



Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor

Alcohol and substance abuse counselors assess a client's problems with alcohol and drugs. They use their knowledge and skills to help clients address and face the challenges of addiction/dependence and learn daily living skills to assist in coping with day-to-day problems in a way that will assist them in living a functional productive life. The assessment is based on intensive interviews with the client, and almost always includes an evaluation of the client's family, education, work, friends, and living conditions.

The counselor's strategy is to use verbal counseling to help the client understand his or her problem and to develop a plan that will change the behavior, lifestyle, or environmental surroundings that

contribute to this problem. The alcohol and substance abuse counselor acts much like a teacher, training clients to understand and solve their own problems, as they learn how to live successfully instead of depending on drugs and alcohol to avoid life's problems. Frequently, counselors refer clients to additional information and professional services, including physicians, social workers, financial and housing assistance agencies, educational programs, mental health counselors, and other services.

Where do they work?

Alcohol and substance abuse counselors are finding new opportunities for employment in rural Alaska. Many regional health corporations have developed extensive programs that employ village counselors throughout their regions (See the *Behavioral Health Aide* description). Other employers include local, state, and federal agencies, schools, churches, and non-profit organizations.

Educational Requirements

Alcohol and substance abuse counselor certification in the state of Alaska recognizes four levels of competency:

- Graduation from high school or completion of a GED
- Certification for Counselor Technician-one year full time work, a minimum of 100 contact training hours and 100 hours supervised practicum
- Certification for Chemical Dependency Counselor Level I-two years full time work experience, 146 contact training hours and 100 hours supervised practicum
- Certification at Chemical Dependency Counselor Level II-four years work experience, three if you have a degree in a behavioral/human service field, 110 contact training hours and 100 hours supervised practicum
- Certification at Chemical Dependency Clinical Supervisor-six years work experience, 152 contact training hours and 100 hours supervised practicum

Hourly Wage Range:

\$14.10-\$29.62 (Mean \$21.77)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

2 - 4 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

For course and training information contact:

The Regional Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor Training Program (RADACT)

Phone: (907) 563-9202
Website: <http://www.radact.com/>

University of Alaska Anchorage

Human Services Department, PSB 212
Phone: (907) 786- 6437
Website: <http://hums.uaa.alaska.edu/>

National Contact:

NAADAC, The Association for Addiction Professionals
Phone: (703) 741-7686
Toll free: (800) 548-0497
Website: <http://www.naadac.org>

State Contact:

For more information on certification, contact:

Alaska Commission for Behavioral Health Certification
Website: <https://www.akcertification.org/>





Audiologist

The professional activities of an audiologist concentrate on the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of hearing loss, balance and related disorders for all age groups. Activities include performing hearing tests and evaluations, implementing newborn screening programs, and the monitoring of hearing related surgeries. An audiologist's work also implements proper treatment for hearing loss. Other duties include fitting, programming, and adjusting assistive

hearing technology including hearing aids and cochlear implants.

These professionals work closely with speech pathologists, medical doctors, and educators. In assessing the type and degree of hearing loss, audiologists coordinate with these professionals to determine the best treatment.

Where do they work?

Audiologists are employed in many settings, including hospitals, physician's offices, schools, and private practices.

Educational Requirements

- Individuals considering a career in audiology should have an interest in the science of hearing and working with people. Requirements for training at the doctorate level include the following:
- Graduation from high school with coursework in math, science, and English.
- Completion of a four-year Bachelor's degree, usually in Speech and Hearing Science or a related field.
- Completion of three years of graduate school.
- Completion of a 4th year doctoral fellowship as an audiologist under the supervision of a certified audiologist.
- A doctorate of Audiology (AuD) is then awarded and employment without supervision can occur.

Hourly Wage Range:

No Alaska-specific data available. In 2016 Alaska DOL reported a nationwide hourly mean of \$36.92.

Years in School:

8 years (after high school graduation)

Academic Programs in Alaska

There are no accredited audiology programs in Alaska. The nearest program is located in Seattle, Washington:

University of Washington
Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences
 1417 N.E. 42nd St.
 Box 354875
 Seattle, WA 98105-6246
 Voice: (206) 685-7400
 Email: shgradv@uw.edu
 Website: <http://depts.washington.edu/sphsc/>

National Contact:

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
 2200 Research Boulevard
 Rockville, MD 20850
 Toll free: (800) 638-8255
 Email: www.asha.org/forms/contact-asha
 Website: <http://www.asha.org/>

State Contact:

Alaska Speech-Language-Hearing Association
 Email: aksha907@gmail.com
 Website: <http://aksha.org/>





Health Careers In Alaska

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Behavioral Health Aide

The Behavioral Health Aide (BHA) Program is unique to Alaska and the Alaska Tribal Health System (ATHS). The Behavioral Health Aide Program was created to address behavioral health and substance abuse issues, and to promote healthy individuals, families and communities in rural Alaska where there is limited access to behavioral health care. The purpose of the Behavioral Health Aide Program is two-fold. The program aims to provide behavioral health services to rural Alaska villages and to provide services that are culturally appropriate to Alaska Native people. In order to achieve these goals the ATHS has invested significantly in the development of the BHA model so that local people employed by Tribal Health Organizations can be trained to provide a full range of behavioral health services.

The BHA Program is a certification program that is overseen by the Alaska Community Health Aide Program and is available to employees of Indian Health Service and Tribal Health Organizations that have a Community Health Aide Program. BHA certification is a multi-level provider model comprised of BHA levels I, II, III, and Practitioner. Individuals who are certified at the BHA-I and BHA-II levels act as community educators as they learn and share information about substance abuse, suicide prevention, domestic violence, accident prevention, and health education with individuals and communities. Individuals who are certified as BHA-IIIs or Behavioral Health Practitioners provide expanded services for more complex behavioral health needs, including substance use assessments and treatment, crisis stabilization and management, and mentorship of BHAs who are certified at a lower level. BHAs at all levels also become familiar with the various treatment types and local and statewide resources, so they can provide referrals for additional services.

Where do they work?

All BHA services are performed under the supervision of a licensed clinician. Because BHAs live and work in remote areas, they communicate regularly with their supervisors by video conferencing, telephone, email, and some in-person visits. BHAs generally work in the village where they live. Some BHAs work as itinerants and may work in a number of villages throughout the year.

Educational Requirements

For BHA certification, an individual must complete a series of courses specific to the level of certification they are seeking to achieve. Additionally, for each level of certification, an individual must complete a specific number of on-the-job work experience hours, which includes a 100-hour practicum.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$17.53-\$39.60 (Mean \$28.94)
*Based on 2014 Alaska DOL data for Mental Health Counselor

Years in School:

2 years or less (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

BHAs can complete training requirements through enrollment into programs offered by partner organizations, whose curriculum meets the Community Health Aide Program Certification Board requirements. The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) hosts an Annual Behavioral Health Aide Forum every year in Anchorage during the fall that offers courses toward BHA certification. Some BHA trainings are organized by the various Tribal Health Organizations. The Regional Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor Training (RADACT) provides some of the training requirements for BHAs and meets many requirements for BHA I certification. The University of Alaska Fairbanks Rural Human Services (RHS) academic certificate program provides many of the training requirements for BHA-I and BHA-II certification.

State Contact:

**Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
Behavioral Health Aide Program**
3900 Ambassador Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
Contact: Sheri Patraw
Phone: (907) 729-2431
Email: behavioralhealth@anthc.org
Website: <http://www.anthc.org/chs/behavioral/bha.cfm>



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Health Careers In Alaska

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Certified Nursing Assistant/Aide

Nursing assistants help nurses in nearly every aspect of nursing care in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, assisted living, and home health. In hospitals, nursing assistants also provide daily care to patients, such as helping with meals, baths, exercises, and treatments. Nursing assistants are responsible for recording vital signs (pulse, respiration, blood pressure, and temperature), recording fluid intake and outputs, weights, and recording other observations. They must be familiar with normal values for vital sign measurements and observations and report normal and abnormal findings to a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse.

preparing patients for the examination by a physician or nurse. They are also responsible for making sure the patients, nurses, and physicians receive the help they need during examinations or treatments. Other duties involve monitoring and stocking medical supplies, and clinic scheduling. In rural Alaska, Native speaking nursing assistants are often called upon to provide crucial translation skills.

In outpatient clinics, nursing assistants are primarily responsible for

Where do they work?

Nursing assistants work wherever nurses are employed. Rural Alaska employers include regional hospitals, specialty clinics operated by regional health corporations or state and federal agencies, and community-based health care programs.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school is not required, but if students do not have a high school diploma, they need to have a GED or take a prerequisite test such as the ABLE test or Accuplacer. The test required depends on the academic program.
- Completion of an approved Nursing Assistant training program. All Alaska programs are required to provide a minimum of 60 hours of classroom instruction and 80 clinician hours of supervised clinical practice.
- Successful completion of a certification examination is increasingly being required. Certification is required to work as a nursing assistant in long term care and home health settings.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$20.05-\$32.72 (Mean \$26.16)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

2 years or less (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

Training programs are available at vocational schools, some high schools, and at many facilities that employ Nursing Assistants, such as Providence Extended Care. The University of Alaska has programs on many of its branch campuses.

The State of Alaska maintains a list of academic programs. For more information, see <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/NurseAideRegistry.aspx> and check on the link under Certification Information: State Approved Nurse Aide Programs.

National Contact:

There does not appear to be a state or national association for Nursing Assistants. For information on licensing, programs, and program requirements, contact:

Alaska Board of Nursing

Contact Danielle Curry, Licensing Examiner

Phone: (907) 269-8169

Fax: (907) 269-8196

Email: danielle.curry@alaska.gov

Website: <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/NurseAideRegistry.aspx>



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Health Careers In Alaska

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Chiropractor

Chiropractors are concerned with the healthy functioning of the entire body, and focus on the spinal column as a source of many illnesses. Diagnosis of a patient's health problem is done through patient interviews, physical examinations, x-ray examinations, and laboratory tests. The patient is then either treated or referred to another health care provider for further assessment.

Chiropractic treatment consists primarily of adjusting and manipulating the body, especially the spinal column. Some chiropractors supplement adjustment with therapies involving water, light, heat, diet, exercise, and rest. Chiropractors do not use prescription drugs or surgery.

Where do they work?

Most chiropractors work in private practice or join together with other health care professionals to form a group practice. Few chiropractors can establish a full time practice in rural Alaska. Those who do are located in urban areas or regional centers and travel to outlying communities on a scheduled basis.

Most chiropractors are self-employed and have a general practice. Some specialize in chiropractic roentgenology (x-rays) or chiropractic orthopedics (the prevention of skeletal deformities). Other chiropractors teach or engage in professional research.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with a strong background in science, math, and English.
- Completion of a four-year college degree program, with coursework in biology and the sciences.
- Completion of a four-year chiropractic program. The student spends the first two years in the study of sciences, and the final two years in clinical study.
- Successful completion of a state licensing examination.
- Must pass National Board of Chiropractic Examinations (4 parts)

Hourly Wage Range:

Chiropractors in the Anchorage/Mat-Su area earn an hourly \$33.04- \$*(Mean of \$66.68).
*Indicates the estimate is not available, or the hourly wage is greater than \$100, or the annual wage is greater than \$208,000. Based on 2016 AK DOL data.

Years in School:

8 years or more (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

There are no chiropractic programs in Alaska. The closest program is in Portland, OR:

University of Western States
2900 NE 132nd Ave.
Portland, OR 97230
Phone: (503) 256-3180
Toll free: (800) 641-5641
Email: admissions@uws.edu
Website: <http://www.uws.edu/doctor-of-chiropractic/>

For a list of other chiropractic schools in the United States, visit:
<http://www.naturalhealers.com/qa/chiropractic.html>

National Contact:

The American Chiropractic Association
Phone: (703) 276-8800
Email: memberinfo@acatoday.org
Website: <http://www.acatoday.org>

State Contact:

Alaska Chiropractic Society
Phone: (907) 903-1350
Email: info@akchiro.org
Website: www.alaskachiropracticsociety.com/



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AlaskaAHEC
Area Health Education Centers

Updated
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Clinical Assistant/Lab Assistant

Clinical Assistants perform basic laboratory testing in medical laboratories, working under the supervision of a medical laboratory scientist, medical laboratory technician, or pathologist. A Clinical Assistant collects and processes blood specimens and performs waived testing in chemistry, hematology, microbiology, and urinalysis. Clinical Assistants may also perform and record vital signs. In rural Alaska, Clinical Assistants often are employed in regional hospitals or subregional clinics.

With the changes in laboratory medicine and the economy, there is a need for a one-year assistant program to meet the needs of the future. This program may be taken by other allied health professionals to increase their repertoire of skills, or by individuals who want a career ladder. Individuals who complete this program may articulate into the two-year Medical Laboratory Technology program.

Where do they work?

In rural Alaska, clinical assistants often are employed in regional hospitals or subregional clinics.

Educational Requirements

- High school diploma or GED equivalency.
- High school biology and chemistry courses highly recommended.
- Post-secondary training in clinical laboratory assisting.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$16.31-\$34.30 (Mean \$23.37)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data for Healthcare Support Worker

Years in School:

2 years or less (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

UAA offers an Occupational Endorsement Certificate for Clinical Assistants, but **the program is currently suspended**. Currently no national certification exam is available for clinical assistants.

University of Alaska Anchorage

Contact: Dr. Heidi Mannion, Professor
Allied Health Science Building, Room 148
Anchorage, AK 99508
Phone: (907) 786-6928
Email: hamannion@uaa.alaska.edu
Website: <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/alliedhealth/academics/clinical-assistant/>

Weber State University offers an online certificate-of-completion.
Website: <http://www.weber.edu/mls/degrees/online/certificate.html>

National Contact:

American Society for Clinical Pathology

Website: <http://www.ascp.org>

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

Website: <http://www.ascls.org>

American Medical Technologists

Website: <http://www.americanmedtech.org/default.aspx>

State Contact:

Clinical Laboratory Scientists of Alaska (CLSA)

Website: <http://ascls-ak.org/>





Health Careers In Alaska

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Community Health Aide

The Community Health Aide (CHA) profession is unique to Alaska, and is one of the most important health care providers in rural Alaska. CHAs work under the supervision of a referral physician who is employed by the Indian Health Service or one of the tribally managed hospitals or clinics. Because CHAs live and work in remote areas, they communicate regularly with their referral physicians by telemedicine, telephone, e-mail or radio.

Community Health Aides use the *Alaska Community Health Aide/Practitioner Manual* to guide them through obtaining a medical history, performing a physical examination, making an assessment, and planning care. The manual is now in electronic format and

CHAs can access it via iPad or desktop computer. CHAs see a variety of patients including elders, pregnant women, infants and children, accident victims, and mental health and chronic disease patients. CHAs also coordinate the appointments of other visiting health care professionals who regularly visit the village to provide care, including public health nurses, dentists, and doctors.

Where do they work?

Community Health Aides generally work in the village where they live, and are employed by their tribal council or tribal health organization. The village council usually makes the selection for employment and training. Some CHAs work as itinerants and may work in a number of villages each year.

