

Focus on Healthcare

Healthcare offers it all: well-paying work that's on the cutting edge of science and technology, the opportunity to serve others, and excellent potential for advancement. More than half of the nation's 20 fastest growing jobs are in the healthcare field. Healthcare careers featured on the nation's fastest growing list and some of those that qualify as Wisconsin's "hot" jobs are featured below.

Many schools and programs can help prepare you for a career in healthcare; some are listed below each description. See page 32 for school contact information. Find additional schools at <http://www.alliedhealthschools.com/>. Description, requirements and pay based on the Occupational Outlook Handbook at <http://www.bls.gov/oco/>. Pay is the median (middle) income in 2004.

Dental Hygienist: Examines and cleans teeth; teaches good oral hygiene; does basic procedures. Requirements: Associate degree from accredited program, license to practice. Pay: \$22.72 to \$33.82 an hour Schools: Madison Area Technical College <http://matcmadison.edu/matc/>

Dental Assistant: Aids a dentist in treating patients, keeps medical records, prepares rooms, assists dentist during procedures, performs basic procedures. Requirements: On the job training, high school diploma or GED to enroll in dental assisting programs (usually 1 year or less to complete.) Pay: \$13.62 per hour Schools: Madison Area Technical College <http://matcmadison.edu/matc/>

Home Health Aide: Works in residential care facilities or homes to help disabled, ill, elderly, or injured people; does basic medical tasks (e.g. gives oral medications, check pulse, temperature, and respiration); helps bathe, dress, and groom patients. Requirements: HS diploma or GED required for most positions, certification once hired. Pay: \$8.81 per hour. On the Job Training. <http://www.blackhawk.edu/programs/index.html>

Personal and Home Care Aide: Helps the elderly, disabled (mentally and physically), and ill in their homes; assists with housekeeping, shopping, cooking, and grooming. Requirements: On the job training, certification once hired. Pay: \$8.12 per hour. On the Job Training <http://www.blackhawk.edu/programs/index.html> <http://matcmadison.edu/matc/>

Medical Assistant: Performs administrative (answering phones, scheduling appointments, updating records) and clinical (taking medical history and vital signs, assisting doctor) duties. Requirements: Formal program in medical assisting; usually takes one year (certificate) or 2 years (associates degree.) Pay: \$24,610 per year. Schools: Blackhawk Technical College <http://www.blackhawk.edu/programs/index.html> Madison Area Technical College <http://matcmadison.edu/matc/>

Physician Assistant: Practices medicine under supervision of doctor; can serve as primary care provider. Requirements: Masters degree; license to practice. Pay: \$69,410 per year Schools: Blackhawk Technical College <http://www.blackhawk.edu/programs/index.html> Madison Area Technical College <http://matcmadison.edu/matc/>

Registered Nurse: Treat patients, support and advise families, record medical histories, perform basic tests, give medications, and more. Requirements: License to practice, Associates Degree (2-3 years), Bachelors (4 years); diploma and masters programs also available. Pay: \$52,330 per year

Schools: UW-Madison, Edgewood College, Carroll College, UW Oshkosh

Associate degree: Madison Area Technical College and Blackhawk Technical College

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN): Works under the direction of doctors and RNs to help care for patients, record vital signs, give medicine, and help patients.

Requirements: Practical nursing program (usually one year), license to practice Pay: \$33,970. Schools: Blackhawk Technical College

<http://www.blackhawk.edu/programs/index.html> Madison Area Technical College <http://matcmadison.edu/matc/>

Physical Therapist: Helps patients improve mobility, relieve pain, and prevent or limit permanent physical disabilities. Requirements: Master's degree or PhD; license to practice. Pay: \$60,180 per year Schools: University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Physical Therapist Assistant: Helps physical therapists; performs procedures including exercise, ultrasound, and massages and report outcomes to therapist. Requirements: associates degree, license to practice. Pay: \$37,890 per year.

Schools: Blackhawk Technical College

<http://www.blackhawk.edu/programs/index.html> Madison Area Technical College <http://matcmadison.edu/matc/>

Physical Therapist Aide: Helps physical therapist; prepares the room, answers phones, and completes paperwork. Requirements: On the job training. Pay: \$21,120 per year.

Schools: Madison Area Technical College <http://matcmadison.edu/matc/>

Occupational Therapist: Rehabilitate[s] people with mental, physical, emotional or developmental impairments; helps people recover from injuries or illness and return to daily activities and to learn to live with permanent injury. Requirements: Master's degree or PhD, license to practice. Pay: \$54,660 per year.

Schools: University of Wisconsin- Madison

Occupational Therapist Assistant: Helps the occupational therapist; assists people learn proper movement (e.g. from wheelchair to a bed) and exercises; and records and reports effects to therapist. Requirements: Associate degree or certificate. Pay: \$38,430 per year.

Schools: Madison Area Technical College <http://matcmadison.edu/matc/>

Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ultrasonographers): Use x-rays, magnetic resonance imaging, ultrasounds to diagnosis patients. Requirements: Associates or bachelor's degrees. Pay: \$52,490 per year. Schools: Madison Area Technical College <http://matcmadison.edu/matc/>

Radiologic Technologists and Technicians: Perform x-rays and other diagnostic imaging procedures. Requirements: Certificate, associates, or bachelor's. Pay: \$43,350 per year Schools: University of Wisconsin- Madison, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh

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