



HEALTH  
**CARE**  
CAREERS IN  
**NEVADA**

2016-2017

HEALTH  
**CARE**  
CAREERS  
IN  
**NEVADA**

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2016-2017 EDITION

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# FORWARD

The Office of Statewide Initiatives and Nevada Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program based at the University of Nevada School of Medicine are pleased to present the third edition of *Health Care Careers in Nevada*. Over the past five years, nearly ten thousand copies of the guide have been distributed to students, parents, and educators in every school district in Nevada.

The 2016-2017 edition of *Health Care Careers in Nevada* contains current information on over 70 health care occupations in Nevada, including an overview of job requirements, Nevada employment outlook, and average salary data in Nevada for each occupation. The guide also provides a detailed inventory of educational certificates and degree programs in Nevada for each health occupation, as well as information on state boards responsible for licensing health professionals in Nevada.

*Health Care Careers in Nevada* is primarily targeted to middle school and high school students in Nevada interested in exploring careers in medicine, nursing, oral health, pharmacy, and other health care fields. The guide will also be of interest to parents of school-aged children and others interested in learning more about health care educational opportunities available to Nevada residents.

Over the past decade, the health services sector – hospitals, clinics, medical and dental practices, nursing homes, pharmacies, and other health providers – has been an economic mainstay as Nevada and the nation have recovered from the deepest recession since the Great Depression. In 2015 alone, the health care industry created nearly 450,000 jobs in the U.S., which is more than the 410,000 jobs the industry added in 2013 and 2014 combined.

Currently, 129,000 Nevadans – one in ten workers – are employed in the health services sector. Moreover, twenty of the fastest growing health care occupations in Nevada possess an average annual salary that exceeds the average of \$42,310 for all occupations in the state.

In conclusion, health care jobs in Nevada continue to represent well-paying, recession-resistant employment for thousands of young Nevadans poised to enter the state's workforce over the next decade. Many of these opportunities will only increase as a result of the growing demand for health care associated with population growth, an improving economy, and retirees relocating to the Silver State. Our hope is that the latest edition of *Health Care Careers in Nevada* can assist anyone interested in exploring such opportunities.



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- Darrah Huggins at the Nevada Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation who assisted us with updating health workforce data and educational program information contained in this manual. Much of this information can be found in the Nevada Career Information System (NCIS) [www.nvcis.intocareers.org](http://www.nvcis.intocareers.org). NCIS is an internet-based career guidance system containing current information on employment, education and training, and career exploration tools for thousands of occupations in Nevada.
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- Anthony Gregg who was responsible for the design layout and online interactive version of *Health Care Careers in Nevada*.
- Feedback we received from some of the thousands of students, parents, and educators who utilized the previous editions of this health care careers guide.

In closing, since health care employment and the labor market in Nevada are expected to grow and diversify, our ambition is to continue to update the guide on a regular basis. If you or your organization utilizes this guide, we would appreciate learning more about how we can improve this resource for students and future health professionals. Please send your comments, suggestions, and requests for additional copies to Dr. John Packham at [jpackham@medicine.nevada.edu](mailto:jpackham@medicine.nevada.edu).

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# NEVADA AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS (AHEC) PROGRAM



The Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) program was developed by Congress in 1971. Today, there are 56 AHEC programs nationwide with more than 235 centers whose goal and purpose is to improve the health of underserved and under-represented populations. The mission of AHECs is to enhance access to quality health care, particularly primary and preventative care, by improving the supply and distribution of health care professionals through community/academic educational partnerships.

The Nevada AHEC Program was established by the Nevada Legislature in 1987. It follows the model of the national network of AHEC programs to enhance access to quality health care, particularly primary and preventive care, by increasing the number of health care professionals and through extensive continuing education and training facilitated by community and academic partnerships.

There are three AHEC centers which are located in Reno, Elko, and Las Vegas organized to serve, respectively, the northwestern, northeastern, and southern regions of Nevada. The three regional AHECs collaborate to carry out the AHEC mission.  
[www.nevadaahec.org](http://www.nevadaahec.org).



High Sierra AHEC serves Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, Storey, and Washoe Counties in northwestern Nevada.  
[www.highsierraahec.org](http://www.highsierraahec.org).



The Frontier AHEC is a service of the University of Nevada Reno School of Medicine and serves Elko, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Pershing, and White Pine Counties in northeastern Nevada.



Desert Meadows AHEC is a service of Vegas PBS and serves Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Mineral, and Nye Counties in southern Nevada. [www.vegaspbs.org/desert-meadows-ahec](http://www.vegaspbs.org/desert-meadows-ahec).

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[www.medicine.nevada.edu/statewide/ahec](http://www.medicine.nevada.edu/statewide/ahec)



# MEDICINE AND ALLIED MEDICINE

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**Average Salary: \$40,390** | A mean wage of about \$19 per hour

**Employment** | 1,157 emergency medical technicians are employed in Nevada, including 721 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 65 job listings for emergency medical technicians in 2015



## Overview

There are three emergency medical technician (EMT) levels: EMT, Advanced EMT (AEMT), and paramedic. With more education and training, EMTs can advance their emergency medical skills. Most EMTs and AEMTs are volunteers. Most paramedics are paid a wage or salary. There are a total 2,135 certified EMTs/Paramedics at all levels in Nevada, including 1,157 EMTs/Paramedics who are paid employees.

EMTs answer calls from dispatchers so they can drive to the scene of an emergency and examine the injured. EMTs give care to ill or injured people. They determine the nature and extent of the injury or illness and record the patient's vital signs. They may also talk to other emergency personnel, such as police and fire departments, if they are needed at the scene. EMTs try to determine if patients have preexisting conditions, such as diabetes. Next, they give emergency care. They note a patient's reactions to drugs and care. EMTs may use equipment such as electrocardiographs (EKGs) to monitor patients. Occasionally patients are trapped in cars or buildings. EMTs free them and provide immediate care. In some cases, EMTs must use emergency equipment such as defibrillators and resuscitators. They may also give emergency drugs and perform intravenous procedures. They put patients on stretchers to move them to the ambulance. They make sure patients can't move so they don't increase their injury. While one EMT drives, the other monitors patients and gives additional medical care. They may call ahead to alert staff at the medical center. If patients need more care, EMTs drive them to medical facilities.

At the medical center, EMTs transfer patients to the emergency room. They report the status of patients to emergency room staff. They record what treatment was given on the patient's charts. EMTs may stay and provide additional help or information. After patients are delivered, EMTs replace supplies and check equipment. They also clean and decontaminate the ambulances.

## At-a-Glance

- EMTs drive to scenes of emergencies to provide care
- May work nights, days, weekends, and on-call
- Many work over 40 hours per week
- Train through approved EMT programs
- There are three levels of training for EMTs
- Paramedics have specialized training and pass advanced-level exams
- Paramedics have a certificate in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), and International Trauma Life Support (ITLS).
- Need certification from the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Emergency Medical Services
- If employed in Clark County, need certification from the Southern Nevada Health District

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- Banner Churchill Community Hospital EMS (Fallon) – Certificate
- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas) – Pre-certification, Certificate, Associate
- Great Basin College (Elko) – Certificate
- Humboldt General Hospital EMS (Winnemucca) – Certificate
- REMSA Training Center (Reno) – Pre-Certification, Certificate
- Southern Nevada Health District (Las Vegas) – Certificate
- Truckee Meadows Community College (Reno) – Certificate
- University of Nevada School of Medicine (Reno) – Certificate
- Wendover Ambulance (Wendover) – Certificate
- Western Nevada College (Carson City) – Certificate



# MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Average Salary: \$30,890

A mean wage of about \$15 per hour

Employment | 5,278 medical assistants are employed in Nevada, including 3,919 in Las Vegas

Nevada Job Outlook | 751 job listings for medical assistants in 2015

## Overview

Medical assistants help care for patients by performing administrative and clinical duties. They carry out routine treatments, conduct lab tests, and maintain office records. Clinical duties vary by state because of differences in state laws. Some states allow medical assistants who have specialized training to draw blood or take x-rays. In most states, assistants take medical histories and record a patient's weight, pulse rate, blood pressure, and other vital signs. They explain treatments to patients and prepare them for the examinations.

Medical assistants help the doctor during the examinations by handing the doctor materials and preparing medications. Assistants also collect and prepare laboratory specimens and may perform basic lab tests. They also instruct patients about medication and special diets. Additional duties include taking EKGs, changing bandages, removing stitches, or administering medications. After exams, assistants clean the room, dispose of used materials, arrange equipment, and sterilize used instruments.

Medical assistants also have clerical duties. They answer telephones, greet patients, escort them to exam rooms, and update medical records. Assistants fill out insurance forms, schedule appointments, and arrange for hospital admission and lab services. Some assistants handle billing and bookkeeping. Assistants are supervised by doctors, other health workers, or office managers.

## At-a-Glance

- Medical assistants perform basic medical duties as directed by physician
- Must have knowledge of the information and techniques needed to diagnose and treat human injuries, diseases, and deformities
- Work in doctor's offices and hospitals
- May work evenings or weekends
- Education and training typically lasts one to two years

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- Career College of Northern Nevada (Sparks)
  - Certificate, Associate, Diploma
- Carrington College (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate, Associate
- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
  - Associate/Transfer
- Everest College (Henderson)
  - Diploma
- Healthcare Preparatory Institute, LLC (Las Vegas)
  - Diploma
- Kaplan College (Las Vegas)
  - Diploma
- Medical Skills for Life Institute (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Milan Institute (Las Vegas, Sparks)
  - Certificate
- Nevada Career Institute (Las Vegas)
  - Diploma
- Northwest Careers College (Las Vegas)
  - Pre-certification, Certificate
- PIMA Medical Institute (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
  - Certificate
- Truckee Meadows Community College (Reno)
  - Certificate

## Related Job Titles

- Certified Medical Assistant
- Chiropractic Assistant
- Clinical Assistant
- Doctor's Assistant
- Medical Office Assistant
- Patient Service Representative

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Salary Range: \$142,710 (Pediatricians) to \$259,850 (Surgeons)

**Employment** | 5,469 physicians are employed in Nevada, including 3,811 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 2,371 job listings for physicians in 2015



## Overview

Physicians serve a fundamental role in our society and have an effect upon all our lives. They are responsible for the diagnosis of disease or injury and the prescription of treatment, therapy, medication, and vaccination. Physicians may request other specialized medical care to treat or prevent illness, disease, or injury. The physician may carry out the treatment or may delegate such tasks to other health care professionals who work under his or her supervision.

Physicians examine patients, obtain medical histories, and order, perform, and interpret diagnostic tests. They analyze records, reports and other information to diagnose a patient's condition. They collect, record, and maintain patient information, such as medical history, reports and examination results. They monitor patients progress and reevaluate treatments as necessary. They explain procedures and discuss test results, or prescribe treatments with patients. Physicians advise patients and community members concerning diet, activity, hygiene, and disease prevention.

A physician may refer patients to medical specialists or other practitioners when necessary and coordinates work with nurses, social workers, rehabilitation therapists, pharmacists, psychologists, and other health care providers. Physicians direct and coordinate activities of nurses, medical students, specialists, therapists, and other medical staff. Physicians plan, implement, and administer health programs and standards in hospitals and health care settings for the prevention and treatment of injury or illness.

A physician's tasks vary among clinical settings. Physicians may work in hospitals as part of a team coordinating care for a population of patients, private offices or clinics, research, academia, or with health maintenance organizations, pharmaceutical companies, medical device manufacturers, health insurance companies, or in corporations directing health and safety programs. In a private office, the physician may have only a secretary and a nurse to share the workload.

In a hospital, physicians share the responsibility for treating the patient with nurses, medical assistants, therapists, technicians, technologists, and other health professionals. In research, education, and administration, a physician's responsibilities are shared with many other professionals.

Advances in medicine require physicians to update their skills regularly by taking continuing medical education courses. Areas of specialization in medicine include primary care, medical specialties, and surgical specialties.



## At-a-Glance

- Physicians help patients improve or maintain their health
- Work in offices, clinics, hospitals, or medical schools
- Constantly interact with patients and other medical workers
- Education and training typically last about 8 to 10 years after high school
- Osteopathic physicians help patients improve or maintain their health through emphasis on the body's musculoskeletal system, preventive medicine, and holistic patient care
- Need a license from the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners or the Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- Roseman University of Health Sciences (Henderson)
  - Doctorate (MD) – Admitting first class Fall 2017
- Touro University (Henderson)
  - Doctorate (DO)
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Medicine
  - Doctorate (MD) – Admitting first class Fall 2017
- University of Nevada School of Medicine (Las Vegas, Reno)
  - Doctorate (MD)

## Areas of Specialization

- Aerospace Medicine
- Allergy and Immunology
- Anesthesiology
- Cardiovascular Disease
- Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- Dermatology
- Diagnostic Radiology
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine
- Forensic Medicine
- Gastroenterology
- General and Family Practice
- General Preventive Medicine
- General Surgery
- Internal Medicine
- Medical Genetics
- Neurology
- Neurological Surgery
- Nuclear Medicine
- Obstetrician and Gynecology
- Occupational Medicine
- Oncology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Otolaryngologist
- Pathology
- Pediatric Cardiology
- Pediatrics
- Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Plastic Surgery
- Psychiatry
- Public Health and Preventive Medicine
- Pulmonary Disease
- Radiation Oncology
- Radiology
- Thoracic Surgery
- Transplant Surgery
- Urology
- Vascular Medicine



# PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT (PA)

**Average Salary: \$94,680** | A mean wage of about \$46 per hour

**Employment** | 1,036 physician assistants are employed in Nevada, including 690 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 703 job listings for physician assistants in 2015



## Overview

A physician assistant (PA) is academically and clinically prepared to practice medicine under the supervision of a doctor of medicine or osteopathy. This working relationship is fundamental to the PA profession and enhances the delivery of high-quality health care. Within this relationship, PAs make clinical decisions and provide a broad range of diagnostic, therapeutic, preventive, and health maintenance services. PA practice is centered on patient care and may include educational, research, and administrative activities.

The clinical role of PAs includes primary and specialty care in medical and surgical practice settings. Many PAs work in primary care areas, such as family medicine, general practice, internal medicine, or pediatrics. Others work in specialty areas, such as surgery, emergency medicine, and geriatrics. Duties vary with the specialty. For example, some PAs may work as a first or second assistant to doctors in surgery. Some PAs manage doctor's offices and order supplies and equipment. PAs may also supervise technicians and other assistants. In areas where doctors are in short supply, PAs may be the only providers of health care. In all settings they are required to consult with physicians.

Other duties involve basic care, such as interviewing patients, performing physical exams, and ordering lab tests. They also do more complex tasks, such as set simple fractures, give shots and run electrocardiograms (EKG). PAs may diagnose, provide treatment for common illnesses, and prescribe medicine. They are trained to deal with many medical emergencies. Physician assistants set up goals and overall health plans for patients. They record the patient's health history, progress, and test results. They counsel patients about medications and teach them healthy living techniques.

## At-a-Glance

- Physician assistants make diagnoses and decisions about management and treatment of patients
- Perform therapeutic procedures, such as injections, immunizations, suturing and wound care, and infection management
- In all settings they are required to consult with physicians
- Education and training typically lasts two to four years
- Need a license from the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners or the Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- Touro University (Henderson)
  - Master's
- University of Nevada School of Medicine (Reno)
  - Master's – Admitting first class Fall 2017

## Related Job Titles

- Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant
- Obstetrician/Gynecologist Assistant
- Orthopedic Physician Assistant
- Physician Assistant Certified (PAC)
- Surgical Physician Assistant

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[www.medicine.nevada.edu/statewide/ahcc](http://www.medicine.nevada.edu/statewide/ahcc)

**Average Salary: \$127,480**

A mean wage of about \$61 per hour

**Employment**

50 podiatrists are employed in Nevada

**Nevada Job Outlook**

Less than 10 job listings for podiatrists in 2015

## Overview

Podiatrists diagnose and treat disorders and injuries of the foot and lower leg. Healthy feet are necessary for a healthy body. Foot problems can make walking difficult, painful, or create other problems in the body.

The human foot is complex. One-fourth of all the bones in our body are in the foot (a foot contains 26 bones), plus muscles, nerves, ligaments, and blood vessels. They are designed for balance and mobility.

Podiatrists treat corns, bunions, ingrown toenails, heel spurs, and poor arches. Podiatrists also treat ankle and foot injuries, set broken bones, perform surgery, and order physical therapy. In addition, they treat foot problems related to diseases such as diabetes or heart disease. Podiatrists consult with, and refer patients to, other health care providers when they see symptoms of these disorders.

To treat patients, podiatrists sometimes prescribe drugs, order x-rays or lab tests, fit patients for shoe inserts called orthotics, and design plaster casts or special shoes to correct foot deformities. The podiatrist might also give the patient foot exercises to stretch and strengthen the arch.

Most podiatrists have a solo practice, and some form group practices with other podiatrists or health care providers. Some specialize in surgery, orthopedics (treatment of bones and joints), primary care, or public health. Podiatrists may also practice a subspecialty like sports medicine, geriatrics (treatment of older people), or diabetic foot care.

Podiatrists who are in private practice must perform duties related to running a small business. Some podiatrists educate the public on the benefits of foot care. They may give speeches or place ads in local papers or other media. These activities also help them gain new patients.

## At-a-Glance

- Treat a variety of foot problems
- Training lasts about 7 to 9 years after high school
- Need a license from the Nevada State Board of Podiatry

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- There are no educational programs for podiatrists in Nevada

## Related Job Titles

- Doctor of Podiatric Medicine
- Foot and Ankle Surgeon
- Podiatric Physician
- Podiatric Surgeon

# SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

**Average Salary: \$57,160** | A mean wage of about \$27 per hour

**Employment** | 871 surgical technologists are employed in Nevada, including 638 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 237 job listings for surgical technologists in 2015



## Overview

Surgical technologists prepare for and assist with surgical procedures and work under the supervision of surgeons and nurses. They assist surgeons during surgery by performing duties such as tissue retraction, insertion of tubes and intravenous lines, or closure of surgical wounds. It is very common that they perform preoperative and postoperative duties to facilitate patient care. Surgery is a very common medical practice. It is estimated that nearly 43 million inpatient surgeries take place each year. This doesn't account for same-day surgeries, which are commonly referred to as outpatient procedures. The environment is very controlled, with surgical items set up in a pre-arranged order. Everything must be kept sterile, and patients, no matter what procedure they are there for, must be prepared for the surgery.

Before surgery, technologists help set up the operating room. They wash, sterilize, and organize instruments, linens, and solutions. They set up, adjust, and check non-sterile equipment to be sure it works properly. They prepare patients for surgery by transporting them to the operating room, positioning them on the table, and covering them with surgical "drapes." They also observe the patient's vital signs. In addition, surgical technologists help the surgical team scrub and put on gloves, gowns, and masks.

During surgery, technologists pass instruments and supplies to surgeons and their assistants. They hold retractors (instruments that hold back the edges of a wound) or cut sutures (stitches). They maintain supplies of fluid, such as blood or saline. Technologists may operate other equipment, such as lights or suction machines. They may also help apply dressings to a patient's incisions. In addition, they help count sponges, needles, and instruments when the procedure is complete. Technologists prepare and care for specimens taken for lab analysis. After surgery, technologists help transfer patients to the recovery room. Then they clean and restock the operating room for the next procedure.

## At-a-Glance

- Surgical technologists set up the operating room before surgery and assist with surgical procedures
- Discuss with surgeon the nature of the surgical procedure, including operative consent, methods of operative exposure, diagnostic or laboratory data, or patient advanced directives or other needs
- Work under the supervision of surgeons and nurses
- Education and training through two-year surgical technology programs
- Optional certification available through the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
  - Associate
- Nevada Career Institute (Las Vegas)
  - Diploma, Certificate

## Related Job Titles

- Certified Surgical First Assistant
- Certified Surgical Technologist
- Operating Room Surgical Technician
- Surgery Operating Room Assistant
- Surgical Pre-Admit Assistant
- Surgical Scrub Technician
- Surgical Technician

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[www.medicine.nevada.edu/statewide/ahec](http://www.medicine.nevada.edu/statewide/ahec)

# NURSING



# CERTIFIED NURSE MIDWIFE

**Average Salary: \$96,970**

A mean wage of about \$47 per hour

## Employment

22 licensed nurse midwives are employed in Nevada, including 10 in Las Vegas

## Nevada Job Outlook

Less than 10 job listings for certified nurse midwives in 2015



## Overview

Certified nurse midwives are advanced practice registered nurses who provide counseling and care during preconception, pregnancy, childbirth, and the post-partum period. Many people mistakenly think that midwives only assist with births. In fact, although attending births is an integral and rewarding part of the job, this is only a fraction of their duties. On average, midwives spend 10% of their time in the direct care of birthing women and their newborns. Most midwives work closely with the expectant mother and her family before the baby is born. They educate pregnant women about proper nutrition, exercise, and general well being.

Midwives also help pregnant women plan for childbirth. This includes helping women determine how they will manage pain. In general, midwives emphasize very little technological intervention during delivery. This means that certain surgical procedures and pain medications are discouraged. It's important to remember that midwives usually work with women with "low-risk" pregnancies. If complications occur, midwives direct their patients to doctors.

They provide care for new mothers and infants for a short period. They also help mothers recover after delivery and help new mothers and babies learn how to breastfeed. In addition to the care they give patients with pregnancy and childbirth, midwives provide some routine gynecological services, including reproductive health visits and regular gynecologic care.

There are two main types of midwives. The first are nurse midwives. They are usually trained first as nurses and then as midwives. The second group is called direct-entry midwives. They became midwives without studying nursing first. There are several kinds of direct-entry midwives and their legal status varies by state.

## At-a-Glance

- Nurse midwives care for pregnant women before, during, and immediately after childbirth
- Consult with or refer patients to appropriate specialists when conditions exceed their scope of practice or expertise
- Deliver babies for low-risk pregnancies
- Need certification from the Nevada State Board of Nursing

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- There are no educational programs for nurse midwives in Nevada

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[www.medicine.nevada.edu/statewide/ahc](http://www.medicine.nevada.edu/statewide/ahc)

# CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT

Average Salary: \$31,620

A mean wage of about \$15 per hour

Employment

4,941 nursing assistants are employed in Nevada, including 3,112 in Las Vegas

Nevada Job Outlook

1,347 job listings for nursing assistants in 2015



## Overview

Certified nursing assistants (CNAs) give personal care to patients in hospitals and nursing homes. They work under the direction of licensed nurses and doctors. For many patients, nursing assistants are the people they see most often on a daily basis. By helping patients with activities of daily living, nursing assistants help them achieve a better quality of life. In many cases, especially in nursing homes, patients might become attached to those who help take care of them.