Educational Requirements

- Math and English skills at or beyond the 6th grade level. Some employers may require a higher standard for admission into a training program.
- Basic training consists of fifteen weeks divided into four sessions. All sessions include classroom time and clinical practice. Training may take place at any one of the three regional centers: Anchorage, Bethel or Nome. Some of the training is now available online through the CHAP Distance Learning Network. Completion of basic training may take from 14 months to several years. One of the benefits of the program is that a CHA is employed while being trained and therefore receives a salary.
- After CHAs complete the four basic training sessions, they may complete additional clinical requirements and take an examination to become a Community Health Practitioner or CHP. This is the highest level of accomplishment for training.
- All CHAs and CHPs may obtain certification at their level of training by meeting program requirements determined by the CHA Program Certification Board.
- CHAs and CHPs may use their basic training courses to work toward an Associate's degree from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$13.80-\$26.64 (Mean \$20.94)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

2 years or less (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

See State Contact.

State Contact:

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
4000 Ambassador Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508
Phone: (907) 729-4492
Fax: (907) 729-3629
Email: akchap@anthc.org
Website: <http://www.akchap.org/>



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AlaskaAHEC
Area Health Education Centers

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Dental Assistant

Dental assistants help dentists in a variety of tasks. They are often the first professional the patient comes into contact with in the dental clinic. Dental assistants prepare patients for examination and treatment. They are half of “four-handed” dentistry, helping the dentist in arranging and selecting instruments, preparing materials

and equipment, taking and processing x-rays, providing instruction to patients, and keeping detailed and accurate records of patient care. Other duties may include applying decay-preventive material to the teeth, making impressions, and providing oral hygiene instructions.

Where do they work?

In rural Alaska, dental assistants work wherever dentists practice. All dentists require one or more assistants. Most rural Alaskan dental assistants are employed in salaried positions with the Indian Health Service or regional health corporations. Others work in private practice as employees of dentists.

Educational Requirements

The American Dental Association (ADA) offers an accredited curriculum within dental schools, community colleges, vocational-technical schools, and private institutions. Most training sequences are similar:

- Graduation from high school or a GED. Biology, English, and office skills are often desirable. Good grades make it easier to be accepted into dental assistant training.
- Most dental assisting programs require a college entrance exam (ACT, SCAT, or SAT), and possibly the Nelson-Denny or Dental Assisting Aptitude Test (DAAT).
- Dental assisting training programs are between nine months and two years in length and award either a vocational certificate or community college associate degree.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$15.51-\$28.35 (Mean \$21.42)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

2 years or less (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

University of Alaska Anchorage
School for Allied Health, Dental Assisting Program
 Anchorage, AK 99508
 Phone: (907) 786-6933
 Website: <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/alliedhealth/academics/dental-assisting/index.cfm>

University of Alaska Fairbanks
Community and Technical College
Dental Assisting Program-Allied Health Department
 Jenifer Filotei, Program Coordinator
 Phone: (907) 455-2891
 Email: jafilotei@alaska.edu
 Website: <http://www.ctc.uaf.edu/programs/health/da/index.html>

National Contact:

American Dental Association
 211 East Chicago Ave.
 Chicago, IL 60611
 Phone: (312) 440-2500
 Website: <http://www.ada.org>

State Contact:

Alaska Dental Society
 9170 Jewel Lake Rd. Suite 100
 Anchorage, AK 99502
 Phone: (907) 563-3003
 Email: <https://www.akdental.org/contact.html>
 Website: <http://www.akdental.org/>





Dental Health Aide

Like Community Health Aides/Practitioners, Dental Health Aides (DHAs) are unique to Alaska, and provide care to individuals in remote communities without regular access to dentists. DHAs live in rural Alaskan villages and deliver dental disease prevention and education services. The Dental Health Aide Therapists (DHATs), one type of DHA, can perform minor irreversible procedures such as cavity removal, fillings and simple extractions. DHAs assist dentists and other dental health care providers during their trips to their communities. DHAs are supervised by a dentist or other dental providers. DHAs generally live and work in remote areas, communicating regularly with their supervisor by telemedicine,

telephone, e-mail, or radio. Some DHAs practice in the regional hub facilities with dental support provided locally.

Where do they work?

Dental Health Aides are generally employed by a tribal health organization or, less often, by their tribal councils. Tribal health organizations usually make the selection for employment and training. Some DHAs work as itinerants, working in a number of different villages each year.

Educational Requirements

- There are currently 6 levels of dental health aides, each with their own educational requirements and scope of work and standards: Primary Dental Health Aide I & II, Expanded Function Dental Health Aide I & II, Dental Health Aide Therapist, and Dental Health Aide Hygienist.
- A high school diploma or GED certificate are standard requirements for admission to DHA training (exception: DHA Hygienist, see below)
- While not a requirement for admission, college level coursework is recommended for students considering DHAT
- The Dental Health Aide Hygienist requires a license to practice as a dental hygienist and completion of approved classes in local anesthesia.
- All DHAs may obtain certification at their level of training by meeting program requirements determined by the CHA Program Certification Board.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$13.80 - \$29.64 (Mean \$20.94)
*Based on 2016 Alaska DOL data for Community Health Aides

Years in School:

2 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

Dental Health Aide educational sessions are organized by the Tribal Regional Health Organizations such as Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) in Juneau or the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation in Bethel, and are usually held at a hub dental program. The DHAT Educational Program is held in Anchorage and Bethel. Contact your local dental program or tribal health program for more information.

More information can also be found at the following websites:
Website: <http://www.dentexak.washington.edu>
Website: <http://www.akchap.org/html/calendar/dha-training-sessions.html>
Website: <http://anthcoralhealth.org/>

State Contact:

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
Dr. Mary Williard
Phone: (907) 729-5600
Email: mewilliard@anmc.org





Dental Hygienist

The dental hygienist is a practicing member of the dental healthcare team. A dental hygienist works under the supervision of a dentist and has the primary responsibility of teaching patients how to care for and maintain the cleanliness of their teeth and gums. In addition to providing the routine service of removing stains and deposits from patients' teeth, a dental hygienist also has the responsibility of taking x-rays, applying sealants to children's teeth and administering fluoride treatments to help prevent decay. When it comes to good oral health and preventive care, the dental hygienist is the person responsible for making sure the patients stay on track with routine care.

Hygienists in Alaska are also now permitted some restorative functions, if certified. This includes placing and finishing amalgam (silver) and composite (white) restorations (fillings). The dentist prepares the tooth by removing the decay, then the hygienist can place the filling.

Where do they work?

In rural Alaska, dental hygienists usually work with dentists in Indian Health Service or regional health corporation clinics. Others practice in private clinics. Dental hygienists also find positions in health education and community health programs.

Educational Requirements

Following a two or four-year college education, licensure is required to practice. All educational plans include:

- Graduation from high school with recommended coursework in science, math, and English.
- Some dental hygiene schools require or recommend specific testing, such as the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS V).
- Community colleges offer two-year programs and award an Associate's degree or certificate. Many programs require a college background before admission.
- Four-year programs award Bachelor's degrees. Usually the first two years are spent taking prerequisite courses in science and other subjects. The final two years are spent in the study of dental hygiene.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$24.25-\$56.59 (Mean \$40.59)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

2 - 4 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

Accredited Schools in Alaska:

University of Alaska Anchorage, Dental Hygiene Program

Phone: (907) 786-6925

Email: pence@uaa.alaska.edu

Website: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/alliedhealth/academics/dentalhygiene/index.cfm>

National Contact:

American Dental Hygienists' Association

Phone: (312) 440-8900

Email: education@adha.net

Website: <http://www.adha.org/>

State Contact:

Alaska State Dental Hygienists' Association

Phone: (907) 349-1553

Website: <http://www.asdha.com/>





Dental Laboratory Technician

Dental laboratory technicians, working in conjunction with dentists, make and repair artificial replacements for natural teeth and make corrective devices, including dentures, bridges, and crowns. Dental lab technicians (DLT) may work as an employee of a dentist,

or they may own and operate their own lab and contract with several dentists. DLTs do not normally have personal contact with patients but may be requested by the dentist to confirm a color match or see the fit of an item directly in the mouth.

Where do they work?

Most dental laboratory technicians in Alaska work in private practices as employees or contractors of dentists.

Educational Requirements

Careers can begin without college level courses through on-the-job-training in dental laboratories or dental offices. However, the American Dental Association (ADA) offers an accredited curriculum within dental schools, community colleges, vocational-technical schools, and private institutions. Most training sequences are similar:

- Graduation from high school or a GED. Biology, English, and office skills are often desirable. Good grades make it easier to be accepted into dental lab technology training.
- DLT programs are generally two years in length and award either a vocational certificate, community college associate degree, or both at the conclusion of the program.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$15.19-\$29.88 (Mean \$23.03)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

2 years or less (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

There are several ADA accredited Dental Lab Technology degree programs across the US. However, none are available in Alaska at this time. A listing of all the accredited dental laboratory technology education programs in the United States can be found on the American Dental Association website at <http://www.ada.org/en/coda/find-a-program/search-dental-programs/allied-programs>. The closest program is in Oregon. Because slots are limited, students should submit applications one or two semesters prior to their desired enrollment date.

Portland Community College

P.O. Box 19000

Portland, OR 97280-0990

Phone: (971) 722-4795

Website: <http://www.pcc.edu/programs/dental-tech/>

National Contact:

American Dental Association

211 East Chicago Ave.

Chicago, IL 60611

Phone: (312) 440-2500

Website: <http://www.ada.org/>

State Contact:

Alaska Dental Society

9170 Jewel Lake Rd. Suite 100

Anchorage, AK 99502

Phone: (907) 563-3003

Fax: (907) 563-3009

Email: <https://www.akdental.org/contact.html>

Website: <http://www.akdental.org/>





Health Careers In Alaska

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Dentist

Dentists diagnose, prevent, and treat diseases of the teeth, gums, and mouth. They work directly with patients to restore or replace teeth damaged by decay or lost from trauma or disease; extract teeth when necessary; and correct crooked teeth to improve chewing, speech and appearance. In addition, dentists may perform corrective surgery on gums and supporting bones to treat diseases of the gums and other tissues of the mouth. Dentists provide instruction and advice on oral health care and preventive measures patients can take to keep their teeth and gums healthy. Dentists are also concerned with the general health of the patient and may detect signs and symptoms of illness that require care by another health

professional.

There are nine dental specialty areas that require advanced training: endodontics (tooth roots), oral surgery (mouth surgery), orthodontics (braces, etc.), pedodontics (children), prosthodontics (artificial teeth), periodontics (gum disease), oral pathology (structural and functional effects of the oral cavity), public health dentistry (community dental health), and oral and maxillofacial radiology (complex x-rays).

Where do they work?

In rural Alaska, many dentists are employed in salaried positions with the Indian Health Service or regional health corporations. Others work in private practice or as partners of other dentists.

Educational Requirements

- There are two equal degrees for dentists: the DDS (Doctor of Dental Surgery) and the DMD (Dental Medicine Doctorate). Both require graduation from an accredited dental school.
- Graduation from high school with a strong preparatory background in science, math, and English.
- Graduation from a four-year college with a science background. Pre-dental students have degrees as varied as biology or music but have met core science classes in chemistry and biology.
- High grades are very important. A high score on the Dental Admissions Test.
- Completion of a dental program awarding the DDS or DMD degree.
- Specialty training of two to four years may follow dental school.

Hourly Wage Range:

For general (non-specialty) dentistry \$64.23- \$* (Mean \$104.38)

* Indicates the estimate is not a wage is greater than \$208,000. Based on 2016 Alaska DOL data.

Years in School:

8 years or more (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

There are no accredited schools in Alaska. To learn about dental schools in the US, contact the Alaska Dental Society office. In addition, a listing of all the accredited dental education programs in the United States can be found on the American Dental Association website at:

**American Dental Association
Commission on Dental Accreditation**
<http://www.ada.org/267.aspx>

National Contact:

American Dental Association
211 East Chicago Ave.
Chicago, IL 60611-2678
Phone: (312) 440-2500
Website: <http://www.ada.org/>

State Contact:

Alaska Dental Society
9170 Jewel Lake Rd., Ste. 100
Anchorage, AK 99502
Phone: (907) 563-3003
Email: info@akdental.org
Website: <http://www.akdental.org/>



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Diagnostic Medical Sonographer

Sonographers use a transmitting device called a transducer to send out high-frequency ultrasound waves into a patient. The reflected sound forms echoes, and those echoes generate a visual representation of the patient's internal organs, vasculature, and other soft tissue structures. The images produced are used to diagnose, treat, and screen for medical conditions.

Sonographers work under the supervision of a radiologist or other physician in a variety of medical settings and health facilities.

The diagnostic medical sonography profession has three primary career paths: general sonography (abdominal organs, pregnancy, fe-

male reproductive system, and most of the other body systems), cardiac sonography (heart), and vascular technology (blood vessels).

Where do they work?

Most diagnostic medical sonographers work in hospitals, but some may work in physician's offices or laboratories.

Educational Requirements

- Completion of an associate degree in sonography is the typical educational requirement for entry-level sonographers. (Some occupational certificate programs exist, but they are usually for those who are already employed in a health-related field.)
- A national certification examination from the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) and/or the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) is preferred.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$23.32-\$48.23 (Mean \$37.90)
*Based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

2-4 years (after high school graduation)

Academic Programs in Alaska

The University of Alaska Anchorage offers a two-year Associate of Applied Science degree in general sonography. The program is only offered on the Anchorage campus. Special admission and application procedure requirements apply.

University of Alaska Anchorage, Diagnostic Medical Sonography
3211 Providence Drive, Allied Health Sciences, Room 148
Anchorage, AK 99508
Phone: (907) 786-6929
Email: ultrasound@uaa.alaska.edu
Website: <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/alliedhealth/academics/diagnosticmedicalsonography/associateofappliedscience.cfm>

For a full list of CAAHEP-accredited programs, see this website:
<http://www.caahep.org/Find-An-Accredited-Program/>

National Contacts:

American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography
Phone: (301) 738-8401
Toll free: (800) 541-9754 ext. 3
Website: <http://www.ardms.org/Pages/default.aspx>

The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists
Phone: (651) 687-0048
Website: <https://www.arrt.org/>

Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography
Phone: (214) 473-8057
Toll free: (800) 229-9506
Website: <https://www.sdms.org/>





Dietary Manager

Certified dietary managers are responsible for supervising food services and nutrition care services in various types of facilities or community-based programs. Typical activities in food service departments include helping with menu planning, producing schedules, and the standardizing of recipes. In addition, Certified Dietary Managers often oversee ordering, receiving, and storing of food and supplies. They may supervise other dietary workers and maintain equipment, sanitation, safety, and security procedures. Hospital-based certified dietary managers also help patients with menu selection and routine modifications to diets. Certified dietary managers may or may not work under the direction of a dietitian.

In some cases, such as with a school district, a registered dietitian may not be employed and thus all the nutritional decisions are made by the certified dietary manager. When certified dietary managers work in long term health care organizations, they are generally the department manager for the food services department with a registered dietitian serving as a consultant. In this case they are responsible for all aspects of the department from hiring, firing, writing evaluations, purchasing, scheduling, menus and any other duties that go with a specific job.

Where do they work?

