HEALTHCARE 20KS28 CAREERS

Top Health Care Careers in Kansas

- Demand
- Education Requirements
- Average Salary
- Job Openings

Kansas Hospital ASSOCIATION

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT 2

YEAR OR LESS TRAINING..... 3

Certified Nursing Aide 4

Emergency Medical Technician 4

Medical Assistant..... 5

Dental Assistant 5

Licensed Practical Nurse 6

Pharmacy Technician 6

Surgical Technologist 7

ASSOCIATES DEGREE TRAINING 8

Dental Hygienist..... 9

Medical Records and Health Information Technician 9

Paramedic..... 10

Physical Therapy Assistant 10

ASSOCIATES OR BACHELOR DEGREE TRAINING..... 11

Radiologic Technologist and Technician 12

Respiratory Therapist..... 12

Registered Nurse..... 13

SPECIALTY OR BACHELOR DEGREE TRAINING..... 14

Dietitian and Nutritionist 15

Clinical Laboratory Technologist and Technician 15

Nuclear Medicine Technologist..... 16

Radiation Therapist 16

MASTER'S DEGREE TRAINING..... 17

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner 18

Physician Assistant 19

Speech-Language Pathologist..... 19

Licensed Clinical Social Worker 20

DOCTORATE TRAINING..... 21

Audiologist..... 22

Pharmacist..... 22

Physical Therapist 23

Dentist 23

Physician 24

Surgeon 24

DATA SOURCES..... 25

Top Health Care Careers in Kansas

This book highlights top health care professional job opportunities, at various educational levels, from less than one year of training to the requirement of a graduate degree. Health care professionals play a vital role in ensuring the health and well-being of Kansans. "Health care professionals" is a broad term that encompasses the many individuals who deliver health care in today's complex, patient care environment.

Kansas hospitals are busy places. The 122 community hospitals in Kansas provided care for more than:

- 306,000 inpatient visits
- 33,000 births
- 8.3 million outpatient visits
- 1 million emergency department visits

Health care, at its core, is about people caring for people. Kansas hospitals alone employ nearly 100,000 health care professionals. This does not include physician offices, clinics and the many other places health care professionals work. More than 240,000 Kansans, or nearly 12 percent of the state's total workforce, work in health care. This is more than the national average of 10 percent of all U.S. workers employed in health care.

Throughout Kansas and the nation, hospitals and other health care providers are experiencing workforce shortages. These shortages cause considerable strain on the health care system, especially since an aging population is expected to need more health care services in the immediate future, and many of today's health care professionals are nearing retirement age. Consider the following reasons for an increased need for health care professionals:

- The population of Kansas is expected to grow 28.8 percent by 2070.
- The population of Kansans over the age of 65 is projected to double over the next 50 years.
- Health care demands increase in later years in life.
- The average age of most practicing health care professionals is over 40 years, with an expectation of retirement in the next 10 years.

The success of the health care system is dependent on the availability of properly educated and trained professionals. People enter into careers in health care because they want to make a difference in the lives of others. The work a health care professional does is demanding and exacting. It requires skill, focus and attention to detail. Health care careers are some of the most respected, exciting, rewarding and fulfilling careers one can have.

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Places of Employment

Usual places of employment for health care professionals are:

Hospitals, including community, psychiatric and other specialty hospitals

Home health organizations

Medical and dental laboratories

Dental offices and clinics

Durable medical equipment distributors

Pharmacies

Emergency medical service providers

Professional education programs that train health care professionals

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

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

More health care professionals in Kansas are employed by hospitals than in any other setting, which is similar nationally. Nurses constitute the single largest group of health care professionals in Kansas.

YEAR OR LESS TRAINING

- Certified Nursing Aide (CNA)
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Medical Assistant
- Dental Assistant
- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)
- Pharmacy Technician
- Surgical Technologist

HEALTHCARE 20KS28 CAREERS

CERTIFIED NURSING AIDE (CNA)

Average Salary:
$13.02 (hourly) $27,080 (annual)

Education:
Less than 1 year

Projected 2028 Employment:
24,417

Average Annual Job Openings:
2,762

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

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

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT)

Average Salary:
$14.85 (hourly) $30,890 (annual)

Education:
Less than 1 year

Projected 2028 Employment:
2,211

Average Annual Job Openings:
148

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

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

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Average Salary:
$15.12 (hourly) $31,450 (annual)

