves, joints, muscles, and bones) in disease, illness, and injury and is used to help alleviate pain, restore motion, support the body's natural functions and influence the body's structure to help it function more efficiently. DOs perform medical examinations, order x-rays and laboratory studies, perform surgery, and prescribe medications to diagnose and treat illnesses and injuries. DOs are licensed to practice medicine in all 50 states and most practice in primary care specialties, such as pediatrics, family medicine, obstetrics/gynecology and internal medicine.



Areas of Specialization

Doctors of osteopathic medicine may obtain a general certificate or a subspecialty certificate in the following approved specialty areas:

- Anesthesiology
- Dermatology
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Neurology and Psychiatry
- Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine
- Nuclear Medicine
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Pathology
- Pediatrics
- Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Preventive Medicine
- Proctology
- Radiology
- Surgery

Work Environment

- Community health centers
- Educational institutions
- Health maintenance organizations
- HIV/AIDS clinics
- Hospitals
- Military
- Private practices
- Public health departments
- Research facilities
- Substance abuse treatment centers
- Urgent care centers

Academic Requirements

A four-year undergraduate degree emphasizing the sciences and liberal arts is required to enter a school of osteopathic medicine. Osteopathic students must also take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). Osteopathic medical schools require four years of study. After medical school, DOs enter graduate medical education where they choose a specialty and serve in a residency program from three to six years.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

To practice medicine in Georgia, DOs must be licensed through the Georgia Composite Medical Board. During residency training, DOs work toward obtaining certification from one of the approved specialty boards.

Professional Organizations

There are professional organizations in each area of specialization.

American Osteopathic Association
(800) 621-1773
www.osteopathic.org

Georgia Composite Medical Board
(404) 656-3913
www.medicalboard.georgia.gov

Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association
(678) 225-7571
www.goma.org

Osteopathic Institute of the South
(770) 908-3200
www.oisonline.org

Student Osteopathic Medical Association
(800) 621-1773
www.studentdo.com

Educational Programs

Doctoral Degree

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine - Georgia Campus

DOCTOR OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE

STARTING SALARY
\$93,283 or
\$44.85/hour

The foot is sometimes the first part of the human body to reveal a serious condition, such as diabetes. Doctors of podiatric medicine (DPM), also called podiatrists, are trained to diagnose and treat disorders, diseases, and injuries of the foot, ankle and lower leg. These physicians can prescribe medications, admit patients to hospitals, treat emergencies in the emergency room, order physical therapy, and perform surgery. Podiatrists treat conditions such as calluses, ingrown toenails, hammertoes, bunions, and injuries to the foot and lower leg. They are trained to design custom-made shoes and to fit corrective inserts, called orthotics, inside the shoes of patients. Foot problems will continue to rise due to the growing rates of obesity, diabetes and the aging population. This trend ensures that podiatrists will be in high demand and have job security.



Areas of Specialization

Biomechanics
Geriatrics
Orthopedics
Pediatrics
Primary Podiatric Medicine
Sports Medicine
Surgery
Wound Care

Work Environment

Community health departments
Health maintenance organizations
Health professions schools
Hospitals
Long-term care facilities
Military and VA hospital system
Private or group practices
U.S. Public Health Service

Academic Requirements

Most applicants to the nine colleges of podiatric medicine in the United States already have a bachelor's degree; many have attended graduate school. Colleges of podiatric medicine require applicants to take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) and apply for admission through the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine. Programs require four years of study, which include classes in anatomy, chemistry, pharmacology and pathology. Students work at clinical sites under the supervision of certified physicians and podiatrists. Graduates receive a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) degree. Graduates then complete a residency program of three years.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

To practice in Georgia, podiatrists must be licensed through the Georgia State Board of Podiatry. Specialty certifications can be obtained in the areas of primary care, orthopedics and surgery.

Professional Organizations

American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
(617) 612-2900
www.aacpm.org

American Podiatric Medical Association
(301) 581-9200
www.apma.org

Council on Podiatric Medical Education
(301) 581-9200
www.cpme.org

Georgia Podiatric Medical Association
(770) 536-0913
www.gapma.com

Georgia State Board of Podiatry
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/podiatry

Educational Programs

Georgia does not have an educational program for podiatrists.

Florida

Barry University- School of Podiatric Medicine
www.barry.edu/podiatry

DOSIMETRIST

STARTING SALARY
\$72,500 or
\$34.86/hour

Medical dosimetrists are vital members of the radiation therapy team who work in collaboration with radiation oncologists (physicians specializing in the treatment of cancer through radiation) and medical physicists (physicians who assure the safe and effective delivery of radiation) in creating radiation treatment plans for patients. After a tumor is located in a patient, dosimetrists use the oncologist's prescribed radiation dose to calculate a plan to accurately deliver the radiation. They use specialized 3-D computers to plan the delivery of high doses of radiation to the tumor while lowering the amount of radiation reaching the surrounding structures. They may also be involved in research and the development of new therapy techniques. Fighting cancer every day, these medical professionals must work well under stressful conditions while maintaining a high level of concentration.



Work Environment

Cancer treatment centers
Hospitals
Medical research laboratories
Medical schools
Vendor sales/support

Academic Requirements

Most formal medical dosimetry programs require applicants to be a registered radiation therapist or have a bachelor's degree with specific prerequisites. Programs can range from 12 to 24 months and award master's degrees. On-the-job training under the direction of a certified medical dosimetrist or medical physicist has been an optional route for those wanting to enter this profession, however, by 2017, a bachelor's degree and graduation from an accredited medical dosimetry program will be the minimum requirements for these professionals.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification may be obtained through the Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board. Upon certification, the credential CMD (Certified Medical Dosimetrist) may be used.

Professional Organizations

American Association of Medical
Dosimetrists
(703) 234-4063
www.medicaldosimetry.org

Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board
(856) 439-1631
www.mdcbo.org

Educational Programs

Georgia does not have a formal medical dosimetry program at this time.

North Carolina

UNC School of Medicine, Chapel Hill
www.med.unc.edu/radonc

Pitt Community College, Greenville
www.pittcc.edu

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN/PARAMEDIC

STARTING SALARY
EMT \$27,862 or \$13.40/hour
Paramedic
\$32,510 or \$15.63/hour

Emergency Medical Services is a broad term used to include emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics. These professionals respond to varying degrees of healthcare crises. They are trained to skillfully operate ambulances, assess and treat life-threatening emergencies, and transport patients to a healthcare facility capable of providing appropriate treatment. These highly trained individuals respond to medical and trauma related emergencies such as heart attacks, unexpected childbirth, car accidents, fires and emergencies involving Homeland Security. They perform CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), control bleeding, place splints on broken bones, and check pulse and respiration. Paramedics receive additional training in advanced life support techniques, and may provide additional interventions, such as intravenous medication delivery, cardiac monitoring and defibrillation, and advanced airway procedures.



Work Environment

Colleges
County ambulance services
Fire departments
Hospital ambulance services
Hospital emergency rooms
Private ambulance companies
Theme parks

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. EMTs and paramedics receive both classroom and practical training in emergency medical care. There are different educational tracks for these professions. An EMT certificate program usually takes two semesters to complete. Certificate and diploma programs are available for Advanced EMT (AEMT) training. This level builds upon the basic EMT education and usually requires nine to twelve months to complete. Paramedic programs, requiring eighteen months to two years of study, build upon AEMT training and are available at the diploma and associate degree levels.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

EMTs and paramedics are required to obtain certification from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians by successfully passing an examination. Once certified, EMTs and paramedics must apply for licensure by the Georgia Office of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma.

Professional Organizations

Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
(601) 924-7744
www.naemt.org

Georgia Association of Emergency Medical Services
(229) 423-3379
www.ga-ems.com

National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians
(614) 888-4484
www.nremt.org

“Knowing is not enough; we must apply.
Willing is not enough; we must do.”

~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Educational Programs

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN PROGRAMS

Certificate

Albany Technical College
Altamaha Technical College
Athens Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Augusta Technical College
Bainbridge College
Central Georgia Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College
Darton State College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Georgia Piedmont Technical College
Gwinnett Technical College
Lanier Technical College
Moultrie Technical College
North Georgia Technical College
Oconee Fall Line Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Okefenokee Technical College
Savannah Technical College
South Georgia Technical College
Southeastern Technical College
Southern Crescent Technical College
Southwest Georgia Technical College
West Georgia Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

PARAMEDIC PROGRAMS

Certificate

Darton State College

Diploma

Albany Technical College
Altamaha Technical College
Athens Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Bainbridge College
Central Georgia Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Georgia Piedmont Technical College
Gwinnett Technical College
Lanier Technical College
Oconee Fall Line Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Okefenokee Technical College
Savannah Technical College
Southeastern Technical College
Southern Crescent Technical College
Southwest Georgia Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

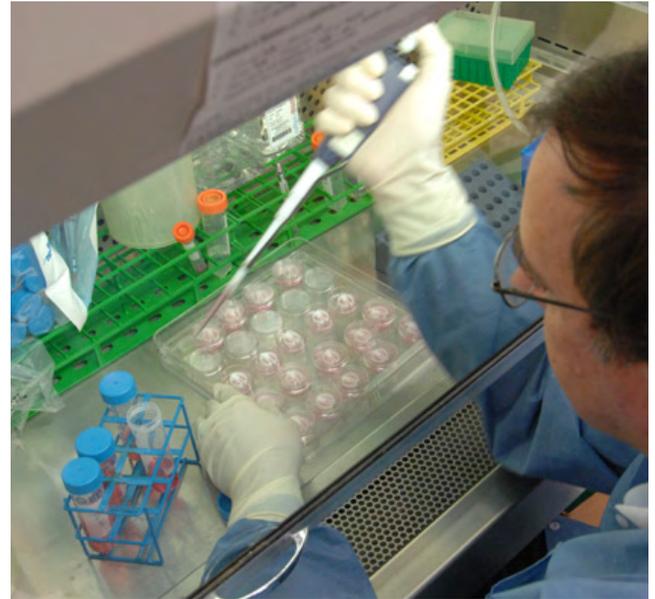
Associate Degree

Albany Technical College
Athens Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College
Darton State College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Georgia Piedmont Technical College
Lanier Technical College
Savannah Technical College
Southern Crescent Technical College
Southwest Georgia Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST

STARTING SALARY
*\$37,250 or
\$17.91/hour*

Environmental health specialists evaluate the environmental quality of a community and take action to safeguard human health and safety. They collect and analyze information related to air, food, water and soil to determine if a hazard to the public exists, and create strategies to prevent and eliminate such hazards and protect the environment. There are many career opportunities in environmental health. Environmental health specialists may choose to focus on environmental legislation, community planning and development, toxicology (the study of harmful effects of chemicals on humans and other living organisms), waste management, food safety, or many other areas. They inspect, among other places, individual sewage disposal systems, swimming pools, spas, non-community water systems, and locations such as retail food establishments, childcare facilities, tattoo shops, residences, and schools. They are responsible for enforcing local, state, and federal environmental health regulations that pertain to water quality, air quality, handling of hazardous and infectious wastes, and cleanliness and safety of housing and institutional environments. These professionals must exercise considerable initiative and sound judgment while working with limited supervision.



Work Environment

- Consulting firms
- Environmental agencies
- Government agencies
- Local and state health departments
- Private organizations
- Private research facilities

Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree in environmental health or related field with a strong background in science is required for an entry-level position. Many environmental health specialists have graduate degrees in public health with a concentration in environmental health.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. The National Environmental Health Association offers several environmental health credentials including the Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian (RHES/RS) credential. The Georgia Board of Registered Environmental Health Professionals also offers professional registration.

Professional Organizations

Georgia Environmental Health Association
(912) 427-5768
www.geha-online.org

National Center for Environmental Health
(800) 232-4636
www.cdc.gov/nceh

National Environmental Health Association
(303) 756-9090
www.neha.org

Educational Programs

Bachelor's Degree
University of Georgia

Master's Degree
Emory University
Fort Valley State University
Georgia Southern University
University of Georgia

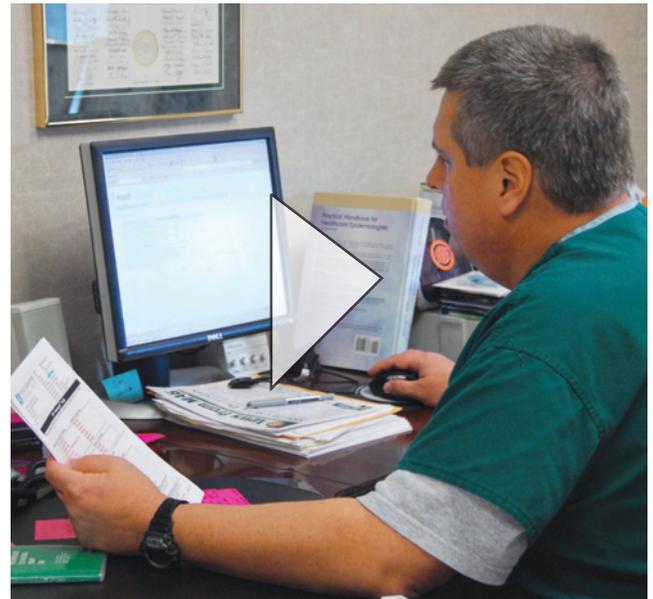
Doctoral Degree
University of Georgia

EPIDEMIOLOGIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$44,335 or
\$21.32/hour*

Epidemiology is a science that focuses on the prevention of disease and promotion of health in human populations. Epidemiologists are scientists who study why diseases, injuries and other health related conditions are present in populations; how diseases work inside the body; what puts people at risk for disease, injury and other health-related conditions; and how they impact populations. These scientists work to understand the cause of disease and ways to predict, prevent, and control disease. They use statistics to identify and measure patterns of human disease occurrence in populations in order to provide scientific data to local, state, and federal agencies. Epidemiologists can be broken down into three groups: applied, research and clinical. Applied epidemiologists usually work in communities where there is prevalent disease. They evaluate the status of a disease in the community and construct programs for effective prevention, intervention, and control of these diseases. Research epidemiologists study infectious and chronic diseases that can affect the entire body, attempting to eradicate or control these diseases. Clinical epidemiologists work primarily as consultants for hospitals. They inform the medical staff of infectious outbreaks and provide containment solutions.



Work Environment

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

Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree is required for admission into a graduate program. Programs leading to a Master of Public Health degree usually take two years to complete. A doctoral degree takes 3 to 5 years and leads to a Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) or PhD.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

State licensure is not required in Georgia. There are no certification or registration requirements for this career.

