

YOUR CAREER IN HEALTH

A Guide to Getting Started,
Growing, and Thriving in the
Health Workforce



PROVIDED BY

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**HEALTH CAREERS
YOUTH >>>
PATHWAYS
COMMITTEE**



How to use this resource

Have you ever thought about a career where you help others, make a difference in the health of your community, and build a future for you and your family?

The health world needs people like you! People from all backgrounds, with big hearts and a willingness to learn have a place in the health workforce. Now, it's your time.

This guide was made just for you.

Whether you want to work in a hospital or doctor's office, help people in your neighborhood, or support the health and safety of your community, there is a place for you.

There are many parts to this resource, but you don't need to use all of it at once. Just use the parts that you need.

This guide includes:

Why Work in Health?—This section explains what affects people's health and how different jobs can help. We recommend reading this section first.

Health Career Directory—A list of more than 130 different jobs across the health workforce. This section is helpful if you're curious about different job options and want to learn more about their requirements, salaries, and outlooks.

Career Pathway Guide—Eighteen examples of how you can move between different jobs and grow your career.

Worker Profiles—Stories of how real Chicagoans built their careers in health. Visit hmprg.org/your-career-in-health to watch short videos about their journeys.

Career Support Resources—Tools and resource from our partners to help you in your career journey.

Glossary—Definitions of words and phrases used throughout this guide

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**Remember, you belong in the health workforce.
Let's take the first step together and find
a profession that's right for you! →**

**These options are less traditional career pathways, and feature general career overviews of the types of jobs available in that area.*

Why work in health?

When you think of health, you might picture hospitals, doctors, or clinics. But health is more than that. It begins in our homes, schools, jobs, neighborhoods, and even in the air we breathe and the food we eat.

That's because our health is shaped by more than a visit to the doctor's office. Things like stable housing, quality health care, clean water, safe jobs, good schools, reliable transportation, and access to fresh food—known as the social determinants of health—all have a powerful impact on how long and how well we live.

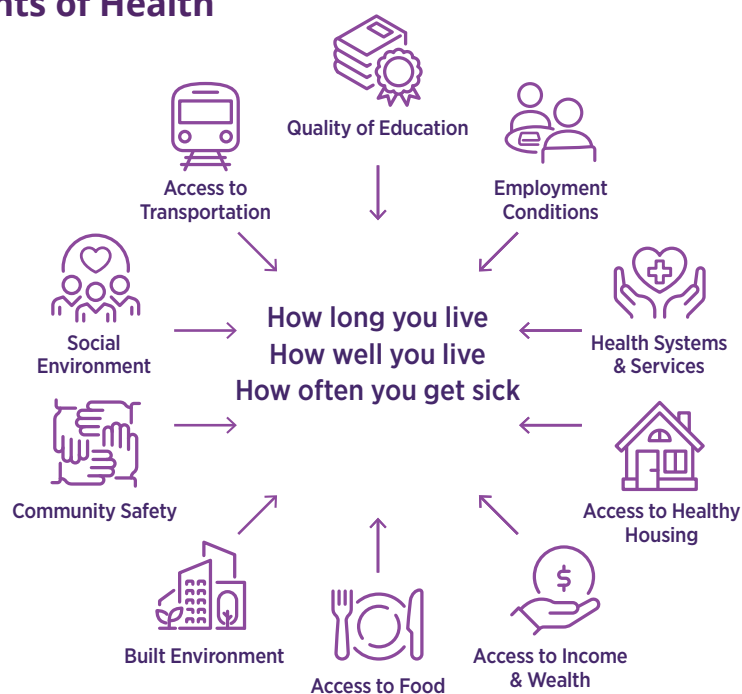
The health workforce includes public health workers that address these types of issues, behavioral health workers that address

mental health and substance use issues, reproductive health workers that support birthing families, health care workers that provide medical care in clinical settings, and many other roles described in this guide.

We know that not everyone has equal access to these building blocks of health. In cities like Chicago, life expectancy can differ by more than a decade between some Black neighborhoods and some White neighborhoods. These gaps aren't accidents—they're the result of long-standing systems and policies that help some communities while hurting others.

As a result, many communities don't have healthy food, safe housing, or good health care in their neighborhoods. That's why

Social Determinants of Health



we need people like you to join the growing movement of health workers across the country who are making a difference in people's lives every day.

No matter your education or experience, there's a job in the health workforce for you!

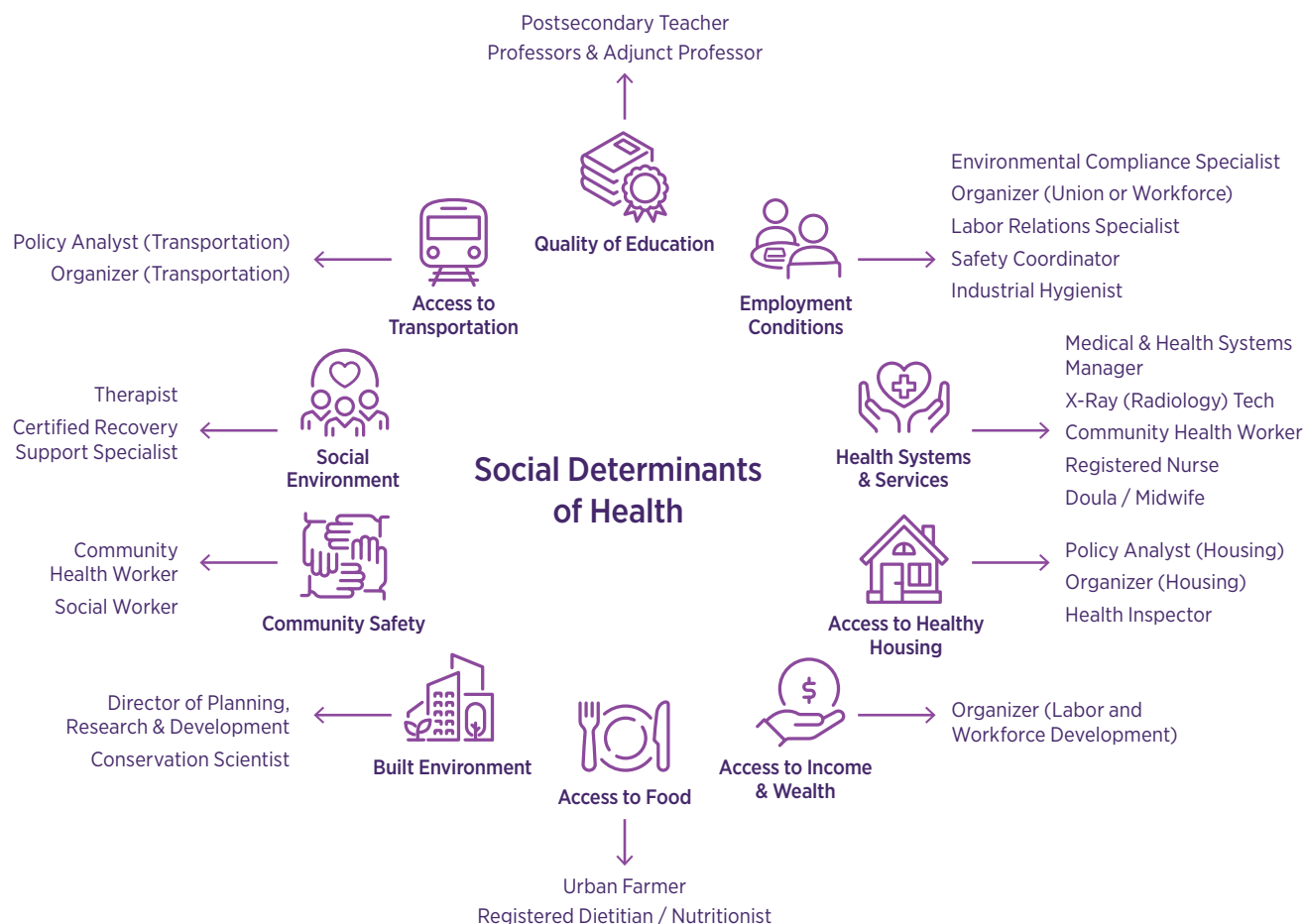
Enjoy the fast-paced environment of a hospital? Think about a career in nursing or respiratory therapy! Want to combat food deserts in your neighborhood and love the outdoors? Become an Urban Farmer! Passionate about helping people have safer births? Consider becoming a Doula! Ready to fight for affordable housing? Work as a Housing Organizer! Do you care about

helping people get the care and resources they need? Become a Community Health Worker! Each of these jobs tackles a different piece of the puzzle—and together, they build healthier, more just communities.

Our communities deserve a health workforce that shares their identities, understands their needs, and builds on their strengths. There are thousands of open jobs waiting for people ready to help their communities be healthier—and one of them is perfect for you.

Ready to make a difference? Let's explore your options in the health workforce!

Examples of Careers that Impact People's Health



How we created this guide

We started by listening. Our process began with conversations with partner organizations to understand what works—and what doesn't—when creating career pathway guides.

These early insights helped shape our approach. We gathered many recommendations from our partners and from focus groups of individuals interested in careers in health. They encouraged us to:

- Clearly document all the different job options and pathways
- Highlight multiple entry points into health careers—not just traditional ones
- Share salary and educational requirements information up front
- Include connections to additional resources, including case management support, job boards, resume/interview guidance, labor rights resources, and other supports
- Clearly define what's included in health care and public health jobs
- Share stories of local people who have navigated these pathways



The data in this guide reference information from Cook County, Illinois, in 2025. We used LightCast, a labor market analytics platform that pulls from sources like the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Indeed, ZipRecruiter, LinkedIn, and more to find the data we needed. We compiled information on salaries, job outlooks, education and training requirements, and career movement patterns. We cross-referenced this with data from universities, nonprofit websites, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and current job postings. We put “Data Unavailable” when we couldn’t find a reliable source of information.

Then, we showed what we found to real health professionals. When their experiences didn’t match the data, we updated our content to reflect the reality of their work.

This resource is the result of many voices, ideas, and hours of collaboration. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed their time, expertise, and lived experience.

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Health Career Directory



Health Career Directory:

Explore Jobs Now!

Curious about what job best fits you? This is your go-to guide! Learn about different jobs, their salaries and outlooks, what people do every day, and the qualifications you need to get started.

Transferable Skills Across Health Careers

In this section, you'll see specific skills that employers are looking for in each profession. In the **Career Pathways** section, we build on that by highlighting transferable skills that carry over from role to role. While

those examples are tailored to particular professions, many core skills apply across most careers in health and beyond.

These foundational skills can help you grow, adapt, and succeed—regardless of the path you take. We also list Salary Boosting Skills in each career. These skills can help you negotiate a higher salary in each job.

You can learn how to grow and highlight your transferable skills in the **Career Support Resources** section.

Foundational Skills

Here's a list of foundational skills relevant to a wide range of careers:

Communication and Working with People

- Active listening
- Verbal and written communication
- Giving and receiving feedback
- Nonverbal communication
- Public speaking
- Effective communication
- Relationship building
- Collaboration
- Conflict resolution
- Mediation

Personal and Professional Qualities

- Integrity
- Punctuality
- Self-awareness
- Compassion
- Patience
- Initiative
- Curiosity
- Adaptability
- Flexibility

Leadership and Teamwork

- Delegation
- Interpersonal skills
- Team building
- Project management
- Leadership skills
- Goal setting

Time and Task Management

- Time management
- Attention to detail
- Task prioritization
- Managing a budget
- Analytical thinking
- Critical thinking
- Problem-solving
- Creative thinking

Technical and Digital Skills

- Basic computer skills
- Productivity tools
- HIPAA Compliance

Career Directory List

Curious about your options? Select a career role to jump straight to the details.

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Acupuncturists

Median Salary: \$97,573

Outlook: 5% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Acupuncturists diagnose, treat, and help prevent a variety of physical and emotional conditions by stimulating specific points on the body using acupuncture needles. In addition to traditional acupuncture, they may incorporate therapies such as cupping, herbal supplements, acupressure, therapeutic massage and other alternative health therapies.

Education & Training Requirements: To become an acupuncturist you need a bachelor's degree and then a master's degree in acupuncture. Once you get your master's degree you must take a certifying exam in either acupuncture or Oriental medicine from the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) and then take a Clean Needle Technique (CNT) course and pass the required exam along with a \$500 fee. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree in at a public institution is \$57,624. The estimated cost to get a master's degree in acupuncture ranges from \$44,136 to \$51,000.

Skills:

- Heat techniques (moxibustion)
- Pressure techniques (acupressure)
- Friction techniques
- Suction or cupping techniques
- Knowledge of the impulses of electromagnetic energy
- Verbal and written communication skills
- Active listening
- Cleanliness and organization
- Personalized and patient-centered care
- Needle techniques
- Treatment planning
- Compassion
- Continuous learning
- Attention to detail

Interests: Interest in holistic wellness, traditional medicine, pain relief, stress reduction, mind-body connection, preventive health, natural remedies, and patient-centered care

Adjunct Professors (Community Health Work)

Median Salary: \$36,764

Outlook: Data unavailable

Adjunct Professors, specifically Adjunct Professors who teach about community health work, teach aspiring Community Health Workers about public health, the access gaps that exist within communities for health care and social services, and how to give support to individuals with unmet social determinants of health. Adjunct Professors are typically hired on a part-time, contractual basis.

Education & Training Requirements: Community Health Workers interested in becoming Adjunct Professors can often qualify based on their experience and education. In some cases, a high school diploma or GED combined with extensive experience in community health may be sufficient. However, holding an associate, bachelor's, or master's degree—especially when paired with prior teaching, supervisory, or training experience—can greatly improve your chances and expand your career opportunities in academic settings.

Skills:

- Community health
- Social work
- Case management
- Bilingual (Spanish/English)
- Community outreach
- Patient assistance
- Care coordination
- Care management
- Electronic medical records
- Behavioral health
- Driver's license
- Teaching
- Creating lesson plans

Interests: Interest in community health, helping people problem solve, helping build and leverage community strengths, public health, health care, health education, behavioral health, child and maternal health, social and structural determinants of health, teaching, creating lesson plans, and classroom settings

Ambulance Drivers & Attendants, Except EMTs

Median Salary: \$36,042

Outlook: 0% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Ambulance Drivers and Attendants, except Emergency Medical Technicians, operate ambulances and aid in transporting patients to health care facilities.

Education & Training Requirements: Ambulance Drivers and Attendants must have a high school diploma or GED and a valid driver's license. Some employers will hire people who are currently obtaining their GED. CPR certification is required for most jobs. A lot of special training for ambulance operation is given on the job.

Skills:

- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Emergency Medical Technician - Basic (EMT-B)
- Patient transport
- Patient rights
- Splinting
- Patient transfer
- Airway management
- Certified First Responder (CFR)
- Blood pressure monitor (sphygmomanometer)
- Driver's license
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification

Interests: Interest in health, science, working under pressure and in fast-paced environments, enjoy working and communicating with people, can remain calm in stressful situations, and enjoy being on the go

Ayurvedic Practitioners

Median Salary: \$42,498

Outlook: Data unavailable

Ayurvedic Practitioners use traditional Indian healing methods to support holistic health. They assess clients, often through pulse diagnosis, and create personalized plans using herbs, diet, and lifestyle changes. Their work may include giving therapies like massage or detox treatments, preparing herbal remedies, and educating clients on Ayurvedic wellness. They can be found in clinics, spas, wellness centers, or research settings, often working as part of a broader health care team.

Education & Training Requirements: The education requirements of Ayurvedic Practitioners vary. You can complete a pre-medical program that incorporates Ayurvedic training and get your bachelor's degree in four years, complete a diploma or certificate program in one to two years, or complete a certificate program that ranges from 500 to 1500 hours.

Skills:

- Transcendental meditation techniques
- Mind-body connection
- Ayurvedic nutrition and the six tastes
- Client observation and evaluation
- Dietary and herbal treatment plans

Interests: Interest in holistic healing, herbal medicine, mind-body connection, traditional medicine, preventive care, wellness education, spiritual health, meditation, client care, and integrative health

Cardiovascular Technologists

Median Salary: \$129,451

Outlook: 11% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Cardiovascular Technologists help doctors diagnose and treat heart problems and specialize in vascular technology, echocardiography, and invasive cardiology.

Education & Training Requirements: Most Cardiovascular Technologists receive training in a 2 to 4-year program, mainly requiring a 2-year program at a junior or community college. A few Cardiovascular Technologists are trained on the job. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a Cardiovascular Technologist associate degree program is \$17,496.

Skills:

- Medical ultrasonography
- Cardiology
- Electrocardiography
- Nursing
- Radiology
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certification
- Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) certification
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Cardiac catheterization
- Electrocardiography

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Hemodynamics (Fluid Mechanics)
- Cardiac stress testing
- Doppler ultrasonography
- Interventional cardiology

Interests: Interest in hands-on work, problem solving, science, enjoying communicating and working with people, teaching, science, and health and wellness

Caregivers

Median Salary: \$32,351

Outlook: 21% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Caregivers help people who need extra support, like the elderly or those with disabilities. They assist with daily tasks like cooking, cleaning, and getting dressed while also providing companionship and care.

Education & Training Requirements: Caregiver must have a high school diploma or GED. You can apply to many caregiver jobs without certification, but a Patient Care Assistant (PCA) certification training can help improve your job opportunities. The estimated cost of a Patient Care Assistant Certificate is \$2,295.

Skills:

- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Caregiving
- Housekeeping
- Driver's license
- Patient Care Assistant Certificate
- Meal planning and preparation
- Companionship
- Personal care
- Home health care
- Activities Of Daily Living (ADLs)

Interests: Interest in caretaking, disabilities, wellness, cultural competence, problem solving, interpersonal relationship building, and companionship

Case Managers

Median Salary: \$53,330

Outlook: Data unavailable

Case Managers help people get the care and support they need. They make plans, solve problems, and connect people to services like doctors, jobs, or housing to help them live better lives.

Education & Training Requirements: To be a case manager, you need a minimum of a bachelor's degree in social work, nursing, psychology, health care administration, or another relevant field. Some roles may also require a master's degree for advancement. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is approximately \$57,624.

Skills:

- Communication
- Documentation
- Active listening
- Conflict resolution
- Compliance
- Problem solving
- Interpersonal skills
- Compassion
- Advocacy
- Time management
- Crisis intervention
- Supporting people through complex situations
- Completing needs assessments
- Connecting clients with social service resources
- Cultural competency
- Flexibility

Interests: Interest in advocacy, working with people, navigating social service systems, needs assessments, relationship building, program evaluation, administrative tasks, talking with and working with community members (community outreach)

Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselors

Median Salary: \$54,074

Outlook: 19% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselors assist and advise individuals and groups on issues related to mental health, substance abuse, and addiction.

Education & Training Requirements: Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselors (CADCs) need a minimum of a high school diploma or GED. You must complete a credential requiring 225 hours of education and 4,000 hours of supervised work experience. If you already have an associate degree, you can reduce your supervised work experience to 3,000 hours, and if you have a bachelor's degree, you can reduce your supervised work experience to 2,000 hours. CADC training costs about \$3,000-\$4,000.

Skills:

- Case management
- Driver's license
- Psychiatry
- Human services
- Billing
- Social work
- Psychology
- Mental health
- Substance use
- Treatment planning
- Behavioral health
- Crisis intervention
- Medical records (including electronic)
- Community mental health services
- Behavioral science
- Motivational interviewing
- Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor (CADC)

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Lived experience with substance dependence

Interests: Interest in anti-racist and anti-oppressive therapy approaches, human development, mental health and behavioral health, substance disorders/illnesses, addressing systemic inequalities, client growth, and promoting good mental health

Certified Professional Midwives/Licensed Certified Professional Midwives

Median Salary: \$113,060

Outlook: 40% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

A Certified Professional Midwife (CPM) is a trained primary maternity care provider with expertise in supporting individuals throughout pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period. CPMs offer clinical care, education, counseling, and emotional support, practicing independently while also collaborating with other health care professionals as needed.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Certified Professional Midwife (CPM), also known as Licensed Certified Professional Midwife (LCPM) in Illinois, you must complete a 2-year associate degree program at an accredited CPM program. It costs about \$12,100 to get an associate degree from a public institution.

Skills:

- Medical knowledge, with a specialization in birth, reproductive, and gynecological care
- Prenatal exams
- Labor and delivery
- Managing postpartum-care
- Problem solving
- Observation skills
- Compassion
- Cultural competency
- Teamwork

Interests: Interest in maternity care, health care and clinical settings, counseling and education, empathy and emotional support, independence, and improving maternal and infant health outcomes

Certified Recovery Support Specialists

Median Salary: \$52,995

Outlook: Outlook unavailable

Certified Recovery Support Specialists assist and advise individuals and groups on issues related to mental health, substance abuse, and addiction. Many Certified Recovery Support Specialists have personal experience with substance abuse and addiction.

Education & Training Requirements: Certified Recovery Support Specialists (CRSS) need a minimum of a high school diploma or GED. They must complete a credential requiring 100 hours of education, 100 hours of supervision evaluating their understanding and scope of responsibilities expected of a CRSS, and 2,000 hours of supervised work experience. Training for CRSSs costs about \$2,200-\$2,800.

Skills:

- Case management
- Driver's license
- Human services
- Social work
- Psychology
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Mental health
- Substance use
- Treatment planning
- Behavioral health
- Crisis intervention
- Medical records (including electronic)
- Community mental health services
- Life skills development
- Behavioral science
- Motivational interviewing
- Certified Recovery Support Specialist (CRSS)

Interests: Interest in anti-racist and anti-oppressive therapy practices, human development, mental health and behavioral health, substance disorders/illnesses, addressing systemic inequalities, client growth, and promoting good mental health

Child, Family, & School Social Workers

Median Salary: \$62,109

Outlook: 7% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Child, Family, & School Social Workers help children and their families with their social and emotional well-being. Many Child, Family, & School Social Workers arrange adoptions and work within the foster system. They can also work in schools to support children's academic lives by working with them on their social and emotional well-being.

Education & Training Requirements: Child, Family, & School Social Workers must have a master's degree and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) or Licensed Social Worker (LSW) license. LSWs need three years of field experience, and LCSW must complete 3,000 hours of experience. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624 and the estimated cost for a master's degree in social work ranges from \$27,000 to \$62,000.

Skills:

- Psychology
- Mental health
- Crisis intervention
- Human services
- Treatment planning
- Individualized Education Programs (IEP)
- Disabilities
- Child development
- Social work
- Case management
- Driver's license
- Child welfare
- Family support

Interests: Interest in child development, mental health and behavioral health, trauma-informed care, addressing systemic inequalities, anti-racist and anti-oppressive social work practices, and problem solving

Clinical & Counseling Psychologists

Median Salary: \$92,171

Outlook: 13% increase in available jobs between 2023 to 2033

Clinical psychologists work to understand and treat mental health disorders, including schizophrenia, depression, anxiety, and more, whereas counseling psychologists are similar but focus more on everyday stressors and personal development.

Education & Training Requirements: To be a Clinical & Counseling Psychologist, you need a doctoral degree in psychology (PsyD) or a doctoral degree in philosophy (PhD) in psychology or a related field. Afterward, you'll have to complete 1-2 years of clinical supervision and pass the licensing exam, the Examination of Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP). Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624. Depending on the program, some programs will pay you to get your doctorate in psychology.

Skills:

- Psychiatry
- Billing
- Family therapy
- Group therapy
- Case management
- Crisis intervention
- Psychology
- Clinical psychology
- Clinical psychology license
- Psychotherapy
- Mental health
- Treatment planning
- Behavioral health
- Psychological evaluations
- Cognitive behavioral therapy
- Health psychology

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Behavioral medicine

Interests: Interest in anti-racist and anti-oppressive therapy practices, human development, mental health and behavioral health, addressing systemic inequalities, clinical settings, and promoting good mental health

Clinical Laboratory Technologists & Technicians

Median Salary: \$67,312

Outlook: 5% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Clinical Laboratory Technologists & Technicians perform medical laboratory tests to diagnose, treat, and prevent illnesses.

Education & Training Requirements: Many employers require a bachelor's degree to be a Clinical Laboratory Technologist or Technician. However, there are some jobs that Clinical Laboratory Technologists & Technicians can get with an associate degree. While certification is not required in Cook County, it's highly recommended to get the American Society for Clinical Pathology certification. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete an associate degree at a public institution is \$8,760.

Skills:

- Standard operating procedure
- Data entry
- Phlebotomy
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Biology
- American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) certification
- Chemistry
- Laboratory equipment
- Laboratory testing
- Specimen processing
- Laboratory experience
- Microbiology
- Clinical laboratory science
- Hematology (study of blood)
- American Medical Technologists (AMT) certification
- Pathology
- Specimen preparation
- Laboratory safety

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Medical laboratory
- Health technology
- Blood banking

Interests: Interest in patient care, data analysis, diagnostic testing, medical science, problem solving, laboratory techniques and procedures, and working with a team

Communicable Disease Control Investigators

Median Salary: \$72,237

Outlook: Data unavailable

Communicable Disease Control Investigators work to prevent and control the spread of disease by interviewing people with diseases and whom they have come in contact with, and providing disease prevention education.

Education & Training Requirements: To be a Communicable Disease Control Investigator you need a bachelor's degree in epidemiology, public health, or a related field. Some positions may require you to have a master's degree. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Epidemiology
- Medical terminology
- Data analysis
- Laboratory skills
- Knowledge about specific diseases
- Contact tracing
- Report writing
- Interviewing
- Cultural competency
- Relationship building

Interests: Interest in preventing and controlling the spread of infectious diseases, investigating disease outbreaks, identifying sources of infection, implementing prevention strategies, contact tracing, outbreak management, data collection, data analysis, and education

Communication Associates/Specialists

Median Salary: \$63,790

Outlook: Data unavailable

A Communication Associate/Specialist supports marketing and advertising teams by contributing to content creation, outreach, and campaign implementation. Typical responsibilities include writing, writing promotional materials, designing basic graphics, managing social media platforms, launching email campaigns, researching media coverage, and product promotion. The role may also involve general administrative support.

Education & Training Requirements: Most employers seek candidates with a bachelor's degree in communications, journalism, or a related field, along with relevant experience, such as internships in marketing or media, to strengthen career prospects. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Time management
- Project management
- Writing skills
- Social media skills
- Written and verbal communication skills
- Editing
- Creativity
- Problem solving skills
- Copyediting

Interests: Interest in content creation, social media, digital marketing, media outreach, graphic design, public relations, storytelling, and audience engagement

Communication Coordinators

Median Salary: \$56,133

Outlook: Data unavailable

Communication Coordinators support communication and marketing efforts for an organization, ensuring that there is consistency in the content they create and that the marketing and branding is aligned with their organization's mission, vision, and values.

Education & Training Requirements: Most employers require a bachelor's degree to be a Communication Coordinator. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Time management
- Project management
- Writing skills
- Social Media skills
- Written and verbal communication skills
- Editing
- Creativity
- Problem solving skills
- Copyediting

Interests: Interest in content creation, social media, digital marketing, media outreach, graphic design, public relations, storytelling, and audience engagement



Community Health Workers

Median Salary: \$47,870

Outlook: 13% increase available in jobs from 2023 to 2033

Community Health Workers are trusted community members and health educators who serve as a link between clinical health and social health services for various populations. One of their many strengths is that they typically share the same cultural background and/or lived experiences of the communities they work with.

Education & Training Requirements: Some Community Health Workers need a high school diploma or GED, depending on the organization they work for, and many obtain a Community Health Worker certification. They are often trained by community colleges, local nonprofits, and other health-oriented settings. Without financial aid and in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a Community Health Worker program is \$2,448.

Skills:

- Community health
- Social work
- Case management
- Bilingual (Spanish/English)
- Community outreach
- Patient assistance
- Care coordination
- Care management
- Electronic medical records
- Behavioral health
- Driver's license

Interests: Interest in community health, helping people problem solve, helping build and leverage community strengths, public health, health care, health education, behavioral health, child and maternal health, and social and structural determinants of health

Community Organizers

Median Salary: \$50,232

Outlook: Data unavailable

Community Organizers help their communities by bringing people together to address issues like the lack of affordable housing, violence, or pollution. They do this by building relationships with people, helping community members build leadership skills, and encouraging people to take action. While there are paid positions as organizers, anyone who cares about improving their community, city, or country can be an organizer.

Education & Training Requirements: The education requirements of Community Organizers vary depending on the employer. Some employers require organizers to have a high school diploma or GED while others require a bachelor's degree. Most employers look for previous community or political organizing experience, which you can get through volunteer work or by being active in a community group.

Skills:

- Leadership
- Public speaking
- Community engagement
- Research
- Active listening
- Advocacy
- Time management
- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Basic computer and phone skills

Interests: Interest in building relationships and trust, strategic planning and implementation, social and political change, identifying and addressing community needs, and conflict resolution skills

Community Outreach Coordinators

Median Salary: \$53,046

Outlook: Data unavailable

Community Outreach Coordinators are expert relationship builders who help create and implement strategies to connect their organization with the community members they work with.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Community Outreach Coordinator most employers require a bachelor's degree in social services, public relations, or another relevant field. Some employers may substitute this requirement with work experience. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Research
- Building relationships
- Community engagement
- Public relations
- Project management skills
- Ability to manage multiple tasks at once

Interests: Interest in building relationships, being a representative for an organization, public relations, interviews, data collection, engaging with diverse communities, and cultural competency

Community Researchers

Median Salary: Data unavailable

Outlook: Data unavailable

Community Researchers listen to people in communities to learn what they need to stay healthy and safe. They ask questions, gather information, and share it with others to help make life better for everyone in the community. They often come from the same community in which they are doing their research. Community Researchers often work with others in identifying and developing what questions to answer with the research. This may include community members/leaders/organizations, academic and health institutions (faculty, students, health providers), and public agencies/elected officials.

Education & Training Requirements: While different employers may have different requirements, many Community Researchers can get started with just a high school degree or GED. Some employers will provide additional training on site.

Skills:

- Data analysis and collection
- Research methods
- Interviewing
- Attention to detail
- Teamwork
- Critical thinking
- Laboratory techniques and safety protocols
- Interpreting results
- Microsoft Excel
- Project management
- Community knowledge
- Relationship building

Interests: Interest in 'translating' complex concepts into accessible language/messages, conducting surveys, recruiting research participants, data collection and analysis, literature reviews, communication, collaboration, project management, writing reports and giving presentations, community outreach, and conducting focus groups

Conservation Scientists

Median Salary: \$65,390

Outlook: 5% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Conservation Scientists manage the environmental health of forests, parks, rangelands, and similar natural areas. They are employed by various entities, including federal, state, and local government agencies, private landowners, or nonprofit organizations focused on environmental advocacy.

Education & Training Requirements: You need a bachelor's degree in biology, forestry, natural resources, or a related field to be a Conservation Scientist. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Biology
- Forestry
- Natural resource management
- Public relations
- Construction
- Landscaping
- Soil science
- Driver's license
- Conservation planning
- Certified Occupational Hearing Conservationist (COHC)
- Occupational hearing conservation
- Soil conservation
- Agricultural education
- Soil chemistry
- Plant physiology

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Soil genesis
- Soil fertility

Interests: Interest in environmental protection, analyzing data, research, design, sustainability, collecting geographical or geological field data, and problem-solving

Construction and Building Inspectors

Median Salary: \$49,335

Outlook: 0% (little to no change)

Construction and Building Inspectors make sure that construction projects are done safely and comply with local and national building codes and ordinances, zoning laws, and contract specifications.

Education & Training Requirements: Construction and Building Inspectors typically need a high school diploma or GED and experience in a construction trade. Some employers prefer applicants with a bachelor's degree in architecture or engineering or applicants with a certificate or associate degree in building inspection technology. In Illinois, you must also complete a 60-hour pre-license course, a pre-license field course, complete mock inspections, gain field experience, and pass the Illinois Home Inspector Examination. The estimated cost for a certificate in building inspection technology can range from \$600 to \$2,000.

Skills:

- Code enforcement
- Building inspections
- Land zoning
- Materials testing
- Highway construction
- Bridge construction
- Valid driver's license
- Construction

Salary Boosting Skills

- Ordinances
- Electrical inspection
- Field inspection
- Construction inspection

Interests: Interest in hands-on work, attention to detail, problem solving, following procedures, working with physical materials, making sure the workplace is safe, working outdoors, and communication

Construction Safety Officers

Median Salary: \$64,990

Outlook: Data unavailable

A Construction Safety Officer helps keep workers safe on building sites. They make sure everyone follows safety rules, checks for hazards, and teaches people how to avoid getting hurt. Their job is to protect lives while buildings get built.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Construction Safety Officer you must obtain a bachelor's or master's degree in environmental engineering or a similar field. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Safety regulations
- Hazard identification
- Risk assessment
- Accident investigation
- Safety training
- Crisis management

Interests: Interest in accident prevention, creating safe working environments, incident investigation, worker safety training, following safety regulations, and maintaining safety documentation



Coordinators of Research and Evaluation

Median Salary: \$73,015

Outlook: Data unavailable

Coordinators of Research and Evaluation make sure that research and evaluation projects are run effectively and efficiently by planning and designing studies, collecting data, implementing evaluation strategies and making sure research projects are following relevant protocols.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Coordinator of Research and Evaluation you typically need a bachelor's degree in health sciences, social sciences or another relevant field. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Data collection and analysis
- Research methodology
- Knowledge of compliance protocols
- Clinical trial management systems (CTMS)
- Electronic data capture (EDC)
- Communication
- Attention to detail
- Administrative tasks

Interests: Interest in research, collecting and analyzing data, literature reviews, teamwork, and collaboration

Data Scientists

Median Salary: \$159,907

Outlook: 36% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Data Scientists utilize analytical methods and tools to come to valuable insights from data. Many health care and public health organizations need Data Scientists to support their work.

Education & Training Requirements: Most employers require a bachelor's degree in statistics, computer science, mathematics, or a similar field. Some employers require a master's or doctorate degree. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is approximately \$57,624.

Skills:

- Project management
- Programming languages and software (e.g., SQL, Python, R, etc.)
- Agile methodology
- Marketing
- Workflow management
- Data management
- Economics
- Data analysis
- Computer science
- Data science
- Business intelligence
- Advanced analytics
- Data governance
- Operations research

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Machine learning
- Statistics
- Big data
- Predictive modeling
- Statistical modeling
- Unstructured data

Interests: Interest in data analysis, data entry, computer science, math, statistics, programming, data visualization, identifying trends in data, and problem solving

Dental Assistants

Median Salary: \$43,677

Outlook: 8% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Dental Assistants provide patient care, take X-rays, manage patient records, and schedule appointments.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Dental Assistant you need a high school diploma or GED and to complete a training program, which can range from 10 weeks to 3 semesters (approximately 1-1.5 years). The estimated cost of a Dental Assistant training program is \$3,500.

Skills:

- Postoperative care
- Dental experience
- Patient comfort
- Dentures
- Sterilization
- Dentistry
- Infection control
- Oral hygiene
- Dentrix
- Oral health
- Patient education and counseling
- Patient preparation
- Treatment planning
- Medical records
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Radiography

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Dental hygiene
- Velscope
- Oral health

Interests: Interest in hands-on work, working with people, communication, interpersonal skills, oral health, education, direct patient care, science of Dentistry, maintaining detailed records, and following procedures

Dental Hygienists

Median Salary: \$86,837

Outlook: 9% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Dental Hygienists examine patients for signs of oral diseases, provide preventive care like dental cleanings, and educate patients about oral health. Dental Hygienists may also assist Dentists by maintaining accurate patient records.

Education & Training Requirements: Dental Hygienists must complete a 2-year associate degree program in dental hygiene. The cost to become a Dental Hygienist with in-state tuition is around \$18,478.

Skills:

- Dental health
- Preventive care
- Virtual training
- Dentistry
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Medical history documentation
- Periodontology
- Clinical experience
- Sterilization
- Radiography
- Prophylaxis
- Patient preparation
- Patient evaluation
- Dental procedures
- Patient advocacy
- Voice command devices
- Dental plaque removal

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Coronal polishing
- Oral and maxillofacial surgery
- Endodontics
- Construct study casts
- Periodontology
- Dental procedures
- Dental radiology
- Orthodontics
- Dental instruments

Interests: Interest in hands-on work, working with people, communication, interpersonal skills, oral health, education, direct patient care, science of Dentistry, maintaining detailed records, and following procedures

Dentists

Median Salary: \$163,358

Outlook: 5% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Dentists diagnose and treat patients' teeth, gums, and other parts of the mouth. Dentists educate patients on oral care and healthy diet choices to maintain dental health. They also work closely with Dental Hygienists, assistants, and other professionals to provide comprehensive care in a clinical setting.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Dentist, you must complete a 4-year bachelor's degree and then complete a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) or a Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) in 4 years. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624. The cost to complete a DDS or DMD can range from \$220,000 to \$500,000 depending on the institution.

Skills:

- Dental examinations
- Oral and maxillofacial surgery
- Nitrous oxide certification
- Dentistry
- Treatment planning
- Oral health
- Dental surgery
- Dental care
- Root canals
- Dental procedures
- Endodontics
- Dentures
- Patient education and counseling
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Patient treatment
- Oral hygiene

Interests: Interest in passion for oral health, patient care, problem-solving, working with your hands, lifelong learning, leadership and independence, and working with people

Diagnostic Medical Sonographers

Median Salary: \$95,139

Outlook: 11% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Diagnostic Medical Sonographers use imaging equipment and soundwaves, known as ultrasounds, to create images of the body. They acquire and analyze these images to help doctors diagnose and treat medical conditions and check on how babies are growing during pregnancy.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer, you must complete a 2-year degree accredited sonography training program or a 1-year certificate program in sonography for people who are already trained in another health care field. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a 2-year Diagnostic Medical Sonographer program is \$22,179, excluding health requirements.

Skills:

- Anatomy
- Pathology
- Pediatrics
- American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) Certified
- Doppler ultrasonography
- Medical records
- Infection control
- Geriatrics
- Patient safety
- Patient positioning
- Patient preparation
- Echocardiography
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Registered Vascular Technologist (RVT)
- Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (RDMS)
- Medical ultrasonography
- American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) certification
- Radiology

Interests: Interest in investigative skills, problem solving, working and communicating with others, teaching, hands-on work, and analyzing medical images

Dietary Aides

Median Salary: \$31,845

Outlook: Data unavailable

Dietary Aides help prepare and serve food to people in hospitals, nursing homes, or care centers. They make sure meals are healthy, safe, and made just right for each person's needs.

Education & Training Requirements: Dietary Aides need a high school diploma or GED and are more likely to be hired if you have experience in food service or in a health care facility. Having a Food Handler's Certificate, which employers typically pay for, is also a plus.

Skills:

- Food and nutrition knowledge
- Patient education
- Food preparation and safety
- Communication
- Interpersonal skills
- Problem solving
- Critical thinking skills
- Medical terminology

Interests: Interest in nutrition, patient care, food service management, food safety, community outreach, collaboration, and education

Dietetic Technicians

Median Salary: \$45,438

Outlook: 4% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Dietetic Technicians help people eat healthily by working with dietitians to plan meals, teach about nutrition, and support people with special diets. They often work in hospitals, schools, or care centers to help others feel their best through better food choices.

Education & Training Requirements: Dietetic Technicians need at least an associate degree with coursework in nutrition and dietetics, a minimum of 450 hours of supervised practice, and to pass the Registration Examination for Dietetic Technicians administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). The estimated cost of an Associate of Science in Nutrition is \$8,864 for in-state students not including scholarships, fees, books, and living expenses.

Skills:

- Nutritional assessments
- Food and nutrition knowledge
- Patient education
- Food preparation and safety
- Communication
- Interpersonal skills
- Problem solving
- Critical thinking skills
- Medical terminology

Interests: Interest in nutrition, patient care, food service management, developing and implementing nutrition programs, food safety, community outreach, collaboration, research, and education

Doulas

Median Salary: \$50,704

Outlook: Data unavailable

Doulas give continuous emotional, physical, and educational support to pregnant people and their families throughout the pregnancy, labor, and postpartum stages. While they do not provide medical care, Doulas reduce the need for medical interventions and improve birth outcomes.

Education & Training Requirements: Doulas typically must have a high school diploma or GED. The training programs to become a Doula range from 16 to 20 hours of classroom instruction to 12-week programs. The type of Doula you want to be, such as a birth Doula, death Doula, or full-spectrum Doula, will determine the level of training you need.

Skills:

- Childbirth education
- Breathing techniques
- Anatomy
- Cultural competency
- Advocacy
- Postpartum care
- Prenatal education
- Active listening
- Labor techniques
- Breastfeeding

Interests: Interest in supporting birthing people, teaching and sharing knowledge, relationship building, assisting with mental and emotional well-being, addressing health inequities, education, and advocacy

Educational Trainers

Median Salary: \$46,383

Outlook: Data unavailable

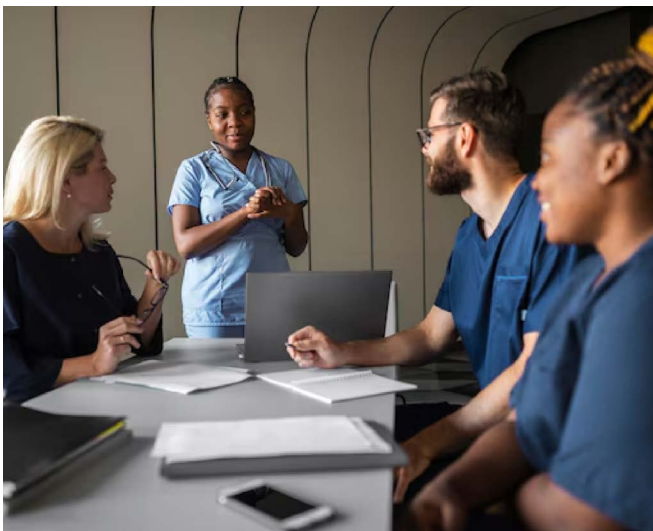
There are many different types of Educational Trainers, like CPR trainers, diabetes trainers, general health trainers and more. These professionals take a skill set they are knowledgeable about and teach others about it.

Education & Training Requirements: Many trainers need a high school diploma or a GED. Depending on the skill you are teaching, you may be required to have specific certifications and possibly years of experience in the skill you are hoping to teach people. For example, if you wish to become a CPR trainer, you must first be certified in CPR and then complete an instructor course.

Skills:

- Technical expertise
- Communication skills
- Teaching
- Ability to motivate and guide others
- Ability to provide effective and supportive feedback
- Interpersonal skills
- Patience

Interests: Interest in teaching, learning technical skills, communication, and community involvement



Eligibility Specialists

Median Salary: \$46,066

Outlook: Data unavailable

Eligibility Specialists help determine if people are eligible for different public health care and public assistance programs, such as Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). They assist people with reimbursement and help answer applicants' questions throughout the application process.

Education & Training Requirements: To become an Eligibility Specialist, you typically need a high school diploma or GED. Any experience in health care or social services will usually increase your likelihood of gaining employment.

Skills:

- Data entry
- Knowledge of social programs
- Medical billing
- Communication
- Computer skills
- Customer service skills
- Case Management
- Documentation

Interests: Interest in social services, data analysis, communication, attention to detail, case management, and human resources

Emergency Management Director

Median Salary: \$95,102

Outlook: 4% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Emergency Management Directors oversee emergency departments by planning procedures for responding to natural disasters and other emergencies.

Education & Training Requirements: To become an Emergency Management Director, you must complete a bachelor's degree and have several years of experience in public administration, emergency response, and/or disaster planning. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Emergency management
- Emergency response
- Emergency preparedness
- Project management
- Driver's license
- Disaster recovery
- Finance
- Auditing
- Accounting

Interests: Interest in leadership and management, strategic planning, training and education, collaborating and coordinating multiple teams in high-stress situations, managing resources, and following procedures

Emergency Medical Technicians

Median Salary: \$47,870

Outlook: 6% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) are first responders who provide pre-hospital emergency medical care to ill or injured patients, frequently on ambulances. They have the knowledge to stabilize and safely transport patients in both life-threatening emergencies and non-emergent situations.

Education & Training Requirements: To become an EMT, you must have a high school diploma or GED and complete an EMT-Basic license program, which takes about 120 to 150 hours. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete an EMT program is \$1,224.

Skills:

- Patient transport
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Electrocardiography
- Vital signs
- Emergency vehicle operation
- National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- Number system
- Medical assistance
- Patient rights
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- EMT-B certification

Interests: Interest in health and science, working under pressure and in fast-paced environments, enjoy working and communicating with people, can remain calm in stressful situations, and enjoy being on the go

Environmental Compliance Managers

Median Salary: \$96,066

Outlook: Data unavailable

Environmental Compliance Managers make sure that their organization follows all relevant environmental laws and regulations. They do this by developing and implementing compliance programs, monitoring compliance regulations, and giving trainings to staff.

Education & Training Requirements: To become an Environmental Compliance Manager, you must have a bachelor's degree in environmental science or a similar field and have prior managerial experience. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Biology
- Soil science
- Driver's license
- Environmental regulations
- Project management
- Risk assessment
- Risk management

Interests: Interest in environmental regulations and laws, risk assessment, compliance reporting and monitoring, data analysis, communication, and environmental protection

Environmental Compliance Specialists

Median Salary: \$68,829

Outlook: 5% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Environmental Compliance Specialists make sure companies follow rules that protect the environment. They help check if air, water, and land are safe, and work with others to fix problems if something isn't right. Their goal is to keep people and nature safe and healthy.

Education & Training Requirements: To become an Environmental Compliance Specialist you must have a bachelor's degree in environmental science or a similar field. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Biology
- Soil science
- Driver's license
- Environmental regulations
- Project management
- Risk assessment
- Risk management

Interests: Interest in environmental regulations and laws, risk assessment, compliance reporting and monitoring, data analysis, communication, and environmental protection

Environmental Engineers

Median Salary: \$108,973

Outlook: 7% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Environmental Engineers apply engineering principles to address issues related to the well-being of the planet. They tackle challenges such as waste treatment, site cleanup, and the development of pollution control technologies.

Education & Training Requirements: You need a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering or a similar field, such as civil engineering, to become an Environmental Engineer. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Environmental compliance
- Environmental laws
- Environmental science
- Auditing
- Wastewater
- Regulatory compliance
- Driver's license
- Chemical engineering
- Soil science
- Civil engineering
- Environmental engineering
- Project management
- Groundwater
- Environmental consulting
- Remediation systems
- Hydrogeology
- HAZWOPER certification
- Surface water

Interests: Interest in problem solving, creating and reviewing environmental reports, human and environmental health, data analysis, water and air pollution, wastewater treatment, environmental law, and passion for combating climate change

Environmental Investigators

Median Salary: \$77,595

Outlook: 7% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Environmental Investigators protect the environment and the public's health by identifying, evaluating, and addressing environmental hazards.

Education & Training Requirements: To become an Environmental Investigator, you must either have an associate degree in environmental science or another relevant field with a few years of experience or have a bachelor's degree in environmental science, public health, or another relevant field. Some companies may also require that you complete an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Data collection and analysis
- Knowledge of environmental policy
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Project management
- Attention to details

Interests: Interest in investigating environmental violations, making sure organizations are compliant with environmental laws and regulations, collecting evidence, conducting inspections, teaching, preventing pollution, protecting human health, protecting ecosystems, and collaboration

Environmental Science & Protection Technicians

Median Salary: \$56,828

Outlook: 7% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Environmental Science & Protection Technicians assist Environmental Scientists and Specialists in investigating environmental issues and enforcing regulations to protect public health and the environment. They may collect samples, perform tests, and analyze air, water, and soil quality data.

Education & Training Requirements: You need an associate degree or certificate in environmental science or a related field, and most technicians receive on-the-job training in data collection and analysis methods from more experienced Environmental Science Technicians. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost of associate degree at a public institution is \$8,760.

Skills:

- Biology
- Emergency response
- Project management
- Sampling (statistics)
- Environmental science
- Soil science
- Environmental health & safety
- Driver's license
- Environmental technology

Interests: Interest in chemistry, biology, problem solving, math, environmental science, collecting samples of soil, water, and other materials, performing scientific tests, creating charts and reports, and inspecting buildings

Environmental Scientists & Specialists

Median Salary: \$87,832

Outlook: 7% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Environmental Scientists & Specialists use their knowledge of natural sciences to protect the environment and human health. Their responsibilities also include cleaning up polluted areas, offering guidance to policymakers, and collaborating with industries to minimize waste production.

Education & Training Requirements: You need a bachelor's degree in natural science or a related field to become an Environmental Scientist or Specialist. You will probably also need a master's degree to advance in the field. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Environmental Engineering
- Chemistry
- Auditing
- Geology
- Environmental laws
- Soil science
- Environmental compliance
- Data analysis
- Environmental health & safety
- Sampling (Statistics)
- Environmental science
- Biology
- Driver's license
- Groundwater
- Environmental planning
- Wetland delineation
- Air quality
- Environmental impact assessments
- Hydrogeology

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Project management
- Environmental permitting

Interests: Interest in research, identifying, reducing, and eliminating sources of pollution or hazards, biology, chemistry, problem solving, math, communicating scientific findings, and putting together environmental reports

Epidemiologists

Median Salary: \$87,791

Outlook: 19% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Epidemiologists are scientists who investigate how diseases spread in populations and the causes of disease and injury.

Education & Training Requirements: To become an Epidemiologist, you need at least a master's degree in public health specializing in epidemiology or a Master of Science degree in epidemiology. Some positions require a doctorate degree. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624, and the estimated cost for a master's degree in public health is \$24,036.

Skills:

- Infection control
- Certified Infection Control (CIC)
- Communicable diseases
- Driver's license
- Quality improvement
- Disease control
- Statistical analysis
- Epidemiology
- Public health
- Data analysis
- SAS (software)
- Data collection
- Outbreak control
- Disease surveillance
- Epidemiological investigations
- Epidemiological method

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Infectious disease
- Biostatistics

Interests: Interest in solving research problems, desire to work individually and collaboratively, enjoyment for continuous learning about new topics and techniques, math, statistics, science communications, writing, study design, disease prevention, and community engagement

Event Coordinators

Median Salary: \$70,775

Outlook: Data unavailable

Event Coordinators are responsible for planning, organizing, and executing all aspects of events from start to finish. Key responsibilities include securing venues, negotiating vendor contracts, coordinating logistics, hiring staff, arranging decorations and entertainment, and overseeing guest transportation.

Education & Training Requirements: To become an Event Coordinator you typically need a bachelor's degree in event management, hospitality, or a related field. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Strong organization skills
- Communication
- Problem solving
- Time management
- Creativity
- Negotiation
- Attention to detail
- Networking
- Building relationships with clients

Interests: Interest in event planning, client relations, creative design, budgeting, problem-solving, hospitality, team coordination, and project management

Farm Administrative Assistants

Median Salary: \$46,551

Outlook: Data unavailable

A Farm Administrative Assistant helps keep a farm running smoothly. They work in the office, organize schedules, answer phone calls, and help with farm records like planting plans and harvests. It's a great job for someone who likes farming and staying organized.

Education & Training Requirements: To be a Farm Administrative Assistant you should have some prior administrative experience and some knowledge of urban agriculture and/or gardening.

Skills:

- Data Entry
- Scheduling
- Inventory tracking
- Compliance and documentation
- Office and records management

Interests: Interest in agriculture, teamwork, record keeping, scheduling, office support, and communication

Farm Administrative Coordinators

Median Salary: \$52,500

Outlook: Data unavailable

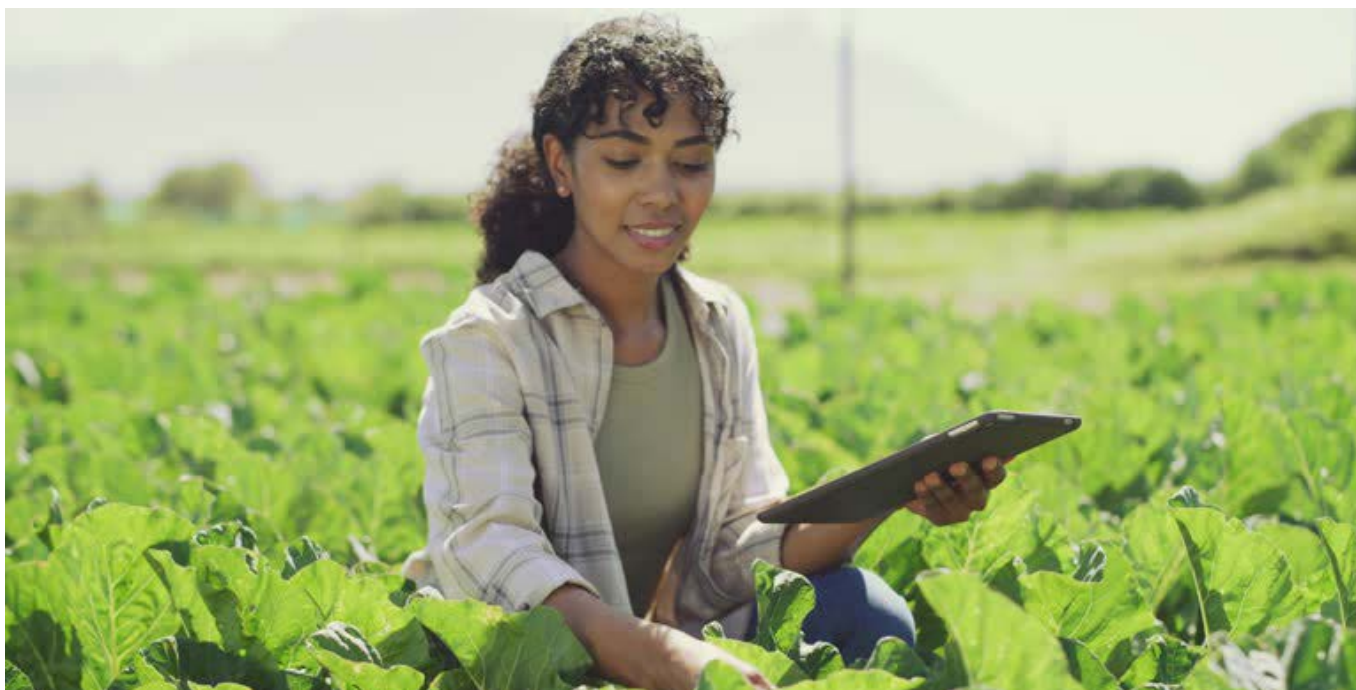
A Farm Administrative Coordinator helps keep a farm running smoothly. They work in the office, organize schedules, answer phone calls, and help with farm records like planting plans and harvests. It's a great job for someone who likes farming and staying organized.

Education & Training Requirements: To be a Farm Administrative Coordinator you should have months to years of prior administrative experience and some knowledge of urban agriculture and/or gardening.

Skills:

- Data entry
- Scheduling
- Inventory tracking
- Compliance and documentation
- Office and records management

Interests: Interest in agriculture, teamwork, record keeping, scheduling, office support, communication, and implementing programs



Farm Program Assistants

Median Salary: \$52,500

Outlook: Data unavailable

A Farm Program Assistant helps run farm programs that teach people how to grow food and take care of the land. They help with classes, events, and daily farm tasks. It's a fun job for someone who likes farming, helping others, and working outdoors.

Education & Training Requirements: To be a Farm Program Assistant you should have some prior administrative experience and some knowledge of urban agriculture and/or gardening.

Skills:

- Office and records management
- Data entry
- Scheduling
- Inventory tracking
- Compliance and documentation

Interests: Interest in agriculture, teamwork, record keeping, scheduling, office support, communication, and implementing programs

Farm Program Coordinators

Median Salary: \$62,705

Outlook: Data unavailable

A Farm Program Coordinator helps run farm programs that teach people how to grow food and take care of the land. They help with classes, events, and daily farm tasks. It's a fun job for someone who likes farming, helping others, and working outdoors.

Education & Training Requirements: To be a Farm Program Coordinator you should have months to years of prior administrative experience and some knowledge of urban agriculture and/or gardening.

Skills:

- Office and records management
- Data entry
- Scheduling
- Inventory tracking
- Compliance and documentation

Interests: Interest in agriculture, teamwork, record keeping, scheduling, office support, communication, and implementing programs

Food Safety Auditors

Median Salary: \$70,384

Outlook: Data unavailable

Food Safety Auditors make sure that restaurants and businesses that sell food follow regulations to maintain hygiene and safety.

Education & Training Requirements: To be a Food Safety Auditor you must have a bachelor's degree in food science, biology, or a relevant field, have experience in the food industry, and complete relevant certifications such as Certification in Food Safety Supplier Audits (CFSSA) or Registered Food Safety Auditor (RFSA). Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Understanding of local regulations
- Understanding of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP)
- Food safety management systems
- Food microbiology and sanitation
- Report writing
- Communication skills
- Attention to detail

Interests: Interest in following compliance protocols, identifying and reducing food safety risks, collaboration, communication, and staying informed about safety regulations

Food Scientists

Median Salary: \$93,703

Outlook: 8% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Food Scientists use their scientific knowledge to study food and develop new ways to package, process, and preserve food to make sure it's safe and nutritious for customers.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Food Scientist you need a bachelor's degree in food science, agricultural science, or a relevant field and usually will need a master's or doctorate degree for advanced roles.

Skills:

- Laboratory skills
- Data analysis
- Computer skills
- Knowledge of food safety regulations
- Attention to detail
- Time management
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Data collection and analysis

Interests: Interest in research, biology, chemistry, problem solving, math, teamwork, and food production methods

Food Service Workers

Median Salary: \$34,790

Outlook: 5% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Food Service Workers help prepare and serve meals in places like schools, hospitals, and restaurants. They might cook food, serve it to customers, clean up, and make sure everything is safe and clean. Their job helps keep people full, happy, and healthy every day.

Education & Training Requirements: To be a Food Service Worker, some employers look for a high school diploma or GED, and you are typically trained on the job. If you also have a Food Handlers Certificate (which employers will typically pay for) that can help you get a job too.

Skills:

- Food safety practices
- Customer service
- Communication
- Interpersonal skills

Interests: Interest in hands-on tasks, working with people, customer service, teamwork, problem solving, time management, and adaptability

Food Technologists

Median Salary: \$64,258

Outlook: 8% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Food Technologists use scientific and technological knowledge to make sure that the production and quality of food is safe and efficient.

Education & Training Requirements: To be a Food Technologist you must have a bachelor's degree in food science, food technology, or a related field. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Nutritional assessments
- Food and nutrition knowledge
- Patient education
- Knowledge of food industry
- Product quality
- Food safety
- Food science
- Attention to detail
- Research methods
- Math skills
- Chemistry
- Laboratory techniques and skills

Interests: Interest in the science of food, chemistry, microbiology, nutrition, product development, research, innovation, and following compliance protocols

Fundraising Coordinators

Median Salary: \$61,798

Outlook: 6% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Fundraising Coordinators plan and organize activities and events that generate donations that support their organization's mission.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Fundraising Coordinator you typically need a bachelor's degree in nonprofit management, business administration, communications or another relevant field. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Developing and delivering on fundraising strategies
- Developing donor relationships
- Organizing fundraising events
- Grant writing
- Grant reporting
- Managing budgets
- Maintaining records

Interests: Interest in building relationships with donors, grant writing, event planning, managing databases, volunteer management, communication, and marketing

Fundraising Managers

Median Salary: \$70,447

Outlook: 7% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Fundraising Managers oversee campaigns and events to generate donations for their organization, which often relies on these funds to operate. They manage strategies to engage donors and ensure fundraising goals are met.

Education & Training Requirements: To be a Fundraising Manager you typically need a bachelor's degree in communications, marketing, nonprofit management, or another related field and experience in fundraising. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Nonprofit management
- Certified fundraising executive
- Fund development
- Fundraising
- Sales prospecting
- Project management
- Marketing
- Philanthropy
- Planned giving
- Grant applications
- Grant writing
- Prospect research
- Finance
- Customer relationship management
- Accounting
- Financial statements
- Valid driver's license
- Auditing
- Advertising mail

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Prospect management

Interests: Interest in persuading others, developing strategies, managing financial campaigns, relationship building, and creativity

Garden & Farm Educators

Median Salary: \$46,628

Outlook: Data unavailable

A Garden & Farm Educator teaches kids and adults how to grow plants, care for gardens, and understand where food comes from. They make learning about nature fun and help people become healthier and more connected to the earth.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Garden & Farm Educator, you typically need experience in teaching, community engagement, youth engagement, and urban agriculture. Many jobs will require a high school diploma or GED.

Skills:

- Agricultural knowledge and practices
- Program and curriculum development
- Leadership
- Operational planning
- Community engagement
- Environmental stewardship
- Budget management
- Strategic planning

Interests: Interest in agriculture, teamwork, record keeping, scheduling, office support, communication, implementing programs, community engagement, compassion, cultural competency, curriculum development, and managing a budget

Genetic Counselors

Median Salary: \$92,830

Outlook: 16% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Genetic Counselors are health care professionals who help individuals and families understand their own, their pre-born children, or their family members' likelihood of developing genetic conditions and diseases. They do this through educating, supporting, and guiding people through various genetic tests and their results.

