

★ TOP HEALTH CARE CAREERS IN KANSAS

DISCOVER HEALTH CARE CAREERS BY:

☀ EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

☀ AVERAGE SALARY

☀ JOB OPENINGS

☀ DEMAND

Happy in
HEALTH CARE



I WANT A CAREER THAT:

- has great benefits.
- I can be a leader in.
- is inspiring.
- I feel accomplished in.
- is fulfilling.
- connects with people.
- is stable.
- is flexible.
- has a work-life balance.

This publication is brought to you through a cooperative venture between the Kansas Hospital Association and the Kansas Board of Regents.



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HappyInHealthCare.org is your one-stop site for:

- health care career exploration;
- scholarship opportunities;
- schools and programs; and
- job searching.



Happy in
HEALTH CARE



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TOP HEALTH CARE CAREERS IN KANSAS

Thinking about a future in health care? Start here.

This guide is your go-to resource for exploring health care careers in Kansas. You can check out different career paths, see which jobs are in demand, learn about future outlook, compare salaries and find out what education or training you'll need to get started.

You'll also find real stories from people who built their careers step by step — like the high school volunteer who became a director of radiology — showing there's more than one way to grow in health care.

Want to explore even more? The guide also connects you to opportunities like the annual Virtual Health Care Career Day, apprenticeships and other ways to learn, train and take your first step toward a career that makes a difference.



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PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT

Usual places of employment for health care professionals are:



Hospitals, including community, psychiatric and other specialty hospitals



Home health organizations



Medical and dental laboratories



Dental offices and clinics



Durable medical equipment distributors



Pharmacies



Emergency medical service providers



Professional education programs that train health care professionals



Physician's offices and clinics, as well as offices and clinics of non-physician providers such as physical therapy



Nursing and personal care facilities, including skilled nursing care facilities, intermediate care facilities and rehabilitation facilities

A BOOMING INDUSTRY WANTS YOU!

The Kansas health care sector directly and indirectly contributes almost 338,000 jobs!

And nearly \$24 billion in labor income to the state economy.

There are approximately 7,504 health care entities including hospitals in Kansas and many are hiring!



COLOR KEY

Below is a color key to health care careers. As you review each page, the top and bottom banner color tie to the years of education necessary for those positions.

**Year or Less
Training**

**Associates
Degree Training**

**Associates or
Bachelor Degree
Training***

**Specialty or
Bachelor's
Degree Training**

**Master's Degree
Training**

**Doctorate
Training**

**These health care careers may be offered as associates or bachelor's degrees at different educational institutions. Additionally, some health care facilities may require a bachelor's degree over an associates degree.*

DATA SOURCES

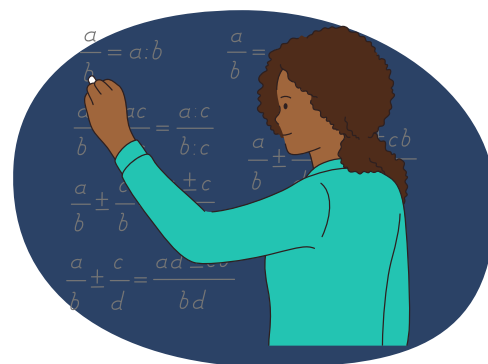
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January 2026, Office of Local Government and K-State Research and
Extension. <https://www.kha-net.org/CriticalIssues/EconomicImpact/>

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistic, Labor Force Statistics from the Current
Population Survey, 2026. <https://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat18b.htm>

Labor Market Information Division of the Kansas Department of Labor
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Labor Market Information Division of the Kansas Department of Labor

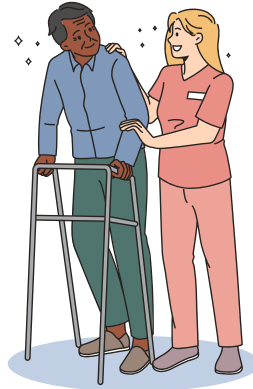
Kansas Long-term Occupational Projections 2024-2034. Source Kansas Department of Labor. {1} Total Openings: Sum of Exits, Transfers and Numerical Change. {2} Wage data are from the 2026 Edition of the Kansas Wage Survey showing wages collected from 2022-2025 (Source: Labor Market Information Division of the Kansas Department of Labor and the Bureau of Labor Statistics; Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)). * 2026 Kansas Wage Survey data. {3} Education and Training Levels are provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, more information can be found at: <https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2025/article/education-level-and-openings-2024-34.htm> Note: Occupation subtotals may not add to the totals due to rounding and the suppression of data.



