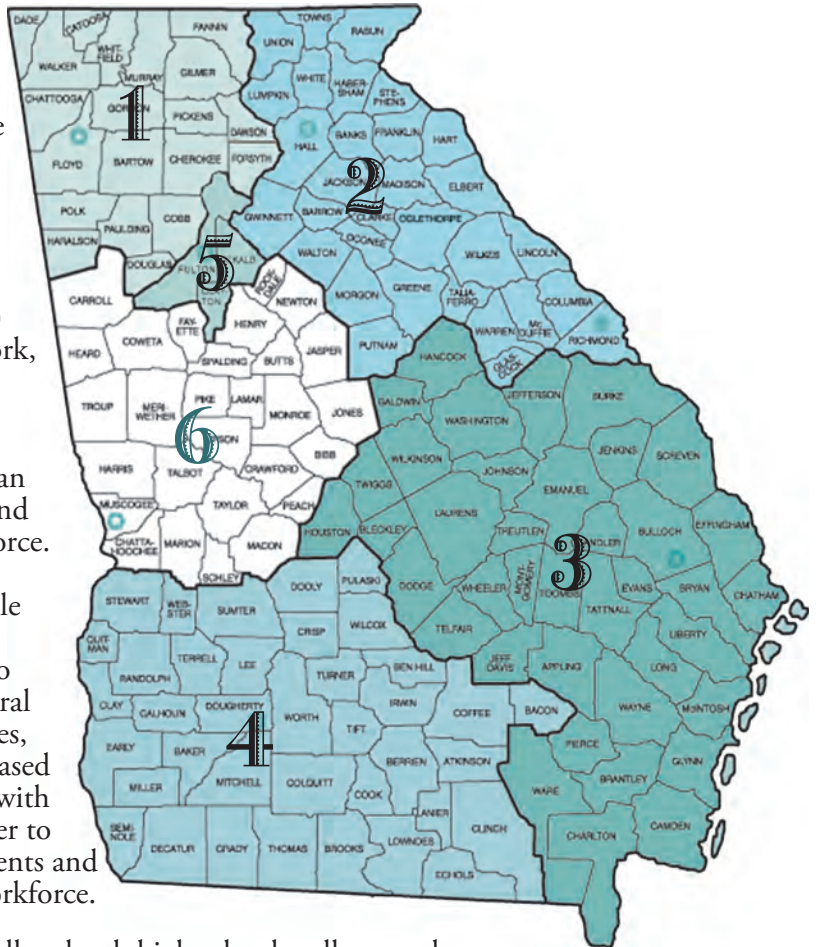




## WHAT THE HECK IS AN AHEC?

It sounds like a strange name but this resource can truly make life easier for those wanting to become a health professional. Six unique not-for-profit Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) comprise the Georgia Network, serve multiple counties, and all have a common mission: to improve the health of communities by developing an adequate, well-distributed, and competent healthcare workforce. This is done by promoting health careers to young people and adults, assisting current health professions students to complete their training in rural and underserved communities, and providing community-based providers and organizations with continuing education in order to meet credentialing requirements and maintaining a competent workforce.



Some of the ways that a middle school, high school, college student, or second career seeker might benefit from an association with an AHEC: learn about various careers through classroom presentations, counseling, mentoring, volunteering, shadowing experiences, attend camps where there are hands-on opportunities, intensive programs that allow students to view careers in-depth, view videos about health professionals, and attend clubs or career fairs.

For students currently enrolled in health professions training programs, AHECs can arrange quality clinical training in communities away from the main academic institution and provide housing or travel support when available and if the student is eligible.

Contact the AHEC that serves the area where you live, work, or attend school for further assistance. The production, distribution, and online version of this manual is just one way that AHECs are trying to meet the needs of Georgians and the healthcare workforce shortages in the state.

### Georgia AHECs

**1 Blue Ridge AHEC**  
2007 North Broad Street, NE  
Rome, GA 30161  
(706) 235-0776  
[www.blueridgeahec.org](http://www.blueridgeahec.org)

**2 Foothills AHEC**  
700 South Enota Drive, St. 102  
Gainesville, GA 30501  
(770) 219-8130  
[www.foothillsahec.org](http://www.foothillsahec.org)

**3 Magnolia Coastlands AHEC**  
Georgia Southern University  
62 Georgia Avenue  
Hollis Building, Room 1115  
Statesboro, GA 30458  
(912) 478-1050  
[www.magnoliacoastlandsahec.org](http://www.magnoliacoastlandsahec.org)

**4 SOWEGA-AHEC**  
1512 West Third Avenue  
Albany, GA 31707  
(229) 439-7185  
[www.sowega-ahec.org](http://www.sowega-ahec.org)

**5 SPCC/Atlanta AHEC**  
1720 Peachtree Street, NW  
Suite 440  
Atlanta, GA 30309  
(404) 815-4996  
[www.spccatlantaahec.org](http://www.spccatlantaahec.org)

**6 Three Rivers AHEC**  
P.O. Box 4177  
2022 15th Avenue  
Columbus, GA 31901  
(706) 507-0894  
[www.threeriversahec.org](http://www.threeriversahec.org)

# 2013-2015 HEALTH CAREERS IN GEORGIA

A GEORGIA STATEWIDE AHEC NETWORK PUBLICATION

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                                        |                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>AHECs</b> .....                                     | <b>Inside Cover</b> |
| <b>Table of Contents</b> .....                         | <b>ii</b>           |
| <b>A Guided Tour</b> .....                             | <b>1</b>            |
| <b>Career Inventory</b> .....                          | <b>2</b>            |
| <b>The Educational Journey</b> .....                   | <b>3</b>            |
| <b>Georgia’s Hot Careers</b> .....                     | <b>4</b>            |
| <b>Spotlight</b> .....                                 | <b>5</b>            |
| <b>Bucket List &amp; High School Road Map</b> .....    | <b>6</b>            |
| <b>HOSA: Future Health Professionals</b> .....         | <b>9</b>            |
| <b>Healthcare Science Technology Education</b> .....   | <b>9</b>            |
| <b>Financial Aid</b> .....                             | <b>10</b>           |
| <b>Educational Programs in Georgia</b> .....           | <b>14</b>           |
| <b>Hospital-Based &amp; Proprietary Programs</b> ..... | <b>22</b>           |
| <b>Hospitals in Georgia</b> .....                      | <b>24</b>           |
| <b>Alphabetized Career List</b> .....                  | <b>30 &amp; 115</b> |
| <b>Career Pages</b> .....                              | <b>31 - 114</b>     |
| <b>Acknowledgments</b> .....                           | <b>116</b>          |

## COMPLEMENTARY & ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

Complementary and alternative medicine include therapies not generally considered a part of conventional medicine. Some examples are acupuncture, herbal medicines, dietary supplements, deep breathing exercises, meditation, chiropractic manipulation, massage and yoga. The number of Americans who use some form of complementary medicine is growing.

|                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| Acupuncturist .....     | 31 |
| Chiropractor .....      | 39 |
| Massage Therapist ..... | 76 |

## DENTISTRY

Dentistry is a broad career field which includes dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants as healthcare providers. These professionals are responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of oral health problems. Using a team approach, dental health providers are committed to preventing oral health problems through patient education programs which deal with good oral hygiene. When problems occur, the dentist and the team can provide treatments to restore and repair oral tissues. Population growth in Georgia and the decline in the production of dentists nationwide have ensured that careers in dentistry will be of great value and in high demand.

|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| Dental Assistant ..... | 48 |
| Dental Hygienist ..... | 49 |
| Dentist .....          | 50 |

## DIETETICS

The field of dietetics is concerned with applying the principles of food and nutrition to health. Professionals in dietetics are passionate about empowering people to take charge of their health by helping them make healthful food choices. The food we eat has a direct relationship with the maintenance and restoration of good health. Therefore, dietetics is crucial in illnesses, rehabilitation, recovery, and treating illnesses. Because of increased public interest in nutrition and disease prevention, dietetics is a vital and growing profession with many career possibilities.

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Dietetic Technician ..... | 51 |
| Dietitian .....           | 52 |

## HEALTH ADMINISTRATION & INFORMATION SERVICES

The healthcare delivery system is based on the organized communication of information and the management of a complex organization. Healthcare administrators work to create smooth-running organizations and must be skilled in financial planning, human resource management, public relations, and long range planning. These professionals work behind-the-scenes with limited patient contact. Some may manage personnel, organize and analyze data from reports, and oversee medical records. These careers, requiring a special flair for organization and detail, will always be in demand as there is a continuing need for accurate and reliable information while ensuring confidentiality.

|                                        |    |
|----------------------------------------|----|
| Coder .....                            | 43 |
| Health Informatics Professional .....  | 66 |
| Health Information Administrator ..... | 67 |
| Health Information Technician .....    | 68 |
| Health Sciences Librarian .....        | 69 |
| Healthcare Administrator .....         | 70 |
| Medical Illustrator .....              | 78 |
| Medical Secretary .....                | 80 |
| Medical Transcriptionist .....         | 81 |

## LABORATORY SCIENCE

Careers in laboratory science are critical to the modern practice of medicine. Laboratory specialists provide data necessary for the detection, diagnosis, and monitoring of a disease and its treatment. Using sophisticated instruments, laboratory workers perform tests and report their findings to providers. These healthcare professionals must have great precision, attention to details, and patience. The laboratory environment offers daily opportunities to discover clues as to the body's responses to injury and disease. These challenging careers are in great demand as there are always more discoveries to be made.

|                                         |    |
|-----------------------------------------|----|
| Clinical Laboratory Scientist .....     | 40 |
| Clinical Laboratory Technician .....    | 41 |
| Cytotechnologist .....                  | 47 |
| Forensic Scientist .....                | 62 |
| Histotechnician/Histotechnologist ..... | 71 |
| Phlebotomist .....                      | 97 |

## MEDICAL SUPPORT

Technical advances and specialized procedures have created numerous exciting careers in the reinforcement and support work of the medical team. The concept of a team is critical for the delivery of good healthcare. Medical support personnel, key members of the team, perform a wide range of functions in a variety of settings. They may operate life-sustaining equipment, provide medical treatment at the scene of an accident, or assist surgeons in the operating room. Some perform direct patient care while others oversee office responsibilities. Whatever the position, these critically needed specialists are vital to the daily activities of the medical field.

|                                                     |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Anesthesiologist Assistant .....                    | 32  |
| Emergency Medical Technician/<br>Paramedic .....    | 58  |
| Home Health Aide/Personal &<br>Home Care Aide ..... | 72  |
| Medical Assistant .....                             | 77  |
| Medical Interpreter .....                           | 79  |
| Perfusionist .....                                  | 94  |
| Physician Assistant .....                           | 100 |
| Polysomnographic Technologist .....                 | 101 |
| Surgical Technologist .....                         | 111 |

## MEDICINE

Professionals in the field of medicine are some of the most trusted and respected members of the healthcare team and community. The profession requires responsible, hard-working individuals who can deal with considerable stress. They must possess a sincere commitment to help others, much compassion, patience, excellent judgment, good decision-making skills, and a willingness to make personal sacrifices. A desire to learn is essential because healthcare providers must keep up with new advances in technology, equipment, procedures and medications. Physicians act as the “coach” of the team by overseeing other healthcare associates. A career in medicine is one of the most challenging positions in the world, but also offers some of the most exciting and rewarding opportunities to serve people.

|                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Doctor of Medicine .....             | 53 |
| Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine ..... | 55 |
| Doctor of Podiatric Medicine .....   | 56 |

## MENTAL & SOCIAL SERVICES

The mental and social services field requires caring hearts as well as talented minds. Since pain often goes far beyond the physical body, these workers are needed to assist an individual in total recovery. Their responsibilities may include mental health promotion, the identification, treatment and rehabilitation of persons with psychological disorders, or serving as a bridge between people and resources needed to help resolve challenges. Many times, the team intervenes to help victims of abuse, family strife, and behavioral problems. These professionals often humanize and personalize the healthcare process. Although extremely challenging and diverse, these careers offer much satisfaction and personal reward.

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Counselor .....             | 45  |
| Genetic Counselor .....     | 63  |
| Human Services Worker ..... | 73  |
| Psychologist .....          | 103 |
| Social Worker .....         | 108 |

## NURSING

Nursing, a demanding but rewarding profession, is one of the most popular health careers. Nurses are critical because they expand access to care, improve the quality and safety of healthcare, and reduce healthcare costs. The profession of nursing offers a wide variety of career opportunities through multiple levels of education and professional practice. Becoming a nursing assistant can be achieved in only a few weeks through a certification program, while a licensed practical nurse program requires up to two years of study. Registered nursing programs, offered at the associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral level, offer advanced education and training in fields such as anesthesia and midwifery. As they provide personal and direct client care, nurses require excellent clinical skills, sensitivity, stamina, compassion and judgment in order to meet the physical and emotional needs of their patients.

|                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Clinical Nurse Specialist ..... | 42 |
| Licensed Practical Nurse .....  | 75 |
| Nurse Anesthetist .....         | 83 |
| Nurse Educator .....            | 84 |
| Nurse-Midwife .....             | 85 |
| Nurse Practitioner .....        | 86 |
| Nurse, Registered .....         | 87 |
| Nursing Assistant .....         | 89 |

## PHARMACY

Members of the pharmacy team are some of the most accessible healthcare professionals. These individuals are responsible for providing their clients with confidence, guidance and awareness about using medications. Pharmacists work with physicians to accurately prepare prescriptions and dosages. Safely dispensing effective medicines to cure, prevent, or alleviate disease is a primary goal of these specialists. Individuals in this career must shoulder great responsibility, but they also enjoy the challenge and gratification of helping consumers make informed choices. Many pharmacists work at the patient's bedside with the rest of the team.

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Pharmacist .....          | 95 |
| Pharmacy Technician ..... | 96 |

## PUBLIC HEALTH

Public health professionals are involved in the promotion of good health and the prevention of disease and injury. Rather than focusing on diagnosing and treating disease in individuals, public health professionals seek to improve the health of communities through prevention and health promotion. They may analyze statistical data to identify health trends in communities, work to ensure a healthy environment and workplace, study disease or teach health education programs. Public health achievements include the fluoridation of drinking water, car seat and seat belt use, tobacco-free environments, and vaccinations. For more information on careers in public health, visit [www.pathwaystopublichealth.org](http://www.pathwaystopublichealth.org).

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Biostatistician .....                 | 37 |
| Community Health Worker .....         | 44 |
| Environmental Health Specialist ..... | 60 |
| Epidemiologist .....                  | 61 |
| Health Educator .....                 | 65 |
| Industrial Hygienist .....            | 74 |

## RADIOLOGIC & IMAGING SCIENCE

Professionals in the field of radiologic and imaging science provide the healthcare team with diagnostic and therapeutic services. Using radiation, radio-activity, ultrasound and other methods, they produce images, treat cancer, explore body functions and structure, and provide diagnoses. The information they provide on the presence and extent of an injury, disease, or impairment is used by the healthcare team to make decisions on how to treat the identified problem. These professionals are trained to operate diagnostic equipment, keep accurate records, and when appropriate, protect the patient and themselves from any harmful effects of a procedure. A career in this field offers challenging and rewarding opportunities.

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Cardiovascular Technologist .....   | 38  |
| Dosimetrist .....                   | 57  |
| Nuclear Medicine Technologist ..... | 82  |
| Radiation Therapist .....           | 104 |
| Radiologic Technologist .....       | 105 |
| Sonographer .....                   | 109 |

## SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

The field of medical engineering and scientific research offers you the opportunity to become a healthcare detective. Using scientific information, technology, and engineering skills, team members enjoy the challenge of making new discoveries and the satisfaction of finding innovative solutions. Biomedical engineers create solutions to patients' medical problems by designing medical devices. Geneticists study genes in humans, plants and animals and hunt for genes that may cause inherited diseases. Biomedical equipment technicians inspect, repair and test medical equipment. Naturally curious, these professionals are precise in their work.

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Biomedical Engineer .....             | 35 |
| Biomedical Equipment Technician ..... | 36 |
| Geneticist .....                      | 64 |



## THERAPY & REHABILITATION

Sometimes considered the “human element” of recovery, therapy and rehabilitation help people return to independence and self-reliance. Therapy and rehabilitation programs are designed for patients of all ages, with physical, emotional, social, and mental limitations, who need stimulation of their minds and muscles. The creative arts therapy careers include many exciting opportunities to use music, art and dance to facilitate rehabilitation. Other challenging pursuits include respiratory, physical, and occupational therapy. These specialists demonstrate a high level of commitment, patience, and compassion while helping clients reach their greatest potential. In this rewarding and satisfying healthcare field, professionals often see their patients begin to lead more enjoyable lives.

|                                                            |     |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Athletic Trainer .....                                     | 33  |
| Audiologist .....                                          | 34  |
| Creative Arts Therapist<br>(Art, Dance, Drama, Music)..... | 46  |
| Occupational Therapist .....                               | 90  |
| Occupational Therapy Assistant .....                       | 91  |
| Physical Therapist .....                                   | 98  |
| Physical Therapist Assistant .....                         | 99  |
| Prosthetist/Orthotist .....                                | 102 |
| Recreational Therapist .....                               | 106 |
| Respiratory Therapist .....                                | 107 |
| Speech/Language Pathologist .....                          | 110 |

## VETERINARY MEDICINE

Veterinary professionals work closely with pets, livestock, and their owners. They must be patient with animals and sensitive to the feelings of the owners. Manual dexterity and good communication skills are necessary. Veterinarians and veterinary technicians often work long hours, including evenings and weekends. They may be bitten, kicked, or scratched while treating their patients. But for the person who loves animals and is fascinated by science and medicine, it is a rewarding career. These professionals enjoy diverse employment opportunities including public health, wildlife preservation, private practice, education, research and government.

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Veterinarian .....          | 112 |
| Veterinary Technician ..... | 114 |

## VISION CARE

Because so many everyday activities involve vision, the gift of sight is one of our most valuable senses. Vision care professionals detect and correct optical problems through eye examinations, prescription glasses, contacts, and vision therapy exercises. These experts also promote the prevention of eye injury and good vision maintenance. Advances in technology, public awareness, and the aging population will increase the demand for vision care specialists faster than many healthcare occupations.

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Optician .....    | 92 |
| Optometrist ..... | 93 |

You can explore over 88 health careers using this manual! Use the Table of Contents or the Index to find the career in which you're interested.

## 1 PHARMACIST

2 **STARTING SALARY**  
\$102,500 or  
\$49.28/hour

3 **P**harmacists dispense prescribed drugs, help consumers select over-the-counter medications, and prepare ointments, powders, and capsules. These healthcare professionals serve as medication "specialists" on patient-care teams by providing information to assure optimal patient outcomes with drug therapy. Pharmacists partner with physicians to assist patients in managing chronic diseases such as diabetes. They may educate and counsel patients on aspects of their disease or condition. Many pharmacists own or manage pharmacies and may have other duties such as purchasing drugs and other health-related supplies and supervising pharmacy staff.



### 4 **Areas of Specialization**

The Board of Pharmacy Specialties offers certification for the following specializations:

- Ambulatory Care Pharmacy
- Nuclear Pharmacy
- Nutrition Support Pharmacy
- Oncology Pharmacy
- Pharmacotherapy
- Psychiatric Pharmacy

### 5 **Work Environment**

- Clinics
- Colleges and universities
- Community pharmacies
- Government
- Health maintenance organizations
- Hospitals
- Military
- Pharmaceutical industry
- Public health departments
- Retail drug chains

### 6 **Academic Requirements**

All of Georgia's pharmacy schools require students to take the Pharmacy College Admissions Test prior to admission. A Doctor of Pharmacy degree (Pharm.D.) requires a minimum of six years of education: two years of pre-pharmacy study at the undergraduate level and four years in the pharmacy school program. Some schools offer accelerated programs condensing the program into three years. Students may elect additional training in a specialty area through a one- to two-year residency.

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

Licensure is required through the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy. To practice pharmacy, all graduates are required to pass the North American Pharmacist Licensure Exam and a state specific pharmacy law exam. Specialty area certification is available from the Board of Pharmacy Specialties.

### 8 **Professional Organizations**

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
(703) 739-2330  
[www.aacp.org](http://www.aacp.org)

American Pharmacists Association  
(202) 628-4410  
[www.pharmacist.com](http://www.pharmacist.com)

Georgia State Board of Pharmacy  
(478) 207-2440  
[www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/pharmacy](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/pharmacy)

### 9 **Educational Programs**

- Doctoral Degree**
- Mercer University
- Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine School of Pharmacy – Georgia Campus
- South University
- University of Georgia



95

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network

## Check It Out!!

- Career Inventory, Page 2*
- The Educational Journey, Page 3*
- Georgia's Hot Careers, Page 4*
- High School Road Map, Page 6*
- HOSA & HSTE, Page 9*
- Financial Aid, Page 10*

## LEGEND

- 1 - Career title
- 2 - Average Georgia starting salary
- 3 - Career description
- 4 - Areas in which one can specialize
- 5 - Typical workplaces
- 6 - Educational preparation needed
- 7 - Credentials needed to practice
- 8 - Additional career information
- 9 - Programs available in Georgia
- 10 - QR code to view video of career  
*(scan using QR app on mobile device)*

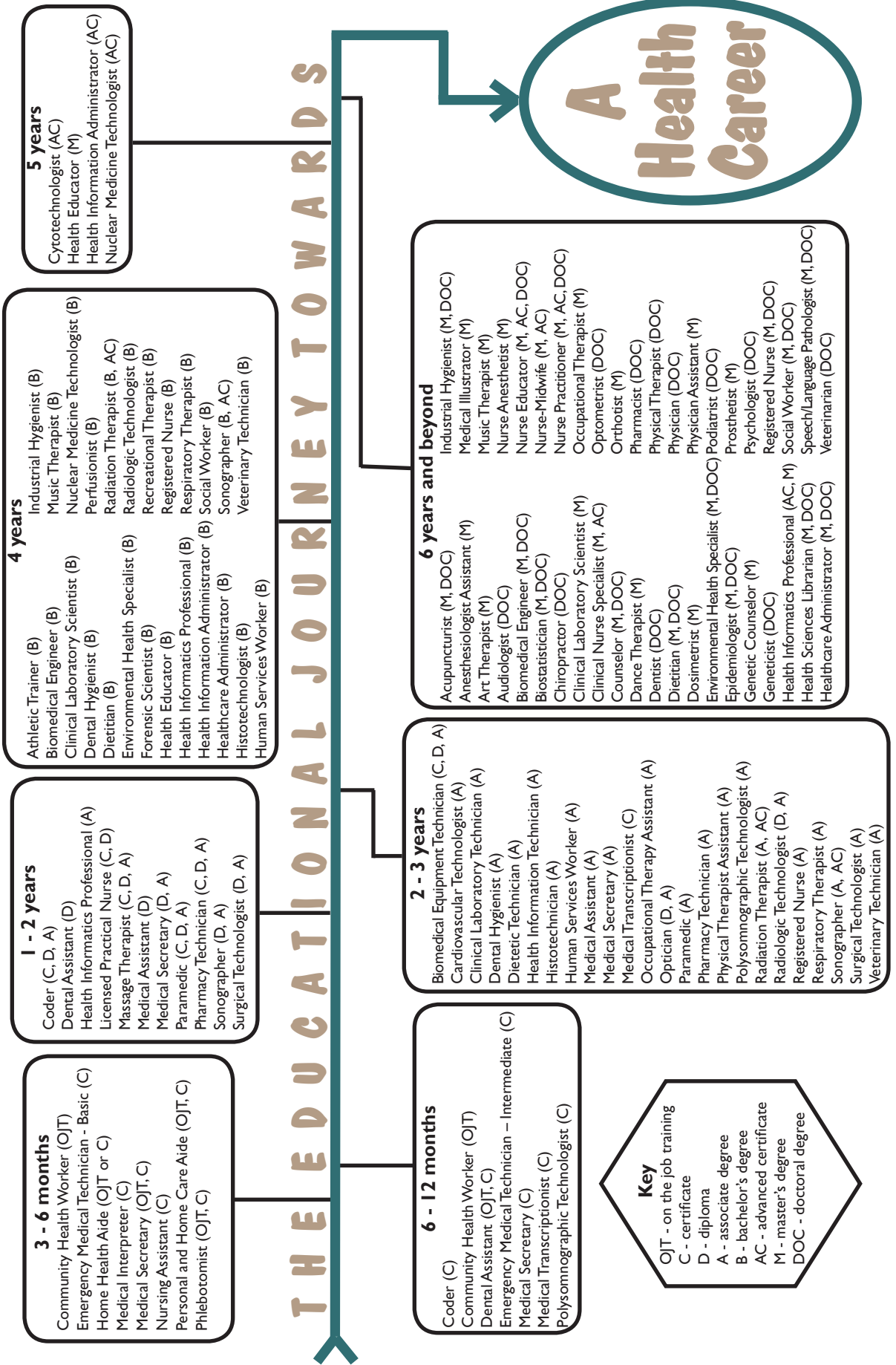
# CAREER INVENTORY

*Do something that matters!*

| PERSONALITY TYPE     | DESCRIPTION                                                                                             | HEALTH CAREER OPTIONS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Realistic</b>     | Enjoys creating, fixing, or building things, working with equipment and machinery, and working outdoors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Biomedical Engineer</li> <li>❖ Biomedical Equipment Technician</li> <li>❖ Clinical Laboratory Scientist</li> <li>❖ Dental Assistant</li> <li>❖ Industrial Hygienist</li> <li>❖ Perfusionist</li> <li>❖ Veterinarian</li> <li>❖ Veterinarian Technician</li> </ul>            |
| <b>Investigative</b> | Enjoys research, investigation and solving problems                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Clinical Laboratory Scientist</li> <li>❖ Clinical Laboratory Technician</li> <li>❖ Cytotechnologist</li> <li>❖ Dentist</li> <li>❖ Environmental Health Scientist</li> <li>❖ Forensic Scientist</li> <li>❖ Geneticist</li> <li>❖ Phlebotomist</li> <li>❖ Physician</li> </ul> |
| <b>Artistic</b>      | Enjoys using art, music, or drama to express oneself and designing and crafting things                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Creative Arts Therapist</li> <li>❖ Medical Illustrator</li> <li>❖ Music Therapist</li> <li>❖ Recreational Therapist</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Social</b>        | Enjoys working with others, teaching, healing, serving and is concerned with others' well-being         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Athletic Trainer</li> <li>❖ Community Health Worker</li> <li>❖ Counselor</li> <li>❖ Health Educator</li> <li>❖ Nurse</li> <li>❖ Psychologist</li> <li>❖ Social Worker</li> </ul>                                                                                             |
| <b>Enterprising</b>  | Enjoys leading, encouraging, influencing others and working in a business setting                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Health Informatics Professional</li> <li>❖ Health Information Administrator</li> <li>❖ Healthcare Administrator</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Conventional</b>  | Enjoys organizing, following procedures, planning events, and working with numbers                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Biostatistician</li> <li>❖ Coder</li> <li>❖ Epidemiologist</li> <li>❖ Health Sciences Librarian</li> <li>❖ Medical Secretary</li> <li>❖ Medical Transcriptionist</li> </ul>                                                                                                  |

By matching your personality to one or more of the types listed above, you can determine in which career fields you will flourish. Want more information? Visit the Career Key, Inc., website at [www.careerkey.org](http://www.careerkey.org). This site provides invaluable information about matching you with the perfect career.

# EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY



# Georgia's **HOT** Careers to 2018

The careers in this chart have it all!

## Personal Skills and Abilities

- advanced skills required
- moderate skills required

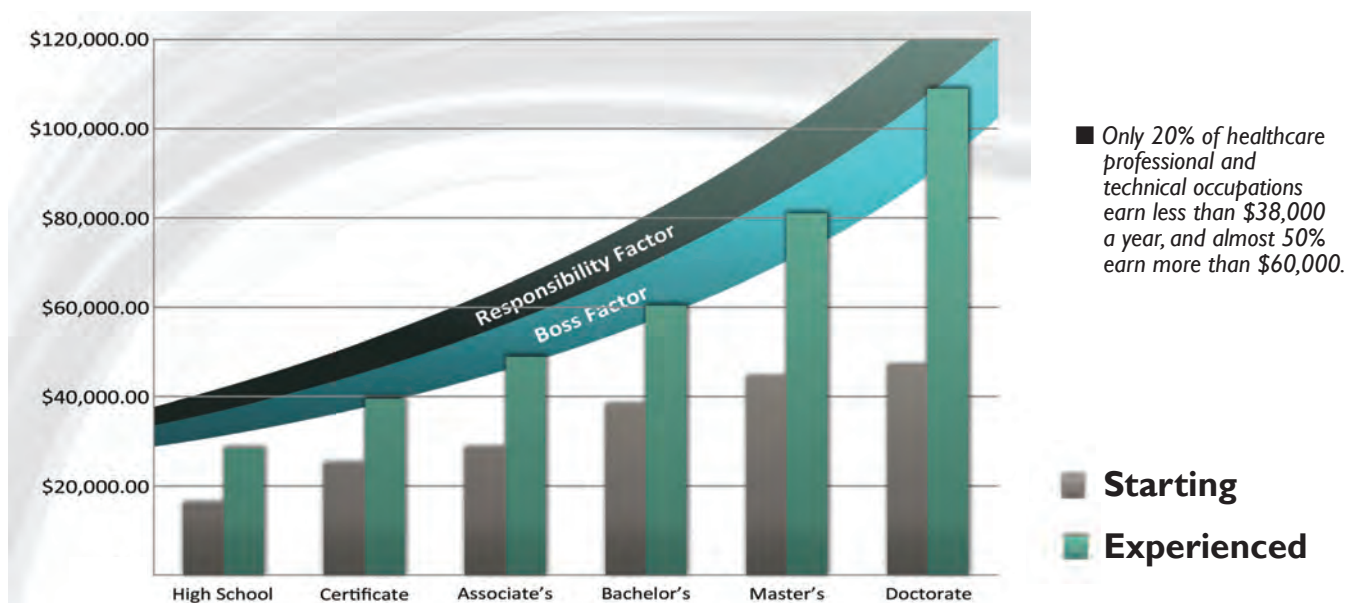
## Work Characteristics

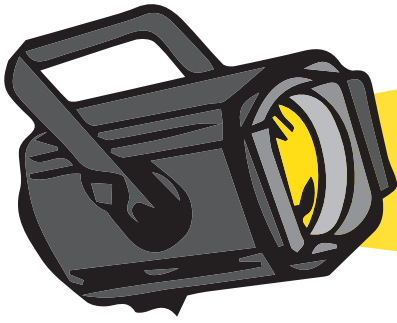
- frequently found
- occasionally found

|                               | Math Skills | English Skills | Science Skills | Computer Skills | Artistic/Creative Skills | Persuasive/Interpersonal Skills | Mechanical Skills | Leadership/Managerial Ability | Travel Between Work Sites | Hazardous Duties/Conditions | Operates Machines/Equipment | Irregular Work Schedule | Job Stress/Pressure | Physically Demanding |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Clinical Laboratory Scientist | ○           | ○              | ●              | ○               |                          |                                 |                   |                               |                           | ●                           | ●                           | ○                       |                     |                      |
| Counselor                     |             | ●              |                | ○               | ●                        |                                 | ○                 |                               |                           |                             |                             |                         |                     | ○                    |
| Dental Hygienist              |             |                | ○              |                 | ○                        |                                 |                   |                               |                           | ●                           | ●                           | ○                       |                     | ○                    |
| Dentist                       | ○           | ○              | ●              | ○               | ○                        | ○                               |                   |                               | ○                         | ●                           |                             |                         |                     | ○                    |
| Dietitian                     | ●           | ●              | ●              | ●               |                          | ●                               | ○                 | ○                             |                           |                             |                             |                         |                     |                      |
| Family Physician              | ○           | ●              | ●              | ○               |                          | ●                               | ○                 | ○                             | ●                         | ●                           | ●                           | ●                       | ○                   |                      |
| Health Educator               | ○           | ●              | ●              | ○               |                          | ○                               | ●                 | ○                             |                           |                             | ○                           |                         |                     |                      |
| Pharmacist                    | ○           | ●              | ●              | ○               |                          | ●                               |                   |                               |                           |                             | ●                           | ○                       |                     |                      |
| Physical Therapist            |             | ●              | ●              |                 |                          | ●                               |                   |                               |                           | ●                           | ○                           | ●                       |                     |                      |
| Physician Assistant           | ○           | ●              | ●              | ○               |                          | ●                               |                   | ○                             | ●                         | ○                           | ●                           | ●                       | ○                   |                      |
| Psychologist                  |             | ●              | ○              |                 | ○                        | ●                               |                   | ●                             |                           |                             | ○                           | ○                       |                     |                      |
| Social Worker                 |             | ●              | ○              |                 |                          | ●                               |                   | ●                             |                           |                             | ○                           | ○                       |                     |                      |
| Radiologic Technologist       | ○           |                | ○              | ○               |                          | ○                               |                   | ○                             | ●                         | ●                           | ●                           |                         |                     |                      |
| Registered Nurse              | ○           | ●              | ●              | ○               |                          | ●                               | ○                 |                               | ●                         | ○                           | ●                           | ●                       | ○                   |                      |
| Respiratory Therapist         | ○           | ●              | ●              |                 |                          | ●                               |                   | ○                             | ●                         | ●                           | ○                           | ○                       |                     |                      |

Source: Department of Labor, 2012

## Salary by Education Level





# SPOTLIGHT Amanda Fischer, DO

## An AHEC Success Story

“I loved music, but wondered what I would do with it. Then, I thought I wanted to be a Physical Therapist like my Dad.” However, it was at an AHEC sponsored student organization meeting that the idea of going to medical school struck her as “the thing I wanted to do.”

[teachers] and that really helped a lot.” Once the decision was made, Amanda said the assistance continued. “Through the Pathway program, Pam also helped me with the application process to medical school. She was hand-in-hand with me as I decided which way to go.”

Amanda Fischer, DO, first year Resident at Rome’s Family Practice Residency Program grew up in Claxton, Georgia and graduated from Georgia Southern University (GSU). Her path to becoming a doctor and entering the Georgia Campus of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM), was helped immensely through her exposure to people and experiences offered by Georgia’s Area Health Education Centers (AHECs).



Two years in medical school at the Georgia PCOM campus prepared her well for the next phase of her education. Amanda was one of the first PCOM Anchor Program students in Columbus, Georgia. Hannah Lydiate, Preceptor Coordinator at Three Rivers AHEC staff, helped her obtain core and specialty rotations with local physicians and hospitals during her 3rd and 4th years of medical school. “I liked being in one place,” unlike some of her peers who rotated throughout the state and even to other states, every four weeks to a new location. As she settled into the community, she found a two year home, living in her own apartment.

As she tells the story, “I joined the Pre-Health Professionals student organization that Magnolia Coastlands AHEC started on our campus at GSU. There, we had so many speakers from different professions” and through that experience, she began to consider a career in medicine. In the summer of her junior year, 2006, Southwest Georgia (SOWEGA) AHEC offered a new program for pre-med students called ‘Pathway to Med School’. “I’m so glad I did that. It showed me what I wanted to do. It helped me decide which way to go.” She also was able to look at several specialties inside medicine through shadowing experiences set up by SOWEGA-AHEC. “Primary care is what I wanted to do from the very beginning, even though I liked many of my experiences. It always came back to family medicine. Through Pathway, we were exposed to many doctors and residents.” One day it hit her, “OK, I’m going to do this.”

Amanda felt welcomed by the community, got to know people there, and “it prevented some of the isolation you have when going out to other areas.”

She added a variety of training opportunities by exploring other towns during some of her specialty rotations, two of which were in Rome, GA with Blue Ridge AHEC. “I wanted to bring more to the table for my residency.” While in Rome, she met faculty and staff of another Family Residency Program (Floyd Family Medicine Residency Program-FFMRP), which is her training ground today.

Most AHECs have student housing in some towns which allows students to stay in that area for their clinical training with community-based faculty/health care professionals.

Amanda’s story marks yet another success for Georgia’s Statewide AHEC Network. The mission to “Grow Our Own” healthcare providers is met every time a Georgia medical/healthcare student comes back to the state to practice. AHECs work with many different colleges and healthcare programs to coordinate regional clinical training, recruit excellent community-based health professionals as faculty, and offer housing as available.

“The people in Albany really helped me. Pam Reynolds, Center Director at Southwest Georgia AHEC, helped me with a whole month of shadowing, and we did a research project that was presented at the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians Scientific Assembly. There, we met some of our future preceptors

# LIVING LIFE TO ITS FULLEST

## WHAT'S ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?



All of us have numerous goals as we travel through life. Reaching them brings fulfillment, satisfaction, and sometimes relief! Some ambitions are practical matters like doing well in high school, graduating, being accepted in college, or getting a job. Other aspirations may involve our leisure time like training for a 10K race, learning to play a musical instrument, or traveling to another country.

Those who saw the movie “The Bucket List” may have been inspired to make a checklist of things to accomplish. Making a list is one thing and carrying it out another.

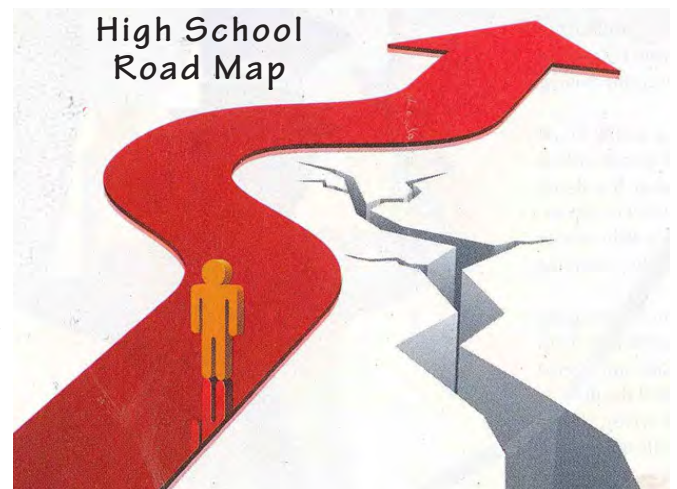
## SETTING HIGH SCHOOL PRIORITIES TO REACH A CAREER GOAL

### FRESHMAN YEAR

- ◆ Meet with counselor to update your Individual Graduation Plan (IGP). Take strong academic courses and keep your grades up!
- ◆ Explore different occupations in your electronic career portfolio. Use the assessments and tools available online (see “Useful Websites”). Interview people who work in the field that interests you.
- ◆ Get involved! Participate in school and community activities.
- ◆ Create a resume with awards, honors, school/community activities, and volunteer work.
- ◆ Check your GPA on GAcollege411. Try to earn the HOPE scholarship.
- ◆ Create a college savings account and add to it regularly. Begin investigating scholarships.
- ◆ Ask your counselor about dual enrollment opportunities.

