

HEALTHCARE CAREER GUIDE



Careers in healthcare impact the world. When individuals are healthy, communities thrive. With a shortage of Kansas professionals in these areas, there's never been a better time to get started. Use this guide to decide if making a positive impact in people's lives and communities in the healthcare industry is for you. Then visit [LevelUpKS.com](https://www.levelupks.com) to discover if you're eligible to earn a degree or certificate for **FREE!**

This guide is made possible by our partners at **Kansas Hospital Association**. You can also take their **FREE** career quiz at www.happyinhealthcare.org.

BY THE NUMBERS

AVERAGE SALARY

\$22.13/hour | \$46,030/year

DEMAND

VERY HIGH

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Certificate to Associate Degree
(less than 1 year to 2 years)

EDUCATION LOCATIONS

20+ community colleges and technical schools, online and in-person program options

HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS

- Certified Nursing Aide (CNA)
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Medical Assistant
- Pharmacy Technician
- Dental Assistant
- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)
- Medical Biller & Coder
- Health Information Technician
- Surgical Technologist
- Paramedic
- Radiologic Technologist and Technician
- Respiratory Therapist
- Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA)
- Registered Nurse (RN)
- Dental Hygienist
- Surgical Technologist

Read the guide to learn more about each position.

IS IT RIGHT FOR YOU?

If this sounds like you, you may be a good fit.

- Enjoy working with people
- Have a deep desire to help others
- Are detail-oriented
- Have great listening and communication skills
- Work well as part of a team
- Adapt well to changing situations

TYPES OF EDUCATION

- **Certificates** - short, skill-focused programs
- **Associate Degrees** - general education and specific training
- **Apprenticeships** - on-the-job training with education

HEALTHCARE CAREERS CERTIFICATES



GET STARTED IN 1 YEAR OR LESS

CERTIFIED NURSING AID (CNA)

Average Salary: \$13.02/hour | \$27,080/year

Education Required: Certificate

Time to complete education: Less than 1 year

Certified Nursing Aides provide basic care and support under the direction of on-site licensed nursing staff. They perform duties such as monitoring health status, feeding, bathing, dressing, grooming, toileting or ambulation of patients in a health or nursing facility.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT)

Average Salary: \$14.85/hour | \$30,890/year

Education Required: Certificate

Time to complete education: Less than 1 year

EMTs assess injuries and illnesses and administer basic emergency medical care. This may include transporting injured or sick patients to medical facilities.

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Average Salary: \$15.12/hour | \$31,450/year

Education Required: Certificate

Time to complete education: 1 year

Medical Assistants work under the supervision of Physicians and 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.



**Listed salaries are approximate and intended as estimates only. Actual offers may differ based on education, geographic location, economic conditions, and other factors.*

READY TO GO?

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Level Up Kansas is a free service for Kansans 18+



HEALTHCARE CAREERS CERTIFICATES



GET STARTED IN 1 YEAR OR LESS



DENTAL ASSISTANT

Average Salary: \$18.19/hour | \$37,830/year

Education Required: Certificate

Time to complete education: 1 year

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. Dental Assistants may perform administrative duties such as scheduling appointments, maintaining medical records, billing and coding information for insurance purposes.

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

Average Salary: \$16.53/hour | \$34,382/year

Education Required: Certificate

Time to complete education: 1 year

Pharmacy Technicians work under the direct supervision of a Pharmacist. They receive written prescriptions or requests for prescription refills, verify the accuracy and completeness of the prescription information, perform some medication dosage calculations, and prepare prescriptions. Pharmacy Technicians may also 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.

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE (LPN)

Average Salary: \$21.28/hour | \$44,260/year

Education Required: Certificate

Time to complete education: 1 year

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.

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HEALTHCARE CAREERS CERTIFICATES



GET STARTED IN 1 TO 2 YEARS

MEDICAL BILLER & CODER

Average Salary: \$18.78/hour | \$39,072/year

Education Required: Certificate or Associate Degree

Time to complete education: 1-2 years

Medical Billers & Coders compile, process and maintain medical records of hospital and clinic patients in a manner consistent with medical, administrative, ethical, legal and regulatory requirements of the healthcare system. They classify medical and healthcare concepts, including diagnosis, procedures, medical services and equipment into the healthcare industry's numerical coding system.



HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNICIAN

Average Salary: \$18.78/hour | \$39,072/year

Education Required: Certificate or Associate Degree

Time to complete education: 1-2 years

Health Information Technicians apply knowledge of health care and information systems to assist in the design, development and continued modification and analysis of computerized healthcare systems. They abstract, collect and analyze treatment and follow-up information of patients. Duties may include educating staff and assisting in problem-solving to promote the implementation of the healthcare information system, design, develop, test and implement databases with complete history, diagnosis, treatment and health status to help monitor diseases.



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HEALTHCARE CAREERS ASSOCIATE DEGREES



GET STARTED IN 2 YEARS

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST

Average Salary: \$21.45/hour | \$44,610/year

Education Required: Associate Degree

Time to complete education: 2 years

Surgical Technologists ensure that surgery goes smoothly for all medical professionals involved as well as the patient. They 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 setup of the required surgical instruments.