CERTIFIED NURSING AIDE (CNA)

Common Job Titles: Certified Medication Aide (CMA), Certified Nurse Aide (CNA), Certified Nurse's Aide (CNA), Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Licensed Nursing Assistant (LNA), Nurses' Aide, Nursing Aide, Nursing Assistant, Patient Care Assistant (PCA), State Tested Nursing Assistant (STNA)

CNA's provide or assist with basic care or support under the direction of onsite licensed nursing staff. They perform duties such as monitoring of health status, feeding, bathing, dressing, grooming, toileting or ambulation of patients in a health or nursing facility.



Average Salary:
\$19.10 (hourly) \$39,730 (annual)

Education:
Less than 1 year

Projected 2034 Employment:
25,827

Average Annual Job Openings:
3,587

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT)

Average Salary:
\$18.21 (hourly) \$37,870 (annual)

Education:
Less than 1 year

Projected 2034 Employment:
1,909

Average Annual Job Openings:
141



Get a real world perspective from an EMT professional at HappyInHealthCare.org.

Common Job Titles: EMT, Emergency Medical Technician, First Responder

EMT's assess injuries and illnesses and administer basic emergency medical care which may include transportation of injured or sick persons to medical facilities.

*High school student and CNA?
Yes, you can do both!*

Many Kansas hospitals and health care facilities employ local high school students as Certified Nursing Aides. Most even cover the cost of training to receive your certification. It's a great way to earn extra money when you're in school and position you for a full-time position upon graduation. Get a jump on your future by reaching out to your local hospital or health care facility!

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Average Salary:

\$19.95 (hourly) \$41,490 (annual)

Education:

Less than 1 year

Projected 2034 Employment:

5,640

Average Annual Job Openings:

692

Get a real world perspective from a Medical Assistant professional at HappyInHealthCare.org.



Common Job Titles: Certified Medical Assistant (CMA), Chiropractor Assistant, Clinical Assistant, Doctor's Assistant, Medical Assistant (MA), Medical Office Assistant, Optometric Assistant, Registered Medical Assistant (RMA)

Medical assistants, under the supervision of physicians, perform a wide range of clinical and administrative functions, including taking patient histories and vital signs, collecting specimens, preparing and administering medications, performing diagnostic tests and otherwise assisting the physician as directed. Medical assistants also prepare and maintain medical records, write correspondence, perform medical transcription and conduct other administrative medical office procedures.



DENTAL ASSISTANT

Average Salary:

\$20.43 (hourly) \$42,490 (annual)

Education:

Less than 1 year

Projected 2034 Employment:

3,176

Average Annual Job Openings:

411

Common Job Titles:

Certified Dental Assistant, Certified Registered Dental Assistant, Orthodontic Assistant, Registered Dental Assistant

Dental Assistants perform limited clinical duties under the direction of a dentist. Clinical duties may include equipment preparation and sterilization, preparing patients for treatment, assisting the dentist during treatment and providing patients with instructions for oral health care procedures. They may perform administrative duties such as scheduling appointments, maintaining medical records, billing and coding information for insurance purposes.





PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

Average Salary:

\$21.08 (hourly) \$43,850 (annual)

Education:

Less than 1 year

Projected 2034 Employment:

4,477

Average Annual Job Openings:

420

Common Job Titles: Accredited Pharmacy Technician; Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT); Compounding Technician; Lead Pharmacy Tech, Certified Pharmacy Technician (Lead Pharmacy Tech, (CPhT); Lead Pharmacy Technician (Lead Pharmacy Tech); Pharmacy Technician (Pharmacy Tech); Senior Pharmacy Technician; Technician, Inventory Specialist

Pharmacy technicians work under the direct supervision of a Pharmacist. They receive written prescriptions or requests for prescription refills, verify accuracy and completeness of the prescription information, perform some medication dosage calculations, pour liquid dosages or calculate the number of tablets required for a prescribed dose and prepare prescription labels. Pharmacy technicians also may transport medications, order and maintain medication inventories, perform clerical duties, obtain prescriptions from physician offices, complete claim and billing forms for insurance companies and perform other tasks in a pharmacy as directed by the pharmacist.



SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST

Average Salary:

\$28.79 (hourly) \$59,880 (annual)

Education:

Less than 1 year

Projected 2034 Employment:

1,364

Average Annual Job Openings:

79

Common Job Titles: Certified Surgical Tech/First Assistant, Certified Surgical Technician, Certified Surgical Technologist (CST), Operating Room Surgical Technician (OR St), Operating Room Technician (OR Tech), Operating Room Technologist (OR Tech), Surgical Scrub Technician, Surgical Scrub Technologist (Surgical Scrub Tech), Surgical Technician, Surgical Technologist (Surgical Tech)

Surgical technologists are health professionals who are an integral part of the team of medical practitioners providing surgical care to patients. In order that surgery may proceed smoothly, surgical technologists anticipate the needs of surgeons, passing instruments and providing sterile items in an efficient manner. Surgical technologists also have primary responsibilities for maintaining the sterile field, being vigilant that all members of the team adhere to aseptic techniques and are responsible for the proper set-up of the required surgical instruments.