Nursing assistants check with the supervising nurse for instructions about each patient, answer call bells, and help patients with bedpans or other needs. They may explain some medical instructions to patients and family members. Nursing assistants prepare food trays and deliver meals. They record the amount of food eaten and liquid output. They often give medicines to patients as directed by the supervising nurse or doctor. They help patients with eating, dressing, bathing, exercising, and walking. Nursing assistants clean rooms and change beds. When patients must stay in bed, nursing assistants give them bed baths and change the bed linens afterward. They help patients clean their teeth and wash and brush their hair. They give lotion or alcohol rubs to help keep skin healthy and provide comfort.

Nursing assistants set up and monitor equipment. They record vital signs such as blood pressure, temperature, pulse, and respiration. They may collect samples of bodily fluids. They move patients in wheelchairs or beds to exam or operating rooms. Nursing assistants sterilize equipment and supplies. They prepare and stock dressings and treatment trays. Nursing assistants watch patients for change in mental alertness or emotions. When they see changes, they notify the supervising nurse. Most nursing assistants try to encourage patients who feel sad or lonely.

Some nursing assistants also perform clerical duties, such as filing and making appointments. When leaving work, nursing assistants give patient information to the supervisor or the nursing assistant who is coming on duty.

## At-a-Glance

- Certified nursing assistants perform a variety of tasks from bathing patients to taking blood pressure
- Work in hospitals and nursing homes
- Work under supervision of doctors and nurses
- Complete a formal training program
- Need certification from the Nevada State Board of Nursing

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- For a complete list of approved certified nursing assistant training programs, please visit the Nevada State Board of at Nursing <http://www.nevadanursingboard.org>.

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# CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETIST

**Average Salary: \$187,200** | A mean wage of about \$90 per hour

**Employment** | 93 nurse anesthetists are employed in Nevada, including 63 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 13 job listings for nurse anesthetists in 2015



## Overview

Certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) are exactly what the title implies: nurses trained to give anesthesia. Nurse anesthetists administer anesthesia to patients before surgery. They care for and monitor patients during and after the surgical procedure. At first glance, putting someone “under” seems rather simple. Give that patient some medication to make them unconscious, and then wake them up. However, anesthesia is very complex. Different people react differently to anesthesia, and once they are “under”, they need to be closely watched. The person administering the anesthesia makes sure the patient’s breathing, temperature, heartbeat, and fluid levels are where they should be.

They first meet with patients to obtain and review medical histories. They also examine medical tests, such as X-rays or electrocardiograms (EKGs) to obtain pertinent information about the patient’s health. This helps them develop anesthesia care plans. Next, they prepare the patient and administer the anesthesia.

During the procedure, they manage the breathing of patients using a variety of medical techniques and equipment. They look at pupils, skin color, pulse, blood pressure, and respiration to make sure the patient is doing well. In some situations, an emergency may arise and nurse anesthetists must act fast. They may have to open patient airways and administer fluids and necessary drugs very quickly. They may also have to insert catheters. After the procedure is completed, the nurse anesthetist monitors the patient’s recovery. They give drugs or medicines to lessen any ill effects, such as nausea.

## At-a-Glance

- Certified registered nurse anesthetists administer anesthesia to patients undergoing surgical procedures
- Prepare prescribed solutions and administer local, intravenous, spinal, or other anesthetics following specified methods and procedures
- Monitor patients during anesthesia
- Need a master’s degree
- Need certification and a license from the Nevada State Board of Nursing

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- There are no educational programs for nurse anesthetists in Nevada

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# HOME HEALTH AIDE

**Average Salary: \$23,220** | A mean wage of about \$11 per hour

**Employment** | 2,475 home health aides are employed in Nevada, including 1,724 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 185 job listings for home health aides in 2015

## Overview

Home health aides provide routine individualized health care, such as changing bandages, dressing wounds, and applying topical medications to the elderly, or persons with disabilities at the patient's home or in a care facility. They may also care for ill children or patients recovering from accidents or surgeries. Home health aides provide the treatment patients need at home when their families are unable to help. Home health aides follow doctors, nurses, or therapists orders when providing care.

They give patients their medication and also check their pulse, temperature, and respiration rate. For some patients, home health aides help them perform simple exercises or to use braces, artificial limbs, and adaptive tools. They may also massage sore muscles and apply different treatments, such as ointments or heating pads. In addition, aides may help patients get out of bed and go to the bathroom. They may also bathe, dress, and groom them. Home health aides may clean patients homes, do their laundry, and change their linens. Aides also plan nutritious meals that follow the patients special diet and in many cases shop for and prepare the food. In many cases, home health aides run errands and may be asked to care for children of ill patients.

In addition to providing care, home health aides offer physical and emotional support. They may train someone who has been in an accident in using adaptive tools. In addition, it is common that they provide social interaction by entertaining, reading aloud, or play cards and other games. Home health aides work with patients on a daily, weekly, or ongoing basis and monitor their physical and emotional changes. When there are important changes, they notify their supervisors. Aides keep detailed records of each patient's health, treatment plan, and progress. They also record the care they provide during each visit. Home health aides participate in patient case reviews with the entire care team including nurses, social workers, and therapists.

Home health aides have many opportunities for career advancement. As they gain experience, they may work with clients who require more care. With additional education and training, they can advance to a variety of occupations in the health care field, such as a certified nursing assistant.

## At-a-Glance

- Home health aides work in patients' homes
- Perform a variety of tasks from laundry to giving medications
- Train on the job
- Home health aides, whose employers receive Medicare or Medicaid payments, must pass a competency test
- Certification is optional and may depend on employer

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- Center for Quality Elder Care Services (Las Vegas)
  - Pre-certification, Certificate
- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Las Vegas Colon Hydrotherapy School and Clinic, LLC (Las Vegas)
  - Pre-certification
- Northwest Careers College (Las Vegas)
  - Pre-certification
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
  - Pre-certification, Certificate

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# LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

**Average Salary: \$52,450** | A mean wage of about \$25 per hour

**Employment** | 2,245 licensed practical nurses are employed in Nevada, including 1,625 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 723 job listings for licensed practical nurses in 2015



## Overview

Licensed practical nurses (LPNs) care for people who are sick, injured, or have disabilities. Licensed practical nurses work under the direction of a doctor or registered nurse. Most LPNs provide basic bedside care to patients, such as obtaining vital signs, administering treatments, collecting assessment data, assisting in developing the plan of care, and providing patient education.

LPNs provide patient care based on physician orders and may also start intravenous (IV) fluids. Some LPNs help deliver, care for, and feed infants. Experienced LPNs may supervise nursing assistants and aides. LPNs work in a variety of settings, such as hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, nursing homes, outpatient centers, doctor's offices, clinics, and home health care.

In nursing homes, licensed practical nurses provide basic bedside care as they do in other settings. In addition, they may assign and delegate duties to other nursing staff and they may help evaluate the needs of residents and develop care plans. In doctor's offices and clinics, it is common for LPNs to make appointments, keep records, and perform other clerical duties as well as administer medications, perform routine lab tests, prepare patients for diagnostic exams, and obtain a health history, as well as administer medications, perform routine lab tests, prepare patients for diagnostic exams, and obtain a health history. LPNs who work in private homes may assist with personal care, administer medications, provide wound care, and teach simple nursing tasks to family members.

Advancement for licensed practical nurses often takes the form of a salary increase. However, some experienced LPNs become supervisors of nursing assistants and aides. Advancement opportunities are best for those who acquire additional education and training. They may become registered nurses (RNs) or one of many other types of health care workers. In some states, licensed practical nurses are also known as licensed vocational nurses.

## At-a-Glance

- Licensed practical nurses provide basic bedside care to patients
- Work under the supervision of doctors or registered nurses
- Keep detailed records
- Education and training typically lasts one to two years
- Need a license from the Nevada State Board of Nursing

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Kaplan College (Las Vegas)
  - Diploma
- Nevada Career Institute (Las Vegas)
  - Diploma
- Western Nevada College (Carson City)
  - Certificate

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# NURSE PRACTITIONER



**Average Salary: \$94,940** | A mean wage of about \$46 per hour

**Employment** | 431 nurse practitioners are employed in Nevada, including 254 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 847 job listings for nurse practitioners in 2015

## Overview

Nurse practitioners are registered nurses who have taken additional training and serve as primary and specialty care providers. They treat and care for patients with a broad range of health issues. They often specialize in a treatment area or in working with certain patients. They have the knowledge and skills so that they can work one-on-one with a patient. They prescribe certain medications. It's becoming quite common for nurse practitioners to function as primary care clinicians seeing patients for a variety of issues, as well as for general check-ups and exams.

Nurse practitioners work in a variety of settings. Some options include private clinics, university health centers, hospitals, psychiatric offices, and nursing homes. In some areas of the country, nurse practitioners treat patients in emergency rooms. Most commonly, however, they work in offices and clinics.

Nurse practitioners specialize in areas such as family medicine, pediatrics, women's health, and geriatrics. Within all areas, nurse practitioners begin appointments by interviewing patients for their medical history. Primary care includes listening to patients' heart and lungs and discuss any problems. If needed, they have the ability to prescribe medications and to create treatment plans. They can also order x-rays and other tests and have the knowledge to interpret the results. In special patient cases, they may refer patients to physicians and specialists.

Overall, nurse practitioners seek to work with a patient individually. They treat many common illnesses and conditions. They also help patients maintain wellness through education about healthy lifestyles.

## At-a-Glance

- Nurse practitioners treat patients with a broad range of health issues
- Specialize in areas such as family medicine, pediatrics, women's health, and geriatrics
- Prescribes medications
- Registered nurses who have a masters or doctoral degree
- Need licensure from the Nevada State Board of Nursing

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- Touro University (Henderson)
  - Master's, Doctorate
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
  - Master's, Doctorate
- University of Nevada, Reno
  - Master's, Doctorate

## Areas of Specialization

- Acute Care
- Adult Nursing
- Ear Nose and Throat
- Family Planning
- Family Practice
- Geriatrics
- Mental health
- Midwife
- Neonatal
- Obstetrics/Gynecology
- Pediatric
- Women's Health

# REGISTERED NURSE

**Average Salary: \$79,280** | A mean wage of about \$38 per hour

**Employment** | 18,255 registered nurses are employed in Nevada, including 12,848 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 7,826 job listings for registered nurses in 2015



## Overview

Registered nurses (RNs) care for patients who are ill or injured in a wide-range of clinical settings. They work to promote health and help patients cope with illness. RNs work with patients in hospitals, nursing homes, and clinics. They work in public health facilities such as government agencies and schools. They also take care of patients in their homes.

In the hospital, RNs observe patients and carry out medical treatments. They may use computerized equipment to monitor patient's vital signs, record observations, and input medical data into patient charts. RNs work to promote safety and health, and to prevent additional health problems, such as infections. RNs write and manage nursing care plans and discuss cases with the doctor and other health care providers. RNs supervise licensed practical nurses and aides.

Nurses in clinics and community health centers prepare patients for exams and check vital signs. They assist doctors with exams when requested. They draw blood and give injections, as do nurses in most settings. Registered nurses may also perform routine lab tests and office work.

Registered nurses working in long-term care facilities, such as nursing homes, manage the health care of residents. They spend some of their time on administrative and supervisory tasks. For example, they write care plans and supervise licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and nursing assistants. Home health nurses provide prescribed nursing care to patients in their own homes. They also instruct patients and their families how to perform necessary procedures.

Public health RNs work to improve the overall health of communities. They provide health care and first aid. They give shots and screenings such as blood pressure tests. Public health nurses develop health education programs which teach the public about topics such as nutrition and proper childcare. In addition, they refer patients to community agencies and service providers.

## At-a-Glance

- Registered nurses care for patients and help patients manage their illness with treatment as prescribed by physicians, advance practice nurses, and physician assistants
- Work in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and other places
- Education and training typically lasts three to four years
- Registered nurses may start with an associate's degree, but will likely need a bachelor's degree in the future
- Need a license from Nevada State Board of Nursing

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- Carrington College (Reno) – Associate/Transfer
- Chamberlain College of Nursing (Las Vegas) – Bachelor's
- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas) – Certificate, Associate/Transfer
- Everest College (Henderson) – Associate
- Great Basin College (Elko) – Associate, Bachelor's
- Kaplan College (Las Vegas) – Associate
- Nevada State College (Henderson) – Bachelor's
- Roseman University of Health Sciences (Henderson) – Bachelor's
- Touro University (Henderson) – Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate (DNP, PhD)
- Truckee Meadows Community College (Reno) – Associate/Transfer
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas – Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate (DNP, PhD)
- University of Nevada, Reno – Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate (DNP, PhD)
- Western Nevada College (Carson City) – Associate/Transfer

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# MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

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# CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER

**Average Salary: \$62,540** | A mean wage of about \$30 per hour

**Employment** | 602 social workers are employed in Nevada, including 405 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 260 job listings for social workers in 2015



## Overview

Social workers help people solve social, financial, and health problems and work in a variety of settings, from schools to hospitals to clinics. Social workers typically specialize in treating certain types of clients, including health care patients. Regardless of their specialty, social workers have common tasks.

Clinical social workers provide counseling. They work for public agencies, clinics, and in private practice. Social workers lead support groups or counseling sessions for problems such as depression, stress, or drug dependency. In schools, social workers identify students' problems and work to find help for them. Social workers work closely with other health care and social service providers. They keep detailed records of test results, conversations with clients, treatment plans, and prepare reports for schools, courts, and other agencies.

Like all social workers, when they receive new clients, clinical social workers ask questions to identify their problems, concerns, and needs. They collect client information, such as employment or medical records. For some clients, social workers arrange for medical or psychiatric tests. Once they have enough information, social workers create plans for helping clients. They monitor clients' progress towards solving their problems and revise plans as needed.

Additionally, clinical social workers coordinate plans for the care and rehabilitation of patients. In addition, they manage substance abuse and mental health programs. Child welfare social workers work to ensure the safety and health of children. They may determine whether clients are eligible for health and human service support and services, and provide information to clients about how to apply for assistance. They also ensure clients make proper use of the services available to them.

## At-a-Glance

- Social workers help people solve financial, health, and social problems
- Often specialize in treating certain types of clients
- Work in a variety of settings
- Must have a bachelor's degree, many positions require a master's degree
- An internship is required to become a licensed clinical social worker – internships typically last from 1 to 2 years
- Need a license from the Nevada State Board of Examiners for Social Workers

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- Great Basin College (Elko)
  - Bachelor's
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
  - Certificate, Bachelor's, Master's
- University of Nevada, Reno
  - Bachelor's, Master's
- Western Nevada College (Carson City)
  - Associate/Transfer

## Related Job Titles

- Health Care Social Worker
- Medical Social Worker

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# MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST



**Average Salary: \$55,110** | A mean wage of about \$27 per hour

**Employment** | 178 marriage and family therapists are employed in Nevada, including 124 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 44 job listings for marriage and family therapists in 2015

## Overview

Marriage and family therapists (MFTs) diagnose and treat mental and emotional disorders, whether cognitive, affective, or behavioral, within the context of marriage and family systems. It is the responsibility of marriage and family therapists to help individuals and families identify and resolve conflicts to find ways to lead normal, healthy lives. Marriage and family therapists work with children, adults, couples, and entire families. They often meet with clients both individually and in groups. They help clients identify conflicts and problematic behaviors and help them learn new strategies for coping with these issues. In many cases, they help people learn new ways of communicating so that they can express their feelings in a healthy manner.

Marriage and family therapists review records and interview clients. They sometimes observe them interacting without interfering directly. Together, the therapist and client develop plans and strategies for handling conflicts or emotions. Sometimes MFTs consult with other therapists, counselors, doctors, or social workers, depending on the situation.

MFTs may refer patients to support services such as medical evaluation and treatment, social services, and employment services. People with addictions are referred to support groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous. Therapists provide treatment in a variety of settings including private and public treatment centers, private practice, and community-based behavioral health agencies. The most common setting is a private practice. They often supervise assistants and entry level therapists. An important part of their job is to prepare and maintain written records and case files. They also attend conferences and read journals to keep their skills up to date and to ensure quality health care practices with their patients.

## At-a-Glance

- Marriage and family therapists apply psychotherapeutic and family system theories and techniques to individuals, couples, and families.
- Develop and implement patient treatment plans
- Must have a master's degree
- Need a license from the Nevada State Board of Examiners for Marriage and Family Therapists and Clinical Professional Counselors

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- National University (Henderson)
  - Master's
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
  - Master's

## Related Job Titles

- Child, Individual, and Family Therapist
- Family Counselor
- Family Support Specialist

# MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR

**Average Salary: \$46,370** | A mean wage of about \$22 per hour

**Employment** | 675 professional counselors are employed in Nevada, including 361 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 376 job listings for mental health counselors in 2015



## Overview

Mental health counselors help people manage or overcome a range of mental illnesses and emotional problems through emphasis on prevention. Mental health counselors work with those who suffer from issues associated with addictions and substance abuse; family, parenting, and marital problems; stress management; self-esteem; and aging. Therefore, they treat a wide range of conditions. This may include depression, emotional problems after divorce, and behavioral issues. It is the responsibility of professional counselors to help these people identify their problems and find ways to lead normal, healthy lives by developing skills and strategies for dealing and coping with these issues.

Mental health counselors work with individuals and groups. They may help families learn how to deal with the emotional and social effects of mental illnesses. They teach family members how to provide support for the patient and for themselves. Mental health counselors review records and interview clients. They may speak with doctors, family members, police, and other counselors to determine the client's condition and situation. They may also observe the client. Together, the counselor and patient develop a therapy plan for recovery. Counselors may refer patients to support services such as medical evaluation and treatment, social services, and employment services. They often refer family members to community programs and support groups. If the patient is on medication, counselors monitor medication effectiveness.

Mental health counselors regularly document patient progress and treatment. A very important part of their job is to prepare and maintain written records and case files, making sure everything is confidential. In addition, mental health counselors speak to groups concerned with mental health issues. They may prepare documents for presentation in court and accompany clients to legal proceedings. They often help clients and patients during times of crisis. Mental health counselors provide treatment in a variety of settings including hospitals, private and

public treatment centers, private practice, community-based behavioral health agencies, and schools.

## At-a-Glance

- Mental health counselors encourage clients to explore their feelings and discuss what is happening in their lives.
- Develop and implement treatment plans
- Must have a master's degree
- Need a license from one of the following state licensing agencies:
  - Nevada State Board of Examiners for Marriage Family Therapists and Clinical Professional Counselors
  - Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners
  - Nevada State Board of Examiners for Social Workers
  - Nevada State Board of Examiners for Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Counselors

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate, Associate
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
  - Bachelor's, Master's, Other Advanced Degree
- University of Nevada, Reno
  - Master's, Doctorate, Other Advanced Degree

## Related Job Titles

- Clinical Counselor
- Clinical Professional Counselor
- Mental Health Specialist
- School Counselor

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# PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN

**Average Salary: \$29,480** | A mean wage of about \$14 per hour

**Employment** | 95 psychiatric technicians are employed in Nevada

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 71 job listings for psychiatric technicians in 2015

## Overview

Psychiatric technicians (also known as mental health technician) assist in the care and treatment of patients who are mentally ill or have developmental disabilities. It is estimated that one in five American adults has a diagnosable mental illness. Furthermore, mental illness is often the cause of a disability. However, due to continued advances in psychiatry, what is diagnosable is often treatable. In most cases, psychiatric technicians work with a mental health team consisting of psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, and social workers to help individuals with mental illness or developmental problems.

Psychiatric technicians provide nursing, psychiatric, and personal care for patients. They check a patient's temperature, respiration, and pulse and give prescribed medications. Technicians assist new patients and their families with the completion of admission forms and scheduling counseling sessions. They may help develop therapy treatment plans and act as leaders in group counseling sessions. Psychiatric technicians also observe patients and write daily reports about their behaviors and physical condition. They teach patients basic living and working skills and encourage them to develop social relationships and to participate in recreational activities. They also assist patients with personal cleanliness. For example, they help patients clean their rooms, bathe, and dress. Occasionally, technicians must restrain patients who are violent in order to prevent injury to themselves or to others.

After patients are released from the hospital, technicians may visit them at home to coordinate community services. This includes assisting with emergency interventions, providing referrals to assisting services, and offering methods for coping with specific situations.

## At-a-Glance

- Psychiatric technicians provide nursing, psychiatric, and personal care for patients
- Keep records, fill out forms, and other administrative tasks
- Work with psychiatrists, therapists, nurses, and social workers
- May participate in rehabilitation and treatment programs, help with personal hygiene, and administer oral or injectable medications
- Education and training through one or two year programs

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas) – Certificate, Associate

## Related Job Titles

- Behavioral Health Technician
- Mental Health Technician
- Mental Health Worker
- Psychiatric Aides



# PSYCHIATRIST

**Average Salary: \$187,200** | A mean wage of about \$90 per hour

**Employment** | 165 psychiatrists are employed in Nevada, including 110 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 48 job listings for psychiatrists in 2015



## Overview

Psychiatrists diagnose and treat people who have mental illnesses. Psychiatrists are physicians who help patients deal with mental illnesses such as substance abuse, anxiety disorders, or depression. Some mental illnesses have a biological cause, such as a lack of the proper chemicals in the brain. Other mental illnesses are caused by an event, such as the death of a loved one.

Psychiatrists differ from psychologists because they have both medical and psychological training. They can prescribe drugs when necessary, and also know how to counsel patients. After analyzing a patient's health and examining their mental state, psychiatrists develop a treatment plan. Other psychiatrists use a combination of talk and drug therapy. In some cases, psychiatrists admit patients to hospitals.

Psychiatrists periodically meet with patients to make sure the medication is working properly. They may also talk with family members about the patient's condition. When treatments are not working, psychiatrists adjust the plan. Psychiatrists keep detailed records about patients. Psychiatrists read articles about new treatment options and take classes to learn additional skills. Many psychiatrists conduct research and write articles for journals. Many teach or supervise students.

Some psychiatrists specialize in treating patients of specific age groups. Child and adolescent psychiatrists work with children and teenagers with the patient's families. They may use play therapy to help children. Geriatric psychiatrists specialize in the elderly. Industrial psychiatrists help businesses deal with problems, such as violence or drugs in the workplace. Forensic psychiatrists testify in court on the mental state of people accused or convicted of crimes.

