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Athletic Trainer

DEFINITION: Certified athletic trainers assess sports injuries, providing appropriate treatment, and educate athletes on injury-prevention programs as well as healthy lifestyles. Trainers help with rehabilitation after an injury.

SALARY: Athletic trainers make an average of \$36,751 annually in North Dakota.

EDUCATION: A high school diploma or equivalent is required to apply to the program. Baccalaureate degree programs require 4 years of study. To be a certified Athletic Trainer, one must complete a four-year accredited program and has to pass the NATABOC's (National Athletic Training Association Board of Certification) test..

CAREER PATH: An athletic trainer enjoys a full spectrum of arenas to work in. Some will choose to work at the high school level, others will work as trainers for college athletics and professional athletics. Sports medicine clinics are also becoming a typical place of employment for the athletic trainer.



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Surgical Technologist

DEFINITION: Surgical technologists assist in surgical operations under the supervision of surgeons, registered nurses, or other surgical personnel. Surgical technologists prepare the operating room, assemble both sterile and nonsterile equipment, adjust and check it to ensure equipment it is working properly, prepare patients for surgery, transport patients to the operating room, and help position patients on the operating table.

SALARY: The average salary in North Dakota is \$36,035 per year.

EDUCATION: A high school diploma or equivalent is usually required for entry into a program. Surgical technologist programs vary from 12 to 24 months which may lead to a certificate, diploma, or associate degree.

CAREER PATH: A majority of surgical technologists work in hospitals, principally in the surgical suite and also in emergency rooms and other settings that call for knowledge of, and ability in, maintaining sterile environment, such as materials management and central services.



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Speech-Language Pathologist

DEFINITION: Speech-language pathologists assess, diagnose, treat, and help to prevent speech, language, cognitive, communication, voice, swallowing, fluency, and other related disorders.

SALARY: The average salary for speech-language pathologists in North Dakota is \$50,578.

EDUCATION: A high school diploma or equivalent is required to apply to the program. Some limited positions are available as speech-language pathology assistants with a bachelor's degree. A majority of speech-language pathologists are required to get certified. This requires a master's degree, passing a national examination, and the completion of a supervised Clinical Fellowship Year (CFY).

CAREER PATH: They work in educational services, hospitals, offices of other health practitioners, nursing care facilities, home healthcare services, individual and family services, child day care services, or other facilities.



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Respiratory Therapist

DEFINITION: Respiratory therapists evaluate, treat, and care for patients with breathing or other cardiopulmonary disorders. Respiratory therapists, practicing under physician direction, assume primary responsibility for all respiratory care, therapeutic treatments and diagnostic procedures.

SALARY: The average salary for respiratory therapists in North Dakota is \$43,280 per year.

EDUCATION: Respiratory therapists are required to complete either a two-year associate degree or a four-year bachelor's program and may take an examination that leads to the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential.

CAREER PATH: While the vast majority of respiratory therapists work in hospitals, an increasing number of them have branched out into alternate care settings such as nursing homes, physicians' offices, home health agencies, specialized care hospitals, medical equipment supply companies, and patients' homes.



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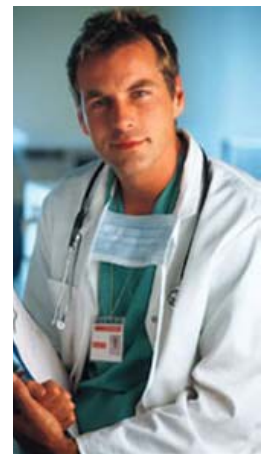
Registered Nurse

DEFINITION: Registered nurses (RNs) observe patients to assess symptoms, reactions to treatment, and progress. They administer medications, perform therapeutic procedures, and instruct patients and their families in proper health care practices. RNs supervise licensed vocational nurses, nursing assistants, patient care assistants, and home health aides.

SALARY: The average salary in North Dakota is \$55,264 per year.

