

Medical Careers

Verify all information with career counselors at your school of choice.
Verify salary information by researching careers in your area on [indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com).

Call or visit each school to verify:

- they have the program, its application deadline and its start date
- If they accept the Oregon Promise
- if they offer some courses online or if the program would require you to move
- they are a nationally accredited school
- any required prerequisites before starting the program (total length of program)
- any needed exam certifications, licensing requirements or experience hours once program is complete
- How many students do they allow into the program? You do not want to find yourself waiting years to enter the program.

Important Note on Salaries - Salaries noted below are what is stated on google. They will always be changing. Your offer may differ depending on the company. And salary is only one part of your compensation package. Paid time off, sick time, 401K and other retirement benefits are a big part of the package. Also - investigate if certain companies will pay for your education - there is history where certain hospitals or companies will cover EMT or MA education or others - so investigate.

*EMT or Paramedic

Primary duties: Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) are responsible for responding to emergency 911 calls and providing emergency medical assistance to patients in need. They may attend to patients in emergencies that require first aid and life support to care for injured, sick or dying patients. You can become an EMT with a certificate in emergency medical treatment or paramedics.

Columbia Gorge Community College:

<https://www.cgcc.edu/emergency-medical-technician>

Salary: \$17- 36+ an hour

*Surgical Technologist

Surgical technologists work alongside surgeons in the operating room during surgical procedures. Their tasks also include stocking the operating room, calibrating equipment, cleaning the operating room, handing instruments to the surgeon, communicating with patients and bringing patients from their room to the operating room and back again.

To work in surgical technology, individuals must complete a formal training program. Although it's not required by law, surgical technologists may obtain certifications.

Linn-Benton Community College:

<https://www.linnbenton.edu/educational-options/healthcare/surgical-technologist/index.php>

Mount Hood Community College:

<https://catalog.mhcc.edu/programs-majors/surgical-technology-degree/>

Salary: \$48+ an hour

*Medical Assistant

Medical Assistants work under a doctor or physician to help care for patients. Additionally, they also assist with administrative and clerical duties. These professionals are an important part of the healthcare team.

The main duties of a medical assistant are to record a patient's vital signs, and maintain patient records. They also bring them into the examination room, prepare them for the physician, and assist physicians with exams when needed. These assistants can collect, prepare, and log specimens and labs.

Columbia Gorge Community College: <https://www.cgcc.edu/medical-assisting-cert>

Salary: \$19-48 an hour

*Dental Hygienist

Dental Hygienists assist and work alongside dentists. They perform routine dental tasks like examining oral x-rays, applying sealants or fluoride, cleaning teeth, and discussing oral hygiene with patients. Dental assistants must complete a formal training program and pass both a written and clinic exam.

Mount Hood Community College:

<https://www.mhcc.edu/education-options/degrees-certificates/dental-hygiene/>

Salary: \$47-69 an hour

*Certified Nursing Assistant

Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) provide assistance with personal care needs, such as bathing, dressing, and eating. Responsibilities may include activities such as changing linens or transporting a care recipient. CNAs are licensed and trained to work under the supervision of a licensed practical nurse (LPN) or registered nurse (RN).

The first step in becoming a CNA is to complete a state-approved training program and pass a state certification exam. There are two levels of CNA certification in Oregon, the entry-level CNA I which requires a training program and certification exam, and CNA II for experienced CNAs to gain additional skills. Individuals interested in pursuing a career as a CNA have opportunities to take the course, for free, at long term care facilities throughout the state. Click the links below to review options for free CNA training courses.

Free CNA Training Programs in Oregon

Oregon Veterans Home – The Dalles

Marquis Companies – Portland Metro Area

Avamere Health Services – Coos Bay, Medford, Oregon City, Gladstone, Lebanon, Junction City, Newport

Salary: \$20-28 an hour

*Health Information Management Careers

Broad spectrum of jobs in high demand. Education offered at numerous community colleges.