## At-a-Glance

- Psychiatrists diagnose and treat people with mental illness
- Have both medical and psychological training
- Develop treatment plans and keep detailed records
- Education and training typically lasts 10 to 12 years after high school
- Need license from Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Medicine – Doctorate (MD) – Admitting first class Fall 2017
- University of Nevada School of Medicine (Las Vegas, Reno) – Doctorate (MD)

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**Average Salary: \$66,350**

A mean wage of about \$32 per hour

**Employment**

586 psychologists are employed in Nevada, including 314 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook**

52 job listings for psychologists in 2015

## Overview

Psychologists counsel people who have life or emotional problems. They also study human behavior and mental processes. There are five major types of psychologists: research psychologists, counseling and clinical psychologists, applied psychologists and applied behavior analysts, educational psychologists, and industrial-organizational psychologists.

Research psychologists conduct studies of people and behavior, and write articles for journals. Some research psychologists teach or supervise students.

Counseling and clinical psychologists help people solve life and mental health problems. They begin by determining the level of a patient's troubles, and asking patient questions. They may also have patients take psychological tests. In general, counseling psychologists work with people who have temporary problems, such as adjusting to changes in life. Clinical psychologists are more likely to work with people who have deeper, ongoing struggles and conflicts.

Applied psychologists are trained in psychological theories and research to real life situations. Applied psychologists are more likely to work with people who have deeper, ongoing struggles and conflicts, such as phobias. Some may choose to focus their work on specific groups, such as children, adolescents, or the elderly. They work in a wide range of settings. Additionally, behavior analysis emphasizes the study of behavior in its historical and situational contexts. These contexts include health and human services, management, and education.

Applied behavior analysts use the scientific principles and practices of operant learning theory to understand and improve human behavior. The goal is to discover variables in the environment that reliably influence personally and socially significant behavior and to develop a technology of behavior change that takes advantage of those discoveries. Applied behavior analysts work in a variety of settings with a variety of individuals, which prominently includes children and parents in the home and students and teachers in the classroom.

Educational psychologists focus on ways to improve the teaching and learning process. They look for ways to promote intellectual and emotional growth. They may look at what effect factors such as culture, poverty, and teaching styles have on school achievement. Educational psychologists test students for learning disabilities or talents. They consult with teachers, staff, and peers to develop teaching strategies, school programs, and individual education plans.

Industrial-organizational psychologists apply principles of psychology to the workplace. Their goal is to increase productivity and the quality of work life. They commonly serve as human resources specialists who identify needs, develop training programs, identify the talents of workers and help place them in jobs for which they are best suited. In addition, industrial-organizational psychologists develop tests or questionnaires that examine how employees feel about company operations.

## At-a-Glance

- Psychologists interact with clients to identify psychological, emotional, or behavioral issues and diagnose disorders, using information obtained from interviews, tests, records, and reference materials
- Use a variety of treatment methods such as psychotherapy, hypnosis, behavior modification, stress reduction therapy, psychodrama, and play therapy
- Must have a master's degree, most positions require a PhD
- An internship is required to become a licensed psychologist – internships typically last from 1 to 2 years
- Need a license from the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
  - Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate
- University of Nevada, Reno
  - Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate

**Average Salary: \$45,030** | A mean wage of about \$22 per hour

**Employment** | 280 substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselors are employed in Nevada, including 165 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 73 job listings for substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselors in 2015



## Overview

Substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselors (also known as addiction counselors) work with clients to identify and acknowledge behaviors and situations that interfere with their recovery and help clients develop skills and behaviors necessary to recover from their addiction or modify their behavior.

Substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselors work with individual clients, their families, and the community. Through such work, substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselors help people learn about addictions, their bio-psycho-social consequences, and the benefits of prevention, treatment, and recovery programs. In addition, by teaching clients and their family about addiction and behavioral disorders, everyone can develop strategies to assist in the recovery process. Substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselors help clients rebuild relationships and, if necessary, reestablish their career and successful involvement in their communities.

Substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselors typically work on a team with other health care professionals, such as psychiatrists, psychologists, marriage and family therapists, social workers, clinical professional counselors, doctors, and nurses to develop treatment plans and coordinate care and services for patients. Frequently their services include support group development, job placement, wellness planning, and improved family relationships.

A substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselor provides treatment in a variety of settings, including outpatient and residential settings, state, local and private hospitals, and government agencies. They work in mental health centers, prisons, probation or parole agencies, juvenile detention facilities, halfway houses, detox centers, or in employee assistance programs. In some settings, a substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselor may work in the evenings, nights, or weekends.

Substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselors are required to be certified (at the bachelor's level) or licensed (at the master's level) in order to provide treatment and support for individuals seeking to recover from an addiction or modify problem behaviors.

## At-a-Glance

- Substance abuse and behavioral counselors help individuals and groups recover from an addiction to alcohol, drugs, gambling, or other behavioral problems
- Work in a variety of settings
- Some positions require a Bachelor's degree to be certified
- Some positions require a Master's degree and supervised experience to be licensed
- Need a certification or license from the Nevada State Board of Examiners for Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Counselors

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- Great Basin College (Elko)
  - Certificate
- Nevada State College (Henderson)
  - Pre-certification
- Truckee Meadows Community College (Reno)
  - Associate, Transfer
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
  - Bachelor's, Master's
- University of Nevada, Reno
  - Bachelor's, Master's

# DENTISTRY

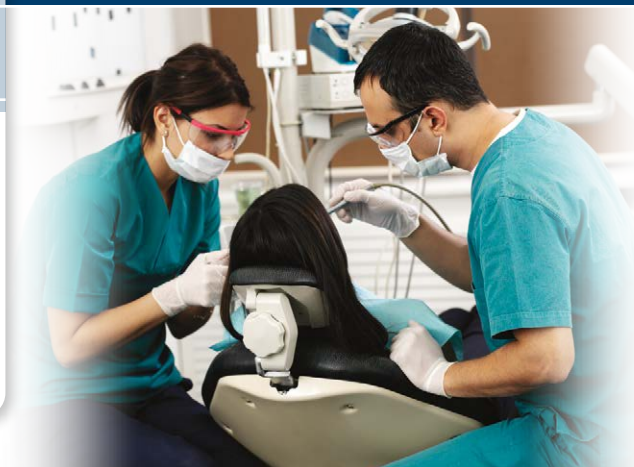


# DENTAL ASSISTANT

**Average Salary: \$35,660** | A mean wage of about \$17 per hour

**Employment** | 2,790 dental assistants are employed in Nevada, including 2,048 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 177 job listings for dental assistants in 2015



## Overview

Dental assistants perform a variety of tasks. They work closely with dentists as they examine and treat patients and ensure that patients are as comfortable as possible in the dental chair prior to the start of a patient's appointment. They obtain dental records for the dentist and prepare patients for their exam. In addition, they record exam and treatment information in patient charts. They also sterilize the instruments and equipment and prepare tray setups.

During the procedures, dental assistants pass and receive instruments and prepare materials for the dentist when requested. They use suction devices to keep the patient's mouths dry and clear. When patients have surgery, dental assistants instruct them in postoperative care. They also teach patients about general oral health care, such as how to control plaque.

Some dental assistants have other duties that require more training. They may be considered an expanded duties dental assistant. They take x-rays of patient's teeth and process the film. They remove stitches or apply numbing agents to the patient's gums. In addition, they apply fluoride to the patient's teeth to prevent cavities. Dental assistants who have lab duties develop casts of the teeth from impressions taken by dentists. They may also polish removable dentures and make temporary crowns.

Dental assistants with office duties schedule and confirm patient appointments. They keep records, send bills, and take payments. They also order dental supplies and materials.

## At-a-Glance

- Dental assistants prepare patients, sterilize or disinfect instruments, set up instrument trays, prepare materials, and assist dentists and dental hygienists during dental procedures
- Assist in the management of oral or dental emergencies
- Perform duties ranging from office tasks to lab work
- Many train on the job, and are certified
- Formal education and training typically lasts one or two years

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- Academy of Dental Careers, Inc. (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Assist to Succeed (Carson, Winnemucca)
  - Certificate
- Carrington College (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Institute of Professional Careers (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Milan Institute (Las Vegas, Sparks)
  - Certificate
- National School of Dental Assisting (Carson City)
  - Certificate
- New Millennium Academy (Las Vegas)
  - Diploma
- Northwest Health Careers (Las Vegas)
  - Pre-certification, Certificate
- PIMA Medical Institute (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Southern Nevada Academy of Dental Assisting (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Truckee Meadows Community College (Reno)
  - Certificate, Associate

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# DENTAL HYGIENIST

**Average Salary: \$89,890**

A mean wage of about \$43 per hour

**Employment**

1,411 dental hygienists are employed in Nevada, including 1,005 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook**

65 job listings for dental hygienists in 2015

## Overview

Dental hygienists or registered dental hygienists clean teeth and teach patients how to prevent tooth decay and gum disease. To maintain the oral health of patients and the general public, dental hygienists may teach dental health education to school children and other members of the community.

During routine examinations, dental hygienists inspect the patient's teeth for deposits and decay, and look for any sign of gum disease. They look to see if the gums and lymph nodes under the chin show any swelling or other signs of cancer. Hygienists take x-rays for new patients and chart updates on current patients. They take great care to position the camera at different angles around the head and mouth. They also develop film for dentists to use as they diagnose problems and design treatment plans.

In preparation for the dentist, hygienists use dental instruments to clean plaque and various stains from teeth. Preparation may include applying numbing agents to a patient's gums so that the dentist may administer an injection with the least amount of discomfort to the client. Some hygienists are licensed to administer local anesthesia.

Dental hygienists perform finish work on certain procedures so the dentist can assist other patients. Examples of finish work include cleanings, scaling, fluoride applications and sealants. They review patient medical histories and record notes to the patient file during the appointment. They chart such conditions of decay and disease so that the dentist can diagnose and determine a treatment plan.

## At-a-Glance

- Dental hygienists clean and examine gums, using probes, to locate periodontal recessed gums and signs of gum disease
- Chart conditions of decay and disease for diagnosis and treatment by dentist
- Conduct dental health clinics and education for community groups
- Education and training typically lasts two to four years
- Need a license from the Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
  - Associate, Bachelor's
- Truckee Meadows Community College (Reno)
  - Associate

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# DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

**Average Salary: \$42,520**

A mean wage of about \$20 per hour

## Employment

173 dental laboratory technicians are employed in Nevada, including 152 in Las Vegas

## Nevada Job Outlook

19 job listings for dental laboratory technicians in 2015



## Overview

Dental laboratory technicians rely on the dentist's prescriptions to create devices that correct, replace, or restore the patient's teeth. Dental laboratory technicians make and repair dentures, crowns, and bridges using molds. They set the models on a device that imitates the patient's bite. Technicians look at the size and shape of the teeth and gum line and use a tool called a micrometer to measure small distances between the teeth. These measurements ensure that each model is custom fit to the patient's mouth and do not allow room for any error.

Technicians also construct crowns for patients. Crowns are metal, porcelain, or ceramic caps that cover the top of a patient's damaged tooth. To make a crown, technicians must create a wax model of the specific tooth. Once the wax tooth is prepared a mold is created and covered with metal. This metal impression is the crown. When creating a false tooth, technicians go through additional steps after creating the wax tooth. They create a metal model of the tooth, but then apply layers of porcelain on the metal. The tooth is baked so that the porcelain hardens. Finally, technicians grind the tooth and add additional porcelain to seal it.

Technicians also create bridges, which attach one or more false teeth to the patient's real teeth. In addition to creating the false tooth or teeth, technicians create the bands that attach them together. They use soldering irons and hand tools to shape and join wire and metal frames or bands.

Dental laboratory technicians also repair damaged devices. They fill chipped or low spots with acrylic resin. They rebuild or replace linings, wire sections, and missing teeth in dentures.

Dental laboratory technicians may perform all stages of the work or specialize in one of five areas: orthodontic appliances, crowns and bridges, complete dentures, partial dentures, or ceramics.

## At-a-Glance

- Dental laboratory technicians make and repair dentures, crowns, and bridges
- Work with substances such as metal, plaster, porcelain, and acrylic paste
- Education and training through two year programs and on the job
- Certification optional from the National Board for Certification in Dental Laboratory Technology

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- There are no educational programs for dental laboratory technicians in Nevada

## Related Job Titles

- Ceramist
- Crown and Bridge Dental Lab Technician
- Denture Technician
- Dental Prosthetics Technician
- Orthodontic Technician
- Porcelain Technician

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Salary Range: \$144,000 to \$188,000

Employment | 1,411 dentists are employed in Nevada, including  
1,139 in Las Vegas

Nevada Job Outlook | 92 job listings for dentists in 2015



## Overview

Dentists examine patients teeth and mouth, and correct dental problems. Most dentists are general practitioners. This means they handle a wide variety of dental problems. They examine teeth, gums, and related tissues, using dental instruments, x-rays, or other diagnostic equipment. They evaluate dental health, diagnose diseases or abnormalities, and plan appropriate treatments. They advise or instruct patients regarding preventive dental care, the causes and treatment of dental problems, and oral health care services.

Common procedures for dentists are to apply sealants and repair fractured teeth or those with cavities. They may also make molds to replace missing or pulled teeth and apply crowns to strengthen teeth. Depending on the severity of the case, they may perform surgery on gums or on the bones that support the gums. Depending on the procedure, they give patients anesthetics to block the pain. Dentists use instruments such as drills, mirrors, and scalpels. Once the procedure is complete, dentists may write prescriptions for drugs that reduce pain or the risk of infection. They also instruct patients on proper brushing, flossing, and use of fluorides.

Dentists are required to keep records of the procedures they perform on each patient. Many dentists have a private practice which requires them to have clerical responsibilities, including bookkeeping, billing, and ordering of equipment and supplies. Dentists often hire dental hygienists to handle routine preventive care, such as teeth cleanings. This allows the dentist to focus on more difficult dental procedures. Dentists also hire and supervise other employees, such as, receptionists and dental assistants.

## At-a-Glance

- Dentists handle a wide variety of dental problems
- About nine in ten are in private practice
- Are increasingly employed in group practices
- About 30 percent are self-employed
- Need about eight years of education and training after high school
- Need a license from the Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
– First Professional Doctorate

## Areas of Specialization

- Endodontics
- Forensic odontology
- Oral and maxillofacial pathology
- Oral and maxillofacial radiology
- Oral and maxillofacial surgery
- Orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics
- Pediatric dentistry
- Periodontics
- Prosthodontics
- Public health dentistry (Community dentistry)
- Special needs dentistry



# PHARMACY

# PHARMACIST

**Average Salary: \$125,800** | A mean wage of about \$60 per hour

**Employment** | 2,075 pharmacists are employed in Nevada, including 1,532 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 483 job listings for pharmacists in 2015



## Overview

Pharmacists dispense drugs prescribed by physicians and other health practitioners, and provide information to patients about medications and their use. Those who work in hospitals or clinics advise medical staff on the selection and effects of drugs. They also plan and monitor drug schedules for patients. Pharmacists may evaluate the success of drug therapies for hospital patients. In addition, they counsel patients on how to properly use drugs while in the hospital and after they go home.

Pharmacists who work in pharmacies provide information and patient consultation about prescription and non-prescription drugs. Before dispensing a drug, pharmacists ask customers about their symptoms and current medications. Pharmacists monitor a patient's drug use to make sure they do not take drugs that have harmful interactions. They may also give advice about medical supplies. Sometimes, pharmacists compound drugs for customers. This means they mix ingredients to form powders or solutions. However, compounding is a rare task because most medicines come from the manufacturer in standard dosages.

Pharmacists also perform administrative tasks. For example, they keep records about patients and inventory on a computer. They analyze records to look at trends in drug use or possible excessive use. They also plan and carry out dispensing procedures to meet legal requirements. They monitor the security of controlled substances and the disposal of hazardous waste. Pharmacists may also hire and supervise employees or interns.

## At-a-Glance

- Pharmacists work in drug stores, hospitals, other clinical settings, and retail locations
- Some pharmacists are research scientists
- Review and fill prescriptions to assure accuracy
- Educate patients regarding the use and potential side effects of drugs
- Assess the identity, strength, or purity of medications
- Pharmacists are increasingly being incorporated into primary care teams
- Education and training usually lasts six years after high school
- An internship is required to become a licensed pharmacist – internships typically last 1 to 2 years
- Need a license from the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- Roseman University of Health Sciences (Henderson)
  - Doctorate
- University of Nevada, Reno
  - Bachelor's (Pre-Pharmacy Preparation)

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**Average Salary: \$19,120** | A mean wage of about \$9 per hour

**Employment** | 172 pharmacy aides are employed in Nevada, including 118 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | Less than 10 job listings for pharmacy aides in 2015



## Overview

Pharmacy aides typically perform many of the administrative and clerical duties in a pharmacy. Their responsibilities include greeting customers, answering the telephone, handling money, stocking the shelves, as well as other clerical duties. Pharmacy aides must be supervised by a pharmacist or a pharmacy technician and are required to refer any questions regarding prescriptions, health issues, or specific drug information to a supervising pharmacist.

Pharmacy aides help maintain patient profiles that give a patient's medication history and are often stored on a computer. Aides also fill out insurance claim forms. In addition, they take inventory of prescription and over-the-counter drugs. They enter this information into the computer so it can be reviewed and supplies can be ordered. They also stock incoming supplies. Aides clean and maintain pharmacy equipment. Pharmacy aides also ring up sales on the cash register.

Pharmacy aides prepare prescription labels using a computer. Some mix, package, and label pharmaceutical products under the direction of a pharmacist. In addition, aides operate capsule and tablet counting machines. They also deliver medication to treatment areas, such as a hospital.

Pharmacy aides work closely with the pharmacy technicians and the pharmacist. In some instances the job duties and title of the pharmacy aide overlaps with the pharmacy technician.

## At-a-Glance

- Pharmacy aides accept prescriptions for filling, gathering, and processing necessary information
- Prepare prescription labels by typing or operating a computer and printer
- Have a high level of social interaction with customers
- There are many certificate programs for pharmacy aides, but most train on the job

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- Career College of Northern Nevada (Sparks)
  - Diploma
- Carrington College (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Kaplan College (Las Vegas)
  - Diploma
- Milan Institute (Las Vegas, Sparks)
  - Certificate
- PIMA Medical Institute (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Truckee Meadows Community College (Reno)
  - Certificate

## Related Job Titles

- Pharmacy Assistant
- Pharmacy Cashier
- Pharmacy Clerk

# PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

**Average Salary: \$32,920** | A mean wage of about \$16 per hour

**Employment** | 2,485 pharmacy technicians are employed in Nevada, including 1,815 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 516 job listings for pharmacy technicians in 2015



## Overview

Pharmacy technicians help pharmacists provide medications and other health care products to patients. Often, it's the job of pharmacy technicians to look at a patient's record and determine if there is any danger of a drug interaction.

The responsibilities of pharmacy technicians who work in drug stores vary by state. This is because some states limit what technicians can do. In general, technicians review prescriptions or requests for refills that they receive from patients. To fill prescriptions, they count, pour, measure, or mix the medication. Then they select a container, and prepare and attach a label. They price and file the prescription, which must be checked by a pharmacist before it is given to a patient.

Pharmacy technicians set up and maintain patient profiles. These are files that give a patient's medication history and are often stored on a computer. Technicians also fill out insurance claim forms. In addition, they take inventory of prescription and over-the-counter drugs. They enter this information into the computer so it can be reviewed and supplies can be ordered. They also stock incoming supplies. Some technicians clean and maintain pharmacy equipment.

In hospitals, pharmacy technicians have more responsibilities. They read patient charts, prepare and deliver the medicine to patients. They copy the information into the patient's profile. Technicians may also put together a 24-hour supply of medications for patients. They package and label each dose separately. They also make up intravenous packs for patients. In all cases, the pharmacy technician must have approval from the pharmacist prior to providing them to the patient.

## At-a-Glance

- Pharmacy technicians review prescriptions or requests for refills
- Work directly with pharmacists to ensure that medication information is complete and accurate
- Maintain proper storage and security conditions for drugs
- Education and training typically takes one to two years
- Need to be registered with the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- Career College of Northern Nevada (Sparks)
  - Diploma
- Carrington College (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Kaplan College (Las Vegas)
  - Diploma
- Milan Institute (Las Vegas, Sparks)
  - Certificate
- PIMA Medical Institute (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Truckee Meadows Community College (Reno)
  - Certificate

## Related Job Titles

- Certified Pharmacy Technician
- Medical Reconciliation Pharmacy Technician
- Pharmacy Associate

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# THERAPY AND REHABILITATION

# ATHLETIC TRAINER

**Average Salary: \$39,490** | A mean wage of about \$19 per hour

**Employment** | 54 athletic trainers are employed in Nevada, unknown number in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | Less than 10 job listings for athletic trainers in 2015



## Overview

Athletic trainers evaluate and advise individuals to assist recovery from or avoid athletic-related injuries or illnesses, and maintain peak physical fitness. For example, trainers make sure athletes are in good shape and ready to compete. Many of their tasks involve preventing injuries. They show athletes how to exercise correctly and stretch. In addition, they lead the team through stretching exercises prior to each game and practice. Athletic trainers may also inspect the playing field for items that can cause injury to players. They may suggest diets and exercises to improve athlete's strength and endurance. They also organize physical examinations for players. Athletic trainers help coaches choose equipment that will prevent injuries. Finally, they advise athletes on the proper use of safety equipment and athletic gear.

Athletic trainers monitor minor injuries that may impact the performance or health of an athlete. For protection, they tape, wrap, or brace ankles, fingers, or other parts of the body before games and practices. After workouts, athletic trainers massage the athlete's limbs to relieve soreness and strains. When an athlete gets hurt, athletic trainers help determine the seriousness of the injury. They provide emergency first aid and may go with the athlete to the hospital. Athletic trainers confer with doctors and physical therapists to set up a therapy routine. They also work with the athlete, coach, and family to decide when the player can safely return to play.

Some athletic trainers work with athletes on high school and college sport teams. Those who work in high schools are also certified to teach other subjects. A few work for professional teams or individual professional athletes. Other athletic trainers may be employed by health clubs or non-sports organizations. Athletic trainers may also have some administrative duties. For example, they may meet with the athletic director or coach to discuss budgets, training, and schedules.