Education & Training Requirements: Genetic Counselors must complete a 4-year bachelor's degree in biology, genetics, or a relevant field. Then they must complete a master's degree program in genetic counseling that typically takes two years to complete, then pass a certification exam and get a state license. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624. The estimated cost of a genetic counseling master's program can range from \$40,000–\$60,000.

Skills:

- Compassion
- Interpersonal skills
- Critical thinking
- Knowledge of genetic conditions and diseases
- Risk assessment
- Teaching
- Interpreting test results
- Counseling / psychosocial support

Interests: Interest in supporting individuals through stressful situations, interpreting tests, genetics, counseling, working with people, research, advocacy, and providing support to patients and their families

Grant Program Coordinators

Median Salary: \$62,171

Outlook: Data unavailable

Grant Program Coordinators ensure that programs within the organization they are working for run smoothly by creating funding reports and documenting the progress of organizational programs. They also help evaluate and improve program funding.

Education & Training Requirements: Most employers require a bachelor's degree in public health or a related field to be a Grant Program Coordinator within the health field. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Analytics
- Merchandising
- Auditing
- Data analysis
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
- Marketing
- Project management
- Sustainability initiatives

Interests: Interest in identifying and managing grants, developing proposals, interacting and building relationships with partners, writing, reporting and evaluating funding and project outcomes, and maintaining records

Grant Writers

Median Salary: \$59,483

Outlook: Data unavailable

Grant Writers research, draft, and submit proposals to help organizations or individuals secure funding. Grant Writers often work for nonprofits, educational institutions, and cultural organizations, while some operate independently and take on clients across various sectors. In addition to writing proposals, they may also manage grant calendars, gather supporting documentation, and track application outcomes.

Education & Training Requirements: Grant Writers typically need a bachelor's degree in English, communications, journalism, business, or a related field. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Written communication skills
- Research
- Identifying funding opportunities
- Maintaining records
- Budget development
- Multitasking
- Collaboration
- Time management

Interests: Interest in proposal writing, research, fundraising, strategic planning, budget planning, program development, relationship building, and technical writing

Grants Research Specialists

Median Salary: \$82,645

Outlook: Data unavailable

Grants Research Specialists look for potential funding opportunities and write grant proposals to help support the finances and resources of their organizations.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Grants Research Specialist, you must have a bachelor's degree in English, communications, journalism, nonprofit management, or another relevant degree. For this role, you must have experience with grant-writing. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624

Skills:

- Fundraising
- Project management
- Marketing
- Communication
- Research
- Writing
- Communication

Interests: Interest in understanding funding landscapes, writing grant proposals, teamwork, funding trends, research, and supporting team members' work

Health & Sex Educators

Median Salary: \$48,965

Outlook: 6% increase in available jobs from 2022 to 2023

Health & Sex Educators are responsible for designing, facilitating, and evaluating educational programs that promote accurate, inclusive, and age-appropriate information about sexual health. They work with different groups of all ages, empowering individuals to make informed decisions about their bodies, relationships, and well-being. While many sexual health educators work in traditional academic settings their work extends far beyond the classroom.

Education & Training Requirements: To be a Health & Sex Educator you need a bachelor's degree in public health, psychology, sociology, or another related field. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Compassion
- Interpersonal skills
- Verbal and written communication skills
- Knowledge of reproductive and sexual health
- Ability to create inclusive and open learning environments
- Active listening
- Curriculum development
- Classroom management
- Cultural competency

Interests: Interest in health education, advocacy, communication, empowerment, community outreach, youth engagement, and curriculum design

Health Care Advocates

Median Salary: \$37,631

Outlook: Data unavailable

Health Care Advocates support individuals in understanding and exercising their rights, helping them navigate health care, social services, and government systems to make informed decisions.

Education & Training Requirements: The education requirements for Health Care Advocates often depend on the employer and the position for advocate roles. Some positions require a high school diploma or GED, while other roles may require more education.

Skills:

- Compassion
- Good verbal and written communication skills
- Mediation skills
- Problem solving skills
- Relationship building skills
- Research
- Negotiation

Interests: Interest in working with people, advocacy, human rights, education, navigating systems, and collaboration



Health Care Social Workers

Median Salary: \$65,647

Outlook: 7% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Health Care Social Workers help support mental and emotional well-being of patients coping with acute, chronic, or terminal illnesses. They also provide emotional and resource support to individuals who are caretakers of loved ones with illnesses.

Education & Training Requirements: Health Care Social Workers need a master's degree and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) or Licensed Social Worker (LSW) license. LSWs need three years of field experience, and LCSW must complete 3,000 hours of experience. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624 and the estimated cost for a master's degree in social work ranges from \$27,000 to \$62,000.

Skills:

- Case management
- Psychology
- Discharge planning
- Driver's license
- Behavioral health
- Crisis intervention
- Home health care
- Care coordination
- Psychotherapy
- Psychiatry
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)
- Social work
- Mental health
- Treatment planning
- Medical social work
- Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Clinical social work
- Psychosocial assessments

Interests: Interest in mental health and behavioral health, addressing systemic inequalities, anti-racist and anti-oppressive social work practices, problem solving, and clinical health settings

Health Education Specialists

Median Salary: \$62,235

Outlook: 7% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Health Education Specialists educate people about practices and behaviors that encourage health and. They also can work with public and private organizations to develop, analyze, and implement programs and strategies surrounding health and well-being.

Education & Training Requirements: Health Education Specialists typically have a bachelor's degree in public health or a related field. Some are required to have a certification. Without financial aid and in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Health education
- Driver's license
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Health & wellness coaching
- Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES)

Interests: Interest in helping others and promoting learning, teaching, coaching, administrative tasks, advocacy work, science, and public health

Health Inspectors

Median Salary: \$54,691

Outlook: 14% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Health Inspectors ensure that environmental health rules and regulations are followed by various businesses, organizations, and facilities, such as restaurants and swimming pools.

Education & Training Requirements: Most employers require Health Inspectors to have a bachelor's degree focusing on biological, physical sciences, or a related field, while some employers will accept an associate degree with training or experience. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete an associate degree at a public institution is \$8,760.

Skills:

- Regulatory compliance
- Project management
- Finance
- Accounting
- Risk analysis
- Risk management
- Data analysis
- Process improvement
- Driver's license
- Auditing
- Regulatory affairs
- Compliance risk
- Compliance management

Interests: Interest in public health advocacy, science, environmental health, problem solving, worker health and safety, education and safety, environmental health, and combating environmental racism

Health Services Coordinators

Median Salary: \$52,257

Outlook: Data unavailable

Health Services Coordinators or social and human service assistants make sure patients receive appropriate and efficient care. They do this by scheduling and coordinating appointments, documenting the progress of patients' care, and advocating for patients by helping them navigate the health care system, assisting them with insurance, and making sure they understand their treatment options.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Health Services Coordinator, you need a bachelor's degree in public health or a related field. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Case management
- Human services
- Crisis intervention
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Mental health
- Life skills development
- Driver's license

Interests: Interest in administrative work, organization, coordinating appointments and schedules, patient advocacy, customer service, and passion for helping people navigate the health care system

Hearing Aid Specialists

Median Salary: \$43,677

Outlook: 15% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Hearing Aid Specialists select and fit hearing aids, administer hearing tests, and check how well hearing devices are working. They also take ear impressions and design, modify, and prepare ear molds.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Hearing Aid Specialist you need to complete a hearing instrument dispensary certificate program, which are typically around 22-credit hours (about two semesters) to complete. The main program in the area requires you to have at least an associate degree before applying. You will also have to pass the written and hands-on exam for the Illinois Department of Public Health's hearing instrument dispenser licensing program. The cost to become a Hearing Aid Specialist is around \$5,400 not including clinical requirements.

Skills:

- Hearing aid dispenser
- Infection control
- Billing
- Medical records
- Data entry
- Hearing instrument specialist
- Aftercare
- Audiology
- Hearing testing
- Audiology license
- Hospital experience
- Medical privacy
- Patient education and counseling
- Hearing disorders
- Neonatal intensive care unit
- Telehealth
- Community outreach
- Business metrics
- Project portfolio management

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Auditory brainstem response

Interests: Interest in direct patient care, teaching, compassion, attention to detail, active listening, communication, and counseling

Herbalists

Median Salary: \$74,696

Outlook: Data unavailable

An Herbalist is a health care professional specializing in the use of plant-based remedies to support and manage a variety of health conditions. They take a holistic approach by assessing each person's lifestyle, diet, and medical history before recommending personalized herbal treatments. Herbalists prepare customized formulas in forms such as teas, tinctures, or capsules to meet individual needs. Often practicing in private clinics, wellness centers, or collaborating with conventional health care providers, their primary goal is to promote the body's natural healing through evidence-informed herbal medicine.

Education & Training Requirements: There isn't a specific state mandated license for Herbalists, and the training varies based on the program you take. For example, some certificates can take up to 3 years while other apprenticeship programs just require 100 hours of training.

Skills:

- Plant identification
- Knowledge of herbs and their preparation
- Knowledge of herbal energetics
- Assessing client needs
- Verbal and written communication
- Active listening
- Plant anatomy and physiology
- Human anatomy and physiology
- Compassion
- Patient care

Interests: Interest in holistic wellness, herbal remedies, preventive care, traditional medicine, nutrition, mind-body connection, personalized care, and botanical science

HIV Testing Counselors

Median Salary: Data unavailable

Outlook: Data unavailable

HIV Counselors provide emotional support, education, and resources to individuals affected by or at risk for HIV and AIDS. In testing clinics, they offer pre- and post-test counseling to help clients understand their results and next steps. Their responsibilities include delivering accurate health information, promoting prevention strategies, and connecting individuals to care, treatment, and community resources. HIV Counselors may work in clinical settings, conduct outreach in at-risk communities, or engage in both to help reduce stigma and improve health outcomes.

Education & Training Requirements: To be an HIV Counselor you typically need a bachelor's degree in social services, public health or a related field and some specialized HIV counseling training. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Active listening
- Compassion
- Relationship building
- Understanding HIV transmission and prevention
- Knowledge of testing procedures
- Knowledge of treatment options
- Confidentiality
- Cultural competence
- Motivational interviewing
- Proficiency using test kits

Interests: Interest in health education, community outreach, emotional support, patient advocacy, public health, counseling, stigma reduction, and trauma-informed care

Home Health Aides

Median Salary: \$34,189

Outlook: 21% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Home Health Aides help people who are sick, elderly, or disabled with daily tasks like bathing, dressing, and eating. They also check on their health and provide comfort and support.

Education & Training Requirements: Home Health Aides must have a high school diploma or GED and complete a Home Health Aides (HHAs) certification training of 120 hours or a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification training of 120 hours. You may want to take the CNA training instead of the HHA because there are more opportunities for growth with the CNA certification. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a Home Health Aide Certificate is \$1,320.

Skills:

- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Caregiving
- Housekeeping
- Driver's license
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- Home Health Aide certification (HHA)
- Meal planning and preparation
- Companionship
- Personal care
- Home health care
- Activities Of Daily Living (ADLs)

Interests: Interest in caretaking, disabilities, wellness, cultural competence, problem solving, interpersonal relationship building, and companionship

Human Resources Assistants

Median Salary: 48,241

Outlook: Data unavailable

Human Resources Assistants help with recruiting, screening, and interviewing job candidates, as well as placing new hires. They may also handle tasks related to salaries, benefits, training, and employee relations.

Education & Training Requirements: While some employers prefer to hire people with a bachelor's degree in human resources, business administration, or another relevant degree, an associate degree in a human resources specialist program or a relevant certificate can get you in the door to become a Human Resources Assistant. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost of an associate degree at a public institution is \$8,760.

Skills:

- Administrative support
- Auditing
- Data entry
- Employee onboarding
- Employee relations
- Applicant tracking systems
- Valid driver's license

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Human Resources Information System (HRIS)

Interests: Interest in working with people, administrative tasks, problem solving, attention to detail, organized, working with deadlines, recruitment and onboarding, managing employee relationships, record keeping, and data management

Industrial Hygienists

Median Salary: \$78,375

Outlook: 14% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Industrial Hygienists help keep people safe and healthy at work. They look for things like bad air, loud noise, or harmful chemicals, then find ways to fix those problems so workers stay safe and feel good on the job.

Education & Training Requirements: To be an Industrial Hygienist you need a bachelor's degree in a related field such as industrial hygiene, engineering, chemistry, or biology. Many employers prefer professionals to be Certified Industrial Hygienists (CIH) as well. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624

Skills:

- Hazard recognition
- Risk assessment
- Developing and implementing safety programs
- Inspection
- Evaluation
- Incident investigation
- Training and education

Interests: Interest in recognizing potential hazards, evaluating exposure levels, conducting risk assessments, educating on worker safety, promoting a culture of safety, and following compliance with standards

Interpreters

Median Salary: \$53,726

Outlook: 2% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Interpreters help communicate between individuals who speak different languages. They act as a vital bridge, making sure that conversations are accurately and effectively translated so that everyone can understand each other clearly.

Education & Training Requirements: Some Interpreters need a bachelor's degree; however, some employers will hire people with a high school diploma or GED. You also must be fluent in English and another language to be an Interpreter. Becoming a Certified Interpreter may increase your job opportunities but it isn't required in Chicago.

Skills:

- Language fluency
- Active listening
- Cultural competence
- Memory skills
- Flexibility
- Confidentiality
- Depending on the setting, subject matter knowledge

Interests: Interest in languages, cultural competency, communication, bridging language barriers, cross-cultural understanding, and helping people connect

Lactation Consultants

Median Salary: \$61,519–\$83,107 (depending on level of certification)

Outlook: Data unavailable

Lactation Consultants specialize in breastfeeding and chest feeding. They help guide individuals and families through the joys and challenges of lactation by assisting with latch and positioning, nipple pain, and/or low milk supply.

Education & Training Requirements: There are many different types of certifications you can take to become a Lactation Consultant. Which one you take depends on how specialized you wish to become. There are three main certifications for Lactation Consultants: Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC), Certified Lactation Specialist (CLS), and International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC). CLC trainings are typically around 45 hours and focus on basic breastfeeding education, latch, and position. They handle more common breastfeeding issues. CLS trainings vary a lot based on the training organization you're working with but can be longer than CLC training. A CLS's scope can be more focused than a CLC's but it varies. Both CLSs and CLCs don't need significant clinical experience to practice. IBCLCs must take university-level science hours, 90+ hours of lactation education and complete 300-1000 hours of supervised clinical experience. Because of their training they can address both common and complex lactation issues.

Skills:

- Knowledge of breastfeeding benefits
- Education
- Problem solving
- Collaboration
- Anatomy
- Compassion
- Knowledge of infant development
- Active listening

Interests: Interest in education, advocacy, emotional support, and collaborating with individuals and families

Licensed & Practical Vocational Nurses

Median Salary: \$65,987

Outlook: 3% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Licensed & Practical Vocational Nurses perform basic nursing care under the supervision of a Registered Nurse. They assess patients, administer medications, and support patients and their families.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Licensed & Practical Vocational Nurse, you must complete a 1-year certificate program and then pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-LP) exam. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete an LPN is \$10,557.

Skills:

- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Home health care
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Medical records
- Infection control
- Driver's license
- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)
- Nursing
- Medication administration
- Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)
- Vital signs
- Intravenous therapy
- Long-term care
- Patient observation
- Wound care

Salary Boosting Skill(s):

- Computerized physician order entry

Interests: Interest in science, health and well-being, problem solving, promoting learning and personal development, teaching, working with people, activities that follow set procedures, routines, and standards, having a support role, and working with data and details

Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists

Median Salary: \$86,766

Outlook: 6% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) technologists specialize in operating magnetic resonance imaging scanners. They monitor patient safety and comfort and ensure quality pictures of patients' scans.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologist, you need an associate degree in magnetic resonance imaging or radiography or earn an associate degree and then complete an MRI tech training program. Some certificate programs are available as well. If you have experience and training as a Radiologic Technologist, you can receive on-the-job training to become an MRI Technologist. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologist program is \$4,716, excluding health insurance requirements.



Skills:

- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Anatomy
- Patient safety
- Patient preparation
- Ionizing radiation
- Image quality
- Medical records
- Billing
- Radiology
- American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) Certified
- Magnetic resonance imaging
- Radiology information systems
- Contrast medium
- Patient positioning
- Medical imaging
- ARRT Computed Tomography (CT) certification
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Nuclear medicine
- X-ray computed tomography
- American Registry of Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists (ARMRIT) certification
- ARRT Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MR) certification
- Equipment adjustment

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Tomography

Interests: Interest in patient care, medical imaging technology, problem solving, diagnostic imaging, patient education, and teamwork

Marriage & Family Therapists

Median Salary: \$50,393

Outlook: 16% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Marriage & Family Therapists diagnose and address cognitive, behavioral, or related disorders in the context of couples and other interpersonal relationships.

Education & Training Requirements: Marriage & Family Therapists need a master's degree in marriage and family therapy, pass the state licensure exam, apply for their initial licensure, complete at least 3,000 supervised clinical hours, and apply for an independent practice license. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624, and the estimated cost for a master's degree in marriage and family therapy is \$26,000.

Skills:

- Case management
- Psychotherapy
- Group therapy
- Crisis intervention
- Driver's license
- Knowledge of autism spectrum
- Clinical supervision
- Substance use
- Psychiatry
- Psychology
- Treatment planning
- Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist (LMFT)
- Behavior therapy
- Licensed mental health professional
- Social work
- Mental health
- Family therapy
- Behavioral health
- Board certified behavior analyst

Interests: Interest in helping individuals and couples navigate relationship dynamics, anti-racist and anti-oppressive therapy practices, human development, mental health and behavioral health, client growth, family systems theory, and promoting psychological well-being

Massage Therapists

Median Salary: \$61,309

Outlook: 18% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Massage Therapists use hands-on techniques to relieve pain, reduce stress, promote healing, and support overall wellness. They begin by consulting with clients to understand their needs and goals, then tailor sessions to address specific concerns. Therapists may also recommend personalized treatment plans and offer guidance on relaxation techniques to practice between visits.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Massage Therapist you must have a high school diploma or GED, complete a state-approved massage therapy program that offers at least 600 hours of instruction, pass the Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx), and apply for your Illinois massage therapy license through the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR). Massage therapy school in Cook County can cost \$11,600 or more.

Skills:

- Massage techniques
- Functional anatomy
- Recognize signs and symptoms of certain injuries and conditions
- Marketing
- Accounting
- Compassion
- Physical stamina
- Organization
- Hygiene
- Interpersonal skills

Interests: Interest in pain relief, stress reduction, anatomy, holistic wellness, mind-body connection, planning, and preventive care

Medical & Health Services Managers

Median Salary: \$114,397

Outlook: 29% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Medical & Health Services Managers oversee the operations of health care facilities, such as hospitals, clinics, or nursing homes. They are responsible for managing staff, budgets, and resources to ensure the delivery of quality patient care.

Education & Training Requirements: You need a bachelor's or master's degree in health care administration, business administration, or related field, management training programs, and on-the-job experience to become a Medical & Health Services Manager. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Budget management
- Marketing
- Auditing
- Driver's license
- Health administration
- Care coordination
- Project management
- Workflow management
- Medical records
- Billing
- Manage care
- Clinical experience

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Nursing
- Managed care
- Utilization management

Interests: Interest in leadership, health care administration, policy, and a desire to ensure the efficient delivery of quality health care services

Medical Assistants

Median Salary: \$42,926

Outlook: 15% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Medical Assistants complete routine administrative and clinical tasks to keep their place of work running smoothly. They do help with scheduling appointments, greeting patients, taking medical histories, recording vital signs, preparing patients for examination, and assisting physicians during examination.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Medical Assistant (MA), you must have a high school diploma or GED. Some are trained on the job, but many complete a 1-year certificate program or obtain an associate degree. You can receive certification, although it is not required in Illinois. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to become an MA is \$4,743.

Skills:

- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Medication administration
- Medical prescription
- Primary care
- Direct patient care
- Infection control
- Medical assistance
- Vital signs
- Medical Assistant certification (CCMA)
- Phlebotomy
- Medical records
- Intravenous therapy
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Electronic medical records

Interests: Interest in helping others and promoting learning, problem solving, hands-on work, following procedures, routines and standards, and working with data and detail

Medical Secretaries & Administrative Assistants

Median Salary: \$43,472

Outlook: 1% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Medical Secretaries & Administrative Assistants ensure that hospitals and clinics run smoothly by compiling and recording medical charts, scheduling appointments, billing patients, and communicating with patients.

Education & Training Requirements: Medical Secretaries & Administrative Assistants need a high school degree or GED. Prior administrative experience will help you get a job in this role.

Skills:

- Medical terminology
- Medical records
- Electronic medical records
- Billing
- Data entry
- Setting appointments
- Copayment collection and processing
- Medical office procedures
- Front office procedures

Interests: Interest in administrative work, organization, scheduling appointments, working in hospital and clinical settings, and helping patients navigate the health care system

Medical Transcriptionists

Median Salary: \$37,550

Outlook: 6% decline in available jobs from 2023 to 2034

Medical Transcriptionists convert voice-recorded reports from doctors and health care professionals into written, digital documents. They listen to recordings, transcribe medical notes, edit reports for accuracy using specialized software, and ensure compliance with confidentiality laws.

Education & Training Requirements: Medical Transcriptionists need a high school diploma or GED, and many employers look for candidates that have an associate degree or a specialized certificate from the Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity. It costs about \$12,100 to get an associate degree from a public institution.

Skills

- Medical knowledge
- Typing skills
- Attention to detail
- Electronic health record documentation
- Proofreading
- Transcription
- Fact checking
- Active listening

Salary-boosting skills:

- Multi-lingual

Interests: working independently, detail-oriented, health conditions, and medical terminology

Medical Billing Specialists

Median Salary: \$48,500

Outlook: 8% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2034

Medical Billing Specialists help health care providers collect and track reimbursements for goods and services provided. They do this by submitting claims to insurance companies and then billing patients for their portion of the expenses.

Education & Training Requirements: Medical Billing Specialists typically need a high school diploma or GED, followed by a certificate (4–12 months) or associate degree (1.5–2 years) in medical billing and coding. It costs about \$12,100 to get an associate degree from a public institution.

Skills:

- Medical terminology
- Insurance knowledge
- Basic math skills
- Computer skills
- Electronic health records
- Preparing and managing insurance claims
- Patient eligibility verification
- Billing software

Interests: attention to detail, patient advocacy, interpersonal skills, communication, organization

Mental Health & Substance Abuse Social Workers

Median Salary: \$52,319

Outlook: 7% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Mental health and substance abuse social workers assist and treat individuals struggling with mental, emotional, and substance misuse issues. They can do this in many ways, including individual and group therapy, client advocacy, prevention, education, case management, and crisis intervention.

Education & Training Requirements: Mental health and substance abuse social workers must have a master's degree and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) or Licensed Social Worker (LSW) license. LSWs need three years of field experience, and LCSW must complete 3,000 hours of experience. Without financial aid and in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624 and the estimated cost for a master's degree in social work ranges from \$27,000 to \$62,000

Skills:

- Licensed Professional Counselor
- Discharge planning
- Mental illnesses
- Substance use
- Nursing services
- Human services
- Family therapy
- Clinical experience
- Mental health
- Social work
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)
- Case management
- Treatment planning
- Psychiatry
- Crisis intervention
- Driver's license

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Psychology
- Behavioral health

Interests: Interest in substance misuse, mental health and behavioral health, addressing systemic inequalities, anti-racist and anti-oppressive social work and therapy practices, crisis intervention, harm reduction, and problem solving

Naturopathic Doctors

Median Salary: \$107,132

Outlook: 4% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Naturopathic Doctors are trained at accredited naturopathic medical schools to diagnose, prevent, and treat both short-term and long-term health issues. They diagnose, prevent, and treat acute and chronic illness by supporting the body's natural ability to heal, aiming to find and treat the root causes of illness, not just the symptoms. Their approach includes creating personalized treatment plans to help each person achieve better overall health.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Naturopathic Doctor, you must first complete a bachelor's degree in either an accredited naturopathic medical program or complete pre-medical coursework in areas such as biology, chemistry, or another related field. Afterwards you must complete a 4-year graduate level program at an accredited naturopathic medical school, pass the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examination (NPLEX), and obtain state licensure. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624. The estimated cost of a naturopathic medical program ranges from \$61,000 to \$180,000.

Skills:

- Active listening
- Expert knowledge in natural therapies
- Knowledge of herbal medicine and nutrition
- Patient assessment and treatment from a holistic perspective
- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Lifelong learning
- Compassion

Interests: Interest in mind-body connection, holistic health, preventive care, herbal medicine, and patient education

Nuclear Medicine Technologists

Median Salary: \$96,782

Outlook: 1% decrease in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Nuclear Medicine Technologists prepare and administer radioactive drugs for imaging or treatment. They typically work in hospitals while some work in physicians' offices, imaging clinics, and diagnostic laboratories.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Nuclear Medicine Technologist, you must complete an associate degree or bachelor's degree as well as a certificate program that specializes in nuclear medicine technology. Without financial aid and in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete an associate degree is \$8,760.

Skills:

- Medical records
- Patient positioning
- Medical imaging
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Anatomy
- Patient safety
- Therapeutic procedures
- Clinical experience
- Billing
- Information systems
- Nuclear medicine
- Radiology
- American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certification
- Radiation protection
- Radiopharmacology
- Radioactive materials
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Positron emission tomography
- ARRT Nuclear Medicine Technology certification
- Radiopharmaceutical administration

Interests: Interest in science, biology, chemistry, statistics, working with people, analyzing specimens, teaching, and following rules and procedures

Nurse Midwives

Median Salary: \$124,440

Outlook: 40% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

A Nurse Midwife is a health care provider who specializes in reproductive health, pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum care. They offer comprehensive, compassionate care to individuals of all ages. For pregnant individuals, Nurse Midwives provide prenatal care, support during labor and childbirth, and postnatal care for both the birthing person and the newborn. While their scope of practice is similar to that of OB/GYNs, Nurse Midwives often emphasize holistic, patient-centered approaches and evidence-based, natural techniques in reproductive and childbirth care.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Nurse Midwife, you must become a Registered Nurse with a bachelor's degree in nursing, which takes on average four years to complete, and you also must take and pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) exam. After that you must get a master's degree in nursing (MSN) in 18 months to 3 years or a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree in three to five years, with a specialization in Nurse-Midwifery. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624. The estimated cost for MSN programs is \$41,126, and the estimated cost for a DPN is \$93,870.

Skills:

- Patient care and assessment
- Diagnose and treat patients
- Physical exams
- Administer medications
- Monitor fetal heart rates
- Deliver babies
- Emergency management
- Electronic medical records
- Compassion
- Collaboration
- Teaching and counseling
- Problem solving
- Cultural competency

Interests: Interest in pregnancy and birth support, reproductive health, holistic wellness, health education, relationship building, clinical skills, public health, and community care



Nursing Assistants

Median Salary: \$42,467

Outlook: 4% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Certified Nursing Assistants provide vital support to both patients and nurses by transporting, bathing, and feeding hospital patients along with stocking medical supplies and recording patient information.

Education & Training Requirements: You must complete a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) training program. Nursing students who have not completed all their training to be a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) or Registered Nurse (RN) can apply to be a CNA by passing a competency test and demonstrating their experience. If you completed an LPN or RN outside of the USA, you could work as a CNA with additional documentation and passing a competency test. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a Nursing Assistant Certificate is \$1,320.

Skills:

- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Caregiving
- Housekeeping
- Nursing care
- Infection control
- Licensed Practice Nurse (LPN)
- Medical records
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)
- Vital signs
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Personal care
- Patient assistance
- Direct patient care

Salary Boosting Skill(s)

- Blood pressure

Interests: Interest in science, health and well-being, problem solving, enjoy promoting learning and personal development, teaching, enjoy working with people, like activities that follow set procedures, routines, and administrative work

Occupational Health & Safety Specialists

Median Salary: \$104,899

Outlook: 14% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Occupational Health & Safety Specialists ensure the health and safety of workers in many fields by ensuring workplaces meet health, environmental, and safety codes. They also collect, analyze, and create improvements to various work procedures and environments.

Education & Training Requirements: Occupational Health & Safety Specialists must complete a bachelor's degree in occupational health and safety or a related field. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Project management
- Safety training
- Risk management
- Regulatory compliance
- Risk analysis
- Driver's license
- Safety standards
- Safety culture
- Emergency response
- Construction
- Auditing
- Environmental health & safety
- Occupational health & safety
- Certified safety professional
- Occupational hygiene
- Safety audits
- Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH)
- Accident analysis
- Construction health & safety technician

Interests: Interest in environmental health and safety, workplace safety, health promotion, risk management, training and education, incident investigation, data analysis, and collaborating with community members

Occupational Health & Safety Technicians

Median Salary: \$70,762

Outlook: 14% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Occupational Health & Safety Technicians collect data on work environments so that Occupational Health & Safety Specialists can analyze it. They also help implement and evaluate programs designed to reduce chemical, physical, and biological risks to workers.

Education & Training Requirements: Occupational Health & Safety Technicians need a high school diploma or GED. While you can get professional certification, you can also receive on-the-job training.

Skills:

- Occupational hygiene
- Driver's license
- Project management
- Risk analysis
- Risk management
- Emergency response
- Safety standards
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Construction
- Safety auditing
- Safety training

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Environmental health & safety
- Occupational health & safety

Interests: Interest in data entry, data collection, environmental health, science, biology, and data analysis

Occupational Therapists

Median Salary: \$96,028

Outlook: 11% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Occupational Therapists evaluate and treat individuals with injuries, illnesses, or disabilities. Occupational Therapists help patients develop, recover, or improve skills needed for daily living and work. They create personalized treatment plans to support clients in achieving their goals and maintaining independence.

Education & Training Requirements: To become an Occupational Therapist you must complete a 4-year bachelor's degree and a 2 to 3-year Doctor of Occupational Therapy program. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624. The estimated cost of a Doctor of Occupational Therapy program is \$82,722, not including books and fees.

Skills:

- Orthotics
- Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Occupational therapy
- Treatment planning
- Rehabilitation
- Adaptive equipment
- National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) certification
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Pediatrics
- Patient treatment
- Discharge planning
- Home health care
- Driver's license
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Discharge summaries

Interests: Interest in Activities of Daily Living (ADLs), Rehabilitation, Mental Health, Pediatrics, Geriatrics, Education, working with people, health management, and problem solving

Occupational Therapy Aides

Median Salary: \$37,370

Outlook: 21% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Occupational Therapy Aides assist with treatment preparation by preparing materials and assembling equipment. They help greet and escort clients to treatment areas, take and record vital signs, and communicate patient updates to Therapists and assistants.

Education & Training Requirements: To be an Occupational Therapy Aide you need a high school diploma or GED and can gain on-the job training.

Skills:

- Rehabilitation
- Occupational therapy
- Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Patient assistance
- Physical therapy
- Patient treatment
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Treatment planning
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Pediatrics
- Nursing
- Patient transport
- Home health care

Interests: Interest in working with people, direct patient care, teaching, hands-on tasks, building relationships, preparing treatment areas, assisting with activities, maintaining equipment, and administrative tasks

Occupational Therapy Assistants

Median Salary: \$59,258

Outlook: 21% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Occupational Therapy Assistants work closely with Occupational Therapists to help clients develop, improve, and maintain essential everyday skills or recover from illness or injury

Education & Training Requirements: To be an Occupational Therapy Assistant you must either complete a 2-year associate degree program for Occupational Therapy Assistants or complete an accelerated associate degree program in about one year. The estimated cost to complete an Occupational Therapy Assistant program without financial aid and with in-state tuition is \$14,540 including book costs and fees.

Skills:

- Rehabilitation
- Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Patient treatment
- Treatment planning
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Billing
- Driver's license
- Home health care
- National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) Certified

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Occupational therapy

Interests: Interest in working with people, direct patient care, teaching, hands-on tasks, building relationships, maintaining equipment, administrative tasks, lifelong learning, and problem solving

Operations/Development Associates

Median Salary: \$65,729

Outlook: Data unavailable

Operations Associates help make sure that organizations' day to day management runs smoothly by supporting different teams. They do everything from coordinating activities, maintaining records, and improving processes.

Education & Training Requirements: To be an Operations Associate you must have a High School Diploma or GED and have administrative experience.

Skills:

- Human resources
- Education and training new employees
- Cross-department collaboration
- Customer service
- Managing budgets
- Database management

Interests: Interest in working with people across multiple teams, accounting and finance, maintaining databases, and educating staff on various procedures and policies

Ophthalmic Laboratory Technicians

Median Salary: \$42,797

Outlook: Data unavailable

Ophthalmic Laboratory Technicians, also known as optical laboratory technicians, are responsible for making prescription eyeglasses and contact lenses based on an eye doctor's specifications.

Education & Training Requirements: To become an Ophthalmic Laboratory Technician you must have a high school diploma or GED and you can either take a training program that can be completed in as little as 14 weeks or get a 2-year associate degree in an Ophthalmic Laboratory Technician program.

Skills:

- Ophthalmology
- Medical history documentation
- Certified Ophthalmic Technician
- Certified ophthalmic assistant
- Electronic medical records
- Patient flow
- Medical records
- Setting appointments
- Patient education and counseling
- Retail management
- Patient preparation
- Medical assistance
- Office procedures
- Surgery

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Corneal pachymetry
- Corneal topography
- Stereopsis
- Retina
- Optometry
- Medical prescription
- Visual fields tests
- Contact lenses

Interests: Interest in hands-on tasks, working with data, detail oriented, problem solving, using medical instruments, assisting in procedures, teaching, working with people, and science

Paramedics

Median Salary: \$68,838

Outlook: 6% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Paramedics provide advanced emergency care. They can give medicine, start IVs, and treat serious injuries before patients get to the hospital.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Paramedic, you must be a certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) first and then take a Paramedic program (EMT-P) program which can range from 1-1.5 years to complete. The estimated cost of a Paramedic program is \$5,616.

Skills:

- National Registered Paramedic (NRP)
- Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) certification
- Paramedic (EMT-P)
- Basic Life Support (CLS) certification
- Driver's license
- Electrocardiography
- Intravenous hydration
- Emergency response
- Trauma care
- Triage
- Pediatrics
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Patient transport
- Billing
- Emergency medicine

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Defibrillation
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Interests: Interest in health and science, working under pressure and in fast-paced environments, enjoy working and communicating with people, can remain calm in stressful situations, and enjoy being on the go

Patient Care Technicians

Median Salary: \$41,897

Outlook: 1.6% increase in available jobs from 2025 to 2029

Patient Care Technicians play an important role in supporting medical professionals by performing a wide range of specialized care tasks. They assist with different procedures, ensuring all necessary medical equipment and supplies are prepared and properly set up. In addition to collecting and documenting data for charts and laboratory records, they also help patients understand upcoming procedures by providing clear explanations and compassionate support.

Education & Training Requirements: There are a couple of ways you can become a Patient Care Technician (PCT). The first is to complete a Patient Care Technician certification program. Some programs will require you to be a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) or an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) first. If you're already a CNA or EMT, you just need to get a Patient Care Technician Certificate, and you may be able to apply for jobs posted as Patient Care Technicians at a CNA salary rate.

Skills:

- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Caregiving
- Housekeeping
- Nursing care
- Infection control
- Medical records
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- Activities Of Daily Living (ADLs)
- Vital signs
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Personal care
- Patient assistance
- Direct patient care

Interests: Interest in technical skills, helping others, communication, compassion, and patient interaction

Phlebotomists

Median Salary: \$46,189

Outlook: 8% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Phlebotomists draw blood from patients or donors for medical tests, research, or donation purposes. Phlebotomists are skilled in properly collecting blood samples, maintaining a sterile environment, and supporting patients throughout the process.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Phlebotomist you need a high school diploma or GED and to get a Phlebotomy Certificate that takes 6-13 weeks. The estimated cost of getting a Phlebotomy Certificate is \$2000.

Skills:

- Blood testing
- Fingertick
- Specimen preparation
- Specimen handling
- Phlebotomy
- Venipuncture
- Phlebotomy certification
- Specimen processing
- Specimen collection
- Laboratory testing
- Medical assistance
- Data entry
- Pediatrics
- Driver's license
- Geriatrics
- Medical terminology
- Billing
- Data recording
- Medical laboratory
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Plasmapheresis
- Capillary Blood Draw

Interests: Interest in infection control, ensuring correct patient identification and labeling, venipuncture, specimen collection, attention to detail, direct patient care, interacting with people, following procedures and regulations, problem solving, sterile techniques, and compassion

Physical Therapist Aides

Median Salary: \$27,398

Outlook: 19% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Physical Therapist Aides work under the supervision of licensed Physical Therapists to assist patients in recovering from injuries and managing pain. Physical Therapist Aides support the therapy team by setting up treatment areas, transporting patients, and performing administrative duties.

Education & Training Requirements: Physical Therapist Aides need a high school diploma or GED and can either receive on-the-job training or get a Physical Therapist Aide Certificate.

Skills:

- Aperture
- Linens
- Office supply management
- Office equipment
- Occupational therapy
- Personal trainer certification
- Instructing
- Setting appointments
- Direct patient care
- Orthopedics
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Patient preparation
- Patient treatment
- Functional electrical stimulation
- Physical therapy
- Rehabilitation
- Patient assistance
- Home therapy
- Medical ultrasonography
- Therapeutic modalities

Interests: Interest in working with people, direct patient care, teaching, hands-on tasks, building relationships, preparing treatment areas, assisting with activities, maintaining equipment, and administrative tasks

Physical Therapist Assistants

Median Salary: 65,371

Outlook: 19% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Physical Therapist Assistants work under the supervision of licensed Physical Therapists to assist patients in recovering from injuries and managing pain. Physical Therapist Assistants are directly involved in patient care, helping individuals regain movement and improve function through therapeutic exercises and treatments.

Education & Training Requirements: To be a Physical Therapist Assistant you must either complete a 2-year associate degree program in a Physical Therapist Assistant program or complete an accelerated associate degree program in about 1.5 years. The estimated cost to complete a Physical Therapist Assistant program with in-state tuition is \$14,476, including book costs and fees.

Skills:

- Massage
- Rehabilitation
- Treatment planning
- Physical Therapist Assistant License
- Patient treatment
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Patient education and counseling
- Home health care
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Valid driver's license

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Manual therapy
- Physical therapy
- Exercise therapy

Interests: Interest in physical rehabilitation, patient care, hands-on work, exercises, manual techniques, using assistance devices, teaching, observation and assessment, and problem solving

Physical Therapists

Median Salary: \$99,053

Outlook: 14% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Physical Therapists work with patients to improve mobility, reduce pain, and enhance overall physical function. They play a key role in rehabilitation, helping individuals recover from injuries, illnesses, or surgeries, as well as in preventive care for patients with chronic conditions.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Physical Therapist you must complete a 4-year bachelor's degree and then complete a 2 to 3-year Doctor of Physical Therapy program. Without financial aid and in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624. The estimated cost of a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree costs \$66,710, not including books and fees.

Skills:

- Orthotics
- Sports medicine
- Exercise therapy
- Discharge summaries
- Physical therapy evaluation
- Physical therapy
- Treatment planning
- Rehabilitation
- Orthopedics
- Patient evaluation

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Manual therapy
- Human musculoskeletal system

Interests: Interest in physical rehabilitation, patient care, hands-on work, exercises, manual techniques, using assistance devices, teaching, observation and assessment, and problem solving

Prevention Navigators

Median Salary: \$49,140

Outlook: Data unavailable

Prevention Navigators play a key role in helping clients overcome barriers to accessing essential HIV prevention services. They offer personalized case management and make referrals to support the health and well-being of individuals in priority populations, ensuring clients receive comprehensive, affirming care and resources.

Education & Training Requirements: Prevention Navigators typically need a high school diploma or GED and experience providing case management or health education with individuals at high risk of HIV/AIDs, and/or experience working with people with mental illnesses or substance use.

Skills:

- Health education
- Knowledge of HIV/AIDs
- Case management skills
- Knowledge of mental health and substance use
- Cultural humility
- Active listening
- Verbal and written communication skills

Interests: Interest in HIV prevention, case management, client advocacy, community outreach, resource navigation, public health, inclusive care, health education, and barrier reduction

Principal Investigators

Median Salary: \$146,969

Outlook: Data unavailable

A Principal Investigator leads and manages a research project or grant, overseeing everything from study design to data collection/analysis and reporting. They often lead a team of other researchers and make sure that ethical standards are being followed.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Principal Investigator you must have at least a bachelor's degree in public health or another relevant field and many years of research experience. Principal Investigators usually must complete a doctorate degree, which can take 4-7 years. Many programs will pay their graduate students to do their doctorate degree since they are required to teach and be teaching assistants to professors. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Research design and implementation
- Data analysis and interpretation
- Laboratory procedures
- Laboratory techniques
- Leadership
- Scientific writing
- Grants and fundraising
- Budgeting

Interests: Interest in research design, training and mentoring research staff and students, teaching, working with funders, writing grants, writing reports, following regulations and policies, publishing findings, and research resource allocation

Program Analysts

Median Salary: \$84,048

Outlook: Data unavailable

Program Analysts review an organization's programs to determine if they are effective and efficient and help provide recommendations on how to improve programs.

Education & Training Requirements: To be a Program Analyst you typically need a bachelor's degree in public health or another relevant field. To advance, many employers may require a master's or doctorate degree in business administration or a related field. Without financial aid and in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Data collection and analysis
- Communication
- Active listening
- Problem solving
- Interpersonal skills
- Time management
- Evaluation skills

Interests: Interest in data analysis, problem solving, program evaluation, communication, collaboration, strategic planning, and problem solving

Program Coordinators

Median Salary: \$52,596

Outlook: Data unavailable

Program Coordinators in health fields assist with planning, implementing, and evaluating various health programs. They can handle everything from training to program planning and implementation to resource management.

Education & Training Requirements: Most employers require a bachelor's degree in public health or a related field to be a Program Coordinator within the health field. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Human services
- Community health
- Health promotion
- Case management
- Driver's license

Interests: Interest in planning and implementing programs, interacting and building relationships with partners, writing, managing resources, evaluating programs, advocacy, and training and capacity building



Project Managers

Median Salary: \$95,067

Outlook: 7% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Project Managers help lead a team to make sure that a project is finished from start to finish. They create detailed project plans, budgets, and timelines for the project to be completed.

Education & Training Requirements: Most employers require that Project Managers have a bachelor's degree in business administration, management or another relevant field. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Time management
- Teamwork
- Interpersonal skills
- Critical thinking
- Risk management
- Negotiation
- Problem solving
- Conflict resolution

Interests: Interest in managing a team of people, creating timelines, writing budgets, drafting proposals, and mediating conflict

Psychiatric Technicians

Median Salary: \$47,325

Outlook: 13% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Psychiatric Technicians care for those who have mental or emotional conditions or developmental disabilities. Psychiatric Technicians monitor patients' conditions and provide therapeutic care, such as managing their medications.

Education & Training Requirements: Psychiatric Technicians must complete a certificate program or an associate degree. Psychiatric Technician programs can range from 1 semester to 2 years. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a Psychiatric Technician program is \$17,200.

Skills:

- Patient assistance
- Direct patient care
- Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Psychology
- Medical records
- Vital signs
- Behavioral health
- Mental health
- Treatment planning
- Psychiatry
- Driver's license

Interests: Interest in assisting, teaching, and advocating with patients about their mental health care, trauma-informed care, crisis intervention, learning about psychotropic medication, effective communication, and coping strategies

Psychologists, All Others

Median Salary: \$83,427

Outlook: 7% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Psychologists are mental health professionals who use psychological evaluations and talk therapy to help people learn to better cope with life and relationship issues and mental health conditions.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Psychologist, you need a master's degree in counseling, psychology, or a specific therapy specialization. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624, and the estimated cost for a master's degree in counseling is \$24,940.

Skills:

- Case management
- Driver's license
- Psychiatry
- Human services
- Billing
- Social work
- Psychology
- Mental health
- Substance use
- Treatment planning
- Behavioral health
- Crisis intervention
- Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)
- Mental health and conditions
- Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC)
- Substance dependence
- Community mental health services
- Behavioral science
- Motivational interviewing

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Clinical specializations for niche conditions

Interests: Interest in anti-racist and anti-oppressive therapy practices, human development, mental health and behavioral health, substance disorders, addressing systemic inequalities, client growth, and promoting psychological well-being

Public Health Policy Analysts

Median Salary: \$73,053

Outlook: Data unavailable

Public health analysts assess public health policies, pinpointing weaknesses and suggesting improvements. They typically work for government agencies, health care institutions, or nonprofits, aiming to identify issues and propose budget-conscious solutions. Additionally, they analyze the effects of existing policies on communities and predict the impact of new policies on these communities.

Education & Training Requirements: Most employers require a bachelor's degree in public health, public policy, or a related field to be a Public Health Policy Analyst. Some employers require a master's degree in public health, public policy, or a related field. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Health education
- Public health
- Health promotion
- Statistics
- Data analysis
- Community health
- Medical records
- Policy analysis

Interests: Interest in system change, anti-racist and anti-oppression policy analysis and implementation, data analysis, working with many different partners, community engagement, and managing budgets

Public Health Research Assistants

Median Salary: \$46,945

Outlook: Data unavailable

Public Health Research Assistants support research projects by collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data related to public health issues. They assist in study design, data management, statistical analysis, and report preparation. Additionally, they provide administrative support and contribute to grant-writing efforts while staying informed about developments in the field.

Education & Training Requirements: You need a bachelor's degree in public health or a related field to be a Public Health Research Assistant. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Research methodologies
- Quantitative research
- Research experiences
- Data entry
- Data management
- Data analysis
- Data visualization
- Project management
- Data collection
- Item response theory

Interests: Interest in problem solving, data analysis, data entry, social and structural determinants of health, study design, statistics, administrative tasks, and public health

Public Health Technicians

Median Salary: \$46,085

Outlook: Data unavailable

Public Health Technicians play a vital role in supporting community health initiatives and ensuring access to quality health care services. They may work for local, state, or federal agencies, as well as nonprofit organizations, and are often based in clinics, community health centers, or public health departments. They support community health by assisting with clinical tasks, inspections, and outreach. They may collect samples, update records, schedule appointments, and perform screenings. Depending on the setting, they might also inspect public places or help with health events to prevent illness and promote wellness.

Education & Training Requirements: Public Health Technicians must have a bachelor's degree in statistics, math, biology, or another relevant skills along with supervised practical and clinical training. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Laboratory skills
- Data collection and analysis skills
- Problem solving
- Written and verbal communication skills
- Data entry
- Computer and programming skills

Interests: Interest in community health, health education, environmental safety, outreach programs, public health, patient care, data collection, recordkeeping, and safety inspections

Radiation Therapists

Median Salary: \$91,575

Outlook: 3% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Radiation Therapists are part of the oncology teams that treat patients with cancer. Radiation Therapists operate machines, such as linear accelerators, to deliver concentrated radiation therapy to the region of a patient's tumor.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Radiation Therapist, you need an associate or bachelor's degree in radiation therapy or an associate or bachelor's degree in radiography followed by a 12-month certificate program in radiation therapy. Without financial aid and in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete the Radiation Therapist certificate program is \$11,465, excluding health requirements. The estimated cost of an associate degree at a public institution is \$8,760.

Skills:

- Billing
- Patient positioning
- Ionizing radiation
- Medical records
- Anatomy
- Physics
- Localization
- X-ray computed tomography
- Radiation therapy
- American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) Certified
- Treatment planning
- Patient treatment
- Radiation protection
- Radiology
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Medical prescription

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Oncology
- Radiation oncology
- Image-guided radiation therapy
- Tomotherapy

Interests: Interest in helping others and promoting learning, problem solving, hands-on work, following procedures, routines, and standards, and working with data and detail

Radiologic Technician Assistants

Median Salary: \$41,500

Outlook: 6% increase in available jobs from 2024 to 2034

Radiologic Technician Assistants, or Rad Tech Assistants, support radiologic technologists in medical imaging procedures. They help prepare patients for exams, position equipment, maintain cleanliness, and assist with administrative tasks.

Education & Training Requirements: A Radiologic Technician Assistant typically needs a high school diploma or GED, with many employers preferring candidates with prior health care experience, like working as a Medical Assistant. Essential qualifications often include Basic Life Support/CPR certification.

Skills:

- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Basic Life Support certification
- Patient Care & Support
- Patient positioning
- Sterilization
- Scheduling
- Medical records
- Safety protocols

Interests: Interest in problem solving, the ability to act proactively in a fast-paced environment, working with clinicians, passion for helping others.

Radiologic Technologists & Technicians

Median Salary: \$75,773

Outlook: 6% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Radiologic Technologists & Technicians specialize in computed tomography (CT) and x-ray imaging. Radiologic Technologists & Technicians, or Radiographers, also perform X-rays and other diagnostic imaging tests on patients. They also administer nonradioactive materials into the patient's bloodstream for diagnostic or research purposes. Radiologic Technologists can specialize in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to advance their earnings.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Radiologic Technologist or technician, you must complete a certificate or associate degree program in radiography. Certificate programs typically take 21-24 months. Employers prefer to hire Radiologic Technologists & Technicians with an American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) Certificate. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a radiography program is \$10,557.

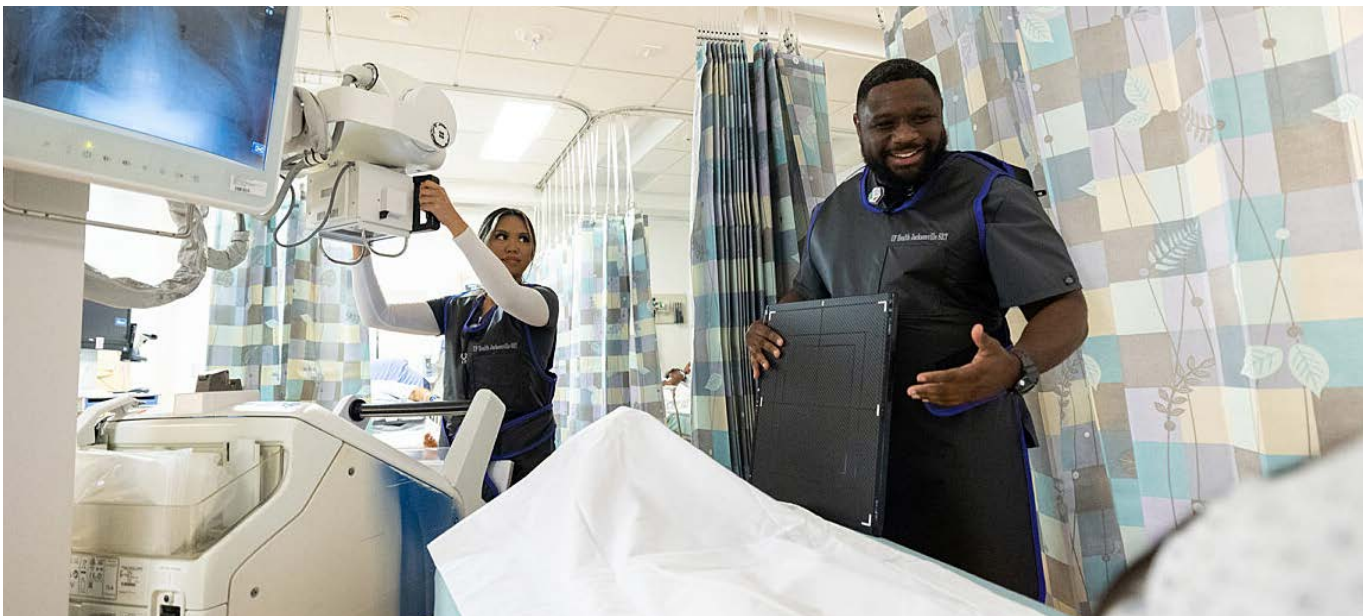
Skills:

- Anatomy
- Medical records
- Patient preparation
- Radiology
- American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) Certified
- Radiography
- Radiation protection
- Patient positioning
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Mammography
- ARRT Radiography (R) certification
- Interventional radiology
- Medical imaging
- Ionizing radiation
- Image quality
- Magnetic resonance imaging
- Radiology equipment

Salary Boosting Skills:

- X-Ray computed tomography
- Fluoroscopy
- Diagnostic radiology
- Radiology information systems
- Nuclear medicine
- Sterile techniques and procedures

Interests: Interest in patient care, medical imaging technology, problem solving, diagnostic imaging, patient education, and working with a team



Radiologists

Median Salary: \$174,070

Outlook: 4% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Radiologists use medical imaging techniques such as x-rays, MRI, nuclear medicine, and ultrasounds to diagnose and treat illnesses and injuries. They may also conduct minimally invasive tests and procedures.

Education & Training Requirements: Radiologists must have a doctorate in medicine or osteopathic medicine and complete residency in radiology. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624. The estimated cost to complete a Doctor of Medicine degree is \$287,667.

Skills:

- Medical ultrasonography
- Mammography
- Nuclear medicine
- Biopsies
- Fluoroscopy
- Medical license
- Magnetic resonance imaging
- Board certified / board eligible
- Diagnostic radiology
- Interventional radiology
- Board certified in radiology
- Neuroradiology
- Teleradiology
- Breast biopsies

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Radiology
- Breast imaging

Interests: Interest in working with patients daily, educating patients about test results and procedures, medical imaging technology, and clinical research

Registered Dietitians/ Nutritionists

Median Salary: \$77,004

Outlook: 7% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

A Registered Dietitian is a food and nutrition expert who helps people eat healthy and feel their best. They teach others how food affects the body, help plan meals, and support people with special health needs. Their job is all about helping others stay strong, healthy, and happy with smart food choices.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Registered Dietitian you must have a bachelor's degree in nutrition or dietetics from an Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)-accredited program. Then, complete a supervised practice experience called a dietetic internship to get hands-on training. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Nutritional assessments
- Food and nutrition knowledge
- Patient education
- Diet planning and analysis
- Clinical assessments
- Communication
- Compassion
- Active listening

Interests: Interest in cultural competency, health at every size approaches, following compliance protocols, building relationships, problem solving, and collaboration

Registered Nurses

Median Salary: \$59,387 for Associate Degree Registered Nurses, \$84,2780 for Bachelor's Degree Registered Nurses, and \$137,832 for Master's Degree Registered Nurses

Outlook: 6% increase in available jobs

Nurses are vital health care professionals who work to promote health, prevent disease, and help patients with illnesses in a range of health care settings. Nurses also have opportunities to be involved in research and education within and outside of clinical settings.

Education & Training Requirements: There are a few different ways to become a Registered Nurse. You can get an associate degree in nursing (ADN), a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), a post-baccalaureate BSN, or a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN). A master's degree in nursing (MSN) takes about 18 months to three years to complete. You must pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) to get your license to become an RN. Nurses with a BSN or MSN are more likely to be hired than nurses with an ADN at some hospitals. Without financial aid and in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete an ADN program is \$10,557, the estimated cost for a BSN program is \$57,624, and MSN programs can cost in the range of \$40,000 to \$60,000.

Skills:

- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) certification
- Nursing
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Nursing process
- Intensive care unit
- Nursing practices
- Home health care

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Nursing care experience
- Pediatrics
- Operating room (OR) experience

Interests: Interest in science, health and well-being, problem solving, promoting learning and personal development, teaching, working with people, activities that follow set procedures, routines, and standards, working with data and detail, and practicing anti-racist/anti-oppressive patient care

Rehabilitation Counselors

Median Salary: \$48,136

Outlook: 2% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Rehabilitation Counselors help people with physical, mental, developmental, or emotional disabilities in achieving greater independence and improving their quality of life. They work with clients to address and manage the personal, social, and psychological challenges associated with disabilities, particularly in relation to employment and independent living.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Rehabilitation Counselor, you must complete a bachelor's degree in human services or another related field and generally must have a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling or a related field. Some employers will hire you with a bachelor's degree if you have 5 years of satisfactory supervised experience and pass the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor



exam. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624. The estimated cost for a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling in Cook County is \$64,200.

Skills:

- Rehabilitation
- Psychology
- Disabilities
- Valid driver's license
- Human services
- Case management
- Vocational rehabilitation counseling
- Certified Rehabilitation Counselor
- Special education
- Hearing disorders
- Certified Risk Adjustment Coder (CRC)
- Mental health
- Treatment planning
- Medical records
- Visual impairment education
- Data analysis
- Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)
- Purchasing

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Rehabilitation counseling
- Social work

Interests: Interest in compassion, rehabilitation, helping people with disabilities, advocacy, individualized planning, mental health support, service coordination, and continued progress monitoring

Research Assistants

Median Salary: \$46,982

Outlook: Data unavailable

A Research Assistant helps researchers learn more about how to keep people healthy. They collect and study information, help plan studies, and keep everything organized. Their work helps find answers to big health questions and improve lives.

Education & Training Requirements: There are several pathways to becoming a Research Assistant. If you're a college student, consider applying for positions offered through your university. Many nonprofits and other organizations also hire Research Assistants, and some roles may not require a bachelor's degree. However, earning a degree in public health or a related field can open more opportunities. Additionally, completing an internship can really help you a job as a Research Assistant.

Skills:

- Data analysis
- Project management
- Research methods
- Data collection
- Interviewing
- Attention to detail
- Teamwork
- Critical thinking
- Laboratory techniques and safety protocols
- Interpreting results
- Microsoft Excel

Interests: Interest in data collection and analysis, literature reviews, communication, collaboration, project management, and preparing reports and presentations

Research Associates

Median Salary: \$69,726

Outlook: Data unavailable

A Research Associate helps lead and manage science or health studies. They collect and study information, look for patterns or answers, and help share what they learn to help people live healthier lives.

Education & Training Requirements: Research Associates must have a bachelor's degree in public health or another relevant field along with at least a year of research experience. To be able to move up into leadership roles or to be more competitive to employers, consider getting a master's or doctorate degree. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Data analysis and collection
- Research methods
- Scientific principles
- Statistical analysis
- Technical writing
- Programming languages (ed: Python, R)
- Laboratory techniques
- Communication
- Critical thinking

Interests: Interest in scientific questions, public health, research, problem solving, project management, and teamwork

Research Specialists

Median Salary: \$60,565

Outlook: Data unavailable

A Research Specialist studies problems, gathers facts, and helps find solutions to real-world questions. They work with a team to test ideas, look at data, and share what they discover to help improve lives and communities. Safety Coordinators typically focus on administration, organizing training, and facilitating safety programs between departments.

Education & Training Requirements: Research Specialists must have a bachelor's degree in public health or another relevant field along with at least three years of research

experience. To be able to move up into leadership roles or to be more competitive to employers, consider getting a master's or doctorate degree. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Project management
- Data analysis
- Independent research
- Research strategies
- Mentoring
- Research methodologies

Interests: Interest in scientific questions, public health, research, problem solving, project management, teamwork, teaching, mentoring, and working independently



Respiratory Therapists

Median Salary: \$80,716

Outlook: 13% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Respiratory Therapists (RTs) care for patients who have trouble breathing, like those with asthma, emphysema, or COVID-19.

Education & Training Requirements: You need an associate degree or more education to become a Respiratory Therapist. Training is offered at many colleges and universities and vocational-technical institutes, with most programs awarding an associate or bachelor's degree. Employers prefer to hire Therapists who have certification. The first level of certification is the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT), and the second is Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT). RTs must be licensed in all states except Alaska. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a Respiratory Therapist program in 2025 is \$10,863.

Skills:

- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Pediatrics
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) certification
- Critical care
- Health assessment
- Respiratory therapy
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Respiratory care
- Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) certification
- Medical records
- Life support
- Geriatrics
- Pulmonology
- Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) certification

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Medical ventilators
- Chest physiotherapy
- Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP/BiPAP)
- Ventilator management
- Bronchoscopy
- Intermittent Positive Pressure Breathing (IPPB)
- Advanced certifications in:
 - Adult Critical Care Specialist (RRT-ACCS)
 - Neonatal/Pediatric Specialist (NPS)
 - Sleep Disorders Specialist (SDS), or
 - Pulmonary Function Technologist (CPFT/RPFT)

Interests: Interest in health and well-being, problem solving, enjoying working with people, science, math, willingness to be patient with slow treatment processes, and passion for helping others



Respiratory Therapy Assistants

Median Salary: \$68,678

Outlook: 14% increase in available jobs from 2018 to 2028

A Respiratory Therapy Assistant, or RTA, supports licensed Respiratory Therapists by performing essential duties, including cleaning, assembling, and disinfecting equipment, managing inventory, and assisting with basic patient care. Working under supervision, they help with oxygen therapy, patient transport, and, in some settings, basic monitoring of respiratory care.

