

# HEALTH CAREERS GUIDE

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The Health Careers Guide is a resource for students, educators, job seekers, and healthcare employers interested in health care information and occupation in Mississippi. Through partnerships with educational institutions, healthcare employers and healthcare professional organizations, we are working to ensure that the health care needs of Mississippians are cared for by well-trained professionals.



# INDEX

## CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE

Cytogenetic Technologist.....	2
Cytotechnologist.....	4
Histologic Technician and Histotechnologist.....	6
Medical Laboratory Technician.....	8
Medical Technologist.....	10
Phlebotomist.....	12

## COUNSELING AND MENTAL HEALTH

Counselor.....	14
Mental Health Counselor.....	16
Pastoral Counselor.....	18
Psychologist.....	20
Rehabilitation Counselor.....	22
Social Worker.....	24

## DENTISTRY

Dental Assistant.....	26
Dental Hygienist.....	28
Dental Laboratory Technician.....	30
Dentist.....	32

## DIAGNOSTICS

Electrocardiograph Technician.....	34
Electroneurodiagnostic Technician.....	36

## DIETETICS AND NUTRITION

Dietetic Technician.....	38
Dietitian.....	40

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/COMMUNICATION

Emergency Medical Dispatcher.....	42
Emergency Medical Technician.....	44
Paramedic.....	46

## HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Health Care Administrator.....	48
Human Resources Manager.....	50
Finance Specialist - CFO.....	52

## HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

DRG Coordinator.....	54
Health Information Technician.....	56
Health Science Librarian.....	58
Health Unit Coordinator.....	60
Medical Coding Specialist.....	62
Medical Transcriptionist.....	64

## HEALTH CARE PUBLIC RELATIONS/ COMMUNICATIONS

Medical Coding Specialist.....	66
Medical Illustrator.....	68
Medical Photographer.....	70
Medical Writer.....	72

## MEDICINE

Anesthesiologist.....	74
Chiropractor.....	76
Physician.....	78
Physician Assistant.....	80
Podiatrist.....	82

## NURSING

Home Health Aide.....	84
Licensed Practical Nurse.....	86
Nursing Assistant.....	88
Registered Nurse - Associate & Baccalaureate.....	90
Registered Nurse - Master's & PhD.....	94
Certified Nurse Midwife.....	96



Nurse Administrator/Nurse Executive ..... 97  
 Nurse Anesthetist..... 98  
 Nurse Practitioner ..... 99

**PHARMACY**

Pharmacist ..... 100  
 Pharmacy Technician..... 102

**RADIOLOGY**

Nuclear Medicine Technologist..... 104  
 Radiation Therapist..... 106  
 Radiological Technician ..... 108  
 Sonographer..... 110

**REHABILITATION/RECREATION**

Orthotist & Prosthetist..... 112  
 Athletic Trainer..... 114

**SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**

Biological/Research Scientist ..... 116  
 Biomedical Engineer ..... 118  
 Biomedical Equipment Technician..... 120  
 Environmental Health Specialist..... 122  
 Industrial Hygienist..... 124  
 Regulatory Scientist..... 126  
 Research Scientist ..... 128

**SPEECH AND HEARING**

Audiologist..... 130  
 Speech-Language Pathologist..... 132

**THERAPY**

Creative Arts Therapy ..... 134  
 Occupational Therapist..... 136  
 Occupational Therapist Assistant..... 138  
 Physical therapist..... 140  
 Recreational Therapist ..... 142  
 Respiratory Therapist ..... 144  
 Therapeutic Recreation Specialist..... 146

**VETERINARY MEDICINE**

Veterinarian ..... 148  
 Veterinary Technician ..... 150

**VISION CARE**

Ophthalmic Technologist..... 152  
 Optical Laboratory Technician ..... 154  
 Optician..... 156  
 Optometric Technician..... 158  
 Optometrist..... 160

**OTHER HEALTH CARE CAREERS**

Cardiovascular Technologist..... 162  
 Gerontologist..... 164  
 Health Educator ..... 166  
 Medical Assistant ..... 168  
 Perfusionist ..... 170  
 Surgical Technologist..... 172  
 Insurance Clerk ..... 174  
 Medical Billing Clerk..... 176

**Appendix A - Mississippi Hospitals ..... 178**

**Appendix B - Mississippi Colleges ..... 186**

# CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE



## CYTOGENETIC TECHNOLOGIST

### Job Description

Cytogenetic technologists evaluate the correct method of collection, transport, and handling of various specimen types for cytogenetic analysis; identify culture techniques based on tissue type and reason for referral; and perform chromosomal staining, microscopic analysis, and karyotyping (organizing chromosomes according to a standardized ideogram). In addition to practicing good general laboratory skills, quality assurance principles, and safety protocols, cytogenetic technologists understand the legal implications of their work environment and exhibit appropriate ethical and professional health care standards while demonstrating professional conduct, stress management, and interpersonal and communication skills with patients, peers, other health care personnel, and the public.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for a career in cytogenetic technology should include biology, algebra, geometry, chemistry, physics, health education, computer science, English, and physical science.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

The Board of Registry of the American Society for Clinical Pathology gives a national certification exam that students take after meeting their academic and laboratory education requirements. Optional certification is also available from the National Credentialing Agency.

### Average Annual Salary

\$56,900

### Salary Range

\$40,000 - \$60,000

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Research laboratories  
Clinics  
Private laboratories  
Educational institutions  
Public health facilities  
Government facilities

## College Requirements

Students usually receive a bachelor's degree from a program accredited by The National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAA- CLS). These programs combine classroom work with clinical laboratory rotations.

## Professional Organization



### Association of Genetic Technologists

P.O. Box 19193  
Lenexa, KS 66285

**Phone:** (913) 895-4605

**Fax:** (913) 895-4652

[www.agt-info.org](http://www.agt-info.org)



### American Society for Clinical Pathology

33 West Monroe Street, Suite 1600  
Chicago, IL 60603

**Phone:** (312) 541-4999

**Fax:** (312) 541-4998

[www.ascp.org](http://www.ascp.org)

## Educational Institutions

There are currently no cytogenetic technology programs available in Mississippi.

## Career Outlook

Employment opportunities for cytogenetic technologists are expected to be numerous in the near future. The volume of laboratory tests will increase with population growth and the development of new tests. The rapidly growing elderly population will be another reason for this growth, since older people tend to have more medical problems that will require more lab work. New advancements in powerful diagnostic tests will also add to a rise in employment in this sector.



### American Society for Clinical Pathology

100 West 10th Street Suite 605  
Wilmington, Delaware 19801

**Phone:** (302) 543-6583

**Fax:** (302) 543-6597

[www.cytopathology.org](http://www.cytopathology.org)



## CYTOTECHNOLOGIST

### Job Description

Cell specimens may be obtained from various body sites, such as the female reproductive tract, the lung, or any body cavity shedding cells. Using special techniques, slides are first prepared from these specimens. Cytotechnologists then examine the slides microscopically, mark cellular changes that are most representative of a disease process, provide an initial interpretation, and submit to a pathologist for final evaluation. Cytotechnologists can make the final diagnosis for specimens of the female reproductive tract if it is negative for any abnormalities. Using the findings of cytotechnologists, the pathologist is then able, in many instances, to diagnose cancer and other diseases long before they can be detected by other methods. In recent years, fine needles have been used to aspirate lesions, often deeply seated in the body, thus greatly enhancing the ability to diagnose tumors located in otherwise inaccessible sites. Frequently, cytotechnologists will assist with fine needle aspirations (FNA) by providing an assessment of cellular adequacy and in processing the specimens.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for work in a laboratory setting should include biology, algebra, geometry, chemistry, physics, health education, computer science, English, and physical science.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

The Board of Registry of the American Society for Clinical Pathology gives a national certification exam that students take after meeting their academic and laboratory education requirements. Those who pass this exam may use the initials CT after their names to show they are proficient in the field of Cytotechnology.

#### Average Annual Salary

\$65,140

#### Salary Range

\$53,882 - \$76,109

#### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Clinics  
Private laboratories  
Research laboratories  
Educational institutions  
Public health facilities  
Government facilities

## College Requirements

Students must receive a bachelor's degree from a cytotechnology (CT) program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

## Professional Organization



### American Society for Cytotechnology

1500 Sunday Drive, Suite 102  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27607

**Phone:** (919) 861-5571

**Fax:** (919) 787-4916

[www.asct.org](http://www.asct.org)



### American Society for Clinical Pathology

33 West Monroe Street, Suite 1600  
Chicago, IL 60603

**Phone:** (312) 541-4999

**Fax:** (312) 541-4998

[www.ascp.org](http://www.ascp.org)

## Educational Institutions

University of Mississippi Medical Center (BS)

## Career Outlook

Employment opportunities for cytotechnologists are expected to be numerous in the near future, with a projected increase of new job openings between 10% to 20% over the next ten years. The volume of laboratory tests will increase with population growth and the development of new tests. The rapidly growing elderly population will be another reason for this growth, since older people tend to have more medical problems that will require more lab work. New advancements in powerful diagnostic tests will also add to a rise in employment in this sector.



### American Society of Cytopathology

100 West 10th Street Suite 605  
Wilmington, Delaware 19801

**Phone:** (302) 543-6583

**Fax:** (302) 543-6597

[www.cytopathology.org](http://www.cytopathology.org)



## HISTOLOGIC TECHNICIAN AND HISTOTECHNOLOGIST

### Job Description

Histotechnologists process sections of body tissue by fixation, dehydration, embedding, sectioning, decalcification, microincineration, mounting, and routine and special staining. In addition, histotechnologists perform the more complex procedures for processing and staining tissues, including troubleshooting and problem solving routine and special stains, immunohistochemistry, and muscle enzyme histochemistry. They identify tissue structures, cell components, and their staining characteristics and relate them to physiological functions; implement and test new techniques and procedures; make judgments concerning the results of quality control measures; and institute proper procedures to maintain accuracy and precision. Histotechnologists apply the principles of management and supervision when they function as section supervisors and of educational methodology when they teach students.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for this type of medical laboratory specialty should include algebra, geometry, biology, chemistry, physics, computer skills, English, health education, and physical education.

### Average Annual Salary

\$56,633

### Salary Range

\$50,120 - \$62,370

### Work Environment

Hospital pathology labs  
Clinics  
Research laboratories  
Pharmaceutical companies  
Doctor's offices  
Government agencies  
Public health departments

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

In addition to all educational requirements, individuals are expected to pass a national examination given by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP) to become certified. This designates individuals as HTs and HTLs, depending on specialty.



## College Requirements

There are accredited histologic technician programs around the country that offer a certificate or an associate degree upon completion, as well as training programs that are usually offered in hospitals or laboratory facilities. Individuals interested in histology must first obtain a bachelor's degree in histotechnology or other approved major. They must then receive at least one year of training in a histopathology laboratory under a certified pathologist.

## Professional Organization



### National Society for Histotechnology

3545 Ellicott Mills Drive  
Elliott City, MD 21043

**Phone:** (443) 535-4060

**Fax:** (443) 535-4055

[www.nsh.org](http://www.nsh.org)



### American Society for Clinical Pathology

33 West Monroe Street, Suite 1600  
Chicago, IL 60603

**Phone:** (312) 541-4999

**Fax:** (312) 541-4998

[www.ascp.org](http://www.ascp.org)

## Educational Institutions

University of Mississippi Medical Center (BS)

## Career Outlook

Employment opportunities for histologists and histologic technicians are expected to grow about as fast as the average for all other occupations. The rapidly growing older population will be one reason for this growth, since older people tend to have more medical problems that will require specialized lab work. New and improved diagnostic tests and other advancements in technology will also add to a rise in employment in this sector.



### American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

3545 Ellicott Mills Drive  
Elliott City, MD 21043

**Phone:** (443) 535-4060

**Fax:** (443) 535-4055

[www.nsh.org](http://www.nsh.org)



## MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

### Job Description

Laboratory tests play an important role in the detection, diagnosis, and treatment of many diseases and in the promotion of health. Medical laboratory technicians perform these tests under the supervision or direction of pathologists (physicians who diagnose the causes and nature of disease) and other physicians, medical technologists, or other scientists who specialize in clinical chemistry, microbiology, or the other biological sciences. Medical laboratory technicians develop data on the blood, tissues, and fluids of the human body by using a variety of precise methodologies and technologies.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for a career in medical laboratory sciences should include algebra, geometry, biology, chemistry, physics, computer skills, English, health education, and physical education.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

After completing all educational requirements, candidates must pass a national certification examination given by the Board of Registry of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, the National Credentialing Agency for Medical Laboratory Personnel, or the American Medical Technologists.

### Average Annual Salary

\$50,346

### Salary Range

\$45,083 - \$55,296

### Work Environment

Hospital laboratories  
Public health laboratories  
Reference laboratories  
Biomedical companies  
Universities  
Industrial medical laboratories  
Military  
Pharmaceutical companies  
Forensic medicine

## College Requirements

Students entering a medical laboratory technician program should have a high school diploma or equivalent. Individuals must complete an associate's degree program in medical laboratory technology that includes clinical training.

## Professional Organization



### American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

1861 International Drive, Suite 200  
Tysons Corner, VA 22102

**Phone:** (571) 748-3770

[www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org)



### American Society for Clinical Pathology

33 West Monroe Street, Suite 1600  
Chicago, IL 60603

**Phone:** (312) 541-4999

**Fax:** (312) 541-4998

[www.ascp.org](http://www.ascp.org)

## Educational Institutions

Copiah-Lincoln CC (AAS)

Hinds CC (AAS)

Itawamba CC (AAS)

Northeast Mississippi CC (AAS)

Meridian CC (AAS)

Mississippi Gulf Coast CC (AAS)

Mississippi Delta CC (AAS)

Pearl River CC (AAS)

## Career Outlook

Employment opportunities for medical laboratory technicians are expected to grow by 14 percent over the next ten years. The rapidly growing older population will be one reason for this growth, since older people tend to have more medical problems that will require lab work. New and exciting advancements in technology will also add to a rise in employment in this sector.



### National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences

5600 N. River Rd. Suite 720  
Rosemont, IL 60018-5119

**Phone:** (773) 714-8880

**Fax:** (773) 741-8886

[www.nacls.org](http://www.nacls.org)



## MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST

### Job Description

In addition to possessing the skills of medical laboratory technicians, medical technologists perform complex analyses, fine-line discrimination, and error correction. They are able to recognize the interdependency of tests and have knowledge of physiological conditions affecting test results so that they can confirm these results and develop data that may be used by a physician in determining the presence, extent, and, as far as possible, cause of a disease.

Medical technologists assume responsibility and are held accountable for accurate results. They establish and monitor quality assurance and quality improvement programs and design or modify procedures as necessary. Tests and procedures performed or supervised by medical technologists in the clinical laboratory focus on major areas of hematology, microbiology, immunohematology, immunology, clinical chemistry, and urinalysis.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for students interested in becoming a medical technologist should include biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, computer skills, English, health professions, physical education, algebra and geometry.

### Average Annual Salary

\$66,869

### Salary Range

\$61,267 - \$74,607

### Work Environment

Hospital laboratories

Clinics

Public health laboratories

Research facilities

College and university programs  
Pharmaceutical companies

Industrial laboratories

Military

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

After completing all educational and clinical requirements, medical technology candidates must pass a national certification examination given by the American Medical Technologists, the National Credentialing Agency for Medical Laboratory Personnel, or the American Society for Clinical Pathology.

## College Requirements

Students interested in this career should have a high school diploma. Medical technologist programs usually last four years with 12 months of clinical practice.

## Professional Organization



### American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

10700 W Higgins Road Suite 150  
Rosemont, IL 60018

**Phone:** (847) 823-5169

**Fax:** (847) 823-0458

[www.amt1.com](http://www.amt1.com)



### American Medical Technologists

1861 International Drive, Suite 200  
Tysons Corner, VA 22102

**Phone:** (571) 748-3770

[www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org)



### American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

1861 International Drive, Suite 200  
Tysons Corner, VA 22102

**Phone:** (571) 748-3770

[www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org)



### American Society for Clinical Pathology

33 West Monroe Street, Suite 1600  
Chicago, IL 60603

**Phone:** (312) 541-4999

**Fax:** (312) 541-4998

[www.ascp.org](http://www.ascp.org)

## Educational Institutions

University of Mississippi Medical Center (BS)

Mississippi College (BS)

University of Southern Mississippi (BS)

Mississippi State University (BS)

William Carey University (BS)

North Mississippi Medical Center (BS)

## Career Outlook

Employment opportunities for medical technologists are expected to grow at an average rate comparable to all occupations in the United States. Although the aging population will increase the need for laboratory tests, advances in technology are expected to make it possible for non-laboratory personnel to conduct the more routine tests.



## PHLEBOTOMIST

### Job Description

Phlebotomists collect, transport, handle, and process blood specimens for analysis; identify and select equipment, supplies, and additives used in blood collection; and understand factors that affect specimen collection procedures and test results. Recognizing the importance of specimen collection in the overall patient care system, phlebotomists adhere to infection control and safety policies and procedures. They monitor quality control within predetermined limits while demonstrating professional conduct, stress management, and communication skills with patients, peers, and other health care personnel as well as with the public.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in a career as a phlebotomist should concentrate on high school courses in algebra, biology, geometry, chemistry, computer skills, physics, health education, English, and physical education.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Voluntary certification is available from the American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians, the American Society for Clinical Pathology, and the National Certification Agency for Medical Laboratory Personnel.

### Average Annual Salary

\$32,904

### Salary Range

\$29,635 - \$36,758

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Commercial laboratories  
Physicians' offices  
Blood banks  
Pharmaceutical firms  
Home health agencies  
Public health clinics

## College Requirements

Phlebotomists complete either on-the-job training or a formal phlebotomy program, which typically lasts 4 to 8 months. On-the-job training is available when there is an employment need in a particular facility.

## Professional Organization



### American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

1861 International Drive, Suite 200  
Tysons Corner, VA 22102

**Phone:** (571) 748-3770

[www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org)



### American Society for Clinical Pathology

33 West Monroe Street, Suite 1600  
Chicago, IL 60603

**Phone:** (312) 541-4999

**Fax:** (312) 541-4998

[www.ascp.org](http://www.ascp.org)

## Educational Institutions

Hinds Community College (C)  
University of Southern Mississippi (C)  
Mississippi Delta Community College (C)  
Coahoma Community College (C)

## Career Outlook

Employment opportunities for phlebotomists are expected to be good as the demand for skilled laboratory personnel increases. The fastest growth in this field is expected in independent medical laboratories because hospitals continue to send a greater amount of their lab work to outside facilities.



### National Phlebotomy Association

1901 Brightseat Road  
Hyattsville, MD 20785

**Phone:** (301) 386-4200

**Fax:** (301) 386-4203

[www.nationalphlebotomy.org](http://www.nationalphlebotomy.org)

# COUNSELING AND MENTAL HEALTH



## COUNSELOR

### Job Description

Counselors assist individuals and groups with their personal problems in order to help them become more self-sufficient. They provide support, consultation, and therapeutic approaches to help people deal with difficulties, such as, marital problems, substance abuse, suicidal feelings, stress management, and self-esteem issues. Counselors may specialize in several different areas including mental health, school and career, substance abuse, employment/vocational, rehabilitation, marriage and family, and genetic counseling. Beginning with the interview process, counselors make observations that help them determine a treatment plan that will accomplish the client's goals. They often use personality, aptitude, and psychological tests to determine more precisely the needs of a particular patient. Counselors often work closely with other mental health professionals including psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers to ensure that all of the patient's needs are being met.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in a career in counseling should take high school courses in biology, geometry, algebra, English, health education, sociology, literature, psychology, computer skills, social studies, and speech.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Graduates from approved programs must then pass an examination given by the Mississippi Counseling Association or The National Board of Certified Counselors to become licensed.

### Average Annual Salary

\$49,837

### Salary Range

\$37,710 - \$60,819

### Work Environment

- Private practice
- Hospitals
- Elementary, Middle, or Secondary schools
- Correctional institutions
- Health Maintenance Organizations
- Insurance firms
- Mental health clinics
- Schools & universities
- Drug & alcohol rehab centers
- Halfway houses
- Residential care facilities
- Career development facilities
- Vocational training facilities
- Public assistance agencies



## College Requirements

Individuals must first obtain a bachelor's degree in counseling, psychology, education, sociology, or social work. Most employment opportunities for counselors require a master's degree or a doctoral degree. An internship or other professional experience is usually required after receiving a degree.

## Professional Organization



### American Counseling Association

5999 Stevenson Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22304-3300

**Phone:** (800) 347-6647

**Fax:** (800) 473-2329

[www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org)



### National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc.

3 Terrace Way  
Greensboro, North Carolina 27403-3660

**Phone:** (336) 547-0607

[www.nbcc.org](http://www.nbcc.org)

## Educational Institutions

Delta State University (MS)

Mississippi College (MS)

University of Southern Mississippi (MS)

Mississippi State University (MS,PhD)

## Career Outlook

Employment for counselors is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through 2016. However, job growth will vary by location and occupational specialty. Job prospects should be good due to growth and the need to replace people leaving the field. Educational, vocational, and school counselors are in greatest demand due to increased student enrollments and new state laws that require counselors in elementary schools. Counselors are becoming increasingly involved in crisis management and preventative counseling as it relates to young people. There will also be demand for behavioral, mental health, and marriage and family counselors due to a variety of reasons.



### Mississippi Counseling Association

PO Box 353  
Long Beach, MS 39560

**Phone:** (228) 669-5015

**Fax:** (228) 863-8086

[www.mica.memberclicks.net](http://www.mica.memberclicks.net)



## MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR

### Job Description

Mental health counselors are professionals who assist individuals and groups with their personal problems in order to help them become more self-sufficient. Individuals that specialize in mental health counseling concentrate on promoting optimum mental health through various programs and services. They help individuals deal with suicidal impulses, self-esteem issues, addictions and substance abuse, stress management, job and career concerns, marital problems, educational decisions, and issues associated with aging. Beginning with the interview process, mental health counselors make observations that help them determine a treatment plan that will accomplish their client's goals. They often use personality, aptitude, and psychological tests to determine more precisely the needs of a particular patient. They often work closely with other mental health professionals to ensure that all of the patient's needs are being met.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in pursuing a career as an insurance clerk should take high school courses in algebra, biology, English, office procedures, typing, data processing, computer skills, and health education.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

There are currently no required certifications for medical insurance clerks, but individuals desiring to become certified must pass examinations offered by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA).

### Average Annual Salary

\$38,790

### Salary Range

\$26,260 - \$60,110

### Work Environment

Private practice  
Hospitals  
Correctional institutions  
Mental health clinics  
Schools and universities  
Drug & alcohol rehab centers  
Halfway houses  
Residential care facilities

## College Requirements

Individuals interested in mental health counseling must first obtain a bachelor's degree in counseling, psychology, education, sociology, or social work. Most employment opportunities for mental health counselors require a master's degree or a doctoral degree.

## Professional Organization



### American Counseling Association

5999 Stevenson Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22304-3300

**Phone:** (800) 347-6647

**Fax:** (800) 473-2329

[www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org)



### American Mental Health Counselors Association

801 N. Fairfax Street, Suite 304  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**Phone:** (701) 548-6002

**Fax:** (703) 548-4775

[www.amhca.org](http://www.amhca.org)

## Educational Institutions

Mississippi College (MS)

## Career Outlook

Employment of mental health counselors is expected to grow significantly. The demand for mental health professionals will continue to increase due to the increasing availability of federal funds to construct and improve statewide mental health networks. Mental health counselors are also becoming increasingly involved in crisis management and preventative counseling as it relates to young people. Another boom in employment will result from employers who are increasingly offering employee assistance programs that provide mental health and substance abuse programs. Employment will also increase as many counselors retire or leave the profession for other reasons.



### Mississippi Counseling Association

PO Box 353  
Long Beach, MS 39560

**Phone:** (228) 669-5015

**Fax:** (228) 863-8086

[www.mica.memberclicks.net](http://www.mica.memberclicks.net)



## PASTORAL COUNSELOR

### Job Description

Pastoral counselors are trained in both psychology and theology and thus can provide psychological as well as spiritual guidance to patients and families in health care settings. They perform a variety of tasks including conducting religious masses, delivering religious rites and ordinances, and providing counseling and companionship to patients and family members. They also work with hospital staff to provide ethical and spiritual direction, and instruction on religious practices and beliefs.

They work closely with other medical professionals as part of a team to insure that all of the physical and emotional needs of the patient are being met. Pastoral counselors must also remain aware of counselor-client confidentiality, even though state laws concerning this vary greatly.

Individuals interested in pastoral counseling should have a solid academic background, enjoy helping a wide variety of people, and have a deep understanding of theology and spirituality.

### High School Preparation

Preparation for a career in pastoral counseling should include courses in biology, geometry, algebra, English, health education, literature, psychology, sociology, computer skills, religion/theology, humanities, social studies, and speech.

### Average Annual Salary

\$41,538

### Salary Range

\$37,648 - \$60,611

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Nursing homes  
Rehabilitation facilities  
Independent living centers  
Psychiatric facilities  
Correctional institutions  
Residential care facilities  
Hospices

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

While there are no licensure requirements in Mississippi, individuals may be required to have the endorsement of a minister, priest, or rabbi in a recognized religious community, three years as a practicing member of the clergy, or a certain amount of pastoral counseling hours.

## College Requirements

Individuals interested in pastoral counseling must have a high school diploma or the equivalent. Students must obtain a bachelor's degree and then enroll in a 3-year program to acquire a Master of Divinity degree from a seminary.

## Professional Organization



### American Association of Pastoral Counselors

9504A Lee Highway  
Fairfax, Virginia 22031

**Phone:** (703) 385-6967

**Fax:** (703) 352-7725

[www.aapc.org](http://www.aapc.org)



### The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc.

One West Court Street #325  
Decatur, GA 30030

**Phone:** (404) 320-1472

**Fax:** (404) 320-0849

[www.acpe.edu](http://www.acpe.edu)

## Educational Institutions

Most employers prefer ministers who have been ordained and have a Master of Divinity degree from a seminary.

## Career Outlook

Employment opportunities for pastoral counselors should be excellent. Almost every hospital, nursing home, and correctional facility has these mental health professionals on staff to help people with spiritual guidance. Patients, families, and staff will continue to utilize pastoral counselors to help them with psychological and religious issues.



### Association of Professional Chaplains

1701 E. Woodfield Rd., Suite 400  
Schaumburg, IL 60173

**Phone:** (847) 240-1014

**Fax:** (847) 240-1015

[www.professionalchaplains.org](http://www.professionalchaplains.org)



## PSYCHOLOGIST

### Job Description

Psychologists study the human mind and human behavior. Research psychologists investigate the physical, cognitive, emotional, or social aspects of human behavior. Clinical psychologists—who constitute the largest specialty—work most often in counseling centers, independent or group practices, hospitals, or clinics. They help mentally and emotionally disturbed clients adjust to life and may assist medical and surgical patients in dealing with illnesses or injuries. Some clinical psychologists work in physical rehabilitation settings, treating patients with spinal cord injuries, chronic pain or illness, stroke, arthritis, and neurological conditions. Others help people deal with times of personal crisis, such as divorce or the death of a loved one.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in becoming a psychologist should concentrate on high school courses in biology, chemistry, algebra, English (literature and composition), history, psychology, sociology, computer skills, social studies, health education, and foreign languages.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required by the Mississippi Board of Psychology. To be licensed, an individual must graduate from a program approved by the American Psychological Association, complete an internship of post-doctoral work experience, and pass a series of state and national examinations.

### Average Annual Salary

\$74,180

### Salary Range

\$64,675 - \$103,038

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Schools & universities  
Correctional facilities  
Government agencies  
Rehabilitation facilities  
Clinics  
Private offices  
Industries & businesses  
Mental health facilities

## College Requirements

Psychologists are generally required to obtain a Ph.D., a Psy.D. (Doctor of Psychology), or an Ed.S. (Educational Specialist) degree in order to practice psychology. A doctoral degree will qualify an individual to conduct research, conduct clinical counseling, and teach a variety of topics in schools and universities. In order to specialize, two years of post-doctoral study is required. Individuals with a master's degree or a bachelor's degree can work under the supervision of a psychologist as a psychological assistant. This allows them to conduct research, perform administrative duties, and conduct psychological evaluations.

## Professional Organization



### American Psychological Association

750 First Street NE  
Washington, DC 20002-4242

**Phone:** (202) 336-5500

[www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org)



### National Institute of Mental Health

6001 Executive Boulevard  
Rockville, MD 20852

**Phone:** (301) 443-4513

[www.nimh.nih.gov](http://www.nimh.nih.gov)



### Mississippi Psychological Association

PO Box 16826  
Jackson MS 39236

**Phone:** (601) 372-7755

**Fax:** (601) 372-5752

[www.mpassoc.org](http://www.mpassoc.org)



### Mississippi Board of Psychology

2395 Deerfield Road  
Yazoo City, MS 39194

**Phone:** (662) 716-3934

**Fax:** (662) 716-0336

[www.psychologyboard.state.ms.us](http://www.psychologyboard.state.ms.us)

## Educational Institutions

Alcorn State University (BS)  
Belhaven College (BS)  
Delta State University (BA)  
Jackson State University (PhD)  
Mississippi University for Women (BA)  
Mississippi College (MA)  
Millsaps College (BA)  
Mississippi State University (MS,EdS,PhD)  
University of Mississippi Medical Center (MA & PhD)  
University of Southern Mississippi (MA, MS, & PhD)  
Tougaloo College (BA)  
William Carey College (MS)

## Career Outlook

According to The US Department of Labor, employment of psychologists is expected to grow 22 percent from 2010 to 2020, faster than the average for all occupations. Job prospects should be best for those holding doctoral degrees with emphasis in areas such as counseling, health, and educational psychology will find many job opportunities. Graduates with master's degrees will find the best possibility for employment in positions involving school and industrial-organizational psychology. This is due to the fact that schools and businesses are expected to increase counseling and mental health services. Many companies are beginning to offer employee assistance programs that help employees deal with personal problems. The fastest growth in the healthcare sector will be in outpatient mental health and substance abuse treatment programs.



## REHABILITATION COUNSELOR

### Job Description

Three of the key goals of rehabilitation counseling are to empower individuals to make informed choices, help individuals achieve positive mental health, and maximize opportunities for economic independence (obtain employment if possible). Rehabilitation counselors assist people with physical, mental, or emotional disabilities to become or remain self-sufficient, productive citizens. Working directly with an individual with a disability or their advocates, a rehabilitation counselor is a special type of professional counselor who helps evaluate and coordinate needed services to assist people with disabilities in coping with limitations caused by such factors as cognitive and learning difficulties, environmental and societal discrimination and barriers, psychological conflict/distress, or loss of physical/functional ability. They also provide services to individuals without disabilities who are experiencing stress and coping-difficulties, problems with living, career indecision, job displacement, and general mental health issues.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for students interested in a career in rehabilitation counseling should include courses in biology, geometry, algebra, English, health education, literature, psychology, sociology, computer skills, social studies, and speech.

### Average Annual Salary

\$31,900

### Salary Range

\$27,500 - \$75,000

### Work Environment

State rehabilitation agencies  
Community rehab programs  
Schools & universities  
Independent living centers  
Drug and alcohol rehab centers  
Halfway houses  
Correctional facilities  
Residential care facilities

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

The Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) offers voluntary national certification, which is obtained through passing a national examination and completing the required clinical experience.