### SOPHOMORE YEAR

- ◆ Meet with counselor to update your IGP.
- ◆ Enroll in classes that prepare you for your next step.
- ◆ Check your GPA on GAcollege411.
- ◆ Explore the dual enrollment opportunities.
- ◆ See counselor prior to April 1 to discuss career plan.
- ◆ Attend College/PROBE Fairs.
- ◆ Continue/expand meaningful extracurricular involvements.
- ◆ Update college planning file and resume.
- ◆ Take the PSAT (free for 10th graders).



### JUNIOR YEAR

- ◆ Update your IGP and consider dual enrollment.
- ◆ Study the admissions requirements for the colleges and universities that interest you. Choose a “dream” school and a “safety” school that you know you can get into, would be happy attending, and that you can afford. You need a “safety” school for financial and academic reasons.
- ◆ Take the End of Course Test and the Georgia High School Writing Test.
- ◆ Meet with counselor to ensure you are taking appropriate courses. Check your GPA.

- ◆ Attend College/PROBE fairs where you can talk face-to-face with college representatives about their programs, campus life, and financial assistance. Arrange college visits and meet with admissions officers.
- ◆ Set up a calendar for taking tests and completing college applications.
- ◆ Determine which admissions tests you will need prior to college application.
- ◆ Take the free online SAT course which contains drills, practice tests, and scores essays. Analyze test-taking strategies located on the College Board website.
- ◆ Register and take the PSAT in October, which is also the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. This is the only time you can test to qualify for a National Merit Scholarship.
- ◆ In spring, register for and take the SAT Reasoning Test or ACT (American College Test). Check with the schools where you plan to apply to see if you need to take the SAT Subject Tests. Take them immediately after completing that subject in school. For example, if you studied AP US History, take the US History exam on the May or June test date as you complete the class.
- ◆ Discuss your family’s financial resources and review plans for seeking financial aid. Continue to search for scholarships on GAcollge411 and utilize the “Financial Aid” tab information.
- ◆ Identify and ask those who might write you a recommendation—teachers, counselors, and employers.
- ◆ Ask counselor about and seek summer enrichment programs.
- ◆ Develop a short list of schools to which you want to apply. Utilize GAcollge411 under the tab “College Planning.”

## SENIOR YEAR

### July/August

- ◆ Visit selected college campuses; talk to graduates and students at the institution.

### September/October/November

- ◆ Take strong academic courses and keep grades up. One predictor of how well students perform their freshmen year in college is the level of difficulty of the 12th grade curriculum.
- ◆ Verify which admissions tests are required by the college and the deadline for registering. Complete test registration.
- ◆ Finish college applications. Keep a file!
- ◆ Make sure to fulfill each college application requirements.
- ◆ Verify early decision admission deadlines. Some colleges accept outstanding candidates as early as December via early decision programs. Make certain you can meet the financial commitments required if you are accepted early decision.
- ◆ Sign up to take the ASVAB—Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. The career assessment tools can be helpful, even if you’re not going into the military.
- ◆ Attend College/PROBE fairs.
- ◆ Ask counselor to review application forms and have a teacher check over your application essays and comment.
- ◆ Mail completed admissions’ forms to colleges.
- ◆ Check military academy and ROTC application and scholarship deadlines if appropriate.
- ◆ Apply for merit-based scholarships.



## December

- ◆ Give counselor all required forms at least two weeks before they are due.
- ◆ Finish applications to colleges before Christmas, unless otherwise indicated.
- ◆ Plan to file FAFSA—Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This is required to get any type of federal financial help—grants, loans, etc. Apply NOW for a FAFSA PIN at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov)

## January/February

- ◆ January 1st is a very big date. It's the first day you can file FAFSA. File electronically at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) or on GAcollege411 under the Financial Aid tab.
- ◆ Communicate with colleges to be sure your admissions' files are complete.
- ◆ Ask counselor to send first semester's grades to the colleges where you have applied, along with any other information not already forwarded.

## March-June

- ◆ Apply for the HOPE Scholarship through your GAcollege411 account.
- ◆ If attending a technical college, you can receive the HOPE Grant regardless of your grades!
- ◆ Keep a record of acceptances, rejections, and financial aid awards.
- ◆ Reply promptly to colleges to notify them of your decision.
- ◆ Reply promptly when you are notified that you have been awarded a financial aid package.
- ◆ Meet the reply deadline and admissions deposit deadline or you may lose the acceptance/aid offers.
- ◆ Request that a final transcript be sent to the college of your choice.
- ◆ Check your HOPE status online at your GAcollege411 account in June.

## USEFUL WEBSITES

- ◆ [www.GAcollege411.org](http://www.GAcollege411.org)
- ◆ [www.explorehealthcareers.com](http://www.explorehealthcareers.com)
- ◆ [www.science.education.nih.gov/lifeworks](http://www.science.education.nih.gov/lifeworks)
- ◆ [www.bls.gov/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/ooh)
- ◆ [www.acinet.org](http://www.acinet.org)
- ◆ [www.medmyst.rice.edu](http://www.medmyst.rice.edu)
- ◆ [www.mappingyourfuture.org](http://www.mappingyourfuture.org)
- ◆ [www.gcic.peachnet.edu](http://www.gcic.peachnet.edu)
- ◆ [www.usg.edu](http://www.usg.edu)
- ◆ [www.tcsg.edu](http://www.tcsg.edu)
- ◆ [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- ◆ [www.fnaid.org](http://www.fnaid.org)



# HOSA & HSTE

## HOSA: Future Health Professionals

HOSA is an association of future health professionals that provides a unique program of skill development, motivation and recognition exclusively for middle school, secondary, post-secondary, collegiate students and advisors who have an interest in healthcare. It was created to enhance the delivery of compassionate, quality healthcare by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill and leadership development of all health science technology education students.

Since its inception in 1976, HOSA has grown steadily reaching nearly 150,000 members through 48 chartered HOSA State Associations. HOSA is a powerful instructional tool that works best when it is integrated into HSTE curriculum and classroom.

The rapidly changing industry needs dedicated workers who, in addition to their technical skills, are people-oriented and capable of playing a leadership or followership role as a member of the healthcare team. If you do not have a chapter at your school contact your healthcare science teacher about starting one today!

### ~ Helpful Websites ~

[www.georgiahosa.org](http://www.georgiahosa.org)     [www.hosa.org](http://www.hosa.org)

**“This is my first year in the Health Science Program. This manual has not only helped me to decide what I want to do in life, but it has helped me to see every option I could explore within this field. This manual is a God-send for the lost soul.**

**I love it! I love it! I love it!”**  
~ S. Henderson  
Student

## Healthcare Science Technology Education (HSTE)

HSTE programs are designed to provide students the opportunity to explore careers in healthcare. This course of study allows students a smooth transition into post-secondary nursing, medical or allied health education or the ability to acquire an entry level medical position in the workforce or the military. Students are exposed to general healthcare knowledge and skills and are then encouraged to pursue a more in depth study in the interested career area.

The pathways that are currently available are: Therapeutic Services -- Nursing, Therapeutic Medical Services, Emergency Services, Health Informatics, Diagnostics, Biotechnology and Physical Medicine. A new curriculum is now available to middle school students.

In the program, a strong emphasis is placed on academic integration as well as foundation skills such as problem-solving, teamwork, and critical thinking which are necessary to enter the workforce. Students in the HSTE have possible opportunities for work-based learning experiences, earning dual enrollment credit, and taking national certification exams. HOSA is offered through HSTE and complements the classroom experience.

Employment in the healthcare industry provides a financially stable and rewarding career of service to others. Having a chance to begin this quest while still in middle or high school is a wonderful way to prepare for the future.

# FINANCIAL AID

## WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?

Financial aid is money awarded to a student to help pay educational costs. The federal government, the state government and many private organizations provide financial aid to eligible students in the form of grants, scholarships, loans, alternative loans, and employment. In addition, most individual colleges offer their own scholarships, grants and other aid to students who attend. **Be sure to check with each school to see what is available.**

Some financial aid is **merit-based**; an academic scholarship is one example. A great deal of aid is **need-based**; all federal grants and some federal loans are awarded based on the financial need of the student and the student's family.

Another important distinction is that some aid is considered a gift, meaning that it does not have to be repaid. Scholarships and grants are examples of **gift** aid. Most forms of aid must be repaid. Most loans **must be repaid** in cash. Students can repay some financial aid by working at a part-time job while in school.

## HOW MUCH NEED-BASED FINANCIAL AID AM I ENTITLED TO?

The total cost of attending a school minus the expected family contribution, equals your eligibility for need-based funds otherwise known as your financial need.

- **What is the "total cost of attending" a school?**

For the purposes of calculating financial aid, the total educational costs of attending a college include: tuition and fees, books and supplies, housing, meals, transportation, and personal expenses such as clothes, laundry, recreation, medicine, and health care. Add all those items and you've got the cost of attending. Obviously, the cost of attending varies greatly from one school to another. In general, costs will be lowest at a public technical college, higher at a community/junior college, still higher at a public four-year college, and highest at a private college. The total cost of attending college in Georgia today may range from about \$1,500 per year to more than \$40,000 per year.

- **What is the "expected family contribution (EFC)"?**

This is the share of the total cost of attending that the student and his or her family is expected to pay. The EFC is calculated by whatever organization is awarding the financial aid - usually the federal government or the college the student will attend. The family's assets, family size, number of family members currently attending college, and income (including any income the student may earn from part-time jobs), are some of the factors taken into account when calculating the EFC.

The first step in determining the EFC is for the student to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Financial Aid (FAFSA). This should be done as early as possible in the year that the student plans to start college. The form asks for a great deal of detailed information about the financial situation of the student's family. It's a good idea for you and your parents to complete your income tax returns before filling out the FAFSA, as a lot of the same information is asked for on both forms. The Federal Government is working on a way to connect your income tax filing to the FAFSA to automatically fill portions of the FAFSA. Ask your parents to prepare their IRS forms as early as possible this year. Follow the instructions on FAFSA carefully, fill out the information completely, and send in the form as soon as possible. Based on the information on FAFSA, federal processors will determine your EFC. The result will be sent to you and to all of the colleges that you listed on the FAFSA.

Once your college financial aid office has your EFC, it will prepare a proposed financial aid package. Typically, this will be a combination of Stafford loans, PLUS loans, and perhaps student employment or work study opportunities. The goal is to devise a package that equals your family's financial need.

**NOTE:** Most colleges use the EFC that is generated by the FAFSA form. However, some schools use other means to determine EFC. **Be sure to look at each financial aid application packet provided by the colleges you are interested in to determine what each school requires.**

# STATE AND FEDERAL

| Program                                                                        | Objective                                                                                                                                                                                      | Under-Graduate/<br>Graduate | Georgia<br>Residency<br>Required |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS</b>                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                             |                                  |
| Georgia's HOPE Scholarship and Grant                                           | To provide scholarships and grants to recent high school graduates and non-traditional students attending public and eligible private institutions in Georgia                                  | U                           | Yes                              |
| Georgia Tuition Equalization Grant (GTEG)                                      | To provide non-repayable funds to Georgia residents attending eligible private colleges in Georgia                                                                                             | U                           | Yes                              |
| University of North Georgia (ROTC Grant)                                       | To assist students enrolled in the Army ROTC program at University of North Georgia                                                                                                            | U                           | Yes                              |
| HERO Scholarship                                                               | To provide assistance to members of the Georgia National Guard and U.S. Military Reservists who served in combat zones and their children and spouses                                          | U                           | Yes                              |
| Law Enforcement Personnel Dependents (LEPD) Grant                              | To assist children of Georgia law enforcement officers, firefighters, prison guards, and Georgia EMTs who have been disabled or killed in the line of duty                                     | U                           | Yes                              |
| Georgia Public Safety Memorial Grant                                           | To assist children of Georgia law enforcement officers, firefighters, prison guards, and Georgia EMTs who have been disabled or killed in the line of duty                                     | U                           | Yes                              |
| Federal Pell Grant                                                             | To provide non-repayable funds to students for education expenses                                                                                                                              | U                           | No                               |
| Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG)                                           | To provide non-repayable funds to students for education expenses                                                                                                                              | U                           | No                               |
| Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)                      | To provide non-repayable funds to students for education expenses                                                                                                                              | U                           | No                               |
| Federal College Work-Study Program                                             | To provide jobs for students who must earn part of their educational expenses                                                                                                                  | U/G                         | No                               |
| Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) Grant                     | To provide non-repayable funds to students for education expenses                                                                                                                              | U                           | Yes                              |
| <b>STUDENT AND PARENT LOANS</b>                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                             |                                  |
| Federal Stafford Loan                                                          | To provide low-interest repayable funds to students for education expenses                                                                                                                     | U/G                         | No                               |
| Federal PLUS Loan                                                              | To provide low-interest repayable funds to parents of dependent undergraduate students                                                                                                         | U                           | No                               |
| Federal GRAD PLUS Loan                                                         | To provide low-interest repayable funds to graduate students                                                                                                                                   | G                           | No                               |
| Federal Perkins Loan                                                           | To provide low-interest repayable funds to students for education expenses                                                                                                                     | U/G                         | No                               |
| Georgia Service Cancelable Loans                                               | To assist students enrolled in critical fields of study (e.g., Nursing, Physical Therapy, Pharmacy, etc.). Visit <a href="http://GAcollege411.org">GAcollege411.org</a> for a complete listing | U/G                         | Yes                              |
| Georgia Military Scholarships                                                  | To assist Georgia students seeking a military career enrolled at Georgia Military College or University of North Georgia                                                                       | U                           | Yes                              |
| Other Georgia Student Finance Commission scholarship, grant, and loan programs | A variety of programs that serve smaller numbers of students by providing financial assistance for education expenses                                                                          | U/G                         | Yes                              |

# FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

| Academic Year Maximums                                                            | Institution Restrictions                                                            | Need-Based | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Varies                                                                            | Eligible colleges, universities, technical colleges, and career colleges in Georgia | No         | Contact your high school guidance counselor, college financial aid administrator, or GSFC at (770) 724-9000 in Metro Atlanta or toll-free in GA at 1-800-505-4732. Funded by the Georgia Lottery for Education.                                     |
| \$1,050<br>(Subject to change)                                                    | Eligible private colleges and universities in Georgia                               | No         | Recipients must be full-time students (12 hours per term).                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| \$1,500<br>(Subject to change)                                                    | University of North Georgia                                                         | No         | Contact University of North Georgia for more information.                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| \$2,000                                                                           | Eligible colleges, universities, and technical colleges in Georgia                  | No         | HERO recipients may receive up to \$8,000 for four years of study. Additional documents (e.g., military record) required for submission. Please contact the financial aid administrator at your college for other requirements.                     |
| \$2,000<br>(Subject to change)                                                    | Eligible colleges, universities, technical colleges, and career colleges in Georgia | No         | LEPD recipients may receive up to \$8,000 for four years of undergraduate study.                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Varies                                                                            | Eligible public colleges, universities, and technical colleges in Georgia           | No         | The Public Safety Memorial Grant award covers the cost of attendance minus any other aid received. Funded by the Georgia Lottery for Education.                                                                                                     |
| \$5,350                                                                           | N/A                                                                                 | Yes        | Submit additional documents (e.g., tax records) if requested by the school's financial aid administrator.                                                                                                                                           |
| \$750-1st year academic study<br>\$1300-2nd year academic study                   | N/A                                                                                 | Yes        | Only available for 1st and 2nd year undergraduate students. Contact the financial aid administrator for other requirements.                                                                                                                         |
| Varies                                                                            | N/A                                                                                 | Yes        | Exceptional need is required.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Varies                                                                            | N/A                                                                                 | Yes        | Contact the college financial aid administrator.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Varies                                                                            | Eligible colleges, universities, colleges, and career colleges in Georgia           | Yes        | Submit additional documents (e.g., tax records) if requested by the college financial aid administrator.                                                                                                                                            |
| Varies                                                                            | Participating colleges, universities, technical colleges, and career colleges       | Yes        | The rates for Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans are 5.6% fixed and 6.8% fixed, respectively. NOTE: Students who do not demonstrate need may qualify for an Unsubsidized Loan.                                                                       |
| Varies                                                                            | Participating colleges, universities, technical colleges, and career colleges       | No         | The current interest rate is 8.5% fixed.                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Varies                                                                            | Participating colleges                                                              | No         | The current interest rate is 8.5% fixed.                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Varies                                                                            | N/A                                                                                 | Yes        | 5% interest rate. Contact the college financial aid administrator regarding the loan amount.                                                                                                                                                        |
| \$2,000 to \$4,500                                                                | GSFC-approved colleges, universities, and technical colleges                        | No         | Visit <a href="http://GAcollege411.org">GAcollege411.org</a> regarding program requirements, application procedures, loan amounts, and service repayment obligations. You may also contact the college financial aid administrator for information. |
| Amount covers the cost of tuition, fees, room/board, books, supplies and uniforms | Georgia Military College or University of North Georgia                             | No         | Recipients are obligated to serve in the Georgia National Guard after graduation. Contact Georgia Military College or University of North Georgia for more information.                                                                             |
| Varies                                                                            | Eligible colleges and universities                                                  | No         | Includes Robert C. Byrd Scholarship and more.                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

# FINANCIAL AID

## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SCHOLARSHIP AND A GRANT?

- Usually, scholarships are awarded to students who demonstrate some kind of skill, or talent, or achievement. Georgia's HOPE Scholarship, for instance, is awarded on the basis of academic achievement - earning an overall B average in four years of high school. Scholarships also are awarded to students who excel at sports, music, debating, or some other area.
- The federal PELL Grant is based on financial need; other grants are awarded to students simply because they fall into some special category. The Tuition Equalization Grant is awarded to any Georgia student who attends a private college in Georgia. There is no academic requirement and no need requirement. Another example is the HOPE Grant, which pays tuition and fees, plus a book allowance, to any Georgia resident enrolled in a diploma or certificate program at a HOPE-eligible college or technical college. Again, there is no academic requirement and no need requirement.

Scholarships and grants do have one very important thing in common: they are both considered "gift aid." That is, students who receive grants or scholarships are not obligated to make any kind of repayment.

## CAN STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR LOANS?

Absolutely. Billions of dollars are loaned to students every year. Parents of students also can borrow money to help pay for their children's education. The biggest source of educational loans is the federal government. Stafford loans are federal loans made to students. PLUS loans are federal loans made to parents of students. Unlike scholarships and grants, loans, plus interest, must be repaid. Interest charged on Stafford and PLUS loans is relatively low, and can be repaid over a long period - up to 10 years. Still, repaying a loan is **serious** business, and every student should be aware of his or her financial obligations regarding loan repayment. In fact, students who take out federal loans are required to receive loan counseling when a loan is first made and just before a student graduates or for any other reason leaves college.

## WHAT ARE SERVICE-CANCELABLE LOANS?

These programs encourage students to pursue an education, and eventually a career, in a particular "critical-need" field. For example, it might be determined that a particular region of Georgia is experiencing a severe shortage of trained nurses. That shortage, in that location, constitutes a critical need. Students who receive service-cancelable loans have two repayment options:

- They can repay the loan in cash, plus interest or
- After satisfactory completion of their courses of study, they can cancel the loan debt by working in their critical need field, in an agreed-upon region of the state, for a certain number of years. Of course, the borrower earns a regular salary at the same time they are canceling their loan debt through service.

In Georgia, some service-cancelable loans are funded by the federal government and some by the state government. All service cancelable loans are subject to change or elimination based upon changes in State appropriations. The GSFC is the only agency that offers service-cancelable loans in Georgia.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

- [Gacollege411.org](http://Gacollege411.org) / 1-800-505-4732
  - ✓ explore careers
  - ✓ prepare for the SAT, ACT, GRE, COMPASS, and ASSET
  - ✓ compare and apply to Georgia colleges, universities and technical colleges
  - ✓ learn about and apply for financial aid
- Georgia Higher Education Savings Plan  
[www.gacollegesavings.org](http://www.gacollegesavings.org)
- Federal Student Aid  
[www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)
- The College Board/College Scholarship  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
- FastWeb  
[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

# COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

The following is a list of educational programs available at colleges and universities in Georgia for the health careers identified in this guide. Some programs are jointly administered with other institutions. Many schools have satellite campuses and online programs that increase accessibility to their educational programs. Graduation from an accredited program is often required in order to obtain certification, registration or licensure. Ask about the accreditation status of programs in which you are interested.

## **Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College**

www.abac.edu  
Tifton  
(229) 391-5001  
Registered Nurse

## **Albany State University**

www.asurams.edu  
Albany  
(229) 430-4600  
Counselor  
Forensic Scientist  
Healthcare Administrator  
Nurse Educator  
Nurse Practitioner  
Registered Nurse  
Social Worker

## **Argosy University**

www.argosy.edu  
Atlanta  
(770) 671-1200  
Counselor  
Healthcare Administrator  
Psychologist

## **Armstrong Atlantic State University**

www.armstrong.edu  
Savannah  
(912) 344-2576  
Athletic Trainer  
Cardiovascular Technologist  
Clinical Laboratory Scientist  
Clinical Nurse Specialist  
Health Educator  
Healthcare Administrator  
Nuclear Medicine Technologist  
Nurse Practitioner  
Physical Therapist  
Radiation Therapist  
Radiologic Technologist  
Registered Nurse  
Respiratory Therapist  
Sonographer  
Speech/Language Pathologist

## **Atlanta Metropolitan State College**

www.atlm.edu  
Atlanta  
(404) 756-4000  
Health Information Technician  
Human Services Worker

## **Bainbridge College**

www.bainbridge.edu  
Bainbridge  
(229) 248-2500  
Emergency Medical Technician  
Licensed Practical Nurse  
Medical Assistant  
Medical Secretary  
Nursing Assistant  
Paramedic  
Phlebotomist  
Registered Nurse

## **Brenau University**

www.brenau.edu  
Gainesville  
(770) 534-6100  
Counselor  
Healthcare Administrator  
Nurse Educator  
Nurse Practitioner  
Occupational Therapist  
Registered Nurse

## **Clark Atlanta University**

www.cau.edu  
Atlanta  
(404) 880-8000  
Counselor  
Social Worker

## **Clayton State University**

www.clayton.edu  
Morrow  
(678) 466-4000  
Dental Hygienist  
Forensic Scientist  
Healthcare Administrator

Human Services Worker  
Nurse Educator  
Psychologist  
Registered Nurse

## **College of Coastal Georgia**

www.ccca.edu  
Brunswick  
(912) 279-5700  
Clinical Laboratory Technician  
Health Informatics Professional  
Health Information Administrator  
Human Services Worker  
Radiologic Technologist  
Registered Nurse

## **Columbus State University**

www.columbusstate.edu  
Columbus  
(706) 507-8800  
Counselor  
Health Educator  
Healthcare Administrator  
Registered Nurse

## **Dalton State College**

www.daltonstate.edu  
Dalton  
(706) 272-4436  
Clinical Laboratory Technician  
Dental Hygienist  
Licensed Practical Nurse  
Medical Assistant  
Nursing Assistant  
Phlebotomist  
Radiologic Technologist  
Registered Nurse  
Respiratory Therapist  
Social Worker

# COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

## **Darton State College**

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

Albany

(229) 317-6000

Cardiovascular Technologist

Clinical Laboratory Technician

Coder

Dental Hygienist

Emergency Medical Technician

Health Information Technician

Histotechnician

Human Services Worker

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Paramedic

Phlebotomist

Physical Therapist Assistant

Polysomnographic Technologist

Radiologic Technologist

Registered Nurse

Respiratory Therapist

Sonographer

## **Emory University**

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

Atlanta

(404) 727-6123

Anesthesiologist Assistant

Biostatistician

Doctor of Medicine

Environmental Health Specialist

Epidemiologist

Genetic Counselor

Geneticist

Health Educator

Health Informatics Professional

Healthcare Administrator

Industrial Hygienist

Nurse-Midwife

Nurse Practitioner

Physical Therapist

Physician Assistant

Psychologist

Radiologic Technologist

Registered Nurse

## **Fort Valley State University**

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

Fort Valley

(478) 825-6211

Counselor

Dietitian

Environmental Health Specialist

Social Worker

Veterinary Technician

## **Georgia College & State University**

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

Milledgeville

(478) 445-5004

Art Therapist

Athletic Trainer

Health Educator

Music Therapist

Nurse Practitioner

Registered Nurse

## **Georgia Highlands College**

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

Rome

(706) 802-5000

Dental Hygienist

Human Services Worker

Registered Nurse

## **Georgia Institute of Technology**

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

Atlanta

(404) 894-2000

Biomedical Engineer (with Emory University)

Orthotist

Prosthetist

## **Georgia Perimeter College**

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

Dunwoody

(770) 274-5000

Dental Hygienist

Radiologic Technologist

Registered Nurse

## **Georgia Regents University**

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

Augusta

(706) 721-0211

Biostatistician

Clinical Laboratory Scientist

Clinical Nurse Specialist

Counselor

Dental Hygienist

Dentist

Doctor of Medicine

Health Informatics Professional

Health Information Administrator

Medical Illustrator

Nuclear Medicine Technologist

Nurse Anesthetist

Nurse Practitioner

Occupational Therapist

Physical Therapist

Physician Assistant

Radiation Therapist

Registered Nurse

Respiratory Therapist

Social Worker

## **Georgia Southern University**

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

Statesboro

(912) 478-4636

Athletic Trainer

Biostatistician

Counselor

Dietitian

Environmental Health Specialist

Epidemiologist

Health Educator

Healthcare Administrator

Industrial Hygienist

Nurse Educator

Nurse Practitioner

Psychologist

Recreational Therapist

Registered Nurse

## **Georgia Southwestern State University**

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

Americus

(220) 928-1273

Registered Nurse



# COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

## Georgia State University

www.gsu.edu  
Atlanta  
(404) 413-2000  
Clinical Nurse Specialist  
Counselor  
Dietitian  
Health Educator  
Health Informatics Professional  
Healthcare Administrator  
Medical Interpreter  
Nurse Practitioner  
Physical Therapist  
Psychologist  
Registered Nurse  
Respiratory Therapist  
Social Worker  
Speech/Language Pathologist

## Gordon State College

www.gdn.edu  
Barnesville  
(678) 359-5555  
Health Information Technician  
Registered Nurse

## Kennesaw State University

www.kennesaw.edu  
Kennesaw  
(770) 423-6000  
Coder  
Forensic Scientist  
Human Services Worker  
Medical Secretary  
Medical Transcriptionist  
Nurse Educator  
Nurse Practitioner  
Nursing Assistant  
Pharmacy Technician  
Phlebotomist  
Registered Nurse  
Social Worker

## LaGrange College

www.lagrange.edu  
LaGrange  
(706) 880-8000  
Registered Nurse

## Life University

www.life.edu  
Marietta  
(770) 426-2600  
Chiropractor  
Dietitian

## Mercer University

www.mercer.edu  
Atlanta  
(678) 547-6000  
Macon  
(478) 301-2700  
Savannah  
(912) 350-1734  
Biomedical Engineer  
Clinical Nurse Specialist  
Counselor  
Doctor of Medicine  
Health Educator  
Human Services Worker  
Nurse Educator  
Nurse Practitioner  
Pharmacist  
Physical Therapist  
Physician Assistant  
Psychologist  
Registered Nurse

## Middle Georgia State College

www.mga.edu  
Macon  
(478) 471-2700  
Cochran  
(478) 934-6221  
Health Information Administrator  
Healthcare Administrator  
Human Services Worker  
Occupational Therapy Assistant  
Registered Nurse  
Respiratory Therapist

## Morehouse School of Medicine

www.msm.edu  
Atlanta  
(404) 752-1500  
Doctor of Medicine

## Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (Georgia Campus)

www.pcom.edu  
Suwanee  
(678) 225-7500  
Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine  
Pharmacist

## Piedmont College

www.piedmont.edu  
Demorest  
(706) 788-3000  
Registered Nurse

## Richmont Graduate University

www.richmont.edu  
Atlanta  
(404) 233-3949  
Counselor

## Savannah State University

www.savannahstate.edu  
Savannah  
(912) 358-4778  
Social Worker

## Shorter University

www.shorter.edu  
Rome  
(706) 291-2121  
Human Services Worker  
Registered Nurse

## South Georgia State College

www.sgsc.edu  
Douglas  
(912) 260-4211  
Registered Nurse

## South University

www.southuniversity.edu  
Savannah  
(912) 201-8000  
Anesthesiologist Assistant  
Counselor  
Healthcare Administrator  
Medical Assistant  
Pharmacist  
Physical Therapist Assistant  
Physician Assistant

# COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

## Spelman College

www.spelman.edu  
Atlanta  
(404) 681-3643  
Human Services Worker

## Thomas University

www.thomasu.edu  
Thomasville  
(229) 226-1621  
Clinical Laboratory Scientist  
Counselor  
Nurse Educator  
Registered Nurse  
Social Worker

## University of Georgia

www.uga.edu  
Athens  
(706) 542-3000  
Athletic Trainer  
Biostatistician  
Counselor  
Dietitian  
Environmental Health Specialist  
Epidemiologist  
Geneticist  
Health Educator  
Healthcare Administrator  
Industrial Hygienist  
Medical Interpreter  
Music Therapist  
Pharmacist  
Psychologist  
Social Worker  
Speech/Language Pathologist  
Veterinarian

## University of North Georgia

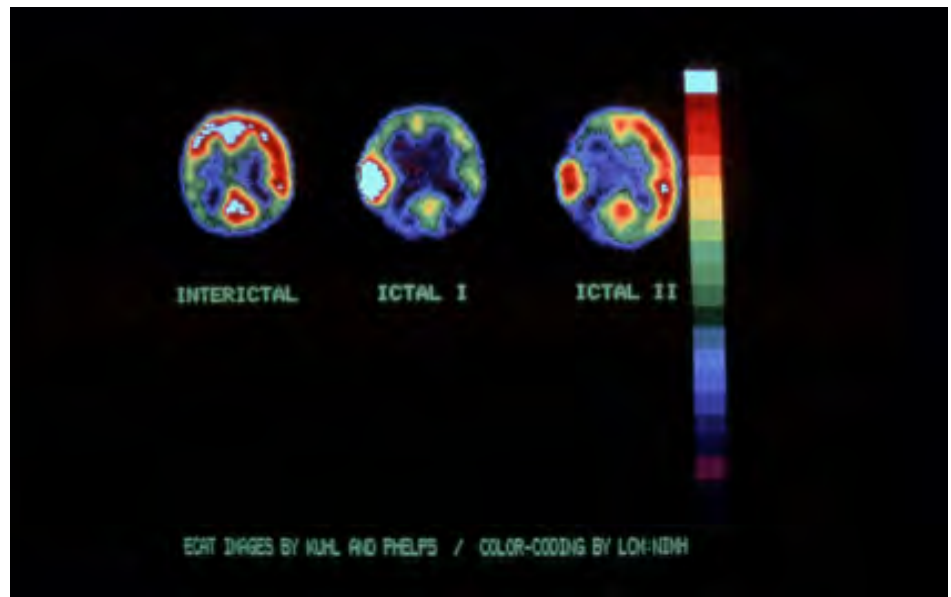
www.ung.edu  
Dahlonega  
(706) 864-1400  
Oakwood  
(678) 717-3639  
Athletic Trainer  
Counselor  
Dental Hygienist (with Lanier Technical College)  
Human Services Worker  
Nurse Educator  
Nurse Practitioner  
Physical Therapist  
Registered Nurse

## University of West Georgia

www.westga.edu  
Carrollton  
(678) 839-5000  
Counselor  
Nurse Educator  
Psychologist  
Registered Nurse  
Speech/Language Pathologist

## Valdosta State University

www.valdosta.edu  
Valdosta  
(229) 333-5800  
Athletic Trainer  
Counselor  
Dental Hygienist (with Wiregrass Georgia Technical College)  
Health Sciences Librarian  
Nurse Educator  
Nurse Practitioner  
Psychologist  
Registered Nurse  
Social Worker  
Speech/Language Pathologist



# TECHNICAL COLLEGE PROGRAMS

The following is a list of educational programs that are available in Georgia for the health careers identified in this guide. Many schools have multiple campuses and online programs that increase accessibility to their educational programs. Schools with more than one campus may not offer every program at every campus. Graduation from an accredited program is often required in order to obtain certification, registration or licensure. Ask about the accreditation status of programs in which you are interested.

## **Albany Technical College**

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

Albany

(229) 430-3500

Coder

Dental Assistant

Emergency Medical Technician

Health Information Technician

Licensed Practical Nurse

Medical Assistant

Medical Secretary

Paramedic

Pharmacy Technician

Radiologic Technologist

Surgical Technologist

Dental Hygienist

Emergency Medical Technician

Health Information Technician

Licensed Practical Nurse

Medical Assistant

Nursing Assistant

Paramedic

Phlebotomist

Physical Therapist Assistant

Radiologic Technologist

Registered Nurse

Sonographer

Surgical Technologist

Veterinary Technician

Cardiovascular Technologist (with Harry T. Harper, Jr., M.D., School of Cardiac and Vascular Technology)

Coder

Dental Assistant

Emergency Medical Technician

Licensed Practical Nurse

Medical Assistant

Medical Secretary

Medical Transcriptionist

Nursing Assistant

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Pharmacy Technician

Radiologic Technologist

Respiratory Therapist

Surgical Technologist

## **Altamaha Technical College**

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

Jesup Campus (Main)

(912) 427-5800

Baxley Campus

(912) 367-1700

Golden Isle Campus

(912) 280-4000

Coder

Emergency Medical Technician

Licensed Practical Nurse

Medical Assistant

Medical Secretary

Medical Transcriptionist

Nursing Assistant

Paramedic

## **Atlanta Technical College**

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

Atlanta

(404) 225-4400

Coder

Dental Assistant

Dental Hygienist

Emergency Medical Technician

Health Information Technician

Licensed Practical Nurse

Medical Assistant

Medical Transcriptionist

Nursing Assistant

Paramedic

Pharmacy Technician

Phlebotomist

Physical Therapist Assistant

Radiologic Technologist

Surgical Technologist

## **Central Georgia Technical College**

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

Macon Campus (Main)

(478) 757-3400

Milledgeville Campus

(478) 445-2300

Cardiovascular Technologist

Clinical Laboratory Technician

Coder

Dental Hygienist

Emergency Medical Technician

Licensed Practical Nurse

Medical Assistant

Medical Secretary

Medical Transcriptionist

Nursing Assistant

Paramedic

Pharmacy Technician

Phlebotomist

Polysomnographic Technologist

Radiologic Technologist

Surgical Technologist

## **Athens Technical College**

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

Athens Campus (Main)

(706) 355-5038

Elbert County Campus

(706) 213-2100

Greene County Campus

(706) 453-7435

Walton County Campus

(770) 207-4080

Dental Assistant

## **Augusta Technical College**

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

Augusta Campus (Main)

(706) 771-4000

Thomson Campus

(706) 595-0166

Waynesboro Campus

(706) 437-6801

# TECHNICAL COLLEGE PROGRAMS

## Chattahoochee Technical College

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

Appalachian Campus  
(706) 253-4500  
Austell Campus  
(770) 732-5900  
Canton Campus  
(770) 345-0172  
Marietta Campus  
(770) 528-4545  
North Metro Campus  
(770) 975-4000  
Paulding Campus  
(770) 443-3600  
Biomedical Equipment Technician  
Clinical Laboratory Technician  
Coder  
Emergency Medical Technician  
Health Information Technician  
Licensed Practical Nurse  
Medical Assistant  
Medical Secretary  
Nursing Assistant  
Occupational Therapy Assistant  
Paramedic  
Physical Therapist Assistant  
Radiologic Technologist  
Registered Nurse  
Surgical Technologist

## Columbus Technical College

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

Columbus  
(706) 649-1800  
Coder  
Dental Assistant  
Dental Hygienist  
Licensed Practical Nurse  
Medical Assistant  
Medical Secretary  
Nursing Assistant  
Pharmacy Technician  
Phlebotomist  
Radiologic Technologist  
Registered Nurse  
Respiratory Therapist  
Sonographer  
Surgical Technologist

## Georgia Northwestern Technical College

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

Floyd County Campus (Main)  
(706) 295-6963  
Gordon County Campus  
(706) 624-1100  
Polk County Campus  
(706) 684-5696  
Walker County Campus  
(706) 764-3510  
Cardiovascular Technologist  
Coder  
Dental Assistant  
Emergency Medical Technician  
Health Information Technician  
Licensed Practical Nurse  
Massage Therapist  
Medical Assistant  
Medical Secretary  
Medical Transcriptionist  
Nursing Assistant  
Occupational Therapy Assistant  
Paramedic  
Pharmacy Technician  
Phlebotomist  
Radiation Therapist  
Radiologic Technologist  
Registered Nurse  
Respiratory Therapist  
Sonographer  
Surgical Technologist

## Georgia Piedmont Technical College

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

DeKalb Campus  
(404) 297-9522  
Newton Campus  
(404) 297-9522  
Clinical Laboratory Technician  
Emergency Medical Technician  
Licensed Practical Nurse  
Medical Assistant  
Nursing Assistant  
Paramedic  
Phlebotomist

## Gwinnett Technical College

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

Lawrenceville  
(770) 962-7580  
Cardiovascular Technologist  
Coder  
Dental Assistant  
Emergency Medical Technician  
Health Information Technician  
Medical Assistant  
Medical Secretary  
Nursing Assistant  
Paramedic  
Polysomnographic Technologist  
Radiologic Technologist  
Registered Nurse  
Respiratory Therapist  
Sonographer  
Surgical Technologist  
Veterinary Technician

## Lanier Technical College

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

Oakwood Campus (Main)  
(770) 531-6300  
Dawson Campus  
(706) 216-5461  
Forsyth Campus  
(770) 781-6800  
Jackson Campus  
(706) 335-1931  
Winder-Barrow Campus  
(770) 868-4080  
Clinical Laboratory Technician  
Coder  
Dental Assistant  
Dental Hygienist (with University of North Georgia)  
Emergency Medical Technician  
Licensed Practical Nurse  
Medical Assistant  
Medical Secretary  
Nursing Assistant  
Paramedic  
Pharmacy Technician  
Phlebotomist  
Radiologic Technologist  
Surgical Technologist

