

## Lesson 2: Health Professions

### Glossary

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1. **Bachelor's Degree:** a 4-year degree from a college or university
2. **Certification:** some jobs require you to complete a training program or pass an exam to show that you have the knowledge to do the job; once you have completed the requirements, you are *certified*
3. **Community/Technical College:** offers 2-year and shorter programs for an associate's degree or certification
4. **Graduate Program:** an additional 2-year (or longer) degree after a 4-year degree has been completed
5. **Prescription:** written instructions from a healthcare provider; a patient brings a prescription to a pharmacy to get medicine
6. **Salary:** the payment a person receives during one year for doing his or her job
7. **Training:** learning the skills required for a job

### Health Professions

1. **Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or Paramedic:** People in these positions respond to 911 calls. They perform lifesaving emergency procedures and transport patients to the hospital in an ambulance. They write reports and communicate with other healthcare providers about the care they have given to patients. An EMT may complete more training to become a paramedic. The median salary is \$31,000.
2. **Home Health Aide:** This position requires a brief training program. Home health aides help patients who have illnesses or disabilities, or who are older. Aides help with daily living tasks, such as bathing, dressing and taking medication. The median salary is \$21,000.
3. **Medical Assistant:** A one-year training program is usually required. Medical assistants help physicians by interviewing and explaining information to patients and recording patients' medical information in a computer system. Medical assistants also set up patient rooms and sterilize equipment. The median salary is \$29,000.
4. **Medical Doctor (MD) or Physician:** This career requires at least 8 years of college and residency. Doctors prescribe and administer treatment to patients, order and interpret medical tests and monitor patients' conditions. The salary is at least \$75,000 and may be much higher.
5. **Medical Lab Technician:** A position requiring a 2-year degree that involves testing patients' blood, urine and other body fluids. A medical lab technician uses complicated equipment and is responsible for setting it up and cleaning it. Technicians enter test results into the computer and discuss them with their supervisors. The median salary is \$37,000.
6. **Nursing Assistant:** Nursing assistants help patients with daily tasks such as bathing and eating. They check patients' vital signs and may give medications. Nursing assistants communicate with patients and the nurses who supervise them. This position requires a brief training program for certification. The median salary is \$24,000.

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7. **Nursing: Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and Registered Nurse (RN):** Both LPNs and RNs take care of patients by observing them, recording how they are doing, and communicating with other healthcare providers. Nurses provide many types of care, education and treatment, generally under the supervision of doctors. RNs have more training and greater responsibilities than LPNs. The median salary for LPNs is \$41,000; they must have a 2-year degree. The median salary for RNs is \$65,000; the position requires a 4-year degree.
8. **Occupational Therapist (OT):** This position requires at least 4 years of college. Occupational therapists work with patients to help them perform daily living and working tasks. OTs may recommend special exercises and equipment. The median salary is \$75,000.
9. **Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA):** OTAs, who must complete a 2-year college degree, assist occupational therapists by helping patients, carrying out the OT's treatment plan, and handling administrative tasks such as answering the phone. The median salary is \$49,000.
10. **Pharmacist:** This position requires a graduate degree. The pharmacist reviews prescriptions and educates patients about drug interactions and side effects. They supervise other workers and keep records on patients. The median salary is \$117,000.
11. **Pharmacy Technician:** Pharmacy technicians assist pharmacists by helping patients, entering patients' information into a computer system, and keeping medical supplies organized. The median salary is \$29,000.
12. **Physical Therapist (PT):** This career requires a graduate degree. PTs help rehabilitate patients by planning and carrying out programs to restore physical functioning after an injury or illness. The median salary is \$80,000.
13. **Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA):** This career requires 2 years of college. PTAs assist physical therapists by observing patients, helping patients do their exercises, and communicating with patients' families. The median salary is \$39,000.
14. **Physician Assistant (PA):** This position requires a graduate degree. PAs examine patients and practice medicine under the direction of a physician. They obtain and record patient information and perform some medical procedures. The median salary is \$100,000.
15. **Radiologic Technologist:** To get this job, you need a 2-year degree. Radiologic technologists perform imaging tests, such as X-rays, on patients. They operate equipment, communicate with patients and physicians, and enter information into a computer system. Salary range is \$56,000.

# Lesson 2: Health Professions

## Reading Comprehension



### Medical Assistant

A Medical Assistant helps a doctor by interviewing patients, recording their medical information in a computer system and explaining treatment procedures. Medical Assistants set up patient rooms and disinfect

instruments. They also help the doctor examine and treat patients. The median salary is \$29,000. A one-year training program after completing high school / GED may be required.



### Pharmacy Technician

A Pharmacy Technician assists a pharmacist by greeting customers, entering their information into a computer system,

and preparing their prescriptions. Pharmacy Technicians keep medications organized, take phone calls and handle payments. The median salary is \$29,000. A brief training program after completing high school / GED may be required.