Primary employers are the Alaska Native Health Service, the regional health corporations, state and federal health agencies, school districts, nursing homes, and hospitals. Other jobs are in community-based educational or nutrition programs. Rural Alaska employment opportunities are most often found in regional centers where such facilities and programs exist.

Educational Requirements

Individuals considering a career as a certified dietary manager should have an interest in working with food, the ability to work well with people, and supervisory potential.

- Graduation from high school or a GED, preferably with coursework in math, science, and communication.
- Completion of a college level, one-year Certified Dietary Manager program OR completion of a two-year or four-year degree in foodservice management, nutrition, or culinary arts.
- You may also qualify to take the national certification exam through a combination of training and experience, including related military training.
- Completion and passing scores on the National Certified Dietary Manager's (CDM) exam and Certified Food Protection Professional (CFPP) exam.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$24.38-\$43.66 (Mean: \$32.58)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data for Dietitians and Nutritionists

Years in School:

2 years or less (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

We are unaware of any available academic programs in Alaska at this time. Distance delivered courses are available in the United States. Please refer to the Association of Nutritional and Food Service Professionals website for a listing of approved programs/schools with on-line or correspondence courses: <http://www.anfponline.org/become-a-cdm/anfp-approved-programs>

This organization also provides assistance in determining whether your training and experience qualify you to take the national certification exam.

National Contact:

Association of Nutritional & Food Service Professionals
Phone: (800) 323-1908
Email: info@ANFPonline.org
Website: <http://www.anfponline.org>

State Contact:

We are unaware of any active state associations at this time.





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Dietitian

Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs) provide nutritional advice and training to individuals and groups. They promote sound nutritional practices to improve health and treat disease. RDNs may specialize in administration, clinical therapeutics, education, community nutrition, and research.

In rural Alaska, most dietitians have some clinical, administrative, and educational responsibilities. Many work in hospitals where they manage the food service and provide consultation to physicians and patients on the special nutritional needs of patients. Others work for regional health corporations or governmental agencies and develop educational plans to improve the nutritional habits of the commu-

nity, especially schoolchildren.

Where do they work?

In Alaska, dietitians work in hospitals, tribal health organizations, school districts, clinics, health clubs, private practices, nursing homes, WIC offices, and public health departments.

Educational Requirements

Individuals considering a career in dietetics should have an interest in food, including food preparation, food science, agricultural science, education, and food-related health issues.

- Graduation from high school with coursework in math, science, and English.
- Completion of a four-year Bachelor's degree in dietetics or nutrition in a program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND).
- Students then complete a six to twelve month clinical, food service and community nutrition internship program in dietetics accredited by ACEND. This internship prepares them to take the national registration exam.
- Some students enter a coordinated program that combines a four-year Bachelor's degree with the internship.
- Some students combine the internship with graduate school. These programs are generally at least 18 months in length and lead to a Master's degree.
- A Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) is an individual who has met the education and experience requirements of the ACEND and has passed a registration exam.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$28.73-\$32.31 (Mean \$30.52)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

4 years or more (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

University of Alaska Anchorage
School of Allied Health, Dietetics and Nutrition Program
Phone: (907) 786-1276
Email: dn@uaa.alaska.edu
Website: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/alliedhealth/academics/dieteticsandnutrition/bachelorofscience.cfm>

University of Alaska Anchorage Dietetic Internship
Phone: (907) 786-1362
Email: akwalch@uaa.alaska.edu
Website: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/alliedhealth/academics/dieteticsandnutrition/internship.cfm>

National Contact:

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Phone: (312) 899-0040, extension 5400
Email: education@eatright.org
Website: <http://www.eatright.org>

State Contact:

The Alaska Dietetic Association
PO Box 241351
Anchorage, AK 99524
Email: AKDA@EatRightAK.org
Website: <http://www.eatrightak.org/>



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Health Careers In Alaska

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EMT/Paramedic

Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics (MICPs) are called “pre-hospital providers” since they usually provide emergency medical care until arriving at a clinic or hospital. The environment in which EMTs and paramedics work is physically, emotionally, and intellectually challenging.

At each progressive level of certification or licensure, the roles and responsibilities of the caregiver increase. All EMTs are taught to assess the emergency scene, control bleeding, apply splints, assist with childbirth, administer oxygen, and perform CPR and other basic life support skills. An EMT-I may assist a patient with medications their doctor has given them for chest pain, asthma, or aller-

gic reactions. EMT-II personnel may also use devices to breathe for people who have lost consciousness, place needles in people’s veins, and provide certain medications for diabetic emergencies, dehydration or bleeding, and drug overdose. Those at the EMT-III level can also use electronic heart monitors and deliver shocks to restart the heart of patients whose hearts have stopped due to a heart attack.

The medications given by the EMT-III assist them in improving the chances of survival for individuals who have suffered a heart attack. MICPs have the most training and expansive scope of authorized activities. They administer more emergency medications and perform a wider variety of procedures.

Where do they work?

In rural Alaska most EMTs volunteer for fire departments or ambulance services. In larger communities they often work for paid departments. The job market for EMS personnel in Alaska is relatively small, but growing, and an increasing number of agencies are requiring that applicants be licensed (or eligible for licensing) as a mobile intensive care paramedic (MICP).

Educational Requirements

- There are five levels of EMS training. The lowest level (ETT) carries no educational prerequisites but a student must be age 18 or older. Certification as an EMT and licensure as an MICP require successful completion of written and practical examinations. The requirements are:
- ETT: 40 hours training, including CPR certification
- EMT I: 120 hours training, including CPR certification and completion of EMT I examinations
- EMT II: All requirements for EMT I, plus 50 additional hours and 10 patient contacts as an EMT I and completion of EMT II examinations
- EMT III: All requirements for EMT II, plus 50 additional hours, 10 patient contacts and 10 IVs as an EMT II and completion of EMT III examinations
- MICP: All requirements for EMT I, plus 500 classroom hours, 232 in-hospital hours and 480 hours of field internship

Hourly Wage Range:

\$15.89-\$36.12 (Mean \$25.96)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

2 years or more (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

EMT courses are taught throughout Alaska, by Regional EMS Offices, local EMS squads, cities, boroughs, the University of Alaska, and others. There are currently 3 paramedic training programs in Alaska:

Kenai Peninsula College

Website: <http://www.kpc.alaska.edu/academics/areas-of-study/paramedic/>

Mat-Su College Campus

Website: <http://matsu.alaska.edu/office/student-services/degree-programs/paramedical-technology/>

UAF Community and Technical College

Website: www.ctc.uaf.edu/programs/paramedic/index.html

National Contact:

National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians

Website: <http://www.nremt.org>

National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians

Website: <http://www.naemt.org>

State Contact:

Emergency Medical Services Unit

Division of Public Health

Phone: (907) 269-4659

Website: <http://www.ems.alaska.gov/>



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Environmental Health Specialist

Environmental Health Specialists (EHS) work to identify environmental conditions that can make people sick or injured, and then take steps to eliminate or minimize these undesirable conditions. An EHS works with a variety of media such as food, water, and air to reduce human morbidity and mortality. There is also a strong focus on hazardous materials management, vector and pest control, and communicable disease prevention. Many environmental health professionals spend their days conducting surveys, performing research, and providing education on various environmental health related topics. Some specialized environmental health professionals work in hospitals or industrial settings to help ensure a safe envi-

ronment.

Working as an EHS is a challenging and rewarding career, and working in rural Alaska offers many unique challenges. The remote arctic setting offers a variety of opportunities for one to make measurable improvements. Individuals who choose a career in environmental health science are making a decision to spend their life creating a healthier world for others to live in.

Where do they work?

Environmental Health Specialists work in a variety of settings including government agencies, public health departments, universities and private industry, including hospitals. In Alaska they also work for the Indian Health Service and tribal health organizations.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from a high school with strong college preparatory background, especially in math and science.
- Completion of a four-year bachelor's degree in environmental health science or related field. Though many positions will require the Environmental Health Degree from an Accredited program.
- Successful completion of the National Environmental Health Association's Registered Environmental Health Specialist exam. This is normally accomplished shortly after the individual has graduated college and has had an opportunity to gain some work experience.
- Many environmental health specialists go on to complete a master's degree in public health or environmental health.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$24.32-\$62.68 (Mean: \$41.38)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

4 years or more (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

Currently there is not an accredited EH program Alaska. A list of accredited undergraduate and graduate programs can be obtained at:

The National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council (EHAC)

Phone: (206) 522-5272

Email: ehacinfo@eahap.org

Website: <http://www.ehacoffice.org/>

Note: For students interested in obtaining a position with the federal government as an Environmental Health Specialist, many positions require that students have a degree from an accredited program.

National Contact:

National Environmental Health Association

Website: <http://www.neha.org>

State Contact:

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Environmental Health

Website: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/eh/>

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Division of Environmental Health and Engineering

Website: <http://www.anthc.org/cs/dehe/>



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Health and Human Services Administrator

Health and human services delivery systems are extremely complex. Management of these systems requires an in-depth understanding of financing, health care delivery systems, and traditional management functions, as well as well-developed skills in community interaction and policy development. These skills are necessary

for involving the community in the development of appropriate solutions to community health care problems. Health services administrators coordinate and supervise highly motivated and highly trained health professionals.

Where do they work?

Health and human service administrators work in urban and rural settings that range from small singlepurpose agencies to large service delivery systems with multiple components. Possible organizations include hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, mental health facilities, Alaska Native regional health corporations, government agencies, insurance and consulting firms, and non-profit planning research and educational organizations.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with coursework in math and communication skills
- Completion of a four-year college degree program in almost any subject, including health, business, or liberal arts.
- Several years of work in health care or other related businesses with a focus on management responsibility.
- Graduate school or an administrative certification program.
- The more traditionally prepared administrators have a Master of Hospital Administration (MHA), Master of Public Health (MPH), Master of Public Administration (MPA), or Master of Business Administration (MBA). Increasingly, there are now administrative certification programs and two- and four-year degrees in health services management. There are also additional continuing education requirements for health services administrators beyond the Master's degree. The most popular of these is the certification from the American College of Health Care Executives.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$50.14-\$57.30 (Mean \$53.72)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

5-7 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

University of Alaska Anchorage

Elizabeth Hodges Snyder, PhD, MPH
MPH Program Coordinator
Phone: 907-786-6541
Email: afeh1@uaa.alaska.edu
Website: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/healthsciences/mph/index.cfm>

Alaska Pacific University

MBA Program with concentration in Health Services Administration
Website: <http://www.alaskapacific.edu/programs/health-services-administration-concentration/>

National Contact:

American College of Healthcare Executives

One North Franklin Street, Suite 1700
Chicago, IL 60606
Phone: (312) 424-2800
Email: contact@ache.org
Website: <http://www.ache.org/>

State Contact:

Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association

Phone: (907) 646-1444
Website: <http://www.ashnha.org>



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Health Educator

Health educators use educational processes to promote health and influence human well-being in a variety of school, community, workplace, and medical care settings. They promote good health by educating the public about the causes of disease and the means of prevention on a community-wide level. Health educators may also provide counseling, plan and evaluate programs, and organize community efforts.

The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. adopted seven responsibility areas that a health educator should possess:

- Planning effective health education programs
- Implementing health education programs
- Evaluating effectiveness of health education programs
- Coordinating provision of health education services
- Acting as a resource person in health education
- Communicating health and health education needs, concerns and resources
- Additional competencies may be necessary, depending on the health educator's responsibility area.
- Assessing individual and community needs for health education

Where do they work?

Health educators in Alaska are employed by public health departments, schools, Native health corporations, and community, government, or voluntary agencies.

Educational Requirements

The minimum educational requirement is usually a four-year baccalaureate degree, with a minimum of 25 semester hours (or 37 quarter hour credits) for a health education emphasis. The transcript will typically indicate a major degree program in community health education, health education, public health education, or school health education.

- Graduation from high school with coursework in English, science, and math.
- Completion of a four-year college degree with an emphasis in health education.
- Some health educators complete a one or two year Master's degree program in health education.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$17.33-\$41.67 (Mean: \$28.89)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

4 years or more (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

The University of Alaska Anchorage currently offers a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences. This degree offers three major tracks: Health Educator Track, the Pre-Professional Track and the Physician Assistant Track. UAA also has a Master of Public Health Practice program that is offered through distance delivery. For more information, contact:

University of Alaska Anchorage
Department of Health Sciences
 Jenny Miller, DrPH, MS, MPH
 Phone: (907) 786-6588
 Website: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/healthsciences/bshs/index.cfm>

National Contact:

The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing
 Website: <http://www.nchec.org/>

American Public Health Association (APHA)
 Website: <http://www.apha.org>

State Contact:

Alaska Health Education Library Project (AHELP)
 Website: <http://www.ahelp.org/>





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Human Services Worker

“Human service worker” is a generic term for people who hold professional and paraprofessional jobs in such diverse settings as group homes and halfway houses; correctional centers; community mental health and development disability centers; elder, family, child, and youth service agencies; and programs concerned with substance abuse, family violence, and aging.

The primary purpose of the human service worker is to assist individuals and communities to function as effectively as possible in the major domains of living. Some examples of occupational titles of human service workers include: Case Worker, Family Support Worker, Life Skills Instructor, Probation Officer, Group Home Worker, Mental Health Worker, Community Outreach Worker, Residential Manager, Care Coordinator, Chemical Dependency Counselor, Clinical Associate, Disabilities Spe-

cialist and Client Advocate.

A strong desire to help others is an important consideration for a job as a human services worker. Individuals who show patience, understanding, and caring in their dealings with others are highly valued by employers. Other important personal traits include effective interpersonal communication skills, a strong sense of responsibility, and the ability to manage time effectively. Knowledge of ethical standards and the ability to make decisions based on sound judgement are essential qualities for a Human Services worker is important for working in the field. Knowledge of working with people with physical, psychological or intellectual disabilities prepares Human Service workers for the many opportunities that exist for employment in the field.

Where do they work?

Human Service Workers are found in diverse settings and a wide variety of other social service programs. In rural Alaska, employment opportunities include regional health corporations and federal, state, and local governmental agencies.

Educational Requirements

The human service worker may be a paraprofessional with a two-year associate degree or a professional with a four-year bachelor's degree.

- Graduation from high school or completion of a GED.
- Completion of a two-year associate of applied science degree in human services, or
- Completion of a four-year baccalaureate degree in human services.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$16.56-\$38.81 (Mean: \$27.35)
*Based on 2016 Alaska DOL data for Healthcare Social Workers

Years in School:

2 to 4 years (after high school graduation)

Academic Programs in Alaska

University of Alaska Anchorage, Human Services Dept
Website: <http://hums.uaa.alaska.edu/>

UAF College of Rural & Community Development Health Programs
Website: <http://www.uaf.edu/rhs/>
Website: <http://www.uaf.edu/iac/programs/human-services-pg/>

University of Alaska Fairbanks, CTC
Website: www.ctc.uaf.edu/programs/HUMS/index.html

Alaska Pacific University
Website: <http://www.alaskapacific.edu/programs/ba-counseling-psychology/>

National Contact:

National Organization for Human Services
Phone: (800) 597-2306
Website: www.nationalhumanservices.org/

Mental Health America
Phone: (703) 684-7722
Toll free: (800) 969-6642
Website: www.mentalhealthamerica.net/go/about-us



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Industrial Hygienist

Industrial hygienists are scientists and engineers who anticipate, recognize, evaluate, and control hazardous conditions in the workplace and in the community. They assist employers in developing plans and implementing systems to make the workplace and community a safe and healthy environment.

