

HEALTH PROFESSIONS COMPARISON CHART

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Profession	Brief Description	Average GPA for Acceptance	Job Outlook/Earnings (as of 4/2015)	Websites for more information
Chiropractor	Chiropractors try to alleviate any stresses that may be affecting the nervous system by using manipulations concentrated on the spinal column and vertebrae.	No data published Minimum gpa of 2.5 required	17% faster than average growth Median income \$64,440	www.chirocolleges.org www.amerchiro.org
Dentist	Dentists diagnose, prevent and treat problems of the teeth, gums and tissues of the mouth. They examine patients to determine conditions and diseases using X-rays and a variety of dental instruments.	3.5	18% faster than average growth Median income \$158,310	www.ada.org www.adea.org
Health Educator	Health educators present information about how to improve health, prevent disease, and modify behaviors to individual patients as well as community groups. Health educators create and write educational materials, conduct meetings, and plan informative programs.	No data published	13% faster than average growth Median income \$43,840	www.sophe.org www.aahperd.org/aahe
Occupational Therapist	Occupational therapists use therapeutic activities and programs to help individuals with disabling conditions to regain their abilities in the home and work environment. Occupational therapists help individuals learn the necessary skills to live an independent and productive lifestyle.	3.2	27% much faster than average growth Median income \$80,150	www.aota.org
Optometrist	Optometrists examine and test eyes to detect vision problems, abnormalities and diseases. They prescribe corrective lenses and/or procedures to fix or improve vision problems.	3.38	27% much faster than average growth Median income \$103,900	www.aonet.org www.opted.org
Pharmacist	Pharmacists mix and dispense drugs that are prescribed by physicians or other health practitioners. They offer instruction to patients and physicians on usage and side effects of medications.	3.47	3% slower than average growth Median income \$121,500	www.aacp.org www.aphanet.org
Physical Therapist	Physical therapists provide therapy treatment to patients with physical disabilities. They teach patients proper exercises and use a variety of equipment and activities to help patients strengthen muscles and improve mobility, restore function and to relieve pain.	3.3	34 % much faster than average growth Median income \$84,020	www.apta.org
Physician and Surgeon	Physicians provide the services of prevention, diagnosis and treatment to individuals suffering from mental illness or physical ailments, injuries, or diseases.	MD: 3.7 DO: 3.4	14% faster than average growth Median income \$187,200	www.aamc.org www.aacom.org
Physician Assistant	Physician assistants work under the supervision of a physician and perform routine examinations, diagnostic tests, rehabilitative and preventive health care, minor surgical procedures, assist with surgery and issue prescription orders and medications.	3.4	30% much faster than average growth Median income \$98,180	www.apap.org www.aapa.org
Podiatrist	Podiatrists, or doctors of podiatric medicine (DPM), diagnose and treat ailments, injuries, and diseases of the foot and lower leg.	3.2	14% much faster than average Median income \$119,340	www.aacpm.org www.apma.org
Public Health	Public health is a system of public, private and voluntary agencies that are focused on the health of the population as a whole. The system seeks to prevent epidemics and the spread of disease, protect against environmental hazards, prevent injuries, promote and encourage healthy behaviors, respond to disasters and assist communities in recovery, and assure the quality and accessibility of health services.	No data published	Rapid growth expected Median income unavailable – too much variation in job sectors	www.asph.org
Veterinarian	Veterinarians provide medical diagnoses and treatments for pets, livestock and other animals. They are trained to examine animals for disease and injury, perform surgery, prescribe medicines and vaccinations, and treat wounds and broken bones.	3.55	9% faster as average Median income \$88,490	www.avma.org www.aavmc.org

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Dietician	Clinical dietitians 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.	16% much faster than average growth Median Income: \$57,910
Genetic Counselor	Genetic counselors work as members of a health care team, providing information and support to families who have members with birth defects or genetic disorders and to families who may be at risk for a variety of inherited conditions. They identify families at risk, investigate the problem present in the family, interpret information about the disorder, analyze inheritance patterns and risks of recurrence and review available options with the family.	29% much faster than average growth Median Income: \$72,090
Medical and Health Services Managers	Health care facility administrators manage the operations of a health care facility such as a hospital or nursing home, develop policies, and coordinate procedures and planning.	17% much faster than average growth Median Income: \$94,500
Public Relations and Marketing Specialist	Health care public relations and marketing specialists handle internal and external communications and promotions for a health care organization.	6% as fast as average growth Median Income: \$56,770
Mental Health Counselor	Counselors in mental health or behavioral medicine advise individuals about how to deal with and overcome emotional, mental and social problems.	19% much faster than average growth Median Income: \$43,190
Perfusionist	Perfusionists set up and operate equipment that controls and regulates the functions of the heart and lungs during surgery or respiratory failure.	Very good outlook* Salary range: \$65,000-135,000*
Radiation Therapist	Radiation Therapy involves the use of radiation to treat disease, primarily cancer. Along with surgery and chemotherapy it plays an important role in helping patients combat and deal with their disease.	14% much faster than average growth Median Income: \$80,220
Registered Nurse	The RN is educated to provide care to all individuals who are sick or healthy though one-on-one hands-on care or to groups of patients. RNs coordinate care and thorough patient education.	16% much faster than average growth Median Income: \$67,490
Nurse Practitioner	Nurse practitioners (NPs) are registered nurses who have greater autonomy, in many states able to practice independently and prescribe medications. Similar in nature to physician assistants, nurse practitioners take a patient load themselves, enabling primary care physicians to provide care to more complex cases.	31 % much faster than average growth Median Income: \$104,740
Medical Social Worker	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.	12% faster than average growth Median Income: \$45,900
Psychologist	Psychologists, or clinical psychologists, evaluate, diagnose and treat individuals with mental and/or emotional disorders and assist medical or surgical patients in coping with illness or injury. Psychologists may also specialize in different areas.	19% much faster as average growth Median Income: \$72,580
Medical Technologist	Medical technologists/clinical laboratory scientists are baccalaureate level laboratorians. They are educated as generalists in the areas of chemistry, hematology, microbiology, immunology, urinalysis and other body fluids. They often use sophisticated laboratory equipment to perform tests and statistical skills to evaluate new procedures.	16% much faster than average growth Median Income: \$50,550
Speech Therapist	Speech therapists assess, diagnose, treat, and help to prevent speech, language, cognitive, communication, voice, swallowing, fluency, and other related disorders.	21% much faster than average growth Median Income: \$73,410

Source for job outlook data (2014-24) and earnings data (2015) with exception of perfusionist: Occupational Outlook Handbook, US Dept of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://www.bls.gov/oooh>, (accessed on 3/22/2017). *Perfusionist salary and job outlook data from www.explorehealthcareers.org (accessed on 3/28/2017).

Helpful career exploration web sites:

www.explorehealthcareers.org

www.wihealthcareers.org