# TECHNICAL COLLEGE PROGRAMS

## **Moultrie Technical College**

www.moultrietech.edu  
Moultrie Campus (Main)  
(229) 891-7000  
Tifton Campus  
(229) 391-2600  
Coder  
Emergency Medical Technician  
Licensed Practical Nurse  
Massage Therapist  
Medical Assistant  
Medical Secretary  
Medical Transcriptionist  
Nursing Assistant  
Radiologic Technologist  
Surgical Technologist

## **North Georgia Technical College**

www.northgatech.edu  
Clarksville Campus (Main)  
(706) 754-7700  
Blairsville Campus  
(706) 439-6300  
Currahee Campus  
(706) 779-8100  
Clinical Laboratory Technician  
Coder  
Emergency Medical Technician  
Licensed Practical Nurse  
Medical Assistant  
Medical Secretary  
Pharmacy Technician

## **Oconee Fall Line Technical College**

www.oftc.edu  
North Campus (Sandersville)  
(478) 553-2050  
South Campus (Dublin)  
(478) 275-6589  
Emergency Medical Technician  
Health Information Technician  
Licensed Practical Nurse  
Medical Assistant  
Medical Secretary  
Nursing Assistant  
Paramedic  
Pharmacy Technician  
Radiologic Technologist  
Respiratory Therapist

## **Ogeechee Technical College**

www.ogeecheetech.edu  
Statesboro  
(912) 681-5500  
Coder  
Dental Assistant  
Emergency Medical Technician  
Forensic Scientist  
Health Information Technician  
Licensed Practical Nurse  
Medical Assistant  
Medical Secretary  
Nursing Assistant  
Optician  
Paramedic  
Pharmacy Technician  
Phlebotomist  
Radiologic Technologist  
Sonographer  
Surgical Technologist  
Veterinary Technician

## **Okefenokee Technical College**

www.okefenokeetech.edu  
Waycross Campus (Main)  
(912) 287-6584  
Alma Campus  
(912) 632-0951  
Biomedical Equipment Technician  
Clinical Laboratory Technician  
Emergency Medical Technician  
Health Information Technician  
Licensed Practical Nurse  
Medical Assistant  
Nursing Assistant  
Paramedic  
Phlebotomist  
Radiologic Technologist  
Respiratory Therapist  
Surgical Technologist

## **Savannah Technical College**

www.savannahtech.edu  
Savannah Campus (Main)  
(912) 443-5700  
Effingham Campus  
(912) 754-2880  
Fort Stewart Campus  
(912) 408-2430  
Liberty Campus  
(912) 408-3024

Coder  
Dental Assistant  
Emergency Medical Technician  
Licensed Practical Nurse  
Medical Assistant  
Medical Secretary  
Nursing Assistant  
Paramedic  
Phlebotomist  
Surgical Technologist

## **South Georgia Technical College**

www.southgatech.edu  
Americus Campus (Main)  
(229) 931-2394  
Crisp County Campus  
(229) 271-4040  
Coder  
Emergency Medical Technician  
Licensed Practical Nurse  
Medical Assistant  
Medical Secretary  
Phlebotomist

## **Southeastern Technical College**

www.southeasterntech.edu  
Swainsboro Campus  
(478) 289-2200  
Vidalia Campus  
(912) 538-3100  
Clinical Laboratory Technician  
Coder  
Dental Hygienist  
Emergency Medical Technician  
Licensed Practical Nurse  
Medical Assistant  
Medical Secretary  
Nursing Assistant  
Paramedic  
Pharmacy Technician  
Phlebotomist  
Radiologic Technologist  
Surgical Technologist

# TECHNICAL COLLEGE PROGRAMS

## Southern Crescent Technical College

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

Flint River Campus (Thomaston)

(706) 646-6148

Griffin Campus

(770) 228-7348

Coder

Dental Assistant

Emergency Medical Technician

Forensic Scientist

Health Information Technician

Licensed Practical Nurse

Medical Assistant

Nursing Assistant

Paramedic

Pharmacy Technician

Phlebotomist

Polysomnographic Technologist

Radiologic Technologist

Respiratory Therapist

Surgical Technologist

## Southwest Georgia Technical College

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

Thomasville Campus (Main)

(229) 225-4096

Grady County Campus

(229) 378-2901

Biomedical Equipment Technician

Clinical Laboratory Technician

Coder

Emergency Medical Technician

Health Information Technician

Licensed Practical Nurse

Medical Assistant

Medical Secretary

Medical Transcriptionist

Paramedic

Pharmacy Technician

Phlebotomist

Radiologic Technologist

Registered Nurse

Respiratory Therapist

Surgical Technologist

Veterinary Technician

## West Georgia Technical College

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

Carroll Campus

(770) 836-6800

Coweta Campus

(770) 755-7440

Douglas Campus

(770) 947-7200

LaGrange Campus

(706) 845-4323

Murphy Campus

(770) 537-6000

Clinical Laboratory Technician

Coder

Dental Assistant

Dental Hygienist

Emergency Medical Technician

Health Information Technician

Licensed Practical Nurse

Massage Therapist

Medical Assistant

Medical Secretary

Medical Transcriptionist

Nursing Assistant

Phlebotomist

Radiologic Technologist

Registered Nurse

Surgical Technologist

## Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

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

Valdosta Campus

(229) 333-2100

Ben-Hill Irwin Campus (Fitzgerald)

(229) 468-2000

Coffee County Campus

(912) 389-4303

Clinical Laboratory Technician

Coder

Dental Assistant

Dental Hygienist (with Valdosta State University)

Emergency Medical Technician

Health Information Technician

Licensed Practical Nurse

Medical Assistant

Medical Secretary

Medical Transcriptionist

Nursing Assistant

Optician

Paramedic

Pharmacy Technician

Phlebotomist

Radiologic Technologist

Surgical Technologist



# HOSPITAL-BASED & PROPRIETARY SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The following is a list of educational programs for the health careers identified in this guide that are offered through Georgia hospitals and proprietary schools. Some proprietary schools offer online programs that increase accessibility to their educational programs. Only proprietary schools that are authorized by the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission and accredited by an agency recognized by the US Department of Education are included in this directory. The schools that follow are accredited by one or more of the following agencies: Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology, Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools, Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools, Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training, and Council on Occupational Education.

## HOSPITAL-BASED PROGRAMS

### DeKalb Medical Center

[www.dekalbmedical.org](http://www.dekalbmedical.org)  
Decatur  
(404) 501-5307  
Radiologic Technologist

### Grady Health System

[www.gradyhealthsystem.org](http://www.gradyhealthsystem.org)  
Atlanta  
(404) 616-3610  
Radiation Therapist (applicant must be a Radiologic Technologist)  
Radiologic Technologist  
Sonographer

### University Health Care System

[www.universityhealth.org](http://www.universityhealth.org)  
Augusta  
(706) 774-5010  
Radiologic Technologist

## PROPRIETARY SCHOOL PROGRAMS

### Academy of Somatic Healing Arts

[www.ashamassage.com](http://www.ashamassage.com)  
Norcross  
(770) 368-2661  
Massage Therapist

### Albany Therapeutic Massage Program

[www.albanytmc.com](http://www.albanytmc.com)  
Albany  
(229) 435-9008  
Massage Therapist

### American Professional Institute

[www.api.edu](http://www.api.edu)  
Decatur  
(404) 371-3338  
Duluth  
(678) 473-7820  
Gainesville  
(770) 297-8080  
Macon  
(478) 314-4444  
Milledgeville  
(478) 452-3900  
Coder  
Massage Therapist  
Medical Assistant  
Nursing Assistant  
Pharmacy Technician  
Surgical Technologist

### Atlanta Beauty and Barber Academy

[www.atlantabeautyacademy.com](http://www.atlantabeautyacademy.com)  
Atlanta  
(770) 449-1741  
Massage Therapist

### Atlanta School of Massage

[www.atlantaschoolofmassage.com](http://www.atlantaschoolofmassage.com)  
Atlanta  
(770) 454-7167  
Massage Therapist

### Augusta School of Massage

[www.augustamassage.com](http://www.augustamassage.com)  
Evans  
(706) 863-4799  
Massage Therapist

### Brown Mackie College

[www.brownmackie.edu/atlanta](http://www.brownmackie.edu/atlanta)  
Atlanta  
(404) 799-4500  
Medical Assistant  
Occupational Therapy Assistant  
Pharmacy Technician  
Surgical Technologist

### DeVry University

[www.devry.edu](http://www.devry.edu)  
Alpharetta  
(770) 619-3600  
Cobb Galleria  
(770) 916-3704  
Decatur  
(404) 270-2700  
Perimeter  
(404) 236-1310  
Stockbridge  
(678) 284-4700  
Health Informatics Professional  
Health Information Technician  
Healthcare Administrator

# HOSPITAL-BASED & PROPRIETARY SCHOOL PROGRAMS

## **Everest Institute**

www.everest.edu  
Atlanta  
(678) 500-3400  
Jonesboro  
(770) 603-0000  
Marietta  
(770) 303-7997  
Norcross  
(770) 921-1085  
Coder  
Dental Assistant  
Massage Therapist  
Medical Assistant  
Medical Secretary  
Nursing Assistant  
Pharmacy Technician  
Surgical Technologist

## **Georgia Career Institute**

www.gci.com  
Conyers  
(770) 922-7653  
Massage Therapist

## **Georgia Massage Institute**

www.gamassageinstitute@yahoo.com  
Winder  
(770) 307-0873  
Massage Therapist

## **Gwinnett College**

www.gwinnettcollege.com  
Lilburn  
(770) 381-7200  
Sandy Springs  
(877) 527-3504  
Massage Therapist  
Medical Assistant  
Medical Secretary

## **Herzing University**

www.herzing.edu  
Atlanta  
(404) 816-4533  
Coder  
Health Information Administrator  
Healthcare Administrator

## **International School of Skin, Nailcare and Massage Therapy**

www.issnschoolspa.com  
Atlanta  
(404) 843-1005  
Massage Therapist

## **Laurus Technical Institute**

www.laurus.edu  
Decatur  
(404) 303-2929  
Coder  
Medical Assistant  
Medical Secretary

## **Lincoln College of Technology**

www.lincolnedu.com  
Marietta  
(770) 226-0056  
Coder  
Medical Assistant

## **Sanford-Brown College**

www.sanfordbrown.edu  
Atlanta  
(888) 740-1333  
Cardiovascular Technologist  
Coder  
Massage Therapist  
Medical Assistant  
Sonographer

## **Savannah School of Massage Therapy**

www.ssomt.com  
Savannah  
(912) 355-3011  
Massage Therapist

## **Touch for Healing**

www.touchforhealing.net  
Jasper  
(706) 792-0255  
Massage Therapist

## **Westwood College**

www.westwood.edu  
Atlanta Midtown  
(800) 613-4595  
Atlanta Northlake  
(866) 821-6145  
Health Information Technician  
Healthcare Administrator  
Medical Assistant  
Medical Secretary





# HOSPITALS IN GEORGIA

## **Anchor Hospital**

Atlanta  
(770) 991-6044  
www.anchorhospital.com

## **Appling HealthCare System**

Baxley  
(912) 367-9841  
www.appling-hospital.org

## **Archbold Memorial Hospital (John D.)**

Thomasville  
(229) 228-2000  
www.archbold.org

## **Athens Regional Medical Center**

Athens  
(706) 475-7000  
www.armc.org

## **Atlanta Medical Center**

Atlanta  
(404) 265-4000  
www.atlantamedcenter.com

## **Atlanta VA Medical Center**

Decatur  
(404) 321-6111  
www.atlanta.va.gov

## **Bacon County Hospital and Health System**

Alma  
(912) 632-8961  
www.baconcountyhospital.com

## **Barrow Regional Medical Center**

Winder  
(770) 867-3400  
www.barrowregional.com

## **Bleckley Memorial Hospital**

Cochran  
(478) 934-6211

## **The Bradley Center**

Columbus  
(706) 320-3770  
www.sfhga.com/the-bradley-center

## **Brooks County Hospital**

Quitman  
(229) 263-4171  
www.archbold.org

## **Burke Medical Center**

Waynesboro  
(706) 554-4435  
www.burkemedical.net

## **Candler County Hospital**

Metter  
(912) 685-5741  
www.candlercohospital.com

## **Candler Hospital**

Savannah  
(912) 819-6000  
www.sjchs.org

## **Carl Vinson VA Medical Center**

Dublin  
(478) 272-1210  
www.dublin.va.gov

## **Cartersville Medical Center**

Cartersville  
(770) 382-1530  
www.cartersvillemedical.com

## **Central Georgia Rehabilitation Center**

Macon  
(478) 201-6500  
www.centralgarehab.com

## **Central State Hospital**

Milledgeville  
(478) 445-4128  
www.centralstatehospital.org

## **Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center**

Augusta  
(706) 733-0188  
www.augusta.va.gov

## **Charlton Memorial Hospital**

Folkston  
(912) 496-2531

## **Chatuge Regional Hospital**

Hiawassee  
(706) 896-2222  
www.chatugeregionalhospital.org

## **Chestatee Regional Hospital**

Dahlonega  
(706) 864-6136  
www.chestateeregionalhospital.com

## **Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston**

Atlanta  
(404) 785-6000  
www.choa.org

## **Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Hughes Spalding**

Atlanta  
(404) 785-9500  
www.choa.org

## **Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Scottish Rite**

Atlanta  
(404) 785-5252  
www.choa.org

## **Children's Hospital of Georgia**

Augusta  
(706) 721-5437  
www.mcghealth.org

## **Clearview Regional Medical Center**

Monroe  
(770) 267-8461  
www.clearviewregionalmedicalcenter.com

## **Clinch Memorial Hospital**

Homerville  
(912) 487-5211  
www.sgmhc.org

## **Coastal Harbor Treatment Center**

Savannah  
(912) 354-3911  
www.coastalharbor.com

## **Cobb Memorial Hospital**

Royston  
(706) 245-5071  
www.tycobbhealthcare.com

## **Coffee Regional Medical Center**

Douglas  
(912) 384-1900  
www.coffeeregional.org

## **Coliseum Center for Behavioral Health**

Macon  
(478) 741-1355  
www.coliseumhealthsystem.com

# HOSPITALS IN GEORGIA

## **Coliseum Medical Centers**

Macon  
(478) 765-7000  
www.coliseumhealthsystem.com

## **Coliseum Northside Hospital**

Macon  
(478) 757-8200  
www.coliseumhealthsystem.com

## **Colquitt Regional Medical Center**

Moultrie  
(229) 985-3420  
www.colquittregional.com

## **Columbus Specialty Hospital**

Columbus  
(706) 321-6712  
www.columbusspecialtyhospital.net

## **Crescent Pines Hospital**

Stockbridge  
(770) 474-8888  
www.crescentpineshospital.com

## **Crisp Regional Hospital**

Cordele  
(229) 276-3100  
www.crispregional.org

## **DeKalb Medical at Downtown Decatur**

Decatur  
(404) 501-6260  
www.dekalbmedical.org

## **DeKalb Medical at Hillandale**

Lithonia  
(404) 501-8000  
www.dekalbmedical.org

## **DeKalb Medical at North Decatur**

Decatur  
(404) 501-1000  
www.dekalbmedical.org

## **Devereux Georgia Treatment Network**

Kennesaw  
(770) 427-0147  
www.devereuxga.org

## **Doctors Hospital of Augusta**

Augusta  
(706) 651-3232  
www.doctors-hospital.net

## **Doctors Hospital of Columbus**

Columbus  
(706) 494-4262  
www.columbusregional.com

## **Dodge County Hospital**

Eastman  
(478) 448-4000  
www.dodgecountyhospital.com

## **Donalsonville Hospital**

Donalsonville  
(229) 524-5217  
www.donalsonvillehospital.org

## **Dorminy Medical Center**

Fitzgerald  
(229) 424-7100  
www.dorminymedical.org

## **East Central Regional Hospital Augusta Campus**

Augusta  
(706) 792-7000  
www.echr.dhr.state.ga.us

## **East Central Regional Hospital Gracewood Campus**

Gracewood  
(706) 792-7000  
www.echr.dhr.state.ga.us

## **East Georgia Regional Medical Center**

Statesboro  
(912) 486-1000  
www.eastgeorgiaregional.com

## **Eastside Medical Center**

Snellville  
(770) 979-0200  
www.eastsidemedical.com

## **Effingham Health System**

Springfield  
(912) 754-6451  
www.effinghamhealth.org

## **Eisenhower Army Medical Center**

Fort Gordon  
(706) 787-5811  
www.ddeamc.amedd.army.mil

## **Elbert Memorial Hospital**

Elberton  
(706) 283-3151  
www.emhcare.net

## **Emanuel Medical Center**

Swainsboro  
(478) 289-1100  
www.emanuelmedical.org

## **Emory-Adventist Hospital at Smyrna**

Smyrna  
(770) 434-0710  
www.emoryadventist.org

## **Emory Johns Creek Hospital**

Johns Creek  
(678) 474-7000  
www.emoryjohnscreek.com

## **Emory University Hospital**

Atlanta  
(404) 712-2000  
www.emoryhealthcare.org

## **Emory University Hospital Midtown**

Atlanta  
(404) 686-4411  
www.emoryhealthcare.org

## **Emory University Orthopedics and Spine Hospital**

Tucker  
(404) 251-3000  
www.emoryhealthcare.org

## **Evans Memorial Hospital**

Claxton  
(912) 739-2611  
www.evansmemorial.org

## **Fairview Park Hospital**

Dublin  
(478) 275-2000  
www.fairviewparkhospital.com

# HOSPITALS IN GEORGIA

## **Fannin Regional Hospital**

Blue Ridge  
(706) 632-3711  
www.fanninregionalthospital.com

## **Flint River Hospital**

Montezuma  
(478) 472-3100  
www.flintriverhospital.com

## **Floyd Medical Center**

Rome  
(706) 509-5000  
www.floyd.org

## **Georgia Regents Medical Center**

Augusta  
(706) 721-2273  
www.mcghealth.org

## **Georgia Regional Hospital at Atlanta**

Decatur  
(404) 243-2100  
www.dbhdd.georgia.gov

## **Georgia Regional Hospital at Savannah**

Savannah  
(912) 356-2011  
www.garegionalsavannah.com

## **Gordon Hospital**

Calhoun  
(706) 629-2895  
www.gordonhospital.com

## **Grady General Hospital**

Cairo  
(229) 377-1150  
www.archbold.org

## **Grady Memorial Hospital**

Atlanta  
(404) 616-1000  
www.gradyhealth.org

## **Greenleaf Center**

Valdosta  
(229) 247-4357  
www.greenleafcounseling.net

## **Gwinnett Medical Center – Duluth**

Duluth  
(678) 312-6800  
www.gwinnettmedicalcenter.org

## **Gwinnett Medical Center – Lawrenceville**

Lawrenceville  
(678) 312-1000  
www.gwinnettmedicalcenter.org

## **Habersham Medical Center**

Demorest  
(706) 754-2161  
www.habershammedical.com

## **Hamilton Medical Center**

Dalton  
(706) 272-6000  
www.hamiltonhealth.com

## **Hart County Hospital**

Hartwell  
(706) 856-6900  
www.tycobbhealthcare.com

## **Higgins General Hospital**

Bremen  
(770) 824-2000  
www.tanner.org

## **Hillside Hospital**

Atlanta  
(404) 875-4551  
www.hside.org

## **Houston Medical Center**

Warner Robins  
(478) 922-4281  
www.hhc.org

## **Hughston Hospital**

Columbus  
(706) 494-2100  
www.columbusregional.com

## **Hutcheson Medical Center**

Fort Oglethorpe  
(706) 858-2000  
www.hutcheson.org

## **Irwin County Hospital**

Ocilla  
(229) 468-3800  
www.irwincntyhospital.com

## **Jasper Memorial Hospital**

Monticello  
(706) 468-6411  
www.jaspermemorialhospital.org

## **Jeff Davis Hospital**

Hazlehurst  
(912) 375-7781  
www.jeffdavishospital.org

## **Jefferson Hospital**

Louisville  
(478) 625-7000  
www.jeffersonhosp.com

## **Kindred Hospital - Atlanta**

Atlanta  
(404) 873-2871  
www.kindredatlanta.com

## **Laurel Heights Hospital**

Atlanta  
(404) 888-7860  
www.laurelheightshospital.com

## **Liberty Regional Medical Center**

Hinesville  
(912) 369-9400  
www.libertyregional.org

## **Lighthouse Care Center of Augusta**

Augusta  
(706) 651-0005  
www.lighthousecarecenters.com

## **Louis Smith Memorial Hospital**

Lakeland  
(229) 482-8440  
www.sgmc.org

## **Lower Oconee Community Hospital**

Glenwood  
(912) 523-5113  
www.lochosp.org

## **Martin Army Community Hospital**

Fort Benning  
(706) 544-2273  
www.martin.amedd.army.mil

## **Mayo Clinic Health System in Waycross**

Waycross  
(912) 283-3030  
www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org

## **McDuffie Regional Medical Center**

Thomson  
(706) 595-1411  
www.mrmc.org

# HOSPITALS IN GEORGIA

## **Meadows Regional Medical Center**

Vidalia  
(912) 535-5555  
www.meadowsregional.org

## **The Medical Center**

Columbus  
(706) 571-1000  
www.columbusregional.com

## **Medical Center of Central Georgia**

Macon  
(478) 633-1000  
www.mccg.org

## **Memorial Hospital and Manor**

Bainbridge  
(229) 246-3500  
www.mh-m.org

## **Memorial Hospital of Adel**

Adel  
(229) 896-8000  
www.memorialofadel.com

## **Memorial University Medical Center**

Savannah  
(912) 350-8000  
www.memorialhealth.com

## **Miller County Hospital**

Colquitt  
(229) 758-3385  
www.millercountyhospital.com

## **Mitchell County Hospital**

Camilla  
(229) 336-5284  
www.archbold.org

## **Monroe County Hospital**

Forsyth  
(478) 994-2521  
www.monroehospital.org

## **Morgan Memorial Hospital**

Madison  
(706) 342-1667  
www.mmh.org

## **Mountain Lakes Medical Center**

Clayton  
(706) 782-3100  
www.mountainlakesmedicalcenter.com

## **Murray Medical Center**

Chatsworth  
(706) 695-4564  
www.murraymedical.org

## **Newton Medical Center**

Covington  
(770) 786-7053  
www.newtonmedical.com

## **North Fulton Hospital**

Roswell  
(770) 751-2500  
www.nfultonhospital.com

## **North Georgia Medical Center**

Ellijay  
(706) 276-4741  
www.northgeorgiamedicalcenter.com

## **Northeast Georgia Medical Center**

Gainesville  
(770) 219-9000  
www.nghs.com

## **Northridge Medical Center**

Commerce  
(706) 335-1000  
www.northridgemc.com

## **Northside Hospital - Atlanta**

Atlanta  
(404) 851-8000  
www.northside.com

## **Northside Hospital - Cherokee**

Canton  
(770) 720-5100  
www.northside.com

## **Northside Hospital - Forsyth**

Cumming  
(770) 844-3200  
www.northside.com

## **Oconee Regional Medical Center**

Milledgeville  
(478) 454-3505  
www.oconeeregional.com

## **Optim Medical Center-Jenkins**

Millen  
(478) 982-4221  
www.orthocentersav.com

## **Optim Medical Center-Screven**

Sylvania  
(912) 564-7426  
www.orthocentersav.com

## **Optim Medical Center-Tattnall**

Reidsville  
(912) 557-1000  
www.orthocentersav.com

## **Peach Regional Medical Center**

Fort Valley  
(478) 825-8691  
www.peachregional.org

## **Peachford Hospital**

Atlanta  
(770) 455-3200  
www.peachford.com

## **Perry Hospital**

Perry  
(478) 987-3600  
www.hhc.org

## **Phoebe North**

Albany  
(229) 434-2000  
www.phoebeputney.com

## **Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital**

Albany  
(229) 312-1000  
www.phoebeputney.com

## **Phoebe Sumter Medical Center**

Americus  
(229) 924-6011  
www.phoebesumter.org

## **Phoebe Worth Medical Center**

Sylvester  
(229) 776-6961  
www.phoebeputney.com

## **Piedmont Fayette Hospital**

Fayetteville  
(770) 719-7000  
www.piedmontfayette.org

## **Piedmont Henry Hospital**

Stockbridge  
(678) 604-1000  
www.piedmonthenry.org

# HOSPITALS IN GEORGIA

## **Piedmont Hospital**

Atlanta  
(404) 605-5000  
www.piedmonthospital.org

## **Piedmont Mountainside Hospital**

Jasper  
(706) 692-2441  
www.piedmontmountainsidehospital.org

## **Piedmont Newnan Hospital**

Newnan  
(770) 400-1000  
www.piedmont.org

## **Pioneer Community Hospital of Early**

Blakely  
(229) 723-4241  
www.pchearly.com

## **Polk Medical Center**

Cedartown  
(770) 748-2500  
www.polkhospital.org

## **Putnam General Hospital**

Eatonton  
(706) 485-2711  
www.putnamgeneral.com

## **Redmond Regional Medical Center**

Rome  
(706) 291-0291  
www.redmondregional.com

## **Ridgeview Institute**

Smyrna  
(770) 434-4567  
www.ridgeviewinstitute.com

## **Rockdale Medical Center**

Conyers  
(770) 918-3000  
www.rockdalemedicalcenter.org

## **Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation**

Warm Springs  
(706) 655-5000  
www.roosevelt rehab.org

## **SGMC Berrien Campus**

Nashville  
(229) 543-7100  
www.sgmc.org

## **St. Francis Hospital**

Columbus  
(706) 596-4000  
www.sfhga.com

## **St. Joseph's Hospital**

Savannah  
(912) 819-4100  
www.sjchs.org

## **St. Joseph's Hospital of Atlanta**

Atlanta  
(678) 843-7001  
www.stjosephsatlanta.org

## **St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital**

Greensboro  
(706) 453-7331  
www.stmarysgoodsam.org

## **St. Mary's Health Care System**

Athens  
(706) 389-3000  
www.stmarysathens.com

## **St. Simons By-The-Sea Hospital**

St. Simons Island  
(912) 638-1999  
www.ssbythesea.com

## **Select Specialty Hospital - Atlanta**

Atlanta  
(404) 686-2270  
www.selectspecialtyhospitals.com

## **Select Specialty Hospital - Augusta**

Augusta  
(706) 731-1200  
www.selectspecialtyhospitals.com

## **Select Specialty Hospital - Savannah**

Savannah  
(912) 819-7972  
www.selectspecialtyhospitals.com

## **Shepherd Center**

Atlanta  
(404) 352-2020  
www.shepherd.org

## **SMITH Northview Hospital**

Valdosta  
(229) 671-2000  
www.smithhospital.com

## **South Fulton Medical Center**

East Point  
(404) 466-1170  
www.southfultonmedicalcenter.com

## **South Georgia Medical Center**

Valdosta  
(229) 333-1000  
www.sgmc.org

## **Southeast Georgia Health System Brunswick Campus**

Brunswick  
(912) 466-7000  
www.sghs.org

## **Southeast Georgia Health System Camden Campus**

St. Marys  
(912) 576-6200  
www.sghs.org

## **Southern Regional Medical Center**

Riverdale  
(770) 991-8000  
www.southernregional.org

## **Southwest Georgia Regional Medical Center**

Cuthbert  
(229) 732-2181  
www.phoebeputney.com

## **Southwestern State Hospital**

Thomasville  
(229) 227-3020  
www.swsh.org

## **Spalding Regional Medical Center**

Griffin  
(770) 228-2721  
www.spaldingregional.com

## **Stephens County Hospital**

Toccoa  
(706) 282-4200  
www.stephenscountyhospital.com

# HOSPITALS IN GEORGIA

## **SummitRidge Hospital**

Lawrenceville  
(678) 442-5800  
www.summitridgehospital.net

## **Sylvan Grove Hospital**

Jackson  
(770) 775-7861  
www.sylvangrovehospital.com

## **Talbott Recovery**

Atlanta  
(770) 994-0185  
www.talbottcampus.com

## **Tanner Medical Center-Carrollton**

Carrollton  
(770) 836-9666  
www.tanner.org

## **Tanner Medical Center-Villa Rica**

Villa Rica  
(770) 456-3000  
www.tanner.org

## **Taylor Regional Hospital**

Hawkinsville  
(478) 783-0200  
www.taylorregional.org

## **Tift Regional Medical Center**

Tifton  
(229) 382-7120  
www.tiftregional.com

## **Trinity Hospital of Augusta**

Augusta  
(706) 481-7000  
www.trinityofaugusta.com

## **Turning Point Hospital**

Moultrie  
(229) 985-4815  
www.turningpointcare.com

## **Union General Hospital**

Blairsville  
(706) 745-2111  
www.uniongeneralhospital.com

## **University Hospital**

Augusta  
(706) 722-9011  
www.universityhealth.org

## **Upton Regional Medical Center**

Thomaston  
(706) 647-8111  
www.urmc.org

## **Walton Rehabilitation Hospital**

Augusta  
(706) 724-7746  
www.wrh.org

## **Warm Springs Medical Center**

Warm Springs  
(706) 655-3331  
www.warmspringsmc.org

## **Washington County Regional Medical Center**

Sandersville  
(478) 240-2000  
www.wcrmc.com

## **Wayne Memorial Hospital**

Jesup  
(912) 427-6811  
www.wmhweb.com

## **WellStar Cobb Hospital**

Austell  
(770) 732-4000  
www.wellstar.org

## **WellStar Douglas Hospital**

Douglasville  
(770) 949-1500  
www.wellstar.org

## **WellStar Kennestone Hospital**

Marietta  
(770) 793-5000  
www.wellstar.org

## **WellStar Paulding Hospital**

Dallas  
(770) 445-4411  
www.wellstar.org

## **WellStar Windy Hill Hospital**

Marietta  
(770) 644-1000  
www.wellstar.org

## **Wesley Woods Geriatric Hospital**

Atlanta  
(404) 728-6200  
www.emoryhealthcare.org

## **West Central Georgia Regional Hospital**

Columbus  
(706) 568-5000  
www.wcgrh.org

## **West Georgia Health**

LaGrange  
(706) 882-1411  
www.wghealth.org

## **Wildwood Lifestyle Center & Hospital**

Wildwood  
(706) 820-1493  
www.wildwoodsc.org

## **Willingway Hospital**

Statesboro  
(800) 242-9455  
www.willingway.com

## **Wills Memorial Hospital**

Washington  
(706) 678-2151  
www.willsmemorialhospital.com

## **Winn Army Community Hospital**

Fort Stewart  
(912) 435-6965  
www.winn.amedd.army.mil

## **Youth Villages Inner Harbor Campus**

Douglasville  
(770) 852-6300  
www.youthvillages.org

# ALPHABETIZED CAREER LIST

|                                       |    |                                     |     |
|---------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Acupuncturist.....                    | 31 | Human Services Worker.....          | 73  |
| Anesthesiologist Assistant.....       | 32 | Industrial Hygienist.....           | 74  |
| Art Therapist.....                    | 46 | Licensed Practical Nurse.....       | 75  |
| Athletic Trainer.....                 | 33 | Massage Therapist.....              | 76  |
| Audiologist.....                      | 34 | Medical Assistant.....              | 77  |
| Biomedical Engineer.....              | 35 | Medical Illustrator.....            | 78  |
| Biomedical Equipment Technician.....  | 36 | Medical Interpreter.....            | 79  |
| Biostatistician.....                  | 37 | Medical Secretary.....              | 80  |
| Cardiovascular Technologist.....      | 38 | Medical Transcriptionist.....       | 81  |
| Chiropractor.....                     | 39 | Music Therapist.....                | 46  |
| Clinical Laboratory Scientist.....    | 40 | Nuclear Medicine Technologist.....  | 82  |
| Clinical Laboratory Technician.....   | 41 | Nurse Anesthetist.....              | 83  |
| Clinical Nurse Specialist.....        | 42 | Nurse Educator.....                 | 84  |
| Coder.....                            | 43 | Nurse-Midwife.....                  | 85  |
| Community Health Worker.....          | 44 | Nurse Practitioner.....             | 86  |
| Counselor.....                        | 45 | Nurse, Registered (RN).....         | 87  |
| Creative Arts Therapist.....          | 46 | Nursing Assistant.....              | 89  |
| Cytotechnologist.....                 | 47 | Occupational Therapist.....         | 90  |
| Dance Therapist.....                  | 46 | Occupational Therapy Assistant..... | 91  |
| Dental Assistant.....                 | 48 | Optician.....                       | 92  |
| Dental Hygienist.....                 | 49 | Optometrist.....                    | 93  |
| Dentist.....                          | 50 | Orthotist.....                      | 102 |
| Dietetic Technician.....              | 51 | Paramedic.....                      | 58  |
| Dietitian.....                        | 52 | Perfusionist.....                   | 94  |
| Doctor of Medicine.....               | 53 | Personal and Home Care Aide.....    | 72  |
| Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine.....   | 55 | Pharmacist.....                     | 95  |
| Doctor of Podiatric Medicine.....     | 56 | Pharmacy Technician.....            | 96  |
| Dosimetrist.....                      | 57 | Phlebotomist.....                   | 97  |
| Drama Therapist.....                  | 46 | Physical Therapist.....             | 98  |
| Emergency Medical Technician.....     | 58 | Physical Therapist Assistant.....   | 99  |
| Environmental Health Specialist.....  | 60 | Physician Assistant.....            | 100 |
| Epidemiologist.....                   | 61 | Polysomnographic Technologist.....  | 101 |
| Forensic Scientist.....               | 62 | Prosthetist.....                    | 102 |
| Genetic Counselor.....                | 63 | Psychologist.....                   | 103 |
| Geneticist.....                       | 64 | Radiation Therapist.....            | 104 |
| Health Educator.....                  | 65 | Radiologic Technologist.....        | 105 |
| Health Informatics Professional.....  | 66 | Recreational Therapist.....         | 106 |
| Health Information Administrator..... | 67 | Respiratory Therapist.....          | 107 |
| Health Information Technician.....    | 68 | Social Worker.....                  | 108 |
| Health Sciences Librarian.....        | 69 | Sonographer.....                    | 109 |
| Healthcare Administrator.....         | 70 | Speech/Language Pathologist.....    | 110 |
| Histotechnician.....                  | 71 | Surgical Technologist.....          | 111 |
| Histotechnologist.....                | 71 | Veterinarian.....                   | 112 |
| Home Health Aide.....                 | 72 | Veterinary Technician.....          | 114 |

# ACUPUNCTURIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$33,300 or  
\$16.00/hour*

**A**cupuncture is a type of traditional Chinese medicine that has been used for thousands of years to treat conditions such as hypertension, depression, drug dependencies, headaches, and a variety of other health problems. At the core of Chinese medicine is a belief that there is a form of energy circulating in the body, known as Qi, which must be of sufficient quantity and move freely in order for us to be healthy and free of pain. Acupuncturists access this energy from the surface of the body by inserting very fine acupuncture needles into specific points in order to relieve pain, affect organ function and treat disease. In addition, an acupuncturist may use other techniques during treatment such as acupressure, electro-acupuncture, auricular therapy, moxibustion, and cupping. These techniques use finger pressure, electrical impulses, ear points, heat, and suction, respectively, to enhance the therapeutic effect. Acupuncturists may also recommend herbal medicines.



## Work Environment

Complementary health centers  
Hospice centers  
Hospitals  
Pain clinics  
Private clinics  
Public health clinics  
Self-employed

## Academic Requirements

Admission requirements vary by school, but generally a bachelor's or associate's degree (or 60 semester credits) is required for admission into an acupuncture program. A master's degree is the entry-level degree for this profession. Doctoral programs are also available. Educational programs last three to four years.

## Educational Programs

There are currently no programs in Georgia.

### Florida

Academy for Five Element Acupuncture  
[www.acupuncturist.edu](http://www.acupuncturist.edu)

Dragon Rises College of Oriental Medicine  
[www.dragonrises.edu](http://www.dragonrises.edu)

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

To be eligible for certification, one must complete a formal accredited education program or one in candidacy status for accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. Applicants are required to complete a Clean Needle Technique course and pass the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) exam. Licensure is required in Georgia through the Georgia Composite Medical Board and leads to the title of Licensed Acupuncturist (LAc.). Physicians who wish to practice acupuncture must be authorized by the Georgia Composite Medical Board after successfully completing acupuncture training.

## Professional Organizations

Accreditation Commission for  
Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine  
(301) 313-0855  
[www.acaom.org](http://www.acaom.org)

American Association of Acupuncture and  
Oriental Medicine  
(866) 455-7999  
[www.aaaomonline.org](http://www.aaaomonline.org)

Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and  
Oriental Medicine  
(301) 476-7790  
[www.ccaom.org](http://www.ccaom.org)

Georgia Composite Medical Board  
(404) 656-3913  
[www.medicalboard.georgia.gov](http://www.medicalboard.georgia.gov)

National Certification Commission for  
Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine  
(904) 598-1005  
[www.nccaom.org](http://www.nccaom.org)



# ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT

STARTING SALARY

*\$127,500 or  
\$61.30/hour*

**A**nesthesiologist assistants work directly under the supervision of a licensed anesthesiologist to provide quality anesthesia care. Unlike nurse anesthetists, anesthesiologist assistants cannot work independently, or under the direction of any physician other than an anesthesiologist. They are trained to administer drugs, obtain vascular access, apply and interpret monitors, establish and maintain the patient's airway, and assist with preoperative assessment. Anesthesiologist assistants are currently allowed to practice in 14 states and another 4 states through physician delegation, but with the growing demand, many other states will likely open their doors to these professionals.



## Work Environment

Ambulatory surgical centers  
Hospitals  
Pain centers

## Academic Requirements

Prior to applying to an anesthesiologist assistant program, one must have a bachelor's degree and completed the required pre-medical curriculum. Programs leading to a master's degree last 24 to 28 months and include both classroom and clinical work. Two of the nation's seven anesthesiologist assistant programs are located in Georgia.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required in Georgia and can be obtained through the Georgia Composite Medical Board. Certification is obtained through the National Commission for the Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants and leads to the title Anesthesiologist Assistant-Certified (AA-C).

