

Education & Salary

Health-related careers offer many opportunities for financial stability. Depending on the career, training can be completed in a few months or may require several years.

Profession*	Average Salary	Average Length Education and Training (Beyond High School)
Dentist	\$163,160	11 Years
Physician	\$162,340	7-8 Years
Chiropractor	\$108,060	8 Years
Pharmacist	\$93,630	6 Years
Nurse Anesthetist	\$71,320	6 Years
Medical Records Administrator	\$70,730	4 Years
Audiologist	\$70,560	6 Years
Physician Assistant	\$70,520	4-6 Years
Physical Therapist	\$65,720	6-8 Years
Athletic Trainer	\$58,580	4 Years
Registered Nurse	\$53,210	2-4 Years
Dental Hygienist	\$48,130	2-4 Years
Dietitian/Nutritionist	\$39,640	4 Years
Licensed Practical Nurse	\$35,620	1 Year
Dental Assistant	\$29,780	10-12 Months
Emergency Medical Technician	\$27,740	6 Months-2 Years
Optician	\$26,100	2 Years

* Source: South Carolina Occupational Information System, 2006

“Some may feel that seven years of schooling is a lot, but it’s well worth the time and effort to be able to have the testimony of loving what you do from day-to-day on your job.”
- Mardelle Bates,
Physical Therapist -
Summerville, SC



Find Out More:



- Explore health related professions by:
 - Meeting with the school Career Specialist or Guidance Counselor
 - Talking with a practicing healthcare professional
 - Volunteering at a hospital or healthcare office
- Gather information by searching the web:
 - www.lowcountryrc.org
 - www.midcarolinarc.com
 - www.peedeerc.org
 - www.upstaterc.org
 - www.careervoyages.gov/healthcare-videos.cfm
 - www.ExploreHealthCareers.org
 - www.healthcareers.org
 - www.schosa.org
- Investigate available opportunities by contacting your Health Careers Coordinator:

South Carolina AHEC Program Office
 843.792.4443 • www.scahec.net
 Lowcountry AHEC
 843.782.5052 • www.lcahec.com
 Mid-Carolina AHEC
 803.287.4900 • www.midcarolinaahec.org
 Pee Dee AHEC
 843.777.5351 • www.peedeeahhec.net
 Upstate AHEC
 864.349.1176 • www.upstateahec.org

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Changing the Face of Healthcare



Why Choose a Career in Health?



Coalitions for Health Careers
 PROMOTING DIVERSITY IN HEALTHCARE

In High Demand

The population of South Carolina is growing rapidly, and in the next 25 years the number of people over age 65 is expected to exceed 1.2 million. These changes will greatly increase the need for more healthcare providers.

South Carolina employs nearly 120,000 people in one of more than 200 health related professions.



"Since starting my nursing career in 2002, I have seen many changes for the benefit of the patient, which is the top priority of nursing. It is very rewarding to have patients come back to visit and update me on their progress. This lets me know that I have impacted their lives." - Chiquita Morris, Registered Nurse - Florence, SC

Hundreds of Choices

Jobs are available to assist with all aspects of patient care. Some jobs require direct patient care while others do not. The health sciences field is divided into five career pathways:

Diagnostic Services employees analyze and record the state of a patient's health at the time of the examination. Employees in diagnostic services include all of the technicians who conduct procedures that give physicians the information they need to provide effective treatment.

Therapeutic Services employees work to counter the effects of disease and injury, maintaining or improving patients' health. These workers include doctors, dentists, nurses,

pharmacists, psychologists, and many others who assist with the delivery of patient care.

Health Informatics workers manage and document healthcare system informatics to support patient care. These employees often work in hospitals, providing the range of information management services needed to provide care to patients.

Biotechnology Research and Development workers pursue advances in science and technology to support and improve the diagnosis and treatment of disease. These employees, often working in laboratories and research offices, perform scientific studies to help improve patient care.

Support Services workers create and maintain a healthcare delivery environment that supports diagnosis and therapy. They maintain the healthcare setting in a way that ensures the safe and efficient delivery of patient care.

"Dentistry is a great field that allows you to care for patients of all ages. Students who are interested in a health profession should observe practicing professionals to help them decide which career might be right for them." - Noble Cooper, Sr. & Noble Cooper, Jr., Dentists - Columbia, SC



These healthcare professions are among the top 15 fastest growing occupations in South Carolina:

Pharmacists • Registered Nurses
Pharmacy Technicians • Dental Assistants
Personal and Home Care Aides
Medical Assistants • Home Health Aides

Bridging the Health Gap

The African American and Hispanic population is increasing. South Carolina requires additional minority healthcare providers to address the higher rates of chronic illness experienced by these groups.



"I am an ambulatory care clinical pharmacist. I chose this career because I enjoy working with patients on a one-on-one basis. I believe this was the best fit for my talents and what I enjoy doing." - Wendy Dean, Pharmacist - Greenville, SC

Making a Difference

Healthcare professionals must have a caring attitude. People in health careers must also pay close attention to the details in order to provide effective, quality healthcare for their patients.

"I love my job because I know that at the end of every day, I may have had a positive effect on someone that will possibly go with them for the rest of their life."

- Danette Jones, Registered Nurse - Anderson, SC