Professional Organizations

American College of Epidemiology
(919) 861-5573
www.acepidemiology.org

Association for Professionals in Infection
Control and Epidemiology
(202) 789-1890
www.apic.org

Council of State and Territorial
Epidemiologists
(770) 458-3811
www.cste.org

Society for Epidemiologic Research
(801) 525-0231
www.epiresearch.org

Educational Programs

Master's Degree

Emory University
Georgia Southern University
University of Georgia

Doctoral Degree

Emory University
University of Georgia

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

STARTING SALARY
\$35,569 or
\$16.56/hour

Forensic science is the use of science for the purposes of the legal system. There are numerous professional disciplines represented in forensic science so the career opportunities are diverse. Criminalists are the forensic scientists who examine and analyze physical evidence in order to develop useful information for an investigation or trial. Working in crime laboratories, these professionals use microscopes, chemicals, and specialized instruments to identify physical evidence that may be used to determine a link between the suspect, victim and crime scene. Physical evidence can include just about anything – glass, plant life, soil, alcohol, or bullets. Trace evidence includes hair, fibers, paints, and polymers. Forensic scientists also analyze drugs, firearms, tool marks, DNA (blood and body fluids), fire debris, explosives, and photography. They report their findings to the criminal justice system and may serve as an expert witness in court to help solve a crime.



Work Environment

Colleges and universities
District attorneys' offices
Federal agencies (FBI, CIA, DEA)
Medical examiners' offices
Military
Private companies
Regional and state agencies
Sheriffs' offices

Academic Requirements

There are formal educational programs that lead to a degree in forensic science, but a strong background in science is the most important requirement for employment in a forensic laboratory or agency. A bachelor's or master's degree in chemistry, biology, molecular biology or a related science is highly recommended. Some schools offer chemistry or biology degrees with concentrations in forensic science.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. The American Board of Criminalistics (ABC) offers certification as a Diplomate of the American Board of Criminalistics (D-ABC) to professionals with a bachelor's degree in a natural science and two years of forensic laboratory or teaching experience upon successful completion of any ABC examination. To be certified as a Fellow of the American Board of Criminalistics (F-ABC), successful completion of any ABC examination and a proficiency test plus two years in a specialty area (molecular biology, drug analysis, fire debris analysis or trace evidence) is required.

Professional Organizations

American Academy of Forensic Sciences
(719) 636-1100
www.aafs.org

American Board of Criminalistics
www.criminalistics.com

American Society of Trace Evidence
Examiners
www.astetrace.org

Southern Association of Forensic
Scientists
www.southernforensic.org

Educational Programs

Degrees in chemistry and biology are available at most colleges and universities. The following schools have specific educational tracks in forensic science.

Diploma

Ogeechee Technical College

Associate Degree

Ogeechee Technical College
Southern Crescent Technical College

Bachelor's Degree

Albany State University
Clayton State University
Kennesaw State University

GENETIC COUNSELOR

STARTING SALARY

*\$53,000 or
\$25.48/hour*

Genetic counselors are healthcare professionals with specialized education in the areas of medical genetics and counseling. They work as members of a medical team to provide genetic risk assessment, education and counseling to individuals and families with a variety of genetically-inherited health problems. Genetic counselors identify families at risk, investigate the problem present in the family, interpret information about the disorder, analyze inheritance patterns and risks of recurrence, and review this information and available options with the family. They also provide supportive counseling to families, serve as patient advocates, and refer individuals and families to community or state support services. Genetic counselors can work in a variety of specialized areas such as infertility and reproductive genetics, pediatric genetics, and familial cancer risk counseling. They serve as educators and resource people for other healthcare professionals and the general public. Many genetic counselors are also involved in research. Due to the rapid advances in genetic medicine as a result of the Human Genome Project and expanding laboratory technology, the demand for genetic counselors is expected to grow significantly.



Work Environment

- Diagnostic laboratories
- Government agencies
- Health maintenance organizations
- Hospitals/medical facilities
- Pharmaceutical industry
- Physicians' offices
- Private practices
- Public health
- Universities
- University medical centers

Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree in a relevant field is required to enter a graduate program in genetic counseling. Students enter the field from a variety of disciplines, including biology, genetics, nursing, psychology, public health and social work. Programs last two years, including clinical experience, and lead to a master's degree.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure for genetic counselors is not currently required in Georgia. Genetic counselors must obtain certification through the American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC). Certification leads to the title of Certified Genetic Counselor (CGC).

Professional Organizations

American Board of Genetic Counseling
(913) 895-4617
www.abgc.net

National Society of Genetic Counselors
(312) 321-6834
www.nsgc.org

Educational Programs

Master's Degree
Emory University

GENETICIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$77,500 or
\$37.26/hour*

Why do you have red hair but your sister is a blonde? Why does a plant have red and purple blooms? The answer lies in genetics, the study of the genetic material, or genes, passed from parent to offspring. Geneticists study genes in humans, plants, and animals. In the laboratory they analyze genes found in cells, viruses, and bacteria. They breed a wide variety of organisms to study inherited traits. Computers enable geneticists to analyze and compare the genome sequence of human and other organisms, and to scrutinize large populations to search for genes that make members more susceptible to inherited diseases or birth defects. Geneticists may mutate, or change, genes in plants to improve crop production and disease-resistance. They may diagnose inherited diseases in people using sophisticated laboratory methods, and hunt for new genes that cause disease. Human geneticists may specialize in forensic applications using DNA analysis in criminal investigation, mass fatality identification, or establishment of family relationships. Geneticists work to develop new plants, drugs, and foods that will improve the quality of life for people throughout the world.



Areas of Specialization

- Clinical Biochemical Genetics
- Clinical Cytogenetics
- Clinical Genetics
- Clinical Molecular Genetics
- Medical Biochemical Genetics
- Molecular Genetic Pathology

Work Environment

- Biotech companies
- Colleges and universities
- Crime or forensic laboratories
- Hospitals
- Medical clinics
- Medical schools
- Obstetrics practices
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Private clinics
- Public health
- Research laboratories

Academic Requirements

A four-year college degree emphasizing the biological sciences is recommended. The minimum educational requirement is a bachelor's in genetics, biology, botany, microbiology, biochemistry, or another branch of science. Many positions require a master of science degree or a Ph.D. The Ph.D. is usually followed by two or more years of post-doctoral research in a specialized area of genetics. Some geneticists earn medical degrees, followed by a residency in internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics, or another area. Some geneticists earn a combined M.D./Ph.D.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Physicians who work as geneticists must be licensed through the Georgia Composite Medical Board. Medical geneticists (M.D. or Ph.D.) are certified by the American Board of Medical Genetics.

Professional Organizations

- American Board of Medical Genetics
(301) 634-7315
www.abmg.org
- American Society of Human Genetics
(301) 634-7300
www.ashg.org
- Genetics Society of America
(301) 634-7300
www.genetics-gsa.org

Educational Programs

Master's Degree

University of Georgia

Doctoral Degree

Emory University
University of Georgia

HEALTH EDUCATOR

STARTING SALARY
Bachelor's \$34,000 or
\$16.35/hour

Health educators work to promote, maintain, and improve individual and community health using educational programs designed to encourage healthy behaviors. They often choose to focus on specific population groups or issues such as infectious diseases, drug abuse, nutrition, safety, human relations, stress management, and weight control. Health educators collect and analyze data to determine the needs of the people they are serving. When planning and implementing the programs, they must think creatively about how to improve the health of their audience through education programs while being sensitive to the values and lifestyles of the various cultures represented. They then monitor the programs to determine and evaluate their effectiveness. Health educators may also assist individuals or communities in securing grants, collaborate with other organizations to solve health problems, and encourage and advocate for policy and environmental changes that encourage healthy lifestyles. They are skilled in teaching, public speaking, and writing educational materials.



Work Environment

Business and industry
Colleges and universities
Community health organizations
Faith-based organizations
Hospitals and other healthcare settings
International organizations
Local, state, and federal agencies
Schools

Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree in health education, community health, health promotion and behavior or related area is required for entry-level positions. A master's degree, typically a Master of Public Health, may be needed for higher level positions.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Voluntary credentialing as a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) is available from the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (www.nchec.org).

Professional Organizations

American Association for Health Education
(703) 476-3400
www.aahperd.org/aahe

American Public Health Association
(202) 777-APHA
www.apha.org

Georgia Public Health Association
(678) 302-1132
www.gapha.org

Society for Public Health Education
(202) 408-9804
www.sophe.org

Educational Programs

Bachelor's Degree

Armstrong Atlantic State University
Georgia Southern University
University of Georgia

Master's Degree

Armstrong Atlantic State University
Columbus State University
Emory University
Georgia College & State University
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
Mercer University
University of Georgia

Doctoral Degree

Emory University
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
University of Georgia

HEALTH INFORMATICS PROFESSIONAL

STARTING SALARY

*\$55,000 or
\$26.44/hour*

Health informatics professionals work in an interdisciplinary field that incorporates healthcare, information technology and computer science. Using computerized health information systems, they manage the collection, storage, retrieval and usage of health information as well as the analysis and interpretation of health information. Health informatics professionals collaborate with clinicians and administrators to develop new technology and efficient health information systems that allow healthcare providers to access complete and accurate health information while guarding its security. They help organizations deliver better healthcare by providing administrators with information that can be effectively used to solve problems, make decisions and evaluate the quality of care their organization delivers. They help individuals receive better healthcare by ensuring that the best information is available to guide health providers when making vital decisions regarding patient diagnoses and treatment plans. Health informatics professionals can specialize in the areas of clinical informatics or public health informatics. Clinical informatics is the application of informatics to healthcare delivery by health professionals (i.e. medical informatics, nursing informatics, dental informatics). Public health informatics is used to support public health decision making, research, surveillance, and prevention and intervention campaigns. With the switch to electronic health records and the data-driven healthcare industry, the American Medical Informatics Association and the Bureau of Labor Statistics recognizes that there is a critical shortage of trained health informatics professionals to meet the demands of local healthcare providers.



Areas of Specialization

Clinical Informatics
Public Health Informatics

Work Environment

Educational institutions
Governmental agencies
Hospitals/health systems
Insurance companies
Medical and physician groups
Mental and behavioral health facilities
Outpatient clinics
Pharmaceutical companies
Private healthcare industries
Public health organizations

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Voluntary certification as a Certified Health Data Analyst (CHDA) is available from the American Health Information Management Association.

Professional Organizations

American Health Information Management Association
(312) 233-1100
www.ahima.org

American Medical Informatics Association
(301) 675-1291
www.amia.org

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

Health Information Careers
(312) 233-1100
www.hicareers.com

Educational Programs

Bachelor's Degree

College of Coastal Georgia
DeVry University
Georgia State University

Post Bachelor's Certificate

Georgia Regents University

Master's Degree

Emory University

Academic Requirements

One may enter this profession through a background in information technology, computer science, or healthcare. Most formal educational programs are offered at the two-year, four-year or graduate level; however some certificate programs are also available.

HEALTH INFORMATION ADMINISTRATOR

STARTING SALARY

*\$43,750 or
\$21.03/hour*

A medical record is the history of a patient's healthcare, including medical history, diagnoses, treatments, test results, and notes of doctors, nurses and other health professionals. Health information administrators (HIAs) are responsible for managing this important information so that it meets legal, administrative, and medical requirements. HIAs work in a dynamic profession that is a unique blend of medicine, business, computer systems, and law. They must maintain high ethical standards to guarantee the privacy and security of personal health information. These professionals also play vital roles in creating systems to properly organize, analyze, preserve and store large numbers of records, both paper-based and electronic. With these systems, hospital administrators manage costs and revenue, physicians assess healthcare quality, accrediting agencies evaluate healthcare delivery, and patients navigate the complicated healthcare delivery system. HIAs establish department policies and procedures, formulate budgets, ensure proper reimbursement amounts and oversee adherence to regulations. Finally, HIAs hire, supervise, motivate, evaluate and manage employees.



Work Environment

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

Academic Requirements

Most bachelor degree granting programs require students to complete two years of prerequisite courses before entering the health information administration program which lasts an additional two years. Students who have already earned a bachelor's degree in allied health, nursing, or business administration may earn a post-baccalaureate certificate through a one-year program.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Upon meeting the requirements of the American Health Information Management Association and passing a national certification examination, health information administrators receive the Registered Health Information Administrators (RHIA) credential. RHIA certification is not required; however many employers expect health information administrators to have obtained their RHIA certification or to be RHIA certification eligible.

Professional Organizations

American Health Information Management Association
(312) 233-1100
www.ahima.org

Georgia Health Information Management Association
(828) 883-5613
www.ghima.org

Educational Programs

Bachelor's Degree

- College of Coastal Georgia
- Herzing University
- Middle Georgia State College

Master's Degree

- Georgia Regents University

Advanced Certificate

- Georgia Regents University

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNICIAN

STARTING SALARY

*\$28,354 or
\$13.63/hour*

Health information technology is a profession that combines technology, management and healthcare. Working with computer information systems, health information technicians collect, analyze, and interpret data that doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals rely on to provide quality patient care. They manage patient health information and medical records by reviewing, organizing, and evaluating for completeness and accuracy. Health information technicians also control access to information contained within medical records to ensure that it is kept confidential. As traditional medical records move to electronic files, health information technicians can ensure security and privacy. They are qualified to supervise and manage file clerks and other clerical staff. They can work in every sector of the healthcare industry.



Work Environment

- Ambulatory care centers
- Attorneys' offices
- Behavioral health facilities
- Clinics
- Consultant firms
- Detention facilities
- Health maintenance organizations
- Healthcare vendors
- Home health agencies
- Hospitals
- Information technology companies
- Insurance companies
- Long-term care facilities
- Non-profit organizations
- Physician groups
- State and federal health agencies

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Two-year academic programs in health information technology lead to associate degrees. Courses include medical terminology, anatomy and physiology, coding, and computer systems.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Students who complete an academic program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education are eligible to take the national qualifying exam. Upon meeting the requirements of the American Health Information Management Association and successfully passing the national certification exam, health information technicians are awarded the Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) credential.

Professional Organizations

American Health Information
Management Association
(312) 233-1100
www.ahima.org

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

Georgia Health Information Management
Association
(828) 883-5613
www.ghima.org

Educational Programs

Associate Degree

- Albany Technical College
- Athens Technical College
- Atlanta Metropolitan State College
- Atlanta Technical College
- Chattahoochee Technical College
- Darton State College

- DeVry University
- Georgia Northwestern Technical College
- Gordon State College
- Gwinnett Technical College
- Oconee Fall Line Technical College
- Ogeechee Technical College

- Okefenokee Technical College
- Southern Crescent Technical College
- Southwest Georgia Technical College
- West Georgia Technical College
- Westwood College
- Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIAN

STARTING SALARY
*\$39,750 or
\$19.11/hour*

Health sciences librarians are specialists in locating, collecting, organizing, and distributing medical information. Knowledgeable in health sciences and library management, they use their skills to provide accurate and current information to students and members of the healthcare team. These librarians select, purchase, and catalog books, audiovisuals, and journals relating to the health sciences. Also called medical librarians, they help healthcare professionals, students, and the community locate sources of information and answer puzzling problems. They manage and operate the library, plan budgets, supervise other library personnel, and teach healthcare providers how to locate and manage information using computers.



