

Bachelor's Degree Careers in Health Care

Do you have a bachelor's degree? Discover your options for a career in health care...

The field of health care offers hundreds of career opportunities for those prepared with a bachelor's degree (4-year degree). The pay in health care career fields is often at or above that of other sectors for the bachelor's educated professional. The great thing about health care is that there is something for almost everyone with a bachelor's level education. You might be looking for direct patient interaction like a nurse has. Or you may be a non-patient interaction type, but still want to be in the field of health care since the sector is booming. Health care needs bachelor's educated people in non-patient interaction roles as well, for instance, in the marketing or IT departments at a hospital.

What are the benefits to earning a bachelor's degree?

Some bachelor's degree careers in the health care field will require additional training once on the job, some require certification, and some will require a license. Ultimately these are part of the professional career track and necessary for growth in the field. The great thing about a bachelor's degree, in addition to the level of career preparation it offers, is that it opens the door to graduate school. Bachelor's educated individuals frequently decide to return to school to earn a graduate degree once they have found an area of work they enjoy and want to excel in.

Health Care Careers that may Require a Bachelor's Degree

Careers	Health Care Pathway	Certification / Licensure Requirements
<u>Allied Health Manager</u>	Health Informatics / Business	The AHA offers a national certification exam to become a CHFM. Licensure is required for nursing care facility administrators.
<u>Athletic Trainer</u>	Direct Patient Care	Most states require licensure or certification of athletic trainers.
<u>Biomedical Chemist</u>	Research and Development	Certification is not required.
<u>Biomedical Engineer</u>	Research and Development	Certification is not required.
<u>Bioinformatics Specialist</u>	Research and Development	Certification is available but not required.

<u>Biostatistician</u>	Research and Development	Certification is not required.
<u>Blood Bank Technology Specialist</u>	Research and Development	Certification is necessary to become an SBB or BB (Technologist in Blood Banking)
<u>Clinical Laboratory Technologist</u>	Imaging and Diagnostics	Voluntary certification given by the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP)

<u>Cytotechnologist</u>	Research & Development	Voluntary certification is gold standard. 2 levels are given by ASCP : CT(ASCP) and SCT(ASCP).
<u>Diagnostic Medical Sonographer</u>	Imaging and Diagnostics	American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) offers certification (RDMS) to those eligible by passing an exam.
<u>Diagnostic Molecular Scientist</u>	Imaging and Diagnostics	Board certification in molecular biology is offered by the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP).
<u>Forensic Nursing</u>	Direct Patient Care	RN license required. Different types of certification available (SANE-A, SANE-P, etc)
<u>Forensic Science Technician</u>	Research and Development	Certification is voluntary, but not required.
<u>Geneticist</u>	Research and Development	Certification is voluntary, but not required.
<u>Geriatric Care Manager</u>	Direct Patient Care	Certification is given by The National Academy of Certified Care Managers (NACCCM).
<u>Health Care Administrator</u>	Health Informatics / Business	Professional and technical certifications available (AAHAM, CPAT/CCAT and CCT).
<u>Health Educator</u>	Health Informatics /	Board certification is voluntary, but

	Business	often mandated by some employers.
<u>Health Services Manager</u>	Health Informatics / Business	Voluntary certification.
<u>Hospital Administrator</u>	Health Informatics / Business	Professional and technical certifications available (AAHAM, CPAT/CCAT and CCT).
<u>Health Information Specialist</u>	Health Informatics / Business	Voluntary CCA certification from AHIM or, Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) certification through CAHIIM.
<u>Health Info Tech</u>	Health Informatics / Business	Voluntary CCA certification from AHIMA or RHIT certification offered by CAHIIM.
<u>Industrial Hygienist</u>	Health Care Facility Support	CIH certification is given by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene (ABIH)
<u>Legal Nurse Consultant</u>	Health Informatics / Business	Certifications are available.
<u>Life Care Planner</u>	Direct Patient Care	Certification is available. Exam given by the CNLCP.
<u>Medical Illustrator</u>	Health Informatics / Business	CMI certifications is available.
<u>Medical Librarian</u>	Health Care Facility Support	Certification is available.

<u>Nuclear Medicine Technologist</u>	Imaging and Diagnostics	Certification through the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB) as well as the (ARRT). Not required.
<u>Nurse Manager</u>	Health Informatics / Business and Direct Patient Care	AONE offers certification as a nurse manager and leader (CNML). May also become certified in executive nursing practice (CENP).
<u>Nutritionist/Dietitian</u>	Therapeutic Services	Must register with the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) to become licensed. Registration needs to be renewed every 5 years.
<u>Occupational Therapist</u>	Direct Patient Care	Certification is required. Must pass exam given by the National Board for Certification Occupational Therapy (NBCOT).
<u>Perfusionist</u>	Direct Patient Care	Certification is through the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion. Must be renewed every year.
<u>Psychiatric Technician</u>	Direct Patient Care	Psychiatric technicians in most states can be certified through the American Association of Psychiatric Technicians. There are 4 levels of certification
<u>Public Health Nurse</u>	Direct Patient Care	Must take and pass the NCLEX-RN

		certification exam. Voluntary certification through the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)
<u>Radiation Therapist</u>	Direct Patient Care	Certification by the AART is voluntary, but often required by employers. Licensure may be required for technologists.
<u>Recreational Therapist</u>	Direct Patient Care	Voluntary certification is available through the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC).
<u>Registered Nurse (BSN)</u>	Direct Patient Care	Must take and pass the NCLEX-RN certification exam.
<u>Respiratory Therapist</u>	Direct Patient Care	Two types of certification: Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) and the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT)
<u>Social Worker</u>	Direct Patient Care	Certification and licensure requirements vary by state.
<u>Speech Pathologist</u>	Direct Patient Care	Most states require a license. Such requirements vary by state.
<u>Toxicologist</u>	Research and Biotechnology	Certification available for the experienced toxicologist through the American Board of Toxicology (ABT).

<u>Veterinary Technician</u>	Direct Patient Care	Licensure or registration is required in most states. Most take the National Veterinary Technician exam.
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