## College Requirements

Although there are no formal prerequisites, individuals interested in rehabilitation counseling should first obtain a bachelor's degree in rehabilitation services, psychology, sociology, or other human services-related field. Rehabilitation counselor programs are usually 2-4 years in length, and combine academic work as well as field-based clinical experience.

## Professional Organization



### National Rehabilitation Counseling Association

Post Office Box 4480  
Manassas, Virginia 20108

**Phone:** (703) 361-2077

**Fax:** (703) 361-2489

[www.nrca-net.org](http://www.nrca-net.org)



### American Rehabilitation Counseling Association

6524 Old Main Hill  
Logan, UT 84322-6524

**Phone:** (866) 821-5355

**Fax:** (435) 797-7537

[www.nchrtm.okstate.edu](http://www.nchrtm.okstate.edu)

## Educational Institutions

Jackson State University (MS)  
Mississippi State University (MS,EdS,EdD,PhD)

## Career Outlook

Employment opportunities for rehabilitation counselors are expected to be excellent well into the future. The demand for rehabilitation counselors will continue to rise because there are nearly 45 million people in this country with physical, mental, and psychological disorders that prevent them from obtaining or maintaining a job. There are currently not enough students graduating from rehabilitation counseling programs to meet the demand for these professionals. Another rise in employment will result from employers who are increasingly offering rehabilitation services to employees who are injured on the job.

According to The US Department of Labor, employment of rehabilitation counselors is expected to grow by 28 percent from 2010 to 2020, faster than the average for all occupations. Demand for rehabilitation counselors is expected to grow with the increase in the elderly population and with the continued rehabilitation needs of other groups, such as veterans and people with disabilities.



### Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification

1699 E. Woodfield Road, Suite 300  
Schaumburg, IL 60173

**Phone:** (847) 944-1325

**Fax:** (847) 944-1346

[www.crccertification.com](http://www.crccertification.com)



## SOCIAL WORKER

### Job Description

Social workers assist individuals and families with problems such as illness, poverty, drug addiction, child and spousal abuse, homelessness, and mental health. Social workers form a vital link for patients between hospitalization/rehabilitation and their return to a normal and productive member of the community. They may also organize support groups, help patients obtain community services, refer patients to other health professions, and assist with job training. A major function of a social worker is interviewing individual clients and families in order to assess the physical, social, and psychological needs of a patient. This requires the ability to evaluate a variety of information so that a determination can be made on the nature and degree of a client's problems. Social workers may specialize in areas such as geriatric social work, family and child welfare, mental health, substance abuse, or adult and juvenile justice.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in social work should take high school courses in algebra, biology, political science, psychology, English (literature and composition), sociology, family living, foreign languages, social studies, health education, and computer skills.

### Average Annual Salary

\$55,288

### Salary Range

\$48,912 - \$61,968

### Work Environment

Hospitals

Schools

Social service agencies

Nursing homes Correctional facilities

Community mental health centers

Military

Substance abuse centers

Courts of law

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

A licensed social worker (LSW) must graduate from an accredited institution and pass a licensure exam. A licensed master's social worker (LMSW) must have a Master's of Social Work degree and pass the LMSW licensure exam. The licensed certified or clinical social worker (LCSW) must have a Master's of Social Work degree or above from an accredited school, have an existing LMSW license, and receive two years of planned LCSW supervision.

## College Requirements

The minimum requirement for an entry level position in this field is a Bachelor's of Social Work (BSW) degree from a school accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

## Professional Organization



### National Association of Social Workers

750 First Street NE, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20002-4241

**Phone:** (202) 408-8600

[www.naswdc.org](http://www.naswdc.org)



### Council on Social Work Education

1701 Duke Street, Suite 200  
Alexandria, VA 22314-3457

**Phone:** (703) 683-8080

**Fax:** (703) 683-8099

[www.cswe.org](http://www.cswe.org)

## Educational Institutions

Alcorn State University (BSW)  
Mississippi Valley State University (BSW)  
Delta State University (BSW)  
Rust College (BSW)  
Jackson State University (BSW, MSW, & PhD)  
University of Mississippi (BSW)  
Mississippi College (BSW)  
University of Southern Mississippi (BSW & MSW)  
Mississippi State University (BSW)

## Career Outlook

According to The US Department of Labor, employment of social workers is expected to grow by 25 percent from 2010 to 2020, faster than the average for all occupations. Growth will be due to an increase in demand for health care and social services but will vary by specialty.



### Mississippi Association of Social Workers

P O Box 5599  
Pearl, MS 39288

**Phone:** (601) 936-0557

**Fax:** (601) 936-0559

[www.naswmschapter.org](http://www.naswmschapter.org)

# DENTISTRY



## DENTAL ASSISTANT

### Job Description

Dental assistants help dentists and dental hygienists in the delivery and maintenance of oral health care. They perform a wide range of tasks requiring technical as well as people skills. Some of their duties include helping patients feel comfortable before, during, and after treatment, assisting the dentist during treatment, exposing and processing dental radiographs (x-rays), recording the patient's medical history and taking blood pressure and pulse, preparing and sterilizing instruments and equipment for the dentist's use. In addition, dental assistants are tasked with providing patients with oral care instructions following such procedures as surgery or placement of a restoration, teaching patients proper brushing and flossing techniques, making impressions of patients' teeth for study casts, performing administrative and scheduling tasks, including using a personal computer, communicating by telephone, and maintaining an inventory supply system.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for dental assisting should include courses in biology, algebra, chemistry, English, geometry, dental/medical assisting, computer skills, health education, physical education, and typing.

### Average Annual Salary

\$36,036

### Salary Range

\$31,976 - \$39,842

### Work Environment

- Dental offices
- Public health clinics
- Hospital dental clinics
- Health maintenance organizations
- Dental schools
- Nursing homes
- Insurance companies (claims)
- Government agencies
- The armed forces
- Dental product sales

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

An individual wishing to become certified may take an examination administered by the Dental Assisting National Board, Inc., which will result in the designation of Certified Dental Assistant (CDA). This will assure the public that the dental assistant is prepared to assist completely in the provision of dental care.

## College Requirements

Individuals interested in dental assisting should have a high school diploma or equivalent. Programs offered at community colleges accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation usually take 12 to 24 months to complete.

## Professional Organization



### American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA)

35 East Wacker Drive, Suite 1730  
Chicago, IL 60601-2211

**Phone:** (312) 541-1550

**Fax:** (312) 541-1496

[www.dentalassistant.org](http://www.dentalassistant.org)



### Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. (DANB)

444 N. Michigan Ave. Suite 900  
Chicago, IL 60611

**Phone:** (312) 642-3368

**Fax:** (312) 642-8507

[www.danb.org](http://www.danb.org)

## Educational Institutions

Hinds Community College (AAS,C)  
Meridian Community College  
Pearl River Community College (AAS,C)  
Northeast Community College

## Career Outlook

According to The US Department of Labor, employment of dental assistants is expected to grow by 31 percent from 2010 to 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations. Ongoing research linking oral health and general health will continue to increase the demand for preventive dental services. As dental practices grow, more dental assistants will be needed.



## DENTAL HYGIENIST

### Job Description

Dental hygienists provide dental hygiene services as they work with dentists in the delivery of dental care to patients. Hygienists are licensed to use their knowledge and clinical skills to provide dental care to patients and their interpersonal skills to motivate and instruct patients on methods to prevent oral disease and maintain oral health. Dental hygienists will often be responsible for performing patient screening procedures, exposing and developing dental radiographs (x-rays), removing plaque from teeth, applying preventive materials to teeth, teaching patients appropriate oral hygiene techniques, counseling patients regarding proper nutrition and its impact on oral health, and making impressions of patients' teeth for study casts.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation should include courses in biology, chemistry, algebra, English, health education, geometry, psychology, computer skills, physical education, and speech.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Completion of all educational requirements, as well as national and state board examinations, results in a license and the title of Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH).

### Average Annual Salary

\$71,225

### Salary Range

\$61,137 - \$81,074

### Work Environment

Private dental offices & clinics  
Hospitals  
Nursing homes  
Research organizations  
Education  
Health departments  
Public health clinics  
Dental supply companies

## College Requirements

Hygienists must complete a two-year associate program or a four-year baccalaureate program accredited by the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation. Upon completion of the educational requirements, students are eligible to take the Dental Hygiene National Board Examination and the state board clinical examination.

## Professional Organization



### American Dental Hygienists' Association

444 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 3400  
Chicago, IL 60611

**Phone:** (312) 440-8900

[www.adha.org](http://www.adha.org)



### American Dental Education Association

1400 K Street, NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005

**Phone:** (202) 289-7201

**Fax:** (202) 289-7204

[www.adea.org](http://www.adea.org)

## Educational Institutions

Meridian Community College (C)  
Mississippi Delta Community College (C)  
Northeast Mississippi Community College (C)  
Pearl River Community College (Forrest) (C)  
University of Mississippi Medical Center (BS)

## Career Outlook

Employment opportunities for dental hygienists should be very good. The US Department of Labor predicts that demand for hygienists expected to grow by 38 percent from 2010 to 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations. Ongoing research linking oral health and general health will continue to spur the demand for preventative dental services, which are often provided by dental hygienists.



### American Dental Association

211 East Chicago Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60611-2678

**Phone:** (312) 440-2500

[www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)



## DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

### Job Description

Dental laboratory technicians seldom interact directly with patients; rather, they work with dentists by following detailed written instructions to make dental prostheses, which are replacements for natural teeth that enable people who have lost some or all of their teeth to eat, chew, talk, and smile in a manner similar to the way they did before. The dental technician uses impressions (molds) of the patient's teeth or oral soft tissues to create full dentures, removable partial dentures or fixed bridges, crowns, and orthodontic appliances and splints. Dental technicians use sophisticated instruments and equipment and work with a variety of materials for replacing damaged or missing tooth structure, including waxes, plastics, precious and nonprecious alloys, stainless steel, and porcelain.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for a career in dental laboratory technology should include courses in biology, algebra, English, chemistry, art, sculpting, anatomy and physiology, computer skills, health education, history, and geometry.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

To become certified, students must pass an examination given by the National Board for Certification in Dental Laboratory Technology.

### Average Annual Salary

\$37,386

### Salary Range

\$31,000 - \$45,000

### Work Environment

Commercial dental labs  
Dentists' offices  
Hospitals  
Dental schools  
Military  
Dental prosthetics companies



## College Requirements

Individuals interested in becoming a dental laboratory technician should have a high school diploma or equivalent. Most students complete a two year certificate or associate degree program that is approved by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. Individuals may also complete a five year apprenticeship program, which can be substituted for a degree program.

## Professional Organization



### National Association of Dental Laboratories

325 John Knox Rd #L103  
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

**Phone:** (850) 205-5626

**Fax:** (850) 222-0053

[www.nadl.org](http://www.nadl.org)



### American Dental Education Association

1400 K Street, NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005

**Phone:** (202) 289-7201

**Fax:** (202) 289-7204

[www.adea.org](http://www.adea.org)

## Career Outlook

Employment opportunities for dental laboratory technicians are expected to grow fairly slowly through the year 2012. The US Department of Labor predicts little or no change from 2010 to 2020. Baby boomers and their children are more likely than previous generations to retain their teeth. This could lead to a decrease in the number of full and partial dentures and other prosthetics used to replace missing teeth.



### American Dental Association

211 East Chicago Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60611-2678

**Phone:** (312) 440-2500

[www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)



## DENTIST

### Job Description

Dentists diagnose, prevent, and treat problems with teeth or mouth tissue. They remove decay, fill cavities, examine x-rays, place protective plastic sealants on children's teeth, straighten teeth, and repair fractured teeth. They also perform corrective surgery on gums and supporting bones to treat gum diseases. Dentists extract teeth and make models and measurements for dentures to replace missing teeth. They provide instruction on diet, brushing, flossing, the use of fluorides, and other aspects of dental care. They also administer anesthetics and write prescriptions for antibiotics and other medications.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for a career in dentistry should include biology, chemistry, physics, algebra, trigonometry, geometry, food and nutrition, computer skills, English (literature and composition), health education, and physical education.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

To become a licensed dentist in Mississippi, an individual must graduate from a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association. They must also pass both written and practical examinations.

### Average Annual Salary

\$140,094

### Salary Range

\$133,087 - \$174,309

### Work Environment

Private practice  
Dental group Hospitals  
Government agencies  
Educational institutions  
Military  
Research facilities  
Public health facilities

## College Requirements

To be considered for admission at an accredited dental school, a student must graduate from a pre-dental baccalaureate program or its equivalent with an acceptable grade point average. They must also apply through the American Association of Dental Schools Application Service (AAD-SAS) and take the dental admissions examination.

## Professional Organization



### American Dental Association

211 East Chicago Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60611-2678

**Phone:** (312) 440-2500

[www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)



### American Dental Education Association

1400 K Street, NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005

**Phone:** (202) 289-7201

**Fax:** (202) 289-7204

[www.adea.org](http://www.adea.org)

## Educational Institutions

University of Mississippi Medical Center – School of Dentistry (DMD)

## Career Outlook

Career opportunities for dentists are expected to grow by 21 percent from 2010 to 2020, faster than the average for all occupations. Dentists will continue to see an increase in public demand for their services as studies continue to link oral health to overall health.



### Mississippi Dental Association

439 B Katherine Drive  
Flowood, MS 39232

**Phone:** (601) 664-9691

**Fax:** (601) 664-9796

[www.ms dental.org](http://www.ms dental.org)

# DIAGNOSTICS



## ELECTROCARDIOGRAPH TECHNICIAN

### Job Description

An electrocardiogram (ECG) technician performs an ECG by attaching electrodes to a patient and then pulling switches on an ECG machine to trace electrical impulses transmitted by the heart. A doctor then inspects these readings to analyze the patient's heart condition. ECG technicians also might perform stress tests. This involves hooking up a patient to an ECG monitor for a baseline reading and then monitoring the patient's heart while he or she exercises on a treadmill. During the monitoring period, the treadmill speeds up and slows down to produce ECG readings at multiple levels of physical exertion.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in becoming an EKG technician should take high school courses in biology, algebra, health education, chemistry, physical education, English, computer skills, emergency medical technology, literature, and typing.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Graduates from accredited programs may pursue certification through Cardiovascular Credentialing International.

### Average Annual Salary

\$36,396

### Salary Range

\$32,274 - \$42,210

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Diagnostic laboratories  
Clinics  
Cardiac rehabilitation centers  
Doctors' offices  
Diagnostic imaging centers

## College Requirements

Individuals interested in a career as an EKG technician must have a high school diploma or the equivalent. Most people entering this profession receive on-the-job training under the supervision of an experienced EKG technician that lasts 3 to 6 months. There are longer programs offered through community colleges that offer an associate's degree and board certification.

## Professional Organization



### Alliance of Cardiovascular Professionals

P.O. Box 2007  
Midlothian, VA 23113

**Phone:** (804) 632-0078

**Fax:** (804) 639-9212

[www.acp-online.org](http://www.acp-online.org)



### American Society of Echocardiography

2530 Meridian Parkway Suite 450  
Durham, NC 27713

**Phone:** (919) 861-5574

**Fax:** (919) 882-9900

[www.asecho.org](http://www.asecho.org)

## Career Outlook

Employment opportunities for electrocardiograph technicians are expected to grow faster than the average for all other occupations. The largest growth in employment will be in specialty areas such as echocardiography, vascular technology, and Holter monitoring. Technology will also help spur demand in this sector because newly trained individuals will be needed to operate the high-tech and increasingly complicated equipment.



### Cardiovascular Credentialing International

1500 Sunday Dr. , Suite 102  
Raleigh, NC 27607

**Phone:** (800) 326-0268

**Fax:** (919) 787-4916

[www.cci-online.org](http://www.cci-online.org)



## ELECTRONEURODIAGNOSTIC TECHNICIAN

### Job Description

Electroneurodiagnostic technologists record electrical activity from the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerves, and somatosensory or motor nerve systems using a variety of techniques and instruments. Technologists prepare data and documentation for interpretation by a physician.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in electroneurodiagnostic technology should take high school courses in algebra, chemistry, physics, biology, computer science, English, health education, statistics, geometry, and computer skills.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

The American Board of Registration of Electroencephalographic and Evoked Potential Technologists (ABRET) awards the credentials of Registered EEG Technologist and Registered Evoked Potential Technologist.

### Average Annual Salary

\$47,857

### Salary Range

\$25,001 - \$70,716

### Work Environment

- Hospitals
- Private neurologists' offices
- Neurology laboratories
- Colleges & universities
- Large medical centers
- Psychiatric facilities
- Mental health care facilities

## College Requirements

Students entering an END technology program should have a high school diploma or the equivalent. Some facilities provide on-the-job training, but the majority of employers prefer applicants with an associate's degree from an accredited program. These programs are typically taught at community colleges and last between one and two years.

## Professional Organization



### American Society of Electroneurodiagnostic Technologists

402 East Bannister Road, Suite A  
Kansas City, MO 64131-3019

**Phone:** (816) 931-1120

**Fax:** (816) 931-1145

[www.aset.org](http://www.aset.org)



### American Association of Electroneurodiagnostic Technology

PO Box 2770  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

**Phone:** (877) 333-2238

[www.aaet.info](http://www.aaet.info)

## Career Outlook

Employment opportunities for electroneurodiagnostic technologists are expected to grow faster than the average for all other occupations. Technology will help spur demand in this sector because newly trained individuals will be needed to operate the latest high-tech equipment.



### American Board of Registration of Electroencephalographic and Evoked Potential Technologists

2509 West Iles Ave., Suite 102  
Springfield, IL 62704

**Phone:** (217) 726-7980

**Fax:** (217) 726-7989

[www.abret.org](http://www.abret.org)

# DIETETICS AND NUTRITION



## DIETETIC TECHNICIAN

### Job Description

Dietetic technicians assist in shaping the public's food choices and provide nutrition assessment and counseling to persons with illnesses or injuries. Technicians work under the supervision of the registered dietitian. They often screen patients to identify nutrition problems, provide uncomplicated patient education and counseling to individuals and groups, develop menus and recipes, supervise food service personnel, purchase food, and monitor inventory and food quality.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for a career in dietary services should include courses in biology, chemistry, algebra, home economics, English, business, health education, physical education, psychology, and computer skills

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

To become certified and registered, individuals must pass a national examination given by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR).

### Average Annual Salary

\$37,907

### Salary Range

\$32,316 - \$43,617

### Work Environment

- Elementary & secondary schools
- Colleges & Universities
- Government agencies
- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- Prisons
- Home health agencies
- Community health centers
- Long-term care facilities
- Research facilities
- Food related industries



## College Requirements

Individuals entering a dietetic technician program should have a high school diploma or the equivalent. Most employers require an associate's degree from an accredited community college that is approved by the American Dietetic Association. These programs combine classroom study and practical experience.

## Professional Organization



### Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

120 South Riverside Plaza, Ste. 2000  
Chicago, IL 60606-6995

**Phone:** (800) 877-1600

**Fax:** (312) 899-4766

[www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org)



### American Society for Nutritional Sciences

9211 Corporate Boulevard, Suite 300  
Rockville, MD 20850

**Phone:** (240) 428-3650

**Fax:** (240) 404-6797

[www.nutrition.org](http://www.nutrition.org)

## Career Outlook

Employment opportunities for electrocardiograph technicians are expected to grow faster than the average for all other occupations. The largest growth in employment will be in specialty areas such as echocardiography, vascular technology, and Holter monitoring. Technology will also help spur demand in this sector because newly trained individuals will be needed to operate the high-tech and increasingly complicated equipment.



### Mississippi Dietetic Association

2342 Park Place Drive  
Gulfport, MS 39507

**Phone:** (228) 297-8972

**Fax:** (228) 896-8516

[www.eatrightmississippi.org](http://www.eatrightmississippi.org)



## DIETITION

### Job Description

Dietetics is the science of applying food and nutrition to health. Registered Dietitians are nutritionists who integrate and apply the principles derived from the sciences of food, nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, food management, and behavior to achieve and maintain the health status of the public they serve. Clinical registered dietitians are a vital part of the medical team in hospitals, nursing homes, health maintenance organizations, and other health care facilities. Community registered dietitians work in public and home health agencies, day care centers, health and recreation clubs, and in government-funded programs that feed and counsel families, the elderly, pregnant women, children, and individuals with special needs. Educator registered dietitians work in colleges, universities, and medical centers, teaching future physicians, nurses, dietitians, and dietetic technicians the science of foods and nutrition. Research registered dietitians work in government agencies, food and pharmaceutical companies, and major universities and medical centers. Consultant registered dietitians work under contract with health care or food companies or in their own business.

### High School Preparation

High school courses beneficial to dietitians are biology, chemistry, algebra, English, business, physical education, psychology, computer skills, social studies, and home economics.

### Average Annual Salary

\$59,359

### Salary Range

\$54,034 - \$59,359

### Work Environment

Elementary & secondary schools  
Colleges & Universities  
Government agencies  
Hospitals  
Nursing homes  
Prisons  
Health clubs  
Research facilities  
Food related industries

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Employers in Mississippi usually prefer to hire dietitians who are members of the American Dietetic Association (ADA).

## College Requirements

Students must receive a bachelor's degree from an ADA-approved institution, and then complete an approved pre-professional practice program or dietetic internship. Once the prerequisites are met for membership, individuals must pass the ADA examination in order to become registered.

## Professional Organization



### Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

120 South Riverside Plaza, Ste. 2000  
Chicago, IL 60606-6995

**Phone:** (800) 877-1600

[www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org)



### American Society for Nutritional Sciences

9211 Corporate Boulevard, Suite 300  
Rockville, MD 20850

**Phone:** (240) 428-3650

**Fax:** (240) 404-6797

[www.nutrition.org](http://www.nutrition.org)

## Educational Institutions

Alcorn State University (BS)  
Delta State University (BS)  
Mississippi State University (BS, MS)  
University of Southern Mississippi (BS, MS, & PhD)  
University of Mississippi (BS, MS)

## Career Outlook

Employment of dietitians and nutritionists is expected to increase over the next 10 years.

In recent years, there has been increased interest in the role of food in promoting health and wellness, particularly as a part of preventative healthcare in medical settings. The importance of diet in preventing and treating illnesses such as diabetes and heart disease is now well known. More dietitians and nutritionists will be needed to provide care for people with these conditions.

An aging population also will increase the need for dietitians and nutritionists in nursing homes.



### Mississippi Dietetic Association

2342 Park Place Drive  
Gulfport, MS 39507

**Phone:** (228) 297-8972

**Fax:** (228) 896-8516

[www.eatrightmississippi.org](http://www.eatrightmississippi.org)

# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/ COMMUNICATION



## EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCHER

### Job Description

Emergency medical dispatchers, or EMDs, are vital members of the emergency response system. They are usually the first professionals to receive an emergency call about a suddenly ill or injured person. They respond to 9-1-1 and other emergency calls by dispatching the appropriate medical or rescue personnel (police, fire, ambulance, etc.) to the scene. EMDs must be able to manage all incoming calls and carefully question the caller in order to determine the type of emergency that exists, the geographical location of the incident, and the extent of any injuries suffered. Emergency medical dispatchers may also be called upon to give a caller instruction over the phone until emergency service professionals arrive.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in a career as an emergency medical dispatcher should take high school courses in algebra, biology, English, psychology, computer skills, typing, first aid, public speaking, foreign languages, telephone communications, and health education.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Emergency Medical Dispatchers must be certified through a state-recognized program.

### Average Annual Salary

\$37,388

### Salary Range

\$31,732 - \$40,718

### Work Environment

Dispatch centers

Police stations

Fire stations

Hospitals

Independent city programs

## College Requirements

Individuals interested in emergency medical dispatching should have a high school diploma or equivalent. Educational and training requirements vary greatly depending upon the employer. EMDs often have a background in communications and receive some form of on-the-job training. They need to be able to speak clearly, know basic first aid procedures, and learn how to operate sophisticated telecommunications equipment.

## Professional Organization



### National Academy of Emergency Medical Dispatch

110 South Regent, Suite 800  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

**Phone:** (801) 359-6916

**Fax:** (801) 359-0996

[www.emergencydispatch.org](http://www.emergencydispatch.org)



### Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials, International

351 N. Williamson Blvd.  
Daytona Beach, FL 32114-1112

**Phone:** (386) 322-2500

**Fax:** (386) 322-2501

[www.apcointl.org](http://www.apcointl.org)

## Educational Institutions

Individuals interested in basic and advanced training in emergency medical dispatching should contact the professional organizations above for information on times and locations of courses.

## Career Outlook

Employment of police, fire, and ambulance dispatchers is expected to have average growth in the next 10 years. A larger and older population is likely to mean more emergency calls; and, therefore, a need for more dispatchers.

The prevalence of cellular phones has increased the number of calls that dispatchers receive. This trend is likely to continue in the future, as technologies, such as text messages and videos, will be used to communicate with dispatchers.



## EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

### Job Description

EMTs must be proficient in Basic Life Support (BLS), and training is centered on recognizing and treating life-threatening conditions outside the hospital environment. EMTs learn the basics of how to handle cardiac and respiratory arrest, heart attacks, seizures, diabetic emergencies, respiratory problems, and other medical emergencies. They also learn how to manage traumatic injuries such as falls, fractures, lacerations, and burns. EMTs also are introduced into patient assessment, history taking, and vital signs.

EMTs perform CPR, artificial ventilations, oxygen administration, basic airway management, defibrillation using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), spinal immobilization, vital signs, bandaging/splinting, and, under the direction of a physician, may administer Nitroglycerin, Glucose, Epinephrine, and Albuterol in special circumstances.

### High School Preparation

High school subjects helpful to those preparing for a career as an emergency medical technician or paramedic are biology, chemistry, psychology, physical education, algebra, computer skills, English, geometry, driver's education, first aid, sociology, health education.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

To work in the state of Mississippi, all emergency medical technicians must gain certification by passing a national examination given by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians.

### Average Annual Salary

\$34,684

### Salary Range

\$31,300 - \$38,850

### Work Environment

Commercial ambulance services  
Hospitals  
Rescue squads  
Fire departments  
Police departments  
Private industry

## College Requirements

Students entering an EMT training program must be 18 years of age, have a high school diploma and a driver's license with a good driving record. EMT basic classification requires students to complete approximately 120 classroom hours and the EMT paramedic requires students to complete a two-year Associate's Degree program in emergency medical technology.

## Professional Organization



### National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians

132-A East Northside Dr.  
Clinton, MS 39056

**Phone:** (601) 924-7744

**Fax:** (601) 924-7325

[www.naemt.org](http://www.naemt.org)



### National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians

6610 Busch Blvd.  
Columbus, Ohio 43229

**Phone:** (614) 888-4484

**Fax:** (614) 888-8920

[www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org)

## Educational Institutions

East Central CC (AAS, C)  
East Mississippi CC (AAS, C)  
Hinds CC (C)  
Holmes CC (AAS, C)  
Itawamba CC (AAS, C)  
Jones JC (AAS)  
Mississippi Gulf Coast CC (AAS)  
Northwest Mississippi CC (AS)

## Career Outlook

Employment of emergency medical technicians (EMTs) is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations. Emergencies such as car crashes, natural disasters, and violence will continue to create demand for EMTs. There will also continue to be demand for part-time, volunteer EMTs in rural areas and smaller metropolitan areas.

Growth in the middle-aged and elderly population will lead to an increase in the number of age-related health emergencies, such as heart attacks or strokes. This, in turn, will lead to an increase in the demand for EMTs. An increase in specialized medical facilities will require more EMTs to transfer patients with specific conditions to these facilities for treatment.



## PARAMEDIC

### Job Description

Paramedics perform all of the skills performed by an EMT. In addition, they perform advanced airway management, such as endotracheal intubation, under medical supervision and from a base station, usually in a hospital emergency department. They obtain and interpret electrocardiographs (ECGs), introduce intravenous lines, and administer numerous emergency medications. Paramedics assess ECG tracings and defibrillate. They have extensive education in patient assessment and are exposed to a variety of clinical and field experiences during their education.

### High School Preparation

High school subjects helpful to those preparing for a career as a paramedic are biology, chemistry, psychology, physical education, algebra, computer skills, English, driver's education, first aid, sociology, health education.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Mississippi requires all EMTs and Paramedics to gain certification by passing a national examination given by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians.

### Average Annual Salary

\$41,273

### Salary Range

\$37,059 - \$47,036

### Work Environment

Commercial ambulance services  
Hospitals  
Rescue squads  
Fire departments  
Police departments  
Private industry



## College Requirements

Students entering an EMT/Paramedic training program must be 18 years of age, have a high school diploma and a driver's license with a good driving record. Individuals must complete a two-year Associate's Degree program in emergency medical technology and pass a national certification examination given by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT).

## Professional Organization



### National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians

132-A East Northside Dr.  
Clinton, MS 39056

**Phone:** (601) 924-7744

**Fax:** (601) 924-7325

[www.naemt.org](http://www.naemt.org)



### National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians

6610 Busch Blvd.  
Columbus, Ohio 43229

**Phone:** (614) 888-4484

**Fax:** (614) 888-8920

[www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org)

## Educational Institutions

East Central CC (AAS, C)

East Mississippi CC (AAS, C)

Hinds CC (C)

Holmes CC (AAS, C)

Itawamba CC (AAS, C)

Jones JC (AAS)

Mississippi Gulf Coast CC (AAS)

Northwest Mississippi CC (AS)

## Career Outlook

Employment of paramedics is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations. Emergencies such as car crashes, natural disasters, and violence will continue to create demand for paramedics. There will also continue to be demand for paramedics in rural areas and smaller metropolitan areas.

Growth in the middle-aged and elderly population will lead to an increase in the number of age-related health emergencies, such as heart attacks or strokes. This, in turn, will lead to an increase in the demand for paramedic services. An increase in specialized medical facilities will require more paramedics to transfer patients with specific conditions to these facilities for treatment.

# HEALTH ADMINISTRATION



## HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATOR

### Job Description

Health care administrators, or health services administrators, have varying roles and functions depending on the size of the facility they oversee. Generally, health care administrators plan, coordinate, and supervise the functions of health care facilities and the staff that work there. There are two types of administrators, generalists and specialists. Generalists are individuals who are responsible for managing or helping to manage an entire facility. Specialists are individuals who are responsible for the efficient operations of a specific department, such as, policy analysis, finance, accounting, budgeting, human resources, or marketing. Health care administrators are often called on to maintain and develop professional standards, procedures, and policies for various institutional activities. They are also responsible for developing and expanding programs for scientific research, preventive medicine, medical and vocational rehabilitation, and community health and welfare.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for a career in health care administration should include high school courses in algebra, economics, government, accounting, political science, health education, English, geometry, psychology, sociology, and computer skills.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required only for nursing home administrators in Mississippi, but most administrators belong to professional organizations such as the American College of Healthcare Executives and the American College of Health Care Administrators. These organizations offer certification programs, which are often helpful in enhancing professional standing.

### Average Annual Salary

\$117,630

### Salary Range

\$68,885 - \$236,868

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Community health centers  
Clinics  
Private medical group practices  
Managed care organizations  
Nursing homes  
Other health care facilities

## College Requirements

Students interested in becoming a health care administrator must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution. Most organizations, however, require at least a master's degree in health services administration, nursing administration, or business administration.

## Professional Organization



### American College of Healthcare Executives

300 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 1900  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6698

**Phone:** (312) 424-2800

**Fax:** (312) 424-0023

[www.ache.org](http://www.ache.org)



### Association of University Programs in Health Administration

1730 M St NW, Suite 407  
Washington DC 20036

**Phone:** (202) 763-7283

**Fax:** (703) 894-0941

[www.aupha.org](http://www.aupha.org)

## Career Outlook

Employment of health care administrators is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations. As the large baby-boom population ages and people remain active later in life, the healthcare industry as a whole will see an increase in the demand for medical services. This increase will in turn result in an increase in the number of physicians, patients, and procedures, as well as in the number of facilities. Administrators will be needed to organize and manage medical information and staffs in the healthcare industry.