EDUCATION: There are three major educational paths to registered nursing: a bachelor's of science degree in nursing (BSN), an associate degree in Nursing (ADN), and a diploma. BSN programs, offered by colleges and universities, take about 4 years to complete.

CAREER PATH: Nurses may work in a specific area including surgery, maternity, pediatrics, geriatrics, emergency room, intensive care, orthopedics or psychiatry. In addition, nurses may become traveling nurses. Other specialty nursing areas may require additional training or education.



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Recreational Therapist

DEFINITION: Recreational therapists provide treatment services and recreation activities to individuals with disabilities or illnesses. Using a variety of techniques, including arts and crafts, animals, sports, games, dance and movement, drama, music, and community outings.

SALARY: A recreational therapist salary on average in North Dakota \$31,863.

EDUCATION: In addition to having a high school diploma or equivalent training, a bachelor's degree in therapeutic recreation, or in recreation with a concentration in therapeutic recreation, is the usual requirement for entry-level positions.

CAREER PATH: Recreational therapists work in nursing care facilities, hospitals, state and local government agencies, community care facilities for the elderly, residential mental retardation, mental health, and substance abuse facilities, individual and family services, and educational services.



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Podiatrist

DEFINITION: Podiatrists diagnose and treat ailments, injuries, and diseases of the foot and lower leg. These doctors use medical, surgical, mechanical, and electrical methods to treat injuries and disorders. They may treat foot and ankle fractures, sprains, or other injuries.

SALARY: The average salary is \$126,849 a year in North Dakota.

EDUCATION: After students complete their bachelor's degree, then they may apply to an accredited college of podiatric medicine and must submit a grade point average (GPA) and scores from their MCAT (medical college admission test). Graduates receive a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) degree and go on to complete a 1-3 year residency depending upon specialization.

CAREER PATH: Podiatrists work in a variety of health care settings including private offices, hospitals, clinics, health maintenance organizations (HMOs), public health agencies, and nursing homes.



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Physician Assistant

DEFINITION: Physician assistants provide healthcare services under the supervision of physicians. Their scope of practice includes performing routine examinations, diagnostic tests, rehabilitative and preventive health care, health screening, management of therapy for chronic health problems, minor surgical procedures, assisting with surgery and issuing prescription orders and medications.

SALARY: They earn about \$74,898 a year in North Dakota.

EDUCATION: Students must complete an accredited formal education program and have completed at least 2 years of college. Some programs require at least some experience in the health care field. Most physician assistants hold a bachelor's degree and then attend a 2 year physician assistant program.

CAREER PATH: Most physician assistants work in family practice. Other work settings include surgery and surgical subspecialties, general internal medicine, emergency medicine, orthopedics, occupational medicine, and pediatrics.



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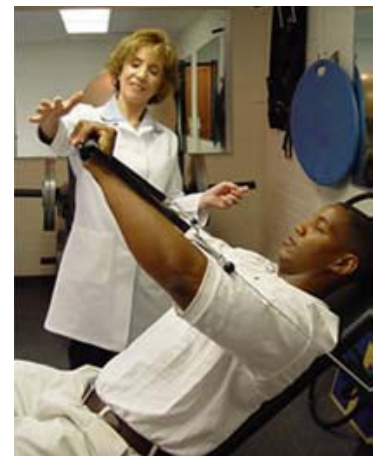
Physical Therapist

DEFINITION: The physical therapist treats patients with impairments resulting from disease, injury, or loss of a body part, by the use of therapeutic properties of exercise, light, heat, cold, water, electricity, ultrasound, and massage. Therapists help improve patients' strength and mobility, relieve pain, and take a personal and direct approach to meeting an individual's health goals.

SALARY: A physical therapist earns about \$63,735 a year in North Dakota.

EDUCATION: Many colleges and universities are changing their programs from a master's degree level to a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree.

CAREER PATH: Physical therapists work at several places including but not limited to hospitals, community health centers, sports facilities, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, home health agencies, schools, and colleges and universities.