Education:
Less than 1 year

Projected 2028 Employment:
4,991

Average Annual Job Openings:
571

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

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

DENTAL ASSISTANT

Average Salary:
$18.19 (hourly) $37,830 (annual)

Education:
Less than 1 year

Projected 2028 Employment:
2,936

Average Annual Job Openings:
326

Common Job Titles: Certified Dental Assistant, Certified Registered Dental Assistant, Orthodontic Assistant, Registered Dental Assistant

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

YEAR OR LESS TRAINING

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE (LPN)

Average Salary:
$21.28 (hourly) $44,260 (annual)

Education:
Less than 1 year

Projected 2028 Employment:
7,985

Average Annual Job Openings:
610

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

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

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

Average Salary:
$16.53 (hourly) $34,390 (annual)

Education:
Less than 1 year

Projected 2028 Employment:
3,888

Average Annual Job Openings:
321

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

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

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST

Average Salary:
$21.45(hourly) $44,610 (annual)

Education:
Less than 1 year

Projected 2028 Employment:
1,169

Average Annual Job Openings:
97

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

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

ASSOCIATES DEGREE TRAINING

- Dental Hygienist
- Medical Records amd Health Information Technician
- Paramedic
- Physical Therapy Assistant

HEALTHCARE
20KS28
CAREERS

DENTAL HYGIENIST

Average Salary:
$32.86 (hourly) $68,340 (annual)

Education:
Associates

Projected 2028 Employment:
2,256

Average Annual Job Openings:
147

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

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

MEDICAL RECORDS AND HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNICIAN

Average Salary:
$18.78 (hourly) $39,072 (annual)

Education:
Associates

Projected 2028 Employment:
2,666

Average Annual Job Openings:
178

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

Medical Records Technicians compile, process and maintain medical records of hospital and clinic patients in a manner consistent with medical, administrative, ethical, legal and regulatory requirements of the health care system. They classify medical and health care concepts, including diagnosis, procedures, medical services and equipment into the health care industry's numerical coding system. Includes medical coders.

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

PARAMEDIC

Average Salary:
$14.85 (hourly) $30,890 (annual)

Education:
Associates

Projected 2028 Employment:
2,211

Average Annual Job Openings:
148

Common Job Titles: Medic, Flight Paramedic, First Responder

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

PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT (PTA)

Average Salary:
$28.64 (hourly) $59,570 (annual)

Education:
Associates

Projected 2028 Employment:
1,463

Average Annual Job Openings:
188

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

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

ASSOCIATES OR BACHELOR DEGREE TRAINING*

- **Radiologic Technologist and Technician**
- **Respiratory Therapist**
- **Registered Nurse**

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

HEALTHCARE 20KS28 CAREERS

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST AND TECHNICIAN

Average Salary:
$26.32 (hourly) $54,750 (annual)

Education:
Associates or Bachelor's

Projected 2028 Employment:
2,260

Average Annual Job Openings:
130

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

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

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

Average Salary:
$27.21 (hourly) $56,600 (annual)

Education:
Associates or Bachelor's

Projected 2028 Employment:
1,582

Average Annual Job Openings:
104

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

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

REGISTERED NURSE

Average Salary:
$30.02 (hourly) $62,450 (annual)

Education:
Associates or Bachelor's

Projected 2028 Employment:
33,369

Average Annual Job Openings:
1,965

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

RNs work to promote health, prevent disease and help patients cope with illness. They are advocates and health educators for patients, families and communities. When providing direct patient care, they observe, assess and record symptoms, reactions and progress, and make nursing interventions based on nursing judgements obtained from findings; perform technical skills in delivery of nursing care; assist physicians and other health care team members; administer medications; and participate in care for restoration and rehabilitation.

RNs develop and manage nursing care plans; instruct patients and their families in actions promoting healthy lifestyle choices and proper care; and help individuals and groups take steps to improve and maintain their health. While state laws govern the practice of RNs, it is usually the work setting that determines their day-to-day job duties.