### American College of Health Care Administrators

362 Mellon Rd., Suite 180  
Hanover, MD 21076

**Phone:** (410) 859-1500

[www.achca.org](http://www.achca.org)



## HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

### Job Description

Human resources professionals perform the vital function of managing personnel issues in health care facilities. In general, they are responsible for managing and improving the delivery of high quality employment-related services to various departments in order to effectively recruit, select, retain, develop, and manage an organization's workforce. Depending on the size of the facility, human resources professionals in a health care setting usually consist of human resources assistants, recruiters, placement managers, employer relations representatives, compensation & benefits specialists, training & development specialists, and a director of human resources. Some of the various issues that these professionals address are: limiting job turnover, improving morale and productivity, effectively utilizing employee skills, providing training opportunities to enhance those skills, and boosting employees' satisfaction with their jobs and working conditions.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in human resources should take high school courses in algebra, biology, computer skills, data processing, psychology, English, health, government, history, literature, foreign language, anatomy, and sociology.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Optional training and certification is available from trade associations, such as, the American Society for Healthcare Human Resources Administration and the Society for Human Resource Management. Two of the most common certifications are Professional of Human Resources (PHR) and Senior Professional of Human Resources (SPHR).

### Average Annual Salary

\$99,394

### Salary Range

\$87,431 - \$111,894

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Nursing homes  
Clinics  
Rehabilitation facilities  
Community health centers  
Academic medical centers  
Managed care organizations  
Community health centers

## College Requirements

Because of the diversity of duties and levels of responsibility, the educational requirements for human resources professionals vary greatly. Many employers seek college graduates who have majored in human resources, personnel administration, business, or liberal arts.

## Professional Organization



### American Society for Healthcare Human Resources Administration

155 North Wacker, Suite 400  
Chicago, Illinois 60606

**Phone:** (312) 422-3720

**Fax:** (312) 422- 4577

[www.ashhra.org](http://www.ashhra.org)



### American Society for Healthcare Human Resources Administration

155 North Wacker, Suite 400  
Chicago, Illinois 60606

**Phone:** (312) 422-3720

**Fax:** (312) 422- 4577

[www.ashhra.org](http://www.ashhra.org)

## Educational Institutions

Virtually all educational institutions in Mississippi offer courses and degree programs for a career in some area of human resources.

## Career Outlook

Employment of human resources managers is expected to grow at an average rate for all occupations. Because of the health care industry's increasing efforts to recruit and retain quality employees, recruitment and placement specialists will enjoy the greatest surge in employment. Legislation and court rulings setting standards in areas, such as, occupational safety, equal employment opportunity, and family leave will also increase demand for human resources specialists in health care facilities.



### American Society for Healthcare Human Resources Administration

155 North Wacker, Suite 400  
Chicago, Illinois 60606

**Phone:** (312) 422-3720

**Fax:** (312) 422- 4577

[www.ashhra.org](http://www.ashhra.org)



## FINANCE SPECIALIST - CFO

### Job Description

Chief financial officers (CFOs), or finance specialists, plan and direct an organization's financial goals, objectives, and budgets. Because these financial managers work extensively with various departments in each health care facility, broad knowledge of a variety of health-related issues is essential. Financial specialists usually supervise cash management activities, execute capital-raising strategies to support a facility's maintenance and expansion, oversee the investment of funds and calculate the associated risks, and deal with mergers and acquisitions. As computers and other technologies are increasingly used to record and organize data, many financial managers are spending more time developing strategies and implementing the long-term goals of their organizations. Interpersonal skills are vital to chief financial officers because they usually manage a large staff and work as part of a team in order to solve the complex financial issues that face health care facilities.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for a career as a chief financial officer should include high school courses in algebra, economics, government, accounting, political science, health education, English, geometry, psychology, sociology, and computer skills.

### Average Annual Salary

\$114,750

### Salary Range

\$58,120 - \$187,199

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Clinics  
Community health centers  
Managed care organizations  
Nursing homes  
Private medical group practices  
Other health care facilities

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

While licensure is not required for financial specialists in Mississippi, most CFOs hold certifications in various financial specialties. They may also belong to professional organizations such as The Association for Financial Professionals or Institute of Management Accountants.

## College Requirements

Most employers seek graduates with a master's degree or higher, preferably in business administration, economics, finance, or risk management. Continuing education is also a vital component for financial managers, because they must cope with the growing complexity of health care finances.

## Professional Organization



### Association for Financial Professionals

4520 East-West Hwy, Suite 750  
Bethesda, MD 20814

**Phone:** (301) 907-2862

[www.afponline.org](http://www.afponline.org)



### Institute of Management Accountants

10 Paragon Drive, Suite 1  
Montvale, NJ 07645-1760

**Phone:** (201) 573-9000

**Fax:** (201) 474-1600

[www.imanet.org](http://www.imanet.org)

## Educational Institutions

All four-year colleges and universities offer degree programs in finance, accounting, economics, or business administration.

## Career Outlook

Employment of top executives is expected to slower than average for all occupations. Jobseekers are likely to face keen competition for top management jobs, as the number of job openings is expected to be less than the number of applicants. The best opportunities will be for individuals with strong business and management skills and those individuals with a graduate degree. As hospitals become larger and more complex, financial specialists with experience in these larger facilities will enjoy the best job security.

# HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



## DRG COORDINATOR

### Job Description

Health Information Administrators perform tasks related to the management of health information and the systems used to collect, store, process, retrieve, analyze, disseminate, and communicate that information, regardless of the physical medium in which information is maintained. In addition, health information administrators assess the uses of information and identify what information is available and where there are inconsistencies, gaps, and duplications in health data sources. They are capable of planning and designing and maintaining systems and serving as pivotal team members in the development of computer-based patient record systems and other enterprise-wide information systems. Their responsibilities also include serving as brokers of information services. Among the information services provided are a design and requirements definition for clinical and administrative systems development, data administration, data quality management, data security management, decision support design and data analyses, and management of information-intensive areas such as clinical quality/performance assessment and utilization and case management.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in health care administration should take courses in algebra, biology, chemistry, computer skills, data processing, psychology, English, government, history, literature, foreign language, anatomy, sociology, and health education.

### Average Annual Salary

\$66,641

### Salary Range

\$58,959 - \$74,377

### Work Environment

- Hospitals
- Home health agencies
- Insurance agencies
- Consulting firms
- Government agencies
- Outpatient clinics
- Health care computing industries
- Long-term care facilities
- Private industries

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Upon graduation from an accredited program, individuals are then eligible to take the national registration examination offered by the American Health Information Management Association. Once the exam is successfully passed, an individual then becomes a registered health information administrator (RHIA).



## College Requirements

Individuals must complete a baccalaureate degree program from an institution accredited by the American Health Information Management Association, which is generally four years in length.

## Professional Organization



### American Health Information Management Association

233 N. Michigan Avenue, 21st Floor  
Chicago, IL 60601-5809

**Phone:** (312) 233-1100

**Fax:** (312) 233-1090

[www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org)



### Mississippi Health Information Association

**Phone:** (601) 336-0647

**F**[www.mshima.org](http://www.mshima.org)

## Educational Institutions

University of Mississippi Medical Center (BS)

## Career Outlook

Employment of health information managers is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations. As the large baby-boom population ages and people remain active later in life, the healthcare industry as a whole will see an increase in the demand for medical services. This increase will in turn result in an increase in the number of physicians, patients, and procedures, as well as in the number of facilities. Managers will be needed to organize and manage medical information and staffs in the healthcare industry.



## HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNICIAN

### Job Description

Health Information Technicians perform tasks related to the use, analysis, validation, presentation, data abstracting, analysis, coding, release of information, data privacy and security, retrieval, quality measurement, and control of health care data regardless of the physical medium in which information is maintained.

### High School Preparation

Individuals interested in a career as a health information technician should take high school courses in algebra, biology, computer skills, typing, literature, English, office procedures, social studies, sociology, chemistry, anatomy, government, history, psychology, and data processing.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Upon completing an accredited academic program, students may take a national examination approved by the American Health Information Management Association. Passing this exam allows health information technicians to become Registered Health Information Technicians (RHIT).

### Average Annual Salary

\$37,110

### Salary Range

\$20,322 - \$32,843

### Work Environment

- Hospitals
- Physicians' offices
- Extended health care facilities
- Health maintenance organizations
- Community health centers
- Insurance companies

## College Requirements

Students entering a health information technician program should have a high school diploma or equivalent. Health information technician programs are often 2 years in length and offer an Associate's Degree upon completion.

## Professional Organization



### American Health Information Management Association

233 N. Michigan Avenue, 21st Floor  
Chicago, IL 60601-5809

**Phone:** (312) 233-1100

**Fax:** (312) 233-1090

[www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org)



### Mississippi Health Information Association

**Phone:** (601) 336-0647

**F**[www.mshima.org](http://www.mshima.org)

## Educational Institutions

Hinds CC (AAS)

Itawamba CC (AAS)

Meridian CC (AAS)

University of Mississippi Medical Center (BS, MS)

## Career Outlook

Employment of health information technicians is expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations. The demand for health services is expected to increase as the population ages. An aging population will need more medical tests, treatments, and procedures. This will also mean more claims for reimbursement from private and public insurance. Additional records, coupled with widespread use of electronic health records by all types of healthcare providers, should lead to an increased need for technicians to organize and manage the associated information in all areas of the healthcare industry.



## HEALTH SCIENCE LIBRARIAN

### Job Description

Health science librarians, or medical librarians, help improve the quality of patient care by helping health care professionals stay abreast of new developments and treatments. Additionally, they find relevant health information for patients and consumers, serve as educators for students pursuing health care degrees, and provide training in the location and use of medical resources. Increasingly medical librarians use technology to design Web sites and distance education programs and to construct digital libraries. Others work for Internet companies and electronic publishers that index and organize information for the Web. Medical librarians also participate as members of research teams on university campuses and serve health care corporations, such as insurance and pharmaceutical companies, by providing information necessary for developing new products and services.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in pursuing a career as a health science librarian should take high school courses in biology, algebra, computer skills, chemistry, government, psychology, sociology, typing, data processing, English, office procedures, health education, foreign languages, anatomy, history, and literature.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Certification is not required, but is offered through the Medical Library Association.

### Average Annual Salary

\$66,622

### Salary Range

\$41,911 - \$79,948

### Work Environment

Medical & nursing schools  
Hospitals  
Government agencies  
Pharmaceutical companies  
Medical-related corporations

## College Requirements

Individuals interested in becoming a medical librarian must complete a 4-year baccalaureate program in any discipline they choose. The most common majors for health science librarians include biology, library sciences, management, or health information. Students are also required to have a master's degree in Library and Information Science (MLIS) from an American Library Association (ALA) accredited school.

## Professional Organization



### American Library Association

50 East Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611

**Phone:** (800) 545-2433

**Fax:** (312) 944-2641

[www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)



### Medical Library Association

65 East Wacker Place, Suite 1900  
Chicago, IL 60601-7246

**Phone:** (312) 419-9094

**Fax:** (312) 419-8950

[www.mlanet.org](http://www.mlanet.org)

## Educational Institutions

University of Southern Mississippi (BA, MLIS)

## Career Outlook

Employment of librarians is expected to grow by 7 percent through 2020, slower than the average for all occupations. There will continue to be a need for librarians to manage libraries and staff and help users find information. As electronic resources become more common, users and support staff will be more comfortable using them, so fewer librarians will be needed for assistance. However, the increased availability of electronic information is also expected to increase the demand for librarians in research and special libraries, where they will be needed to help sort through the large amount of available information.



### Special Libraries Association

331 South Patrick Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-3501

**Phone:** (703) 647-4900

**Fax:** (703) 647-4901

[www.sla.org](http://www.sla.org)



## HEALTH UNIT COORDINATOR

### Job Description

Health unit coordinators are members of the supporting cast that helps maintain a health care facility's service and performance. These trained individuals may also be known as unit clerks, ward clerks, or unit secretaries. Some of their daily operations include preparing birth/death certificates, maintaining patient charts and records, coordinating patient activities for the unit, ordering supplies, and communicating with the dietary department. They may perform other duties, such as, graphing the temperature, pulse, and blood pressure readings for patients, as well as transcribing medical orders and completing admission and discharge forms. Health unit coordinators usually work under the supervision of the registered nursing staff or the health information administrator. One of their main responsibilities is to act as a liaison between the patient and staff. They must have excellent communication skills in order to serve as this vital link between the physicians, nursing staff, various departments, patients, and visitors.

### High School Preparation

Individuals interested in a career as a health unit coordinator should take high school courses in algebra, biology, chemistry, computer skills, data processing, psychology, English, composition, social studies, literature, foreign language, sociology, and health education.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

The majority of employers require formal training or previous experience as a health unit coordinator. Certification can be obtained by passing an examination given by the National Association of Health Unit Coordinators.

### Average Annual Salary

\$25,452

### Salary Range

\$20,746 - \$30,717

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Clinics  
Public health care agencies  
Health maintenance organizations  
Nursing homes  
Home health agencies  
Government agencies

## College Requirements

Individuals entering a health unit coordinator program should have a high school diploma or equivalent. Community colleges and vocational- technical schools may offer programs or training through continuing education departments. Some hospitals and other health care facilities may offer on-the-job training for this position.

## Professional Organization



### National Association of Health Unit Coordinators

1947 Madron Road  
Rockford, IL 61107-1716

**Phone:** (815) 633-4305

**Fax:** 815-633-4438

[www.nahuc.org](http://www.nahuc.org)



### American Health Information Management Association

233 N. Michigan Avenue, 21st Floor  
Chicago, IL 60601-5809

**Phone:** (312) 233-1100

**Fax:** (312) 233-1090

[www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org)

## Educational Institutions

Adult short-term programs for health unit coordinator are offered at several community colleges in Mississippi.

## Career Outlook

Employment of health unit coordinators is projected to grow 41 percent through 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations. Employment growth will be driven by rapid growth of the healthcare and social assistance industries. An anticipated increase in the use of medical services by an aging population will require many additional medical secretaries.



## MEDICAL CODING SPECIALIST

### Job Description

Medical coding specialists read and review medical documentation provided by physicians and other health care providers in order to obtain detailed information regarding patients' disease, injuries, and surgical operations, and other procedures. This detailed information is translated into numeric codes. The coding specialist assigns and sequences diagnostic and procedural codes using a universally recognized coding system. Using this official classification system, coders must insure correct code selection for compliance with federal regulation and insurance requirements. These medical codes are used extensively for reimbursement of hospital and physician claims for Medicare, Medicaid, and insurance payments. The information compiled by the medical coders is used to prepare statistical reports for use by clinic and hospital administrators for planning, marketing, and other management purposes.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in pursuing a career in medical coding should take high school courses in algebra, biology, computer skills, English, typing, data processing, and health education.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Individuals may become a Certified Medical Coder by passing examinations offered by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) and the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC).

### Average Annual Salary

\$37,336

### Salary Range

\$27,643 - \$43,722

### Work Environment

- Hospitals
- Clinics
- Surgery centers
- Long-term care facilities
- Insurance companies
- Dental offices
- Home health care agencies
- Consulting firms
- Coding and billing services
- Government agencies



## College Requirements

Individuals interested in medical coding should have a high school diploma or equivalent. An associate's degree is recommended and is often two years in length. Training may be available on the job as well as through continuing education classes offered by state associations/organizations.

## Professional Organization



### American Academy of Professional Coders

2235 South Presidents Drive  
Suite F  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

**Phone:** (800) 626-2633

**Fax:** (801) 236-2258

[www.aapc.com](http://www.aapc.com)



### American Health Information Management Association

233 N. Michigan Avenue, 21st Floor  
Chicago, IL 60601-5809

**Phone:** (312) 233-1100

**Fax:** (312) 233-1090

[www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org)

## Career Outlook

Employment of medical coding specialists is expected to increase by 21 percent through 2020, faster than the average for all occupations. The demand for health services is expected to increase as the population ages. An aging population will need more medical tests, treatments, and procedures. This will also mean more claims for reimbursement from private and public insurance. Additional records, coupled with widespread use of electronic health records by all types of healthcare providers, should lead to an increased need for coding specialists to code and categorize patient information for insurance reimbursement purposes.



### Mississippi Health Information Association

**Phone:** (601) 336-0647

**F**[www.mshima.org](http://www.mshima.org)



## MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONIST

### Job Description

Medical transcriptionists (MTs) are specialists in medical language and health care documentation. They interpret and transcribe dictation by physicians and other health care professionals regarding patient assessment, workup, therapeutic procedures, clinical course, diagnosis, prognosis, etc, editing dictated material for grammar and clarity as necessary and appropriate. Physicians and other health care providers employ state-of-the-art electronic technology to dictate and transmit highly technical and confidential information about their patients. These medical professionals rely on skilled medical transcriptionists to transform spoken words into comprehensive records that accurately communicate medical information.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in becoming a medical transcriptionist should take high school courses in algebra, business, geometry, computer applications, English, shorthand, composition, and health education.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Upon completion of an educational program, students can become a Certified Medical Transcriptionist (CMT) by passing examinations given by the American Association of Medical Transcription.

### Average Annual Salary

\$44,312

### Salary Range

\$39,475 - \$49,401

### Work Environment

- Hospitals
- Self-employed
- Clinics
- Physicians' offices
- Health maintenance organizations
- Medical transcription companies
- Public health agencies
- Home health care agencies
- Nursing homes

## College Requirements

Individuals interested in medical transcription should have a high school diploma or equivalent. Since transcriptionists need to have a certain degree of medical knowledge, employers usually prefer an individual with an associate's degree in medical transcription. Some individuals, however, are trained on the job while others obtain certificates.

## Professional Organization



### American Association for Medical Transcription (AAMT)

4120 Dale Road, Suite J8-233  
Modesto, CA 95356

**Phone:** (209) 527-9620

**Fax:** (209) 527-9633

[www.ahdionline.org](http://www.ahdionline.org)

## Career Outlook

Employment of medical transcriptionists is expected to grow at a slower rate than average for all occupations. Technological advances in recent years have changed the way medical transcription is done. In the past, medical transcriptionists would listen to an entire dictation to produce a transcribed report. Today, many medical documents are prepared with the use of back-end speech recognition technology, in which specialized software automatically prepares an initial draft of a report. The transcriptionist then reviews the draft for accuracy, listening to the original recording as needed. Such technological advances are expected to continue, making the individual transcriptionist far more productive and limiting employment growth overall.

# HEALTH CARE PUBLIC RELATIONS/ COMMUNICATIONS



## MEDICAL CODING SPECIALIST

### Job Description

Individuals that specialize in health care public relations are in charge of handling the internal and external communications for a health care facility. They interact with physicians, nurses, managers, administrators, and patients, and therefore must have excellent communication skills. Some of their responsibilities include writing for internal publications, such as, newsletters, handling calls from the media, as well as writing and creating various materials that promote the services offered at that facility. Public relations specialists may be called upon to prepare marketing plans that highlight various aspects of an organization. The most important function of this position is handling all communications with the public. They may organize events between the organization and the public, or publish press releases.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in a career as a health care public relations specialist should take high school courses in algebra, biology, computer skills, data processing, psychology, English, health, government, history, literature, foreign language, anatomy, sociology, and health education.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Individuals can become accredited through the Public Relations Society of America or the International Association of Business Communications.

### Average Annual Salary

\$82,120

### Salary Range

\$50,410 - \$97,980

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Nursing homes  
Rehabilitation facilities  
Health maintenance organizations  
Psychiatric facilities  
Community health centers

## College Requirements

The majority of health care public relations positions requires a bachelor's degree combined with experience in public relations as an intern. Employers usually prefer a degree in communications, journalism, English, public relations, advertising, or a related field.

## Professional Organization



### Public Relations Society of America

120 Wall Street, 21st floor  
New York, NY 10005-4024

**Phone:** (212) 460-1400

[www.prsa.org](http://www.prsa.org)



### Society for Healthcare Strategy and Market Development

155 North Wacker,  
Chicago, IL 60606

**Phone:** (312) 422-3888

**Fax:** (312) 278-0883

[www.shsmd.org](http://www.shsmd.org)



### Public Relations Association of Mississippi- Central Chapter

[wadepp@millsaps.edu](mailto:wadepp@millsaps.edu)

[www.pramcentral.org](http://www.pramcentral.org)



### International Association of Business Communicators

155 Montgomery Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**Phone:** (415) 544-4700

**Fax:** (415) 544-4747

[www.iabc.com](http://www.iabc.com)

## Educational Institutions

All four-year colleges and universities in Mississippi offer degrees in one or more of the following areas: communications, advertising, journalism, public relations, mass communications, or a related communications field.

## Career Outlook

Employment of public relations specialists is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations. Organizations are increasingly emphasizing community outreach and customer relations as a way to enhance their reputation and visibility. Increased use of social media also is expected to increase employment growth for public relations specialists. These new media outlets will create more work for public relations workers, increasing the number and kinds of avenues of communication between organizations and the public.



## MEDICAL ILLUSTRATOR

### Job Description

Medical illustrators specialize in the visual transformation, display, and communication of scientific information. Their graduate level training in biomedical science, art, design, visual technology, education, and communication enables them to understand and visualize scientific data and concepts to teach the general public and professionals in the fields of health care, research, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and demonstrative evidence. Medical illustrations are used in medical textbooks, medical advertisements, professional journals, instructional animations, computer-assisted learning programs, scientific exhibits, lecture presentations, general magazines, and courtroom presentations.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for a career as a medical illustrator should include courses in art, biology, chemistry, algebra, drawing and design, English, history, graphic arts, printing, health education, photography, and computer illustration.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required, but certification is available through the Association of Medical Illustrators.

### Average Annual Salary

\$34,352

### Salary Range

\$33,042 - \$47,592

### Work Environment

- Medical schools
- Hospitals
- Research organizations
- Publishing companies
- Advertising agencies
- Pharmaceutical manufacturers
- Research programs

## College Requirements

In order to become a medical illustrator, a student must have specialized training in art and the biological sciences. A bachelor's degree combining art and premedical courses is usually preferred, followed by a master's degree in medical illustration. An excellent academic record as well as an outstanding portfolio of your artwork is necessary for admission into these highly competitive graduate programs.

## Professional Organization



### Association of Medical Illustrators

201 E. Main Street, Ste. 1405  
Lexington, KY 40507

**Phone:** (866) 393-4264

[www.ami.org](http://www.ami.org)



### Guild of Natural Science Illustrators

PO Box 652  
Ben Franklin Station  
Washington, DC 20044

**Phone/Fax:** (301) 309-1514

[www.gnsi.org](http://www.gnsi.org)

## Career Outlook

Employment of craft and fine artists is projected to grow by 5 percent through 2020, slower than the average for all occupations. Emerging technologies in informational media delivery systems such as mobile devices (iPads and cell phones), health gaming, and digital medical imaging systems require an expanding array of specially designed digital images and thus, the need for newer, more cutting-edge medical illustrations and animations to populate these devices.



### Health and Science Communications Association

P.O.Box 31323  
Omaha, Nebraska 68132

**Phone:** (402) 915-5373

[www.hesca.net](http://www.hesca.net)



## MEDICAL PHOTOGRAPHER

### Job Description

Medical photographers (biomedical photographers) not only are creative, they also have a detailed understanding of science and its processes. Their photos can be seen in textbooks, brochures, exhibits and even films that can be used for legal or teaching methods. The primary function of medical photographers is to assist with education and research on the human body or specific diseases. Medical photographers may take pictures of autopsies, surgeries and other medical procedures. They may create charts, graphs and convert photographs into digital images. They may use photograph microscopic images and manipulate them in order for them to be seen in more detail. They photograph different areas of the body so people can have a better understanding of the human body and also a particular diseases that may occur in certain areas. They photograph medical conditions or patients over periods of time to see the progression of the disease or a medical issue. They may use graphic design software such as Photoshop to enhance images and or add labels and other information to the photo.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in a career as a medical photographer should take high school courses in art, biology, chemistry, algebra, photography, drawing and design, English, history, graphic arts, printing, health education, and computer illustration.

### Average Annual Salary

\$51,540

### Salary Range

\$49,394 - \$59,776

### Work Environment

Medical schools  
Hospitals  
Research organizations  
Publishing companies  
Advertising agencies  
Pharmaceutical manufacturers  
Health organizations

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Certification is offered by the BioCommunications Association's Board of Registry in order to become a Registered Biological Photographer (R.B.P.). After all educational requirements are met, individuals must pass written, practical, and oral examinations in order to become a R.B.P.



## College Requirements

Individuals interested in medical photography must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Graduation from an associate's or bachelor's degree program, with a great deal of photography experience, is necessary to become a medical photographer.

## Professional Organization



### BioCommunications Association

220 Southwind Lane  
Hillsborough, NC 27278

**Phone:** (919) 245-0906

[www.bca.org](http://www.bca.org)



### Health and Science Communications Association

P.O.Box 31323  
Omaha, Nebraska 68132

**Phone/Fax:** (402) 915-5373

[www.hesca.net](http://www.hesca.net)

## Educational Institutions

Most colleges and universities in the state offer programs in photography and biology.

## Career Outlook

Employment of medical photographers is projected to grow as fast as the average for all occupations. Overall growth will be limited because of the decreasing cost of digital cameras and the increasing number of amateur photographers and hobbyists. Improvements in digital technology reduce barriers of entry into this profession. However, medical photography is one of the less-crowded fields within photography, due to the fact that you need specialized technical knowledge.



## MEDICAL WRITER

### Job Description

A medical writer is responsible for creating medical and scientific documents. It is most common for medical writers to work for the pharmaceutical industry. Some companies hire medical writers, while others outsource their work to medical writers on a contractual freelance basis. Medical writers must provide accurate details about medical information and products to provide education and awareness or get drugs approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

### High School Preparation

Students interested in a career as a medical writer should take high school courses in biology, chemistry, physics, anatomy and physiology, English, literature, algebra, geometry, psychology, social sciences, computer skills, writing, and health education.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

The American Medical Writers Association offers certification for individuals who complete certain workshops and continuing education courses. Other professional experience may be required for certification.

### Average Annual Salary

\$61,836

### Salary Range

\$51,418 - \$68,662

### Work Environment

Self-employed  
Publishing companies  
Pharmaceutical companies  
Advertising agencies  
Educational institutions  
Hospitals  
Government agencies  
Radio & television stations  
Medical equipment companies

## College Requirements

Individuals interested in medical writing must have a high school diploma or the equivalent. The majority of medical writers need to know the same terminology as other health professionals and have at least a bachelor's degree. They usually earn degrees in some type of science, but they may also major in English or journalism and minor in a science.

## Professional Organization



### American Medical Writer's Association

30 West Gude Drive, Suite 525  
Rockville, MD 20850-1161

**Phone:** (240) 238-0940

**Fax:** (301) 294-9006

[www.amwa.org](http://www.amwa.org)



### National Association of Science

P.O. Box 7905  
Berkeley, CA 94707

**Phone:** (510) 647-9500

[www.nasw.org](http://www.nasw.org)

## Educational Institutions

All colleges and universities in the state offer programs in English and biology.

## Career Outlook

Employment of writers and authors is projected to grow slowly in the next 10 years. Technical writers with expertise in an area such as medicine or biology will be in great demand with the continuing expansion of scientific and technical information and the need to communicate it to others. As new discoveries are being made every day, medical writers will see an increase in employment because of the need to communicate this highly technical information to a general audience. Technological advancements and the increasing use of the Internet will also have a positive effect on employment in this field.



### Health and Science Communications Association

P.O.Box 31323  
Omaha, Nebraska 68132

**Phone/Fax:** (402) 915-5373

[www.hesca.net](http://www.hesca.net)

# MEDICINE



## ANESTHESIOLOGIST

### Job Description

Anesthesiologists are physicians who focus on surgical patients and pain relief. They administer anesthetics, which are medicines to prevent patients from feeling pain and sensations; closely monitor patients' vital signs during surgery and adjust anesthetics accordingly; monitor patients through the first recovery stages after an operation; and administer appropriate medications during recovery. In addition to helping patients through surgery, anesthesiologists may also help treat patients with conditions causing chronic pain. Many specialize in specific types of problems, such as respiratory or neurological illness. More than ninety percent of the anesthetics used in health care are administered by or under the direct supervision of an anesthesiologist.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in a career as an anesthesiologist should concentrate on high school courses in algebra, biology, chemistry, geometry, physics, trigonometry, anatomy and physiology, humanities, health education, psychology, and computer skills.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

To practice medicine in Mississippi, physicians and resident physicians must have a license through the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure. During residency training, anesthesiologists generally work toward obtaining certification from the American Society of Anesthesiologists or the American Board of Anesthesiology.

### Average Annual Salary

\$157,960

### Salary Range

\$118,470 - \$197,450

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Outpatient surgical centers  
Private and group practices  
Urgent care centers  
Academic medical centers  
Military

## College Requirements

Individuals interested in becoming an anesthesiologist must complete a pre-medical program at an accredited college or university. These programs are four years in length and are very rigorous. Students must then pass the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) and get accepted into a school of medicine. Upon graduation from an accredited medical school, individuals must complete a four-year anesthesiology residency program.

## Professional Organization



### Association of American Medical Colleges

655 K Street, NW, Suite 101  
Washington, DC 20001-2399

**Phone:** (202) 828-0400

**Fax:** (202) 828-1125

[www.aamc.org](http://www.aamc.org)



### American Society of Anesthesiologists

1061 American Lane  
Schaumburg, IL 60173-4973

**Phone:** (847) 825-5586

**Fax:** (847) 825-1692

[www.asahq.org](http://www.asahq.org)



### The American Board of Anesthesiology

4208 Six Forks Road, Suite 900  
Raleigh, NC 27609-5735

**Phone:** (866) 999-7501

**Fax:** (866) 999-7503

[www.theaba.org](http://www.theaba.org)



### Mississippi State Medical Association

PO Box 2548  
Ridgeland, MS 39158-2548

**Phone:** (601) 853-6733

[www.msmaonline.com](http://www.msmaonline.com)

## Educational Institutions

University of Mississippi Medical Center, School of Medicine

## Career Outlook

The career outlook for anesthesiologists is expected to be great because the growing population will need more physicians to fulfill their health care needs. While there are no employment statistics specifically for this specialty, opportunities for physicians and surgeons is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations. Job growth will occur because of the continued expansion of healthcare-related industries. The growing and aging population is expected to drive overall growth in the demand for physician services as consumers continue to seek high levels of care that uses the latest technologies, diagnostic tests, and therapies.



## CHIROPRACTOR

### Job Description

Chiropractors are alternative health care practitioners who diagnose and treat health problems associated with the muscular, nervous, and skeletal systems. Chiropractors treat patients primarily by manipulating parts of the body, especially the spinal column. By means of this manipulation, chiropractors try to correct any disorders of the skeleton or spine that may interrupt the flow of nerve impulses to various parts of the body. They do not use drugs or surgery to treat patients.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for a career in chiropractic health care should include courses in algebra, biology, chemistry, physics, trigonometry, health occupations/medical professions education, physical education, psychology, and computer skills.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Upon graduation from an accredited chiropractic program, individuals must obtain a license by passing a three-part examination given by the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners. To maintain licensure, individuals must complete a certain number of continuing education hours each year.