## Professional Organizations

American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants  
(804) 565-6353  
[www.anesthetist.org](http://www.anesthetist.org)

American Society of Anesthesiologists  
(847) 825-5586  
[www.asahq.org](http://www.asahq.org)

National Commission for the Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants  
(919) 573-5439  
[www.aa-nccaa.org](http://www.aa-nccaa.org)

## Educational Programs

### Master's Degree

Emory University  
South University

# ATHLETIC TRAINER

STARTING SALARY

*\$35,553 or  
\$17.09/hour*

**A**thletic trainers are healthcare professionals who collaborate with physicians to optimize the physical activity and participation of patients, clients and athletes. Their duties involve the prevention, evaluation, and intervention of emergency, acute, and chronic medical conditions that happen during physical activity, exercise, or sporting events. To help people prevent injuries, certified athletic trainers screen clients for risk factors and develop conditioning and nutrition programs. They must be knowledgeable about risk management, environmental factors contributing to injury and illness, and protective equipment and safety. When injuries occur, athletic trainers develop and carry out the prescribed treatment and rehabilitation in collaboration with a physician. In addition to a broad knowledge of anatomy, physiology, psychology, pharmacology, nutrition, and conditioning, athletic trainers must be skilled in first aid procedures, CPR, and therapeutic rehabilitation.



## Work Environment

Colleges and universities  
Corporate health programs  
Health clubs  
High schools  
Hospitals  
Industrial medicine  
Professional sports teams  
Sports medicine clinics

## Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree from an accredited athletic training program is the minimum education level for practice in this field, however, more than 70 percent of athletic trainers have a master's degree or higher.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required through the Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers. Certification by the Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer is considered the standard qualification for the practice of athletic training. Only graduates of athletic training programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education are eligible to take the certification exam.

## Professional Organizations

Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer  
(402) 559-0091  
[www.bocatc.org](http://www.bocatc.org)

Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education  
(512) 733-9700  
[www.caate.net](http://www.caate.net)

Georgia Athletic Trainers' Association, Inc.  
[www.athletictraining.org](http://www.athletictraining.org)

Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers  
(478) 207-2440  
[www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/trainer](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/trainer)

National Athletic Trainers' Association  
(214) 637-6282  
[www.nata.org](http://www.nata.org)

## Educational Programs

### **Bachelor's Degree**

Armstrong Atlantic State University  
Georgia College & State University  
Georgia Southern University  
University of Georgia  
University of North Georgia  
Valdosta State University

### **Master's Degree**

Armstrong Atlantic State University  
University of Georgia

### **Doctoral Degree**

University of Georgia

# AUDIOLOGIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$54,500 or  
\$26.20/hour*

**A**udiologists work with people of all ages to prevent, diagnose, evaluate, and treat communication disorders. They use equipment such as audiometers and computers to identify and assess the nature and degree of hearing, balance, and related problems and also evaluate the impact of these problems on an individual's daily life. Audiologists work closely with physicians, speech pathologists, educators, and psychologists to make a diagnosis and determine appropriate treatment. Audiologists may perform monitoring during surgical procedures, conduct research, provide hearing conservation and audiology services related to legal issues, serve as a teacher to audiology students, and/or provide services to patients who are candidates for, or recipients of, cochlear implantation. Experts in the non-medical management of hearing and balance problems, audiologists also provide counseling, information regarding communication strategies, and assistance to individuals and their families in their adjustment to hearing and balance problems.



## Work Environment

Colleges and universities  
Federal, state and local government  
Health departments  
Hospitals  
Industry – hearing conservation programs  
Outpatient centers  
Physicians' offices  
Public and private schools  
Rehabilitation centers  
Research laboratories  
Residential health facilities  
Self-employed/private practice  
Speech and hearing centers  
Veteran's administration health facilities

## Academic Requirements

A Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) is the entry-level degree for this profession. Prerequisites for admission to audiology programs vary among universities, so admissions personnel should be consulted. In general, undergraduate coursework in communication disorders and in basic science is considered a good foundation for doctoral study in audiology.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

A license is required in Georgia through the State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. The national credential for audiologists is the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology (CCC-A) awarded by the

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association to those professionals who have met academic and professional standards.

## Professional Organizations

American Academy of Audiology  
(800) AAA-2336  
[www.audiology.org](http://www.audiology.org)

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
(301) 296-5700  
[www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)

Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
(561) 477-8100  
[www.gsha.org](http://www.gsha.org)

Georgia State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology  
(478) 207-2440  
[www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/speech](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/speech)

## Educational Programs

*There are no programs in Georgia.*

### Alabama

Auburn University  
[www.auburn.edu](http://www.auburn.edu)

University of South Alabama  
[www.southalabama.edu](http://www.southalabama.edu)

### Florida

University of Florida  
[www.ufl.edu](http://www.ufl.edu)

### Tennessee

East Tennessee State University  
[www.etsu.edu](http://www.etsu.edu)

# BIOMEDICAL ENGINEER

STARTING SALARY

*\$57,500 or  
\$27.64/hour*

**B**iomedical engineers combine their expertise in engineering, biology and medicine to create solutions in the field of medical care and improve healthcare. They analyze and design artificial organs and body parts such as cardiac pacemakers, heart valves, blood vessels, battery-powered artificial limbs, and joints. To design such wonders, they use computers to simulate parts of the human body, much like video games can simulate flight in a plane. They also design surgical lasers, patient monitoring devices, and medical imaging systems including computer assisted tomography (CAT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and positron emission tomography (PET). The work of a biomedical engineer may also include testing new products for safety, advising hospitals on the selection of medical equipment, and working as a member of a research team along with other health professionals. Biomedical engineers work in an exciting field that gives them the opportunity to improve the quality of life for many people.



## Areas of Specialization

- Biomechanics
- Biomedical Instrumentation
- Cellular and Biomolecular Engineering
- Clinical Engineering
- Computational Fluid Dynamics
- Integrative Biosystems
- Medical Imaging
- Neuroengineering
- Orthopedic Bioengineering

## Work Environment

- Biotechnology companies
- Government regulatory agencies
- Hospitals
- Industry
- Medical device companies
- Pharmaceutical industry
- Research facilities
- Space and undersea programs
- Universities

## Academic Requirements

Most biomedical engineers hold bachelor's degrees in biomedical engineering; however, others choose mechanical, electrical, or chemical engineering with a specialty in biomedical engineering. Either choice often requires continued education in master's or doctoral degree programs.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure of biomedical engineers is not required in Georgia. After three years of experience, clinical engineers working in hospitals may choose to be certified by the American College of Clinical Engineering.

## Professional Organizations

American College of Clinical Engineering  
(610) 825-6067  
[www.accenet.org](http://www.accenet.org)

Biomedical Engineering Society  
(301) 459-1999  
[www.bmes.org](http://www.bmes.org)

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers/Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society  
(732) 981-3433  
[www.embs.org](http://www.embs.org)

## Educational Programs

### Bachelor's Degree

Georgia Institute of Technology  
Mercer University

### Master's Degree

Mercer University  
Georgia Institute of Technology

### Doctoral Degree

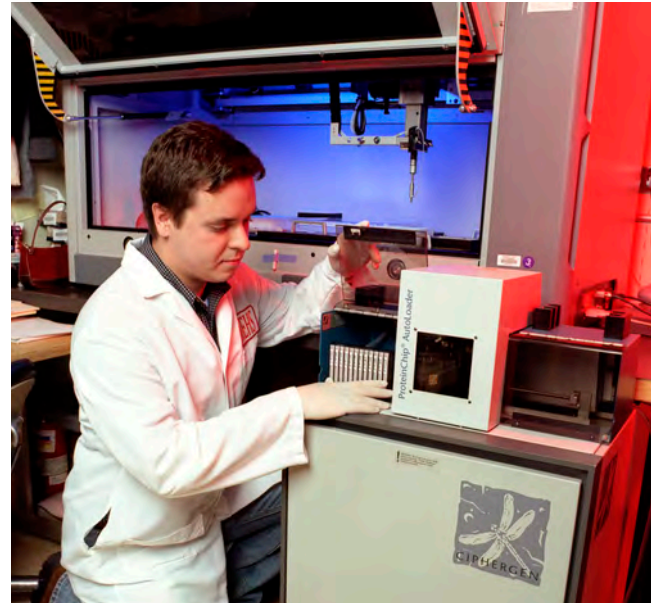
Georgia Institute of Technology  
(with Emory University)

# BIOMEDICAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN

STARTING SALARY

*\$37,445 or  
\$18.00/hour*

**B**iomedical equipment technicians are specialists in electronic and/or computerized mechanical equipment used to diagnose, clinically analyze, and treat diseases. They install electronic devices and sophisticated diagnostic equipment such as patient monitoring systems, fetal monitoring systems, sterilizers, operating room tables, electrocardiograph machines, and artificial kidney machines. Biomedical technicians also adjust and test equipment for proper operation. Also known as biomedical engineering technicians, they periodically inspect machines, calibrate and repair them when necessary, and make sure they keep an adequate supply of spare parts in inventory. They perform safety inspections on electrical and radiation equipment. Technicians demonstrate the use of equipment for other medical personnel, propose new equipment purchases or modifications, maintain adequate records on service and calibrations, and ensure all regulatory procedures are in compliance.



## Work Environment

- Clinics
- Dialysis centers
- Government agencies
- Hospitals
- Industry
- Medical equipment manufacturers
- Medical schools
- Third party independent service organizations

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Biomedical equipment technicians complete one- to three-year programs leading to certificates, diplomas, or associate degrees in biomedical equipment technology, electronics, or an engineering-related field. Four-year bachelor's degrees are offered by some universities and colleges. Some technicians with electronics experience may train on-the-job.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Voluntary certification enhances earnings and may be obtained through the International Certification Commission for Clinical Engineering and Biomedical Technology. The following certifications are available: Certified Biomedical Equipment Technician (CBET), Certified Radiology Equipment Specialist (CRES), and Certified Laboratory Equipment Specialist (CLES).

## Professional Organizations

Association for the Advancement of  
Medical Instrumentation  
(703) 525-4890  
[www.aami.org](http://www.aami.org)

Georgia Biomedical Instrumentation  
Society  
(229) 228-8015  
[www.gbisonline.org](http://www.gbisonline.org)

## Educational Programs

### Certificate

Southwest Georgia Technical College

### Diploma

Okefenokee Technical College

### Associate Degree

Chattahoochee Technical College

# BIostatistician

**STARTING SALARY**  
*Master's \$61,500 or \$29.57/hour*  
*Doctorate \$86,250 or \$41.47/hour*

**B**io statisticians use statistical reasoning and methods to pinpoint the cause of disease and injuries and to identify health trends in communities. Biostatisticians work closely with epidemiologists, survey researchers, local community planners, state and national health policy analysts and government officials to solve public health problems. They may analyze such things as the occurrence of gun violence, drunken driving injuries, the efficacy of new drugs, trends in cancer incidence, or morbidity and mortality from specific diseases. Their duties include designing public health studies and clinical trials, analyzing and interpreting statistical results, identifying risk factors associated with various diseases, and creating new statistical methods, models, and software.



## Work Environment

- Colleges and universities
- Consulting firms
- Hospitals
- Industry
- International health agencies
- Local, state, and federal government
- Non-profit organizations
- Pharmaceutical industry
- Private health agencies
- Public health departments
- Research institutions
- Research laboratories

## Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree is required for admission into a graduate program. Programs leading to a Master's of Public Health or Master of Science degree usually take two years to complete. A doctoral degree takes 4 to 6 years and leads to a Doctor of Public Health (DPH) or PhD.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

State licensure is not required in Georgia. No professional certification is required. The American Statistical Association offers statisticians voluntary certification/accreditation for professional recognition.

## Professional Organizations

American Public Health Association  
(202) 777-APHA  
[www.apha.org](http://www.apha.org)

American Statistical Association  
(703) 684-1221  
[www.amstat.org](http://www.amstat.org)

International Biometric Society  
(202) 712-9049  
[www.tibs.org](http://www.tibs.org)

## Educational Programs

### Master's Degree

- Emory University
- Georgia Regents University
- Georgia Southern University
- University of Georgia

### Doctoral Degree

- Emory University
- Georgia Regents University
- Georgia Southern University
- University of Georgia

# CARDIOVASCULAR TECHNOLOGIST

**STARTING SALARY**  
*Associate's \$47,000 or*  
*\$22.60/hour*

**C**ardiovascular technologists (CVTs) work under the direction of physicians (cardiologists, vascular surgeons, and interventional radiologists) to perform diagnostic tests that determine how well the heart and blood vessels function. They can specialize in invasive and non-invasive procedures. Those who specialize in invasive procedures perform tests that actually go into the body such as heart catheterization. They may also help perform examinations and repair procedures on blood vessels in the brain, neck, abdomen, and extremities. CVTs who specialize in non-invasive procedures use ultrasound waves (sonography) to produce images of the heart's chambers and valves and other non-cardiac vessels throughout the vascular system. Monitoring the heart's condition during exercise with electrocardiography or stress tests is another example of a non-invasive procedure. Technologists who specialize in cardiac electrophysiology assist cardiologists in various procedures used to diagnose and treat patients with cardiac arrhythmias. In addition to performing these complex procedures, CVTs prepare patients for examinations by taking medical histories, drawing blood samples, and explaining procedures.



## Areas of Specialization

- Cardiac Electrophysiology
- Invasive Cardiovascular Technology
- Non-invasive Echocardiography
- Non-invasive Vascular Ultrasound

## Work Environment

- Clinics
- Hospitals
- Medical centers
- Mobile units
- Physicians' offices

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Most programs require two years of study and award an associate degree. Bachelor level programs are also available.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia at this time. Credentialing for specialty areas is available through Cardiovascular Credentialing International. Non-invasive cardiology professionals can also receive registration through the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonographers. Most employers require registration after one year of work.

## Professional Organizations

Alliance of Cardiovascular Professionals  
(804) 632-0078  
[www.acp-online.org](http://www.acp-online.org)

Cardiovascular Credentialing International  
(800) 326-0268  
[www.cci-online.org](http://www.cci-online.org)

Joint Review Committee on Education in Cardiovascular Technology  
(214) 206-3117  
[www.jrccvt.org](http://www.jrccvt.org)

## Educational Programs

### Associate Degree

- Augusta Technical College (with Harry T. Harper, Jr., M.D., School of Cardiac and Vascular Technology)
- Central Georgia Technical College
- Darton State College
- Georgia Northwestern Technical College
- Gwinnett Technical College
- Sanford-Brown College

### Bachelor's Degree

- Armstrong Atlantic State University

# CHIROPRACTOR

STARTING SALARY

*\$48,000 or  
\$23.08/hour*

**C**hiropractors, or Doctors of Chiropractic (DC), serve as primary healthcare providers and wellness partners by providing a whole-body approach to patient care. They do this by focusing care on the central nervous system (brain, spinal cord and nerves) which controls and coordinates every function in the body. When the nervous system is functioning properly, the body is better able to adapt and overcome physical stresses (like a virus or trauma), emotional stresses (like depression), and chemical stresses (like allergies). Chiropractors use tools such as medical histories, physical and neurological examinations, laboratory tests and x-rays to help them create comprehensive care plans. At the core of the care plan is the chiropractic adjustment. During an adjustment, a DC uses his or her hands or specialized instruments to realign bones and tissues in the spine and other joints, allowing the nervous system to function properly. Chiropractic care plans often include counseling on the topics of nutrition, fitness and stress management, and may also include alternative therapies using water, light, ultrasound, heat or cold. They do not prescribe medications, perform surgery or use radiation to treat patients. Most practicing chiropractors own or co-own their practices.



## Areas of Specialization

- Geriatrics
- Neurology
- Orthopedics
- Pediatrics
- Prenatal
- Sports/Athletics

## Work Environment

- Athletics
- Chiropractic schools
- Military
- Private practice
- Wellness organizations

## Educational Programs

**Doctoral Degree**  
Life University

## Academic Requirements

All chiropractic schools require applicants to have completed specific prerequisites in the biological sciences. Some require a bachelor's degree in a related field. Chiropractic programs entail three to four years of rigorous study and practice. Students may choose elective tracks in specialty areas such as pediatrics, orthopedics, nutrition, sports injuries, neurology and occupational health as a part of their curriculum or in post-graduate studies.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

To practice in Georgia, chiropractors must graduate from an accredited chiropractic school and pass all parts of the National Board Examination. Licensure is available through the Georgia Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

## Professional Organizations

- American Chiropractic Association  
(703) 276-8800  
[www.acatoday.org](http://www.acatoday.org)
- Georgia Board of Chiropractic Examiners  
(478) 207-2440  
[www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/chiro](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/chiro)
- Georgia Chiropractic Association  
(770) 723-1100  
[www.gachiro.org](http://www.gachiro.org)
- Georgia Council of Chiropractic  
(678) 667-4567  
[www.georgiachiropractic.org](http://www.georgiachiropractic.org)
- International Chiropractors Association  
(800) 423-4690  
[www.chiropractic.org](http://www.chiropractic.org)



# CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENTIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$44,784 or  
\$21.53/hour*

**C**linical laboratory scientists (CLSs), also known as medical technologists or medical laboratory scientists, are the backbone of every medical laboratory. They ensure a well run operation by providing reliable results, controlling quality, and training and supervising lab technicians. They provide data so doctors and researchers can determine the presence and extent of disease and evaluate the effectiveness of treatment. Using microscopes, computer-interfaced equipment, and chemicals, CLSs prepare and study body tissues and fluids. They test for bacteria, drugs, or diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, leukemia, diabetes, and cancer. CLSs understand the reasons for doing specific tests and the significance of those results. CLSs often choose to specialize in a particular area. They also are prepared for supervisory and management positions in the laboratory.



## Areas of Specialization

- Blood Banking
- Clinical Chemistry
- Hematology
- Immunology/Serology
- Microbiology
- Molecular Biology

## Work Environment

- Blood banks/community blood services
- Colleges and universities
- Consulting
- Forensics
- Government facilities
- Hospital laboratories
- Medical supply and sales
- Physicians' offices
- Private and commercial laboratories
- Public health departments
- Research facilities

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Georgia does not require state licensure, but does require certification. Certification can be obtained by successfully completing an exam administered through the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification or American Medical Technologists. Certification allows these professionals to use either the MLS(ASCP) credential or the MT(AMT) credential, respectively, after their names.

## Academic Requirements

Bachelor degree programs include three to four years of course work and 12 months of clinical practice. In some colleges, science degree graduates can complete a one-year program which leads to a certificate or degree in medical laboratory science. Certified clinical laboratory technicians and students who have completed two years of general college courses may enroll in medical laboratory science programs as a junior and complete the program in two years.

## Professional Organizations

American Medical Technologists  
(847) 823-5169  
[www.amtl.com](http://www.amtl.com)

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science  
(571) 748-3770  
[www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org)

American Society for Clinical Pathology  
(800) 267-2727  
[www.ascp.org](http://www.ascp.org)

## Educational Programs

### Bachelor's Degree

- Armstrong Atlantic State University
- Georgia Regents University
- Thomas University

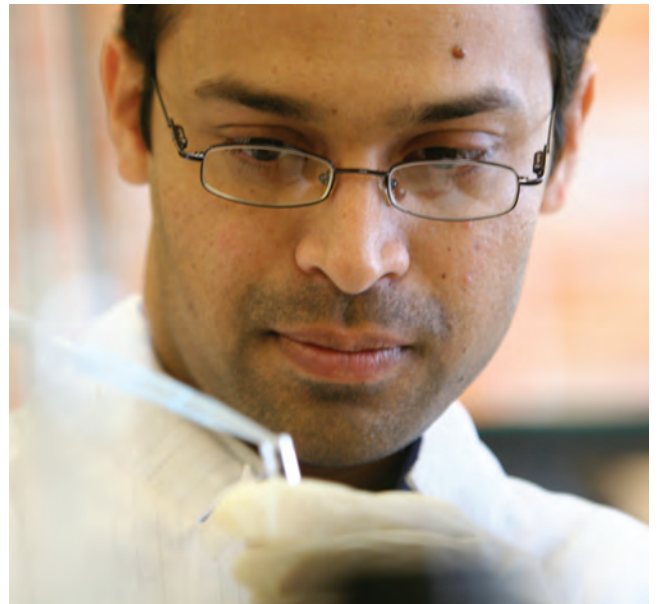
### Master's Degree

- Georgia Regents University

# CLINICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

STARTING SALARY  
*\$32,494 or  
\$15.62/hour*

**C**linical laboratory technicians (CLTs), also known as medical laboratory technicians, work under the supervision of clinical laboratory scientists. CLTs examine and analyze blood, body fluids, tissues and cells. They use microscopes, computers, and very complicated laboratory equipment to gather data that is used to determine the presence, absence and extent of disease. This data helps physicians determine the best course of treatment for their patients as well as monitor their patients progress. CLTs perform many duties such as evaluating and counting red and white blood cells and platelets, testing for various diseases, analyzing urine samples, staining and reading slides, and keeping records. They also group and type blood, perform antibody studies, and prepare blood for transfusion. CLTs may also occasionally collect blood for testing. As they gain experience, CLTs are given more responsibility and perform more complex testing. Some clinical laboratory technicians choose to continue their education to a bachelor's degree in order to become a medical laboratory scientist.



## Work Environment

- Blood donation centers
- Commercial laboratories
- Crime labs
- Hospital labs
- Nursing homes
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Physicians' offices
- Private industry
- Public health departments
- Research facilities
- Universities

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. CLT programs include two or more years of course work and laboratory experience and award an associate degree.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification is required and is available through the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification. Certification allows these professionals to use the credential MLT after their names.

## Professional Organizations

American Medical Technologists  
(847) 823-5169  
[www.amtl.com](http://www.amtl.com)

American Society for Clinical Pathology  
(800) 267-2727  
[www.ascp.org](http://www.ascp.org)

American Society of Clinical Laboratory Scientists  
(301) 657-2768  
[www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org)

## Educational Programs

### Associate Degree

- Central Georgia Technical College
- Chattahoochee Technical College
- College of Coastal Georgia
- Dalton State College
- Darton State College
- Georgia Piedmont Technical College

- Lanier Technical College
- North Georgia Technical College
- Okefenokee Technical College
- Southeastern Technical College
- Southwest Georgia Technical College
- West Georgia Technical College
- Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

# CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$70,903 or  
\$34.09/hour*

**C**linical nurse specialists (CNSs) are advanced practice registered nurses that function in one of nursing's many areas of specialization. They may choose to practice in a specialty area that focuses on a type of disease (such as diabetes or cancer), a setting (such as the emergency room, home health or rehabilitation), a population (such as pediatric, adult or geriatric), or a procedure (such as surgery). Clinical nurse specialists provide direct care to patients and teach patients, families and peers in a variety of healthcare settings. They can also work as consultants, nurse managers and assist in health related research and innovation.



## Areas of Specialization

There are many nursing specialties that a CNS may select. Specialty certification is available from several organizations. The American Nurses Credentialing Center offers specialty certification for clinical nurse specialists in the following areas:

- Adult Health
- Adult Psychiatric and Mental Health
- Child/Adolescent Psychiatric and Mental Health
- Diabetes Management
- Gerontology
- Home Health
- Pediatrics
- Public/Community Health

## Educational Programs

### Master's Degree

- Armstrong Atlantic State University
- Georgia State University
- Mercer University

### Advanced Certificate

- Armstrong Atlantic State University
- Georgia Regents University
- Georgia State University

## Work Environment

- Colleges and universities
- Community agencies
- Hospitals
- Industry
- Nursing homes
- Physicians' offices
- Public health departments/clinics
- Schools

## Academic Requirements

In order to enter a clinical nurse specialist program, one must be prepared as a registered nurse with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree and hold a current nursing license. CNS programs are focused on specific specialties such as medical/surgical, adult health, community health, psychiatric and mental health, or acute/critical care. Programs last one to two years and lead to a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) or a post-MSN certificate.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Registered nursing licensure is required by the Georgia Board of Nursing. National certification is offered in many specialties through the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Specialty certifications are also available from other organizations accredited by the American Board of Nursing Specialties.

## Professional Organizations

American Nurses Association  
(800) 274-4262  
[www.nursingworld.org](http://www.nursingworld.org)

Georgia Board of Nursing  
(478) 207-2440  
[www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/rn](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/rn)

Georgia Nurses Association  
(404) 325-5536  
[www.georgianurses.org](http://www.georgianurses.org)

National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  
(717) 234-6799  
[www.nacns.org](http://www.nacns.org)

# CODER

STARTING SALARY

*\$34,041 or  
\$15.89/hour*

**M**edical coders are members of the health information service team. The coding professional uses a classification system to assign code numbers and letters to each symptom, diagnosis, disease, procedure, and operation that appears in the patient's chart. These codes are used for insurance reimbursement for the provider who delivered the care, research, health planning analysis, and to make clinical decisions. Medical coders must possess many important skills such as a high degree of accuracy, excellent communication and research skills, and knowledge of medical terminology, anatomy, physiology, and human diseases. The ability to work independently, a strong sense of ethics, and critical thinking skills are also important qualities for these professionals.



## Work Environment

Attorneys' offices  
Behavioral health facilities  
Community health centers  
Freelance/contract  
Health maintenance organizations  
Hospitals  
Insurance companies  
Long-term care facilities  
Physicians' offices

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. An associate degree with a curriculum that includes medical terminology, anatomy, and physiology is helpful. Basic coding programs lead to a certificate. A self-paced course is available through the American Health Information Management Association and usually takes 15 months to complete.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Professional certification is available through the American Health Information Management Association and the American Academy of Professional Coders.

## Professional Organizations

American Academy of Professional Coders  
(800) 626-2633  
[www.aapc.com](http://www.aapc.com)

American Health Information Management Association  
(312) 233-1100  
[www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org)

## Educational Programs

### Certificate

Altamaha Technical College  
American Professional Institute  
Atlanta Technical College  
Augusta Technical College  
Central Georgia Technical College  
Chattahoochee Technical College  
Columbus Technical College  
Darton State College  
Georgia Northwestern Technical College  
Gwinnett Technical College  
Kennesaw State University  
Lanier Technical College  
Laurus Technical Institute  
Lincoln College of Technology  
Moultrie Technical College  
North Georgia Technical College

Ogeechee Technical College  
Sanford-Brown College  
Savannah Technical College  
South Georgia Technical College  
Southeastern Technical College  
West Georgia Technical College

### Diploma

Albany Technical College  
Everest Institute  
Herzing University  
Southern Crescent Technical College  
Southwest Georgia Technical College  
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

### Associate Degree

Herzing University

# COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER

STARTING SALARY

*\$27,247 or  
\$13.10/hour*

All across our nation, there are disadvantaged communities that are lacking adequate access to healthcare due to cultural, economic, geographic, and/or language barriers. Community health workers (CHWs) are frontline public health professionals who play a key role in improving the health and well-being of these communities by improving access to care and health education they need. CHWs are trusted members of the community, who understand the beliefs, attitudes, language, culture and perspective of the communities they serve. They use that knowledge to improve the quality of care and the cultural appropriateness of the way healthcare services and health information are offered. They encourage and empower the community members to participate in their own care by complying with prescribed treatments, increasing their health knowledge and adopting healthy behavior changes, especially in regard to managing chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, hypertension and heart disease. CHWs are trained to conduct outreach and implement health education and promotion programs in schools, private homes, shelters, community centers, churches and other community-based settings. They must know how to access information, make referrals, coordinate services and navigate the healthcare system. They may provide informal counseling and social support, and direct services such as first aid and health screenings.



## Work Environment

- Businesses
- Churches
- Clinics
- Community centers
- Hospitals
- Private homes
- Public health departments
- Schools
- Shelters
- Social service agencies

## Academic Requirements

The most common type of education community health workers receive is on-the-job training from their employers. However, the benefit of formal education and training is recognized and some states are developing educational programs at the certificate or diploma level through community colleges and health and social service agencies.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Georgia does not require licensure. There is not a national certification in place at this time. A few state-level certification programs have been developed, but Georgia does not currently offer this option.

## Professional Organizations

American Public Health Association  
Community Health Worker Section  
(202) 777-APHA  
[www.apha.org/membergroups/sections/aphasections/chw](http://www.apha.org/membergroups/sections/aphasections/chw)

National Association of Community Health Representatives  
[www.nachr.net](http://www.nachr.net)

## Educational Programs

*Georgia does not offer a formal educational program at this time. Check with the CDC, American Cancer Society, American Red Cross, or your local AHEC for training courses that offer beneficial training.*

# COUNSELOR

STARTING SALARY

*\$41,435 or  
\$19.92/hour*

The American Counseling Association defines counseling as a professional relationship that empowers diverse individuals, families, and groups to accomplish mental health, wellness, education, and career goals. Through this relationship, counselors help people solve their personal, psychological, and social problems. Depending upon the specialty chosen, counselors may counsel people struggling with substance abuse or other addictions such as gambling. They may help physically, emotionally, mentally, or socially impaired people become more self-sufficient. Counselors can help individuals, couples and families work through conflicts by improving communication and relationships. Some counselors help the elderly population with the challenges of aging. Others are trained to help people make career decisions. They often collaborate with other professionals to assist clients in their recoveries. The demand for counselors is expected to continue to grow.



## Areas of Specialization

- Addiction Counseling
- Career Counseling
- Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- Marriage, Couple and Family Counseling
- Pastoral Counseling
- Rehabilitation Counseling
- School Counseling
- Student Affairs and College Counseling

## Educational Programs

### Master's Degree

- Albany State University
- Argosy University
- Brenau University
- Clark Atlanta University
- Columbus State University
- Fort Valley State University
- Georgia Regents University
- Georgia Southern University
- Georgia State University
- Mercer University
- Richmont Graduate University
- South University
- Thomas University
- University of Georgia
- University of North Georgia
- University of West Georgia
- Valdosta State University

### Doctoral Degree

- Argosy University
- Georgia State University
- Mercer University
- University of Georgia

## Work Environment

- Career resource centers
- Churches
- Drug rehabilitation centers
- Halfway houses
- Hospice programs
- Hospitals
- Mental health centers
- Nursing homes
- Prisons
- Private practice
- Schools, colleges, and universities
- Social service agencies

## Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree in education, social work, sociology, psychology, criminal justice, or health science is often required to enter a graduate program in counseling. Programs grant a master's degree which is considered the entry-level degree for professional practice. These are typically two-year programs including supervised clinical work. Doctorate programs are also available. Some areas of counseling require either a Ph.D. or both counseling and teaching certificates.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Georgia requires licensure through the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists. An exam is required to become licensed; this requires a master's degree and three years of experience. Certification is available through the National Board for Certified Counselors and the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification. School counselors working in Georgia must be certified by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. Many employers require certification.

## Professional Organizations

American Counseling Association  
(800) 347-6647  
[www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org)

American School Counselor Association  
(703) 683-2722  
[www.schoolcounseling.org](http://www.schoolcounseling.org)

Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists  
(478) 207-2440  
[www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/counselors.com](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/counselors.com)

National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc.  
(336) 547-0607  
[www.nbcc.org](http://www.nbcc.org)

# CREATIVE ARTS THERAPIST

STARTING SALARY  
\$29,560 or  
\$14.21/hour

**M**any physicians, mental health professionals, and other healthcare providers support the use of creative therapies such as music, art, dance and drama to encourage healing, improve well-being, and promote quality of life. Therapists in these disciplines work with people of all ages who may have developmental, medical, social, physical or mental health needs. They conduct assessments and develop treatment plans in collaboration with other healthcare providers as part of the interdisciplinary treatment team. Creative arts therapists design and implement therapy sessions using music, art, dance or drama to help their clients relieve stress, build self-confidence, increase social and communication skills, and improve health, all within a non-threatening environment.



## Work Environment

Adult day treatment centers  
Correctional facilities  
Home health agencies  
Hospice  
Hospitals  
Mental health centers  
Neonatal intensive care units  
Nursing homes  
Outpatient clinics  
Private practice  
Rehabilitation facilities  
Schools  
Substance abuse programs  
Wellness centers

## Academic Requirements

Programs for music therapists are offered at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree levels. Music therapists must complete a bachelor's degree or Music Therapy Equivalency and 1200 hours of clinical training under a Board Certified Music Therapist before graduation. Art therapists must earn a master's degree and complete a minimum of 900 hours of supervised clinical training. Dance therapists must earn a master's degree and complete a 700 hour supervised clinical internship. Drama therapists must earn a master's degree. Extensive drama/theater experience and drama therapy experience is required after graduation for certification eligibility.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required in Georgia for music therapists. Licensure is not required in Georgia for art, drama, or dance therapists. Music therapists obtain certification from the Certification Board for Music Therapists and are given the credential Board Certified Music Therapist. Art therapists obtain registration from the Art Therapy Credentials Board and are given the credential Art Therapist Registered (ATR). Dance therapists obtain registration through the American Dance Therapy Association and receive the credential Registered – Dance Movement Therapist (R-DMT). Drama therapists obtain Registered Drama Therapist (RDT) certification from the North American Drama Therapy Association.

## Educational Programs

### ART THERAPY

**Master's Degree**  
Georgia College and State University

### MUSIC THERAPY

**Bachelor's Degree**  
Georgia College & State University  
University of Georgia

**Master's Degree**  
Georgia College & State University  
University of Georgia

### DANCE THERAPY

*There are no formal education programs in the southeast; however, alternate route training is available. Contact the American Dance Therapy Association for more information.*

### DRAMA THERAPY

*There are no formal education programs in the southeast; however, alternate route training is available. Contact the North American Drama Therapy Association for more information.*

## Professional Organizations

American Art Therapy Association  
(703) 548-5860  
[www.arttherapy.org](http://www.arttherapy.org)

American Dance Therapy Association  
(410) 997-4040  
[www.adta.org](http://www.adta.org)

American Music Therapy Association  
(301) 589-3300  
[www.musictherapy.org](http://www.musictherapy.org)

# CYTOTECHNOLOGIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$48,054 or  
\$23.10/hour*

**C**ytotechnologists are health professionals who specialize in the study of cells from the human body. They use microscopes to evaluate cell samples from various body sites by looking for abnormalities in cell structure, color, shape, and size. These abnormalities could be signs of cancer, precancerous lesions, non-cancerous tumors and infections. They work closely with pathologists (physicians who interpret and diagnose the changes caused by disease in tissues and body fluids) to provide an accurate diagnosis for the patient. Cytotechnologists may assist the physician in the collection of specimens and may also be responsible for preparing the specimens that are to be evaluated. New automated microscopes, digital imaging and molecular technologies are enhancing the ability of the cytotechnologist to provide a correct diagnosis. These health professionals help save lives by identifying certain diseases at an early stage and monitoring a patient's response to treatment.



## Work Environment

Commercial laboratories  
Educational institutions  
Government facilities  
Hospitals  
Industry  
Private laboratories  
Research facilities

## Academic Requirements

Pre-admission requirements vary, but three years of education emphasizing biology, chemistry and math are usually recommended before beginning a cytotechnology program. These programs generally require one to two years of study and award a bachelor's degree, post-baccalaureate certificate, or master's degree upon completion.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Georgia does not require licensure. The American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification offers a national certification exam. To qualify for the exam, candidates must have completed a cytotechnology program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. Certified Cytotechnologists may use the credential CT.

## Professional Organizations

American Society for Clinical Pathology  
(800) 267-2727  
[www.ascp.org](http://www.ascp.org)

American Society of Cytotechnology  
(800) 948-3947  
[www.asct.com](http://www.asct.com)

American Society of Cytopathology  
(302) 543-6583  
[www.cytopathology.org](http://www.cytopathology.org)

## Educational Programs

*Georgia does not have an educational program for Cytotechnology.*

### Alabama

University of Alabama at Birmingham  
[www.uab.edu](http://www.uab.edu)

### Tennessee

University of Tennessee Health Science Center  
[www.uthsc.edu](http://www.uthsc.edu)



# DENTAL ASSISTANT

STARTING SALARY  
*\$27,565 or  
\$13.25/hour*

**D**ental assistants work side by side with dentists to increase efficiency in providing direct patient care. They greet patients, make them comfortable, and prepare them for examinations. Assistants take and develop dental x-rays, record patient histories and monitor vital signs. They sterilize instruments and pass them to the dentist during exams and treatments. Dental materials that are needed for dental procedures are prepared by assistants, as well as impressions of teeth used as study models. Dental assistants show patients how to brush and floss their teeth and instruct them on oral care following surgery, placement of a filling, or other treatments. With specialized training, they may assist in a variety of oral surgery procedures such as periodontal surgery, implants, root canals, tooth extractions and biopsies. An expanded functions certification allows dental assistants to perform more advanced duties such as making temporary teeth and applying sealants. Assistants also help in the day-to-day office management, such as scheduling, billing, filing insurance and ordering supplies.



## Work Environment

Community health agencies  
Dental and dental assisting schools  
General and specialty dental offices  
Health maintenance organizations  
Hospitals  
Military bases  
Prisons  
Private and state institutions  
Public health departments  
VA hospitals

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Most dental assistants enter the field through one- to two-year academic programs leading to certificates, diplomas, or associate degrees. On-the-job training is also available, but formal education programs enable students to advance more quickly in salary and responsibility. Graduation from a program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or at least two years of work experience is required for certification eligibility.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification examinations are given by the Dental Assisting National Board. Upon passing the exam, dental assistants may use the credential CDA (Certified Dental Assistant) after their names. Most employers prefer to hire certified dental assistants.

## Professional Organizations

American Dental Assistants Association  
(312) 541-1550  
[www.dentalassistant.org](http://www.dentalassistant.org)

Dental Assisting National Board, Inc.  
(800) 367-3262  
[www.danb.org](http://www.danb.org)

## Educational Programs

### Certificate

Gwinnett Technical College  
West Georgia Technical College

### Diploma

|                                        |                                     |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Albany Technical College               | Gwinnett Technical College          |
| Athens Technical College               | Lanier Technical College            |
| Atlanta Technical College              | Ogeechee Technical College          |
| Augusta Technical College              | Savannah Technical College          |
| Columbus Technical College             | Southern Crescent Technical College |
| Everest Institute                      | Wiregrass Georgia Technical College |
| Georgia Northwestern Technical College |                                     |

# DENTAL HYGIENIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$58,933 or  
\$28.33/hour*

**D**ental hygienists are important members of the dental healthcare team. Working with dentists, they provide dental hygiene care by examining teeth and tissues in the mouth for abnormalities, removing tooth deposits, applying fluoride and sealants, and performing preventive services. They instruct patients on methods to improve and maintain their oral health, including brushing, flossing, and eating the proper foods. Dental hygienists record patient histories, update patient charts, and make impressions of teeth so treatment options can be evaluated by a dentist. They also do oral cancer and blood pressure screenings and take x-rays. Some hygienists design and implement school and community health programs.



