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Area Health Education Centers

Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) work to improve access to health care in rural and underserved areas by recruiting and training new providers and retaining current providers. AHECs also work to improve the health of Nebraska's communities by providing medical interpreters for non-English speaking patients, health information and resources at health fairs, and grants to small communities for health-related community projects.

Nebraska's AHECs address the shortage of health professionals in the state by working with a variety of partners such as public schools, educational service units, colleges and universities, and hospitals. Some of the many activities carried out through these partnerships include:

- Classroom presentations for young learners using health-related puppet shows and coloring books and other age-appropriate materials.
- Health career camps
- Health care job shadowing opportunities
- Regional and state science meets
- Health career resources for guidance counselors and teachers
- College recruitment activities
- Seminars for undergraduate students interested in health careers.
- Community-based training opportunities for health profession students with qualified community preceptors.

Nebraska's AHECs also work with health providers currently serving in the communities by offering locally-available continuing educational programming and by creating interdisciplinary learning opportunities.

Each of the AHECs in Nebraska is an independent not-for-profit entity governed by a Board of Directors comprised of area community leaders and staffed by people who are connected to the communities they serve. The Nebraska AHEC Program office is based at the University of Nebraska Medical Center under the umbrella of the Rural Health Education Network (RHEN).

For more information about programs in your area, contact the AHEC Office for your region.

Nebraska Panhandle AHEC

2620 College Park, Scottsbluff
(308) 635-6711
www.np-ahec.org

Northern Nebraska AHEC

110 No. 16 Street, Suite 2, Norfolk
(402) 644-7253
www.nnahec.org

Omaha Urban AHEC

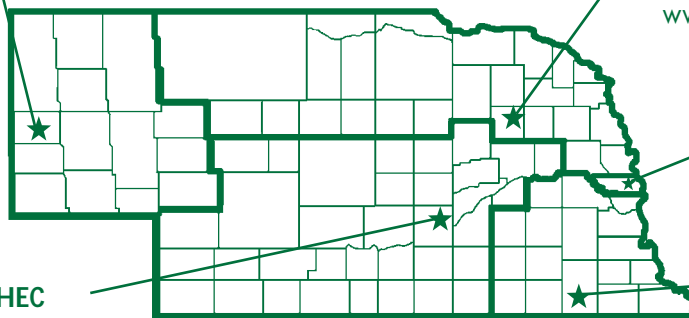
contact the AHEC Program Office
at (402) 559-8946

Southeast Nebraska AHEC

contact the AHEC Program Office
(402) 559-8946

Central Nebraska AHEC

3180 West Highway 34, Grand Island
(308) 385-6677
www.cn-ahec.org



"Working together to shape healthy communities."

Clinical Laboratory Science / Medical Technology

Nature of the Profession

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

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

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that prepare individuals for this career include biology (physiology, microbiology, advanced biology), chemistry, English, composition, speech, algebra, physics, and computer applications.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

Clinical Laboratory Technician / Medical Laboratory Technician

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

Clinical Laboratory Science / Medical Technology

- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (B)

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

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

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

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

JOB OUTLOOK

There is a significant shortage of laboratory professionals. It is estimated that there will be an additional need for 8,000 qualified personnel a year for the next 10 years. Scholarships, grants and sign-on bonuses are available.

LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Society of Clinical Pathologists Board of Registry

Web Address: www.ascp.org

American Society of Clinical Laboratory Science

Web Address: www.ascls.org

Nebraska Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

Web Address: www.ascls.org/subdomain/ne/index.html

Clinical Perfusion

Nature of the Profession

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

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

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include biology, calculus, chemistry, algebra I and II, physics, and anatomy/physiology.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (M)

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of clinical perfusionists is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through 2008 due to an aging population and an increased need for cardiovascular procedures.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Academy of Cardiovascular Perfusion

Web address: <http://users.aol.com/officeAACCP/home.html>

American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (ABCP) – Certification Organization

Web Address: www.abcp.org

American Society of Extra-Corporeal Technology (AmSECT)

Web Address: www.amsect.org

Coding Technician

Nature of the Profession

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include accounting, algebra I, word processing, computer applications, English, composition, business law, biology, anatomy, physiology, and health.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Coding technicians can look forward to expanding career opportunities. Nationally the demand for coding technicians exceeds the number of qualified professionals. The position is expected to grow faster than the average through 2008.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)
Web Address: www.ahima.org

American Academy of Professional Coders
Web Address: www.aapc.com

Nebraska Health Information Management Association
Web Address: www.nhima.org

Counseling

Nature of the Profession

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

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

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

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

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include English, speech, composition, literature, foreign language, psychology, sociology, history, government, biology, chemistry, computer applications, algebra I and II, geometry, statistics, economics, child development, and family living.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Overall employment of counselors is expected to grow faster than the average of all occupations through the year 2008. Rehabilitation and mental health counselors should be in strong demand as the elderly population grows, and as society focuses on ways of enhancing emotional well-being, such as managing the stress associated with job and family responsibilities.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Counseling Association
Web Address: www.counseling.org

National Board for Certified Counselors
Web Address: www.nbcc.org

Nebraska Counseling Association
Web Address: www.n-c-a.org

Cytotechnology

Nature of the Profession

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include biology, chemistry, physiology, English, composition, speech, literature, foreign language, algebra I and II, calculus, statistics, physics, history, government, computer applications, and health.

