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# JOB OPTIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES (IMG) PHYSICIANS WHO DO NOT YET HAVE A U.S. MEDICAL (MD) LICENSE

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## Introduction

This guide is intended to provide job some options that international Medical Graduates (IMG's)/Physician may find meaningful as alternative occupations in the medical field, while working toward obtaining their (MD) license. This guide has three sections of job titles: Mid to Senior-level positions, Entry to mid-level job titles, Entry-level positions. Each section provides a list of job titles that you might be interested in and eligible to apply for without a U.S. Medical Doctor license given your background and education in medicine/healthcare. Each section provides sample descriptions for some of the jobs listed.

## Suggestions for Job Search

Make a note of positions that interest you and learn more about these positions. There are several websites that offer a full description of careers in healthcare. Like: [www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/home.htm), [allied health](#) and [non-clinical healthcare professions](#) jobs are often a good fit for IMGs. There are also these three areas to consider in your job search:

### 1. Research careers

If you are research-oriented, the recommendations are that you familiarize yourself with Responsible Conduct of Research. Learn the research lingo. Most research positions require that you present your data to an audience that sometimes consists of your peers, medical students, staff, and even Nobel Laureates. There are weekly meetings where you discuss your data and current articles of interest, so good communication skills are vital. If you are not a native English-speaker and communication is a barrier, work in a cell culture lab preparing specimens for research may be ideal. If you don't mind working with mice, there is always a great demand for persons with a medical background who can work with mice. If this is an area in which you might be interested, start by viewing the information on this website: <http://microsurg.hs.columbia.edu/index.html>.

### 2. Pharmaceutical industry

Pharmaceutical companies have jobs for physicians who are not licensed or board certified. These jobs are in the areas of clinical trials, basic science research, product development, marketing, administration and finance.

Pharmaceutical sales and pharmaceutical liaison positions generally do not require an MD and there are international medical graduates who find jobs in pharmaceutical sales or pharmaceutical liaison.

### 3. Business

Financial firms that have investments in healthcare companies hire MD's to review and report on investments. These are generally full time jobs that require travel and can provide opportunities for executive level promotions.

#### Potential Job Options without a U.S. Medical Doctor (MD) License

The relicensing process can take years to complete. Taking an alternative job within the healthcare field while you work towards relicensing can help you in a variety of ways, including:

- The ability to create relationships with U.S. licensed MDs and develop a professional network in U.S. healthcare.
- The ability to learn the U.S. healthcare work culture and system.
- Obtain relevant U.S. work experience (ideally clinical) to make you more competitive in the USMLE process

This list will give you some ideas about job titles that do not require a U.S. Medical Doctor license, but could draw on your medical knowledge experience and expertise. These positions may or may not be open at the time of your job search, so it is important to job search regularly and often. Global Talent recommends actively searching for open positions, at a minimum, of at least every 3 days.

## Tier 1 Jobs Titles (Mid to Senior-level that generally DO NOT require certifications/license)

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**MD license not required.** Number of open positions is lower than tier 2 positions and numbers of applicants are fewer than tier 2, but all applicants are extremely well qualified. Positions are very competitive, so having a well-tailored resume, high quality, well-written and well-tailored cover letter along with a high quality and complete online application will be important factors in being selected for an interview. If selected for an interview will you need to make sure you have practiced and are well-prepared for the types of questions you may get asked. GLOBAL TALENT HIGHLY recommends utilizing GLOBAL TALENT staff to help with applications before submitting.

*(\*) indicates sample job describe in this guide*

- Biochemist and Biophysicist\*
- Microbiologist\*
- Biological Technician\*
- Clinic Assistant
- Clinical Educator – Inter-professional (Non-RN)
- Clinical Research Associate\*
- Clinical Coordinator
- Consumer Safety Officer (Regulatory Health Project Manager)\*
- Drug Safety Specialist\*
- Education Technician
- Family Advocate
- Healthy Connections Coordinator
- Health Educator/Community Health Worker\*
- Healthcare/Medical-related Instructor
- Health Navigator
- Health Program Specialist
- Healthcare Policy Analyst
- Health Screening Coordinator
- Health Technician
- Infection Disease Control/Prevention Specialist\*
- Medical Interpreter\*
- Medical Transcriptionist\*
- Microbiologist
- Occupational Health and Safety Specialist\*
- Pharmacologist Position with the FDA
- Patient Care Coordinator, Non-clinical
- Psychiatric Technician
- Wholesale and Manufacturing Sales Representative

*(\*) indicates sample job describe in this guide*

## Sample Job Descriptions - Mid to Senior-level positions that generally do NOT require certifications/license

### Biochemist and Biophysicist

#### **What Biochemists and Biophysicists Do**

Biochemists and biophysicists study the chemical and physical principles of living things and of biological processes, such as cell development, growth, heredity, and disease.

#### **Work Environment**

Biochemists and biophysicists typically work in laboratories and offices to conduct experiments and analyze the results. Most work full time.

#### **How to Become a Biochemist or Biophysicist**

Biochemists and biophysicists typically need Bachelor's and master's degree holders qualify for some entry-level positions in biochemistry and biophysics. To work in independent research and development, most Ph.D. holders begin their careers in temporary postdoctoral research positions.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for biochemists and biophysicists in Idaho was \$47,960 in May 2016.

### Biological Technician

#### **What Biological Technicians Do**

Biological technicians help biological and medical scientists conduct laboratory tests and experiments.

#### **Work Environment**

Biological technicians typically work in laboratories. Most biological technicians work full time.

#### **How to Become a Biological Technician**

Biological technicians typically need a bachelor's degree in biology or a closely related field. It is important for prospective biological technicians to gain laboratory experience while in school.



**Pay:** The Annual average wage for biological technicians in Idaho was \$32,320 in 2016.

## **Job Outlook**

Employment of biological technicians is projected to grow 5 percent from 2014 to 2024, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Continued growth in biotechnology and medical research is expected to increase demand for these workers.