The Industrial hygienist's job is a multifaceted one that touches ev-

ery aspect of an organization and benefits a company's bottom line through increased productivity, improved morale, and lower workers' compensation and liability costs. The industrial hygienist acts as an adviser, making recommendations and setting standards to keep the workplace safe. This requires working with employees at all job levels and requires a genuine commitment to caring about people and the environment.

Where do they work?

Many industrial hygienists work for private corporations or federal or state government agencies as salaried employees. However, the fastest-growing segment of the industrial hygiene profession is self-employment or consulting. Many industrial hygiene careers can lead to upper management positions.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with a strong college preparatory background especially in the sciences.
- Completion of a four-year Bachelor's degree in industrial hygiene, environmental health, chemistry, physics, biology, engineering, or a closely related physical or biological science.
- Many industrial hygienists also complete a Master's degree in one of the above listed sciences. To be a "Certified Industrial Hygienist," one must apply for and pass an exam after completing four years of practical experience in the field of industrial hygiene. The exam is administered by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$27.62-\$58.95 (Mean \$41.59)

*Based on 20146Alaska DOL data for Occupational Hlth & Safety Specialists
NOTE: Industrial Hygienists are typically the highest paid Health and Safety professionals, so they may make much more than the range shown here.

Years in School:

4 or more years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

There are no industrial hygiene programs in Alaska, but there are a variety of science and engineering programs available throughout the University of Alaska system.

Accreditation of Industrial Hygiene programs is administered by The Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). ABET accreditation, which is voluntary and achieved through a peer review process, provides assurance that a college or university program meets the quality standards established by the profession for which the program prepares its students. ABET is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

To find a list of ABET accredited IH programs, visit this website: <http://www.abih.org/become-certified/abet-accredited-ih-programs>

National Contacts:

American Industrial Hygiene Association
Website: <http://www.aiha.org>

American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists
Website: <http://www.acgih.org>

American Society of Safety Engineers
Website: <http://www.asse.org/>

State Contacts:

AIHA-Midnight Sun Section
Website: <https://www.aiha.org/get-involved/LocalSections/MidnightSun/Pages/default.aspx>

AK Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers
Website: <http://alaska.asse.org/>



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Licensed Practical Nurse

Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) provide direct patient care, working with the health care team to meet the needs of the whole person—physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual. They give routine nursing care to the ill, injured, handicapped and recovering patient, and provide health teaching to clients in many settings. They often assist registered nurses in more complex, non-routine care. Typical duties include taking vital signs, administering prescribed medications, giving injections, preparing patients for medical examinations and surgical procedures, and recording information in the patient’s medical record.

(children), obstetrics (pregnancy and childbirth), and gerontology (elder care). With additional training, employment in the operating room is also possible. Long-term care settings are common employment sites for LPNs, and opportunities to work in home health are increasing. LPNs are required to practice under the supervision of a registered nurse or physician.

Licensed practical nurses can specialize in areas such as pediatrics

Where do they work?

In rural Alaska, licensed practical nurses have a variety of employment opportunities. As in urban settings, they find employment anywhere that physicians and registered nurses work. Examples include clinics, hospitals, rehabilitation units, and nursing homes.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with coursework in English, science, and math.
- Completion of a 11 to 18-month licensed practical nurse course in a vocational school, college, or university.
- Successful completion of the NCLEX-PN examination for licensure.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$20.05-\$32.72 (Mean \$26.16)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

2 years or less (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

Both AVTEC and the University of Alaska Anchorage have temporarily suspended their Practical Nursing programs. We are not aware of any other LPN programs in Alaska at this time.

National Contact:

The National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service (NAPNES)
Phone: (703) 933-1003
Website: <http://www.napnes.org/>

National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses (NFLPN)
Toll free: (800) 948-2511
Email: NFLPN@caphill.com
Website: <http://www.nflpn.org/index.html>





Massage Therapist

Massage Therapists are trained in the use of different techniques utilized in body massage. The national standard for minimal training of a massage therapist is 500 hours. This training includes Swedish massage techniques, physiology, anatomy, pathology, ethics, business, and table massage. The scope of practice for massage therapy is defined by the American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA): A massage therapist would be trained in the skillful manipulation of soft tissue, connective tissue, and/or body energy fields with the intention of maintaining or improving health by affecting change in relaxation, circulation, nerve responses, or pat-

terns of energy flow.

After a massage therapist has completed basic training there are a wide variety of techniques that can be studied in advanced course work. This type of continuing education might include techniques such as Sports, Cranial Sacral, Deep Tissue, Thai, Asian, Reflexology, Acupressure, or Chair massage, broadening a massage therapists skills and abilities to work with a variety of clients in a variety of settings.

Where do they work?

Massage Therapists find employment in private practice (setting up their own clinic and working with other massage therapists), in the medical field (including working in hospitals, at alternative medical clinics, and with Chiropractors), working at sports facilities and with athletes, and at salons and spas. There is also a demand for qualified, well-trained massage therapists at resorts and within the cruise industry.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school.
- Completion of a post-secondary accredited Massage Therapy training program or 500 hours or more.
- A national certification examination is offered by the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards called the MBlex (Massage & Body Licensing Examination).
- Effective July 1 2015, licensure is required for all practitioners of massage therapy in the State of Alaska.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$24.25-\$57.82 (Mean \$40.46)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

2 years or less (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

Alaska Institute of Oriental Medicine, Acupuncture and Massage Therapy
Phone: (907) 279-0135
Website: http://www.akinstitute.com/Massage_Therapy_Vocational_Training.htm

National Contact:

American Massage Therapy Association
Phone: 847-864-0123
Website: <http://www.amtamassage.org>

American Organization for Bodywork Therapies of Asia
Phone: (856) 809-2953
Website: <http://www.aobta.org/>

State Contact:

American Massage Therapy Association, Alaska Chapter
Email: <http://www.akamta.com/contact-us>
Website: <http://www.akamta.com/>





Medical Assistant

Medical assistants are multi-skilled allied health professionals who work primarily in ambulatory settings such as medical offices and clinics. The responsibilities of medical assistants vary, depending on whether they work in a clinic, hospital, large group practice, or small private office.

Medical assistants work under the supervision of physicians in their offices or other medical settings. Medical assistants perform administrative and clinical duties to help the health care delivery setting run smoothly. They answer telephones, greet patients, fill out insurance forms, schedule appointments, prepare and maintain medical records, and manage practice finances. The clinical duties

of a medical assistant may include taking patient histories and vital signs, preparing patients for procedures, collecting and processing specimens, and preparing and administering medications as directed by the physician.

Where do they work?

More medical assistants are employed by practicing physicians than any other type of allied health personnel. In rural Alaska, medical assistants are often employed by regional health corporations, state and federal agencies, or community-based health care programs.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with coursework in science, algebra, reading and writing.
- Completion of a certification program. Types of certification include: CMA (Certified Medical Assistant); RMA (Registered Medical Assistant); NCMA (National Certified Medical Assistant).

Hourly Wage Range:

\$12.84-\$24.35 (Mean \$18.65)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

2 years or less (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

University of Alaska Anchorage

Allied Health Programs, Medical Assisting Department

Website: <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/alliedhealth/academics/medical-assisting/>

University of Alaska Fairbanks-Community and Technical College

Website: <http://www.ctc.uaf.edu/programs/health/health-med.html>

Charter College in Anchorage and Wasilla, AK

Website: http://www.chartercollege.edu/content/career_programs/charter_college_programs_medical_assistant.html

Alaska Career College

Website: <http://www.alaskacareercollege.edu/index.php/programs/medical-assistant>

National Contact:

American Association of Medical Assistants

Website: <http://www.aama-ntl.org/>

American Medical Technologists

Website: <http://www.americanmedtech.org/default.aspx>

National Center for Competency Testing

Website: <http://www.ncctinc.com>

State Contact:

Alaska Medical Assistant Society

11561 Hill Circle

Anchorage, AK 99507-6143

Email: leroux@alaska.net

Website: www.alaskamedicalassistants.org





Medical Coding Specialist

Medical Coding Specialists are professionals skilled in classifying medical data from patient records in various health care settings such as physician offices, clinics, long term care and behavioral health facilities, and hospitals. These coding practitioners review patients' records and assign numeric codes for each diagnosis and procedure. To perform this task, Medical Coding Specialists must possess expertise in the ICD-9 and CPT coding systems. In addition, Medical Coding Specialists have a medical science background (medical terminology, disease processes, pharmacology, and anatomy and physiology). Computer and communication skills are extremely important.

Health care facilities or medical providers report coded data to third party payors such as insurance companies or the government (in the case of Medicare and Medicaid recipients) for reimbursement of their expenses. Researchers and public health officials also use coded medical data to monitor patterns and explore new interventions. Coding accuracy is thus highly important to health care organizations because of its impact on revenues and for predicting health outcomes or the results of new therapies/drug interventions.

Where do they work?

Medical coding specialists can be found in hospitals, medical clinics, veterinary hospitals, long term care facilities, and behavioral health facilities. Native health corporations also provide job opportunities.

Educational Requirements

- High school diploma or GED is required.
- Medical coding certification is often required by employers. At a minimum, employers expect completion of specific college courses.
- Some employers require national coding certification.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$15.70-\$29.92 (Mean \$25.02)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data for Medical Records and Health Information Technicians

Years in School:

2 years or less (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

HIM Coding Specialist Certificate:
University of Alaska Southeast (UAS)
Website: <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/sitka/programs/coding.html>

Healthcare Reimbursement Certificate:
University of Alaska Fairbanks, Community & Tech College
Website: <http://www.ctc.uaf.edu/programs/health/health-reim.html>

Occupational Endorsement Certificate, Medical Office Coding:
University of Alaska Anchorage
Website: <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/alliedhealth/academics/medical-officecoding/>

Certificate as a Medical Office Administrative Assistant:
Charter College
Website: <http://www.chartercollege.edu/programs/healthcare/medical-office-administrative-assistant>

Medical Coding Specialist Certificate
Ilisagvik College
Website: <http://www.ilisagvik.edu/academic-degrees-and-certificates/allied-health/>

National Contact:

Inquiries Regarding Careers and Certification:

American Health Information Management Assoc
Phone: (312) 233-1100
Email: info@ahima.org
Website: <http://www.ahima.org>

American Academy of Professional Coders
Toll free: (800) 626-2633
E-mail: info@aapc.com
Website: <http://www.aapc.com/>





Health Careers In Alaska

bit.ly/healthcareersak

Medical Laboratory Scientist

Medical laboratory scientists are part of a highly skilled team that works together to solve mysteries, put puzzles together and answer critical questions in medicine. They supervise other laboratory personnel, such as medical laboratory technicians, and perform complex laboratory procedures that play an important role in the detection, diagnosis, and treatment of many diseases. Medical laboratory scientists work in all areas of the clinical laboratory including blood banking, chemistry, hematology, immunology, and microbiology. They perform a full range of laboratory tests – from simple premarital blood tests, to more complex tests to uncover diseases such as HIV/AIDS, diabetes and cancer. Medical laboratory scientists are also responsible for confirming the accuracy of test results, and reporting laboratory findings to pathologists and other physicians.

Where do they work?

Hospital laboratories in the regional hub communities employ most rural Alaska medical technologists. Private physicians, research programs, or local, state, and federal health agencies employ others.

<h3>Educational Requirements</h3> <p>Medical laboratory scientists have training beyond that of the medical laboratory technician, and may follow an educational program such as this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graduation from high school, preferably with courses in biology, chemistry, math and computer science.• Completion of a NAACLS accredited four-year bachelor's degree program in medical laboratory science which includes a clinical experience, OR• Completion of a 4-year bachelor's degree program in biology, chemistry or other related field and a year of clinical experience at a NAACLS accredited health facility, OR• MLT (ASCP) certification AND a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university, including coursework in biological science, microbiology, chemistry and mathematics. Students must also complete two years of full-time clinical laboratory experience in Blood Banking, Chemistry, Hematology, Microbiology, Immunology and Urinalysis/body fluids within the past four years.	<h3>Hourly Wage Range:</h3> <p>\$23.80-\$44.59 (Mean \$33.48) *Based on 2016 Alaska DOL data for Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technologist</p>
	<h3>Years in School:</h3> <p>4 years (after high school graduation).</p>

Academic Programs in Alaska

The University of Alaska Anchorage offers a Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science. (This program is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences.) For more information contact:

University of Alaska Anchorage Medical Laboratory Science Program

Dr. Heidi Mannion, Professor
Phone: (907) 786-6928
Email: hamannion@uaa.alasak.edu
Website: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/alliedhealth/academics/medical-laboratory-science/bachelorofscience.cfm>

National Contacts:

National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences
Website: <http://www.naacls.org/>

American Society for Clinical Pathology
Website: <http://www.ascp.org>

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
Website: <http://www.ascls.org>

American Medical Technologists
Website: <http://www.amt1.com>

State Contact:

Clinical Laboratory Scientists of Alaska (CLSA)
Website: <http://ascls-ak.org/>





Medical Laboratory Technician

Medical laboratory technicians (MLTs) perform laboratory tests that are important in detecting, diagnosing, and treating diseases. They are part of a highly skilled team that works together to solve mysteries, put puzzles together and answer critical questions in medicine. A MLT collects, processes and performs tests to analyze blood and other body fluids using sophisticated instruments. A MLT provides information to a doctor who needs the laboratory data to diagnose a patient's illness. More than 70% of medical decisions made by physicians are based on laboratory findings. The

information provided to the doctor is important in deciding what treatment is best for the patient and also in determining the prognosis of the patient's illness. In fact, the practice of modern medicine would be impossible without these laboratory tests.

Where do they work?

Working under the supervision of a medical laboratory scientist an MLT works closely with physicians, researchers, and other health care professionals, usually in a hospital laboratory setting. They are an important member of the health care team. Other employment situations include clinics, research labs, and public health facilities. Rural Alaska employment opportunities are generally found in regional hospitals.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school, preferably with a background in science and math.
- Completion of a two-year accredited medical laboratory technician program. Community colleges usually offer these programs.
- Some medical laboratory technicians go on to complete more advanced medical programs to become medical technologists or physicians assistants.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$16.31-\$34.30 (Mean \$23.37)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

2 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

The University of Alaska has a Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) program that prepares students for employment as medical laboratory technicians. Students receive an Associate of Applied Science degree and are eligible to sit for national certification exams. (This program is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences.) For more information contact:

**University of Alaska Anchorage
Medical Laboratory Technology Department**

Dr. Heidi Mannion

Phone: (907) 786- 6928

Email: hamannion@uaa.alaska.edu

Website: <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/alliedhealth/academics/medical-laboratory-science/associateofappliedscience.cfm>

National Contact:

National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences

Website: <http://www.nacls.org/>

American Society for Clinical Pathology

Website: <http://www.ascp.org>

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

Website: <http://www.ascls.org>

American Medical Technologists

Website: <http://www.americanmedtech.org/default.aspx>

State Contact:

Clinical Laboratory Scientists of Alaska (CLSA)

Website: <http://ascls-ak.org/>





Medical Transcriptionist

Medical Transcriptionists are healthcare professionals with an expertise in medical language. Medical Transcriptionists transcribe spoken words into comprehensive records that accurately communicate medical information. Medical transcription is the act of transcribing from oral to written form the record of a person's medical history, diagnosis, prognosis, and outcome.