EDUCATION

Admission to the cytotechnology program requires the applicant to possess a four-year bachelor's degree and be well rounded in the biological sciences, chemistry and mathematics.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (PBC)

JOB OUTLOOK

As in most occupations, replacement needs will be the main source of job openings. Employment of cytotechnologists is expected to grow about as fast as the average for all occupations through the year 2008, creating additional job openings. Fastest growth is expected in independent medical laboratories, as hospitals continue to send them a greater share of their testing.

LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Society of Clinical Pathology

Web Address: www.ascp.org

American Society of Cytotechnology

Web Address: www.asct.com

American Society of Cytopathology

Web Address: www.cytopathology.org

Nebraska Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

Web Address: www.nebraska.ascls.org

Dental Assistant

Nature of the Profession

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include accounting, biology, chemistry, speech, health, algebra, and psychology.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Job prospects for dental assistants should be good. Employment is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2008. Also, the proportion of workers leaving the occupation and who must be replaced is above average. There are many opportunities for entry-level positions offering on-the-job training.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Dental Association Department of Guidance
Web Address: www.ada.org

Dental Assisting National Board, Inc.
Web Address: www.dentalassisting.com

Nebraska Dental Association
Web Address: www.nedental.org

Dental Hygiene

Nature of the Profession

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include health, algebra I and II, geometry, English, speech, composition, foreign language, biology, chemistry, history, psychology, sociology, business education, and computer applications.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of dental hygienists is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through 2008, in response to increasing demand for dental care and the greater substitution of hygienists for services previously performed by dentists.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Dental Association Department of Guidance

Web Address: www.ada.org

American Dental Hygienists' Association

Web Address: www.adha.org

Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association

Web Address: www.nedha.org

Dentist

Nature of the Profession

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include biology, chemistry, earth or life sciences, English, composition, literature, history, sociology, psychology, algebra I and II, geometry, physics, calculus, foreign language, computer applications, human and child development, and health.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Demand for dental care should grow substantially through 2008. As members of the baby boom generation advance into middle age, a large number will need maintenance on complicated dental work like bridges. Plus, elderly people are more likely to retain their teeth than their predecessors. The younger generation will continue to need preventive check-ups despite treatments like fluoridation of the water supply.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Dental Association

Web Address: www.ada.org

Nebraska Dental Association

Web Address: www.nedental.org

Dietary Manager

Nature of the Profession

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include biology, chemistry, earth or life sciences, English, composition, literature, history, sociology, psychology, algebra I and II, geometry, physics, calculus, foreign language, family and consumer sciences, nutrition and foods, human development, family living, accounting, business courses, computer applications, and health.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (C)
- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (C)

JOB OUTLOOK

The career outlook for dietary managers is good. As institutions deal with more government regulations, the need for qualified dietary managers increases.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Dietary Managers Association

Web Address: www.dmaonline.org

Nebraska Dietary Managers Association

Web Address: www.nebraskadma.org

Dietetic Technician, Registered

Nature of the Profession

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include biology, chemistry, earth or life sciences, English, composition, literature, history, sociology, psychology, algebra I and II, geometry, physics, calculus, foreign language, family and consumer sciences, nutrition and foods, human development, family living, accounting, business courses, computer applications, and health.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (A)

JOB OUTLOOK

The demand for dietetic technicians, registered, is expected to be similar to that of other health care professionals. Employment in hospitals may be moderate with faster growth anticipated in nursing homes and residential care facilities.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Dietetic Association

Web Address: www.eatright.org

Nebraska Dietetic Association

Web Address: www.eatrightnebraska.org

Registered Dietitian (Medical Nutrition Therapist)

Nature of the Profession

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

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include biology, chemistry, earth or life sciences, English, composition, literature, history, sociology, psychology, algebra I and II, geometry, physics, calculus, foreign language, family and consumer sciences, nutrition and food sciences, human development, family living, accounting, business courses, computer applications, and health.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of dietitians is expected to grow about as fast as the average for all occupations through 2008 due to increased emphasis on nutrition and by improved health/disease management. A growing and aging population will increase the demand for meals and nutritional counseling in schools, community health programs, home health care agencies, and long-term care.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Dietetic Association
Web Address: www.eatright.org

Emergency Medical Technology

Nature of the Profession

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

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

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include biology, chemistry, speech, composition, health, algebra I and II, psychology, geometry, human development, and driver education.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of EMTs is expected to grow faster than the average of all occupations through the year 2008.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
Web Address: www.naemt.org

Health Care Administration

Nature of the Profession

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

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

For information on the master of public health degree, see page 38

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include biology, chemistry, physics, health, English, composition, speech, economics, business and consumer law, literature, algebra I and II, geometry, foreign language, psychology, sociology, government, accounting, and computer applications.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of health services administrators is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2008 as health services continue to expand and diversify.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American College of Healthcare Executives

Web Address: www.ache.org

American College of Health Care Administrators

Web Address: www.achca.org

Health Information Management

Nature of the Profession

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include algebra I, geometry, speech, composition, biology, anatomy, word processing, business education, and computer applications.