Work Environment

- Colleges and universities
- Federal and state agencies
- Hospitals and medical centers
- Medical schools
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Professional associations
- Research centers and foundations

Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree is required to enter a library science master's degree program. A master's degree in library and information science is the standard for professional librarians. This is usually a one- to two-year educational program. Schools may offer postgraduate programs leading to a Doctor of Philosophy or Doctor of Library Science degree.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Five levels of membership based on experience and accomplishments are available through the Academy of Health Information Professionals, a program of the Medical Library Association.

Professional Organizations

Georgia Health Sciences Library Association
www.ghsla.org

Medical Library Association
(312) 419-9094
www.mlanet.org

National Library of Medicine
(888) 346-3656
www.nlm.nih.gov

Southern Chapter Medical Library Association
www.scmla.org

Special Libraries Association
(703) 647-4900
www.sla.org

Educational Programs

Master's Degree

Valdosta State University

HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATOR

STARTING SALARY
Bachelor's \$38,750 or \$18.63/hour
Master's \$54,933 or \$26.41/hour

Healthcare administrators serve as leaders of hospitals and other healthcare organizations. Also called healthcare managers or healthcare executives, these professionals have a wide range of duties. They can be specialists or generalists. Specialists head up specific departments or services while generalists manage entire facilities or systems such as nursing homes, physician practices, hospitals, home health agencies and health systems. Healthcare administrators ensure good communication between medical staff, administration, committees and departments by building teams and improving processes. They create a smooth-running organization with well-planned departments, such as nursing, marketing and public relations, finance, and human resources. Responsible for the institution's resources and sound financial standing, they also develop policies, plan budgets, coordinate space, and plan future expansions. Healthcare administrators are committed to improving the health and quality of care of the communities they serve.



Work Environment

Clinics
Community health organizations
Government agencies
Health insurance organizations
Healthcare consulting firms
Hospitals and health systems
Mental health organizations
Nursing homes
Physician practices/groups
Public health departments
Rehabilitation centers
Universities and research institutions

Academic Requirements

Some entry-level positions in healthcare administration are available with a bachelor's degree in business, health policy, or healthcare administration; however, a master's degree in business administration, public administration, healthcare administration, or public health is required for most management positions. Doctoral degrees are also available. Graduation from an accredited healthcare administration program may provide an advantage for progressing up the career ladder.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

In Georgia, licensure is required only for nursing home administrators. Most administrators belong to professional organizations such as the American College of Health Care Administrators, the American College of Healthcare Executives, and the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging. These organizations and others have voluntary certification programs, which are often helpful in enhancing professional standing.

Educational Programs

Bachelor's Degree

Albany State University
Argosy University
Armstrong Atlantic State University
Clayton State University
DeVry University
Herzing University
Middle Georgia State College
South University
Westwood College

Armstrong Atlantic State University
Brenau University
Clayton State University
Columbus State University
DeVry University
Emory University
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
Herzing University
University of Georgia

Master's Degree

Albany State University
Argosy University

Doctoral Degree

Emory University
Georgia Southern University

Professional Organizations

American College of Health Care Administrators
(202) 536-5120
www.achca.org

Georgia Board of Nursing Home Administrators
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/nursinghome

Medical Group Management Association-American College of Medical Practice Executives
(303) 799-1111
www.mgma.com

HISTOTECHNICIAN HISTOTECHNOLOGIST

STARTING SALARY
*Histotechnician \$39,411 or
\$18.95/hour*
*Histotechnologist \$47,507 or
\$22.84/hour*

Histology is the microscopic study of tissues and their structures. Histotechnicians (HTs) and histotechnologists (HTLs) are experts in preparing slides from human, animal or plant tissues. They prepare tissues by immersing them in fluid to prevent decay, replacing the specimen's water with wax, slicing the tissue and applying dyes. The slides HTs and HTLs prepare are microscopically examined by a pathologist or scientist to detect tissue abnormalities and diagnose diseases. Slide samples are also used for teaching and research. Histotechnologists perform more specialized procedures, such as electron microscopy to identify tissue parts and relate them to body functions. They can also establish new laboratory and quality control procedures.



Work Environment

Forensics
Hospital laboratories
Pharmaceutical companies
Physicians' offices
Private and commercial laboratories
Public health facilities
Research facilities

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Students interested in becoming a histotechnician may complete one of two routes of study. They may enter an accredited histology program or acquire an associate degree plus one year of laboratory experience. Students interested in becoming a histotechnologist must complete a histologic curriculum leading to a bachelor's degree. Those with bachelor's degrees in related fields may also enter accredited histologic programs.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification is often required by employers. It is available through the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification. Those who pass may use the credentials HT or HTL after their names signifying a histotechnician or histotechnologist, respectively.

Professional Organizations

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
(301) 657-2768
www.ascls.org

American Society for Clinical Pathology
(800) 267-2727
www.ascp.org

National Society for Histotechnology
(443) 535-4060
www.nsh.org

Educational Programs

Certificate

Darton State College

Associate Degree

Darton State College

Bachelor's Degree

Georgia does not offer a bachelor's program.

Florida

Barry University
www.barry.edu

HOME HEALTH AIDE/PERSONAL & HOME CARE AIDE

STARTING SALARY

*\$18,223 or
\$8.76/hour*

Two of the fastest growing occupations in Georgia and the United States, home health aides and personal and home care aides, provide support to people who are unable to care for themselves. Their clients may be people with disabilities, the elderly, or individuals who have just been released from a hospital or nursing home. These professionals provide an alternative to institutional living by providing care at a client's personal home or residential facility. Home health aides provide health-related services. They may administer medications, change dressings/bandages, provide skin care, help with prescribed exercises, and take pulse, blood pressure and temperature readings. They may also work with medical equipment such as ventilators and prosthetics. Personal and home care aides provide mainly housekeeping and routine personal care services. Their duties include planning and cooking meals, cleaning and shopping. They also help clients bathe, dress, groom and eat. Both home health aides and personal and home care aides may be responsible for keeping records and reporting to a supervisor, medical staff, or the client's family about their client's condition and progress.



Work Environment

Assisted living residences
Home health agencies
Hospice
Private homes
Residential care facilities

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is usually not necessary. On-the-job training is often provided by the client's family or home healthcare agency. Some high schools and technical colleges offer courses that would be helpful for this career. Online training is also available.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Voluntary certification is available through the National Association for Home Care and Hospice.

Professional Organizations

Georgia Association of Community Care Providers
(678) 943-2617
www.gaccp.org

National Association for Home Care and Hospice
(202) 547-7424
www.nahc.org

Private Duty Homecare Association
(202) 547-7424
www.pdhca.org

Educational Programs

Contact local high schools, technical colleges, or home health agencies to find courses available in your area. You may also contact the National Association for Home Care and Hospice for online training opportunities.

HUMAN SERVICES WORKER

STARTING SALARY
Associate's \$25,000 or \$12.02/hour
Bachelor's \$32,000 or \$15.39/hour

People are not always able to take care of their own needs. Consider the needs of the recovering addict who requires ongoing support to stay sober, the adult with a mental illness who requires support and medication to function on his/her job, the elderly widower with failing eyesight and a limited income who needs help with meals and transportation, and the developmentally challenged child who needs a variety of services to maximize his/her potential. These are the kinds of clients human services workers serve. They meet the individual, family or group at their level of need and serve as a "bridge" between people and their problems and the resources necessary to solve them. They evaluate the needs of their clients and find agencies such as public health clinics, food banks, drug treatment programs and mental health centers that provide services to meet those needs. The goal of the human services worker is to enable their clients to function as effectively and independently as possible in their homes, communities, and jobs. Human services workers serve clients in a variety of public outreach organizations while working alongside social workers, detectives, doctors and other specialists.



Work Environment

- Adult day care facilities
- Advocacy centers
- Community mental health centers
- Day/residential treatment facilities
- Domestic violence refuge centers
- Group homes
- Homeless shelters
- Hospice
- Military
- Nursing homes
- Prisons
- Public health departments
- Public welfare agencies
- Schools
- Substance abuse treatment centers

Academic Requirements

Educational programs are available at the two-year associate degree and four-year bachelor's degree levels.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification for the Human Services Board Certified Practitioner (HS-BCP) credential is available through the Center for Credentialing and Education in collaboration with the National Organization for Human Services and the Council for Standards in Human Service Education.

Professional Organizations

Council for Standards in Human Service Education
www.cshse.org

National Organization for Human Services
(770) 924-8899
www.nationalhumanservices.org

Educational Programs

Associate Degree

- Atlanta Metropolitan State College
- Darton State College
- Georgia Highlands College

Bachelor's Degree

- Clayton State University
- College of Coastal Georgia
- Kennesaw State University
- Mercer University

- Middle Georgia State College
- Shorter University
- Spelman College
- University of North Georgia

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST

STARTING SALARY
*\$52,500 or
\$25.24/hour*

Industrial hygienists are environmental health specialists who concentrate in business and industry. They search for hazards, diseases, and hidden dangers in the workplace, and suggest procedures to eliminate them. Industrial hygienists help to establish regulations to ensure worker health and safety by conducting surveys to determine exposure to toxic and harmful chemical and physical substances. They are involved in helping employers find solutions to problems such as carpal tunnel syndrome, a repetitive motion disorder of the hands common in many computer operators and typists. These professionals also study work-related conditions leading to birth defects, mental retardation, mental illnesses, and cancer.



Work Environment

- Consulting firms
- Environmental agencies
- Government agencies
- Industry
- Insurance companies
- Labor unions
- Manufacturing companies
- Military

Academic Requirements

Industrial hygienists generally have obtained a bachelor's degree in one of the physical sciences, engineering or environmental health science with a focus on occupational health. Most have graduate degrees in occupational safety and health, industrial hygiene engineering, physical or natural science, environmental health science or toxicology.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Although it is optional, certification is preferred by most employers and is offered by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene (ABIH). The certification process can be pursued by qualified applicants who have completed the academic and experience requirements outlined by ABIH. Once certified, professionals are awarded the Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) credential.

Professional Organizations

American Board of Industrial Hygiene
(517) 321-2638
www.abih.org

American Industrial Hygiene Association
(703) 849-8888
www.aiha.org

Educational Programs

Master's Degree

- Emory University
- Georgia Southern University
- University of Georgia

Doctoral Degree

- University of Georgia

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

STARTING SALARY

\$29,917 or
\$14.38/hour

In addition to providing basic bedside care, licensed practical nurses (LPNs) may also give injections and medications. They collect specimens for laboratory tests, change dressings, evaluate patient needs, implement care plans, and supervise nursing assistants. LPNs often check a patient's temperature, pulse, breathing, and blood pressure. In an office setting, they may make appointments and keep patient records. In a home setting, under the supervision of physicians and/or registered nurses, LPNs can instruct family members on nursing care.



Work Environment

- Community health clinics
- Dialysis centers
- Hospitals
- Long-term care facilities
- Mental health institutions
- Nursing homes
- Physicians' offices
- Private homes
- Public health departments
- Schools
- Visiting nurse associations

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Completion of an accredited practical nursing program usually takes between 12 and 18 months.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required by the Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Practical Nurses. The National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service offers certification for LPNs in a few areas such as long-term care, pharmacology, and IV therapy.

Professional Organizations

Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Practical Nurses
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/lpn

Georgia Licensed Practical Nurses Association
www.glpna.org

National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service
(703) 933-1003
www.napnes.org

Educational Programs

Certificate

Dalton State College

Diploma

Albany Technical College
Altamaha Technical College
Athens Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Augusta Technical College
Bainbridge College
Central Georgia Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College
Columbus Technical College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College

Georgia Piedmont Technical College
Lanier Technical College
Moultrie Technical College
North Georgia Technical College
Oconee Fall Line Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Okefenokee Technical College
Savannah Technical College
South Georgia Technical College
Southeastern Technical College
Southern Crescent Technical College
Southwest Georgia Technical College
West Georgia Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

MASSAGE THERAPIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$31,496 or
\$15.14/hour*

Massage therapy is a rapidly growing type of complementary medicine. By manipulating the soft tissues of the body, massage therapists can reduce stress, relieve aches and pain, increase flexibility of muscles and joints, and give clients a sense of well-being and relaxation. Massage therapists may use their hands, forearms, feet, massage instruments, dry and steam heat, oil, music, and light during a massage. They may choose to specialize in one of many modalities such as Swedish, trigger point/neuromuscular, deep tissue, shiatsu or sports massage. Massage therapists might also choose to focus their practice on a particular type of client such as pregnant mothers, athletes or even animals.



Work Environment

Chiropractic offices
Health clubs
Hospitals
Pain management clinics
Private practice
Professional athletics
Resorts
Salons
Spas
Wellness centers

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Massage therapy programs must provide a minimum of 500 hours of

training, but many provide 600 or more hours of study. Graduation from a program accredited by a national accrediting agency is recommended.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required in Georgia through the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy. National certification is obtained through the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork. Massage therapists who pass the certification requirements may use the Nationally Certified in Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCTMB) credential.

Professional Organizations

American Massage Therapy Association
(877) 905-0577
www.amtamassage.org

American Massage Therapy Association,
Georgia Chapter
(478) 397-1839
www.amtaga.org

Associated Bodywork and Massage
Professionals
(800) 458-2267
www.abmp.com

Georgia Board of Massage Therapy
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/massage

National Certification Board for
Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork
(800) 296-0664
www.ncbtmb.com

Educational Programs

Certificate

Academy of Somatic Healing Arts
Albany Therapeutic Massage Program
American Professional Institute
Atlanta Beauty and Barber Academy
Atlanta School of Massage
Augusta School of Massage
Georgia Massage Institute
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
International School of Skin, Nailcare and
Massage Therapy
Sanford-Brown College
Savannah School of Massage Therapy
West Georgia Technical College

Diploma

Everest Institute
Georgia Career Institute
Georgia Massage Institute
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Gwinnett College
Moultrie Technical College
Touch for Healing

Associate Degree

Georgia Northwestern Technical College

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

STARTING SALARY

*\$24,606 or
\$11.83/hour*

The versatility, knowledge and skills medical assistants possess due to their cross-training in both clinical and administrative duties make them valuable members of the healthcare team. Working in a variety of settings, medical assistants are true assets to the physician. They perform many clinical duties such as preparing patients for examinations, taking medical histories and recording vital signs, such as blood pressure, temperature, pulse, and respiration. They assist with first aid, collect and prepare laboratory specimens, perform procedures such as EKGs, and may assist with office surgery and physical exams. The administrative duties medical assistants perform include greeting patients, scheduling appointments, updating and filing patient medical records, and arranging hospital admissions. They type reports, process health insurance forms, order supplies, and keep financial records. An experienced medical assistant can advance to other administrative positions. This career is one of the fastest growing professions in the United States.