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Phlebotomist

DEFINITION: Phlebotomists are trained to draw blood samples by venipuncture, skin puncture, or arterial collection for medical tests and blood donations. In the practice of phlebotomy, safety precautions must be taken to prevent the transmission of infectious diseases. Phlebotomists must adhere to strict policies and procedures while treating the patient with care.

SALARY: A phlebotomist earns about \$27,040 a year in North Dakota.

EDUCATION: Approved programs contain at least 100 hours of clinical practicum and culminate in a postsecondary certificate.

CAREER PATH: Many phlebotomists are employed in hospital laboratories. Others are employed in physicians' private laboratories and clinics, armed forces, industrial medical laboratories, and blood banks.



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Pharmacy Technician

DEFINITION: Pharmacy technicians assist licensed pharmacists by performing duties that do not require the professional skills and judgment of a licensed pharmacist and assisting in those duties that require the expertise of a pharmacist. Technicians perform routine tasks in preparation for distributing the medications to patients.

SALARY: The average salary in North Dakota is \$29,150.

EDUCATION: Pharmacy technician programs are generally 15 weeks or longer and consist of a minimum of 600 hours of training time. Graduates generally receive a certificate or an associate's degree. Technicians may become a Certified Pharmacy Technician (CphT) by successfully taking the national certification examination offered by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board.

CAREER PATH: Pharmacy technicians usually provide their services in every practice setting where pharmacy is practiced, including institutional, community, home care, long-term care, mail order, and managed care pharmacies.



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Pharmacist

DEFINITION: Pharmacists dispense drugs prescribed by physicians and provide information to patients about their use. Pharmacists also advise physicians on the selection, dosages, interactions, and side effects of medications.

SALARY: The average salary in North Dakota is \$86,934 per year.

EDUCATION: Four years of professional study at a college or university, following the completion of two years of pre-professional study are required to become a Doctor of Pharmacy. To obtain the required license, pharmacists must graduate from accredited college of pharmacy, pass a state exam and complete an internship under a licensed pharmacist.

CAREER PATH: Pharmacists work in community pharmacies, pharmaceutical industry, hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, home health care operations, managed care agencies, government agencies, pharmaceutical organizations, universities, and research centers.



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Paramedic

DEFINITION: Paramedics respond to emergency calls and are the first healthcare staff on the scene. They respond to a wide range of incidents from minor injuries to road accidents or heart attacks. They are trained to assess patients, stabilize their condition, and get them to the hospital quickly and safely.

SALARY: The average salary of a paramedic in North Dakota is \$26,653.

EDUCATION: A paramedic is expected to be a high school graduate or the equivalent. Before becoming a paramedic, you must complete your EMT training.

CAREER PATH: Paramedics work in hospitals, police, fire, and public service departments or they are employed by rescue squads or private ambulance services.



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Orthotist and Prosthetist

DEFINITION: The orthotist designs and fits devices, known as orthoses, to provide care to patients who have disabling conditions of the limbs and spine. The prosthetist designs and fits devices, known as prostheses, for patients who have partial or total absence of a limb.

SALARY: An Orthotists and Prostheticists average salary in North Dakota is \$53,418.

EDUCATION: Orthotic and/or prosthetic education occurs in two forms: baccalaureate degree and certificate programs. Degree programs are based on a standard 4-year curriculum, and certificate courses range from 6 months to 1 year for one discipline to 18 months to 2 years for both disciplines. The professional curriculum also includes a clinical experience.

CAREER PATH: Orthotists and prosthetists typically provide their services in one or more of the following settings: private facilities, hospitals and clinics, colleges and universities, and medical schools.



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Optometrist

DEFINITION: Optometrists provide most primary vision care. They examine people's eyes to diagnose and correct vision problems and eye diseases, and they test patients' visual acuity, depth and color perception, and ability to focus and coordinate the eyes.

SALARY: The average salary for an optometrist in North Dakota is \$119,157.

EDUCATION: Optometrists need a high school diploma or equivalent training and are required to be licensed. Applicants must have a Doctor of Optometry degree from an accredited optometry school and pass both a written and a clinical State board examination. The degree requires the completion of a 4-year program at an accredited optometry school, preceded by at least 3 years of preoptometric study at an accredited college or university.