## **Clinical Research Associate**

### **What Clinical Research Associates Do**

Clinical research associates (CRAs) organize and administer clinical trials of new or current drugs in order to assess the benefits and risks of using them, help to organize and monitor the different phases of clinical trials of drugs. Key responsibilities include:

- Writing drug trial methodologies (procedures)
- Identifying and briefing appropriate trial investigators (clinicians)
- Setting up and disbanding trial study centers
- Designing trial materials and supplying study centers with sufficient quantities
- Providing clinicians with instructions on how to conduct the trials
- Collecting and authenticating data collection forms (commonly known as case report forms)
- Monitoring progress throughout the duration of the trial
- Writing reports

### **Typical Employers of Clinical Research Associates**

- Pharmaceutical companies
- Clinical contract agencies or houses
- Hospital academic departments

### **Qualifications and Training Required**

To become a CRA it is necessary to hold an undergraduate or postgraduate qualification in nursing, life sciences (for example, biology, microbiology, toxicology, biochemistry, or pharmacology) or medical sciences (such as physiology, immunology, medicine, anatomy or pharmacy).

## Key Skills for Clinical Research Associates

- Commercial awareness
- A logical and inquisitive mind
- Good organizational abilities
- Excellent numerical, written and verbal communication skills
- Confidence

**Pay:** Annual Base Salary in Idaho \$54,807

## Consumer Safety Officer (Regulatory Health Project Manager)

### What Is a Consumer Safety Officer?

A consumer safety officer works to inspect various industries that are regulated by the government. They inspect for health violations, regulatory non-compliance, and procedures and techniques. Different areas of focus exist within the field, and these professionals may work to monitor foods, drugs, and more.

### What Consumer Safety Officers Do:

- Routinely monitor and inspect various facilities and organizations for compliance
- Coordinate review process for new drugs being developed
- Investigate any complaints related to a specific product or organization
- Begin action against violators of various codes and regulations
- Develop new inspection techniques
- Manage data and monitor it for changes
- Plan and direct new or existing regulatory programs
- Help advise various officials and representatives about different policies, methods, and techniques related to consumer safety.

The most common employer of consumer safety officers is the government, in particular the Food and Drug Administration – the FDA. These positions are available throughout the country, and the consumer safety officer will work to inspect and monitor all products and industries that are regulated by the FDA. Some other employers exist, but they are rare.

## **Work Environment**

The overall nature of the work is a combination of field work and office work. An average day will usually involve conducting on-site inspections, meeting with state and local officials to consult with them about safety related issues, and more. In the office, filing reports, planning new regulatory programs, and reviewing new policies will be common.

In some instances, attending special training classes and conferences may be involved as well. The job requires a variety of skills in a number of locations, and as such it is one that is more likely to stay interesting for those who don't want to spend all of their time behind a desk.

## **How to Become a Consumer Safety Officer**

In order to become a consumer safety officer, you'll need to have a bachelor's degree or higher in a field directly related to the industry. Usually, food technology, epidemiology, medical science, physical science, and other public health related areas of study are preferred. Your studies should focus on areas that are directly linked to overall consumer safety. Additionally, holding a master's or higher degree will usually open up better opportunities, and real world experience in the field will have a major impact on finding employment as well.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for Public Safety Officer salary in Idaho is approximately \$55,164.

## **Drug Safety Specialist**

### **What Drug Safety Specialist Do**

A drug safety specialist provides support for their organization related to drug safety. They are often responsible for creating and modifying medical reports to send to Food and Drug Administration, and these specialists may also help track drugs (including where they are shipped), perform auditing duties and provide demonstrations on safety regulations. Other duties the drug safety specialist may perform include reviewing information on serious adverse events and facilitating discussions as necessary on these events with health care workers and other relevant professionals, as well as determining reporting requirements on serious adverse events and preparing reports as needed. Drug safety specialists must help their organization maintain up-to-date databases on drug safety that are relevant and easy to use, as well as work efficiently to meet all relevant deadlines.

### **How to Become a Biological Technician**

This position generally requires at least a bachelor's degree in a healthcare-related field, although a more advanced degree may be preferred. Relevant drug safety experience is generally required or preferred as well. Drug safety specialists should have good

communication and interpersonal skills, as well as be proficient with basic computer programs such as the Microsoft Office suite and be able to work well on their own with minimal supervision.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for Drug Safety Specialist salary in United State is \$65,054 in 2017.

## [Health Educator/Community Health Worker](#)

### **What Health Educators and Community Health Workers Do**

Health educators teach people about behaviors that promote wellness. They develop and implement strategies to improve the health of individuals and communities. Community health workers collect data and discuss health concerns with members of specific populations or communities.

### **Work Environment**

Health educators and community health workers work in a variety of settings, including hospitals, nonprofit organizations, government, doctors' offices, and private businesses, and colleges. They generally work full time.

### **How to Become a Health Educator or Community Health Worker**

Health educators need a bachelor's degree. Many employers require the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) credential. Requirements for community health workers vary, although they typically have at least a high school diploma and must complete a brief period of on-the-job training. Some states have certification programs for community health workers.

**Pay:** The annual Base Salary for health educators in Idaho was \$58,340 in April 2017. The median annual wage for community health worker in Idaho was \$30,960 in May 2016.

### **Job Outlook**

Employment of health educators and community health workers is projected to grow 13 percent from 2014 to 2024, faster than the average for all occupations. Growth will be driven by efforts to improve health outcomes and to reduce healthcare costs by teaching people healthy habits and behaviors and explaining how to use available healthcare services.

## Healthcare/Medical-related Instructor

Teach at the medical school or university level is another career path for physicians. Most science departments in research universities employ full time faculty primarily for research and allow limited time for teaching courses, with research as the primary focus.

Researchers in major universities are usually required to obtain funding for research projects through grants. This requires research experience and proficiency with grants. Some colleges employ faculty for teaching jobs without a research obligation. Community colleges, nursing schools and chiropractic medicine schools are among the colleges that have full time and part time teaching positions for doctors without a research requirement.

## Infection Disease Control/Prevention Specialist

### **What Infection Disease Control/Prevention Specialists Do:**

Responsible for identification, investigation, reporting, prevention and control of healthcare associated infections at one or more of the Saint Alphonsus Medical Centers and their associated clinics. The IPS is responsible for conducting/assisting with educational programs related to infection control and prevention, developing policies, and implementing performance improvement measures that ensure the medical centers meet the Infection Control requirements of CDC, OSHA, TJC and other federal and state regulatory agencies. Some travel between sites may be required.