Work Environment

Chiropractors' offices
Medical clinics
Optometrists' offices
Physical therapy clinics
Physicians' offices
Podiatrists' offices

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. On-the-job training is available but a formal education program is recommended. Two-year programs result in associate degrees while one-year programs grant certificates or diplomas.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Only graduates of medical assisting programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs or the Accreditation Bureau of Health Education Schools are eligible to pursue certification. Medical assistants certified by the American Association of Medical Assistants earn the title Certified Medical Assistant (CMA.) Medical assistants certified by American Medical Technologists earn the title Registered Medical Assistant (RMA.)

Professional Organizations

American Association of Medical Assistants
(312) 899-1500
www.aama-ntl.org

American Medical Technologists
(800) 823-5169
www.amt1.com

Educational Programs

Certificate

American Professional Institute
Bainbridge College
Laurus Technical Institute
Lincoln College of Technology
Sanford-Brown College

Diploma

Albany Technical College
Altamaha Technical College
Athens Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Augusta Technical College
Bainbridge College
Brown Mackie College
Central Georgia Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College

Columbus Technical College
Everest Institute
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Georgia Piedmont Technical College
Gwinnett College
Gwinnett Technical College
Lanier Technical College
Moultrie Technical College
North Georgia Technical College
Oconee Fall Line Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Okefenokee Technical College
Savannah Technical College
South Georgia Technical College
Southeastern Technical College
Southern Crescent Technical College
Southwest Georgia Technical College

West Georgia Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

Associate Degree

Albany Technical College
Bainbridge College
Brown Mackie College
Central Georgia Technical College
Dalton State College
Gwinnett College
Lincoln College of Technology
Moultrie Technical College
South University
Southwest Georgia Technical College
Westwood College

MEDICAL ILLUSTRATOR

STARTING SALARY
*\$60,000 or
\$28.85/hour*

Medical illustrators are professional artists who create visual materials to represent scientific and technical information. Visual materials are critical in explaining medical information to students, physicians, and patients. They are used to make complicated scientific information more understandable. Medical illustrators should have a strong background in art, science, and medicine. They use a variety of media including pen and ink, watercolor, acrylics, sculpting, photography, animation, and computer graphics to illustrate the desired image. A few medical illustrators specialize in a single art medium or in a particular area of medicine, such as neurosurgery or orthopedics.



Work Environment

- Advertising agencies
- Medical, dental, and veterinary schools
- Medical publishing companies
- Medical specialty institutes
- Multimedia companies
- Self-employed
- Teaching and research hospitals

Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree in art, zoology (the study of animals), or a multidisciplinary major combining art and an area of the life sciences is required to enter a school of medical illustration. Medical illustration programs center on the arts, visual problem-solving, and the medical sciences and result in a master's degree after two years of course work.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification is available through the Board of Certification of Medical Illustrators. To qualify, a candidate must have earned a Master's in Medical Illustration from an accredited school or worked in the field full-time for a minimum of five years.

Professional Organizations

Association of Medical Illustrators
(866) 393-4264
www.ami.org

Guild of Natural Science Illustrators
(301) 309-1514
www.gnsi.org

Health and Science Communications Association
(402) 915-5373
www.hesca.org

Educational Programs

Master's Degree
Georgia Regents University

MEDICAL INTERPRETER

STARTING SALARY

\$26,583 or
\$12.78/hour

With the increasing diversity in our country, it is estimated that 25 million people (or 8% of our population) speak limited English. These people are considered limited English proficient or LEP. As healthcare providers treat more and more LEP patients, language and communication barriers can lead to serious healthcare problems including delay of treatment and lack of trust. It is not enough for healthcare providers to rely on bilingual family members or co-workers to interpret. Laws mandate that interpreting services must be available at no charge for patients. Medical interpreters are trained and qualified professionals who ensure that communication between healthcare providers and patients is complete, accurate and effective. They are trained to follow set standards in interpreting – nothing can be added, omitted or changed, everything everyone says has to be interpreted, and confidentiality must be kept. The quality of care often depends as much on the interpreter as the provider because by improving communication, medical interpreters improve healthcare outcomes and patient safety. Medical interpreters primarily interact directly with patients and providers, but they may also work with family members and other staff. They may also provide services over the phone or through video.



Work Environment

Federally funded clinics
Hospitals
Interpreting services agencies
Mental health facilities
Nursing homes
Private physician offices
Public health departments
Rehabilitation centers

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or GED is recommended. The National Council on Interpreting in Health Care recommends that formal education programs provide at least 40 hours of instruction and training ensuring that students are fluent in the languages they will be using, have a thorough knowledge of medical terminology, and are familiar with medical procedures.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Voluntary certification is available from the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI) and the National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters (NBCMI). CCHI awards the credential of Certified Healthcare Interpreter (CHI) and NBCMI awards the credential of Certified Medical Interpreter (CMI).

Professional Organizations

Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters
(866) 969-6665
www.healthcareinterpretercertification.org

International Medical Interpreters Association
(617) 636-1798
www.imiaweb.org

National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters
(765) 633-2378
www.certifiedmedicalinterpreters.org

National Council on Interpreting in Health Care
(202) 505-1537
www.ncihc.org

Educational Programs

Various organizations and hospital systems offer training programs for medical interpreters. Contact the International Medical Interpreters Association for additional training opportunities.

Certificate

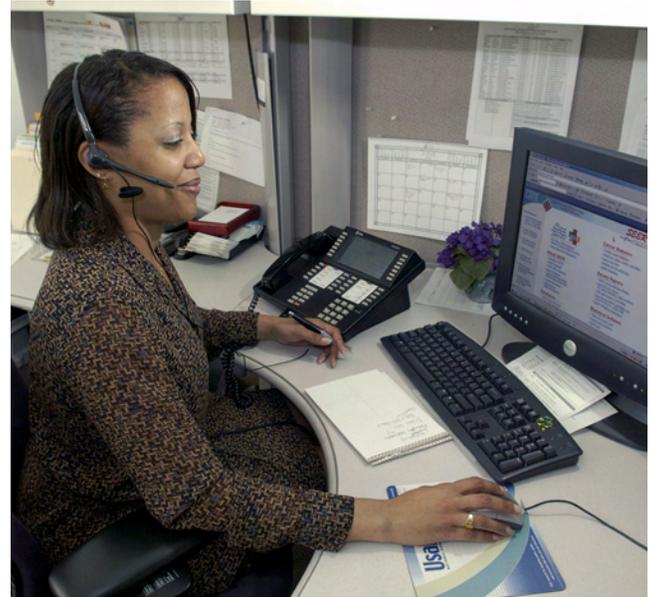
Georgia State University
University of Georgia

MEDICAL SECRETARY

STARTING SALARY

\$25,860 or
\$12.43/hour

Medical secretaries, also known as medical office specialists or administrative assistants, perform a variety of administrative duties in order to keep a medical office running smoothly. They possess strong computer skills and knowledge of software applications such as word processing, data processing, and bookkeeping. Familiar with medical terminology, they transcribe dictation, update records, and complete insurance forms. Medical secretaries greet patients, take medical histories, and establish their charts. They answer phone calls, schedule appointments, prepare bills, and record payments. Speaking another language, such as Spanish, is very helpful in this career field.



Work Environment

Chiropractic offices
Clinics
Dental offices
Health maintenance organizations
Home health agencies
Hospitals
Insurance companies
Medical schools
Pharmaceutical companies
Physician practices
Public health departments
Veterinarian offices

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is recommended. A medical secretary may receive on-the-job training; however, most

seek formal education. Programs last from several months to two years and lead to certificates, diplomas, and associate degrees.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification for patient accounting is available through the American Association of Healthcare Administrative Management. Other beneficial certifications for skills such as medical coding, bookkeeping, billing, privacy, transcription, and reimbursement are available from the American Health Information Management Association and other professional organizations.

Professional Organizations

American Association of Healthcare
Administrative Management
(703) 281-4043
www.aaham.org

International Association of Administrative
Professionals
(816) 891-6600
www.iaap-hq.org

Educational Programs

Certificate

Bainbridge College
Central Georgia Technical College
Columbus Technical College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Gwinnett Technical College
Kennesaw State University
Lanier Technical College
Laurus Technical Institute
Moultrie Technical College
North Georgia Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Savannah Technical College
South Georgia Technical College

Southeastern Technical College
Southwest Georgia Technical College
West Georgia Technical College

Diploma

Albany Technical College
Altamaha Technical College
Augusta Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College
Everest Institute
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Gwinnett College
Moultrie Technical College

Oconee Fall Line Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Savannah Technical College
South Georgia Technical College
Southeastern Technical College
Southwest Georgia Technical College
West Georgia Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

Associate Degree

Bainbridge College
Westwood College

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$27,755 or
\$13.34/hour*

A medical transcriptionist, also known as a medical language specialist, listens to medical information about a patient, evaluates the content for accuracy, types what is heard, and then places the information in the patient's medical record. When necessary, medical transcriptionists must utilize appropriate problem-solving techniques if the content is inaccurate or contradictory. The dictation must provide a clear, concise record which must contain correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Transcriptionists use computers and word processors to complete many medical documents, including medical histories, physicals, operative reports and consultations. They record procedures and treatments for the medical record and for the practitioner's reference.



Work Environment

Clinics
Hospitals
Insurance companies
Physicians' offices
Private transcription companies
Self-employed

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Classroom and clinical experience typically last from nine to eighteen months for a certificate.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. The Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity offers two credentialing exams. The Registered Medical Transcriptionist (RMT) exam is available for medical transcriptionists with less than two years of experience. After gaining two years of experience, medical transcriptionists may take the certification exam which enables them to apply for the Certified Medical Transcriptionist (CMT) credential.

Professional Organizations

Association for Healthcare
Documentation Integrity
(800) 982-2182
www.ahdionline.org

Educational Programs

Certificate

Altamaha Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Augusta Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Kennesaw State University
Moultrie Technical College
Southwest Georgia Technical College
West Georgia Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$52,518 or
\$25.25/hour*

Nuclear medicine technologists use radioactive materials and complex instruments to “see” organ images and body functions, and assist in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases. Skilled in patient care, nuclear medicine technologists instruct patients prior to medical procedures. Under the direction of a physician, they calculate dosages and administer appropriate radioactive drugs. Technologists must also document the use and disposal of radioactive materials. Technological innovations may increase the diagnostic uses of nuclear medicine. New nuclear imaging technologies, including positron emission tomography/computed tomography systems (PET/CT) and single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT), are expected to be used increasingly and will contribute to employment growth. The wider use of nuclear medical imaging to observe metabolic and biochemical changes during neurology, cardiology, and oncology procedures will also spur demand for nuclear medicine technologists.



Work Environment

Cardiology centers
Clinics
Hospitals
Imaging centers
Pharmaceutical companies
Research facilities

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Three programs are available: two-year associate degree, four-year bachelor's degree, and one-year post-baccalaureate certificate. The Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologist Section proposes that by the year 2015, a bachelor's level program will be the minimum standard in education for this profession.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. To be eligible for certification, graduation from an accredited program is required. Registration and certification are available through the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board or the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. After obtaining certification, technologists may then use the credentials CNMT (Certified Nuclear Medicine Technologist) or RT(N) (Registered Technologist, Nuclear). Most employers require certification and/or registration.

Professional Organizations

American Registry of Radiologic Technologists
(651) 687-0048
www.arrt.org

American Society of Radiologic Technologists
(505) 298-4500
www.asrt.org

Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology
(405) 285-0546
www.jrcnmt.org

Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board
(404) 315-1739
www.nmtcb.org

Society of Nuclear Medicine
(703) 708-9000
www.snm.org

Educational Programs

Bachelor's Degree

Armstrong Atlantic State University
Georgia Regents University

NURSE ANESTHETIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$126,851 or
\$60.99/hour*

Anesthesia is the use of drugs, gases, and nerve blocks to provide a partial or total loss of pain during surgery. Caring for patients before, during, and after surgical procedures, nurse anesthetists blend nursing skills with the practice of anesthesia. They provide services similar to those of anesthesiologists (physicians specializing in anesthesia), and may work independently or under the supervision of a physician. Nurse anesthetists are often the sole anesthesia provider in rural areas. These nurses interview patients before surgery and design a customized plan of care based on medical history and type of surgery. During surgery, nurse anesthetists administer anesthetic drugs, monitor the patient's vital signs (blood pressure, heart function, and temperature) and adjust the doses of anesthetics and other medications to assure optimal patient safety and comfort. They also manage the patient's airway and control breathing. Nurse anesthetists have the critical responsibility of safeguarding patients during surgery, and as a result, practice in the highest paid nursing specialty.



Work Environment

- Ambulatory surgical centers
- Dental offices
- Hospitals
- Military
- Pain clinics
- Private physician surgical centers

Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree in nursing, a current nursing license, and a minimum of one year's experience as a registered nurse in an acute care area are required. Nurse anesthesia programs must be accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (home.coa.us.com). All nurse anesthesia programs are at the graduate level and last from 28 months for a master's degree to 36 months for a doctoral degree. All programs will be at the doctorate level by 2020.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Registered nursing licensure, authorization for advanced practice, and national certification are required by the Georgia Board of Nursing. Certification in the specialty of anesthesia is obtained through the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists. Upon passing the certifying exam, the credential CRNA (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist) is awarded.

Professional Organizations

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
(847) 692-7050
www.aana.com

Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists
(770) 487-3900
www.gana.org

Educational Programs

Master's Degree
Georgia Regents University

NURSE EDUCATOR

STARTING SALARY
*\$53,500 or
\$25.72/hour*

Our nation is facing a serious nursing shortage that is expected to continue over the next decade. Across the country, thousands of qualified applicants are turned away from nursing programs due to the insufficient number of nursing faculty. Nurse educators play a vital role in preparing future generations of nurses. Nurse educators are registered nurses with advanced education (a master's or doctoral degree in nursing) and extensive clinical experience. Nurse educators are employed as faculty members in nursing schools, or they may work as hospital-based staff development educators or clinical supervisors. They design education programs, develop lesson plans, teach courses and oversee students' clinical practice. Many nurse educators also choose to continue clinical practice in addition to teaching.



