



Health Science Careers

Right now, over 200,000 people in the Texas Gulf Coast region (which includes Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Wharton, Walker, and Waller counties) are employed in the health care industry in jobs ranging from receptionist to brain surgeon. Between now and 2016, one in seven new jobs in this area will be in health care – a total of 93,950 jobs in all. Even in uncertain economic times, opportunities will continue to expand.

Most jobs will involve working with a team of health care professionals who care for people. Your ability to communicate with the team, as well as with patients and their families, is very important. If you know a second language, it not only will help this communication process, but also provide you with additional job opportunities. Know that the decisions you make and the work you do in a health care job can have a profound impact on the lives of others. You may find the work stressful at times, but also very rewarding.

Know that the health care world changes rapidly and it is important that people in this field continue to learn about new technology, scientific discoveries and other advancements. Continued education is a must, and it can be a very interesting part of health care careers.

If you like challenges, multiple and different types of job opportunities, working with teams of professionals, and the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives, a job in the health care field may be just the one for you.

So what does it take to get one of these jobs? Most jobs in health care require some training after high school. Some require certificates that can be earned at community colleges or technical institutes, and others require a college degree and several years of post graduate study. In general, the jobs that pay the most will require more years of school. However, it is possible to have a career in health care that earns you a good living without going to a four-year college.

So where do you go to learn more about specific occupations in the health science field? Try the internet. You can find lots of good information there. Also, the Gulf Coast Workforce Board has developed a couple of resources for career planning. One is a "*Focus On*" series of short profiles of high growth industries and occupations in demand in the Gulf Coast region. They are designed to help students and parents plan for the future -

<http://www.wrksolutions.com/jobs/focuson.html>. Also, check out the Board's *Career Cube*, <http://www.careercube.org/>, which links to many online resources and focuses on four major Gulf Coast industries, including health care. The Career Cube also has a list of colleges and universities in the region where you can pursue your health care career after high school, and links to financial resources to help pay for your education. Also check out the Texas Education Agency's *Achieve Texas* site, <http://www.achievetexas.org>, which provides information and suggested courses of study for specific occupations. Finally, know that the U.S. Department of

Labor has lots of great career information, www.careervoyages.gov, including short videos illustrating what different jobs are really like. For more specific information on the local health care job market, check out the following chart. It will tell you how many people are employed in different health care jobs and the wages people can expect to earn in these jobs.

In the chart below, highlighted occupations are considered High-Skill/High-Growth Occupations – those that pay well and have considerable opportunities for employment now and in the future.

Upper Texas Gulf Coast Region

SOC ¹	Health Science Cluster Occupational Title	Annual Average Employment 2006	Percent Growth 2006-2016	Total Annual Average Job Openings ²	2007 Hourly Wages
<u>Short-term on-the-job training (Less than 1 month)</u>					
31-1011	Home Health Aides	9,450	48.1%	545	\$8.57
31-2022	Physical Therapist Aides	900	44.4%	50	\$10.82
31-9096	Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers	1,250	24.0%	40	\$9.72
31-1013	Psychiatric Aides	950	21.1%	35	\$12.47
31-9093	Medical Equipment Preparers	650	30.8%	35	\$12.91
31-2012	Occupational Therapist Aides	100	0.0%	5	\$11.28
31-9095	Pharmacy Aides	550	0.0%	5	\$9.70
<u>Moderate-term on-the-job training (1-12 months)</u>					
31-9092	Medical Assistants	7,900	64.6%	610	\$12.42
29-2052	Pharmacy Technicians	6,150	45.5%	470	\$13.83
31-9091	Dental Assistants	4,600	40.2%	260	\$14.82
<u>Long-term on-the-job training (More than 12 months)</u>					
29-2081	Opticians, Dispensing	1,000	25.0%	55	\$13.18
<u>Postsecondary vocational training</u>					
31-1012	Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants	19,150	42.0%	970	\$10.75
29-2061	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	13,700	31.0%	800	\$18.97
29-2055	Surgical Technologists	1,550	51.6%	125	\$18.27
29-2041	Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics	2,900	29.3%	120	\$14.34
31-9011	Massage Therapists	2,100	23.8%	70	\$15.24
31-9094	Medical Transcriptionists	1,250	32.0%	55	\$16.73
29-2099	Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other	1,150	34.8%	50	\$16.49
29-2051	Dietetic Technicians	250	40.0%	20	\$12.87
29-2053	Psychiatric Technicians	300	33.3%	20	\$12.35
<u>Associate degree</u>					
29-1111	Registered Nurses	37,100	47.3%	2,365	\$30.59
29-2034	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	3,250	36.9%	170	\$23.94
29-2012	Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians	3,300	34.8%	165	\$16.72
29-2071	Medical Records and Health Information Technicians	2,400	39.6%	160	\$16.48
29-2021	Dental Hygienists	2,350	40.4%	140	\$32.08
29-2056	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	1,950	38.5%	140	\$11.98
29-1126	Respiratory Therapists	1,800	47.2%	110	\$23.81
31-2021	Physical Therapist Assistants	900	50.0%	55	\$23.45
29-2031	Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians	650	53.8%	45	\$20.49
29-2032	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	600	41.7%	35	\$28.27
29-2054	Respiratory Therapy Technicians	600	25.0%	35	\$19.59
31-2011	Occupational Therapist Assistants	400	50.0%	25	\$23.53
29-1124	Radiation Therapists	250	60.0%	20	\$39.22
29-2033	Nuclear Medicine Technologists	300	50.0%	15	\$35.27