### Average Annual Salary

\$144,661

### Salary Range

\$122,918 - \$199,414

### Work Environment

- Private practices
- Group practice
- Hospitals
- Health maintenance organizations
- Chiropractic colleges
- Patients' homes

## College Requirements

Students interested in becoming a doctor of chiropractic must complete at least two years of undergraduate study, although some obtain a bachelor's degree. Students must then complete a 4-year chiropractic college program accredited by the Council of Chiropractic Education.

## Professional Organization



### American Chiropractic Association

1701 Clarendon Blvd.  
Arlington, VA 22209

**Phone:** (703) 276-8800

**Fax:** (703) 243-2593

[www.acatoday.org](http://www.acatoday.org)



### International Chiropractors Association

6400 Arlington Blvd., Suite. 800  
Falls Church, VA 22042

**Phone:** (703) 528-5000

**Fax:** (703) 528-5023

[www.chiropractic.org](http://www.chiropractic.org)



### Mississippi Chiropractic Association

P.O. Box 1266  
Summit, MS 39666

**Phone:** (601) 276-3336

**Fax:** (601) 276-3335

[www.mschiro.org](http://www.mschiro.org)



### Council of Chiropractic Education

8049 North 85th Way  
Scottsdale, AZ 85258-4321

**Phone:** (480) 443-8877

**Fax:** (480) 483-7333

[www.cce-usa.org](http://www.cce-usa.org)

## Career Outlook

Employment of chiropractors is expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations. Chiropractic treatment of the back, neck, limbs, and joints has become more accepted as a result of research and changing attitudes about alternative healthcare. The aging of the large baby-boom generation will lead to new opportunities for chiropractors, because older adults are more likely to experience musculoskeletal and joint problems. Demand for chiropractic treatment is related to the ability of patients to pay, either directly or through health insurance.



## PHYSICIAN

### Job Description

Physicians, often referred to as doctors, serve a fundamental role in our society and have an effect upon all our lives. They diagnose illnesses and prescribe and administer treatment for people suffering from injury or disease. Physicians examine patients; obtain medical histories; and order, perform, and interpret diagnostic tests. They counsel patients on diet, hygiene, and preventive health care. About one third of the nation's physicians are generalists—"primary care" doctors who provide lifelong medical services. These include internists, family physicians, and pediatricians. Generalists provide a wide range of services children and adults need. When patients' specific health needs require further treatment, generalist physicians send them to see a specialist physician. Specialist physicians, such as neurologists, cardiologists, and ophthalmologists, differ from generalists in that they focus on treating a particular system or part of the body. They collaborate with generalist physicians to ensure that patients receive treatment for specific medical problems as well as complete and comprehensive care throughout life.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in a career as a physician should concentrate on high school courses in algebra, biology, chemistry, English, literature, geometry, physics, trigonometry, humanities, health professions, psychology, and computer skills.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

To practice medicine in Mississippi, physicians and resident physicians must have a license through the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure. During residency training, physicians generally work toward obtaining certification from one of the many approved medical specialty boards.

### Average Annual Salary

\$157,865

### Salary Range

\$131,075 - \$192,921

### Work Environment

- Hospitals
- Private practice
- Group practice
- Clinics
- Nursing homes
- Community health centers
- Urgent care centers
- Research facilities
- Medical schools
- Military



## College Requirements

Individuals interested in becoming a physician must complete a premedical program at an accredited college or university. These programs are four years in length and are very rigorous. Students must then pass the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) and get accepted into a school of medicine. This may require a personal interview, additional applications, or further testing. Once admitted into medical school, a student must graduate this four-year program, which is very difficult and expensive. Upon graduation, a student then begins a period of post-graduate training called a residency, which can last 3 to 8 years.

## Professional Organization



### American Medical Association

330 N Wabash Street, Suite 39300  
Chicago, IL 60611-5885

**Phone:** (800) 621-8335

[www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org)



### American Board of Medical Specialties

353 North Clark Street, Suite 1400  
Chicago, IL 60654

**Phone:** (312) 436-2600

[www.abms.org](http://www.abms.org)



### Association of American Medical Colleges

655 K Street NW, Suite 100  
Washington, DC 20001-2399

**Phone:** (202) 828-0400

**Fax:** (202) 828-1125

[www.aamc.org](http://www.aamc.org)



### Mississippi State Medical Association

408 West Parkway Place  
Ridgeland, MS 39157

**Phone:** (601) 853-6733

[www.msmaonline.com](http://www.msmaonline.com)

## Educational Institutions

University of Mississippi Medical Center, School of Medicine

## Career Outlook

Employment of physicians is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations. Job growth will occur because of the continued expansion of healthcare-related industries. The growing and aging population is expected to drive overall growth in the demand for physician services as consumers continue to seek high levels of care that uses the latest technologies, diagnostic tests, and therapies.



## PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

### Job Description

The physician assistant is academically and clinically prepared to practice medicine as part of a team led by a doctor of medicine or osteopathy. Within the physician-PA relationship, PAs make clinical decisions and provide a broad range of diagnostic, therapeutic, preventive and health maintenance services. The clinical role of PAs includes primary and specialty care in medical and surgical practice settings. PA practice is centered on patient care and may include educational, research, and administrative activities. The role of the physician assistant demands intelligence, sound judgment, intellectual honesty, appropriate interpersonal skills, and the capacity to react to emergencies in a calm and reasoned manner. An attitude of respect for self and others, adherence to the concepts of privilege and confidentiality in communicating with patients, and a commitment to the patient's welfare are essential attributes of the graduate PA.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in becoming a physician assistant should take high school courses in biology, chemistry, algebra, psychology, sociology, English, literature, health education, computer skills, medical technology, and geometry.

### Average Annual Salary

\$91,497

### Salary Range

\$73,032 - \$118,182

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Physicians' offices  
Nursing homes  
Clinics  
Community health centers  
Government facilities  
Colleges & universities

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Upon completion of an accredited PA program, students must pass an examination given by the National Commission for Certification of Physician Assistants. After certification, they must apply for a license from the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure to practice in this state. Due to changing requirements, contact the Board for up-to-date licensing requirements.

## College Requirements

Requirements for admission into a physician assistant program vary greatly. Most programs require at least four years of undergraduate study and some work experience in the health care field, but educational programs vary from state to state.

## Professional Organization



### American Academy of Physician Assistants

2318 Mill Road, Suite 1300  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**Phone:** (703) 836-2272

**Fax:** (703) 684-1924

[www.aapa.org](http://www.aapa.org)



### Physician Assistant Education Association

655 K. Street NW Suite 700  
Washington, DC 2001-2385

**Phone:** (703) 548-5538

**Fax:** (703) 548-5539

[www.apap.org](http://www.apap.org)

## Educational Institutions

Mississippi College

## Career Outlook

Employment of physician assistants is expected to increase much faster than the average for all occupations. As more physicians enter specialty areas of medicine, there will be a greater need for primary healthcare providers, such as physician assistants. Because physician assistants are more cost-effective than physicians, they are expected to have an increasing role in giving routine care. Physician assistants also will be needed because the population in general is growing.



## PODIATRIST

### Job Description

Podiatrists, also known as doctors of podiatric medicine (DPMs), specialize in diagnosing and treating disorders, diseases, and injuries of the foot, ankle, and lower leg. Podiatrists treat ingrown toenails, bunions, heel spurs, corns, calluses, and arch problems, ankle and foot injuries, deformities, and infections, wound care, including ulcerations, and foot complaints associated with diseases such as diabetes. To treat these problems, podiatrists prescribe drugs, order physical therapy, set fractures, and perform surgery. They also fit and prescribe corrective inserts called custom foot orthoses, apply plaster casts and strappings to correct deformities, and prescribe diabetic and custom-made shoes.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for a career in podiatry should include algebra, biology, chemistry, English, social studies, geometry, trigonometry, humanities, health, speech, psychology, history, and computer skills.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Mississippi, along with every other state, requires podiatrists to pass written and oral examinations to obtain a license, which is required to practice as a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM).

### Average Annual Salary

\$196,283

### Salary Range

\$162,170 - \$259,888

### Work Environment

Private practice  
Multispecialty group practices  
Hospitals Schools  
Nursing homes  
Health maintenance organizations  
U.S. Public Health Service  
Long-term care facilities Military

## College Requirements

Individuals interested in podiatry must first complete at least 90 semester hours of undergraduate study, including pre-med science courses. Colleges of podiatric medicine offer a 4-year program that is similar to other schools of medicine. Upon graduation, students may complete a specialty residency program that lasts from 1 to 3 years.

## Professional Organization



### American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine (AACPM)

15850 Crabbs Branch Way, Suite 320  
Rockville, MD 20855

**Phone:** (800) 948-9760

**Fax:** (301) 948-1928

[www.aacpm.org](http://www.aacpm.org)



### American Podiatric Medical Association

9312 Old Georgetown Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814-1621

**Phone:** (301) 581-9200

[www.apma.org](http://www.apma.org)

## Career Outlook

Employment of podiatrists is expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations. As the U.S. population both ages and increases, the number of people expected to have mobility and foot-related problems will rise. In addition, podiatrists are increasingly working in group practices along with other healthcare professionals. Continued growth in the use of outpatient surgery also will create new opportunities for podiatrists.



### Mississippi Podiatric Medical Association

5760 Highway 32, E.  
Water Valley, MS 38965

**Phone:** (662) 473-3422

# NURSING



## HOME HEALTH AIDE

### Job Description

Home health aides provide in-home care to elderly, disabled, and ill people. They provide many different services, including bathing, dressing, and housekeeping. They may also administer simple prescribed medications. Home health aides normally work under the supervision of a nurse or other medical professional who can provide assistance when more advanced care is required. They are required to maintain accurate and up-to-date records of services provided and the progress of the patient. Specific assignments and duties are usually given by a home health agency.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in home health should concentrate on courses in biology, algebra, family living, English, computer skills, child care, health education, home economics, physical education, and nurse's aide training.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Many states require that an aide be licensed as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). In Mississippi, home health aides are required to pass an annual physical examination and have a negative tuberculin (TB) test.

### Average Annual Salary

\$24,339

### Salary Range

\$22,338-\$27,071

### Work Environment

Patients' homes  
Hospice facilities  
Nursing homes  
Home health agencies

## College Requirements

Skills for this profession are often taught in high schools or vocational schools. Hospitals, nursing homes, and home health agencies usually offer training programs in this field.

## Professional Organization



### National Association for Home Care & Hospice

228 7th Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003

**Phone:** (202) 547-7424

**Fax:** (202) 547-3540

[www.nahc.org](http://www.nahc.org)



### Mississippi Association for Home Care

PO Box 115  
Clinton, MS 39060

**Phone:** (601) 924-2275

**Fax:** (601) 924-6249

[www.mahc.org](http://www.mahc.org)

## Educational Institutions

See Educational Institutions under Nursing Assistant.

## Career Outlook

Employment of home health aides is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations. As the baby-boom population ages and the elderly population grows, the demand for home health and personal care aides to provide assistance and companionship will continue to increase. Elderly and disabled clients increasingly rely on home care as a less expensive alternative to nursing homes or hospitals. Another reason for home care is that most clients prefer to be cared for in their homes, where they are most comfortable.



## LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

### Job Description

LPNs are certified healthcare professionals who are responsible for providing basic patient care. LPNs necessarily carry out their job duties under the supervision of either an RN or a doctor. An LPN collects information from the patients to be admitted; regarding medical records, medical insurance details, and helps in completing other pretreatment formalities. An LPN records health details of patients; which usually comprise blood pressure, body temperature, respiration and heartbeat rate among other vital signs. LPNs help the patient prepare for medical examinations, takes test samples from patients, and administers medicines and injections prescribed by the physician to the patients.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in a career as a licensed practical nurse should take high school courses in biology, chemistry, algebra, psychology, emergency medical technology, first aid, physical education, food and nutrition, child growth and development, health education, computer skills, English, geometry, and history.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

In order to practice in the state of Mississippi, individuals must become licensed by passing the National Council Licensure Examination for LPNs.

### Average Annual Salary

\$43,170

### Salary Range

\$31,444-\$53,551

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Nursing homes  
Dental offices  
Mental health institutions  
Private homes  
Community health clinics  
Public health departments



## College Requirements

Students entering a practical nursing program must have a high school diploma or the equivalent. Accredited practical nursing programs usually take between 12 and 18 months to complete. Programs include classroom as well as supervised clinical practice in patient care.

## Professional Organization



### National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses

3801 Lake Boone Trail, Suite 190  
Raleigh, NC 27607

**Phone:** (800) 948-2511

**Fax:** (919) 779-5642

[www.nalpn.org](http://www.nalpn.org)



### National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service

2071 N Bechtle Avenue PMB 307  
Springfield, OH 45504-1583

**Phone:** (703) 933-1003

**Fax:** (703) 940-4089

[www.napnes.org](http://www.napnes.org)

## Educational Institutions

Coahoma CC (C)  
Copiah-Lincoln CC (C)  
East Central CC (C)  
East Mississippi CC (C)  
Hinds CC (C)  
Holmes CC (C)  
Itawamba CC (C)  
Jones County JC (C)  
Meridian CC (C)  
Mississippi Delta CC (C)  
MS Gulf Coast CC (C)  
Northeast MS CC (C)  
Northwest MS CC (C)  
Pearl River CC (C)  
Southwest MS CC (C)



### Mississippi LPN Association

[linda.shows@mslpn.org](mailto:linda.shows@mslpn.org)

[www.mslpn.org](http://www.mslpn.org)

## Career Outlook

Employment of licensed practical nurses is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations. As the U.S. population ages, the overall need for healthcare is expected to increase. This trend will lead to increased employment of LPNs in hospitals, physicians' offices, and other healthcare settings. LPNs also will be needed in residential care facilities such as nursing homes and assisted-living centers. Many procedures that once could be done only in hospitals are now being done outside of hospitals, creating demand in other settings, such as outpatient care centers.



## NURSING ASSISTANT

### Job Description

Nursing assistants, sometimes called nurse aides, orderlies, and geriatric aides, assist in the care of patients. They work under the direction and supervision of registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and other medical staff. Nursing assistants have a great deal of contact with patients and provide personal care such as bathing, feeding, and dressing. They perform support functions, such as, transporting patients, taking vital signs, making beds, helping patients become ambulatory, and answering patient calls. They might be called upon to set up equipment like X-ray machines and overhead irrigation bottles. Nursing assistants are often responsible for observing and reporting how patients respond to the care that is being given. To be a successful nursing assistant, an individual must be a team player who is able to take orders well. They must also be emotionally stable and have a great deal of patience.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in becoming a nursing assistant should take courses in algebra, computer skills, English, history, biology, nurse's aide training, and health education.

### Average Annual Salary

\$31,605

### Salary Range

\$28,647-\$35,160

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Physicians' offices  
Home health agencies  
Nursing homes  
Private homes  
Mental health institutions

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Certification may be earned by taking an examination given by the Mississippi Department of Health to become a Certified Nurses' Assistant (CNA).

## College Requirements

Most employers require a high school diploma or the equivalent. Training is offered in a variety of settings, which may include high schools, vocational schools, community colleges, geriatric facilities, and employers. These courses usually last eight to ten weeks and result in a certificate of completion.

## Professional Organization



### American Nurses Association

8515 Georgia Avenue, Suite 400  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3492

**Phone:** (301) 628-5000

**Fax:** (301) 628-5001

[www.nursingworld.org](http://www.nursingworld.org)



### American Association of Medical Assistants

20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 1575  
Chicago, IL 60606

**Phone:** (312) 899-1500

**Fax:** (312) 899-1259

[www.aama-ntl.org](http://www.aama-ntl.org)

## Educational Institutions

All Mississippi community colleges offer Certified Nurse Aide training programs. In addition, many training programs are held in other municipalities at local vocational and training centers.

## Career Outlook

Employment of nursing assistants is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations. Because of the growing elderly population, many nursing assistants will be needed in long-term care facilities, such as nursing homes. Growth in the demand for healthcare services should lead to increased opportunities for nursing assistants in other industries as well, such as hospitals and clinics.



### Mississippi Nurses Association

31 Woodgreen Place  
Madison, MS 39110

**Phone:** (601) 898-0670

**Fax:** (601) 898-0190

[www.msnurses.org](http://www.msnurses.org)

# REGISTERED NURSE



## REGISTERED NURSE ASSOCIATE & BACCALAUREATE

### Job Description

Registered Nurses provide a variety of care services that include treating patients, educating patients and the public about various medical conditions, and providing advice and emotional support to patients' family members. RNs record patients' medical histories and symptoms, help to perform diagnostic tests and analyze results, operate medical machinery, administer treatment and medications, and help with patient follow-up and rehabilitation. RNs teach patients and their families how to manage illness or injury, including post-treatment home care needs, diet and exercise programs, and self-administration of medication and physical therapy. Some RNs also are educated to provide grief counseling to family members of critically ill patients. RNs work to promote general health by educating the public on various warning signs and symptoms of disease and where to go for help. RNs also might run health screening or immunization clinics, blood drives, and public seminars on various conditions.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in a career in nursing should take courses in biology, chemistry, algebra, geometry, psychology, sociology, first aid, food and nutrition, health education, physical education, English, computer skills, and foreign languages.

### Average Annual Salary

\$68,450

### Salary Range

\$47,120-\$102,990

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Nursing homes  
Public health departments  
Clinics Schools  
Physicians' offices  
Home health agencies  
Rehabilitation centers  
Mental health institutions  
Industrial & corporate sites  
Military

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Upon completion of an accredited school of nursing, both associate degree and baccalaureate degree graduates must take and pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) and obtain licensure as a Registered Nurse (RN) from the Mississippi Board of Nursing.

## College Requirements

There are two types of educational programs that prepare a graduate to be eligible to take the licensure examination to become a registered nurse : associate degree nursing programs and baccalaureate degree nursing programs. In Mississippi the associate degree programs are located in 13 community or junior colleges and two public universities. The seven baccalaureate degree programs are located in five public universities and two private colleges. The title Registered Nurse (RN) means that a person has graduated from an approved School of Nursing, passed the national licensing examination for registered nurses, and paid a fee to practice nursing in the state. The practice of nursing is defined by law and regulated by the Mississippi Board of Nursing.

**Associate Degree Nursing Programs (ADN)** prepare nurses at the basic level of entry for professional nursing practice. The associate degree program is two years in length and prepares the graduate as a first level professional caregiver. The practice of AD nursing is directed toward the promotion and protection of health and the prevention of illness for clients with both physiological and psychosocial needs across the life span. These nurses perform a range of complex interventions safely and competently in an integrated health care system. AD nurses participate in the management of nursing care including client teaching and supervision of ancillary nursing personnel.

**Bachelor of Science in Nursing Programs (BSN)**, sometimes called “Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Programs,” are four-year programs offered in a college or university. These programs prepare the professional nurse who practices nursing with individuals, families, and communities in a variety of health care settings. These nurses assess patient needs in stable and changing situations and plan, implement and evaluate care in a variety of settings. BSN Nurses provide health teaching, supervise others in the provision of healthcare, and have beginning healthcare research skill.

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## **REGISTERED NURSE ASSOCIATE & BACCALAUREATE ...CONTINUED**

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### **Career Outlook**

Employment of registered nurses is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations. Growth will occur primarily because of technological advancements, permitting a greater number of health problems to be treated; an increased emphasis on preventive care; and the large, aging baby boomer population who will demand more healthcare services as they live longer and more active lives than previous generations. Faster than average growth is expected in traditional hospital settings, as well as in non-hospital settings, such as physician's offices and home healthcare services.

### **Educational Institutions**

#### **Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN)**

Alcorn State University  
Coahoma CC  
Copiah-Lincoln CC  
East Central CC  
East Mississippi CC  
Hinds CC  
Holmes CC  
Itawamba CC  
Jones County JC  
Meridian CC  
Mississippi Delta CC  
Mississippi Gulf Coast CC  
Mississippi University for Women  
Northeast Mississippi CC  
Northwest Mississippi CC  
Pearl River CC  
Southwest Mississippi CC

#### **Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree (BSN)**

Alcorn State University  
Delta State University  
Mississippi College  
Mississippi University for Women  
University of Mississippi Medical Center  
University of Southern Mississippi  
William Carey College

## Professional Organization



### American Association of Colleges of Nursing

One Dupont Circle, N.W., Suite 530  
Washington, DC 20036

**Phone:** (202) 463-6930

**Fax:** (202) 785-8320

[www.aacn.nche.edu](http://www.aacn.nche.edu)



### American Nurses Association

8515 Georgia Avenue, Suite 400  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3492

**Phone:** (301) 628-5000

**Fax:** (301) 628-5001

[www.nursingworld.org](http://www.nursingworld.org)



### Mississippi Nurses Association

31 Woodgreen Place  
Madison, MS 39110

**Phone:** (601) 898-0670

**Fax:** (601) 898-0190

[www.msnurses.org](http://www.msnurses.org)



### Mississippi Organization for Associate Degree Nursing

57 Terrapin Drive  
Brandon, MS 39042

**Phone:** (601) 824-3605

[www.moadn.org](http://www.moadn.org)



### National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing

7794 Grow Drive  
Pensacola, FL 32514

**Phone:** (850) 484-6948

**Fax:** (850) 484-8762

[www.noadn.org](http://www.noadn.org)



## REGISTERED NURSE - MASTER'S & PHD

### Job Description

Nurses with a master's degree are prepared for leadership roles in health care delivery and for collaboration with others interested in health care. They are involved in advanced clinical practice, nursing research, nursing education, and development of advanced approaches to complex health problems facing patients and families. Master's prepared nurses are prepared to function as teachers, administrators, clinical nurse specialists, or nurse practitioners. The specific specialty of the expanded role nurse in Mississippi is determined by the type of educational program completed, State law, and rules/regulations of the Mississippi Board of Nursing.

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is an advanced postsecondary degree that prepares the nurse for leadership roles in complex health care delivery systems and educational institutions. Nurses prepared at the doctoral level are educated to contribute to nursing and health care research, health care public policy, and/or advanced clinical practice.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in a career in nursing should take courses in biology, chemistry, algebra, geometry, psychology, sociology, first aid, food and nutrition, health education, physical education, English, computer skills, and foreign languages.

### Average Annual Salary

\$86,000

### Salary Range

\$69,057 - \$118,283

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Community clinics/agencies  
Integrated health systems  
Private practices with physicians  
Colleges and universities  
Corporations  
Governmental agencies  
Private foundations  
Consultant practices  
Entrepreneurial endeavors

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

After receiving a master's degree, nurse practitioners and nurse anesthetists must pass a national certification examination in their area of specialty in order to practice in their expanded role.



## College Requirements

Students entering a master's degree program must have a BSN from an accredited college or university. Master's programs offer courses of study for clinical specialists, education, and administration/management. Master's education includes the study of concept, theory, and research. Additionally, it provides advanced preparation for nurse anesthetists and nurse practitioners. After receiving a master's degree, nurse practitioners and nurse anesthetists must pass a national certification examination in their area of specialty and be certified by the Mississippi Board of Nursing in order to practice in their expanded role. In order to be admitted to a PhD program, the student must have a master's degree and meet stringent admission criteria.

## Professional Organization



### American Association of Colleges of Nursing

One Dupont Circle, N.W., Suite 530  
Washington, DC 20036

**Phone:** (202) 463-6930

**Fax:** (202) 785-8320

[www.aacn.nche.edu](http://www.aacn.nche.edu)



### American Nurses Association

8515 Georgia Avenue, Suite 400  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3492

**Phone:** (301) 628-5000

**Fax:** (301) 628-5001

[www.nursingworld.org](http://www.nursingworld.org)

## Educational Institutions

Alcorn State University (MSN)  
Delta State University (MSN, DNP)  
Mississippi University for Women (MSN, DNP)  
University of Mississippi Medical Center (MSN, DNP)  
University of Southern Mississippi (MSN, DNP)  
William Carey University (MSN)

## Career Outlook

Employment of registered nurses is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations. Growth will occur primarily because of technological advancements, permitting a greater number of health problems to be treated; an increased emphasis on preventive care; and the large, aging baby boomer population who will demand more healthcare services as they live longer and more active lives than previous generations. Faster than average growth is expected in traditional hospital settings, as well as in non-hospital settings, such as physician's offices and home healthcare services.



### Mississippi Nurses Association

31 Woodgreen Place  
Madison, MS 39110

**Phone:** (601) 898-0670

**Fax:** (601) 898-0190

[www.msurses.org](http://www.msurses.org)



## CERTIFIED NURSE MIDWIFE

### Job Description

A nurse midwife provides support and guidance throughout the birthing process. A nurse midwife works to monitor the physical, emotional, and mental state of the mom throughout the birthing process. They are also integral at ensuring the safety of the baby and working with the woman throughout the birthing process. They are often involved throughout the pregnancy as either an alternative to a doctor or as a part of the medical team that a woman may see. They may handle everything from exams, to patient support, answering questions, and ensuring that the pregnancy remains healthy. A nurse midwife checks vital signs throughout pregnancy and measures the progress of the baby. The role of a nurse midwife may be very important during the labor and delivery process. They tend to be more hands-on than doctors and work with the woman to provide the physical, mental, and emotional support that she needs.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in a career in nursing should take courses in biology, chemistry, algebra, geometry, psychology, sociology, first aid, food and nutrition, health education, physical education, English, computer skills, and foreign languages.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Nurses who are in an expanded role must pass a national certification examination in their area of specialty in order to practice in their role.

### Average Annual Salary

\$104,590

### Salary Range

\$96,173 - \$118,488

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Community clinics/agencies  
Integrated health systems  
Private practices with physicians  
Colleges and universities  
Corporations  
Governmental agencies  
Private foundations  
Consultant practices  
Entrepreneurial endeavors



## **NURSE ADMINISTRATOR/ NURSE EXECUTIVE**

### **Job Description**

A nurse administrator creates work schedules, gives performance reviews and develops work policies. Other job duties include keeping up established ethical and legal standards for job performance, attending administrative personnel meetings and developing new employee training. Most of the work of a nurse administrator is done in an office and not on the care floor, so an administrator has little or no direct contact with patients. A nurse administrator may work in a hospital, nursing home, private doctor's office, home health care organization or urgent care facility.

### **High School Preparation**

Students interested in a career in nursing should take courses in biology, chemistry, algebra, geometry, psychology, sociology, first aid, food and nutrition, health education, physical education, English, computer skills, and foreign languages.

### **Licensure, Certification, and Registration**

Nurses who are in an expanded role must pass a national certification examination in their area of specialty in order to practice in their role.

### **Average Annual Salary**

\$81,033

### **Salary Range**

\$58,518 - \$121,870

### **Work Environment**

Hospitals  
Community clinics/agencies  
Integrated health systems  
Private practices with physicians  
Colleges and universities  
Corporations  
Governmental agencies  
Private foundations  
Consultant practices  
Entrepreneurial endeavors



## NURSE ANESTHETIST

### Job Description

Nurse Anesthetists work as registered nurses who can administer anesthetics. Nurse anesthetists work with patients to ensure that they receive appropriate levels of these important drugs before surgeries or other procedures. As anesthetics involve very specialized administration, the profession of nurse anesthetists requires not only working experience in patient care but also specialized training in how to handle anesthesia and anesthetics properly. Nurse anesthetists work under the direction of doctors and surgeons and in conjunction with the nursing and operating room staff. They are responsible for reviewing and understanding a patient's condition and treatment options, so that they can be certain how the anesthetics will respond within the patient. Nurse anesthetists are not only responsible for the administration of the anesthetics before the procedure, but they must monitor the patient throughout the patient's anesthesia to ensure that the patient is handling the drugs appropriately. Nurse anesthetists must alter the amount of the drug and the speed at which it's administered as necessary throughout the surgery so that the patient is kept in the best possible care.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in a career in nursing should take courses in biology, chemistry, algebra, geometry, psychology, sociology, first aid, food and nutrition, health education, physical education, English, computer skills, and foreign languages.

### Average Annual Salary

\$176,546

### Salary Range

\$162,262 - \$192,576

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Community clinics/agencies  
Integrated health systems  
Private practices with physicians  
Colleges and universities  
Corporations  
Governmental agencies  
Private foundations  
Consultant practices  
Entrepreneurial endeavors

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Nurses who are in an expanded role must pass a national certification examination in their area of specialty in order to practice in their role.



## **NURSE PRACTITIONER**

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### **Job Description**

A nurse practitioner is an advanced practice nurse that helps with all aspects of patient care, including diagnosis, treatments and consultations. They may work in both inpatient and outpatient situations and can perform independently or as part of a treatment team. Generally, nurse practitioners perform the important task of educating patients about preventative care and the prescribed treatments. They may also conduct physicals, order tests and serve as a patient's primary healthcare provider. Some nurse practitioners are also able to prescribe medications.

### **High School Preparation**

Students interested in a career in nursing should take courses in biology, chemistry, algebra, geometry, psychology, sociology, first aid, food and nutrition, health education, physical education, English, computer skills, and foreign languages.

### **Licensure, Certification, and Registration**

Nurses who are in an expanded role must pass a national certification examination in their area of specialty in order to practice in their role.

### **Average Annual Salary**

\$93,650

### **Salary Range**

\$86,300-\$101,032

### **Work Environment**

Hospitals  
Community clinics/agency  
Integrated health systems  
Private practices with physicians  
Colleges and universities  
Corporations  
Governmental agencies  
Private foundations  
Consultant practices  
Entrepreneurial endeavors

# PHARMACY



## PHARMACIST

### Job Description

Pharmacists provide information to patients about medications and their use and distribute drugs prescribed by physicians and other health practitioners. They advise physicians and other health practitioners on the selection, dosages, interactions, and side effects of medications. Pharmacists also monitor the health and progress of patients in response to drug therapy to ensure the safe and effective use of medication. Pharmacists must understand the use, clinical effects, and composition of drugs, including their chemical, biological, and physical properties. Compounding—the actual mixing of ingredients to form powders, tablets, capsules, ointments, and solutions—is a small part of a pharmacist’s practice, because most medicines are produced by pharmaceutical companies in a standard dosage and drug delivery form.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in pharmacy should concentrate on high school courses in algebra, biology, chemistry, geometry, physics, trigonometry, computer science, humanities, English, health education, and economics.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

To become a licensed pharmacist, a student must graduate from an accredited school of pharmacy, pass a state board examination, and serve an internship under a licensed pharmacist in a community or hospital pharmacy. Most states, including Mississippi, require continuing education for license renewal.

### Average Annual Salary

\$127,122

### Salary Range

\$119,558 - \$135,743

### Work Environment

Independent pharmacies  
Retail pharmacies  
Hospitals  
Nursing homes  
Pharmaceutical companies  
Public health departments  
Medical research firms  
Military

## College Requirements

A pharmacy degree program requires at least 2 to 4 years of specific pre-professional (undergraduate) coursework followed by 4 years of professional study in an accredited school of pharmacy.

## Professional Organization



### American Pharmacists Association

2215 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20037

**Phone:** (202) 628-4410

**Fax:** (202) 783-2351

[www.pharmacist.com](http://www.pharmacist.com)



### American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

1400 Crystal Drive, Suite 300  
Arlington, VA 22202

**Phone:** (703) 739-2330

**Fax:** (703) 836-8982

[www.aacp.org](http://www.aacp.org)



### American Society of Health-System Pharmacists

4500 East-West Highway, Suite 900  
Bethesda, MD 20814

**Phone:** (866) 279-0681

[www.ashp.org](http://www.ashp.org)



### Mississippi Pharmacists Association

341 Edgewood Terrace Drive  
Jackson, MS 39206

**Phone:** (601) 981-0416

**Fax:** (601) 981-0451

[www.mspharm.org](http://www.mspharm.org)

## Educational Institutions

University of Mississippi (BS, PharmD)

## Career Outlook

Employment of pharmacists is expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations. Several factors are likely to contribute to this increase. Scientific advances will lead to new drug products. More people may get insurance coverage for medications. The number of older people is growing, and older people use more prescription medicines than younger people. As healthcare continues to become more complex and as more people take multiple medications, more pharmacists will be needed to counsel patients on how to use their medications safely.