Education & Training Requirements: Respiratory Therapy Assistants (RTAs) typically require a high school diploma, current Basic Life Support/CPR certification, and enrollment in or completion of an accredited respiratory therapy program. Many Respiratory Therapy Assistants are students seeking hands-on experience before becoming a licensed Respiratory Therapist.

Skills

- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) certification
- Respiratory therapy
- Respiratory care
- Diagnostic assessments
- Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) certification
- Medical records
- Life support
- Geriatrics
- Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) certification

Interests: Interest in helping people with breathing difficulties, working in a fast-paced environment, managing and maintaining equipment, and educating patients.

Safety Coordinators

Median Salary: \$63,631

Outlook: Data unavailable

Safety Coordinators help make sure workplaces are safe for everyone. They teach people how to avoid getting hurt, check for dangers, and make sure safety rules are being followed. Their job is to keep everyone protected and healthy at work.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Safety Coordinator you must complete a bachelor's degree in occupational health or another related field. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Risk assessment
- Accident investigation
- Safety audits
- Ensuring compliance with safety regulations
- Preventative measures

Interests: Interest in safe work environments, advocating and enforcing health and safety regulations, and reducing workplace accidents

Safety Officers

Median Salary: \$64,072

Outlook: 14% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

A Safety Officer helps keep people safe at work by making sure everyone follows safety rules. They check for dangers, teach others how to stay safe, and help prevent accidents. Their job is to protect others every day by enforcing safety regulations and helping to stop unsafe work.

Education & Training Requirements: To be a Safety Officer you must have a bachelor's degree in occupational health or a related field and 1-3 years of experience. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Risk assessment
- Incident investigation
- Regulation knowledge
- Data analysis
- Project management

Interests: Interest in identifying hazards, developing safety solutions, safety compliance, creating a culture of safety, analyzing information, training employees, and maintaining records

Sex Therapists

Median Salary: \$61,963

Outlook: Data unavailable

A Sex Therapist is a licensed health care professional who specializes in helping individuals and couples navigate emotional, psychological, or relational challenges related to sexuality and intimacy. These practitioners may be social workers, psychologists, counselors, or medical doctors, but all have advanced training in sexual health and evidence-based approaches to addressing sexual concerns.

Education & Training Requirements: Sex Therapists must complete a four year bachelor's degree and then a master's degree in counseling with a specialization in sex therapy. Without financial aid and in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624, and the estimated cost for a master's degree in counseling ranges from \$27,000 to \$62,000.

Skills:

- Active listening
- Sexual education
- Boundaries
- Interpersonal skills
- Mindfulness practices
- Knowledge of sexual pleasure and anatomy
- Addressing sexual anxieties
- Compassion
- Individual and group therapy

Interests: Interest in intimacy and sexuality, mental health, empathy, communication, education, advocacy, relationship dynamics, and holistic wellness

Social & Community Service Managers

Median Salary: \$75,197

Outlook: 8% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Social & Community Service Managers oversee programs and organizations that support public well-being. This involves supervising and coordinating the delivery of a variety of social services within a community.

Education & Training Requirements: Social & Community Service Managers need a bachelor's degree in social work, public health, or a related field. Many Social & Community Service Managers have 1–5 years of experience as social service workers before becoming a Social & Community Service Manager. Sometimes, employers prefer people with a master's degree in similar fields. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Human services
- Case management
- Project management
- Psychology
- Customer relationship management
- Community outreach
- Mental health
- Auditing
- Discharge planning
- Fundraising

Interests: Interest in collaborating and managing multiple teams, risk management, community outreach, anti-racism and anti-oppression practices, advocacy, working with and alongside communities, and problem solving

Social Services Coordinators

Median Salary: \$64,923

Outlook: Data unavailable

Social Services Coordinators help individuals and families navigate various social systems, like food, housing, and employment services, to get the resources that they need.

Education & Training Requirements: Most employers require Social Services Coordinators to have a bachelor's degree in social work, psychology, or another relevant field. However, some employers may prioritize relevant years of experience in place of formal education, depending on the position.

Skills:

- Patient care
- Bilingual (English/Spanish)
- Medical records
- Knowledgeable about community resources and social service programs
- Microsoft office
- Case management
- Client advocacy
- Time management
- Problem solving
- Compassion

Interests: Interest in working with people, advocacy, navigating systems, needs assessments, service planning, relationship building, program evaluation, administrative tasks, and community outreach

Somatic Therapists

Median Salary: \$64,586

Outlook: Data unavailable

A Somatic Therapist helps clients process emotional and psychological challenges by focusing on the connection between the mind and body. They use techniques such as breathwork, mindful movement, therapeutic touch, and body awareness techniques to release stored tension and trauma. This holistic approach is especially effective in treating conditions such as anxiety, PTSD, chronic stress, and other physical or emotional conditions.

Education & Training Requirements: There are a couple different ways to become a Somatic Therapist. Some Somatic Therapists get their bachelor's degree and then complete their master's degree in counseling or psychology. If you follow this route, you will need to complete supervised clinical hours and the state licensing exam. Other Somatic Therapists complete certificate programs to become Somatic Therapists. (Check out Adi's story for more information). The cost of certificates in somatic therapy can range from under \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Skills:

- Compassion
- Verbal and written communication
- Teaching clients how to develop somatic awareness
- Teaching clients grounding in the present
- Using descriptive language
- Teaching co-regulation and self-regulation
- Trauma-informed care
- Teaching clients how to use pendulation and titration
- Mindfulness exercises
- Historical/ancestral knowledge of somatic practices

Interests: Interest in somatic practices, trauma work, mindfulness, holistic wellness, movement therapy, and mind-body connection

Speech-Language Pathologists

Median Salary: \$95,410

Outlook: 19% increase in available jobs from 2022-2032

Speech-Language Pathologists diagnose, treat, and prevent disorders related to speech, language, social communication, cognitive-communication, and swallowing in patients of all ages. They create individualized treatment plans to improve communication skills, address voice disorders, support feeding, and help individuals overcome difficulties caused by stroke, brain injury, or developmental delays.

Education & Training Requirements: Speech-Language Pathologists need a master's or doctoral degree from an approved program, pass the Praxis exam, and complete a 9-month (36-week) supervised clinical fellowship. You will need to get recertified every two years. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624, and the estimated cost for a master's degree is \$24,140.

Skills:

- Assessment and diagnosis
- Treatment planning
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication devices and techniques
- Documentation
- Electronic health records
- Evidence-based practice
- Social communication
- Language disorders
- Speech disorders

Interests: working with specific populations (pediatrics to geriatrics), treating speech/language/cognitive issues, improving quality of life, and conducting research on new treatment techniques

Speech-Language Pathologist Assistants

Median Salary: \$65,804

Outlook: 21% increase in available jobs from 2022-2032

Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (SLPAs) are support professionals who work under the guidance of licensed Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) to provide therapy, screenings, and treatment, primarily in schools, clinics, and hospitals. They follow established treatment plans to help patients of all ages with communication, speech, language, and hearing disorders.

Education & Training Requirements: Speech-Language Pathology Assistants need an associate degree from an accredited SLPA program or a bachelor's degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD). Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost of an associate degree at an accredited public institution is \$11,900.

Skills:

- Augmentative and Alternative Communication devices and techniques
- Documentation
- Electronic health records
- Evidence-based practice
- Clinical implementation
- Communication skills

Interests: human behavior, patient care, helping, teaching, and advising others to improve communication skills

Sterile Processing Technicians

Median Salary: \$58,955

Outlook: 6% increase in available jobs from 2021-2031

Sterile Processing Technicians are responsible for delivering, setting up, and educating customers on the proper use of home medical equipment. They also carefully clean, sterilize, and prepare medical tools for surgeries and other procedures. They provide setup at various locations, including patients' homes, long-term care facilities, hospitals, or clinics, ensuring equipment is safe, functional, and meets patient needs.

Education & Training Requirements: Sterile Processing Technicians need a high school degree or GED and must complete a one-semester Sterile Processing Technician program. The estimated cost to become a Sterile Processing Technician is \$2,333 not including books or fees.

Skills:

- Steam sterilization
- Biomonitoring
- Sterilization
- Surgical instruments
- Certified Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution (CBSPD) certification
- Nursing
- Health care Sterile Processing Association (HSPA)
- Surgery
- Operating room (OR)
- Decontamination
- Disinfecting
- Infection control
- Endoscopy
- Certified Registered Central Service Technician (CRCST)
- Workflow management
- Surgical procedures
- Inventory management
- Asepsis
- Biology
- Medical terminology
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Sterile processing

Interests: Interest in maintaining safe and sanitary environments, technical skills, problem solving, following strict protocols and infection control guidelines, organization and inventory management, adaptability, and communication

Substance Use, Behavioral, & Mental Health Counselors

Median Salary: \$60,759

Outlook: 19% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Substance Use, Behavioral, & Mental Health Counselors assist and advise individuals and groups on issues related to mental health, substance abuse, and addiction.

Education & Training Requirements: To become a Substance Use, Behavioral, & Mental Health Counselor, you need a master's degree in counseling, psychology, or a specific therapy specialization. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624 and the estimated cost for a master's degree in counseling is \$24,940.

Skills:

- Case management
- Driver's license
- Psychiatry
- Human services
- Billing
- Social work
- Psychology
- Mental health
- Substance use
- Treatment planning
- Behavioral health
- Crisis intervention
- Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)
- Mental health and conditions
- Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC)
- Substance dependence
- Community mental health services
- Behavioral science
- Motivational interviewing

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Substance dependence

Interests: Interest in anti-racist and anti-oppressive therapy practices, human development, mental health and behavioral health, substance disorders, addressing systemic inequalities, client growth, and promoting psychological well-being

Surgical Assistants

Median Salary: \$102,345

Outlook: 6% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Surgical Assistants aid surgeons with surgical tasks, including placing clamps, closing surgical sites, and making incisions.

Education & Training Requirements: Surgical Assistants usually need a certificate or an associate degree. Many employers also look for candidates with a Certified Surgical First Assistant designation. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a Surgical Assistant program is \$10,557.

Skills:

- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Oral and maxillofacial surgery
- Surgical services
- Sterilization
- Perioperative care
- Asepsis
- Anesthesia
- Infection control
- Wound dressing
- Patient positioning
- Surgical procedures
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Certified Surgical First Assistant (CSFA)
- Certified Surgical Assistant
- Certified Safety Auditor

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Certified Surgical First Assistant (CSFA)
- Certified Surgical Assistant
- Certified Safety Auditor

Interests: Interest in surgery, science, ability to handle stress well, enjoy assisting colleagues and working in a team environment, teaching, advising, and enjoyment of detailed-oriented work

Surgical Technicians

Median Salary: \$63,711

Outlook: 6% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Surgical Technicians prepare and arrange surgical instruments and equipment and help pass different instruments to the surgeons and nurses. They may also help with transporting patients to and from the operating room.

Education & Training Requirements: Surgical Technicians are often entry-level roles. While you don't need a certification to be a Surgical Technician in Illinois, many employers strongly prefer candidates who are certified. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a Surgical Technician program is \$10,557.

Skills:

- Nursing care
- Basic cardiac life support
- Operating room preparation
- Surgical procedures
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Surgical instruments

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Certified Surgical Technologist (CST)
- Surgical technology
- Surgical services

Interests: Interest in organizing and maintaining a sterile environment in operating rooms, patient care, working behind the scenes, working with a surgical team, surgical procedures, problem solving, and patient advocacy

Surgical Technologists

Median Salary: \$68,797

Outlook: 6% increase in available jobs from 2023 to 2033

Surgical Technologists help doctors and nurses during surgical procedures by setting up operating rooms, maintaining a sterile surgical field and instruments, helping with patient care, and passing surgeons' surgical instruments.

Education & Training Requirements: Surgical Technologists must complete a certificate program or an associate degree. Surgical Technologist programs can range from several months to two years. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a Surgical Technologist program is \$10,557.

Skills:

- Nursing care
- Basic cardiac life support
- Operating room preparation
- Certified Surgical Technologist (CST)
- Surgical procedures
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Asepsis
- Surgical instruments

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Surgical technology
- Surgical services

Interests: Interest in organizing and maintaining a sterile environment in operating rooms, patient care, working behind the scenes, working with a surgical team, surgical procedures, problem solving, and patient advocacy

Therapists

Median Salary: \$54,508

Outlook: Data unavailable

Therapists are mental health professionals who help individuals or groups address various mental health problems. An essential part of their role is to assess and diagnose clients by gathering details about their mental health conditions, symptoms, stress factors, and personal background. Therapists may conduct tests, evaluate clients' behavior, and identify patterns indicating specific mental health disorders. After a diagnosis is established, Therapists can create personalized plans to help treat clients.

Education & Training Requirements: Therapists must have a master's degree in counseling, psychology, or a specific therapy specialization. Without financial aid and in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624, and the estimated cost for a master's degree in counseling ranges from \$27,000 to \$62,000.

Skills:

- Case management
- Driver's license
- Psychiatry
- Human services
- Billing
- Social work
- Psychology
- Mental health
- Substance use
- Treatment planning
- Behavioral health
- Crisis intervention
- Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)
- Mental health and conditions
- Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC)
- Substance dependence
- Community mental health services
- Behavioral science
- Motivational interviewing

Salary Boosting Skills:

- Mental health assessments

Interests: Interest in anti-racist and anti-oppressive therapy practices, human development, mental health and behavioral health, addressing systemic inequalities, client growth, and promoting psychological well-being



Urban Farmer Growers in Training/Apprentices

Median Salary: \$31,200

Outlook: Data unavailable

Urban Farmers Growers-in-training/ Apprentices help grow fresh fruits and vegetables in city spaces like gardens, urban farms, and greenhouses. They learn how to plant, take care of crops, and work as a team to bring healthy food to their communities. It's a great way to learn about nature, stay active, and make a difference where you live.

Education & Training Requirements: You can apply for apprenticeship and training programs and learn on the job. Completing an urban agriculture apprenticeship program will significantly enhance your chances of gaining employment. These programs can range from 9 months to 3 years depending on the type of program and often pay you while you train.

Skills:

- Horticulture
- Soil management
- Pest and disease management
- Water conservation
- Composting

Interests: Interest in nature, working with plants, hands-on work, working outside, growing food, food systems, agriculture, addressing food insecurity, local food systems, community building, and education and outreach

Urban Farmers/Growers

Median Salary: \$39,744

Outlook: Data unavailable

Urban Farmers and Growers grow fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs in city spaces like rooftops, gardens, or greenhouses. They help bring healthy food to neighborhoods, care for plants every day, and teach others how to grow food too. It's a fun and important job that helps people and the planet.

Education & Training Requirements: To be an Urban Farmer/ Grower you must have prior experience in urban agriculture and farming.

Skills:

- Horticulture
- Soil management
- Pest and disease management
- Water conservation
- Composting
- Teaching
- Mentorship
- Grant management

Interests: Interest in nature, working with plants, hands-on work, working outside, growing food, food systems, agriculture, addressing food insecurity, local food systems, community building, and education and outreach

Volunteer Coordinators

Median Salary: \$47,936

Outlook: Data unavailable

A Volunteer Coordinator is responsible for managing and supporting all volunteer activities within an organization. Their duties also include recruiting, interviewing, and onboarding volunteers, matching individuals to roles that align with their skills and interests and maintaining accurate records.

Education & Training Requirements: Most employers require a bachelor's degree in nonprofit management, human resources, or a related field to be a Volunteer Coordinator. Without financial aid and with in-state tuition, the estimated cost to complete a bachelor's degree at a public institution is \$57,624.

Skills:

- Program evaluation and assessment
- Recruitment skills
- Problem solving
- Interpersonal skills
- Written and verbal communication
- Training and educating new volunteers
- Team-building skills
- Scheduling skills
- Managing a database

Interests: Interest in leadership, team building, recruitment, volunteering, event planning, program coordination, record keeping, and problem solving

Wastewater Lab Assistants

Median Salary: \$54,099

Outlook: Data unavailable

A Wastewater Lab Assistant helps test water from homes and businesses to make sure it's safe to go back into the environment. They work in labs, checking for germs and chemicals, and help protect our water and health.

Education & Training Requirements: To be a Wastewater Lab Assistant you must have a High School Diploma or GED and can get on the job training.

Skills:

- Water science and testing techniques
- Safety practices
- Laboratory procedures and techniques
- Data collection and analysis

Interests: Interest in water science, research, data collection, laboratory techniques and procedures, public health and safety, following procedures and regulations, and problem solving

Wastewater Lab Technicians

Median Salary: \$52,516

Outlook: Data unavailable

A Wastewater Lab Technician tests water from sewers and treatment plants to make sure it's clean and safe before going back into nature. They help protect the environment and keep people healthy by checking for harmful germs and chemicals.

Education & Training Requirements: To be a Wastewater Lab Technician, you must have a high school diploma or GED and 2+ years of laboratory experience.

Skills:

- Water science and testing techniques
- Safety practices
- Laboratory procedures and techniques
- Data collection and analysis
- Regulatory knowledge
- Sampling and monitoring
- Quality assurance

Interests: Interest in water science, research, data collection, laboratory techniques and procedures, public health and safety, following procedures and regulations, and problem solving

Youth Farm Instructors

Median Salary: \$55,831

Outlook: Data unavailable

A Youth Instructor on a farm creates fun and educational activities for kids and teens. They teach about growing food, caring for animals, and the environment. It's a great job for someone who loves nature, helping young people, and making learning exciting.

Education & Training Requirements: To be a Youth Instructor you should have prior administrative experience, knowledge of urban agriculture and/or gardening, and experience working with youth and running youth programs.

Skills:

- Youth engagement
- Program implementation
- Leadership and mentorship
- Cultural competency

Interests: Interest in agriculture, teamwork, record keeping, scheduling, office support, communication, implementing programs, community engagement, working with youth, compassion, cultural competency, and curriculum development

Youth Farm Program Coordinators

Median Salary: \$55,831

Outlook: Data unavailable

A Youth Program Coordinator on a farm organizes fun and educational activities for kids and teens.

Education & Training Requirements: To be a Youth Program Coordinator you should have some prior administrative experience, some knowledge of urban agriculture and/or gardening, and ideally some experience working with youth.

Skills:

- Youth engagement
- Program implementation
- Leadership and mentorship
- Cultural competency

Interests: Interest in agriculture, teamwork, record keeping, scheduling, office support, communication, implementing programs, community engagement, working with youth, compassion, and cultural competency



Health Career Pathway Guide and Worker Profiles



About the Pathways

There are so many different paths you can take to get to where you want to go in your career.

The following section gives some examples of how you can move from one position to another, and provides details about the educational and work requirements you will need for each step. Some of these examples have less clear pathways, and instead share information about the different types of jobs you can consider moving between. Note that not all of the jobs in the Career Directory are included in one of these pathways, but that doesn't mean you can't include those roles in your career journey.

Each example also features a profile of a real Chicagoan sharing details about their career journey and advice for job seekers.

Remember, these pathways are just examples of how you could navigate your career journey. You can move across the different pathways, and explore jobs that aren't featured. Use this section to inspire your plans, but don't be afraid to chart your own path.

Click a title in the directory on the right to jump directly to that career pathway or overview section. →

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**These careers follow a less traditional pathway.*

Community Health Worker Pathway



About the Community Health Worker Pathway

This pathway features community-based roles that support individuals and families by improving access to health care, providing education, and addressing social determinants of health through trusted community relationships.

Jobs featured in this career pathway include:

- Advocate
- Case Manager
- Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Certified Recovery Support Specialist
- Community Health Adjunct Professor
- Community Health Worker II
- Community Health Worker III
- Community Health Worker Supervisor
- Community Health Worker Trainer
- Community Researcher
- Dietary Aide
- Dietetic Technician
- Doula
- Eligibility Specialist
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Health Education Specialist
- Interpreter
- Medical Assistant
- Medical & Health Services Manager
- Medical Secretary & Administrative Assistant
- Paramedic
- Phlebotomist
- Psychiatric Technician
- Research Assistant
- Social & Community Service Manager
- Social Service Coordinator
- Substance Use, Behavioral & Mental Health Counselor
- Trainer

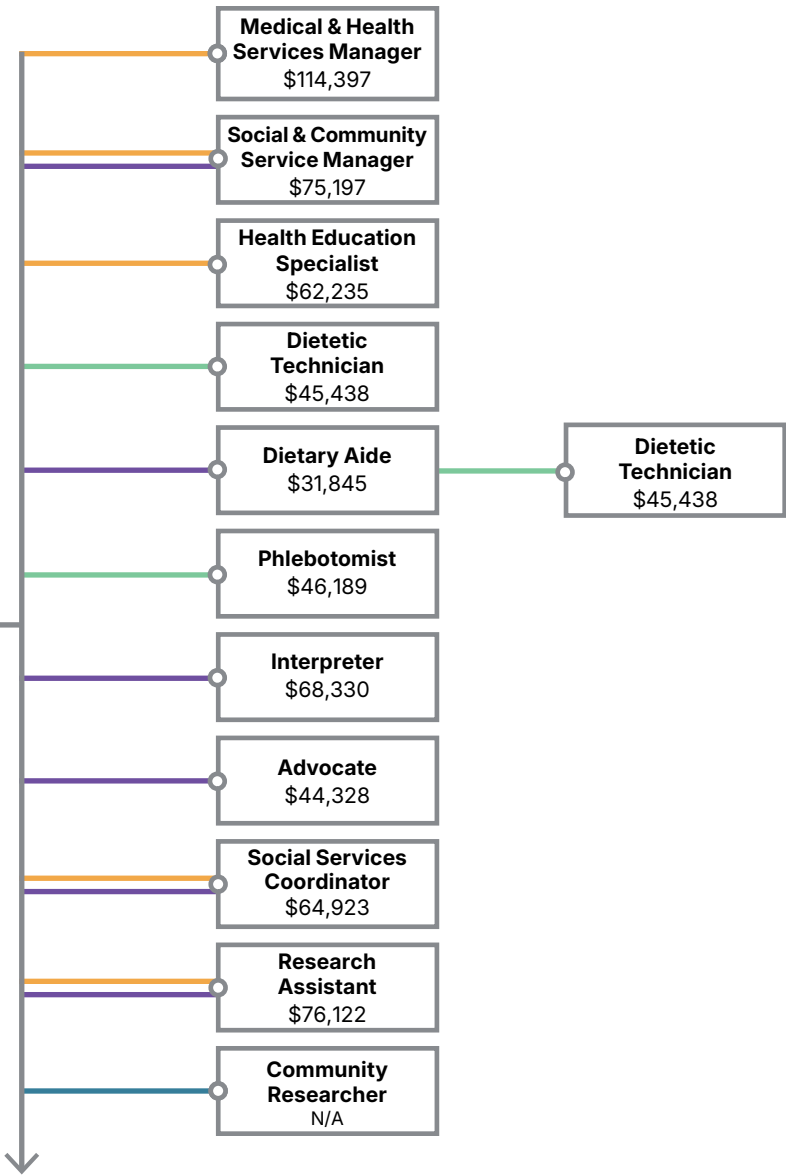


Community Health Worker Pathway

These are examples of different ways to move between or into new careers within this field. We know everyone’s career journey is unique, so think of these examples as a way to inspire your pathway, not the only way to do it. You can also move between the different pathways, start further along the pathway, or explore roles not mentioned at all in the pathway. Always check employer job descriptions to make sure that you have the right skills, education, and experience for that particular role.



Start Here



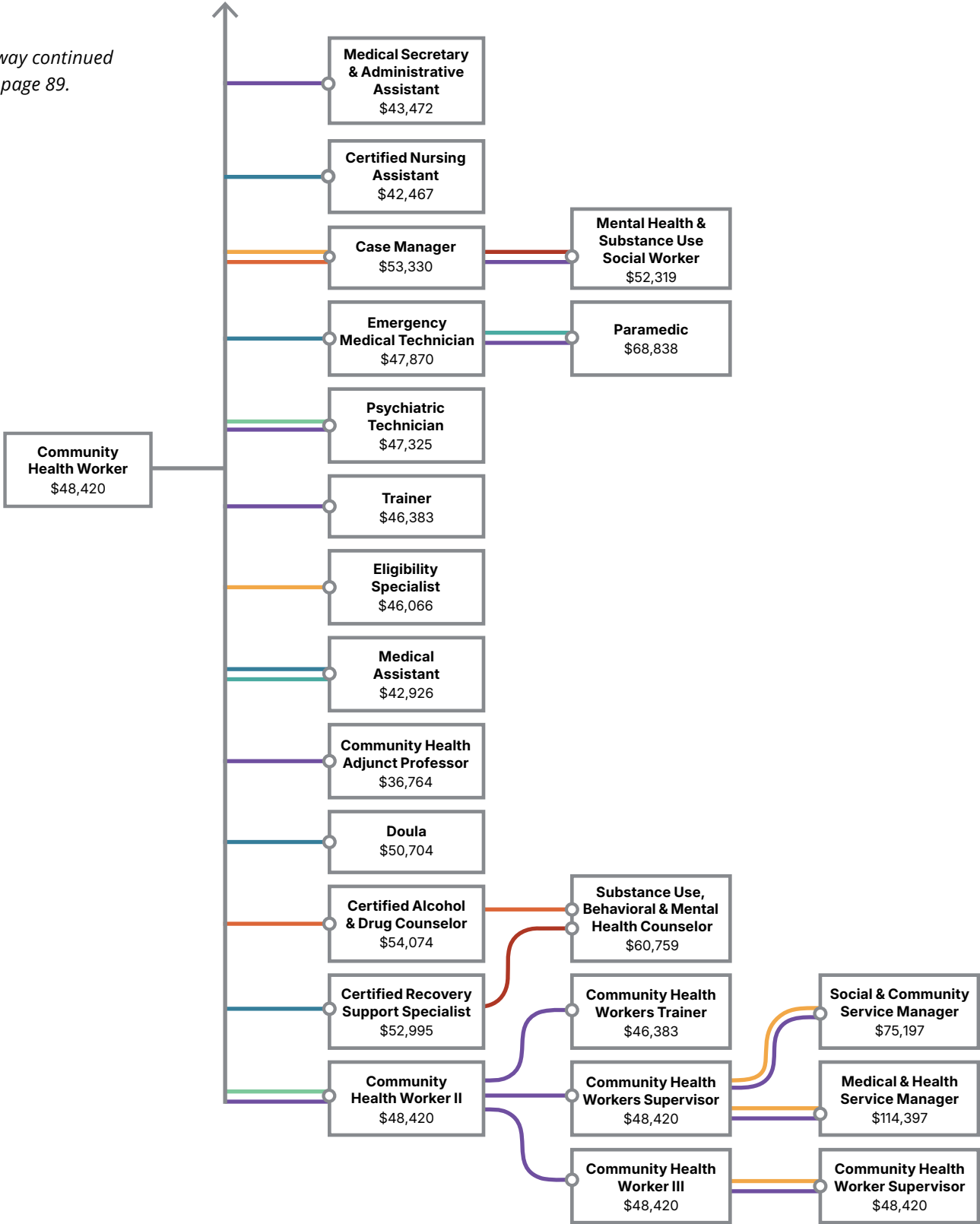
Community Health Worker pathway continues on page 90.

Key

The colors in the chart show the different years of education or training needed to move from one role to the next. There are often several ways to advance, and some paths have more than one line color to represent multiple education and training options.

- Education Requirement of less than 6 months
- Education Requirement of 6 months to 1 year
- Education Requirement of 1–2 years
- Education Requirement of 2–4 years
- Education Requirement of 4–6 years
- Education Requirement of 6 years or more
- On-the-job experience
- Bridge Programs

Pathway continued from page 89.



community health worker



"My ultimate goal is always to make an impact and leave an imprint on someone, to inspire as well as motivate. So, I continue to do public speaking, because I feel like I have a voice and it shall be heard."

me'sha

Me'sha's career path

I got my **bachelor's degree in Community Health** and there was a lot of pressure for me to go for epidemiology, but I didn't want to do it. I kept looking at data and I became passionate about helping people prevent chronic illness. I found out that most people don't do the annual routine screenings or checkups. So, I was like, that's it! I like health promotion.

At a certain point in my life, I felt stuck at the job I was at. I knew I needed to do better. My cousin mentioned that she had gotten their master's degree. She told me about the process, and I realized I could get a master's degree too. So, I'm in the middle of a **Master's in Public Health** program, but once I finish, I can use my degree to be accessible to the community and help people through the public health crisis we're in right now.

I am currently a **nutrition educator** and I teach nutrition in Chicago Public Schools. I spend my days teaching students about how to make healthy decisions and have a healthy lifestyle.



Funding: Grants and Scholarships

advice

"One of the challenging parts can be when a person doesn't want to receive the information or they have a stigma. They'll say things like 'Well, I've eaten like this all my life. I'm not changing. I don't want to do it.' When this happens, I have to shift my train of thought and take a different approach. My approach is different for each population."

→ To learn more about Me'sha's career journey, visit www.hmprg.org/your-career-in-health.

community health worker



"I think a big part of community health work is acknowledging systemic racism and trying to combat it, trying to address it. It's about trying to make sure that everyone has access to specifically what they need to be healthy."

maureen

Maureen's career path

Growing up, I was always drawn to health, history, and social justice, but I wasn't sure how to turn that into a career. I was struggling financially, so I looked for healthcare jobs that didn't require a degree and became a **pharmacy technician**. After several years, I felt like I was working hard, but not really helping people.

I applied to a **community health worker** apprenticeship that didn't require any experience. It was an **Earn and Learn model**, meaning the company covered the cost of certifications and classes, which were built into the eight hour workday. That was a game changer for me, especially as a parent.



Certification:
CHW Certification



Program Spotlight:
University Without Walls

My mentor encouraged me to go back to school and introduced me to the **University Without Walls Program**, where I could earn credit for my life and work experience. That allowed me to finish my bachelor's in just a year, and from there, I went straight into a master's program to open doors to leadership roles and better pay.

advice

"What really helped me while pursuing this career was having a supportive mentor. A mentor who has achieved a certain level of success in their professional or academic life, they have access to people and resources that someone who's just a brand new community health worker doesn't have access to—I certainly didn't have access."

→ To learn more about Maureen's career journey, visit www.hmprg.org/your-career-in-health.

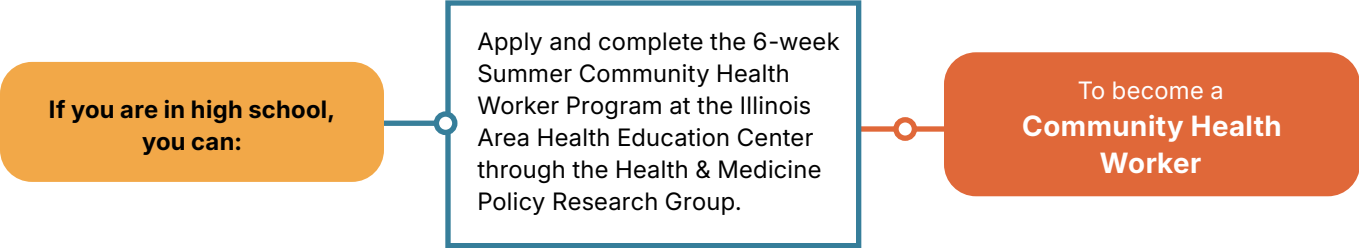
Dive into a Career as a Community Health Worker!

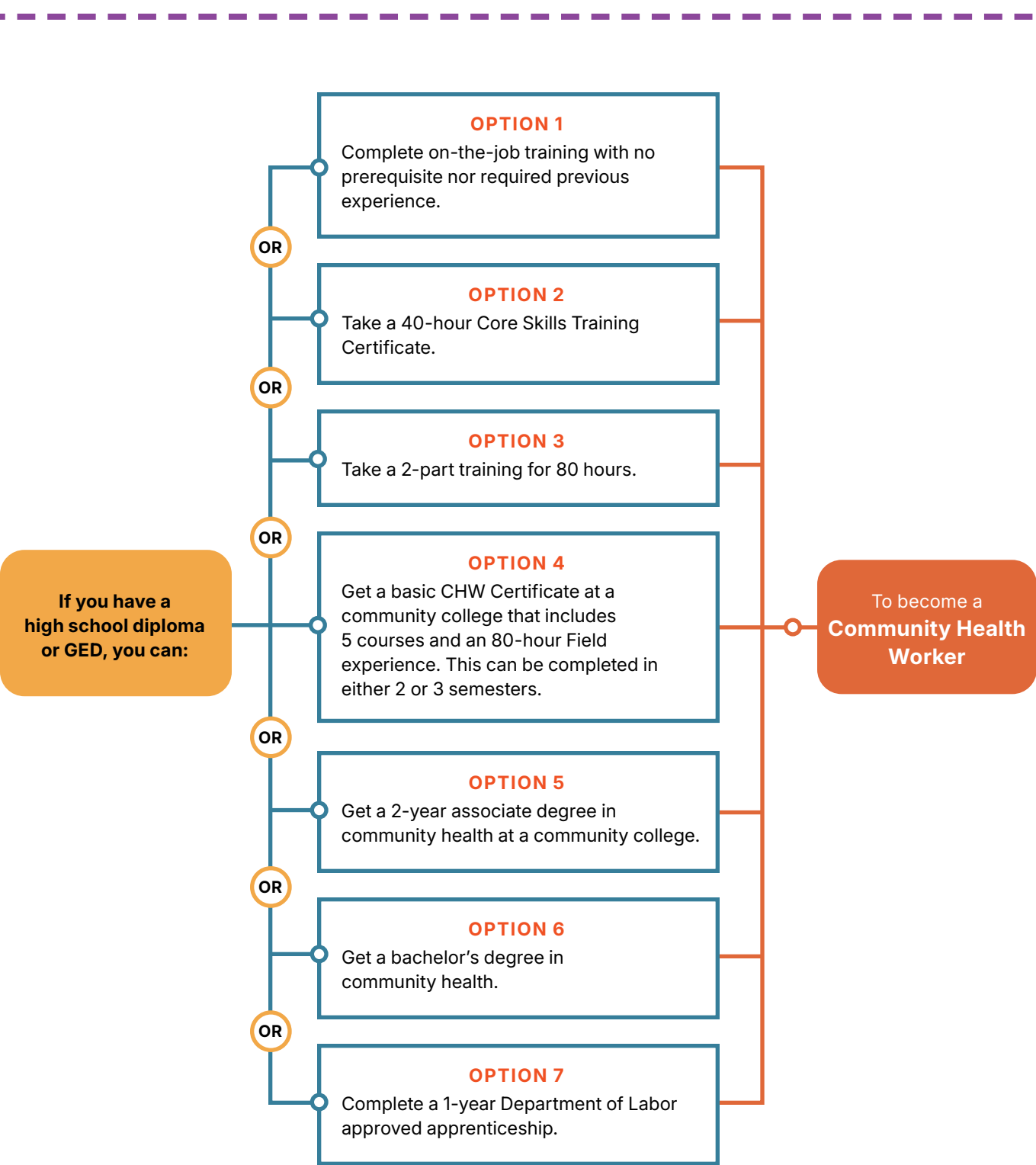
Community Health Workers play an important role in keeping people healthy. They help others understand health information, get medical care, and stay safe. They serve as an important first point of contact for patients in the public health field and are its front-line workforce. Community Health Workers are often from the communities that they are working in, which means they understand the people, culture, and problems in their community better than anyone else.

Because they already know and care about the people they help, Community Health Workers can build strong trust. They know what their neighbors need most and can speak in ways that make sense to the community. This helps people feel seen, heard, and cared for.

Community Health Workers don't just work in hospitals or clinics—they go to schools, churches, homes, and community centers. They connect people to resources like food, housing, mental health care, and more. They are leaders, helpers, and trusted voices who improve the health of and bring hope to the people around them.

Let's explore the **Community Health Worker pathway** and see if it's the career for you!





Learn more about the Community Health Worker pathway. →

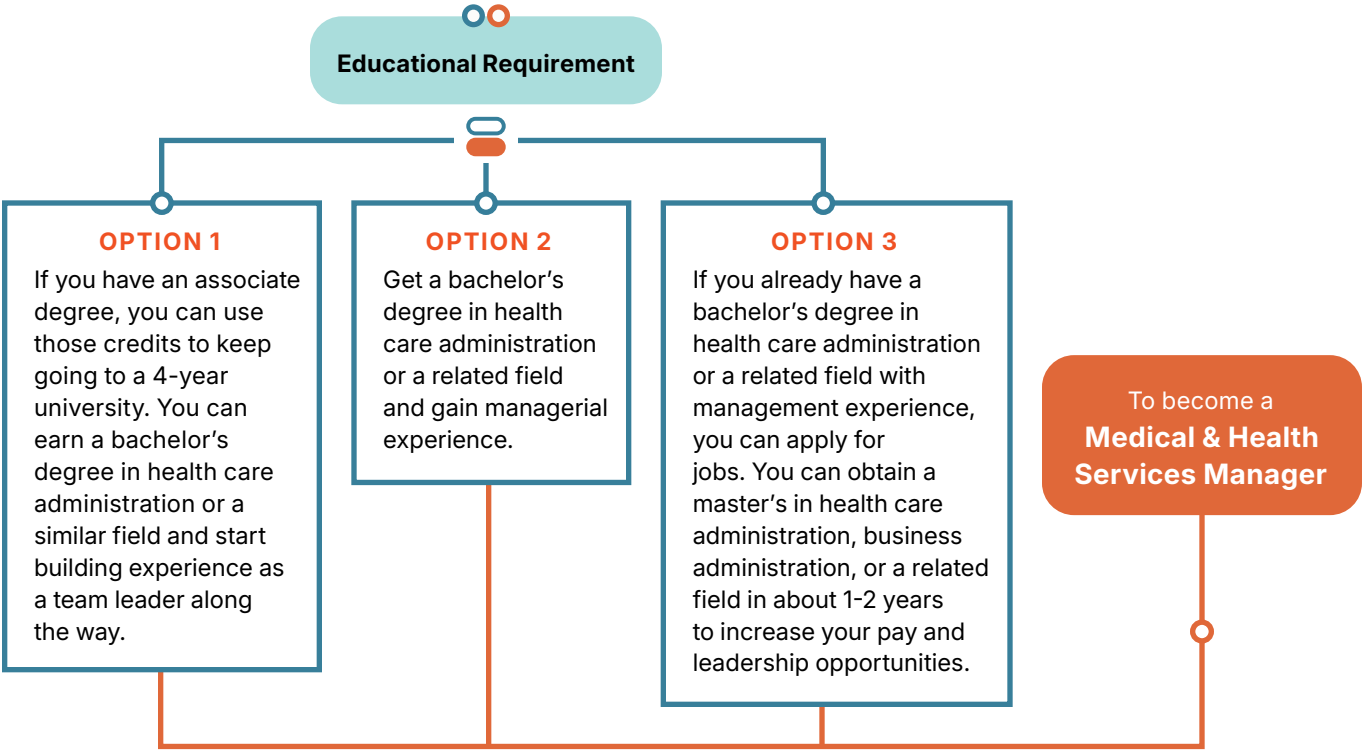
Community Health Workers Pathway

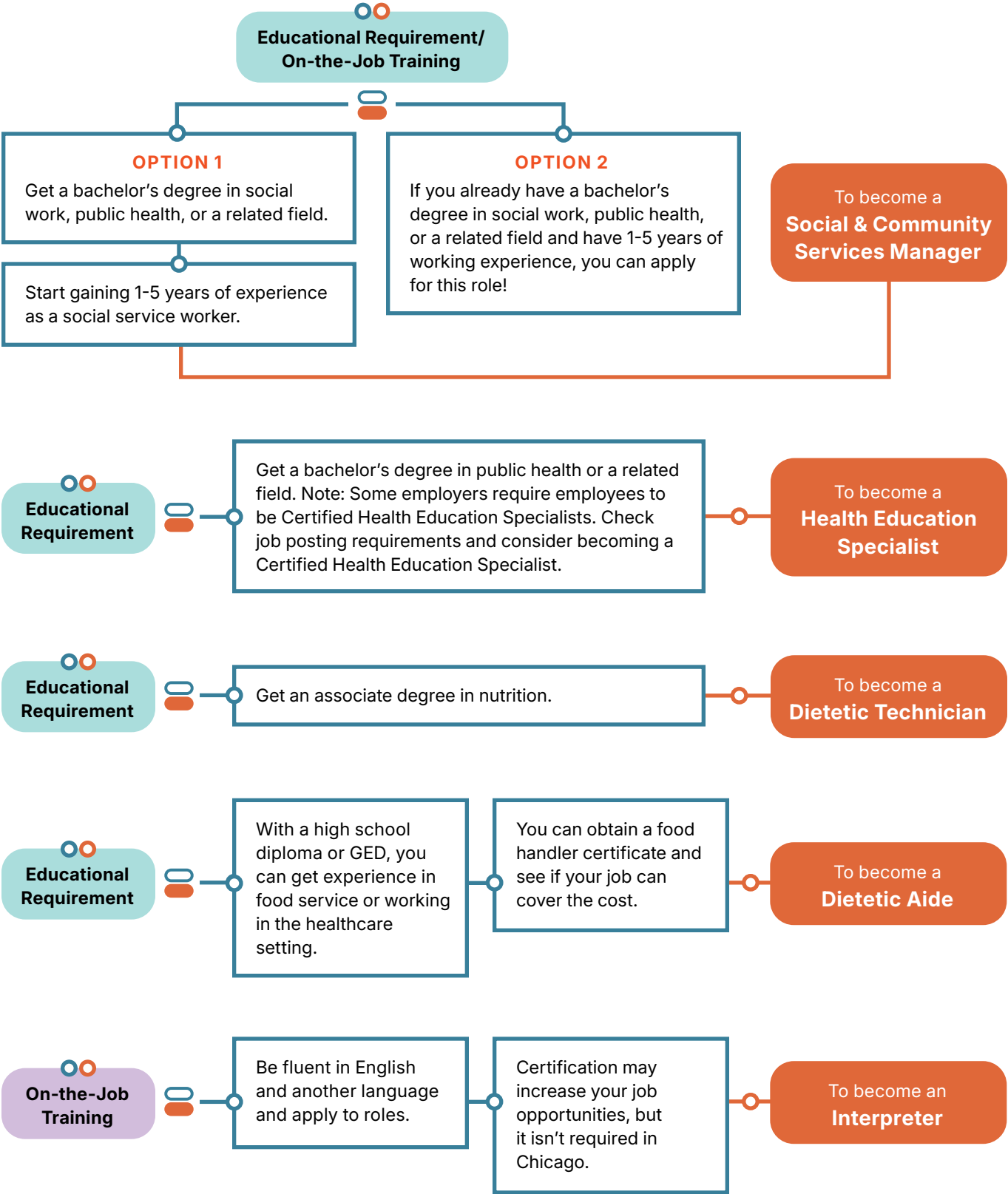
Entry-Level Professions

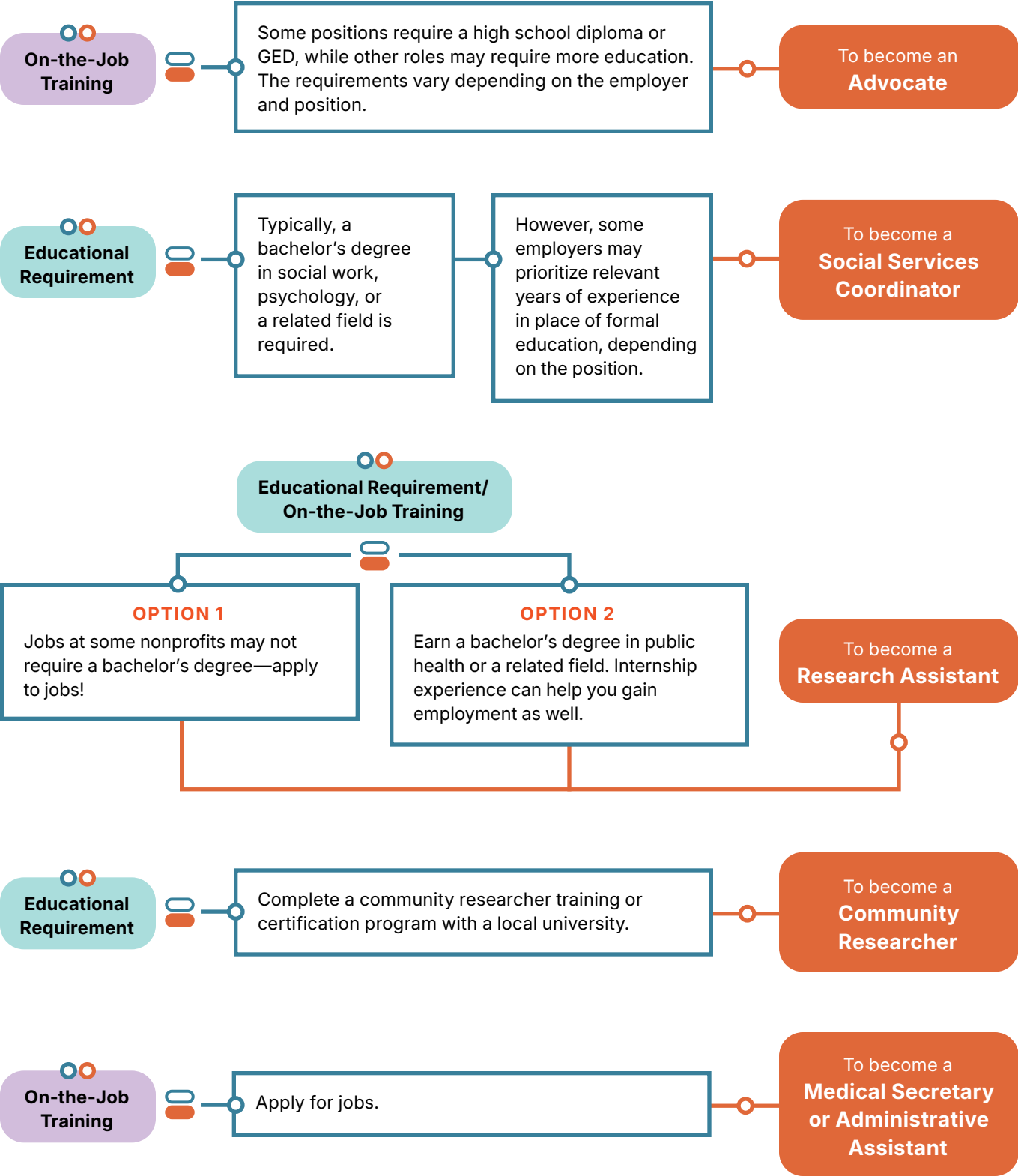
Community Health Workers

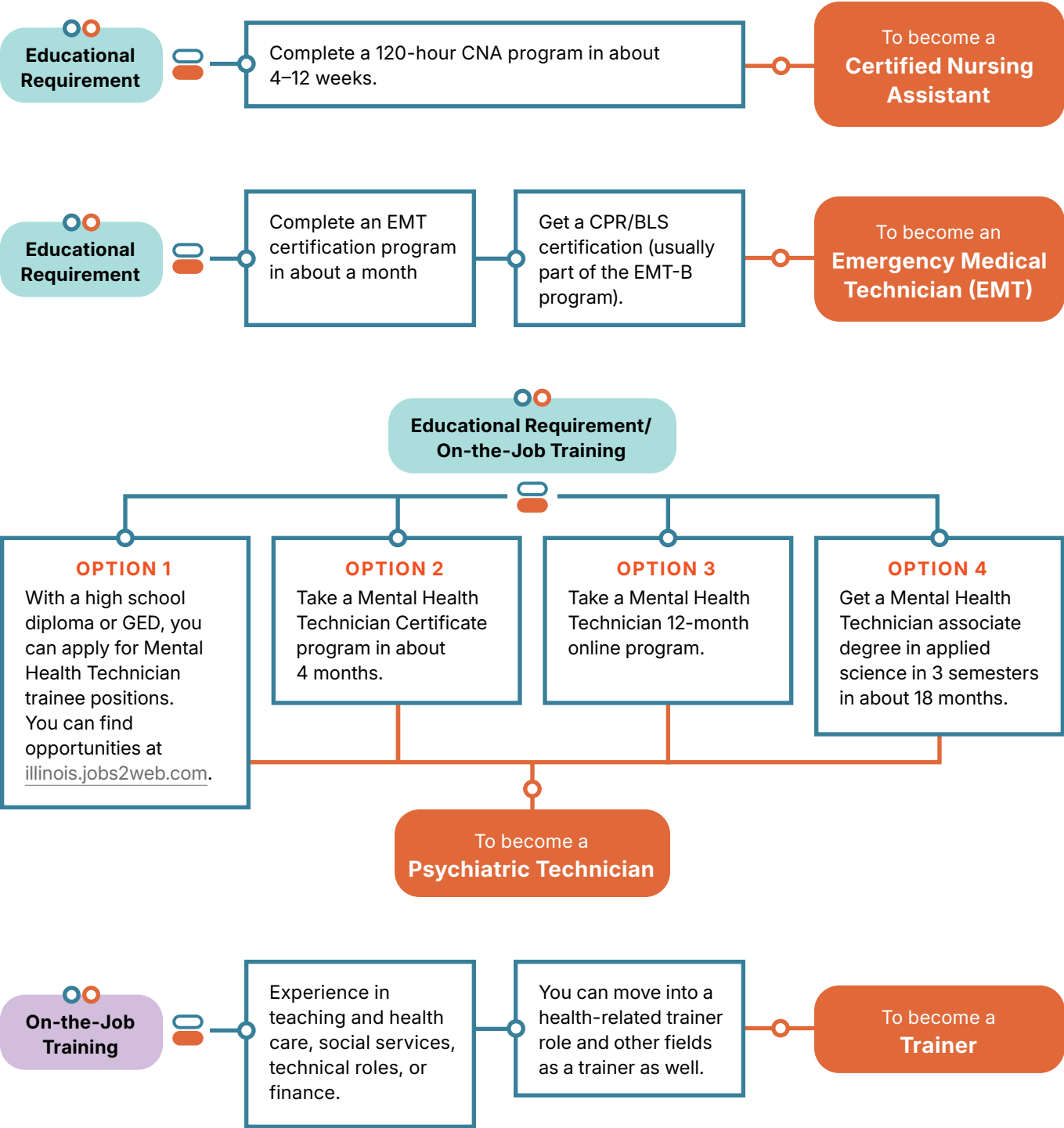
Community Health Workers help people stay healthy and get the care they need. They work in neighborhoods to teach families about health, connect them to doctors or clinics, and support them through tough times.

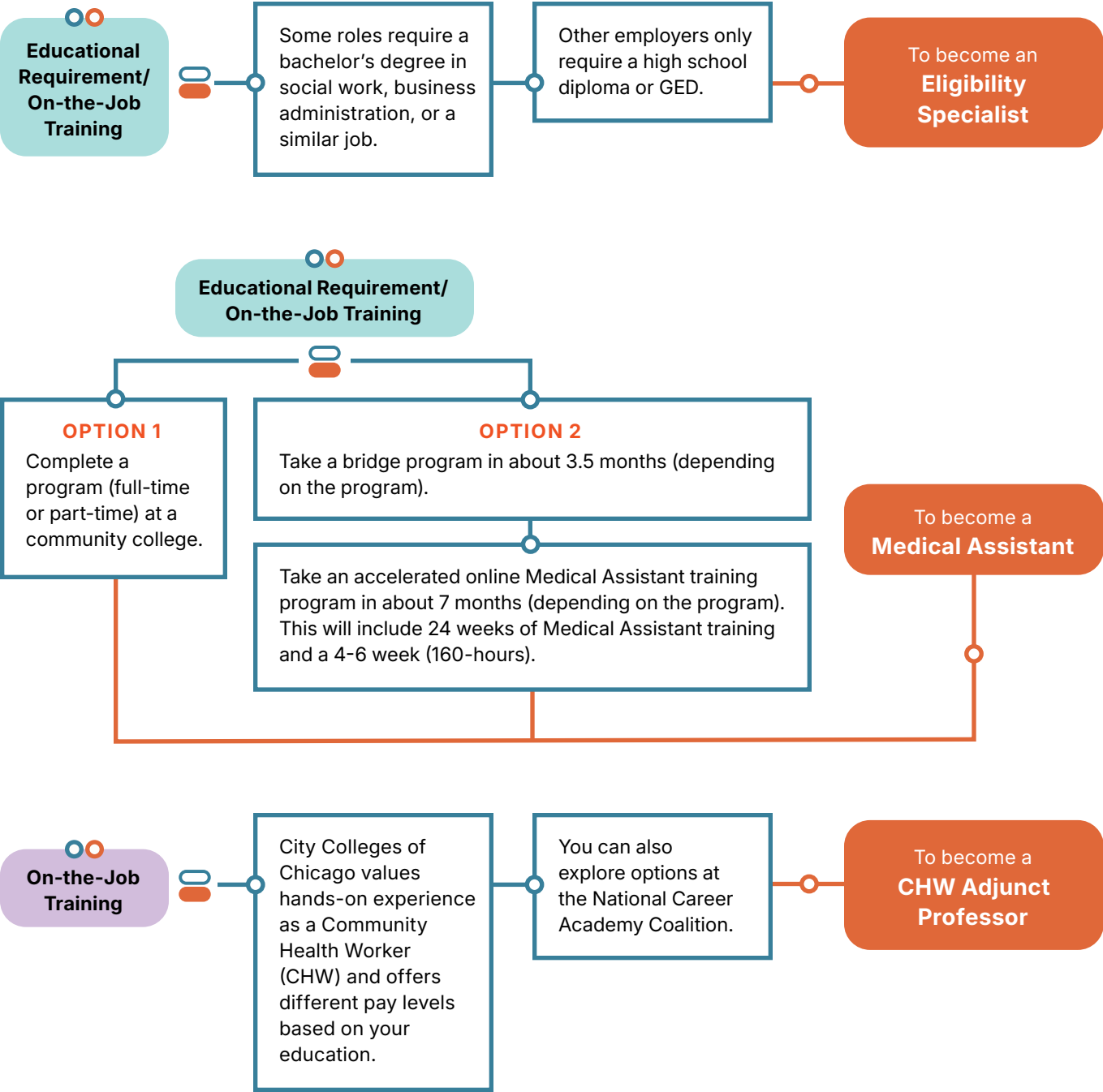
-  **Median Salary:** \$48,420 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
-  **Transferable Skills:**
 - Driver's license
 - Care coordination
 - Medical records (including electronic)
 - Bilingual (English/Spanish)
 - Patient assistance
 - Care management
 - Behavioral health
 - Medical records (including electronic)
 - Patient assistance
 - Social work

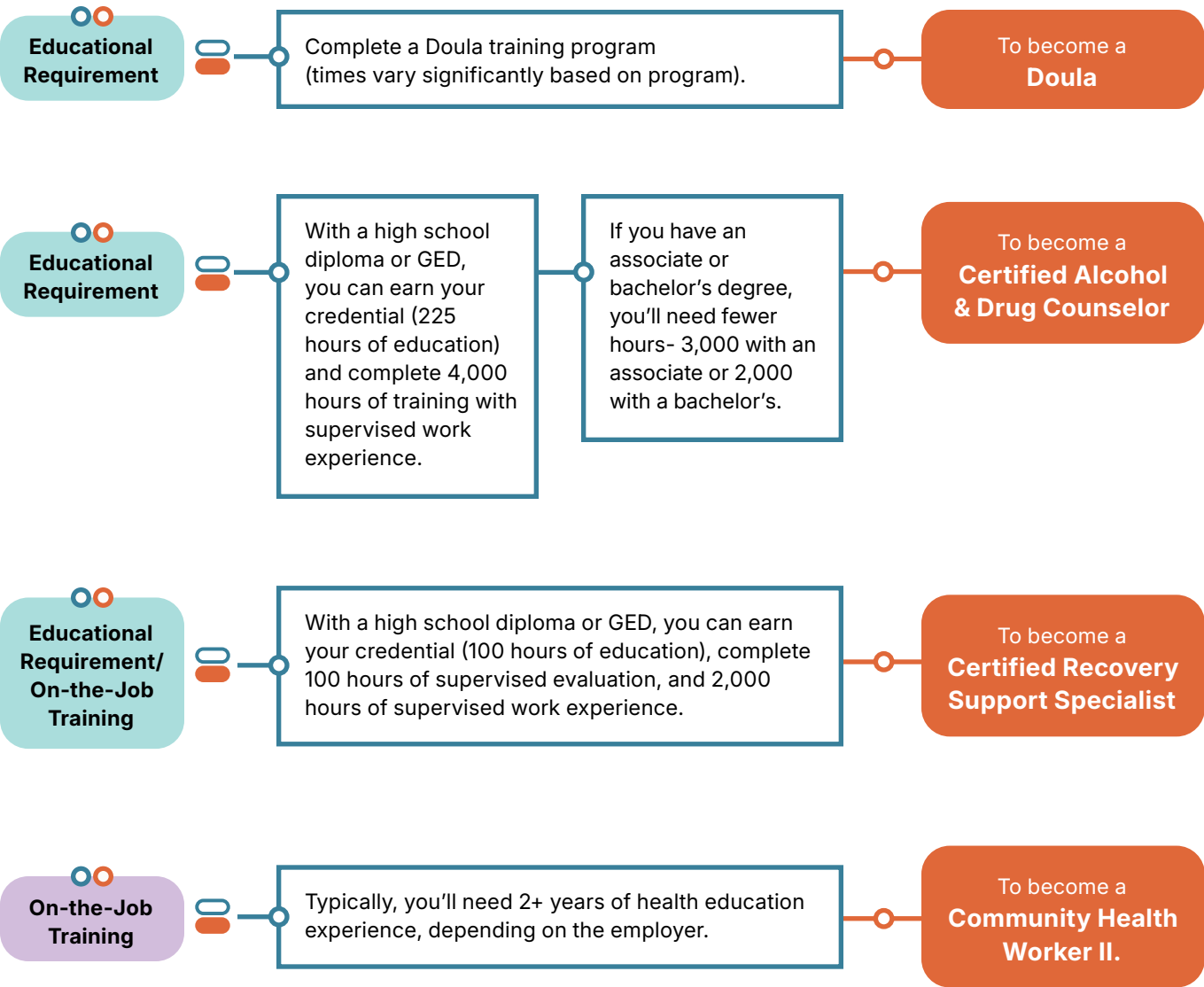












Community Health Workers Pathway

Intermediate Professions

Dietary Aide

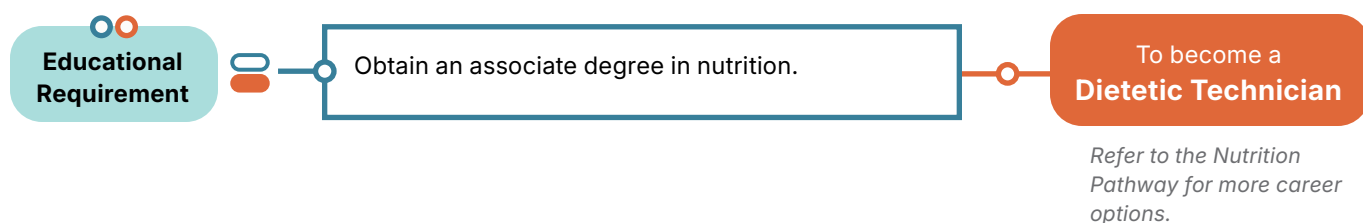
Dietary Aides help prepare and serve food to people in hospitals, nursing homes, or care centers. They make sure meals are healthy, safe, and made just right for each person's needs.

 **Median Salary:** \$31,845 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

 **Transferable Skills:**

- Patient assistance



Case Manager

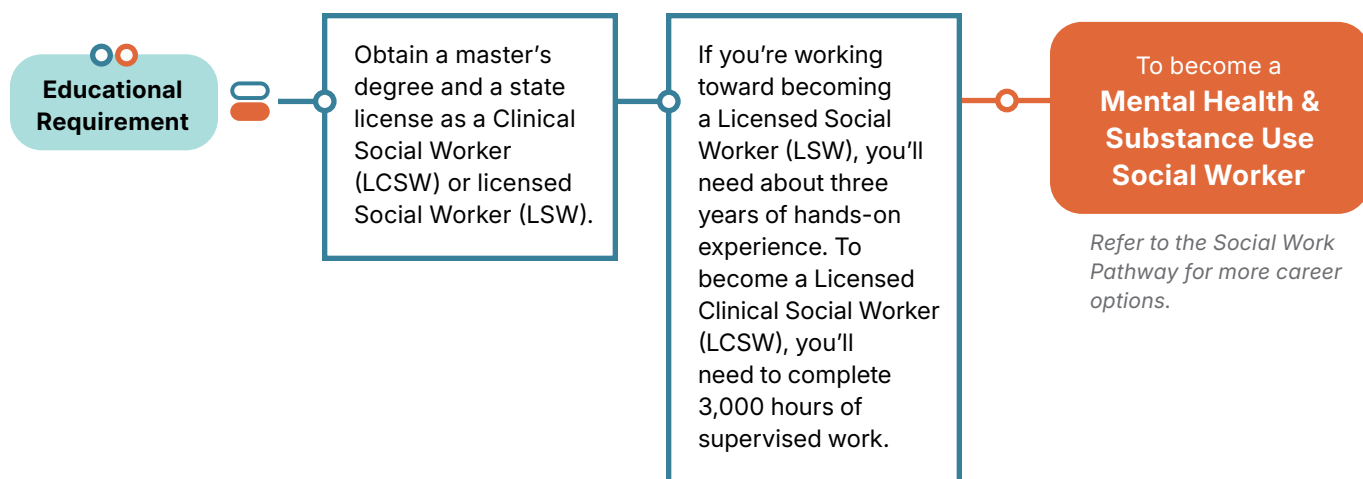
Case Managers help people get the care and support they need. They make plans, solve problems, and connect people to services like doctors, jobs, or housing to help them live better lives.

