## Health Professions Comparison Chart

**Marquette University Center for Pre-Health Advising**  
**College of Health Sciences Pre-Health Office**  
**Schroeder Complex, 236**  
**414-288-5053**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Brief Description</th>
<th>Average GPA for Acceptance</th>
<th>Job Outlook/Earnings (as of 4/2015)</th>
<th>Websites for more information</th>
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</table>
| 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](http://www.chirocolleges.org)  
[www.amerchiro.org](http://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](http://www.ada.org)  
[www.adea.org](http://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](http://www.sophe.org)  
[www.aahperd.org/aahspe](http://www.aahperd.org/aahspe) |
| 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](http://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.aao.org](http://www.aao.org)  
[www.opted.org](http://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](http://www.aacp.org)  
[www.aphanet.org](http://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](http://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                    | 14% faster than average growth Median income $187,200                                                | [www.aamc.org](http://www.aamc.org)  
[www.aacom.org](http://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.arpn.org](http://www.arpn.org)  
[www.aapa.org](http://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](http://www.aacpm.org)  
[www.apma.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.avma.org)  
[www.aavmc.org](http://www.aavmc.org) |
### More Health Careers with Excellent Job Outlooks:

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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: $73,410                                                                 |
| 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                                                                 |


Helpful career exploration web sites:  
www.explorehealthcareers.org  
www.wihealthcareers.org