The primary skills necessary for performance of quality transcription are extensive medical knowledge and understanding, sound judgment, deductive reasoning, and ability to detect medical inconsistencies in dictation. The Medical Transcriptionist questions,

seeks clarification, verifies the information, and enters it into the report.

Medical transcription requires a practical knowledge of medical language, anatomy and physiology, disease process, pharmacology, laboratory medicine, and internal organization of medical records. A Medical Transcriptionist is a medical language specialist who must also be aware of standards and requirements that apply to health records, as well as the legal significance of medical transcription.

Where do they work?

Most Medical Transcriptionists are employed in doctors' offices, public and private hospitals, medical transcription businesses, clinics, laboratories, radiology and pathology departments, insurance companies, government medical facilities, veteran's medical facilities, and associated healthcare industries. Some Medical Transcriptionists choose to work at home as employees of transcription businesses; others provide services as independent contractors.

Educational Requirements

- High school diploma or GED is required.
- Medical transcription certification is recommended, but not required.
- Some employers require specific college courses.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$12.27-\$27.20 (Mean \$17.59)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

2 years or less (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

Courses in medical transcription are available at:

University of Alaska Anchorage
Allied Health Programs, Medical Assisting Department
 Contact: Robin Wahto
 Phone: (907) 786-6928
 Fax: (907) 786-6938
 Email: rjwahto@uaa.alaska.edu
 Website: <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/alliedhealth/academics/medical-assisting/>

National Contact:

For inquiries regarding careers and certification, contact:

The Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity
 4230 Kiemann Avenue, Suite 120
 Modesto, CA 95356
 Phone: (209) 527-9620
 Toll free: (800) 982-2182
 Fax: (209) 527-9633
 Email: ahdi@ahdionline.org
 Website: <http://www.ahdionline.org/>





Mental Health Counselor

Mental health is an important part of a person's total health. Mental health counselors focus on helping individuals improve their daily functioning. There are several job titles that fall into the category of mental health counselor, and all involve counseling and assisting individuals in achieving a healthy mind.

Mental health counselors use their knowledge and skills to assess and diagnose behavior problems, psychological problems (the way the client thinks), and social problems (the way the client gets along with other people). A diagnosis is based on conversations with the client, specialized tests, and/or an assessment of the person's family, education, work, friends, and living conditions.

Mental health counselors often use verbal counseling to help clients better understand the cause of their problem, and to develop

Where do they work?

Mental health counselors work in hospitals, mental health centers, group practices, non profit agencies, and tribal health organizations.

a plan to change the behavior, lifestyle, or surroundings that contribute to this problem. Using these approaches, the mental health counselor helps clients understand and solve their own problems.

An important part of this job is to be an expert on the resources and programs available to clients. Mental health counselors not only refer clients to information, but also assist them in contacting other resources, including physicians, alcohol and substance abuse counselors, social workers, financial and housing assistance agencies, and educational programs. Alternatively, the counselor may provide case management services and assist the client in coordinating these service providers.

Educational Requirements

- Mental health counselors come from a variety of educational backgrounds, but most have degrees in human services, nursing, psychology, education, or social work. All follow a similar educational plan:
- Graduation from high school.
- Completion of a four-year college program in human services, counseling, nursing, psychology, education, or social work.
- Completion of 1-4 years of graduate school in psychology, social work, counseling, or education, usually specializing in counseling or psychotherapy. Professional counselors require one of the following degrees: Master of Social Work (MSW), Master of Education (MEd), or Master of Science in Psychology (MS). In psychology and education, a doctorate can be completed (PhD or EdD). A Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) holds either a master's or PhD, has two years of clinical supervision and must pass a written test.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$17.53-\$39.60 (Mean \$28.94)
*based on Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

5-8 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

University of Alaska Anchorage

School of Nursing: <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/schoolofnursing/>
Psychology Department: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/psych/>
College of Education: <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/coe/>
School of Social Work: <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/socialwork/>

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Education: <https://sites.google.com/a/alaska.edu/uaf-soe-graduate/>
Department of Social Work: www.uaf.edu/socwork/
Department of Psychology: www.uaf.edu/psych/
Alaska Pacific University: <http://www.alaskapacific.edu/programs/ms-counseling-psychology/>

National Contact:

American Counseling Association

Website: <http://www.counseling.org>

American Mental Health Counselors Association

Website: <http://www.amhca.org>

Mental Health America

Website: <http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/go/about-us>

State Contact:

Alaska Counseling Association

Website: <http://www.akcounseling.net/>





Nurse Anesthetist

Nurse anesthesia is an advanced clinical nursing specialty. (Anesthesia is the use of special drugs that temporarily block sensation in an area of the body or enable a patient to be kept unconscious and free of pain during a surgery.) A nurse anesthetist takes care of a patient's anesthesia needs before, during, and after surgery or the delivery of a baby. Because nurse anesthetists are licensed as nurses, they provide services in conjunction with a qualified physician, surgeon, dentist, podiatrist, or anesthesiologist. Nurse anesthetists practice in a variety of settings in the private and public sector and in

the US military, including traditional hospital operating rooms, ambulatory surgery centers, pain clinics, and physician's offices. Some nurse anesthetists practice in conjunction with anesthesiologists, but in many states nurse anesthetists are independent practitioners. In most rural communities, they may be the only anesthesia providers.

Where do they work?

In Alaska, nurse anesthetists typically work in hospitals and surgery centers.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with coursework in math, science, and English
- A Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing
- A license as a Registered Nurse
- A minimum of one year of acute care nursing experience
- A Masters in Nurse Anesthesiology (Programs include 24 to 36 months of graduate course work, including both classroom and clinical experience.)
- Nurses must pass a national certification exam to become a CRNA.
- Recertification is required every two years. The national certification board requires 40 hours of continuing education every 2 years. A few states or facilities require up to 10 hours more per year and some state require certain number of CE units for prescriptive authority

Hourly Wage Range:

\$48.84-\$ (Mean: \$72.47)
*Based on 2016 Alaska DOL Data

Years in School:

6-7 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

There is no accredited school in Alaska, but there are currently 110 programs nationwide. For a list of these programs and other information about Nurse Anesthetists, go to:

Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs

Website: <http://home.coa.us.com/accredited-programs/Pages/CRNA-School-Search.aspx>

National Contact:

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Phone: (847) 692-7050
Email: info@aana.com
Website: <http://www.aana.com>

State Contact:

Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Website: <http://alaskacrna.com/>





Health Careers In Alaska

bit.ly/healthcareersak

Nurse Practitioner

Nurse practitioners practice independently with support from the Alaska State Practice Act. Nurse practitioner's obtain medical histories, perform physical examinations, diagnose and treat acute and chronic health conditions, and prescribe medications and treatments. In addition, Nurse practitioners may provide prenatal care and family planning services, well-child care (including screening and immunizations), conduct annual exams for adults, and complete health counseling and prevention services.

Nurse practitioners are advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) who have advanced education and clinical training to focusing on diagnosis and treatment of patients independently. Nurse practi-

tioners work with families and people of all ages. They provide health care services and education that optimize health and encourage informed patient decisions. Nurse practitioners work in a variety of settings including hospitals, clinics, or schools. Nurse practitioners can own, and operate their own clinics.

Nurse practitioners may specialize in areas such as: family practice, women's health, occupational health, oncology, neonatal, pediatrics, geriatrics, or psychiatry. Increasingly, they work in specialty clinics, with allergists, gynecologists, cardiologists, and others. Career options are virtually unlimited, and include employment as instructors in clinical and university settings, in research, or administration.

Where do they work?

Nurse practitioners work in both rural and urban settings. Some of these settings include: community health centers, hospitals, clinics, public health departments, nursing homes, and school and college student health clinics. There are many job opportunities for Nurse Practitioners seeking employment in a rural environment.

Educational Requirements

All nurse practitioners have training beyond a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. An educational plan looks like this:

- Graduation from high school with a college preparatory background.
- Completion of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing to become a registered nurse.
- Completion of at least one year of fulltime nursing experience.
- Completion of a Master of Science in Nursing. APRN programs are available for nurse practitioners in family, psychiatric mental health, pediatrics, women's health, geriatrics, and others.
- Nurses must pass a national certification exam to become a Nurse Practitioner.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$51.03-\$61.19 (Mean \$55.61)
*Based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

5-7 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

The University of Alaska Anchorage's (UAA) School of Nursing has a master's degree program for Registered Nurses (RN) who hold a bachelor's degree. RNs may pursue a master's degree in the specialty area of Family Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, or Nursing Leadership. The Nursing Leadership area of study will not lead to Nurse Practitioner certification. The Doctorate of Nursing Practice is the recommended path for APRN practice.

The UAA Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) program began in August, 2015. DNP students must have Master of Science degree with either a Family Nurse Practitioner or Psychiatric Mental Health certification to apply. In August 2018, the first BSN to DNP program will be available at UAA.

University of Alaska Anchorage School of Nursing

Dr. Barbara Berner
Phone: (907) 786-4550
Email: nursing@uaa.alaska.edu
Website: <http://nursing.uaa.alaska.edu/>

University of Alaska Anchorage School of Nursing, Nurse Practitioner Coordinator

Dr. Lisa Jackson
Phone: (907) 786-4590
Email: lmjackson2@uaa.alaska.edu
Website: <http://nursing.uaa.alaska.edu/>

National Contact:

American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
AANP National Administrative Office
Phone: (512) 442-4262
Email: admin@aanp.org
Website: <http://www.aanp.org>

State Contact:

Alaska Nurse Practitioner Association (ANPA)
Phone: (907) 222-6847
Website: <http://anpa.enpnetwork.com>



UAA Alaska Center for Rural Health and Health Workforce
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE



Updated
Nov. 7, 2016



Occupational Therapist

Occupational therapy focuses on enabling people to do the activities of daily life. Occupational therapists help people with disabilities learn or regain the skills they need to live independent, productive, and satisfying lives. They often work as a member of a team of professionals who combine their individual fields of expertise to meet the needs of the client.

Occupational therapists select appropriate activities suited to the physical and mental capability, developmental level, and interests of each client. Goal-directed activities are designed to facilitate recovery and to improve independence in daily living or work related skills. Occupational therapists must also have an in-depth knowl-

edge of the techniques used for redesigning living and working settings to provide accessibility for people with disabilities. Specialty areas in occupational therapy include hand rehabilitation, pediatrics, physical rehabilitation in areas such as neurology and orthopedics, school system practice, mental health, community-based practice, gerontology.

Where do they work?

Occupational therapists work in many different places, including hospitals, rehabilitation centers, community centers, home health care, nursing homes, mental health centers, school systems, and private practice. In rural Alaska they are employed by health care facilities, educational organizations, school systems, infant learning programs, and government agencies.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with coursework in English, science, and math.
- A bachelor's degree in any field and completion of required pre-requisites for the occupational therapy program you will be entering.
- A master's degree or doctoral degree in occupational therapy is needed to enter the profession and to be eligible to sit for the national certification examination.
- Students who have successfully completed an accredited degree program may be eligible to sit for the Occupational Therapist Registered OTR examination administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT).

Hourly Wage Range:

\$37.92-\$74.50 (Mean \$56.29)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

6 to 7 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

There is an occupational therapy doctorate (OTD) program at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). This program is a collaborative arrangement between Creighton University in Nebraska and UAA. The program gives priority to Alaska residents. Students are admitted into Creighton, and view all lectures online. Clinical labs are taught on the UAA campus by adjunct faculty who are experienced OT clinicians. The program, which is full time only, is 3 years in length. For more information, contact:

Diana Steer, OT/L, Coordinator,

Phone: (907) 786-4490

Email: dlsteer@uaa.alaska.edu

Website: <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/collegeofhealth/departments/ot/index.cfm>

National Contact:

The American Occupational Therapy Association

Phone: (301) 652-6611

Website: <http://www.aota.org>

State Contact:

Alaska Occupational Therapy Association

3705 Arctic Blvd., PMB 1616

Anchorage, AK 99503

Website: <http://www.akota.org>





Occupational Therapy Assistant

Occupational therapy assistants and professional occupational therapists are partners in enabling people to do the activities of daily life. Occupational therapy assistants help people with disabilities learn or regain the skills they need to live independent, productive, and satisfying lives.

Occupational therapy assistants teach and assist patients in developing skills in self care and in creative, recreational, and school or work related activities. They provide treatment and report patient progress and development to the occupational therapist. Occupational therapy assistants also perform tasks such as ordering supplies, preparing and laying out materials, helping to make splints

and other corrective devices, and maintaining tools and equipment. Many work with particular age groups or with people who have certain types of disabilities.

Where do they work?

Occupational therapy assistants work wherever occupational therapists are employed.

Educational Requirements

Occupational therapy assistants complete two years of training beyond high school.

- Graduation from high school. Basic courses in English, science and math are helpful.
- Completion of a two-year Associate degree program from a university or community college. All occupational therapy assistant programs include at least two months of supervised practical experience.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$25.87-\$33.29 (Mean \$29.58)

*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data for Physical Therapy Assistants

Years in School:

2 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

There are no occupational therapy assistant programs in Alaska. A list of programs in other states can be found on the American Occupational Therapy Association's website: <http://www.aota.org> (See Education & Careers-Find a School.)

National Contact:

The American Occupational Therapy Association

4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200

Bethesda, Maryland 20814-3449

Phone: (301) 652-6611

Email: <http://www.aota.org/AboutAOTA/Contact-Us.aspx>

Website: <http://www.aota.org>

State Contact:

Alaska Occupational Therapy Association

3705 Arctic Blvd., PMB 1616

Anchorage, AK 99503

Email: <https://akota.site-ym.com/general/?type=contact>

Website: <http://www.akota.org>





Optician

Dispensing opticians, also known as opticians, make and fit eye glasses and lenses prescribed by ophthalmologists (eye surgeons) or optometric physicians. Dispensing opticians take facial measurements and assist in frame and lens selection. Although optical laboratories usually produce the actual lens, some opticians grind lenses according to the prescription and patient's measurements. The dis-

persing optician adjusts the eye glasses to the customer.

Dispensing opticians can also dispense contact lenses from the prescription provided by an ophthalmologist or optometric physician. Opticians often teach about the use and care of contact lenses.

Where do they work?

Opticians often have their own businesses or work with large retail optical chains or in private practice. In rural Alaska, most opticians work in regional hospital eye clinics. They generally work closely with the optometric physician or ophthalmologist.

Educational Requirements

Dispensing opticians can receive training through college and technical school-based programs, or through an apprenticeship.