EDUCATION

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

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Career opportunities for health information technicians and administrators are expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2008 due to the aging population, the transition to electronic health information, and the increasing scrutiny by health care insurers, government agencies, and consumers.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Health Information Management Association
Web Address: www.ahima.org

Nebraska Health Information Management Association
Web Address: www.nhima.org

Health Promotion Services

Nature of the Profession

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

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include speech, economics, government, psychology, biology, child and human development, health, composition, speech, chemistry, physics, computer applications, literature, algebra I and II, accounting, English, and sociology.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Hastings College – Hastings (B)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (M)
- Nebraska Wesleyan University – Lincoln (B)

JOB OUTLOOK

With our nation's current emphasis on health care reform, the potential impact a health promoter can have on community health becomes evident. Health promotion specialists and community health educators can lead the nation's health improvement efforts by enhancing morale, fitness, and safety.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

None required.

Human Social Service Administration

Nature of the Profession

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

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

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include English, speech, composition, literature, foreign language, psychology, sociology, history, government, biology, chemistry, computer applications, algebra I and II, geometry, statistics, economics, human and child development, and family living.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Opportunities for human services workers are expected to be excellent for qualified applicants. The number of human services workers is projected to expand dramatically through 2008 – making it among the most rapidly growing occupations. Faced with rapid growth in the demand for services, but slower growth in resources to provide the services, employers are expected to rely increasingly on human service workers rather than other occupations that command high pay.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National Organization for Human Service Education

Web Address: www.nohse.org

Council for Standards in Human Services Education

Web Address: www.cshse.org

Invasive Cardiovascular Technologist

Nature of the Profession

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include biology, chemistry, physiology, English, composition, speech, foreign language, algebra I and II, calculus, physics, history, government, computer applications, and health.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- BryanLGH College of Health Sciences – Lincoln (A)

JOB OUTLOOK

There is a critical shortage of qualified invasive cardiovascular technologists. The explosive growth of invasive cardiovascular technology has far outpaced the number of qualified personnel and its growth is expected to continue.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Joint Review Committee on Education in Cardiovascular Technology
Web Address: www.jrccvt.org

Society of Invasive Cardiovascular Professionals
Web Address: www.sicp.com

Alliance of Cardiovascular Professionals
Web Address: www.acp-online.org

Cardiovascular Credentialing International
Web Address: www.cci-online.org

Medical Assistant

Nature of the Profession

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include English, speech, biology, communications, health, psychology, business courses, accounting, and computer applications.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of medical assistants is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2008, as the health services industry expands due to technological advances in medicine, and a growing and aging population. It is one of the fastest growing occupations.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The American Association of Medical Assistants

Web Address: www.aama-ntl.org

Registered Medical Assistants of American Medical Technologists

Web Address: www.amtl.com

Medical Interpreting

Nature of the Profession

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help individuals prepare for this occupation include health, biology, chemistry, English, speech, foreign language, introduction to medical careers, psychology, history, sociology, English composition, business education and computer applications.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

The employment opportunities for medical interpreters are projected to grow as fast as other medical occupations. Demand for medical interpreters is expected to increase due, in part, to a rapid expansion taking place in the health care industries spurred by a growing diverse population and their need to access health care services. It is also due to the fact that health care institutions are legally bound to provide “competent and linguistically appropriate health care services,” as outlined by Title VI and the CLAS Standards.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Nebraska Association for Translators and Interpreters (NATI)

Web Address: www.natihq.org

California Healthcare Interpreter’s Association (CHIA)

Web Address: www.chia.ws

Massachusetts Medical Interpreter’s Association (MMIA)

Web Address: www.mmia.org

Society of Medical Interpreters (SOMI)

Web Address: www.sominet.org

Medical Office Services

Nature of the Profession

Most health care institutions employ medical secretaries and administrative assistants to perform and coordinate office activities and to ensure that information gets disseminated in a timely fashion to staff and patients. These individuals work in office settings in hospitals, clinics, laboratories, physicians' offices, insurance companies, emergency and outpatient diagnostic centers, and extended-care facilities.

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include accounting, business courses, word processing, computer applications, English, speech, composition, and algebra I.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Job openings will be plentiful, particularly for well-qualified and experienced secretaries, stemming from the need to replace workers who transfer to other occupations or leave this very large occupation for other reasons each year. Rapid growth in health services should lead to average growth for medical secretaries.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

International Association of Administrative Professionals

Web Address: www.iaap-hq.org

Lincoln Chapter: International Association of Administrative Professionals

Web Address: http://cornhusker_iaap.tripod.com

Omaha Chapter: International Association of Administrative Professionals

Web Address: www.iaap-aksarben.org

Medical Transcription

Nature of the Profession

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include accounting, algebra I, word processing, computer applications, English, composition, business law, biology, anatomy and physiology, and health.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College — Hastings, Grand Island, Columbus (C)
- Mid-Plains Community College — McCook, North Platte (C)
- Western Nebraska Community College — Scottsbluff, Alliance, Sidney (C, P)