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE (LPN)

Average Salary:

\$30.12 (hourly) \$62,660 (annual)

Education:

Less than 1 year

Projected 2034 Employment:

7,343

Average Annual Job Openings:

599



Get a real world perspective from licensed practical nurse at HappyInHealthCare.org.

Common Job Titles: Clinic Licensed Practical Nurse (CLINIC LPN); Clinic Nurse; Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN); Licensed Practical Nurse, Clinic Nurse (LPN, Clinic Nurse); Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN); Office Nurse; Pediatric Licensed Practical Nurse (PEDIATRIC LPN); Private Duty Nurse; Triage Licensed Practical Nurse (TRIAGE LPN)

LPNs care for the sick, injured, convalescent and disabled under the direction of physicians and registered nurses. Most LPNs provide essential bedside care. They observe patients and report adverse reactions to medications or treatments. They may administer prescribed medications or start intravenous fluids. Some LPNs help deliver, care for and feed infants. In some institutions, LPNs supervise nursing assistants and aides. LPNs must pass a national licensing examination to obtain a nursing license to practice in Kansas.

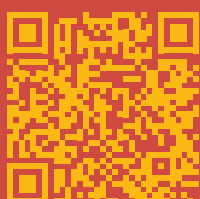


DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE ANNUAL KANSAS VIRTUAL HEALTH CARE CAREER DAY?

It's an online event highlighting

8 DIFFERENT HEALTH CARE CAREER PATHS.

Look for the registration link at HappyInHealthCare.org.



HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIST AND MEDICAL REGISTRARS

Average Salary:
\$31.19 (hourly) \$64,870 (annual)

Education:
Associates

Projected 2034 Employment:
953

Average Annual Job Openings:
62



Common Job Titles: Coder, Health Information Clerk, Health Information Specialist, Health Information Technician (Health Information Tech), Medical Records Clerk, Medical Records Coordinator, Medical Records Technician (Medical Records Tech), Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT), Medical Records Analyst, Medical Records Director

Medical registrars compile, process and maintain patient medical records in accordance with medical, administrative, ethical, legal and regulatory requirements. They collect, review and analyze information such as diagnoses, procedures, treatments and follow-up care. Health information technologists and medical registrars also use their knowledge of health care and information systems to help design, develop and improve computerized health care systems.

They may educate staff, assist with troubleshooting and develop databases that track patient history, diagnoses, treatments and health status. Their work helps health care organizations monitor diseases, evaluate patient outcomes and make informed decisions about care.

PARAMEDIC

Average Salary:
\$25.86 (hourly) \$53,790 (annual)

Education:
Associates

Projected 2034 Employment:
1,211

Average Annual Job Openings:
55

Common Job Titles: Medic, Flight Paramedic, First Responder

Paramedics administer basic or advanced emergency medical care and assess injuries and illnesses. Duties may administer medication intravenously, using equipment such as EKGs, or administering advanced life support to sick or injured individuals.



DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHER

Common Job Titles:

Ultrasound Technologist,
Registered Diagnostic
Medical Sonographer
(RDMS), Sonographer,
Ultrasonographer,
Cardiovascular Sonographer,
Abdominal Sonographer,
Obstetric Sonographer,
Musculoskeletal
Sonographer,
Neurosonographer

Average Salary:

\$44.70 (hourly) \$92,970 (annual)

Education:

Associates

Projected 2034 Employment:

905

Average Annual Job Openings:

51



A diagnostic medical

sonographer uses specialized

ultrasound equipment to create images of the body's organs, tissues and structures to help physicians diagnose and monitor medical conditions. They perform ultrasound examinations, explain procedures to patients, position patients appropriately, operate and maintain imaging equipment and evaluate images to ensure they are clear and complete for interpretation by a physician.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT (PTA)

Average Salary:

\$31.89 (hourly) \$66,320 (annual)

Education:

Associates

Projected 2034 Employment:

1,463

Average Annual Job Openings:

212

Common Job Titles:

Certified Physical Therapist Assistant (CPTA), Home Care Physical Therapy Assistant, Home Health Physical Therapist Assistant, Licensed Physical Therapist Assistant (LPTA), Licensed Physical Therapy Assistant, Outpatient Physical Therapist Assistant, Per Diem Physical Therapist Assistant (Per Diem PTA), Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA), Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA)



PTAs assist physical therapists in providing physical therapy treatments and procedures. Duties may include, in accordance with state laws, assisting in the development of treatment plans, carry out routine functions, document the progress of treatment and modify specific treatments in accordance with patient status and within the scope of treatment plans established by a physical therapist.