### American Pharmacists Association

13000 W. 87th Street Parkway  
Lenexa, KS 66215-4530

**Phone:** (913) 492-3311

**Fax:** (913) 492-0088

[www.accp.com](http://www.accp.com)



## PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

### Job Description

Pharmacy technicians assist licensed pharmacists by performing duties that do not require the professional skills and judgment of a licensed pharmacist and assisting in those duties that require the expertise of a pharmacist. These duties may include collecting, organizing, and evaluating information to assist pharmacists in serving patients, preparing, dispensing, distributing, and administering medications, and providing drug information and education. Pharmacy technicians are employed in every practice setting where pharmacy is practiced, including institutional, community, home care, long-term care, mail order, and managed care pharmacies. Technicians are also employed in education, research, and the pharmaceutical industry.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for a career in pharmacy should include algebra, biology, chemistry, computer skills, health education, history, English, and geometry.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

National certification is offered through the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB), and upon successful completion of the national exam an individual earns the title of Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT). Mississippi does not require technicians to be nationally certified.

### Average Annual Salary

\$33,335

### Salary Range

\$30,063 - \$37,191

### Work Environment

- Retail pharmacies
- Hospitals & clinics
- Military
- Home health care pharmacies
- Health maintenance organizations



## College Requirements

While many pharmacy technicians receive on-the-job training, some community colleges offer formal training programs that are two years in length and offer an Associate's Degree upon completion. Many employers prefer to hire technicians with formal training, previous experience, and/or national certification.

## Professional Organization



### American Association of Pharmacy Technicians

P.O. Box 391043  
Omaha, NE 68139

**Phone:** (336) 333-9356

**Fax:** (336) 333-9068

[www.pharmacytechnician.com](http://www.pharmacytechnician.com)



### American Pharmacists Association

2215 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20037

**Phone:** (202) 628-4410

**Fax:** (202) 783-2351

[www.pharmacist.com](http://www.pharmacist.com)



### American Society of Health-System Pharmacists

4500 East-West Highway, Suite 900  
Bethesda, MD 20814

**Phone:** (866) 279-0681

[www.ashp.org](http://www.ashp.org)



### Mississippi State Medical Association

PO Box 2548  
Ridgeland, MS 39158-2548

**Phone:** (601) 853-6733

[www.msmaonline.com](http://www.msmaonline.com)

## Educational Institutions

Hinds CC (AAS)

Jones County JC (AAS)

## Career Outlook

Employment of pharmacy technicians is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations. As a result of advances in pharmaceutical research, more prescription medications are being used to fight diseases. Also, the number of older people is growing, and older people use more prescription drugs than younger people.

# RADIOLOGY



## NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGIST

### Job Description

Nuclear medicine technologists obtain adequate knowledge of a patient's medical history to understand the illness or condition and evaluate the appropriateness of the pending diagnostic or therapeutic procedure; instruct patients before and during procedures; evaluate whether patient preparation is satisfactory before beginning a procedure; and recognize emergency patient conditions and initiate life-saving first aid when necessary. They apply knowledge of radiation physics and safety regulations to limit radiation exposure; prepare and administer radiopharmaceuticals; use radiation detection devices that measure the quantity and distribution of radionuclides deposited in the patient; and apply quality control techniques as part of a quality assurance program covering all procedures and products in the laboratory.

### Educational Institutions

High school preparation for students interested in nuclear medicine technology should include algebra, chemistry, physics, biology, computer science, English, health education, statistics, geometry, and computer skills.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

The Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board and the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists offer examinations that allow individuals to become certified.

### Average Annual Salary

\$74,350

### Salary Range

\$53,440 - \$101,850

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Clinics  
Diagnostic centers  
Research facilities  
Public health departments  
Educational facilities  
Physicians' offices

## College Requirements

Individuals interested in nuclear medicine technology must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Students may complete a one or two-year certificate program, a two-year associate degree program, or a four-year baccalaureate degree program.

## Professional Organization



### Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board

3558 Habersham at Northlake, Bldg. I  
Tucker, GA 30084

**Phone:** (404) 315-1739

**Fax:** (404) 315-6502

[www.nmtcb.org](http://www.nmtcb.org)



### Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologist

1850 Samuel Morse Drive  
Reston, VA 20190

**Phone:** (703) 708-9000

**Fax:** (703) 708-9015

[www.snmmti.org](http://www.snmmti.org)

## Educational Institutions

Mississippi Delta CC (C)  
University of Mississippi Medical Center (C)

## Career Outlook

Employment of nuclear medicine technologists is expected to grow about as fast as the average for all occupations.



### American Registry of Radiologic Technologists

1255 Northland Drive  
St. Paul, MN 55120

**Phone:** (651) 687-0048

[www.arrt.org](http://www.arrt.org)



## RADIATION THERAPIST

### Job Description

The radiation therapist accepts responsibility for administering a radiation oncologist (physician)-prescribed course of radiation therapy, providing patient care, and maintaining treatment records. Radiation therapists also assess treatment delivery and changes in daily patient physiologic and psychologic conditions. Additional responsibilities may include tumor localization, dosimetry, patient follow-up, and patient education. Radiation therapists must display competence and compassion in meeting the special needs of the oncology patient.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for a career in radiation therapy should include courses in biology, anatomy and physiology, physics, chemistry, algebra, geometry, health education, English, computer skills, and history.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Certification may be obtained by passing an examination given by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists.

### Average Annual Salary

\$80,143

### Salary Range

\$72,434 - \$89,542

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Cancer treatment centers  
Physicians' offices  
Educational facilities  
Governmental facilities  
Research laboratories

## College Requirements

Individuals entering a radiation therapy program should have a high school diploma or the equivalent. Programs range in length from a 1-year certificate program, a 2-year associate's degree program, or a 4-year bachelor's degree program

## Professional Organization



### American Registry of Radiologic Technologists

1255 Northland Drive  
St. Paul, MN 55120

**Phone:** (651) 687-0048

[www.arrt.org](http://www.arrt.org)



### American Society of Radiologic Technologists

15000 Central Avenue, SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87123-3909

**Phone:** (505) 298-4500

**Fax:** (505) 298-5063

[www.asrt.org](http://www.asrt.org)



### American Society of Health-System Pharmacists

4500 East-West Highway, Suite 900  
Bethesda, MD 20814

**Phone:** (866) 279-0681

[www.ashp.org](http://www.ashp.org)



### Mississippi State Medical Association

PO Box 2548  
Ridgeland, MS 39158-2548

**Phone:** (601) 853-6733

[www.msmaonline.com](http://www.msmaonline.com)

## Career Outlook

Employment of radiation therapists is expected to faster than the average for all occupations. However, because it is a small occupation, the fast growth will result in only about 3,400 new jobs over the 10-year period from 2010 to 2020.



## RADIOLOGICAL TECHNICIAN

### Job Description

Radiological technicians use radiation-producing equipment to image tissues, organs, bones, and vessels of the body, as prescribed by physicians, to assist in the diagnosis of disease or injury. Radiological technicians provide patient care services and are responsible for limiting radiation exposure to patients, themselves, and others. Radiological technicians use critical-thinking skills to modify technical parameters in order to create diagnostic images based on variable patient conditions.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in radiology should take high school courses in algebra, biology, chemistry, computer science, English, physics, history, health education, and geometry.

### Career Outlook

Registration for radiological technicians is offered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. To be eligible for registration, technicians generally must have graduated from an accredited program and pass an examination. Registration is voluntary in Mississippi.

### Average Annual Salary

\$43,222

### Salary Range

\$34,403 - \$54,995

### Work Environment

- Hospitals
- Medical clinics & laboratories
- Nursing homes
- Colleges and universities
- Governmental facilities
- Mobile radiological facilities
- Physicians' offices
- Urgent care centers
- Public health departments
- Specialized imaging centers

## College Requirements

Radiological technicians must complete formal training in an approved hospital training program or complete a 2-year Associate of Applied Science degree in radiological technology.

## Professional Organization



### American Registry of Radiologic Technologists

1255 Northland Drive  
St. Paul, MN 55120

**Phone:** (651) 687-0048

[www.arrt.org](http://www.arrt.org)



### American Society of Radiologic Technologists

15000 Central Avenue, SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87123-3909

**Phone:** (505) 298-4500

**Fax:** (505) 298-5063

[www.asrt.org](http://www.asrt.org)

## Educational Institutions

Alcorn State University (BS)  
Copiah-Lincoln CC (AAS)  
Hinds CC (AAS)  
Itawamba CC (AAS)  
Jones County JC (AAS)  
Meridian CC (AAS)  
Mississippi Delta CC (AAS)  
Mississippi Gulf Coast CC (AAS)  
Northeast Mississippi CC (AAS)  
Pearl River CC (AAS)  
University of Mississippi Medical Center (BS)

## Career Outlook

Employment of radiologic technologists is expected to grow by 28 percent through 2020, faster than the average for all occupations. An increasing aging population will have more medical conditions, such as breaks and fractures caused by osteoporosis, which require imaging to diagnose and treat. Radiologic technologists will be needed to maintain and use the diagnostic equipment.



## SONOGRAPHER

### Job Description

The sonographer provides patients with diagnostic services in a variety of medical settings that assist the physician in the interpretation of ultrasound procedures. These duties include obtaining, reviewing, and integrating pertinent patient history and supporting clinical data to facilitate optimum diagnostic results, performing appropriate procedures and recording anatomical, pathological, and/or physiological data for interpretation by a physician, recording and processing sonographic data and other pertinent observations made during the procedure for presentation to the interpreting physician, exercising discretion and judgment in the performance of sonographic services, providing patient education related to medical ultrasound, promoting principles of good health.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in a career in sonography should take high school courses in computer science, biology, chemistry, physics, algebra, health education, geometry, and English.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Because most employers require sonographers to be certified, individuals can go through the American Registry of Medical Sonographers to gain certification. Upon successful completion of the national exam, sonographers become Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (RDMS).

### Average Annual Salary

\$63,630

### Salary Range

\$48,660 - \$99,100

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Physicians' offices  
Clinics  
OB/GYN clinics  
Diagnostic imaging centers



## College Requirements

Diagnostic medical sonographers must have a college preparatory diploma in order to enter an approved training program. There are several educational/training avenues available: 1-year certificate program, 2-year program that culminates in an Associate's Degree, and 4-year Bachelor Degree program.

## Professional Organization



### American Society of Radiologic Technologists

15000 Central Avenue, SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87123-3909

**Phone:** (505) 298-4500

**Fax:** (505) 298-5063

[www.asrt.org](http://www.asrt.org)



### Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography

2745 North Dallas Parkway, Suite 350  
Plano, TX 75093-8730

**Phone:** (214) 473-8057

**Fax:** (214) 473-8563

[www.sdms.org](http://www.sdms.org)

## Educational Institutions

Hinds CC (AAS, C)

Jones County JC (AAS, C)

## Career Outlook

Employment of radiologic technologists is expected to grow by 28 percent through 2020, faster than the average for all occupations. An increasing aging population will have more medical conditions, such as breaks and fractures caused by osteoporosis, which require imaging to diagnose and treat. Radiologic technologists will be needed to maintain and use the diagnostic equipment.



### The American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers

1401 Rockville Pike, Suite 600  
Rockville, MD 20852-1402

**Phone:** (301) 378-8401

**Fax:** (301) 738-0312

[www.ardms.org](http://www.ardms.org)

# REHABILITATION/RECREATION



## ORTHOTIST & PROSTHETIST

### Job Description

Orthotics and prosthetics are applied physical disciplines that address neuromuscular and structural skeletal problems in the human body with a treatment process that includes evaluation and transfer of forces using orthoses and prostheses to achieve optimum function, prevent further disability, and provide cosmesis. The orthotist and prosthetist work directly with the physician and representatives of other allied health professions in the rehabilitation of the physically challenged. The orthotist designs and fits devices, known as orthoses, to provide care to patients who have disabling conditions of the limbs and spine. The prosthetist designs and fits devices, known as prostheses, for patients who have partial or total absence of a limb.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for a career in prosthetics should include algebra, geometry, biology, chemistry, physics, metal shop, woodworking, welding, English, computer skills, health education, psychology, and social studies.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

To become certified, an individual must take and pass an examination given by the American Board for Certification in Orthotics and Prosthetics.

### Average Annual Salary

\$56,440

### Salary Range

\$34,580 - \$112,680

### Work Environment

Private offices  
Hospitals  
Rehabilitation centers  
Research laboratories  
Universities

## College Requirements

Individuals interested in a career as a prosthetist or orthotist must have a high school diploma or the equivalent. They must also complete a bachelor's degree program in prosthetics or orthotics, and then complete a residency program under a licensed professional.

## Professional Organization



### Organization of Orthotic and Prosthetic Association (AOPA)

330 John Carlyle Street, Suite 200  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**Phone:** (571) 431-0876

**Fax:** (571) 431-0899

[www.aopanet.org](http://www.aopanet.org)



### The American Academy of Orthotists & Prosthetists

526 King Street, Suite 201  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**Phone:** (703) 836-0788

**Fax:** (703) 836-0737

[www.oandp.org](http://www.oandp.org)

## Career Outlook

Employment of orthotists and prosthetists is expected to grow by 12 percent through 2020, about as fast as the average for all occupations. The aging baby-boom population will create a need for prosthetists because the two leading causes of limb loss, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, occur more frequently as people age. In addition, advances in technology may spur demand for prostheses that allow for more natural movement. The demand for orthotic devices, such as braces and orthopedic footwear, will likely increase because older people tend to need these support devices.



### The American Board for Certification in Orthotics and Prosthetics

330 John Carlyle Street, Suite 210  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**Phone:** (703) 836-7114

**Fax:** (703) 836-0838

[www.abcop.org](http://www.abcop.org)



## ATHLETIC TRAINER

### Job Description

Athletic trainers prevent, examine, and treat athletes' injuries. They also work with team doctors to provide physical therapy for athletes who are recovering from injuries and to show athletes how to build their strength and avoid further injury. Other duties may include recommending special diets and exercises, ordering equipment and supplies, and keeping records on the athletes with whom they work.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in a future as an athletic trainer should take high school courses in algebra, geometry, biology, chemistry, physics, first aid, health education, English, computer skills, physical education, and history.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Individuals must pass a three-part national certification examination given by The National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA) to become certified. Mississippi also requires an individual to obtain a state license in order to practice as a certified athletic trainer.

### Average Annual Salary

\$40,740

### Salary Range

\$26,170 - \$65,970

### Work Environment

Secondary schools  
Colleges and universities  
Professional sports teams  
Sports medicine clinics  
Health clubs  
Hospitals  
Corporate health programs

## College Requirements

Students entering an athletic training program should have a high school diploma or the equivalent. Students must earn a college degree from a university with an accredited athletic training program that includes clinical experience.

## Professional Organization



### National Athletic Trainers Association

2952 Stemmons Freeway, Suite 200  
Dallas, TX 75247

**Phone:** (214) 637-6282

**Fax:** (214) 637-2206

[www.nata.org](http://www.nata.org)



### National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE)

1900 Association Drive  
Reston, VA 20191

**Phone:** (703) 476-3410

**Fax:** (703) 476-8316

[www.aahperd.org/naspe](http://www.aahperd.org/naspe)

## Educational Institutions

Delta State University (BS)

University of Southern Mississippi (BS)

## Career Outlook

Employment of athletic trainers is expected to grow by 30 percent through 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations. However, because it is a small occupation, the fast growth will result in only about 5,500 new jobs over the 10-year period from 2010 to 2020. As people become more aware of sports-related injuries at a young age, demand for athletic trainers is expected to increase, most significantly in schools and youth leagues.



### Mississippi Athletic Trainers Association

[www.mata.camp7.org](http://www.mata.camp7.org)

# SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING



## BIOLOGICAL/RESEARCH SCIENTIST

### Job Description

Biological scientists are research scientists who examine how living organisms relate to the environment. They can specialize in any number of plant, animal or environmental studies. Biological scientists often divide their time between studying an object in its environment and working in research laboratories. Biological scientists often divide their time between studying an object in its environment and working in research laboratories. Common job duties may include analyzing plants, researching mammal habitats, studying relationship patterns and testing specimens. Much of any biological scientist's research typically relates to finding a way to promote, cure, treat or improve plant and animal habitats.

### High School Preparation

High school students interested in becoming a research scientist should concentrate on courses in biology, chemistry, physics, algebra, calculus, geometry, trigonometry, English, literature, physical education, computer skills, sociology, and health education.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure/Certification is not required for biological and research scientists.

### Average Annual Salary

\$71,900

### Salary Range

\$40,100 - \$106,320

### Work Environment

- Colleges & universities
- Hospitals
- Research facilities
- Government facilities
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Biomedical industries
- Chemical plants

## College Requirements

Individuals interested in biological and research science must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a specific specialty. Individuals with this level of education can only work in non-research positions. Anyone interested in conducting research must obtain a master's degree, and in most cases a doctoral degree is required to conduct advanced research. Only individuals with a Ph.D. can teach at the university level or advance to administrative positions.

## Professional Organization



### American Institute of Biological Sciences

1900 Campus Commons Drive, Suite 200  
Reston, VA 20191

**Phone:** (703) 674-2500

**Fax:** (703) 674-2509

[www.aibs.org](http://www.aibs.org)



### Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

9650 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20814

**Phone:** (301) 634-7000

**Fax:** (301) 634-7001

[www.faseb.org](http://www.faseb.org)



### American Physiology Society

9650 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20814-3991

[www.the-aps.org](http://www.the-aps.org)



### American College of Epidemiology

1500 Sunday Drive, Suite 102  
Raleigh, NC 27607

**Phone:** (919) 861-5573

**Fax:** (919) 787-4916

[www.acepidemiology.org](http://www.acepidemiology.org)

## Educational Institutions

Delta State University (BS, MS)  
Jackson State University (BS, MS)  
Millsaps College (BS)  
Mississippi College (BS, MS)  
Mississippi State University (BS, MS, PhD)  
Mississippi University for Women (BS)  
University of Mississippi (BS, MS, PhD)  
University of Southern Mississippi (BS, MS, PhD)

## Career Outlook

Employment of biochemists and biophysicists is projected to increase by 31 percent through 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations. However, because it is a small occupation, the fast growth will result in only about 7,700 new jobs over the 10-year period from 2010 to 2020. More biochemists and biophysicists are expected to be needed to do basic research that increases scientific knowledge and to research and develop biological products and processes that improve our lives.



## BIOMEDICAL ENGINEER

### Job Description

Biomedical engineers combine their knowledge of biology and medicine with engineering principles and practices to develop devices and procedures that solve medical and health-related problems. That is, biomedical engineers try to answer medical challenges by helping design and develop new equipment or methods. Biomedical engineers help develop a wide variety of medical instruments and devices. Biomedical engineers also work to improve equipment, such as artificial limbs, heart valves, and kidney machines. They contribute to the development of such devices as heart pacemakers, which can be implanted in a patient's body to improve the heart's functioning.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in biomedical engineering should take courses in biology, chemistry, physics, algebra, calculus, geometry, trigonometry, English, literature, composition, mechanical drawing, physical education, computer science, sociology, and health education.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

State engineering boards test, evaluate, and license individuals as professional engineers in their specific disciplines. Additional professional testing and certification in this specialty can be obtained through the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation and the American Board of Clinical Engineering.

### Average Annual Salary

\$71,341

### Salary Range

\$34,519 - \$110,100

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Medical laboratories  
Academic laboratories  
Industrial laboratories  
Governmental research labs  
Military  
Undersea & space programs



## College Requirements

Individuals interested in this engineering specialty must first obtain a bachelor's degree in engineering. Most employers require that an individual have a biomedical engineering degree. Anyone interested in research or teaching must obtain a graduate degree.

## Professional Organization



### Biomedical Engineering Society

8201 Corporate Drive, Suite 1125  
Landover, MD 20785-2224

**Phone:** (301) 459-1999

**Fax:** (301) 459-2444

[www.bmes.org](http://www.bmes.org)



### Association for Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI)

4301 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 301  
Arlington, VA 22203-1633

**Phone:** (703) 525-4890

**Fax:** (703) 276-0793

[www.aami.org](http://www.aami.org)

## Educational Institutions

Mississippi State University (BS, MS, PhD)

## Career Outlook

Employment of biomedical engineers is projected to grow by 62 percent through 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations. However, because it is a small occupation, the fast growth will result in only about 9,700 new jobs over the 10-year period from 2010 to 2020. The aging baby-boom generation is expected to increase demand for biomedical devices and procedures, such as hip and knee replacements, because this generation seeks to maintain its healthy and active lifestyle. Additionally, as the public has become aware of medical advances, increasing numbers of people are seeking biomedical advances for themselves from their physicians.



### National Association for Biomedical Research

818 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20006

**Phone:** (202) 857-0540

**Fax:** (202) 659-1902

[www.nabr.org](http://www.nabr.org)



## BIOMEDICAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN

### Job Description

Biomedical equipment technicians specialize in the use, maintenance, and repair of medical equipment such as heart-lung machines, dialysis machines, medical imaging machines, and defibrillators. Unlike electrocardiograph and electroencephalograph technicians, who specialize in one type of equipment, biomedical equipment technicians are familiar with many different kinds of machines. Technicians make minor repairs on equipment at the hospital. When equipment must be sent back to the manufacturer for major repairs, they write an analysis of the problem so the manufacturer can fix and return the equipment quickly. Technicians also maintain detailed records on the use and condition of all equipment.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for a career in biomedical equipment technology should include biology, physics, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, English, literature, mechanical drawing, electricity and electronics, industrial arts, computer skills, and health education.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

While Mississippi does not require biomedical equipment technicians to be certified, the US Certification Commission (USCC) offers certification to individuals that wish to become Certified Biomedical Equipment Technicians (CBET).

### Average Annual Salary

\$46,217

### Salary Range

\$37,651 - \$55,758

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Medical centers  
Large clinics  
Medical equipment manufacturers  
Government agencies

## College Requirements

Individuals interested in biomedical equipment technology should have a high school diploma or the equivalent. Most employers prefer to hire people that have obtained a two-year associate's degree in electronics, medical technology, or an engineering related field from an accredited technical college.

## Professional Organization



### American Society of Healthcare Engineering

155 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 400  
Chicago, IL 60606

**Phone:** (312) 422-3800

**Fax:** (312) 422-4571

[www.ashe.org](http://www.ashe.org)



### Association for Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI)

4301 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 301  
Arlington, VA 22203-1633

**Phone:** (703) 525-4890

**Fax:** (703) 276-0793

[www.aami.org](http://www.aami.org)

## Career Outlook

Employment of biomedical equipment technician is expected to grow 31 percent through 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations. Employment growth will stem from both greater demand for healthcare services and the increasing types and complexity of the equipment these workers maintain and repair. A major factor in the greater demand for healthcare services is the aging population. As people age, they usually need more medical care. With the expected increase in the number of older adults and with people living longer, health professionals are prescribing more medical tests that use new, complex equipment.



## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST

### Job Description

Environmental health specialists monitor health and safety conditions in residential, industrial, commercial, and recreational settings. A person who works as an environmental health specialist may also be called an environmental health or safety inspector, or a health and safety specialist. The main responsibilities of the position are to determine the existence of possible health hazards and to take steps to correct them. As part of the inspection process, environmental health specialists may collect samples of soil, air, water, and possible pollutants from the places they inspect. They then test the samples to determine whether there are dangerous levels of any hazardous substances. If possible health problems are discovered, the specialists draw up a plan to monitor the facility to determine the source and nature of the hazard. This may involve setting up equipment at the inspection site to monitor air or water quality and checking the records periodically to ensure that health and quality standards are met. The environmental health specialist then evaluates the success of any steps taken to resolve the problem and finds alternative solutions if necessary.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for environmental health sciences should include courses in algebra, geometry, trigonometry, calculus, biology, chemistry, physics, English, literature, computer skills, and health education.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Optional certification may be obtained through the National Environmental Health Association.

### Average Annual Salary

\$49,120

### Salary Range

\$38,090 - \$110,560

### Work Environment

State & local health departments  
Hospitals  
Private businesses  
Wildlife parks  
Environmental agencies

## College Requirements

Most environmental health specialists earn a bachelor's degree in environmental health, but some have a degree in a related field such as biological/chemical sciences or environmental engineering. Career opportunities can be greatly advanced by earning a master's or doctoral degree in this specialty.

## Professional Organization



### National Environmental Health Association

720 South Colorado Blvd., Suite 1000-N  
Denver, CO 80246

**Phone:** (303) 756-9090

**Fax:** (303) 691-9490

[www.neha.org](http://www.neha.org)



### National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

111 T W Alexander Dr  
Research Triangle Pk, NC 27709

**Phone:** (919) 541-3345

**Fax:** (301) 480-2978

[www.niehs.nih.gov](http://www.niehs.nih.gov)

## Educational Institutions

Mississippi Valley State University (BS, MS)

## Career Outlook

Employment of environmental scientists and specialists is expected to grow by 19 percent through 2020. Heightened public interest in the hazards facing the environment, as well as the increasing demands placed on the environment by population growth, is projected to spur demand for environmental scientists and specialists. Further demand is also expected as a result of new and increasingly complex environmental laws and regulations.



### Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs

4500 9th Ave NE Suite #394  
Seattle, WA 98105

**Phone:** (206) 522-5272

**Fax:** (206) 985-9805

[www.aehap.org](http://www.aehap.org)



## INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST

### Job Description

Industrial hygienists are occupational health and safety specialists concerned with the maintenance of good health among industrial workers. They attempt to prevent occupational diseases among employees and minimize environmental health hazards in the workplace. They are trained to anticipate, recognize, evaluate, and work to alleviate adverse working conditions that may cause illness or impair the health of workers. Such conditions may include excessive noise or the presence of dust, vapors, chemicals, and other potentially hazardous materials common to some industrial settings. Industrial hygienists frequently collect air or water samples and monitor noise levels to determine if any harmful conditions exist. They may also conduct radiological studies to measure radioactivity levels at job sites. The growth of high-technology and service industries has led to stress-related health problems, which industrial hygienists also examine.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for students interested in industrial hygiene should include algebra, geometry, trigonometry, calculus, biology, chemistry, physics, English, health, computer skills, and health education.

### Average Annual Salary

\$63,960

### Salary Range

\$46,756 - \$83,339

### Work Environment

Government agencies  
Insurance agencies  
Environmental agencies  
Consulting firms  
Labor unions  
Industry  
Military

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

The American Board of Industrial Hygiene offers varying degrees of certification for individuals that have completed the required education.

## College Requirements

Students must complete a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in occupational safety and health, environmental health engineering, physical science, or natural science. Most employers, however, prefer candidates with master's degrees in Occupational Safety and Health, Environmental Health Engineering, or Environmental Health Sciences.

## Professional Organization



### American Board of Industrial Hygiene

6015 West St. Joseph, Suite 102  
Lansing, MI 48917-3980

Phone: (517) 321-2638

Fax: (517) 321-4624

[www.abih.org](http://www.abih.org)



### American Industrial Hygiene Association

3141 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 777  
Falls Church, VA 22042

Phone: (703) 849-8888

Fax: (703) 207-3561

[www.aiha.org](http://www.aiha.org)

## Career Outlook

Employment of industrial hygienists is expected to grow by 9 percent through 2020. New environmental regulations and laws will require specialists to create and enforce procedures in the workplace. The increased adoption of nuclear power as a source of energy may also be a major factor for job growth for specialists in that field. These specialists will be needed to create and carry out programs to maintain the safety of both the workers and the environment.



### National Environmental Health Association

720 South Colorado Blvd., Suite 1000-N  
Denver, CO 80246

Phone: (303) 756-9090

Fax: (303) 691-9490

[www.neha.org](http://www.neha.org)



## REGULATORY SCIENTIST

### Job Description

Regulatory scientists are professionals that specialize in scientific research, usually in the pharmaceutical industry, as well as in the international regulations that govern scientific discovery. This dual role requires extensive knowledge of a broad range of subjects and constant continuing education because of the ever-changing nature of this specialty. Regulatory scientists usually work as an intermediary between research and development teams and federal agencies, such as, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This is done in order to expedite quality drug development and secure final product approval from the FDA. They also coordinate all quality review activities in order to ensure that any problems with a product are identified and corrected before it is put on the market. This profession requires excellent communication and inter-personal skills as well as the ability to pay close attention to detail.

### High School Preparation

High school students interested in becoming a regulatory scientist should concentrate on courses in biology, chemistry, physics, algebra, calculus, geometry, trigonometry, English, literature, physical education, computer science, sociology, and health education.

### Average Annual Salary

\$75,399

### Salary Range

\$66,000 - \$139,000

### Work Environment

Pharmaceutical companies  
Research facilities  
Government facilities  
Colleges & universities  
Academic medical centers  
Biomedical industries  
Chemical plants

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

While there is no formal certification for this specialty, most regulatory scientists are licensed or certified by their respective professional associations, such as, medicine and pharmacy.



## College Requirements

Individuals must first obtain an undergraduate degree in a science related field. The majority of employers require an advanced degree, such as a DMD, PharmD, RPh, MS, MD, or PhD, as well as extensive experience in a regulatory or scientific area.

## Professional Organization



### Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

9650 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20814

**Phone:** (301) 634-7000

**Fax:** (301) 634-7001

[www.faseb.org](http://www.faseb.org)



### American Institute of Biological Sciences

1900 Campus Commons Drive, Suite 200  
Reston, VA 20191

**Phone:** (703) 674-2500

**Fax:** (703) 674-2509

[www.aibs.org](http://www.aibs.org)

## Educational Institutions

Regulatory Scientists should be well established in the biological and pharmaceutical sciences. See the educational institutions for biological scientists and pharmacists.

## Career Outlook

Employment of regulatory scientists is expected to be excellent through 2020. Ongoing medical research, as well as an increased reliance on pharmaceuticals, will likely maintain current levels of demand for regulatory scientists. A growing and aging population also is expected to increase demand for these scientists. Most employment growth will likely be in private industry because regulatory scientists possess the scientific and regulatory knowledge that helps expedite the product development process. Demand has increased because regulatory scientists' expertise is needed in developing prescription drugs and other biomedical tools. Pharmaceutical companies and other firms whose work is not just in biotechnology have adopted biotechnology techniques in their other work, thus creating employment for regulatory scientists.



## RESEARCH SCIENTIST

### Job Description

Research scientists study diseases, drugs, microorganisms, the environment, and other areas related to human health in an effort to prolong life by helping to prevent and cure illnesses. They conduct research to determine the action of foods, drugs, hormones, nutrients, and other substances on the tissues and processes of living things. They often develop new vaccines and treatments to combat disease, as well as develop new tests to detect diseases and other abnormalities that affect human health. Research scientists may specialize in a variety of different areas, such as, anatomy, bacteriology, biochemistry, biophysics, biostatistics, epidemiology, genetics, immunology, marine biology, microbiology, molecular biology, pathology, pharmacology, physics, or virology. Research scientists may work alone or as part of a team that may include several laboratory assistants. They usually conclude their research by writing detailed reports and scientific papers that are submitted to professional journals for publication.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in research science should concentrate on high school courses in algebra, geometry, trigonometry, calculus, biology, chemistry, physics, English, literature, computer skills, and health education.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

While there is no formal certification for this specialty, most regulatory scientists are licensed or certified by their respective professional associations, such as, medicine and pharmacy.