JOB OUTLOOK

Overall employment for medical transcriptionists is projected to grow about as fast as the average for all occupations through 2008. Demand for medical transcriptionists is expected to increase due to rapid growth in health care industries spurred by a growing and aging population.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Association for Medical Transcription

Web Address: www.aamt.org

Nuclear Medicine Technology

Nature of the Profession

In nuclear medicine, radionuclides – unstable atoms that emit radiation spontaneously – are used to diagnose and treat disease. Radionuclides are purified and compounded like other drugs to form radiopharmaceuticals. The nuclear medicine technologist, on the order of a nuclear medicine physician, administers these radiopharmaceuticals to patients. The nuclear medicine technologist produces images that aid in the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include biology, chemistry, physiology, physics, algebra, geometry, calculus, history, psychology, English, foreign language, speech, composition, health, and computer applications.

EDUCATION

Training is available in two-year certificate, two-year associate, or four-year bachelor's degree programs.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (B)

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of nuclear medicine technologists is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through 2008.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Certification as a Certified Nuclear Medicine Technologist is available through the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Society of Nuclear Medicine

Web Address: www.snm.org

American Registry of Radiologic Technologists

Web Address: www.arrt.org

Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board

Web Address: www.nmtcb.org

Nebraska Society of Radiologic Technologists

Web Address: www.nsrt.net

Nursing – Licensed Practical Nurse

Nature of the Profession

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

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include biology, chemistry, physiology, psychology, algebra I, geometry, speech, composition, health, human development, business communications, and computer applications.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Job prospects in nursing are good. Employment of LPNs is expected to increase as fast as the average for all occupations through the year 2008, in response to the needs of an aging population and to the general growth of health care.

Employment in nursing homes is expected to grow very fast due to increases in the number of people in their eighties and nineties, many of whom will require long-term care. Growth in units providing specialized long-term rehabilitation for stroke and head injury patients or treating Alzheimer's patients will also increase employment.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National League for Nursing

Web Address: www.nln.org

National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service, Inc.

Web Address: www.napnes.org

Nursing – Nurse Anesthetist

Nature of the Profession

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include biology, chemistry, earth or life sciences, English, composition, literature, history, sociology, psychology, algebra I and II, geometry, physics, calculus, foreign language, computer applications, human development, and health.

EDUCATION

Education and experience required to become a CRNA include:

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- BryanLGH Medical Center – Lincoln (M)

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of nurse anesthetists is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through 2008.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Web Address: www.aana.com

Nebraska Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Web Address: www.neana.org

Nursing – Nurse Practitioner

Nature of the Profession

A nurse practitioner is a registered nurse with advanced academic and clinical experience. The nurse practitioner is able to diagnose and manage most common illnesses, either independently or as part of a health care team. The nurse practitioner provides some care previously offered only by physicians and, in most states, has the ability to prescribe medications. Working in collaboration with a physician, a nurse practitioner provides high quality, cost effective, and individualized care.

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

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include biology, chemistry, anatomy, physiology, earth or life sciences, English, composition, literature, history, sociology, psychology, algebra I and II, geometry, foreign language, computer applications, human and child development, and health.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of nurse practitioners is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through 2008, and because the nursing occupation is large, many new jobs will result. Opportunities will be good for nurses with advanced education and training.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American College of Nurse Practitioners
Web Address: www.nurse.org/acnp/

American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
Web Address: www.aanp.org

Nursing – Nursing Assistant

Nature of the Profession

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include biology, chemistry, speech, composition, health, psychology, and algebra I and II.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Job prospects for nursing aides should be good through the year 2008. Numerous openings will arise from a combination of fast growth and high turnover for this large occupation. Employment of nursing aides is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations in response to an emphasis on rehabilitation and the long-term care needs of a rapidly growing elderly population.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

Nursing – Registered Nurse

Nature of the Profession

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

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

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

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include biology, chemistry, anatomy, physiology, earth or life sciences, English, composition, literature, history, sociology, psychology, algebra I and II, geometry, foreign language, computer applications, human and child development, and health.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of registered nurses is expected to grow more rapidly than the average for all occupations through 2008.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Nurses Association

Web Address: www.ana.org

Nebraska Nurses Association

Web Address: www.nursingworld.org/SNAS/ne/index.htm

Occupational Therapy

Nature of the Profession

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

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include art, biology, chemistry, earth or life sciences, English, composition, literature, history, sociology, psychology, algebra I and II, geometry, physics, calculus, foreign language, computer applications, human development, career education, and health.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of occupational therapists is expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations through 2008. Community settings and geographic areas that are underserved by occupational therapists offer the greatest opportunities.

LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.
Web Address: www.aota.org

Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.
Web Address: www.notaonline.org

Pharmacy

Nature of the Profession

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

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

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include biology, chemistry, life sciences, physics, English, composition, literature, history, sociology, psychology, algebra I and II, geometry, calculus, foreign language, computer applications, accounting, and health.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Currently there is a shortage of pharmacists nationwide. Employment of pharmacists is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2010.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Pharmacists Association

Web Address: www.aphanet.org

American College of Clinical Pharmacy

Web Address: www.accp.com

American Society of Health Systems Pharmacists

Web Address: www.ashp.org

Nebraska Pharmacists Association

Web Address: www.npharm.org

Physical Therapy

Nature of the Profession

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

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

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include biology, chemistry, life sciences, English, composition, literature, history, sociology, psychology, algebra I and II, geometry, physics, calculus, foreign language, computer applications, human development, physical education, and health.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of physical therapists is expected to have average growth for all occupations through 2008.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Physical Therapy Association
Web Address: www.apta.org

Nebraska Physical Therapy Association
Web Address: www.npta.org

Physical Therapist Assistant

Nature of the Profession

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include speech, biology, health, computer applications, algebra I and II, physiology, and physical education.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Clarkson College – Omaha (A)
- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (A)

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of physical therapist assistants is expected to grow much faster than the average through the year 2008.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Physical Therapy Association

Web Address: www.apta.org

Nebraska Physical Therapy Association

Web Address: www.npta.org

Physician

Nature of the Profession

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

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

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include biology, chemistry, earth or life sciences, English, composition, literature, sociology, psychology, algebra I and II, geometry, physics, calculus, foreign language, computer applications, human and child development, anatomy and physiology, and health.

EDUCATION

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

After graduating from medical school, physicians must complete three to seven years of residency training. The length of residency is determined by the chosen field. In addition to residency programs, some physicians will choose to continue their education in specialized programs called fellowships. Creighton University Medical Center (CUMC) and the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) offer residency and fellowship programs in Nebraska. Residency programs available through Nebraska medical schools are listed on page 55.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of physicians will grow faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2008 due to continued expansion of the health care industries.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Medical Association
Web Address: www.ama-assn.org

Nebraska Medical Association
Web Address: www.nebmed.org

Physician Assistant

Nature of the Profession

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

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include biology, anatomy, chemistry, earth or life sciences, English composition, literature, history, sociology, psychology, algebra I and II, geometry, physics, calculus, foreign language, computer applications, human development, and health.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment opportunities are expected to be good for physician assistants, particularly in areas or settings that have difficulty attracting physicians, such as rural and inner city clinics. Employment of PAs is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2010 due to an aging population, anticipated expansion of the health services industry, and an emphasis on cost containment.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The American Academy of Physician Assistants

Web Address: www.aapa.org

Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants

Web Address: www.nebraskapa.org

Psychology

Nature of the Profession

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

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

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

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

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

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include psychology, sociology, history, English, speech, literature, composition, foreign language, algebra I and II, geometry, calculus, statistics, biology, chemistry, physiology, and computer applications.

EDUCATION

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

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of psychologists is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2008. Programs to combat the increase in alcohol abuse, drug dependency, marital strife, family violence, crime, and other problems plaguing society should stimulate employment growth.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Psychological Association
Web Address: www.apa.org

Nebraska Psychological Association
Web Address: www.nebpsych.org

Psychiatric Assistant

Nature of the Profession

A career as a psychiatric assistant is a relatively recent development in the mental health field. This work involves a wide range of mental health delivery programs. Working as an aide to professional specialists on the health team - such as psychologists, nurses and social workers - the psychiatric assistant helps to provide care and treatment to emotionally disturbed persons.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn complex math, sciences, and methods of psychology
- Strong verbal abilities to use in reading, writing, research, and speaking
- Good math skills to assist with research and testing
- Ability to work with a wide variety of people
- Ability to persuade people and handle a variety of activities
- Patience and objectivity

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include psychology, sociology, history, English, speech, literature, composition, foreign language, algebra I and II, geometry, calculus, statistics, biology, chemistry, physiology, and computer applications.

EDUCATION

Education for persons wishing to become psychiatric assistants is usually found in certificate programs in vocational schools or community colleges.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College – Hastings, Grand Island (A)

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of psychiatric assistants is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2008. Programs to combat the increase in alcohol abuse, drug dependency, marital strife, family violence, crime, and other problems plaguing society should stimulate employment growth.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

There is no formal certification that is required for psychiatric assistants.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Psychological Association

Web Address: www.apa.org

Nebraska Psychological Association

Web Address: www.nebpsych.org

Public Health

Nature of the Profession

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this profession include English, composition, speech, biology, analysis, mathematics, life sciences, computer applications, psychology, health, child and human development.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Public health is a multidisciplinary field which includes professions such as medicine, dentistry, nursing, allied health professions, sanitation, counseling, health education, administration, biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health, social work and others. Demand for public health professionals is currently growing as more emphasis is being placed on health promotion, disease prevention, and safer communities and workplaces.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Public Health Association

Web Address: www.apha.org

Public Health Association of Nebraska

Web Address: www.publichealthne.org

Radiation Therapy Technology

Nature of the Profession

Radiation therapy technologists, also known as radiation therapists, prepare cancer patients for treatment. The primary responsibilities of radiation therapists include 1) administering radiation therapy by exposing specific areas of the patient's body to prescribed doses of radiation; 2) through daily contact, providing patient support during course of treatment; 3) monitoring and reporting patients' side effects or adverse reactions; 4) performing quality controls on the equipment; 5) preparing and handling radioactive materials used in the treatment; and 6) assisting in the treatment planning procedures, including tumor localization and dosimetry (calculation of the amount of radiation that patients are prescribed).