 **Median Salary:** \$53,330 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

 **Transferable Skills:**

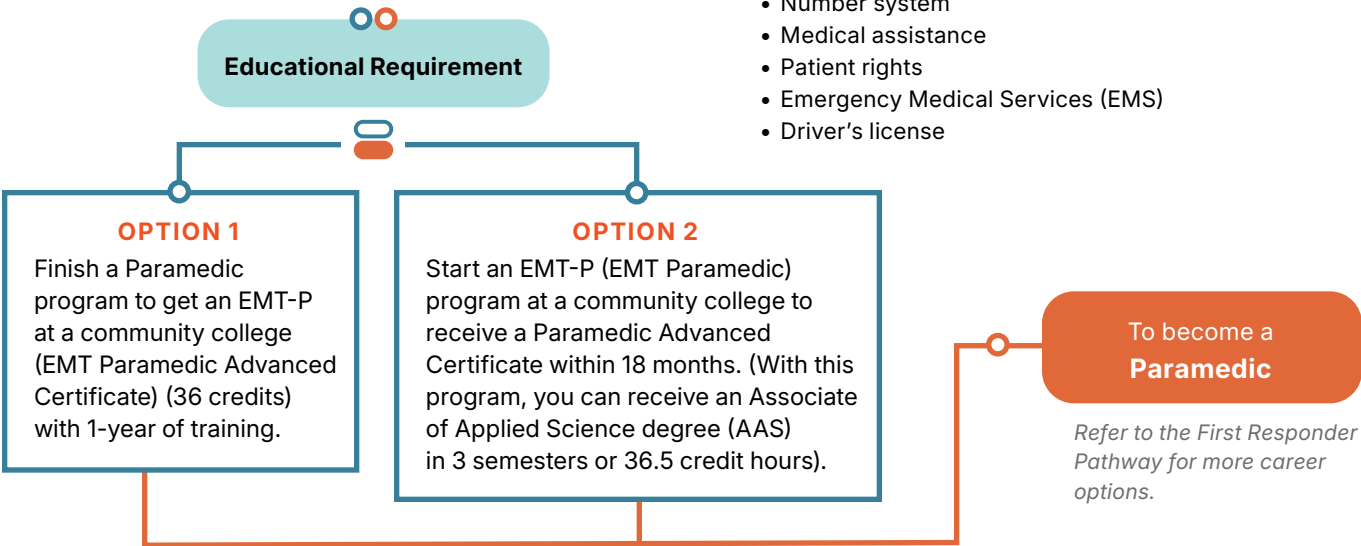
- Case management
- Social work
- Care coordination
- Care management



Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

EMTs are first responders who help people in emergencies. They provide life-saving care and safely transport sick or injured patients to the hospital in an ambulance.

-  **Median Salary:** \$31,845 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
-  **Transferable Skills:**
 - EMT-B certification
 - Patient transport
 - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification
 - Electrocardiography
 - Vital signs
 - Emergency vehicle operation
 - National Incident Management System (NIMS)
 - Number system
 - Medical assistance
 - Patient rights
 - Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
 - Driver's license



Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor

A Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor helps people who are struggling with drugs or alcohol. They listen, give support, and teach healthy ways to cope. They work in schools, clinics, and treatment centers to help people feel better and stay on track.

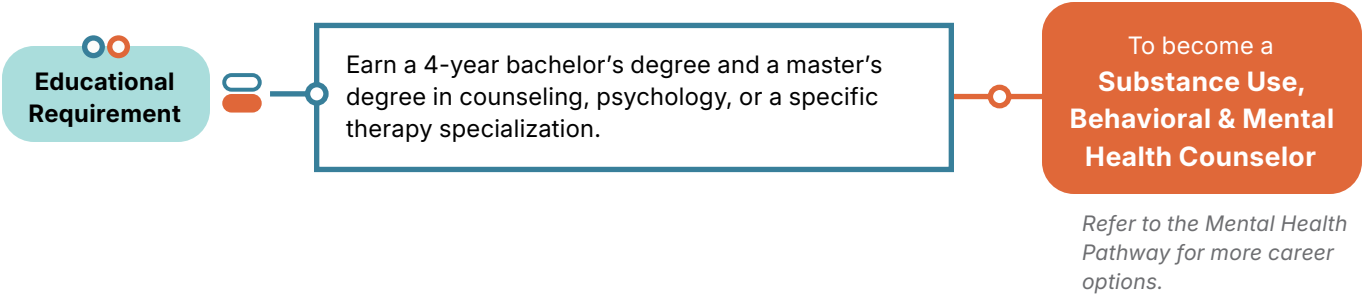
-  **Median Salary:** \$48,136 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

Continued on next page.

Certified Recovery Support Specialist

A Certified Recovery Support Specialist is someone who has been through tough times with mental health or addiction and now helps others going through similar things. They listen, give hope, and help people find support and stay on their path to feeling better.

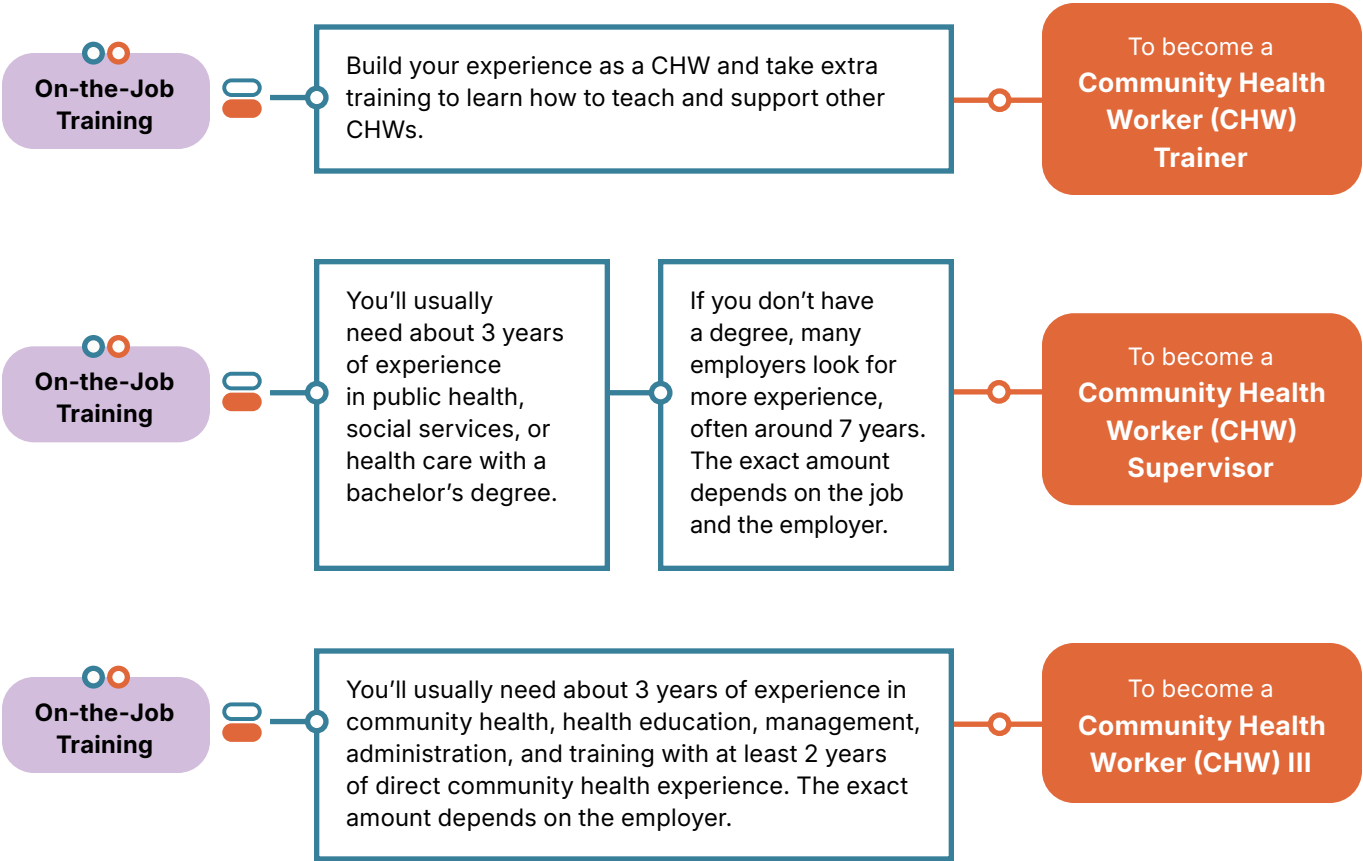
-  **Median Salary:** \$52,995 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
-  **Transferable Skills:**
 - Case management
 - Behavioral health
 - Social work
 - Medical records (including electronic)



Community Health Worker II

Community Health Workers II are trusted helpers from the community who connect people to health care and other support services. They often share the same background or life experiences as the people they help, which makes them great at understanding and supporting their needs.

- Median Salary:** \$48,420 per year
- Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old



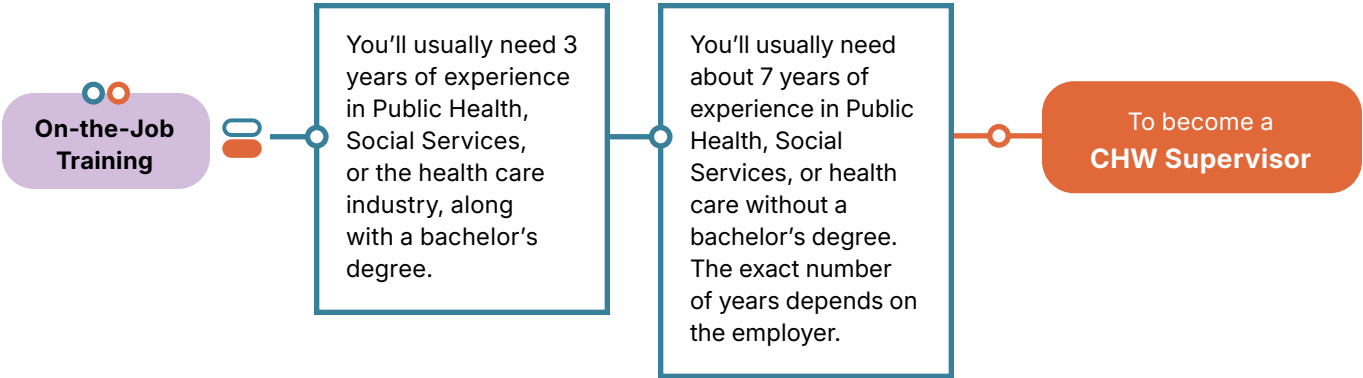
Community Health Workers Pathway

Specialist Professions

Community Health Worker III

Community Health Workers III are experienced CHWs who take on leadership roles, train new CHWs, and often lead community outreach efforts. They're trusted voices in their communities and help shape how care and support are delivered.

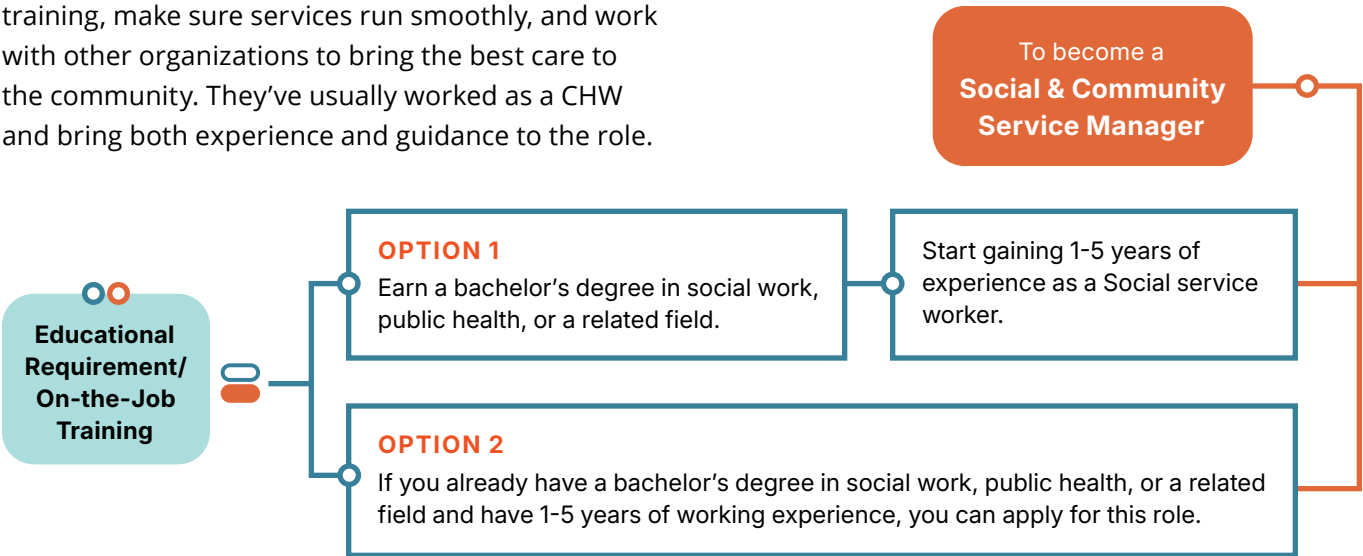
-  **Median Salary:** \$48,420 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old



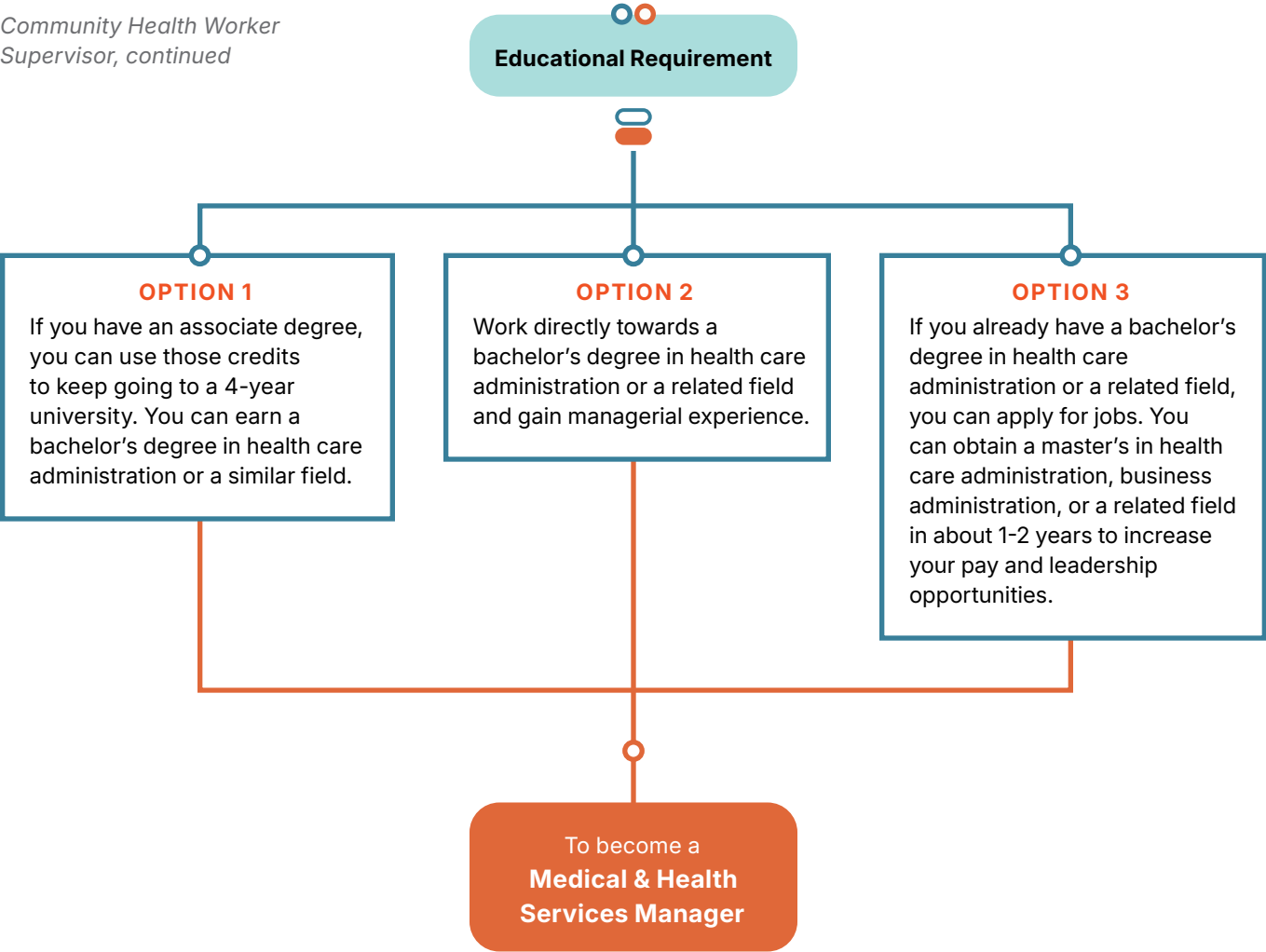
Community Health Worker Supervisor

Community Health Workers Supervisor manages and supports a team of CHWs. They help with training, make sure services run smoothly, and work with other organizations to bring the best care to the community. They've usually worked as a CHW and bring both experience and guidance to the role.

-  **Median Salary:** \$48,420 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old



Community Health Worker
Supervisor, continued



Emergency Response Pathway



About the Emergency Response Pathway

This pathway features roles that respond to health emergencies in our communities and that help support sick or injured people in clinics and hospitals.

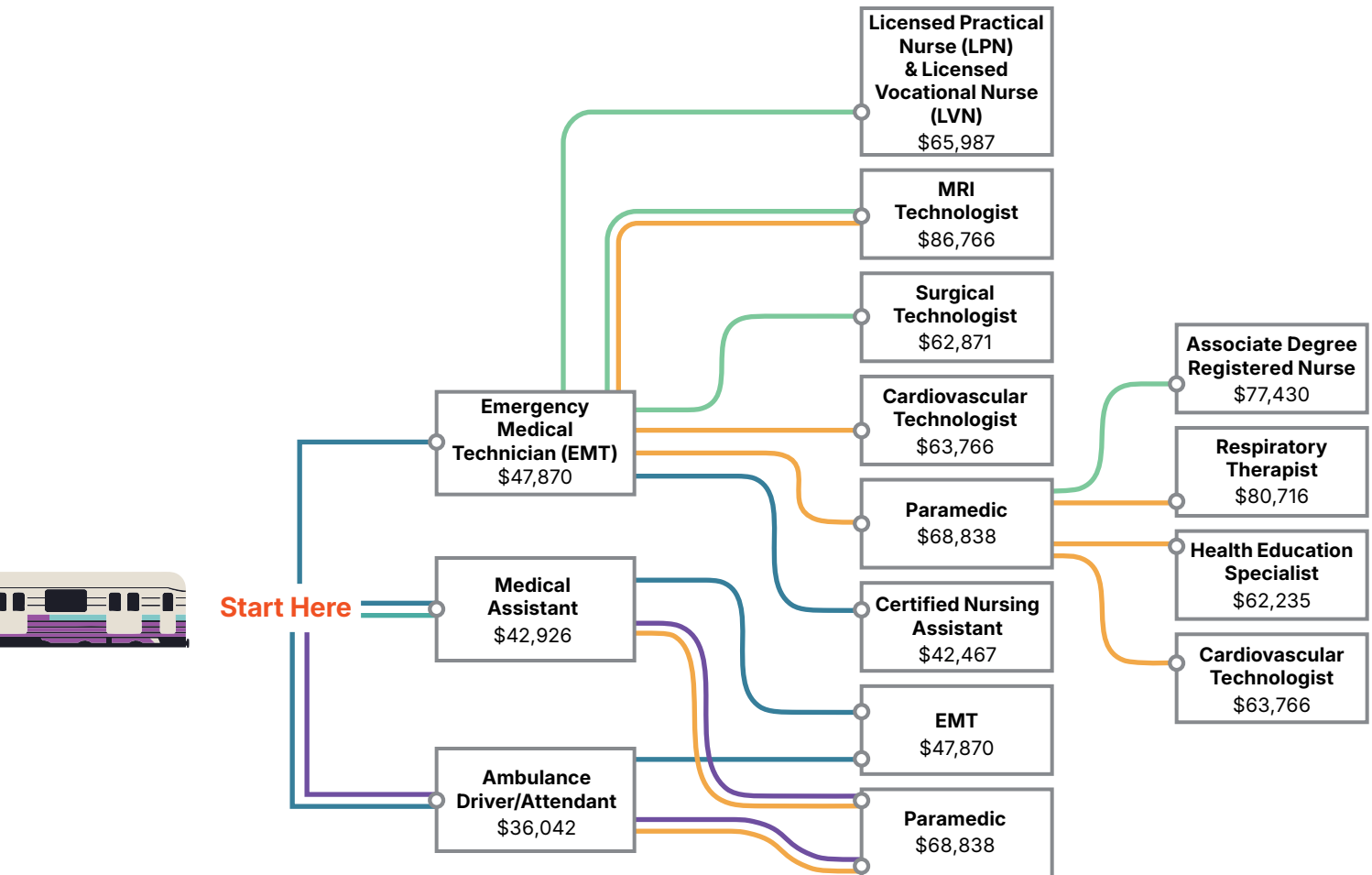
Jobs featured in this career pathway include:

- Ambulance Driver & Attendant
- Associate Degree Registered Nurse
- Cardiovascular Technologist
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Health Education Specialist
- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) & Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologist
- Medical Assistant
- Paramedic
- Respiratory Therapist
- Surgical Technologist



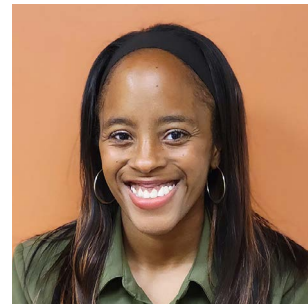
Emergency Response Pathway

These are examples of different ways to move between or into new careers within this field. We know everyone's career journey is unique, so think of these examples as a way to inspire your pathway, not the only way to do it. You can also move between the different pathways, start further along the pathway, or explore roles not mentioned at all in the pathway. Always check employer job descriptions to make sure that you have the right skills, education, and experience for that particular role.



first responder

"People doubt me because of my size. I may be small, but I'm determined to reach my goals. I want to be a first responder, and I want to prove to others and myself that I can do it just like anybody else."



mia

Mia's career path

I went to college for culinary arts and I was working in restaurants, but then the pandemic happened. The pandemic shut everything down, and I needed a job. I took an EMT class, got my license, and fell in love with it and wanted to learn more.

Getting my **EMT license** was challenging. I failed the exam six times before I passed. Fortunately, friends and family kept motivating me and that allowed me to push through and pass.



Certification:
EMT Exam
Paramedic Exam

I want to be a **paramedic** because I want to be on the streets helping people. Everyday I'm helping people and it's very rewarding.

advice

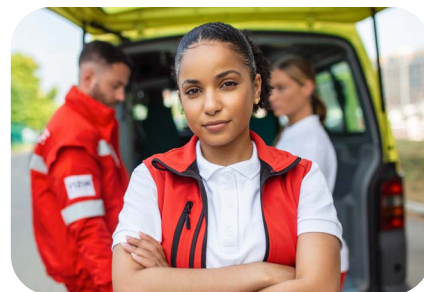
"Don't let people get in the way of your goals. Don't even let yourself get in your way. If you know this is what you want to do, go do it. Maintain your goals & work to the best of your ability. Don't stop and stay determined, because it'll be all worth it at the end."

→ To learn more about Mia's career journey, visit www.hmprg.org/your-career-in-health.

Get Ready to Become an Emergency Response Professional!

Emergency Response Professionals are the first people to help in emergencies. They include **Emergency Medical Technicians** and **Paramedics** who rush to help when someone is hurt or in danger. They work fast to keep people safe and save lives.

Let's explore the **Emergency Response Pathway** and see if this career path is the best for you.



To become an
**Emergency Medical
Technician (EMT)**

If you have a high school
diploma or GED, you can:

Get an EMT
Certificate
that takes
about a
month to
complete.

Get a
CPR/BLS
certification
(usually part
of the EMT-B
program).

With a high school
diploma or GED and a valid
driver's license, you can:

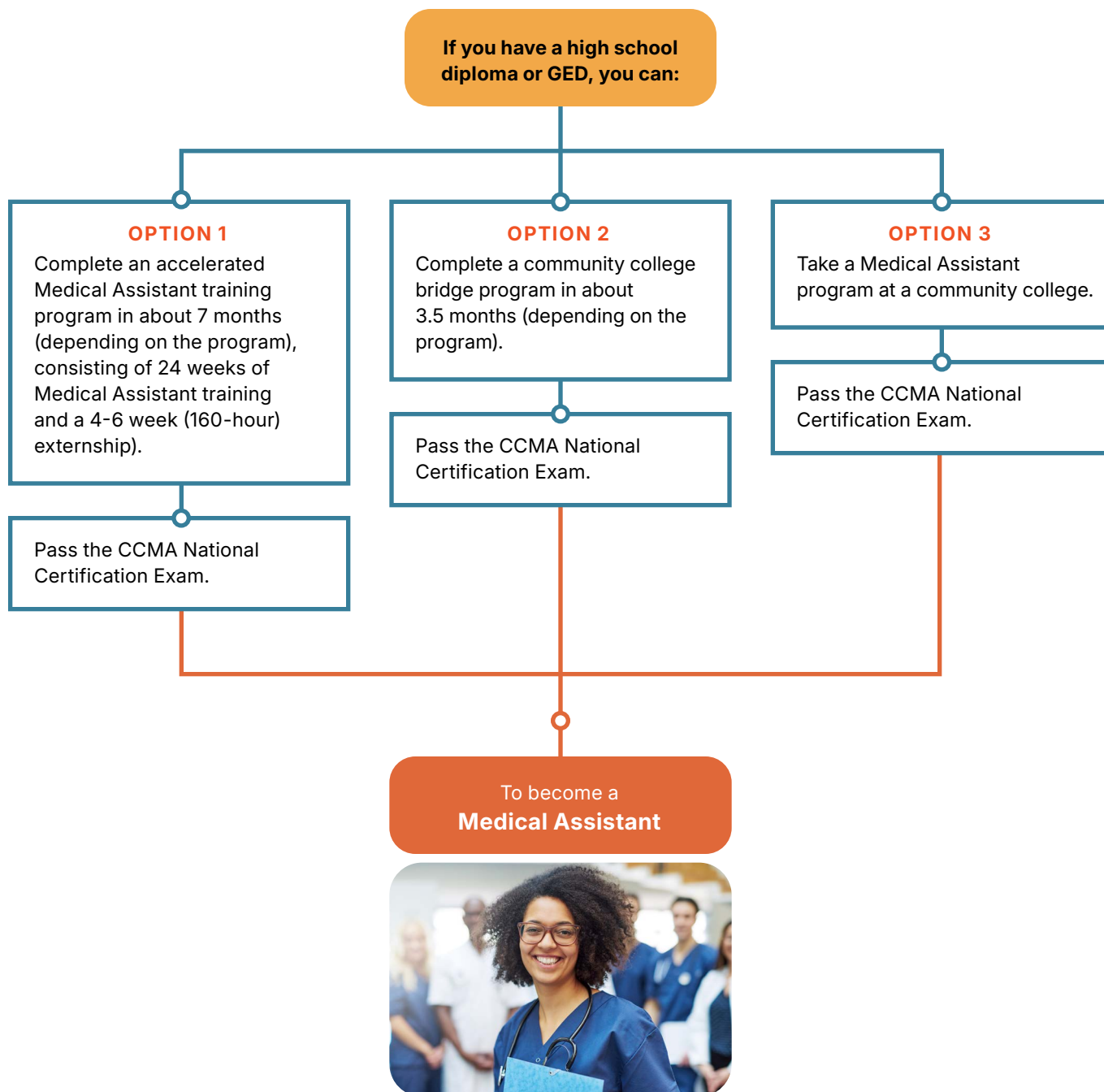
Earn a CPR certification.

Go through specialized
ambulance operation training on
the job.

Get an EMT license (depending
on the company).



To become an
**Ambulance Driver
& Attendant**



Learn more about the Emergency Response pathway. ➔

Emergency Response Pathway

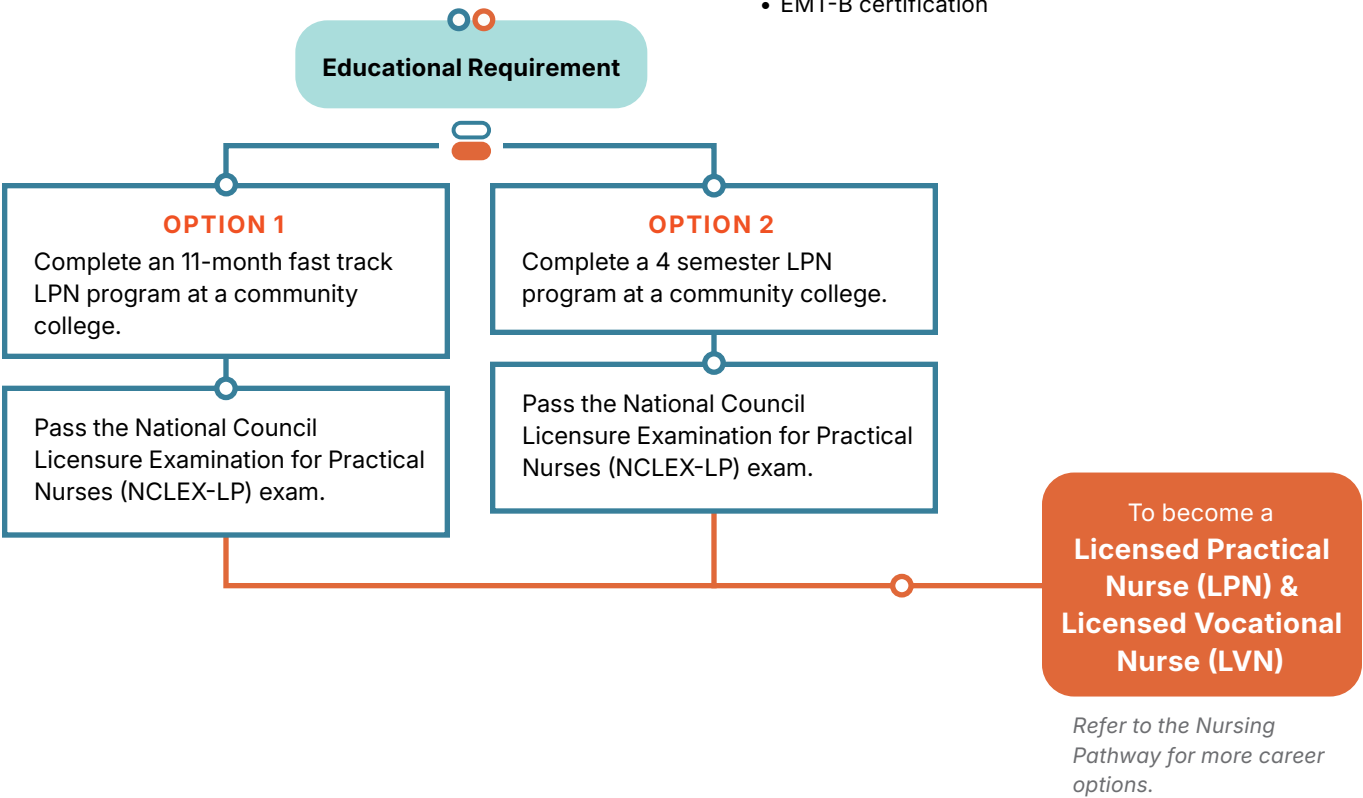
Entry-Level Professions

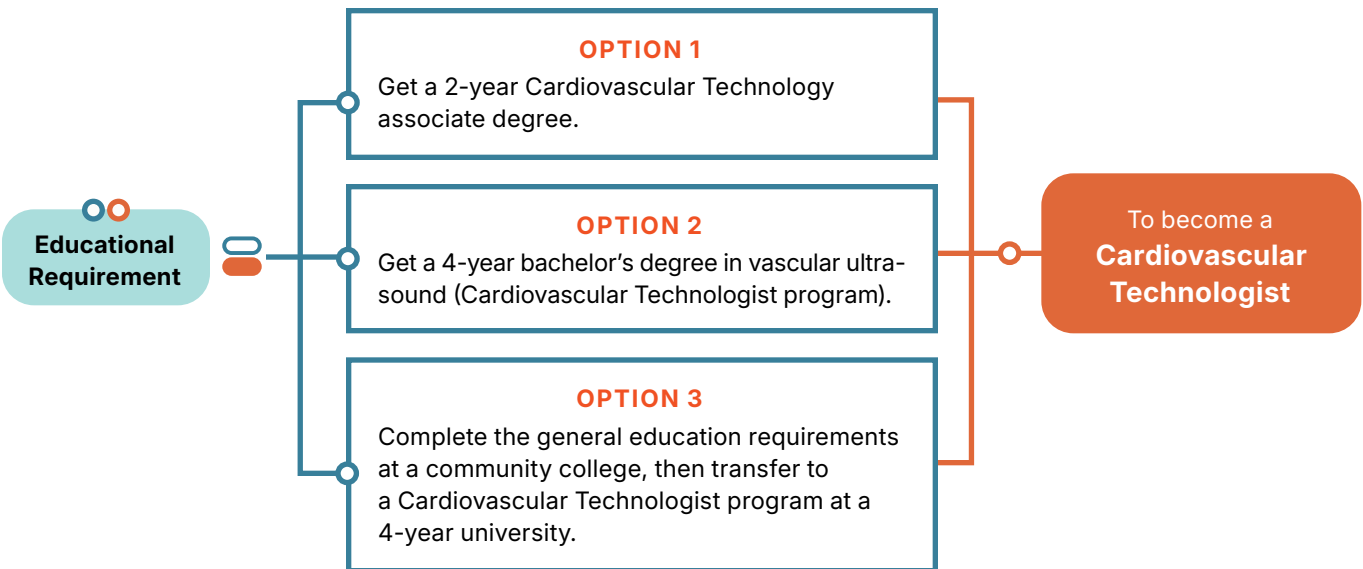
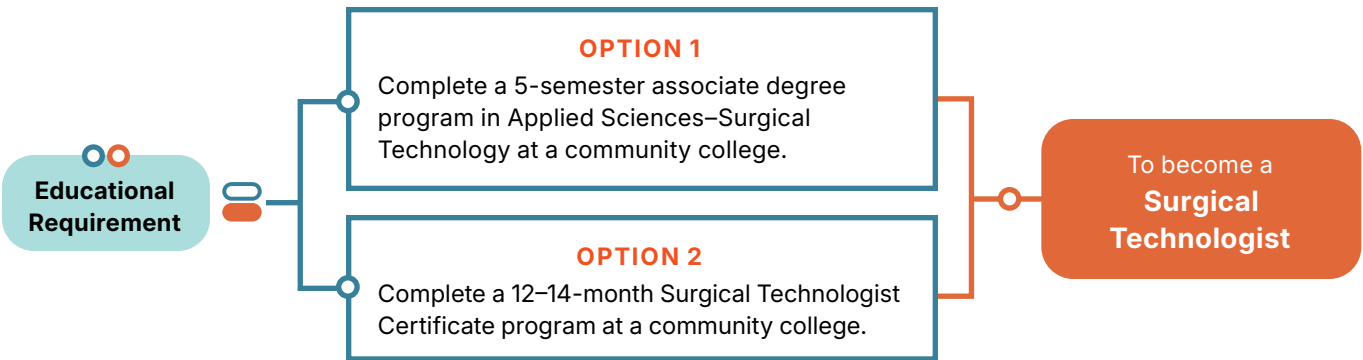
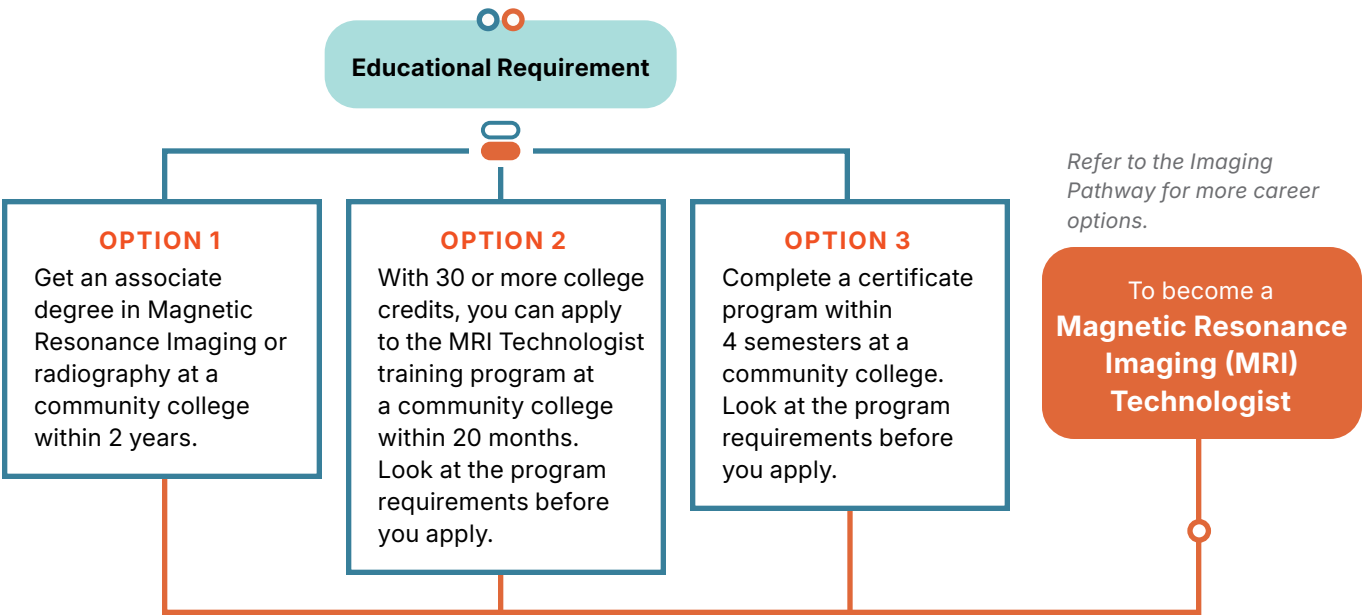
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

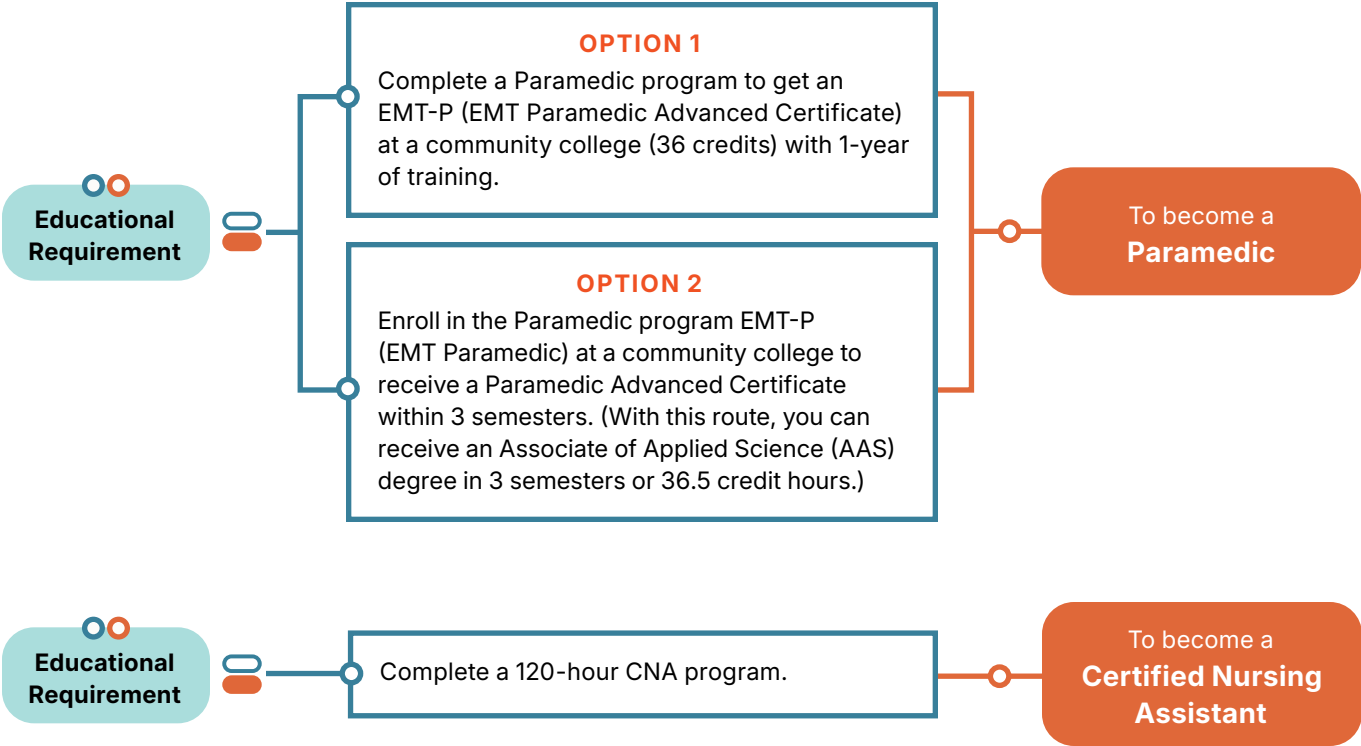
EMTs are first responders who help people in emergencies. They provide life-saving care and safely transport sick or injured patients to the hospital in an ambulance.

- Median Salary:** \$47,870 per year
- Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

- Transferable Skills:**
 - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
 - Electrocardiography
 - Patient transport
 - Vital signs
 - Emergency vehicle operation
 - National Incident Management System (NIMS)
 - Number system
 - Medical assistance
 - Patient rights
 - Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
 - Driver's license
 - EMT-B certification



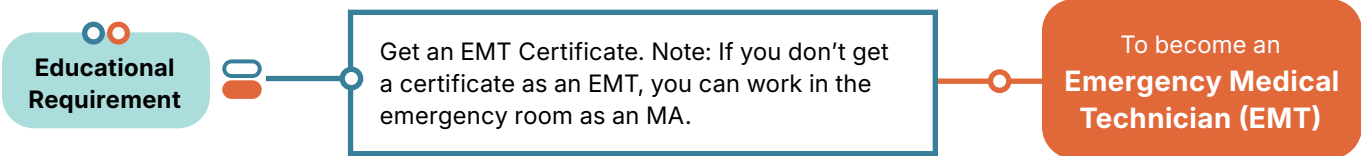


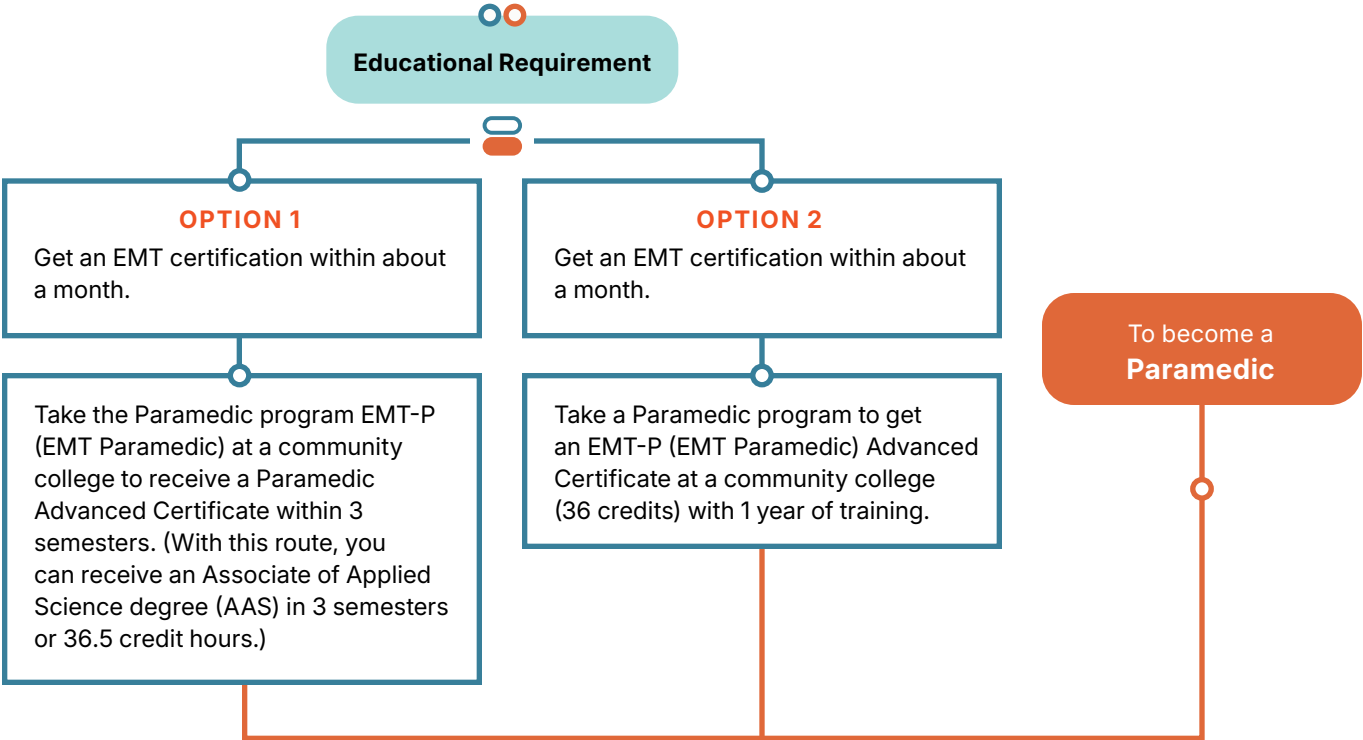


Medical Assistant

Medical Assistants help doctors and nurses take care of patients and keep things organized. They greet patients, schedule appointments, take notes about health, check things like heart rate, and help during check-ups. They make sure everything runs smoothly in clinics and hospitals.

- Median Salary:** \$42,926 per year
- Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
- Transferable Skills**
 - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
 - Vital signs
 - Medical assistance



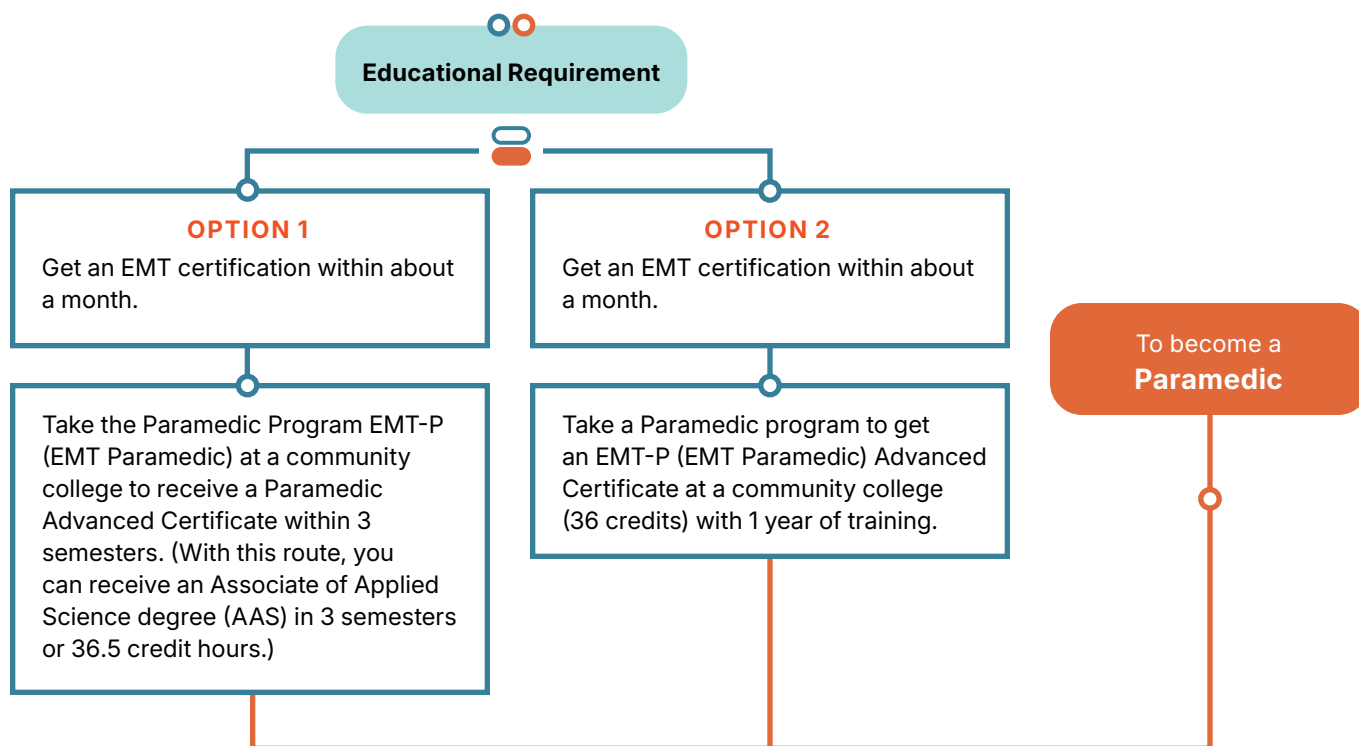


Ambulance Driver & Attendant

Drive ambulances and help transport patients safely to the hospital.

- Median Salary:** \$36,042 per year
- Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
- Transferable Skills**
 - Patient transport
 - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
 - Patient rights
 - Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
 - Driver's license
 - EMT-B certification



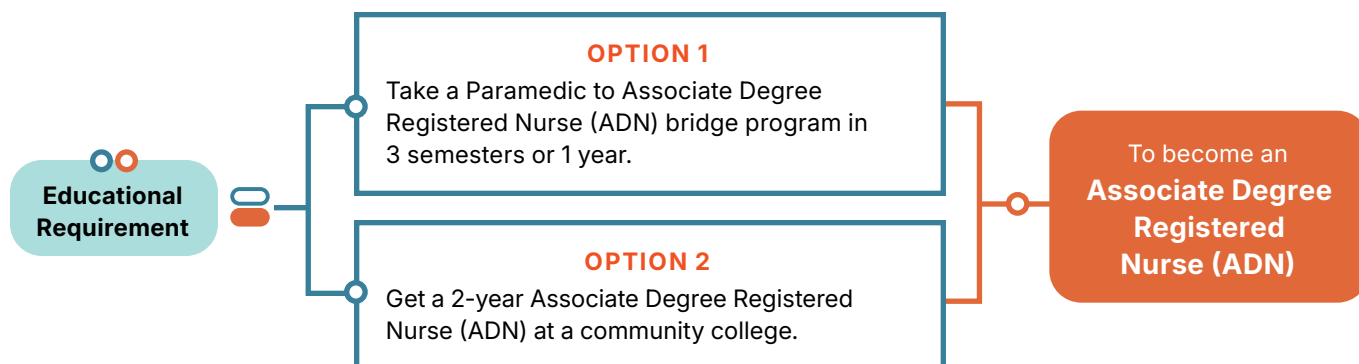


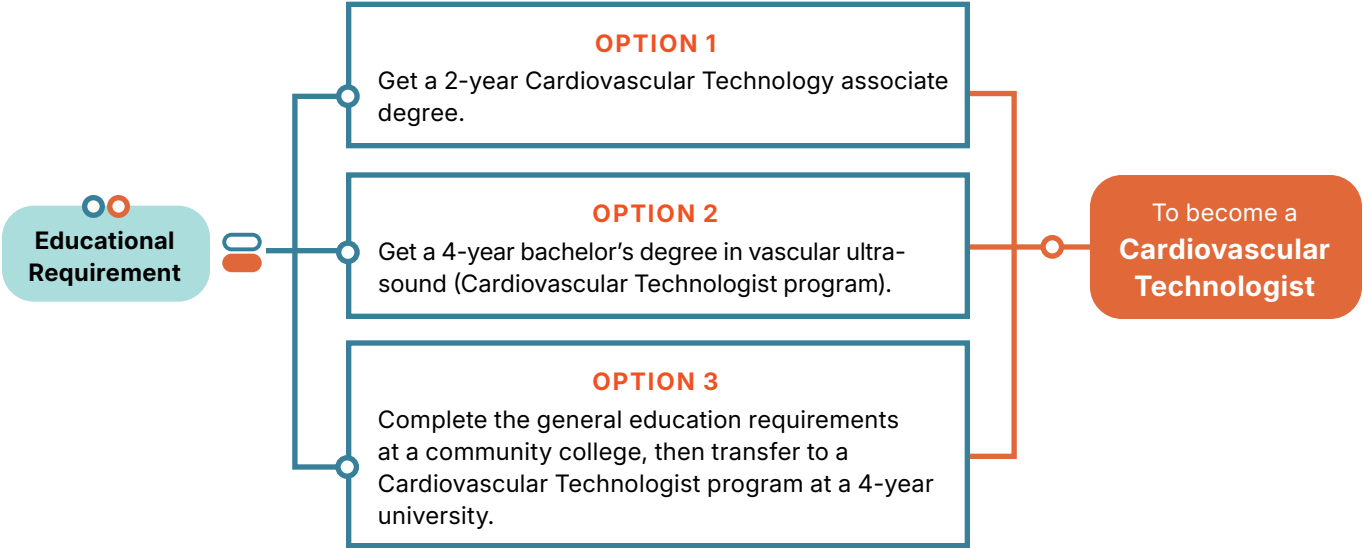
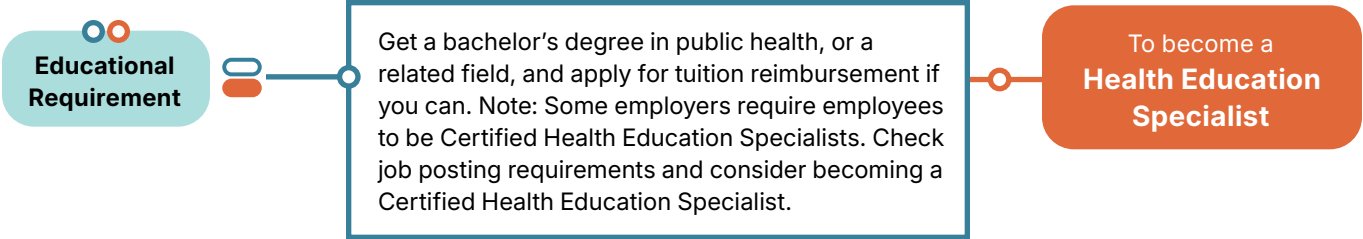
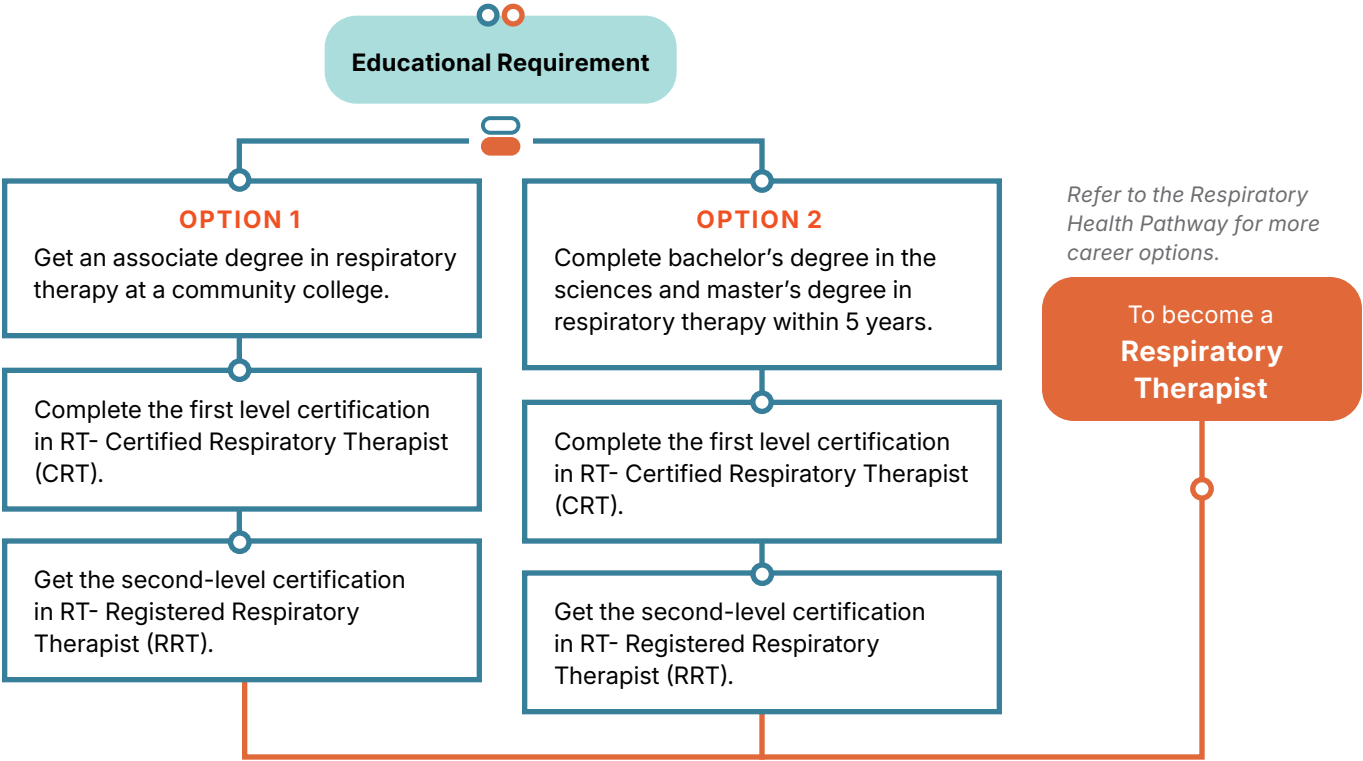
Emergency Response Pathway Intermediate Professions

Paramedic

Paramedics provide advanced emergency care. They can give medicine, start IVs, and treat serious injuries before patients get to the hospital.

- Median Salary:** \$68,838 per year
- Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
- Transferable Skills**
 - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
 - Driver's license





Environmental Health & Safety Pathway



About the Environmental Health & Safety Pathway

Environmental health and occupational safety professionals help maintain and improve the health of where people live, work, and play. They check for things like dirty water, bad air, and unsafe workplaces. If they find something dangerous, they work to fix it. Their job is to make sure people are not getting sick or hurt from the places where they live and work. From inspecting food and housing to making sure safety rules are followed and helping take care of the environment, these professionals play a key role in protecting the public's health every day.