## At-a-Glance

- Athletic trainers work with teams, individual athletes, and other physically active clients
- Work mostly for high schools, colleges, and clinics
- Work long hours during sport seasons
- May travel if working for a team
- Are very physically active
- Typically have a bachelor's degree
- Need a license from Nevada State Board of Athletic Trainers

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
  - Certificate, Bachelor's, Master's
- University of Nevada, Reno
  - Certificate
- Western Nevada College (Carson City)
  - Associate/Transfer

## Related Job Titles

- Athletic Instructor
- Clinical Education Coordinator/Instructor
- Resident Athletic Trainer
- Sports Medicine Coordinator

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**Average Salary: \$52,770**

A mean wage of about \$26 per hour

**Employment**

83 audiologists are employed in Nevada, including 54 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook**

Less than 10 job listings for audiologists in 2015

## Overview

Audiologists help people who have hearing, balance, and related ear problems caused by trauma at birth, viral infections, genetic disorders, exposure to loud noise, certain medications, or aging. Audiologists take a patient history to evaluate their problems. They collect information and arrange for tests. Using various types of testing equipment, audiologists measure patients' ability to hear and distinguish between sounds. In addition, they use computers to evaluate and diagnose balance disorders.

Audiologists analyze the tests and data along with educational, psychological, and other medical patient data to make a diagnosis and determine a course of treatment for each patient. At times, they consult with other health professionals to interpret test results. They monitor clients' improvement and revise plans as needed. In addition, audiologists work with doctors to determine if surgery is needed.

Audiologists use special instruments to test how well people can hear. They check whether people can hear the difference between low versus high pitched sounds. Audiologists may recommend hearing aids or similar devices to improve clients' hearing. They help clients get comfortable with hearing aids.

Audiologists advise employers on preventing hearing loss on the job. They test noisy work areas, point out sounds that can cause hearing loss, and recommend ways to protect workers from hearing loss. Some audiologists research new treatments and write reports about their findings. Others advise teaching and medical staff about preventing and treating hearing loss. Audiologists keep up with new developments by taking classes and attending conferences.

## At-a-Glance

- Audiologists evaluate hearing and balance disorders to determine diagnoses and courses of treatment
- Counsel clients and family members in techniques to improve hearing and communication related to hearing loss
- May fit hearing aids and provide auditory training
- Must have a master's degree, many have a PhD
- Need a license from the Nevada State Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology
- May also obtain a Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology and Licensed Audiologist (CCC-A Licensed Audiologist)

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- Nevada State College (Henderson)
  - Bachelor's, Other Advanced Degree
- University of Nevada, Reno
  - Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate
- Western Nevada College (Carson City)
  - Associate/Transfer

## Related Job Titles

- Audiology Doctor
- Clinical Audiologist
- Dispensing Audiologist
- Educational Audiologist
- Pediatric Audiologist

# GENETIC COUNSELOR

**Average Salary: \$74,720** | A mean wage of about \$36 per hour

**Employment** | Few genetic counselors are employed in Nevada

**Nevada Job Outlook** | Less than 10 job listings for genetic counselors in 2015



## Overview

Genetic counselors help people answer questions about their genetics. They evaluate family history and medical records, order genetic tests, and evaluate the results. First, they learn the medical history of the patient by talking with them and reading medical records. These appointments typically include a medical geneticist and both work together to develop a diagnosis. Based on their findings, they decide if any genetic testing is necessary. If testing is required, the patient is referred to a doctor or laboratory for the actual tests.

Once genetic counselors have the test results, they meet with patients and their family to discuss them. It is important that counselors remain neutral when giving this information because it's their job to enable patients to make informed and independent decisions on their own. They talk about cases that were similar, explain possible outcome scenarios, and discuss which treatments are available.

In their role as a counselor, they may address any emotional issues raised by the results of the genetic tests. They also refer patients and families to community or state services, such as support groups, medical specialists, or other counselors. In the past, genetic counselors worked mostly with people who wanted to have children or were already pregnant and suspected there might be genetic problems. With more genetic information now available, they work with a wide range of people. Some patients come with a specific genetic disorder, such as Huntington's disease, and need information about it or they have a family history of heart disease or cancer and want more information.

With the advancements in the field of genetics, this is an expanding discipline. Most genetic counselors work in a medical setting as part of a health care team made up of doctors, social workers, nurses, medical geneticists, or other medical specialists. However, there is an increasing need for genetic counselors in

other fields such as research, diagnostic laboratories, pharmaceutical industry, public health and education, and health consulting.

## At-a-Glance

- Genetic counselors assess individual or family risk for a variety of inherited conditions, such as genetic disorders and birth defects
- Most work in a medical setting
- Must have a master's degree
- Most are certified by the American Board of Genetic Counseling

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- There are no educational programs for genetic counselors in Nevada

## Related Job Titles

- Hereditary Cancer Program Coordinator
- Prenatal and Pediatric Genetic Counselor
- Reproductive Genetic Counseling Coordinator

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# MASSAGE THERAPIST

**Average Salary: \$18,860**

A mean wage of about \$9 per hour

**Employment**

2,672 massage therapists are employed in Nevada, including 2,260 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook**

161 job listings for massage therapists in 2015

## Overview

Massage therapists perform therapeutic massages of soft tissues and joints. This provides relaxation and improves overall health and well being. Massage therapy is often described as both a science and an art. Therapists use knowledge about the body's anatomy to guide the use of different massage techniques. Many studies show that massage has several benefits. These include lowering blood pressure, reducing pain, boosting the immune system, and helping to improve recovery times after giving birth or sustaining injury.

Massage therapists usually apply oils, powders, or lotions to the skin before massaging the body. Some use hydrotherapy (water, ice, or steam) as part of the massage. They may also use herbal wraps and oil compresses. There are several different types of massage. Most massage therapists blend techniques from Swedish massage with other styles. Swedish, sports massage, deep tissue, and trigger point are the most common techniques. Other common styles of massage include acupressure, reflexology, and Shiatsu. On-site massage, polarity, hot-stone, and muscle energy are also popular techniques. It is very common for massage therapists to specialize in one or more techniques.

Massage therapists make appointments, greet their clients, and take brief medical histories. They maintain patient records and advertise. They also clean and disinfect equipment and work areas. Some massage therapists travel to their clients and use portable massage tables. Massage therapists may consult with other health care professionals, such as physicians, chiropractors, acupuncturists, or physical therapists to develop treatment plans and help people manage injuries, stress, and chronic pain.

## At-a-Glance

- Massage therapists assess clients' soft tissue condition, joint quality and function, muscle strength, and range of motion
- Confer with clients about their medical histories and problems with stress or pain to determine how massage will be most helpful
- The majority are self-employed often working part-time
- Have a high level of social interaction and knowledge of medical terminology
- Education and training typically lasts one year
- Need a license from the Nevada State Board of Massage Therapists

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- Bodhi Tree Center for Healing Arts (Carson City)
  - Certificate
- Carrington College (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Carson City Beauty Academy (Carson City)
  - Diploma
- European Massage Therapy School (Las Vegas)
  - Diploma
- Fu Zu Ba School of Massage and Reflexology (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Healthcare Preparatory Institute, LLC (Las Vegas)
  - Diploma
- Milan Institute (Las Vegas, Sparks)
  - Certificate
- Nevada Career Institute (Las Vegas)
  - Diploma
- Nevada School of Massage Therapy (Las Vegas)
  - Diploma
- Northwest Careers College (Las Vegas)
  - Pre-certification, Certificate
- Truckee Meadows Community College (Reno)
  - Pre-certification, Certificate
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
  - Certificate

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# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

**Average Salary: \$93,800** | A mean wage of about \$45 per hour

**Employment** | 678 occupational therapists are employed in Nevada, including 516 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 837 job listings for occupational therapists in 2015



## Overview

Occupational Therapists (OTs) help people improve, develop, recover, or maintain their ability to perform tasks in living and working environments. The therapist helps patients to improve their basic motor functions and reasoning abilities and also to compensate for permanent loss of function. They work closely with people who have mental, physical, developmental, or emotionally disabling conditions. These disabilities are caused by birth defects, injuries, illnesses, or aging. In all cases, they meet with patients and evaluate their current skills and abilities. Next, occupational therapists set rehabilitation goals that are realistic for each patient. They write treatment plans and discuss them with other professionals on the patient's rehabilitation team. The goal is to help patients lead independent, productive, and satisfying lives.

Occupational therapists conduct many different activities with their patients. Some activities are designed to improve physical strength and coordination. Other activities are designed to improve vision, memory, or reasoning. They may use items such as puzzles, scissors, or computer software when working with patients. After sessions, they clean and repair the materials. If they need new or additional materials, therapists order them. They teach some patients to use wheelchairs and other physical aids and also design or make special equipment that patients need at work or home. They also recommend ways for patients to change their homes to meet their needs. Some occupational therapists help patients find and keep jobs. They arrange jobs, plan work activities, and follow patient progress through a strong evaluation process.

Occupational therapists may specialize in working with patients of a certain age or specific disability. Therapists must keep accurate records of patient activities and progress. These records are needed for evaluating patients, billing, and reporting to doctors. In addition, occupational therapists often lead programs in hospitals, community settings, and other institutions.

These programs are often designed to promote health and awareness of disabilities.

## At-a-Glance

- Occupational therapists help people with disabilities live independently
- Plan, organize, and conduct occupational therapy programs
- Evaluate patient progress
- Work closely with patients and health care workers
- Must have a bachelor's degree, many have a master's degree
- Need a license from the State of Nevada Board of Occupational Therapy

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- Touro University (Henderson)
  - Master's
- Western Nevada College (Carson City)
  - Associate/Transfer

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# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT



**Average Salary: \$53,090**

A mean wage of about \$26 per hour

**Employment**

184 occupational therapist assistants are employed in Nevada, including 120 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook**

226 job listings for occupational therapist assistants in Nevada

## Overview

Occupational therapist assistants (OTAs) help people with disabilities develop skills. They work under the supervision of occupational therapists. Occupational therapist assistants help people who have mental, physical, or developmental disabilities. Their goal is to help patients live more independently.

Occupational therapist assistants assist therapists with testing by measuring a patient's existing skills and abilities. Assistants also help evaluate the patient's daily living skills so therapists know where patients need to improve. Once they have this information, occupational therapists design treatment plans that list the skills patients need to learn or improve.

Occupational therapist assistants help patients with the prescribed activities and exercises listed in treatment plans. Activities include self-care and work-related skills. For example, one activity might be for a patient to learn how to move from a bed to a wheelchair. They help patients determine what steps are needed to perform each activity, and then help patients perform the steps. Depending on the activity, such as games or crafts, assistants may demonstrate the steps. As patients carry out these tasks, assistants monitor their performance. They provide feedback and encouragement. Depending on the patient's physical ability, they may help them with grooming and getting dressed. Assistants notify occupational therapists of patient progress in all cases.

In addition, assistants keep records of what tasks they practiced with patients and how well patients performed. They may recommend changes to treatment plans, if necessary. Occupational therapist assistants design and adapt equipment to help patients perform tasks. For example, they may make or assemble splints and other devices. They may adapt patient's physical surroundings by moving items to places where patients can reach them more easily. In addition, assistants teach patients and their families about basic living skills at home.

They also instruct patients about the care and use of special equipment. Occupational therapist assistants may perform some clerical duties such as scheduling appointments, processing bills, and maintaining patient files. They also monitor supplies and order more as needed.

## At-a-Glance

- Occupational therapist assistants help people with disabilities live independently
- Duties are determined by treatment plan
- Work under supervision of occupational therapists
- Work closely with patients and health care workers
- Must have an associate's degree and be certified by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy
- Need a license from Nevada Board of Occupational Therapy

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- There are no educational programs for occupational therapist assistants in Nevada

## Related Job Titles

- Occupational Therapy Aides

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# ORTHOTIST AND PROSTHETIST

**Average Salary: \$62,220**

A mean wage of about \$30 per hour

## Employment

81 orthotic and prosthetic specialists are employed in Nevada, including 61 in Las Vegas

## Nevada Job Outlook

Less than 10 job listings for orthotic and prosthetic specialists in 2015



## Overview

Orthotists design, build, and fit braces, supports, and corrective shoes. Prosthetists design, build, and fit replacement limbs, such as arms, legs, hands, or feet. The appliances are called orthoses and prostheses. Both repair and maintain appliances that break or wear out. They usually work and design devices from a doctor's prescription.

Orthotists and prosthetists often work with doctors to determine the appliance and treatment plan. They examine patients, taking measurements of the affected parts of the body. They may make plaster casts directly from the patient's body to be sure the devices fit comfortably. They use measurements to make models and layouts to design and draw replacement limbs, corrective shoes, inserts, braces, or surgical supports.

Orthotists and prosthetists may send their design to assistants or technicians to build the product. They select the materials and component parts, such as wood, plastic, fabric, padding, and metal. They form, saw, mold, shape, grind, polish, buff, and sew components together. They join parts using screws, rivets, glue, and heat. When devices are ready, orthotists and prosthetists work with patients to fit, test, and evaluate them. They make sure that they fit properly and that all parts are working. If not, they make adjustments and changes to improve the fit, function, and comfort of the device. Orthotic and prosthetic specialists show patients how to use their appliances. They counsel patients to help them gain confidence.

Orthotic and prosthetic specialists research new designs, materials, and technologies. They discuss designs with patients, colleagues, and manufacturers. They teach student doctors, assistants, technicians, and rehabilitation counselors about orthoses and prostheses. Orthotic and prosthetic specialists attend conferences and seminars to update their skills. Many write and publish their findings.

## At-a-Glance

- Orthotists design braces, supports, and corrective shoes
- Prosthetists create replacement limbs, such as arms, legs, hands, or feet
- Fit, test, and evaluate devices on patients
- Work closely with doctors, assistants, and patients
- Most have a master's degree

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- There are no educational programs for orthotic and prosthetic specialists in Nevada

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# PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Average Salary: \$100,490

A mean wage of about \$48 per hour

Employment

1,337 physical therapists are employed in Nevada, including 934 in Las Vegas

Nevada Job Outlook

1,307 job listings for physical therapists in 2015

## Overview

Physical therapists (PTs) are health care professionals who diagnose and treat individuals of all ages, who have medical problems limit their abilities to move and perform functional activities. Doctors refer patients to a physical therapist for conditions such as low back pain, arthritis, and broken bones as well as those recovering from surgery, accidents, strokes, and heart disease.

Physical therapists help patients decrease pain and improve strength. They must evaluate the patient's posture, balance, strength, muscle function, and range of motion. When their evaluation is complete, therapists write a treatment plan which includes the types of treatment to be used, the purpose, and the intended outcome. Assistants and aides sometimes help to carry out the treatment plan. They are supervised by the physical therapist.

Physical therapists use a wide range of treatments. They make sure patients understand how the treatments work and answer questions. The physical therapists facilitates the patient's movement, builds an exercise plan to improve flexibility and increase strength. They administer physical agents, such as hot and cold packs, to reduce pain. They use ultrasound and electrical stimulation to reduce pain and improve function. Sometimes therapists give deep tissue massage to their patients or put patients in traction devices. They may refer patients for prosthetic devices, which are artificial replacements for legs or arms.

In addition, physical therapists teach patients how to do exercises at home and how to use canes and crutches. They also teach families to help patients with exercises and other procedures at home. Physical therapists monitor the patient's progress and modify plans when necessary. They consult with other medical staff about patients responses to treatment. In addition, therapists record everything they do in the patient's medical file. They may lead group activities and teach

physical therapy students. Some physical therapists also conduct research and educate the community on injury prevention and treatment.

## At-a-Glance

- Physical therapists treat patients with disabilities, injuries, or pain
- Identify and document goals, anticipated progress, and plans for reevaluation
- Work with patients, doctors, assistants, and aides
- Must have a master's degree, many have a doctoral degree
- Need a license from the Nevada State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- Touro University (Henderson)
  - Doctorate, Other Advanced Degree
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
  - First Professional, Doctorate
- University of Nevada, Reno
  - Bachelor's (Pre-Physical Therapy Preparation)

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# PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

**Average Salary: \$56,960**

A mean wage of about \$27 per hour

## Employment

410 physical therapist assistants are employed in Nevada, including 320 in Las Vegas

## Nevada Job Outlook

306 job listings for physical therapist assistants in 2015



## Overview

Physical therapist assistants (PTAs) help patients regain physical function after illness or injury. They help provide services that improve patients' mobility and reduce their pain. The goal is to limit or prevent permanent disabilities in patients who have been ill or injured. Their patients include people with low back pain, arthritis, heart disease, broken bones, or accidental injuries.

PTAs must be supervised by a physical therapist and have a variety of tasks. Before working with patients, they confer with a physical therapist about the treatment plan for that patient. Under the direction of therapists, assistants provide many different types of treatment options. They teach patients exercises that strengthen muscles or improve mobility. They train patients how to use and care for braces, prostheses, and support devices such as crutches. Assistants also administer traction, which pulls joints to relieve neck and back pain. They provide soothing treatments, such as massage or heat or cold packs. They also use electrical stimulation and ultrasound. Most of these treatments work to relieve pain and to improve the function of joints and muscles.

Physical therapist assistants record treatment details in patient charts including the effects of each treatment plan. To do this, they measure a patient's range of motion in joints or body parts, and take a patient's vital signs. Assistants then report patients' responses to physical therapists. Physical therapist assistants help make therapy sessions productive by keeping the treatment areas clean and organized. They also assist patients in moving to and from treatment areas. For example, they may push them in a wheelchair or give them a shoulder to lean on. Assistants sometimes help patients in dressing or undressing. Physical therapist assistants often have clerical tasks. They may answer the phone, order supplies, or fill out forms for insurance companies. The extent to which an assistant performs clerical tasks depends on the size and type of the facility.

## At-a-Glance

- Physical therapist assistants help patients improve their mobility and reduce their pain
- Are supervised by physical therapists
- Work with patients, doctors, assistants, and aides
- Education and training typically through two-year programs
- Need a license from the Nevada State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- Carrington College (Las Vegas)
  - Associate
- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
  - Associate
- PIMA Medical Institute (Las Vegas)
  - Associate
- Truckee Meadows Community College (Reno)
  - Certificate

## Related Job Titles

- Clinical Rehabilitation Aide
- Physical Therapy Aide
- Physical Therapy Technician
- Rehabilitation Technician

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# RECREATIONAL THERAPIST

**Average Salary: \$42,740**

A mean wage of about \$21 per hour

**Employment**

52 recreational therapists are employed in Nevada, including 39 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook**

27 job listings for recreational therapists in 2015



## Overview

Recreational therapists create programs in art, music, dance, sports, games, and crafts for individuals with disabilities or illnesses. These programs help to prevent or to alleviate physical, mental, and social problems. They improve self-confidence and self-control and relieve depression and anger. The overall goal is to keep their patients physically and mentally healthy.

Recreational therapists use many different leisure activities to treat patients. They plan and carry out treatment services or activities using a variety of methods and plan all activities around patient interests as well as their needs. Many recreational therapists use arts and crafts, dance, drama, music, and games to keep patients active. They may offer instruction in stretching and breathing techniques. They also talk with patients and listen to their reactions to help ease any depression, stress, or anxiety.

They work in hospitals, nursing homes, day care centers, and other health care institutions. Recreational therapists usually work with doctors, nurses, social workers, psychologists, and physical and occupational therapists in setting up treatment for patients. They examine the patient's medical records and talk to family members. They develop detailed treatment plans and make changes when needed. An important part of their job is to keep track of patient progress. Recreational therapists often meet with other medical staff to talk about how patients are doing. They also keep detailed records and write reports.

## At-a-Glance

- Recreational therapists work with patients in hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, and assisted living facilities
- Conduct therapy sessions to improve patients mental and physical well being
- Use a variety of therapeutic techniques, including arts and crafts, drama, music, dance, sports, and field trips
- Must have bachelor's degree, some possess a master's degree
- Typically certified by the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- There are no educational programs for recreational therapists in Nevada

## Related Job Titles

- Activity Therapist
- Art Therapist
- Music Therapist
- Rehabilitation Therapist
- Therapeutic Recreation Specialist

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# REHABILITATION COUNSELOR

**Average Salary: \$38,600** | A mean wage of about \$19 per hour

**Employment** | 299 rehabilitation counselors are employed in Nevada, including 217 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 13 job listings for rehabilitation counselors in 2015



## Overview

Rehabilitation counselors work with individuals to maximize their independence and employability. They work with patients coping with personal, social, and vocational difficulties that are a direct result from birth defects, illness, disease, accidents, or the stress of daily life. Many of their patients have mental, emotional, or physical handicaps and it is the job of the rehabilitation counselor to help them lead self-sufficient lives both at home and on the job.

Rehabilitation counselors work one-on-one with patients. They design exercises that teach patients how to perform necessary skills. They may train them to do light tasks, such as sweeping and dusting. Often, they create new ways for patients to complete tasks with the use of special tools and devices.

Rehabilitation counselors may help patients learn how to use braces and wheelchairs. Counselors often work with families, doctors, social workers, and other therapists when they develop treatment plans. They also work directly with a patient's coworkers and managers, advising them on how to work with the patient. They can also identify any potential problems, such as physical barriers, so that recommended changes can be made.

## At-a-Glance

- Rehabilitation counselors develop rehabilitation plans to help people with disabilities live and work independently
- Work closely with patients and health care workers
- Keep detailed records of all patients and their progress
- Must have a master's degree
- Typically certified by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
  - Other Advanced Degree
- Western Nevada College (Carson City)
  - Associate/Transfer

## Related Job Titles

- Human Services Care Specialist
- Psychosocial Rehabilitative Skills Specialist
- Rehabilitation Specialist
- Vocational Case Manager
- Vocational Placement Specialist
- Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

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# RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

**Average Salary: \$70,990**

A mean wage of about \$34 per hour

**Employment**

1,030 respiratory therapists are employed in Nevada, including 740 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook**

167 job listings for respiratory therapists in 2015

## Overview

Respiratory therapists (RTs) evaluate, treat, and care for patients with breathing or other cardiopulmonary disorders. Practicing under the direction of a physician, respiratory therapists assume primary responsibility for all respiratory care, therapeutic treatments and diagnostic procedures. This also includes the supervision of respiratory therapy technicians. They consult with physicians and other health care staff to help develop and modify patient care plans. Therapists also provide complex therapy such as caring for patients on life support in intensive care units of hospitals.

Respiratory therapists test a patient's lung capacity by having them breathe into an instrument that measures oxygen. Respiratory therapists also use a blood gas analyzer which measures the levels of oxygen and acidity in a patient's blood. They monitor their conditions and report findings to the patient's physician. In all situations, they inform patients about procedures to help them feel comfortable.