- High school diploma or GED and an aptitude for science, manual dexterity, and the ability to work with people.
- Completion of at least 1,800 hours of training as an apprentice or graduation from an associate degree program in a recognized school or college of opticianry.
- Registration as an apprentice is required by the State of Alaska. Apprentices must spend a minimum of 1800 hours working under a licensed optician.
- Successful completion of the Career Progression Program for Opticians through the National Academy of Opticianry.
- Pass the National Certification exam by the American Board of Opticianry and/or the National Contact Lens Examiners.
- Alaska requires a license to be a dispensing optician. A license in Alaska is issued for 1) dispensing contact lenses, 2) dispensing other lenses, eyeglasses, spectacles, artificial eyes, and their appurtenances, or 3) both.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$14.04-\$28.80 (Mean \$21.08)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

2 years or more years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

There are no opticianry schools in Alaska. The following website lists U.S. programs by state: <http://www.eyecareprofessions.com/opticians/schools.html> The closest is at Seattle Central College, which has a two-year program leading to an associate of applied science degree in Opticianry. The program is nationally accredited by the Commission on Opticianry Accreditation.

Seattle Central College
The School of Opticianry, Allied Health Division
 1701 Broadway, Room BE3210
 Seattle, WA 98122
 Phone: (206) 934-4347
 Website: <http://seattlecentral.edu/programs/opticianry/>

National Contact:

Opticians Association of America
 Phone: (901) 388-2423
 Website: <http://www.oaa.org/>

National Academy of Opticianry
 Website: <http://www.nao.org/>

State Contact:

Opticians Association of Alaska (OAAK)
 Website: <http://www.oaak.org/>





Optometric Technician

The optometric technician's primary responsibilities are to help the optometric physician in eye and vision care. They ready exam rooms and patients to be seen by the doctor. An optometric technician's activities include measuring the curvature of the cornea, color testing, stereo-testing, taking acuities, retinal and corneal photography, measuring the pressure of the eye, determining the power of old and new eye glass prescriptions, helping clients select frames, and measuring facial contours. The optometric technician educates the

patient on the tests being done and on choices in eye glasses. Other duties may include answering phones, arranging for patients' surgical procedures, scheduling appointments, dispensing contact lenses, determining the power and dimensions of old and new contact lenses, and explaining the care and handling of lenses. It is also often necessary to explain the use and application of pharmaceutical agents to the eye. Laboratory work and general management of a vision clinic is occasionally necessary.

Where do they work?

Optometric technicians are employed by optometric physicians in vision clinics. In rural Alaska, these clinics are located in regional hospitals. Major employers include the Alaska Native Health system and regional health corporations.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with coursework in math, science, and English.
- Many optometric technicians are trained on the job, but some may complete a two-year associate's degree from a community college.
- There are no licensing requirements in Alaska.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$14.59-\$26.39 (Mean \$19.45)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data for Ophthalmic Medical Technicians

Years in School:

2 years or less (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

There are no optometric technician schools in Alaska. Madison Area Technical College offers a 1-year program both in-person and online:

Madison Area Technical College Optometric Technician Program

Phone: (608) 246-6065

Toll free: (800) 322-6282 ext. 6065

Email: healtheducation@madisoncollege.edu

Website: <http://madisoncollege.edu/program-info/optometric-technician>

Indiana University offers a certificate and an AAS degree:

Indiana University School of Optometry Optician/Technician Program

Phone: (812) 855-1917

Email: iubopt@indiana.edu

Website: <http://www.optometry.iu.edu/admissions/apply/as.shtml>

National Contact:

American Optometric Association

243 North Lindbergh Blvd., Floor 1

St. Louis, MO 63141-7881

Toll free: (800) 365-2219

Website: <http://www.aoa.org/>

State Contact:

Alaska Optometric Association

3705 Arctic Blvd., #675

Anchorage, AK 99503

Phone: (907) 770-3777

Email: alaskaoptometrics@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.akoaa.org>





Health Careers In Alaska

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Optometrist

Optometrists are independent, primary health care providers who examine, diagnose, treat and manage diseases and disorders of the visual system, the eye and associated structures as well as diagnose related systemic conditions. Optometrists are an integral part of the health care team and refer to, and co-manage with, other ophthalmic and systemic health care disciplines when necessary to benefit the patient.

Optometrists assess a patient's eye health and visual system. The visual system can be treated by prescribing contact lenses, eye glasses, optical aids, or vision therapy. The goal of treatment is to preserve vision or restore decreased vision to the maximum ability possible.

Where do they work?

Most optometrists have general practices that are set up independently or in partnership with other optometric physicians or ophthalmologists. In rural Alaska, most employment opportunities are located in the regional hospitals or clinics, although optometric physicians do a great deal of fieldwork in the villages.

The practitioner spends 50% or more of his/her time assessing the external and internal health of the eyes and prescribing pharmaceutical agents when necessary to control disease. In addition, they routinely treat eye diseases and perform minor surgical procedures.

The professional opportunities within the optometric field across the country are numerous. They include private practice, educators, researchers, and employees. Some optometrists specialize in areas such as pediatrics (children), geriatrics (elderly), contact lenses, care of people with extremely low vision, strabismus (crossed eyes), amblyopia (lazy eye), glaucoma, corneal disease, dry eye, conjunctival disease, and lid disorders.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with coursework in math, science, and English.
- A minimum of four years of college, preferably with a strong academic record in biology, chemistry, and math. The curriculum is a pre-med major.
- Completion of four years of optometry school, receipt of the Doctor of Optometry (OD) degree, and passing scores on the National Board of Examiners Test in Optometry and the state examination.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$51.92-\$ (Mean \$86.93)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

8 years or more (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

There are no Optometry schools in Alaska. For contact information and links to optometry schools in the United States, visit the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry's website: <http://www.opted.org>

National Contact:

American Optometric Association
Toll free: (800) 365-2219
Website: <http://www.aoa.org>

State Contact:

Alaska Optometric Association
3705 Arctic Blvd., #675
Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone: (907) 770-3777
Email: alaskaoptometrics@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.akoaa.org>



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Health Careers In Alaska

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Pharmacist

Pharmacists play a vital role in the health care system through the medicine and information they provide. While responsibilities vary among the different areas of pharmacy practice, the bottom line is that pharmacists help patients get well.

Pharmacist responsibilities include a range of care for patients, from dispensing medications to monitoring patient health and progress to maximize their response to the medication. Pharmacists also educate consumers and patients on the use of prescriptions and over-the-counter medications, and advise physicians, nurses, and other

health professionals on drug decisions. Pharmacists provide expertise about the composition of drugs, including their chemical, biological, and physical properties and their manufacture and use. They ensure drug purity and strength, and make sure that drugs do not interact in a harmful way. Pharmacists are drug experts ultimately concerned about their patients' health and wellness.

Where do they work?

In Alaska, pharmacists work in hospitals, nursing homes, private and chain drug stores, and with the Indian Health Service.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with coursework in chemistry, math and biology.
- Prerequisite coursework (generally 60 to 120 credits) of accredited college work prior to entering pharmacy school.
- Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT) required for most programs.
- Graduation from a four-year pharmacy school awarding the doctor of pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree.
- Though not required, many students go on to residencies after graduation.
- Must pass two exams: NAPLEX (North American Pharmacist Licensure Exam—a knowledge exam) and MPJE (Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Exam— a law exam)
- Alaska requires a license to practice as a pharmacist.
- Pharmacists are required to obtain 30 hours of continuing education every 2 years to maintain their license.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$54.64-\$80.04 (Mean \$66.78)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

6-7 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

All pre-pharmacy work can be obtained at UAA. UAA has two initiatives with out-of-state universities to provide a pharmacy program.

Creighton University saves 5 seats per year for qualified University of Alaska students/residents through a distance-delivered pathway. For more information, visit: <http://spahp.creighton.edu/admission/pharmacy/pharmd-distance-alaska-online>

Idaho State University is partnering with UAA to provide a pharmacy program scheduled to begin the Fall of 2016. For more information, visit: <http://pharmacy.isu.edu> OR http://pharmacy.isu.edu/live/alaska/TSU-AK_Joint_Pharmacy_Program.html

National Contact:

American Pharmacists Association (APhA)
Website: <http://www.pharmacist.com/>

Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT)
Website: <http://www.pcatweb.info/>

Pharmacy College Admission Service (PharmCAS)
Website: <http://www.pharmcas.org/>

State Contact:

Alaska Pharmacists Association
Website: <http://www.alaskapharmacy.org>



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Health Careers In Alaska

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Pharmacy Technician

Pharmacy Technicians, also known as Pharmacy Assistants or Pharmacy Aides, work under the direction of a licensed Pharmacist. Pharmacy Technicians support pharmacists in providing medications and other health care products to patients. Their duties may include: checking for authenticity, accuracy, and completeness of

prescriptions/physicians orders; filling and labeling of prescriptions; prepackaging tablets/capsules;; maintaining drug inventories; and maintaining all records and files. In retail pharmacy settings the Pharmacy Technician may deal directly with customers, handle insurance forms, and run a cash register.

Where do they work?

Pharmacy technicians work wherever pharmacists are employed. In rural Alaska they may be employed by hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, private and chain drug stores, and research laboratories.

Educational Requirements

- A high school diploma or equivalent.
- Must be at least 18 years of age.
- Fluent in reading, writing, and speaking English.
- Math proficiency (pre-algebra), keyboarding proficiency, and computer proficiency.
- Must have an active Alaska State Pharmacy Technician License.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$12.51-\$25.01 (Mean \$18.98)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

2 years or less (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

Training has traditionally been on-the-job. However, more pharmacies are looking for formally trained Pharmacy Technicians for improved customer quality and safety and to meet the immediate shortage.

UAA offers an Occupational Endorsement Certificate in Pharmacy Technology which includes six distance delivered courses. At the completion of these courses, students would be adequately prepared to pass the national certification examination administered by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB). For more information on the UAA Pharmacy Technician Program, contact:

University of Alaska Anchorage Pharmacy Technology

Phone: (907) 786-6933

Email: jtaylor8@uaa.alaska.edu

Website: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/alliedhealth/academics/pharmacytechnology/index.cfm>

National Contact:

National Pharmacy Technician Association (NPTA)

PO Box 683148, Houston, TX 77268

Phone: (888) 247-8700

Fax: (888) 247-8706

Website: <http://www.pharmacytechnician.org/>

State Contact:

Alaska Pharmacists Association

Phone: (907) 563-8880

Email: akphrmcy@alaska.net

Website: <http://www.alaskapharmacy.org>

For licensing information, contact:

Dept of Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Div of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

Board of Pharmacy

Phone: (907) 465-2589

Email: donna.bellino@alaska.gov

Website: <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardofPharmacy.aspx>



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Nov. 7, 2016



Phlebotomist/Phlebotomy Technician

Phlebotomists are specially trained to draw blood samples needed for laboratory testing. They must create an atmosphere of trust and confidence while skillfully collecting blood specimens in a safe and

reliable manner. In addition to collecting specimens, they maintain collection areas and equipment, do basic specimen processing and perform record keeping duties.

Where do they work?

Phlebotomists work in medical laboratories in hospitals, for-profit laboratories, clinics, nursing homes, public health facilities, and associated healthcare industries. In rural Alaska, phlebotomists are employed in hospitals, subregional clinics, physician's offices, and other medical laboratory settings.

Educational Requirements

Education requirements vary. However, the minimum education requirements are a high school diploma (or equivalent) and acceptable phlebotomy training or work experience.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$12.79-\$23.48 (Mean \$18.14)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

2 years or less (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

UAA offers an Occupational Endorsement Certificate for Phlebotomists. Students are qualified to sit the national certification exams for phlebotomists after completing the phlebotomy practicum.

University of Alaska Anchorage

Contact: Angela Craft, Assistant Professor
Allied Health Science Building, Room 148R
Phone: (907) 786-6961
Email: ahumph10@uaa.alaska.edu
Website: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/alliedhealth/academics/phlebotomist/index.cfm>

UAF's one-year Phlebotomy certificate program meets accreditation for Phlebotomy Technician programs. A student who earns the certificate in Phlebotomy will satisfy the training requirements to sit for the ASCP (American Society of Clinical Pathologists) national certification examination for Phlebotomy Technician (PBT).

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Contact: Cathy Winfree
Phone: (907) 455-2876
Website: <http://www.ctc.uaf.edu/programs/health/Phlebotomy.html>

Alaska Career College offers Phlebotomy Technician training leading to the national certification exam. For more information:

Alaska Career College

Phone: 907-563-7575 or 800-770-7575
Website: <http://www.alaskacareercollege.edu/index.php/programs/phlebotomy-technician>

National Contacts:

National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences

Website: <http://www.naacls.org/>

National Healthcareer Association

Website: <http://www.nhanow.com>

American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians

Website: <http://www.aspt.org/>

National Phlebotomy Association

Website: <http://www.nationalphlebotomy.org/>

American Society for Clinical Pathology

Website: <http://www.ascp.org/>

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

Website: <http://www.ascls.org/>





Physical Therapist

Physical therapists (PTs) examine and treat people of all ages who have medical problems or other health-related conditions that limit their abilities to move and perform functional activities. PTs examine each individual and develop a plan using treatment techniques to promote the ability to move, reduce pain, restore function, and prevent disability. In addition, PTs work with individuals to prevent the loss of mobility before it occurs by developing fitness and wellness-oriented lifestyle programs.

Individual treatment programs can include forms of exercise (such as strengthening, balance, flexibility, postpartum, sport specific, and even relaxation exercises), as well as include the use of physical

agents and manual therapies. The PT often provides instruction and home programs to patients and their families. The job responsibilities are often physically demanding and require that most therapists be in good physical condition.

PTs may choose to pursue an area of special interest such as sports medicine, cardio-pulmonary related problems, neurology, and may specialize in providing care to a particular population such as children, adults and the elderly.

Where do they work?

Physical therapists work in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, home and public health agencies, athletic departments, schools, and private physical therapy practices. In rural Alaska, PTs generally work in hospitals located in regional centers. They are also employed by school districts to assess and treat children. These services may be provided to small areas by a traveling PT.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with coursework in English, science, and math.
- Completion of a four year bachelor degree.
- Completion of prerequisite courses specific to each program. Many programs also require the GRE exam.
- Completion of a post-baccalaureate degree from an accredited education program is required. Some programs offer a master's degree, but a majority of programs now offer the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) with the master's degree being phased out.
- PT licensure is required by all states. After graduation, candidates must pass a state-administered national exam and be approved by their state's licensing board.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$32.60-\$71.55 (Mean \$48.35)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL

Years in School:

5-7 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

There are no physical therapy programs in Alaska. For a list of accredited physical therapy programs in the United States, sorted by state:

American Physical Therapy Association
<http://www.apta.org/ProspectiveStudents/>

Information about individual program requirements can be found on the **Physical Therapy Centralized Application Service** website:
<http://www.ptcas.org/home.aspx>

National Contact:

American Physical Therapy Association
Phone: (703) 684-2782
Toll Free: (800) 999-2782
Website: <http://www.apta.org/>

State Contact:

Alaska Physical Therapy Association
Phone: (800) 999-2782 ext. 8562
Email: Alaska@apta.org
Website: <http://www.akapta.org>





Physical Therapist Assistant

Physical therapist assistants (PTAs) provide physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist. PTAs help people of all ages who have medical problems, or other health-related conditions that limit their ability to move and perform functional activities in their daily lives.