## Work Environment

Community health agencies  
Dental and dental hygiene schools  
Dental companies  
Dental offices  
Health maintenance organizations  
Public health departments

## Academic Requirements

Dental hygiene programs are available at associate degree and bachelor degree levels. Some hygienists enter post-associate dental hygiene programs to earn bachelor's degrees in dental hygiene or related fields, such as biology or health education. A dental hygienist may also pursue a master's degree in dental hygiene, health education, adult education or public health.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Graduation from an accredited program, successful completion of the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination, and successful completion of the state clinical board examination given by the Central Regional Dental Testing Service are required for licensure. Upon licensure by the Georgia Board of Dentistry, dental hygienists may use the credential RDH (Registered Dental Hygienist).

## Professional Organizations

American Dental Hygienists' Association  
(312) 440-8900  
[www.adha.org](http://www.adha.org)

Georgia Board of Dentistry  
(478) 207-2400  
[www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/dentistry](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/dentistry)

Georgia Dental Hygienists' Association  
[www.gdha.org](http://www.gdha.org)

## Educational Programs

### Associate Degree

Athens Technical College  
Atlanta Technical College  
Central Georgia Technical College  
Columbus Technical College  
Dalton State College  
Darton State College  
Georgia Highlands College

Georgia Perimeter College  
Lanier Technical College  
(with University of North Georgia)  
Southeastern Technical College  
Valdosta State University  
West Georgia Technical College  
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

### Bachelor's Degree

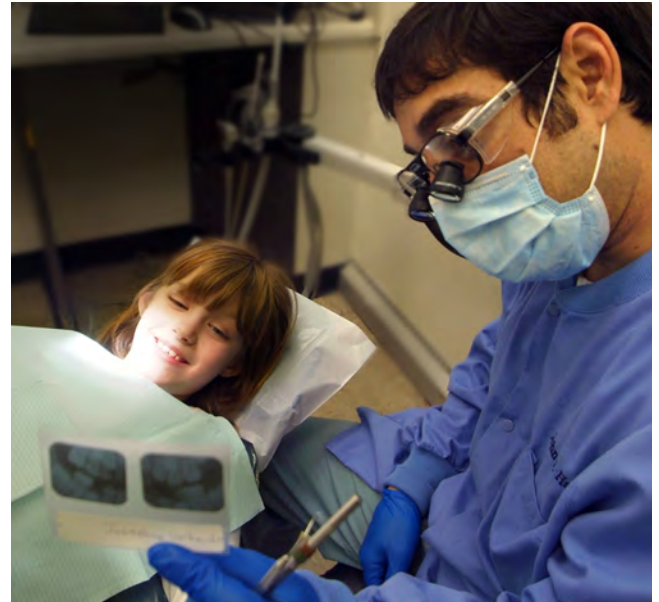
Clayton State University  
Georgia Regents University

# DENTIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$96,471 or  
\$46.38/hour*

**D**entists diagnose and treat diseased and injured teeth, gums, and oral tissues. They also educate people about oral health and prevention of dental problems. This involves guidance in both hygiene and nutrition. Dentists help improve the appearance of their patients through dental techniques, such as braces and dentures. Through surgery, dentists can correct facial and dental deformities from accidents or birth defects. Usually self-employed, dentists run businesses and supervise staff. Dentistry offers a comfortable lifestyle with a good income and regular work hours.



## Areas of Specialization

Specialty status can be achieved by completing an ADA-accredited residency and passing a board exam. Specialty areas include:

- Endodontics
- Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology
- Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
- Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics
- Pediatric Dentistry
- Periodontics
- Prosthodontics
- Public Health

## Work Environment

- Community health centers
- Dental schools
- Equipment manufacturing companies
- Industrial or pharmaceutical research
- Military
- Private practice
- Public health departments

## Academic Requirements

Each dental school has its own admissions requirements. Research these criteria before planning any pre-professional curriculum. Dental students must apply for admission and take a national admissions test before entering dental school. A bachelor's degree or at least three years of college is usually required to enter dental school. Most dental schools conduct a four-year program leading to a doctoral degree in dentistry. An additional one to four years are required to practice in a specialty area.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required in Georgia and can be obtained through the Georgia Board of Dentistry after graduation from an accredited program. Dental schools grant either a D.M.D. (Doctor of Dental Medicine) or a D.D.S. (Doctor of Dental Surgery). These are simply different names for the same degree.

## Professional Organizations

American Dental Association  
(312) 440-2500  
[www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)

American Dental Education Association  
(202) 289-7201  
[www.adea.org](http://www.adea.org)

Georgia Board of Dentistry  
(478) 207-2440  
[www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/dentistry](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/dentistry)

Georgia Dental Association  
(404) 636-7553  
[www.gadental.org](http://www.gadental.org)

## Educational Programs

**Doctoral Degree**  
Georgia Regents University

# DIETETIC TECHNICIAN

STARTING SALARY  
\$22,835 or  
\$10.98/hour

**D**ietetic technicians play an important role in managing foodservice and providing nutritional care. They can work in a wide variety of settings and their duties vary depending upon the work environment. Usually under the direction of a registered dietitian, they may conduct screenings to identify nutritional problems in order to treat and prevent disease. Dietetic technicians often develop and teach classes educating clients about proper nutrition and help patients with planning meals within their budgets and diets. Dietetic technicians are also involved in managing foodservice operations. They develop menus, prepare budgets, supervise foodservice personnel, and purchase and control inventory. They are often responsible for ensuring sanitation and safety standards.



## Work Environment

- Community health programs
- Company cafeterias
- Correctional facilities
- Day care centers
- Foodservice industry
- Government
- Health clubs
- Health maintenance organizations
- Home health agencies
- Hospice
- Hospitals
- Long-term care facilities
- Private practice with dietitians
- Public health nutrition programs
- Research laboratories
- Restaurants
- Schools

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Completion of a dietetic technician program approved by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics is required. Two-year associate degree programs combine classroom and supervised practice experiences. Students with a bachelor's degree from an accredited university or college may become a dietetic technician by completing the required coursework for a Didactic Program or Coordinated Program in Dietetics.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Graduates of approved programs are eligible to take the exam given by the Commission on Dietetic Registration. Once the exam is passed, technicians may use the credential DTR (Dietetic Technician, Registered). The DTR credential is required by many employers and will provide the opportunity for higher monetary compensation.

## Professional Organizations

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
(800) 877-1600  
[www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org)

Georgia Dietetic Association  
(404) 539-6667  
[www.gda-online.org](http://www.gda-online.org)

## Educational Programs

*Georgia currently has no dietetic technician programs.*

### Tennessee

Southwest Tennessee Community College  
[www.southwest.tn.edu](http://www.southwest.tn.edu)

### Florida

Florida State College at Jacksonville  
[www.fscj.org](http://www.fscj.org)

Hillsborough Community College  
[www.hccfl.edu](http://www.hccfl.edu)

# DIETITIAN

STARTING SALARY

*\$41,666 or  
\$20.03/hour*

**D**ietitians are experts in food, nutrition, and good health. They are involved in every aspect of nutrition to assist in improving the quality of life. Registered dietitians' job responsibilities depend upon their practice settings. In hospitals, dietitians educate people about good nutrition. They may work with individuals who are most at risk of poor health including pregnant women, children, elderly, and citizens with very limited resources. They develop the most nutritious food plans possible for patients who can eat traditional foods; for patients who cannot tolerate traditional foods, they provide other diets. They supervise dietary personnel, plan institutional menus, and manage budgets.



## Areas of Specialization

- Clinical Dietetics
- Community Dietetics
- Diabetes Education
- Gerontological Nutrition Management
- Nutrition Support
- Oncology Nutrition
- Pediatric Nutrition
- Renal Nutrition
- Sports Dietetics

## Work Environment

- Business and industry
- Colleges and universities
- Corporate wellness programs
- Food service
- Government agencies
- Health clubs
- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- Private practice (consultant)
- Public health departments
- Public schools

## Academic Requirements

The path to becoming a registered dietitian requires two components. Dietitians must first complete an academic (didactic) program of study approved by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics. Most of these programs of study are at the undergraduate level, although it may be possible to complete the required course work while enrolled in a graduate program. The second component of education is completion of an approved supervised practice program. This component can be satisfied along with the didactic preparation in a coordinated program or can be satisfied after didactic preparation in a Dietetic Internship Program.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

After completion of the required educational components, students are eligible to take the Registration Examination for Dietitians administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration. After passing the examination, students become Registered Dietitians (RD). Licensure of dietitians is required and is administered through the Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Dietitians and has the same basic requirements as registration. Licensed dietitians may use the initials LD.

## Professional Organizations

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
(800) 877-1600  
[www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org)

Georgia Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
(404) 539-6667  
[www.eatrightgeorgia.org](http://www.eatrightgeorgia.org)

Society for Nutrition Education  
(800) 235-6690  
[www.sneb.org](http://www.sneb.org)

## Educational Programs

### Bachelor's Degree

- Fort Valley State University
- Georgia Southern University
- Georgia State University
- Life University
- University of Georgia

### Master's Degree

- Georgia State University
- Life University
- University of Georgia

### Doctoral Degree

- University of Georgia

# DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

**STARTING SALARY**  
**\$123,000 - \$187,000 or**  
**\$59.14 - \$89.90/hour**

**D**octors of Medicine, known as allopathic physicians or MDs, take care of people who are ill to help them get better and those who are healthy to assist them to remain that way. In order to diagnose and treat illnesses and injuries and prescribe the appropriate treatment, physicians may talk with patients and their families, perform physical examinations, take medical histories, request lab studies, and order tests. They also advise people how to care for themselves by teaching them to understand the effects of diet, exercise, and aging. Most physicians choose an area of specialization such as surgery, pediatrics (care for children), or internal medicine (care for adults). There is currently a shortage of primary care physicians, including family physicians, pediatricians, internists, and obstetricians and gynecologists. These doctors are especially needed in rural and other underserved areas. In addition to caring for patients, physicians may choose to teach or research to find new ways to diagnose, control and cure diseases. Doctors who have their own practices must oversee personnel, payroll, billing, and other business-related functions.



## Areas of Specialization

The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) certifies more than 145 specialties and subspecialties. There are member boards for the following specializations:

- Allergy and Immunology
- Anesthesiology
- Colon and Rectal Surgery
- Dermatology
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine
- General Surgery
- Internal Medicine
- Medical Genetics
- Neurological Surgery
- Neurology
- Nuclear Medicine
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Otolaryngology
- Pathology
- Pediatrics
- Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Plastic Surgery
- Preventive Medicine
- Psychiatry
- Radiation Oncology
- Radiology
- Thoracic Surgery
- Urology

## Work Environment

- Community health centers
- Health maintenance organizations
- HIV/AIDS clinics
- Hospitals
- Indian Health Service
- Medical schools
- Military
- Prisons
- Private or group medical practices
- Public health departments
- Research facilities
- Substance abuse treatment centers
- Urgent care centers
- Veterans' Affairs

## Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree that includes a strong foundation in math and science is often required to apply to medical school; some medical schools have early admissions programs. Applicants must take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). Medical school generally requires four years of study. Some schools offer combined bachelor's and medical degrees; training lasts from six to eight years. Physicians undergo graduate medical training (residency) after completion of medical school. Residency training in a

general specialty requires three to five years. Subspecialty training can take an additional one to three years. Visit the websites below to learn more about physician specialties including the nature of the work, training, length of residency, and salary information.

American Board of Medical Specialties  
(312) 436-2600  
[www.abms.org](http://www.abms.org)

Association of American Medical Colleges  
Careers in Medicine  
(202) 828-0400  
[www.aamc.org/students/medstudents/cim](http://www.aamc.org/students/medstudents/cim)

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

To practice medicine in Georgia, physicians and resident physicians must have a license through the Georgia Composite Medical Board. During residency training, physicians generally work toward obtaining certification from one of the 24 American Board of Medical Specialties Member Boards. Board certification is a voluntary procedure but one that is chosen by most physicians.

## Professional Organizations

Note: There are also professional organizations for each area of specialization.

American Medical Association  
(800) 621-8335  
www.ama-assn.org

Liaison Committee on Medical Education  
(312) 464-4933  
www.lcme.org

Georgia Composite Medical Board  
(404) 656-3913  
www.medicalboard.georgia.gov

Medical Association of Georgia  
(800) 282-0224  
www.mag.org

Georgia State Medical Association  
(404) 752-1564  
www.gsmanet.org

National Medical Association  
(202) 347-1895  
www.nmanet.org

## Educational Programs

### **Doctoral Degree**

Emory University  
Georgia Regents University  
Mercer University  
Morehouse School of Medicine



*“Happiness is experienced through a meaningful life, achieved if one exercises one’s unique strengths and virtues for a purpose greater than oneself.”*

~ Dr. Martin Seligman  
Psychologist

# DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

**STARTING SALARY**  
**\$123,000 - \$187,000 or**  
**\$59.14 - \$89.90/hour**

**D**octor of osteopathic medicine (DO) uses a patient-centered, holistic, hands-on approach to medicine. DOs work in partnership with their patients to emphasize the role that disease and injury prevention, health education, diet, and exercise play in achieving a high level of wellness. Also known as osteopathic physicians, their training includes approximately 200 hours of training in the art of osteopathic manipulative medicine. This system of therapy recognizes the role of the musculoskeletal system (nerves, joints, muscles, and bones) in disease, illness, and injury and is used to help alleviate pain, restore motion, support the body's natural functions and influence the body's structure to help it function more efficiently. DOs perform medical examinations, order x-rays and laboratory studies, perform surgery, and prescribe medications to diagnose and treat illnesses and injuries. DOs are licensed to practice medicine in all 50 states and most practice in primary care specialties, such as pediatrics, family medicine, obstetrics/gynecology and internal medicine.



## Areas of Specialization

Doctors of osteopathic medicine may obtain a general certificate or a subspecialty certificate in the following approved specialty areas:

- Anesthesiology
- Dermatology
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Neurology and Psychiatry
- Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine
- Nuclear Medicine
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Pathology
- Pediatrics
- Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Preventive Medicine
- Proctology
- Radiology
- Surgery

## Work Environment

- Community health centers
- Educational institutions
- Health maintenance organizations
- HIV/AIDS clinics
- Hospitals
- Military
- Private practices
- Public health departments
- Research facilities
- Substance abuse treatment centers
- Urgent care centers

## Academic Requirements

A four-year undergraduate degree emphasizing the sciences and liberal arts is required to enter a school of osteopathic medicine. Osteopathic students must also take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). Osteopathic medical schools require four years of study. After medical school, DOs enter graduate medical education where they choose a specialty and serve in a residency program from three to six years.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

To practice medicine in Georgia, DOs must be licensed through the Georgia Composite Medical Board. During residency training, DOs work toward obtaining certification from one of the approved specialty boards.

## Professional Organizations

There are professional organizations in each area of specialization.

American Osteopathic Association  
(800) 621-1773  
[www.osteopathic.org](http://www.osteopathic.org)

Georgia Composite Medical Board  
(404) 656-3913  
[www.medicalboard.georgia.gov](http://www.medicalboard.georgia.gov)

Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association  
(678) 225-7571  
[www.goma.org](http://www.goma.org)

Osteopathic Institute of the South  
(770) 908-3200  
[www.oisonline.org](http://www.oisonline.org)

Student Osteopathic Medical Association  
(800) 621-1773  
[www.studentdo.com](http://www.studentdo.com)

## Educational Programs

### Doctoral Degree

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine - Georgia Campus



# DOCTOR OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE

STARTING SALARY  
*\$93,283 or  
\$44.85/hour*

The foot is sometimes the first part of the human body to reveal a serious condition, such as diabetes. Doctors of podiatric medicine (DPM), also called podiatrists, are trained to diagnose and treat disorders, diseases, and injuries of the foot, ankle and lower leg. These physicians can prescribe medications, admit patients to hospitals, treat emergencies in the emergency room, order physical therapy, and perform surgery. Podiatrists treat conditions such as calluses, ingrown toenails, hammertoes, bunions, and injuries to the foot and lower leg. They are trained to design custom-made shoes and to fit corrective inserts, called orthotics, inside the shoes of patients. Foot problems will continue to rise due to the growing rates of obesity, diabetes and the aging population. This trend ensures that podiatrists will be in high demand and have job security.



## Areas of Specialization

- Biomechanics
- Geriatrics
- Orthopedics
- Pediatrics
- Primary Podiatric Medicine
- Sports Medicine
- Surgery
- Wound Care

## Work Environment

- Community health departments
- Health maintenance organizations
- Health professions schools
- Hospitals
- Long-term care facilities
- Military and VA hospital system
- Private or group practices
- U.S. Public Health Service

## Academic Requirements

Most applicants to the nine colleges of podiatric medicine in the United States already have a bachelor's degree; many have attended graduate school. Colleges of podiatric medicine require applicants to take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) and apply for admission through the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine. Programs require four years of study, which include classes in anatomy, chemistry, pharmacology and pathology. Students work at clinical sites under the supervision of certified physicians and podiatrists. Graduates receive a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) degree. Graduates then complete a residency program of three years.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

To practice in Georgia, podiatrists must be licensed through the Georgia State Board of Podiatry. Specialty certifications can be obtained in the areas of primary care, orthopedics and surgery.

## Professional Organizations

American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine  
(617) 612-2900  
[www.aacpm.org](http://www.aacpm.org)

American Podiatric Medical Association  
(301) 581-9200  
[www.apma.org](http://www.apma.org)

Council on Podiatric Medical Education  
(301) 581-9200  
[www.cpme.org](http://www.cpme.org)

Georgia Podiatric Medical Association  
(770) 536-0913  
[www.gapma.com](http://www.gapma.com)

Georgia State Board of Podiatry  
(478) 207-2440  
[www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/podiatry](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/podiatry)

## Educational Programs

*Georgia does not have an educational program for podiatrists.*

### Florida

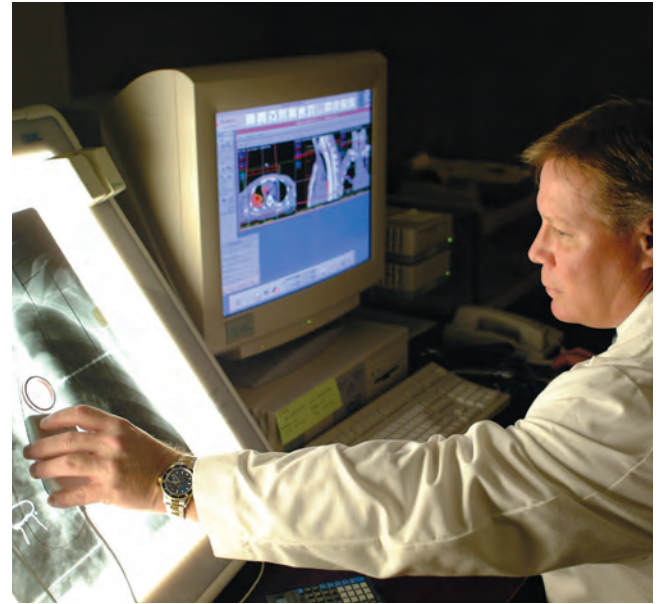
Barry University- School of Podiatric Medicine  
[www.barry.edu/podiatry](http://www.barry.edu/podiatry)

# DOSIMETRIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$72,500 or  
\$34.86/hour*

**M**edical dosimetrists are vital members of the radiation therapy team who work in collaboration with radiation oncologists (physicians specializing in the treatment of cancer through radiation) and medical physicists (physicians who assure the safe and effective delivery of radiation) in creating radiation treatment plans for patients. After a tumor is located in a patient, dosimetrists use the oncologist's prescribed radiation dose to calculate a plan to accurately deliver the radiation. They use specialized 3-D computers to plan the delivery of high doses of radiation to the tumor while lowering the amount of radiation reaching the surrounding structures. They may also be involved in research and the development of new therapy techniques. Fighting cancer every day, these medical professionals must work well under stressful conditions while maintaining a high level of concentration.



## Work Environment

Cancer treatment centers  
Hospitals  
Medical research laboratories  
Medical schools  
Vendor sales/support

## Academic Requirements

Most formal medical dosimetry programs require applicants to be a registered radiation therapist or have a bachelor's degree with specific prerequisites. Programs can range from 12 to 24 months and award master's degrees. On-the-job training under the direction of a certified medical dosimetrist or medical physicist has been an optional route for those wanting to enter this profession, however, by 2017, a bachelor's degree and graduation from an accredited medical dosimetry program will be the minimum requirements for these professionals.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification may be obtained through the Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board. Upon certification, the credential CMD (Certified Medical Dosimetrist) may be used.

## Professional Organizations

American Association of Medical  
Dosimetrists  
(703) 234-4063  
[www.medicaldosimetry.org](http://www.medicaldosimetry.org)

Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board  
(856) 439-1631  
[www.mdcab.org](http://www.mdcab.org)

## Educational Programs

*Georgia does not have a formal medical dosimetry program at this time.*

### North Carolina

UNC School of Medicine, Chapel Hill  
[www.med.unc.edu/radonc](http://www.med.unc.edu/radonc)

Pitt Community College, Greenville  
[www.pittcc.edu](http://www.pittcc.edu)

# EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN/PARAMEDIC

STARTING SALARY  
EMT \$27,862 or \$13.40/hour  
Paramedic  
\$32,510 or \$15.63/hour

**E**mergency Medical Services is a broad term used to include emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics. These professionals respond to varying degrees of healthcare crises. They are trained to skillfully operate ambulances, assess and treat life-threatening emergencies, and transport patients to a healthcare facility capable of providing appropriate treatment. These highly trained individuals respond to medical and trauma related emergencies such as heart attacks, unexpected childbirth, car accidents, fires and emergencies involving Homeland Security. They perform CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), control bleeding, place splints on broken bones, and check pulse and respiration. Paramedics receive additional training in advanced life support techniques, and may provide additional interventions, such as intravenous medication delivery, cardiac monitoring and defibrillation, and advanced airway procedures.



## Work Environment

Colleges  
County ambulance services  
Fire departments  
Hospital ambulance services  
Hospital emergency rooms  
Private ambulance companies  
Theme parks

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. EMTs and paramedics receive both classroom and practical training in emergency medical care. There are different educational tracks for these professions. An EMT certificate program usually takes two semesters to complete. Certificate and diploma programs are available for Advanced EMT (AEMT) training. This level builds upon the basic EMT education and usually requires nine to twelve months to complete.

Paramedic programs, requiring eighteen months to two years of study, build upon AEMT training and are available at the diploma and associate degree levels.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

EMTs and paramedics are required to obtain certification from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians by successfully passing an examination. Once certified, EMTs and paramedics must apply for licensure by the Georgia Office of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma.

## Professional Organizations

Association of Emergency Medical Technicians  
(601) 924-7744  
[www.naemt.org](http://www.naemt.org)

Georgia Association of Emergency Medical Services  
(229) 423-3379  
[www.ga-ems.com](http://www.ga-ems.com)

National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians  
(614) 888-4484  
[www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org)

“Knowing is not enough; we must apply.  
Willing is not enough; we must do.”

~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

## Educational Programs

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN PROGRAMS

#### *Certificate*

Albany Technical College  
Altamaha Technical College  
Athens Technical College  
Atlanta Technical College  
Augusta Technical College  
Bainbridge College  
Central Georgia Technical College  
Chattahoochee Technical College  
Darton State College  
Georgia Northwestern Technical College  
Georgia Piedmont Technical College  
Gwinnett Technical College  
Lanier Technical College  
Moultrie Technical College  
North Georgia Technical College  
Oconee Fall Line Technical College  
Ogeechee Technical College  
Okefenokee Technical College  
Savannah Technical College  
South Georgia Technical College  
Southeastern Technical College  
Southern Crescent Technical College  
Southwest Georgia Technical College  
West Georgia Technical College  
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

### PARAMEDIC PROGRAMS

#### *Certificate*

Darton State College

#### *Diploma*

Albany Technical College  
Altamaha Technical College  
Athens Technical College  
Atlanta Technical College  
Bainbridge College  
Central Georgia Technical College  
Chattahoochee Technical College  
Georgia Northwestern Technical College  
Georgia Piedmont Technical College  
Gwinnett Technical College  
Lanier Technical College  
Oconee Fall Line Technical College  
Ogeechee Technical College  
Okefenokee Technical College  
Savannah Technical College  
Southeastern Technical College  
Southern Crescent Technical College  
Southwest Georgia Technical College  
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

#### *Associate Degree*

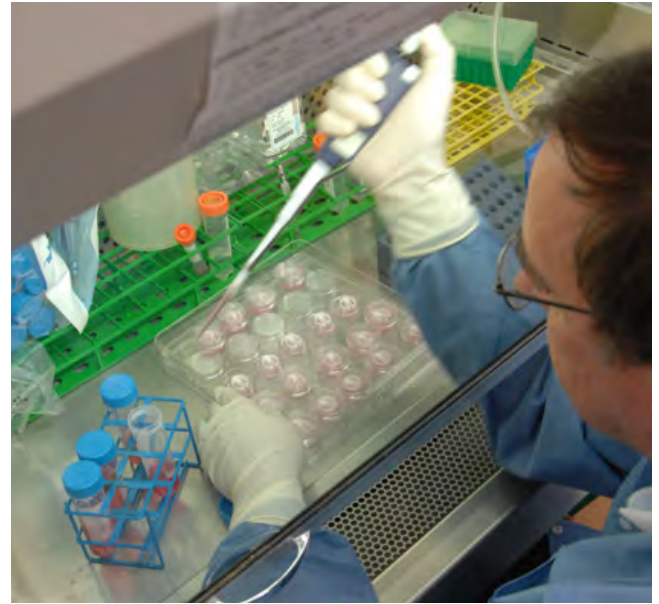
Albany Technical College  
Athens Technical College  
Central Georgia Technical College  
Chattahoochee Technical College  
Darton State College  
Georgia Northwestern Technical College  
Georgia Piedmont Technical College  
Lanier Technical College  
Savannah Technical College  
Southern Crescent Technical College  
Southwest Georgia Technical College  
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$37,250 or  
\$17.91/hour*

**E**nvironmental health specialists evaluate the environmental quality of a community and take action to safeguard human health and safety. They collect and analyze information related to air, food, water and soil to determine if a hazard to the public exists, and create strategies to prevent and eliminate such hazards and protect the environment. There are many career opportunities in environmental health. Environmental health specialists may choose to focus on environmental legislation, community planning and development, toxicology (the study of harmful effects of chemicals on humans and other living organisms), waste management, food safety, or many other areas. They inspect, among other places, individual sewage disposal systems, swimming pools, spas, non-community water systems, and locations such as retail food establishments, childcare facilities, tattoo shops, residences, and schools. They are responsible for enforcing local, state, and federal environmental health regulations that pertain to water quality, air quality, handling of hazardous and infectious wastes, and cleanliness and safety of housing and institutional environments. These professionals must exercise considerable initiative and sound judgment while working with limited supervision.



## Work Environment

Consulting firms  
Environmental agencies  
Government agencies  
Local and state health departments  
Private organizations  
Private research facilities

## Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree in environmental health or related field with a strong background in science is required for an entry-level position. Many environmental health specialists have graduate degrees in public health with a concentration in environmental health.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. The National Environmental Health Association offers several environmental health credentials including the Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian (RHES/RS) credential. The Georgia Board of Registered Environmental Health Professionals also offers professional registration.

## Professional Organizations

Georgia Environmental Health Association  
(912) 427-5768  
[www.geha-online.org](http://www.geha-online.org)

National Center for Environmental Health  
(800) 232-4636  
[www.cdc.gov/nceh](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh)

National Environmental Health Association  
(303) 756-9090  
[www.neha.org](http://www.neha.org)

## Educational Programs

**Bachelor's Degree**  
University of Georgia

**Master's Degree**  
Emory University  
Fort Valley State University  
Georgia Southern University  
University of Georgia

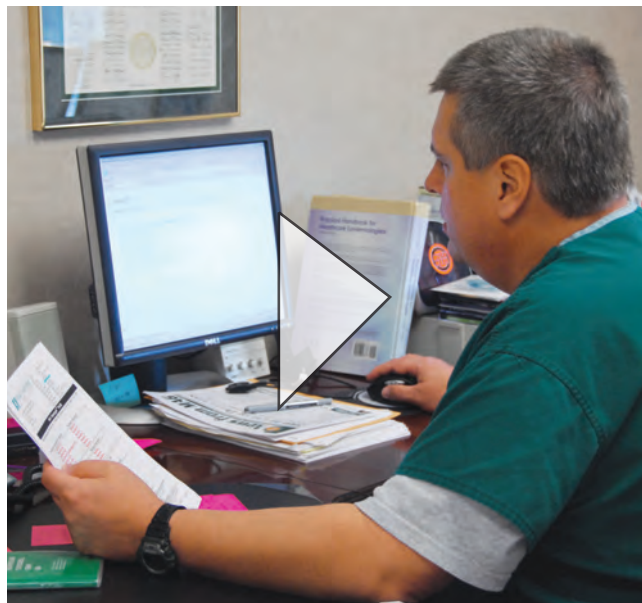
**Doctoral Degree**  
University of Georgia

# EPIDEMIOLOGIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$44,335 or  
\$21.32/hour*

**E**pidemiology is a science that focuses on the prevention of disease and promotion of health in human populations. Epidemiologists are scientists who study why diseases, injuries and other health related conditions are present in populations; how diseases work inside the body; what puts people at risk for disease, injury and other health-related conditions; and how they impact populations. These scientists work to understand the cause of disease and ways to predict, prevent, and control disease. They use statistics to identify and measure patterns of human disease occurrence in populations in order to provide scientific data to local, state, and federal agencies. Epidemiologists can be broken down into three groups: applied, research and clinical. Applied epidemiologists usually work in communities where there is prevalent disease. They evaluate the status of a disease in the community and construct programs for effective prevention, intervention, and control of these diseases. Research epidemiologists study infectious and chronic diseases that can affect the entire body, attempting to eradicate or control these diseases. Clinical epidemiologists work primarily as consultants for hospitals. They inform the medical staff of infectious outbreaks and provide containment solutions.



## Work Environment

Colleges and universities  
Consulting firms  
Hospitals  
Industry  
Local, state and federal government  
Non-profit organizations  
Public health departments  
Research institutes  
Research laboratories

## Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree is required for admission into a graduate program. Programs leading to a Master of Public Health degree usually take two years to complete. A doctoral degree takes 3 to 5 years and leads to a Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) or PhD.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

State licensure is not required in Georgia. There are no certification or registration requirements for this career.

## Professional Organizations

American College of Epidemiology  
(919) 861-5573  
[www.acepidemiology.org](http://www.acepidemiology.org)

Association for Professionals in Infection  
Control and Epidemiology  
(202) 789-1890  
[www.apic.org](http://www.apic.org)

Council of State and Territorial  
Epidemiologists  
(770) 458-3811  
[www.cste.org](http://www.cste.org)

Society for Epidemiologic Research  
(801) 525-0231  
[www.epiresearch.org](http://www.epiresearch.org)

## Educational Programs

### Master's Degree

Emory University  
Georgia Southern University  
University of Georgia

### Doctoral Degree

Emory University  
University of Georgia

# FORENSIC SCIENTIST

STARTING SALARY  
*\$35,569 or  
\$16.56/hour*

**F**orensic science is the use of science for the purposes of the legal system. There are numerous professional disciplines represented in forensic science so the career opportunities are diverse. Criminalists are the forensic scientists who examine and analyze physical evidence in order to develop useful information for an investigation or trial. Working in crime laboratories, these professionals use microscopes, chemicals, and specialized instruments to identify physical evidence that may be used to determine a link between the suspect, victim and crime scene. Physical evidence can include just about anything – glass, plant life, soil, alcohol, or bullets. Trace evidence includes hair, fibers, paints, and polymers. Forensic scientists also analyze drugs, firearms, tool marks, DNA (blood and body fluids), fire debris, explosives, and photography. They report their findings to the criminal justice system and may serve as an expert witness in court to help solve a crime.



## Work Environment

Colleges and universities  
District attorneys' offices  
Federal agencies (FBI, CIA, DEA)  
Medical examiners' offices  
Military  
Private companies  
Regional and state agencies  
Sheriffs' offices

## Academic Requirements

There are formal educational programs that lead to a degree in forensic science, but a strong background in science is the most important requirement for employment in a forensic laboratory or agency. A bachelor's or master's degree in chemistry, biology, molecular biology or a related science is highly recommended. Some schools offer chemistry or biology degrees with concentrations in forensic science.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. The American Board of Criminalistics (ABC) offers certification as a Diplomate of the American Board of Criminalistics (D-ABC) to professionals with a bachelor's degree in a natural science and two years of forensic laboratory or teaching experience upon successful completion of any ABC examination. To be certified as a Fellow of the American Board of Criminalistics (F-ABC), successful completion of any ABC examination and a proficiency test plus two years in a specialty area (molecular biology, drug analysis, fire debris analysis or trace evidence) is required.

## Professional Organizations

American Academy of Forensic Sciences  
(719) 636-1100  
[www.aafs.org](http://www.aafs.org)

American Board of Criminalistics  
[www.criminalistics.com](http://www.criminalistics.com)

American Society of Trace Evidence  
Examiners  
[www.astetrace.org](http://www.astetrace.org)

Southern Association of Forensic  
Scientists  
[www.southernforensic.org](http://www.southernforensic.org)

## Educational Programs

*Degrees in chemistry and biology are available at most colleges and universities. The following schools have specific educational tracks in forensic science.*

### Diploma

Ogeechee Technical College

### Associate Degree

Ogeechee Technical College  
Southern Crescent Technical College

### Bachelor's Degree

Albany State University  
Clayton State University  
Kennesaw State University

# GENETIC COUNSELOR

STARTING SALARY

*\$53,000 or  
\$25.48/hour*

**G**enetic counselors are healthcare professionals with specialized education in the areas of medical genetics and counseling. They work as members of a medical team to provide genetic risk assessment, education and counseling to individuals and families with a variety of genetically-inherited health problems. Genetic counselors identify families at risk, investigate the problem present in the family, interpret information about the disorder, analyze inheritance patterns and risks of recurrence, and review this information and available options with the family. They also provide supportive counseling to families, serve as patient advocates, and refer individuals and families to community or state support services. Genetic counselors can work in a variety of specialized areas such as infertility and reproductive genetics, pediatric genetics, and familial cancer risk counseling. They serve as educators and resource people for other healthcare professionals and the general public. Many genetic counselors are also involved in research. Due to the rapid advances in genetic medicine as a result of the Human Genome Project and expanding laboratory technology, the demand for genetic counselors is expected to grow significantly.



## Work Environment

- Diagnostic laboratories
- Government agencies
- Health maintenance organizations
- Hospitals/medical facilities
- Pharmaceutical industry
- Physicians' offices
- Private practices
- Public health
- Universities
- University medical centers

## Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree in a relevant field is required to enter a graduate program in genetic counseling. Students enter the field from a variety of disciplines, including biology, genetics, nursing, psychology, public health and social work. Programs last two years, including clinical experience, and lead to a master's degree.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure for genetic counselors is not currently required in Georgia. Genetic counselors must obtain certification through the American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC). Certification leads to the title of Certified Genetic Counselor (CGC).

## Professional Organizations

American Board of Genetic Counseling  
(913) 895-4617  
[www.abgc.net](http://www.abgc.net)

National Society of Genetic Counselors  
(312) 321-6834  
[www.nsgc.org](http://www.nsgc.org)

## Educational Programs

**Master's Degree**  
Emory University

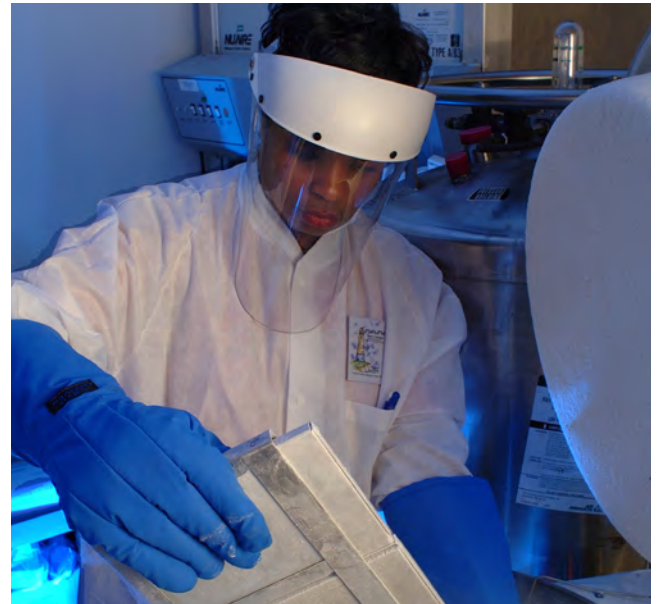


# GENETICIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$77,500 or  
\$37.26/hour*

**W**hy do you have red hair but your sister is a blonde? Why does a plant have red and purple blooms? The answer lies in genetics, the study of the genetic material, or genes, passed from parent to offspring. Geneticists study genes in humans, plants, and animals. In the laboratory they analyze genes found in cells, viruses, and bacteria. They breed a wide variety of organisms to study inherited traits. Computers enable geneticists to analyze and compare the genome sequence of human and other organisms, and to scrutinize large populations to search for genes that make members more susceptible to inherited diseases or birth defects. Geneticists may mutate, or change, genes in plants to improve crop production and disease-resistance. They may diagnose inherited diseases in people using sophisticated laboratory methods, and hunt for new genes that cause disease. Human geneticists may specialize in forensic applications using DNA analysis in criminal investigation, mass fatality identification, or establishment of family relationships. Geneticists work to develop new plants, drugs, and foods that will improve the quality of life for people throughout the world.



## Areas of Specialization

- Clinical Biochemical Genetics
- Clinical Cytogenetics
- Clinical Genetics
- Clinical Molecular Genetics
- Medical Biochemical Genetics
- Molecular Genetic Pathology

## Work Environment

- Biotech companies
- Colleges and universities
- Crime or forensic laboratories
- Hospitals
- Medical clinics
- Medical schools
- Obstetrics practices
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Private clinics
- Public health
- Research laboratories

## Academic Requirements

A four-year college degree emphasizing the biological sciences is recommended. The minimum educational requirement is a bachelor's in genetics, biology, botany, microbiology, biochemistry, or another branch of science. Many positions require a master of science degree or a Ph.D. The Ph.D. is usually followed by two or more years of post-doctoral research in a specialized area of genetics. Some geneticists earn medical degrees, followed by a residency in internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics, or another area. Some geneticists earn a combined M.D./Ph.D.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Physicians who work as geneticists must be licensed through the Georgia Composite Medical Board. Medical geneticists (M.D. or Ph.D.) are certified by the American Board of Medical Genetics.