Respiratory therapists operate many different devices to treat patients. For example, they connect patients to ventilators by inserting a tube down their windpipe and set the rate and volume of oxygen that will flow into the patient's lungs. Some patients use ventilators and other life support systems at home. Respiratory therapists teach patients how to use them and how to check the equipment. Respiratory therapists also perform chest physiotherapy to remove mucus from a patient's lungs. They place patients in positions to help drain mucus. Then they vibrate their rib cage and tell patients when to cough. When their lungs are clear, respiratory therapists may administer inhalants. An inhalant is a liquid medicine mixed with gas. Respiratory therapists teach patients how to inhale properly so the medicine is most effective.

Respiratory therapists maintain patient charts, record all of the equipment used, results of evaluations, and treatment notes. They make sure that safety precautions are followed. In addition, respiratory therapists with experience may train and supervise new therapists and other staff. Respiratory therapists sometimes have tasks that fall outside their typical role including performing procedures that test heart and lung function, such as stress tests or drawing blood samples from patients.

## At-a-Glance

- Respiratory therapists treat patients of all ages with breathing disorders
- Use a variety of respiratory techniques and treatments, such as aerosol medications, chest physiotherapy, and ventilation
- Work under a doctor's supervision
- Must have an associate's degree, some have a bachelor's degree
- Need a license from the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- Carrington College (Las Vegas)
  - Associate
- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
  - Associate, Bachelor's
- PIMA Medical Institute (Las Vegas)
  - Associate

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# SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

**Average Salary: \$86,980**

A mean wage of about \$42 per hour

## Employment

810 speech-language pathologists are employed in Nevada, including 570 in Las Vegas

## Nevada Job Outlook

594 job listings for speech-language pathologists in 2015



## Overview

Speech-language pathologists, sometimes called speech therapists, assess and treat persons with speech, language, voice, and fluency disorders. Speech-language pathologists work with people who have difficulty producing speech sounds. They also work with those having speech and rhythm fluency problems. Examples include stuttering and voice disorders, such as inappropriate pitch or harsh voice. They also help patients understand and produce language and help those who wish to improve their communication skills by modifying an accent. Other patient cases include those with cognitive communication impairments, such as attention, memory, and problem-solving disorders. They also work with people who have difficulty swallowing.

During the initial consultation, speech-language pathologists evaluate the client's ability to understand and produce language. They check the clients hearing because poor hearing can affect the ability to learn speech. In addition, they check how muscles are working. Some people lose muscle control because of a stroke. Other patients are born with a cleft palate or other impairment that makes speech difficult. When they discover a physical problem in the structure of the mouth, pathologists may refer clients to doctors.

When they get new clients, speech-language pathologists ask them questions to identify their problems. They collect information and arrange for tests. At times, they consult with other staff members to interpret test results. Once they have enough information, speech pathologists design treatment plans specific to the client's needs. As improvements are made, they will revise the plan as needed. For example, they may teach clients how to make specific sounds. They may also teach sign language or lip reading. Some speech pathologists research new treatments and write reports about their findings. Others teach students and medical staff about preventing and treating hearing loss and speech disorders.

## At-a-Glance

- Speech-language pathologists treat language and speaking disorders
- Interact with clients and family members
- Must have a master's degree, some have a doctoral degree
- Need a license from the Nevada State Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- Nevada State College (Henderson)
  - Bachelor's, Other Advanced Degree
- University of Nevada, Reno
  - Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate
- Western Nevada College (Carson City)
  - Associate/Transfer

## Related Job Titles

- Speech Therapist

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# CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE

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# MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

**Average Salary: \$39,440** | A mean wage of about \$19 per hour

**Employment** | 882 medical laboratory technicians are employed in Nevada, including 554 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 527 job listings for medical laboratory technicians in 2015



## Overview

Medical laboratory technicians perform routine laboratory tests for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease. They run tests using samples of body fluids, cells, or tissues. Examples of testing include looking for bacteria, parasites, and other microorganisms; analyzing the chemical content of fluids; matching blood for transfusions; and testing for drug levels in the blood to monitor patient treatment.

Technicians prepare specimens for examination, count cells, and look for abnormal cells in blood and body fluids. They use samples to prepare slides and place them under a microscope. Specimens are tested using sophisticated laboratory equipment such as chemical analyzers or cell counters. Technicians look to see if the sample test results are normal or abnormal which might indicate disease.

For other tests, technicians grow cell cultures to isolate and identify organisms, such as bacteria, that would indicate an infection. They make sure cells are grown in the right medium and temperature. They may also prepare solutions for use in the lab. This duty involves measuring and mixing the correct amount of various chemicals. They must be very exact in their work as errors could cause a patient to be misdiagnosed.

After performing tests, medical laboratory technicians record, evaluate, and send results back to physicians or medical researchers. They also talk to pathologists if abnormal cells are found. All tests require that the medical laboratory technicians record the results on computers, allowing other health professionals to review them.

In addition to running tests, technicians set up, clean, and maintain laboratory equipment, such as centrifuges and microscopes. Many specialize by obtaining additional training and experience.

## At-a-Glance

- Medical laboratory technicians run tests using body fluid, cells, or tissue samples
- Obtain specimens, cultivating, isolating, and identifying microorganisms for analysis
- Grow cell cultures using appropriate media and environmental conditions
- Consult with pathologists to determine a final diagnosis when abnormal cells are found
- Must have an associate degree
- Must be certified by the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)  
– Associate

## Related Job Titles

- Blood-Gas Technician
- Clinical Laboratory Technician
- Histologic Technician
- Laboratory Assistant
- Medical Technician
- Office Laboratory Assistant
- Pathologist Assistant

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# MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGIST

**Average Salary: \$66,370**

A mean wage of about \$32 per hour

**Employment**

1,191 medical laboratory technologists are employed in Nevada, including 847 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook**

111 job listings for medical laboratory technologists in 2015



## Overview

Medical laboratory technologists are essential members of the health care team. They perform complex laboratory tests. Doctors rely on them to correctly help diagnose and treat patients. On any given day, duties may range from confirming a case of diabetes or strep throat to detecting a case of leukemia. They may supervise medical laboratory technicians and other staff members.

Similar to a medical laboratory technician, technologists conduct complex tests utilizing samples of body fluids, cells, and tissues. They are responsible for identifying abnormal blood cells, toxic agents, and detecting cancerous tumors with DNA techniques. Blood tests are especially common in this field to determine a patient's cell morphology, blood type, or compatibility for transfusion purposes.

Medical laboratory technologists use several types of equipment to run tests. Many of these machines are computer-controlled. They make sure that equipment is maintained to ensure accurate results. This includes regular cleaning, maintenance, and calibration of all laboratory equipment.

Medical laboratory technologists have a more advanced skill set than medical laboratory technicians. In general, medical laboratory technologists perform more complex lab tests and often supervise and train other laboratory workers, including assistants and medical laboratory technicians. They are responsible for the work of other workers as they provide technical information about test results to physicians, family members, and researchers. Many specialize by obtaining additional training and experience in blood bank technology, chemistry, cytology, histology, microbiology, hematology, immunology, immunochemistry, nuclear medicine, histocompatibility, and biotechnology.

## At-a-Glance

- Medical laboratory technologists run complex tests using body fluid, cells, or tissue samples
- Consult with pathologists and other physicians about laboratory test results to improve the diagnosis and treatment of disease
- Must have a bachelor's degree
- Must be licensed by the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)  
– Bachelor's

## Related Job Titles

- Blood-Gas Technologist (Respiratory)
- Clinical Laboratory Technical Specialist
- Clinical Laboratory Technologist
- Cytotechnologist
- Histotechnologist
- Laboratory Technologist

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# PHLEBOTOMIST

**Average Salary: \$33,960**

A mean wage of about \$16 per hour

## Employment

913 phlebotomists are employed in Nevada, including 741 in Las Vegas

## Nevada Job Outlook

264 job listings for phlebotomists in 2015



## Overview

Phlebotomists collect, transport, handle, and process blood specimens for analysis, donation, and other medical purposes. Phlebotomists use medical equipment and supplies, such as tourniquets, needles, swabs, and other equipment to collect blood samples. Phlebotomists place a tourniquet on a patient's arm, find a vein, and disinfect the puncture area. They insert a needle into the vein and draw blood into a collection bag or tube. Phlebotomists also sample blood through skin punctures. They may prick a finger or heel to test a patient's blood sugar or determine blood type.

Due to the risk of blood-borne pathogens phlebotomists must make sure all equipment is sterilized before it is used to collect blood. They are required to wear gloves to protect themselves, decreasing their risk of blood-borne diseases. Some are responsible for transporting blood samples to labs, therefore they must ensure proper safety and disease prevention measures. Safety is important, and they take many precautions to prevent the transmission of disease.

Phlebotomists work in hospitals, labs, or doctor's offices. They may also work at blood banks, pharmaceutical firms, or home health agencies. Some work in research institutions, hospices, or public health clinics. Depending on where they work, phlebotomists might greet patients, discuss patient health history, and take vital signs. They may file and chart completed reports and help maintain equipment. They must be accurate, work well under pressure, and communicate effectively. They must be able to work with a variety of people, including difficult and emotional patients. Phlebotomists often speak with patients to calm their fears about having their blood drawn.

## At-a-Glance

- Phlebotomists collect, transport, handle, and process blood specimens for analysis, donation, and other medical purposes
- Must know human anatomy
- With additional training, phlebotomists can work as medical laboratory technicians or technologists
- A full-time phlebotomist performs an average of 100 blood draws per day
- Must have a Laboratory Assistant or an Office Laboratory Assistant certificate from the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- Career College of Northern Nevada (Sparks)
  - Diploma, Certificate
- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Medical Skills for Life Institute (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Northwest Health Careers (Las Vegas)
  - Pre-certification, Certificate
- Phlebotomy Learning Center of (Las Vegas)
  - Diploma
- PIMA Medical Institute (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Truckee Meadows Community College (Reno)
  - Certificate
- Western Nevada College (Carson City)
  - Pre-Certification

## Related Job Titles

- Blood Collection Specialist
- Medical Laboratory Assistant

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# MEDICAL IMAGING AND RADIOLOGY

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**Average Salary: \$67,390**

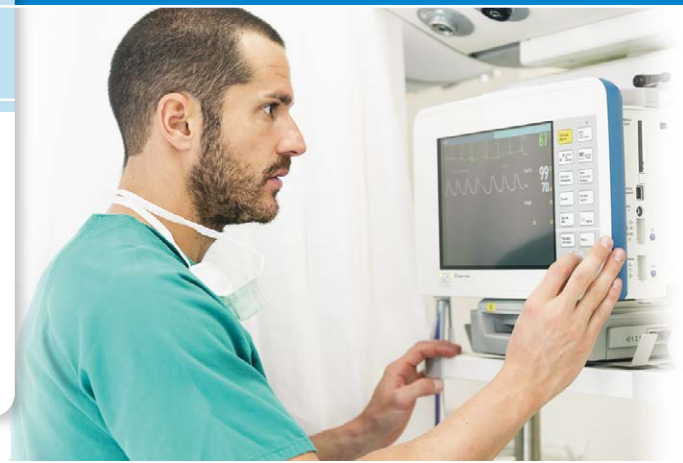
A mean wage of about \$32 per hour

**Employment**

465 cardiology technologists/technicians are employed in Nevada, including 387 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook**

261 job listings for cardiovascular technicians in 2015



## Overview

Cardiovascular technicians conduct electrocardiograms (EKGs) and other cardiovascular tests to record patients' cardiac activity using specialized electronic test equipment, recording devices, and laboratory instruments. Cardiovascular technologists have additional education and training to operate special imaging equipment to create images or conduct tests on a patients' heart and blood vessels.

Cardiovascular technicians who conduct EKG tests are called electrocardiograph technicians and work closely with cardiovascular technologists. An EKG machine traces the rhythm of the heart. To run EKG tests, technicians put electrodes on patients' chests, arms, and legs. They monitor the equipment as the test proceeds. For a stress test, the patient walks on a treadmill and the technician controls the increasing speed of the treadmill to observe the cardiovascular effect of the increased exertion. They may fit some patients with portable heart monitors. Technicians provide the data from this test to doctors.

Cardiovascular technologists monitor a patient's heart rate and help physicians in diagnosing cardiovascular disease. They also assist with cardiac catheterization requiring the inserting of small tubes, called catheters, into a patient's body.

Cardiovascular technologists help prepare patients for these tests and procedures. They take a patient's medical history and answer any questions about the testing procedure in order to obtain cooperation and reduce anxiety. If tubes will be inserted, they shave and clean the area where the tubes will go. They apply anesthesia to the skin and help doctors insert a small tube into the body. They activate the scope and camera that doctors use to guide the tube through the body. During these tests, they monitor patients' blood pressure and watch the heart's activity. They also monitor patients during open-heart surgery and other heart procedures.

Cardiovascular technologists who use ultrasound on the heart are called echocardiographers. Ultrasound instruments record how blood vessels are working. The ultrasound wand sends out sound waves and collects the echoes to form an image on a screen. They position the wand so it is over the heart. They adjust the amount and quality of the sound waves to improve the images and work closely with physicians or surgeons before, during, and after procedures.

## At-a-Glance

- Cardiovascular technician/technologists monitor patients' comfort and safety during tests, alerting physicians to abnormalities or changes in patient responses
- Exposure to radiation is reduced by wearing protective clothing and by following safety procedures
- Must have a certificate, some may require a two-year training program
- May be licensed as a Perfusionist by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- American Institute of Medical Sonography (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate, Diploma
- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate (Ultrasound), Bachelor's
- Medical Skills for Life Institute (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Truckee Meadows Community College (Reno)
  - Certificate

## Related Job Titles

- Cardiac/Vascular Sonographer
- Echocardiographic Technician
- Sonographer
- Ultrasound Technician
- Ultrasound Technologist

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# DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHER

**Average Salary: \$74,700** | A mean wage of about \$36 per hour

**Employment** | 284 medical sonographers are employed in Nevada, including 196 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 48 job listings for medical sonographers in 2015

## Overview

Diagnostic medical sonographers use ultrasound equipment to examine and test areas of a patient's body. While most people think ultrasounds are used to see a baby in the womb, ultrasounds are actually used for a variety of medical reasons. From many patient cases, they produce ultrasonic recordings of internal organs for use by physicians.

Diagnostic medical sonographers perform clinical assessments and diagnostic sonography examinations. They use cognitive sonographic skills to identify, record, and adapt procedures as appropriate to anatomical, pathological, diagnostic information, and images. Sonographers must use independent judgment during the sonographic exam to accurately differentiate between normal and pathologic findings.

Diagnostic medical sonography is a specialized profession that includes abdominal sonography, breast sonography, cardiac sonography, obstetrics/gynecology sonography, pediatric sonography, phlebology sonography, vascular technology/sonography, and other emerging clinical areas. These diverse specialty areas all use ultrasound as a primary technology in their daily work.

During the performance of a sonogram, sonographers synthesize sonographic information and medical history, and communicate findings to the appropriate physician. They also assist with the coordination of work schedules among clinical and non-clinical staff. Sonographers assume responsibility for the safety, mental and physical comfort of patients while they are in the sonographer's care.

Sonographers must assist with the daily operations of the sonographic laboratory and maintain a daily log of patients seen, ultrasound equipment, work area, and supplies. Sonographers participate in the maintenance of laboratory accreditation. They establish and maintain ethical working relationships and good rapport among all interrelating hospitals, referral, and commercial agencies.

## At-a-Glance

- Diagnostic medical sonographers provide patient care services using ultrasound and related diagnostic procedures
- Must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice
- Demonstration and maintenance of competency through certification by a nationally recognized sonography credentialing organization is the standard of practice in sonography
- Recommended education is completion of a formal Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program or Cardiovascular Technology Program that is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
- Bachelor of Science degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography is desirable.

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- American Institute of Medical Sonography (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate, Diploma
- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
  - Associate

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# NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGIST

**Average Salary: \$76,350**

A mean wage of about \$37 per hour

## Employment

125 nuclear medicine technologists are employed in Nevada, including 104 in Las Vegas

## Nevada Job Outlook

Less than 10 job listings for nuclear medicine technologists in 2015



## Overview

Nuclear medicine technologists prepare, measure, and administer radioactive medicine and treatments to patients. They work directly with radiologists to calculate how much radiation or radioactive medication the treatment will require. They prepare the proper dosage and give it to the patient by mouth, injection, or other means. Prior to each procedure, they review the patient's medical history.

Nuclear medicine technologists use cameras that detect the radioactive medications as they move through the body. To track the movement of these medications, they arrange patients and the equipment in the proper position. Then they start the scanner which monitors the path of the radioactive medicine in the body. This path appears as images on a computer screen or on film. Technologists print out the images for doctors to interpret. In addition, they monitor patients during procedures and enter test results into their medical chart. The procedure for giving radiation treatments is similar. They program computers so that patients receive the correct amount of radiation. After the tests or treatments are given, technologists record the results.

Nuclear medicine technologists may perform studies to assess how radioactive materials act inside the body. For example, they add materials to a blood sample and observe the changes. They may also run tests on cardiac function and develop procedures for treatment programs. Following safety procedures, they dispose of, and safely store, radioactive materials. They keep track of the amount and type of radiation disposed and may be responsible for ordering more materials. In addition, they may train and supervise other technologists and those studying in nuclear medicine programs.

## At-a-Glance

- Nuclear medicine technologists administer radiation to detect or treat diseases, using radioisotope equipment, under direction the of a physician
- Perform quality control checks and maintain laboratory equipment or cameras
- Work closely with radiologists
- Education and training can take one to four years
- Need a license from the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
– Bachelor's

## Related Job Titles

- Certified Nuclear Medicine Technologist
- Nuclear Cardiology Technologist
- Registered Nuclear Medicine Technologist

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# RADIATION THERAPIST

**Average Salary: \$81,070** | A mean wage of about \$39 per hour

**Employment** | 70 radiation therapists are employed in Nevada

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 27 job listings for radiation therapists in 2015

## Overview

Radiation therapists provide radiation therapy to patients as prescribed by a radiation oncologist according to established practices and standards. Radiation therapists are part of the planning team that helps to gather information about new patients before they begin treatment. They read patient charts to learn about their current medical condition and current prescriptions. In all cases, radiation therapists will discuss patient cases with doctors to confirm the patient's treatment prior to starting cancer treatment.

Radiation therapists assist in developing treatment plans and review them with other medical professionals prior to the start of treatment. They work with the medical dosimetrist to calculate the amount of radiation patients should receive, and the duration of their treatments. Before giving treatments, radiation therapists review the patient's chart for completeness. They enter that information into the computer. Radiation therapists help patients onto tables and immobilize the patient using many different devices to ensure that the patient is in the correct position to receive their treatment. During treatments, therapists observe patients by closed circuit TV to make sure the patient does not move during the treatment.

Radiation therapists protect themselves from exposure to radiation by delivering the treatments from rooms outside of the patient treatment rooms. Radiation therapists perform daily tests on the treatment machines to make sure they are giving the right dose of radiation. In addition to their other duties, therapists provide patients with emotional support. They explain procedures and answer patient questions. They also pass information about patients to doctors and other health care workers.

## At-a-Glance

- Radiation therapists administer prescribed doses of radiation to specific body parts, using high energy radiation therapy equipment
- Conduct treatment sessions independently, in accordance with the long-term treatment plan and under the general direction of a patient's physician
- Must have an associate or bachelor's degree
- Need certification and registration from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate, Associate
- Truckee Meadows Community College (Reno)
  - Certificate, Associate
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
  - Bachelor's

## Related Job Titles

- Computed Tomography Simulation Therapist
- Medical Dosimetrist
- Radiation Therapy Technologist
- Registered Radiation Therapist

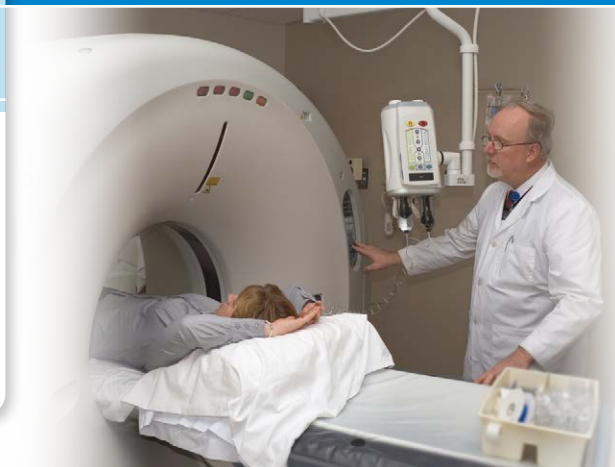


# RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST

**Average Salary: \$62,460** | A mean wage of about \$30 per hour

**Employment** | 1,489 radiologic technologists are employed in Nevada, including 1,072 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 155 job listings for radiologic technologists in 2015



## Overview

Radiologic technologists use special equipment to create images of internal organs, tissues, and bones that are used to diagnose medical problems. They create images of the inside of the body under the general direction of physicians. The main types of procedures are x-ray, fluoroscopy, and sonogram. X-rays are pictures that show the bones of the body. Both fluoroscopy and sonograms show the soft tissues of the body. These last two procedures use sound, magnetic, and radio waves to create images of the inside of the body.

Radiologic technologists prepare patients for imaging procedures. They explain procedures to patients and answer their questions. They make sure patients remove their jewelry so it does not interfere with the machinery. Next, technologists position patients on an examination table near the imaging equipment. For some procedures, such as x-rays, technologists must make sure that the patient is protected during the test. For example, they may cover parts of the patient's body with a lead apron. When conducting a fluoroscopy, technologists give patients a special solution to drink. The body absorbs this solution and technologists track its movement through the body. When giving any of these procedures, technologists adjust the controls of the equipment. When conducting fluoroscopies and sonograms, they monitor images on video screens.

Radiologic technologists monitor patients during the procedures and report problems to doctors. Radiologic technologists analyze the images and consult with doctors about what the images might mean. The images help doctors to identify and treat medical problems. Radiologic technologists may oversee and train other radiologic staff members and maintain patient records. They may also be in charge of maintaining special equipment and doing inventory of medical supplies.