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include biology, chemistry, physics, physiology, algebra I, geometry, speech, literature, composition, health, and computer applications.

EDUCATION

Successful completion of a one- or two-year accredited educational program is required.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (B)

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of radiation therapists is expected to grow as fast as the average for all occupations through 2008. Radiation therapy will continue to be used, alone or in combination with surgery or chemotherapy, to treat malignancies. Due to the aging population and advances in detection and diagnosis, radiation therapists will continue to be an important part of the health care environment.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Society of Radiologic Technologists
Web Address: www.asrt.org

American Registry of Radiologic Technologists
Web Address: www.arrt.org

Radiography

Nature of the Profession

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

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include biology, chemistry, physics, physiology, algebra I, geometry, speech, literature, composition, health, and computer applications.

EDUCATION

Completion of a formal training program offered by a hospital, medical school, college, or university is required.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment for radiographers is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through 2008, as the population grows and ages, increasing the demand for diagnostic imaging and therapeutic technology.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Society of Radiologic Technologists
Web Address: www.asrt.org

American Registry of Radiologic Technologists
Web Address: www.arrt.org

Recreational Therapy

Nature of the Profession

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

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include art, music, physical education, biology, chemistry, earth or life sciences, English, composition, literature, history, sociology, psychology, algebra I and II, geometry, physics, foreign language, computer applications, human and child development, and health.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- University of Nebraska – Omaha (B)

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of recreational therapists is expected to grow as fast as the average for all occupations through the year 2008, because of anticipated expansion in long-term care, physical and psychiatric rehabilitation, and services for people with disabilities. Opportunities should be best for persons with a bachelor's degree in therapeutic recreation, or in recreation with an option in therapeutic recreation.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification

Web Address: www.nctrc.org

Respiratory Therapy

Nature of the Profession

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include biology, chemistry, English, composition, literature, history, sociology, psychology, algebra I, physics, computer applications, human development, accounting, and health.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of respiratory therapists and technicians is expected to increase much faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2008 because of substantial growth of the middle-aged and elderly population, a development that will heighten the incidence of cardiopulmonary disease.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Association for Respiratory Care

Web Address: www.aarc.org

The National Board for Respiratory Care, Inc.

Web Address: www.nbrc.org

Nebraska Society for Respiratory Care

Web Address: www.nsrc-online.org

Social Work

Nature of the Profession

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

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

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

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include sociology, psychology, English, foreign language, speech, literature, composition, biology, chemistry, life sciences, algebra I and II, geometry, government, political science, economics, human and child development, family living, accounting, history, and computer applications.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of social workers is expected to increase much faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2008. Employment of social workers in hospitals is projected to grow much faster than the average for the economy as a whole due to greater emphasis on discharge planning.

LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION

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

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National Association of Social Workers

Web Address: www.naswdc.org

Nebraska Chapter: National Association of Social Workers

Web Address: www.naswne.org

Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology

Nature of the Profession

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

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

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

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include biology, chemistry, earth or life sciences, English, composition, literature, history, sociology, psychology, algebra I and II, geometry, physics, calculus, foreign language, computer applications, human and child development, and health.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

Audiology

- University of Nebraska – Lincoln (D)

Speech-Language Pathology

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of speech-language pathologists and audiologists is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2008. Because hearing loss is strongly associated with aging, rapid growth in the population age 55 and over will cause the number of persons with hearing impairment to increase markedly.

LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Web Address: www.asha.org

Nebraska Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Web Address: www.nslha.org

Surgery Technologist/Assistant

Nature of the Profession

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

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

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include biology, chemistry, anatomy, speech, composition, health, algebra I, geometry, human development, and computer applications.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of surgical technologists is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2008 as the volume of surgery increases. The number of surgical procedures is expected to rise as the population grows and ages.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Association of Surgical Technologists
Web Address: www.ast.org

Ultrasonography

Nature of the Profession

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

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

APTITUDES

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

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include biology, chemistry, physiology, English, composition, speech, foreign language, algebra I and II, calculus, physics, history, government, computer applications, and health.

EDUCATION

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

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

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

JOB OUTLOOK

There is a critical shortage of qualified sonographers. The explosive growth of this imaging technology has far outpaced the number of qualified personnel and its growth is expected to continue.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers

Web Address: www.ardms.org

Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Web Address: www.jrcdms.org

Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Web Address: www.sdms.org

Health Career Institutions in Nebraska

ALLIANCE

Western Nebraska Community College

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

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

BEATRICE

Southeast Community College

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

- Licensed Practical Nurse (P)
- Nursing Assistant (C)

BELLEVUE

Bellevue University

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

- Health Care Administration (B, M)
- Human Social Service Administration (B, M)

BLAIR

Dana College

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

- Social Work (B)

CHADRON

Chadron State College

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

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

COLUMBUS

Central Community College

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

- Emergency Medical Technology (C)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (C)
- Medical Interpreting (C)
- Medical Secretary (A, P)
- Medical Transcription (C)
- Nursing Assistant (C)