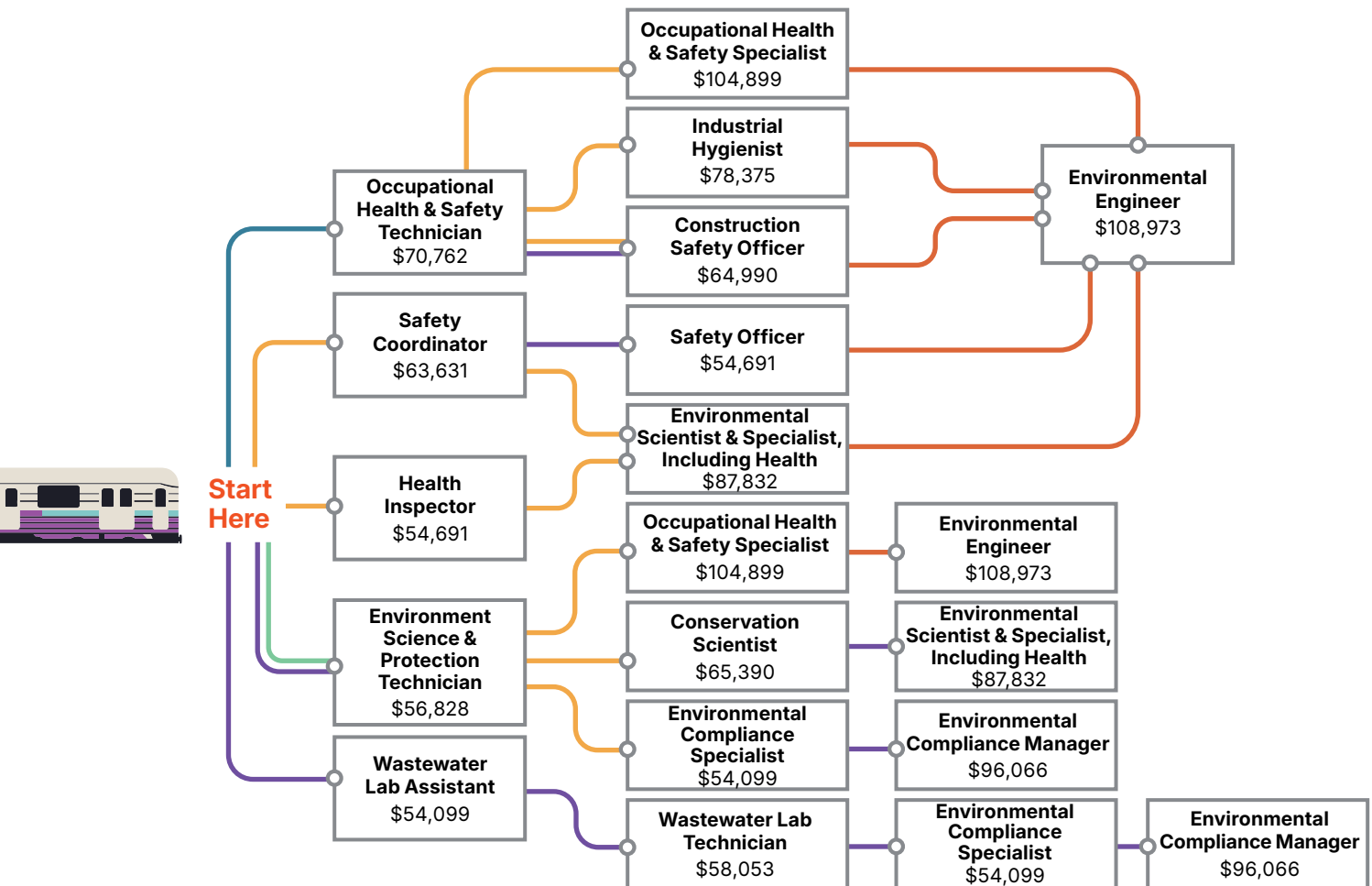
Jobs featured in this career pathway include:

- Conservation Scientist
- Construction Safety Officer
- Environmental Compliance Manager
- Environmental Compliance Specialist
- Environmental Engineer
- Environmental Science & Protection Technician, Including Health
- Environmental Scientist & Specialist, Including Health
- Health Inspector
- Industrial Hygienist
- Occupational Health & Safety Specialist
- Occupational Health & Safety Technician
- Safety Coordinator
- Safety Officer
- Wastewater Lab Assistant
- Wastewater Lab Technician



Environmental Health & Safety Pathway

These are examples of different ways to move between or into new careers within this field. We know everyone's career journey is unique, so think of these examples as a way to inspire your pathway, not the only way to do it. You can also move between the different pathways, start further along the pathway, or explore roles not mentioned at all in the pathway. Always check employer job descriptions to make sure that you have the right skills, education, and experience for that particular role.



Key

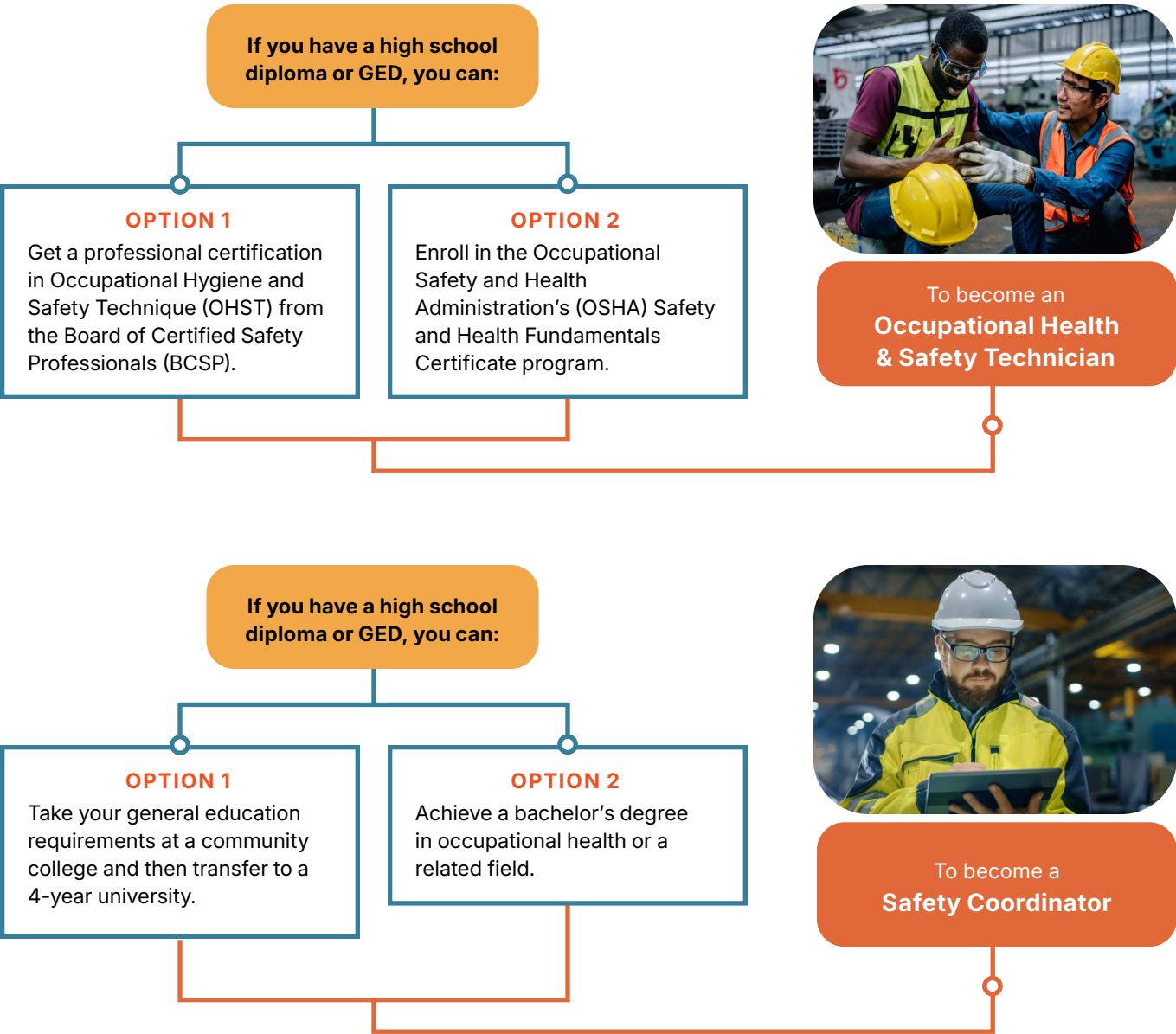
The colors in the chart show the different years of education or training needed to move from one role to the next. There are often several ways to advance, and some paths have more than one line color to represent multiple education and training options.

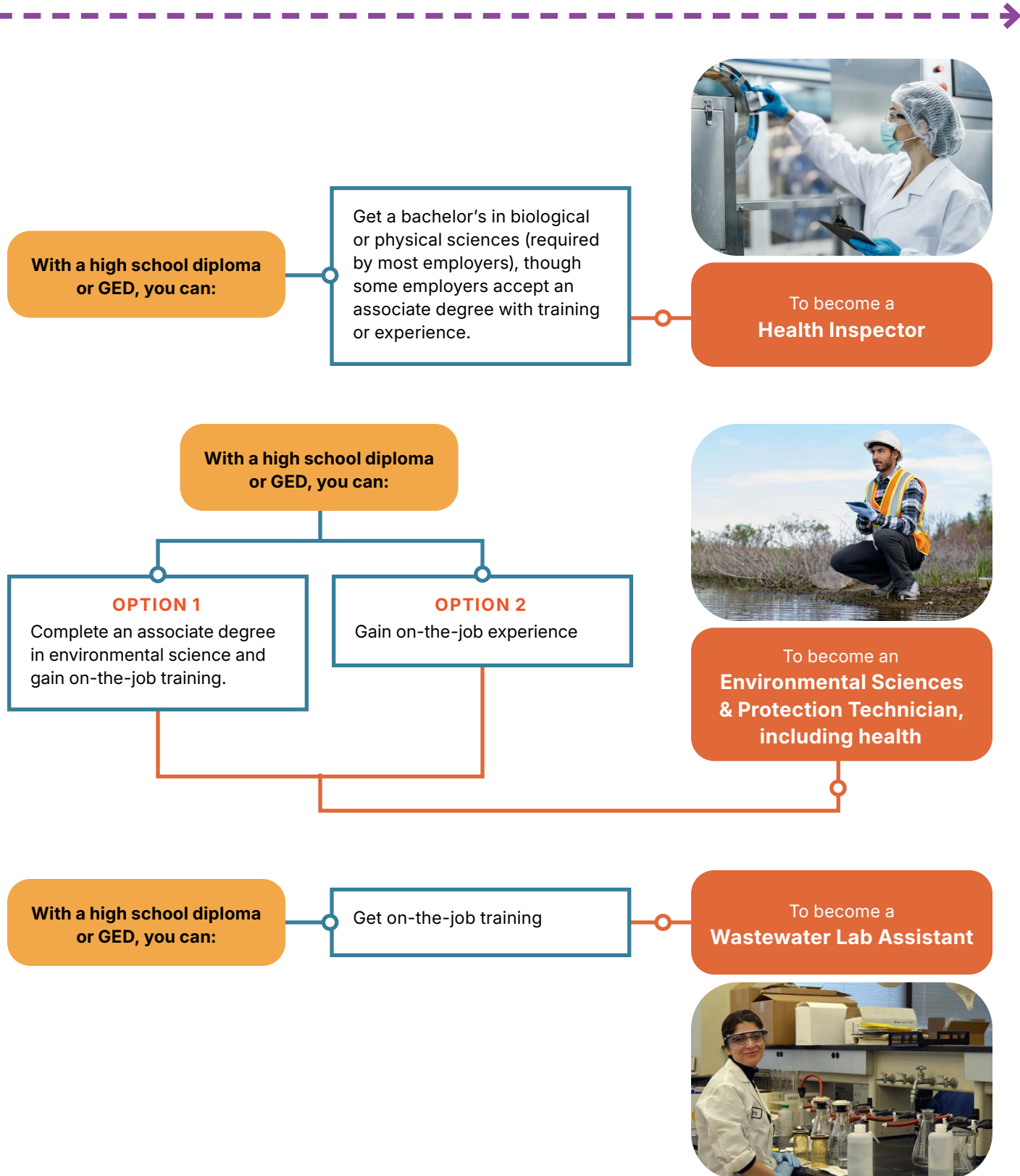
- Education Requirement of less than 6 months
- Education Requirement of 6 months to 1 year
- Education Requirement of 1–2 years
- Education Requirement of 2–4 years
- Education Requirement of 4–6 years
- Education Requirement of 6 years or more
- On-the-job experience
- Bridge Programs

Explore Careers in Environmental Health & Safety!

Environmental health & safety professionals make sure places like schools, parks, and workplaces are safe and healthy. They check for things like clean air, safe water, and no dangerous chemicals. Their job helps protect people and the planet every day.

Explore the careers in the Environmental Health and Safety Pathway and see what sticks out for you!





Learn more about the Environmental Health & Safety pathway. →

Environmental Health & Safety

Entry-Level Professions

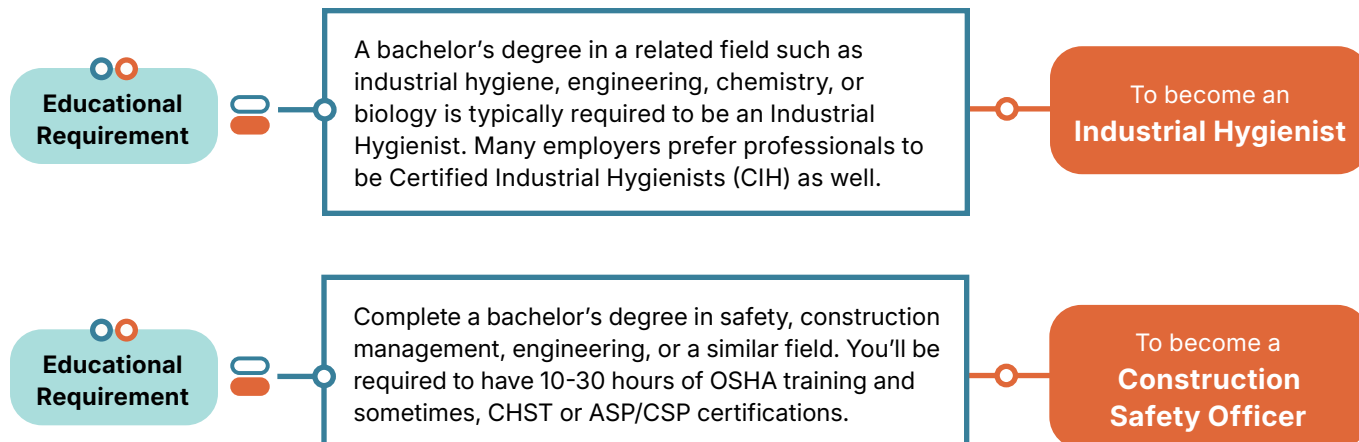
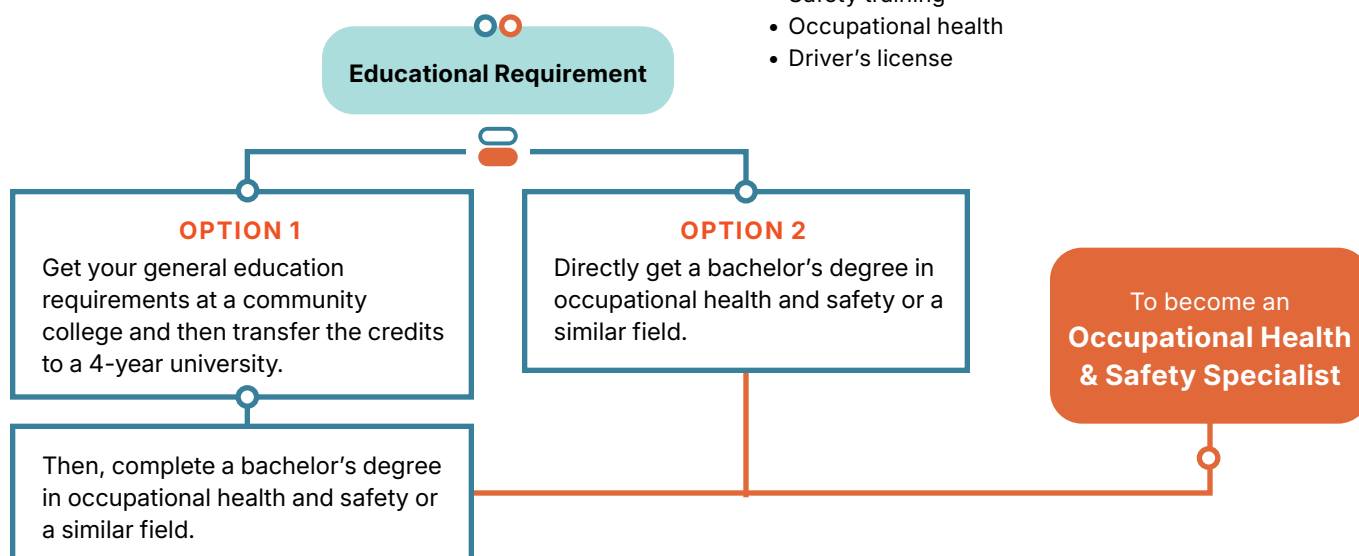
Occupational Health & Safety Technician

Occupational Health & Safety Technicians help keep workers safe. They collect information about workplaces to check for things that could cause harm, like chemicals or loud noise. Then, they help make sure safety rules are followed so everyone stays healthy on the job.

 **Median Salary:** \$70,762 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

-  **Transferable Skills:**
- Occupational hygiene
 - Project management
 - Risk analysis
 - Risk management
 - Emergency response
 - Safety standards
 - Construction
 - Safety audits
 - Auditing
 - Safety training
 - Occupational health
 - Driver's license

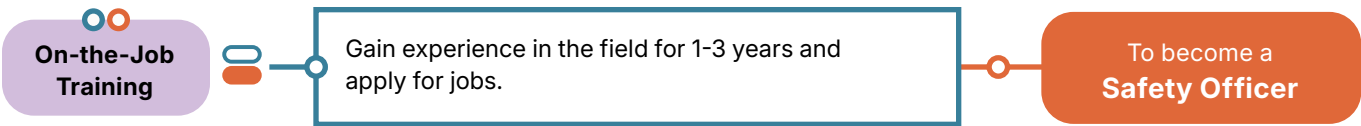


 Learning Path Option  Steps to Your Next Career Move

Safety Coordinator

Safety Coordinators help make sure workplaces are safe for everyone. They teach people how to avoid getting hurt, check for dangers, and make sure safety rules are being followed. Their job is to keep everyone protected and healthy at work.

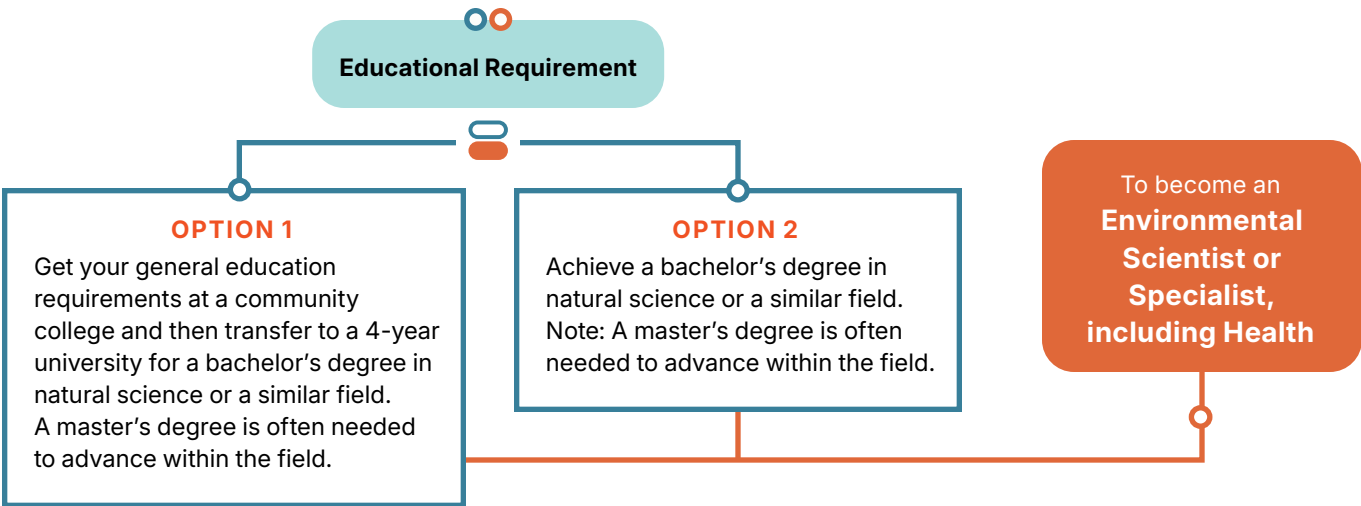
-  **Median Salary:** \$63,631 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
-  **Transferable Skills:**
 - Risk assessment
 - Accident investigation
 - Safety regulation compliance
 - Safety audits
 - Preventative measures



Health Inspector

A Health Inspector makes sure places like restaurants and swimming pools are clean and safe. They check that rules are being followed to help keep everyone healthy.

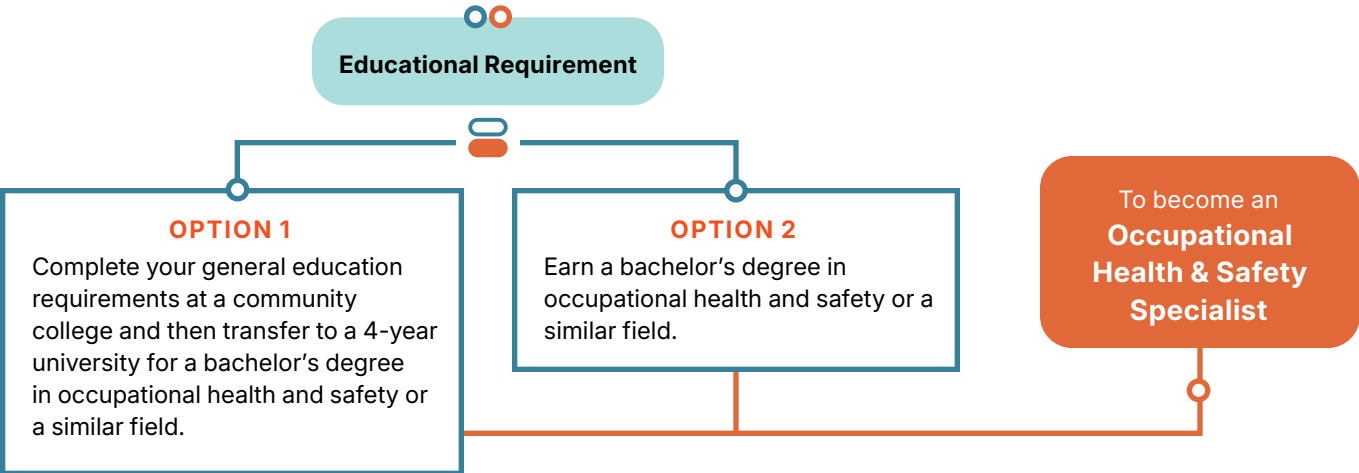
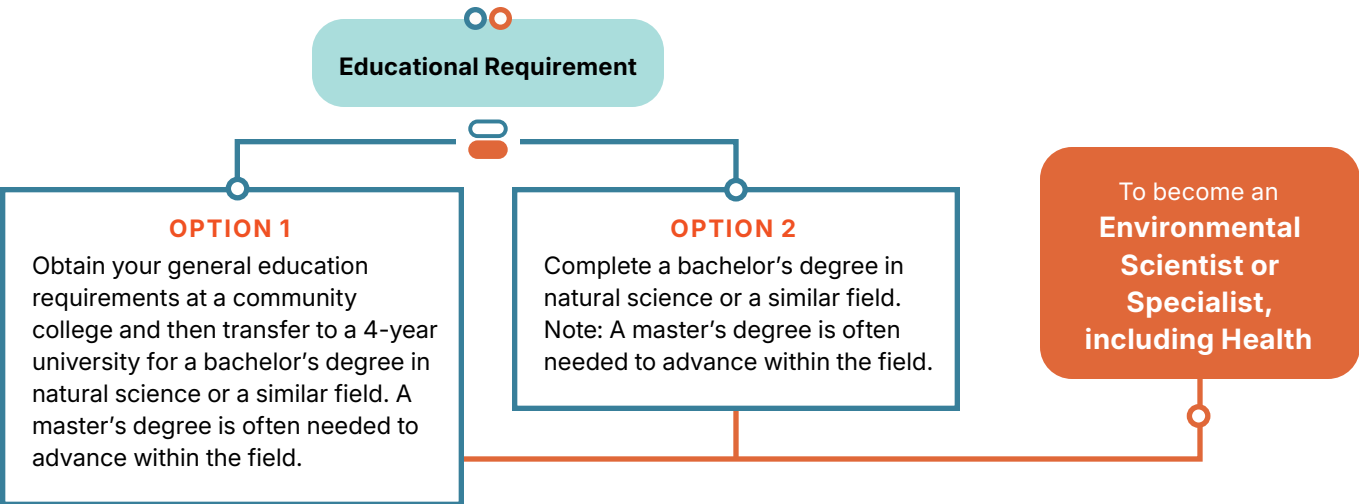
-  **Median Salary:** \$54,691 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
-  **Transferable Skills:**
 - Project management
 - Data analysis
 - Driver's license

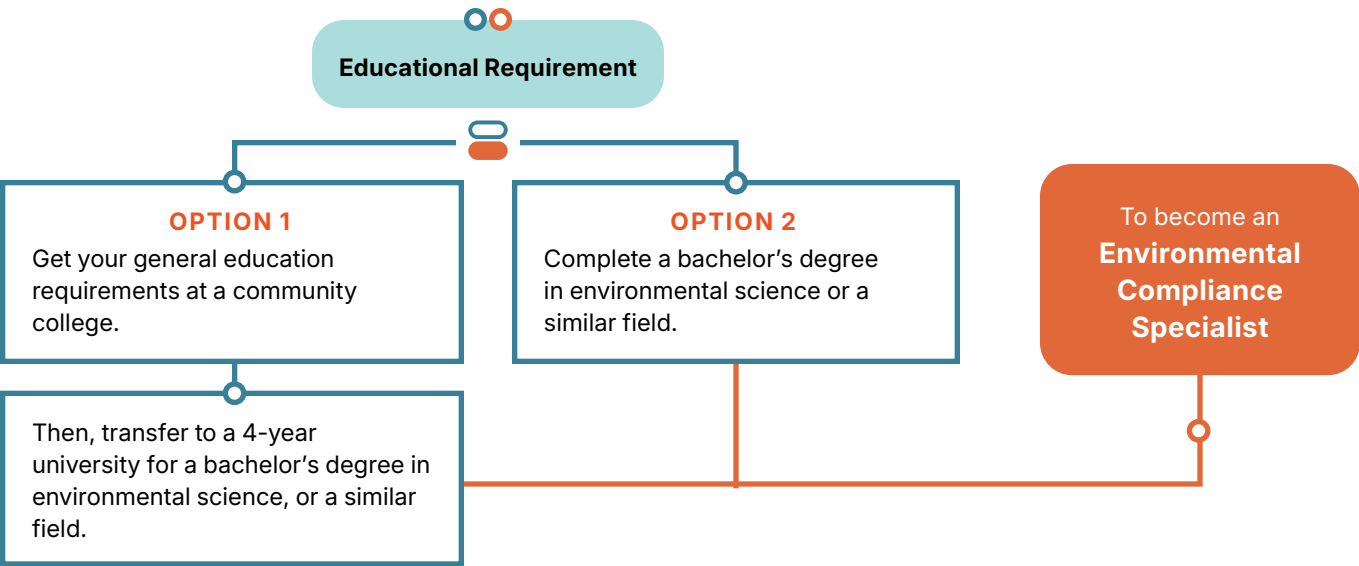
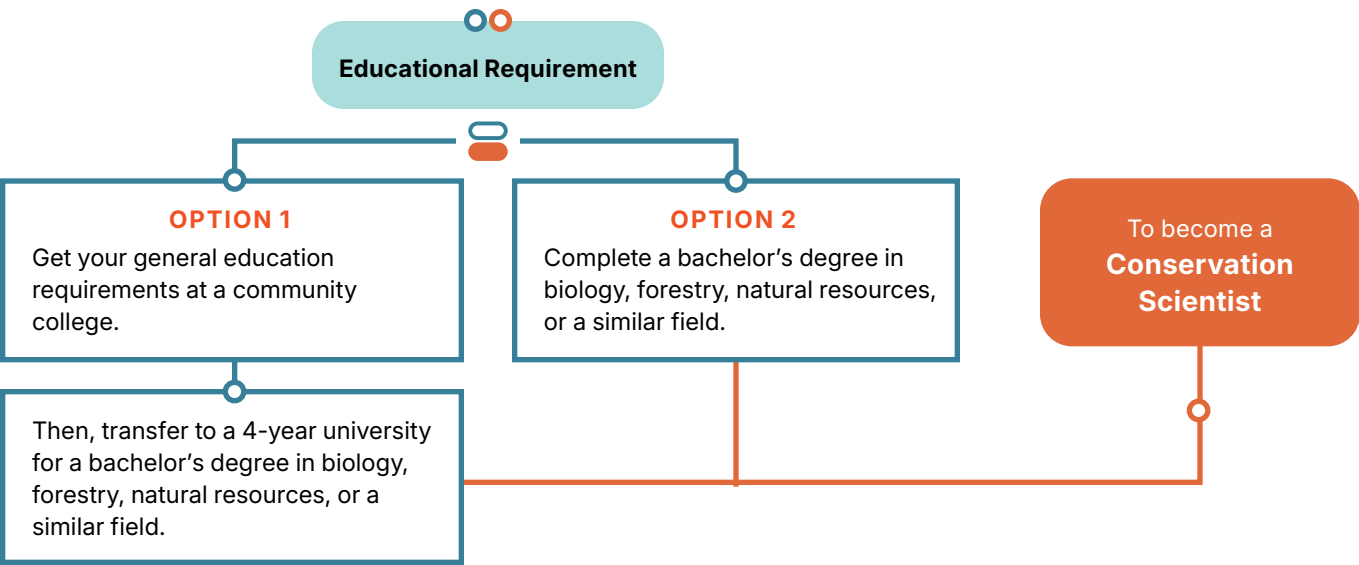


Environmental Science & Protection Technicians, including Health

Environmental Science and Protection Technicians help keep the air, water, and land clean. They collect samples, run tests, and help scientists find and fix problems that could harm people or nature.

-  **Median Salary:** \$56,828 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
-  **Transferable Skills:**
 - Biology
 - Project management
 - Sampling (statistics)
 - Environmental science
 - Environmental health & safety
 - Driver's license
 - Project management
 - Emergency response
 - Soil science





Wastewater Lab Assistant

A Wastewater Lab Assistant helps test water from homes and businesses to make sure it's safe to go back into the environment. They work in labs, checking for germs and chemicals, and help protect our water and health.



Median Salary: \$54,099 per year

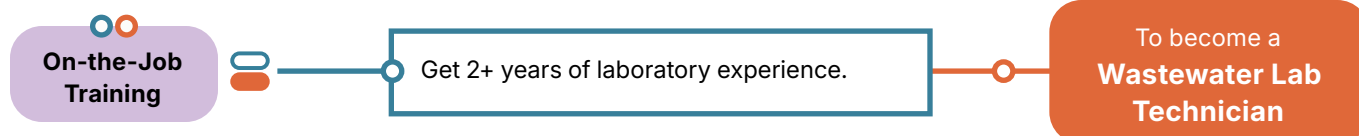


Minimum Age Requirements: 18 years old



Transferable Skills:

- Water science and testing techniques
- Safety practices
- Laboratory procedures and techniques



Environmental Health & Safety Intermediate Professions

Occupational Health & Safety Specialist

Occupational Health & Safety Specialists help keep workers safe by checking that workplaces follow health and safety rules. They look for problems, find ways to fix them, and help make work areas safer for everyone.



Median Salary: \$104,899 per year



Minimum Age Requirements: 18 years old



Transferable Skills:

- Project management
- Auditing
- Regulatory compliance
- Driver's license

Industrial Hygienist

Industrial Hygienists help keep people safe and healthy at work. They look for things like bad air, loud noise, or harmful chemicals, then find ways to fix those problems so workers stay safe and feel good on the job.



Median Salary: \$78,375 per year



Minimum Age Requirements: 18 years old



Transferable Skills:

- Hazard recognition
- Risk assessment
- Creating and implementing safety plans
- Inspection
- Evaluation
- Incident investigation
- Training and education

Construction Safety Officer

A Construction Safety Officer helps keep workers safe on building sites. They make sure everyone follows safety rules, checks for hazards, and teaches people how to avoid getting hurt. Their job is to protect lives while buildings get built.

 **Median Salary:** \$64,990 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

 **Transferable Skills:**

- Safety regulations
- Hazard identification
- Risk assessment
- Accident investigation
- Safety training
- Crisis management

Safety Officer

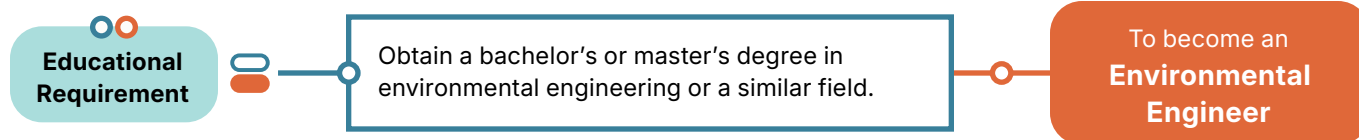
A Safety Officer helps keep people safe at work by making sure everyone follows safety rules. They check for dangers, teach others how to stay safe, and help prevent accidents. Their job is to protect others every day.

 **Median Salary:** \$64,072 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

 **Transferable Skills:**

- Risk assessment
- Accident investigation
- Regulation knowledge
- Data analysis
- Project management



Environmental Scientist & Specialists, including Health

Environmental Scientists & Specialists help keep our planet clean and safe. They study nature to find and fix problems like pollution. They also give advice to leaders and businesses to help protect the Earth and people's health.

 **Median Salary:** \$87,832 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

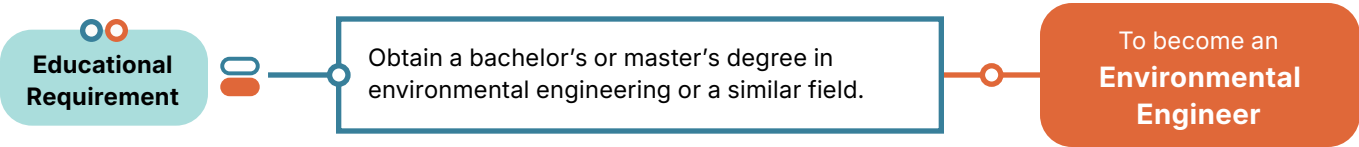
 **Transferable Skills:**

- Environmental engineering
- Auditing
- Environmental laws
- Soil science
- Environmental compliance
- Environmental science
- Groundwater
- Hydrogeology
- Project management
- Driver's license

Occupational Health & Safety Specialist

Occupational Health & Safety Specialists help keep workers safe on the job. They check that workplaces follow safety rules and look for ways to stop people from getting hurt or sick while working.

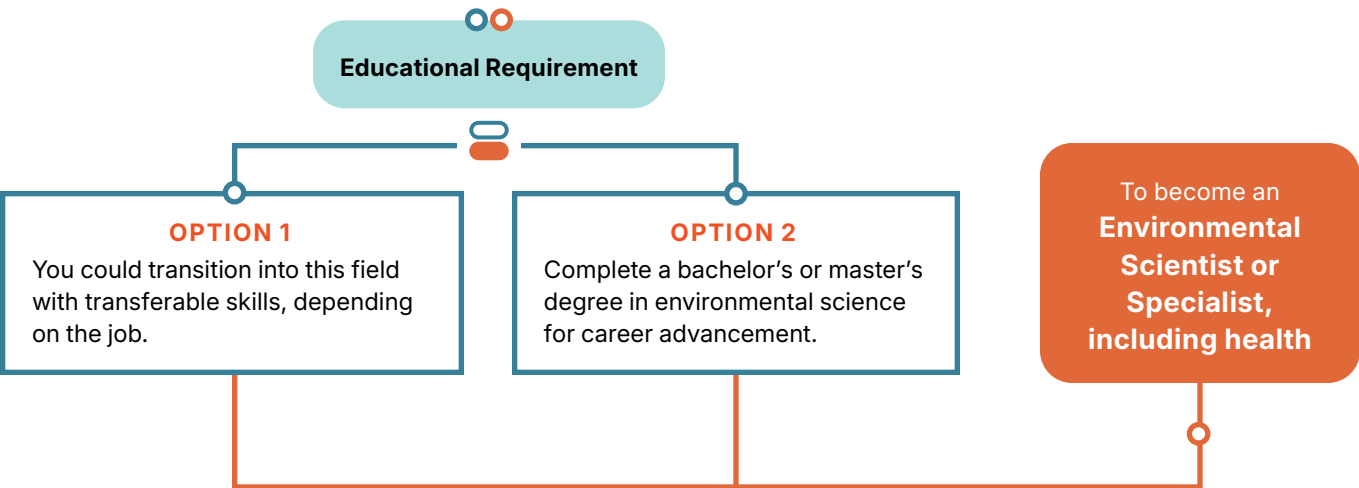
-  **Median Salary:** \$104,899 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
-  **Transferable Skills:**
 - Project management
 - Regulatory compliance
 - Auditing
 - Driver's license



Conservation Scientist

Conservation Scientists help take care of nature, like forests, parks, and open land. They make sure these places stay healthy and safe for animals, plants, and people to enjoy now and in the future.

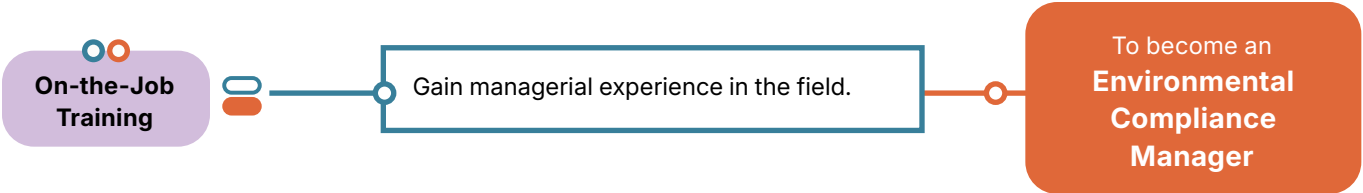
-  **Median Salary:** \$65,390 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
-  **Transferable Skills:**
 - Biology
 - Soil science
 - Driver's license



Environmental Compliance Specialist

Environmental Compliance Specialists make sure companies follow rules that protect the environment. They help check if air, water, and land are safe, and work with others to fix problems if something isn't right. Their goal is to keep people and nature safe and healthy.

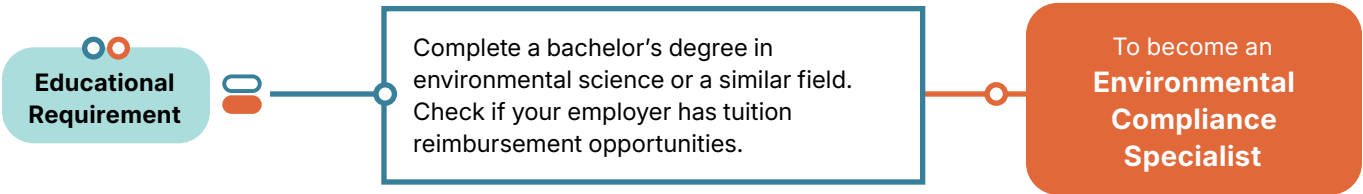
-  **Median Salary:** \$68,829 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
-  **Transferable Skills:**
 - Environmental regulations
 - Project management
 - Risk assessment
 - Risk management



Wastewater Lab Technician

A Wastewater Lab Technician tests water from sewers and treatment plants to make sure it's clean and safe before going back into nature. They help protect the environment and keep people healthy by checking for harmful germs and chemicals.

-  **Median Salary:** \$58,053 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
-  **Transferable Skills:**
 - Regulation knowledge
 - Sampling and monitoring
 - Data analysis
 - Quality assurance



Imaging Pathway



About the Imaging Pathway

This pathway focuses on health care careers that support diagnosis and treatment using medical imaging technologies such as X-rays, MRIs, CT scans, and other diagnostic tools. These jobs play a critical role in patient care by using imaging to figure out what is causing a patient's health problems and helping to treat them.

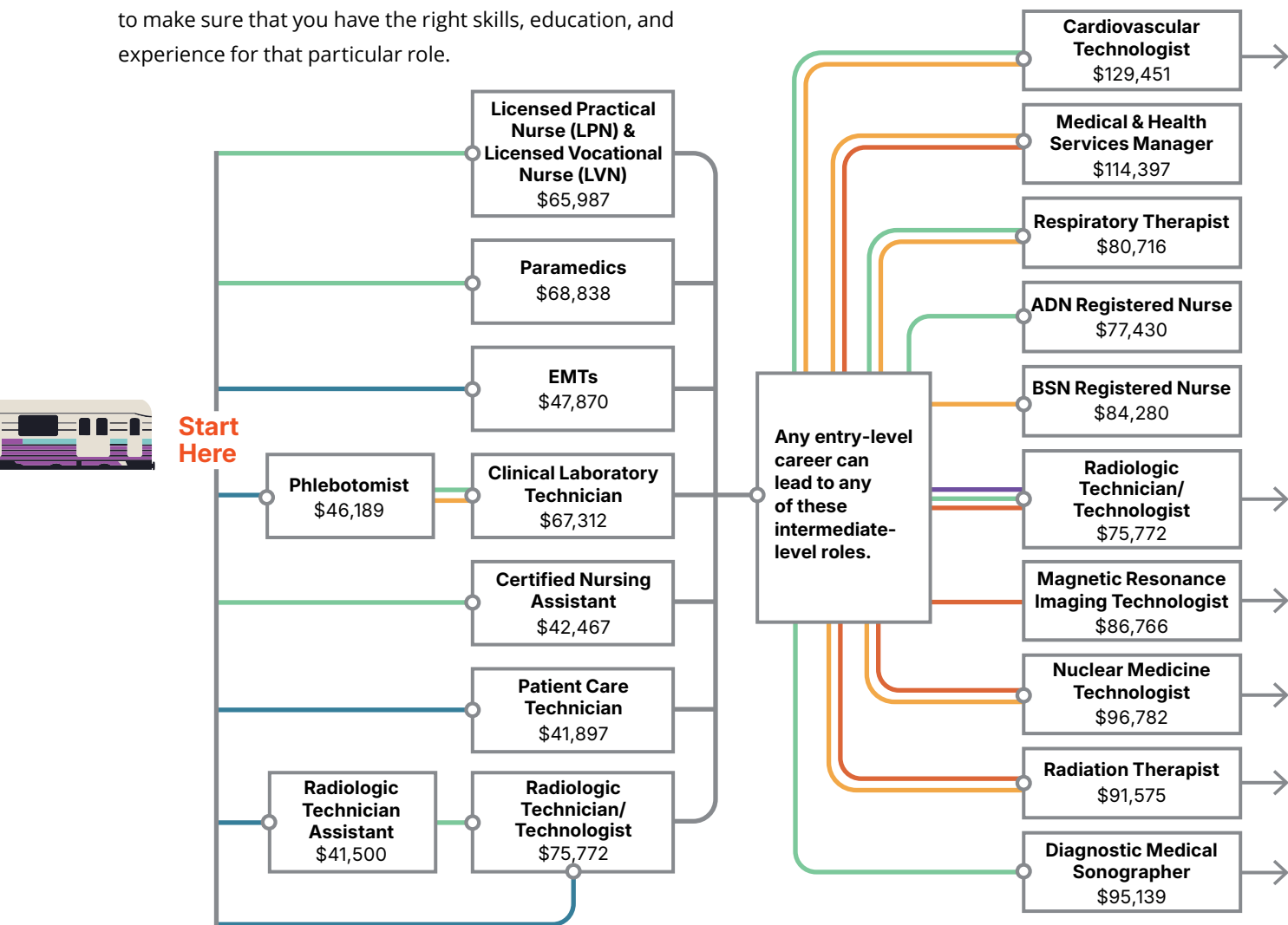
Jobs featured in this pathway include:

- Radiation Therapist
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) & Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)
- Paramedic
- EMT
- Phlebotomist
- Clinical Laboratory Technician
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Patient Care Technician
- Cardiovascular Technologist
- Medical & Health Services Manager
- Respiratory Therapist
- ADN Registered Nurse
- BSN Registered Nurse
- Radiologic Technician
- Radiologic Technician Assistant
- Radiologic Technologist
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologist
- Nuclear Medicine Technologist



Imaging Pathway

These are examples of different ways to move between or into new careers within this field. We know everyone's career journey is unique, so think of these examples as a way to inspire your pathway, not the only way to do it. You can also move between the different pathways, start further along the pathway, or explore roles not mentioned at all in the pathway. Always check employer job descriptions to make sure that you have the right skills, education, and experience for that particular role.

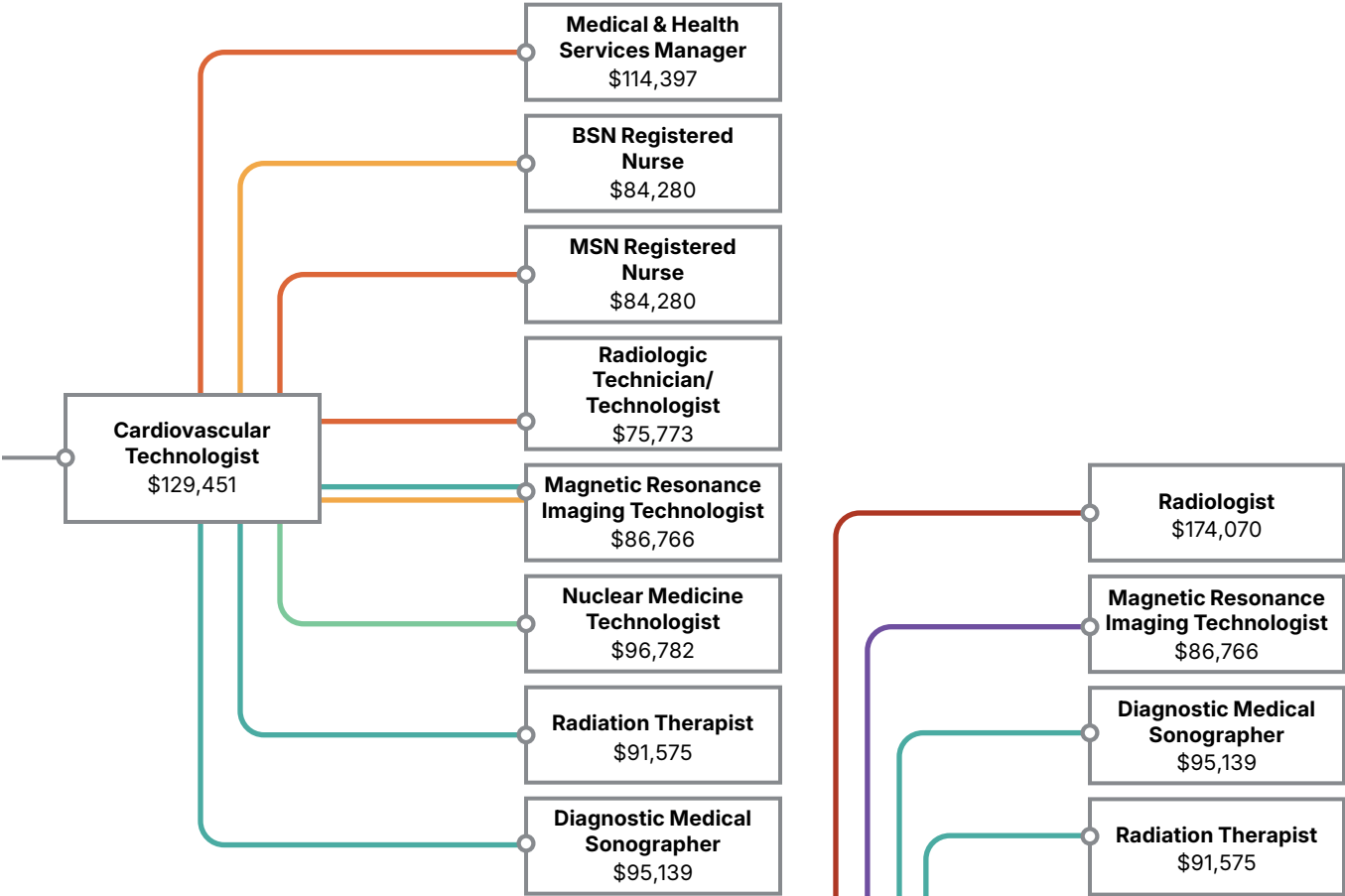


Imaging pathway continues on page 134.

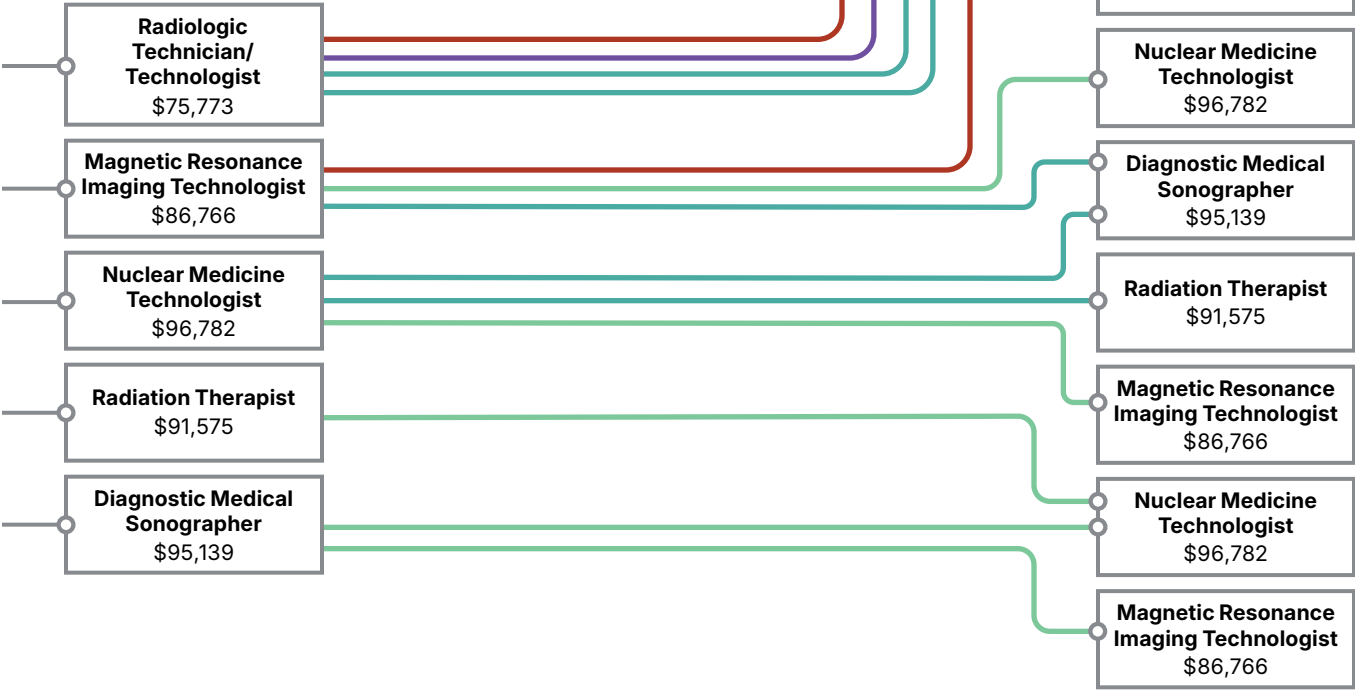
Key

The colors in the chart show the different years of education or training needed to move from one role to the next. There are often several ways to advance, and some paths have more than one line color to represent multiple education and training options.

- Education Requirement of less than 6 months
- Education Requirement of 6 months to 1 year
- Education Requirement of 1–2 years
- Education Requirement of 2–4 years
- Education Requirement of 4–6 years
- Education Requirement of 6 years or more
- On-the-job experience
- Bridge Programs



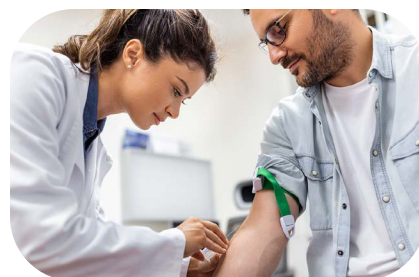
Pathway continued from page 133.



Begin Your Path to a Career in Imaging!

There are several positions on the **Imaging Pathway** that play critical roles in health care. They help doctors find out what's wrong with a patient by looking inside the body using X-rays, MRIs, and other scans. Their work helps diagnose injuries and illnesses early, which can save lives and help doctors make the best treatment decisions.

Let's explore the Imaging Pathway and discover the different entry points into this field.



If you have a high school diploma or GED, you can

Take a Phlebotomy Certificate program that takes 6-13 weeks.

To become a
Phlebotomist

If you have a high school diploma or GED, you can:

OPTION 1

Complete a fast-track LPN program in just 11 months.

OPTION 2

Complete a 4 semester LPN program at a community college.

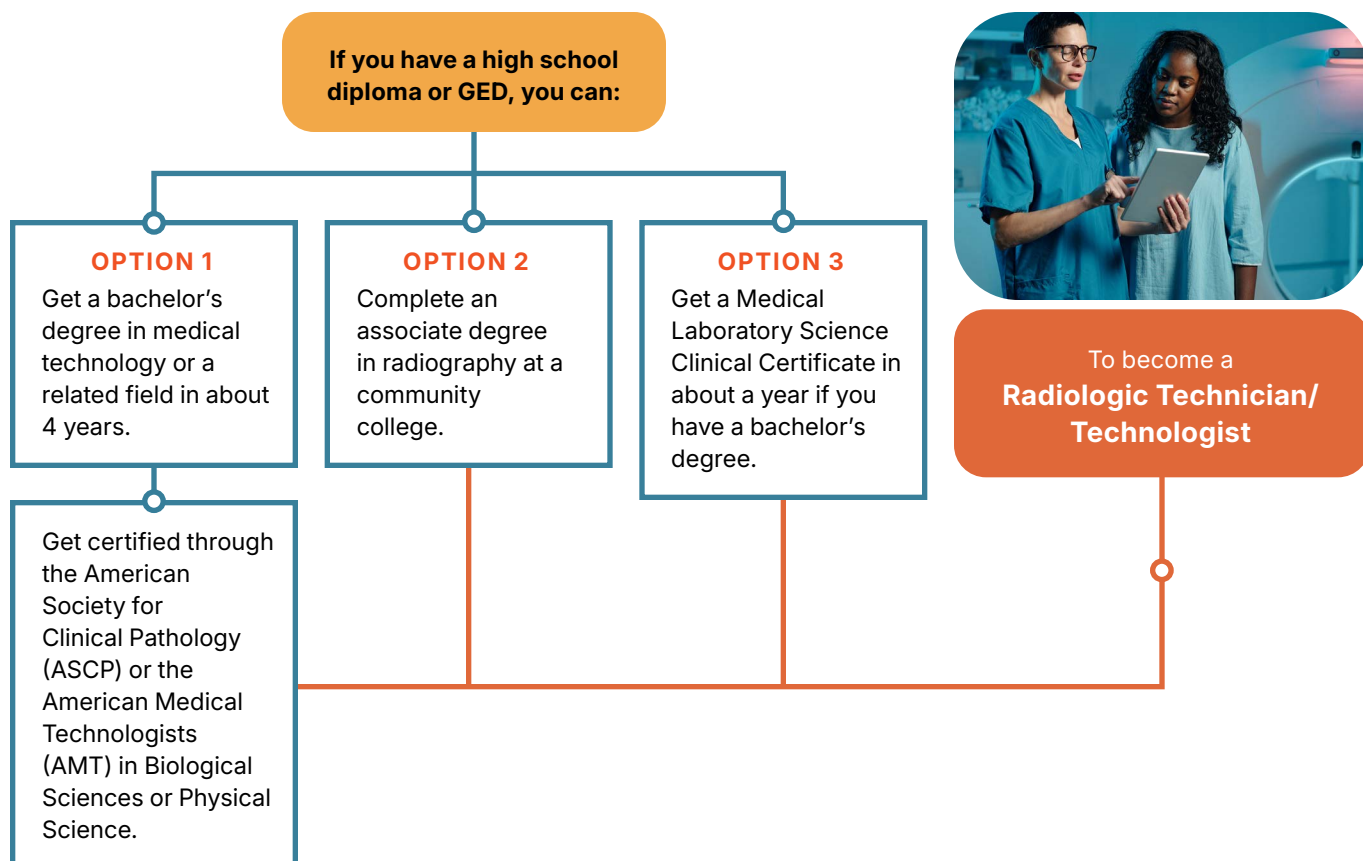
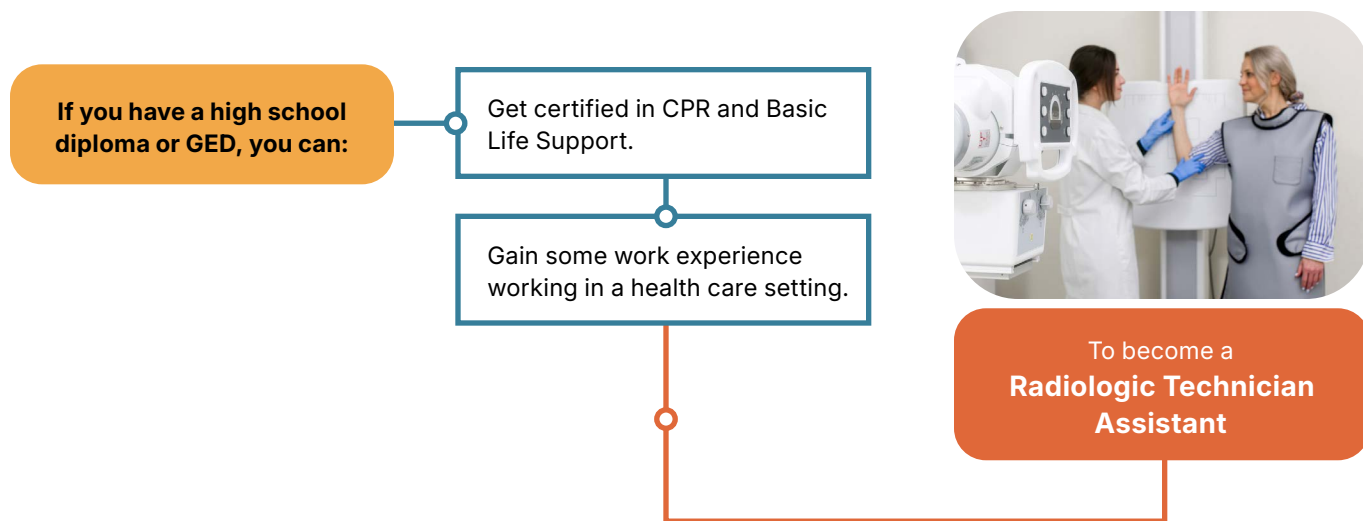
Pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-LP) exam.

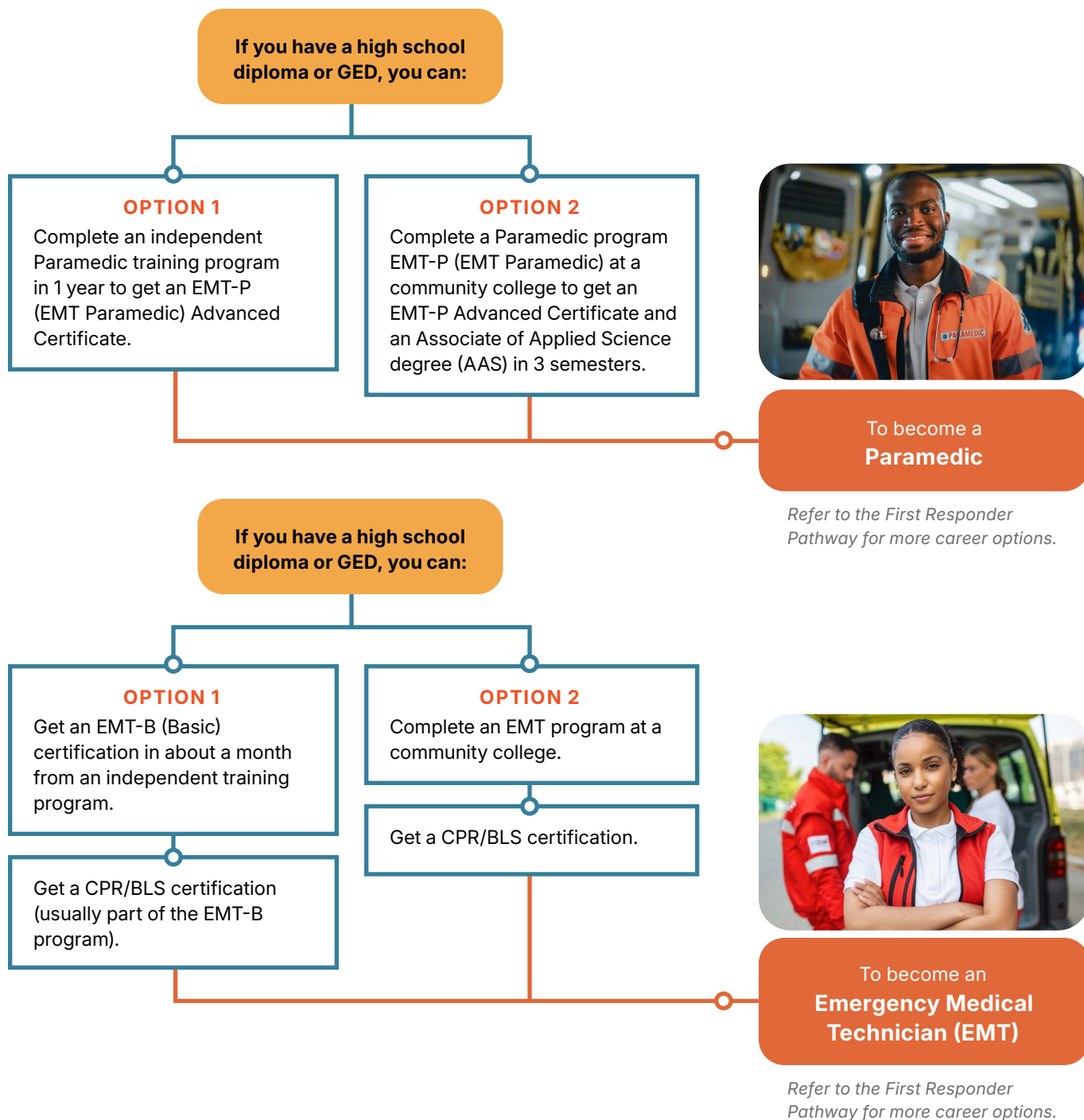
Pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-LP) exam.