### Average Annual Salary

\$77,078

### Salary Range

\$46,679 - \$116,484

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Government  
Colleges & universities  
Commercial laboratories  
Military

## College Requirements

Individuals must first obtain an undergraduate degree in a science related field. The majority of employers require an advanced degree, such as a DMD, PharmD, RPh, MS, MD, or PhD, as well as extensive experience in a regulatory or scientific area.

## Professional Organization



### Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

9650 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20814

**Phone:** (301) 634-7000

**Fax:** (301) 634-7001

[www.faseb.org](http://www.faseb.org)



### American Institute of Biological Sciences

1900 Campus Commons Drive, Suite 200  
Reston, VA 20191

**Phone:** (703) 674-2500

**Fax:** (703) 674-2509

[www.aibs.org](http://www.aibs.org)

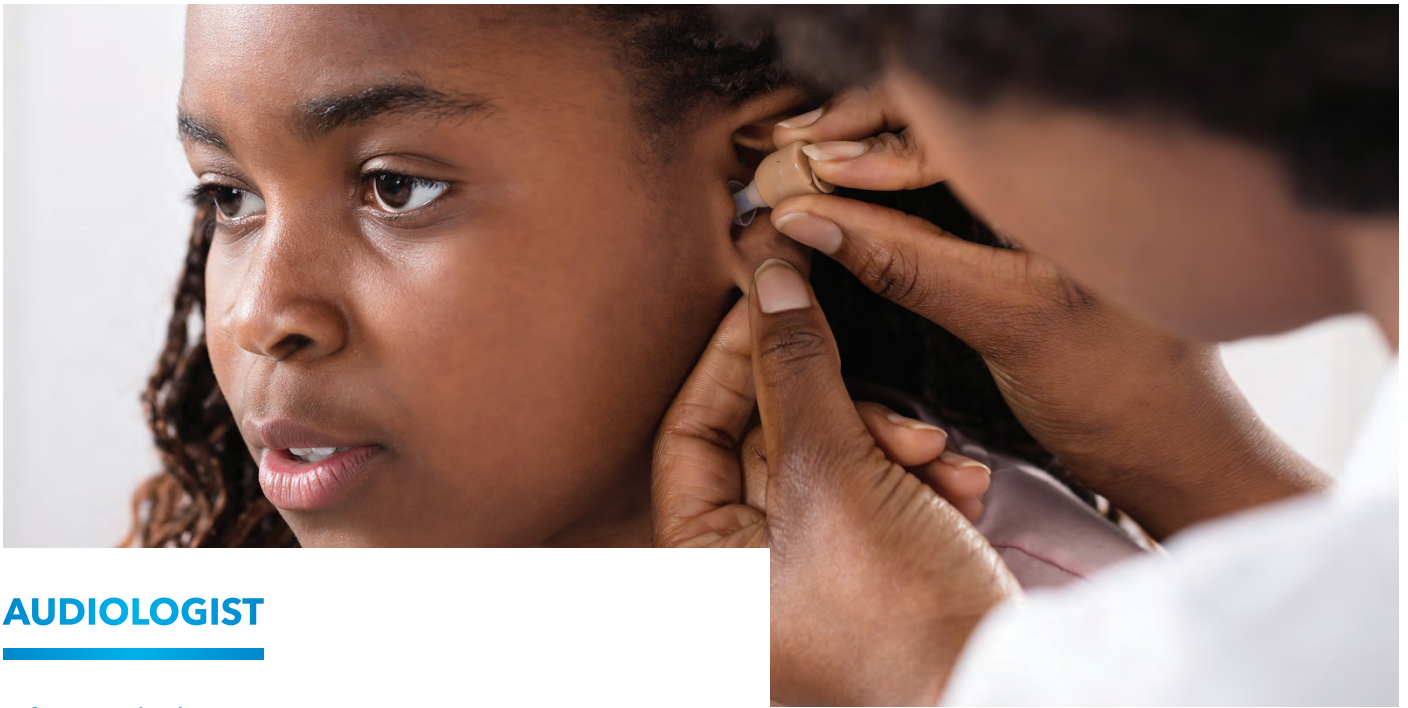
## Educational Institutions

Regulatory Scientists should be well established in the biological and pharmaceutical sciences. See the educational institutions for biological scientists and pharmacists.

## Career Outlook

Employment of regulatory scientists is expected to be excellent through 2020. Ongoing medical research, as well as an increased reliance on pharmaceuticals, will likely maintain current levels of demand for regulatory scientists. A growing and aging population also is expected to increase demand for these scientists. Most employment growth will likely be in private industry because regulatory scientists possess the scientific and regulatory knowledge that helps expedite the product development process. Demand has increased because regulatory scientists' expertise is needed in developing prescription drugs and other biomedical tools. Pharmaceutical companies and other firms whose work is not just in biotechnology have adopted biotechnology techniques in their other work, thus creating employment for regulatory scientists.

# SPEECH AND HEARING



## AUDIOLOGIST

### Job Description

Audiologists are professionals who work with people that exhibit hearing, balance, and related communication problems. They evaluate individuals of all ages and identify those with the symptoms of hearing loss and other auditory, balance, and related neural problems. They then assess the nature and extent of the problems and help the individuals manage them. Using clinical skills and technology, audiologists measure the loudness at which a person begins to hear sounds, the ability to distinguish between sounds, and the impact of hearing loss or balance problems on an individual's communication ability that impacts their daily life. Audiologists interpret these results and may coordinate them with medical, speech-language, educational, and psychological information to make a diagnosis and determine a course of treatment. Audiologists must effectively communicate diagnostic test results, interpretation, and proposed treatment in a manner easily understood by patients/clients and their families/caregivers as well as other professionals

### High School Preparation

High school courses beneficial to audiologists are biology, physics, chemistry, geometry, algebra, English, health occupations, sociology, psychology, computer skills, social studies, and speech.

### Average Annual Salary

\$79,261

### Salary Range

\$72,964 - \$86,560

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Colleges and universities  
Rehabilitation centers  
Clinics  
Physicians' offices  
Governmental agencies  
Speech and hearing centers  
Nursing homes  
Research laboratories  
Private practices

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Mississippi requires audiologists to be licensed by receiving the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) from American Speech- Language-Hearing Association.

## College Requirements

Individuals interested in audiology must have a bachelor's degree in a major with a broad liberal arts background. All states require audiologists to hold a master's degree or the equivalent in order to obtain a license.

## Professional Organization



### American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

2200 Research Blvd.  
Rockville, MD 20350-3289

**Phone:** (301) 296-5700

**Fax:** (301) 296-8580

[www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)



### American Academy of Audiology

11480 Commerce Park Drive, Suite 220  
Reston, VA 20191

**Phone:** (800) AAA-2336

**Fax:** (703) 476-5157

[www.audiology.org](http://www.audiology.org)

## Educational Institutions

University of Southern Mississippi (AuD)

## Career Outlook

Employment of audiologists is expected to continue to grow. However, because it is a small occupation, the growth will not result in large numbers of jobs. Hearing loss increases as people age, so an aging population is likely to increase demand for audiologists. The early identification and diagnosis of hearing disorders in infants also will spur employment growth. Advances in hearing aid design, such as the reduction of feedback and a smaller size, may make the devices more appealing as a means to minimize hearing loss, leading to more demand for the audiologists who provide hearing aids.



### Mississippi Speech-Language- Hearing Association

PO Box 22664  
Jackson, MS 39225

**Phone:** (800) 664-6742, Ext. 0 (zero)

**Fax:** (601) 608-7928

[www.mshausa.org](http://www.mshausa.org)



## SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

### Job Description

Speech-language pathologists are professionals who are educated in the study of human communication, its development, and its disorders. Speech-language pathologists work with people with reduced speech intelligibility; with speech rhythm and fluency problems, such as stuttering; with voice quality problems, such as inappropriate pitch or harsh voice; with problems understanding and producing spoken and written language; with cognitive communication impairments, such as attention, memory, and problem-solving disorders; and with hearing loss for people who use hearing aids or cochlear implants, in order to develop auditory skills and improve communication. They also work with people who have swallowing difficulties and those who do not have communication disorders but who would like to improve their presentation skills or modify an accent.

### High School Preparation

Preparation for this career should include biology, physics, chemistry, geometry, algebra, English, health education, sociology, psychology, computer science, social studies, and speech.

### Career Outlook

Speech-language pathologists must complete an internship and pass a national certification examination given by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in order to become licensed. Successful completion of these requirements results in the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP).

### Average Annual Salary

\$74,680

### Salary Range

\$71,405 - \$84,705

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Colleges & universities  
Rehabilitation centers  
Clinics  
Physicians' offices  
Industry  
Governmental agencies  
Speech & hearing centers  
Nursing homes  
Research laboratories

## College Requirements

Speech-language pathologists are required to have a minimum of a master's level education. Individuals must obtain a bachelor's degree in an acceptable major with a broad liberal arts curriculum. They must then gain admission into a speech-language program, which is usually very competitive.

## Professional Organization



### American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

2200 Research Blvd.  
Rockville, MD 20350-3289

**Phone:** (301) 296-5700

**Fax:** (301) 296-8580

[www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)



### Mississippi Speech-Language- Hearing Association

PO Box 22664  
Jackson, MS 39225

**Phone:** (800) 664-6742, Ext. 0 (zero)

**Fax:** (601) 608-7928

[www.mshausa.org](http://www.mshausa.org)

## Educational Institutions

Jackson State University (MS)  
Mississippi University for Women (MS)  
University of Mississippi (MS)  
University of Southern Mississippi (MS, MA)

## Career Outlook

Employment of speech-language pathologists is expected to grow. As the large baby-boom population grows older, there will be more instances of health conditions that cause speech or language impairments, such as strokes and hearing loss. These increases are expected to add to the number of speech and language disorders in the population and require more speech-language pathologists to treat these patients. Increased awareness of speech and language disorders, such as stuttering, in younger children should also lead to a need for more speech-language pathologists who specialize in treating that age group.

# THERAPY



## CREATIVE ARTS THERAPY

### Job Description

Creative art therapists use art, music and dance to assess and treat clients with emotional, cognitive, physical, and/or developmental needs and disorders. Creative arts therapy interventions can be designed to promote wellness, manage stress, improve physical functioning, alleviate pain, enhance memory and cognitive functioning, improve communication, and provide unique opportunities for interaction. Using their skills in evaluation and psychotherapy, they choose materials and interventions appropriate to their clients' needs and design sessions to achieve therapeutic goals and objectives. Creative art therapists also maintain appropriate charts, records, and periodic reports on client progress as required by agency guidelines and professional standards; participate in professional staff meetings and conferences; and provide information and consultation regarding the client's clinical progress. They also may function as supervisors, administrators, consultants, and expert witnesses. With the growing acceptance of complementary therapies and recent research findings on creative art therapy with medical populations, creative art therapy is increasingly being applied in practice for a variety of patient groups.

### High School Preparation

High school students interested in becoming a creative arts therapist should take courses in biology, physics, algebra, English, literature, fine arts (dance, drama, art, music, etc.), physical education, computer skills, psychology, sociology, and health education.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

1,000 hours of supervised postgraduate service. Dance therapists can obtain two levels of certification, Registered Dance Therapist and Registered Academy of Dance Therapist. To become a Certified Music Therapist (CMT), individuals must serve a 1,040-hour clinical internship in a facility approved by the National Association for Music Therapy.

### Average Annual Salary

\$42,578

### Salary Range

\$30,137 - \$64,504

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Nursing homes  
Clinics  
Rehabilitation facilities  
Colleges & universities  
Correctional institutions  
Halfway houses  
Residential treatment centers  
Behavioral health centers  
Art studios



## College Requirements

Creative arts therapists are required to have a master's level education to practice. Each specialty has its own set of professional standards and requisite qualifications.

## Professional Organization



### American Art Therapy Association

4875 Eisenhower Avenue, Suite 240  
Alexandria, VA 22304

**Phone:** (703) 548-5860

**Fax:** (703) 783-8468

[www.arttherapy.org](http://www.arttherapy.org)



### American Dance Therapy Association

10632 Little Patuxent Parkway, Suite 108  
Columbia, MD 21044

**Phone:** (410) 997-4040

**Fax:** (410) 997-4048

[www.adta.org](http://www.adta.org)



### American Music Therapy Association, Inc.

8455 Colesville Road, Suite 1000  
Silver Springs, MD 20910

**Phone:** (301) 589-3300

**Fax:** (301) 589-5175

[www.musictherapy.org](http://www.musictherapy.org)



### National Association for Drama Therapy

44365 Premier Plaza, Suite 220  
Ashburn, VA 20147

**Phone:** (888) 416-7167

**Fax:** (571) 223-6440

[www.nadt.org](http://www.nadt.org)

## Educational Institutions

Most Mississippi colleges and universities offer programs in art and/or dance.

## Career Outlook

Employment of creative arts therapists is increase through 2020. Art therapy is an expanding field. Employment opportunities are increasing as art therapy becomes recognized by professionals, work settings, and consumers. Graduates of art therapy programs are successful at finding employment in both full and part-time positions.



## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

### Job Description

Occupational therapists use occupations for therapeutic means, including everyday life activities, with individuals, groups, populations, or organizations to support participation, performance, and function in roles and situations in home, school, workplace, community, and other settings. Occupational therapy services are for habilitation, rehabilitation, and promoting health and wellness to those who have or are at risk for developing an illness, injury, disease, disorder, condition, impairment, disability, activity limitation, or participation restriction. Occupational therapy addresses the physical, cognitive, psychosocial, sensory-perceptual, and other aspects of performance in a variety of contexts and environments to support engagement in occupations that affect physical and mental health, well-being, and quality of life.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for this profession should include courses in biology, chemistry, physics, health, physical education, art, algebra, physical science, psychology, sociology, english, and computer skills.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Upon completion of all college requirements, eligible individuals must pass a national exam to become licensed, which will allow that individual to use the initials OTR (Occupational Therapist Registered).

### Average Annual Salary

\$78,666

### Salary Range

\$59,488 - \$92,934

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Outpatient clinics  
Rehabilitation centers  
Mental health centers  
Nursing homes  
Schools  
Home health agencies  
Hospice centers

## College Requirements

A master's degree in occupational therapy is the minimum requirement for entry into this field. The curriculum usually includes six months of supervised fieldwork.

## Professional Organization



### American Occupational Therapist Association

4720 Montgomery Ln Ste 200  
Bethesda, MD 20814-3449

**Phone:** (301) 652-2682

**Fax:** (301) 652-7711

[www.aota.org](http://www.aota.org)



### Mississippi State Department of Health Division of Special Licensure

570 East Woodrow Wilson Drive  
Jackson, MS 39216

**Phone:** (601) 576-7400

[www.msdh.state.ms.us](http://www.msdh.state.ms.us)

## Educational Institutions

University of Mississippi Medical Center (MS)

## Career Outlook

Employment of occupational therapists is expected to increase 33 percent through 2020. Occupational therapy will continue to be an important part of treatment for people with various illnesses and disabilities, such as Alzheimer's disease, cerebral palsy, autism, or the loss of a limb. The need for occupational therapists will increase as the large baby-boom population ages and people remain active later in life. Specifically, occupational therapists help senior citizens maintain their independence by recommending home modifications and strategies that make daily activities easier. Job opportunities should be good for licensed occupational therapists in all settings, particularly in acute hospital, rehabilitation, and orthopedic settings because the elderly receive most of their treatment in these settings.



### Mississippi Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 13706  
Jackson, MS 39236

**Phone:** (601) 956-4105

**Fax:** (601) 956-4105

[www.angelfire.com/ms/msota](http://www.angelfire.com/ms/msota)



## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

### Job Description

Occupational therapy assistants provides services to clients focusing on participation in selected activities to restore, reinforce, and enhance performance; facilitate learning of those skills and functions essential for adaptation and participation; diminish or correct pathology; and promote and maintain health and wellness. A fundamental concern is the development and maintenance of the skill and capacity throughout the lifespan to perform with satisfaction to self and others meaningful activities and roles essential to social participation and to the mastery of self and the environment. Under the supervision of and in partnership with the occupational therapist, occupational therapy assistants participates in the development of adaptive skills and performance capacity and is concerned with factors that promote, influence, or enhance performance, as well as those that serve as barriers or impediments to the individual's occupational performance. The occupational therapy assistant provides service to those clients whose abilities to perform meaningful activities of living are threatened or impaired by developmental deficits, the aging process, poverty and cultural differences, physical injury or illness, psychological or social disability.

### High School Preparation

High school students interested in becoming an occupational therapist assistant should concentrate on courses in biology, algebra, chemistry, English, physical education, computer skills, physical science, psychology, sociology, and health education.

### Average Annual Salary

\$52,229

### Salary Range

\$41,205 - \$61,339

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Nursing homes  
Rehabilitation facilities  
Long-term care facilities  
Private homes  
Mental health agencies  
Schools & camps  
Private practice

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Following the completion of all educational requirements, individuals must take a national examination in order to become a certified occupational therapist assistant (COTA). This certification is required to practice in the State of Mississippi.

## College Requirements

A high school diploma or the equivalent is required for admission to an accredited OTA program. Occupational therapist assistants must then obtain an associate's degree from a certified program.

## Professional Organization



### American Occupational Therapist Association

4720 Montgomery Ln Ste 200  
Bethesda, MD 20814-3449

**Phone:** (301) 652-2682

**Fax:** (301) 652-7711

[www.aota.org](http://www.aota.org)



### American Occupational Therapy Foundation

4720 Montgomery Lane  
Bethesda, MD 20814

**Phone:** (301) 652-2682

**Fax:** (301) 656-3620

[www.aotf.org](http://www.aotf.org)

## Educational Institutions

Holmes CC (AAS)

Itawamba CC (AAS)

Pearl River CC (AAS)

## Career Outlook

Employment of occupational therapy assistants is expected to increase 43 percent through 2020. Demand for occupational therapy is expected to rise significantly in response to the health needs of the aging baby-boom generation and a growing elderly population. Older adults are especially prone to conditions such as arthritis that affect their everyday activities. Occupational therapy assistants will be needed to assist occupational therapists in caring for these people. Occupational therapy will also continue to be used for treating children and young adults with developmental disabilities like autism.



### Mississippi Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 13706  
Jackson, MS 39236

**Phone:** (601) 956-4105

**Fax:** (601) 956-4105

[www.angelfire.com/ms/msota](http://www.angelfire.com/ms/msota)



## PHYSICAL THERAPIST

### Job Description

The physical therapist provides services to many different kinds of patients/clients, from those recovering from accidents or illness and people with disabilities to world-class athletes. Physical therapists help improve patients' strength and mobility, relieve pain, and prevent or limit permanent physical disabilities. Physical therapists take a personal and direct approach to meeting an individual's health goals, working closely with the patient and other health care practitioners. They provide the patient and the patient's family with instruction and home programs to ensure that healing continues after direct patient care has ended. Physical therapists also work to keep people well and safe from injury, emphasizing the importance of fitness and conditioning and showing people how to avoid injuries at work or play. Physical therapy promotes optimal physical performance and enables health-conscious people to increase their overall fitness level and muscular strength and endurance.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for a career in physical therapy should include biology, chemistry, medical assisting, algebra, trigonometry, health education, computer skills, humanities, and geometry.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Physical therapists are required to become licensed to practice in the state of Mississippi. This licensure can be gained through the Mississippi State Department of Health with approval of educational transcripts as well as passing the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE) given by the National Physical Therapy Association.

### Average Annual Salary

\$82,597

### Salary Range

\$63,523 - \$98,155

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Rehabilitation centers  
Clinics  
Physicians' offices  
Nursing homes  
Home health agencies  
Adult day care programs  
Schools  
Wellness and community centers  
Private industry

## College Requirements

Students interested in physical therapy must complete a four-year undergraduate degree and graduate from an accredited school of physical therapy. These programs are at the master's and doctoral level and usually last 2 to 3 years.

## Professional Organization



### American Physical Therapy Association

1111 North Fairfax Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-1488

**Phone:** (703) 684-2782

**Fax:** (703) 706-8536

[www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org)



### Mississippi Physical Therapy Association

1111 North Fairfax Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**Phone:** (703) 706-8512

[www.mspta.org](http://www.mspta.org)

## Educational Institutions

Hinds CC (AAS)  
Itawamba CC (AAS)  
Meridian CC (AAS)  
Pearl River CC (AAS)  
University of Mississippi Medical Center (M.A., DPT)

## Career Outlook

Employment of physical therapist assistants is expected to increase 46 percent from 2010 to 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations. Demand for physical therapy services is expected to increase in response to the health needs of an aging population, particularly the large baby-boom generation. This group is staying more active later in life than previous generations. Physical therapists are expected to increasingly use assistants and aides to reduce the cost of physical therapy services. Once the physical therapist has evaluated a patient and designed a treatment plan, the physical therapist assistant can provide many parts of the treatment, as directed by the therapist.



## RECREATIONAL THERAPIST

### Job Description

Recreational therapists are professionally trained practitioners who individually assess the patient or consumer plan intervention programs, implement safe and effective evidence-based recreational therapy interventions, evaluate the effectiveness of intervention programs, manage recreational therapy practice. Recreational therapists provide individualized and group recreational therapy interventions for individuals experiencing limitations in life activities and community participation as a result of a disabling condition, illness or disease, aging, and/or developmental factors, including those at risk. Recreational therapists use a variety of educational, behavioral, recreational, and activity-oriented strategies with clients to enhance functional performance and improve positive lifestyle behaviors designed to increase independence, effective community participation, and well-being. Recreational therapists are effective members of treatment teams in health care and community-based health care and human service agencies.

### High School Preparation

High school students interested in becoming a recreational therapist should concentrate on courses in biology, algebra, English, literature, physical education, computer skills, physical science, psychology, sociology, and health education.

### Average Annual Salary

\$33,820

### Salary Range

\$26,640 - \$62,670

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Nursing homes  
Rehabilitation facilities  
Long-term care facilities  
Correctional institutions  
Substance abuse centers  
Behavioral health centers  
Private practice

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

The National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification offers certification for recreational therapists who pass a national examination.



## College Requirements

Individuals interested in recreational therapy must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Employers usually require a bachelor's degree in recreational therapy from an accredited institution, but may hire an individual with an associate degree or sufficient work experience.

## Professional Organization



### American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA)

629 North Main St  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

**Phone:** (601) 450-2872

**Fax:** (601) 582-3354

[www.atra-online.com](http://www.atra-online.com)



### The National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification

7 Elmwood Drive  
New City, New York 10956

**Phone:** (845) 639-1439

**Fax:** (845) 639-1471

[www.nctrc.org](http://www.nctrc.org)

## Educational Institutions

University of Mississippi (BS, MS)

University of Southern Mississippi (BS, MS, PhD)

Career Outlook Employment of recreational therapists is expected to grow by 17 percent through 2020. As the large baby-boom generation ages, they will need recreational therapists to help treat age-related injuries and illnesses, such as strokes. As people age, their declines in general physical ability, and sometimes mental ability, may also be treated with recreational therapy. Legislation requiring federally-funded services for disabled students will continue to shape the need for recreational therapists in education settings. Job prospects will be best for recreational therapists with both a bachelor's degree and certification. Therapists who specialize in working with the elderly or who earn certification in geriatric therapy may have the best job prospects.



## RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

### Job Description

Respiratory therapists are health care professionals, dedicated to providing life-enhancing, life-supporting quality care to the elderly, adults, children and newborns. Respiratory therapists work under the direction of physicians to assess, manage, treat and perform diagnostic evaluation, educate and care for patients with abnormalities and deficiencies associated with the cardiopulmonary system. Respiratory therapists work throughout hospitals, usually in emergency room settings and intensive care units. Therapists are a unique blend of technically sharp, analytical thinkers and patient-centered caregivers. Some therapists focus on pediatric/neonatal care while others specialize in pulmonary rehabilitation and continuing care in patient homes or rehabilitative care facilities. Respiratory therapists may also work in areas such as medical equipment sales, cardiopulmonary diagnostics or education and management.

### High School Preparation

Preparation for a career in respiratory therapy should include biology, health education, algebra, chemistry, physics, English, computer skills, geometry, emergency medical technology, and computer science.

### Average Annual Salary

\$41,662

### Salary Range

\$32,074 - \$49,026

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Physicians' offices  
Nursing homes  
Respiratory clinics  
Respiratory equipment suppliers  
Home health agencies

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Upon completion of all educational requirements, individuals must pass an examination given by the National Board of Respiratory Care. They will earn the title of Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) and will be eligible for a state license.

## College Requirements

Individuals interested in respiratory therapy must have a high school diploma or equivalent. They must also complete a respiratory care education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

## Professional Organization



### American Association of Respiratory Care

9425 N. MacArthur Blvd. Suite 100  
Irving, TX 75063-4706

**Phone:** (972) 243-2272

**Fax:** (972) 484-2720

[www.aarc.org](http://www.aarc.org)



### The National Board of Respiratory Care

18000 W. 105th St.  
Olathe, KS 66061-7543

**Phone:** (913) 895-4900

**Fax:** (913) 895-4650

[www.nbrc.org](http://www.nbrc.org)

## Educational Institutions

Coahoma CC (AS)  
Copiah-Lincoln CC (AS)  
Hinds CC (AAS)  
Itawamba CC (AS)  
Meridian CC (AS)  
Northeast Mississippi CC (AS)  
Northwest Mississippi CC (AAS)  
Pearl River CC (AS)



### Mississippi Society for Respiratory Care

[www.msrcweb.com](http://www.msrcweb.com)

## Career Outlook

Employment of respiratory therapists is expected to grow by 28 percent through 2020. Growth in the middle-aged and elderly population will lead to an increased incidence of respiratory conditions such as emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and pneumonia, respiratory disorders that permanently damage the lungs or restrict lung function. These factors will lead to an increased demand for respiratory therapy services and treatments, mostly in hospitals and nursing homes. Respiratory therapists with certification or a bachelor's degree will have the best job prospects.



## THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SPECIALIST

### Job Description

Therapeutic recreation uses treatment, education, and recreation services to help people with illnesses, disabilities, and other conditions develop and use their leisure in ways that enhance their health, functional abilities, independence, and quality of life. Recreational therapy services use various interventions to treat physical, cognitive, emotional, and social conditions associated with illness, injury, or chronic disabilities. Recreational therapy includes an education component, which enables individuals to become more informed and active partners in their health care by using activity to cope with the stress of illness and disability. Furthermore, these services assist individuals with managing their disabilities so they may achieve and maintain optimal levels of independence, productivity, and well-being and enter/re-enter the mainstream of community life. Therapeutic recreation services also include the provision of recreational opportunities (eg, wheelchair sports, exercise and fitness programs, social activities) that can minimize health care costs by allowing individuals with disabilities mechanisms to prevent declines in their physical, cognitive, social, and emotional health, thereby reducing the need for medical services.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for students interested in a career as a therapeutic recreation specialist should include algebra, biology, psychology, sociology, health education, English, computer skills, physical education, and speech.

### Average Annual Salary

\$41,060

### Salary Range

\$25,620 - \$65,040

### Work Environment

- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- Clinics
- Child & adult day care facilities
- Mental health agencies
- Rehabilitation centers
- Federal & state agencies

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

The National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification offers a certification examination to anyone who has completed the required educational prerequisites.

## College Requirements

Individuals entering a therapeutic recreation specialist program should have a high school diploma or the equivalent. A bachelor's degree in therapeutic recreation (or in recreation with an option in therapeutic recreation) is usually the requirement for hospital and clinical positions. An associate's degree may be sufficient for some nursing home positions.

## Professional Organization



### American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA)

629 North Main St  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

**Phone:** (601) 450-2872

**Fax:** (601) 582-3354

[www.atra-online.com](http://www.atra-online.com)



### The National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification

7 Elmwood Drive  
New City, New York 10956

**Phone:** (845) 639-1439

**Fax:** (845) 639-1471

[www.nctrc.org](http://www.nctrc.org)

## Educational Institutions

University of Southern Mississippi (BS)  
University of Mississippi (BS, MS)

## Career Outlook

Employment opportunities for therapeutic recreation specialists are expected to grow steadily through the year 2012. The aging of the large baby boom generation is expected to increase demand for therapeutic recreation specialists. Third party payers will continue to use therapeutic recreation specialists' services as a way to cut costs in patients' recoveries from injuries or illnesses, moving treatment to outpatient settings rather than more costly hospital settings.

# VETERINARY MEDICINE



## VETERINARIAN

### Job Description

Veterinarians diagnose animal health problems; vaccinate against diseases, such as distemper and rabies; medicate animals suffering from infections or illnesses; treat and dress wounds; set fractures; perform surgery; and advise owners about animal feeding, behavior, and breeding. Veterinarians who treat animals use medical equipment such as stethoscopes, surgical instruments, and diagnostic equipment, including radiographic and ultrasound equipment. Veterinarians working in research use a full range of sophisticated laboratory equipment.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation should include biology, algebra, geometry, physical science, chemistry, biochemistry, genetics, nutrition, physics, English, physiology, statistics, trigonometry, and computer skills.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

To become a licensed veterinarian, an individual must graduate from an accredited college of veterinary medicine and pass national and state licensure examinations.

### Average Annual Salary

\$69,060

### Salary Range

\$49,910 - \$145,230

### Work Environment

Private & group practice  
Government agencies  
Private industries  
Medical colleges and universities  
Zoos  
Research laboratories  
Public health agencies  
Pharmaceutical companies

## College Requirements

Students interested in veterinary medicine should complete a 4-year undergraduate degree before applying to veterinary school. Admission into veterinary school is highly competitive; therefore, students must have a high grade point average, high scores on entrance examinations, and experience working with animals.

## Professional Organization



### American Veterinary Medical Association

1931 N. Meacham Road, Suite 100  
Schaumburg, IL 60173-4360

**Phone:** (800) 248-2862

**Fax:** (847) 925-1329

[www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)



### Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges

1101 Vermont Ave. NW, Suite 301  
Washington, DC 20005

**Phone:** (202) 371-9195

**Fax:** (202) 842-0773

[www.aavmc.org](http://www.aavmc.org)

## Educational Institutions

Mississippi State University (MS, DVM, PhD)

## Career Outlook

Employment of veterinarians is expected to grow 36 percent through 2020. The need for veterinarians will increase to keep up with the demands of a growing pet population. Many people consider their pets to be a part of their family and are willing to pay more for pet care than owners have in the past. Also, veterinary medicine has advanced considerably, and many of the veterinary services offered today are comparable to health care for humans, including cancer treatments and kidney transplants.



### Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association

P. O. Box 964  
Trussville, AL 35173

**Phone:** (662) 323-5057

**Fax:** (205) 655-0777



## VETERINARIAN TECHNICIAN

### Job Description

Veterinary technicians typically conduct clinical work in a private practice under the supervision of a veterinarian—often performing various medical tests along with treating and diagnosing medical conditions and diseases in animals. Veterinary technicians perform laboratory tests such as urinalysis and blood counts, assist with dental prophylaxis, prepare tissue samples, take blood samples, or assist veterinarians in a variety of tests and analyses in which they often utilize various items of medical equipment, such as test tubes and diagnostic equipment. While most of these duties are performed in a laboratory setting, many are not. For example, some veterinary technicians obtain and record patients' case histories, expose and develop x rays, and provide specialized nursing care. In addition, experienced veterinary technicians may discuss a pet's condition with its owners and train new clinic personnel. Veterinary technicians assisting small-animal practitioners usually care for companion animals, such as cats and dogs, but can perform a variety of duties with mice, rats, sheep, pigs, cattle, monkeys, birds, fish, and frogs.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in veterinary technology should take high school courses in biology, chemistry, English, dental/medical assisting, algebra, health education, social studies, computer skills, and geometry.