CAREER PATH: Optometrists usually work in their own office. Most full-time optometrists work about 40 hours a week. Many work weekends and evenings to suit the needs of patients.



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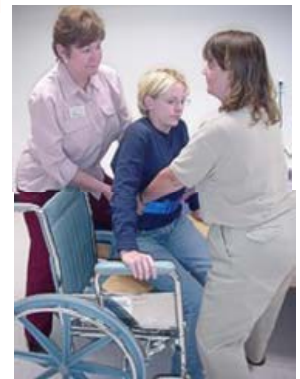
Occupational Therapy Assistant

DEFINITION: Supervised by an occupational therapist, the occupational therapy assistant works to treat the patient who has a disability. They may assist the patient with exercises, skill practice with artificial limbs, provide therapeutic activities, or perform any other activities directed by the occupational therapist.

SALARY: They typically get paid about a \$34,358 year in North Dakota.

EDUCATION: Education may be acquired in either a 2-year associate degree program or a 1-year certificate program. Following completion of all educational requirements, individuals take a national certification examination to be a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA). Many states also regulate the practice of occupational therapy assistants.

CAREER PATH: Occupational therapy assistants work in settings such as nursing homes, hospitals and clinics, rehabilitation facilities, long-term care facilities, extended care facilities, schools and camps, private homes, and community agencies.



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Occupational Therapist

DEFINITION: Occupational therapists provide services to individuals whose abilities to perform the activities of daily living are impaired by physical illness or injury, congenital or developmental disability, or the aging process. The goal of the therapist is to help patients regain their independence and good health.

SALARY: They typically get paid about \$57,880 a year in North Dakota.

EDUCATION: Occupational therapists require a master's degree, must complete 6 months of supervised fieldwork, and pass a national certification exam.

CAREER PATH: Depending upon where a person decides to work, they may specialize in one area or be a generalist and see a wide array of patients. They work in job settings such as, public schools, hospitals, mental health centers, nursing homes, physician practices, and home health agencies.



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Nurse Anesthetists

DEFINITION: Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are advanced practice nurses who keep patients pain free during surgical, medical, dental or childbirth procedures.

SALARY: The national average salary for a CRNA in is \$230,000 a year.

EDUCATION: To become a CRNA, one must complete a bachelor's degree, hold a RN license, and have worked in an acute care area as a nurse for at least a year. One would then go on to a graduate program in nurse anesthesia that last approximately two years.

CAREER PATH: CRNAs are able to be employed in any health care facility in need of putting a person under anesthesia. CRNAs may work in small clinics, large hospitals, they may contract their work on a self-employment basis or they may even work for the military or Veteran's Affairs.



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Nuclear Medical Technologist

DEFINITION: Nuclear medicine technologists prepare and administer radioactive substances used to perform diagnostic tests on patients. They work with imaging equipment such as gamma cameras and are skilled in using radioactive substances in the human body to obtain pictures of organs, tissues, and other areas.

SALARY: They typically get paid about \$57,374 a year in North Dakota.

EDUCATION: A high school diploma or equivalent is required to apply to the program. The professional portion of the nuclear medicine technologist program is one year in length. Institutions offering accredited programs may provide an integrated educational sequence leading to an associate's or bachelor's degree over a period of two or four years.

CAREER PATH: Nuclear medicine technologists work in hospitals, diagnostic centers, research facilities, and educational institutions.



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Music Therapist

DEFINITION: Music Therapists use music to address physical, emotional, cognitive, and social needs of individuals of all ages. They design music sessions for individuals and groups based on client needs using receptive music listening, song writing, lyric discussion, and music performance.

SALARY: The national average salary is \$46,417.

EDUCATION: Persons who complete one of the approved college music therapy curricula (including an internship) are then eligible to sit for the national examination offered by the Certification Board for Music Therapists. Music therapists who successfully complete the independently administered examination hold the music therapist-board certified credential (MT-BC).