To become a
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) or Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)

Refer to the Nursing Pathway for more career options.







Learn more about the Imaging pathway. →

Imaging

Entry-Level Professions

Phlebotomist

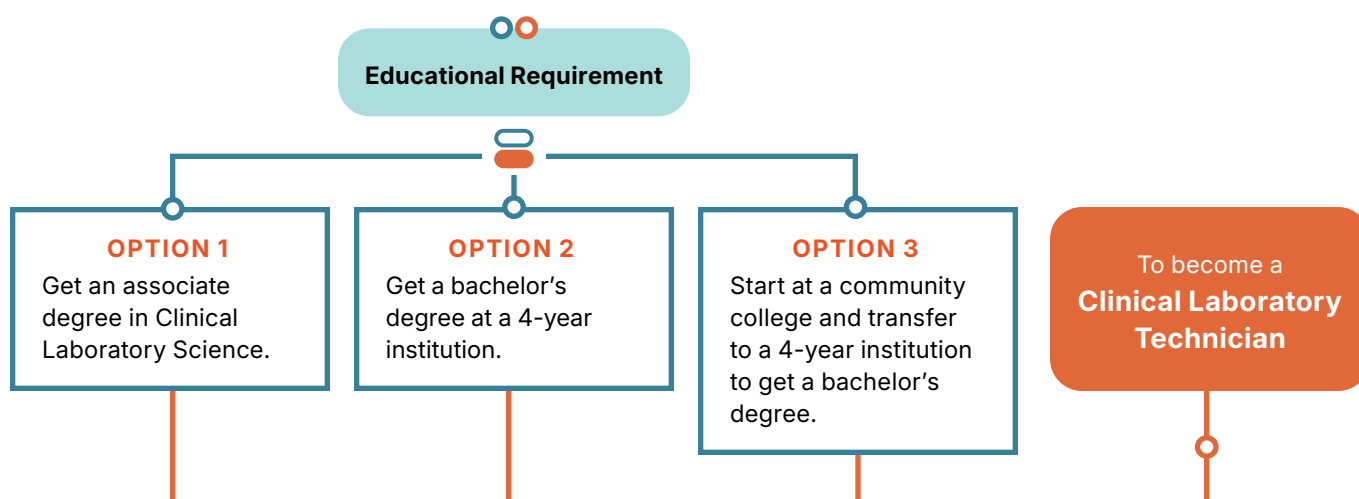
Phlebotomists draw blood from patients for tests, research, or donations. They make sure everything is clean and help patients feel comfortable during the process.

 **Median Salary:** \$46,189 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

 **Transferable Skills:**

- Rehabilitation
- Patient treatment
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Physical therapy



Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) & Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)

Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) and Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) take care of patients by checking their health, giving medicine, and helping with basic needs such as bathing or dressing. They work with doctors and nurses to make sure patients feel better and stay safe. Most LPNs and LVNs work in nursing homes, taking care of older adults.

 **Median Salary:** \$65,987 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

Each of these entry-level professions can lead to the intermediate professions, which are listed starting on page 141.

Paramedics

Paramedics provide advanced emergency care. They can give medicine, start IVs, and treat serious injuries before patients get to the hospital.

 **Median Salary:** \$68,838

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

EMTs are first responders who help people in emergencies. They provide life-saving care and safely transport sick or injured patients to the hospital in an ambulance.

 **Median Salary:** \$47,871

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

Clinical Laboratory Technician

Clinical Laboratory Technicians test blood and other body fluids to help doctors find out what's making someone feel sick. Their work helps people get the right treatment to feel better.

 **Median Salary:** \$67,312

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

Clinical Laboratory Technologist

Clinical Laboratory Technologists run more advanced tests on blood and other body fluids to help find out what's making someone feel sick. They play a big role in helping doctors make the right diagnosis and treatment plans.

 **Median Salary:** \$67,312

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)

Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) help nurses care for patients by feeding, bathing, and moving them. They also stock medical supplies and record important patient information. Certified Nursing Assistants and Patient Care Technicians often perform the same tasks.

 **Median Salary:** \$42,467

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

Patient Care Technician

Patient Care Technicians help patients by checking vital signs, assisting with daily activities like bathing and eating, and supporting nurses and doctors in medical care. Patient Care Technicians and Certified Nursing Assistants often perform the same tasks.

 **Median Salary:** \$41,897

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

Imaging

Intermediate Professions

All entry-level professions on the Imaging pathway can lead to these intermediate professions below.



Median Salary: Varies by profession



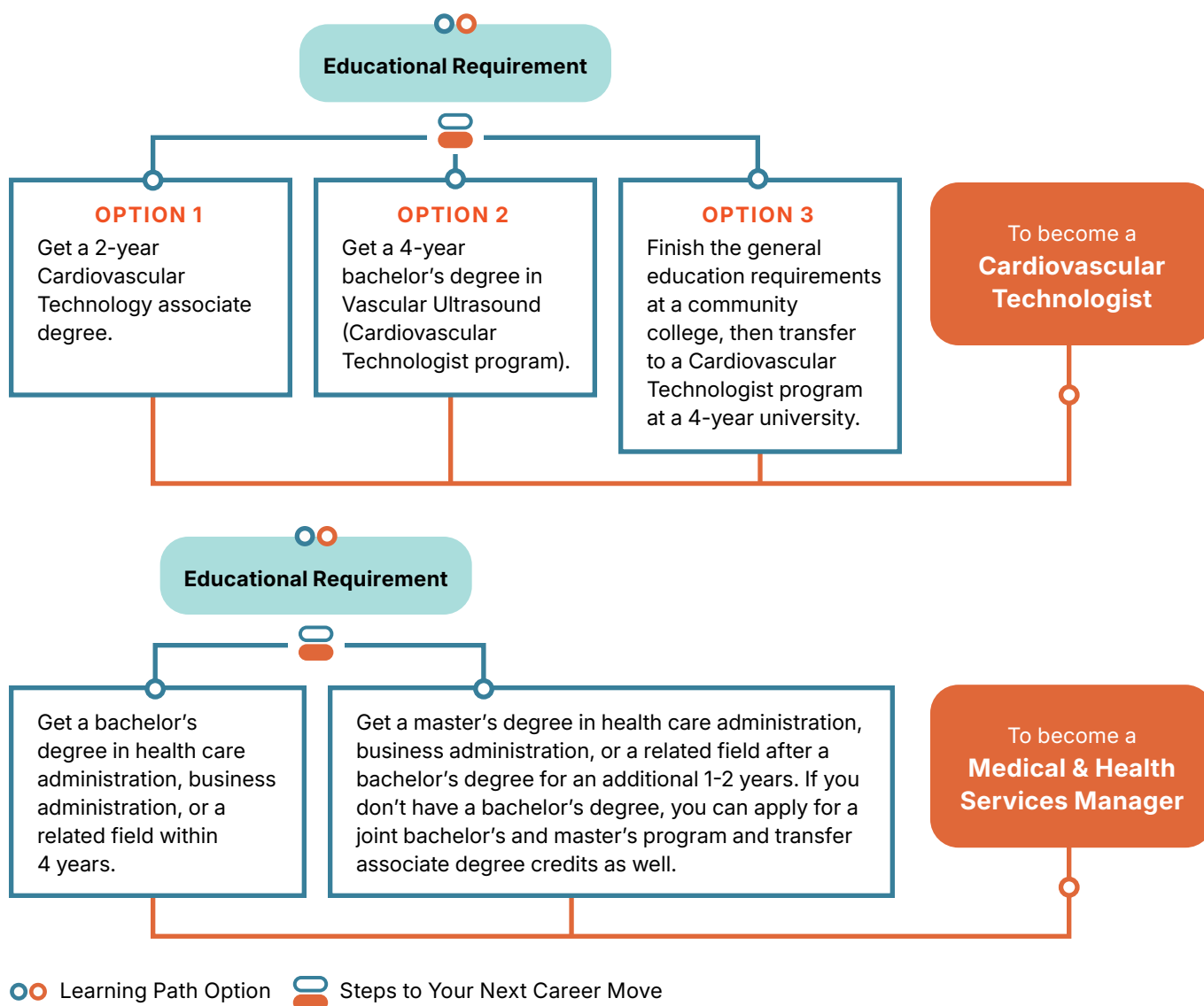
Minimum Age Requirements: 18 years old

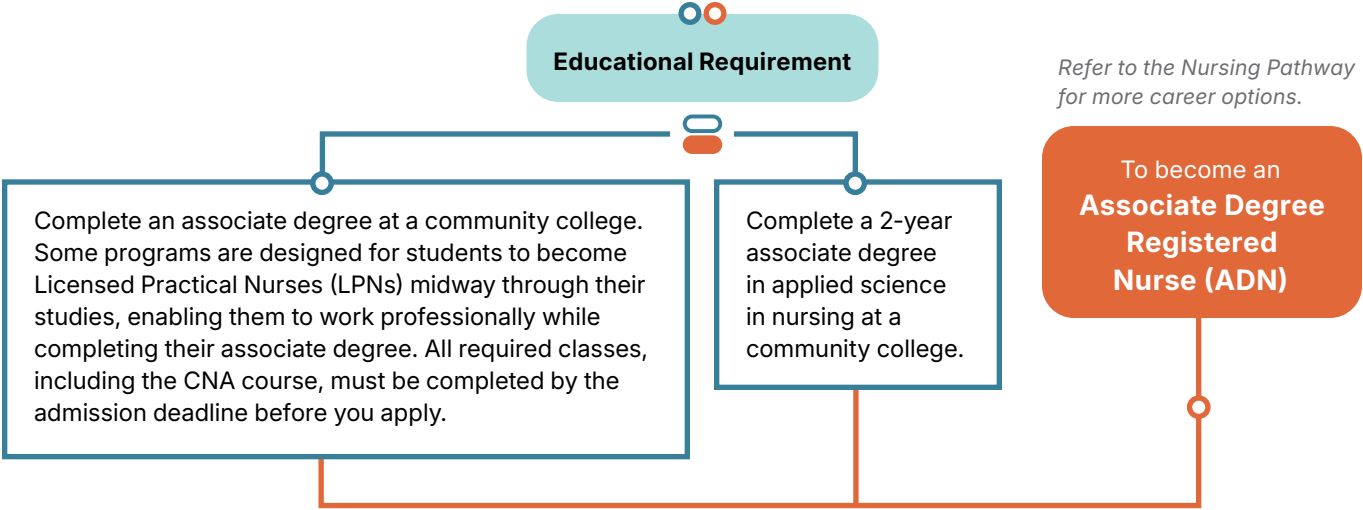
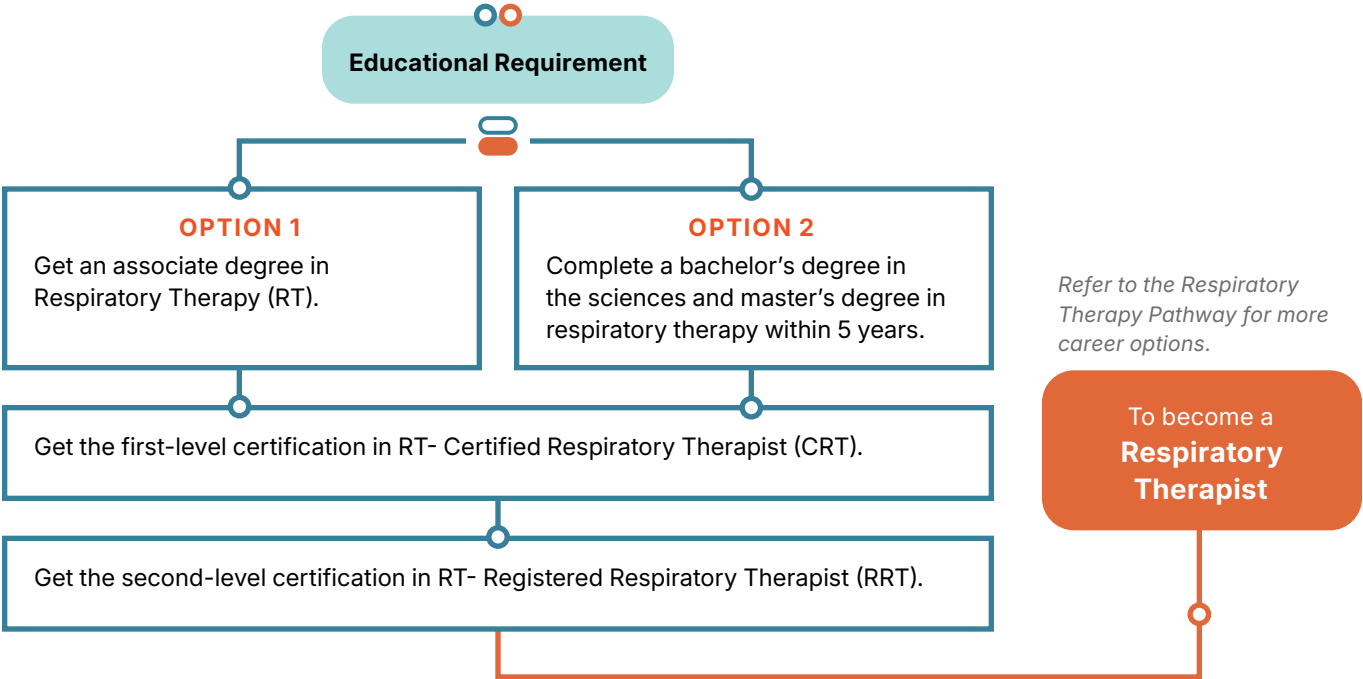


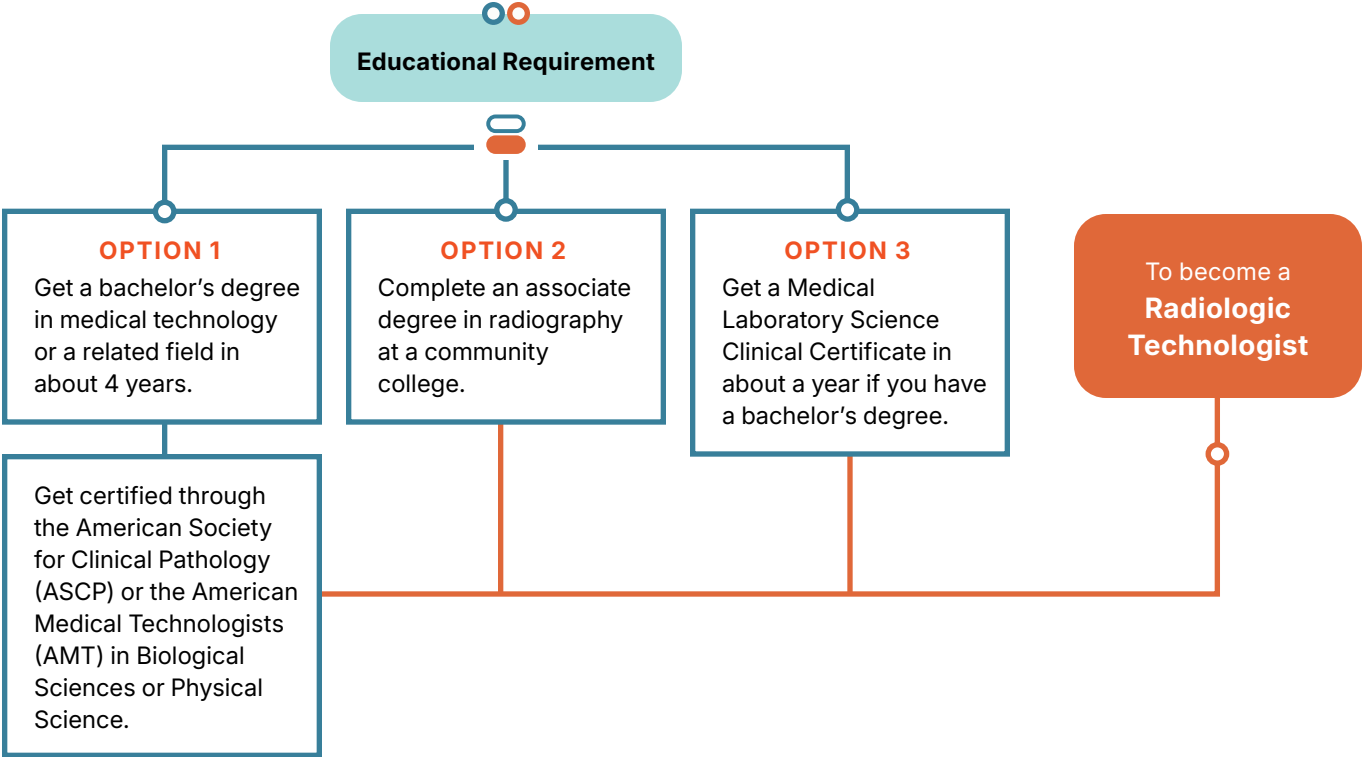
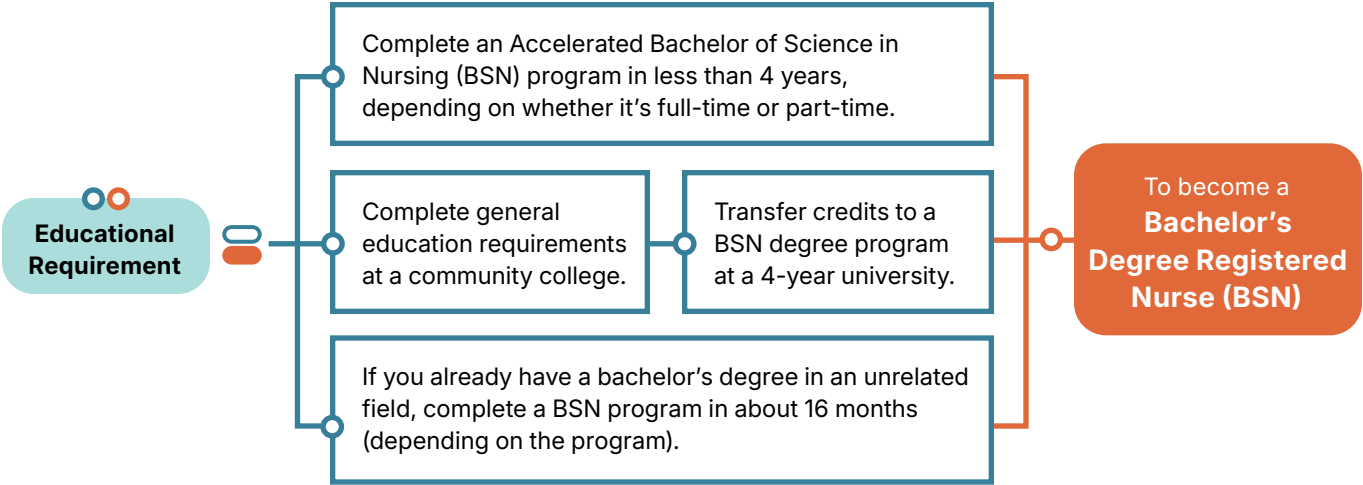
Transferable Skills:

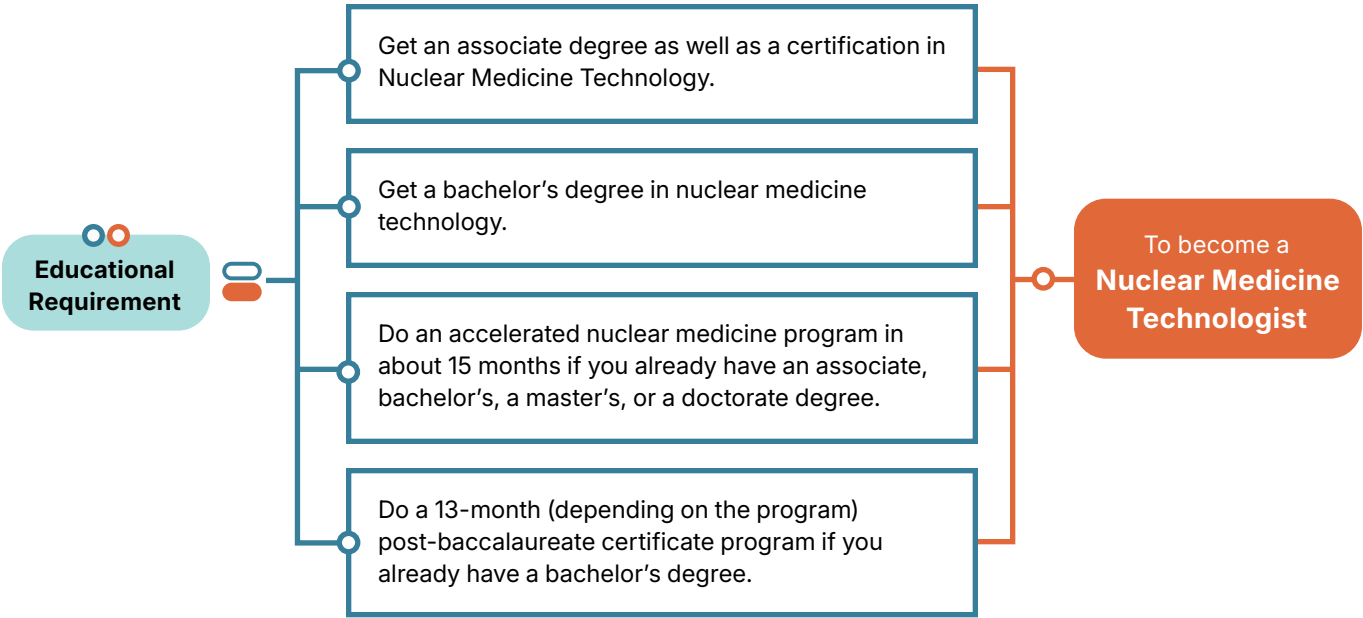
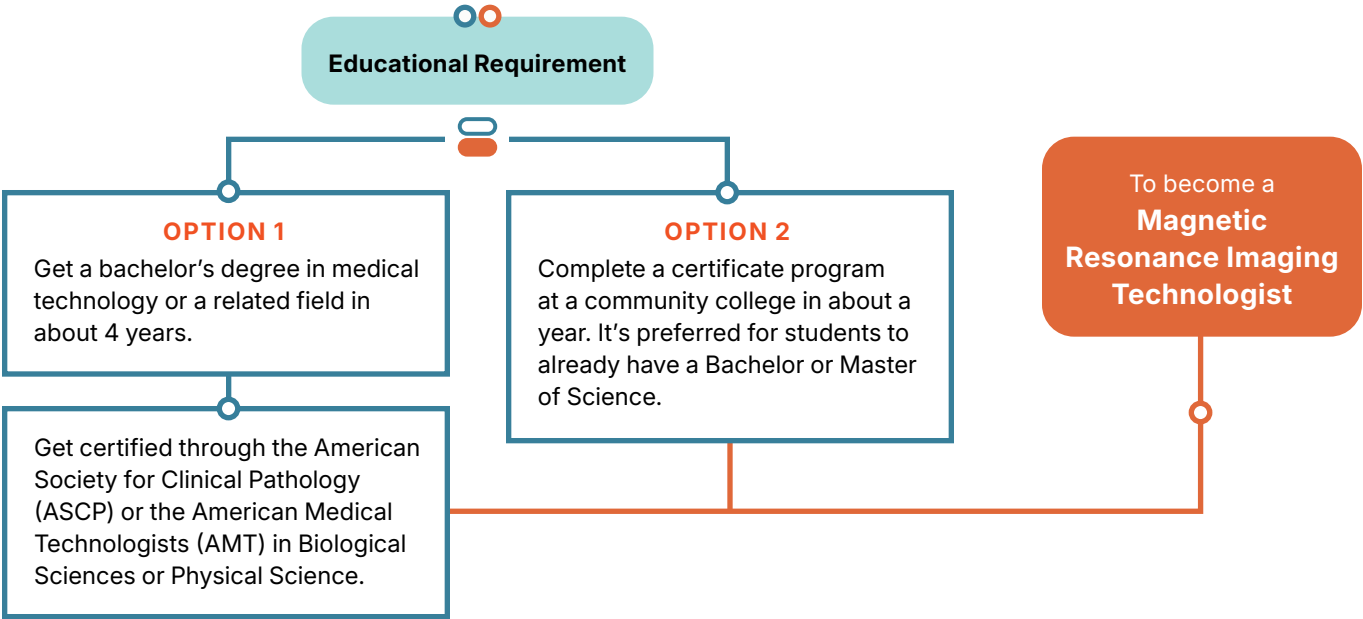
- Medical ultrasonography
- Cardiology
- Electrocardiography
- Nursing
- Radiology
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification

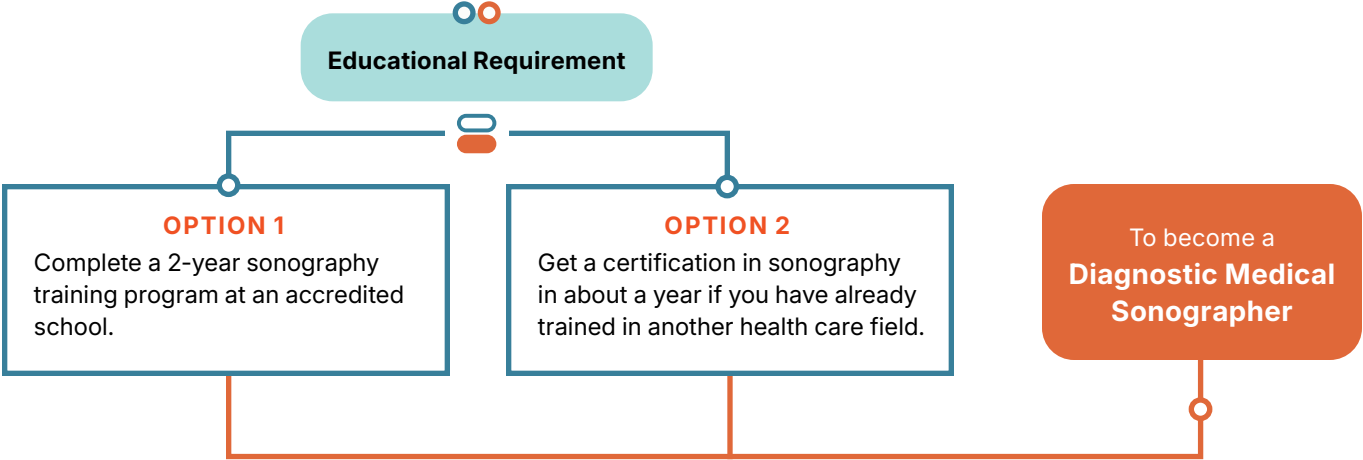
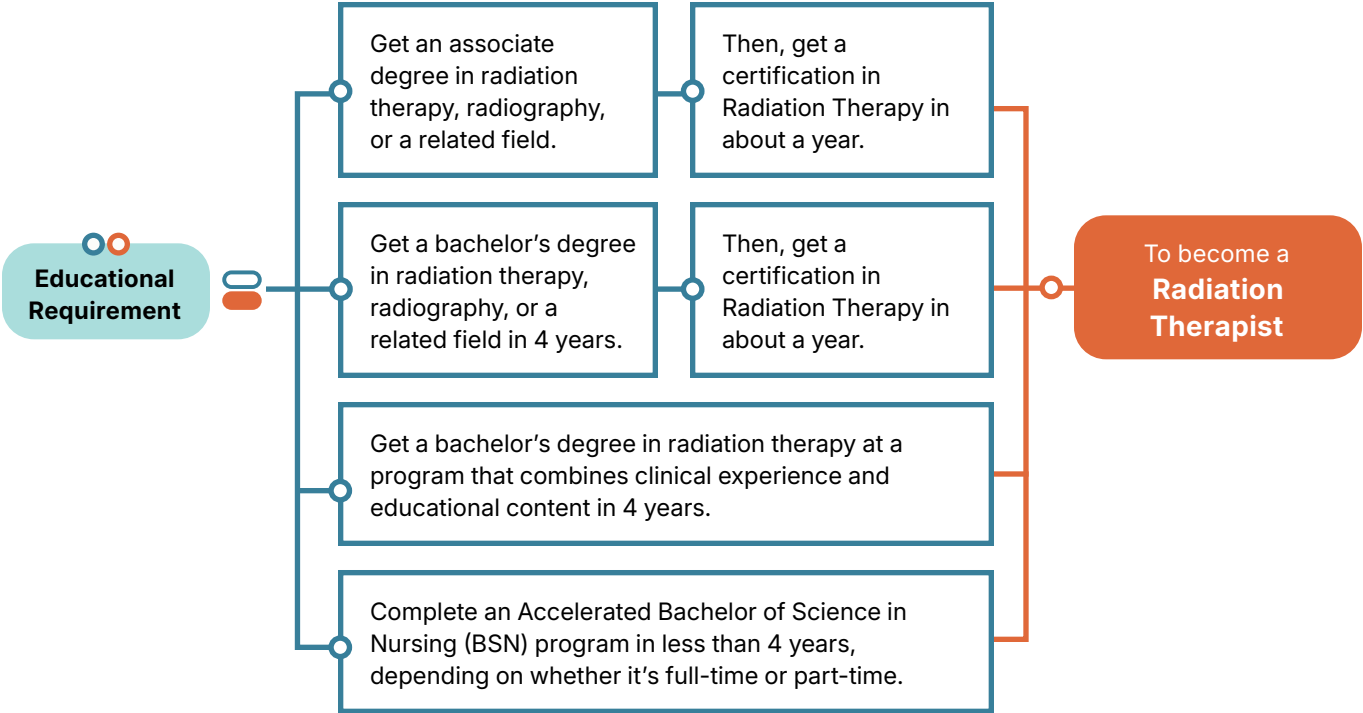
- American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) Certified
- Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) certification
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Cardiac catheterization
- Electrocardiography
- Hemodynamics (Fluid Mechanics)
- Cardiac stress testing
- Doppler ultrasonography
- Interventional cardiology











Imaging

Specialist Professions

Cardiovascular Technologist

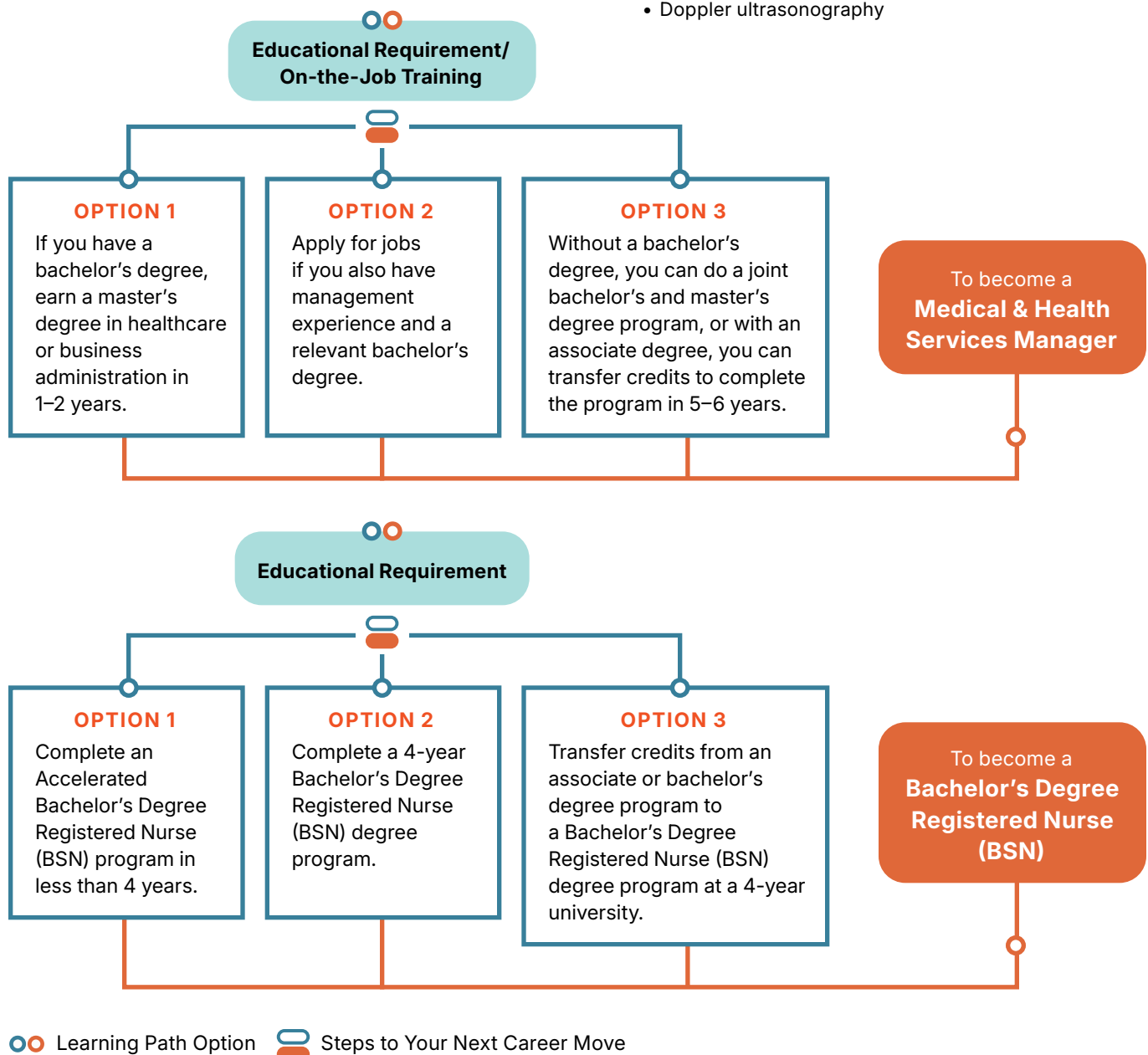
Cardiovascular Technologists help doctors find and treat heart problems. They use special machines to check how the heart and blood vessels are working.

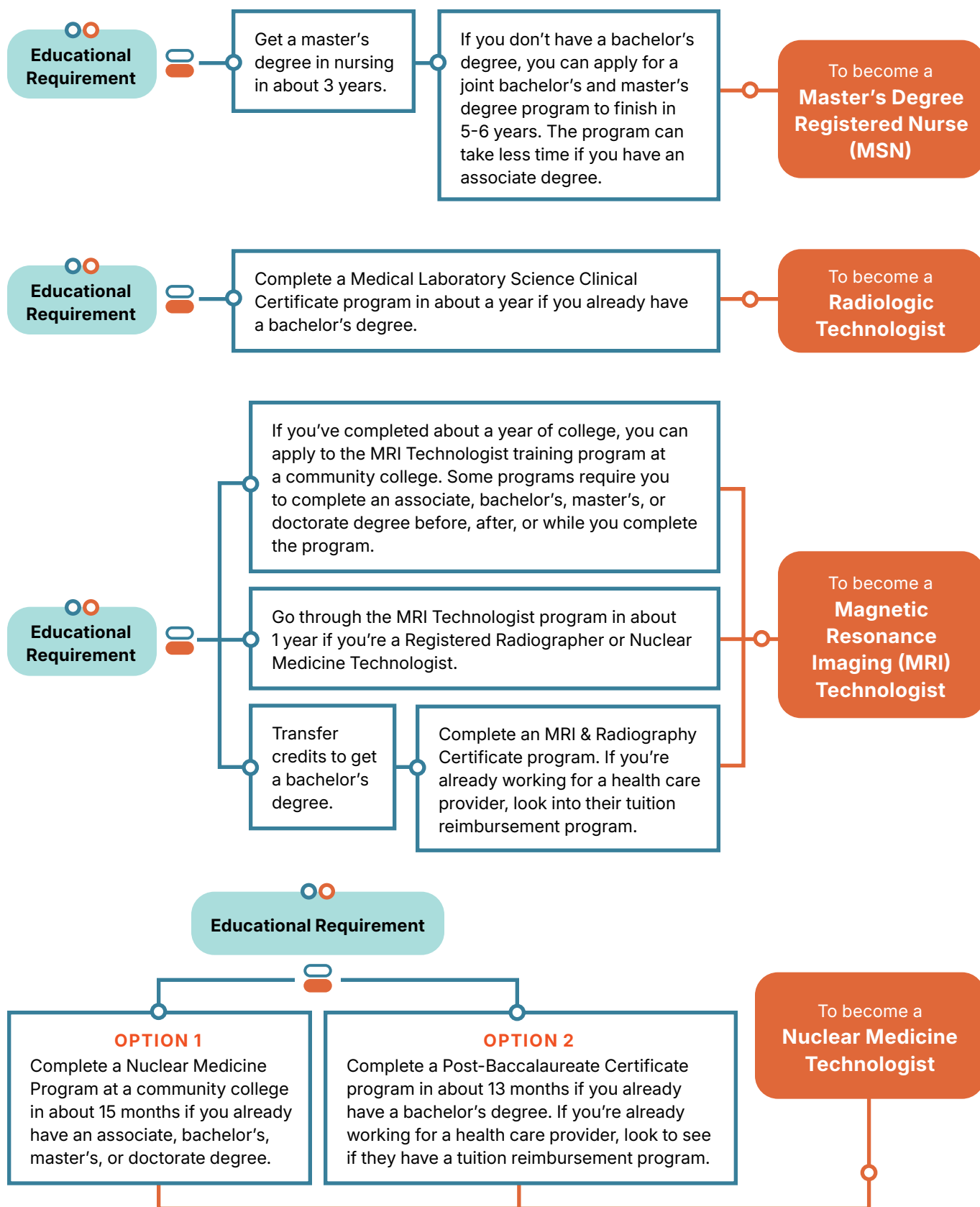
 **Median Salary:** \$129,451 per year

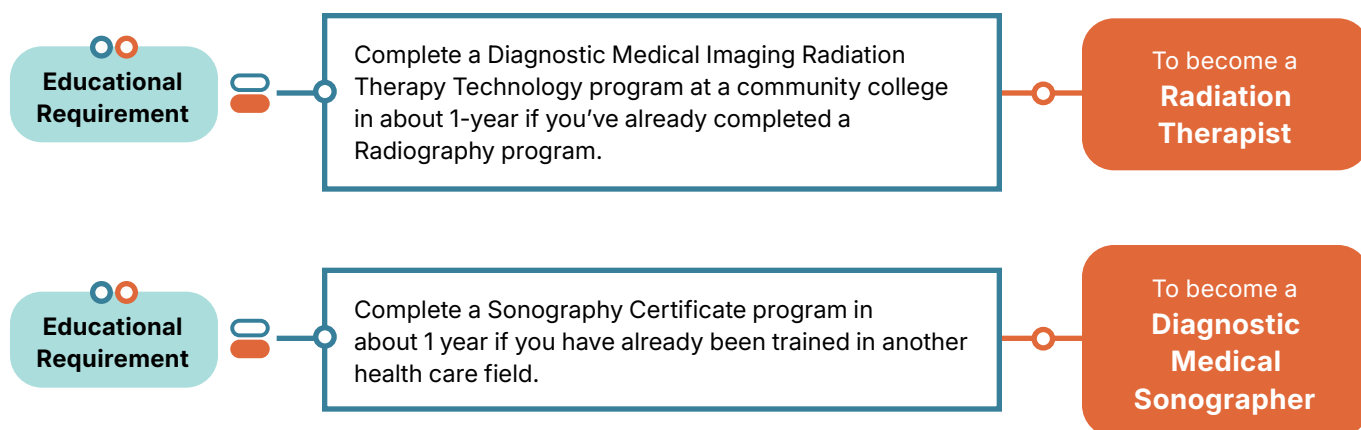
 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

 **Transferable Skills:**

- Radiology
- American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) Certified
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Medical ultrasonography
- Doppler ultrasonography





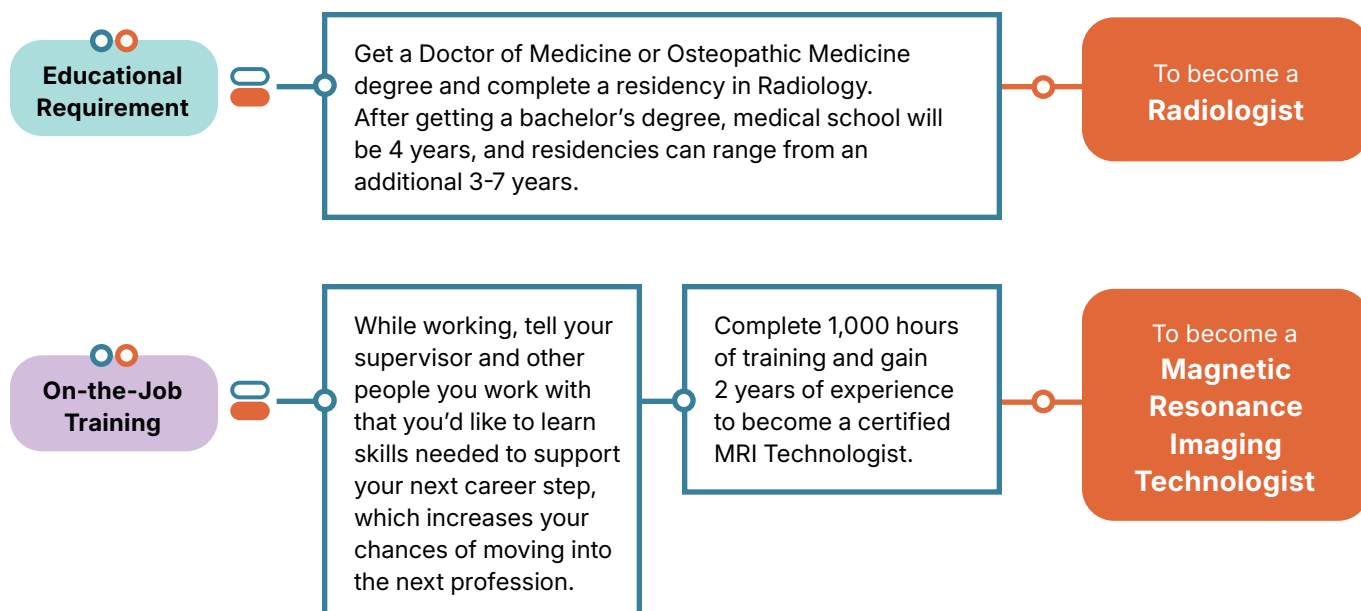


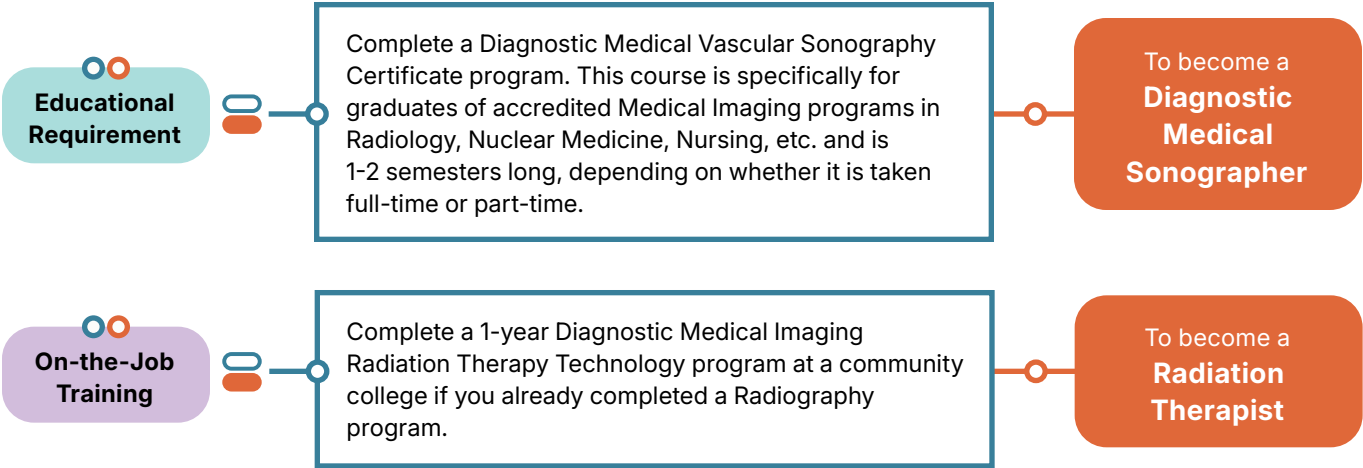
Radiologic Technicians/ Technologists

Radiologic Technicians/Technologists use specialized machines to take X-rays, CT scans, and MRI scans, helping doctors diagnose injuries and illnesses. They may also give patients special materials to make the images clearer. With more training, they can specialize and earn more.

Median Salary: \$75,773 per year

Minimum Age Requirements: 18 years old

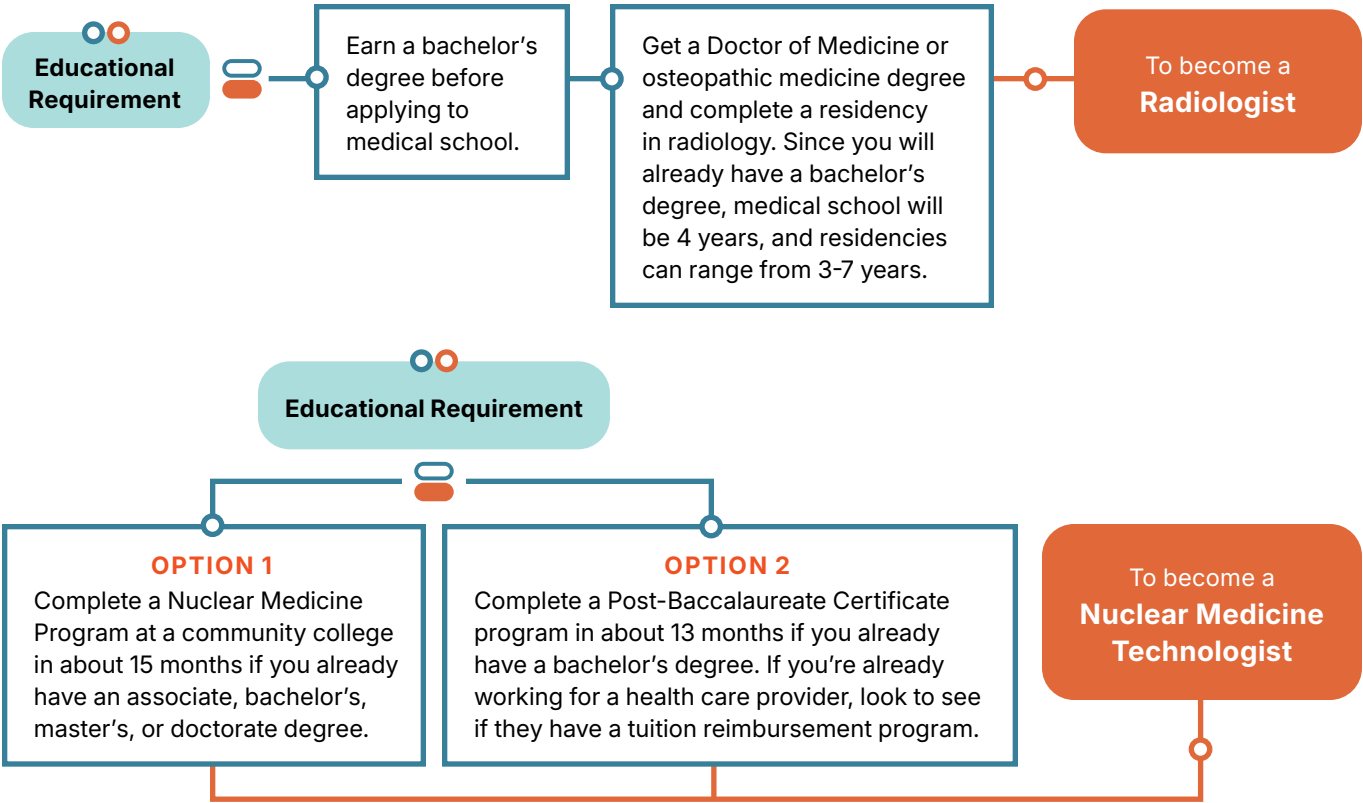




Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologist

MRI Technologists use special scanners to take detailed pictures inside the body. They make sure patients are safe and comfortable while getting clear images for doctors to review.

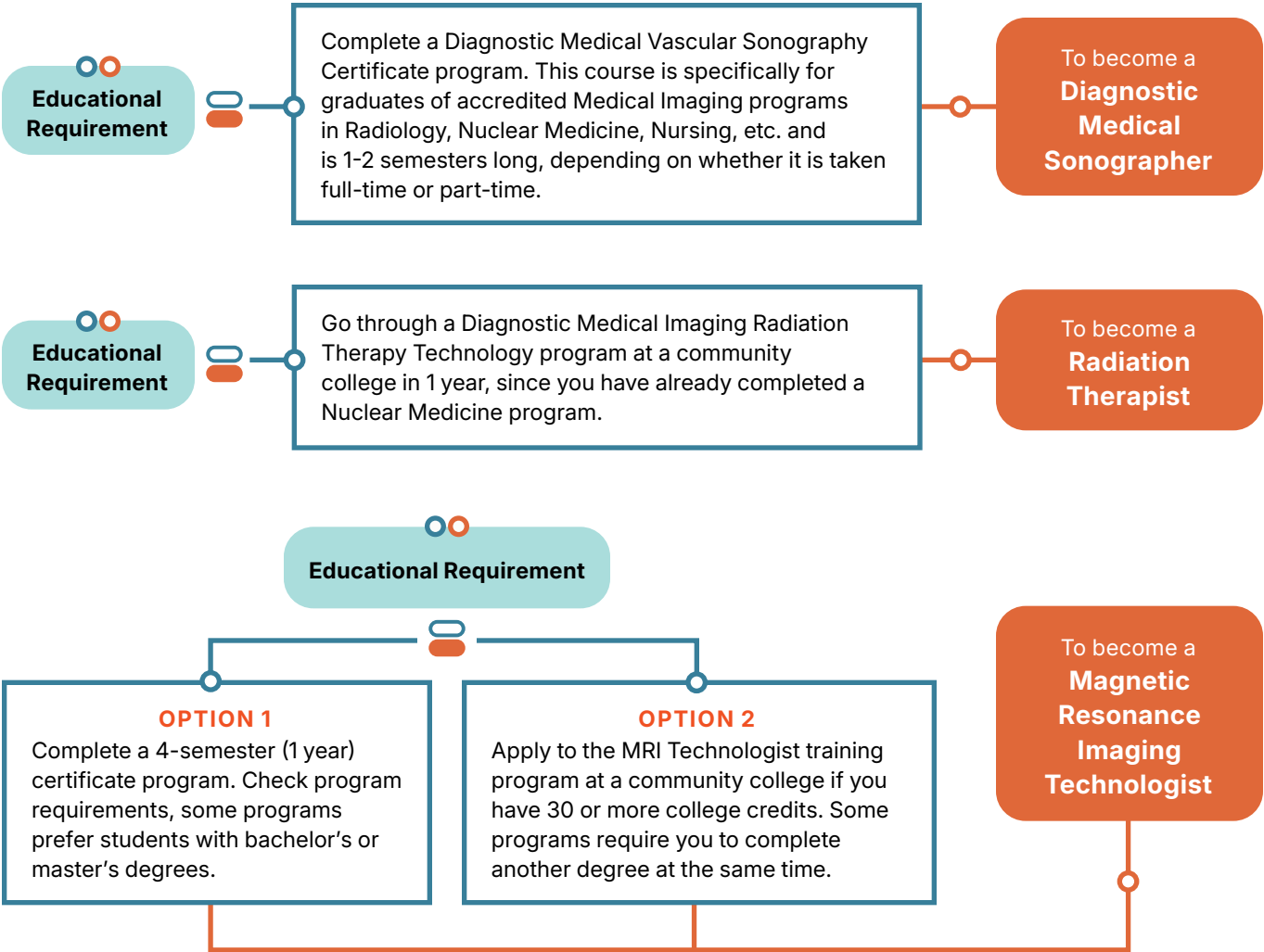
- Median Salary:** \$86,766 per year
- Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old



Nuclear Medicine Technologists

Nuclear Medicine Technologists use special medicines with a small amount of radiation to help doctors see inside the body. They work in hospitals and clinics to take images that help diagnose and treat patients.

-  **Median Salary:** \$96,782 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old



Radiation Therapists

Radiation Therapists help treat cancer by using special machines to target tumors with radiation. They work with doctors to make sure patients get the right care safely and accurately.

 **Median Salary:** \$91,575 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

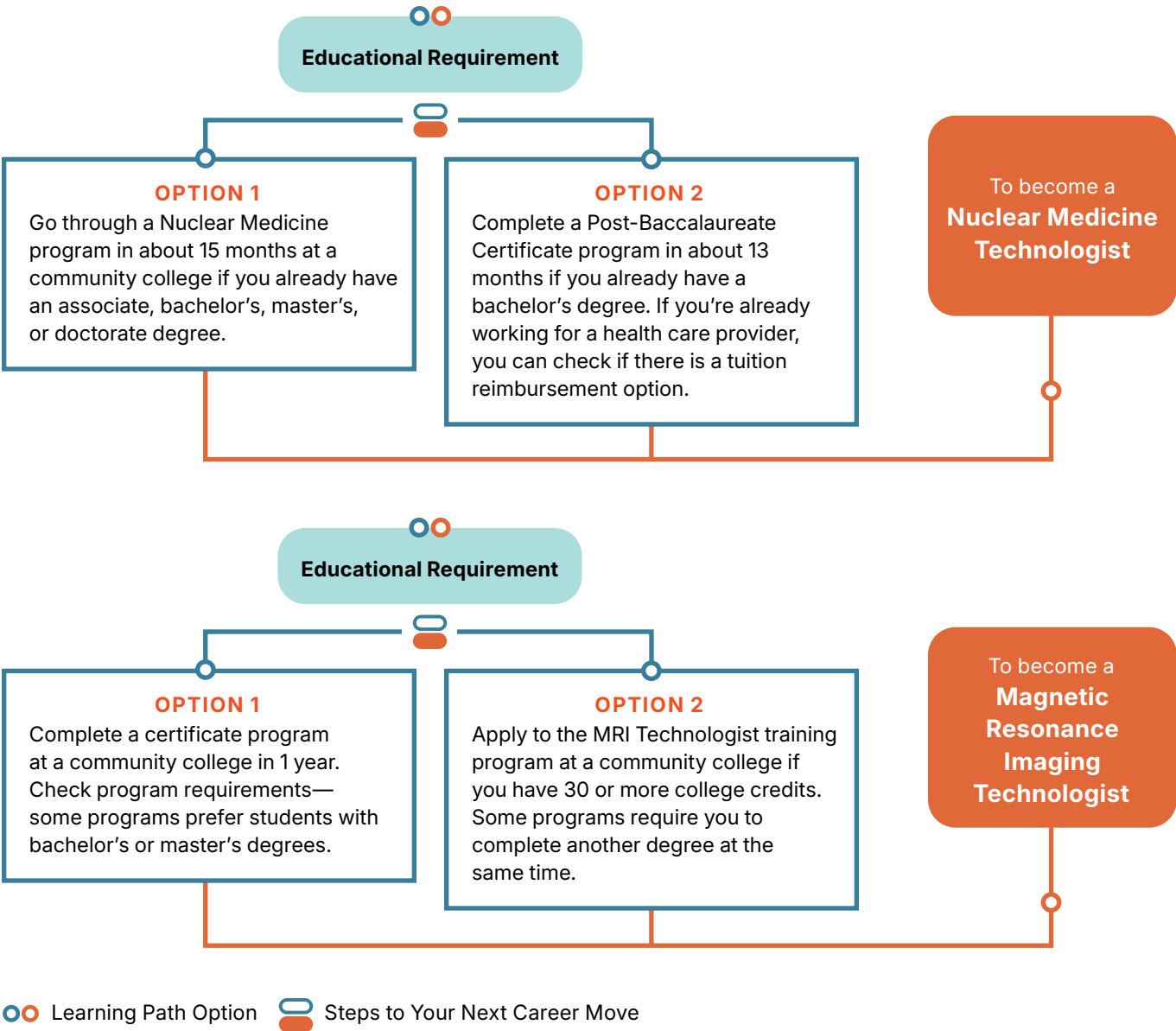
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers

Diagnostic Medical Sonographers use images of the body and sound waves to treat illnesses within the body. They help doctors diagnose and treat medical conditions.

 **Median Salary:** \$95,139 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

Both Radiation Therapists and Diagnostic Medical Sonographers can follow the learning paths below.



Mental Health Pathway



About the Mental Health Pathway

Mental health professionals and social workers are essential to the well-being of individuals and communities. They address the psychological, emotional, and social challenges that often go unseen but have a profound impact on overall health. These professionals provide critical support, from crisis intervention and therapy to long-term case management and advocacy. Their work helps prevent deeper health issues, supports recovery, and promotes resilience, contributing significantly to the broader goals of public health.

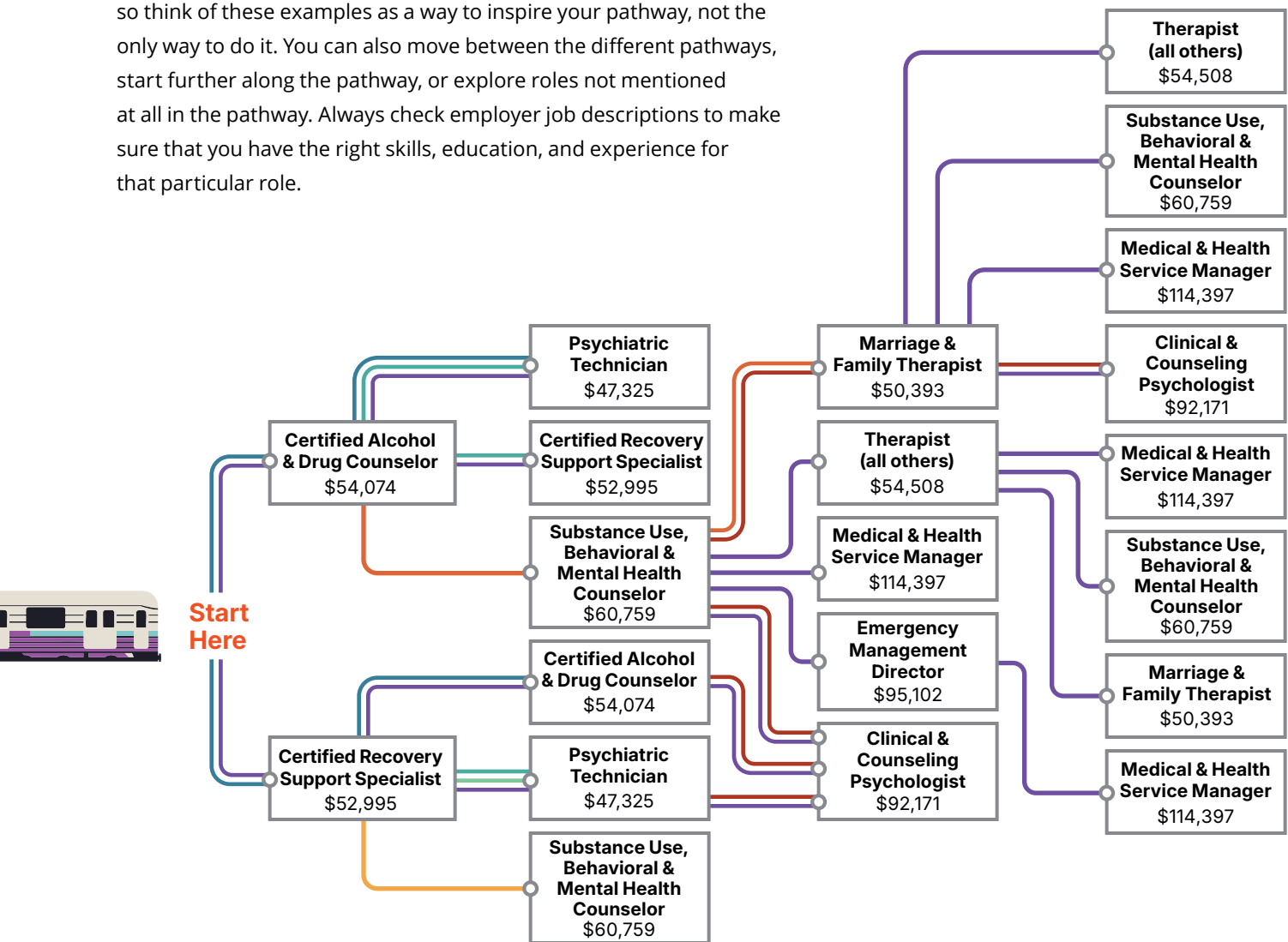
Jobs featured in this pathway include:

- Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Certified Recovery Support Specialist
- Clinical & Counseling Psychologist
- Emergency Management Director
- Marriage & Family Therapist
- Medical & Health Service Manager
- Psychiatric Technician
- Psychologist, All Other
- Rehabilitation Counselor
- Social & Community Service Manager
- Substance Use, Behavioral & Mental Health Counselor
- Therapist, All Other



Mental Health Pathway

These are examples of different ways to move between or into new careers within this field. We know everyone’s career journey is unique, so think of these examples as a way to inspire your pathway, not the only way to do it. You can also move between the different pathways, start further along the pathway, or explore roles not mentioned at all in the pathway. Always check employer job descriptions to make sure that you have the right skills, education, and experience for that particular role.