Work Environment

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

Academic Requirements

Nurse educator programs are available at the master's, post-master's certificate, and doctoral levels. Nurse educators who work in academic settings must hold a master's degree in nursing, although a doctoral degree is considered the preferred degree for academic-based nurse educators.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Registered nurse licensure is required by the Georgia Board of Nursing. The National League for Nursing offers voluntary certification for the Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) credential. Specialty certification as a nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, nurse midwife, or nurse anesthetist is required if teaching in those specific areas.

Professional Organizations

American Nurses Association
(800) 274-4ANA
www.nursingworld.org

National League for Nursing
(212) 363-5555
www.nln.org

Educational Programs

Master's Degree

- Albany State University
- Brenau University
- Clayton State University
- Kennesaw State University
- Mercer University
- Thomas University
- University of North Georgia
- University of West Georgia
- Valdosta State University

Doctoral Degree

- Kennesaw State University
- Mercer University

Advanced Certificate

- Georgia Southern University
- Mercer University
- Thomas University
- University of North Georgia
- University of West Georgia

NURSE-MIDWIFE

STARTING SALARY

*\$78,333 or
\$37.66/hour*

Nurse-midwives are advanced practice registered nurses who are educated in midwifery and receive additional training in women's healthcare. Nurse-midwives provide care for healthy women before, during, and after childbirth. During the birthing process, they spend time with the mother to provide needed emotional and physical support. They provide labor support, conduct the delivery, help in newborn care, and counsel mothers on infant growth and future pregnancies. Nurse-midwives are prized members of the childbirth team because they offer safe, accessible birth care. This is especially true in many rural and inner-city areas with few physicians. Nurse-midwifery has helped to reduce infant mortality by providing early care to pregnant women, and by increasing the use of prenatal care facilities. Nurse-midwives also provide regular gynecological care including annual visits, contraception and hormone therapy throughout the woman's lifespan.



Work Environment

Birthing centers
Clinics
Health maintenance organizations
Hospitals
Physicians' offices
Public health departments

Academic Requirements

A Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), a current nursing license, and experience are typical requirements for acceptance into nurse-midwifery programs. Some schools offer bridge programs that allow registered nurses without a bachelor's degree to complete their BSN before beginning the midwifery education component. Graduation from a program accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (www.midwife.org/accreditation) is required. A master's degree in nursing or a post-masters certificate is awarded at the completion of the program.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Registered nursing licensure is required by the Georgia Board of Nursing. Certification is obtained from the American Midwifery Certification Board. Upon certification, nurse-midwives may use the credential CNM (Certified Nurse-Midwife).

Professional Organizations

American College of Nurse-Midwives
(240) 485-1800
www.midwife.org

American Midwifery Certification Board
(410) 694-9424
www.amcbmidwife.org

Georgia Board of Nursing
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/rn

Georgia Nurses Association
(404) 325-5536
www.georgianurses.org

National League for Nursing
(212) 363-5555
www.nln.org

Educational Programs

Master's Degree

Emory University

Advanced Certificate

Emory University

NURSE PRACTITIONER

STARTING SALARY

*\$73,943 or
\$35.55/hour*

As the nation continues to experience a lack of adequate healthcare providers, the health system depends on nurse practitioners (NPs) for delivery of quality care. NPs are advanced practice registered nurses who provide valuable services. They have advanced educational preparation and specialty certification that qualifies them to conduct health screenings and physical exams to assess health conditions, identify and diagnose problems, prescribe tests and medications, and develop plans to improve health outcomes. In addition to clinical care, NPs focus on health promotion and disease prevention by educating patients about their conditions and the need for preventive activities. They deliver valued primary care in diverse settings including underserved regions, rural communities, inner-city areas, hospitals, clinics, and retail stores. Some NPs own their own practices and are reimbursed for services by the state and federal government and many insurance companies. NPs work in collaboration with physicians and other providers. According to the July, 2012 Medical Care journal, the nurse practitioner population will nearly double by 2025. The new care models such as the patient-centered medical home and accountable care organizations depend on NPs.



Areas of Specialization

Acute Care
Adult Health
Adult Psychiatric/Mental Health
Diabetes Management
Family Health
Family Psychiatric/Mental Health
Gerontology Health
Pediatric/Child Health
School Health

Work Environment

Academic institutions
Community health centers
Health maintenance organizations
Home health agencies
Hospitals

Migrant health centers
Military
Nursing homes
Private physician or NP practices
Public health departments
Retail store clinics
Rural health clinics

Academic Requirements

NPs have graduate level education and clinical training beyond registered nurse preparation. To enter a nurse practitioner program in Georgia, one must have a Bachelor of Science in nursing (BSN) degree and hold a current nursing license. Programs provide concentration in areas of specialization such as family, adult health, women's health, gerontology and

pediatrics. Programs last from two to four years with full-time study and lead to a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), a post-MSN certificate or a Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP).

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Registered nursing licensure is required by the state through the Georgia Board of Nursing. Certification is required for areas of specialization and is available through the American Nurses Credentialing Center, American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, and other nursing certification organizations accredited by the American Board of Nursing Specialties.

Professional Organizations

American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
(512) 442-4262
www.aanp.org

American Nurses Association
(301) 628-5000
www.nursingworld.org

Georgia Nurses Association
(404) 325-5536
www.georgianurses.org

Educational Programs

Master's Degree

Albany State University
Armstrong Atlantic State University
Brenau University
Emory University
Georgia College & State University
Georgia Regents University
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
Kennesaw State University
Mercer University

University of North Georgia
Valdosta State University

Advanced Certificate

Armstrong Atlantic State University
Emory University
Georgia College & State University
Georgia Regents University
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University

NURSE REGISTERED

STARTING SALARY

*\$52,106 or
\$25.05/hour*

Registered nurses (RNs) care for patients by providing both treatment and education. They work closely with physicians and other health professionals as part of a healthcare team. RNs use a broad knowledge base to assess and understand problems, administer treatments and make decisions about patient care. They interpret and respond to patient symptoms, reactions, and progress. RNs also teach patients and families about proper healthcare, assist in patient rehabilitation, and provide emotional and physical support to promote recovery and well-being. Nurses often choose to work in specialized areas such as critical care, pediatrics, nursing administration, and public health. Registered nurses may supervise nursing aides, assistants, and licensed practical nurses. Nursing is a challenging and highly rewarding career that will continue to be in high demand well into the future.



Areas of Specialization

There are many workplace settings, populations and medical conditions that an RN can specialize in such as pediatrics, geriatrics, psychiatric/mental health, school nursing, public health nursing, and informatics. Visit the American Board of Nursing Specialties (www.nursingcertification.org) to see all of the approved boards and organizations that offer specialty nursing certification.

Work Environment

Birthing centers
Colleges and universities
Community health centers
Dialysis centers
Hospitals
Industry
Mental health institutions
Migrant centers
Military
Nursing homes
Physicians' offices
Prisons
Private homes
Public health departments
Public schools
Rehabilitation centers

Academic Requirements

To become a registered nurse, students must complete an accredited nursing program leading to an associate degree or bachelor's degree in nursing. Advanced education and training is also available at the master's and doctoral levels.

Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN), Associate of Applied Science (AAS), or Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) - Offered primarily by community colleges as two-year programs.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) - Offered by colleges and universities as a four-year program.

Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) or Master's in Nursing (MN) - Offered by colleges and universities, a master's degree generally requires one to three years of additional training after obtaining a BSN.

Doctor of Nursing Science (DNSc, DNS, or DSN), Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP or DrNP) or Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) - Offered by universities, a doctorate degree requires numerous years of additional education and research experience.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required by the Georgia Board of Nursing. After licensure is obtained, nurses may use the RN (Registered Nurse) credential. Certification demonstrating excellence in a specialty area is available from the American Nurses Credentialing Center and other nurse certification organizations accredited by the American Board of Nursing Specialties.

Professional Organizations

American Nurses Association
(301) 628-5000
www.nursingworld.org

Georgia Board of Nursing
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/rn

Georgia Nurses Association
(404) 325-5536
www.georgianurses.org

National League for Nursing
(212) 363-5555
www.nln.org

Educational Programs

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

Educational Programs

Associate Degree

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
Athens Technical College
Bainbridge College
Chattahoochee Technical College
College of Coastal Georgia
Columbus Technical College
Dalton State College
Dartmouth State College
Georgia Highlands College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Georgia Perimeter College
Gordon State College
Gwinnett Technical College
Middle Georgia State College
South Georgia State College
Southwest Georgia Technical College
University of North Georgia
West Georgia Technical College

Bachelor's Degree

Albany State University
Armstrong Atlantic State University
Brenau University
Clayton State University
College of Coastal Georgia
Columbus State University
Dalton State College
Dartmouth State College
Emory University
Georgia College & State University
Georgia Regents University
Georgia Southern University
Georgia Southwestern State University
Georgia State University
Gordon State College
Kennesaw State University
LaGrange College
Mercer University
Middle Georgia State College
Piedmont College
Shorter University
South Georgia State College
Thomas University
University of West Georgia
Valdosta State University

Master's Degree

Albany State University
Armstrong Atlantic State University
Brenau University
Clayton State University
Emory University
Georgia College & State University
Georgia Regents University
Georgia Southern University
Georgia Southwestern State University
Georgia State University
Kennesaw State University
Mercer University
Thomas University
University of North Georgia
University of West Georgia
Valdosta State University

Doctoral Degree

Emory University
Georgia College & State University
Georgia Regents University
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
Kennesaw State University
Mercer University

NURSING ASSISTANT

STARTING SALARY

*\$20,480 or
\$9.85/hour*

By providing routine patient care, nursing assistants play a vital role in healthcare delivery. Working under the supervision of a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or physician, they answer patient call lights, serve meals, and check blood pressure, temperature, pulse, and breathing. Assistants visit with patients while helping them change position, walk, bathe, and eat. They generally have a great deal of patient contact and are important in developing patient relationships that foster trust. Those who work in nursing homes are called geriatric assistants. Some patients are discharged from hospitals needing additional home care. Nursing assistants allow these people to recover at home rather than in hospitals or nursing homes. They assist with medications, change linens, and teach family members to care for the patient during recovery.



Work Environment

Home health agencies
Hospice
Hospitals
Mental health institutions
Nursing homes
Physicians' offices
Private homes

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is recommended. Training is available at high schools, nursing homes, technical colleges, home care agencies and private schools. Education is available at the certificate level and typically consists of at least 89 hours of lectures and demonstrations, and 24 hours of supervised clinical practice.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required. The required Georgia certification is given by state-approved training facilities. Upon certification the CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) credential may be used.

Professional Organizations

Georgia Health Partnership
(800) 766-4456
www.mmis.georgia.gov

Nursing Assistant Central
www.nursingassistantcentral.com

Educational Programs

Education for this career is offered by numerous organizations. Please visit the Georgia Health Partnership website at www.mmis.georgia.gov for a list of approved programs.

Certificate

Altamaha Technical College	Georgia Piedmont Technical College
American Professional Institute	Gwinnett Technical College
Athens Technical College	Kennesaw State University
Atlanta Technical College	Lanier Technical College
Augusta Technical College	Moultrie Technical College
Bainbridge College	Oconee Fall Line Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College	Ogeechee Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College	Okefenokee Technical College
Columbus Technical College	Savannah Technical College
Dalton State College	Southeastern Technical College
Everest Institute	Southern Crescent Technical College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College	West Georgia Technical College
	Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$56,178 or
\$27.01/hour*

Occupational therapy is a health and rehabilitation profession that helps people regain and build skills that are important for health and well-being as they pursue their everyday occupations. Occupational therapists (OTs) work with people of all ages who, because of physical, developmental, social, or emotional deficits, need specialized assistance in learning skills that will enable them to lead independent, productive, and satisfying lives. OTs teach new job skills or adaptations of current abilities. They recommend and/or design splints, special devices and adaptive equipment or technology to promote and maintain independent functioning. The ultimate goal of the OT is to enhance the client's quality of life by helping them achieve the highest level of independence possible.



Areas of Specialization

- Driving and Community Mobility
- Environmental Modification
- Feeding, Eating, and Swallowing
- Gerontology
- Hand Therapy
- Low Vision
- Mental Health
- Pediatrics
- Physical Rehabilitation
- School Systems

Work Environment

- Adult day care facilities
- Assisted living centers
- Home health agencies
- Hospice centers
- Hospitals
- Mental health centers
- Nursing homes
- Outpatient orthopedic clinics
- Physicians' offices
- Prisons

- Public and private schools
- Rehabilitation centers
- Retirement communities
- Sports medicine clinics

Academic Requirements

A master's degree in occupational therapy is the entry-level preparation for this profession. Some schools offer students without a bachelor's degree the option to apply to combined bachelor/master's degree programs. This is a good option for OTAs or students who have completed 90 or more college credit hours and prerequisite coursework. Programs typically require two or more years of study including fieldwork experience. Graduation from a program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education is required.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Georgia requires licensure through the Georgia State Board of Occupational Therapy. OTs must successfully complete supervised fieldwork experience and pass the national certification exam

administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy. The Registered Occupational Therapist (OTR) credential is then awarded. The American Occupational Therapy Association provides voluntary board and specialty certification in several areas. OTs may also pursue the Certified Hand Therapist (CHT) credential from the Hand Therapy Certification Commission which requires a minimum of five years of OT experience including 4,000 hours of direct practice in hand therapy.

Professional Organizations

American Occupational Therapy Association
(301) 652-2682
www.aota.org

Georgia Occupational Therapy Association
(770) 435-5910
www.gaota.com

Georgia State Board of Occupational Therapy
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/ot

Educational Programs

Master's Degree

- Brenau University
- Georgia Regents University

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

STARTING SALARY

\$43,667 or
\$20.99/hour

Occupational therapy assistants (OTAs) help people adapt to physical, emotional, cognitive, or developmental disabilities. An OTA works with the very young to the very old whose abilities are impaired by developmental disabilities, the aging process, physical injury, disease, psychological and social disabilities, and/or learning disabilities. Occupational therapy assistants help individuals learn or relearn self-care and daily skills such as dressing and eating. They aid in educational, recreational, and vocational activities to restore independence and self-reliance. Assisting the occupational therapist, they participate in evaluations, treatment planning/interventions, and reviews of patient progress.



Work Environment

- Adult day care facilities
- Assisted living facilities
- Clinics
- Home health agencies
- Hospice programs
- Hospitals
- Industry
- Mental health centers
- Nursing homes
- Physicians' offices
- Prisons
- Rehabilitation centers
- Schools

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Occupational therapy assistant programs involve two years of study, including four months of supervised practical experience, and grant an associate degree upon completion.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Georgia requires licensure through the Georgia State Board of Occupational Therapy. A national certification exam is given by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy. Upon passing the exam, assistants become Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants (COTA).