CAREER PATH: Music therapists work in psychiatric hospitals, rehabilitative facilities, medical hospitals, outpatient clinics, day care treatment centers, agencies serving developmentally disabled persons, drug and alcohol programs, nursing homes, correctional facilities, schools, and private practice.



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Medical Transcriptionist

DEFINITION: Medical transcriptionists listen to dictated recordings made by physicians and other healthcare professionals and transcribe them into medical reports, correspondence, and other administrative material in compliance with regulatory requirements of the healthcare system.

SALARY: In North Dakota, they make an average of \$27,565 a year.

EDUCATION: A high school diploma or equivalent is required along with the completion of a program or associate degree in medical transcription. Upon completion of a program, individuals can earn the designation Certified Medical Transcriptionist (CMT) if they pass written and practical examinations provided through the American Association of Medical Transcription.

CAREER PATH: Medical transcriptionists work in health care type settings such as hospitals, clinics, physicians offices, health maintenance organizations (HMO's), public health agencies, home health care agencies, and nursing homes.



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Medical Technologists

DEFINITION: Medical technologists (Med Techs) examine and analyze body fluids, tissues and cells. They look for microorganisms, analyze chemical contents, match blood for transfusions and make determinations to aid in the diagnoses of disease.

SALARY: The average salary in North Dakota is \$47,816 per year.

EDUCATION: Typically, to become a Medical Technician, one must earn their Associate's Degree in Medical Technology. To become a Medical Technologist on the other hand, one must complete their Bachelor's Degree in Medical Technology or a related field.

CAREER PATH: Most Med Techs work in hospitals, but there are also possibilities to work in physician's offices, and Medical and Diagnostic Laboratories.



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Medical Social Worker

DEFINITION: Medical social workers, sometimes referred to as clinical social workers or health services social workers, collaborate with physicians and health care professionals to help individuals cope with social and emotional factors related to a medical condition or problem.

SALARY: The average salary for medical social workers in North Dakota is \$37,252 per year.

EDUCATION: The recommended minimum requirement for most positions is a bachelor's degree in social work, psychology, sociology or a related field. A master's degree in social work (MSW) is usually required for social workers seeking positions in the health and mental health fields.

CAREER PATH: Medical social workers work in hospitals, clinics, rehabilitation centers, substance abuse facilities and other health care settings.



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Medical Assistant

DEFINITION: Medical assistants perform clinical and administrative functions to keep health care delivery settings running smoothly. They may give injections, perform venipuncture, prepare laboratory specimens, and perform simple lab and evaluation tests including electrocardiography.

SALARY: In North Dakota, they make an average of \$27,695 a year.

EDUCATION: A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Formal programs are offered at vocational/technical schools, colleges and universities. Individuals can earn a certificate or diploma from a one year program or an associate degree from a 2-year program.

CAREER PATH: Medical assistants often work in clinics, physicians' private offices, and hospitals. They assist physicians in the care of patients. They gather patient information, take vital signs, prepare patient exam rooms, maintain patient records and charts, and give the physician instruments as needed during examinations and procedures.



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Massage Therapist

DEFINITION: Massage therapists apply manual techniques to manipulate the skin, muscles, tendons, ligaments, and fascia (membranes surrounding muscles). Massage therapists work to increase blood circulation and flow of lymph (fluid from body tissues that flows into the blood stream).

SALARY: In North Dakota, they make an average of \$21,662 a year.

EDUCATION: Minimum entry-level standards for massage therapy training vary greatly, based on state or local requirements, professional association standards, or insurance requirements. State regulatory requirements for massage practice range from a minimum of 300 in-class hours at a recognized massage school to 1,000 in-class hours of massage training in an accredited massage program.

CAREER PATH: Massage therapists may practice in a massage office, group practice, physicians' offices & clinics, hospitals & wellness centers, nursing homes/hospices, chiropractic offices, health clubs & fitness centers, sports teams & events (amateur & professional, spas, resorts, hotels, and cruise ships).