### **General Skills, Knowledge, Education and Experience (varies by hospital, city, etc.)**

- Graduate of a university or college with a Baccalaureate degree in a health care related field.
- Acute care experience
- Experience in performance improvement, facilitation and adult education
- Strong computer skills including MS Word, Excel, Access and/or PowerPoint.
- Knowledge of federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines that affect infection control
- Knowledge of infection control requirements of CDC, OSHA, TJC, APIC recommendations and ability to interpret them in clinical settings
- Knowledgeable of epidemiologic principles, communicable diseases, and pharmacokinetics, microbiology, pathophysiology, sterilization, sanitation, and disinfection practices
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, both verbal & written.
- Experience in statistics and research methodology

## Essential Functions:

- Meets Health System's Guiding Behaviors including interpersonal communication and professional conduct expectations.
- Demonstrates self-direction in providing systematic surveillance of patients to identify hospital acquired infections through established criteria.
- Maintains databases related to surveillance and process/outcome metrics.
- Analyzes displays and communicates infection prevention data.
- Identifies persons who are at high risk for infections or pose an infection risk to others and initiates preventative measures.
- Coordinates appropriate investigation and intervention when a patient or employee is exposed to a potentially infectious agent.
- Provides consultation on standards interpretation and implementation to hospital departments for the safety of health care services in relation to infection control.
- Participates as a member or consultant in organizational decision making, including the development of policies and procedures that affect the delivery of patient care.
- Demonstrates ability to work effectively with professional and supportive personnel throughout the medical centers to promote safety in relation to infection control
- Maintains current knowledge of evidence-based practice related to infection prevention and control.
- Identifies areas for performance improvement or study in the realm of infection prevention and control and leads/participates in performance improvement teams, as appropriate.
- Initiates changes in clinical practice based on current concepts and findings from regulatory and accrediting agencies, professional practice guidelines, and other research and /or studies

**Pay:** The average yearly salary for Infection Disease Control/Prevention Specialist in Idaho is \$74,256 in 2017.

## [Medical Interpreter](#)

### What Medical Interpreters and Translators Do

Interpreters and translators convert information from one language into another language. Interpreters work in spoken or sign language; translators work in written language.

### Work Environment

Interpreters work in schools, hospitals, courtrooms, and conference centers. Some work for translation companies or individual organizations, and many translators also work from home. Self-employed interpreters and translators frequently have variable work schedules. Most interpreters and translators work full time during regular business hours.

## **How to Become an Interpreter or Translator**

Although interpreters and translators typically need at least a bachelor's degree, the most important requirement is to have native-level proficiency in English and at least one other language. Many complete job-specific training programs.

**Pay:** The average yearly salary for Medical Interpreter in Boise is \$36,446 in 2017

## **Job Outlook**

Employment of interpreters and translators is projected to grow 29 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Employment growth will be driven by increasing globalization and by large increases in the number of non-English-speaking people in the United States. Job prospects should be best for those who have professional certification.

## **Medical Transcriptionist**

### **What Medical Transcriptionists Do**

Medical transcriptionists sometimes referred to as healthcare documentation specialists, listen to voice recordings that physicians and other healthcare workers make and convert them into written reports. They may also review and edit medical documents created using speech recognition technology. Transcriptionists interpret medical terminology and abbreviations in preparing patients' medical histories, discharge summaries, and other documents.

### **Work Environment**

Most medical transcriptionists work for hospitals, physicians' offices, and third-party transcription service companies that provide transcription services to healthcare establishments. Others are self-employed.

### **How to Become a Medical Transcriptionist**

Medical transcriptionists typically need postsecondary education. Prospective medical transcriptionists must have an understanding of medical terminology, anatomy and physiology, grammar, and word-processing software.

**Pay:** The average annual wage for medical transcriptionists in Idaho was \$31,220 in May 2016.

## **Job Outlook**

Employment of medical transcriptionists is projected to decline 3 percent from 2014 to 2024. The growing volume of healthcare services is expected to continue to increase demand for transcription services. However, employment is projected to decline because of increased productivity stemming from technological advances and outsourcing.

## **Microbiologist**

### **What Microbiologists Do**

Microbiologists study microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, algae, fungi, and some types of parasites. They try to understand how these organisms live, grow, and interact with their environments.

### **Work Environment**

Microbiologists work in laboratories and offices, where they conduct scientific experiments and analyze the results. Most microbiologists work full time and keep regular hours.

### **How to Become a Microbiologist**

A bachelor's degree in microbiology or a closely related field is needed for entry-level microbiologist jobs. A Ph.D. is typically needed to carry out independent research and to work in colleges and universities.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for occupational health and safety specialists in Idaho was \$70,350 in May 2016.

## **Job Outlook**

Employment of microbiologists is projected to grow 4 percent from 2014 to 2024, slower than the average for all occupations. More microbiologists will be needed to contribute to basic research, solve problems encountered in industrial production processes, and monitor environmental conditions to ensure the public's health and safety. However, employment of microbiologists in the federal government is projected to decline.

## **Occupational Health and Safety Specialist**

### **What Occupational Health and Safety Specialists Do**

Occupational health and safety specialists analyze many types of work environments and work procedures. Specialists inspect workplaces for adherence to regulations on safety, health, and the environment. They also design programs to prevent disease or injury to workers and damage to the environment.



## Work Environment

Occupational health and safety specialists work in a variety of settings, such as offices, factories, and mines. Their jobs often involve fieldwork and travel. Most specialists work full time.

## How to Become an Occupational Health and Safety Specialist

Occupational health and safety specialists typically need a bachelor's degree in occupational health and safety or in a related scientific or technical field.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for occupational health and safety specialists in Idaho was \$66,650 in May 2016.

## Job Outlook

Employment of occupational health and safety specialists is projected to grow 4 percent from 2014 to 2024, slower than the average for all occupations. Specialists will be needed to work in a wide variety of industries to ensure that employers are adhering to both existing and new regulations.

## Tier 2 Job Titles (Entry to mid-level jobs that generally DO require short-term certifications)

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Entry-level healthcare positions that **require short-term certifications**; Market demand is high, so usually positions are regularly open; Having a previous healthcare background combined with **the certification** make you more competitive for the roles assuming your resume, cover letter, application are well-done with high quality and attention paid to the details; Additionally, you will need to outperform other candidates in the interview process. GLOBAL TALENT can help with this.