Professional Organizations

American Occupational Therapy Association
(301) 652-2682
www.aota.org

Georgia Occupational Therapy Association
(770) 435-5910
www.gaota.com

Georgia State Board of Occupational Therapy
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/ot

National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc.
(301) 990-7979
www.nbcot.org

Educational Programs

Associate Degree

- Augusta Technical College
- Brown Mackie College
- Chattahoochee Technical College
- Darton State College
- Georgia Northwestern Technical College
- Middle Georgia State College

OPTICIAN

STARTING SALARY

*\$39,520 or
\$19.00/hour*

Opticians can be described as visual pharmacists. They fill the prescriptions of optometrists and ophthalmologists (physicians specializing in eye care) for both glasses and contact lenses. They do not examine eyes or prescribe lenses, but they help patients select eyeglasses according to their lifestyle, occupation, and facial features and can fit contact lenses according to the measurements provided by the physician. Opticians prepare the order for eyeglasses according to the prescription, curvature placement, frame style, color, frame material, lens material and size for the lenses. Special equipment is used to cut, grind, edge, and finish these eyeglasses to very strict manufacturing and optical standards. They verify the prescription after it is filled and make adjustments to the glasses to ensure a proper fit and lens positioning. Opticians, sometimes called ophthalmic dispensing technicians, often own and operate laboratories in which prescription eyewear is manufactured. Office management, sales, and repairs are also part of their daily routine. Opticians can fit contact lenses under the supervision of an optometrist or ophthalmologist. Licensed opticians can open their own eyeglass business and can even bring in a contracted optometrist to provide the necessary prescription for the glasses or contacts to be made.



Work Environment

Department stores
Manufacturers
Offices of ophthalmologists & optometrists
Retail chain stores
Self-employed (optician-owned store)
Wholesale labs

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Requirements vary by employer, but on-the-job training includes two years of experience under a licensed optician, optometrist, or ophthalmologist. Formal education is offered at a few technical colleges through diploma and associate degree programs.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required in Georgia by the Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians. Applicants are required to pass the examinations given by American Board of Opticianry/National Contact Lens Examiners and the Georgia Practical Examination before becoming a licensed dispensing optician (LDO). Certification is available through the American Board of Opticianry and the National Contact Lens Examiners.

Professional Organizations

American Board of Opticianry/National Contact Lens Examiners
(703) 719-5800
www.abo-ncle.org

Contact Lens Society of America
(800) 296-9776
www.clsa.info

Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/opticians

National Academy of Opticianry
(800) 229-4828
www.nao.org

Opticians Association of Georgia
(770) 666-5489
www.oagonline.org

Educational Programs

Diploma

Ogeechee Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

Associate Degree

Ogeechee Technical College

OPTOMETRIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$78,175 or
\$37.58/hour*

Optometrists, also called Doctors of Optometry, are independent healthcare professionals who are specifically licensed to diagnose and treat conditions of the human visual system. These conditions include eye diseases as well as difficulties with vision that are not related to disease. Optometrists usually treat patients with medications, eyeglasses, contact lenses or vision therapy. Since many general health problems may affect the eyes, optometrists are often the first to find signs of conditions such as diabetes and hypertension. Many optometrists choose to specialize in an area of practice such as low vision rehabilitation, contact lenses, family practice, and vision therapy by completing a residency program. Most optometrists are self-employed and therefore must know how to develop and manage a business.



Areas of Specialization

Community Health Optometry
Cornea and Contact Lenses
Family Practice Optometry
Geriatric Optometry
Low Vision Rehabilitation
Ocular Disease
Primary Eye Care
Refractive and Ocular Surgery
Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation

Work Environment

Colleges and universities
Hospital-based clinics
Military
Multi-doctor practices
Private practice
Public health
Research
Retail eye care centers

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required in Georgia through the Georgia State Board of Optometry. Both written and clinical exams given by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry must be passed to obtain a license.

Professional Organizations

American Optometric Association & Accreditation Council on Optometric Education
(800) 365-2219
www.aoa.org

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
(301) 231-5944
www.opted.org

Georgia State Board of Optometry
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/optometry

National Board of Examiners in Optometry
(704) 332-9565
www.optometry.org

Academic Requirements

Optometry schools vary in requirements, but most students accepted into programs have completed an undergraduate degree with courses in biology, chemistry, organic chemistry, physics and microbiology. All applicants are required to pass the Optometry Admissions Test. The four-year professional program leads to a Doctor of Optometry, (O.D.). A minimum one-year residency in a specialized area of practice following graduation is recommended, but still optional.

Educational Programs

Georgia does not have an educational program in Optometry.

Alabama

University of Alabama at Birmingham
www.uab.edu

Florida

NOVA Southeastern University
<http://optometry.nova.edu>

Tennessee

Southern College of Optometry
www.sco.edu

PERFUSIONIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$81,049 or
\$38.97/hour*

Perfusionists are important members of the open heart surgical team. During open heart surgeries, perfusionists manage and monitor the heart-lung machine which performs the function of the human heart and lungs. These professionals monitor the patient's condition and work to maintain the body in the same physiological state as would be done by the native heart and lungs. Perfusionists sometimes perform similar functions outside of the operating room such as monitoring and maintaining artificial hearts, ventricular assist devices, and other circulatory assist devices. Perfusionists must have a thorough knowledge of pathophysiology, pharmacology, anatomy, physiology, and artificial circulation technology in order to perform these duties competently and safely. Perfusion care is performed in a team-oriented setting, and is considered to be highly stressful.



Work Environment

Equipment manufacturers
Hospitals

Academic Requirements

A strong background in science is recommended. Some programs require candidates to have backgrounds in medical technology, respiratory therapy, or nursing. A bachelor's degree is required for all programs that are not bachelor degree granting programs. Programs are generally one- to two-years in length. Admission into schools of perfusion is extremely competitive.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required in Georgia through the Georgia Composite Medical Board. Certification is available through the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion. After passing the examination, individuals may use the initials CCP (Certified Clinical Perfusionist). This is a voluntary process, but most employers require certification.

Professional Organizations

American Board of Cardiovascular
Perfusion
(601) 582-2227
www.abcp.org

American Society of Extra-Corporeal
Technology
(804) 565-6363
www.amsect.org

Educational Programs

Georgia does not have an educational program.

Florida

Barry University
www.barry.edu/cvp

South Carolina

Medical University of South Carolina
www.musc.edu/chp/cp

Tennessee

Vanderbilt University Medical Center
www.mc.vanderbilt.edu

PHARMACIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$102,500 or
\$49.28/hour*

Pharmacists dispense prescribed drugs, help consumers select over-the-counter medications, and prepare ointments, powders, and capsules. These healthcare professionals serve as medication “specialists” on patient-care teams by providing information to assure optimal patient outcomes with drug therapy. Pharmacists partner with physicians to assist patients in managing chronic diseases such as diabetes. They may educate and counsel patients on aspects of their disease or condition. Many pharmacists own or manage pharmacies and may have other duties such as purchasing drugs and other health-related supplies and supervising pharmacy staff.



Areas of Specialization

The Board of Pharmacy Specialties offers certification for the following specializations:

- Ambulatory Care Pharmacy
- Nuclear Pharmacy
- Nutrition Support Pharmacy
- Oncology Pharmacy
- Pharmacotherapy
- Psychiatric Pharmacy

Work Environment

- Clinics
- Colleges and universities
- Community pharmacies
- Government
- Health maintenance organizations
- Hospitals
- Military
- Pharmaceutical industry
- Public health departments
- Retail drug chains

Educational Programs

Doctoral Degree

- Mercer University
- Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine School of Pharmacy – Georgia Campus
- South University
- University of Georgia

Academic Requirements

All of Georgia’s pharmacy schools require students to take the Pharmacy College Admissions Test prior to admission. A Doctor of Pharmacy degree (Pharm.D.) requires a minimum of six years of education: two years of pre-pharmacy study at the undergraduate level and four years in the pharmacy school program. Some schools offer accelerated programs condensing the program into three years. Students may elect additional training in a specialty area through a one- to two-year residency.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required through the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy. To practice pharmacy, all graduates are required to pass the North American Pharmacist Licensure Exam and a state specific pharmacy law exam. Specialty area certification is available from the Board of Pharmacy Specialties.

Professional Organizations

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
(703) 739-2330
www.aacp.org

American Pharmacists Association
(202) 628-4410
www.pharmacist.com

Board of Pharmacy Specialties
(202) 429-7591
www.bpsweb.org

Georgia State Board of Pharmacy
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/pharmacy

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

STARTING SALARY
*\$23,395 or
\$11.25/hour*

Pharmacy technicians work under the direct supervision of a pharmacist. They are trained to receive and screen prescription orders for completeness and accuracy and to prepare and distribute medications. Compounding (mixing), counting and labeling medications, preparing IVs and determining drug charges are all duties a pharmacy technician may perform. Pharmacy technicians must be skilled in basic computer operations as well as ordering, stocking, packaging, and maintaining the inventory of medications.



Work Environment

Clinics
Health maintenance organizations
Home health pharmacies
Home infusion pharmacies
Hospitals
Institutional (prison) pharmacies
Mail order pharmacies
Military base pharmacies
Nursing home pharmacies
Retail drug stores and chains

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Many pharmacy technicians are trained on-the-job. Formal training can range from 6 months for a certificate up to 18 months for an associate degree.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia, but pharmacy technicians must be registered with the Board of Pharmacy prior to employment. National certification may be obtained through the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB). Upon passing the exam, the credential CPhT (Certified Pharmacy Technician) may be used.

Professional Organizations

American Pharmacists Association
(202) 628-4410
www.pharmacist.com

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
(301) 657-3000
www.ashp.org

National Pharmacy Technician Association
(888) 247-8700
www.pharmacytechnician.org

Pharmacy Technician Certification Board
(800) 363-8012
www.ptcb.org

Educational Programs

Certificate

American Professional Institute
Kennesaw State University

Diploma

Albany Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Augusta Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Columbus Technical College
Everest Institute

Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Lanier Technical College
North Georgia Technical College
Oconee Fall Line Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Southeastern Technical College
Southern Crescent Technical College
Southwest Georgia Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

Associate Degree

Albany Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Augusta Technical College
Brown Mackie College
Columbus Technical College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
North Georgia Technical College
Southern Crescent Technical College
Southwest Georgia Technical College

PHLEBOTOMIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$22,033 or
\$10.59/hour*

As part of the laboratory team, phlebotomists collect and process blood to be analyzed. They have a great deal of patient contact and help calm nervous patients before beginning the blood collection process. Their education and experience help them to draw blood with the least possible anxiety and discomfort to the patient. Because they risk exposure to diseases, phlebotomists are trained in laboratory safety and careful collection of blood. Phlebotomists are usually supervised by a medical technologist.



Work Environment

Blood donation centers
Clinics
Home health agencies
Hospitals
Insurance companies
Pheresis (blood separation) centers
Physicians' offices
Public health departments
Reference laboratories

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Training can be obtained through one-year on-the-job instruction, or through a formal phlebotomy program, which lasts several months.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification is available from the American Society for Clinical Pathology, the American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians, and American Medical Technologists.

Professional Organizations

American Medical Technologists
(847) 823-5169
www.amtl.com

American Society for Clinical Pathology
(800) 267-2727
www.ascp.org

American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians
(828) 294-0078
www.aspt.org

National Phlebotomy Association
(301) 386-4200
www.nationalphlebotomy.org

Educational Programs

Certificate

Athens Technical College	Lanier Technical College
Atlanta Technical College	Ogeechee Technical College
Bainbridge College	Okefenokee Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College	Savannah Technical College
Columbus Technical College	South Georgia Technical College
Dalton State College	Southeastern Technical College
Darton State College	Southern Crescent Technical College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College	Southwest Georgia Technical College
Georgia Piedmont Technical College	West Georgia Technical College
Kennesaw State University	Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

STARTING SALARY
\$63,680 or
\$30.62/hour

Physical therapists (PTs) work with people of all ages and various disabilities. They help clients conquer the challenges of recovery – an athlete needing to gain strength and flexibility, an accident victim learning to use an artificial limb, or a stroke patient needing rehabilitation at home. They use a variety of interventions such as exercises, joint mobilization/manipulation, electrical stimulation, massage, and other physical agents such as water immersion, ultrasound, heat and cold. These therapies help clients develop endurance, coordination, increase joint mobility and range of motion, increase muscle strength, decrease pain, and prevent further injury. PTs also work with patients to overcome emotional and physical barriers that hinder recovery. Although many PTs practice in hospitals, more than 80 percent work in other settings.



Areas of Specialization

Cardiovascular and Pulmonary
Clinical Electrophysiology
Geriatrics
Neurology
Orthopedics
Pediatrics
Sports Physical Therapy
Women's Health

Work Environment

Colleges and universities
Home health agencies
Hospice
Hospitals
Nursing homes
Outpatient clinics
Physical therapy clinics
Public schools
Rehabilitation centers
Research institutions
Self-employed
Sports facilities
Workplace wellness programs

Academic Requirements

An undergraduate degree and shadowing experience are required for admission into physical therapy programs. Nearly all accredited programs are at the doctoral level, which is considered the entry-level education requirement for this profession, and they typically last three years.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Physical therapists are required to have a license through the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy. Applicants must graduate from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education and pass a national exam and a Georgia State Practice Act examination administered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy. The American Board of Physical Therapy offers physical therapists the voluntary opportunity to become certified as clinical specialists in the areas of specialization listed above.

Professional Organizations

American Board of Physical Therapy
Specialties
(703) 684-2782
www.abpts.org

American Physical Therapy Association
(800) 999-2782
www.apta.org

Federation of State Boards of Physical
Therapy
(703) 299-3100
www.fsbpt.org

Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/pt

Physical Therapy Association of Georgia
(770) 433-2418
www.ptagonline.org

Educational Programs

Doctoral Degree

Armstrong Atlantic State University
Emory University
Georgia Regents University

Georgia State University
Mercer University
University of North Georgia

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

STARTING SALARY

*\$43,972 or
\$21.14/hour*

Physical therapist assistants (PTAs) provide physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist (PT). PTAs help people of all ages who have health related conditions that can interfere with their ability to function in their daily lives. They perform many of the same functions as PTs but do not participate in evaluating clients or in developing therapy programs. Their duties include carrying out the plan of care designed by a physical therapist, educating patients in activities of daily living, teaching therapeutic exercises, and providing treatments using special equipment. PTAs observe their patient's progress and report treatment responses to the physical therapist.



Work Environment

- Academic institutions
- Business and industry
- Home health agencies
- Hospitals
- Outpatient physical therapy clinics
- Private and public schools
- Rehabilitation centers
- Skilled nursing facilities
- Sports medicine clinics

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Admission into PTA programs is very competitive. Physical therapist assistants must complete a two-year educational program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education leading to an associate degree. The curriculum usually includes a year of general education courses and a year of specific technical courses on physical therapy procedures and clinical experiences.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required in Georgia by the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy. After obtaining an associate degree from an accredited PTA program, graduates are able to sit for the national physical therapist assistant examination administered through the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy.

