

Lesson 2: Health Professions

Glossary

1. **Bachelor's Degree:** a 4-year degree from a college or university
2. **Certification:** some jobs require you to complete a training program or pass an exam to show that you know how to do the job; once you have completed the requirements, you are *certified*
3. **Community/Technical College:** offers 2-year and shorter programs for an associate's degree or certification
4. **Graduate Program:** an additional 2-year (or longer) degree after a 4-year degree has been completed
5. **Prescription:** an order from a doctor that allows someone to pick up their medication from a pharmacy
6. **Salary:** the payment a person receives during one year for doing his or her job
7. **Training:** learning the skills required for a job

Health Professions¹

1. **Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or Paramedic:** People with this job respond to 911 calls. They do lifesaving emergency procedures and transport patients to the hospital in an ambulance. They write reports and work with other healthcare providers about the care they have given to patients. An EMT may complete more training to become a paramedic. The **average** salary is \$39,000.
2. **Home Health Aide:** This position requires a brief training program. Home health aides help patients who have illnesses or disabilities, or who are older. Aides help with daily tasks like bathing, dressing, and taking medication. The **average** salary is \$34,000.
3. **Medical Assistant:** A one-year training program is usually required. Medical assistants help doctors by interviewing and explaining information to patients and **entering** patients' medical information in a computer system. Medical assistants also **prepare** patient rooms and **clean** equipment. The **average** salary is \$42,000.
4. **Medical Doctor (MD) or Physician:** This career requires at least **eight** years of college and residency. Doctors **treat** patients, order and **read** medical tests, and monitor patients' **health**. The salary is at least \$75,000 and **can** be much higher.
5. **Medical Lab Technician:** This is a position requiring a **two-year** degree that involves testing patients' blood, urine, and other body fluids. A medical lab technician uses complicated equipment and is responsible for **preparing** it and cleaning it. Technicians enter test results into the computer and **talk about** them with their supervisors. The **average** salary is \$61,000.
6. **Nursing Assistant:** This position requires a short training program for certification. Nursing assistants help patients with daily tasks like bathing and eating. They check patients' vital signs and may give medications. Nursing assistants **talk** with patients and the nurses. The **average** salary is \$38,000.

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Glossary

7. **Nursing - Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and Registered Nurse (RN):** Both LPNs and RNs take care of patients by watching them, writing how they are doing, and working with other healthcare providers. Nurses provide many types of care, education, and treatment, usually under the supervision of doctors. RNs have more training and greater responsibilities than LPNs. The average salary for LPNs is \$60,000; they must have a two-year degree. The average salary for RNs is \$86,000; the position requires a 4-year degree.
8. **Occupational Therapist (OT):** This position requires at least four years of college. Occupational therapists work with patients to help them perform daily living and working tasks. OTs may recommend special exercises and equipment. The average salary is \$96,000.
9. **Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA):** OTAs, who must complete a 2-year college degree, assist occupational therapists by helping patients, carrying out the OT's treatment plan, and handling administrative tasks such as answering the phone. The average salary is \$67,000.
10. **Pharmacist:** This position requires a graduate degree. The pharmacist reviews prescriptions and educates patients about drug interactions and side effects. They supervise other workers and keep records on patients. The average salary is \$136,000.
11. **Pharmacy Technician:** This position requires a short training program. Pharmacy technicians help pharmacists by helping patients, entering patients' information into a computer system, and organizing medical supplies. The average salary is \$40,000.
12. **Physical Therapist (PT):** This career requires a graduate degree. Physical therapists help patients get better by making and doing plans to improve movement after injury or illness. The average salary is \$100,000.
13. **Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA):** This career requires two years of college. PTAs help physical therapists by watching patients, helping patients do their exercises, and talking with patients' families. The average salary is \$64,000.
14. **Physician Assistant (PA):** This position requires a graduate degree. PAs examine patients and practice medicine under the supervision of a doctor. They ask for and record patient information and do some medical procedures. The average salary is \$130,000.
15. **Radiologic Technologist:** To get this job, you need a two-year degree. Radiologic technologists do imaging tests like X-rays on patients. They work with equipment, talk with patients and doctors, and enter information into a computer system. The average salary is \$76,000.

¹ <https://www.bls.gov/>

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Reading Comprehension



Medical Assistant

A Medical Assistant helps a doctor by interviewing patients, writing their medical information in a computer system, and explaining medical care. Medical Assistants **prepare** patient rooms and **clean** instruments.

They also help the doctor examine and treat patients. The **average** salary is \$42,000. A one-year training program after completing high school / GED may be required.



Pharmacy Technician

A Pharmacy Technician helps pharmacists by entering customer information into a computer system

and preparing their medications. Pharmacy Technicians keep medications organized, **answer** phone calls, and **process** payments. The **average** salary is \$40,000. A brief training program after completing high school / GED may be required.