Some of the care provided by a PTA may include teaching patients or clients exercises for mobility, strength and coordination, training

for activities such as walking with crutches, canes, or walkers, and the use of physical agents and manual therapies. PTAs also observe the patient's abilities and report their observations to the physical therapist. Unlike a physical therapist, the PTA cannot evaluate a patient, but can provide vital and ongoing assessment and treatment interventions toward specific short-and long-term goals.

Where do they work?

Generally, physical therapist assistants are employed wherever physical therapists (PTs) work. PTs work in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, home and public health agencies, athletic departments, and private physical therapy practices. In rural Alaska, PTs generally work in hospitals located in regional centers. They are also employed by school districts to assess and treat children.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with coursework in English, math, and science.
- Graduation from an accredited PTA Associate's degree program.
- PTA licensure is required by the State of Alaska and most other states. After graduation, candidates must pass a state administered national exam and be approved by their state's licensing board.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$17.71-\$42.76 (Mean \$30.63)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

2 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

The University of Alaska Anchorage began offering an Associate Degree in physical therapist assistance in early 2015. For more information:

University of Alaska Anchorage, School of Allied Health Physical Therapist Assistant Program

Phone: (907) 786-6782

Email: uaa_pta@uaa.alaska.edu

Website: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/alliedhealth/academics/physical-therapistassistant/index.cfm>

National Contact:

American Physical Therapy Association

1111 North Fairfax Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: (703) 684-2782

Toll free: (800) 999-2782

Website: <https://www.apta.org/>

State Contact:

Alaska Physical Therapy Association

Phone: (800) 999-2782 ext 8562

Email: alaska@apta.org

Website: <http://www.akapta.org/>





Health Careers In Alaska

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Physician

Physicians examine, diagnose and treat, when needed, those in their care. This is done directly or in collaboration with other physicians and healthcare providers.

The physician's tasks include conducting a physical examination of the patient, interviewing the patient and others for an accurate personal health history, performing and ordering diagnostic tests such as lab work and x-rays, prescribing medications and treatments, and referring patients to specialists for further evaluation and treatment. Besides providing direct patient care, a physician's career may in-

volve other interesting activities such as health systems planning, administration, research, and education.

Physicians may choose to specialize. Examples of specialties include: pediatrics (care of children), cardiology (heart specialist), neurology (care of brain, nerves and spinal cord), internal medicine, surgery, ENT (Ears, Nose, Throat specialist), ophthalmology (eye specialist), and family practice (primary care for patients of all ages).

Where do they work?

Physicians in Alaska work in communities of all sizes and in facilities that vary in level of sophistication.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with coursework in math and science.
- Graduation from a four-year college with high grades and prerequisite classes for medical school. In the past, most medical students were biology or chemistry majors but today other degrees are acceptable as long as good grades are earned and medical school science prerequisites are met.
- Graduation from a four-year medical school awarding either a Doctor of Osteopathy (DO) or a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree.
- Completion of another three to six years of residency is common and expected in today's complex medical world.
- Further specialization through additional residencies or fellowships is a common option.

Hourly Wage Range:

General practitioners:
\$99.02-\$120.54 (Mean \$109.78)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

11 years or more (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

WWAMI is Alaska's medical school. Twenty Alaskan residents are admitted to the program each year. For the eighteen month Foundation Phase, Alaska's WWAMI students are taught at the University of Alaska Anchorage. The 4-week to 6-week blocks of clinical experiences, called clerkships, beginning after the Foundation Phase and occupying the 3rd and 4th years can be taken in any of the five states. The Alaska Track allows most of these to be completed in Alaska. Thus, Alaskans can complete all four years of medical school in Alaska through WWAMI. For more information, contact:

WWAMI Biomedical Program

3211 Providence Dr., HSB 301
Anchorage, AK 99508
Phone: (907) 786-4789
Email: wwami@uaa.alaska.edu
Website: <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/wwami/>

National Contact:

American Medical Association
Phone: (800) 621-8335
Website: <http://www.ama-assn.org>

State Contact:

Alaska State Medical Association
Phone: (907) 562-0304
Email: asma@asmadocs.org
Website: <https://asmadocs.org>



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Health Careers In Alaska

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Physician Assistant

Physician assistants (PAs) are highly skilled members of the healthcare team who are licensed to practice medicine with the supervision of a licensed M.D. The physician assistant functions in many capacities in the state of Alaska. In urban areas, they work in close association with a supervising M.D. However, in rural areas, they often work independently in a clinic, with their supervising physician stationed many miles away. Historically, physician assistants have been a major influence in the delivery of healthcare in rural areas and villages in Alaska where access to care has previously been limited. The physician assistant can be found in all medical and surgical specialties. They are trained

to perform physical examinations, compile patient medical histories, and order and interpret diagnostic testing, including electrocardiograms, laboratory tests, and x-rays. PAs often perform therapeutic procedures (including suturing and cast application), develop and monitor patient treatment plans based on medical diagnosis, and counsel patients about preventive care and risk management. In the state of Alaska, PAs can prescribe medications and controlled substances (schedule three through five). PA training is that of a medical school model.

Where do they work?

Physician assistants work in both rural and urban settings. A majority of PAs work in clinics and physician offices. Other settings include tribal health organizations, hospitals and nursing homes.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with coursework in science and math.
- Completion of at least two years of coursework in the sciences. Some programs require a Bachelor's degree prior to admission. Most PA programs require anatomy and physiology.
- Acceptance into and completion of a 24-month PA program which includes coursework and clinical experiences.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$36.07-\$72.05 (Mean \$53.18)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

5-7 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

The MEDEX Northwest two year program is a collaboration between the University of Alaska Anchorage and the University of Washington. Students accepted into the MEDEX PA program have the option of getting a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences Degree (BSHS), in addition to the Physician Assistant Certificate. For more information, contact:

MEDEX Physician Assistant Track

Sandy Snethen, Administrative Asst
Email: sasnethen@uaa.alaska.edu
<http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/healthsciences/bshs/programs/medex/uw-admissions.cfm>

BSHS Program

Rhonda M. Johnson, DrPH, MPH, FNP, Professor of Public Health
Email: Rhonda.Johnson@uaa.alaska.edu
Website: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/healthsciences/bshs/programs/medex/index.cfm>

National Contact:

American Academy of Physician Assistants
Phone: (703) 836-2272
Email: aapa@aapa.org
Website: <http://www.aapa.org/>

State Contact:

Alaska Academy of Physician Assistants (AKAPA)
Phone: (907) 646-0588
Email: info@akapa.org
Website: <http://www.akapa.org/>



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Health Careers In Alaska

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Psychologist/Psychological Associate

Psychologists and Psychological Associates study the behavior, emotions, and thinking processes of humans to better understand their behavior. They are trained to assess, diagnose, and treat mental disorders by using individual, child, family, and group therapies. A Psychologist must have a PhD while a Psychological Associate is licensed at a Master's Level. Psychologists may teach, conduct research, or serve as consultants or therapists. They may also serve as administrators of behavioral health programs.

Psychologists may specialize in a particular area. Clinical psychologists and counseling psychologists may work with people who are experiencing emotional distress, medical and surgical patients, and

chronically ill patients. Examples of other specialties include community psychology, developmental psychology, experimental (i.e. animal and human research) and social psychology.

Psychologists may also work with students to evaluate academic skills, learning aptitudes, social skills, self-help skills, personality and emotional development. They determine eligibility for special service programs and work directly with students or families.

Where do they work?

In Alaska, psychologists work in hospitals, correctional institutions, mental health clinics, private practices, public schools and universities, non-profit organizations, government agencies and tribal health organizations.

Educational Requirements

- Educational requirements vary depending upon the speciality. School psychologists and psychological associates hold at least a master's degree in psychology. A PhD is required for clinical or counseling psychology. To be licensed as a Psychological Associate or Psychologist requires passing national and state exams, as well as two years of clinical supervision. However, not all the activities above require licensing. (School psychologist licensing requires an endorsement from the College of Education.) Educational steps include:
- Graduation from high school with a college preparatory background.
- A four-year bachelor's degree, majoring in psychology or a related field.
- School Psychologists and Psychological Associates require a master's degree in psychology to qualify for a license in Alaska.
- Psychologists in Alaska require a PhD in psychology to qualify for a license as a Clinical Psychologist.

Hourly Wage Range:

Clinical, Counseling, and School Psychologists: \$38.89-\$50.89 (Mean \$43.13)

*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

6-8 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

University of Alaska Anchorage, Psychology Department

Website: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/psych/>

University of Alaska Fairbanks, Psychology Department

Website: <http://www.uaf.edu/psych/>

Alaska Pacific University

Counseling and Psychological Studies Department

Website: <http://www.alaskapacific.edu/programs/ms-counseling-psychology/>

National Contact:

American Psychological Association

Phone: (202) 336-5500

Toll free: (800) 374-2721

Website: <http://www.apa.org/>

State Contact:

Alaska Psychological Association AK-PA

Website: <http://www.ak-pa.org/>



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Radiologic Technologist

The primary role of registered radiologic technologists is to provide diagnostic images of the structure and function of anatomy to assist the provider in the treatment and diagnosis of injury and disease. Examples of examinations performed include chest, upper and lower extremities, spine, ribs, skull, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, and reproductive systems.

Radiologic technologists safely prepare and position patients for proper imaging. Radiologic technologists provide information/education to patients regarding x-ray procedures, deal with physician orders, and correct authorization/paper work for reimbursement.

Where do they work?

Radiologic technologists can perform imaging in various settings to include the emergency room, intensive care units, operating rooms, patient rooms, and neonatal units. Radiologic technologists are employed in large health care facilities to small outpatient clinics.

Educational Requirements

- Completion of an Associate Degree or higher is required for entry level radiographers.
- Specialized areas such as nuclear medicine, mammography, computerized tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), radiation therapy, interventional studies, and ultrasound have specific requirements for certification.
- A national examination for credentialing is provided by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$25.12-\$43.92 (Mean \$33.59)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

2 -4 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

University of Alaska Anchorage, Medical Imaging Science

Phone: (907) 786-4930

Email: ceburton4@uaa.alaska.edu

Website: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/alliedhealth/academics/radiologic-technology/index.cfm>

(Note: Besides the UAA campus, the program is currently distance delivered to a few students in Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan and Bethel.)

The **University of Alaska Southeast** offers a Certificate in Pre-Radiological Technology Qualifications (CPRTQ) which prepares students to enter professional imaging programs, though does not guarantee admittance. For information, contact Elizabeth Williams at (907) 796-6128 or elizabeth.williams@uas.alaska.edu.

National Contact:

American Society of Radiologic Technologists

Toll free: (800) 444-2778

Website: <http://www.asrt.org/>

The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists

Phone: (651) 687-0048

Website: <https://www.arrt.org/>

State Contact:

Alaska Society of Radiologic Technologists

Website: <http://www.aksrt.com/>





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Registered Health Information Administrator

Registered Health Information Administrators (RHIA) serve the health care industry and the public by managing, analyzing, and utilizing data vital for patient care, and making it accessible to health care providers. They specialize in administering information systems, managing medical records, and coding information for reimbursement and research. RHIA's are responsible for ensuring that health information is complete and available to legitimate users, while maintaining the security, privacy and confidentiality of patient information. RHIA's also prepare health data for accreditation surveys and analyze clinical data for research and public policy. Some of the positions which a RHIA may hold include a HIM (Health Information Management) Department Director, a HIM System Manager, a Data Quality Manager, a Chief Privacy

Officer, a HIM System Manager, a Data Quality Manager, a Chief Privacy Officer, a facility position in a HIM Program and Consultant.

As Department Manager, a RHIA supervises HIM department employees, which may include Health Information Technicians, Coders, and Medical Transcriptionists. State law mandates a hospital to have an RHIA or RHIT (Registered Health Information Technician) overseeing the operations of the HIM Department. In Alaska, most RHIA's are department managers. Some are also consultants, chief privacy officers, data quality managers, or educators.

Where do they work?

RHIA's work in hospitals overseeing the operations of the HIM Department. Other possible work settings include long-term care facilities, ambulatory care facilities, physician group practices, rehabilitation centers, behavioral health facilities, consulting and law firms, insurance companies, government agencies, software vendor companies and colleges or universities.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with coursework in business, English, computer science, biology, chemistry and math.
- Graduation from a baccalaureate or master's degree program in Health Information Management. Some RHIA's receive a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree in a related health field and complete a one-year post-graduate certificate program. There are progression programs, some online, for RHIT's who wish to complete additional coursework and write the national credentialing exam.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$31.63 (Mean \$57.44)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data for Medical and Health Services Managers

Years in School:

4 or more years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

There are no four-year RHIA programs in Alaska. There are programs in the U.S. offered via distance and web based delivery. There are also "progression" programs available that allow an individual with an RHIT degree to progress to an RHIA.

For a directory of accredited programs in the United States, visit the website of the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education:
<http://www.cahiim.org/directoryofaccredpgms/programdirectory.aspx>

National Contact:

American Health Information Management Association
Website: <http://www.ahima.org>

State Contact:

Alaska Health Information Management Association
Website: <http://www.akhima.org>



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Registered Health Information Technician

Registered Health Information Technicians (RHITs) are an essential part of the health care system. They provide crucial and detailed administrative services upon which health care facilities and practitioners rely.

Activities vary depending on the size and scope of the facility. These range from complete oversight and operation of the Health Information services to specializing in a particular part of the system. In most hospitals, the Health Information Department staff reports to a RHIT or a Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA). RHITs may perform and provide supervision of all or some of the following tasks: transcription; filing/retrieval; assembly and analysis of patient records; coding and abstracting disease and procedural data; managing databases; and releasing information. They may also perform utilization reviews, performance improve-

ments, risk management, and trauma and tumor registry functions (cancer, diabetes, and trauma). Some RHITs function as Privacy Officers as well.

A Health Information Technician can become a Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) by passing a national certification examination (which can be done upon graduation from an accredited HIT program). These programs are listed on the CAHIIM website: <http://www.cahiim.org/directoryof-accredpgms/programdirectory.aspx>. While management opportunities are available to RHITs, it is unlikely that non-certified individuals will progress to management positions especially outside the state of Alaska. Usually larger health care corporations reserve management positions to RHIAs.

Where do they work?

All hospitals have an RHIA or RHIT overseeing the operations of the Health Information (Medical Records) Department. Other possible work settings include long-term care facilities, ambulatory clinics, physician offices, law firms, insurance companies, government agencies, educational facilities, and software vendor companies. RHITs with experience and advanced credentials in coding also work as consultants.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school, with coursework in business, science, math, computer science, English and communications.
- Completion of a two-year program. Community colleges and universities conduct two-year programs and award an Associate degree.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$15.70-\$29.92 (Mean \$25.02)

*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data for Health Information Technicians

Years in School:

2 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

The UAS Sitka Campus offers a distance delivered Associate of Applied Science degree in Health Information Management degree program. For more information, contact:

University of Alaska Southeast, Sitka Campus

Leslie Gordon, Program Director

Phone: (907) 747-9747 or

Toll free: (800) 478-6653 ext 9474

Email: leslie.gordon@uas.alaska.edu

Website: http://www.uas.alaska.edu/career_ed/him/index.html

National Contact:

American Health Information Management Association

233 N. Michigan Ave., 21st Floor

Chicago, IL 60601-5809

Phone: (312) 233-1100

Website: <http://www.ahima.org/>

State Contact:

Alaska Health Information Management Association

P.O. Box 230335

Anchorage, AK 99523-0335

Email: <http://www.akhima.org/contact-us/>

Website: <http://www.akhima.org>



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Registered Nurse

Registered nurses (RNs) care for patients and promote their physical, mental and social well-being. The duties performed by RNs include: recording medical histories and symptoms, monitoring patient status and progress, assisting in performing diagnostic tests and analyzing the results, administering treatment and medications and helping with patients' follow-up and rehabilitation. RNs also teach patients and their families how to manage their illnesses or injuries. This includes posttreatment home care needs such as diet and exercise programs and self-administering medication and physical therapy. RNs with bachelor degrees in nursing are able to work within the community/public health specialties with communities and populations.