## Professional Organizations

- American Board of Medical Genetics  
(301) 634-7315  
[www.abmg.org](http://www.abmg.org)
- American Society of Human Genetics  
(301) 634-7300  
[www.ashg.org](http://www.ashg.org)
- Genetics Society of America  
(301) 634-7300  
[www.genetics-gsa.org](http://www.genetics-gsa.org)

## Educational Programs

### Master's Degree

University of Georgia

### Doctoral Degree

Emory University  
University of Georgia

# HEALTH EDUCATOR

**STARTING SALARY**  
*Bachelor's \$34,000 or*  
*\$16.35/hour*

**H**ealth educators work to promote, maintain, and improve individual and community health using educational programs designed to encourage healthy behaviors. They often choose to focus on specific population groups or issues such as infectious diseases, drug abuse, nutrition, safety, human relations, stress management, and weight control. Health educators collect and analyze data to determine the needs of the people they are serving. When planning and implementing the programs, they must think creatively about how to improve the health of their audience through education programs while being sensitive to the values and lifestyles of the various cultures represented. They then monitor the programs to determine and evaluate their effectiveness. Health educators may also assist individuals or communities in securing grants, collaborate with other organizations to solve health problems, and encourage and advocate for policy and environmental changes that encourage healthy lifestyles. They are skilled in teaching, public speaking, and writing educational materials.



## Work Environment

Business and industry  
Colleges and universities  
Community health organizations  
Faith-based organizations  
Hospitals and other healthcare settings  
International organizations  
Local, state, and federal agencies  
Schools

## Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree in health education, community health, health promotion and behavior or related area is required for entry-level positions. A master's degree, typically a Master of Public Health, may be needed for higher level positions.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Voluntary credentialing as a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) is available from the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing ([www.nchec.org](http://www.nchec.org)).

## Professional Organizations

American Association for Health Education  
(703) 476-3400  
[www.aahperd.org/aahe](http://www.aahperd.org/aahe)

American Public Health Association  
(202) 777-APHA  
[www.apha.org](http://www.apha.org)

Georgia Public Health Association  
(678) 302-1132  
[www.gapha.org](http://www.gapha.org)

Society for Public Health Education  
(202) 408-9804  
[www.sophe.org](http://www.sophe.org)

## Educational Programs

### Bachelor's Degree

Armstrong Atlantic State University  
Georgia Southern University  
University of Georgia

### Master's Degree

Armstrong Atlantic State University  
Columbus State University  
Emory University  
Georgia College & State University  
Georgia Southern University  
Georgia State University  
Mercer University  
University of Georgia

### Doctoral Degree

Emory University  
Georgia Southern University  
Georgia State University  
University of Georgia

# HEALTH INFORMATICS PROFESSIONAL

STARTING SALARY

*\$55,000 or  
\$26.44/hour*

**H**ealth informatics professionals work in an interdisciplinary field that incorporates healthcare, information technology and computer science. Using computerized health information systems, they manage the collection, storage, retrieval and usage of health information as well as the analysis and interpretation of health information. Health informatics professionals collaborate with clinicians and administrators to develop new technology and efficient health information systems that allow healthcare providers to access complete and accurate health information while guarding its security. They help organizations deliver better healthcare by providing administrators with information that can be effectively used to solve problems, make decisions and evaluate the quality of care their organization delivers. They help individuals receive better healthcare by ensuring that the best information is available to guide health providers when making vital decisions regarding patient diagnoses and treatment plans. Health informatics professionals can specialize in the areas of clinical informatics or public health informatics. Clinical informatics is the application of informatics to healthcare delivery by health professionals (i.e. medical informatics, nursing informatics, dental informatics). Public health informatics is used to support public health decision making, research, surveillance, and prevention and intervention campaigns. With the switch to electronic health records and the data-driven healthcare industry, the American Medical Informatics Association and the Bureau of Labor Statistics recognizes that there is a critical shortage of trained health informatics professionals to meet the demands of local healthcare providers.



## Areas of Specialization

Clinical Informatics  
Public Health Informatics

## Work Environment

Educational institutions  
Governmental agencies  
Hospitals/health systems  
Insurance companies  
Medical and physician groups  
Mental and behavioral health facilities  
Outpatient clinics  
Pharmaceutical companies  
Private healthcare industries  
Public health organizations

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Voluntary certification as a Certified Health Data Analyst (CHDA) is available from the American Health Information Management Association.

## Professional Organizations

American Health Information Management Association  
(312) 233-1100  
[www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org)

American Medical Informatics Association  
(301) 675-1291  
[www.amia.org](http://www.amia.org)

Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education  
[www.cahiim.org](http://www.cahiim.org)

Health Information Careers  
(312) 233-1100  
[www.hicareers.com](http://www.hicareers.com)

## Educational Programs

### Bachelor's Degree

College of Coastal Georgia  
DeVry University  
Georgia State University

### Post Bachelor's Certificate

Georgia Regents University

### Master's Degree

Emory University

## Academic Requirements

One may enter this profession through a background in information technology, computer science, or healthcare. Most formal educational programs are offered at the two-year, four-year or graduate level; however some certificate programs are also available.

# HEALTH INFORMATION ADMINISTRATOR

STARTING SALARY

*\$43,750 or  
\$21.03/hour*

A medical record is the history of a patient's healthcare, including medical history, diagnoses, treatments, test results, and notes of doctors, nurses and other health professionals. Health information administrators (HIAs) are responsible for managing this important information so that it meets legal, administrative, and medical requirements. HIAs work in a dynamic profession that is a unique blend of medicine, business, computer systems, and law. They must maintain high ethical standards to guarantee the privacy and security of personal health information. These professionals also play vital roles in creating systems to properly organize, analyze, preserve and store large numbers of records, both paper-based and electronic. With these systems, hospital administrators manage costs and revenue, physicians assess healthcare quality, accrediting agencies evaluate healthcare delivery, and patients navigate the complicated healthcare delivery system. HIAs establish department policies and procedures, formulate budgets, ensure proper reimbursement amounts and oversee adherence to regulations. Finally, HIAs hire, supervise, motivate, evaluate and manage employees.



## Work Environment

- Clinics
- Colleges and universities
- Consultant firms
- Health maintenance organizations
- Home health agencies
- Hospitals
- Information systems vendors
- Insurance companies
- Law firms
- Long-term care facilities
- Mental health facilities
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Public health departments
- Research institutions
- State and federal health agencies

## Academic Requirements

Most bachelor degree granting programs require students to complete two years of prerequisite courses before entering the health information administration program which lasts an additional two years. Students who have already earned a bachelor's degree in allied health, nursing, or business administration may earn a post-baccalaureate certificate through a one-year program.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Upon meeting the requirements of the American Health Information Management Association and passing a national certification examination, health information administrators receive the Registered Health Information Administrators (RHIA) credential. RHIA certification is not required; however many employers expect health information administrators to have obtained their RHIA certification or to be RHIA certification eligible.

## Professional Organizations

American Health Information Management Association  
(312) 233-1100  
[www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org)

Georgia Health Information Management Association  
(828) 883-5613  
[www.ghima.org](http://www.ghima.org)

## Educational Programs

### **Bachelor's Degree**

- College of Coastal Georgia
- Herzing University
- Middle Georgia State College

### **Master's Degree**

- Georgia Regents University

### **Advanced Certificate**

- Georgia Regents University

# HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNICIAN

STARTING SALARY  
*\$28,354 or  
\$13.63/hour*

**H**ealth information technology is a profession that combines technology, management and healthcare. Working with computer information systems, health information technicians collect, analyze, and interpret data that doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals rely on to provide quality patient care. They manage patient health information and medical records by reviewing, organizing, and evaluating for completeness and accuracy. Health information technicians also control access to information contained within medical records to ensure that it is kept confidential. As traditional medical records move to electronic files, health information technicians can ensure security and privacy. They are qualified to supervise and manage file clerks and other clerical staff. They can work in every sector of the healthcare industry.



## Work Environment

Ambulatory care centers  
Attorneys' offices  
Behavioral health facilities  
Clinics  
Consultant firms  
Detention facilities  
Health maintenance organizations  
Healthcare vendors  
Home health agencies  
Hospitals  
Information technology companies  
Insurance companies  
Long-term care facilities  
Non-profit organizations  
Physician groups  
State and federal health agencies

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Two-year academic programs in health information technology lead to associate degrees. Courses include medical terminology, anatomy and physiology, coding, and computer systems.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Students who complete an academic program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education are eligible to take the national qualifying exam. Upon meeting the requirements of the American Health Information Management Association and successfully passing the national certification exam, health information technicians are awarded the Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) credential.

## Professional Organizations

American Health Information Management Association  
(312) 233-1100  
[www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org)

Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education  
[www.cahiim.org](http://www.cahiim.org)

Georgia Health Information Management Association  
(828) 883-5613  
[www.ghima.org](http://www.ghima.org)

## Educational Programs

### Associate Degree

Albany Technical College  
Athens Technical College  
Atlanta Metropolitan State College  
Atlanta Technical College  
Chattahoochee Technical College  
Darton State College

DeVry University  
Georgia Northwestern Technical College  
Gordon State College  
Gwinnett Technical College  
Oconee Fall Line Technical College  
Ogeechee Technical College

Okefenokee Technical College  
Southern Crescent Technical College  
Southwest Georgia Technical College  
West Georgia Technical College  
Westwood College  
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

# HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIAN

STARTING SALARY  
*\$39,750 or  
\$19.11/hour*

**H**ealth sciences librarians are specialists in locating, collecting, organizing, and distributing medical information. Knowledgeable in health sciences and library management, they use their skills to provide accurate and current information to students and members of the healthcare team. These librarians select, purchase, and catalog books, audiovisuals, and journals relating to the health sciences. Also called medical librarians, they help healthcare professionals, students, and the community locate sources of information and answer puzzling problems. They manage and operate the library, plan budgets, supervise other library personnel, and teach healthcare providers how to locate and manage information using computers.



## Work Environment

Colleges and universities  
Federal and state agencies  
Hospitals and medical centers  
Medical schools  
Pharmaceutical companies  
Professional associations  
Research centers and foundations

## Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree is required to enter a library science master's degree program. A master's degree in library and information science is the standard for professional librarians. This is usually a one- to two-year educational program. Schools may offer postgraduate programs leading to a Doctor of Philosophy or Doctor of Library Science degree.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Five levels of membership based on experience and accomplishments are available through the Academy of Health Information Professionals, a program of the Medical Library Association.

## Professional Organizations

Georgia Health Sciences Library Association  
[www.ghsla.org](http://www.ghsla.org)

Medical Library Association  
(312) 419-9094  
[www.mlanet.org](http://www.mlanet.org)

National Library of Medicine  
(888) 346-3656  
[www.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.nlm.nih.gov)

Southern Chapter Medical Library Association  
[www.scmla.org](http://www.scmla.org)

Special Libraries Association  
(703) 647-4900  
[www.sla.org](http://www.sla.org)

## Educational Programs

### Master's Degree

Valdosta State University

# HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATOR

**STARTING SALARY**  
*Bachelor's \$38,750 or \$18.63/hour*  
*Master's \$54,933 or \$26.41/hour*

**H**ealthcare administrators serve as leaders of hospitals and other healthcare organizations. Also called healthcare managers or healthcare executives, these professionals have a wide range of duties. They can be specialists or generalists. Specialists head up specific departments or services while generalists manage entire facilities or systems such as nursing homes, physician practices, hospitals, home health agencies and health systems. Healthcare administrators ensure good communication between medical staff, administration, committees and departments by building teams and improving processes. They create a smooth-running organization with well-planned departments, such as nursing, marketing and public relations, finance, and human resources. Responsible for the institution's resources and sound financial standing, they also develop policies, plan budgets, coordinate space, and plan future expansions. Healthcare administrators are committed to improving the health and quality of care of the communities they serve.



## Work Environment

Clinics  
Community health organizations  
Government agencies  
Health insurance organizations  
Healthcare consulting firms  
Hospitals and health systems  
Mental health organizations  
Nursing homes  
Physician practices/groups  
Public health departments  
Rehabilitation centers  
Universities and research institutions

## Academic Requirements

Some entry-level positions in healthcare administration are available with a bachelor's degree in business, health policy, or healthcare administration; however, a master's degree in business administration, public administration, healthcare administration, or public health is required for most management positions. Doctoral degrees are also available. Graduation from an accredited healthcare administration program may provide an advantage for progressing up the career ladder.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

In Georgia, licensure is required only for nursing home administrators. Most administrators belong to professional organizations such as the American College of Health Care Administrators, the American College of Healthcare Executives, and the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging. These organizations and others have voluntary certification programs, which are often helpful in enhancing professional standing.

## Educational Programs

### Bachelor's Degree

Albany State University  
Argosy University  
Armstrong Atlantic State University  
Clayton State University  
DeVry University  
Herzing University  
Middle Georgia State College  
South University  
Westwood College

Armstrong Atlantic State University  
Brenau University  
Clayton State University  
Columbus State University  
DeVry University  
Emory University  
Georgia Southern University  
Georgia State University  
Herzing University  
University of Georgia

### Master's Degree

Albany State University  
Argosy University

### Doctoral Degree

Emory University  
Georgia Southern University

## Professional Organizations

American College of Health Care Administrators  
(202) 536-5120  
[www.achca.org](http://www.achca.org)

Georgia Board of Nursing Home Administrators  
(478) 207-2440  
[www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/nursinghome](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/nursinghome)

Medical Group Management Association-American College of Medical Practice Executives  
(303) 799-1111  
[www.mgma.com](http://www.mgma.com)

# HISTOTECHNICIAN HISTOTECHNOLOGIST

**STARTING SALARY**  
*Histotechnician \$39,411 or  
\$18.95/hour*  
*Histotechnologist \$47,507 or  
\$22.84/hour*

**H**istology is the microscopic study of tissues and their structures. Histotechnicians (HTs) and histotechnologists (HTLs) are experts in preparing slides from human, animal or plant tissues. They prepare tissues by immersing them in fluid to prevent decay, replacing the specimen's water with wax, slicing the tissue and applying dyes. The slides HTs and HTLs prepare are microscopically examined by a pathologist or scientist to detect tissue abnormalities and diagnose diseases. Slide samples are also used for teaching and research. Histotechnologists perform more specialized procedures, such as electron microscopy to identify tissue parts and relate them to body functions. They can also establish new laboratory and quality control procedures.



## Work Environment

Forensics  
Hospital laboratories  
Pharmaceutical companies  
Physicians' offices  
Private and commercial laboratories  
Public health facilities  
Research facilities

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Students interested in becoming a histotechnician may complete one of two routes of study. They may enter an accredited histology program or acquire an associate degree plus one year of laboratory experience. Students interested in becoming a histotechnologist must complete a histologic curriculum leading to a bachelor's degree. Those with bachelor's degrees in related fields may also enter accredited histologic programs.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification is often required by employers. It is available through the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification. Those who pass may use the credentials HT or HTL after their names signifying a histotechnician or histotechnologist, respectively.

## Professional Organizations

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science  
(301) 657-2768  
[www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org)

American Society for Clinical Pathology  
(800) 267-2727  
[www.ascp.org](http://www.ascp.org)

National Society for Histotechnology  
(443) 535-4060  
[www.nsh.org](http://www.nsh.org)

## Educational Programs

### Certificate

Darton State College

### Associate Degree

Darton State College

### Bachelor's Degree

Georgia does not offer a bachelor's program.

### Florida

Barry University  
[www.barry.edu](http://www.barry.edu)



# HOME HEALTH AIDE/PERSONAL & HOME CARE AIDE

STARTING SALARY  
*\$18,223 or  
\$8.76/hour*

**T**wo of the fastest growing occupations in Georgia and the United States, home health aides and personal and home care aides, provide support to people who are unable to care for themselves. Their clients may be people with disabilities, the elderly, or individuals who have just been released from a hospital or nursing home. These professionals provide an alternative to institutional living by providing care at a client's personal home or residential facility. Home health aides provide health-related services. They may administer medications, change dressings/bandages, provide skin care, help with prescribed exercises, and take pulse, blood pressure and temperature readings. They may also work with medical equipment such as ventilators and prosthetics. Personal and home care aides provide mainly housekeeping and routine personal care services. Their duties include planning and cooking meals, cleaning and shopping. They also help clients bathe, dress, groom and eat. Both home health aides and personal and home care aides may be responsible for keeping records and reporting to a supervisor, medical staff, or the client's family about their client's condition and progress.



## Work Environment

Assisted living residences  
Home health agencies  
Hospice  
Private homes  
Residential care facilities

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is usually not necessary. On-the-job training is often provided by the client's family or home healthcare agency. Some high schools and technical colleges offer courses that would be helpful for this career. Online training is also available.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Voluntary certification is available through the National Association for Home Care and Hospice.

## Professional Organizations

Georgia Association of Community Care Providers  
(678) 943-2617  
[www.gaccp.org](http://www.gaccp.org)

National Association for Home Care and Hospice  
(202) 547-7424  
[www.nahc.org](http://www.nahc.org)

Private Duty Homecare Association  
(202) 547-7424  
[www.pdhca.org](http://www.pdhca.org)

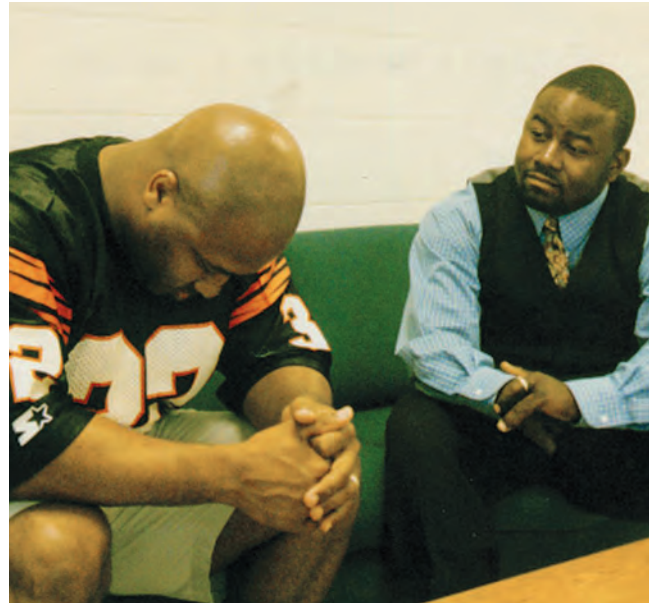
## Educational Programs

Contact local high schools, technical colleges, or home health agencies to find courses available in your area. You may also contact the National Association for Home Care and Hospice for online training opportunities.

# HUMAN SERVICES WORKER

**STARTING SALARY**  
*Associate's \$25,000 or \$12.02/hour*  
*Bachelor's \$32,000 or \$15.39/hour*

People are not always able to take care of their own needs. Consider the needs of the recovering addict who requires ongoing support to stay sober, the adult with a mental illness who requires support and medication to function on the job, the elderly widower with failing eyesight and a limited income who needs help with meals and transportation, and the developmentally challenged child who needs a variety of services to maximize his/her potential. These are the kinds of clients human services workers serve. They meet the individual, family or group at their level of need and serve as a "bridge" between people and their problems and the resources necessary to solve them. They evaluate the needs of their clients and find agencies such as public health clinics, food banks, drug treatment programs and mental health centers that provide services to meet those needs. The goal of the human services worker is to enable their clients to function as effectively and independently as possible in their homes, communities, and jobs. Human services workers serve clients in a variety of public outreach organizations while working alongside social workers, detectives, doctors and other specialists.



## Work Environment

- Adult day care facilities
- Advocacy centers
- Community mental health centers
- Day/residential treatment facilities
- Domestic violence refuge centers
- Group homes
- Homeless shelters
- Hospice
- Military
- Nursing homes
- Prisons
- Public health departments
- Public welfare agencies
- Schools
- Substance abuse treatment centers

## Academic Requirements

Educational programs are available at the two-year associate degree and four-year bachelor's degree levels.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification for the Human Services Board Certified Practitioner (HS-BCP) credential is available through the Center for Credentialing and Education in collaboration with the National Organization for Human Services and the Council for Standards in Human Service Education.

## Professional Organizations

Council for Standards in Human Service Education  
[www.cshse.org](http://www.cshse.org)

National Organization for Human Services  
(770) 924-8899  
[www.nationalhumanservices.org](http://www.nationalhumanservices.org)

## Educational Programs

### Associate Degree

- Atlanta Metropolitan State College
- Darton State College
- Georgia Highlands College

### Bachelor's Degree

- Clayton State University
- College of Coastal Georgia
- Kennesaw State University
- Mercer University

- Middle Georgia State College
- Shorter University
- Spelman College
- University of North Georgia

# INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST

STARTING SALARY  
*\$52,500 or  
\$25.24/hour*

**I**ndustrial hygienists are environmental health specialists who concentrate in business and industry. They search for hazards, diseases, and hidden dangers in the workplace, and suggest procedures to eliminate them. Industrial hygienists help to establish regulations to ensure worker health and safety by conducting surveys to determine exposure to toxic and harmful chemical and physical substances. They are involved in helping employers find solutions to problems such as carpal tunnel syndrome, a repetitive motion disorder of the hands common in many computer operators and typists. These professionals also study work-related conditions leading to birth defects, mental retardation, mental illnesses, and cancer.



## Work Environment

- Consulting firms
- Environmental agencies
- Government agencies
- Industry
- Insurance companies
- Labor unions
- Manufacturing companies
- Military

## Academic Requirements

Industrial hygienists generally have obtained a bachelor's degree in one of the physical sciences, engineering or environmental health science with a focus on occupational health. Most have graduate degrees in occupational safety and health, industrial hygiene engineering, physical or natural science, environmental health science or toxicology.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Although it is optional, certification is preferred by most employers and is offered by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene (ABIH). The certification process can be pursued by qualified applicants who have completed the academic and experience requirements outlined by ABIH. Once certified, professionals are awarded the Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) credential.

## Professional Organizations

American Board of Industrial Hygiene  
(517) 321-2638  
[www.abih.org](http://www.abih.org)

American Industrial Hygiene Association  
(703) 849-8888  
[www.aiha.org](http://www.aiha.org)

## Educational Programs

### Master's Degree

- Emory University
- Georgia Southern University
- University of Georgia

### Doctoral Degree

- University of Georgia

# LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

STARTING SALARY

*\$29,917 or  
\$14.38/hour*

In addition to providing basic bedside care, licensed practical nurses (LPNs) may also give injections and medications. They collect specimens for laboratory tests, change dressings, evaluate patient needs, implement care plans, and supervise nursing assistants. LPNs often check a patient's temperature, pulse, breathing, and blood pressure. In an office setting, they may make appointments and keep patient records. In a home setting, under the supervision of physicians and/or registered nurses, LPNs can instruct family members on nursing care.



## Work Environment

- Community health clinics
- Dialysis centers
- Hospitals
- Long-term care facilities
- Mental health institutions
- Nursing homes
- Physicians' offices
- Private homes
- Public health departments
- Schools
- Visiting nurse associations

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Completion of an accredited practical nursing program usually takes between 12 and 18 months.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required by the Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Practical Nurses. The National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service offers certification for LPNs in a few areas such as long-term care, pharmacology, and IV therapy.

## Professional Organizations

Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Practical Nurses  
(478) 207-2440  
[www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/lpn](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/lpn)

Georgia Licensed Practical Nurses Association  
[www.glpna.org](http://www.glpna.org)

National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service  
(703) 933-1003  
[www.napnes.org](http://www.napnes.org)

## Educational Programs

### Certificate

Dalton State College

### Diploma

Albany Technical College  
Altamaha Technical College  
Athens Technical College  
Atlanta Technical College  
Augusta Technical College  
Bainbridge College  
Central Georgia Technical College  
Chattahoochee Technical College  
Columbus Technical College  
Georgia Northwestern Technical College

Georgia Piedmont Technical College  
Lanier Technical College  
Moultrie Technical College  
North Georgia Technical College  
Oconee Fall Line Technical College  
Ogeechee Technical College  
Okefenokee Technical College  
Savannah Technical College  
South Georgia Technical College  
Southeastern Technical College  
Southern Crescent Technical College  
Southwest Georgia Technical College  
West Georgia Technical College  
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

# MASSAGE THERAPIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$31,496 or*

*\$15.14/hour*

**M**assage therapy is a rapidly growing type of complementary medicine. By manipulating the soft tissues of the body, massage therapists can reduce stress, relieve aches and pain, increase flexibility of muscles and joints, and give clients a sense of well-being and relaxation. Massage therapists may use their hands, forearms, feet, massage instruments, dry and steam heat, oil, music, and light during a massage. They may choose to specialize in one of many modalities such as Swedish, trigger point/neuromuscular, deep tissue, shiatsu or sports massage. Massage therapists might also choose to focus their practice on a particular type of client such as pregnant mothers, athletes or even animals.



## Work Environment

Chiropractic offices  
Health clubs  
Hospitals  
Pain management clinics  
Private practice  
Professional athletics  
Resorts  
Salons  
Spas  
Wellness centers

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Massage therapy programs must provide a minimum of 500 hours of

training, but many provide 600 or more hours of study. Graduation from a program accredited by a national accrediting agency is recommended.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required in Georgia through the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy. National certification is obtained through the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork. Massage therapists who pass the certification requirements may use the Nationally Certified in Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCTMB) credential.

## Professional Organizations

American Massage Therapy Association  
(877) 905-0577  
[www.amtamassage.org](http://www.amtamassage.org)

American Massage Therapy Association,  
Georgia Chapter  
(478) 397-1839  
[www.amtaga.org](http://www.amtaga.org)

Associated Bodywork and Massage  
Professionals  
(800) 458-2267  
[www.abmp.com](http://www.abmp.com)

Georgia Board of Massage Therapy  
(478) 207-2440  
[www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/massage](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/massage)

National Certification Board for  
Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork  
(800) 296-0664  
[www.ncbtmb.com](http://www.ncbtmb.com)

## Educational Programs

### Certificate

Academy of Somatic Healing Arts  
Albany Therapeutic Massage Program  
American Professional Institute  
Atlanta Beauty and Barber Academy  
Atlanta School of Massage  
Augusta School of Massage  
Georgia Massage Institute  
Georgia Northwestern Technical College  
International School of Skin, Nailcare and  
Massage Therapy  
Sanford-Brown College  
Savannah School of Massage Therapy  
West Georgia Technical College

### Diploma

Everest Institute  
Georgia Career Institute  
Georgia Massage Institute  
Georgia Northwestern Technical College  
Gwinnett College  
Moultrie Technical College  
Touch for Healing

### Associate Degree

Georgia Northwestern Technical College

# MEDICAL ASSISTANT

STARTING SALARY

*\$24,606 or  
\$11.83/hour*

The versatility, knowledge and skills medical assistants possess due to their cross-training in both clinical and administrative duties make them valuable members of the healthcare team. Working in a variety of settings, medical assistants are true assets to the physician. They perform many clinical duties such as preparing patients for examinations, taking medical histories and recording vital signs, such as blood pressure, temperature, pulse, and respiration. They assist with first aid, collect and prepare laboratory specimens, perform procedures such as EKGs, and may assist with office surgery and physical exams. The administrative duties medical assistants perform include greeting patients, scheduling appointments, updating and filing patient medical records, and arranging hospital admissions. They type reports, process health insurance forms, order supplies, and keep financial records. An experienced medical assistant can advance to other administrative positions. This career is one of the fastest growing professions in the United States.



## Work Environment

Chiropractors' offices  
Medical clinics  
Optometrists' offices  
Physical therapy clinics  
Physicians' offices  
Podiatrists' offices

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. On-the-job training is available but a formal education program is recommended. Two-year programs result in associate degrees while one-year programs grant certificates or diplomas.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Only graduates of medical assisting programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs or the Accreditation Bureau of Health Education Schools are eligible to pursue certification. Medical assistants certified by the American Association of Medical Assistants earn the title Certified Medical Assistant (CMA.) Medical assistants certified by American Medical Technologists earn the title Registered Medical Assistant (RMA.)

## Professional Organizations

American Association of Medical Assistants  
(312) 899-1500  
[www.aama-ntl.org](http://www.aama-ntl.org)

American Medical Technologists  
(800) 823-5169  
[www.amt1.com](http://www.amt1.com)

## Educational Programs

### Certificate

American Professional Institute  
Bainbridge College  
Laurus Technical Institute  
Lincoln College of Technology  
Sanford-Brown College

### Diploma

Albany Technical College  
Altamaha Technical College  
Athens Technical College  
Atlanta Technical College  
Augusta Technical College  
Bainbridge College  
Brown Mackie College  
Central Georgia Technical College  
Chattahoochee Technical College

Columbus Technical College  
Everest Institute  
Georgia Northwestern Technical College  
Georgia Piedmont Technical College  
Gwinnett College  
Gwinnett Technical College  
Lanier Technical College  
Moultrie Technical College  
North Georgia Technical College  
Oconee Fall Line Technical College  
Ogeechee Technical College  
Okefenokee Technical College  
Savannah Technical College  
South Georgia Technical College  
Southeastern Technical College  
Southern Crescent Technical College  
Southwest Georgia Technical College

West Georgia Technical College  
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

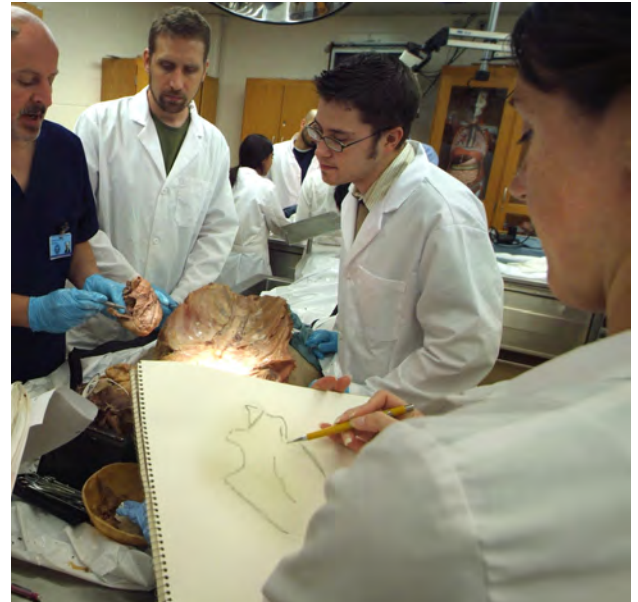
### Associate Degree

Albany Technical College  
Bainbridge College  
Brown Mackie College  
Central Georgia Technical College  
Dalton State College  
Gwinnett College  
Lincoln College of Technology  
Moultrie Technical College  
South University  
Southwest Georgia Technical College  
Westwood College

# MEDICAL ILLUSTRATOR

STARTING SALARY  
*\$60,000 or  
\$28.85/hour*

**M**edical illustrators are professional artists who create visual materials to represent scientific and technical information. Visual materials are critical in explaining medical information to students, physicians, and patients. They are used to make complicated scientific information more understandable. Medical illustrators should have a strong background in art, science, and medicine. They use a variety of media including pen and ink, watercolor, acrylics, sculpting, photography, animation, and computer graphics to illustrate the desired image. A few medical illustrators specialize in a single art medium or in a particular area of medicine, such as neurosurgery or orthopedics.



## Work Environment

- Advertising agencies
- Medical, dental, and veterinary schools
- Medical publishing companies
- Medical specialty institutes
- Multimedia companies
- Self-employed
- Teaching and research hospitals

## Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree in art, zoology (the study of animals), or a multidisciplinary major combining art and an area of the life sciences is required to enter a school of medical illustration. Medical illustration programs center on the arts, visual problem-solving, and the medical sciences and result in a master's degree after two years of course work.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification is available through the Board of Certification of Medical Illustrators. To qualify, a candidate must have earned a Master's in Medical Illustration from an accredited school or worked in the field full-time for a minimum of five years.

## Professional Organizations

Association of Medical Illustrators  
(866) 393-4264  
[www.ami.org](http://www.ami.org)

Guild of Natural Science Illustrators  
(301) 309-1514  
[www.gnsi.org](http://www.gnsi.org)

Health and Science Communications  
Association  
(402) 915-5373  
[www.hesca.org](http://www.hesca.org)

## Educational Programs

**Master's Degree**  
Georgia Regents University

# MEDICAL INTERPRETER

STARTING SALARY

\$26,583 or  
\$12.78/hour

**W**ith the increasing diversity in our country, it is estimated that 25 million people (or 8% of our population) speak limited English. These people are considered limited English proficient or LEP. As healthcare providers treat more and more LEP patients, language and communication barriers can lead to serious healthcare problems including delay of treatment and lack of trust. It is not enough for healthcare providers to rely on bilingual family members or co-workers to interpret. Laws mandate that interpreting services must be available at no charge for patients. Medical interpreters are trained and qualified professionals who ensure that communication between healthcare providers and patients is complete, accurate and effective. They are trained to follow set standards in interpreting – nothing can be added, omitted or changed, everything everyone says has to be interpreted, and confidentiality must be kept. The quality of care often depends as much on the interpreter as the provider because by improving communication, medical interpreters improve healthcare outcomes and patient safety. Medical interpreters primarily interact directly with patients and providers, but they may also work with family members and other staff. They may also provide services over the phone or through video.



## Work Environment

Federally funded clinics  
Hospitals  
Interpreting services agencies  
Mental health facilities  
Nursing homes  
Private physician offices  
Public health departments  
Rehabilitation centers

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or GED is recommended. The National Council on Interpreting in Health Care recommends that formal education programs provide at least 40 hours of instruction and training ensuring that students are fluent in the languages they will be using, have a thorough knowledge of medical terminology, and are familiar with medical procedures.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Voluntary certification is available from the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI) and the National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters (NBCMI). CCHI awards the credential of Certified Healthcare Interpreter (CHI) and NBCMI awards the credential of Certified Medical Interpreter (CMI).

## Professional Organizations

Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters  
(866) 969-6665  
[www.healthcareinterpretercertification.org](http://www.healthcareinterpretercertification.org)

International Medical Interpreters Association  
(617) 636-1798  
[www.imiaweb.org](http://www.imiaweb.org)

National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters  
(765) 633-2378  
[www.certifiedmedicalinterpreters.org](http://www.certifiedmedicalinterpreters.org)

National Council on Interpreting in Health Care  
(202) 505-1537  
[www.ncihc.org](http://www.ncihc.org)

## Educational Programs

*Various organizations and hospital systems offer training programs for medical interpreters. Contact the International Medical Interpreters Association for additional training opportunities.*

### Certificate

Georgia State University  
University of Georgia



# MEDICAL SECRETARY

STARTING SALARY

\$25,860 or  
\$12.43/hour

**M**edical secretaries, also known as medical office specialists or administrative assistants, perform a variety of administrative duties in order to keep a medical office running smoothly. They possess strong computer skills and knowledge of software applications such as word processing, data processing, and bookkeeping. Familiar with medical terminology, they transcribe dictation, update records, and complete insurance forms. Medical secretaries greet patients, take medical histories, and establish their charts. They answer phone calls, schedule appointments, prepare bills, and record payments. Speaking another language, such as Spanish, is very helpful in this career field.



## Work Environment

Chiropractic offices  
Clinics  
Dental offices  
Health maintenance organizations  
Home health agencies  
Hospitals  
Insurance companies  
Medical schools  
Pharmaceutical companies  
Physician practices  
Public health departments  
Veterinarian offices

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is recommended. A medical secretary may receive on-the-job training; however, most

seek formal education. Programs last from several months to two years and lead to certificates, diplomas, and associate degrees.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification for patient accounting is available through the American Association of Healthcare Administrative Management. Other beneficial certifications for skills such as medical coding, bookkeeping, billing, privacy, transcription, and reimbursement are available from the American Health Information Management Association and other professional organizations.

## Professional Organizations

American Association of Healthcare  
Administrative Management  
(703) 281-4043  
[www.aaham.org](http://www.aaham.org)

International Association of Administrative  
Professionals  
(816) 891-6600  
[www.iaap-hq.org](http://www.iaap-hq.org)

## Educational Programs

### Certificate

Bainbridge College  
Central Georgia Technical College  
Columbus Technical College  
Georgia Northwestern Technical College  
Gwinnett Technical College  
Kennesaw State University  
Lanier Technical College  
Laurus Technical Institute  
Moultrie Technical College  
North Georgia Technical College  
Ogeechee Technical College  
Savannah Technical College  
South Georgia Technical College

Southeastern Technical College  
Southwest Georgia Technical College  
West Georgia Technical College

### Diploma

Albany Technical College  
Altamaha Technical College  
Augusta Technical College  
Central Georgia Technical College  
Chattahoochee Technical College  
Everest Institute  
Georgia Northwestern Technical College  
Gwinnett College  
Moultrie Technical College

Oconee Fall Line Technical College  
Ogeechee Technical College  
Savannah Technical College  
South Georgia Technical College  
Southeastern Technical College  
Southwest Georgia Technical College  
West Georgia Technical College  
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

### Associate Degree

Bainbridge College  
Westwood College

# MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$27,755 or  
\$13.34/hour*

**A** medical transcriptionist, also known as a medical language specialist, listens to medical information about a patient, evaluates the content for accuracy, types what is heard, and then places the information in the patient's medical record. When necessary, medical transcriptionists must utilize appropriate problem-solving techniques if the content is inaccurate or contradictory. The dictation must provide a clear, concise record which must contain correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Transcriptionists use computers and word processors to complete many medical documents, including medical histories, physicals, operative reports and consultations. They record procedures and treatments for the medical record and for the practitioner's reference.



## Work Environment

Clinics  
Hospitals  
Insurance companies  
Physicians' offices  
Private transcription companies  
Self-employed

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Classroom and clinical experience typically last from nine to eighteen months for a certificate.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. The Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity offers two credentialing exams. The Registered Medical Transcriptionist (RMT) exam is available for medical transcriptionists with less than two years of experience. After gaining two years of experience, medical transcriptionists may take the certification exam which enables them to apply for the Certified Medical Transcriptionist (CMT) credential.