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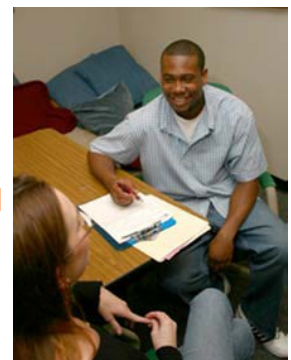
Human/Social Services Technician

DEFINITION: Human Service Technicians provide direct and indirect services to ensure that individuals in their care have the ability to reach their maximum level of functioning and independence.

SALARY: On average, a human/social service technician's salary in North Dakota is \$33,633 a year.

EDUCATION: The student needs their high school diploma or its equivalent. While there may not be required degrees, employers are seeking out persons with post-secondary education in human and social services more and more.

CAREER PATH: Human Services Technicians may serve in their profession in many different ways. Some will assist in a residential setting, while others may function in a vocational setting. There is always room for advancement as well for qualified persons.



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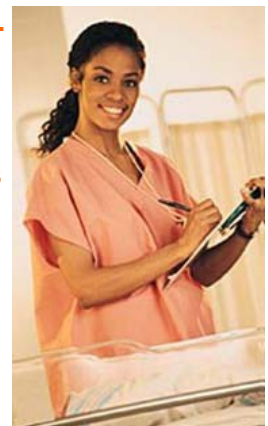
Health Unit Coordinator

DEFINITION: Health unit coordinators assist in maintaining patient and unit records, ordering supplies, transcribing orders, coordinating patient activities for the unit and serving as a connection between staff, patients, and visitors.

SALARY: The average salary for a health unit coordinator nationally is \$17,500.

EDUCATION: In addition to having a high school diploma or equivalent training, formal training is required to become a health unit coordinator, usually through a six-month to one-year program at a community or vocational-technical college.

CAREER PATH: Health unit coordinators work in health care settings like hospital units, clinics, public health care agencies, or nursing homes. The work environment is often fast-paced with many activities in progress at any given time. Unit health coordinators usually work a 40-hour week, often on rotating shifts involving weekends and nights.



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Health Information Administrator

DEFINITION: Health information administrators oversee the health information system which contains all medical documents, insurance information, and medical/legal documentation for a health care facility. They supervise the medical records department, including appropriate storage, maintenance, and retrieval of information.

SALARY: Nationally, the average salary is \$54,700 a year.

EDUCATION: No matter what area of specialization a student chooses, a bachelor's degree is the minimum requirement. Colleges and universities usually offer bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in health administration. One-year programs offering a certificate or diploma in medical office management or health services administration are also available.

CAREER PATH: Health information administrators work in health care settings such as hospitals, nursing homes, home health care agencies, clinics, public health agencies, or health maintenance organizations (HMO's).



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Health Educator

DEFINITION: A health educator promotes, maintains, and improves individual and community health by assisting individuals and communities to adopt healthy behaviors. They collect and analyze data to identify community needs prior to planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating programs designed to encourage healthy lifestyles, policies, and environments.

SALARY: The average salary for a health educator in North Dakota is \$34,621.

EDUCATION: A high school diploma or its equivalent is required for entry into the program. The bachelor's degree takes 4 years, but a master's degree is offered by many universities. Students may continue study in physical therapy, occupational therapy, and other health-related fields.

CAREER PATH: Health educator employment exists in community-, corporate-, or hospital-based wellness or rehabilitation centers, managed care groups, or private sector research and development.



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Health Care Administrator

DEFINITION: Health Care Administrators plan, direct, coordinate and supervise the delivery of healthcare. Medical and health services managers include specialists and generalists. Specialists are in charge of specific clinical departments or services, while generalists manage or help to manage an entire facility or system.

SALARY: The average salary in North Dakota is \$68,609.

EDUCATION: Bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs in health administration are offered by colleges, universities, and schools of public health, medicine, allied health, public administration, and business administration. A master's degree in health services administration, long-term care administration, health sciences, public health, public administration, or business administration is the standard credential for most generalist positions in this field.