(\*) indicates sample job describe in this guide

- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)\*
- Certified Surgical Technologist (CST)
- Dental assistant\*
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographer and Cardiovascular Technologist
- EMT and Paramedic\*
- Health Record Specialist it is a similar program to EMR Data Integrity Analyst and EMR Document Specialist
- Medical Assistant\*

- Medical Coder: also called (Medical Billing Specialist, Insurance Recovery Specialist (HB and Pb) ,Charge Capture Specialist 1 or 2and Physician Services Coder 2)
  - Nursing Assistant\*
  - Pharmacy Technician\*
  - Phlebotomist\*
  - Paramedic
- (\*) indicates sample job describe in this guide

## Sample Job Descriptions - Entry to mid-level that generally DO require short-term certifications

### Dental assistant

#### **What Dental Assistants Do**

Dental assistants perform many tasks, ranging from providing patient care and taking X-rays to recordkeeping and scheduling appointments. Their duties vary by state and by the dentists' offices where they work.

#### **Work Environment**

Almost all dental assistants work in dentists' offices. Most work full time.

#### **How to Become a Dental Assistant**

There are several possible paths to becoming a dental assistant. Some states require assistants to graduate from an accredited program and pass an exam. In other states, there are no formal educational requirements.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for dental assistants in Idaho was \$34,840 in May 2016.

#### **Job Outlook**

Employment of dental assistants is projected to grow 18 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Ongoing research linking oral health and general health will likely continue to increase the demand for preventive dental services.

The program Available at:

- College of Southern Idaho- Twin Falls, ID: [Dental Hygiene](#). This program is 3 months long.
- College of Western Idaho- Boise, ID: [Dental Assisting, Intermediate Technical Certificate \(ITC\)](#). This program is 12 months long.

## [EMT and Paramedic](#)

### **What EMTs and Paramedics Do**

Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics care for the sick or injured in emergency medical settings. People's lives often depend on the quick reaction and competent care provided by these workers. EMTs and paramedics respond to emergency calls, performing medical services and transporting patients to medical facilities.

### **Work Environment**

Most EMTs and paramedics work full time. Their work is physically strenuous and can be stressful, sometimes involving life-or-death situations.

### **How to Become an EMT or Paramedic**

All emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics must complete a postsecondary educational program. All states require EMTs and paramedics to be licensed; requirements vary by state.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for EMTs and paramedics in Idaho was \$37,360 in May 2016.

### **Job Outlook**

Employment of emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics is projected to grow 24 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Emergencies, such as car crashes, natural disasters, and acts of violence, will continue to create demand for EMTs and paramedics.

The program Available at:

- College of Western Idaho-Nampa, ID. [Emergency Medical Technician \(EMT\)](#). This program is 17 weeks long.
- College of Southern Idaho-Twin Falls ID. [Emergency Medical Technician \(EMT\)](#). This program is 51 weeks long.

## [Medical Assistant](#)

### **What Medical Assistants Do**

Medical assistants complete administrative and clinical tasks in the offices of physicians, hospitals, and other healthcare facilities. Their duties vary with the location, specialty, and size of the practice.

### **Work Environment**

Most medical assistants work in physicians' offices, hospitals, outpatient clinics, and other healthcare facilities.

### **How to Become a Medical Assistant**

Most medical assistants have postsecondary education such as a certificate. Others enter the occupation with a high school diploma and learn through on-the-job training. In Idaho a medical assistants almost always require to have a certification.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for medical assistants in Idaho was \$31,150 in May 2016.

### **Job Outlook**

Employment of medical assistants is projected to grow 23 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. The growth of the aging baby-boom population will continue to increase demand for preventive medical services, which are often provided by physicians. As their practices expand, physicians will hire more assistants to perform routine administrative and clinical duties, allowing the physicians to see more patients.

The program Available at:

- College of Western Idaho- Boise, ID: [Medical Assistant](#). This program is 9 months to 1 year long
- College of Southern Idaho- Twin Falls, ID: [Medical Assistant](#). This program is 10 months long.

## [Certified Nursing Assistant](#)

### **What Nursing Assistants and Orderlies Do**

Nursing assistants, sometimes called nursing aides, help provide basic care for patients in hospitals and residents of long-term care facilities, such as nursing homes. Orderlies transport patients and clean treatment areas.

### **Work Environment**

Nursing assistants and orderlies work in nursing and residential care facilities and in hospitals. They are frequently physically active and may need to help lift or move patients.

### **How to Become a Nursing Assistant or Orderly**

Nursing assistants must complete a state-approved education program and must pass their state's competency exam to become certified. Orderlies generally have at least a high school diploma.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for orderlies in Idaho was \$25,560 in May 2016. The Annual average wage for nursing assistants in Idaho was \$25,630 in May 2016.

The program Available at:

- College of Western Idaho-Nampa, ID: [Certified Nursing Assistant \(CNA\)](#). This program is 12 weeks long.
- College of Southern Idaho-Twin Falls, ID: [Certified Nursing Assistant](#). This program is from 3 to 8 weeks long.

## **Pharmacy Technician**

### **What Pharmacy Technicians Do**

Pharmacy technicians help pharmacists dispense prescription medication to customers or health professionals.

### **Work Environment**

Pharmacy technicians work in pharmacies, including those found in grocery and drug stores, and in hospitals. Most work full time, but many work part time.

### **How to Become a Pharmacy Technician**

Becoming a pharmacy technician usually requires earning a high school diploma or the equivalent. Pharmacy technicians typically learn through on-the-job training, or they may complete a postsecondary education program. Most states regulate pharmacy technicians, which is a process that may require passing an exam or completing a formal education or training program.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for pharmacy technicians in Idaho was \$33,710 in May 2016.

### **Job Outlook**

Employment of pharmacy technicians is projected to grow 9 percent from 2014 to 2024, faster than the average for all occupations. Increased demand for prescription medications will lead to more demand for pharmaceutical services.

The program Available at:

- College of Western Idaho-Boise, ID, Fruitland ID: [Certified Pharmacy Technician](#). This program is 10 months long.
- Idaho State University-Pocatello, ID: [Advanced Technical Certificate](#) .This program is 11 months to 1.5 year long.

## [Phlebotomist](#)

### **What Phlebotomists Do**

Phlebotomists draw blood for tests, transfusions, research, or blood donations. Some explain their work to patients and provide assistance when patients have adverse reactions after their blood is drawn.

### **Work Environment**

Phlebotomists work mainly in hospitals, medical and diagnostic laboratories, blood donor centers, and doctors' offices

### **How to Become a Phlebotomist**

Phlebotomists typically enter the occupation with a postsecondary non-degree award from a phlebotomy program. Almost all employers look for phlebotomists who have earned professional certification.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for phlebotomists in Idaho was \$30,750 in May 2016.