## Professional Organizations

Association for Healthcare  
Documentation Integrity  
(800) 982-2182  
[www.ahdionline.org](http://www.ahdionline.org)

## Educational Programs

### **Certificate**

Altamaha Technical College  
Atlanta Technical College  
Augusta Technical College  
Central Georgia Technical College  
Georgia Northwestern Technical College  
Kennesaw State University  
Moultrie Technical College  
Southwest Georgia Technical College  
West Georgia Technical College  
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

# NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGIST

STARTING SALARY  
*\$52,518 or  
\$25.25/hour*

**N**uclear medicine technologists use radioactive materials and complex instruments to “see” organ images and body functions, and assist in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases. Skilled in patient care, nuclear medicine technologists instruct patients prior to medical procedures. Under the direction of a physician, they calculate dosages and administer appropriate radioactive drugs. Technologists must also document the use and disposal of radioactive materials. Technological innovations may increase the diagnostic uses of nuclear medicine. New nuclear imaging technologies, including positron emission tomography/computed tomography systems (PET/CT) and single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT), are expected to be used increasingly and will contribute to employment growth. The wider use of nuclear medical imaging to observe metabolic and biochemical changes during neurology, cardiology, and oncology procedures will also spur demand for nuclear medicine technologists.



## Work Environment

Cardiology centers  
Clinics  
Hospitals  
Imaging centers  
Pharmaceutical companies  
Research facilities

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Three programs are available: two-year associate degree, four-year bachelor's degree, and one-year post-baccalaureate certificate. The Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologist Section proposes that by the year 2015, a bachelor's level program will be the minimum standard in education for this profession.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. To be eligible for certification, graduation from an accredited program is required. Registration and certification are available through the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board or the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. After obtaining certification, technologists may then use the credentials CNMT (Certified Nuclear Medicine Technologist) or RT(N) (Registered Technologist, Nuclear). Most employers require certification and/or registration.

## Professional Organizations

American Registry of Radiologic Technologists  
(651) 687-0048  
[www.arrt.org](http://www.arrt.org)

American Society of Radiologic Technologists  
(505) 298-4500  
[www.asrt.org](http://www.asrt.org)

Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology  
(405) 285-0546  
[www.jrcnmt.org](http://www.jrcnmt.org)

Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board  
(404) 315-1739  
[www.nmtcb.org](http://www.nmtcb.org)

Society of Nuclear Medicine  
(703) 708-9000  
[www.snm.org](http://www.snm.org)

## Educational Programs

### Bachelor's Degree

Armstrong Atlantic State University  
Georgia Regents University

# NURSE ANESTHETIST

**STARTING SALARY**  
*\$126,851 or  
\$60.99/hour*

**A**nesthesia is the use of drugs, gases, and nerve blocks to provide a partial or total loss of pain during surgery. Caring for patients before, during, and after surgical procedures, nurse anesthetists blend nursing skills with the practice of anesthesia. They provide services similar to those of anesthesiologists (physicians specializing in anesthesia), and may work independently or under the supervision of a physician. Nurse anesthetists are often the sole anesthesia provider in rural areas. These nurses interview patients before surgery and design a customized plan of care based on medical history and type of surgery. During surgery, nurse anesthetists administer anesthetic drugs, monitor the patient's vital signs (blood pressure, heart function, and temperature) and adjust the doses of anesthetics and other medications to assure optimal patient safety and comfort. They also manage the patient's airway and control breathing. Nurse anesthetists have the critical responsibility of safeguarding patients during surgery, and as a result, practice in the highest paid nursing specialty.



## Work Environment

Ambulatory surgical centers  
Dental offices  
Hospitals  
Military  
Pain clinics  
Private physician surgical centers

## Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree in nursing, a current nursing license, and a minimum of one year's experience as a registered nurse in an acute care area are required. Nurse anesthesia programs must be accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs ([home.coa.us.com](http://home.coa.us.com)). All nurse anesthesia programs are at the graduate level and last from 28 months for a master's degree to 36 months for a doctoral degree. All programs will be at the doctorate level by 2020.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Registered nursing licensure, authorization for advanced practice, and national certification are required by the Georgia Board of Nursing. Certification in the specialty of anesthesia is obtained through the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists. Upon passing the certifying exam, the credential CRNA (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist) is awarded.

## Professional Organizations

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
(847) 692-7050  
[www.aana.com](http://www.aana.com)

Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
(770) 487-3900  
[www.gana.org](http://www.gana.org)

## Educational Programs

**Master's Degree**  
Georgia Regents University

# NURSE EDUCATOR

STARTING SALARY  
*\$53,500 or  
\$25.72/hour*

**O**ur nation is facing a serious nursing shortage that is expected to continue over the next decade. Across the country, thousands of qualified applicants are turned away from nursing programs due to the insufficient number of nursing faculty. Nurse educators play a vital role in preparing future generations of nurses. Nurse educators are registered nurses with advanced education (a master's or doctoral degree in nursing) and extensive clinical experience. Nurse educators are employed as faculty members in nursing schools, or they may work as hospital-based staff development educators or clinical supervisors. They design education programs, develop lesson plans, teach courses and oversee students' clinical practice. Many nurse educators also choose to continue clinical practice in addition to teaching.



## Work Environment

- Colleges and universities
- Community health agencies
- Healthcare facilities
- Healthcare research centers
- Home care agencies
- Hospital-based schools of nursing
- Hospitals
- Long-term care facilities
- Technical colleges

## Academic Requirements

Nurse educator programs are available at the master's, post-master's certificate, and doctoral levels. Nurse educators who work in academic settings must hold a master's degree in nursing, although a doctoral degree is considered the preferred degree for academic-based nurse educators.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Registered nurse licensure is required by the Georgia Board of Nursing. The National League for Nursing offers voluntary certification for the Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) credential. Specialty certification as a nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, nurse midwife, or nurse anesthetist is required if teaching in those specific areas.

## Educational Programs

### Master's Degree

- Albany State University
- Brenau University
- Clayton State University
- Kennesaw State University
- Mercer University
- Thomas University
- University of North Georgia
- University of West Georgia
- Valdosta State University

### Doctoral Degree

- Kennesaw State University
- Mercer University

### Advanced Certificate

- Georgia Southern University
- Mercer University
- Thomas University
- University of North Georgia
- University of West Georgia

## Professional Organizations

American Nurses Association  
(800) 274-4ANA  
[www.nursingworld.org](http://www.nursingworld.org)

National League for Nursing  
(212) 363-5555  
[www.nln.org](http://www.nln.org)

# NURSE-MIDWIFE

STARTING SALARY

*\$78,333 or  
\$37.66/hour*

**N**urse-midwives are advanced practice registered nurses who are educated in midwifery and receive additional training in women's healthcare. Nurse-midwives provide care for healthy women before, during, and after childbirth. During the birthing process, they spend time with the mother to provide needed emotional and physical support. They provide labor support, conduct the delivery, help in newborn care, and counsel mothers on infant growth and future pregnancies. Nurse-midwives are prized members of the childbirth team because they offer safe, accessible birth care. This is especially true in many rural and inner-city areas with few physicians. Nurse-midwifery has helped to reduce infant mortality by providing early care to pregnant women, and by increasing the use of prenatal care facilities. Nurse-midwives also provide regular gynecological care including annual visits, contraception and hormone therapy throughout the woman's lifespan.



## Work Environment

Birthing centers  
Clinics  
Health maintenance organizations  
Hospitals  
Physicians' offices  
Public health departments

## Academic Requirements

A Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), a current nursing license, and experience are typical requirements for acceptance into nurse-midwifery programs. Some schools offer bridge programs that allow registered nurses without a bachelor's degree to complete their BSN before beginning the midwifery education component. Graduation from a program accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education ([www.midwife.org/accreditation](http://www.midwife.org/accreditation)) is required. A master's degree in nursing or a post-masters certificate is awarded at the completion of the program.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Registered nursing licensure is required by the Georgia Board of Nursing. Certification is obtained from the American Midwifery Certification Board. Upon certification, nurse-midwives may use the credential CNM (Certified Nurse-Midwife).

## Professional Organizations

American College of Nurse-Midwives  
(240) 485-1800  
[www.midwife.org](http://www.midwife.org)

American Midwifery Certification Board  
(410) 694-9424  
[www.amcbmidwife.org](http://www.amcbmidwife.org)

Georgia Board of Nursing  
(478) 207-2440  
[www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/rn](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/rn)

Georgia Nurses Association  
(404) 325-5536  
[www.georgianurses.org](http://www.georgianurses.org)

National League for Nursing  
(212) 363-5555  
[www.nln.org](http://www.nln.org)

## Educational Programs

### Master's Degree

Emory University

### Advanced Certificate

Emory University

# NURSE PRACTITIONER

STARTING SALARY

*\$73,943 or  
\$35.55/hour*

As the nation continues to experience a lack of adequate healthcare providers, the health system depends on nurse practitioners (NPs) for delivery of quality care. NPs are advanced practice registered nurses who provide valuable services. They have advanced educational preparation and specialty certification that qualifies them to conduct health screenings and physical exams to assess health conditions, identify and diagnose problems, prescribe tests and medications, and develop plans to improve health outcomes. In addition to clinical care, NPs focus on health promotion and disease prevention by educating patients about their conditions and the need for preventive activities. They deliver valued primary care in diverse settings including underserved regions, rural communities, inner-city areas, hospitals, clinics, and retail stores. Some NPs own their own practices and are reimbursed for services by the state and federal government and many insurance companies. NPs work in collaboration with physicians and other providers. According to the July, 2012 Medical Care journal, the nurse practitioner population will nearly double by 2025. The new care models such as the patient-centered medical home and accountable care organizations depend on NPs.



## Areas of Specialization

Acute Care  
Adult Health  
Adult Psychiatric/Mental Health  
Diabetes Management  
Family Health  
Family Psychiatric/Mental Health  
Gerontology Health  
Pediatric/Child Health  
School Health

## Work Environment

Academic institutions  
Community health centers  
Health maintenance organizations  
Home health agencies  
Hospitals

Migrant health centers  
Military  
Nursing homes  
Private physician or NP practices  
Public health departments  
Retail store clinics  
Rural health clinics

## Academic Requirements

NPs have graduate level education and clinical training beyond registered nurse preparation. To enter a nurse practitioner program in Georgia, one must have a Bachelor of Science in nursing (BSN) degree and hold a current nursing license. Programs provide concentration in areas of specialization such as family, adult health, women's health, gerontology and

pediatrics. Programs last from two to four years with full-time study and lead to a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), a post-MSN certificate or a Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP).

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Registered nursing licensure is required by the state through the Georgia Board of Nursing. Certification is required for areas of specialization and is available through the American Nurses Credentialing Center, American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, and other nursing certification organizations accredited by the American Board of Nursing Specialties.

## Professional Organizations

American Academy of Nurse Practitioners  
(512) 442-4262  
[www.aanp.org](http://www.aanp.org)

American Nurses Association  
(301) 628-5000  
[www.nursingworld.org](http://www.nursingworld.org)

Georgia Nurses Association  
(404) 325-5536  
[www.georgianurses.org](http://www.georgianurses.org)

## Educational Programs

### Master's Degree

Albany State University  
Armstrong Atlantic State University  
Brenau University  
Emory University  
Georgia College & State University  
Georgia Regents University  
Georgia Southern University  
Georgia State University  
Kennesaw State University  
Mercer University

University of North Georgia  
Valdosta State University

### Advanced Certificate

Armstrong Atlantic State University  
Emory University  
Georgia College & State University  
Georgia Regents University  
Georgia Southern University  
Georgia State University

# NURSE REGISTERED

STARTING SALARY

*\$52,106 or  
\$25.05/hour*

**R**egistered nurses (RNs) care for patients by providing both treatment and education. They work closely with physicians and other health professionals as part of a healthcare team. RNs use a broad knowledge base to assess and understand problems, administer treatments and make decisions about patient care. They interpret and respond to patient symptoms, reactions, and progress. RNs also teach patients and families about proper healthcare, assist in patient rehabilitation, and provide emotional and physical support to promote recovery and well-being. Nurses often choose to work in specialized areas such as critical care, pediatrics, nursing administration, and public health. Registered nurses may supervise nursing aides, assistants, and licensed practical nurses. Nursing is a challenging and highly rewarding career that will continue to be in high demand well into the future.



## Areas of Specialization

There are many workplace settings, populations and medical conditions that an RN can specialize in such as pediatrics, geriatrics, psychiatric/mental health, school nursing, public health nursing, and informatics. Visit the American Board of Nursing Specialties ([www.nursingcertification.org](http://www.nursingcertification.org)) to see all of the approved boards and organizations that offer specialty nursing certification.

## Work Environment

Birthing centers  
Colleges and universities  
Community health centers  
Dialysis centers  
Hospitals  
Industry  
Mental health institutions  
Migrant centers  
Military  
Nursing homes  
Physicians' offices  
Prisons  
Private homes  
Public health departments  
Public schools  
Rehabilitation centers

## Academic Requirements

To become a registered nurse, students must complete an accredited nursing program leading to an associate degree or bachelor's degree in nursing. Advanced education and training is also available at the master's and doctoral levels.

Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN), Associate of Applied Science (AAS), or Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) - Offered primarily by community colleges as two-year programs.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) - Offered by colleges and universities as a four-year program.

Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) or Master's in Nursing (MN) - Offered by colleges and universities, a master's degree generally requires one to three years of additional training after obtaining a BSN.

Doctor of Nursing Science (DNSc, DNS, or DSN), Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP or DrNP) or Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) - Offered by universities, a doctorate degree requires numerous years of additional education and research experience.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required by the Georgia Board of Nursing. After licensure is obtained, nurses may use the RN (Registered Nurse) credential. Certification demonstrating excellence in a specialty area is available from the American Nurses Credentialing Center and other nurse certification organizations accredited by the American Board of Nursing Specialties.

## Professional Organizations

American Nurses Association  
(301) 628-5000  
[www.nursingworld.org](http://www.nursingworld.org)

Georgia Board of Nursing  
(478) 207-2440  
[www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/rn](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/rn)

Georgia Nurses Association  
(404) 325-5536  
[www.georgianurses.org](http://www.georgianurses.org)

National League for Nursing  
(212) 363-5555  
[www.nln.org](http://www.nln.org)



## Educational Programs

Many of the following schools offer bridge or completion programs (examples: LPN to RN, EMT to RN, RN to BSN, RN to MSN) that allow you to move to the next career level while giving credit for skills already learned through school or work experience. Many schools offer online classes as well as satellite programs for registered nursing education on other college campuses. Contact the individual schools for more information, or the Georgia Board of Nursing website to see a list of approved schools and satellite programs.

## Educational Programs

### **Associate Degree**

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College  
Athens Technical College  
Bainbridge College  
Chattahoochee Technical College  
College of Coastal Georgia  
Columbus Technical College  
Dalton State College  
Dartmouth State College  
Georgia Highlands College  
Georgia Northwestern Technical College  
Georgia Perimeter College  
Gordon State College  
Gwinnett Technical College  
Middle Georgia State College  
South Georgia State College  
Southwest Georgia Technical College  
University of North Georgia  
West Georgia Technical College

### **Bachelor's Degree**

Albany State University  
Armstrong Atlantic State University  
Brenau University  
Clayton State University  
College of Coastal Georgia  
Columbus State University  
Dalton State College  
Dartmouth State College  
Emory University  
Georgia College & State University  
Georgia Regents University  
Georgia Southern University  
Georgia Southwestern State University  
Georgia State University  
Gordon State College  
Kennesaw State University  
LaGrange College  
Mercer University  
Middle Georgia State College  
Piedmont College  
Shorter University  
South Georgia State College  
Thomas University  
University of West Georgia  
Valdosta State University

### **Master's Degree**

Albany State University  
Armstrong Atlantic State University  
Brenau University  
Clayton State University  
Emory University  
Georgia College & State University  
Georgia Regents University  
Georgia Southern University  
Georgia Southwestern State University  
Georgia State University  
Kennesaw State University  
Mercer University  
Thomas University  
University of North Georgia  
University of West Georgia  
Valdosta State University

### **Doctoral Degree**

Emory University  
Georgia College & State University  
Georgia Regents University  
Georgia Southern University  
Georgia State University  
Kennesaw State University  
Mercer University

# NURSING ASSISTANT

STARTING SALARY

\$20,480 or  
\$9.85/hour

**B**y providing routine patient care, nursing assistants play a vital role in healthcare delivery. Working under the supervision of a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or physician, they answer patient call lights, serve meals, and check blood pressure, temperature, pulse, and breathing. Assistants visit with patients while helping them change position, walk, bathe, and eat. They generally have a great deal of patient contact and are important in developing patient relationships that foster trust. Those who work in nursing homes are called geriatric assistants. Some patients are discharged from hospitals needing additional home care. Nursing assistants allow these people to recover at home rather than in hospitals or nursing homes. They assist with medications, change linens, and teach family members to care for the patient during recovery.



## Work Environment

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

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is recommended. Training is available at high schools, nursing homes, technical colleges, home care agencies and private schools. Education is available at the certificate level and typically consists of at least 89 hours of lectures and demonstrations, and 24 hours of supervised clinical practice.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required. The required Georgia certification is given by state-approved training facilities. Upon certification the CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) credential may be used.

## Professional Organizations

Georgia Health Partnership  
(800) 766-4456  
[www.mmis.georgia.gov](http://www.mmis.georgia.gov)

Nursing Assistant Central  
[www.nursingassistantcentral.com](http://www.nursingassistantcentral.com)

## Educational Programs

*Education for this career is offered by numerous organizations. Please visit the Georgia Health Partnership website at [www.mmis.georgia.gov](http://www.mmis.georgia.gov) for a list of approved programs.*

### Certificate

|                                        |                                     |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Altamaha Technical College             | Georgia Piedmont Technical College  |
| American Professional Institute        | Gwinnett Technical College          |
| Athens Technical College               | Kennesaw State University           |
| Atlanta Technical College              | Lanier Technical College            |
| Augusta Technical College              | Moultrie Technical College          |
| Bainbridge College                     | Oconee Fall Line Technical College  |
| Central Georgia Technical College      | Ogeechee Technical College          |
| Chattahoochee Technical College        | Okefenokee Technical College        |
| Columbus Technical College             | Savannah Technical College          |
| Dalton State College                   | Southeastern Technical College      |
| Everest Institute                      | Southern Crescent Technical College |
| Georgia Northwestern Technical College | West Georgia Technical College      |
|                                        | Wiregrass Georgia Technical College |

# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$56,178 or  
\$27.01/hour*

Occupational therapy is a health and rehabilitation profession that helps people regain and build skills that are important for health and well-being as they pursue their everyday occupations. Occupational therapists (OTs) work with people of all ages who, because of physical, developmental, social, or emotional deficits, need specialized assistance in learning skills that will enable them to lead independent, productive, and satisfying lives. OTs teach new job skills or adaptations of current abilities. They recommend and/or design splints, special devices and adaptive equipment or technology to promote and maintain independent functioning. The ultimate goal of the OT is to enhance the client's quality of life by helping them achieve the highest level of independence possible.



## Areas of Specialization

Driving and Community Mobility  
Environmental Modification  
Feeding, Eating, and Swallowing  
Gerontology  
Hand Therapy  
Low Vision  
Mental Health  
Pediatrics  
Physical Rehabilitation  
School Systems

## Work Environment

Adult day care facilities  
Assisted living centers  
Home health agencies  
Hospice centers  
Hospitals  
Mental health centers  
Nursing homes  
Outpatient orthopedic clinics  
Physicians' offices  
Prisons

## Educational Programs

### Master's Degree

Brenau University  
Georgia Regents University

Public and private schools  
Rehabilitation centers  
Retirement communities  
Sports medicine clinics

## Academic Requirements

A master's degree in occupational therapy is the entry-level preparation for this profession. Some schools offer students without a bachelor's degree the option to apply to combined bachelor/master's degree programs. This is a good option for OTAs or students who have completed 90 or more college credit hours and prerequisite coursework. Programs typically require two or more years of study including fieldwork experience. Graduation from a program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education is required.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Georgia requires licensure through the Georgia State Board of Occupational Therapy. OTs must successfully complete supervised fieldwork experience and pass the national certification exam administered by the National Board for

Certification in Occupational Therapy. The Registered Occupational Therapist (OTR) credential is then awarded. The American Occupational Therapy Association provides voluntary board and specialty certification in several areas. OTs may also pursue the Certified Hand Therapist (CHT) credential from the Hand Therapy Certification Commission which requires a minimum of five years of OT experience including 4,000 hours of direct practice in hand therapy.

## Professional Organizations

American Occupational Therapy Association  
(301) 652-2682  
[www.aota.org](http://www.aota.org)

Georgia Occupational Therapy Association  
(770) 435-5910  
[www.gaota.com](http://www.gaota.com)

Georgia State Board of Occupational Therapy  
(478) 207-2440  
[www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/ot](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/ot)

# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

STARTING SALARY

\$43,667 or  
\$20.99/hour

Occupational therapy assistants (OTAs) help people adapt to physical, emotional, cognitive, or developmental disabilities. An OTA works with the very young to the very old whose abilities are impaired by developmental disabilities, the aging process, physical injury, disease, psychological and social disabilities, and/or learning disabilities. Occupational therapy assistants help individuals learn or relearn self-care and daily skills such as dressing and eating. They aid in educational, recreational, and vocational activities to restore independence and self-reliance. Assisting the occupational therapist, they participate in evaluations, treatment planning/interventions, and reviews of patient progress.



## Work Environment

- Adult day care facilities
- Assisted living facilities
- Clinics
- Home health agencies
- Hospice programs
- Hospitals
- Industry
- Mental health centers
- Nursing homes
- Physicians' offices
- Prisons
- Rehabilitation centers
- Schools

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Occupational therapy assistant programs involve two years of study, including four months of supervised practical experience, and grant an associate degree upon completion.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Georgia requires licensure through the Georgia State Board of Occupational Therapy. A national certification exam is given by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy. Upon passing the exam, assistants become Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants (COTA).

## Professional Organizations

American Occupational Therapy Association  
(301) 652-2682  
[www.aota.org](http://www.aota.org)

Georgia Occupational Therapy Association  
(770) 435-5910  
[www.gaota.com](http://www.gaota.com)

Georgia State Board of Occupational Therapy  
(478) 207-2440  
[www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/ot](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/ot)

National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc.  
(301) 990-7979  
[www.nbcot.org](http://www.nbcot.org)

## Educational Programs

### Associate Degree

- Augusta Technical College
- Brown Mackie College
- Chattahoochee Technical College
- Darton State College
- Georgia Northwestern Technical College
- Middle Georgia State College

# OPTICIAN

STARTING SALARY

*\$39,520 or  
\$19.00/hour*

**O**pticians can be described as visual pharmacists. They fill the prescriptions of optometrists and ophthalmologists (physicians specializing in eye care) for both glasses and contact lenses. They do not examine eyes or prescribe lenses, but they help patients select eyeglasses according to their lifestyle, occupation, and facial features and can fit contact lenses according to the measurements provided by the physician. Opticians prepare the order for eyeglasses according to the prescription, curvature placement, frame style, color, frame material, lens material and size for the lenses. Special equipment is used to cut, grind, edge, and finish these eyeglasses to very strict manufacturing and optical standards. They verify the prescription after it is filled and make adjustments to the glasses to ensure a proper fit and lens positioning. Opticians, sometimes called ophthalmic dispensing technicians, often own and operate laboratories in which prescription eyewear is manufactured. Office management, sales, and repairs are also part of their daily routine. Opticians can fit contact lenses under the supervision of an optometrist or ophthalmologist. Licensed opticians can open their own eyeglass business and can even bring in a contracted optometrist to provide the necessary prescription for the glasses or contacts to be made.



## Work Environment

Department stores  
Manufacturers  
Offices of ophthalmologists & optometrists  
Retail chain stores  
Self-employed (optician-owned store)  
Wholesale labs

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Requirements vary by employer, but on-the-job training includes two years of experience under a licensed optician, optometrist, or ophthalmologist. Formal education is offered at a few technical colleges through diploma and associate degree programs.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required in Georgia by the Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians. Applicants are required to pass the examinations given by American Board of Opticianry/National Contact Lens Examiners and the Georgia Practical Examination before becoming a licensed dispensing optician (LDO). Certification is available through the American Board of Opticianry and the National Contact Lens Examiners.

## Professional Organizations

American Board of Opticianry/National Contact Lens Examiners  
(703) 719-5800  
[www.abo-ncle.org](http://www.abo-ncle.org)

Contact Lens Society of America  
(800) 296-9776  
[www.clsa.info](http://www.clsa.info)

Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians  
(478) 207-2440  
[www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/opticians](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/opticians)

National Academy of Opticianry  
(800) 229-4828  
[www.nao.org](http://www.nao.org)

Opticians Association of Georgia  
(770) 666-5489  
[www.oagonline.org](http://www.oagonline.org)

## Educational Programs

### Diploma

Ogeechee Technical College  
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

### Associate Degree

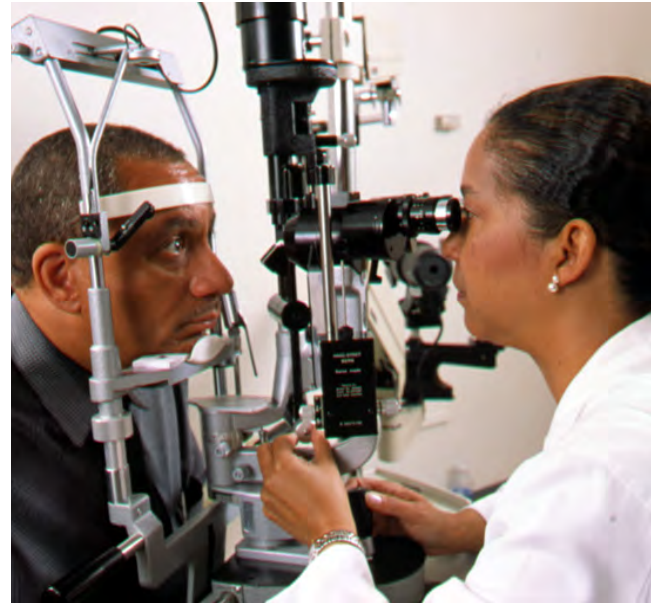
Ogeechee Technical College

# OPTOMETRIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$78,175 or  
\$37.58/hour*

**O**ptometrists, also called Doctors of Optometry, are independent healthcare professionals who are specifically licensed to diagnose and treat conditions of the human visual system. These conditions include eye diseases as well as difficulties with vision that are not related to disease. Optometrists usually treat patients with medications, eyeglasses, contact lenses or vision therapy. Since many general health problems may affect the eyes, optometrists are often the first to find signs of conditions such as diabetes and hypertension. Many optometrists choose to specialize in an area of practice such as low vision rehabilitation, contact lenses, family practice, and vision therapy by completing a residency program. Most optometrists are self-employed and therefore must know how to develop and manage a business.



## Areas of Specialization

Community Health Optometry  
Cornea and Contact Lenses  
Family Practice Optometry  
Geriatric Optometry  
Low Vision Rehabilitation  
Ocular Disease  
Primary Eye Care  
Refractive and Ocular Surgery  
Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation

## Work Environment

Colleges and universities  
Hospital-based clinics  
Military  
Multi-doctor practices  
Private practice  
Public health  
Research  
Retail eye care centers

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required in Georgia through the Georgia State Board of Optometry. Both written and clinical exams given by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry must be passed to obtain a license.

## Professional Organizations

American Optometric Association & Accreditation Council on Optometric Education  
(800) 365-2219  
[www.aoa.org](http://www.aoa.org)

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry  
(301) 231-5944  
[www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org)

Georgia State Board of Optometry  
(478) 207-2440  
[www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/optometry](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/optometry)

National Board of Examiners in Optometry  
(704) 332-9565  
[www.optometry.org](http://www.optometry.org)

## Academic Requirements

Optometry schools vary in requirements, but most students accepted into programs have completed an undergraduate degree with courses in biology, chemistry, organic chemistry, physics and microbiology. All applicants are required to pass the Optometry Admissions Test. The four-year professional program leads to a Doctor of Optometry, (O.D.). A minimum one-year residency in a specialized area of practice following graduation is recommended, but still optional.

## Educational Programs

*Georgia does not have an educational program in Optometry.*

### Alabama

University of Alabama at Birmingham  
[www.uab.edu](http://www.uab.edu)

### Florida

NOVA Southeastern University  
<http://optometry.nova.edu>

### Tennessee

Southern College of Optometry  
[www.sco.edu](http://www.sco.edu)

# PERFUSIONIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$81,049 or  
\$38.97/hour*

**P**erfusionists are important members of the open heart surgical team. During open heart surgeries, perfusionists manage and monitor the heart-lung machine which performs the function of the human heart and lungs. These professionals monitor the patient's condition and work to maintain the body in the same physiological state as would be done by the native heart and lungs. Perfusionists sometimes perform similar functions outside of the operating room such as monitoring and maintaining artificial hearts, ventricular assist devices, and other circulatory assist devices. Perfusionists must have a thorough knowledge of pathophysiology, pharmacology, anatomy, physiology, and artificial circulation technology in order to perform these duties competently and safely. Perfusion care is performed in a team-oriented setting, and is considered to be highly stressful.



## Work Environment

Equipment manufacturers  
Hospitals

## Academic Requirements

A strong background in science is recommended. Some programs require candidates to have backgrounds in medical technology, respiratory therapy, or nursing. A bachelor's degree is required for all programs that are not bachelor degree granting programs. Programs are generally one- to two-years in length. Admission into schools of perfusion is extremely competitive.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required in Georgia through the Georgia Composite Medical Board. Certification is available through the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion. After passing the examination, individuals may use the initials CCP (Certified Clinical Perfusionist). This is a voluntary process, but most employers require certification.

## Professional Organizations

American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion  
(601) 582-2227  
[www.abcp.org](http://www.abcp.org)

American Society of Extra-Corporeal Technology  
(804) 565-6363  
[www.amsect.org](http://www.amsect.org)

## Educational Programs

*Georgia does not have an educational program.*

### Florida

Barry University  
[www.barry.edu/cvp](http://www.barry.edu/cvp)

### South Carolina

Medical University of South Carolina  
[www.musc.edu/chp/cp](http://www.musc.edu/chp/cp)

### Tennessee

Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
[www.mc.vanderbilt.edu](http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu)

# PHARMACIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$102,500 or  
\$49.28/hour*

**P**harmacists dispense prescribed drugs, help consumers select over-the-counter medications, and prepare ointments, powders, and capsules. These healthcare professionals serve as medication “specialists” on patient-care teams by providing information to assure optimal patient outcomes with drug therapy. Pharmacists partner with physicians to assist patients in managing chronic diseases such as diabetes. They may educate and counsel patients on aspects of their disease or condition. Many pharmacists own or manage pharmacies and may have other duties such as purchasing drugs and other health-related supplies and supervising pharmacy staff.



## Areas of Specialization

The Board of Pharmacy Specialties offers certification for the following specializations:

- Ambulatory Care Pharmacy
- Nuclear Pharmacy
- Nutrition Support Pharmacy
- Oncology Pharmacy
- Pharmacotherapy
- Psychiatric Pharmacy

## Work Environment

- Clinics
- Colleges and universities
- Community pharmacies
- Government
- Health maintenance organizations
- Hospitals
- Military
- Pharmaceutical industry
- Public health departments
- Retail drug chains

## Educational Programs

### **Doctoral Degree**

- Mercer University
- Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine School of Pharmacy – Georgia Campus
- South University
- University of Georgia

## Academic Requirements

All of Georgia’s pharmacy schools require students to take the Pharmacy College Admissions Test prior to admission. A Doctor of Pharmacy degree (Pharm.D.) requires a minimum of six years of education: two years of pre-pharmacy study at the undergraduate level and four years in the pharmacy school program. Some schools offer accelerated programs condensing the program into three years. Students may elect additional training in a specialty area through a one- to two-year residency.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required through the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy. To practice pharmacy, all graduates are required to pass the North American Pharmacist Licensure Exam and a state specific pharmacy law exam. Specialty area certification is available from the Board of Pharmacy Specialties.

## Professional Organizations

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
(703) 739-2330  
[www.aacp.org](http://www.aacp.org)

American Pharmacists Association  
(202) 628-4410  
[www.pharmacist.com](http://www.pharmacist.com)

Board of Pharmacy Specialties  
(202) 429-7591  
[www.bpsweb.org](http://www.bpsweb.org)

Georgia State Board of Pharmacy  
(478) 207-2440  
[www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/pharmacy](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/pharmacy)



# PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

STARTING SALARY  
*\$23,395 or  
\$11.25/hour*

**P**harmacy technicians work under the direct supervision of a pharmacist. They are trained to receive and screen prescription orders for completeness and accuracy and to prepare and distribute medications. Compounding (mixing), counting and labeling medications, preparing IVs and determining drug charges are all duties a pharmacy technician may perform. Pharmacy technicians must be skilled in basic computer operations as well as ordering, stocking, packaging, and maintaining the inventory of medications.



## Work Environment

Clinics  
Health maintenance organizations  
Home health pharmacies  
Home infusion pharmacies  
Hospitals  
Institutional (prison) pharmacies  
Mail order pharmacies  
Military base pharmacies  
Nursing home pharmacies  
Retail drug stores and chains

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Many pharmacy technicians are trained on-the-job. Formal training can range from 6 months for a certificate up to 18 months for an associate degree.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia, but pharmacy technicians must be registered with the Board of Pharmacy prior to employment. National certification may be obtained through the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB). Upon passing the exam, the credential CPhT (Certified Pharmacy Technician) may be used.

## Professional Organizations

American Pharmacists Association  
(202) 628-4410  
[www.pharmacist.com](http://www.pharmacist.com)

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
(301) 657-3000  
[www.ashp.org](http://www.ashp.org)

National Pharmacy Technician Association  
(888) 247-8700  
[www.pharmacytechnician.org](http://www.pharmacytechnician.org)

Pharmacy Technician Certification Board  
(800) 363-8012  
[www.ptcb.org](http://www.ptcb.org)

## Educational Programs

### Certificate

American Professional Institute  
Kennesaw State University

### Diploma

Albany Technical College  
Atlanta Technical College  
Augusta Technical College  
Central Georgia Technical College  
Columbus Technical College  
Everest Institute

Georgia Northwestern Technical College  
Lanier Technical College  
North Georgia Technical College  
Oconee Fall Line Technical College  
Ogeechee Technical College  
Southeastern Technical College  
Southern Crescent Technical College  
Southwest Georgia Technical College  
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

### Associate Degree

Albany Technical College  
Atlanta Technical College  
Augusta Technical College  
Brown Mackie College  
Columbus Technical College  
Georgia Northwestern Technical College  
North Georgia Technical College  
Southern Crescent Technical College  
Southwest Georgia Technical College

# PHLEBOTOMIST

**STARTING SALARY**  
*\$22,033 or*  
*\$10.59/hour*

**A**s part of the laboratory team, phlebotomists collect and process blood to be analyzed. They have a great deal of patient contact and help calm nervous patients before beginning the blood collection process. Their education and experience help them to draw blood with the least possible anxiety and discomfort to the patient. Because they risk exposure to diseases, phlebotomists are trained in laboratory safety and careful collection of blood. Phlebotomists are usually supervised by a medical technologist.



## Work Environment

Blood donation centers  
Clinics  
Home health agencies  
Hospitals  
Insurance companies  
Pheresis (blood separation) centers  
Physicians' offices  
Public health departments  
Reference laboratories

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Training can be obtained through one-year on-the-job instruction, or through a formal phlebotomy program, which lasts several months.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification is available from the American Society for Clinical Pathology, the American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians, and American Medical Technologists.

## Professional Organizations

American Medical Technologists  
(847) 823-5169  
[www.amtl.com](http://www.amtl.com)

American Society for Clinical Pathology  
(800) 267-2727  
[www.ascp.org](http://www.ascp.org)

American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians  
(828) 294-0078  
[www.aspt.org](http://www.aspt.org)

National Phlebotomy Association  
(301) 386-4200  
[www.nationalphlebotomy.org](http://www.nationalphlebotomy.org)

## Educational Programs

### Certificate

|                                        |                                     |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Athens Technical College               | Lanier Technical College            |
| Atlanta Technical College              | Ogeechee Technical College          |
| Bainbridge College                     | Okefenokee Technical College        |
| Central Georgia Technical College      | Savannah Technical College          |
| Columbus Technical College             | South Georgia Technical College     |
| Dalton State College                   | Southeastern Technical College      |
| Darton State College                   | Southern Crescent Technical College |
| Georgia Northwestern Technical College | Southwest Georgia Technical College |
| Georgia Piedmont Technical College     | West Georgia Technical College      |
| Kennesaw State University              | Wiregrass Georgia Technical College |

# PHYSICAL THERAPIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$63,680 or  
\$30.62/hour*

**P**hysical therapists (PTs) work with people of all ages and various disabilities. They help clients conquer the challenges of recovery – an athlete needing to gain strength and flexibility, an accident victim learning to use an artificial limb, or a stroke patient needing rehabilitation at home. They use a variety of interventions such as exercises, joint mobilization/manipulation, electrical stimulation, massage, and other physical agents such as water immersion, ultrasound, heat and cold. These therapies help clients develop endurance, coordination, increase joint mobility and range of motion, increase muscle strength, decrease pain, and prevent further injury. PTs also work with patients to overcome emotional and physical barriers that hinder recovery. Although many PTs practice in hospitals, more than 80 percent work in other settings.



## Areas of Specialization

Cardiovascular and Pulmonary  
Clinical Electrophysiology  
Geriatrics  
Neurology  
Orthopedics  
Pediatrics  
Sports Physical Therapy  
Women's Health

## Work Environment

Colleges and universities  
Home health agencies  
Hospice  
Hospitals  
Nursing homes  
Outpatient clinics  
Physical therapy clinics  
Public schools  
Rehabilitation centers  
Research institutions  
Self-employed  
Sports facilities  
Workplace wellness programs

## Academic Requirements

An undergraduate degree and shadowing experience are required for admission into physical therapy programs. Nearly all accredited programs are at the doctoral level, which is considered the entry-level education requirement for this profession, and they typically last three years.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Physical therapists are required to have a license through the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy. Applicants must graduate from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education and pass a national exam and a Georgia State Practice Act examination administered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy. The American Board of Physical Therapy offers physical therapists the voluntary opportunity to become certified as clinical specialists in the areas of specialization listed above.