Get a real world perspective from
physical therapy professionals at
HappyInHealthCare.org.



DENTAL HYGIENIST

Average Salary:

\$39.76 (hourly) \$82,690 (annual)

Education:

Associates

Projected 2034 Employment:

2,605

Average Annual Job Openings:

163

Common Job Titles: Dental Hygienist; Dental Hygienist, Mobile Coordinator; Hygienist; Pediatric Dental Hygienist; Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH); Registered Dental Hygienist, Part Time Clinical Faculty



Although the overall range of dental services provided by a dental hygienist may vary depending on the location and the type of practice setting, most provide dental care to patients. This may include oral screening for diseases, taking and developing dental radiographs, removing calculus and plaque, applying preventive materials such as fluorides and sealants to teeth, making dental impressions and teaching good oral hygiene techniques. They also administer anesthetics, place and carve fillings, provide periodontal dressings, remove sutures and smooth and polish dental restorations. Dental hygienists must be licensed to practice in Kansas.

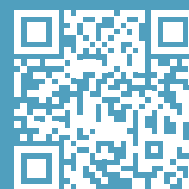
TRAIN ON THE JOB!

KANSAS HEALTH CARE APPRENTICESHIPS ARE GROWING!

Looking for a non-traditional path into the health care workforce?

Apprenticeships allow you to earn while you learn.

See what hospitals are doing to develop apprenticeships.



RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST

Average Salary:
\$35.86 (hourly) \$74,580 (annual)

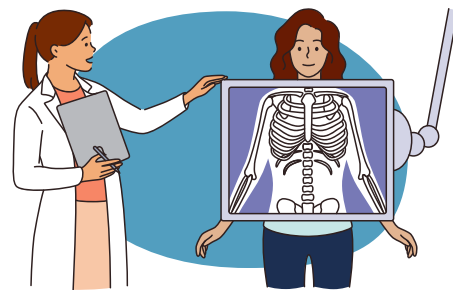
Education:
Associates or Bachelor's

Projected 2034 Employment:
2,289

Average Annual Job Openings:
120

Common Job

Titles: Computed Tomography Technologist (CT Technologist), Mammographer, Radiographer, Radiological Technologist, Radiology Technician (Radiology Tech), Radiology Technologist, Registered Radiographer, X-Ray Technician (X-Ray Tech), X-Ray Technologist (X-Ray Tech)



Radiologic technologists and technicians take x-rays and CAT scans or administer nonradioactive materials into patient's bloodstream for diagnostic or research purposes.

CAREER PATHWAY STORIES

FROM HIGH SCHOOL VOLUNTEER TO DIRECTOR OF RADIOLOGY

*Meet Shawwna, Director of Radiology,
at Wilson Medical Center*

How did you become interested in radiology?

I became interested in radiology in high school when I volunteered at my local hospital. I would often escort patients to the radiology departments for scans.

Why do you love radiology?

Oftentimes, patients can come in to radiology scared or worried about their health. I love being a part of a process that helps provide answers and gives patients a feeling of being cared for at an unsure moment.

Advice you would give to someone who is thinking of becoming a radiologist?

Job shadow. Go look at different radiology departments and shadow as much as possible.

RADIOLOGY PATHWAY

Earn associate's degree and get registered as an AART and licensed.

Start in general radiology which includes taking black and white images like chest x-rays or images of broken bones.

Advance your training to move into CT scans, mammography or other specialties.

Complete a bachelor's degree to move into a departmental leadership role.





Get a real world
perspective from a
registered nurse at
HappyInHealthCare.org.



REGISTERED NURSE

Average Salary:

\$39.60 (hourly) \$82,360 (annual)

Education:

Associates or Bachelor's

Projected 2034 Employment:

35,662

Average Annual Job Openings:

1,881

Common Job Titles: Charge Nurse, Emergency Department RN (Emergency Department Registered Nurse), Oncology RN (Oncology Registered Nurse), Operating Room Registered Nurse (OR RN), Public Health Nurse (PHN), Registered Nurse (RN), School Nurse, Staff Nurse, Staff RN (Staff Registered Nurse), Critical Care Nurse, Medical/Surgical Registered Nurse

RNs promote health, prevent disease and help patients cope with illness. They serve as advocates and health educators for patients, families and communities. In direct patient care, they observe and assess symptoms, record progress, administer medications, perform clinical procedures and make nursing decisions based on patient needs. They also work closely with physicians and other health care team members to coordinate care.

RNs develop and manage care plans, support recovery and rehabilitation, and teach patients and families how to make healthy choices and manage care at home. While state laws govern nursing practice, daily responsibilities often depend on the work setting. To become licensed, students must graduate from an approved nursing program and pass a national licensing examination. Nurses also may be licensed in more than one state through examination or endorsement.