### **Job Outlook**

Employment of phlebotomists is projected to grow 25 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Hospitals, diagnostic laboratories, blood donor centers, and other locations will need phlebotomists to perform blood work.

The Program Available at:

- College of Western Idaho- Boise ID: [Phlebotomy and Specimen Processing Certificate](#). This program is 15 weeks long.
- Idaho State University-Pocatello ID: [Phlebotomy Technician](#) .This program is 120 hrs of classroom and 40 hours of clinical.

**Note:** *For more information about these jobs certification programs and availability look at the guide in this link:*

<http://globaltalentidaho.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Healthcare-Education-Pathways-Guide.pdf>

## Tier 3 Job Titles (Entry-Level positions that generally DO NOT Require Certifications)

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These are entry level positions that generally **require no certification** or in some cases basic certifications like CPR, Assist with Medications, etc. There are always openings; 100+ applicants generally apply for each opening because there are a lot of people with the required skill set. These could be considered health-care related survival jobs that could lead to advancement if you do a good job in the role.

(\*) indicates sample job describe in this guide

- Administrative Assistant
- Administrative Specialist
- Central Processing Associate\*
- Central Processing Tech
- Credentialing Assistant
- Diet Clerk
- Distribution Clerk
- Electroneurodiagnostic Tech
- Employee Health Services Specialist
- Environmental Services Tech
- Film Librarian – maintain accurate records of patient films
- Health Records Specialist
- Healthcare Resource Specialist
- Lab Office Assistant
- Meals on Wheels Coordinator
- Medical Receptionist
- Medical editing\*
- Medical Tech
- Office Assistant
- Operating Room Assistant
- Optician, Dispensing\*
- Patient Access Specialist
- Patient Accounts Representative
- Patient Advocate\*
- Patient Care Representative
- Patient Services Representative
- Patient Specialist
- Production Operator
- Pharmacy Aide
- Psychiatric Technician and Aide\*
- Sterile Processing Tech
- Technical writing/scientific writing\*

## Sample Job Descriptions - Entry-Level positions that generally DO NOT Require Certifications

### Central Processing Associate

#### **What Central Processing Associate Do**

The Central Processing Associate is responsible for providing support and service to Central Processing Technicians and OR staff. Oral communication is essential in sharing information with team members in the area. Also maintains a safe and clean work environment, by assuring area is neat and organized, answers phone regarding instruments needing to be re-run for surgery, organizes carts in decontam area to maintain a good work flow, and place utensil items, containers, lids etc., on cart wash rack.

#### **Work Environment**

Most Central Processing Associate works in physicians' offices, hospitals, outpatient clinics, and other healthcare facilities.

#### **How to Central Processing Associate**

Becoming Central Processing Associate require a High school diploma or equivalent preferred with excellent communication skills that include oral comprehension/expression and written, ability and willingness to exhibit behaviors consistent with standards for performance improvement and organizational values (e.g., efficiency & financial responsibility, safety, partnership & service, teamwork, compassion, integrity, and trust.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for Central Processing Associate in Idaho was \$ \$26,077 in May 2016.

### Patient Advocate

#### **What Patient Advocate Do**

Patient advocates are the Horse Whisperers of modern healthcare. They work with patients to help them navigate the confusing and murky waters of healthcare, from insurance, to costs for procedures and much more. Patient advocates meet one-on-one with patients; helping them understand procedures, connect with doctors and specialists, looking at options for treatment, financial responsibilities and more.



## **How to Become a Patient Advocate**

Since this is a very new job, very few degree or accreditation programs exist. Because of the highly technical and medical based nature of the job, many people come from a nursing or similar healthcare background, using their years of experience in the field to help them understand both the patient's needs and the complexity of healthcare.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for Patient Advocate in Idaho was \$37,065 in 2017.

## **[Medical editing](#)**

### **What Medical editing Do**

Medical textbook publishers and medical journal publishers often employ writers and editors with a health background for copywriting and editing assignments. Review medical information, such as journals, marketing materials and reports, for grammar and content cohesiveness, this job does not require residency training or a medical license.

### **Work Environment**

Editors tend to have busy schedules that are dictated by deadlines, and many work long hours medical editors, are working remotely or from home. Competition in this job field is strong.

### **How to Medical editing**

A bachelor's degree is the minimum requirement to work as a medical editor, though employers may prefer a graduate degree. Areas of study can include English, journalism, medicine or science, and writing experience is typically preferred. Additionally, knowledge of medical terminology is generally needed, and medical experience might be preferred by employers.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for Medical editing in Idaho was \$41,295 in 2017.

## **[Optician, Dispensing](#)**

### **What Dispensing Opticians Do**

Dispensing opticians help fit eyeglasses and contact lenses, following prescriptions from ophthalmologists and optometrists. They also help customers decide which eyeglass frames or contact lenses to buy.

## **Work Environment**

About half of opticians worked in offices of optometrists or offices of physicians in 2014. Other opticians worked in stores that sell eyeglasses, contact lenses, visual aids, and other optical goods. These stores may be stand-alone businesses or parts of larger retail establishments, such as department stores.

## **How to Become a Dispensing Optician**

Opticians typically have a high school diploma or equivalent and some form of on-the-job training. Some opticians enter the occupation with an associate's degree or a certificate from a community college or technical school. About half of the states require opticians to be licensed.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for opticians, dispensing in Idaho was \$33,260 in May 2016.

## **Job Outlook**

Employment of opticians is projected to grow 24 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. An aging population and increasing rates of chronic disease are expected to lead to greater demand for corrective eyewear.

## **[Psychiatric Technician and Aide](#)**

### **What Psychiatric Technician and Aide Do**

Psychiatric technicians and aides care for people who have mental illness and developmental disabilities. Technicians typically provide therapeutic care and monitor their patients' conditions. Aides help patients in their daily activities and ensure a safe, clean environment.

### **Work Environment**

Psychiatric technicians and aides work in psychiatric hospitals, residential mental health facilities, and related healthcare settings. They may spend much of their shift on their feet, and they have high injury and illness rates.

### **How to Become a Psychiatric Technician or Aide**

Psychiatric technicians typically need postsecondary education, and aides need at least a high school diploma. Both technicians and aides get on-the-job training.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for psychiatric technicians in Idaho was \$29,060 in May 2016, The Annual base wage for psychiatric aides in Idaho is \$29,004 in 2017.