FREMONT

Midland Lutheran College

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

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

GERING

University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry

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

- Dental Hygiene (B)

GRAND ISLAND

Central Community College

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

- Emergency Medical Technology (C)
- Health Information Management (C, A, P)
- Human Social Service Administration (A, C, P)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (C)
- Medical Interpreting (C)
- Medical Secretary (A, P)
- Medical Transcription (C)
- Nursing Assistant (C)
- Psychiatric Assistant (A)
- Registered Nurse (A)

HASTINGS

Central Community College

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

- Coding Technician (P)
- Dental Assistant (A, P)
- Dental Hygiene (A)
- Emergency Medical Technology (C)
- Health Information Management (A, C, P)
- Human Social Service Administration (A, C, P)
- Medical Assistant (A, P)
- Medical Interpreting (C)
- Medical Laboratory Technician (A)
- Medical Records Administrator (A)
- Medical Records Technician (C)
- Medical Transcription (C)
- Medical Secretary (A, P)
- Nursing Assistant (C)
- Psychiatric Assistant (A)

Creighton University School of Nursing

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

- Registered Nurse (B)

Hastings College

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

- Health Promotion Services (B)

Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital

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

- Radiographer (C)

HOLDREGE

Central Community College

Holdrege Center

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

- Medical Interpreting (C)

Health Career Institutions in Nebraska

KEARNEY

Central Community College Kearney Center

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

- Licensed Practical Nurse (P)
- Medical Interpreting (C)
- Nursing Assistant (C)

University of Nebraska-Kearney

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

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

University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing – Kearney Division

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

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

LEXINGTON

Central Community College Lexington Center

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

- Medical Interpreting (C)

LINCOLN

BryanLGH College of Health Sciences

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

- Invasive Cardiovascular Technologist (A)
- Registered Nurse (B)
- Ultrasonography (A)

BryanLGH Medical Center

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

- Nurse Anesthetist (M)

Doane College

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

- Counseling (M)

Nebraska Wesleyan University

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

- Health Promotion Services (B)
- Registered Nurse (B, M)
- Social Work (B)

Hamilton College

1812 K Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
(800) 742-7738
www.hamiltonlincoln.edu

- Medical Assistant (A)

Southeast Community College

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

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

Union College

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

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

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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

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

University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry

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

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

University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing – Lincoln Division

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

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

McCOOK

Mid-Plains Community College

McCook Campus
1205 East 3rd Street
McCook, NE 69001
(308) 345-8100 or (800) 658-4348
www.mpcca.edu

- Medical Secretary (A)
- Medical Transcription (C)
- Registered Nurse (A)

NORFOLK

Northeast Community College

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

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

Health Career Institutions in Nebraska

NORTH PLATTE

Mid-Plains Community College

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

- Medical Laboratory Technician (A)
- Medical Secretary (A)
- Medical Transcription (C)

Mid-Plains Community College

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

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

OMAHA

Alegent Health/Midland Lutheran College

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

- Respiratory Therapy (B)

Alegent Health

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

- Radiography (C)

Clarkson College

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

- Coding Technician (A, B, C)
- Health Information Management (A, B, C)
- Health Services Administrator (B, M)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (P)
- Nurse Practitioner (M)
- Physical Therapy Assistant (A)
- Radiography (Radiologic Technology) (A)
- Registered Nurse (B, M)

College of Saint Mary

1901 South 72nd Street
Omaha, NE 68124
(402) 399-2405 or (800) 926-5534
www.csm.edu
enroll@csm.edu

- Coding Technician (A, B, C)
- Health Information Management (A, B, C)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (C)
- Medical Technology (B)
- Occupational Therapy (M)
- Registered Nurse (A, B)

Hamilton College

3350 North 90th Street
Omaha, NE 68134
(402) 572-8500 or (800) 642-1456
www.hamiltonomaha.edu

- Dental Assistant (P)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (P)
- Medical Assistant (A)

Creighton Health Sciences

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

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

Grace University

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

- Counseling (B, M)
rclemans@graceu.edu
- Registered Nurse (B)
admissions@graceuniversity.edu

Metropolitan Community College

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

- Dental Assistant (C)
- Dietary Manager (C)
- Emergency Medical Technology (C)
- Human Social Services Administration (A)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (C)
- Medical Secretary (A)
- Nursing Assistant (C)
- Registered Nurse (A)
- Respiratory Therapy (A)

Nebraska Methodist College

8501 West Dodge Road
Omaha, NE 68114
(402) 354-4879 or (800) 335-5510
www.methodistcollege.edu
admissions@methodistcollege.edu

- Health Promotion Services (M)
- Medical Assistant (C)
- Nursing Assistant (C)
- Radiography (A, B)
- Registered Nurse (B, M)
- Respiratory Therapy (A, B)
- Surgery Technologist (C)
- Ultrasonography (A, B)

Nebraska Wesleyan University

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

- Registered Nurse (B, M)

University of Nebraska Medical Center School of Allied Health Professions

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

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

University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Medicine

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

- Physician (D)

University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing

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

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

Health Career Institutions in Nebraska

OMAHA (continued)

University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Pharmacy

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

- Pharmacy (D)

University of Nebraska Medical Center Master of Public Health Program

210 South 49th Street
Omaha, NE 68132
(402) 561-7566
www.unmc.edu/mph
vnelsen@unmc.edu

- Public Health (M)

University of Nebraska – Omaha

6001 Dodge Street
Omaha, NE 68182
(402) 554-2458 or (800) 858-8648
www.unomaha.edu

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

SCOTTSBLUFF

Regional West Medical Center

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

- Radiography (C)

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

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

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

Western Nebraska Community College

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

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

SIDNEY

Western Nebraska Community College

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

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

WAYNE

Wayne State College

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

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

Rural Health Opportunities Program

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

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

What is the Rural Health Opportunities Program?