## At-a-Glance

- Radiologic technologists conduct x-ray, fluoroscopy, and sonogram procedures to diagnose medical problems
- Education and training through two-year programs
- Need certification and registration from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
  - Pre-certification, Associate
- Great Basin College (Elko)
  - Associate
- Kaplan College (Las Vegas)
  - Diploma
- PIMA Medical Institute (Las Vegas)
  - Associate
- Truckee Meadows Community College (Reno)
  - Associate
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
  - Certificate, Bachelor's
- Western Nevada Career College (Carson City)
  - Associate/Transfer

## Related Job Titles

- Computed Tomography (CT) Radiologic Technologist
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Technologist
- Mammography Technologists
- Radiographer
- X-Ray Technologist



# DIETETICS AND NUTRITION

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[www.medicine.nevada.edu/statewide/ahec](http://www.medicine.nevada.edu/statewide/ahec)

# DIETETIC TECHNICIAN

**Average Salary: \$38,830** | A mean wage of about \$19 per hour

**Employment** | 104 dietetic technicians are employed in Nevada, including 60 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 19 job listings for dietetic technicians in 2015



## Overview

Dietetic technicians assist in the provision of food service and nutritional programs, under the supervision of a registered dietitian. Their primary task is to assist dietitians in developing a personalized nutritional care plan for their clients. Technicians gather and analyze information about a client's dietary needs and help design a plan to address each need, improving the client's health. They may also talk to doctors, nurses, or family members to gather more information.

Dietetic technicians also educate people about proper nutrition. They teach people how to plan healthy meals based on their nutritional needs and teach people how to select and prepare foods.

It is very common to work with clients in hospitals and nursing homes, however, in some cases, dietetic technicians may also provide case management outside of the health care facility, working directly with clients in their homes. They may also work in one of the growing number of neighborhood health centers that help families plan better meals.

Many dietetic technicians work for schools, prisons, day care centers, public health departments, or factories that operate food service facilities. When working in these settings, technicians plan the menus for the institution and are required to follow guidelines about which foods they can include. Some dietetic technicians work as supervisors. Others are involved in research.

Dietetic technicians also supervise the employees who are preparing and serving the food. While they do not hire these employees, dietetic technicians are responsible for creating their job descriptions. They also schedule when employees will work. Sometimes dietetic technicians schedule and teach classes for their employees. They may also deliver speeches to the community on diet, nutrition, or health to promote healthy eating habits and illness prevention and treatment.

## At-a-Glance

- Dietetic technicians obtain and evaluate dietary histories of individuals to plan nutritional programs
- Plan menus and diets and guides individuals and families in food selection, preparation, and planning
- Work with patients, registered dietitians, health care workers, and food service workers
- Usually work for hospitals or nursing homes
- Some supervise food production
- Receive on the job training

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- Truckee Meadows Community College (Reno)  
– Associate/Transfer

## Related Job Titles

- Clinical Dietetic Technician
- Dietary Aide
- Nutrition Assistant
- Nutrition Technician

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# REGISTERED DIETITIAN/NUTRITIONIST

**Average Salary: \$64,330** | A mean wage of about \$31 per hour

**Employment** | 267 dietitians/nutritionists are employed in Nevada, including 162 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 147 job listings for dietitians/nutritionists in 2015

## Overview

Registered dietitians/nutritionists (RDNs) plan and conduct food service or nutritional programs to assist in the promotion of health and control of disease. They may also supervise activities of a department providing food services, provide medical nutrition therapy, counsel individuals, or conduct nutritional research. There are four main areas of work for dietitians: management, clinical, community, and consultant.

Management dietitians are in charge of meal planning on a large scale. They generally work in large hospitals, schools, prisons, and cafeterias. They also supervise workers who plan, prepare, and serve meals. They inspect the prepared meals and assess that the proper nutrients are being supplied. Their administrative duties include preparing budgets and purchasing food, equipment, and supplies. They also prepare records and reports. Management dietitians check that safety and cleanliness rules are being followed.

Clinical dietitians work in hospitals, nursing homes, and physicians' offices. They are in charge of developing meal plans that provide the correct nutrients for patients and provide medical nutrition therapy. This can include low-cholesterol, low-fat, and other special kinds of foods. They check that the diets are helping patients get better, and may change the diet when patients are not improving.

Community dietitians work with the public as well as with patients. These dietitians may design and teach classes about diet and nutrition. They plan, organize, and prepare materials for the classes. Some classes cover general nutrition in terms of having good health and preventing disease. Other classes are aimed towards the elderly, children, or people with special needs. Like clinical dietitians, community dietitians evaluate patients and design their diets. Other community dietitians develop large-scale interventions that benefit entire communities. This may involve working with schools, local businesses, community leaders, and the media. Like clinical dietitians,

some community dietitians evaluate patients, design diets, and provide nutrition education and counseling. Most community dietitians work in public health settings. Others work with schools, home health agencies, health maintenance organizations (HMOs), food banks, and grocery stores.

Consultant dietitians often run their own business. Like clinical dietitians, they analyze their client's health and offer diet advice to those interested in changing their current dietary habits. Consultant dietitians may work with businesses such as restaurants or cafeterias for short periods as advisors. In these settings they offer their knowledge and help businesses make changes or set up new programs to ensure healthy and quality products are being provided.

## At-a-Glance

- Registered dietitians/nutritionists promote healthy eating
- Work with patients, clients, doctors, nurses, and food service workers
- Must have a bachelor's degree plus dietetic internship
- Must be registered with the Commission on Dietetic Registration
- The credential is Licensed Dietitian (LD)
- Need to be licensed by the Nevada Division Public and Behavioral Health, Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
  - Bachelor's
- University of Nevada, Reno
  - Bachelor's, Master's

# HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



# HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR

**Average Salary: \$97,830** | A mean wage of about \$47 per hour

**Employment** | 1,940 health service administrators and managers are employed in Nevada, including 1,346 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 75 job listings for health service administrators and managers in 2015



## Overview

Health services administrators plan and manage the delivery of health care. Some health services administrators are chief executive officers (CEOs) who run hospitals and other health care facilities. They manage nursing homes and other services for older people. Other administrators are directors and managers running large departments or clinical areas, such as nursing or surgery, and set standards specific to their units. Most clinical managers or administrators have training and work experience in the area for which they are responsible.

Administrators stay up to date on new laws, regulations, and policy as they are responsible for quality health care services. They supervise assistant administrators and represent the facility to governing boards and the public. This occupation also includes directors and managers. Managers set budgets and oversee how money is being spent. They keep track of changes in health care, such as the increased focus on population health management.

Administrators regularly communicate with staff, department heads, and members of governing boards to make sure that everyone is aware of new developments, changes, and department or hospital needs. They also make sure that their organization is ready to handle an emergency should one occur. Some managers make sure buildings are safe and clean and that equipment is in good working order. They make sure that buildings are accessible to people with disabilities. Other managers oversee health research or advancement in computer technology. They often work with different community groups to determine the health needs of the community and may develop teaching materials for community health and wellness education.

Many administrators oversee human resources, finance, and other departments. They hire staff and use computers to keep track of all employee data,

and establish work schedules and assign duties to all staff. They plan and implement billing and accounting systems and write activity reports. Health services administrators may manage the business affairs of medical group practices. In large clinics, administrators set policies and manage daily business operations. In small clinics, they manage the billing systems and assist in hiring.

## At-a-Glance

- Health services administrators run hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and other medical facilities
- Are responsible for work outcomes and the quality of health care services
- Stay up to date on new laws and regulations
- Supervise managers and assistant administrators
- Must have at least a bachelor's degree, many require a master's degree
- Nursing home administrators need a license from the Nevada State Board of Examiners of Long-Term Care Administrators

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- DeVry University (Henderson)
  - Bachelor's
- PIMS Medical Institute (Las Vegas)
  - Associate
- University of Nevada, Reno
  - Master's
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
  - Bachelor's, Master's, First Professional

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# MEDICAL BILLER AND CODER



**Average Salary: \$36,470**

A mean wage of about \$18 per hour

**Employment** | 1,043 in medical billers and coders, including 701 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 258 job listings for medical billers and coders in 2015

## Overview

Medical coders and billers assign codes to illnesses, injuries, and medical procedures based on doctors' and nurses' notes. They enter these codes on insurance forms. Hospitals and doctors use codes for reimbursement, planning, and research. Insurance companies and public agencies use the codes to pay health care providers for their services. The codes are even used by international health organizations to compile health statistics, discover patterns of disease, and track the costs of health care.

Medical coders and billers match letter and number codes to medical treatments, diagnoses, and medications. Every time a patient receives professional health care, the providers assign a code and create an insurance claim. This ensures that the health care providers are paid for their services.

Medical coders are responsible for accurately coding claims. They check medical records for doctors' and nurses' notes, lab tests, and x-rays that explain what treatments the patients received. They are trained to know insurance plans, regulations, codes, and guidelines and use this knowledge to assign correct codes for procedures and supplies used to treat the patient and maintain the patient's privacy.

Medical billers and coders make certain that all insurance forms are completed and signed. They also make sure that all the correct information is entered into their computers. Medical billers prepare billing invoices. They might also collect payments, interpret benefits, handle denied claims, and process appeals.

Medical coders and billers work in every type of health care facility, including doctor's offices, surgery centers, and hospitals. Some coders have their own freelance business in which they work from home and bill for their services on an hourly basis.

## At-a-Glance

- Medical billers and coders are educated and trained through one or two year programs
- Certification is optional through national organizations

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- Asher College (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Career College of Northern Nevada (Sparks)
  - Diploma, Certificate, Associate
- Carrington College (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Everest College (Henderson)
  - Certificate
- Great Basin College (Elko)
  - Certificate
- Kaplan College (Las Vegas)
  - Diploma
- The Learning Center (Las Vegas)
  - Pre-certification, Certificate
- Medical Association of Billers (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Medical Skills for Life Institute (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Milan Institute (Las Vegas, Sparks)
  - Certificate
- National Career Skills Institute (Reno)
  - Certificate
- Northwest Careers College (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Professional Institute of Technology (Las Vegas, Reno)
  - Pre-certification, Certificate
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
  - Certificate
- Western Nevada College (Carson City)
  - Certificate, Associate

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# MEDICAL INTERPRETER AND TRANSLATOR

**Average Salary: \$50,930** | A mean wage of about \$24 per hour

**Employment** | 13 medical interpreters and translators are employed in Nevada

**Nevada Job Outlook** | Less than 10 job listings for medical interpreters and translators in 2015



## Overview

Medical interpreters and translators convert information from one language to another. Interpreters work in spoken or sign language, whereas translators work in written language. Medical interpreters and translators typically work in health care settings and help patients communicate with doctors, nurses, and other medical staff. Both interpreters and translators must have a strong grasp of medical terminology and the common words for those medical terms in both languages, maintaining message content, context, and style as much as possible.

Medical interpreters work with live speech. They listen to speakers and interpret what they say. Medical interpreters may interpret consecutively, which means they wait for the speaker to pause. They may also interpret simultaneously, which means they translate while the speaker talks. Medical interpreters must also have sensitivity to participate in the patient's personal situations with health care providers.

Medical translators work only with written text. They don't usually have the same level of personal interaction with patients and providers that interpreters do. They primarily convert information brochures, materials that patients must read and sign, and website information from one language to another.

## At-a-Glance

- Medical interpreters and translators follow ethical codes that protect the confidentiality of patient information
- Many are self-employed
- Must have a bachelor's degree
- Must be knowledgeable in health care terminology
- Need to be fluent in English and at least one other language, since they translate messages into other languages

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- There are no educational programs for medical interpreters and translators in Nevada
- The Language Bank at the Northern Nevada International Center  
[www.unr.edu/nnic/languagebank](http://www.unr.edu/nnic/languagebank)

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**Average Salary: \$36,900**

A mean wage of about \$18 per hour

**Employment**

1,437 medical records and health information technicians are employed in Nevada, including 1,022 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook**

177 job listings for medical records and health information technicians in 2015

## Overview

Medical records and health information technicians collect, code, compile, process, and maintain medical records of hospital and clinic patients in a manner consistent with medical, administrative, ethical, legal, and regulatory requirements of the health care system. They verify the accuracy of medical records of all necessary information about a patient’s visit to the hospital or doctor’s office. For example, records include patient symptoms, medical history, and test results. They also contain x-rays, diagnoses, and treatment plans. They make sure records are complete and accurate. They also develop organized filing and storage systems that make it easy to store and gather files. In addition, they make sure that files are secure and confidential.

Once records are organized, medical records and health information technicians enter information into computers. For example, they enter the patient’s age, gender, history and extent of disease, and treatment. These technicians work with medical billers and coders to assign a code to each diagnosis and procedure. They consult a classification manual to find the proper code. Next, technicians use a computer program to assign patients to a “diagnosis-related group,” or DRG. DRGs determines the amount of money a hospital receives from insurance companies.

Medical records and health information technicians may be responsible for giving patient records to lawyers and insurance companies. Some technicians maintain special records, called registries. These records are for specific groups of patients, such as those who have cancer, heart disease, or organ transplants.

Medical records and health information technicians may also perform other related duties such as transcription, processing insurance bills, and handling patient admission and discharge forms. Experienced technicians may train or supervise other medical records staff.

## At-a-Glance

- Medical records and health information technicians create, maintain, and protect patient medical records
- Work with billers and coders to code patient treatment to diagnosis-related groups (DRGs), using appropriate computer software
- Work for hospitals, clinics, doctor’s offices, or nursing homes
- Must be highly organized and pay attention to detail
- Education and training typically lasts two years

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- Asher College (Las Vegas)
  - Pre-certification, Certificate
- Career College of Northern Nevada (Sparks)
  - Associate
- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
  - Associate
- The Learning Center (Las Vegas)
  - Pre-certification, Certificate
- Kaplan College (Las Vegas)
  - Associate
- National University (Henderson)
  - Associate, Master’s
- Professional Institute of Technology (Las Vegas, Reno)
  - Pre-certification, Certificate
- Truckee Meadows Community College (Reno)
  - Certificate
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
  - Certificate
- Western Nevada College (Carson City)
  - Certificate



# MEDICAL SECRETARY

**Average Salary: \$37,710** | A mean wage of about \$17 per hour

**Employment** | 2,216 medical secretaries are employed in Nevada, including 1,541 Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 912 job listings for medical secretaries in 2015



## Overview

Medical secretaries or medical administrative assistants use specific knowledge of medical terminology and hospital, clinic, or laboratory procedures. Duties may include scheduling appointments, billing patients, and compiling and recording medical charts, reports, and correspondence. They prepare staff to work in health care offices.

Medical secretaries work closely with doctors and patients. They also transcribe and interpret medical reports recorded by physicians and other health care practitioners using various electronic devices, office operations, chart reviews, and final summaries. In addition, they interview patients to complete insurance and other related forms. They may arrange for patients to be hospitalized or refer patients to labs or to other health care providers.

Medical secretaries are expected to use computer software programs, organize, plan, and prioritize work. They also assist and care for others, make decisions and solve problems, analyze data, and evaluate information against standards.

## At-a-Glance

- Medical secretaries have a high level of social contact working closely with doctors and patients
- Education and training through one or two year programs

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- Asher College (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Career College of Northern Nevada (Sparks)
  - Associate
- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Everest College (Henderson)
  - Certificate
- Healthcare Preparatory Institute (Las Vegas)
  - Diploma
- The Learning Center (Las Vegas)
  - Pre-certification, Certificate
- Milan Institute (Las Vegas, Sparks)
  - Certificate
- Nevada Career Institute (Las Vegas)
  - Diploma, Certificate
- PIMA Medical Institute (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Professional Institute of Technology (Las Vegas, Reno)
  - Pre-certification Certificate
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
  - Certificate

## Related Job Titles

- Medical Administrative Assistant
- Medical Back Office Assistant
- Medical Front Office Assistant
- Medical Receptionist

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# MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONIST

**Average Salary: \$29,560**

A mean wage of about \$14 per hour

**Employment**

282 medical transcriptionists are employed in Nevada, including 212 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook**

46 job listings for medical transcriptionists in 2015

## Overview

Medical transcriptionists transcribe and interpret medical reports recorded by physicians and other health care practitioners using various electronic devices, covering office visits, emergency room visits, diagnostic imaging studies, office operations, chart reviews, and final summaries. Using a recording device or a special machine called a Dictaphone, they listen to the tapes and type what the doctor is saying. They transcribe dictated reports and translate abbreviations into fully understandable form. They are expected to edit as necessary and return reports in either printed or electronic form for edits, review, and signature.

Transcriptionists must be able to understand different voices and accents. They must also have a good knowledge of medical terminology and be able to distinguish between homonyms and recognize inconsistencies and mistakes in medical terms, referring to dictionaries, drug references, and other sources on anatomy, physiology, and medicine. In addition, they must format reports so that they are easy to follow and read. They may use a standard format each time they transcribe a tape or digital voice file. Transcriptionists must be able to type fast, spell accurately, and use good grammar. They must also be familiar with computers and word processing software.

In some cases, they are expected to produce medical reports, correspondence, records, patient care information, statistics, medical research, data entry and administrative material. In addition, they must follow specific codes of ethics. Patient information must be kept confidential. Some transcriptionists also perform light office duties, such as filing and answering phones. It is also common for many to work from home, either on a freelance basis or as telecommuters.

## At-a-Glance

- Medical transcriptionists must have strong written and oral comprehension skills
- Knowledgeable of medical terminology and techniques used by physicians and other health professionals
- About 20 percent are self-employed
- Some work full-time, many work part-time
- Education and training through one or two year programs

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Great Basin College (Elko)
  - Certificate
- Milan Institute (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate

# PUBLIC HEALTH

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# BIOSTATISTICIAN

**Average Salary: \$84,230** | A mean wage of about \$41 per hour

**Employment** | 51 biostatisticians are employed in Nevada, including 31 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 13 job listings for biostatisticians in 2015



## Overview

Biostatisticians use mathematics to study medical issues. They apply statistics to study disease, medicine, and genetics. They also learn how to create studies that help doctors and scientists treat patients and develop new medications. Biostatisticians study rates of disease and how well certain medicines work. They also study the effect of healthy lifestyles on preventing diseases such as cancer and heart problems. They work with doctors and other scientists to identify ways people can live healthier, more productive lives. Biostatisticians develop and implement scientific studies, use different kinds of statistical techniques, and may write surveys and interpret results.

Biostatisticians can work for federal government agencies, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), National Institutes of Health (NIH), or state and local health departments. They can also work for hospitals, drug companies, and private research institutes. They study how different diseases begin and if new drug treatments are effective. In addition, because many employers value statistical knowledge, biostatisticians can work for businesses and large companies outside of medicine and health where they analyze data and issues specific to that company.

Becoming a biostatistician requires going to graduate school after completion of a bachelor's degree. Often programs are offered through the school of public health because the field of study concentrates on medicine and disease. In addition, some schools offer graduate-level certificate programs. These are usually for people who already have a graduate degree in a related field. Most people with a degree in biostatistics work as research scientists.

## At-a-Glance

- Biostatisticians apply their knowledge of math to a variety of subjects
- Design research studies in collaboration with physicians, life scientists, or other professionals
- Provide bio-statistical consultation to clients and colleagues
- Write detailed analysis plans and descriptions of analyses and findings for research reports
- Have strong analytical and computer skills
- Generally have a master's degree, some jobs require a doctorate

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
  - Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate
- University of Nevada, Reno
  - Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate

## Related Job Titles

- Biomathematician
- Informatics Specialist
- Research Biostatistician
- Statistician

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# COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER

**Average Salary: \$41,570** | A mean wage of about \$20 per hour

**Employment** | 280 community health workers are employed in Nevada, including 220 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 20 job listings for community health workers in 2015

## Overview

Community health workers (CHWs) assist individuals and communities in adopting healthy behaviors to promote, maintain, and improve health. Many health programs are turning to CHWs for their unique ability to serve as bridges between community members and health care services. It is common that they provide outreach to medical personnel or health organizations to implement programs in the area of health and wellness.

Community health workers qualify as connectors because they live in the communities in which they work, understand what is meaningful to those communities, communicate in the language of the people, and recognize and incorporate cultural buffers (for example, cultural identity, spiritual coping, traditional health practices) to help community members cope with stress and promote health outcomes.

Community health workers can provide information on available resources, provide social support, advocate for individuals and community health needs, and provide services such as first aid and blood pressure screening. CHWs may collect data to help identify community health needs. Some CHWs provide patient navigation assistance to clients, including enrollment in private health insurance plans and public health insurance plans, such as Medicaid and Medicare.

## At-a-Glance

- Community health workers conduct outreach to implement programs in the community
- Work for hospitals, clinics, government agencies, schools, and other health and human service organizations
- Advise clients or community groups on a wide-range of health topics, such as immunizations, prevention screenings, diet and exercise, diabetes, cancer and general hygiene
- Assist with cultural mediation between communities and the health care system
- Provide culturally appropriate and accessible health education and information, often by using popular education methods
- Ensure that people get the services they need
- An increasing number of community health workers have received training in certificate programs, most are trained on the job

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- College of Southern Nevada
  - Certificate
- Truckee Meadows Community College (Reno)
  - Certificate

## Related Job Titles

- Community Health Advocate
- Community Health Outreach Worker
- Community Health Representative
- Lay Health Educator
- Patient Navigator
- Peer Health Promoter
- Promotores (de Salud)

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST

**Average Salary: \$67,590**

A mean wage of about \$33 per hour

## Employment

732 environmental specialists are employed in Nevada, including 262 in Las Vegas

## Nevada Job Outlook

97 job listings for environmental specialists in 2015



## Overview

Environmental health specialists monitor health and safety conditions in residential, industrial, commercial, and recreational settings. They conduct research or perform investigations for the purpose of identifying or eliminating sources of pollutants or hazards that affect either the environment or the health of the population. The main responsibilities of the position are to determine the existence of possible health hazards and to take steps to correct them.

If they are working for a government agency, they may receive a call telling them about an oil spill or leaked chemicals. Environmental health specialists working for a private company may have a client that needs their land tested for contaminants. Or, they may have clients who want to control the flow of pollution from their site. Regardless of how they find out about the problem, environmental specialists must investigate the problem and offer solutions.

The first step is to plan the investigation. Environmental specialists research the standards and rules that apply to the specific location. Next, they determine the type of samples and tests necessary and often travel to sites to collect samples and conduct field work. They use special equipment and follow special procedures to retrieve samples they need. They record information about how the site looks and where they collected the data. They may also keep notes on conversations with workers at the site. Once the samples are collected, the scientists run tests or send the samples to a testing lab.

Next, environmental specialists evaluate their notes, laboratory reports, and other testing information. They compare the data to standards, such as government regulations. Or, they may compare the data with health standards to determine what the risks to humans might be. Finally, environmental specialists write reports so that clients will understand what steps to take to solve identified environmental problems. This report contains

the information, data, and results. Reports may also contain tables, graphs, and maps that were drawn in the field.