### **Job Outlook**

Employment of psychiatric technicians and aides is projected to grow 5 percent from 2014 to 2024, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Demand for this occupation will stem from the growth of the older population. Older people typically experience

### [Technical writing/scientific writing](#)

Writing is an option for physicians who want to work for pharmaceutical companies or medical media companies to write grants, clinical trials reports, basic science studies, applications for approval of new medical products and safety inserts, among other assignments. Writing should be impeccable and sometimes fluency in another language or translating capabilities are a plus.

### [Tier 4 Job Titles \(Entry to mid-level jobs requiring longer-term formal education programs\)](#)

#### [Back to Top](#)

Tier 4 job titles require a minimum of an associate's or often a bachelor's degree in a particular field to be considered for the position.

(\*) indicates sample job description

- Dental Hygienist\*
- Emergency medical technician (EMT)\*
- Epidemiologist\*
- Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologist and Technician\*
- Medical Records and Health Information Technician\*
- Occupational Health and Safety Technician\*
- Physician Assistant\*
- Physical Therapist Assistant and Aide\*
- Physiology, Personal Training\*
- Radiation Therapist\*
- Radiologic and MRI Technologist\*
- Registered Nurse\*
- Surgical Technologist\*
- Therapist\*

## Sample Job Descriptions- Entry to mid-level jobs requiring longer-term formal education programs

### Dental Hygienist

#### **What Dental Hygienists Do**

Dental hygienists clean teeth, examine patients for signs of oral diseases such as gingivitis, and provide other preventive dental care. They also educate patients on ways to improve and maintain good oral health.

#### **Work Environment**

In 2014, almost all dental hygienists worked in dentists' offices, and more than half worked part time.

#### **How to Become a Dental Hygienist**

Dental hygienists need an associate's degree in dental hygiene. Programs typically take 3 years to complete. All states require dental hygienists to be licensed; requirements vary by state.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for dental hygienists in Idaho was \$73,630 in May 2016.

#### **Job Outlook**

Employment of dental hygienists is projected to grow 19 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Ongoing research linking oral health to general health will continue to spur demand for preventive dental services, which are provided by dental hygienists.

The program Available at:

- College of Southern Idaho-Twin Falls, ID: [Associate of Applied Science - Dental Hygiene](#), this program is 2 years long.
- Idaho State University-Pocatello, ID: [Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene](#), this program is 4 years long.

### Emergency medical technician (EMT)

#### **What EMTs and Paramedics Do**

Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics care for the sick or injured in emergency medical settings. People's lives often depend on the quick reaction and competent care provided by these workers. EMTs and paramedics respond to emergency calls, performing medical services and transporting patients to medical facilities.

## Work Environment

Most EMTs and paramedics work full time. Their work is physically strenuous and can be stressful, sometimes involving life-or-death situations.

## How to Become an EMT or Paramedic

All emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics must complete a postsecondary educational program. All states require EMTs and paramedics to be licensed; requirements vary by state.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for EMTs and paramedics in Idaho was \$37,360 in May 2016.

## Job Outlook

Employment of emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics is projected to grow 24 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Emergencies, such as car crashes, natural disasters, and acts of violence, will continue to create demand for EMTs and paramedics.

- Idaho State University-Pocatello, ID: [Associate of Science in Paramedic Science](#) , this program will last 4 semesters, about 64 credits.
- College of Southern Idaho-Twin Falls, ID [Associate of Applied Science – Paramedic](#), this program is 3 semesters long.

## Epidemiologist

### What Epidemiologists Do

Epidemiologists are public health professionals who investigate patterns and causes of disease and injury in humans. They seek to reduce the risk and occurrence of negative health outcomes through research, community education, and health policy.

### Work Environment

Epidemiologists work in offices and laboratories, usually at health departments for state and local governments, in hospitals, and at colleges and universities. Some do fieldwork to conduct interviews and collect samples for analyses. Fieldwork may bring epidemiologists into contact with infectious disease, but the risk is minimal because they receive appropriate training and take extensive precautions before interacting with samples or patients.

### How to Become an Epidemiologist

Epidemiologists need at least a master's degree from an accredited college or university. Most epidemiologists have a master's degree in public health (MPH) or a related field, and some have completed a doctoral degree in epidemiology or medicine.

**Pay:** The median annual wage for epidemiologists in Idaho was \$60,515 in May 2016.

### **Job Outlook**

Employment of epidemiologists is projected to grow 6 percent from 2014 to 2024, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Epidemiologists are likely to have good job prospects overall.

The program Available at:

- Idaho State University-Pocatello and Meridian, ID: [Master of Public Health](#), this program is 2 years program
- Idaho State University-Pocatello and Meridian, ID [Master of Health Education](#) , this program is one year long, 30 credits
- Boise State University-Boise, ID: [Master of Health Science \(MHS\)](#), this program is 2 years long

*For more information about the admission of the above degrees please go the links attach to them.*

## [Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologist and Technician](#)

### **What Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians Do**

Medical laboratory technologists (commonly known as medical laboratory scientists) and medical laboratory technicians collect samples and perform tests to analyze body fluids, tissue, and other substances.

### **Work Environment**

About half of all medical laboratory technologists and technicians were employed in hospitals in 2014. Others worked in doctors' offices or diagnostic laboratories.

### **How to Become a Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologist or Technician**

Medical laboratory technologists typically need a bachelor's degree. Technicians usually need an associate's degree or a postsecondary certificate. Some states require technologists and technicians to be licensed.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for medical and clinical laboratory technologists in Idaho was \$62,200 in May 2016, The Annual average wage for medical and clinical laboratory technicians in Idaho was \$34,160 in May 2016.

### **Job Outlook**

Employment of medical laboratory technologists and technicians is projected to grow 16 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. An increase in the aging population is expected to lead to a greater need to diagnose medical conditions, such as cancer and diabetes type 2, as it requires laboratory procedures.

The program Available at:

- College of Southern Idaho Twin Falls, Idaho: [Radiologic Technology Associates](#). This program is a 22 months long 4 regular semesters, 1 short semester.
- Boise State University: Bachelor of Science. [Diagnostic Radiography Emphasis](#). The program is approximately 4 years long.

## Medical Record and Health Information Technician

### **What Medical Records and Health Information Technicians Do**

Medical records and health information technicians, commonly referred to as health information technicians, organize and manage health information data. They ensure that the information maintains its quality, accuracy, accessibility, and security in both paper files and electronic systems. They use various classification systems to code and categorize patient information for insurance reimbursement purposes, for databases and registries, and to maintain patients' medical and treatment histories.