### Medical Lab Technician

A Medical Lab Technician tests patients' blood, urine or other body fluids. This

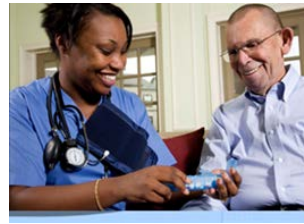


requires using complicated equipment. Technicians set up, clean and maintain laboratory equipment. They enter

information about the tests they conduct into a computer system, and they discuss the results with their supervisors. The median salary is \$37,000. A 2-year college degree is generally required.

### Home Health Aide

A Home Health Aide helps patients who have illnesses or disabilities, or who are older. Aides may help with



bathing, dressing, taking medication, and other daily living tasks. They communicate with nurses and other health professionals about their

patients. Home Health Aides may do some cleaning and organizing. The median salary is \$21,000. A brief training program may be required.

### Write a short answer based on the reading.

1. Which one of these health professions requires a 2- year degree?

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2. What does a Pharmacy Technician do?

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3. What is the median salary for a Medical Assistant?

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4. What does a Home Health Aide do?

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### Critical thinking skills:

1. Think about the question.
2. Talk about the answer with a partner.
3. Write a brief paragraph to answer the question.

What kinds of skills would help a person be successful in these health professions?

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## Lesson 2: Health Professions

### Vocabulary Card Match

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Home Health Aide	Physical Therapist (PT)	Learning the skills required for a job	Annual payment for a career
Salary	Bachelor's Degree	Prescribes and oversees treatment for patients	A 4-year degree
Graduate Degree	Community/Technical College	Helps patients with daily living tasks, such as bathing	Offers 2-year associate's degrees and shorter certification programs
Medical Doctor (MD) or Physician	Training	An additional 2-year (or longer) degree after a 4-year degree has been completed	Helps rehabilitate patients to restore physical functioning

## Lesson 2: Health Professions

### Vocabulary Card Match

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Copy the words and their definitions after you match all of the cards.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 2: Health Professions

### Organizing Information

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Write the name of each health profession in the column that correctly tells the length of training for that profession.

Shorter Training

2-year degree

At least a 4-year degree

Licensed Practical Nurse  
(LPN)

Pharmacist

Radiologic Technologist

Medical Lab Technician

Physician

Emergency Medical Technician  
(EMT) and Paramedic

Physical Therapy Assistant  
(PTA)

Occupational Therapist (OT)

Medical Assistant

Home Health Aide

Registered Nurse (RN)

Pharmacy Technician

Physician's Assistant (PA)

## Lesson 2: Health Professions

Partner Dictation

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### Partner A

**Read these sentences to your partner.**

1. A Licensed Practical Nurse provides basic care and treatment to patients.
2. A 2-year training program is required in order to become a Physical Therapy Assistant.
3. An Emergency Medical Technician performs lifesaving emergency procedures during an ambulance ride.
4. A salary is the payment a person receives during one year for doing his or her job.

**Now listen to your partner read. You write the sentences.**

5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 2: Health Professions

Partner Dictation

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### Partner B

**Listen to your partner read. You write the sentences.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Now read these sentences to your partner.**

1. A Radiologic Technologist career requires a 2-year degree.
2. A bachelor's degree is a 4-year college degree.
3. To become a Nursing Assistant, you need a certification.
4. A Pharmacist reviews and fills prescriptions for patients.



## Lesson 2: Health Professions

### Quiz

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Read the questions. Then circle A, B, C or D.

- How many years of school do you need to become a Nursing Assistant?
  - Four-year degree
  - Certification – no degree required
  - Two-year degree
  - Graduate degree
- Home Health Aides do NOT:
  - Help patients get dressed
  - Talk with nurses
  - Prescribe medicine
  - Clean rooms
- What does salary mean?
  - Annual pay
  - Health benefits
  - Training
  - Schedule
- What health profession performs lifesaving emergency procedures in an ambulance?
  - Home Health Aide
  - Radiologic Technologist
  - Physical Therapist
  - Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- What is the median salary for a Medical Lab Technician?
  - \$39,000
  - \$37,000
  - \$28,000
  - \$25,000
- Why is a Registered Nurse (RN) paid more than a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)?
  - An RN has more training.
  - An RN has fewer responsibilities.
  - An RN has more responsibilities.
  - Both A and C.
- Which of these health professions requires a short training program?
  - Medical Doctor (MD)
  - Medical Assistant
  - Registered Nurse
  - Physician's Assistant
- Which health profession interests you the most? Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Student Survey: Health Professions Unit

1. Did you learn more information about health professions from studying this lesson?

1	2	3	4	5
no		some		yes

2. After studying this lesson, are you more interested in a health-related career?

1	2	3	4	5
no		maybe		yes

3. Would you share this information with family and friends?

1	2	3	4	5
no		maybe		yes

4. Do you know where to find more information about health professions if you have more questions?

1	2	3	4	5
no		somewhat		yes

5. Did you like the class activities?

1	2	3	4	5
no		somewhat		yes

We value your opinions! Could you tell us what you liked or give us some suggestions on how to improve this lesson?

Thank you!