

Hard to Fill Positions in Health Care And the Path to Getting There

Physical Therapist: Masters Degree from a physical therapy program and passing a state licensing exam. Salary Range: \$44,740-\$67,100—Career Ladder: Physical Therapist Aid (High School Diploma) or Physical Therapist Assistant (State License-requires either A.A. degree or 3 years experience and some college work.)

Occupational Therapist: Bachelors Degree in occupational therapy and six to twelve months of clinical training and graduates must pass a national registration examination conducted by the American Occupational Therapy Association. In 2007 it will require a master's degree. Salary Range: \$44,740 - \$67,100. Career Ladder—Occupational Therapy Aid (High school diploma or GED and on the job training.) Occupational Therapy Assistant (Associate Degree, completion of field work and certification from the American Occupational Therapy Association.

Radiological Technologist: Two years of training at a community college or vocational school, (SRJC has this program) and passing a state licensing exam. Salary Range: \$37,752 - \$62,275. Though there are no direct career ladder positions one could begin as a Certified Nursing Assistant and then move to a Technologist position.

Respiratory Technician: Completion of a two respiratory care program at a community college or vocational school and passing a state licensing examination. Salary Range: \$38,293 - \$62,275. Though there are no direct career ladder positions one could begin as a Certified Nursing Assistant and then move to a Technologist position.

Speech Pathologist: Master's Degree in speech-language pathology, supervised clinical experience, clinical fellowship and pass a state licensing examination. Speech Pathologists who work in schools need a specialized teaching credential. No direct career ladder position. Salary Range: \$41,517 - \$67,100. Career Ladder - any entry level position in a hospital.

Pharmacist: A Doctorate of Pharmacy is required. Pharmacy school programs are six years long and require 1500 hours of practical working experience and they must pass a state licensing exam. Salary Range: \$71,864 - \$107,786. Career ladder—Pharmacy Technician (SRJC Pharmacy Tech program is two semesters).

Ultra Sound Technician: Complete a three-year training program at a community college or vocational school. Shorter programs lasting one or two years are offered to people who have previous training or experience in radiological technology or related medical field. Salary Range: \$37,752 - \$67,101. Career Ladder—Radiological Technician (see above).

Clinical Lab Scientist: Bachelor's Degree, one year of clinical experience and passing a state licensing examination. Salary Range: \$40,310 - \$60,466. Career Ladder—Medical Laboratory Technician (Associate Degree from a community college or a certificate from a hospital or vocational school.)

Nuclear Medical Technician: Must pass a state-licensing exam before they can work in this field. There are two types of training available for this position. Many first become a radiological technologist, which requires at least a two-year program at a college or university. Then, they

specialize in nuclear medicine technology, which requires on additional year of education. People who are not already radiological technologists generally need a four-year college degree in the field. Salary Range: \$44,741 - \$67,101. Career Ladder - described above.

Registered Nurse: Nursing offers opportunities for career advancement for LVN's and RNs. LVNs may return to a community college for further education to attain their RN. Santa Rosa Junior College has such a program. Sonoma State University Department of Nursing offers a LVN to BSN option. For this option, students must have the pre-licensure science prerequisites. RNs may attain their BSN by returning to a four-year school that offers the BSN. Salary range \$50,000-\$108,000. Career Ladder - described above.