### **Work Environment**

Health information technicians held about 188,600 jobs in 2014. Most health information technicians work in hospitals or physicians' offices.

### **How to Become a Medical Records or Health Information Technician**

Health information technicians typically need a postsecondary certificate to enter the occupation, although some may need an associate's degree. Certification is often required.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for medical records and health information technicians in Idaho was \$36,220 in May 2016.

### **Job Outlook**

Employment of health information technicians is projected to grow 15 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. The demand for health services is expected to increase as the population ages.

The program Available at:

- Idaho State University-Pocatello, ID: [Health Information Technology Associate Degree](#). This program is 2 years long.
- Boise State University-Boise, ID: [Health Informatics and Information management \(HIIM\) emphasis Bachelor Degree](#). This program is 4 years long.

## Occupational Health and Safety Technician

### **What Occupational Health and Safety Technicians Do**

Occupational health and safety technicians collect data on the health and safety conditions of the workplace. Technicians work with occupational health and safety specialists in conducting tests and measuring hazards to help prevent harm to workers, property, the environment, and the general public.

### **Work Environment**

Occupational health and safety technicians work in a variety of settings, such as offices, factories, and mines. Their jobs often involve considerable fieldwork and travel. Most work full time.

### **How to Become an Occupational Health and Safety Technician**

Occupational health and safety technicians typically enter the occupation through one of two paths. Some technicians learn through on-the-job training; others enter with postsecondary education such as an associate's degree or certificate.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for occupational health and safety technicians in Idaho was \$43,160 in May 2016.

### **Job Outlook**

Employment of occupational health and safety technicians is projected to grow 9 percent from 2014 to 2024, faster than the average for all occupations. Technicians will be needed to conduct tests, measure hazards, and ensure that employers are adhering to existing and new safety and health regulations.

The program Available at:

- Boise State University- Boise, ID: [Pre-Occupational Therapy Program](#). This program may vary in length between: 2- 3 years.
- Idaho State University -Pocatello, ID: [Master of Occupational Therapy](#). This is 8 semester program.

## Physician Assistant

### **What Physician Assistants Do**

Physician assistants, also known as PAs, practice medicine on teams with physicians, surgeons, and other healthcare workers. They examine, diagnose, and treat patients.



## Work Environment

Physician assistants work in physicians' offices, hospitals, and other healthcare settings. Most work full time.

## How to Become a Physician Assistant

Physician assistants typically need a master's degree from an accredited educational program. All states require physician assistants to be licensed.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for physician assistants in Idaho was \$98,140 in May 2016.

## Job Outlook

Employment of physician assistants is projected to grow 30 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. As demand for healthcare services grows, physician assistants will be needed to provide care to patients.

The program Available at:

- Idaho State University-Pocatello, ID: [Masters of Physician Assistant Studies](#). This program is 2 years (24 month) long
- University of Idaho-Moscow-ID: [Pre-Physician's Assistant Studies](#) . This program is and4 years long.
- Boise State University Boise, Boise: [Pre-Physician Assistant Program](#) .This program is 4 years long.

## Physical Therapist Assistant and Aide

### What Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides Do

Physical therapist assistants sometimes called *PTAs*, and physical therapist aides work under the direction and supervision of physical therapists. They help patients who are recovering from injuries and illnesses regain movement and manage pain.

## Work Environment

Most physical therapist assistants and aides work in physical therapists' offices or in hospitals. Physical therapist assistants and aides are frequently on their feet and moving as they set up equipment and help care for patients.

## How to Become a Physical Therapist Assistant or Aide

Physical therapist assistants entering the profession need an associate's degree from an accredited program. All states require physical therapist assistants to be licensed or certified. Physical therapist aides usually have a high school diploma and receive on-the-job training.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for physical therapist assistants in Idaho was \$44,650 in May 2016, The Annual average wage for physical therapist aides in Idaho was \$26,110 in May 2016.

### **Job Outlook**

Employment of physical therapist assistants and aides is projected to grow 40 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Demand for physical therapy services is expected to increase in response to the healthcare needs of an older population and individuals with chronic conditions, such as diabetes and obesity.

The program Available in 3 places:

- Idaho State University-Pocatello, ID: [Physical Therapist Assistant](#). This program is 2 years long consisting of 5 semesters.
- College of Western Idaho- Nampa, ID: [Physical Therapist Assistant](#). This program is 2 years long.
- Brigham Young University- Rexburg, ID: [Physical Therapist Assistant](#). This program is 2 years long program

### **Personal Training**

#### **What Personal Training Do**

Personal trainers talk with their clients and to find out their exercise goals, their ability and work with them to create personalized plans for attaining those goals, which may include diet and nutrition information. As the client visits again and again, personal trainers help them track their progress. Many personal trainers work in gyms, but some will work in a client's home.

#### **Work Environment**

Fitness trainers and instructors held about 279,100 jobs in 2014. They work in facilities such as health clubs, fitness or recreation centers, gyms, and yoga and Pilates studios.

#### **How to Become a Personal Training**

Many employers are starting to look at applicants with at least an associate's degree in kinesiology, physical education, or similar. Certification depends on what type of fitness instructor you want to be. But typically, you will need certification in whatever type of fitness you are interested in, and most gyms will want you to be certified in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for Personal Training in Idaho was \$30,660 in May 2016.

The program Available at: College of Western Idaho-Nampa, ID: [Exercise Science Associate of Arts](#), this program is 2 years long.

## [Radiation Therapist](#)

### **What Radiation Therapists Do**

Radiation therapists treat cancer and other diseases in patients by administering radiation treatments.

### **Work Environment**

Radiation therapists work in hospitals, offices of physicians, and outpatient centers. Most radiation therapists work full time.

### **How to Become a Radiation Therapist**

Most radiation therapists complete programs that lead to an associate's degree or a bachelor's degree in radiation therapy. Radiation therapists must be licensed or certified in most states. Requirements vary by state, but often include passing a national certification exam.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for radiation therapists in Idaho was \$88,360 in May 2016.

### **Job Outlook**

Employment of radiation therapists is projected to grow 14 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. The risk of cancer increases as people age, so an aging population may increase demand for radiation therapists.