Central Oregon Community College

<https://catalog.cocc.edu/programs/health-information-management/health-information-management-aas/>

Kalamath Community College

<https://www.klamathcc.edu/en-US/academics/academic-programs/science-health-science/health-information-management.html>

Lane Community College

<https://www.lanecc.edu/programs-academics/areas-study/health-medical-and-fitness/health-information-management>

Portland Community College

<https://www.pcc.edu/programs/health-info-management/aas-health-info-management/>

Salary: \$20-38 an hour

Nursing

Bachelor in Science in Nursing - 4 options at different price points:

- a) 2 years at Community College, transfer, if accepted, to additional 2-year Oregon private college that offers a BSN
- b) 2 years at a State 4 Year College, transfer, if accepted, to a 2 year Oregon private college that offers a BSN
- c) Private 4 Year College with direct admittance if grades allow
- d) Move to another state, establish residency, go to a community college, then transfer to a State 4 Year State College that offers a BSN

The rub with nursing in Oregon is that you cannot earn a BSN (required by hospitals to practice) at a state school. If you take your pre-requisites at a low cost community college and try to transfer to an expensive private school, you may not get into the program. If not accepted, you will have to live in limbo as you retake classes to get a higher GPA and try to apply again later.

The only way to ensure you can finish the degree is to start at an expensive private with direct admittance. It is a rigorous program, and you have to keep your grades up.

Radiological Tech or Radiographer

Radiologic Technologists (Radiographers) provide images (x-rays) of tissues, organs, bones, and blood vessels using a variety of equipment. The Oregon Employment Department estimates that nearly 70 radiography positions open in the Portland metropolitan area each year.

May obtain additional certifications to expand job opportunities

- CT Technologist
- MRI Technologist
- Ultrasonographer

Portland Community College: <https://www.pcc.edu/programs/radiography/>

Linn-Benton Community College:

<https://www.linnbenton.edu/educational-options/healthcare/diagnostic-imaging/index.php>

Salary: \$30 an hour

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Occupational Therapy Assistants work alongside an Occupational Therapist. OTAs help patients recover from an injury or illness. These professionals conduct therapeutic activities with patients. These include stretching and they also teach patients how to use special equipment. Additionally, these assistants record patients' progress and perform other administrative duties.

A two-year associate's degree from an accredited ACOTE program is required, and candidates must pass a national licensure exam. OTA students will complete at least 16 weeks of field experience in addition to coursework.

Linn-Benton Community College:

<https://www.linnbenton.edu/educational-options/healthcare/occupational-therapy-assistant/index.php>

Columbia Gorge Community College: <https://www.cgcc.edu/health-pathway>

(This is listed on their website but could not find program page - you will need to verify)

Salary: \$41 an hour

Physical Therapy Assistant

Physical Therapy Assistants or PTAs work with physical therapists in helping patients recovering from accidents or illnesses return to normal activities. They also provide routine care to patients and help set up therapy equipment. Physical therapist assistants must complete an accredited associate degree program.

PTAs must be licensed in all states, so they must pass the National Physical Therapy Exam for PTAs. *Strongly encouraged to job shadow or interview a person in this field before investing in your education as some find the work dissatisfying. Investigate Occupational Therapy as an alternative.*

A two-year Associate's Degree through an CAPTE-accredited program is required. These can be found at some community colleges and a few universities.

Lane Community College:

<https://www.lanecollege.edu/programs-academics/areas-study/health-medical-and-fitness/physical-therapist-assistant>

Mt Hood Community College:

<https://www.mhcc.edu/education-options/degrees-certificates/physical-therapist-assistant/>

Columbia Gorge Community College: <https://www.cgcc.edu/health-pathway>

Salary: 30 an hour

Licensed Practical Nurse

Licensed practical nurses or LPNs work under the supervision of RNs and doctors and assist them in providing basic health care to patients. In some states, these nurses are called Licensed Vocational Nurses or LVNs. Their duties include taking and monitoring patients' vital signs, documenting patients' medical history, maintaining patient records, administering immunizations, communicating with patients and family members, helping patients eat, dress and bathe, and dressing wounds.

Institute of Technology:

<https://www.iot.edu/career-training-programs/medical-programs/practical-nursing-program/>

Portland Community College: <https://www.pcc.edu/programs/nursing/>

Salary: Start at \$33 an hour in nursing homes or medical offices. Can bridge to RN at any point.

Phlebotomist

Primary duties: A phlebotomy technician, known simply as a phlebotomist, is a medical professional responsible for drawing patients' blood for lab tests, blood donations and intravenous insertions. Phlebotomy technicians are trained and skilled in safely drawing blood and plasma and work with patients in hospitals, diagnostics centers, blood banks and other health care settings. You can enter this field with on-the-job training and a certificate.

Columbia Gorge Community College:

<https://www.cgcc.edu/certificate-health-pathway>

Salary: \$17-34 an hour