CAREER PATH: Facilities such as nursing care facilities and hospitals operate around the clock, and administrators may be called at all hours to deal with problems. They also may travel to attend meetings or inspect satellite facilities.



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Dietician/Nutritionist

DEFINITION: Dietitians and nutritionists assess the nutritional needs of patients after consulting with physicians and other health care professionals. They plan patient menus and meals as well as instruct patients on proper nutrition and/or dietary restrictions. They help to prevent and treat illnesses by promoting healthy eating habits and recommending dietary modifications.

SALARY: They typically get paid about \$46,144 a year in North Dakota.

EDUCATION: Dietitians and nutritionists need at least a bachelor's degree in dietetics, foods and nutrition, food service systems management, or a related area. Students also have to complete an internship or practice program approved by the American Dietetics Association.

CAREER PATH: Clinical dietitians work in health care settings such as hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, health maintenance organizations (HMO's), government departments, home health care agencies and public health organizations.



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Diagnostic Medicine Sonographer

DEFINITION: Diagnostic medical sonographers provide patient services using medical ultrasounds (high-frequency sound waves that produce images of internal structures). The sonographer helps gather sonographic data to diagnose a variety of conditions and disease, as well as monitor fetal development.

SALARY: The average salary in North Dakota is \$67,216.

EDUCATION: Applicants to one-year programs must possess qualifications in a clinically related allied health profession. Applicants to two-year programs must be high school graduates or hold a high school diploma equivalent. Graduates of accredited programs may apply for the examination and certification offered by the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers.

CAREER PATH: Most sonographers may be employed in hospitals, clinics, private offices, and industry.



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Dentist

DEFINITION: Dentists diagnose, prevent, and treat problems with teeth or mouth tissue. They remove decay, fill cavities, examine x-rays, place protective plastic sealants on children's teeth, straighten teeth, and repair fractured teeth. They also perform corrective surgery on gums and supporting bones to treat gum diseases.

SALARY: In North Dakota, dentists make an average of \$181,375 a year.

EDUCATION: Admission to dental school is competitive and requires a minimum of 90 college hours of credit from an accredited college. Ninety-five percent of applicants have completed a bachelor's degree. Graduation from an accredited dental school usually takes about four years.

CAREER PATH: The majority of dentists generally work in private practice or with a dental group. At least 2 in 5 dentists are self-employed. Dentists may also work in hospitals, public clinics, teaching institutions, or research facilities.



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Dental Laboratory Technician

DEFINITION: Dental laboratory technicians make dental prostheses replacements for the natural teeth, including dentures and crowns. They are skilled in using small hand instruments, accuracy, artistic ability, and attention to detail to create practical and esthetically pleasing replacements.

SALARY: The average salary in North Dakota is \$30,580.

EDUCATION: A high school diploma or equivalent is recommended for dental laboratory technician programs. Most dental laboratory technicians receive their education and training through a 2-year program at a community college, vocational school, technical college, or dental school.

CAREER PATH: A majority of dental laboratory technicians work in commercial dental laboratories. Other may work in a private dental practice, dental schools, hospitals, the military, and companies that manufacture dental prosthetic materials.



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Dental Hygienist

DEFINITION: Dental hygienists are trained to evaluate a patient's dental health. Their duties include taking x-rays, cleaning patients' teeth, and applying fluorides and sealants to teeth. Dental hygienists are responsible for providing dental health education.

SALARY: The average salary in North Dakota is \$54,822.

EDUCATION: The majority of community college-based dental hygiene programs offer a 2-year associates degree. University based dental hygiene programs may offer baccalaureate and master's degrees, which require at least 2 or more years of further education.

CAREER PATH: Dental hygienists usually work with dentists in private practices. Some may work with dentists who are in specialty practices such as periodontics or pediatric dentistry, and others may work within teaching institutions or research facilities.