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

SPECIALTY OR BACHELOR DEGREE TRAINING

- Dietitian and Nutritionist
- Clinical Laboratory Technologist and Technician
- Nuclear Medicine Technologist
- Radiation Therapist

HEALTHCARE 20KS28 CAREERS

DIETITIAN AND NUTRITIONIST

Average Salary:
$27.85 (hourly) $57,930 (annual)

Education:
Bachelor's

Projected 2028 Employment:
704

Average Annual Job Openings:
47

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

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

CLINICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGIST AND TECHNICIAN

Average Salary:
$23.25 (hourly) $48,350 (annual)

Education:
Bachelor's

Projected 2028 Employment:
3,663

Average Annual Job Openings:
242

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

Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists perform complex medical laboratory tests for diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease.

NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGIST

Average Salary:
$37.96 (hourly) $78,960 (annual)

Education:
Bachelor's

Projected 2028 Employment:
167

Average Annual Job Openings:
9

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

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

RADIATION THERAPIST (RT)

Average Salary:
$34.68 (hourly) $72,140 (annual)

Education:
Specialty Degree

Projected 2028 Employment:
304

Average Annual Job Openings:
15

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

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

MASTER'S DEGREE TRAINING

- **Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner**
- **Physician Assistant**
- **Speech-Language Pathologist**
- **Licensed Clinical Social Worker**

HEALTHCARE 20KS28 CAREERS

ADVANCED REGISTERED NURSE PRACTITIONER (ARNP)

Average Salary:
$48.34 (hourly) $100,550 (annual)

Education:
Master's

Projected 2028 Employment:
2,914

Average Annual Job Openings:
189

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

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

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT (PA)

Average Salary:
$51.74 (hourly) $107,610 (annual)

Education:
Master's

Projected 2028 Employment:
1,345

Average Annual Job Openings:
92

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

Physician Assistants provide health care services typically performed by a physician, under the supervision of a physician. They conduct complete physicals, provide treatment, counsel patients and prescribe medication. PAs must graduate from an accredited educational program for physician assistants.

SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

Average Salary:
$35.63 (hourly) $74,100 (annual)

Education:
Master's

Projected 2028 Employment:
1,672

Average Annual Job Openings:
107

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

Speech-Language Pathologist assess and treat persons with speech, language, voice and fluency disorders. They may select alternative communication systems, teach their use and perform research related to speech and language problems.

LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER (LCSW)

Average Salary:
$26.67 (hourly) $55,470 (annual)

Education:
Master's

Projected 2028 Employment:
1,706

Average Annual Job Openings:
173

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

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

Social workers typically do the following:

- Identify people and communities in need of help
- Assess clients' needs, situations, strengths and support networks to determine their goals
- Help clients adjust to changes and challenges in their lives, such as illness, divorce or unemployment
- Research, refer and advocate for community resources, such as food stamps, childcare and health care to assist and improve a client's well-being
- Respond to crisis situations such as child abuse and mental health emergencies
- Follow up with clients to ensure that their situations have improved
- Evaluate services provided to ensure that they are effective
- Develop and evaluate programs and services to ensure that basic client needs are met
- Provide psychotherapy services

Social workers help people cope with challenges in their lives. They help with a wide range of situations, such as adopting a child or being diagnosed with a terminal illness. Social workers may work with children, people with disabilities, and people with serious illnesses and addictions. Their work varies based on the type of client they are working with.

Some social workers work with groups, community organizations, and policymakers to develop or improve programs, services, policies and social conditions. This focus of work is referred to as macro social work.

Advocacy is an important aspect of social work. Social workers advocate or raise awareness with and on behalf of their clients and the social work profession on local, state and national levels.

DOCTORATE TRAINING

- Audiologist
- Pharmacist
- Physical Therapist
- Dentist
- Physician
- Surgeon

HEALTHCARE
20KS28
CAREERS

AUDIOLOGIST

Average Salary:
$32.54 (hourly) $67,680 (annual)

Education:
Doctorate

Projected 2028 Employment:
128

Average Annual Job Openings:
6

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

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

PHARMACIST

Average Salary:
$58.14 (hourly) $121,710 (annual)

Education:
Doctorate

Projected 2028 Employment:
2,989

Average Annual Job Openings:
129

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

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

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Average Salary:
$42.46 (hourly) $88,310 (annual)