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

Average Salary:

\$35.99 (hourly) \$74,860 (annual)

Education:

Associates or Bachelor's

Projected 2034 Employment:

1,515

Average Annual Job Openings:

86

Common Job Titles:

Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Respiratory Therapist, Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT), Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT), Respiratory Care Practitioner (RCP), Respiratory Therapist (RT), Staff Respiratory Therapist, Staff Therapist



Respiratory therapist assess, treat and care for patients with breathing disorders. They assume primary responsibility for all respiratory care modalities, including the supervision of respiratory therapy technicians. Duties may include initiating and conducting therapeutic procedures; maintaining patient records; and selecting, assembling, checking and operating equipment.

CLINICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGIST AND TECHNICIAN

Common Job Titles:

Chief Medical Technologist; Clinical Laboratory Scientist (CLS); Clinical Laboratory Technologist; Histologist Technologist; Medical Laboratory Technologist (Medical Lab Tech); Medical Technologist (MT); Medical Technologist, Clinical Laboratory Scientist; Microbiology Technologist, Certified Clinical Laboratory Technician, Clinical Laboratory Technician (Clinical Lab Technician), Laboratory Assistant (Lab Assistant), Laboratory Technician (Lab Tech), Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT), Medical Laboratory Technicians (Medical Lab Technician), Medical Technician



Average Salary:

\$30.92 (hourly) \$64,310 (annual)

Education:

Bachelor's

Projected 2034 Employment:

4,709

Average Annual Job Openings:

295

Medical and clinical laboratory technologists perform complex medical laboratory tests for diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease.

CAREER PATHWAY STORIES

FROM SCIENCE LOVER TO LABORATORY MANAGER

Meet Tammy, Laboratory Manager, at Meade District Hospital/Artesian Valley Health System

How did you become interested in laboratory?

In high school my mother suffered from a stroke. Every day, her doctor would talk about her numbers. As a student who liked science, I wondered how the numbers played into the outcome of my mother's health.

How many patients are being tested every day?

We might have 50 patients being tested every day, but a patient can have anywhere between one and ten tests.

Your favorite part of laboratory work?

I love being a part of the diagnostic process that helps provide answers that determines treatments and outcomes.

LABORATORY PATHWAY

Enroll in MLT program at a community college or technical school.

Earn associate's degree in Medical Laboratory Technology.

Upon associate's degree completion, pursue MLT certification.

Advance your education by completing a bachelor's degree to become a Lab Director, Lab Scientist or Educator.



DIETITIAN AND NUTRITIONIST



Get a real world
perspective from a
nutrition professional at
HappyInHealthCare.org.

Average Salary:
\$34.19 (hourly) \$71,110 (annual)

Education:
Bachelor's

Projected 2034 Employment:
710

Average Annual Job Openings:
46

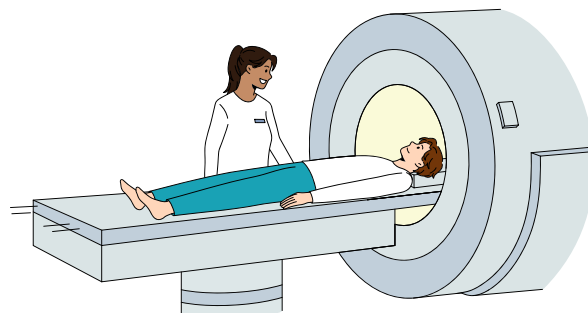
Common Job Titles: Clinical Dietician, Clinical Dietitian, Dietitian, Nutritionist, Outpatient Dietitian, Pediatric Clinical Dietician, Registered Dietician, Registered Dietitian

Dietitians and nutritionists plan and conduct food service or nutritional programs to assist in the promotion of health and the control of disease. They may supervise activities of a department providing food services, counsel individuals or conduct nutritional research.

NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGIST

Common Job Titles: Certified Nuclear Medicine Technologist (CNMT), Lead Nuclear Medicine Technologist (Lead Nuc Med Tech), Nuclear Cardiology Technologist, Nuclear Medicine PET-CT Technologist (Nuclear Medicine Positron Emission Tomography - Computed Tomography Technologist), Nuclear Medicine Technologist (Nuclear Med Tech), Radiation Safety Officer, Registered Nuclear Medicine Technologist, Senior Nuclear Medicine Technologist, Staff Nuclear Medicine Technologist

Nuclear Medicine Technologists prepare, administer and measure radioactive isotopes in therapeutic, diagnostic, and tracer studies using a variety of radioisotope equipment. They prepare stock solutions of radioactive materials and calculate doses to be administered by radiologists and subject patients to radiation. They execute blood volume, red cell survival, and fat absorption studies following standard laboratory techniques.