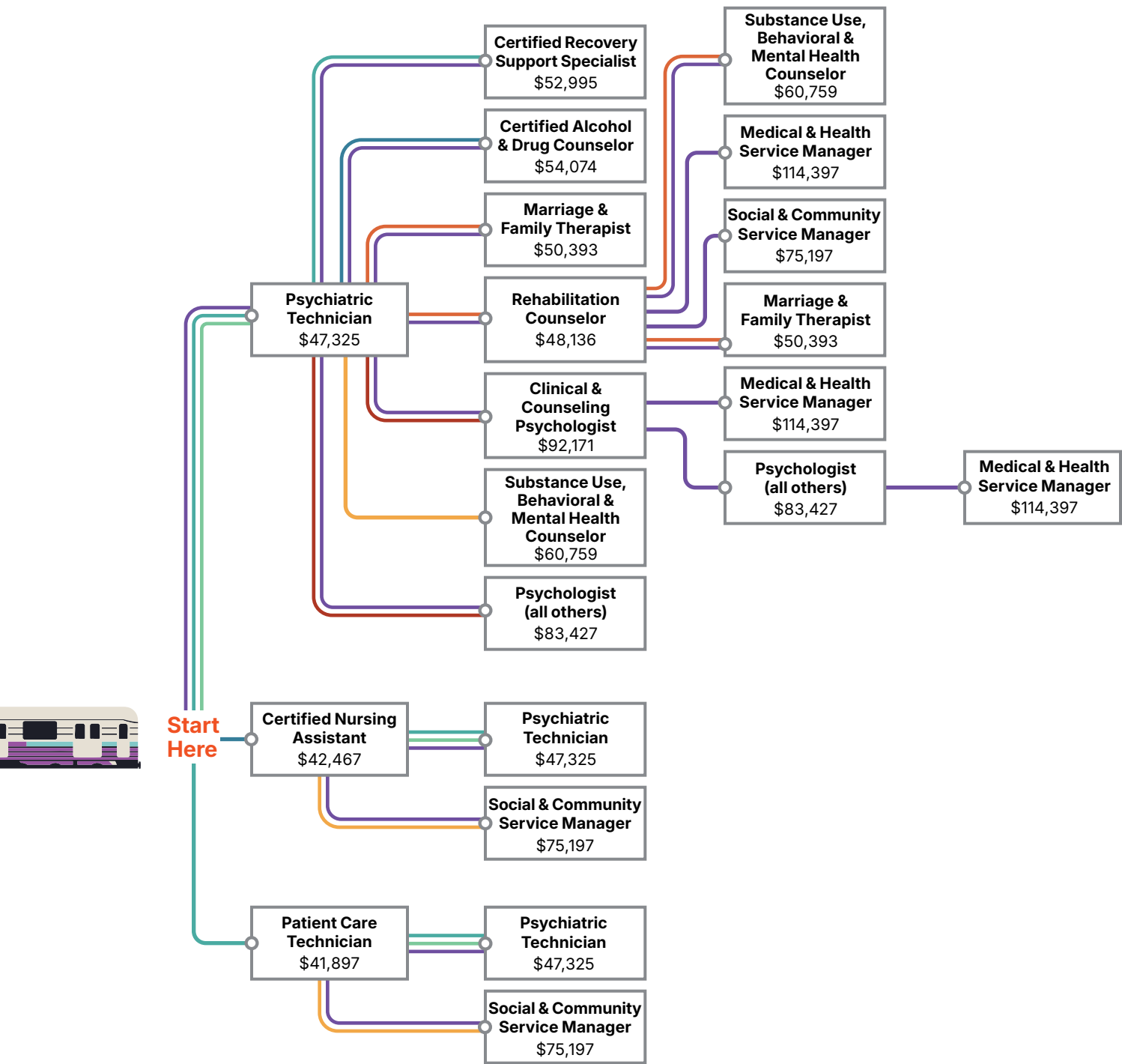


Mental Health pathway continues on page 155.

Key

The colors in the chart show the different years of education or training needed to move from one role to the next. There are often several ways to advance, and some paths have more than one line color to represent multiple education and training options.

- Education Requirement of less than 6 months
- Education Requirement of 6 months to 1 year
- Education Requirement of 1–2 years
- Education Requirement of 2–4 years
- Education Requirement of 4–6 years
- Education Requirement of 6 years or more
- On-the-job experience
- Bridge Programs



mental health counselor

"I love seeing my clients' progress. Some of them I've worked with for years and I've really seen the change within them. They're reaching their goals and working through the problems that were causing them pain. I feel so honored to work with them."



abeha

Abeha's career path

My path was not linear to becoming a mental health counselor. When I was in college, I originally was **pre-med** and planning to become a psychiatrist, but I didn't want to go to med school and I didn't want to prescribe medications. I just really wanted to be able to sit and talk with people one on one.

I found my first job in the **clinical mental health counseling** field when I started my PhD. One of my classmates recommended a company, I submitted my resume, and I got the job! I'm still working there and it's been three years.


Master's degree in
**Clinical Mental
Health Counseling**


Certification:
Licensed Professional
Counselor (LPC)

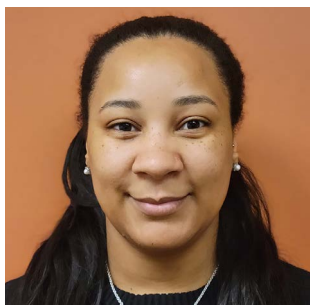
I'm currently working as a counselor part-time while working on my PhD. The **PhD** will provide me with opportunities to be a researcher, teacher, supervisor. I don't like doing just one thing all the time and the PhD will let me have multiple options.

advice

"It's important to think about why you're choosing to be in this field. Be very intentional. It is an honor to have a client come to you seeking help. Often, when clients come to us it's because they've been hurt. They are seeking a safe space so they can get validation and find the tools to move towards a better place in their life. The work you do has a rippling impact."

→ To learn more about Abeha's career journey, visit www.hmprg.org/your-career-in-health.

clinical educator



"I never knew that I wanted to be a clinical educator—I didn't even realize it existed. My sisters have struggled with mental health illnesses their whole lives. Being surrounded by mental illness my whole life, I naturally gravitated towards this field because it was familiar."

ivory

Ivory's career path

I started out as a **Youth Development Specialist**. I helped teen mothers at a youth homeless shelter. I managed their days and trained them in life skills.

After I would finish my work for the day, I would always go ask the case managers if they needed any help. I would take the time to help them and observe what they do and that's how I started learning. Eventually, a **case manager** role opened up and I applied for it and got it thanks to the support and help from a case manager that mentored me.



Employer Paid Certifications:

- Trauma Informed Care
- Youth Mental Health
- Crisis Prevention

The shelter I worked at eventually got a new manager that I did not get along with well, so I knew I needed a new job because the work environment didn't feel safe anymore. A friend mentioned they applied to a job at a hospital and so I looked at the hospital's openings and applied. I reached out and spoke with the HR person that hired my friend. They wanted me to have a bunch of credentials that I luckily already had and they hired me on the spot to be a **clinical educator**.

As a **clinical educator**, I work with children age 5 to 17 helping them with their diagnoses. I support them in their emotional development by creating lesson plans, teaching in a classroom setting, taking notes on their behaviors, and collaborating with their doctors.

advice

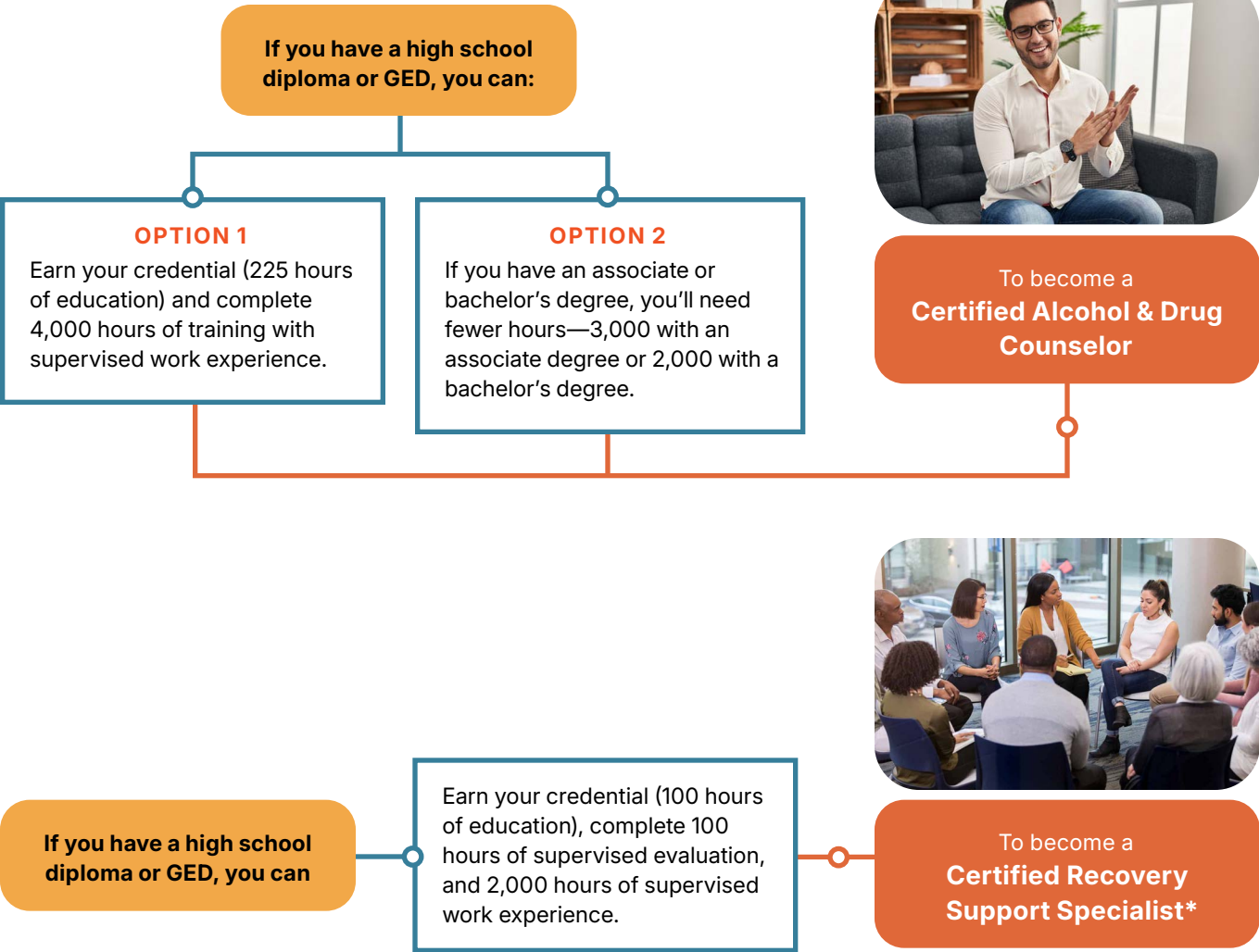
"My advice to anyone starting their career in mental health is to know yourself first. You need to be grounded in who you are and know your limits before going into the field."

→ To learn more about Ivory's career journey, visit www.hmprg.org/your-career-in-health.

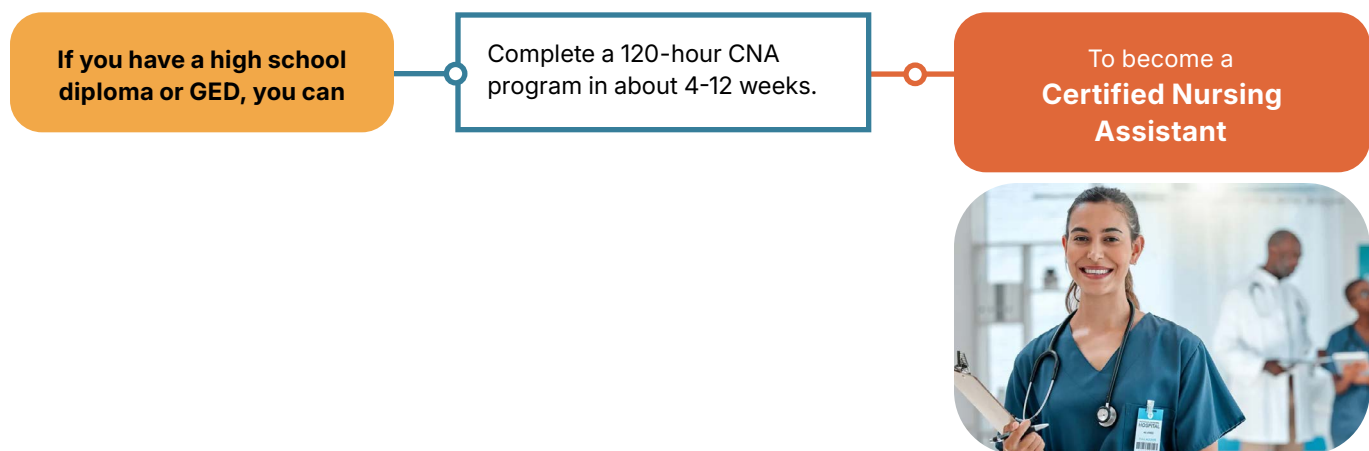
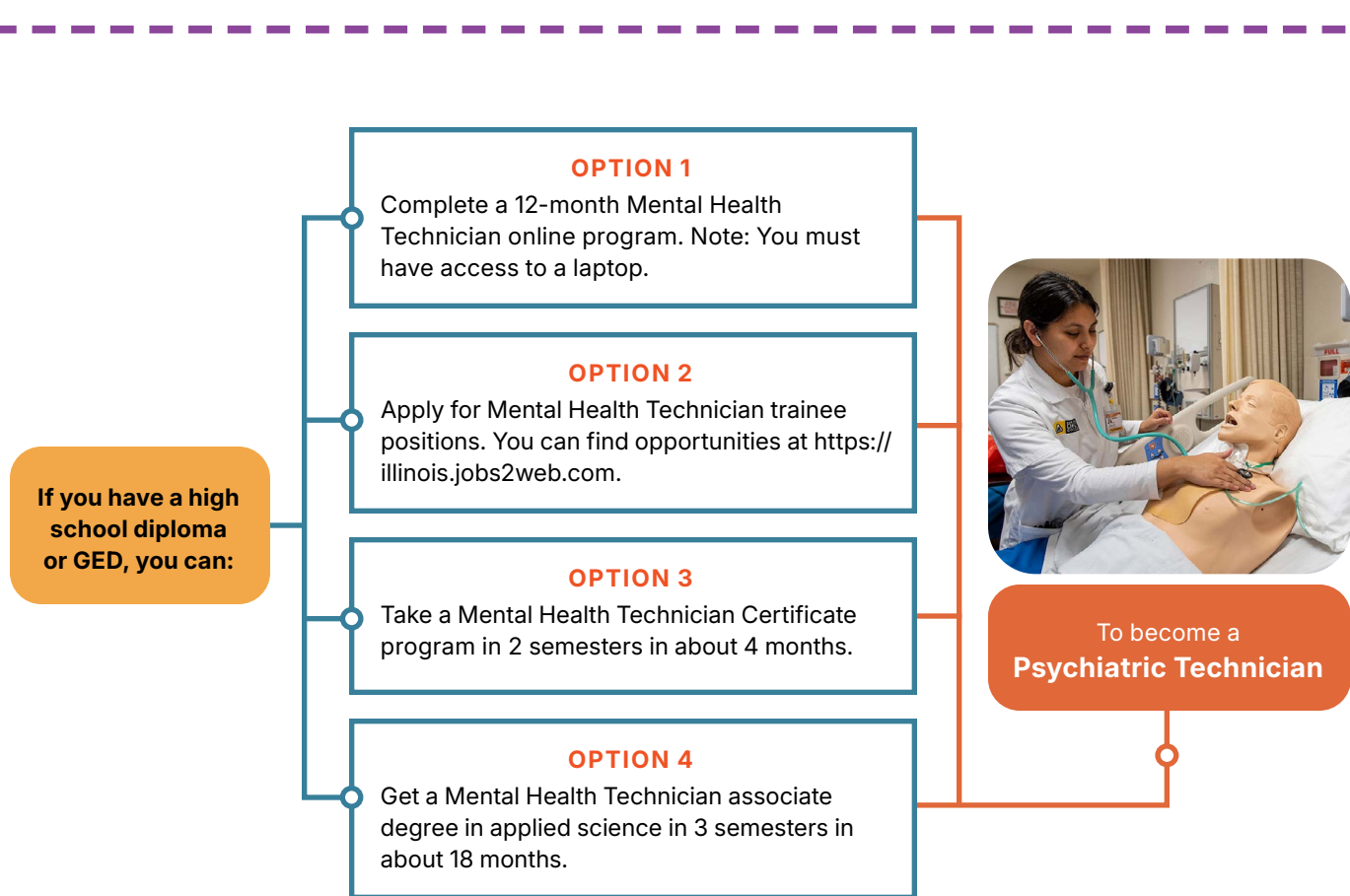
Begin Your Career in Mental Health!

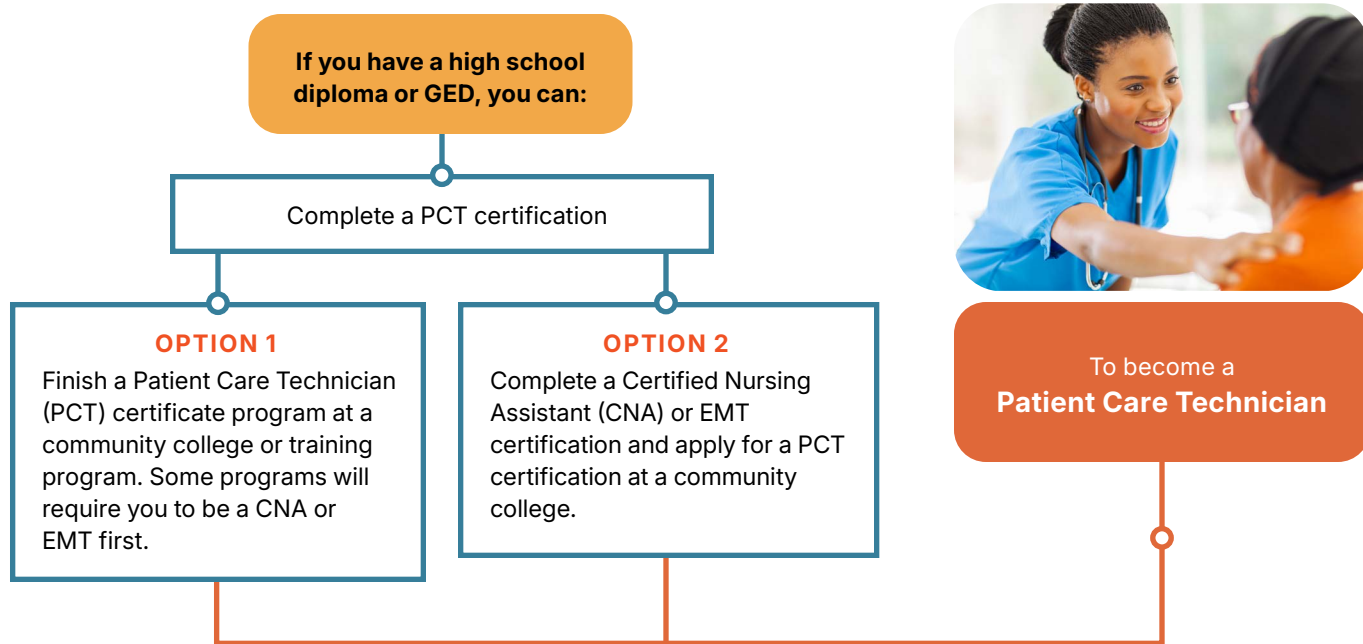
Mental health workers help people who are feeling sad, stressed, or having a hard time with drugs or alcohol. They listen, give support, teach healthy ways to cope, and help people get the care they need to feel better.

Let's explore the **Mental health pathway** and see if this is the career path for you!



**Certified Recovery Support Specialists have personal experience with mental health or substance use recovery, and use their experience to mentor and support others.*





Learn more about the Mental Health pathway. →

Mental Health Pathway

Entry-Level Professions

Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor

Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselors help people who are struggling with alcohol or drug use. They listen, give advice, and support them on their journey to feel better and make healthy choices.

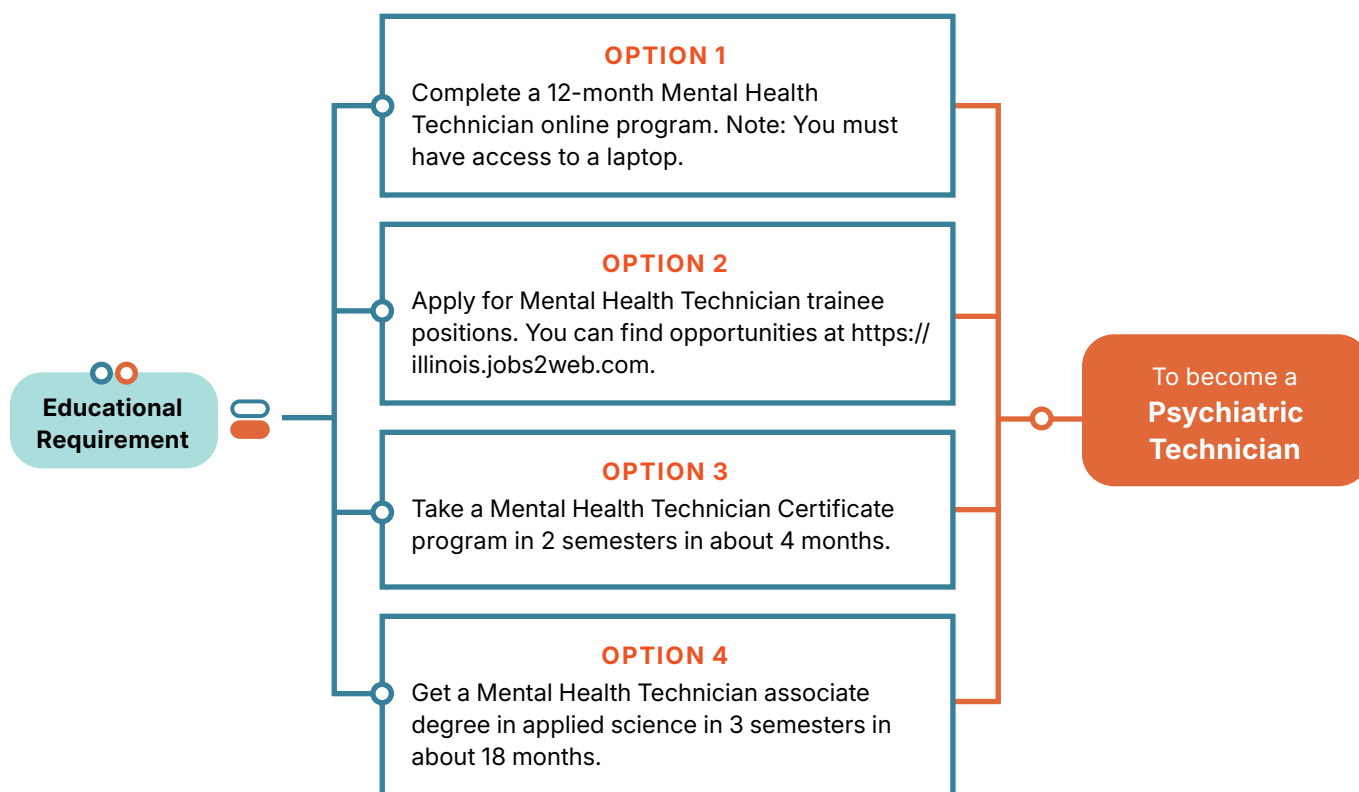
 **Median Salary:** \$54,074 per year

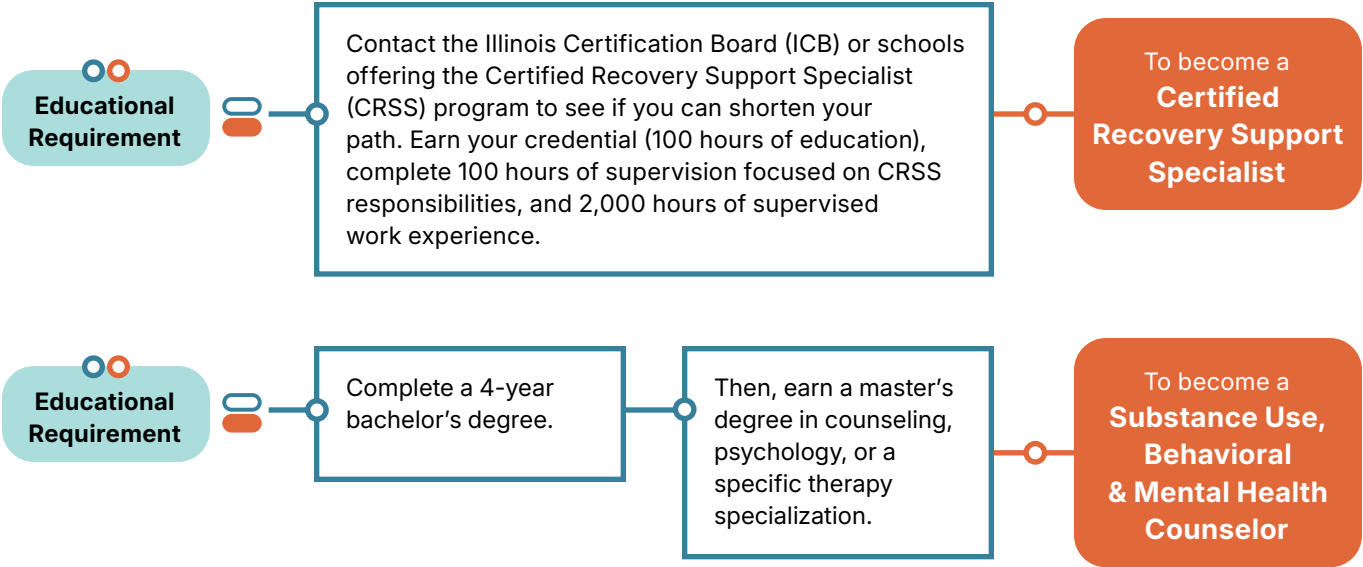
 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

 **Transferable Skills:**

- Behavioral health
- Mental health
- Treatment planning
- Psychology

- Medical records (including electronic)
- Driver's license
- Case management
- Human services
- Social work
- Community mental health services
- Substance use
- Motivational interviewing
- Crisis intervention
- Behavioral science
- Psychiatry
- Billing
- Behavioral science
- Substance dependence



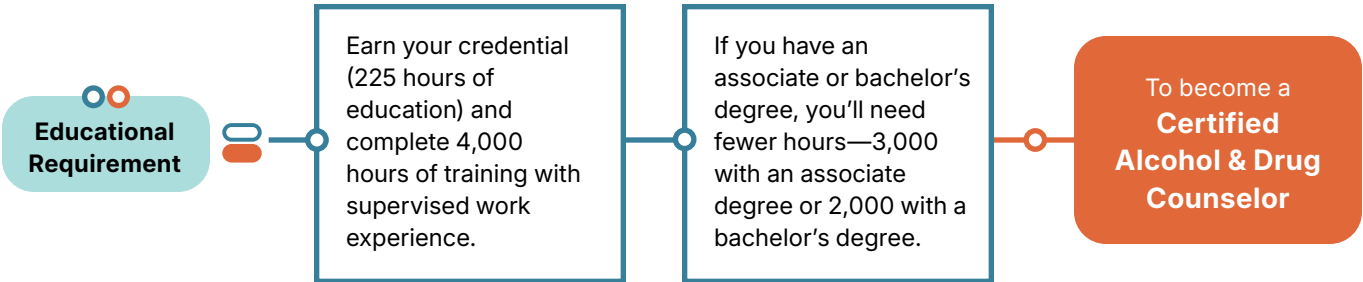


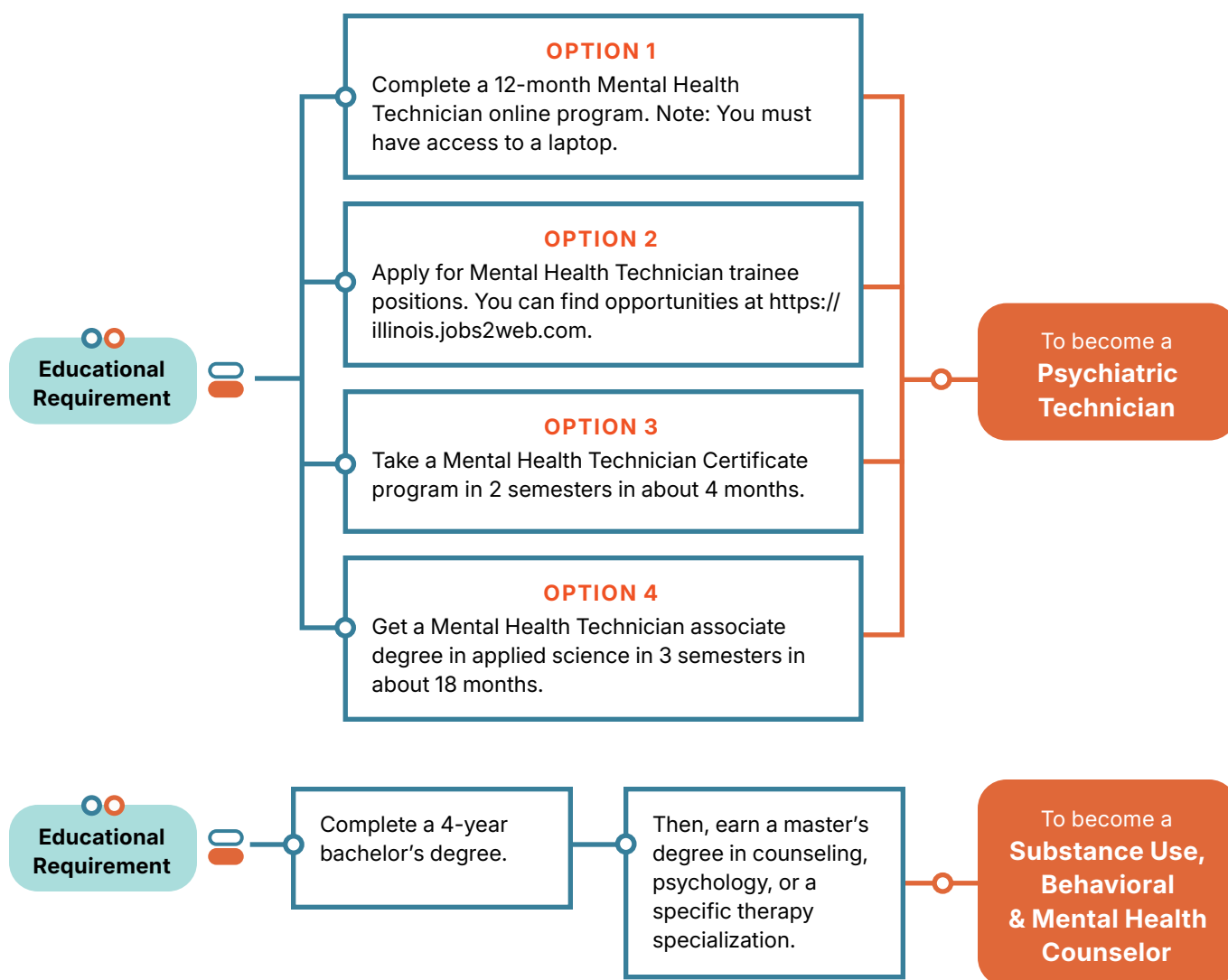
Certified Recovery Support Specialist

Certified Recovery Support Specialists use their own experiences to help others going through mental health or substance use challenges. They offer support, encouragement, and guidance to show others they're not alone.

- Median Salary:** \$52,995 per year
- Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
- Transferable Skills:**
 - Case management
 - Human services
 - Social work

- Psychology
- Medical records (including electronic)
- Community mental health services
- Substance use
- Treatment planning
- Motivational interviewing
- Crisis intervention
- Behavioral science
- Driver's license
- Behavioral health
- Mental health
- Psychiatry
- Billing
- Substance dependence





Psychiatric Technician

Psychiatric Technicians help people with mental health or developmental challenges. They check on how patients are doing, help with daily care, and make sure they take their medicine safely.

Median Salary: \$47,325 per year

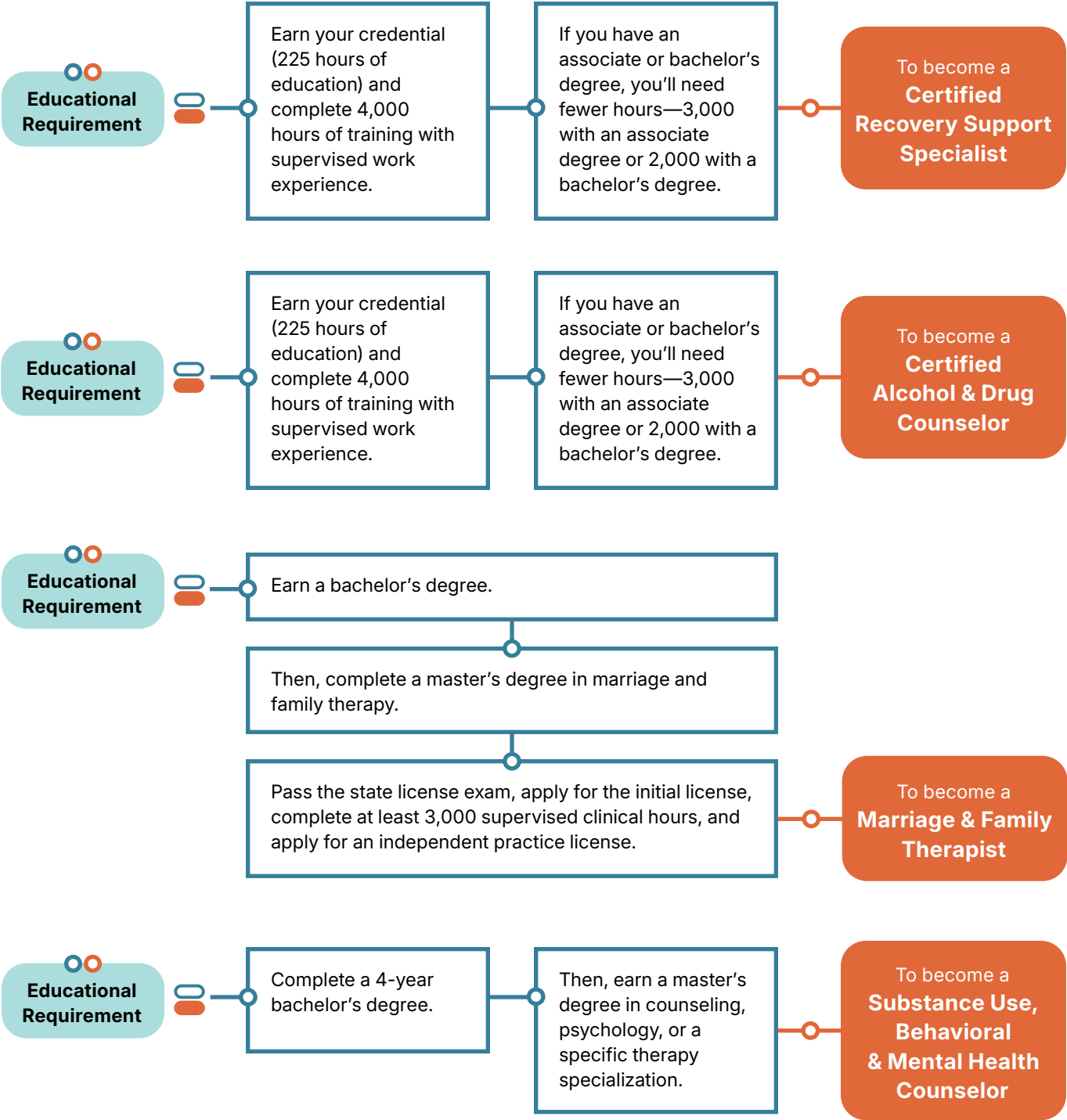
Minimum Age Requirements: 18 years old

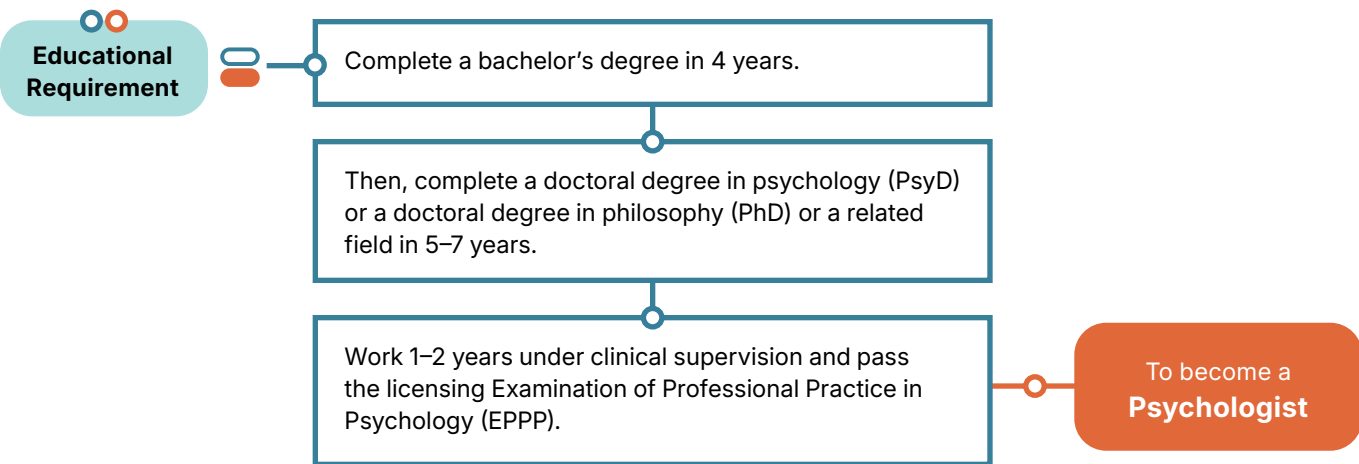
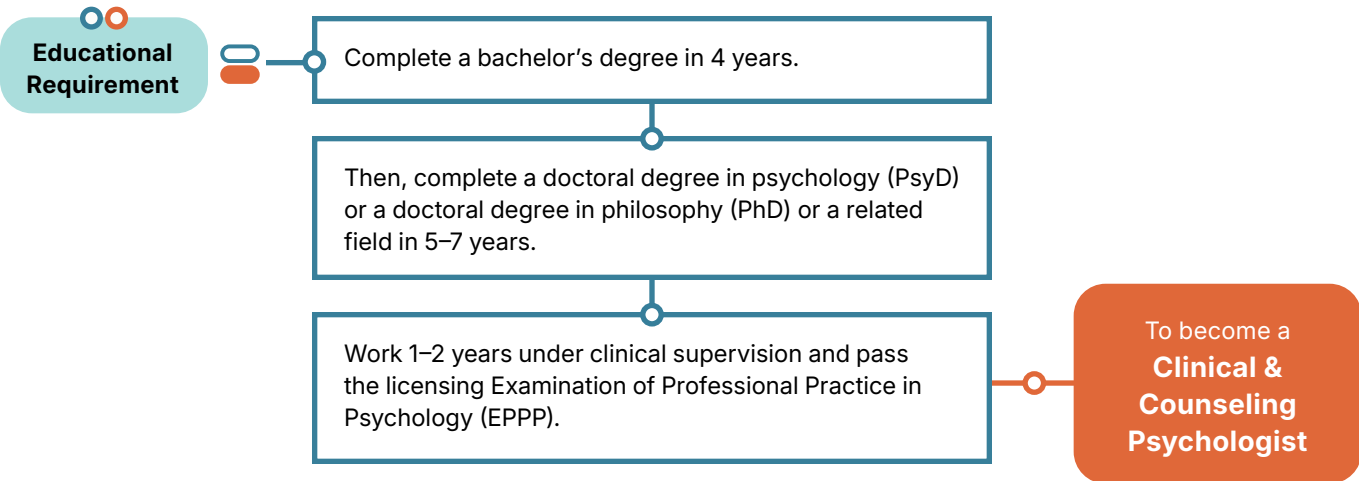
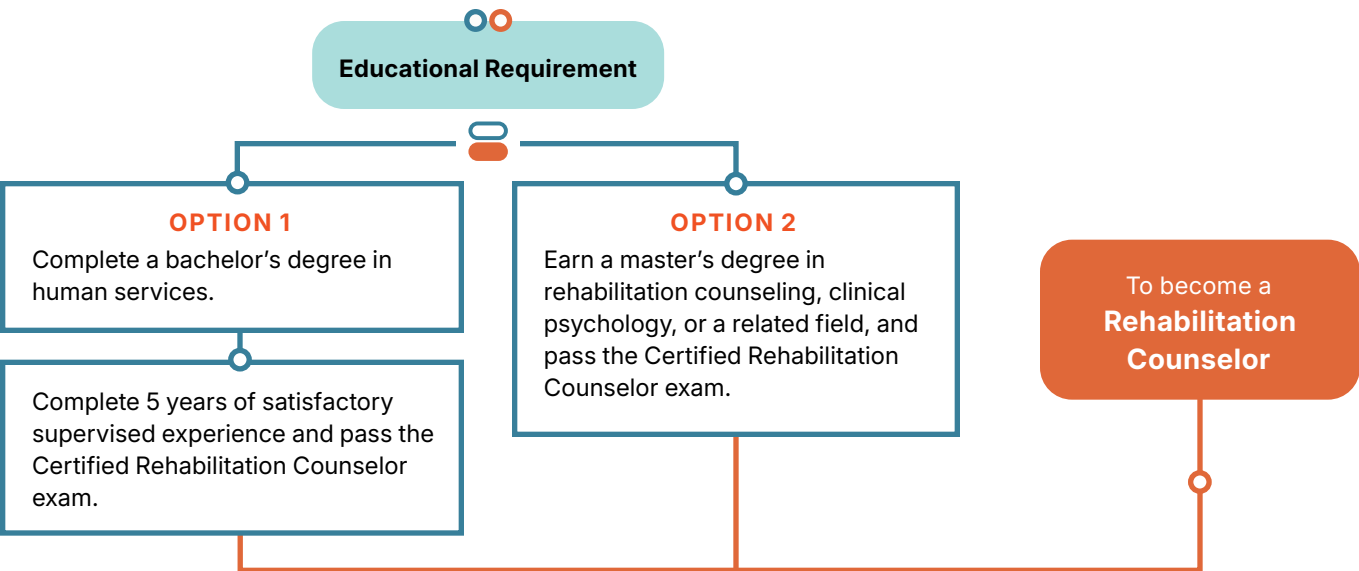
Transferable Skills:

- Case management
- Human services
- Social work
- Psychology

- Medical records (including electronic)
- Community mental health services
- Substance use
- Treatment planning
- Motivational interviewing
- Crisis intervention
- Behavioral science
- Behavioral health
- Mental health
- Psychiatry
- Driver's license

Continued on next page.





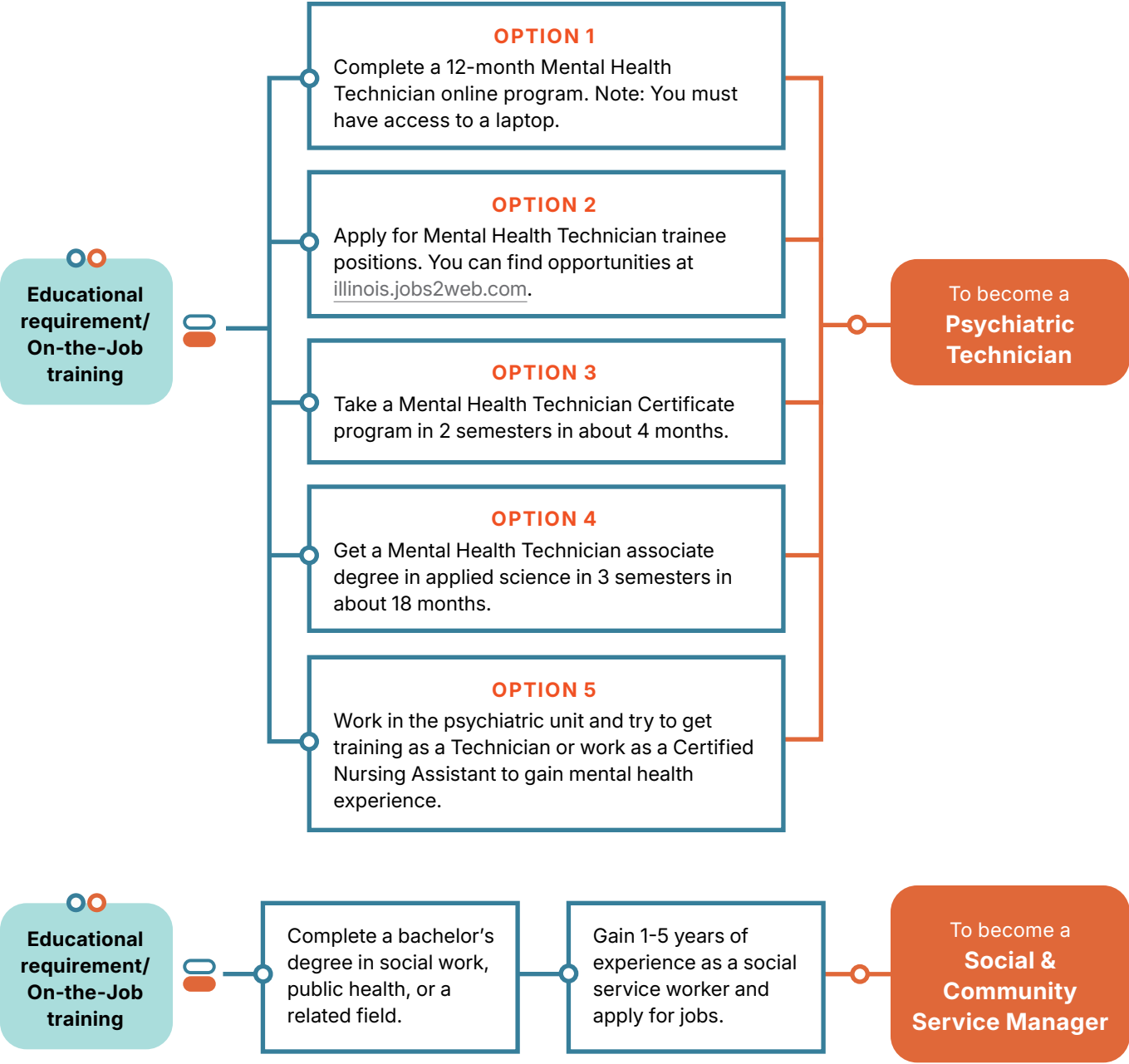
Certified Nursing Assistant

Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) help nurses care for patients by feeding, bathing, and moving them. They also stock medical supplies and record important patient information.

 **Median Salary:** \$42,467 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

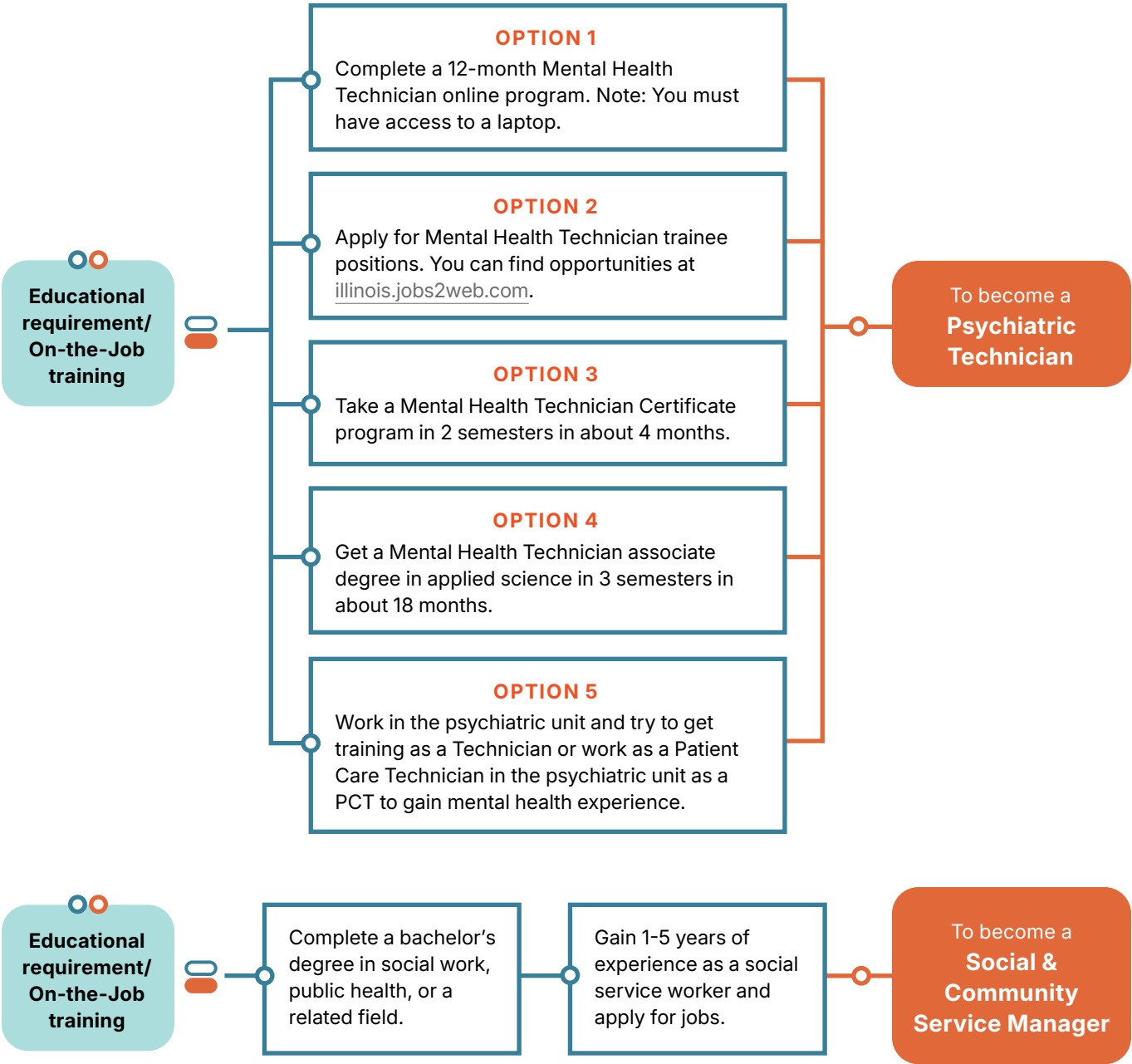
-  **Transferable Skills:**
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
 - Patient care
 - Vital signs
 - Basic Life Support (BLS)
 - Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)



Patient Care Technician

Patient Care Technicians help nurses take care of patients. They check things like blood pressure, help patients move around, and make sure they feel safe and comfortable.

- Median Salary:** \$41,897 per year
- Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
- Transferable Skills:**
 - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
 - Patient care
 - Vital signs
 - Basic Life Support (BLS)
 - Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)



Mental Health Pathway

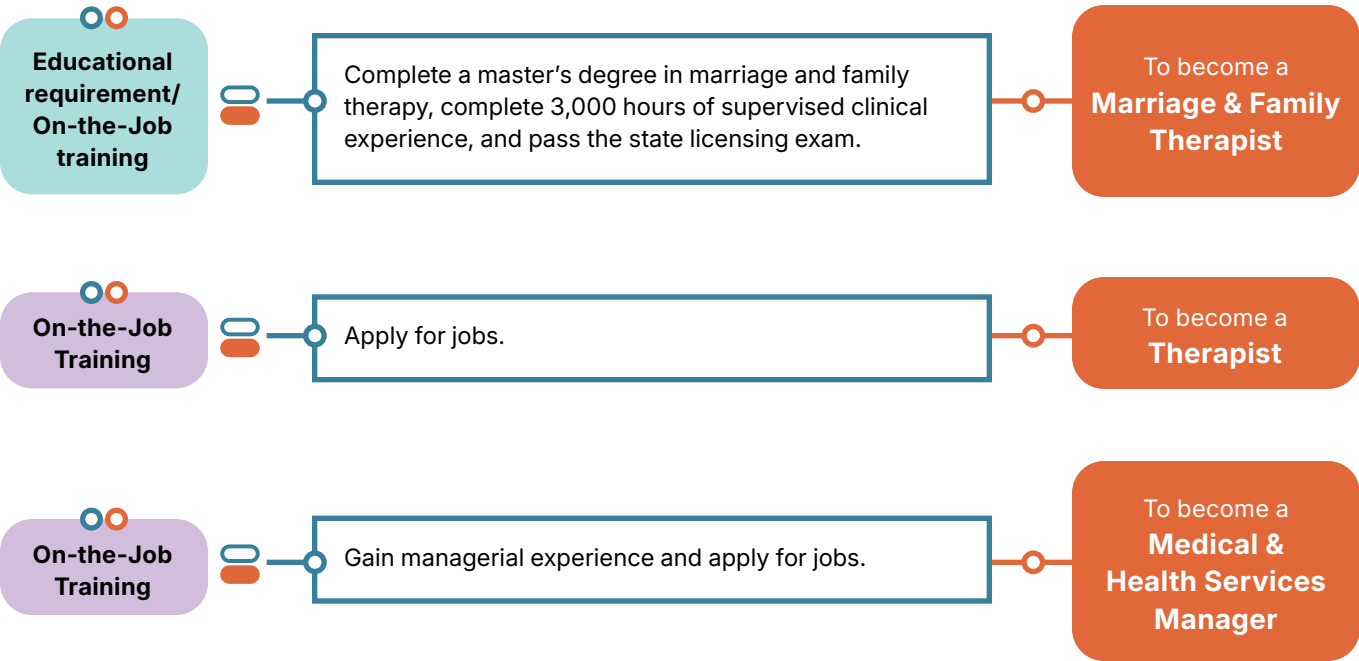
Intermediate Professions

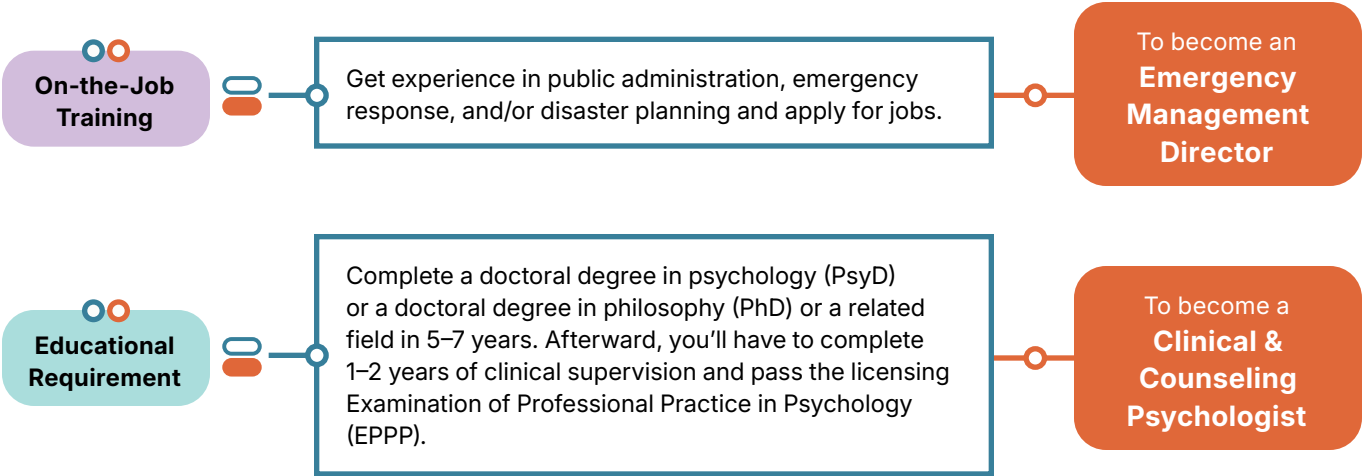
Substance Use, Behavioral & Mental Health Counselor

These counselors help people who are going through tough times with their thoughts, feelings, or struggles, like addiction. They listen, give advice, and support people so they can feel better and live healthier lives.

-  **Median Salary:** \$60,760 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

-  **Transferable Skills:**
- Case management
 - Psychology
 - Psychiatry
 - Social work
 - Mental health
 - Treatment planning
 - Behavioral health
 - Crisis intervention
 - Driver's license
 - Human services
 - Billing
 - Social work
 - Substance use
 - Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)
 - Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC)
 - Substance dependence
 - Community mental health services
 - Behavioral science
 - Motivational interviewing

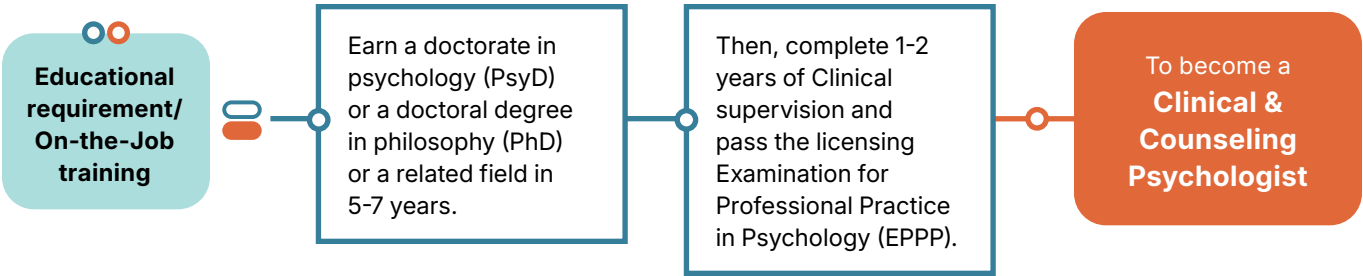




Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor

A Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor helps people who are struggling with drugs or alcohol. They listen, give support, and teach healthy ways to cope. They work in schools, clinics, and treatment centers to help people feel better and stay on track.