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

Who is involved in this program?

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

How do I apply for the RHOP program?

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

For programs at Chadron, go to: www.csc.edu/mathsci/healthprofessions/

For programs at Wayne, go to: www.wsc.edu/schools/nss/pscm/RHOP

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

How will students be selected?

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

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

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

How to Apply

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

Health Professions Office

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

Health Professions Office

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

University of Nebraska Medical Center

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

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

What is the NU-PATHS program?

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

Who is involved in the program?

The NU-PATHS program is a collaborative effort involving UNMC and each of the University of Nebraska undergraduate colleges: UNL, UNO or UNK. Students selected for the NU-PATHS program take prerequisite courses for their program area: clinical laboratory science, dental hygiene, dentistry, graduate studies, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant or radiation science. Upon timely and satisfactory completion of the program prerequisites, NU-PATHS program participants are admitted to their selected professional program at UNMC.

How do I apply for the NU-PATHS program?

Applications are available from the student services offices at UNL, UNO or UNK. Students must submit the NU-PATHS application along with their application for admission to the undergraduate college. Only completed applications will be processed. A complete application includes the application form, the personal responses page(s), a copy of all high school and/or college transcripts, standardized ACT or SAT scores and four letters of reference. All applications, including letters of reference, must be received on or before February 1st for consideration.

How are program participants selected?

The NU-PATHS program was designed for academically strong students (high school seniors or current students at UNL, UNO or UNK) who have a serious interest in becoming health care practitioners serving the economically and/or socially disadvantaged within urban communities. The criteria for selection include:

- Academic ability
- Demonstrated desire to enter a health care profession
- Personal commitment to practice with economically and/or socially disadvantaged persons.
- Must be a U.S. citizen or have a Green Card
- Preference is given to Nebraska residents
- Ethnic minority and other under-represented students are encouraged to apply

The final selection of program participants includes an interview with representatives from UNMC, UNL, UNO and UNK. Students are notified of acceptance to the NU-PATHS program, as well as for college admission, within a month of the interview date.

How to apply?

For an application or more information about the NU-PATHS program and its participating colleges, talk with your school counselor or contact:

NU-PATHS Program

UNL – Office of Admissions
Diversity Recruitment
313 N. 13th Street
Lincoln, NE 68588-0256
(402) 472-2023 or
(800) 742-8800
www.admissions.unl.edu

NU-PATHS Program

UNO
Glenda Malone – EAB 202-F
Omaha, NE 68182
gmalone@mail.unomaha.edu
(402) 554-2482

NU-PATHS Program

UNK
Peggy Abels – BHS 212
Kearney, NE 68849-1130
(308) 865-8260
abelsp@unk.edu
www.unk.edu/acad/health_prog/

Career Exploration

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

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

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

250 Main St.
Chadron, NE 69337-2356
(308) 432-6121

3020 18th St., Suite 1
Columbus, NE 68601-4918
(402) 564-7160

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2421-23 North 24th St.
Omaha, NE 68110-2282
(402) 444-4700

1717 Avenue C
Scottsbluff, NE 69361-2332
(308) 632-1420

927 23rd Ave.
Sidney, NE 69162-1418
(308) 254-6937

539 E. Decatur St.
West Point, NE 68788
(402) 372-5749

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

Nebraska Office of Rural Health

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

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

For further information, contact: Dennis Berens at (402) 471-2337

Financial Aid

Resources

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

EducationQuest Foundation
www.educationquest.org

Federal Student Aid Programs
www.studentaid.ed.gov

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
www.fafsa.ed.gov

National Student Loan Database System
www.nsls.ed.gov

The Smart Student Guide to Financial Aid
www.finaid.org

Checklist

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

Additional Tips

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

Medical Residency and Fellowship Programs

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

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

*indicates fellowship program

Acknowledgements

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Rural Health Education Network Nebraska AHEC Program Office

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

Nebraska Hospital Association

1640 "L" Street, Suite D
Lincoln, NE 68508-2509
(402) 458-4900
www.nhanet.org

Nebraska Community College Association

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

Central Nebraska AHEC

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

Northern Nebraska AHEC

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

Nebraska Panhandle AHEC

2620 College Park
Scottsbluff, NE 69361
(308) 635-6711
www.np-ahec.org

Southeast Nebraska AHEC

to be located in Beatrice, NE by April 2006
(402) 559-3398

Omaha Urban AHEC

a partnership with
Creighton University Medical Center
to be established by April 2006
(402) 559-3398

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