Average Salary:
\$36.91 (hourly) \$76,770 (annual)

Education:
Bachelor's

Projected 2034 Employment:
246

Average Annual Job Openings:
11

RADIATION THERAPIST (RT)

Average Salary:

\$54.21 (hourly) \$112,750 (annual)

Education:

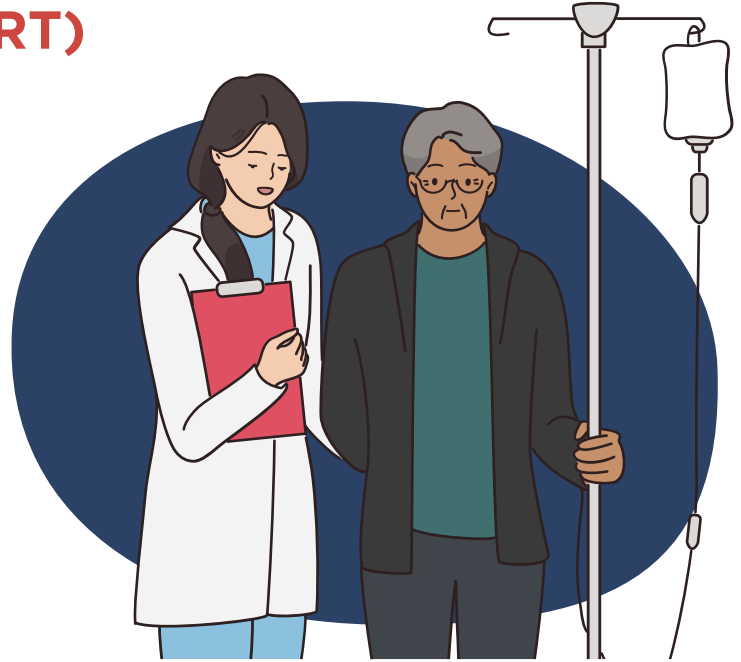
Specialty Degree

Projected 2034 Employment:

119

Average Annual Job Openings:

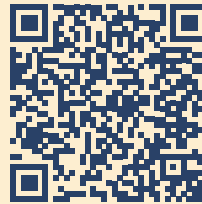
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Common Job Titles: Chief Radiation Therapist (Chief RT), Computed Tomography Simulation Therapist (CT Simulation Therapist), Dosimetrist, Lead Radiation Therapist, Medical Dosimetrist, Radiation Therapist, Radiation Therapy Technologist (RTT), Registered Radiation Therapist, Senior Radiation Therapist, Staff Radiation Therapist

RTs provide radiation therapy to patients as prescribed by a radiation oncologist according to established practices and standards. Duties may include reviewing prescriptions and diagnoses; acting as a liaison with physicians and supportive care personnel; preparing equipment, such as immobilization, treatment and protection devices; and maintaining records, reports and files. RTs may assist in dosimetry procedures and tumor localization.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



**HEALTH
WORKS**
KANSAS HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION

Open to any individual who is currently enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited Kansas school for a health care career is invited to apply. Scholarship categories include:

Undergraduate Allied Health Care

Undergraduate Nursing

Advanced Clinical Practice

Health Care Administration

Hospital Human Resources

Future Faculty

ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE (APRN)

Common Job Titles:

Acute Care Nurse Practitioner; Adult Nurse Practitioner; Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN); Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP); Family Practice Certified Nurse; Gastroenterology Nurse Practitioner; Nurse Practitioner (NP); Nurse Practitioner, Adult; Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP); Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner



ARNPs diagnose and treat acute, episodic, or chronic illness, independently or as part of a health care team. They may focus on health promotion and disease prevention, order, perform or interpret diagnostic tests such as lab work and x rays, prescribe medication. They must be registered nurses who have specialized graduate education.

Average Salary:

\$61.51 (hourly) \$127,940 (annual)

Education:

Master's

Projected 2034 Employment:

4,384

Average Annual Job Openings:

283

Get a real world perspective from an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse professional at HappyInHealthCare.org.



CAREER PATHWAY STORIES

FROM HEALTH CARE FIELD TRIP TO NURSE PRACTITIONER

Meet Ashley, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse at Coffey County Hospital

How did you become interested in health care?

I got interested in health care at five years old during a field trip to our local hospital and my interest only increased as I grew up!

How did you settle on nurse practitioner?

I job shadowed with several different health care specialties including physical therapy, occupational therapy and family medicine. I knew when I shadowed a nurse practitioner that I found what I wanted to do.