PARAMEDIC

Average Salary: \$23.51/hour | \$48,900/year

Education Required: Associate Degree

Time to complete education: 2 years

Paramedics and EMTs are both trained to perform basic emergency care and assess illness and injuries. Paramedics also receive additional training to provide advanced emergency care. Duties may include administering medication intravenously, using equipment such as EKGs, or administering advanced life support to sick or injured individuals. While the average starting salary for EMTs and Paramedics is the same, the earning potential for a Paramedic over time will exceed that of an EMT.

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST AND TECHNICIAN

Average Salary: \$26.32/hour | \$54,750/year

Education Required: Associate or Bachelor's Degree

Time to complete education: 2-4 years

Radiologic Technologists and Technicians perform medical imaging like X-rays and CAT scans to create images of the body for diagnosis or research purposes. Duties include preparing patients for imaging, administering nonradioactive materials intravenously, operating and maintaining medical machinery, and providing reports or collaborating with the physician who ordered the imaging.

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST **

Average Salary: \$27.21/hour | \$56,600/year

Education Required: Associate or Bachelor's Degree

Time to complete education: 2-4 years

Respiratory Therapists assess, treat and care for patients with breathing disorders. They assume primary responsibility for all respiratory care methods, 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.

***These healthcare careers may be offered as an Associate Degree (2 years) at some colleges and a Bachelor's Degree (4 years) at others. Additionally, some healthcare facilities may prefer or require a Bachelor's Degree over an Associate Degree in these professions.*

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HEALTHCARE CAREERS ASSOCIATE DEGREES



GET STARTED IN 2 YEARS

REGISTERED NURSE**

Average Salary: \$32.02/hour | \$66,600/year
Education Required: Associate or Bachelor's Degree
Time to complete education: 2-4 years

RNs work to promote health, prevent disease and help patients cope with illness. In direct patient care, they observe, assess and record patient symptoms, reactions and progress and provide care or recommendations based on their findings. RNs also develop and manage nursing care plans, assist physicians and other healthcare team members, administer medications, instruct patients and their families in actions promoting healthy lifestyle choices and proper care, and help individuals and groups take steps to improve and maintain their health. While state laws govern the practice of RNs, it is usually the work setting that determines their day-to-day job duties.

In all states, students must graduate from a nursing program and pass a national licensing examination to obtain a nursing license. Nurses may be licensed in more than one state, either by examination or endorsement of a license issued by another state.



PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT (PTA)

Average Salary: \$26.64/hour | \$59,570/year
Education Required: Associate Degree
Time to complete education: 2 years

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, carrying out routine functions, documenting the progress of treatment, and modifying specific treatments to accommodate patient ability within the scope of a treatment plan established by a physical therapist.

DENTAL HYGIENIST

Average Salary: \$32.86/hour | \$68,340/year
Education Required: Associate Degree
Time to complete education: 2 years

The range of dental services provided may vary depending on the location and the type of practice setting, but most Dental Hygienists 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.

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HEALTHCARE CAREERS



JOBS AT A GLANCE

CAREER PATH	AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE	AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY	LESS THAN ONE YEAR CERTIFICATE	1-2 YEAR CERTIFICATE	ASSOCIATE DEGREE
Certified Nursing Aid (CNA)	\$13.02	\$27,080	✓		
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)	\$14.85	\$30,890	✓		
Medical Assistant	\$15.12	\$31,450		✓	
Pharmacy Technician	\$16.53	\$34,382		✓	
Dental Assistant	\$18.19	\$37,830		✓	
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)	\$21.28	\$44,260		✓	
Medical Biller & Coder & Health Information Technician	\$18.78	\$39,072		✓	✓
Surgical Technician	\$21.45	\$44,610			✓
Paramedic	\$23.51	\$48,900			✓
Radiologic Technologist and Technician	\$26.32	\$54,750			✓
Respiratory Therapist**	\$27.21	\$56,600			✓ **
Physical Therapy Assistant	\$28.64	\$59,570			✓
Registered Nurse (RN)**	\$32.02	\$66,600			✓
Dental Hygienist	\$32.86	\$68,340			✓ **

**These healthcare careers may be offered as an Associate Degree (2 years) at some colleges and a Bachelor's Degree (4 years) at others. Additionally, some healthcare facilities may prefer or require a Bachelor's Degree over an Associate Degree in these professions.

READY TO GO BUT NOT SURE WHERE TO START?

We're here to help. Level Up Kansas is a **FREE** service for Kansans 18+. We provide unbiased information about certificates and 2-year degree programs at Kansas community colleges and technical colleges. We can also provide resources to help you find existing scholarships and financial aid opportunities that may be available to you.

To get started, visit LevelUpKS.com, explore community or technical college programs, and complete the form to work with our free navigator service. We'll help you figure out your next steps.

STILL HAVEN'T FOUND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?

Don't give up. Check out the career guides for Construction Trades, Manufacturing, Early Childhood Education, Computer Science, and Agriculture on our website.