### Average Annual Salary

\$27,340

### Salary Range

\$20,500 - \$44,030

### Work Environment

Private practice  
Veterinary hospitals  
Kennels  
Research institutes  
Zoos  
Research laboratories  
Veterinary schools

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Graduates from an accredited program may earn certification by passing a written examination offered by the Mississippi Veterinary Medical Board.



## College Requirements

Individuals interested in a career as a veterinary technician must have a high school diploma or equivalent, as well as complete an associate's degree program accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

## Professional Organization



### North American Veterinary Technician Association

PO Box 1227 Albert  
Lea, MN 56007

**Phone:** (765) 742-2216

[www.navta.net](http://www.navta.net)



### American Veterinary Medical Association

1931 N. Meacham Road, Suite 100  
Schaumburg, IL 60173-4360

**Phone:** (800) 248-2862

**Fax:** (847) 925-1329

[www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)

## Educational Institutions

University of Mississippi (BS, MS)

University of Southern Mississippi (BS, MS, PhD)

## Career Outlook

Employment of veterinary technologists and technicians is projected to grow 20 percent from now to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations. Employment is expected to grow as veterinarians continue to utilize technicians and technologists to do general care and lab work on household pets.



### Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association

P. O. Box 964  
Trussville, AL 35173

**Phone:** (888) 996-2882

**Fax:** (507) 489-4518

# VISION CARE



## OPHTHALMIC TECHNOLOGIST

### Job Description

Ophthalmic medical technicians are skilled professionals who perform ophthalmic (eye care) procedures under the direction or supervision of an ophthalmologist (eye doctor). They are employed primarily by ophthalmologists, but may be employed by hospitals, clinics, or physician groups. An ophthalmic medical technician cannot replace the ophthalmologist or diagnose patients, but assists the physician by collecting data, administering treatment, assisting in ophthalmic surgical procedures, and supervising patients. These duties may include taking patient medical histories, instructing patients about medications, tests, and procedures, performing vision and diagnostic tests, assisting the ophthalmologist with patient procedures, coordinating patient scheduling, supervising and training other ophthalmic medical technicians, performing office management and clerical duties, maintaining ophthalmic instruments, maintaining and sterilizing ophthalmic surgical instruments.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for students interested in ophthalmic technology should include courses in biology, chemistry, physics, health education, computer skills, algebra, foreign language, English, literature, history, and social studies.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Upon graduation from an accredited program, students may become certified by taking an examination given by the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology.

### Average Annual Salary

\$27,970

### Salary Range

\$18,260 - \$43,870

### Work Environment

Private practice

Clinics

Physicians' offices

Hospitals

## College Requirements

Individuals interested in becoming an ophthalmic technologist must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Students should complete two years of college (60 credit hours) with an emphasis on science and then apply to a two-year technologist training program.

## Professional Organization



### Association of Technical Personnel in Ophthalmology

2025 Woodlane Drive  
St. Paul, MN 55125-2998

**Phone:** (800) 482-4858

**Fax:** (651) 731-0410

[www.atpo.org](http://www.atpo.org)



### Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology

2025 Woodlane Drive  
St. Paul, MN 55125-2998

**Phone:** (651) 731-2944

**Fax:** (651) 731-0410

[www.jcahpo.org](http://www.jcahpo.org)

## Educational Institutions

East Mississippi CC (AAS)

## Career Outlook

Employment is expected to grow by 13 percent through 2020. Most people need vision correction at some point in their lives. As the total population continues to grow, people will need more vision aids, such as glasses and contacts. As the large baby-boom generation and their children get older, the need for vision correction will create a demand for ophthalmic laboratory services.



## OPTICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

### Job Description

Optical laboratory technicians prepare eyeglass lenses or contact lenses from an eye doctor's prescription. Some make precision lenses for cameras, microscopes, telescopes, and military equipment. Optical laboratory technicians are also called manufacturing opticians, optical mechanics, or optical goods workers. Optical laboratory technicians cut, grind, edge, and finish lenses. The technician must choose the correct blank lens with which to begin, mark the lenses for grinding, place them in the machine, and set the dials for proper grinding. The lenses are finished and polished in other machines. After the lenses are ground and polished, the optical laboratory technician checks the curvature of the lenses by using a lensometer. The lenses must fit the prescription or specifications exactly. The technician then fits the lenses to the glasses frame to produce a finished pair of glasses, or fits the lenses into optical equipment such as microscopes.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in becoming an optical laboratory technician should take high school courses in algebra, chemistry, geometry, biology, mechanical drawing, industrial arts, computer skills, English, and health education.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

There are no certification requirements for optical laboratory personnel.

#### Average Annual Salary

\$ 25,510

#### Salary Range

\$18,480 - \$43,220

#### Work Environment

Optical laboratories

Retail stores

Hospitals

## College Requirements

Individuals interested in optical laboratory technology should have a high school diploma or equivalent. Most optical laboratory technicians learn their skills on the job by starting out as a trainee in a laboratory. There are, however, programs that are offered through technical schools and the Armed Forces.

## Professional Organization



### Opticians Association of America

4064 E Fir Hill Drive  
Lakeland, TN 38002

**Phone:** (901) 388-2423

**Fax:** (901) 388-2348

[www.oaa.org](http://www.oaa.org)



### Association of Technical Personnel in Ophthalmology

2025 Woodlane Drive  
St. Paul, MN 55125-2998

**Phone:** (800) 482-4858

**Fax:** (651) 731-0410

[www.atpo.org](http://www.atpo.org)

## Educational Institutions

There are currently no optical laboratory technician programs in Mississippi.

## Career Outlook

Employment is expected to grow by 13 percent through 2020. Middle age is a time when many people use corrective lenses for the first time, and the need for vision care continues to increase with age. As the large baby-boom generation and their children get older, the need for vision correction will create a demand for ophthalmic laboratory services.



### Commission on Opticianry Accreditation

PO Box 592  
Canton NY, 13617

**Phone:** (703) 468-0566

[www.coaccreditation.com](http://www.coaccreditation.com)



## OPTICIAN

### Job Description

Opticians, sometimes called prescription opticians or ophthalmic dispensers, examine written prescriptions to determine the specifications of lenses. They recommend eyeglass frames, lenses, and lens coatings after considering the prescription and the customer's occupation, habits, and facial features. Opticians also make sure that the lenses and frames fit the patient properly. Most opticians work in stores that sell eyeglasses. They measure each patient's face to decide exactly where the lenses should be placed. Then they send information on the size, color, shape, and prescription of the lenses to the optical laboratory. When the eyeglasses have been made, the dispensing optician measures and adjusts the glasses for the patient until they fit properly. They instruct clients about adapting to, wearing, or caring for eyeglasses. Opticians with additional training fit patients for contact lenses by measuring the shape and size of the eye, selecting the type of contact lens material, and preparing work orders for the laboratory. Opticians also teach patients proper insertion, removal, and care of contact lenses.

### High School Preparation

High school students interested in becoming an optician should prepare by taking courses in biology, physics, health education, computer skills, algebra, mechanical drawing, trigonometry, English, literature, geometry, and social studies.

### Average Annual Salary

\$44,129

### Salary Range

\$40

### Work Environment

Self-employed  
Retail optical outlets  
Department stores  
Manufacturers  
Optometrists' offices  
Wholesale labs

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Certification is available through the American Board of Opticianry and the National Contact Lens Examiners.

## College Requirements

Individuals interested in this optical specialty should have a high school diploma or equivalent. Programs in optical technology are usually offered at community colleges and technical schools. Some employers require completion of an optician program, while others may provide on-the-job training to individuals with no formal background in opticianry.

## Professional Organization



### American Board of Opticianry

6506 Loisdale Rd., Suite 209  
Springfield, VA 22150

**Phone:** (703) 719-5800

**Fax:** (703) 719-9144

[www.abo.org](http://www.abo.org)



### Opticians Association of America

4064 E Fir Hill Drive  
Lakeland, TN 38002

**Phone:** (901) 388-2423

**Fax:** (901) 388-2348

[www.oaa.org](http://www.oaa.org)



### Commission on Opticianry Accreditation

PO Box 592  
Canton NY, 13617

**Phone:** (703) 468-0566

[www.coaccreditation.com](http://www.coaccreditation.com)



### Mississippi Association of Dispensing Opticians

16383 South Swan Road  
Gulfport, MS 39503

**Phone:** (228) 860-1825

[www.mado.org](http://www.mado.org)

## Educational Institutions

There are currently no accredited optician programs in the state of Mississippi.

## Career Outlook

Employment of opticians is expected to grow by 29 percent through 2020. An aging population is anticipated to lead to greater demand for eye care services. People usually have eye problems in greater frequency when they reach middle age, so the need for opticians is expected to grow with the increase in the number of older people.



## OPTOMETRIC TECHNICIAN

### Job Description

Optometric technicians help optometrists in eye examinations and corrective procedures. Their duties often include patient billing and record keeping, taking measurements, explaining eye exercises, teaching patients to insert and remove contact lens, and cleaning instruments and ordering supplies.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in becoming an optometric technician should take high school courses in biology, dental/medical assisting, health education, computer skills, general clerical work, algebra, office practices, English, literature, history, and social studies.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Upon completion of a formal training program, individuals may become a Certified Optometric Technician through the National Council on Paraoptometric Certification, part of the American Optometric Association.

### Average Annual Salary

\$28,750

### Salary Range

\$18,620 - \$43,870

### Work Environment

Private optometric offices  
Group optometric offices  
Hospitals  
Public health offices



## College Requirements

Individuals interested in optometric technology should have a high school diploma or the equivalent. Optometric technicians may be trained on the job, but many complete a two-year associate's degree.

## Professional Organization



### Opticians Association of America

4064 E Fir Hill Drive  
Lakeland, TN 38002

**Phone:** (901) 388-2423

**Fax:** (901) 388-2348

[www.oaa.org](http://www.oaa.org)



### American Optometric Association

243 N. Lindberg Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63141

**Phone:** (800) 365-2219

[www.aoa.org](http://www.aoa.org)

## Educational Institutions

There are currently no optometric technician programs in the state of Mississippi.

## Career Outlook

Employment is expected to grow. Middle age is a time when many people use corrective lenses for the first time, and the need for vision care continues to increase with age. As the large baby-boom generation and their children get older, the need for vision correction will create a demand for ophthalmic laboratory services



### Mississippi Association of Dispensing Opticians

16383 South Swan Road  
Gulfport, MS 39503

**Phone:** (228) 860-1825

[www.mado.org](http://www.mado.org)



## OPTOMETRIST

### Job Description

Optometrists, or Doctors of optometry, examine, diagnose, treat, and manage diseases, injuries, and disorders of the visual system, the eye, and associated structures as well as identify related systemic conditions affecting the eye. Optometrists prescribe medications, low vision rehabilitation, vision therapy, spectacle lenses, and contact lenses and perform certain surgical procedures. Optometrists counsel their patients regarding surgical and nonsurgical options that meet their visual needs related to their occupations, avocations, and lifestyles.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in a career in eye care should take high school courses in algebra, chemistry, calculus, geometry, biology, physics, literature, computer science, English, and health education.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Optometrists must be licensed to practice in Mississippi. To become licensed, individuals must have a Doctor of Optometry degree from an accredited optometry school, as well as pass written and clinical state board examinations.

### Average Annual Salary

\$118,720

### Salary Range

\$105,127 – \$131,593

### Work Environment

Private practice  
Group practices  
Hospitals  
HMOs  
Retail stores  
Universities  
Research laboratories

## College Requirements

Students interested in optometry must first complete either 90 semester credits of college, or a bachelor's degree in a science-related field. They must then take the Optometry College Admission Test (OCAT) and apply to a school of optometry. Upon completion of a 4-year optometry program, individuals must become licensed.

## Professional Organization



### American Optometric Association

243 N. Lindberg Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63141

**Phone:** (800) 365-2219

[www.aoa.org](http://www.aoa.org)



### Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 420  
Rockville, MD 20852

**Phone:** (301) 231-5944

**Fax:** (301) 770-1828

[www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org)

## Career Outlook

Employment of optometrists is expected to grow. Because vision problems tend to occur more frequently later in life, more optometrists will be needed to meet the health needs of an aging population. Also, the number of people with chronic diseases, such as diabetes, has increased in recent years. These diseases frequently cause vision problems and require treatment from optometrists. In addition, an increasing number of insurance plans, including Medicare and Medicaid, provide some vision or eye-care insurance coverage.



### Mississippi Optometric Association

141 Executive Drive, Suite 5  
Madison, MS 39110

**Phone:** (601) 853-4407

**Fax:** (601) 853-4408

[www.msoptom.org](http://www.msoptom.org)

# OTHER HEALTH CARE CAREERS



## CARDIOVASCULAR TECHNOLOGIST

### Job Description

The cardiovascular technologist is qualified by specific didactic, laboratory, and clinical technological education to perform diagnostic or therapeutic procedures in various cardiovascular or peripheral vascular procedures. Invasive cardiovascular technologists are responsible for maintaining the cardiac catheterization laboratory and assisting cardiologists in the catheterization procedures used to diagnose and treat the various diseases of the cardiovascular system. Adult and pediatric echocardiographers are cardiac sonographers who perform echocardiography examinations to evaluate heart function and physiology under the supervision of cardiologists to include cardiac stress testing and assist in trans-esophageal echocardiography. Echocardiography procedures are performed on adults and pediatric patients (infant through adolescence). Non-invasive vascular ultrasound sonographers work under the direction of various clinical disciplines including vascular surgeons, interventional radiologists, or cardiologists to perform non-invasive vascular ultrasound and other non-ultrasonographic procedures to evaluate the extra- and intracranial, peripheral and visceral vascular systems. Cardiac electrophysiology technologists are responsible for maintaining the cardiac electrophysiology laboratory and assisting cardiologists in the various procedures used to diagnose and treat patients with cardiac arrhythmias.

### High School Preparation

High school students interested in a career as a cardiovascular technologist should take courses in biology, chemistry, physics, anatomy and physiology, life sciences, health education, computer science, English, algebra, and geometry.

### Average Annual Salary

\$41,840

### Salary Range

\$26,610 - \$77,020

### Work Environment

- Hospitals & clinics
- Physicians' offices
- Educational facilities
- Medical centers
- Noninvasive cardiovascular labs
- Electrophysiology labs
- Mobile diagnostic units

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Graduates from an accredited program are eligible to obtain professional certification in cardiac catheterization, echocardiography, vascular ultrasound, and cardiographic techniques from Cardiovascular Credentialing International. Cardiac sonographers and vascular technologists also may obtain certification from the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers.

## College Requirements

Individuals interested in cardiovascular technology must have a high school diploma or the equivalent. Programs vary in length from one to four years depending on previous clinical experience and number of areas of diagnostic evaluation selected: invasive cardiology, noninvasive cardiology, or noninvasive peripheral vascular study.

## Professional Organization



### Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

1361 Park St.  
Clearwater, FL 33756

**Phone:** (727) 210-2350

**Fax:** (727) 210-2354

[www.caahep.org](http://www.caahep.org)



### Society of Vascular Ultrasound

4601 Presidents Drive, Suite 260  
Lanham MD 20706-4831

**Phone:** (301) 459-7550

**Fax:** (301) 459-5651

[www.svunet.org](http://www.svunet.org)

## Educational Institutions

Northwest Mississippi Community College (C)

## Career Outlook

Employment of cardiovascular technologists and technicians and vascular technologists is expected to grow significantly. Although hospitals remain the primary employer of cardiovascular technologists and technicians and vascular technologists, employment is expected to grow more rapidly in physicians' offices and in medical and diagnostic laboratories. Employment in these healthcare settings is expected to increase because of a shift toward outpatient care whenever possible. As the large baby-boom population ages and people remain active later in life, the need to diagnose medical conditions—such as blood clots and tumors—with imaging technology will likely increase. Cardiovascular technologists and technicians and vascular technologists will continue to be needed to use and maintain the equipment needed for diagnosis and treatment.



### Alliance of Cardiovascular Professionals

P.O. Box 2007  
Midlothian, VA 23113

**Phone:** (804) 632-0078

**Fax:** (804) 639-9212

[www.acp-online.org](http://www.acp-online.org)



## GERONTOLOGIST

### Job Description

Gerontologists are health care professionals who specialize in working with elderly patients. They provide their services to people in nursing homes, senior citizen centers, and other similar facilities. There are several different types of gerontologists. Research gerontologists conduct research on the aging process and the living environments of older persons in an effort to understand and enrich the lives of the elderly. Applied gerontologists work directly with the elderly, communicating with and analyzing individuals, families, and groups. Administrative gerontologists use their training and management skills to develop programs and coordinate services that are necessary for elderly services to run smoothly. They often educate older people by giving informative presentations, publishing books and articles that pertain to the elderly population, and producing relevant films and television programs.

### High School Preparation

High school students interested in gerontology should concentrate on biology, chemistry, geometry, algebra, English, sociology, literature, psychology, computer skills, and social studies.

### Average Annual Salary

\$48,620

### Salary Range

\$31,160 - \$73,040

### Work Environment

Nursing homes  
Senior citizen centers  
Hospitals  
Public health offices  
Schools and colleges  
Therapy clinics  
Counseling clinics

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

There is currently no accreditation or licensure required after the completion of an accredited program.

## College Requirements

Individuals must have a high school diploma or the equivalent. Many colleges and universities offer various levels of training in gerontology, but since it is a multidisciplinary career it draws from a variety of fields. Many of these institutions offer associate's, bachelor's, and master's programs in gerontology, and some offer research programs at the doctoral and postdoctoral levels.

## Professional Organization



### The Gerontological Society of America

1220 L Street NW, Suite 901  
Washington, DC 20005

**Phone:** (202) 842-1275

**Fax:** (202) 842-1150

[www.geron.org](http://www.geron.org)



### Association for Gerontology in Higher Education

1220 L Street NW, Suite 901  
Washington, DC 20005-4018

**Phone:** (202) 289-9806

**Fax:** (202) 289-9824

[www.aghe.org](http://www.aghe.org)

## Educational Institutions

Mississippi State University (C)

Rust College (C)

Tougaloo College (C)

## Career Outlook

Employment opportunities for gerontologists are expected to increase through 2020 due to the continued growth of the older adult population. Gerontologists will be in demand to meet the medical needs of this older generation. In addition, the elderly population often needs services such as adult day care and meal delivery. Gerontologists, who help find and provide these services, will be needed to meet this increased demand.



## HEALTH EDUCATOR

### Job Description

Health educators are an integral part of community health education programs. They provide information to individuals and communities in an effort to promote, maintain, and improve healthy lifestyles. Some of the issues that are of importance include substance abuse, safety, HIV/STDs, nutrition, high blood pressure, smoking, pregnancy, and diabetes. Health educators are also responsible for collecting and analyzing data for the purpose of researching, designing, and presenting preventive health care programs. These individuals must be able to inform and organize community coalitions in order to address concerns and issues that affect the health of communities. Health educators are often responsible for writing educational material, newsletters, public information reports, and grant proposals. They may specialize in various areas that include clinical health, public health, community health, industrial health, and school health.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for a career in health education should include courses in biology, English, public speaking, algebra, geometry, behavioral sciences, social sciences, computer skills, writing, and health education.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

To become certified as a health educator, students must first receive a bachelor's degree in health education/promotion, public health, or community health. They must then pass a comprehensive written exam given by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. Once the student has passed the exam, they will be recognized as a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES).

### Average Annual Salary

\$61,256

### Salary Range

\$53,527 - \$68,831

### Work Environment

Health departments  
Community organizations  
Corporations/worksites  
Volunteer organizations  
Schools & colleges  
Governmental organizations



## College Requirements

Individuals interested in health education must have a high school diploma or the equivalent. Colleges and universities offer bachelor's and master's degree programs, but the majority of employers prefer a candidate with an advanced degree.

## Professional Organization



### American Public Health Association

800 Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3710

**Phone:** (202) 777-2742

**Fax:** (202) 777-2534

[www.apha.org](http://www.apha.org)



### Society for Public Health Education

10 G St. NE, Suite 605  
Washington, DC 20002

**Phone:** (202) 408-9804

**Fax:** (202) 408-9815

[www.sophe.org](http://www.sophe.org)

## Educational Institutions

Jackson State University (BS, MPH, DPH)  
Mississippi University of Women (BS, MS)  
University of Southern Mississippi (BS, MPH)

## Career Outlook

Employment of health educators is expected to grow significantly over the next 10 years. Growth will be driven by efforts to reduce healthcare costs by teaching people about healthy habits and behaviors. As healthcare costs continue to rise, insurance companies, employers, and governments are trying to find ways to curb costs. One way is to employ health educators, who teach people how to live healthy lives and avoid costly diseases. Lifestyle changes can reduce the likelihood of contracting a number of illnesses, such as lung cancer, HIV, heart disease, and skin cancer. Health educators help people understand how what they do affects their health.



### Mississippi Public Health Association

PO Box 4834  
Jackson, MS 39296-4834

**Phone:** (601) 408-2482

**Fax:** (601) 268-6483

[www.msdh.state.ms.us/mpha/](http://www.msdh.state.ms.us/mpha/)



## MEDICAL ASSISTANT

### Job Description

Medical assistants perform both administrative and clinical duties in order to keep the offices of health practitioners running as smoothly as possible. Some of the administrative duties that they perform include answering telephones, greeting patients, scheduling appointments, filling out insurance forms, handling correspondence, updating patients' medical records, handling billing and bookkeeping, and arranging for hospital admission and laboratory services. Medical assistants are also called upon to perform clinical duties, such as, recording vital signs, explaining treatment procedures to patients, taking medical histories, disposing of contaminated supplies, sterilizing medical instruments, collecting laboratory specimens, preparing patients for examination, and assisting the physician during the examination. To be a successful medical assistant, an individual must be a team player, emotionally stable, have a great deal of patience, and be able to take orders well.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for medical assisting should include courses in biology, algebra, chemistry, English, geometry, medical assisting, computer skills, health education, physical education, and typing.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Upon graduation from an accredited medical assisting program, students are eligible to take the national certification exam offered by the American Association of Medical Assistants. Certified medical assistants may use the initials CMA.

### Average Annual Salary

\$32,085

### Salary Range

\$29,576 - \$34,645

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Medical clinics  
Physicians' offices  
Optometrists' offices  
Podiatrists' offices  
Chiropractors' offices

## College Requirements

Individuals interested in medical assisting should have a high school diploma or equivalent. On-the-job training is sometimes available but most employers prefer individuals that have completed a medical assisting program. Two-year programs result in associate's degrees while one-year programs offer certificates.

## Professional Organization



### American Association of Medical Assistants

20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 1575  
Chicago, IL 60606-2963

**Phone:** (312) 899-1500

**Fax:** (312) 899-1259

[www.aama-ntl.org](http://www.aama-ntl.org)



### Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

25400 US Highway 19 North, Suite 158  
Clearwater, FL 33763

**Phone:** (727) 210-2350

**Fax:** (727) 210-2354

[www.caahep.org](http://www.caahep.org)

## Educational Institutions

Coahoma CC (AAS)

Copiah-Lincoln CC (AAS)

East Central CC (AAS)

Jones County JC (AAS)

Pearl River CC (AAS)

Mississippi Gulf Coast CC (AAS)

Northwest Mississippi CC (AAS)

## Career Outlook

Employment of medical secretaries is projected to grow significantly over the next 10 years. Employment growth will be driven by rapid growth of the healthcare and social assistance industries. An anticipated increase in the use of medical services by an aging population will require many additional medical secretaries.



## PERFUSIONIST

### Job Description

Perfusionists are members of the surgical team that performs open-heart and other cardiac surgeries. They set up and operate the heart-lung machine that keeps the patient alive by pumping oxygenated blood throughout the body while the heart is being operated on. The heart-lung machine is capable of regulating oxygen, carbon dioxide, and blood chemistry. While the operation is taking place, the perfusionist is in charge of monitoring the patient's blood circulation and keeping the rest of the surgical team informed of any changes. They may also use the machine in cases of respiratory failure, so they must be capable of thinking independently and responding quickly to emergencies. Perfusionists are often in charge of providing long-term support of the patient's circulation after the operation is concluded. Anyone interested in this profession should have the ability to concentrate for long periods of time and have excellent communication skills.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for students interested in a future as a perfusionist should include courses in biology, chemistry, physics, anatomy and physiology, health education, computer skills, social studies, English, algebra, and geometry.

### Average Annual Salary

\$126,503

### Salary Range

\$113,538 - \$138,132

### Work Environment

Hospitals

Private surgeons' offices

Equipment manufacturers

Research & development

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

To become licensed, individuals must pass oral and written examinations given by the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (ABCP).

## College Requirements

Prerequisites for admission into perfusionist programs vary greatly depending on the length and design of the program. Most programs require a bachelor's degree with emphasis on medical technology, respiratory therapy, biological sciences, or nursing. Perfusionist programs are generally one to four years in length and are highly competitive.

## Professional Organization



### American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (ABCP)

207 North 25th Avenue  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

**Phone:** (601) 582-2227

**Fax:** (601) 582-2271

[www.abcp.org](http://www.abcp.org)



### American Society of Extra-Corporeal

2209 Dicken Road  
Richmond, VA 23230-2005

**Phone:** (804) 565-6363

**Fax:** (804) 282-0090

[www.amsect.org](http://www.amsect.org)

## Career Outlook

Increasing demand for open-heart surgery has resulted in steady growth for perfusionists. However, during the past decade, changes in lifestyle and improvements in the treatment of cardiac disease have resulted in a decline in cardiac surgical procedures, resulting in a decline in the number of patients undergoing cardiopulmonary bypass. Perfusionists have been challenged with identifying new opportunities and have expanded their practices in the areas of perioperative blood management, wound healing, ventricular assistance, and expanded uses of extracorporeal circulation.



## SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST

### Job Description

Surgical technologists are a part of the surgical team that is composed of surgeons, anesthesiologists, registered nurses, and other surgical personnel. They help the surgeon put on gloves and gowns; place instruments, supplies, and equipment on sterile tables and stands; and pass instruments and supplies to the surgeon. Surgical technologists assume primary responsibilities for maintaining the sterile field. They may assist surgeons in the retraction of tissues, cutting sutures, and operating special surgical equipment. They transport patients to the operating room, help position them on the operating table, and cover them with sterile surgical "drapes." In order to be successful, surgical technologists must work with speed, accuracy, skill, and concentration. They also must work well under pressure, be able to stand for long periods of time, and respond effectively and efficiently to emergency situations.

### High School Preparation

High school preparation for a career in surgical technology should include algebra, geometry, biology, chemistry, physics, computer skills, psychology, English, health education, and physical education.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Certification is not always required but is accomplished by passing an examination given by the Liaison Council on Certification for the Surgical Technologist. This will result in the title of Certified Surgical Technologist (CST).

### Average Annual Salary

\$44,126

### Salary Range

\$39,648 - \$49,158

### Work Environment

Hospitals

Surgical centers

Physician offices

## College Requirements

Surgical technologists receive formal training in programs that last from 9 months to 2 years. Individuals in a 2- year program are eligible to receive a certificate or an Associate's Degree. Hospital based surgical technology programs last from 6 months to 1 year and are for licensed practical nurses or other health professionals with a medical background.

## Professional Organization



### Association of Surgical Technologists

6 West Dry Creek Circle, Suite 200  
Littleton, Co 80120-8031

**Phone:** (303) 694-9130

**Fax:** (303) 694-9169

[www.ast.org](http://www.ast.org)



### The National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting

6 West Dry Creek Circle, Suite 100  
Littleton, CO 80120

**Phone:** (800) 707-0057

**Fax:** (303) 325-2536

[www.nbtsa.org](http://www.nbtsa.org)

## Educational Institutions

East Central CC (AAS, C)  
Hinds CC (AAS, C)  
Holmes CC (AAS, C)  
Itawamba CC (AAS, C)  
Meridian CC (C)  
Mississippi Gulf Coast CC (C)  
Pearl River CC (AAS, C)

## Career Outlook

Employment of surgical technologists is expected to increase faster than average. Advances in medical technology have made surgery safer, and more operations are being done to treat a variety of illnesses and injuries. The aging of the large number of baby boomers also is expected to increase the need for surgical technologists because older people usually require more operations, including joint replacements and heart-related procedures. Hospitals will continue to be the primary employer of surgical technologists, reducing costs by employing technologists, instead of higher paid registered nurses, in operating rooms.



## INSURANCE CLERK

### Job Description

Medical insurance clerks, in conjunction with coding specialists and other billing professionals, work to ensure that all medical procedures are properly filed with the appropriate insurance agency. Insurance clerks obtain information from policyholders to verify the accuracy and completeness of information on claims forms as well as review related insurance documents provided by the patient. They are often called upon to read and review medical documentation provided by physicians and other health care providers in order to obtain detailed information regarding patients' diseases, injuries, surgical operations, and other procedures. Medical insurance clerks work extensively with private insurers, as well as federal agencies, such as Medicare and Medicaid. Therefore, they must remain current with all of the rules and regulations that govern third party payment for medical services. Insurance clerks usually work under the supervision of a billing supervisor or the health information administrator.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in pursuing a career as an insurance clerk should take high school courses in algebra, biology, English, office procedures, typing, data processing, computer skills, and health education.

### Average Annual Salary

\$31,958

### Salary Range

\$29,165 - \$36,143

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Clinics  
Surgery centers  
Dental offices  
Long-term care facilities  
Insurance companies  
Home health care agencies  
Consulting firms  
Coding and billing services  
Government agencies

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

There are currently no required certifications for medical insurance clerks, but individuals desiring to become certified must pass examinations offered by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA).



## College Requirements

Medical insurance clerks should have a high school diploma or the equivalent. An associate's degree in health information is recommended and is often two years in length. Training may be available on the job as well as through continuing education classes offered by trade associations.

## Educational Institutions

Hinds Community College (Raymond)  
Itawamba Community College (Tupelo)  
Meridian Community College  
University of MS Medical Center

## Career Outlook

There is an outstanding future for medical insurance clerks because of the increased scrutiny of proper billing by third party payers. In an effort to control costs, complete and accurate records are becoming a necessity in order for hospitals and clinics to receive money from Medicare and Medicaid. Because this field is constantly changing due to new state and federal guidelines, insurance clerks that stay current with new laws governing insurance payments will enjoy the best job security. As in most other occupations, many openings will result from the need to replace employees who transfer to other companies, retire, or stop working for various other reasons.



## MEDICAL BILLING CLERK

### Job Description

Medical billing clerks are responsible for compiling and maintaining records of charges for goods and services rendered at any health care facility. Once they calculate the total amount due from a patient, they must prepare invoices to be sent out and ensure prompt payment. Another major responsibility for a medical billing clerk is to contact insurance companies to determine what goods and services will be reimbursed and for how much. Most medical billing clerks use sophisticated computer programs that allow them to calculate charges and print bills in one step. These programs also serve as a safety net because the biller has to verify the information that is entered and correct any errors before the bill is printed and sent to the patient. Other responsibilities may include handling follow-up questions from patients, resolving discrepancies or errors, and ensuring that all billing and accounting records are kept in a safe place.