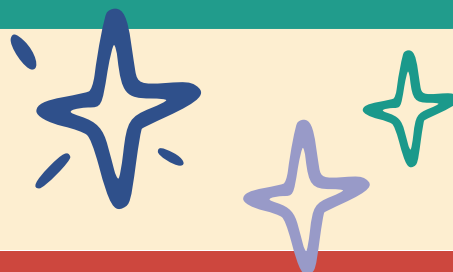
How does being a nurse practitioner align with your personal life? Being a nurse practitioner affords you lots of versatility in settings and shifts which is great for all kinds of schedules and personal priorities.

APRN PATHWAY

Complete a bachelor's degree in nursing. Other bachelor's degree programs may be accepted if a bridge program is completed.

Complete an accredited masters' or doctoral program. You can choose specific nurse practitioner specialties.

Pass a national certification exam.



PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT (PA)

Average Salary:
\$61.17 (hourly) \$127,240 (annual)

Education:
Master's

Projected 2034 Employment:
1,260

Average Annual Job Openings:
76

Common Job Titles: Certified Physician Assistant (PA-C), Clinical Physician Assistant, Family Practice Physician Assistant, General Surgery Physician Assistant, Orthopedic Physician Assistant, Physician Assistant Certified (PAC), Physician Extender, Physician's Assistant, Surgical Physician Assistant



Physician Assistants diagnose and treat patients, perform exams, prescribe medications and provide care under physician supervision.

SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

Average Salary:
\$39.79 (hourly) \$82,760 (annual)

Education:
Master's

Projected 2034 Employment:
2,081

Average Annual Job Openings:
125

Common Job Titles: Bilingual Speech-Language Pathologist, Communication Specialist, Educational Speech-Language Clinician, Speech and Language Clinician, Speech and Language Specialist, Speech Pathologist, Speech Therapist, Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP), Speech/Language Therapist, Teacher of the Speech and Hearing Handicapped



Speech-language pathologists assess and treat speech, language, voice and fluency disorders and may help patients use alternative communication methods.

LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER (LCSW)

Common Job Titles: Clinical Social Worker, Dialysis Social Worker, Hospice Social Worker, Medical Social Worker, Nephrology Social Worker, Oncology Social Worker, Renal Social Worker, Social Work Case Manager, Social Worker



LCSWs help people solve and cope with problems in their everyday lives. One group of social workers—clinical social workers - also diagnose and treat mental, behavioral and emotional issues.

Get a real world perspective from a social worker at HappyInHealthCare.org.



Average Salary:
\$31.19 (hourly) \$64,860 (annual)

Education:
Master's

Projected 2034 Employment:
1,566

Average Annual Job Openings:
138



PHARMACIST

Average Salary:
\$65.47 (hourly) \$136,170 (annual)

Education:
Doctorate

Projected 2034 Employment:
3,663

Average Annual Job Openings:
147

Common Job Titles: Clinical Pharmacist; Hospital Pharmacist; Pharmacist; Pharmacist in Charge (PIC); Pharmacist in Charge, Owner (PIC, Owner); Pharmacy Informaticist; Registered Pharmacist; Staff Pharmacist; Staff Pharmacist, Hospital

Pharmacists dispense drugs prescribed by physicians and other health care practitioners and provide information to patients about medications and their use. They may advise physicians and other health care practitioners on the selection, dosage, interactions and side effects of medications.

Get a real world perspective
from a pharmacist at
HappyInHealthCare.org.



PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Average Salary:
\$45.94 (hourly) \$95,540 (annual)

Education:
Doctorate

Projected 2034 Employment:
3,123

Average Annual Job Openings:
137

Common Job Titles: Acute Care PT (Acute Care Physical Therapist), Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT), Home Care Physical Therapist (Home Care PT), Inpatient Physical Therapist (Inpatient PT), Outpatient Physical Therapist (Outpatient PT), Pediatric Physical Therapist (Pediatric PT), Registered Physical Therapist (RPT), Therapist

Physical therapist assess, plan, organize and participate in rehabilitative programs that improve mobility, relieve pain, increase strength and improve or correct disabling conditions resulting from disease or injury.

Get a real world perspective
from a physical therapist at
HappyInHealthCare.org.



AUDIOLOGIST

Average Salary:

\$45.29 (hourly) \$94,210 (annual)

Education:

Doctorate

Projected 2034 Employment:

194

Average Annual Job Openings:

7

Common Job Titles: Audiologist, Audiology Doctor (AUD), Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology Licensed Audiologist (CCC-A Licensed Audiologist), Clinical Audiologist, Dispensing Audiologist, Doctor of Audiology, Educational Audiologist, Pediatric Audiologist



Audiologists assess and treat persons with hearing and related disorders. They may fit hearing aids, provide auditory training and perform research related to hearing problems.