Professional Organizations

American Physical Therapy Association
(703) 684-2782
www.apta.org

Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education
(703) 706-3245
www.capteonline.org

Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy
(703) 299-3100
www.fsbpt.org

Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/pt

Physical Therapy Association of Georgia
(770) 433-2418
www.ptagonline.org

Educational Programs

Associate Degree

- Athens Technical College
- Atlanta Technical College
- Chattahoochee Technical College

- Darton State College
- South University

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

STARTING SALARY

*\$74,419 or
\$35.78/hour*

Physician assistants (PAs) are healthcare professionals who practice medicine as a team with their supervising physician. PAs deliver a broad range of medical and surgical services to diverse populations in rural and urban settings. As part of their comprehensive responsibilities, PAs conduct physical examinations, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel patients on preventive healthcare, assist in surgery, and prescribe medications in all 50 states. Physicians may delegate to PAs those medical duties that are within the physician's scope of practice and the PAs training and experience. These highly trained healthcare professionals allow the increase in quality as well as quantity of medical care services. Physician assistants perform a vital service in rural and underserved regions of Georgia by providing access to quality healthcare services where there is a shortage of physicians. The demand for PAs is on the rise and is considered one of the fastest growing occupations in the country.



Areas of Specialization

A few postgraduate programs are available for PAs who want to gain advanced education in medical specialties. Most specialty training is provided on-the-job under a physician who has chosen a specialty.

Work Environment

Clinics
Community health centers
Health maintenance organizations
Hospitals
Medical colleges and universities
Military
Nursing homes
Pain management centers
Physicians' offices
Prisons
Research
Student health services
Trauma centers

Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree and previous healthcare experience is required for entrance into a physician assistant program. A master's degree is the entry level education standard for the profession. The program includes two or more years of classroom and laboratory instruction and clinical rotations in internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology, emergency medicine, behavioral medicine, surgery, orthopedics, and geriatric medicine. Graduation from a program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant is required.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

To practice in Georgia, physician assistants must be certified through the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. Certification leads to the title of Physician Assistant-Certified (PA-C). Upon certification, licensure must be applied for from the Georgia Composite Medical Board.

Professional Organizations

American Academy of Physician Assistants
(703) 836-2272
www.aapa.org

Georgia Association of Physician Assistants
(888) 811-4272
www.gapa.net

Georgia Composite Medical Board
(404) 656-3913
www.medicalboard.georgia.gov

Educational Programs

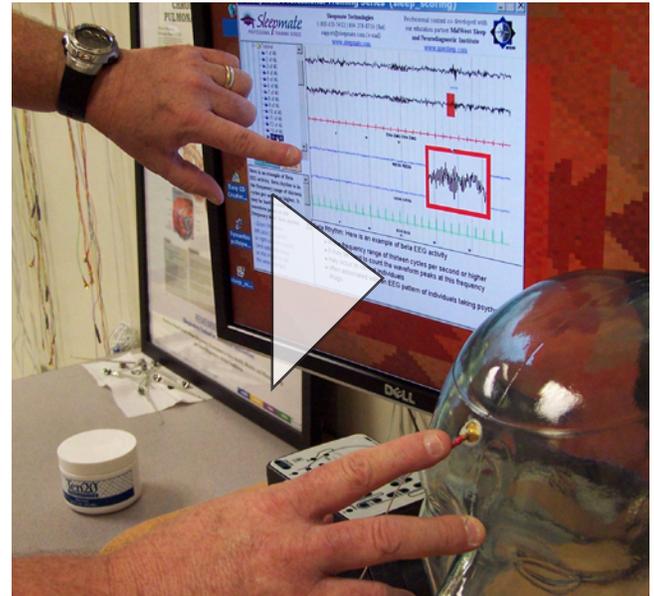
Master's Degree

Emory University
Georgia Regents University
Mercer University
South University

POLYSOMNOGRAPHY TECHNOLOGIST

STARTING SALARY
*\$38,431 or
\$18.48/hour*

Over 80 sleep-related disorders such as Obstructive Sleep Apnea, Periodic Limb Movement Disorder, Narcolepsy, and REM Behavior Disorder have been linked to many health problems such as hypertension, cardiac failure, obesity, diabetes and stroke. Polysomnography technologists, also known as sleep technologists, assist in evaluating, treating, and caring for patients with sleep disorders. Under the direction of physicians, polysomnography technologists gather data, apply necessary equipment for testing and treatment, accumulate data throughout the recording process, score the data and print a preliminary report. They use a great deal of independent judgment to make recommendations to the healthcare team regarding the patient's visit to the sleep lab.



Work Environment

- Educational institutions
- Home care companies
- Hospitals
- Medical centers
- Portable labs
- Private clinics
- Research facilities

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Polysomnography technologists may complete two years of education leading to an associate degree. Certificate programs are also available. Graduation from a program accredited by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care is highly recommended.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. The Registered Polysomnographic Technologist credential (RPSGT) is available from the Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists through the successful completion of an examination.

Professional Organizations

American Academy of Sleep Medicine
(630) 737-9700
www.aasmnet.org

American Association of Sleep Technologists
(708) 737-9704
www.aastweb.org

Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists
(703) 610-9020
www.brpt.org

Educational Programs

Certificate

- Darton State College
- Gwinnett Technical College
- Southern Crescent Technical College

Diploma

- Central Georgia Technical College

Associate Degree

- Darton State College

PROSTHETIST ORTHOTIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$50,000 or
\$20.04/hour*

Prosthetists and orthotists are clinical practitioners who evaluate and treat people who have physical impairments such as limb loss, joint deformity, or paralysis. These specialized health professionals create solutions for each patient's unique needs. The prosthetist assesses the needs of persons with limb loss, such as an arm amputation due to electrical burns, or a leg amputation due to diabetes or vascular disease. These creative professionals design prostheses (artificial limbs) as part of a treatment plan. The orthotist assesses the needs of persons with weakness or deformities of the limbs, spine or skull. They design treatments such as a Halo for life threatening neck injuries, spinal orthoses for scoliosis, ankle/foot orthoses for children with cerebral palsy and knee orthoses to allow athletes to return to sports. Prosthetists and orthotists are capable of finding solutions for each patient's unique physical challenge by applying problem-solving skills to create a plan of care that meets the patient's lifestyle and goals. Developing the plan of care involves a combination of specialized component parts, hand skills, techniques, computer aided design, and construction using lightweight materials such as carbon fiber, titanium and thermoplastics. The profession is a hidden gem in the rehabilitation medicine field because prosthetists and orthotists use a unique set of hand skills and modern technology to make a difference in the lives of each person they treat.



Work Environment

Government agencies
Hospitals
Privately-owned facilities
Rehabilitation centers
Research and design laboratories
Self-employed
Universities
Veteran's Affairs medical centers

Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university including prerequisite courses in math, statistics, physics, chemistry, general psychology, abnormal psychology, human growth and development, human anatomy and human physiology are required to gain admission into a graduate program offering the entry-level master's degree in prosthetics and orthotics.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required through the Georgia Composite Medical Board. To attain licensure, the individual must have successfully completed one year of experience in each discipline (orthotics and/or prosthetics) under a board certified practitioner, and a series of tests to become certified by the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics. This organization awards the credentials of Certified Orthotist (CO), Certified Prosthetist (CP), and Certified Prosthetist-Orthotist (CPO).

Professional Organizations

American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists
(202) 380-3663
www.oandp.org
www.opcareers.org

American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics, and Pedorthics
(703) 836-7114
www.abcop.org

National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education
(703) 836-7114 ext. 237
www.ncope.org

Educational Programs

Master's Degree

Georgia Institute of Technology

PSYCHOLOGIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$53,155 or
\$25.56/hour*

Psychoanalysts are mental health professionals who specialize in human behavior. Through methods including interviews, tests, and questionnaires, psychologists are able to find out more about a person's thoughts, feelings, development, information-processing abilities, intellectual level, perceptions, and relationships. Depending upon the area of specialty, psychologists are committed to preventing, identifying, and treating problems that people have with their mental or physical health, personal relationships, and academic or occupational functioning. Working with people of all ages, they deal with issues such as stress management, depression, anxiety, self-esteem, eating disorders, aggressive/violent behavior, marital and family conflict, alcoholism and substance abuse. They also work with people with autism, attention deficit disorder, learning disabilities, and traumatic brain injury.



Areas of Specialization

Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology
Clinical Health Psychology
Clinical Neuropsychology
Clinical Psychology
Cognitive and Behavioral Psychology
Counseling Psychology
Couple and Family Psychology
Forensic Psychology
Group Psychology
Organizational and Business Psychology
Psychoanalysis
Rehabilitation Psychology
School Psychology

Work Environment

Colleges and universities
Consulting firms
Corporations
Federal and state agencies
Hospitals
Market research firms
Mental health clinics
Military
Prisons
Private practice
Rehabilitation centers
Schools

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Georgia requires licensure through the Georgia State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. Certification is not required but psychologists can choose to pursue specialty board certification from the American Board of Professional Psychology. To obtain certification as a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP), an individual must complete a master's program in school psychology which is approved by the National Association of School Psychologists; complete a 1200-hour internship and pass a national school psychology exam. A Nationally Certified School Psychologist may call him or herself a psychologist when working in a school system but not when working in private practice.

Professional Organizations

American Psychological Association
(800) 374-2721
www.apa.org

Georgia Psychological Association
(404) 634-6272
www.gapsychology.org

Georgia State Board of Examiners of Psychologists
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/psych

Educational Programs

Clinical & Counseling Psychology Programs

Argosy University
Clayton State University
Emory University
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
Mercer University
University of Georgia
University of West Georgia
Valdosta State University

School Psychology Programs

Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
University of Georgia
Valdosta State University

Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree in a relevant field is required to enter master's and doctoral programs in psychology. Graduation from a program approved by the American Psychological Association is required. A master's degree in school psychology is the only master's level program that qualifies one to work as a psychologist. Earning a master's degree in school psychology typically requires two to three years of study. Specialist and doctoral degrees are also available in school psychology. Doctoral degrees in psychology involve 5 to 7 years of study, including a one-year internship for clinical, counseling, and school psychology programs. Some psychologists choose additional post-doctoral training in a specialty area.

RADIATION THERAPIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$56,398 or
\$27.11/hour*

Radiation plays a major role in treating cancer by relieving symptoms, and many times, producing a cure. It is often supplemented with surgery or chemotherapy, and requires skillful application by radiation therapists. These therapists position patients and give prescribed radiation under the direction of a radiation oncologist (physician specializing in the treatment of cancer through radiation). They provide emotional support to patients, keep records, administer treatment, and provide radiation protection for their patients and themselves.



Work Environment

Cancer centers
Colleges and universities
Hospitals
Research laboratories

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Educational programs are available at the certificate, associate and bachelor's degree levels. Programs may last from one to four years depending on prior experience and degree awarded. Admission to advanced certificate programs is restricted to graduates of accredited radiography programs. Beginning in 2015, an associate degree will be the minimum education requirement for this profession.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists is available and leads to the Registered Technologist, Radiation Therapy RT(T) credential. Most employers require certification.

Professional Organizations

American Registry of Radiologic Technologists
(651) 687-0048
www.arrt.org

American Society of Radiologic Technologists
(800) 444-2778
www.asrt.org

Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology
(312) 704-5300
www.jrcert.org

Educational Programs

Associate Degree

Georgia Northwestern Technical College

Bachelor's Degree

Armstrong Atlantic State University
Georgia Regents University

Advanced Certificate

Armstrong Atlantic State University
Grady Health System

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST

STARTING SALARY

\$38,840 or
\$18.67/hour

Radiologic technologists, also called radiographers, produce images for interpretation by a radiologist who is a physician specializing in the use of radiation in the diagnosis and treatment of disease. They use their knowledge of radiation, equipment, computers and anatomy to produce high quality images and minimize radiation dose. They give patients chemical mixtures so that body organs will be visualized. They process and evaluate images, and educate patients on procedures. Radiologic technologists understand the benefits and hazards of radiation, and are experts in safeguarding their patients and personnel from excessive radiation exposure.

Areas of Specialization

Bone Densitometry
Cardiovascular/Interventional
Computed Tomography
Magnetic Resonance Imaging
Mammography
Nuclear Medicine
Quality Management
Radiation Therapy
Sonography

Work Environment

Clinics
Colleges and universities
Equipment sales
Government facilities
Hospitals
Mobile facilities
Physicians' offices
Public health departments
Specialized imaging centers
Urgent care centers

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Education in radiologic technology is currently available from diploma, associate degree, and bachelor's degree programs as well as certificate programs for students who already have a degree. By 2015, all programs must be at the associate degree level or higher. Registered radiologic technologists may take advanced level examinations in mammography, cardiovascular-interventional technology, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, quality management, and bone densitometry.



Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Graduation from an accredited program is required for certification eligibility. Certification may be obtained through the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. All hospitals and most other employers require certification.

Professional Organizations

American Registry of Radiologic Technologists
(651) 687-0048
www.arrt.org

American Society of Radiologic Technologists
(505) 298-4500
www.asrt.org

Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology
(312) 704-5300
www.jrcert.org

Educational Programs

Diploma

Albany Technical College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Okefenokee Technical College

Associate Degree

Albany Technical College
Athens Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Augusta Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College
College of Coastal Georgia
Columbus Technical College
Dalton State College
Darton State College
DeKalb Medical Center
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Georgia Perimeter College

Gwinnett Technical College
Lanier Technical College
Moultrie Technical College
Oconee Fall Line Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Southeastern Technical College
Southern Crescent Technical College
Southwest Georgia Technical College
West Georgia Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

Bachelor's Degree

Armstrong Atlantic State University
Emory University

Advanced Certificate

DeKalb Medical Center
Grady Health System
University Health Care System

RECREATIONAL THERAPIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$33,437 or
\$16.08/hour*

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



Work Environment

- Adult day care programs
- Camps
- Hospice
- Hospitals
- Mental health centers
- Nursing homes
- Parks and recreation departments
- Prisons
- Private practice
- Psychiatric hospitals
- Rehabilitation centers
- Residential treatment centers
- School systems
- Substance abuse centers

Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree in therapeutic recreation (or in recreation with an emphasis in therapeutic recreation) is required. An internship of at least 560 hours must be completed under the supervision of a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist. Graduate programs are also available.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification is highly recommended and is available through the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification. Upon passing the certification exam, professionals are designated as a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS).