### High School Preparation

Students interested in pursuing a career in medical billing should take high school courses in algebra, biology, computer skills, English, typing, data processing, and health education.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Formal certification or registration is not required to become a medical biller. Billing clerks may be required to complete continuing education in order to stay current with the newest computer programs that are used in this profession.

### Average Annual Salary

\$36,891

### Salary Range

\$33,390 - \$40,558

### Work Environment

Hospitals  
Outpatient clinics  
Home health agencies  
Insurance agencies  
Consulting firms  
Government agencies  
Health care computing industries  
Long-term care facilities  
Private industries

## College Requirements

Students interested in medical billing must have a high school diploma or the equivalent. Many employers prefer individuals with at least some college course work in business and/or accounting. However, on the job training is also available for this profession.

## Professional Organization



### The Medical Association of Billers

2620 Regatta Dr., Suite 102  
Las Vegas, NV 89128

**Phone:** (702) 240-8519

**Fax:** (702) 243-0359

[www.physicianswebsites.org](http://www.physicianswebsites.org)

## Educational Institutions

There are currently no medical billing programs in Mississippi.

## Career Outlook

The health services industry will continue to be the largest employer of billing professionals. Employment opportunities for medical billing clerks are expected to grow modestly during the next decade. Growth for this sector will result from health care facilities putting greater emphasis on getting bills out faster and getting payment in quicker. Balancing out this growth will be more reliance on computer technology that will continue to simplify the billing process, and therefore require fewer billing clerks to handle the workload.

## APPENDIX A MISSISSIPPI HOSPITALS

ALLEGIANCE SPECIALTY HOSPITAL OF GREENVILLE  
300 South Washington Ave F1 3  
Greenville, MS 38701-4719  
Work: (662) 332-7344  
Fax: (662) 332-7925

ALLIANCE HEALTH CENTER  
5000 Highway 39 N  
Meridian, MS 39301-1021  
Work: (601) 483-6211  
Fax: (601) 696-4898

ALLIANCE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM  
PO Box 6000  
Holly Springs, MS 38634-6000  
Work: (662) 252-1212  
Fax: (662) 252-5537

ALLIANCE HOSPITAL  
PO Box 6000  
Holly Springs, MS 38634-6000  
Work: (662) 252-1212  
Fax: (662) 252-5537

ANDERSON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER  
2124 14th St.  
Meridian, MS 39301-4040  
Work: (601) 553-6000  
Fax: (601) 553-6834

ANDERSON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER-SOUTH  
1102 Constitution Avenue  
Meridian, MS 39301  
Work: (601) 693-2511  
Fax: (601) 484-3130

BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER-ATTALA  
P.O. Box 887 Kosciusko, MS 39090-0887  
Work: (662) 289-4311  
Fax: (662) 289-6080

BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER-LEAKE  
1100 Highway 16 East  
Carthage, MS 39051  
Work: (601) 267-1100  
Fax: (601) 267-1170

BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER-YAZOO  
823 Grand Ave  
Yazoo City, MS 39194-3233  
Work: (662) 746-2261  
Fax: (662) 746-4839

BAPTIST MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
631 R.B. Wilson, Drive  
Huntingdon, TN 38344  
Work: (731) 986-7316  
Fax: (731) 986-7288

BAPTIST MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
1201 Bishop Street  
Union City, TN 38261  
Work: (731) 885-2410

BAPTIST MEMORIAL HOSPITAL-BOONEVILLE  
100 Hospital Street  
Booneville, MS 38829-3354  
Work: (662) 720-5000

BAPTIST MEMORIAL HOSPITAL-CALHOUN  
140 Burke Calhoun City Rd.  
Calhoun City, MS 38916-9690  
Work: (662) 628-6611  
Fax: (662) 628-6300

BAPTIST MEMORIAL HOSPITAL-DESOTO  
7601 Southcrest Pkwy  
Southaven, MS 38671-4739  
Work: (662) 349-4000  
Fax: (662) 349-4038

BAPTIST MEMORIAL HOSPITAL-GOLDEN TRIANGLE  
P.O. Box 1307  
Columbus, MS 39703-3354  
Work: (662) 244-100  
Fax: (662) 244-1651

BAPTIST MEMORIAL HOSPITAL-LAUDERDALE  
326 Asbury Avenue  
Ripley, TN 38063  
Work: (731) 221-2438

BAPTIST MEMORIAL HOSPITAL-MEMPHIS  
6019 Walnut Grove  
Memphis, TN 38120  
Work: (901) 226-5000  
Fax: (901) 226-0706

BAPTIST MEMORIAL HOSPITAL-NORTH MISSISSIPPI  
1100 Belk Blvd.  
Oxford, MS 38655  
Work: (662) 232-8100  
Fax: (662) 232-8391

BAPTIST MEMORIAL HOSPITAL-UNION COUNTY  
200 State Highway 30W  
New Albany, MS 38652-3112  
Work: (662) 232-8100  
Fax: (662) 232-8391

BEACHAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
P.O. Box 351  
Magnolia, MS 39652-0351  
Work: (601) 783-2351  
Fax: (601) 783-9003

BOLIVAR MEDICAL CENTER  
P.O. Box 1380  
Cleveland, MS 38732-1380  
Work: (662) 846-0061  
Fax: (662) 846-2380

BOSWELL REGIONAL CENTER  
P.O. Box 128  
Magee, MS 39111-0128  
Work: (601) 867-5000  
Fax: (601) 849-2586

BRENTWOOD BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE OF MISSISSIPPI  
3531 Lakeland Dr.  
Jackson, MS 39232-8839  
Work: (601) 936-7804  
Fax: (601) 936-7827

CARES CENTER, INC.  
P.O. Box 1078  
Jackson, MS 39215-1078  
Work: (601) 360-0583  
Fax: (601) 360-0585

CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI RESIDENTIAL CENTER  
P.O. Box 470  
Jackson, MS 39345-0470  
Work: (601) 683-4200  
Fax: (601) 693-4204

CHOCTAW HEALTH CENTER  
210 Hospital Circle  
Philadelphia, MS 39350  
Work: (601) 656-2211  
Fax: (601) 656-5091

CHOCTAW REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER  
8613 Highway 12  
Ackerman, MS 39735  
Work: (662) 285-4400  
Fax: (662) 285-9485

CLAIBORNE COUNTY HOSPITAL  
P.O. Box 1004  
Port Gibson, MS 39150-1004  
Work: (601) 437-5141  
Fax: (601) 437-5145

COPIAH COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER  
P.O. Box 889  
Hazlehurst, MS 39083-0889  
Work: (601) 894-4541  
Fax: (601) 894-5800

COVINGTON COUNTY HOSPITAL  
P.O. Box 1149  
Collins, MS 39428-1149  
Work: (601) 765-6711  
Fax: (601) 698-0186

DELHI HOSPITAL  
407 Cincinnati Street  
Delhi, LA 71232  
Work: (318) 878-5171  
Fax: (318) 878-6363

DELTA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER  
P.O. Box 5247  
Greenville, MS 38704-5247  
Work: (662) 378-3783  
Fax: (662) 334-2189

DIAMOND GROVE CENTER FOR CHILDREN  
& ADOLESCENTS  
P.O. Box 848  
Louisville, MS 39339-0848  
Work: (662) 779-0119  
Fax: (662) 779-0126

EAST MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL  
P.O. Box 4128  
Meridian, MS 39304-4128  
Work: (601) 482-6186  
Fax: (601) 483-5542

ELLISVILLE STATE SCHOOL  
1101 Hwy 11 South  
Ellisville, MS 39437  
Work: (601) 477-9384  
Fax: (601) 477-5000

FIELD HEALTH SYSTEM  
178 Highway 24  
Centerville, MS 39631  
Work: (601) 890-0500  
Fax: (601) 645-5873

FORREST GENERAL HOSPITAL  
P.O. Box 17649  
Hattiesburg, MS 39404-7649  
Work: (601) 288-7000  
Fax: (601) 288-4441

FRANKLIN COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
P.O. Box 636  
Meadville, MS 39653-0636  
Work: (601) 384-5801  
Fax: (601) 384-4100

G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY VETERAN AFFAIRS  
MEDICAL CENTER  
1500 E Woodrow Wilson Ave  
Jackson, MS 39216-5116  
Work: (601) 362-4471  
Fax: (601) 364-1425

GARDEN PARK MEDICAL CENTER  
P.O. Box 1240  
Gulfport, MS 39502-1240  
Work: (228) 575-7000  
Fax: (228) 575-7114

GEORGE REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM  
P.O. Box 607  
Lucedale, MS 39452-0607  
Work: (601) 947-3161  
Fax: (601) 947-9206

GILMORE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
1105 Earl Frye Blvd.  
Amory, MS 38821-0459  
Work: (662) 256-7111  
Fax: (662) 256-3133

GREENE COUNTY HOSPITAL  
1017 Jackson Ave.  
Leakesville, MS 39451  
Work: (601) 394-4135  
Fax: (601) 394-4455

GREENWOOD LEFLORE HOSPITAL  
P.O. Box 1410  
Greenwood, MS 38925-1410  
Work: (662) 459-7000  
Fax: (662) 459-2761

H.C. WATKINS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, INC.  
605 S Archusa Ave  
Quitman, MS 39355-2331  
Work: (601) 776-6925  
Fax: (601) 776-7141

HEALTHSOUTH REHABILITATION HOSPITAL  
OF GULFPORT  
4500 13th Street South, Suite 900  
Gulfport, MS 39501  
Work: (228) 822-6965  
Fax: (228) 822-6999

HIGHLAND COMMUNITY HOSPITAL  
PO Box 909  
Picayune, MS 39466-0909  
Work: (601) 358-9400  
Fax: (601) 358-9421

HOSPICE OF LIGHT, SINGING RIVER HOSPITAL SYSTEM  
2101 Highway 90  
Gautier, MS 39553  
Work: (228) 818-2160  
Fax: (228) 818-7768

HUDSPETH REGIONAL CENTER  
P.O. Box 127B  
Whitfield, MS 39139-1032  
Work: (601) 664-6000

JASPER GENERAL HOSPITAL  
P.O. Box 527  
Bay Springs, MS 39422-0527  
Work: (601) 764-2101  
Fax: (601) 764-2930

JEFFERSON COUNTY HOSPITAL  
P.O. Box 577  
Fayette, MS 39069-0577  
Work: (601) 786-3401  
Fax: (601) 786-3400792-2947

JEFFERSON DAVIS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL  
PO Box 1288  
Prentiss, MS 39474-1288  
Work: (601) 792-4276  
Fax: (601) 792-2947

JOHN C. STENNIS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
14365 Highway 16W  
DeKalb, MS 39328  
Work: (769) 486-1037  
Fax: (769) 486-1099

KEESLER MEDICAL CENTER  
81st MDSS/SGSL  
301 Fisher St Rm 1A132  
Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2508  
Work: (228) 377-6502  
Fax: (228) 377-6594

KING DAUGHTERS MEDICAL CENTER  
P.O. Box 948  
Brookhaven, MS 39602-0948  
Work: (601) 833-6011  
Fax: (601) 833-2791

LAIRD HOSPITAL  
25117 Hwy 15  
Union, MS  
Work: (601) 774-8214  
Fax: (601) 774-8739

LAWRENCE COUNTY HOSPITAL  
PO Box 788  
Monticello, MS 39654-0788  
Work: (601) 587-4051  
Fax: (601) 587-0306

MAGEE GENERAL HOSPITAL  
300 3rd Ave SE  
Magee, MS 39111-3665  
Work: (601) 849-5070  
Fax: (601) 849-0618

MAGNOLIA REGIONAL HEALTH CENTER  
611 Acorn Dr.  
Corinth, MS 388834-9368  
Work: (662) 293-1000  
Fax: (662) 293-7696

MARION GENERAL HOSPITAL  
P.O. Box 630  
Columbia, MS 39429-0630  
Work: (601) 736-6303  
Fax: (601) 740-2244

MEMORIAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
11150 Highway 49  
Gulfport, MS 39503-4110  
Work: (228) 831-1700  
Fax: (228) 575-1875

Memorial Behavioral Health  
100 S. 20th Ave.  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401  
Work: (601) 545-9301  
Fax: (601) 545-9307

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AT GULFPORT  
P.O. Box 1810  
Gulfport, MS 39502-1810  
Work: (228) 867-4000  
Fax: (228) 865-3694

METHODIST LEBONHEUR HEALTHCARE  
1407 Union Avenue, Suite 300  
Memphis, TN 38104

METHODIST HEALTHCARE OLIVE BRANCH HOSPITAL  
4250 Bethel Road  
Olive Branch, MS 38654  
Work: (662) 932-9000  
Fax: (662) 932-9015

MERIT HEALTH BILOXI  
PO. Box 128  
Biloxi, MS 39533-0128  
Work: (228) 432-1571  
Fax: (228) 436-1205

MERIT HEALTH CENTRAL  
P.O. Box 59001  
Jackson, MS 39284-9001  
Work: (601) 376-1000  
Fax: (601) 376-2821

MERIT HEALTH MADISON  
161 River Oaks Dr  
Canton, MS 39046  
Work: (601) 855-4000  
Fax: (601)855-5100

MERIT HEALTH NATCHEZ  
54 S Sergeant Prentiss Drive  
Natchez, MS 39120  
Work: (601) 443-2100  
Fax: (601) 445-0362

MERIT HEALTH RANKIN  
350 Crossgates Blvd.  
Brandon, MS 39042-2601  
Work: (601) 825-2811  
Fax: (601) 824-8530

MERIT HEALTH RIVER OAKS  
PO Box 5100  
Jackson, MS 39296-5100  
Work: (601) 932-1030  
Fax: (601) 936-2275

MERIT HEALTH RIVER REGION  
2100 Hwy 61 N  
Vicksburg, MS 39181-0590  
Work: (601) 883-5000  
Fax: (601) 883-5196

MERIT HEALTH WESLEY  
PO Box 16509  
Hattiesburg, MS 39404-6509  
Work: (601) 268-8000  
Fax: (601) 268-5008

MERIT HEALTH WOMAN'S HOSPITAL  
1026 N Flowood Drive  
Flowood, MS 39232  
Work: (601) 932-1000  
Fax: (601) 936-3086

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER, INC.  
1225 N State St.  
Jackson, MS 39202-2002  
Work: (601) 968-1000  
Fax: (601) 968-1383

MISSISSIPPI DEPT OF CORRECTIONS  
Medical/Dental Facility  
P.O. Box E  
Parchman, MS 38738-2000  
Work: (662) 745-6611  
Fax: (662) 745-6611 x 4144

MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL  
P.O. Box 157  
Whitfield, MS 39193-0157  
Work: (601) 351-8000  
Fax: (601) 351-8415

MISSISSIPPI METHODIST HOSPITAL & REHABILITATION  
CENTER, INC.  
1350 E Woodrow Wilson Ave  
Jackson, MS 39216-5112  
Work: (601) 981-2611  
Fax: (601) 364-3465

MONROE REGIONAL HOSPITAL  
PO Box 548  
Aberdeen, MS 39730-0548  
Work: (662) 369-2455  
Fax: (662) 369-7998

NESHOBA COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL -  
NURSING HOME  
P.O. Box 648  
Philadelphia, MS 39350-0648  
Work: (601) 663-1200  
Fax: (601) 663-1293

NORTH MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER-IUKA  
P.O. Box 860  
Iuka, MS 38852-0860  
Work: (662) 423-6051  
Fax: (662) 423-4515

NORTH MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER-PONTOTOC  
P.O. Box 790  
Pontotoc, MS 38863-0790  
Work: (662) 489-5510  
Fax: (662) 488-7675

NORTH MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER-TUPELO  
830 S Gloster St.  
Tupelo, MS 38801-4934  
Work: (662) 377-3000  
Fax: (662) 377-3990

NORTH MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER-WEST POINT  
835 Medical Center Dr.  
West Point, MS 39773-9320  
Work: (662) 495-2300  
Fax: (662) 495-2361

NORTH MISSISSIPPI REGIONAL CENTER  
967 Regional Center Dr.  
Oxford, MS 38655-3551  
Work: (662) 234-1476  
Fax: (662) 234-1699

NORTH MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL  
1937 Briar Ridge Rd.  
Tupelo, MS 38804-5963  
Work: (662) 690-4200  
Fax: (662) 690-4227

NORTH OAK REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER  
P.O. Box 648  
Senatobia, MS 38668-0648  
Work: (662) 562-3100  
Fax: (662) 560-6295

NORTH SUNFLOWER MEDICAL CENTER  
P.O. Box 369  
Ruleville, MS 38771-0369  
Work: (662) 756-2711  
Fax: (662) 756-4114

NORTHWEST MISSISSIPPI REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER  
PO Box 1218  
Clarksdale, MS 38613-1218  
Work: (662) 627-3211  
Fax: (662) 627-9550



NOXUBEE GENERAL HOSPITAL  
PO Box 480  
Macon, MS 39341-0480  
Work: (662) 726-4231  
Fax: (662) 726-5784

OCEAN SPRINGS HOSPITAL  
3109 Bienville Blvd.  
Ocean Springs, MS 39564-4361  
Work: (228) 818-1111  
Fax: (228) 818-2154

OKTIBBEHA COUNTY HOSPITAL  
PO Box 1506  
Starkville, MS 39760-1506  
Work: (662) 323-4320  
Fax: (662) 615-2613

OCHSNER MEDICAL CENTER-HANCOCK  
149 Drinkwater Blvd  
Bay Saint Louis, MS 39250  
Work: (228) 467-8600  
Fax: (228) 467-8799

PANOLA MEDICAL CENTER  
303 Medical Center Dr.  
Batesville, MS 38606-8608  
Work: (662) 563-5611  
Fax: (662) 563-0155

PARKWOOD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM  
PO Box 766  
Olive Branch, MS 38654-0766  
Work: (662) 895-4900  
Fax: (662) 895-4403

PATIENTS CHOICE OF SMITH COUNTY  
347 Magnolia Drive  
Raleigh, MS 39153  
Work: (601) 782-9151  
Fax: (601) 782-9151

PEARL RIVER COUNTY HOSPITAL  
PO Box 392  
Poplarville, MS 39470-0392  
Work: (601) 795-4543  
Fax: (601) 795-9863

PERRY COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL  
PO Box 1665  
Richton, MS 39476-1665  
Work: (601) 788-6316  
Fax: (601) 788-2268

PIONEER COMMUNITY HOSPITAL OF EARLY  
11740 Columbia Street  
Blakely, GA 39823  
Work: (601) 849-6440

PROMISE SPECIALTY HOSPITAL OF VICKSBURG  
1111 North Frontage Rd, 2nd Floor  
Vicksburg, MS 39180  
Work: (601) 619-3526  
Fax: (601) 619-3071

PSYCHIATRIC SOLUTIONS, INC.  
6640 Carothers Parkway, Ste 500  
Franklin, TN 37067  
Work: (615) 312-5700  
Fax: (615) 312-5711

QUITMAN COUNTY NURSING HOME  
340 Getwell St.  
Marks, MS 38646-9785  
Work: (662) 326-8031  
Fax: (662) 326-8002

REGENCY HOSPITAL OF HATTIESBURG  
2500 Adeline Street  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401  
Work: (601) 288-8511  
Fax: (601) 288-8525

REGENCY HOSPITAL OF MERIDIAN  
1102 Constitution Avenue  
Meridian, MS 39301  
Work: (601) 484-7900  
Fax: (601) 484-7901

REGION 11-SOUTHWEST MS MENTAL HEALTH COMPLEX  
1701 White Street  
McComb, MS 39649

REGION 1 MENTAL HEALTH CENTER  
PO Box 1046  
Clarksdale, MS  
Work: (662) 627-7267  
Fax: (662) 627-5240

REGIONAL ONE HEALTH  
877 Jefferson Ave  
Memphis, TN 38103-2807  
Work: (901) 545-7100

RUSH FOUNDATION HOSPITAL  
1314 19th Avenue  
Meridian, MS 39301-4116  
Work: (601) 483-0011  
Fax: (601) 703-3681

SCOTT REGIONAL HOSPITAL  
PO Box 259  
Morton, MS 39117-0259  
Work: (601) 732-6301  
Fax: (601) 732-6476

SELECT SPECIALTY HOSPITAL-BELHAVEN  
1225 N State Street  
Jackson, MS 39202-2002  
Work: (601) 968-1260  
Fax: (601) 968-6387

SELECT SPECIALTY HOSPITAL-GULF COAST, INC.  
1520 Broad Avenue, Suite 300  
Gulfport, MS 39501  
Work: (228) 575-7500  
Fax: (228) 575-7509

SELECT SPECIALTY HOSPITAL-JACKSON  
5903 Ridgewood Road, Suite 100  
Jackson, MS 39211  
Work: (601) 899-3800  
Fax: (601) 899-3863

SHARKEY-ISSAQUENA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL  
PO Box 339  
Rolling Fork, MS 39159-0339  
Work: (662) 873-4395  
Fax: (662) 873-2089

SIMPSON GENERAL HOSPITAL  
PO Box 457  
Mendenhall, MS 39114-0457  
Work: (601) 847-2221  
Fax: (601) 847-5872

SINGING RIVER HEALTH SYSTEM  
2101 Highway 90  
Gautier, MS 39553-5340  
Work: (228) 809-5000  
Fax: (228) 497-7927

SINGING RIVER HOSPITAL  
2809 Denny Avenue  
Pascagoula, MS 39581-5301  
Work: (228) 809-5000  
Fax: (228) 809-5064

SON VALLEY  
PO Box 406  
Canton, MS 39046  
Work: (601) 859-2100

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER  
PO Box 607  
Laurel, MS 39441-0607  
Work: (601) 426-4000  
Fax: (601) 426-4729

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI REGIONAL CENTER  
1170 W Railroad St.  
Long Beach, MS 39560-4106  
Work: (228) 868-2923  
Fax: (228) 865-9364

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL  
823 Highway 589  
Purvis, MS 39475-4194  
Work: (601) 794-0100  
Fax: (601) 794-0210

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL CRISIS  
INTERVENTION CENTER  
934 West Street  
Laurel, MS 39440  
Work: (601) 477-2860  
Fax: (601) 428-5790

SOUTH SUNFLOWER COUNTY HOSPITAL  
121 E Baker St.  
Indianola, MS 38751-2450  
Work: (662) 887-5235  
Fax: (662) 887-4111

SPECIALIZED TREATMENT FACILITY-GULFPORT  
14426 James Bond Rd  
Gulfport, MS  
Work: (228) 328-6000  
Fax: (228) 328-6035

ST. DOMINIC-JACKSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
969 Lakeland Dr.  
Jackson, MS 39216-4699  
Work: (601) 200-2000  
Fax: (601) 200-6800

ST. LUKE HOME HEALTH AND HOSPICE  
210 State Street  
McComb, MS 39648  
Work: (601) 341-5813

SW MISSISSIPPI REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER  
PO Box 1307  
McComb, MS 39649-1307  
Work: (601) 249-5500  
Fax: (601) 249-1700

TALLAHATCHIE GENERAL HOSPITAL  
PO Box 230  
Charleston, MS 38921-0240  
Work: (662) 647-5535  
Fax: (662) 647-3677

THE BOYINGTON/GULF COAST HEALTH CARE  
1530 Broad Avenue  
Gulfport, MS 39501  
Work: (228) 864-6544

THE SPECIALTY HOSPITAL OF MERIDIAN  
1314 19th Avenue  
Meridian, MS 39301-4116  
Work: (601) 703-4211  
Fax: (601) 703-4294

TIPPAH COUNTY HOSPITAL  
PO Box 499  
Ripley, MS 38663-0499  
Work: (662) 837-9221  
Fax: (662) 837-2110

TISHOMINGO HEALTH SERVICES  
PO Box 860  
Iuka, MS 38852-0860  
Work: (662) 423-6051  
Fax: (662) 423-4515

TRACE REGIONAL HOSPITAL  
PO Box 626  
Houston, MS 38851-0626  
Work: (662) 456-3700  
Fax: (662) 456-5417

TYLER HOLMES MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
409 Tyler Holmes Dr.  
Winona, MS 38967-1521  
Work: (662) 283-4114  
Fax: (662) 283-6125

UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEM  
2500 N State Street  
Jackson, MS 39216  
Work: (601) 984-1000  
Fax: (601) 984-4125

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER –  
GRENADA  
960 Avert Dr.  
Grenada, MS 38901-5230  
Work: (662) 227-7000  
Fax: (662) 227-7000

UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS & CLINICS-HOLMES CO.  
239 Bowling Green Rd.  
Lexington, MS 39095-5167  
Work: (662) 834-1321  
Fax: (662) 834-5240

VA GULF COAST VETERANS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM  
400 Veterans Avenue  
Biloxi, MS 39531  
Work: (228) 523-5000  
Fax: (228) 523-5719

VAMC\_MEMPHIS  
1030 Jefferson Avenue  
Memphis, TN 38104  
Work: (901) 523-8990

WALTHALL COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL  
100 Hospital Dr.  
Tylertown, MS 39667-2022  
Work: (601) 876-2122  
Fax: (601) 876-4190

WAYNE GENERAL HOSPITAL  
PO Box 1249  
Waynesboro, MS 39367-1249  
Work: (601) 735-5151  
Fax: (601) 735-7181

WEBSTER HEALTH SERVICES  
70 Medical Plaza  
Eupora, MS 39744  
Work: (662) 258-6221  
Fax: (662) 258-6659

WINSTON MEDICAL CENTER  
PO Box 967  
Louisville, MS 39339-0967  
Work: (662) 773-6211  
Fax: (662) 773-6223

YALOBUSHA GENERAL HOSPITAL  
PO Box 728  
Water Valley, MS 38965-0728  
Work: (662) 473-1411  
Fax: (662) 473-4922

## APPENDIX B MISSISSIPPI COLLEGES

ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY  
1000 ASU Drive #28  
Lorman MS 39096  
(601) 877-6100  
[www.alcorn.edu](http://www.alcorn.edu)

BELHAVEN COLLEGE  
1500 Peachtree Street  
Jackson MS 39202  
(601) 968-5940  
[www.belhaven.edu](http://www.belhaven.edu)

COAHOMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
3240 Friars Point Road  
Clarksdale MS 38614  
(662) 627-2571  
[www.cc.cc.ms.us](http://www.cc.cc.ms.us)

COPIAH-LINCOLN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
525 Main Avenue  
Magee MS 39111  
(601) 849-5149  
[www.colin.edu](http://www.colin.edu)

COPIAH-LINCOLN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
30 Campus Drive  
Natchez MS 39120  
(601) 442-9111  
[www.colin.edu](http://www.colin.edu)

COPIAH-LINCOLN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
PO Box 649  
Wesson MS 39191  
(601) 643-5101  
[www.colin.edu](http://www.colin.edu)

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY  
PO Box 3174  
Cleveland MS 38733  
(662) 846-3000  
[www.deltast.edu](http://www.deltast.edu)

EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
PO Box 129  
Decatur MS 39237  
(601) 635-2111  
[www.eccc.edu](http://www.eccc.edu)

EAST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
(Golden Triangle Campus)  
PO Box 100  
Mayhew MS 39753  
(662) 243-1900  
[www.emcc.cc.ms.us](http://www.emcc.cc.ms.us)

EAST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
(Scooba Campus)  
PO Box 158  
Scooba MS 39358  
(662) 243-1998  
[www.emcc.cc.ms.us](http://www.emcc.cc.ms.us)

HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
(Nursing/Allied Health)  
1750 Chadwick Drive  
Jackson MS 39204  
(601) 372-6507  
[www.hindscc.edu](http://www.hindscc.edu)

HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
755 Hwy 27 South  
Vicksburg MS 39180  
(601) 638-0600  
[www.hindscc.edu](http://www.hindscc.edu)

HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
1060 Avert Drive  
Grenada MS 38901  
(662) 226-0830  
[www.holmescc.edu](http://www.holmescc.edu)

HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
412 W. Ridgeland Avenue  
Ridgeland MS 39157  
(601) 856-5400  
[www.holmescc.edu](http://www.holmescc.edu)

ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
2176 S Eason  
Tupelo MS 38804  
(662) 620-5000  
[www.iccms.edu](http://www.iccms.edu)

ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
602 West Hill Street  
Fulton MS 38843  
(662) 862-8000  
[www.iccms.edu](http://www.iccms.edu)

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY  
PO Box 17280  
Jackson MS 39217  
1-800-848-6817  
www.isums.edu

JONES JUNIOR COLLEGE  
900 S Court Street  
Ellisville MS 39437  
(601) 477-4000  
www.jjc.edu

MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
910 Hwy 19 North  
Meridian MS 39307  
(601) 483-8241  
www.meridiancc.edu

MILLSAPS COLLEGE  
1701 North State Street  
Jackson MS 39210  
(601) 974-1215  
www.millsaps.edu

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE  
PO Box 4010  
Clinton MS 39058  
(601) 925-3000  
www.mc.edu

MISSISSIPPI DELTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
PO Box 668  
Moorhead MS 38671  
(662) 246-6322  
www.mdelta.edu

MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
51 Main St  
Perkinston, MS 39573  
(601) 928-5211  
www.mgccc.edu

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY  
PO Box 6035  
MS State, MS 39762  
(662) 325-2131  
www.msstate.edu

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN  
PO Box W-1614  
Columbus MS  
39701  
(662) 329-4750  
www.muw.edu

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY  
14000 Highway 82 West #7268  
Itta Bena MS  
(662) 254-3435  
www.mvsu.edu

NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
101 Cunningham Blvd  
Booneville MS 38829  
(662) 728-7751  
www.nemcc.edu

NORTHWEST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Senatobia Campus  
P.O. Box 7045  
Senatobia MS 38668  
(601)562-3200  
www.nwcc.cc.ms.us

NORTHWEST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
DeSoto  
5197 WE Ross Parkway  
Southhaven MS 38671  
(662) 342-1570  
www.nwcc.cc.ms.us

NORTHWEST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Benton Co. Voc. Center  
PO Box 754  
Ashland MS 38603  
(662) 224-3108  
www.nwcc.cc.ms.us

NORTHWEST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
1310 Belk Drive  
Oxford MS 38655  
(601) 236-2023  
www.nwcc.cc.ms.us

PEARL RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Station A, Box 5010  
Poplarville MS 39470  
(601) 795-6801  
www.prcc.cc.ms

RUST COLLEGE  
150 East Rust Avenue  
Holly Springs MS 38635  
(662) 252-4662  
www.rustcollege.edu

SOUTHWEST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Summit MS  
(601) 276-2000  
www.smcc.cc.ms

TOUGALOO COLLEGE  
500 West County Line Road  
Tougaloo MS 39274  
(601) 977-7730  
[www.tougaloo.edu](http://www.tougaloo.edu)

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI  
257 Martindale  
University, Mississippi 38677  
[www.olemiss.edu](http://www.olemiss.edu)

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CTR  
2500 North State Street  
Jackson MS  
(601) 984-1080  
[www.olemiss.edu](http://www.olemiss.edu)

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI  
PO Box 5101  
Hattiesburg MS 39046  
(601) 266-5001  
[www.usm.edu](http://www.usm.edu)

WILLIAM CAREY COLLEGE  
498 Tuscan Avenue Box 7  
Hattiesburg MS 39401  
(601) 582-6223  
[www.wmcarey.edu](http://www.wmcarey.edu)





## Contact US

Mississippi Center for Quality and Workforce  
MHA Health, Research and Educational Foundation, Inc.  
116 Woodgreen Crossing | Madison, MS 39110  
(601) 368-3321 | [www.msccqw.org](http://www.msccqw.org)