## At-a-Glance

- Environmental health specialists study environmental problems and identify potential health hazards
- May conduct field work to collect samples and test specimens
- Work to improve and ensure the quality of air, food, soil, water, and other resources
- Have strong communication skills
- Work for local and state public health agencies, environmental organizations, and engineering firms
- Must have a bachelor's degree, many have a master's degree or doctorate

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
  - Associate/Transfer
- Nevada State College (Henderson)
  - Bachelor's
- Sierra Nevada College (Lake Tahoe)
  - Bachelor's
- Truckee Meadows Community College (Reno)
  - Associate/Transfer
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
  - Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate
- University of Nevada, Reno
  - Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate
- Western Nevada College (Carson City)
  - Associate/Transfer

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**Average Salary: \$93,900**

A mean wage of about \$45 per hour

**Employment**

170 epidemiologists are employed in Nevada, including 80 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook**

14 job listings for epidemiologists in 2015

## Overview

Epidemiologists are medical scientists who investigate and describe factors that influence the development of disease, disability, and other health outcomes in populations. They focus on the causes of diseases and environmental injuries and set up programs to prevent and control outbreaks. They study different diseases, such as zika, tuberculosis, influenza, or cholera, often focusing on outbreaks and epidemics.

Epidemiologists work to promote public health by studying patterns of disease in populations. They study many factors, including environmental, biological, and social influences on health and illness.

Epidemiologists formulate their research design and plan the procedures for collecting data. When the data collection is complete, they analyze the data using computers. They apply their knowledge of statistics to decide what techniques to use. Then they write reports or articles to present their findings. Depending on where they work, epidemiologists may also make presentations. In addition, they may write grants to request funding to continue and support their research.

Epidemiologists have other related duties. They review reports of research done by other scientists in their field. They consult with doctors, educators, and other researchers about their medical findings. They may teach at medical, dental, nursing, or veterinary schools. In addition, they can work for government agencies such as the Washoe County Health District and the Southern Nevada Health District. Scientists who work for government agencies confer with health departments, doctors, and others. Their goal is to develop policies to improve public health.

## At-a-Glance

- Epidemiologists conduct research to find causes of disease
- Monitor and report incidence and prevalence of infectious and chronic diseases to local, state, and national health agencies
- Have good analytical and research skills
- Work for government public health agencies, research firms, hospitals, drug companies, and universities
- Must have a master's degree or doctorate

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
  - Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate
- University of Nevada, Reno
  - Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate

## Related Job Titles

- Communicable Disease Epidemiologist
- Environmental Epidemiologist
- Medical Scientist
- Research Epidemiologist



**Average Salary: \$70,980** | A mean wage of about \$34 per hour

**Employment** | 570 occupational health and safety specialists are employed in Nevada, including 273 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 60 job listings for occupational health and safety specialists in 2015



## Overview

Occupational health and safety specialists investigate workplaces and recommend ways to remove health hazards. They investigate reports of unsafe working conditions. They may be called when several workers experience unusual illnesses. They also inspect factories and other production facilities on a regular basis. Many occupational health and safety specialists work for government agencies.

Occupational health specialists investigate workplaces and analyze the lighting, ventilation, temperature, and other environmental factors. They look for health hazards such as unsafe machinery or bad air quality. They collect samples of the air, dust, and other materials. They use many types of equipment to take these samples and adjust them before conducting tests. For example, one piece of equipment they use is a Geiger counter which monitors radiation levels. Specialists record this reading and other test results. They may also talk to workers to learn about their symptoms or health hazards they have seen.

In addition, occupational health specialists read doctor's reports about worker illnesses. They may conduct studies of workers to determine if their illnesses are related to their jobs. After they gather and analyze information, they determine which, if any, health hazards are present. They prepare reports that identify hazards and that provide recommendations for eliminating hazards.

Occupational health specialists may help employers implement recommended changes. For example, they may talk to engineers about ways to redesign equipment. They may also teach workers how to prevent accidents or injuries in the workplace. They may train new employees about specific safety policies and maintain specific plans for how to handle emergencies.

## At-a-Glance

- Occupational health and safety specialists investigate workplaces and recommend ways to remove and prevent health hazards
- Are responsible for the health and safety of workers
- Work typically requires travel to various job sites
- Have a bachelor's degree and complete some on-the-job training

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- Academy of Human Development (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Porter Merrill Safety Training Services (Elko)
  - Certificate





# PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATOR

**Average Salary: \$55,530** | A mean wage of about \$27 per hour

**Employment** | 229 public health educators are employed in Nevada, including 90 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 213 job listings for public health educators in 2015

## Overview

Public health educators plan, direct, and carry out health education and outreach programs. They work in a variety of community settings. Many work for local health departments or community agencies, such as the Washoe County Health District and the Southern Nevada Health District. Others work for schools, colleges, nonprofit agencies, or insurance companies. Depending on the job, they assess needs and plan health education programs in the community, school, or workplace.

To assess needs, public health educators talk to community members, students, or employees. They also talk to managers, health specialists, or civic groups. In addition, they do other types of research. For example, they might develop a health survey, or study available health services in the community, then set up goals for health education and plan programs to meet those goals.

Public health educators plan and implement programs to promote health and prevent disease. They make presentations to groups of people or plan workshops and conferences. In addition, educators communicate with the public about health needs and resources. They prepare materials such as pamphlets or videos. In many cases, they oversee others who prepare these materials and staff who deliver the programs.

Public health educators also coordinate services in the community. They work to gain cooperation between public agencies and health care providers. In addition, they act as a resource person in health education. In this capacity, they might consult with a local company about programs for its workers. They also might answer health questions for schools or groups in the community. Public health educators evaluate the effectiveness of health care and public health programs. They talk to people as part of the evaluation process and do additional research to determine if goals have been met and write reports of their findings.

## At-a-Glance

- Public health educators prevent disease and promote health through educational programs
- Work for government agencies, schools, and social service organizations
- Design programs that help individuals, families, and their communities maximize and maintain healthy lifestyles
- Must have a bachelor's degree, many have a master's degree

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
  - Bachelor's, Master's
- University of Nevada, Reno
  - Bachelor's, Master's

## Related Job Titles

- Community Health Consultant
- Community Health Education Coordinator
- Health Promotion Specialist

# VISION CARE

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# OPHTHALMIC LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

**Average Salary: \$25,340** | A mean wage of about \$12 per hour

**Employment** | 94 ophthalmic laboratory technicians are employed in Nevada, including 42 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | Less than 10 job listings for ophthalmic laboratory technicians in 2015



## Overview

Ophthalmic laboratory technicians, also called manufacturing opticians or optical mechanics, prepare eyeglass lenses or contact lenses from an optometrist's prescription. They also customize work orders based on customers' requests, such as color tints or protective coatings.

To begin, ophthalmic laboratory technicians must choose the correct plastic or glass blank lens. Using a lensometer to determine the curvature of each lens, they mark on the blank lenses where the curves need to be cut. Once these curves are determined, the technician cuts, grinds, edges, and finishes the lens.

To cut the lens, ophthalmic laboratory technicians use grinders and set up the machines for the proper type of cut. Once the lenses are cut, technicians put the lenses into two other machines. These polishing and finishing machines use fine abrasives to smooth the edges and improve the lens. Once this is complete, the technicians inspect the newly ground lenses to see if they match the prescription or specifications exactly.

If the cuts meet the requirements, they prepare lenses to be put in frames. They shape the sides at an angle and apply protective finishes or colors. The eyeglasses are then ready to be assembled. Ophthalmic laboratory technicians use hand tools to attach temple pieces and nose pads. They inspect the final products to see that everything is complete for customers.

In smaller labs, ophthalmic laboratory technicians do all of these tasks. In larger labs, they may be responsible for running only one type of machine. In some retail stores, they repair or make adjustments to eyeglasses. Other job duties may include making lenses for microscopes, telescopes, and other optical equipment.

## At-a-Glance

- Ophthalmic laboratory technicians make a variety of lenses ranging from eyeglasses to microscopes to telescopes
- Perform basic eye tests, fit frames, and teach people how to use contact lenses
- Read and interpret prescription orders
- Work in doctor's offices and hospitals
- Most train on the job
- Education and training typically last one to two years

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)  
– Associate

## Related Job Titles

- Edger Technician
- Finishing Lab Technician
- Lens Grinder and Polisher
- Optical Lab Technician
- Optical Technician
- Surfacing Technician

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Average Salary: \$43,940

A mean wage of about \$21 per hour

Employment

335 opticians are employed in Nevada, including 187 in Las Vegas

Nevada Job Outlook

Less than 10 job listings for opticians in 2015

## Overview

Opticians, sometimes called ophthalmic dispensers, examine written prescriptions to determine the specifications of lenses. They take measurements of a client's eyes and nose bridges and recommend eyeglass frames, lenses, and lens coatings after considering the prescription and the customer's occupation, habits, and facial features. They assist the client in picking out frames that complement their face shape and lifestyle. When a client chooses a lens, they also make sure that the lenses and frames fit the patient properly.

Opticians prepare work orders and instructions for making lenses and eyeglasses. If the client has insurance, they often submit insurance forms for payment. When orders come in, they make adjustments and minor repairs to frames. They also spend time teaching clients how to properly wear and clean their glasses. If a client ordered contact lenses, they teach them how to properly insert and remove them. They also teach them how to clean and store their contacts.

Opticians often have sales and administrative duties. They may sell sunglasses, eye cases, and cleaning solutions in addition to frames and contacts. They may also arrange displays of frames and other merchandise. Opticians keep records of work orders, insurance payments, and inventory. They may also do some light bookkeeping.

In addition, some opticians make lenses to meet prescription specifications. They verify the accuracy of lenses after grinding them. They apply selected coatings, polish the edges, and assemble the lenses and frames.

## At-a-Glance

- Opticians design, measure, fit, and adapt lenses and frames for clients according to written optical prescriptions or specifications
- Must have knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services
- Some train through two-year academic programs
- Most train on the job or through apprenticeships
- Need a license from the Nevada State Board of Dispensing Opticians

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)  
– Certificate, Associate

## Related Job Titles

- Dispensing Optician
- Ophthalmic Dispenser



# OPTOMETRIST

**Average Salary: \$86,850**

A mean wage of about \$42 per hour

## Employment

253 optometrists are employed in Nevada, including 170 in Las Vegas

## Nevada Job Outlook

19 job listings for optometrist in 2015



## Overview

Optometrists diagnose, manage, and treat conditions and diseases of the human eye and visual system. During examinations, they diagnose problems or impairments, prescribe corrective lenses, and provide treatment. They prescribe eyeglasses, contact lenses and vision therapy. They also treat patients before and after surgery. In some states, optometrists may be allowed to prescribe medication to treat disease.

They use instruments, eye drops, and observation to determine the health of the patient's eyes. They test the patient's vision by having them read charts of letters. In addition, they test the patient's color perception and ability to focus and coordinate their eyes. Finally, they analyze test results and create a treatment plan. During examinations, they also look for diseases and other abnormalities such as glaucoma or color blindness. In all cases, optometrists may consult with, and refer patients to, other health care workers if additional treatment is needed.

Optometrists explain treatment plans to patients and answer their questions. They teach them about proper lighting, care of glasses and contact lenses, and general eye safety and health. They also document their observations and test results in the patient's charts. For patients who have vision problems, optometrists use special equipment to determine the prescription for corrective lenses. They have patients look through this equipment while they change the strength of the lenses. Optometrists ask patients which of several lens corrections improves the clarity of their vision.

Some optometrists specialize in one area, such as contact lenses or vision therapy. Some specialize in working with one type of patient, such as children or the elderly. Most optometrists own their businesses and must complete administrative tasks. They may hire employees, keep records, order equipment, and advertise their business.

## At-a-Glance

- Optometrists treat vision problems and eye diseases
- Prescribe contact lenses, glasses, and vision therapy
- About 25 percent are self-employed
- Training typically lasts eight to nine years after high school
- Need a license from the Nevada State Board of Optometry

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- There are no educational programs for optometrists in Nevada

## Related Job Titles

- Doctor of Optometry (OD)

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# ANIMAL CARE

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# VETERINARIAN

**Average Salary: \$87,510** | A mean wage of about \$42 per hour

**Employment** | 527 veterinarians are employed in Nevada, including 361 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 77 job listings for veterinarians in 2015



## Overview

Veterinarians, also called doctors of veterinary medicine, study, treat, and control animal injuries and diseases. Most veterinarians work with small animals and pets, such as dogs, cats, ferrets, and lizards. Some work with large animals and livestock, such as pigs, goats, horses, and cows. Veterinarians examine animals and ask owners questions. They give animals shots to protect them against diseases, such as distemper and rabies.

In addition, veterinarians talk to owners about the care and feeding of their animals. They also keep detailed records about animals and their treatments. For animals that are sick, veterinarians perform lab tests in addition to exams. They explain test results and review treatment options with animal owners. If more than one treatment is available, veterinarians help owners decide which option to choose. They often prescribe medications for animals that are ill. In addition to taking care of these animals, veterinarians may offer owners advice about animal breeding. They may also care for animals when they are giving birth.

Veterinarians stay in contact with animal owners to monitor the condition of animals. If necessary, they make changes to the treatment plan. In certain cases, veterinarians operate on animals. They also treat injuries, such as wounds and broken bones. Occasionally, veterinarians perform euthanasia to animals that are seriously ill or injured. They may also examine dead animals to determine the cause of death. Some veterinarians choose to specialize in a particular type of treatment, such as dentistry, surgery, nutrition, pathology, microbiology, or internal medicine.

During day-to-day operations, veterinarians assign tasks to technicians. In complex cases, they consult with other animal care specialists to seek professional input. In a private setting, veterinarians may oversee the business aspects of running an office. In addition,

veterinarians may choose to participate in research projects aimed to prevent diseases in both humans and animals. Others work in wildfire management, zoos, aquariums, and labs. It is also common for veterinarians to teach at universities and colleges.

## At-a-Glance

- Veterinarians treat sick or injured animals by prescribing medication, setting bones, dressing wounds, or performing surgery
- Research diseases to which animals could be susceptible
- Provide care to a wide range of animals or specialize in a particular species, such as horses or exotic birds
- Operate diagnostic equipment, such as radiographic or ultrasound equipment, and interpret the resulting images
- Education and training typically lasts six to eight years after high school
- Requires a doctorate
- Licensed by the Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- There are no Doctor of Veterinarian Medicine (DVM) degree programs in Nevada
- University of Nevada, Reno
  - Bachelor's (Pre-veterinary Science)

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# VETERINARY ASSISTANT

**Average Salary: \$21,710**

A mean wage of about \$10 per hour

**Employment**

597 veterinary assistants are employed in Nevada, including 195 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook**

42 job openings for veterinary assistants in 2015

## Overview

Veterinary assistants are vital members of any veterinary team providing health care to animals large and small. Also known as animal caretakers, veterinary assistants support licensed veterinarians and veterinary technicians in their daily tasks, and must perform a variety of duties. Veterinary assistants care for animals and assist veterinarians with lab tests, treatment, and surgery. Most work in clinics and research labs. They feed, water, and exercise animals. They clean cages and are responsible for sterilizing all exam areas. They also keep a close watch on animals in treatment or after surgery and notify the doctor of any changes or problems.

Depending on where they work, veterinary assistants may have additional responsibilities. Sometimes assistants help veterinarians examine and treat animals. They prepare the exam room and help hold or move the animals. Many assist with, and sometimes administer shots. They help dress wounds and other injuries. Veterinary assistants sometimes draw blood from animals or prepare tissue samples. They may also run simple lab tests. Assistants prepare medications and sterilize instruments for surgery. They also prepare the animal and assist the veterinarian during surgery.

Employers can vary in size from small private practices to large veterinary hospitals. Different locations work with distinctly different kinds of animals specific to the region and environment. For example, besides the usual household pets, a rural clinic will usually treat farm animals and even wildlife, while an urban one will not. In all settings, assistants follow patient care procedures and document their work. They make notes in patient charts of all treatments performed and record information relating to animal genealogy, feeding schedules, appearance, and behavior during care.

## At-a-Glance

- Veterinary assistants help veterinarians in clinics and research labs
- Perform basic procedures, such as drawing blood, running tests, and administering medications
- Examine animals to detect behavioral changes or clinical symptoms that could indicate illness or injury
- Educate and advise clients on animal health care, nutrition, or behavioral problems
- Provide comfort and reassurance to pet owners
- Most train on the job

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- PIMA Medical Institute (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate
- Truckee Meadows Community College (Reno)
  - Certificate

## Related Job Titles

- Animal Caregiver
- Animal Care Provider
- Kennel Assistant
- Kennel Attendant

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# VETERINARY TECHNICIAN

**Average Salary: \$35,460** | A mean wage of about \$17 per hour

**Employment** | 565 veterinary technicians are employed in Nevada, including 436 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | 95 job openings for veterinary technicians in 2015



## Overview

Veterinary technicians perform various animal health care duties under the supervision of licensed veterinarians. In fact, their job tasks are very similar to medical assistants. They perform a number of services for patients but do not diagnose, prescribe, or perform surgery. They are often described as an “extra set of hands” for veterinarians. Veterinary technicians have a more advanced skill set and perform different job duties than veterinary assistants.

The daily responsibilities of a veterinary technician can vary depending on their work environment. Most veterinary technicians work in veterinary clinics, research labs, and emergency centers caring for domestic animals. Veterinary technicians often teach animal owners about medications, illnesses, and the general care of their pets.

They perform medical tests for use in the treatment and diagnosis of disease in animals. They draw blood, collect tissue samples, and do laboratory work. In addition, technicians take and develop x-rays and help to perform dental procedures. They give medications and provide emergency first aid. They also prepare animals for surgery and assist veterinarians during these operations by giving anesthetics and monitoring the animals during anesthesia and recovery. Depending on the case, they may be required to assist with or perform euthanasia.

In all settings, veterinarian technicians document their work. They make notes in charts of treatment provided, lab tests, and observations of animals following treatment. They also maintain inventories of pharmaceuticals, equipment, and supplies. Some technicians perform a variety of office duties, such as answering phones and preparing bills for customers.

## At-a-Glance

- Veterinary technicians work under the supervision of veterinarians
- Most work in clinics, some work for research labs
- Most train through two-year programs and on-the-job training
- Need a license from the Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate, Associate
- PIMA Medical Institute (Las Vegas)
  - Certificate, Associate
- Truckee Meadows Community College (Reno)
  - Certificate, Associate

## Related Job Titles

- Certified Veterinary Technician
- Emergency Veterinary Technician
- Internal Medicine Veterinary Technician
- Licensed Veterinary Technician
- Registered Veterinary Technician

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# COMPLEMENTARY AND INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE

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# ACUPUNCTURIST

**Average Salary: \$93,370** | A mean wage of about \$45 per hour

**Employment** | 172 acupuncturists are employed in Nevada, including 62 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | Less than 10 job listings for acupuncturists in 2015



## Overview

Acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine programs prepare people to practice oriental medicine. Students learn to balance the energy believed to flow through people's bodies. They study anatomy and medical ethics. For those who wish to focus on acupuncture, they learn how to identify and select specific points on the body where they insert special needles. These needles are used to relieve pain and restore health.

Practitioners of oriental medicine believe that the human body is made up of specific points along a network of channels called meridians. A source of vital energy called "Qi" (pronounced "chi") flows through those channels and helps organs and other body systems to function. Acupuncture is one form of traditional oriental medicine that helps restore the flow of Qi in order to restore both physical and mental health. As long as Qi is properly circulating, a patient should have optimal health.

Acupuncturists also use other aspects of oriental medicine such as herbal medicine, Qi Gong (Chinese meditative therapy), and shiatsu (a form of massage). Acupuncturists function as a primary care or general doctor to many patients. In fact, many of their duties are the same. Acupuncturists ask patients questions to learn more about their medical history. They examine patients and review treatment options with them. They watch a patient's condition and make changes in the treatment as needed. They also talk to patients about good health practices, such as diet and exercise.

Acupuncturists also keep detailed records about each patient. Some acupuncturists work in private practice and oversee the business aspects of running an office. This may include hiring staff, ordering supplies, and billing insurance.

## At-a-Glance

- Acupuncturists analyze physical findings and medical histories to make diagnoses according to oriental medicine traditions
- Educate patients on topics such as meditation, ergonomics, stretching, exercise, nutrition, the healing process, breathing, and relaxation techniques
- Need six to seven years of education and training after high school
- Need a license from the Nevada State Board of Oriental Medicine

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- There are no educational programs for acupuncturists in Nevada

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[www.medicine.nevada.edu/statewide/ahec](http://www.medicine.nevada.edu/statewide/ahec)

**Average Salary: \$69,120** | A mean wage of about \$33 per hour

**Employment** | 387 chiropractors are employed in Nevada, including 314 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Job Outlook** | Less than 10 job listings for chiropractors in 2015



## Overview

Chiropractors assess, treat, and care for patients by manipulation of the spine and musculoskeletal system. While chiropractors commonly help people manage back and neck pain, they also help people with a variety of ailments, including headaches and even the common cold. Chiropractors believe that improper function of the spine causes chronic pain and other health-related problems. Their approach to health care is holistic. They emphasize addressing the patient's overall health. They use a variety of natural, drug-free, and non-surgical treatments.

When health problems are related to the musculoskeletal system, chiropractors manually adjust the spine and other joints. They also use therapies such as massage, heat, or stretching. Such therapies relax the muscles and stimulate tissues so that healing can occur. Chiropractors provide counseling to patients about holistic health and wellness approaches, such as nutrition, exercise, and stress management. They may also apply supports, such as straps or braces, to body parts. Each time they see a patient, chiropractors write case notes in the patient's chart. In addition, certain cases require that they consult with and refer patients to other health practitioners.

Many chiropractors have their own practice. Others work in group practices with one or more chiropractors. In solo practices, chiropractors have many administrative duties. They hire employees and keep medical records. In addition, they must build a base of patients through advertising or other marketing techniques. In larger practices, some of these duties are given to office managers and many have administrative assistants.