Professional Organizations

American Therapeutic Recreation Association
(601) 450-2872
www.atra-online.com

National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification
(845) 639-1439

Educational Programs

Bachelor's Degree
Georgia Southern University

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$42,868 or
\$20.61/hour*

Respiratory therapists, under the direction of physicians, administer respiratory care and life support to patients with heart and lung difficulties. They care for people with respiratory ailments and cardiopulmonary diseases. These conditions could include pneumonia, chronic bronchitis, emphysema and heart disease, as well as lung transplant and heart attack patients, accident victims and premature infants. They measure lung function, analyze blood samples for gases, monitor life support equipment, and use equipment that delivers oxygen or enhances breathing. Respiratory therapists may also participate in pulmonary rehabilitation, smoking cessation counseling, education and polysomnography - the diagnosis of breathing disorders during sleep. They use a great deal of independent judgment to make recommendations to the healthcare team regarding patients' respiratory care. The growth of the aging population, as well as advances in medications and treatment options, will continue to increase the demand for respiratory therapists.



Areas of Specialization

Adult Critical Care
Neonatal/Pediatric Respiratory Care
Pulmonary Function
Sleep Disorders Testing and
Therapeutic Intervention

Work Environment

Home health agencies
Hospice
Hospitals
Industry
Insurance companies
Medical supply and equipment sales
Nursing homes
Physicians' offices
Public health

Academic Requirements

Respiratory therapists complete two to four years of education leading to associate or bachelor's degrees, respectively. Graduation from a program accredited by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care is required for certification.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required through the Georgia Composite Medical Board. A graduate must earn the Certified Respiratory Therapist credential (CRT) from the National Board for Respiratory Care in order to be eligible for a state license. The National Board for Respiratory Care also offers voluntary examinations for the advanced practice Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential and certification in specialty areas.

Professional Organizations

American Association for Respiratory Care
(972) 243-2272
www.aarc.org

Georgia Society for Respiratory Care
(478) 951-6080
www.gasrc.org

National Board for Respiratory Care
(913) 895-4900
www.nbrc.org

Educational Programs

Associate Degree

Augusta Technical College
Columbus Technical College
Dalton State College
Darton State College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Gwinnett Technical College
Middle Georgia State College
Oconee Fall Line Technical College
Okefenokee Technical College
Southern Crescent Technical College
Southwest Georgia Technical College

Bachelor's Degree

Armstrong Atlantic State University
Georgia Regents University
Georgia State University
Middle Georgia State College

Master's Degree

Georgia State University

SOCIAL WORKER

STARTING SALARY
Bachelor's \$29,000 or \$13.94/hour
Master's \$38,069 or \$18.30/hour

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



Areas of Specialization

Listed below are areas of specialization credentialed by the National Association of Social Workers, but there are many areas in which they may practice.

- Addictions
- Case Management
- Clinical Social Work
- Gerontology
- Healthcare
- Hospice and Palliative Care
- School Social Work
- Youth and Family

Work Environment

- Advocacy groups
- Government agencies
- HIV/AIDS clinics
- Home health agencies
- Hospice
- Hospitals
- Mental health/substance abuse centers
- Nursing homes
- Prisons
- Schools
- Social service agencies
- Universities

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Georgia requires licensure through the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists. Certification in several specialty areas is available through the National Association of Social Workers Credentialing Center.

Educational Programs

Bachelor's Degree

- Albany State University
- Clark Atlanta University
- Dalton State College
- Fort Valley State University
- Georgia Regents University
- Georgia State University
- Savannah State University
- Thomas University
- University of Georgia

Master's Degree

- Albany State University
- Clark Atlanta University
- Georgia State University
- Kennesaw State University
- Savannah State University
- University of Georgia
- Valdosta State University

Doctoral Degree

- Clark Atlanta University
- University of Georgia

Academic Requirements

Programs are offered at both the bachelor's and master's levels. The Master of Social Work degree is usually pursued after gaining some work experience and is often necessary to work in clinical settings. Doctoral programs are also available in social work, but a master's is considered the terminal degree for practice.

Professional Organizations

Council on Social Work Education
(703) 683-8080
www.cswe.org

Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/counselors

National Association of Social Workers
(202) 408-8600
www.socialworkers.org

National Association of Social Workers - Georgia Chapter
(770) 234-0567
www.naswga.org

SONOGRAPHER

STARTING SALARY

*\$50,315 or
\$24.19/hour*

Diagnostic medical sonography, also referred to as ultrasound, is used to diagnose abnormalities throughout different parts of the body. Fetal growth and development in expectant mothers is also examined with ultrasound. Ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves to produce images of body tissues. Sonographers display these images on a video monitor and are able to identify the anatomy and pathology of various organs. Sonographers prepare patients for the exam, explain procedures, select appropriate equipment, operate the ultrasound machine, and obtain medical images used for diagnosis. They keep accurate records, including patient information and sonographic data. Their observations are reviewed and interpreted by a physician. Sonographers may also be responsible for some preliminary image interpretation.



Work Environment

Clinics
Hospitals
Mobile services
Physicians' offices

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required to enter a diagnostic medical sonography program. Three types of programs are available: one-year certificate or diploma, two-year associate degree, and four-year bachelor's degree.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification is available through the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography for candidates with approved clinical and academic backgrounds. Upon passing the exam, sonographers receive the Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (RDMS) credential. Most employers require certification.

Professional Organizations

American Institute for Ultrasound in Medicine
(800) 638-5352
www.aium.org

American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography
(301) 738-8401
www.ardms.org

American Society of Radiologic Technologists
(505) 298-4500
www.asrt.org

Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography
(214) 473-8057
www.sdms.org

Educational Programs

Certificate

Sanford-Brown College

Diploma

Ogeechee Technical College

Associate Degree

Athens Technical College

Columbus Technical College

Darton State College

Georgia Northwestern Technical College

Gwinnett Technical College

Bachelor's Degree

Armstrong Atlantic State University

Advanced Certificate

Grady Health System

SPEECH/LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

STARTING SALARY
*\$52,300 or
\$25.14/hour*

Speech/language pathologists are professionals who are educated to assess and treat language, speech, and swallowing disorders. Stuttering, pronunciation, word organization, word recall, memory, auditory comprehension, slurred speech and swallowing disorders are areas of specialization for these professionals. These disorders could be a result of hearing loss, head injury, intellectual disability, stroke, learning problems or an emotional problem. They give tests to determine the disability and its extent and are then able to develop treatment programs. About half of the speech pathologists' patients are children. However, these professionals also work with adults and the geriatric population in a variety of settings. Because their professions are so closely related, speech/language pathologists and audiologists usually work together. Other professionals that speech/language pathologists work with include otolaryngologists, dietitians, lactation consultants, teachers, nurses, social workers, case managers, occupational therapists, physical therapists and doctors.



Work Environment

- Colleges and universities
- Early intervention centers
- Home health
- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- Outpatient clinics
- Physicians' offices
- Private practice
- Public health departments
- Rehabilitation centers
- Schools
- Speech and hearing centers

Academic Requirements

Speech/language pathologists acquire a master's degree after earning a bachelor's degree in one of the scientific disciplines or in speech pathology. A master's degree in speech/language pathology is considered the entry level degree. Doctoral degrees are also available.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required through the Georgia State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. The national certification granted by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association is available to professionals who have completed the required academic preparation and clinical fellowship under the supervision of a certified speech/language pathologist. Upon passing the certification exam, speech/language pathologists earn the Certificate of Clinical Competence and can use the credential CCC-SLP after their names. Certification to work in the K-12 grade setting is offered through the Georgia Professional Standards Commission.

Professional Organizations

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
(301) 296-5700
www.asha.org

Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association
(561) 477-8100
www.gsha.org

Georgia State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/speech

Educational Programs

Master's Degree

- Armstrong Atlantic State University
- Georgia State University
- University of Georgia
- University of West Georgia
- Valdosta State University

Doctoral Degree

- University of Georgia

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$31,879 or
\$15.33/hour*

Surgical technologists provide care for patients before, during, and after surgery. They work closely with surgeons, anesthesiologists, and nurses to facilitate the safe and effective conduct of invasive surgical procedures. Before a surgical procedure, surgical technologists help the surgical staff scrub and put on gloves and gowns. They position patients on the operating table, prepare the skin and help apply equipment and monitoring devices. During an operation, they maintain the sterility of the operating room, pass instruments, keep the operative site visible and may operate lights, suction machines, and diagnostic equipment. Surgical technologists can also apply sterile dressings and prepare specimens for the lab.



Work Environment

Ambulatory surgical facilities
Animal hospitals
Crime labs/autopsy labs
Hospitals
Physicians' offices
Veterinary offices

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Education in surgical technology usually lasts from nine to fifteen months for a diploma or certificate and two years for an associate degree.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Graduates of programs accredited by the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting are eligible to pursue the required certification offered by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting. Certification leads to the credential of Certified Surgical Technologist (CST).

Professional Organizations

Association of Surgical Technologists
(303) 694-9130
www.ast.org

National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting
(800) 707-0057
www.nbstsa.org

Educational Programs

Certificate

American Professional Institute

Diploma

Albany Technical College
Athens Technical College
Augusta Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College
Columbus Technical College
Everest Institute
Georgia Northwestern Technical College

Gwinnett Technical College
Lanier Technical College
Moultrie Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Okefenokee Technical College
Savannah Technical College
Southeastern Technical College
Southern Crescent Technical College
Southwest Georgia Technical College
West Georgia Technical College
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

Associate Degree

Athens Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Brown Mackie College
Columbus Technical College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Lanier Technical College
Okefenokee Technical College
Savannah Technical College
Southern Crescent Technical College
Southwest Georgia Technical College

VETERINARIAN

STARTING SALARY
\$70,000 or
\$33.65/hour

Doctors of Veterinary Medicine, or veterinarians, are trained to diagnose, treat, and prevent diseases and illnesses in animals. Most veterinarians in private practice focus on animals they prefer to treat. Companion animal veterinarians treat small or exotic animals such as dogs, cats, birds, and reptiles as well as horses. Others limit their practices to food and fiber animals such as cattle, sheep, and alpacas. Large animal veterinarians often travel to farms and ranches in fully equipped vehicles to provide veterinary services. Veterinarians help prevent the spread of diseases through our food production industries, such as poultry, beef and dairy cattle, and swine. They teach food producers how to manage their animals, provide better methods for caring for them, and conduct background research to help industries with the production process. Other veterinarians work with state and federal government agencies to investigate disease outbreaks and limit the transmission of diseases such as rabies and salmonella among animals and people. Public health veterinarians are responsible for the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, like avian influenza, rhinovirus, and tuberculosis. Veterinarians also play an important role in biomedical research that can aid in human medicine.



Areas of Specialization

There are currently 21 recognized specialty organizations representing 40 distinct veterinary specializations. For more information, contact the American Board of Veterinary Specialties.

- Anesthesia
- Animal Behavior
- Dentistry
- Dermatology
- Emergency & Critical Care
- Internal Medicine
- Laboratory Animal Medicine
- Microbiology
- Nutrition
- Ophthalmology
- Pathology
- Pharmacology
- Poultry Medicine
- Preventive Medicine
- Radiology
- Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Surgery
- Theriogenology
- Toxicology
- Veterinary Practice
- Zoological Medicine

Work Environment

- Agribusiness
- Aquaria
- Emergency care centers
- Food animal industries
- Governmental agencies
- Military
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Private practice
- Public health departments
- Research institutions
- Veterinary colleges
- Wildlife conservation & rehabilitation facilities
- Zoos

Academic Requirements

Acceptance into veterinary school is highly competitive in terms of grades, test scores, and work experience. Some veterinary medicine colleges do not require applicants to have undergraduate degrees, but applicants must satisfy certain course requirements. Applicants are also required to submit scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), as well as obtain 250 hours of veterinary experience under the direct supervision of a veterinarian. This experience, both paid and volunteer, is an important factor in the application process to veterinary medical college. Veterinary medical colleges require four years to complete. After graduation, some veterinarians enter one year internships for additional training in a particular area. To become certified in a specialty area, a veterinarian must complete a residency program which lasts two to three years.



“James Herriot said it best, ‘Veterinary medicine is a wonderful blend of science and soul.’ This statement captures the true passion I have for my career as a small animal veterinarian. The nurturing and sharing of the human-animal bond is the reason our profession exists. At the end of the day, nothing is more fulfilling than the realization of how I was able to help the pets and ‘their’ people.”

~ Leslie Johnson, DVM
Tifton

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Veterinarians must be licensed through the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine. To become certified in a specialty area, veterinarians must pass a national certification exam given by one of the 21 specialty organizations.

Professional Organizations

American Board of Veterinary Specialties
(847) 925-8070
www.avma.org/education/abvs

American Veterinary Medical Association
(847) 925-8070
www.avma.org

Association of American Veterinary
Medical Colleges
(877) 862-2740
www.aavmc.org

Georgia State Board of Veterinary
Medicine
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/veterinary

Georgia Veterinary Medical Association
(678) 309-9800
www.gvma.net

Educational Programs

Doctoral Degree
University of Georgia

VETERINARY TECHNICIAN

STARTING SALARY
\$29,789 or
\$14.32/hour

Veterinary technicians work under the supervision of veterinarians in a role similar to a human nurse. They are trained to take an animal's medical history from its owner, perform laboratory tests, sterilize instruments, dress wounds, monitor anesthesia, assist during diagnostic and surgical procedures, and take x-rays. In some animal clinics, veterinary technicians also serve as office managers. Veterinary technicians can be employed by many government agencies, both at the federal and state level. These professionals allow a veterinarian to function at peak capacity.



Areas of Specialization

Anesthesia
Behavior
Clinical Pathology
Clinical Practice
Dentistry
Emergency and Critical Care
Equine
Internal Medicine
Nutrition
Surgical
Zoological Medicine

Work Environment

Agribusiness
Aquariums
Governmental agencies
Pharmaceutical companies
Research institutions
Sales
Veterinarians' offices
Veterinary/veterinary technician schools
Wildlife conservation and rehabilitation facilities
Zoos

Academic Requirements

Veterinary technician education is available at the associate and bachelor degree levels. Graduation from a program approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association is required for licensure.

Educational Programs

Associate Degree

Athens Technical College
Gwinnett Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Southwest Georgia Technical College

Bachelor's Degree

Fort Valley State University

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is obtained from the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine. Veterinary technicians may choose to pursue the Veterinary Technician Specialist (VTS) credential from one or more of the eleven specialty academies recognized by the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America. Each specialty has specific requirements such as extensive experience as a veterinary technician in a specialty area and passing an examination.

Professional Organizations

American Veterinary Medical Association
(847) 925-8070
www.avma.org

Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/veterinary

Georgia Veterinary Technician and Assistant Association
www.gvtaa.org

National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America
(703) 740-8737
www.navta.net

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AHECS

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