## Professional Organizations

American Board of Physical Therapy  
Specialties  
(703) 684-2782  
[www.abpts.org](http://www.abpts.org)

American Physical Therapy Association  
(800) 999-2782  
[www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org)

Federation of State Boards of Physical  
Therapy  
(703) 299-3100  
[www.fsbt.org](http://www.fsbt.org)

Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy  
(478) 207-2440  
[www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/pt](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/pt)

Physical Therapy Association of Georgia  
(770) 433-2418  
[www.ptagonline.org](http://www.ptagonline.org)

## Educational Programs

### Doctoral Degree

Armstrong Atlantic State University  
Emory University  
Georgia Regents University

Georgia State University  
Mercer University  
University of North Georgia

# PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

STARTING SALARY

*\$43,972 or  
\$21.14/hour*

**P**hysical therapist assistants (PTAs) provide physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist (PT). PTAs help people of all ages who have health related conditions that can interfere with their ability to function in their daily lives. They perform many of the same functions as PTs but do not participate in evaluating clients or in developing therapy programs. Their duties include carrying out the plan of care designed by a physical therapist, educating patients in activities of daily living, teaching therapeutic exercises, and providing treatments using special equipment. PTAs observe their patient's progress and report treatment responses to the physical therapist.



## Work Environment

- Academic institutions
- Business and industry
- Home health agencies
- Hospitals
- Outpatient physical therapy clinics
- Private and public schools
- Rehabilitation centers
- Skilled nursing facilities
- Sports medicine clinics

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Admission into PTA programs is very competitive. Physical therapist assistants must complete a two-year educational program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education leading to an associate degree. The curriculum usually includes a year of general education courses and a year of specific technical courses on physical therapy procedures and clinical experiences.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required in Georgia by the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy. After obtaining an associate degree from an accredited PTA program, graduates are able to sit for the national physical therapist assistant examination administered through the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy.

## Professional Organizations

American Physical Therapy Association  
(703) 684-2782  
[www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org)

Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education  
(703) 706-3245  
[www.capteonline.org](http://www.capteonline.org)

Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy  
(703) 299-3100  
[www.fsbpt.org](http://www.fsbpt.org)

Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy  
(478) 207-2440  
[www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/pt](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/pt)

Physical Therapy Association of Georgia  
(770) 433-2418  
[www.ptagonline.org](http://www.ptagonline.org)

## Educational Programs

### Associate Degree

- Athens Technical College
- Atlanta Technical College
- Chattahoochee Technical College

- Darton State College
- South University

# PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

STARTING SALARY

*\$74,419 or  
\$35.78/hour*

**P**hysician assistants (PAs) are healthcare professionals who practice medicine as a team with their supervising physician. PAs deliver a broad range of medical and surgical services to diverse populations in rural and urban settings. As part of their comprehensive responsibilities, PAs conduct physical examinations, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel patients on preventive healthcare, assist in surgery, and prescribe medications in all 50 states. Physicians may delegate to PAs those medical duties that are within the physician's scope of practice and the PAs training and experience. These highly trained healthcare professionals allow the increase in quality as well as quantity of medical care services. Physician assistants perform a vital service in rural and underserved regions of Georgia by providing access to quality healthcare services where there is a shortage of physicians. The demand for PAs is on the rise and is considered one of the fastest growing occupations in the country.



## Areas of Specialization

A few postgraduate programs are available for PAs who want to gain advanced education in medical specialties. Most specialty training is provided on-the-job under a physician who has chosen a specialty.

## Work Environment

Clinics  
Community health centers  
Health maintenance organizations  
Hospitals  
Medical colleges and universities  
Military  
Nursing homes  
Pain management centers  
Physicians' offices  
Prisons  
Research  
Student health services  
Trauma centers

## Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree and previous healthcare experience is required for entrance into a physician assistant program. A master's degree is the entry level education standard for the profession. The program includes two or more years of classroom and laboratory instruction and clinical rotations in internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology, emergency medicine, behavioral medicine, surgery, orthopedics, and geriatric medicine. Graduation from a program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant is required.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

To practice in Georgia, physician assistants must be certified through the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. Certification leads to the title of Physician Assistant-Certified (PA-C). Upon certification, licensure must be applied for from the Georgia Composite Medical Board.

## Professional Organizations

American Academy of Physician Assistants  
(703) 836-2272  
[www.aapa.org](http://www.aapa.org)

Georgia Association of Physician Assistants  
(888) 811-4272  
[www.gapa.net](http://www.gapa.net)

Georgia Composite Medical Board  
(404) 656-3913  
[www.medicalboard.georgia.gov](http://www.medicalboard.georgia.gov)

## Educational Programs

### Master's Degree

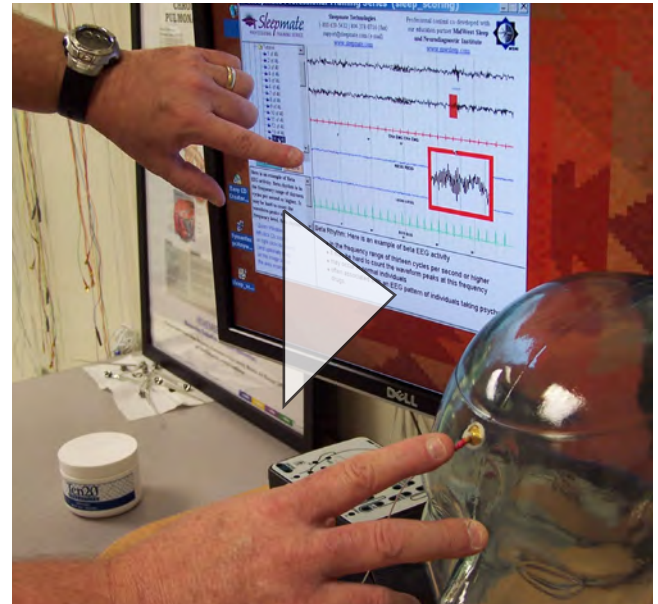
Emory University  
Georgia Regents University  
Mercer University  
South University

# POLYSOMNOGRAPHIC TECHNOLOGIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$38,431 or  
\$18.48/hour*

Over 80 sleep-related disorders such as Obstructive Sleep Apnea, Periodic Limb Movement Disorder, Narcolepsy, and REM Behavior Disorder have been linked to many health problems such as hypertension, cardiac failure, obesity, diabetes and stroke. Polysomnography technologists, also known as sleep technologists, assist in evaluating, treating, and caring for patients with sleep disorders. Under the direction of physicians, polysomnographic technologists gather data, apply necessary equipment for testing and treatment, accumulate data throughout the recording process, score the data and print a preliminary report. They use a great deal of independent judgment to make recommendations to the healthcare team regarding the patient's visit to the sleep lab.



## Work Environment

Educational institutions  
Home care companies  
Hospitals  
Medical centers  
Portable labs  
Private clinics  
Research facilities

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Polysomnography technologists may complete two years of education leading to an associate degree. Certificate programs are also available. Graduation from a program accredited by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care is highly recommended.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. The Registered Polysomnographic Technologist credential (RPSGT) is available from the Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists through the successful completion of an examination.

## Professional Organizations

American Academy of Sleep Medicine  
(630) 737-9700  
[www.aasmnet.org](http://www.aasmnet.org)

American Association of Sleep Technologists  
(708) 737-9704  
[www.aastweb.org](http://www.aastweb.org)

Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists  
(703) 610-9020  
[www.brpt.org](http://www.brpt.org)

## Educational Programs

### Certificate

Darton State College  
Gwinnett Technical College  
Southern Crescent Technical College

### Diploma

Central Georgia Technical College

### Associate Degree

Darton State College

# PROSTHETIST ORTHOTIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$50,000 or  
\$20.04/hour*

**P**rosthetists and orthotists are clinical practitioners who evaluate and treat people who have physical impairments such as limb loss, joint deformity, or paralysis. These specialized health professionals create solutions for each patient's unique needs. The prosthetist assesses the needs of persons with limb loss, such as an arm amputation due to electrical burns, or a leg amputation due to diabetes or vascular disease. These creative professionals design prostheses (artificial limbs) as part of a treatment plan. The orthotist assesses the needs of persons with weakness or deformities of the limbs, spine or skull. They design treatments such as a Halo for life threatening neck injuries, spinal orthoses for scoliosis, ankle/foot orthoses for children with cerebral palsy and knee orthoses to allow athletes to return to sports. Prosthetists and orthotists are capable of finding solutions for each patient's unique physical challenge by applying problem-solving skills to create a plan of care that meets the patient's lifestyle and goals. Developing the plan of care involves a combination of specialized component parts, hand skills, techniques, computer aided design, and construction using lightweight materials such as carbon fiber, titanium and thermoplastics. The profession is a hidden gem in the rehabilitation medicine field because prosthetists and orthotists use a unique set of hand skills and modern technology to make a difference in the lives of each person they treat.



## Work Environment

- Government agencies
- Hospitals
- Privately-owned facilities
- Rehabilitation centers
- Research and design laboratories
- Self-employed
- Universities
- Veteran's Affairs medical centers

## Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university including prerequisite courses in math, statistics, physics, chemistry, general psychology, abnormal psychology, human growth and development, human anatomy and human physiology are required to gain admission into a graduate program offering the entry-level master's degree in prosthetics and orthotics.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required through the Georgia Composite Medical Board. To attain licensure, the individual must have successfully completed one year of experience in each discipline (orthotics and/or prosthetics) under a board certified practitioner, and a series of tests to become certified by the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics. This organization awards the credentials of Certified Orthotist (CO), Certified Prosthetist (CP), and Certified Prosthetist-Orthotist (CPO).

## Professional Organizations

American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists  
(202) 380-3663  
[www.oandp.org](http://www.oandp.org)  
[www.opcareers.org](http://www.opcareers.org)

American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics, and Pedorthics  
(703) 836-7114  
[www.abcop.org](http://www.abcop.org)

National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education  
(703) 836-7114 ext. 237  
[www.ncope.org](http://www.ncope.org)

## Educational Programs

### Master's Degree

Georgia Institute of Technology

# PSYCHOLOGIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$53,155 or  
\$25.56/hour*

**P** psychologists are mental health professionals who specialize in human behavior. Through methods including interviews, tests, and questionnaires, psychologists are able to find out more about a person's thoughts, feelings, development, information-processing abilities, intellectual level, perceptions, and relationships. Depending upon the area of specialty, psychologists are committed to preventing, identifying, and treating problems that people have with their mental or physical health, personal relationships, and academic or occupational functioning. Working with people of all ages, they deal with issues such as stress management, depression, anxiety, self-esteem, eating disorders, aggressive/violent behavior, marital and family conflict, alcoholism and substance abuse. They also work with people with autism, attention deficit disorder, learning disabilities, and traumatic brain injury.



## Areas of Specialization

Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology  
Clinical Health Psychology  
Clinical Neuropsychology  
Clinical Psychology  
Cognitive and Behavioral Psychology  
Counseling Psychology  
Couple and Family Psychology  
Forensic Psychology  
Group Psychology  
Organizational and Business Psychology  
Psychoanalysis  
Rehabilitation Psychology  
School Psychology

## Work Environment

Colleges and universities  
Consulting firms  
Corporations  
Federal and state agencies  
Hospitals  
Market research firms  
Mental health clinics  
Military  
Prisons  
Private practice  
Rehabilitation centers  
Schools

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Georgia requires licensure through the Georgia State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. Certification is not required but psychologists can choose to pursue specialty board certification from the American Board of Professional Psychology. To obtain certification as a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP), an individual must complete a master's program in school psychology which is approved by the National Association of School Psychologists; complete a 1200-hour internship and pass a national school psychology exam. A Nationally Certified School Psychologist may call him or herself a psychologist when working in a school system but not when working in private practice.

## Educational Programs

### Clinical & Counseling Psychology Programs

Argosy University  
Clayton State University  
Emory University  
Georgia Southern University  
Georgia State University  
Mercer University  
University of Georgia  
University of West Georgia  
Valdosta State University

### School Psychology Programs

Georgia Southern University  
Georgia State University  
University of Georgia  
Valdosta State University

## Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree in a relevant field is required to enter master's and doctoral programs in psychology. Graduation from a program approved by the American Psychological Association is required. A master's degree in school psychology is the only master's level program that qualifies one to work as a psychologist. Earning a master's degree in school psychology typically requires two to three years of study. Specialist and doctoral degrees are also available in school psychology. Doctoral degrees in psychology involve 5 to 7 years of study, including a one-year internship for clinical, counseling, and school psychology programs. Some psychologists choose additional post-doctoral training in a specialty area.

## Professional Organizations

American Psychological Association  
(800) 374-2721  
[www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org)

Georgia Psychological Association  
(404) 634-6272  
[www.gapsychology.org](http://www.gapsychology.org)

Georgia State Board of Examiners of Psychologists  
(478) 207-2440  
[www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/psych](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/psych)



# RADIATION THERAPIST

**STARTING SALARY**  
*\$56,398 or*  
*\$27.11/hour*

**R**adiation plays a major role in treating cancer by relieving symptoms, and many times, producing a cure. It is often supplemented with surgery or chemotherapy, and requires skillful application by radiation therapists. These therapists position patients and give prescribed radiation under the direction of a radiation oncologist (physician specializing in the treatment of cancer through radiation). They provide emotional support to patients, keep records, administer treatment, and provide radiation protection for their patients and themselves.



## Work Environment

Cancer centers  
Colleges and universities  
Hospitals  
Research laboratories

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Educational programs are available at the certificate, associate and bachelor's degree levels. Programs may last from one to four years depending on prior experience and degree awarded. Admission to advanced certificate programs is restricted to graduates of accredited radiography programs. Beginning in 2015, an associate degree will be the minimum education requirement for this profession.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists is available and leads to the Registered Technologist, Radiation Therapy RT(T) credential. Most employers require certification.

## Professional Organizations

American Registry of Radiologic Technologists  
(651) 687-0048  
[www.arrt.org](http://www.arrt.org)

American Society of Radiologic Technologists  
(800) 444-2778  
[www.asrt.org](http://www.asrt.org)

Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology  
(312) 704-5300  
[www.jrcert.org](http://www.jrcert.org)

## Educational Programs

### Associate Degree

Georgia Northwestern Technical College

### Bachelor's Degree

Armstrong Atlantic State University  
Georgia Regents University

### Advanced Certificate

Armstrong Atlantic State University  
Grady Health System

# RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$38,840 or  
\$18.67/hour*

**R**adiologic technologists, also called radiographers, produce images for interpretation by a radiologist who is a physician specializing in the use of radiation in the diagnosis and treatment of disease. They use their knowledge of radiation, equipment, computers and anatomy to produce high quality images and minimize radiation dose. They give patients chemical mixtures so that body organs will be visualized. They process and evaluate images, and educate patients on procedures. Radiologic technologists understand the benefits and hazards of radiation, and are experts in safeguarding their patients and personnel from excessive radiation exposure.

## Areas of Specialization

Bone Densitometry  
Cardiovascular/Interventional  
Computed Tomography  
Magnetic Resonance Imaging  
Mammography  
Nuclear Medicine  
Quality Management  
Radiation Therapy  
Sonography

## Work Environment

Clinics  
Colleges and universities  
Equipment sales  
Government facilities  
Hospitals  
Mobile facilities  
Physicians' offices  
Public health departments  
Specialized imaging centers  
Urgent care centers

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Education in radiologic technology is currently available from diploma, associate degree, and bachelor's degree programs as well as certificate programs for students who already have a degree. By 2015, all programs must be at the associate degree level or higher. Registered radiologic technologists may take advanced level examinations in mammography, cardiovascular-interventional technology, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, quality management, and bone densitometry.



## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Graduation from an accredited program is required for certification eligibility. Certification may be obtained through the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. All hospitals and most other employers require certification.

## Professional Organizations

American Registry of Radiologic Technologists  
(651) 687-0048  
[www.arrt.org](http://www.arrt.org)

American Society of Radiologic Technologists  
(505) 298-4500  
[www.asrt.org](http://www.asrt.org)

Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology  
(312) 704-5300  
[www.jrcert.org](http://www.jrcert.org)

## Educational Programs

### Diploma

Albany Technical College  
Georgia Northwestern Technical College  
Ogeechee Technical College  
Okefenokee Technical College

### Associate Degree

Albany Technical College  
Athens Technical College  
Atlanta Technical College  
Augusta Technical College  
Central Georgia Technical College  
Chattahoochee Technical College  
College of Coastal Georgia  
Columbus Technical College  
Dalton State College  
Darton State College  
DeKalb Medical Center  
Georgia Northwestern Technical College  
Georgia Perimeter College

Gwinnett Technical College  
Lanier Technical College  
Moultrie Technical College  
Oconee Fall Line Technical College  
Ogeechee Technical College  
Southeastern Technical College  
Southern Crescent Technical College  
Southwest Georgia Technical College  
West Georgia Technical College  
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

### Bachelor's Degree

Armstrong Atlantic State University  
Emory University

### Advanced Certificate

DeKalb Medical Center  
Grady Health System  
University Health Care System

# RECREATIONAL THERAPIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$33,437 or  
\$16.08/hour*

**R**ecreational therapists, also known as therapeutic recreation specialists, are healthcare providers who use recreation and leisure activities to improve the health, quality of life, functional ability, and independence of individuals of all ages with temporary or permanent disabilities or illnesses. They plan and implement individual treatment programs utilizing a variety of techniques including: adventure therapy, anger management, aquatic therapy, expressive arts, leisure education, therapeutic reminiscence, animal assisted therapy, exercise or other physical activity, relaxation techniques, social skill interventions, and the therapeutic use of play. Recreational therapists set goals and objectives developed from individual assessments that identify the clients' needs, abilities and interests that will help improve their physical, cognitive, emotional, or social needs.



## Work Environment

- Adult day care programs
- Camps
- Hospice
- Hospitals
- Mental health centers
- Nursing homes
- Parks and recreation departments
- Prisons
- Private practice
- Psychiatric hospitals
- Rehabilitation centers
- Residential treatment centers
- School systems
- Substance abuse centers

## Academic Requirements

A bachelor's degree in therapeutic recreation (or in recreation with an emphasis in therapeutic recreation) is required. An internship of at least 560 hours must be completed under the supervision of a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist. Graduate programs are also available.

## Professional Organizations

American Therapeutic Recreation Association  
(601) 450-2872  
[www.atra-online.com](http://www.atra-online.com)

National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification  
(845) 639-1439

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification is highly recommended and is available through the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification. Upon passing the certification exam, professionals are designated as a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS).

## Educational Programs

**Bachelor's Degree**  
Georgia Southern University

# RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$42,868 or  
\$20.61/hour*

**R**espiratory therapists, under the direction of physicians, administer respiratory care and life support to patients with heart and lung difficulties. They care for people with respiratory ailments and cardiopulmonary diseases. These conditions could include pneumonia, chronic bronchitis, emphysema and heart disease, as well as lung transplant and heart attack patients, accident victims and premature infants. They measure lung function, analyze blood samples for gases, monitor life support equipment, and use equipment that delivers oxygen or enhances breathing. Respiratory therapists may also participate in pulmonary rehabilitation, smoking cessation counseling, education and polysomnography - the diagnosis of breathing disorders during sleep. They use a great deal of independent judgment to make recommendations to the healthcare team regarding patients' respiratory care. The growth of the aging population, as well as advances in medications and treatment options, will continue to increase the demand for respiratory therapists.



## Areas of Specialization

Adult Critical Care  
Neonatal/Pediatric Respiratory Care  
Pulmonary Function  
Sleep Disorders Testing and  
Therapeutic Intervention

## Work Environment

Home health agencies  
Hospice  
Hospitals  
Industry  
Insurance companies  
Medical supply and equipment sales  
Nursing homes  
Physicians' offices  
Public health

## Academic Requirements

Respiratory therapists complete two to four years of education leading to associate or bachelor's degrees, respectively. Graduation from a program accredited by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care is required for certification.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required through the Georgia Composite Medical Board. A graduate must earn the Certified Respiratory Therapist credential (CRT) from the National Board for Respiratory Care in order to be eligible for a state license. The National Board for Respiratory Care also offers voluntary examinations for the advanced practice Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential and certification in specialty areas.

## Professional Organizations

American Association for Respiratory Care  
(972) 243-2272  
[www.aarc.org](http://www.aarc.org)

Georgia Society for Respiratory Care  
(478) 951-6080  
[www.gasrc.org](http://www.gasrc.org)

National Board for Respiratory Care  
(913) 895-4900  
[www.nbrc.org](http://www.nbrc.org)

## Educational Programs

### Associate Degree

Augusta Technical College  
Columbus Technical College  
Dalton State College  
Darton State College  
Georgia Northwestern Technical College  
Gwinnett Technical College  
Middle Georgia State College  
Oconee Fall Line Technical College  
Okefenokee Technical College  
Southern Crescent Technical College  
Southwest Georgia Technical College

### Bachelor's Degree

Armstrong Atlantic State University  
Georgia Regents University  
Georgia State University  
Middle Georgia State College

### Master's Degree

Georgia State University

# SOCIAL WORKER

**STARTING SALARY**  
*Bachelor's \$29,000 or \$13.94/hour*  
*Master's \$38,069 or \$18.30/hour*

**S**ocial workers ensure that individuals, families and communities have the resources they need to help solve problems such as discrimination, child abuse, homelessness, drug abuse, and poverty. They provide counseling to clients in every stage of life on issues such as divorce, death, stress and unemployment. Social workers seek social justice for vulnerable and oppressed populations and are committed to positive social change. These professionals often assist with placing people back into society after hospitalization or rehabilitation. They may also organize support groups for families of patients suffering from cancer, AIDS, Alzheimer's disease, or other illnesses. Simply put, social workers help people help themselves.



## Areas of Specialization

Listed below are areas of specialization credentialed by the National Association of Social Workers, but there are many areas in which they may practice.

- Addictions
- Case Management
- Clinical Social Work
- Gerontology
- Healthcare
- Hospice and Palliative Care
- School Social Work
- Youth and Family

## Work Environment

- Advocacy groups
- Government agencies
- HIV/AIDS clinics
- Home health agencies
- Hospice
- Hospitals
- Mental health/substance abuse centers
- Nursing homes
- Prisons
- Schools
- Social service agencies
- Universities

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Georgia requires licensure through the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists. Certification in several specialty areas is available through the National Association of Social Workers Credentialing Center.

## Educational Programs

### Bachelor's Degree

- Albany State University
- Clark Atlanta University
- Dalton State College
- Fort Valley State University
- Georgia Regents University
- Georgia State University
- Savannah State University
- Thomas University
- University of Georgia

### Master's Degree

- Albany State University
- Clark Atlanta University
- Georgia State University
- Kennesaw State University
- Savannah State University
- University of Georgia
- Valdosta State University

### Doctoral Degree

- Clark Atlanta University
- University of Georgia

## Academic Requirements

Programs are offered at both the bachelor's and master's levels. The Master of Social Work degree is usually pursued after gaining some work experience and is often necessary to work in clinical settings. Doctoral programs are also available in social work, but a master's is considered the terminal degree for practice.

## Professional Organizations

Council on Social Work Education  
(703) 683-8080  
[www.cswe.org](http://www.cswe.org)

Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists  
(478) 207-2440  
[www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/counselors](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/counselors)

National Association of Social Workers  
(202) 408-8600  
[www.socialworkers.org](http://www.socialworkers.org)

National Association of Social Workers  
Georgia Chapter  
(770) 234-0567  
[www.naswga.org](http://www.naswga.org)

# SONOGRAPHER

STARTING SALARY

*\$50,315 or  
\$24.19/hour*

**D**iagnostic medical sonography, also referred to as ultrasound, is used to diagnose abnormalities throughout different parts of the body. Fetal growth and development in expectant mothers is also examined with ultrasound. Ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves to produce images of body tissues. Sonographers display these images on a video monitor and are able to identify the anatomy and pathology of various organs. Sonographers prepare patients for the exam, explain procedures, select appropriate equipment, operate the ultrasound machine, and obtain medical images used for diagnosis. They keep accurate records, including patient information and sonographic data. Their observations are reviewed and interpreted by a physician. Sonographers may also be responsible for some preliminary image interpretation.



## Work Environment

Clinics  
Hospitals  
Mobile services  
Physicians' offices

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required to enter a diagnostic medical sonography program. Three types of programs are available: one-year certificate or diploma, two-year associate degree, and four-year bachelor's degree.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification is available through the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography for candidates with approved clinical and academic backgrounds. Upon passing the exam, sonographers receive the Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (RDMS) credential. Most employers require certification.

## Professional Organizations

American Institute for Ultrasound in Medicine  
(800) 638-5352  
[www.aium.org](http://www.aium.org)

American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography  
(301) 738-8401  
[www.ardms.org](http://www.ardms.org)

American Society of Radiologic Technologists  
(505) 298-4500  
[www.asrt.org](http://www.asrt.org)

Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography  
(214) 473-8057  
[www.sdms.org](http://www.sdms.org)

## Educational Programs

### Certificate

Sanford-Brown College

### Diploma

Ogeechee Technical College

### Associate Degree

Athens Technical College  
Columbus Technical College  
Darton State College  
Georgia Northwestern Technical College  
Gwinnett Technical College

### Bachelor's Degree

Armstrong Atlantic State University

### Advanced Certificate

Grady Health System

# SPEECH/LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$52,300 or  
\$25.14/hour*

**S**peech/language pathologists are professionals who are educated to assess and treat language, speech, and swallowing disorders. Stuttering, pronunciation, word organization, word recall, memory, auditory comprehension, slurred speech and swallowing disorders are areas of specialization for these professionals. These disorders could be a result of hearing loss, head injury, intellectual disability, stroke, learning problems or an emotional problem. They give tests to determine the disability and its extent and are then able to develop treatment programs. About half of the speech pathologists' patients are children. However, these professionals also work with adults and the geriatric population in a variety of settings. Because their professions are so closely related, speech/language pathologists and audiologists usually work together. Other professionals that speech/language pathologists work with include otolaryngologists, dietitians, lactation consultants, teachers, nurses, social workers, case managers, occupational therapists, physical therapists and doctors.



## Work Environment

Colleges and universities  
Early intervention centers  
Home health  
Hospitals  
Nursing homes  
Outpatient clinics  
Physicians' offices  
Private practice  
Public health departments  
Rehabilitation centers  
Schools  
Speech and hearing centers

## Academic Requirements

Speech/language pathologists acquire a master's degree after earning a bachelor's degree in one of the scientific disciplines or in speech pathology. A master's degree in speech/language pathology is considered the entry level degree. Doctoral degrees are also available.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required through the Georgia State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. The national certification granted by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association is available to professionals who have completed the required academic preparation and clinical fellowship under the supervision of a certified speech/language pathologist. Upon passing the certification exam, speech/language pathologists earn the Certificate of Clinical Competence and can use the credential CCC-SLP after their names. Certification to work in the K-12 grade setting is offered through the Georgia Professional Standards Commission.

## Professional Organizations

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
(301) 296-5700  
[www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)

Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
(561) 477-8100  
[www.gsha.org](http://www.gsha.org)

Georgia State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology  
(478) 207-2440  
[www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/speech](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/speech)

## Educational Programs

### Master's Degree

Armstrong Atlantic State University  
Georgia State University  
University of Georgia  
University of West Georgia  
Valdosta State University

### Doctoral Degree

University of Georgia

# SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST

STARTING SALARY

*\$31,879 or  
\$15.33/hour*

**S**urgical technologists provide care for patients before, during, and after surgery. They work closely with surgeons, anesthesiologists, and nurses to facilitate the safe and effective conduct of invasive surgical procedures. Before a surgical procedure, surgical technologists help the surgical staff scrub and put on gloves and gowns. They position patients on the operating table, prepare the skin and help apply equipment and monitoring devices. During an operation, they maintain the sterility of the operating room, pass instruments, keep the operative site visible and may operate lights, suction machines, and diagnostic equipment. Surgical technologists can also apply sterile dressings and prepare specimens for the lab.



## Work Environment

Ambulatory surgical facilities  
Animal hospitals  
Crime labs/autopsy labs  
Hospitals  
Physicians' offices  
Veterinary offices

## Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Education in surgical technology usually lasts from nine to fifteen months for a diploma or certificate and two years for an associate degree.

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Graduates of programs accredited by the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting are eligible to pursue the required certification offered by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting. Certification leads to the credential of Certified Surgical Technologist (CST).

## Professional Organizations

Association of Surgical Technologists  
(303) 694-9130  
[www.ast.org](http://www.ast.org)

National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting  
(800) 707-0057  
[www.nbstsa.org](http://www.nbstsa.org)

## Educational Programs

### Certificate

American Professional Institute

### Diploma

Albany Technical College  
Athens Technical College  
Augusta Technical College  
Central Georgia Technical College  
Chattahoochee Technical College  
Columbus Technical College  
Everest Institute  
Georgia Northwestern Technical College

Gwinnett Technical College  
Lanier Technical College  
Moultrie Technical College  
Ogeechee Technical College  
Okefenokee Technical College  
Savannah Technical College  
Southeastern Technical College  
Southern Crescent Technical College  
Southwest Georgia Technical College  
West Georgia Technical College  
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

### Associate Degree

Athens Technical College  
Atlanta Technical College  
Brown Mackie College  
Columbus Technical College  
Georgia Northwestern Technical College  
Lanier Technical College  
Okefenokee Technical College  
Savannah Technical College  
Southern Crescent Technical College  
Southwest Georgia Technical College



# VETERINARIAN

**STARTING SALARY**  
*\$70,000 or*  
*\$33.65/hour*

**D**octors of Veterinary Medicine, or veterinarians, are trained to diagnose, treat, and prevent diseases and illnesses in animals. Most veterinarians in private practice focus on animals they prefer to treat. Companion animal veterinarians treat small or exotic animals such as dogs, cats, birds, and reptiles as well as horses. Others limit their practices to food and fiber animals such as cattle, sheep, and alpacas. Large animal veterinarians often travel to farms and ranches in fully equipped vehicles to provide veterinary services. Veterinarians help prevent the spread of diseases through our food production industries, such as poultry, beef and dairy cattle, and swine. They teach food producers how to manage their animals, provide better methods for caring for them, and conduct background research to help industries with the production process. Other veterinarians work with state and federal government agencies to investigate disease outbreaks and limit the transmission of diseases such as rabies and salmonella among animals and people. Public health veterinarians are responsible for the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, like avian influenza, rhinovirus, and tuberculosis. Veterinarians also play an important role in biomedical research that can aid in human medicine.



## Areas of Specialization

There are currently 21 recognized specialty organizations representing 40 distinct veterinary specializations. For more information, contact the American Board of Veterinary Specialties.

- Anesthesia
- Animal Behavior
- Dentistry
- Dermatology
- Emergency & Critical Care
- Internal Medicine
- Laboratory Animal Medicine
- Microbiology
- Nutrition
- Ophthalmology
- Pathology
- Pharmacology
- Poultry Medicine
- Preventive Medicine
- Radiology
- Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Surgery
- Theriogenology
- Toxicology
- Veterinary Practice
- Zoological Medicine

## Work Environment

- Agribusiness
- Aquaria
- Emergency care centers
- Food animal industries
- Governmental agencies
- Military
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Private practice
- Public health departments
- Research institutions
- Veterinary colleges
- Wildlife conservation & rehabilitation facilities
- Zoos

## Academic Requirements

Acceptance into veterinary school is highly competitive in terms of grades, test scores, and work experience. Some veterinary medicine colleges do not require applicants to have undergraduate degrees, but applicants must satisfy certain course requirements. Applicants are also required to submit scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), as well as obtain 250 hours of veterinary experience under the direct supervision of a veterinarian. This experience, both paid and volunteer, is an important factor in the application process to veterinary medical college. Veterinary medical colleges require four years to complete. After graduation, some veterinarians enter one year internships for additional training in a particular area. To become certified in a specialty area, a veterinarian must complete a residency program which lasts two to three years.



*“James Herriot said it best, ‘Veterinary medicine is a wonderful blend of science and soul.’ This statement captures the true passion I have for my career as a small animal veterinarian. The nurturing and sharing of the human-animal bond is the reason our profession exists. At the end of the day, nothing is more fulfilling than the realization of how I was able to help the pets and ‘their’ people.”*

~ Leslie Johnson, DVM  
Tifton

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

Veterinarians must be licensed through the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine. To become certified in a specialty area, veterinarians must pass a national certification exam given by one of the 21 specialty organizations.

### **Professional Organizations**

American Board of Veterinary Specialties  
(847) 925-8070  
[www.avma.org/education/abvs](http://www.avma.org/education/abvs)

American Veterinary Medical Association  
(847) 925-8070  
[www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)

Association of American Veterinary  
Medical Colleges  
(877) 862-2740  
[www.aavmc.org](http://www.aavmc.org)

Georgia State Board of Veterinary  
Medicine  
(478) 207-2440  
[www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/veterinary](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/veterinary)

Georgia Veterinary Medical Association  
(678) 309-9800  
[www.gvma.net](http://www.gvma.net)

### **Educational Programs**

**Doctoral Degree**  
University of Georgia

# VETERINARY TECHNICIAN

STARTING SALARY

*\$29,789 or  
\$14.32/hour*

**V**eterinary technicians work under the supervision of veterinarians in a role similar to a human nurse. They are trained to take an animal's medical history from its owner, perform laboratory tests, sterilize instruments, dress wounds, monitor anesthesia, assist during diagnostic and surgical procedures, and take x-rays. In some animal clinics, veterinary technicians also serve as office managers. Veterinary technicians can be employed by many government agencies, both at the federal and state level. These professionals allow a veterinarian to function at peak capacity.



## Areas of Specialization

- Anesthesia
- Behavior
- Clinical Pathology
- Clinical Practice
- Dentistry
- Emergency and Critical Care
- Equine
- Internal Medicine
- Nutrition
- Surgical
- Zoological Medicine

## Work Environment

- Agribusiness
- Aquariums
- Governmental agencies
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Research institutions
- Sales
- Veterinarians' offices
- Veterinary/veterinary technician schools
- Wildlife conservation and rehabilitation facilities
- Zoos

## Academic Requirements

Veterinary technician education is available at the associate and bachelor degree levels. Graduation from a program approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association is required for licensure.

### Educational Programs

#### **Associate Degree**

- Athens Technical College
- Gwinnett Technical College
- Ogeechee Technical College
- Southwest Georgia Technical College

#### **Bachelor's Degree**

- Fort Valley State University

## Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is obtained from the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine. Veterinary technicians may choose to pursue the Veterinary Technician Specialist (VTS) credential from one or more of the eleven specialty academies recognized by the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America. Each specialty has specific requirements such as extensive experience as a veterinary technician in a specialty area and passing an examination.

## Professional Organizations

American Veterinary Medical Association  
(847) 925-8070  
[www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)

Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine  
(478) 207-2440  
[www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/veterinary](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/veterinary)

Georgia Veterinary Technician and Assistant Association  
[www.gvtaa.org](http://www.gvtaa.org)

National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America  
(703) 740-8737  
[www.navta.net](http://www.navta.net)

# ALPHABETIZED CAREER LIST

|                                       |    |                                     |     |
|---------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Acupuncturist.....                    | 31 | Human Services Worker.....          | 73  |
| Anesthesiologist Assistant.....       | 32 | Industrial Hygienist.....           | 74  |
| Art Therapist.....                    | 46 | Licensed Practical Nurse.....       | 75  |
| Athletic Trainer.....                 | 33 | Massage Therapist.....              | 76  |
| Audiologist.....                      | 34 | Medical Assistant.....              | 77  |
| Biomedical Engineer.....              | 35 | Medical Illustrator.....            | 78  |
| Biomedical Equipment Technician.....  | 36 | Medical Interpreter.....            | 79  |
| Biostatistician.....                  | 37 | Medical Secretary.....              | 80  |
| Cardiovascular Technologist.....      | 38 | Medical Transcriptionist.....       | 81  |
| Chiropractor.....                     | 39 | Music Therapist.....                | 46  |
| Clinical Laboratory Scientist.....    | 40 | Nuclear Medicine Technologist.....  | 82  |
| Clinical Laboratory Technician.....   | 41 | Nurse Anesthetist.....              | 83  |
| Clinical Nurse Specialist.....        | 42 | Nurse Educator.....                 | 84  |
| Coder.....                            | 43 | Nurse-Midwife.....                  | 85  |
| Community Health Worker.....          | 44 | Nurse Practitioner.....             | 86  |
| Counselor.....                        | 45 | Nurse, Registered (RN).....         | 87  |
| Creative Arts Therapist.....          | 46 | Nursing Assistant.....              | 89  |
| Cytotechnologist.....                 | 47 | Occupational Therapist.....         | 90  |
| Dance Therapist.....                  | 46 | Occupational Therapy Assistant..... | 91  |
| Dental Assistant.....                 | 48 | Optician.....                       | 92  |
| Dental Hygienist.....                 | 49 | Optometrist.....                    | 93  |
| Dentist.....                          | 50 | Orthotist.....                      | 102 |
| Dietetic Technician.....              | 51 | Paramedic.....                      | 58  |
| Dietitian.....                        | 52 | Perfusionist.....                   | 94  |
| Doctor of Medicine.....               | 53 | Personal and Home Care Aide.....    | 72  |
| Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine.....   | 55 | Pharmacist.....                     | 95  |
| Doctor of Podiatric Medicine.....     | 56 | Pharmacy Technician.....            | 96  |
| Dosimetrist.....                      | 57 | Phlebotomist.....                   | 97  |
| Drama Therapist.....                  | 46 | Physical Therapist.....             | 98  |
| Emergency Medical Technician.....     | 58 | Physical Therapist Assistant.....   | 99  |
| Environmental Health Specialist.....  | 60 | Physician Assistant.....            | 100 |
| Epidemiologist.....                   | 61 | Polysomnographic Technologist.....  | 101 |
| Forensic Scientist.....               | 62 | Prosthetist.....                    | 102 |
| Genetic Counselor.....                | 63 | Psychologist.....                   | 103 |
| Geneticist.....                       | 64 | Radiation Therapist.....            | 104 |
| Health Educator.....                  | 65 | Radiologic Technologist.....        | 105 |
| Health Informatics Professional.....  | 66 | Recreational Therapist.....         | 106 |
| Health Information Administrator..... | 67 | Respiratory Therapist.....          | 107 |
| Health Information Technician.....    | 68 | Social Worker.....                  | 108 |
| Health Sciences Librarian.....        | 69 | Sonographer.....                    | 109 |
| Healthcare Administrator.....         | 70 | Speech/Language Pathologist.....    | 110 |
| Histotechnician.....                  | 71 | Surgical Technologist.....          | 111 |
| Histotechnologist.....                | 71 | Veterinarian.....                   | 112 |
| Home Health Aide.....                 | 72 | Veterinary Technician.....          | 114 |

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