Registered nurses have some of the most varied career choices and

Where do they work?

Places of employment include community clinics, hospitals of various sizes, field offices, public schools, colleges, universities, and many more. In addition, many nurses travel throughout the state, the country, or even the world doing fieldwork or working as temporary staff members in hospitals.

roles within health care, and make up the largest professional segment in terms of numbers. The activities of a registered nurse include patient care in all medical specialties, emergency care, forensic nursing, health maintenance and prevention, mental health, home health care, public health, community health education, school nursing, classroom and clinical teaching, research, planning, and administration.

Registered nurses can achieve positions of leadership and responsibility in profit and non-profit corporations and health care facilities, such as in hospitals, public health agencies, government agencies, and universities. For registered nurses who wish to pursue graduate study, career opportunities expand to include roles as nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, nurse anesthetists, nurse educators, and public health and health services administrators.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with coursework in algebra, biology, and chemistry.
- Completion of an approved nursing program. Most nurses today earn either an associate degree in nursing or a bachelors degree nursing. Completion of an associate degree nursing program generally requires three years of study while the bachelors degree is usually completed in four to five years.
- Successful completion of the NCLEX-RN examination for licensure.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$31.35-\$56.22 (Mean \$42.55)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

3-5 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

The University of Alaska Anchorage offers both a bachelors and an associate degree program. The AAS program is offered on the main campus in Anchorage as well as thirteen distance sites across the state. For more information, contact:

University of Alaska Anchorage, School of Nursing

Phone: (907) 786-4550
Email: nursing@uaa.alaska.edu
Website: <http://nursing.uaa.alaska.edu/>

National Contact:

American Nurses Association
Toll free: (800) 274-4262
Website: <http://www.nursingworld.org>

State Contact:

Alaska Nurses Association
Phone: (907) 274-0827
Email: aknurse@aknurse.org
Website: <http://www.aknurse.org/>



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Respiratory Therapist

Respiratory therapy is an important part of the multidisciplinary care team that treats patients with respiratory illnesses. During breathing emergencies, respiratory therapists perform procedures necessary for maintaining life. They help in reviving patients whose heart or lungs are not working properly (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation or CPR), and they use specialized equipment to support patients' breathing (mechanical ventilators).

Respiratory therapists perform the following therapeutic modalities that assist patients in breathing: suctioning (to clear air passages of fluids and other materials), handheld nebulizer treatments (to deliver bronchodilators to open airways), Chest PhysioTherapy (CPT)

(to help loosen and mobilize secretions so patients can clear their airways), Incentive Spirometry (IS) (coaching patients to take a deep breath to prevent collapse of the alveoli), delivering medical gases (oxygen), and evaluating patient breathing status.

Respiratory therapists perform diagnostic studies: Pulmonary Function Tests (PFTs) (measuring the speed and amount of air exhaled), Arterial Blood Gases (ABG's) (drawing arterial blood to measure the patient's metabolic status), and Transcutaneous CO2 monitoring (monitoring patient's CO2 and making interventions when indicated). Respiratory therapists also educate patients and families on use of medications, disease processes, and Asthma.

Where do they work?

In Alaska, respiratory therapists are usually employed in the larger regional hospitals that have intensive care units, newborn nurseries, surgery, and emergency rooms.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with coursework in math, science, and English.
- Two-year Associate degree programs in respiratory therapy are available in many community colleges. Respiratory therapists who have an Associate's degree can enroll in shortened programs that allow them to complete a Bachelor's degree.
- Four-year Bachelor's degree programs are available at some colleges and universities. Most of the duties of the Associate and Bachelor's degree respiratory therapists are the same, but the Bachelor's degree will generally provide better career options.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$27.11-\$42.73 (Mean \$34.11)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

2-4 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

There are no accredited respiratory therapy programs in Alaska. For a list of accredited programs in the U.S., visit the American Association of Respiratory Care's website:

<http://www.aarc.org/education/educator-resources/find-an-accredited-respiratory-care-program/>

National Contact:

American Association for Respiratory Care
9425 N. MacArthur Blvd., Suite 100
Irving, TX 75063-4706
Phone: (972) 243-2272
Email: info@aarc.org
Website: <http://www.aarc.org>

State Contact:

Alaska Society for Respiratory Care (ASRC)
Website: http://connect.aarc.org/Alaska_Society/Home/



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Social Worker

Social workers work with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities to improve the quality of life for all people. They use their knowledge of behavioral health to deal with the emotional and social problems of individuals, families, and communities.

Social workers are trained in multiple roles, such as counselor, advocate, broker, trainer, and policy analyst. Each particular role provides a different set of skills that can be used to assist individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

A social worker who works with individuals may work in the fol-

lowing areas: as a counselor in a school, hospital, or mental health setting; as a child advocate; as a probation officer; or as a street youth outreach coordinator. Social workers who assist families may teach parenting skills, help reunite families, advocate for families in distress, and mediate in challenging situations. They may also assist families with: communication skills; finding housing, food, or medical resources; or achieving educational goals. Social workers can serve as leaders in promoting and designing more effective humane policies, organizations, and communities.

Where do they work?

Social workers in Alaska may work in child welfare, mental health, services for the elderly, family agencies, youth programs, health services, Native corporations, hospitals and other social agencies.

Educational Requirements

Professional social workers can have a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree or a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree. To become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), students must have a master's or doctoral degree in social work and two years of fulltime postgraduate clinical work. Educational steps include:

- Graduation from high school with a college preparatory background.
- Completion of a four year bachelor's degree with a social work major.
- Completion of a master's degree in social work. A bachelor's degree in social work is not required to pursue the master's degree.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$16.56-\$38.81 (Mean \$27.35)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data for Healthcare Social Workers

Years in School:

4 or more years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

School of Social Work
University of Alaska Anchorage
Phone: (907) 786-6900
Website: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/socialwork/>

University of Alaska Fairbanks
Department of Social Work
Phone: (907) 474-7025
Website: <http://www.uaf.edu/socwork/>

National Contact:

National Association of Social Workers
Phone: (202) 408-8600
Toll free: (800) 742-4089
Website: <http://www.socialworkers.org>

State Contact:

National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
Alaska Chapter
Phone: (907) 332-6279
Toll free: (800) 478-6279
Website: <http://www.naswak.org>



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Speech-Language Pathologist

Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) are specialists in communication disorders who work to prevent, assess, diagnose, and treat speech, language, social communication, cognitive-communication, and swallowing disorders in children and adults. SLPs work in many different developmental, education, and health care settings with varying roles, levels of responsibility, and client populations.

Because of the high demand for speech-language pathology services, part-time, full-time, and “as needed” basis opportunities may be available. In many settings, SLPs work as part of a collaborative, interdisciplinary team, which includes family members as well as teachers, physicians, audiologists, psychologists, social workers,

physical and occupational therapists, and rehabilitation counselors.

Alaska requires a license to practice and certification by the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association for any non-public school setting. School-based Speech Language Pathologists must have special services certification through the Department of Education and Early Development.

Where do they work?

Speech-language pathologists work in hospitals, private clinics, community agencies, schools, infant learning programs, nursing homes, or home health agencies.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with coursework in science, math, and English.
- Graduation from a four-year college with a Bachelor’s degree.
- Completion of a master’s degree in speech language pathology from an accredited program.
- The State of Alaska requires all Speech Language Pathologists practicing in non-school settings, such as private practices and hospitals, to be licensed. Speech Language Pathologists employed by school districts must hold a Type C Special Services certificate

Hourly Wage Range:

\$29.36-\$58.63 (Mean \$42.45)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

5 to 7 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) has several programs:

- A collaborative program with East Carolina University’s distance education Master of Science in Communication Sciences & Disorders
- A minor in Speech-Language Pathology
- A Speech-Language Pathology Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Program

For further information on this program, contact:

Ellen Brigham - Speech-Language Pathology Program Coordinator
Phone: (907) 786-4468
Email: etbrigham@uaa.alaska.edu
Website: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/coe/degrees/SLP-Programs/speech-language-pathology.cfm>

National Contact:

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Toll free: (800) 638-8255
Email: <http://www.asha.org/forms/contact-asha>
Website: <http://www.asha.org/>

State Contact:

Alaska Speech and Hearing Association
Email: aksha907@gmail.com
Website: <http://aksha.org/>





Speech-Language Pathology Assistant

Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (SLPAs) work with children and adults with communication disorders under the supervision of a certified/licensed Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP). They assist speech-language pathologists in the assessment and treatment of speech, language, voice, and fluency disorders. This may include implementing speech and language programs or activities as planned and directed by speech-language pathologists, documenting performance, assisting with some screening and assessment procedures, preparing materials, maintaining equipment, and assisting with scheduling.

Where do they work?

Speech Pathology Assistants may work in both the public and private sector. SLPAs may work in infant learning programs, schools, hospitals, and clinics.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school or a GED.
- Graduation from an approved associate's or bachelor's degree program.
- Completion of 100 hours of field work supervised by a licensed speech-language pathologist.
- State Licensing is required in Alaska.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$29.36-\$58.63 (Mean \$42.45)
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data for Healthcare Support Worker

Years in School:

2 years or less (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

The Prince William Sound Community College offers a two year distance delivered A.A.S. Degree in Disability Services, which includes an emphasis area in Speech-Language Support. For more information contact:

Prince William Sound Community College

P.O. Box 97
303 Lowe St., Valdez, AK 99686
Phone: (907) 834-1600

Website: <http://www.pwsc.edu/academics/academic-programs/disability-services-aas/speech-language-support-emphasis-aas/>

National Contact:

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

2200 Research Boulevard
Rockville, MD 20850
Toll free: (800) 638-8255
Fax: (301) 296-8580
Email: <http://www.asha.org/Forms/Contact-ASHA/>
Website: <http://www.asha.org/>

State Contact:

The Alaska Speech-Language-Hearing Association

P.O. Box 111993
Anchorage, AK 99511
Email: aksha907@gmail.com
Website: <http://aksha.org/>





Surgical Technologist

Surgical technologists make sure the operating room is ready by gathering sterile supplies and checking equipment. They assist patients with completing documentation, place the patient for surgery and apply equipment to prepare for incisions. Most importantly, they ensure that the operating environment is as sterile as possible.

During surgery they may pass instruments and keep close count of supplies used, to ensure that sterile equipment is always available and used items are properly disposed of. Surgical technologists with advanced training may assist with the surgery directly, performing basic tasks under the direction of the surgeon.

After surgery they monitor patients and prepare the operating room for the next patient.

Where do they work?

Most surgical technologists work in hospitals, primarily in operating and delivery rooms. Some are found in medical or dental offices where outpatient surgery is performed.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school or a GED.
- Graduation from a training program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). A program that leads to an associates degree is preferred.
- Surgical technologists who pass the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) exam earn the title of "Certified Surgical Technologist."

Hourly Wage Range:

\$17.94-\$34.08 (Mean \$25.45)
*based on 2015 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

2 years or less (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

The University of Alaska Anchorage is in the process of developing a surgical technologist program with a proposed start date of fall 2017.

University of Alaska Anchorage

School of Allied Health
3211 Providence Drive, AHS 148
Anchorage, AK 99508
Phone: (907) 786-4346
Email: alliedhealth@uaa.alaska.edu
Website: www.uaa.alaska.edu/alliedhealth

National Contact:

Association of Surgical Technologists

6 West Dry Creek Circle, Suite 200
Littleton, CO 80120-8031
Toll free: (800) 637-7433
Fax: (303) 694-9169
Email: www.ast.org/Contact_Us
Website: www.ast.org





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Veterinarian

Veterinarians are trained to care for animals by maintaining health and preventing and treating diseases. They also play a part in human health, especially in areas of public health and food security. Many veterinarians are involved with research into biomedical problems that afflict humans and animals.

Pet owners and those who raise animals for commercial purposes usually need veterinary services. Veterinarians often specialize in the care of certain types of animals, whether they are small family

pets or large commercial or farm animals. They are active in the control of animal diseases in that also affect humans (known as zoonoses). Rabies, brucellosis, and salmonellosis are examples. Possibly the most important human benefit of veterinary care is the elimination of disease from animal products. Because of the efforts of veterinary medicine, meat, poultry, eggs, and milk are relatively safe for consumption in North America. (Note: many countries do not have this infrastructure and food supply is less secure.)

Where do they work?

Most veterinarians work in private practice. An increasing number work in the larger regional centers in rural Alaska. Many veterinarians travel to outlying villages to provide service on a scheduled basis. A few veterinarians are employed by local, state, or governmental agencies to study or control disease in wild animals, or to control the spread of disease from animals to humans.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with a strong college preparatory background in English, science (especially biology, chemistry and physics), and math.
- Completion of at least two years of college with courses in biology, physics, biochemistry, genetics, mathematics and statistics. The GRE General Test is required and students are encouraged to take additional upper division biomedical science courses. The following are not required, but are highly recommended: microbiology, cell biology, developmental biology, computer sciences, anatomy, physiology, histology, nutrition, and other advanced biomedical sciences. Competition for veterinary schools is very high, so a bachelor's degree is common and grades must be very good to excellent.
- Completion of four years of veterinary school. The degree awarded is the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) for most institutions.
- DVMs require a license to practice in a specific state.
- Veterinarians who practice in public health related positions may wish to complete a master's degree in public health.
- Specialty degrees can be obtained after graduation from veterinary school. Most take three to four years.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$28.61-\$59.54 (Mean \$59.54)
*Based on 2014 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

8 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

Though Alaska does not currently have a College of Veterinary Medicine, the College of Natural Science and Mathematics at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) started a 2+2 **Veterinary Medical Program** in the Fall of 2015. Students complete their first two years of training at UAF and the last two years at Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. For more information, contact:

University of Alaska Fairbanks
Department of Veterinary Medicine
PO Box 757750, 182 Arctic Health Research Building
Fairbanks, AK 99775-7750
Phone: (907) 474-1928
Email: uaf-vet-med@alaska.edu
Website: www.uaf.edu/vmed

National Contact:

The American Veterinary Medical Association
1931 North Meacham Road, Suite 100
Schaumburg, Illinois 60173-4360
Phone: (800) 248-2862
Email: avmainfo@avma.org
Website: <http://www.avma.org>



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Where do they work?

Educational Requirements

Hourly Wage Range:

Years in School:

Academic Programs in Alaska

National Contact:

State Contact:



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