Education:
Doctorate

Projected 2028 Employment:
2,826

Average Annual Job Openings:
140

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

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

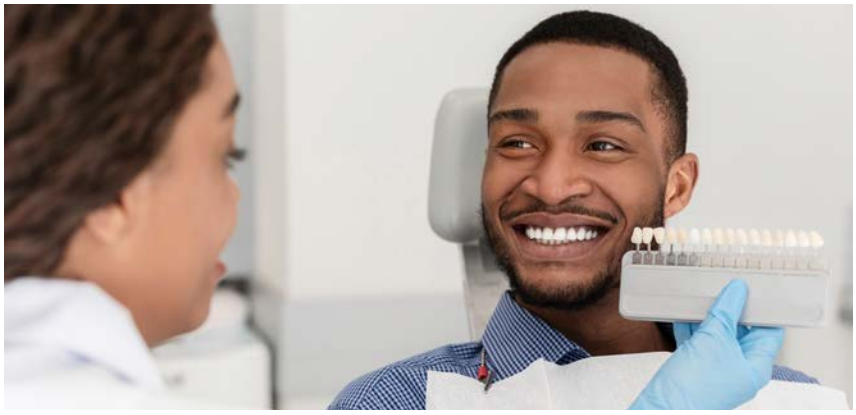
DENTIST

Average Salary:
$88.50 (hourly) $184,070 (annual)

Education:
Doctorate

Projected 2028 Employment:
1,093

Average Annual Job Openings:
26



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

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

PHYSICIAN

Average Salary:
$87.59 (hourly) $182,180 (annual)

Education:
Doctorate

Projected 2028 Employment:
4,146

Average Annual Job Openings:
129

Common Job Titles: Attending Physiatrist, Residency Program Director; Attending Physician; Doctor of Medicine/ Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation PM&R Specialist; Medical Director Acute Rehabilitation Unit Physiatrist; Pain Management Physician; Pediatric Physiatrist; Physiatrist; Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Physician, Medical Director; Rehabilitation Physician

Physicians make life and death decisions. They provide the highest standard of care and are legally and ethically responsible for the care and well-being of their patients. They are also ultimately responsible for the care given by other health care professionals to their patients.

Physicians diagnose specific illnesses, prescribe treatments and medications, and make decisions based on clinical assessments and laboratory testing. There are two types of physicians: The MD—Doctor of Medicine—and the DO—Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine. While both MDs and DOs may use all accepted methods of treatment, including drugs and surgery, DOs place special emphasis on the body's musculoskeletal system, preventive medicine and holistic care.

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

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

SURGEON

Average Salary:
$129.55 (hourly) $269,460 (annual)

Education:
Doctorate

Projected 2028 Employment:
179

Average Annual Job Openings:
3

Common Job Titles: Brain Surgeon, Cardiac Surgeon, Orthopedic Surgeon, Plastic Surgeon, Thoracic Surgeon, Trauma Surgeon

Surgeons are physicians who specialize in the treatment of injury, disease and deformity through operations. Though a large number perform general surgery, many surgeons choose to specialize in a specific area. Surgeons, like primary care and other specialist physicians, also examine patients, perform and interpret diagnostic tests, and counsel patients on preventive health care.

DATA SOURCES

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High Wage High Demand 2020. Source: Kansas Department of Labor, Labor Market Information Services (LMIS). *2019 Edition of the Kansas Wage Survey data. 1) Long-term Projections Score is based off of the 2016-2026 round of projection data. 2) Short-term Projections Score is based off of the 2019-2021 round of projection data. 3) KansasWorks Score is based off of job openings posted on https://www.kansasworks.com/during 2nd quarter 2020. 4) Wage data is for Local Area 1 from the 2020 Edition of the Kansas Wage Survey (data collected in 2019.)

Kansas Long-term Occupational Projections 2018-2028. Source Kansas Department of Labor. {1} Total Openings: Sum of Exits, Transfers and Numerical Change. {2} Wage data are from the 2020 Edition of the Kansas Wage Survey showing wages collected in 2019 (Source: Kansas Department of Labor, Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics; Occupation Employment Statistics (OES)). * 2019 Kansas Wage Survey data (2020 Kansas Wage Survey data not available). {3} Education and Training Levels are provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, more information can be found at: https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2020/article/education-level-and-openings.htm Note: Occupation subtotals may not add to the totals due to rounding and the suppression of data.

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Courtesy of the Kansas Board of Regents and the Kansas Hospital Association

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

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