Medical Lab Technician

A Medical Lab Technician tests patients' blood, urine, or

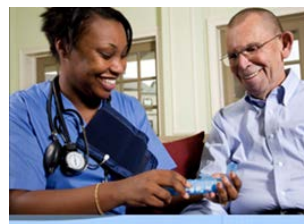


other body fluids. This requires using complicated equipment. Technicians **prepare** and **clean** laboratory equipment. They enter

information about the tests into a computer system, and they discuss the results with their supervisors. The **average** salary is \$61,000. A **two-year** college degree is generally required.

Home Health Aide

A Home Health Aide helps patients who have illnesses or disabilities, or who are older. Aides may help with



bathing, dressing, taking medication, and other daily tasks. They work with nurses and other health professionals about their patients.

Home Health Aides may do some cleaning and organizing. The **average** salary is \$34,000. A short training program may be required.

Write a short answer based on the reading.

1. Which one of these health professions requires a 2- year degree?

2. What does a Pharmacy Technician do?

3. What is the median salary for a Medical Assistant?

4. What does a Home Health Aide do?

Critical thinking skills:

1. Think about the question.
2. Talk about the answer with a partner.
3. Write a brief paragraph to answer the question.

What kinds of skills would help a person be successful in these health professions?

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Vocabulary Card Match

Home Health Aide	Physical Therapist (PT)	Learning the skills required for a job	Annual payment for a career
Salary	Bachelor's Degree	Prescribes and oversees treatment for patients	A 4-year degree
Graduate Degree	Community/Technical College	Helps patients with daily living tasks, such as bathing	Offers 2-year associate's degrees and shorter certification programs
Medical Doctor (MD) or Physician	Training	An additional 2-year (or longer) degree after a 4-year degree has been completed	Helps rehabilitate patients to restore physical functioning

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Vocabulary Card Match

Copy the words and their definitions after you match all of the cards.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

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Organizing Information

Write the name of each health profession in the column that correctly tells the length of training for that profession.

<u>Shorter Training</u>	<u>2-year degree</u>	<u>At least a 4-year degree</u>
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)	Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Paramedic	Home Health Aide
Pharmacist	Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA)	Registered Nurse (RN)
Radiologic Technologist	Occupational Therapist (OT)	Pharmacy Technician
Medical Lab Technician	Medical Assistant	Physician's Assistant (PA)
Physician		

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Partner Dictation

Partner A

Read these sentences to your partner.

1. A Licensed Practical Nurse provides basic care and treatment to patients.
2. A two-year training program is required to become a Physical Therapy Assistant.
3. An Emergency Medical Technician performs lifesaving emergency procedures during an ambulance ride.
4. A salary is the payment a person receives during one year for doing his or her job.

Now listen to your partner read. You write the sentences.

5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

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Partner Dictation

Partner B

Listen to your partner read. You write the sentences.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Now read these sentences to your partner.

1. A Radiologic Technologist career requires a two-year degree.
2. A bachelor's degree is a four-year college degree.
3. To become a Nursing Assistant, you need a certification.
4. A Pharmacist reviews and fills prescriptions for patients.

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Quiz

Read the questions. Then circle A, B, C or D.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. How many years of school do you need to become a Nursing Assistant?</p> <p>A. Four-year degree
B. Certification – no degree required
C. Two-year degree
D. Graduate degree</p> <p>2. Home Health Aides do NOT:</p> <p>A. Help patients get dressed
B. Talk with nurses
C. Prescribe medicine
D. Clean rooms</p> <p>3. What does salary mean?</p> <p>A. Annual pay
B. Health benefits
C. Training
D. Schedule</p> <p>4. What health profession performs lifesaving emergency procedures in an ambulance?</p> <p>A. Home Health Aide
B. Radiologic Technologist
C. Physical Therapist
D. Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)</p> | <p>5. What is the average salary for a Medical Lab Technician?</p> <p>A. \$42,000
B. \$61,000
C. \$40,000
D. \$34,000</p> <p>6. Why is a Registered Nurse (RN) paid more than a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)?</p> <p>A. An RN has more training.
B. An RN has fewer responsibilities.
C. An RN has more responsibilities.
D. Both A and C.</p> <p>7. Which of these health professions requires a short training program?</p> <p>A. Medical Doctor (MD)
B. Medical Assistant
C. Registered Nurse
D. Physician's Assistant</p> <p>8. Which health profession interests you the most? Why?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> |
|---|---|

Student Survey: Health Professions Unit

1. Did you learn more information about health professions from studying this lesson?

1	2	3	4	5
no		some		yes

2. After studying this lesson, are you more interested in a health-related career?

1	2	3	4	5
no		maybe		yes

3. Would you share this information with family and friends?

1	2	3	4	5
no		maybe		yes

4. Do you know where to find more information about health professions if you have more questions?

1	2	3	4	5
no		somewhat		yes

5. Did you like the class activities?

1	2	3	4	5
no		somewhat		yes

We value your opinions! Could you tell us what you liked or give us some suggestions on how to improve this lesson?

Thank you!