In Idaho there are 3 places that offer the program:

- College Of Southern Idaho-Twin Falls, ID: [Radiologic Technology Associate of Science](#). This program is 22 months long
- Boise State University-Boise, ID: [Diagnostic Radiography Bachelor of Science](#). This program is 38 months long
- Idaho State University-Pocatello, ID: [Radiologic Technology Bachelor of Radiologic Science](#). This program is 18 months long.

## [Radiologic and MRI Technologist](#)

### **What Radiologic and MRI Technologists Do**

Radiologic technologists, also known as radiographers, perform diagnostic imaging examinations, such as x-rays, on patients. MRI technologists operate magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanners to create diagnostic images.

### **Work Environment**

Radiologic and MRI technologists work in healthcare facilities, and more than half work in hospitals.

## How to Become a Radiologic or MRI Technologist

Radiologic technologists and MRI technologists typically need an associate's degree. Many MRI technologists start out as radiologic technologists and specialize later in their career. Radiologic technologists must be licensed or certified in most states. Few states license MRI technologists. Employers typically require or prefer prospective technologists to be certified even if the state does not require it.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for radiologic technologists in Idaho was \$53,080 in May 2016, the Annual average wage for magnetic resonance imaging technologists in Idaho was \$65,240 in May 2016.

## Job Outlook

Employment of radiologic and MRI technologists is projected to grow 9 percent from 2014 to 2024, faster than the average for all occupations. As the population grows older, there will be an increase in medical conditions that require imaging as a tool for making diagnoses.

The program Available at:

- College of Southern Idaho-Twin Falls, ID: [Radiologic Technology Associates](#), this program is 22 months long.
- Boise State University -Boise, ID: [Diagnostic Radiography Emphasis](#), this program is 48 months long.

## Registered Nurse

### What Registered Nurses Do

Registered nurses (RNs) provide and coordinate patient care, educate patients and the public about various health conditions, and provide advice and emotional support to patients and their family members.

### Work Environment

Registered nurses work in hospitals, physicians' offices, home healthcare services, and nursing care facilities. Others work in correctional facilities or schools, or serve in the military.

### How to Become a Registered Nurse

Registered nurses usually take one of three education paths: a bachelor's degree in nursing, an associate's degree in nursing, or a diploma from an approved nursing program. Registered nurses also must be licensed.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for registered nurses in Idaho was \$62,470 in May 2016.

## Job Outlook

Employment of registered nurses is projected to grow 16 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Growth will occur for a number of reasons, including an increased emphasis on preventive care; growing rates of chronic conditions, such as diabetes and obesity; and demand for healthcare services from the baby-boom population, as they live longer and more active lives.

The program Available at:

- College of Western Idaho-Nampa, ID: [Associates of Science Degree in Nursing](#), this program is 24 months long
- College of Southern Idaho-Twin Falls, ID: [Associate Degree Nursing](#), this program is 4 semesters, 2 years long.
- Boise State University-Boise, ID: [RN to BS Online Completion Track](#), this program is 3 semester long online program
- Idaho State University – Meridian, ID: [Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing](#), this program is 3 semesters long.

## [Surgical Technologist](#)

### What Surgical Technologists Do

Surgical technologists, also called operating room technicians, assist in surgical operations. They prepare operating rooms, arrange equipment, and help doctors during surgeries.

### Work Environment

Most surgical technologists work in hospitals. They spend much of their time on their feet.

### How to Become a Surgical Technologist

Surgical technologists typically need a postsecondary certificate or an associate's degree. Certification can be beneficial in finding a job. A small number of states regulate surgical technologists.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for surgical technologists in Idaho was \$47,790 in May 2016.

## Job Outlook

Employment of surgical technologists is projected to grow 15 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Advances in medical technology have made surgery safer, and more operations are being done to treat a variety of illnesses and injuries.

The program Available at:

- College of Western Idaho-Boise, ID: [Surgical Technology Associate](#) , this program is 2 years long (24 months). [Technical Certificate in Surgical](#), this program is 1 year long (12 months).
- College of Southern Idaho- Twin Falls, ID: [Surgical Technology](#) , this program is 2 years long.

## [Therapist](#)

### **What Respiratory Therapists Do**

Respiratory therapists care for patients who have trouble breathing—for example, from a chronic respiratory disease, such as asthma or emphysema. Their patients range from premature infants with undeveloped lungs to elderly patients who have diseased lungs. They also provide emergency care to patients suffering from heart attacks, drowning, or shock.

### **Work Environment**

Respiratory therapists held about 120,700 jobs in 2014. Most respiratory therapists work in hospitals.

### **How to Become a Respiratory Therapist**

Respiratory therapists typically need an associate's degree, but some have bachelor's degrees. Respiratory therapists are licensed in all states except Alaska; requirements vary by state.

**Pay:** The Annual average wage for respiratory therapists in Idaho was \$55,100 in May 2016.

### **Job Outlook**

Employment of respiratory therapists is projected to grow 12 percent from 2014 to 2024, faster than the average for all occupations. Growth in the middle-aged and elderly population will lead to an increased incidence of respiratory conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and pneumonia. These respiratory disorders can permanently damage the lungs or restrict lung function.

The program Available at:

- Idaho State University-Pocatello, ID: [Associate of Science in Respiratory](#), this program is 3 years long.
- Stevens-Henager-Boise, ID: [Associate's Degree in Respiratory Therapy](#), this program is 20 months long
- Boise State University-Boise, ID: [Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care](#), this program is a 4 year long.

## [Clinical research associations:](#)

There are a couple of organizations that you may want to look at if you have an interest in research, as described below.

- [Society of Clinical Research Associates \(SOCRA\)](#)

As per their website “The Society of Clinical Research Associates (SOCRA) is a non-profit, charitable and educational membership organization committed to providing education, certification, and networking opportunities to all persons involved in clinical research activities. SOCRA, the premier educational organization for oncology site coordinators, has now emerged as a leading educational organization for clinical researchers in all therapeutic areas, supporting industry, government and academia.” You can take courses and certifications. There is also a database of clinical research job opportunities as well as training opportunities.

- [Association of Clinical Research Professionals \(ACRP\)](#)

Their website states “The Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP) is the primary resource for clinical research professionals in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device industries, and those in hospital, academic medical centers and physician office settings.” You can also take courses and certifications through this organization.

**Note:**

For more information related degree programs and availability look at the guide in this link:

<http://globaltalentidaho.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Healthcare-Education-Pathways-Guide.pdf>

For more details about health care jobs and statistics look in this link:

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/home.htm>