## At-a-Glance

- Chiropractors focus on overall patient health, not just back and neck
- Use only non-surgical, drug-free treatments
- Many chiropractors are part of group practices
- About 50 percent are self-employed
- Need about eight years of education and training after high school
- Need a license from the Chiropractic Physicians' Board of Nevada

## Educational Opportunities in Nevada

- There are no educational programs for chiropractors in Nevada



## PUBLIC

### College of Southern Nevada

– Las Vegas  
www.csn.edu

### Great Basin College

– Elko  
www.gbcnv.edu

### Nevada State College

– Henderson  
www.nsc.nevada.edu

### Truckee Meadows Community College

– Reno  
www.tmc.edu

### University of Nevada, Las Vegas

– Las Vegas  
www.unlv.edu

### University of Nevada, Reno

– Reno  
www.unr.edu

### University of Nevada School of Medicine

– Las Vegas & Reno  
www.medicine.nevada.edu

### Western Nevada College

– Carson City  
www.wnc.edu

## PRIVATE

### Academy of Dental Careers

– Las Vegas  
www.dentalcareeracademy.com

### Academy of Human Development

– Las Vegas  
www.adhvl.org

### American Institute of Medical Sonography

– Las Vegas  
www.aimsed.edu

### American Technical Institute, LLP

– Las Vegas  
www.atiinspectortraining.com

### Asher College

– Las Vegas  
www.asher.edu

### Assist to Succeed

– Carson City & Winnemucca  
www.assisttosucceed.com

### Bodhi Tree Center for Healing Arts

– Carson City  
www.thebodhitreecenter.com

### Career College of Northern Nevada

– Sparks  
www.ccn.edu

### Carrington College

– Las Vegas & Reno  
www.carrington.edu

### Center for Quality Elder Care Services

– Las Vegas  
www.cqes.org/nv

### Chamberlain College of Nursing

– Las Vegas  
www.chamberlain.edu/campus-locations

### DeVry University

– Henderson  
www.devry.edu/universities

### Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

– Las Vegas  
www.worldwide.erau.edu

### European Massage Therapy School

– Las Vegas  
www.school-for-massage.com

### Everest College

– Henderson  
www.everest.edu

### Fu Zu Ba School of Massage and Reflexology

– Las Vegas  
www.fuzuba.com

### Healthcare Preparatory Institute, LLC

– Las Vegas  
www.healthcareprep.edu

# APPENDIX 1: EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

## **Institute of Professional Careers**

– Las Vegas  
[www.ipclasvegas.com](http://www.ipclasvegas.com)

## **JTM Training Group**

– Las Vegas  
[www.jtmtraining.com](http://www.jtmtraining.com)

## **Kaplan College**

– Las Vegas  
[www.kaplancollege.com/las-vegas-nv](http://www.kaplancollege.com/las-vegas-nv)

## **Kaplan Test Preparation**

– Las Vegas & Reno  
[www.kaptest.com](http://www.kaptest.com)

## **Las Vegas Colon Hydrotherapy School**

– Las Vegas  
[www.lasvegascolonhydrotherapy.com](http://www.lasvegascolonhydrotherapy.com)

## **Medical Association of Medical Billers**

– Las Vegas  
[www.physicianswebsites.com](http://www.physicianswebsites.com)

## **Medical Skills for Life Institute**

– Las Vegas  
[www.medicalskillsforlife.com](http://www.medicalskillsforlife.com)

## **Milan Institute**

– Las Vegas & Sparks  
[www.milaninstitute.edu](http://www.milaninstitute.edu)

## **Moving Forward Learning Centers**

– Carson City, Las Vegas, & Reno  
<http://www.fastraxcorporation.com>

## **National Career Skills Institute**

– Reno  
[www.national-career-skills-institute.com](http://www.national-career-skills-institute.com)

## **National School of Dental Assisting**

– Carson City & Reno  
[www.nationalschoolofdentalassisting.com](http://www.nationalschoolofdentalassisting.com)

## **National University**

– Henderson  
[www.nu.edu](http://www.nu.edu)

## **Nevada Career Institute**

– Las Vegas  
[www.nevadacareerinstitute.com](http://www.nevadacareerinstitute.com)

## **Nevada School of Massage Therapy**

– Las Vegas  
[www.nevadasmt.com](http://www.nevadasmt.com)

## **New Horizons Computer Learning Centers**

– Las Vegas & Reno  
[www.newhorizons.com](http://www.newhorizons.com)

## **New Millennium Academy**

– Las Vegas  
[www.nma2000.com](http://www.nma2000.com)

## **Northwest Career College**

– Las Vegas  
[www.northwestcareercollege.edu](http://www.northwestcareercollege.edu)

## **Phlebotomy Learning Center of Las Vegas**

– Las Vegas  
[www.plcoflasvegas.com](http://www.plcoflasvegas.com)

## **PIMA Medical Institute**

– Las Vegas  
[www.pmi.edu](http://www.pmi.edu)

## **Professional Institute of Technology**

– Las Vegas  
[www.nvpita.com](http://www.nvpita.com)

## **REMSA Training Center**

– Reno  
[www.remsaeducation.com](http://www.remsaeducation.com)

## **Roseman University of Health Sciences**

– Henderson  
[www.roseman.edu](http://www.roseman.edu)

## **Sierra Nevada College**

– Incline Village  
[www.sierranevada.edu](http://www.sierranevada.edu)

## **Sierra Nevada Job Corps**

– Reno  
[www.sierranevada.jobcorps.gov](http://www.sierranevada.jobcorps.gov)

## **Southern Nevada Academy of Dental Assisting**

– Las Vegas  
[www.snadaonline.com](http://www.snadaonline.com)

## **The Learning Center**

– Las Vegas  
[www.tlclasvegas.com](http://www.tlclasvegas.com)

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[www.medicine.nevada.edu/statewide/ahc](http://www.medicine.nevada.edu/statewide/ahc)

**Touro University**

– Henderson  
[www.tun.touro.edu](http://www.tun.touro.edu)

**University of Phoenix**

– Henderson, Las Vegas, & Reno  
[www.phoenix.edu](http://www.phoenix.edu)

**Utah College of Massage Therapy**

– Las Vegas  
[www.ucmt.com](http://www.ucmt.com)

**WGU Nevada**

– Online, Statewide  
[www.nevada.wgu.edu](http://www.nevada.wgu.edu)

## Acupuncturist

Nevada State Board of Oriental Medicine  
[www.orientalmedicine.nv.gov](http://www.orientalmedicine.nv.gov)

## Audiologist

State of Nevada Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology  
[www.nvaud-sp.org](http://www.nvaud-sp.org)

## Blood Bank Technology Specialist

Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance  
[www.health.nv.gov](http://www.health.nv.gov)

## Certified Athletic Trainer

Nevada State Board of Athletic Trainers  
[www.nevadaathletictrainers.nv.gov](http://www.nevadaathletictrainers.nv.gov)

## Certified Nurse Midwife

Nevada State Board of Nursing  
[www.nevadanursingboard.org](http://www.nevadanursingboard.org)

## Certified Nursing Assistant

Nevada State Board of Nursing  
[www.nevadanursingboard.org](http://www.nevadanursingboard.org)

## Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Nevada State Board of Nursing  
[www.nevadanursingboard.org](http://www.nevadanursingboard.org)

## Chiropractic Assistant/Technician

Chiropractic Physicians' Board of Nevada  
[www.chirobd.nv.gov](http://www.chirobd.nv.gov)

## Clinical Medical Laboratory Technician/Technologist

Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Bureau of Health Care Quality & Compliance  
[www.health.nv.gov](http://www.health.nv.gov)

## Clinical Professional Counselor

Board of Examiners for Marriage & Family Therapists and Clinical Professional Counselors  
[www.marriage.nv.gov](http://www.marriage.nv.gov)

## Cytotechnologist

Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Bureau of Health Care Quality & Compliance  
[www.health.nv.gov](http://www.health.nv.gov)

## Dental Hygienist

Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners  
[www.nvdentalboard.nv.gov](http://www.nvdentalboard.nv.gov)

## Dental Laboratory Technician

National Board for Certification in Dental Laboratory Technology  
[www.nbccert.org](http://www.nbccert.org)

## Dentist

Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners  
[www.nvdentalboard.nv.gov](http://www.nvdentalboard.nv.gov)

## Dietitian

Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance  
[http://dpbh.nv.gov/Reg/Dietitian/Dietitian\\_-\\_Home](http://dpbh.nv.gov/Reg/Dietitian/Dietitian_-_Home)

## Emergency Medical Technician

Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Emergency Medical Systems Office  
<http://dpbh.nv.gov/Reg/EMS/EMS-home>

## Emergency Medical Technician – Clark County

Southern Nevada Health District, Emergency Medical Services  
[www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/ems](http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/ems)

## Environmental Health Specialists

Nevada State Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists  
[www.nvrehs.org](http://www.nvrehs.org)

## Histologic Technician

Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Bureau of Health Care Quality & Compliance  
[www.health.nv.gov](http://www.health.nv.gov)

## Licensed Practical Nurse

Nevada State Board of Nursing  
[www.nevadanursingboard.org](http://www.nevadanursingboard.org)

## Long Term Care Administrator

Nevada State Board of Examiners for Long Term Care Administrators  
[www.beltca.nv.gov](http://www.beltca.nv.gov)

## Marriage and Family Therapist

Board of Examiners for Marriage & Family Therapists and Clinical Professional Counselors  
[www.marriage.nv.gov](http://www.marriage.nv.gov)

## Massage Therapist

Nevada State Board of Massage Therapists  
[www.massagetherapy.nv.gov](http://www.massagetherapy.nv.gov)



### **Medical Interpreter/Translator**

The National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters  
[www.certifiedmedicalinterpreters.org](http://www.certifiedmedicalinterpreters.org)

### **Nuclear Medical Technologist**

Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health,  
Bureau of Health Care Quality & Compliance  
[www.health.nv.gov](http://www.health.nv.gov)

### **Nurse Practitioner**

Nevada State Board of Nursing  
[www.nevadanursingboard.org](http://www.nevadanursingboard.org)

### **Occupational Therapist**

Nevada State Board of Occupational Therapy  
[www.nvot.org](http://www.nvot.org)

### **Occupational Therapy Assistant**

Nevada State Board of Occupational Therapy  
[www.nvot.org](http://www.nvot.org)

### **Ophthalmologist**

Nevada State Board of Optometry  
[www.optometry.nv.gov](http://www.optometry.nv.gov)

### **Optician**

State of Nevada Board of Dispensing Opticians  
[www.nvbdo.nv.gov](http://www.nvbdo.nv.gov)

### **Optometrist**

Nevada State Board of Optometry  
[www.optometry.nv.gov](http://www.optometry.nv.gov)

### **Paramedic**

Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health,  
Emergency Medical Systems Office  
<http://dpbh.nv.gov/Reg/EMS/EMS-home/>

### **Paramedic – Clark County**

Southern Nevada Health District, Emergency Medical Services  
[www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/ems](http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/ems)

### **Pharmacist**

Nevada State Board of Pharmacy  
[www.bop.nv.gov](http://www.bop.nv.gov)

### **Pharmacy Technician**

Nevada State Board of Pharmacy  
[www.bop.nv.gov](http://www.bop.nv.gov)

### **Phlebotomist**

Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health,  
Bureau of Health Care Quality & Compliance  
[www.health.nv.gov](http://www.health.nv.gov)

### **Physical Therapist**

Nevada State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners  
[www.ptboard.nv.gov](http://www.ptboard.nv.gov)

### **Physical Therapy Assistant**

Nevada State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners  
[www.ptboard.nv.gov](http://www.ptboard.nv.gov)

### **Physician, Allopathic (MD)**

Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners  
[www.medboard.nv.gov](http://www.medboard.nv.gov)

### **Physician Assistants**

Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners  
[www.medboard.nv.gov](http://www.medboard.nv.gov)

### **Physician, Osteopathic (DO)**

Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine  
[www.bom.nv.gov](http://www.bom.nv.gov)

### **Podiatrist**

Nevada State Board of Podiatry  
[www.podiatry.state.nv.us/](http://www.podiatry.state.nv.us/)

### **Psychiatrist**

Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners  
[www.medboard.nv.gov](http://www.medboard.nv.gov)

### **Psychologist**

State of Nevada Board of Psychological Examiners  
[www.psyexam.state.nv.us](http://www.psyexam.state.nv.us)

### **Public Health Nutritionist**

Commission on Dietetic Regulation  
[www.cdrnet.org](http://www.cdrnet.org)

### **Radiation Therapist/Technologists**

American Registry of Radiologic Technologists  
[www.arrt.org](http://www.arrt.org)

### **Recreational Therapist**

The National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification  
[www.nctrc.org](http://www.nctrc.org)

### **Registered Nurse**

Nevada State Board of Nursing  
[www.nevadanursingboard.org](http://www.nevadanursingboard.org)

**Rehabilitation Counselor**

Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification  
[www.crccertification.com](http://www.crccertification.com)

**Respiratory Care Practitioner**

Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners  
[www.medboard.nv.gov](http://www.medboard.nv.gov)

**Social Worker**

Nevada State Board of Examiners for Social Workers  
[www.socwork,nv.gov](http://www.socwork,nv.gov)

**Speech-Language Pathologist**

State of Nevada Board of Examiners for Audiology  
 and Speech Pathology  
[www.nvaud-sp.org](http://www.nvaud-sp.org)

**Surgeon**

Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners  
[www.medboard.nv.gov](http://www.medboard.nv.gov)

**Surgical Technologist**

National Board of Surgical Technology  
[www.nbsta.org](http://www.nbsta.org)

**Veterinarian**

Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners  
[www.nvvetboard.us](http://www.nvvetboard.us)

**Veterinary Technician**

Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners  
[www.nvvetboard.us](http://www.nvvetboard.us)

## Acupuncturist

American Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine  
www.aaaomonline.org

## Audiologist

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
www.asha.org  
Nevada Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
www.nvhca.org/nsha

## Biostatistician

American Statistical Association  
www.amstat.org  
American Statistical Association, Nevada Chapter  
www.amstat.org/chapters/nevada

## Certified Athletic Trainer

National Athletic Trainers Association  
www.nata.org

## Certified Coding Specialist

American Association of Coding Specialists  
www.americanassocodingspecialists.com  
Professional Association of Healthcare Coding Specialists  
www.pahcs.org

## Certified Medical Transcriptionist

American Transcription Association  
www.ataus.org

## Certified Nurse Midwife

National Association of Certified Professional Midwives  
www.nacpm.org

## Certified Nursing Assistant

National Association of Healthcare Assistants  
www.nahcacaes.org

## Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
www.aana.com  
Nevada Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
www.nvana.org

## Chiropractor

American Chiropractor Association  
www.acatoday.org  
Nevada Chiropractic Association  
www.nvchiroassoc.org

## Dental Assistant

American Dental Assistants Association  
www.adausa.org

## Dental Hygienist

American Dental Hygienists Association  
www.adha.org  
Nevada Dental Hygienist Association  
www.nvdha.org

## Dental Laboratory Technician/Technologist

National Association of Dental Laboratories  
www.nadl.org

## Dentist

American Dental Association  
www.ada.org  
Nevada Dental Association  
www.nvda.org

## Diagnostic Medical Sonographer

Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography  
www.sdms.org

## Dietetic Technician

Nevada Dietetic Association  
www.eatrightnevada.org

## Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic

National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians  
www.naemt.org

## Environmental Health Specialist

National Environmental Health Association  
www.neha.org

## Epidemiologist

American Epidemiology Society  
www.americanepidemiologicalsociety.org

## Genetic Counselor

National Society of Genetic Counselors  
www.nsgc.org

## Health Information Technician

American Health Information Management Association  
www.ahima.org

## Home Health Aide

National Association for Home Care and Hospice  
www.nahc.org

## **Licensed Practical Nurse**

National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses  
[www.nflpn.org](http://www.nflpn.org)  
Nevada Association of Licensed Practical Nurses  
[www.nvhca.org/nalpn](http://www.nvhca.org/nalpn)

## **Massage Therapist**

American Massage Therapy Association  
[www.amtamassage.org](http://www.amtamassage.org)

## **Marriage and Family Therapist**

American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy  
[www.aamft.org](http://www.aamft.org)  
Nevada Association for Marriage and Family Therapy  
[www.nevadaamft.org](http://www.nevadaamft.org)

## **Medical Assistant**

American Association for Medical Assistants  
[www.aama-ntl.org](http://www.aama-ntl.org)

## **Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technician/Technologist**

American Association of Bioanalysts  
[www.aab.org](http://www.aab.org)  
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science  
[www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org)

## **Medical and Health Services Manager**

Medical Group Management Association  
[www.mgma.com](http://www.mgma.com)  
Nevada Medical Group Management Association  
[www.mgmanv.org](http://www.mgmanv.org)

## **Medical Interpreter and Translator**

American Translators Association  
[www.atanet.org](http://www.atanet.org)  
Nevada Interpreters and Translators Association  
[www.nitaonline.org](http://www.nitaonline.org)

## **Mental Health Counselor**

American Mental Health Counselors Association  
[www.amhca.org](http://www.amhca.org)  
Nevada Mental Health Counselors Association  
[www.nvmhca.groupsites.com](http://www.nvmhca.groupsites.com)

## **Mental Health Technician**

American Association of Psychiatric Technicians  
[www.psychtechs.org](http://www.psychtechs.org)

## **Nuclear Medicine Technologist**

Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging  
[www.snmmi.org](http://www.snmmi.org)

## **Nurse Practitioner**

American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
[www.aanp.org](http://www.aanp.org)  
Nevada Advanced Practice Nurses Association  
<http://www.napna.net/>

## **Occupational Therapist**

American Occupational Therapy Association  
[www.aota.org](http://www.aota.org)  
Nevada Occupational Therapy Association  
[www.nevadaota.com](http://www.nevadaota.com)

## **Ophthalmic Laboratory Technician**

Association of Technical Personnel in Ophthalmology  
[www.atpo.org](http://www.atpo.org)

## **Optician**

Opticians Association of America  
[www.oaa.org](http://www.oaa.org)  
Nevada Optometric Association  
[www.nevada.aoa.org](http://www.nevada.aoa.org)

## **Optometrist**

American Optometric Association  
[www.aoa.org](http://www.aoa.org)  
Nevada Optometric Association  
[www.nevada.aoa.org](http://www.nevada.aoa.org)

## **Orthotist and Prosthetist**

American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association  
[www.aopanet.org](http://www.aopanet.org)

## **Pharmacist**

American Pharmacists Association  
[www.pharmacist.com](http://www.pharmacist.com)  
Nevada Pharmacist Association  
[www.nvpharmacistassoc.com](http://www.nvpharmacistassoc.com)

## **Pharmacy Technician**

National Pharmacy Technician Association  
[www.pharmacytechnician.org](http://www.pharmacytechnician.org)

## **Phlebotomist**

National Phlebotomy Association  
[www.nationalphlebotomy.org](http://www.nationalphlebotomy.org)



## Physical Therapist

American Physical Therapy Association  
[www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org)  
 Nevada Physical Therapy Association  
[www.nvapta.org](http://www.nvapta.org)

## Physician, Allopathic (MD)

American Medical Association  
[www.ama-assn.org/ama](http://www.ama-assn.org/ama)  
 Nevada State Medical Association  
[www.nvdoctors.org](http://www.nvdoctors.org)

## Physician Assistant

American Academy of Physician Assistants  
[www.aapa.org](http://www.aapa.org)  
 Nevada Academy of Physician Assistants  
[www.nevadapa.com](http://www.nevadapa.com)

## Physician, Osteopathic (DO)

American Osteopathic Association  
[www.osteopathic.org](http://www.osteopathic.org)  
 Nevada Osteopathic Medical Association  
[www.nevadaosteopathic.org](http://www.nevadaosteopathic.org)

## Podiatrist

American Podiatric Medical Association  
[www.apma.org](http://www.apma.org)  
 National Podiatric Medical Association  
[www.npmaonline.org](http://www.npmaonline.org)

## Psychiatrist

American Psychiatric Association  
[www.psychiatry.org](http://www.psychiatry.org)  
 Nevada Psychiatric Association  
[www.nvpsychiatry.org](http://www.nvpsychiatry.org)

## Psychologist

American Psychological Association  
[www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org)  
 Nevada Psychology Association  
[www.nvpsychology.org](http://www.nvpsychology.org)

## Public Health Educator

Society for Public Health Education  
[www.sophe.org](http://www.sophe.org)

## Radiologic Technician/Technologist

American Registry of Radiologic Technologists  
[www.arrt.org](http://www.arrt.org)

## Recreational Therapist

American Therapeutic Recreation Association  
[www.atra-online.com](http://www.atra-online.com)

## Registered Dietician/Nutritionist

National Association of Nutrition Professionals  
[www.nanp.org](http://www.nanp.org)  
 American Nutrition Association  
[www.americannutritionassociation.org](http://www.americannutritionassociation.org)  
 Nevada Dietetic Association  
[www.eatrightnevada.org](http://www.eatrightnevada.org)

## Registered Nurse

American Nurses Association  
[www.nursingworld.org](http://www.nursingworld.org)  
 Nevada Nurses Association  
[www.nvnurses.org](http://www.nvnurses.org)

## Rehabilitation Counselor

American Rehabilitation and Counseling Association  
[www.arcaweb.org](http://www.arcaweb.org)  
 National Rehabilitation Counseling Association  
[www.nrca-net.org](http://www.nrca-net.org)

## Respiratory Therapist

American Association for Respiratory Care  
[www.aarc.org](http://www.aarc.org)

## Surgeon

American College of Surgeons  
[www.facs.org](http://www.facs.org)  
 Association of American Physicians and Surgeons  
[www.aapsonline.org](http://www.aapsonline.org)

## Speech-Language Pathologist

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
[www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)  
 Nevada Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
[www.nvhca.org/nsha](http://www.nvhca.org/nsha)

## Social Worker

National Association of Social Workers  
[www.socialworkers.org](http://www.socialworkers.org)  
 National Association of Social Workers, Nevada Chapter  
[www.naswnv.org](http://www.naswnv.org)

## Substance Abuse and Behavioral Counselor

Association for Addiction Professionals  
[www.naadac.org](http://www.naadac.org)  
 State of Nevada Association of Addiction Professionals  
[www.naadac.org/nevada](http://www.naadac.org/nevada)

## **Surgical Assistant**

Association of Surgical Assistants  
[www.surgicalassistant.org](http://www.surgicalassistant.org)  
National Surgical Assistant Association  
[www.nsaa.net](http://www.nsaa.net)

## **Veterinarian**

American Veterinary Medical Association  
[www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)  
Nevada Veterinary Medical Association  
[www.nevadavma.org](http://www.nevadavma.org)

## **Veterinary Technician**

National Association of Veterinary Technicians in  
America  
[www.navta.net](http://www.navta.net)  
Nevada Veterinary Medical Association  
[www.nevadavma.org](http://www.nevadavma.org)

# HEALTH CARE CAREERS IN NEVADA

—2016-2017—



**Nevada AHEC**  
Area Health Education Centers



University of Nevada  
School of Medicine



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