DENTIST

Average Salary:

\$82.75 (hourly) \$172,120 (annual)

Education:

Doctorate

Projected 2034 Employment:

1,448

Average Annual Job Openings:

40

Common Job Titles: Associate Dentist, Dental Surgery Doctor (DDS), Dentist, Dentist/Owner, Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD), Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS), Family Dentist, General Dentist, General Dentist/Owner, Pediatric Dentist



Dentist examine, diagnose and treat diseases, injuries, and malformations of teeth and gums. They may treat diseases of nerve, pulp and other dental tissues affecting oral hygiene and retention of teeth.

Psychiatrist

Average Salary:

\$127.54 (hourly) \$265,280 (annual)

Education:

Doctorate

Projected 2034 Employment:

94

Average Annual Job Openings:

2

Common Job Titles: General Psychiatrist, Clinical Psychiatrist, Psychiatrist Physician, Psychiatrist Practitioner, Addiction Psychiatrist, Inpatient Psychiatrist, Child Psychiatrist, Adult Psychiatrist



Psychiatrists are medical doctors who diagnose, treat and help prevent mental, emotional and behavioral disorders. They evaluate patients, develop treatment plans that may include therapy and medication, and adjust care as needed. They treat conditions such as depression, anxiety and bipolar disorder and may specialize in areas like child, geriatric or addiction psychiatry. Psychiatrists work in hospitals, clinics, private practices, community mental health centers and other health care settings, often as part of a larger care team.

PHYSICIAN



Average Salary:

\$119.26 (hourly) \$248,050 (annual)

Education:

Doctorate

Projected 2034 Employment:

4,654

Average Annual Job Openings:

126

Common Job Titles: Psychiatrist, Hospitalist; Family Medicine; Internal Medicine; Pulmonologist; Cardiologist; Pediatrician; Orthopedist; Oncologist; Ophthalmologist; Allergist; Rheumatologist; Nephrologist; Emergency Medicine; Otolaryngologist (Ear, Nose and Throat); Dermatologist

Physicians make life and death decisions. They provide the highest standard of care and are legally and ethically responsible for the care and well-being of their patients. They also are ultimately responsible for the care given by other health care professionals to their patients. Physicians diagnose specific illnesses, prescribe treatments and medications, and make decisions based on clinical assessments and laboratory testing.

There are two types of physicians: The MD—Doctor of Medicine—and the DO— Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine. While both MDs and DOs may use all accepted methods of treatment, including drugs and surgery, DOs place special emphasis on the body's musculoskeletal system, preventive medicine and holistic care.

About a third of MDs—and more than half of DOs—are primary care physicians. They practice general and family medicine, general internal medicine or general pediatrics. They are usually the first health care professionals who patients consult. When appropriate, primary care physicians refer patients to specialists, who are experts in medical fields such as gynecology, cardiology or surgery.

Physicians may be employed by hospitals, but many have their own practice, which they share with other physicians or partners. Many are employed in the military, research labs, medical schools or rural or urban clinics.

Get a real world perspective from a physician at HappyInHealthCare.org.



ANESTHESIOLOGIST

Average Salary:

\$180.30 (hourly) \$375,020 (annual)

Education:

Doctorate

Projected 2034 Employment:

611

Average Annual Job Openings:

17

Common Job

Titles:

Anesthesia Specialist, Anesthesia Physician, Clinical Anesthesiologist, Chief Anesthesiologist, Anesthesia Medical Director, Obstetric Anesthesiologist, Ambulatory Anesthesiologist, Pediatric Anesthesiologist



Anesthesiologists administer anesthesia, monitor patients during procedures and manage pain and recovery before, during and after surgery.

SURGEON

Average Salary:

\$179.78 (hourly) \$373,930 (annual)

Education:

Doctorate

Projected 2034 Employment:

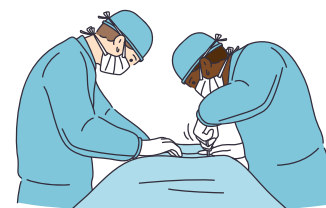
185

Average Annual Job Openings:

3

Common Job Titles:

Brain Surgeon, Cardiac Surgeon, Orthopedic Surgeon, Plastic Surgeon, Thoracic Surgeon, Trauma Surgeon, General Surgeon, Maxillofacial Surgeon



Surgeons diagnose and treat injuries, diseases and other conditions through operations. Many specialize in a specific area and also examine patients, interpret tests and provide follow-up care.

Get a real world perspective from a surgeon at HappyInHealthCare.org.



Not sure what kind of health care career you might like?

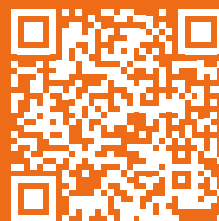
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Recent graduate or seeking a career change? Use the Top Health Care Careers in Kansas guide to map your future success. Learn what you can earn and what's in demand in health care.



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You also can download and print this guide by clicking on the career resources tab or by scanning the QR code.