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Dental Assistant

DEFINITION: The dental assistant increases the efficiency of the dental care team by aiding the dentist in the delivery of oral health care. Duties range from aiding and educating patients to preparing and sterilizing dental instruments and performing administrative work.

SALARY: The average salary in North Dakota is \$31,459 a year.

EDUCATION: A high school diploma or equivalent is required to attend a dental assisting program. Students may attend an accredited dental assistant program at a community college, junior college, or technical training program. Most programs last 10 to 12 months.

CAREER PATH: The majority of dental assistants work in private or group dental practices. Some work in specialty practices, schools and clinics, hospitals, dental school clinics, or insurance companies (processing dental insurance claims).



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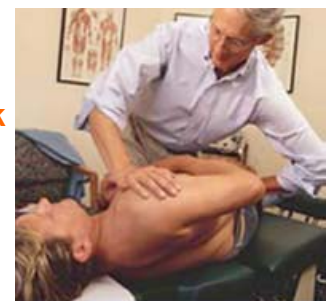
Chiropractor

DEFINITION: Chiropractors are concerned with the proper function of the nervous system as it relates to the body as a whole. Chiropractors use natural, nonsurgical health treatments such as heat, ultrasound, massage, light, diet, water, exercise, and rest. Postural and spinal analysis, involving correct alignment of the vertebrae, is unique to chiropractic.

SALARY: Chiropractors in North Dakota make an average of \$73,275 a year.

EDUCATION: Students must complete at least 2 years of undergraduate study. To become licensed, students must also complete a 4-year chiropractic college course. Licenses are administered upon the successful completion of a test administered by National Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

CAREER PATH: Approximately 70 percent of chiropractors work in private practice and generally establish their own hours and work habits. They may also work with other health care professionals in a group practice setting, in affiliation with a hospital or clinic, or in home health care.



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Cardiovascular Technologist

DEFINITION: The cardiovascular technologist performs diagnostic examinations and therapeutic interventions of the heart and/or the blood vessels at the request and direction of the physician. There are three different paths to specialize in: invasive cardiology, noninvasive cardiology, and noninvasive peripheral vascular.

SALARY: The average salary in North Dakota is \$39,286 a year.

EDUCATION: A high school diploma or equivalent is a prerequisite for the cardiovascular technologist program. Programs may be from 2 to 4 years, depending on student qualifications and number of areas of diagnostic evaluation selected.

CAREER PATH: Cardiovascular technologists work directly with cardiologists in hospitals and medical centers, clinics, physician offices, cardiac rehabilitation centers, and health maintenance organizations. They also work in sales, training, and education.



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Biomedical Engineer

DEFINITION: Biomedical engineers combine biology and medicine with engineering to develop devices and procedures that solve medical and health-related problems. Many do research, along with life scientists, chemists, and medical scientists, to develop and evaluate systems and products for use in the fields of biology and health, such as artificial organs, prostheses, instrumentation, medical information systems, and health management and care delivery systems.

SALARY: The national average salary for a biomedical engineer is \$71,000 a year.

EDUCATION: In addition to a high school diploma, an undergraduate degree is required to become a biomedical engineer. Unlike many other engineering specialties, a graduate degree is recommended or required for many entry-level jobs.

CAREER PATH: Biomedical engineers work with scientists, chemists, and other medical personnel to develop a variety of health care products. Many work in laboratories and research facilities as well as hospitals.



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Nurse Midwife

DEFINITION: Certified Registered Nurse Midwives (CNM) is an advanced practice nurse who gives care to women during pregnancy, labor, birth and the postpartum period, as well as care to the newborn infant.

SALARY: The average salary for a CNM nationally is \$70,000 annually.

EDUCATION: To become a CNM, one must complete a bachelor's degree, hold a RN license, and have worked a nurse for at least a year. One would then go on to a graduate program in nurse midwifery that last approximately two years.

CAREER PATH: CNMs work in a variety of settings including clinics, hospitals, private practice, birthing centers, or home birth. Jobs for CNMs are expected to grow faster than average through the year 2016.