SOC ¹	Health Science Cluster Occupational Title	Annual Average Employment 2006	Percent Growth 2006-2016	Total Annual Average Job Openings ²	2007 Hourly Wages
<u>Bachelor's degree</u>					
29-2011	Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists	3,200	34.4%	155	\$24.48
29-9011	Occupational Health and Safety Specialists	1,200	25.0%	55	\$30.72
29-1199	Health Diagnosing and Treating Practitioners, All Other	750	46.7%	45	\$71.00
29-1031	Dietitians and Nutritionists	750	26.7%	40	\$23.78
29-9099	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Workers, All Other	500	40.0%	30	\$24.02
29-9012	Occupational Health and Safety Technicians	400	25.0%	20	\$23.95
29-9091	Athletic Trainers	400	37.5%	20	NA ³
29-1129	Therapists, All Other	250	20.0%	10	\$29.57
29-1125	Recreational Therapists	150	33.3%	5	\$17.36
29-2091	Orthotists and Prosthetists	100	0.0%	0	NA ³
<u>Master's degree</u>					
29-1123	Physical Therapists	2,400	45.8%	140	\$36.82
29-1127	Speech-Language Pathologists	2,400	37.5%	135	\$30.04
29-1122	Occupational Therapists	1,500	43.3%	85	\$33.56
29-1071	Physician Assistants	950	57.9%	70	\$38.60
<u>First professional degree</u>					
29-1051	Pharmacists	4,350	35.6%	230	\$48.25
29-1062	Family and General Practitioners	2,100	33.3%	110	\$63.72
29-1021	Dentists, General	1,750	20.0%	70	\$73.01
29-1061	Anesthesiologists	1,050	47.6%	70	\$70.99
29-1067	Surgeons	1,200	37.5%	65	\$86.20
29-1131	Veterinarians	950	47.4%	65	\$41.40
29-1064	Obstetricians and Gynecologists	700	57.1%	50	\$73.37
29-1065	Pediatricians, General	900	38.9%	50	\$55.18
29-1063	Internists, General	650	38.5%	35	\$71.91
29-1011	Chiropractors	650	30.8%	25	\$25.06
29-1041	Optometrists	450	33.3%	25	\$48.53
29-1066	Psychiatrists	300	33.3%	15	\$46.56
29-1081	Podiatrists	100	50.0%	10	NA ³
29-1121	Audiologists	200	25.0%	5	\$28.50
29-1022	Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons	100	0.0%	0	\$91.12
29-1023	Orthodontists	100	0.0%	0	NA ³
29-1029	Dentists, All Other Specialists	50	0.0%	0	\$60.69

Sources: U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics and Texas Workforce Commission

¹ Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Codes refer to a standardized coding system to categorize occupations. To find out more about an occupation, you can go to <http://online.onetcenter.org/find/>, enter the SOC code, and look at a complete description of an occupation.

² Total average openings include total job openings due to both growth and replacements. Job openings due to growth are created by increases in the total number of people employed in an occupation. Job openings due to net replacement estimate the need in existing jobs as workers vacate, change jobs, or leave the labor force.

³ Wage data for this occupation are not available.



Health Science Careers Plan of Study

Recommended Plan _____
Distinguished Achievement Plan _____

Learner Name _____
Learner Signature _____
Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____
Advisor Signature _____

High School Graduation Plan	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
	English I	English II	English III	English IV
	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Math Elective
	Biology I	IPC or Chemistry	Chemistry or Physics	Science Elective - Lab-based
	World Geography	World History	US History	Economics/Government
	Required Electives PE, Health, Fine Arts, Foreign Language, Communication Application, or Technology Applications _____	Required Electives PE, Health, Fine Arts, Foreign Language, Communication Application, or Technology Applications _____	Required Electives PE, Health, Fine Arts, Foreign Language, Communication Application, or Technology Applications _____	Required Electives PE, Health, Fine Arts, Foreign Language, Communication Application, or Technology Applications _____
	Required Electives PE, Health, Fine Arts, Foreign Language, Communication Application, or Technology Applications _____	Required Electives PE, Health, Fine Arts, Foreign Language, Communication Application, or Technology Applications _____	Career Electives Health Science Career Elective or Language (distinguished) _____	Career Electives Health Science Career Elective or Language (distinguished) _____
	Required Electives PE, Health, Fine Arts, Foreign Language, Communication Application, or Technology Applications _____	Career Electives Health Science Career Elective _____	Career Electives Health Science Career Elective _____	Career Electives Health Science Career Elective _____
Health Care Cluster Career Electives: Anatomy & Physiology, Gerontology, Health Science Technology I, Health Science Technology II, Health Science Technology III, Introduction to Health Science Technology, Medical Microbiology, Medical Terminology, Mental Health Pathophysiology, Pharmacology				

This plan of study should serve as a guide. Courses listed within this plan are only recommended coursework and should be individualized to meet each learner's educational and career goals.