- Median Salary:** \$54,074 per year
- Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
- Transferable Skills:**
 - Case management
 - Crisis intervention
 - Psychology
 - Billing
 - Mental health
 - Treatment planning



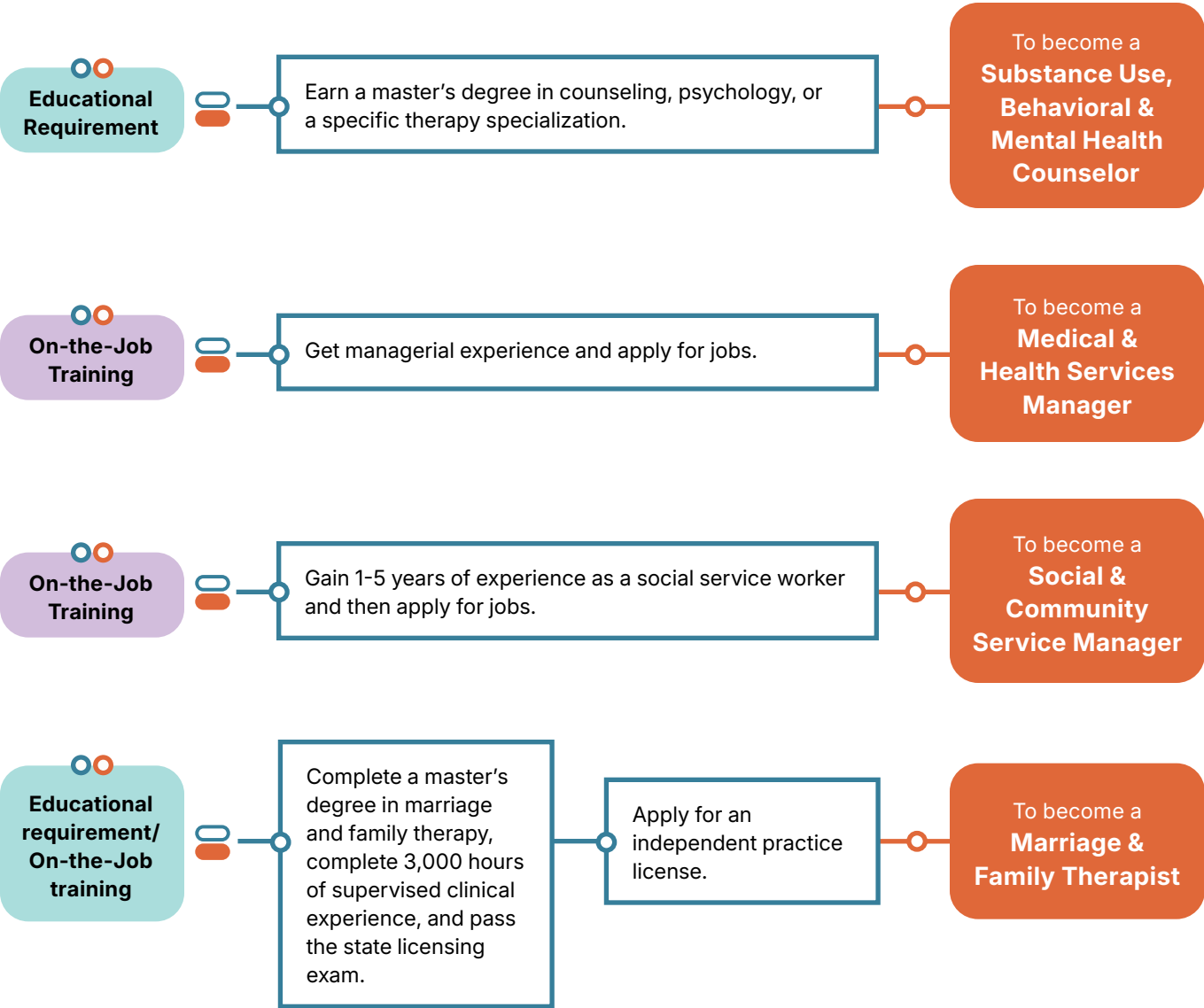
Rehabilitation Counselor

Rehabilitation Counselors help people with disabilities build skills, find jobs, and live more independently so they can have a happy and full life.

 **Median Salary:** \$48,136 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

-  **Transferable Skills:**
- Case management
 - Mental health
 - Human services
 - Treatment planning
 - Behavioral health
 - Social work
 - Driver's license
 - Medical records
 - Psychology



Clinical & Counseling Psychologists

Clinical & Counseling Psychologists help people deal with big feelings, tough problems, and mental health challenges. They listen, give support, and teach ways to feel better and live a healthier, happier life.

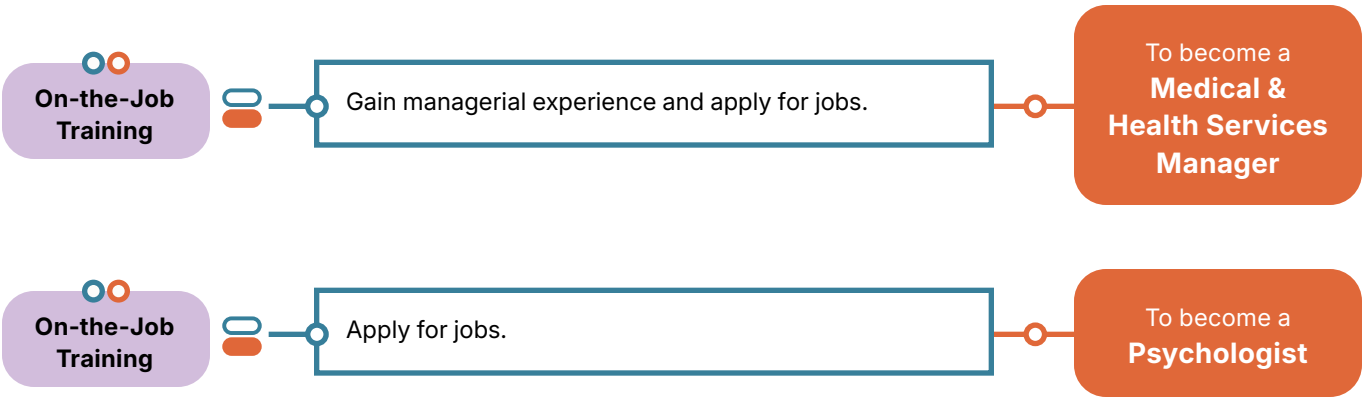
 **Median Salary:** \$92,171 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old



Transferable Skills:

- Billing
- Psychiatry
- Billing
- Family therapy
- Group therapy
- Case management
- Crisis intervention
- Psychology
- Clinical psychology
- Clinical psychology license
- Psychotherapy
- Mental health
- Treatment planning
- Behavioral health
- Psychological evaluations
- Cognitive behavioral therapy
- Health psychology



Mental Health Pathway

Specialist Professions

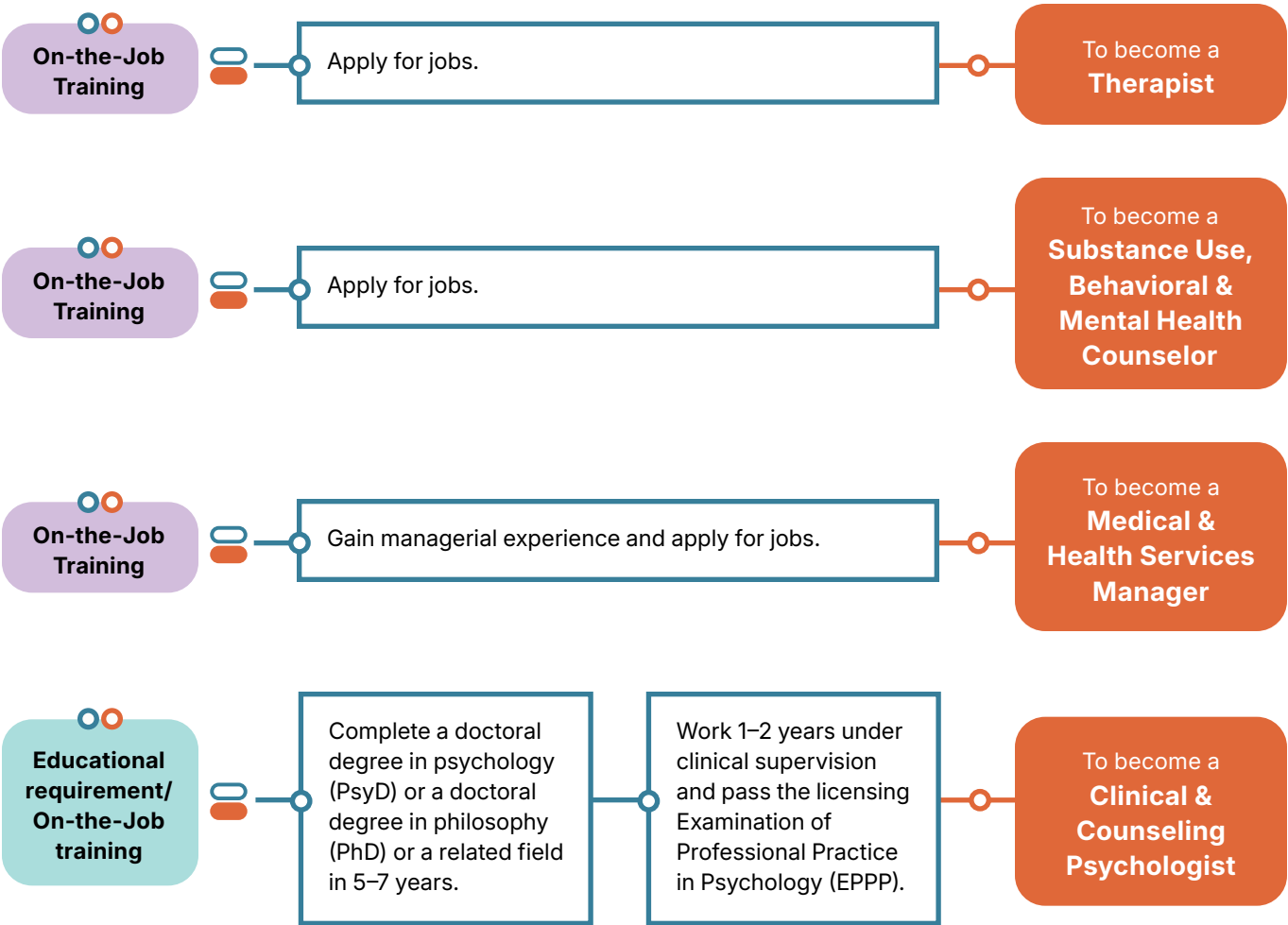
Marriage & Family Therapist

Marriage & Family Therapists help people, couples, and families talk through problems, understand each other better, and build stronger, healthier relationships.

 **Median Salary:** \$50,393 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

-  **Transferable Skills:**
- Case management
 - Crisis intervention
 - Psychiatry
 - Psychology
 - Treatment planning
 - Substance use
 - Social work
 - Mental health
 - Behavioral health
 - Driver's license
 - Family therapy
 - Psychotherapy
 - Group therapy



Therapist

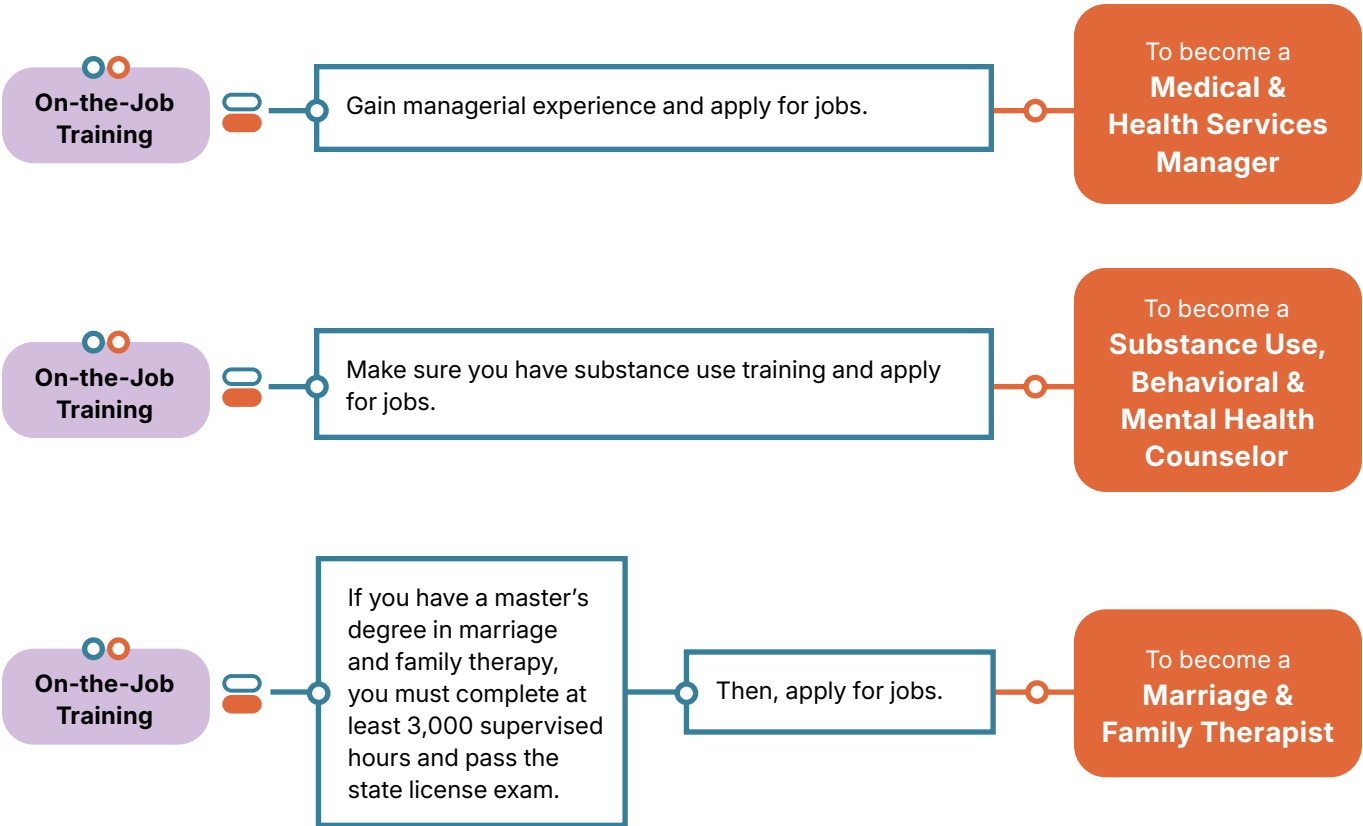
Therapists help people handle tough feelings, problems, and mental health struggles. They listen carefully, ask helpful questions, and create a plan to support each person in feeling better and reaching their goals.

-  **Median Salary:** \$54,508 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old



Transferable Skills:

- Case management
- Psychiatry
- Human services
- Billing
- Social work
- Psychology
- Mental health
- Substance use
- Treatment planning
- Behavioral health
- Crisis intervention
- Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)
- Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC)
- Substance dependence
- Community mental health services
- Behavioral science
- Motivational interviewing
- Driver's license



Emergency Management Director

Emergency Management Directors make plans to help keep people safe during big emergencies like storms, fires, or floods. They work with teams to make sure everyone knows what to do when something unexpected happens.

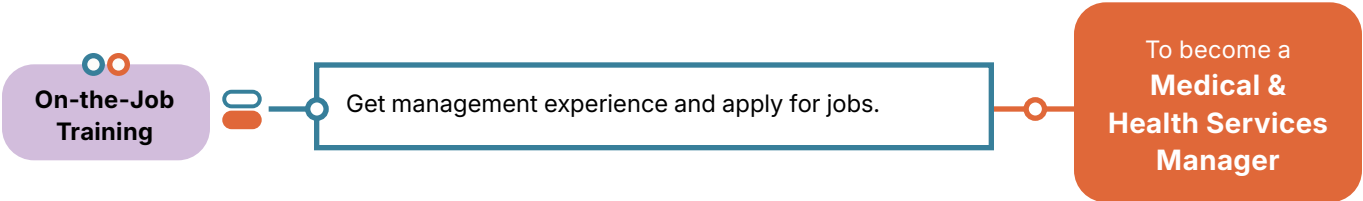
-  **Median Salary:** \$95,102 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
-  **Transferable Skills:**
 - Project management
 - Auditing
 - Driver's license



Psychologists, All Other

Psychologists are experts who study how people think, feel, and act. They help others by figuring out what's going on in their minds and finding ways to make them feel better and live happier lives.

-  **Median Salary:** \$83,427 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
-  **Transferable Skills:**
 - Billing



Nursing Pathway



About the Nursing Pathway

This pathway focuses on jobs that provide clinical care or support to patients in clinics or hospitals. Some of these jobs also help ensure that doctors and surgeons have what they need for a healthy, safe procedure.

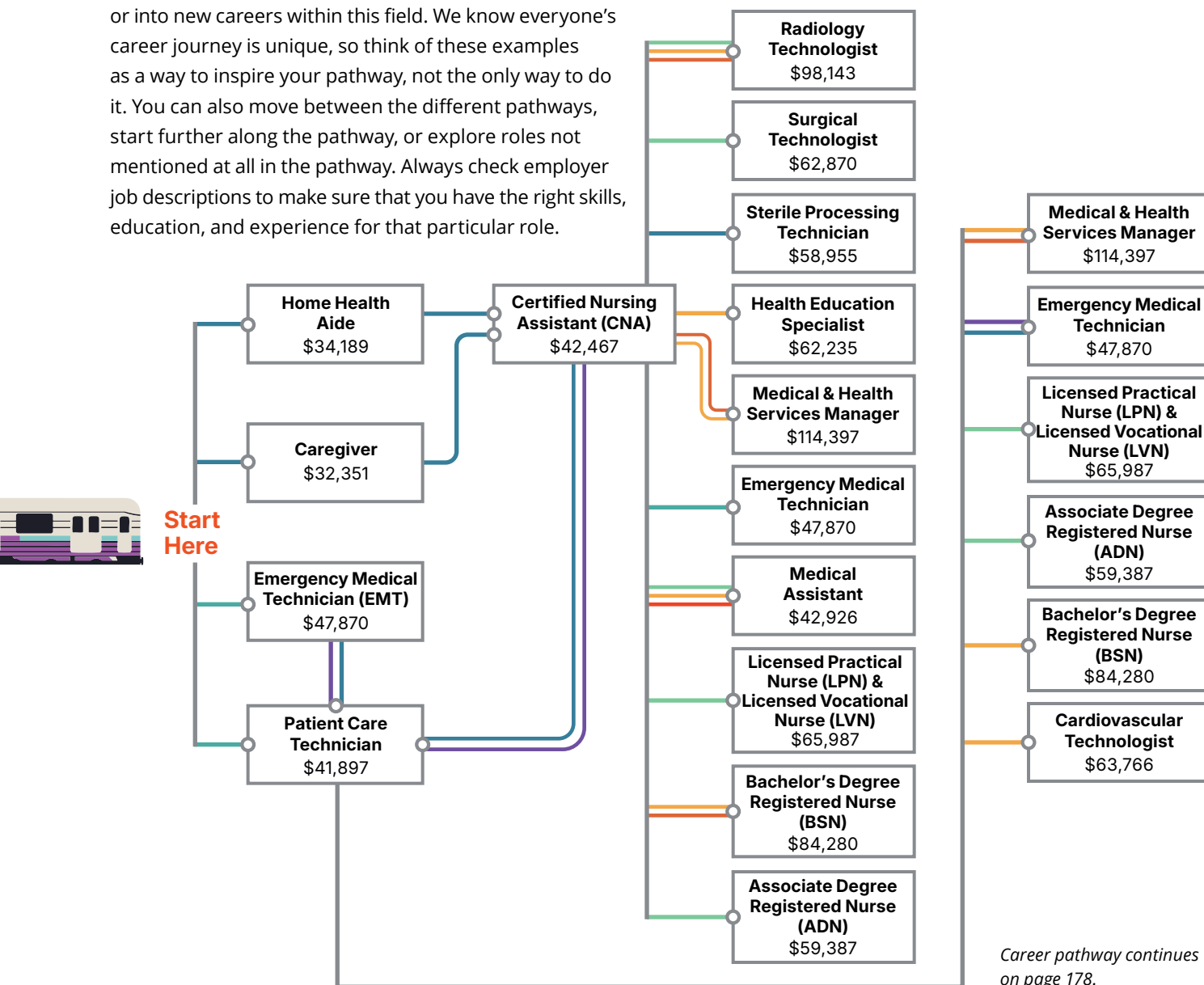
Jobs featured in this career pathway include:

- Associate Degree Registered Nurse
- Bachelor's Degree Registered Nurse
- Cardiovascular Technologist
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Health Education Specialist
- Home Health Aide
- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) & Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)
- Master's Degree Registered Nurse
- Medical & Health Services Manager
- Medical Assistant
- Paramedic
- Patient Care Technician
- Radiology Technologist
- Sterile Processing Technician
- Surgical Assistant
- Surgical Technologist



Nursing Pathway

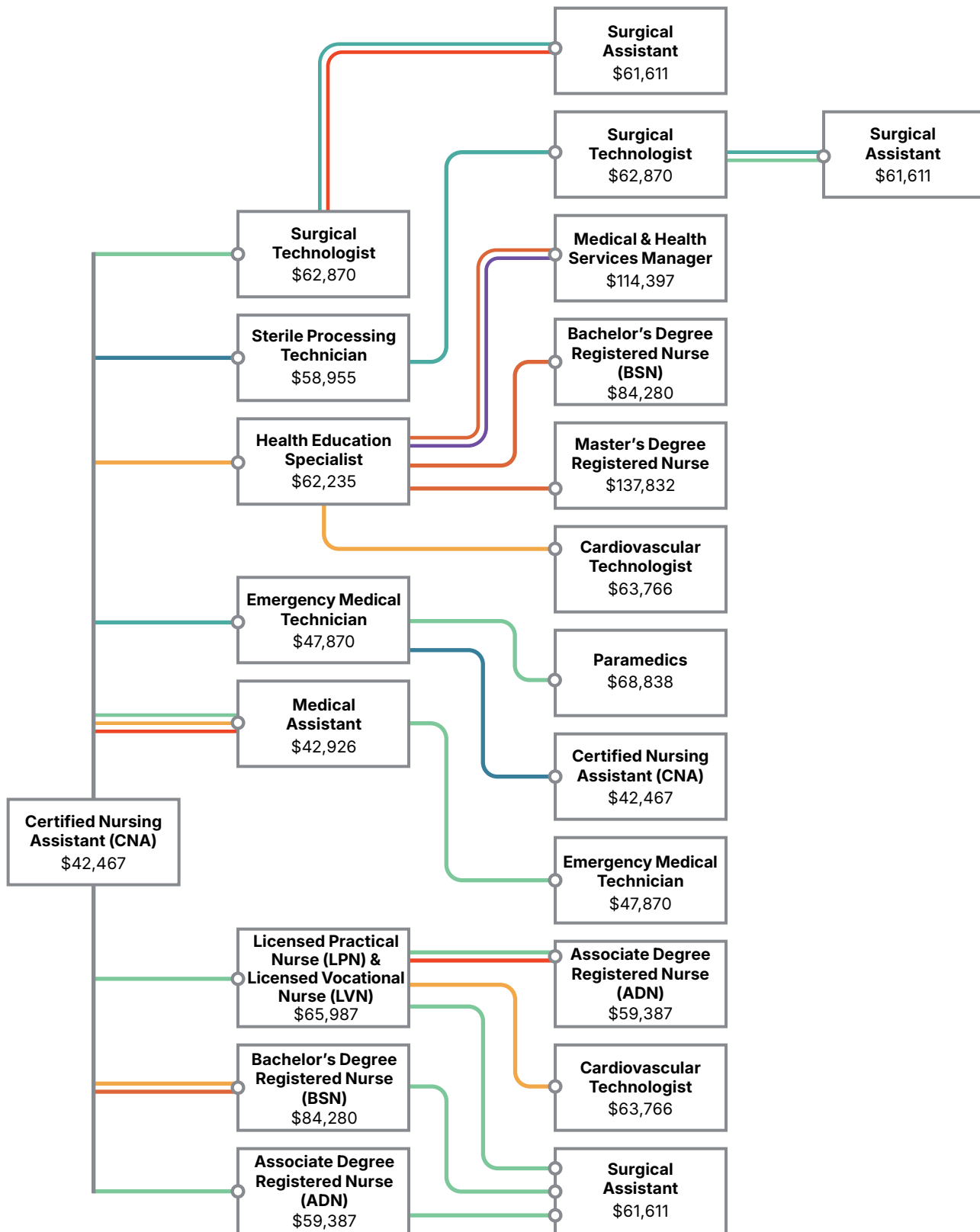
These are examples of different ways to move between or into new careers within this field. We know everyone's career journey is unique, so think of these examples as a way to inspire your pathway, not the only way to do it. You can also move between the different pathways, start further along the pathway, or explore roles not mentioned at all in the pathway. Always check employer job descriptions to make sure that you have the right skills, education, and experience for that particular role.



Key

The colors in the chart show the different years of education or training needed to move from one role to the next. There are often several ways to advance, and some paths have more than one line color to represent multiple education and training options.

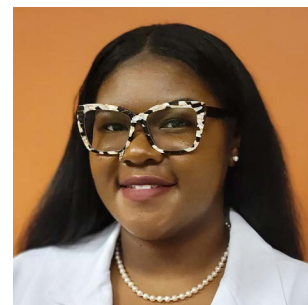
- Education Requirement of less than 6 months
- Education Requirement of 6 months to 1 year
- Education Requirement of 1–2 years
- Education Requirement of 2–4 years
- Education Requirement of 4–6 years
- Education Requirement of 6 years or more
- On-the-job experience
- Bridge Programs



MY CAREER JOURNEY

nursing

“Nursing school is not easy, but if it’s something that you want to do—you can do it. The path may change a little bit, but if you stick to the goal, it’ll get done. My four year journey turned into a 10 year journey. Life happens, but it is possible.”



jahnik

Jahnik’s career path

I always wanted to be a nurse since I was a kid. I went to a college prep school and took a lot of science electives and applied to a BSN program. I got accepted into the BSN program, but then my GPA dropped and I couldn’t start the program.

When I missed the mark with nursing school, I decided to bulk myself up and do whatever I needed to do to help me eventually be the best nurse that I could be. So I became a **Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)**.


Bachelor’s of Science
in **Nursing**

Once I finished my prerequisites, I completed **community college**. After completing community college, I applied for an **online bachelor’s program**. I completed my bachelor’s within 10 months while also working as a full time as a **Travel Nurse**.


**Certified
Nursing
Assistant
(CNA)**

advice

“If you’re not sure if nursing is right for you, start in any healthcare role—even if it’s not CNA. It will allow you to see what is going on and give you access to people that you can talk to. And if your job doesn’t offer tuition reimbursement, you’re at the wrong job, because somebody will pay for you to go back to school.”

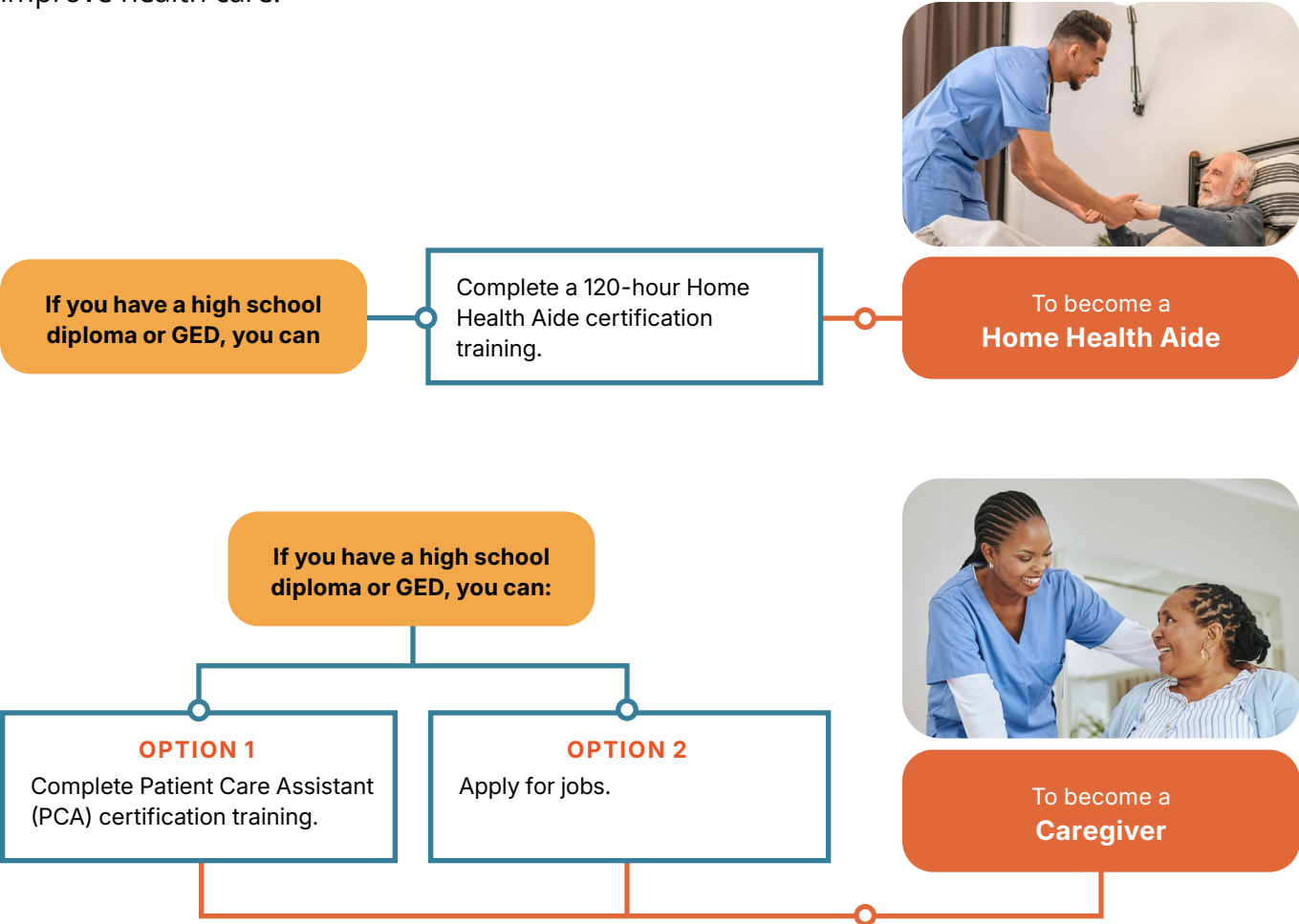
I continued to take a decorative path. I became a **Caregiver** and then a **Pharmacy Technician**. I kept taking jobs that I knew would help me on my nursing journey while simultaneously continuing to take care of my prerequisites.

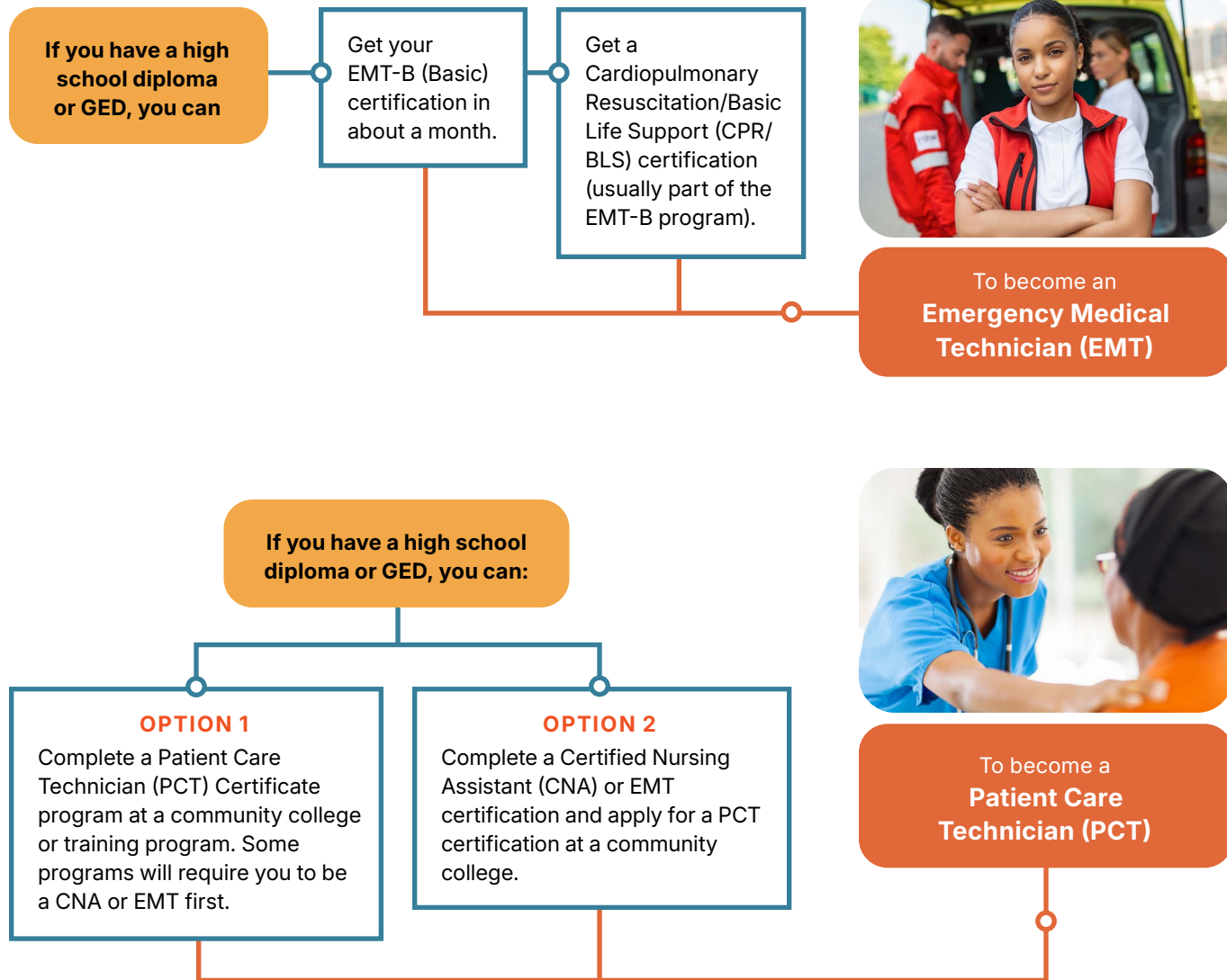
→ To learn more about Jahnik’s career journey, visit www.hmprg.org/your-career-in-health.

Explore what it takes to be a Nurse!

Nurses are essential health care professionals who care for sick or injured people, help prevent diseases, and promote health. They check patients, give medicine, and assist doctors with treatments. Nurses can also work in research and education to improve health care.

Let’s go through the Nursing Pathway and see if it’s a career for you.





Learn more about the Nursing pathway. →

Nursing Pathway

Entry-Level Professions

Home Health Aide

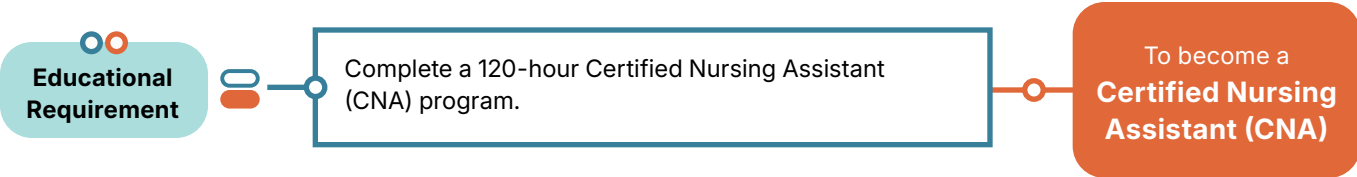
Home Health Aides help people who are sick, elderly, or have disabilities with daily tasks like bathing, dressing, and eating. They also check on their health and provide comfort and support.

-  **Median Salary:** \$34,189 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
-  **Transferable Skills:**
 - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
 - Caregiving
 - Housekeeping
 - Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)
 - Personal care

Caregiver

Caregivers help people who need extra support, like the elderly or those with disabilities. They assist with daily tasks like cooking, cleaning, and getting dressed while also providing companionship and care.

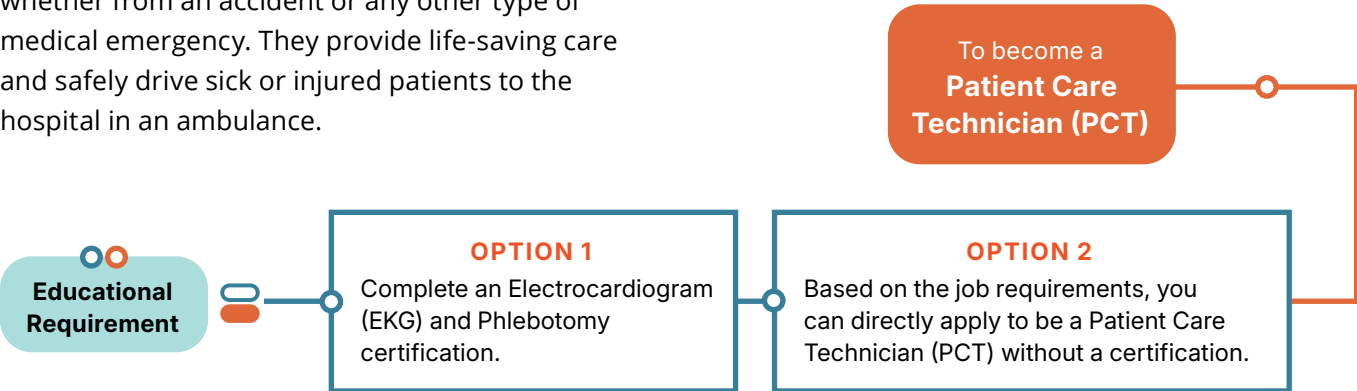
-  **Median Salary:** \$32,351 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old or younger, depending on the company
-  **Transferable Skills:**
 - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
 - Caregiving
 - Housekeeping
 - Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)
 - Personal care



Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

EMTs are first responders who help people in emergencies. That means they are the first people to arrive when a person needs urgent help—whether from an accident or any other type of medical emergency. They provide life-saving care and safely drive sick or injured patients to the hospital in an ambulance.

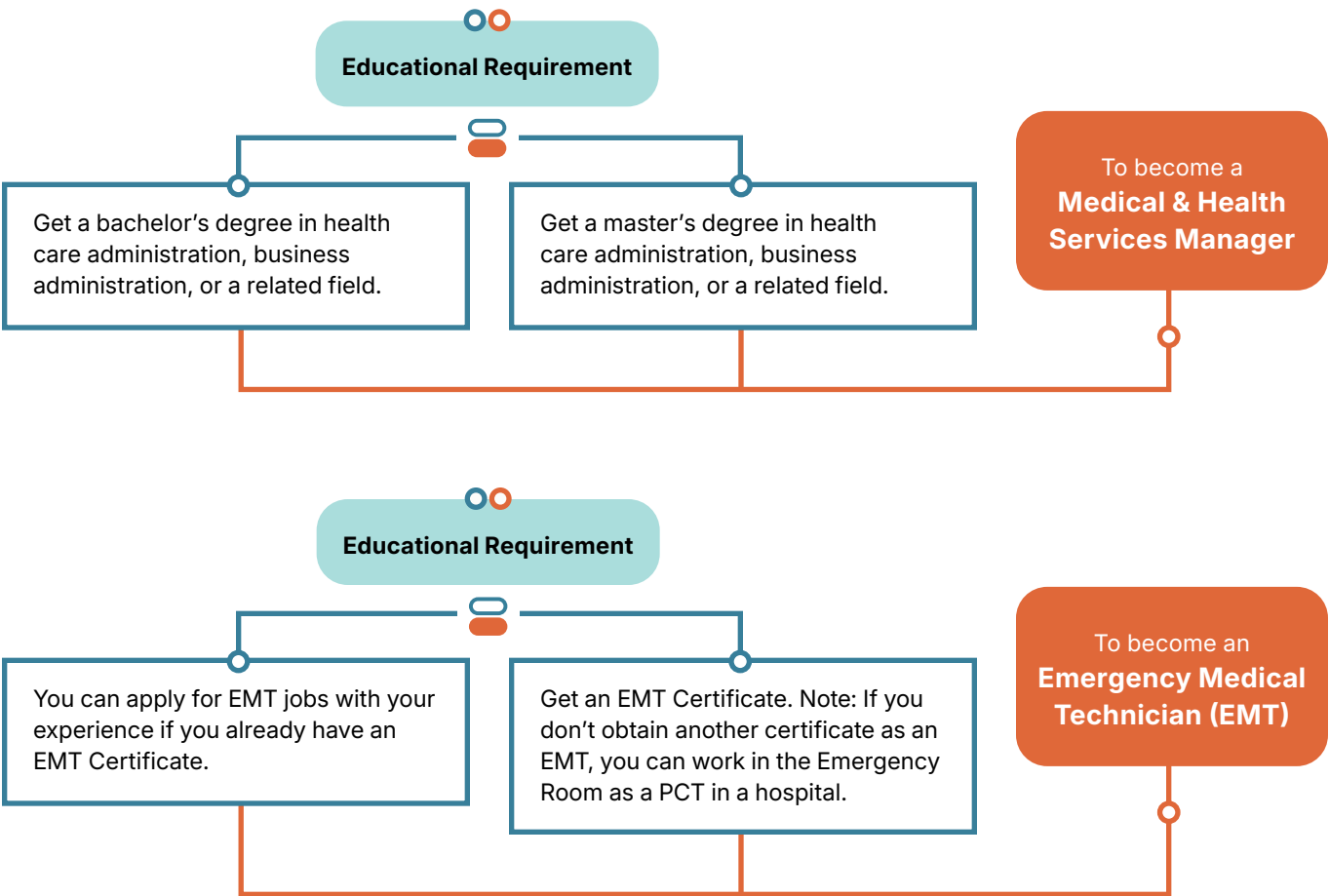
-  **Median Salary:** \$47,870 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

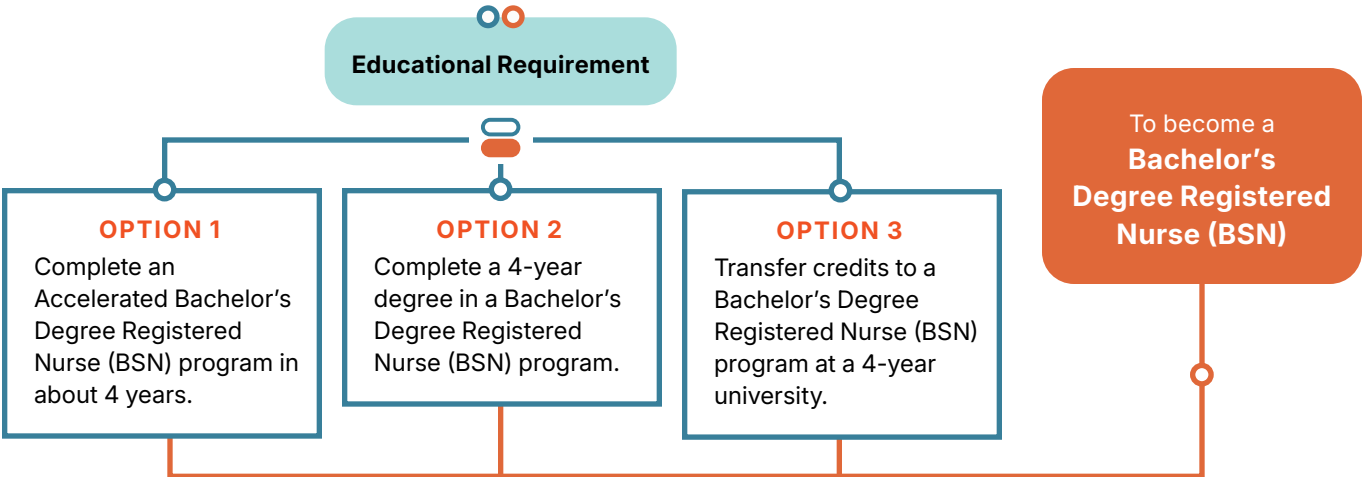
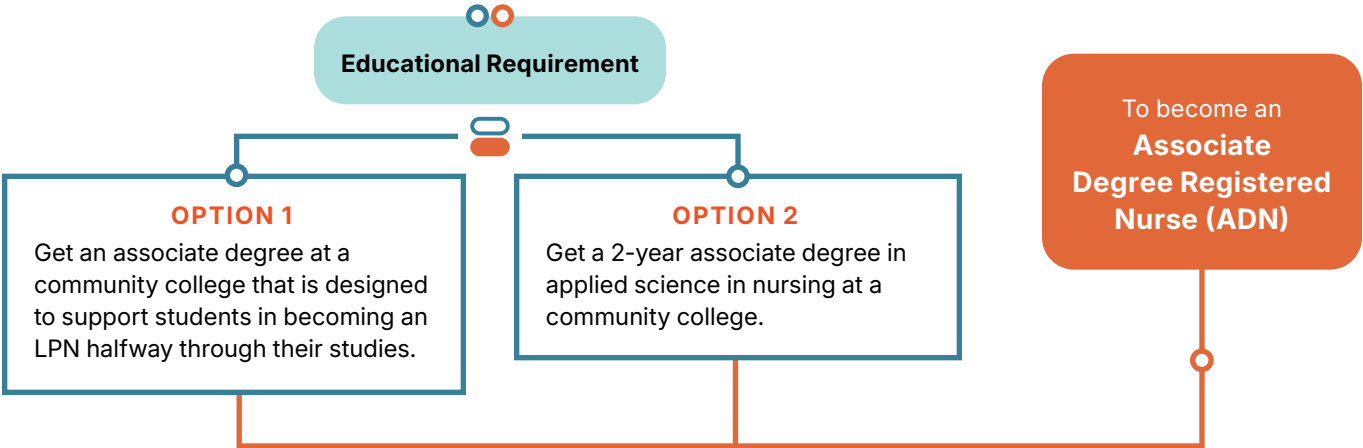
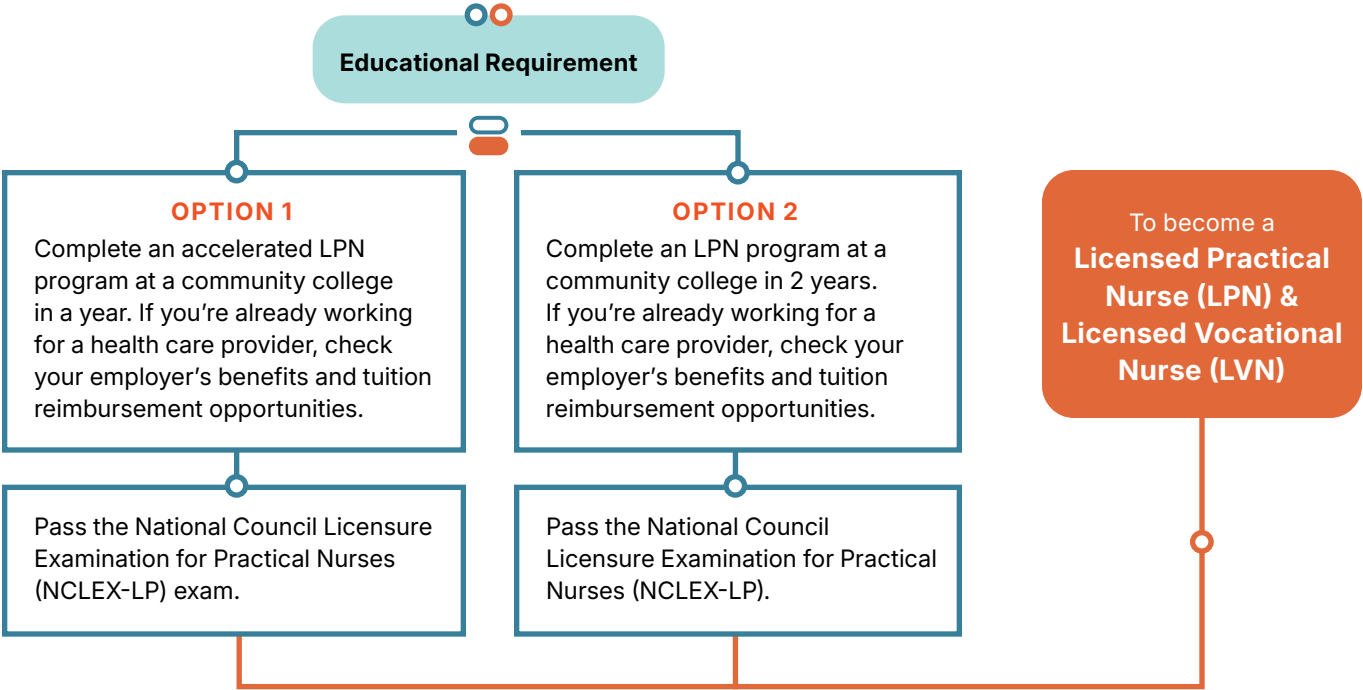


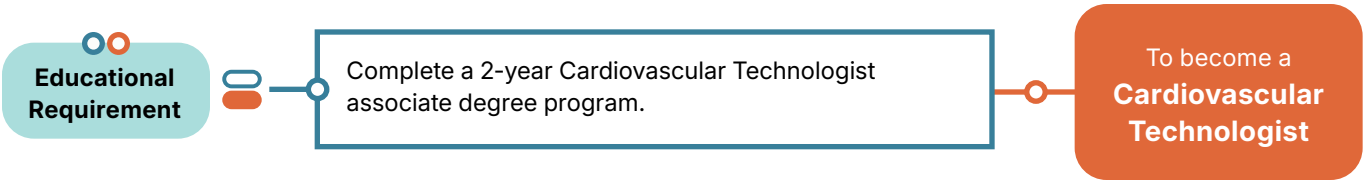
Patient Care Technician

Patient Care Technicians help patients by checking vital signs, assisting with daily activities like bathing and eating, and supporting nurses and doctors in medical care.

-  **Median Salary:** \$41,897 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old or younger, depending on the company
-  **Transferable Skills:**
 - Medical records
 - Clinical experience
 - Nursing care







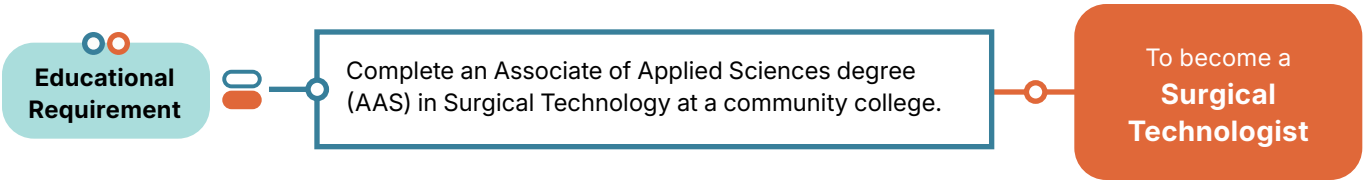
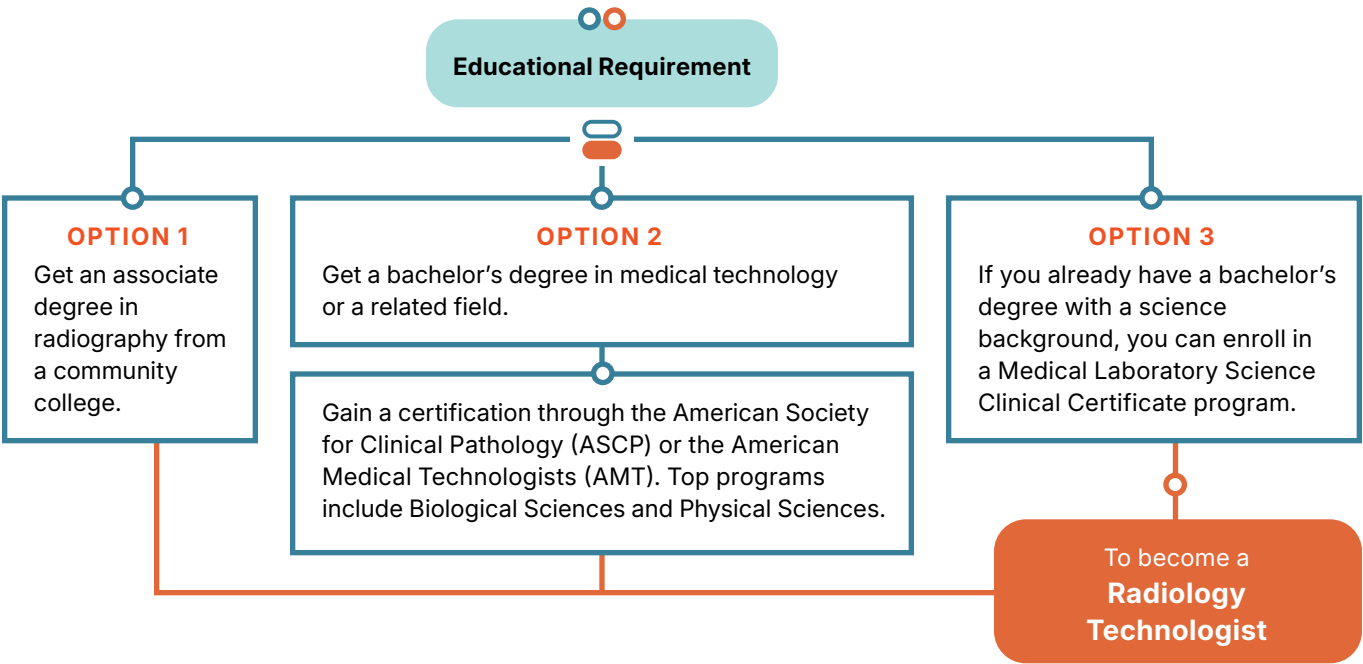
Certified Nursing Assistant

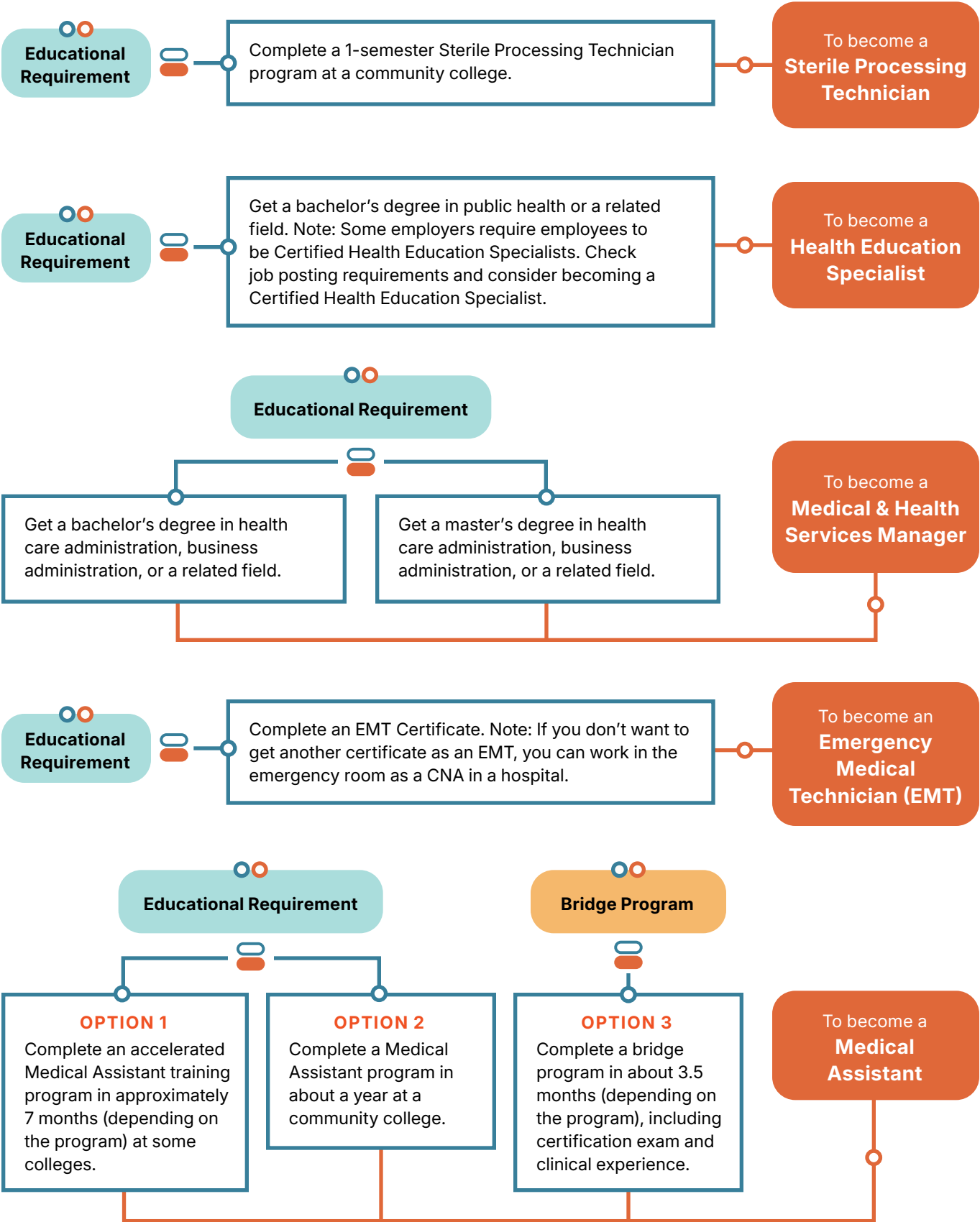
Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) help nurses care for patients by feeding, bathing, and moving them. They also stock medical supplies and record important patient information.

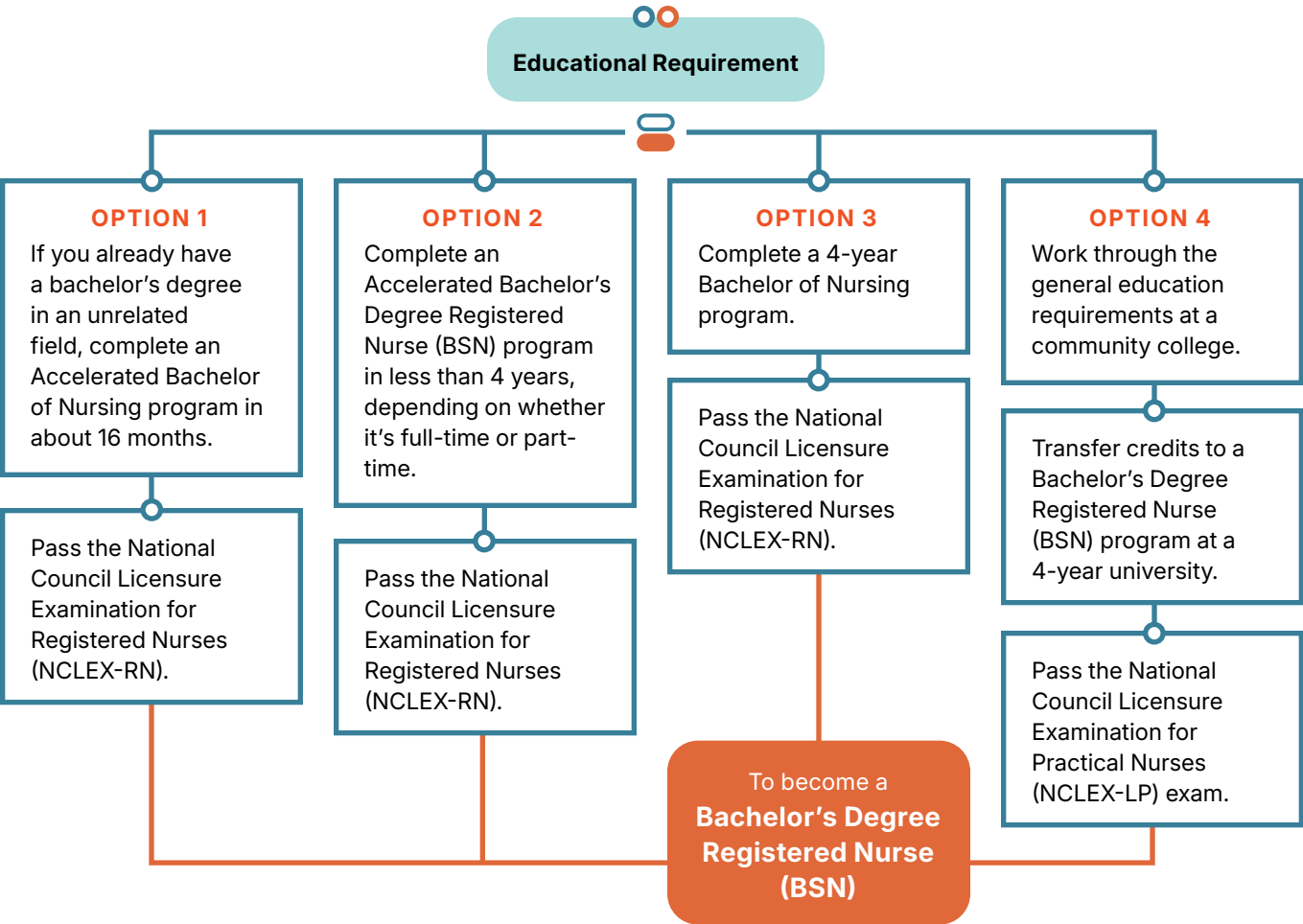
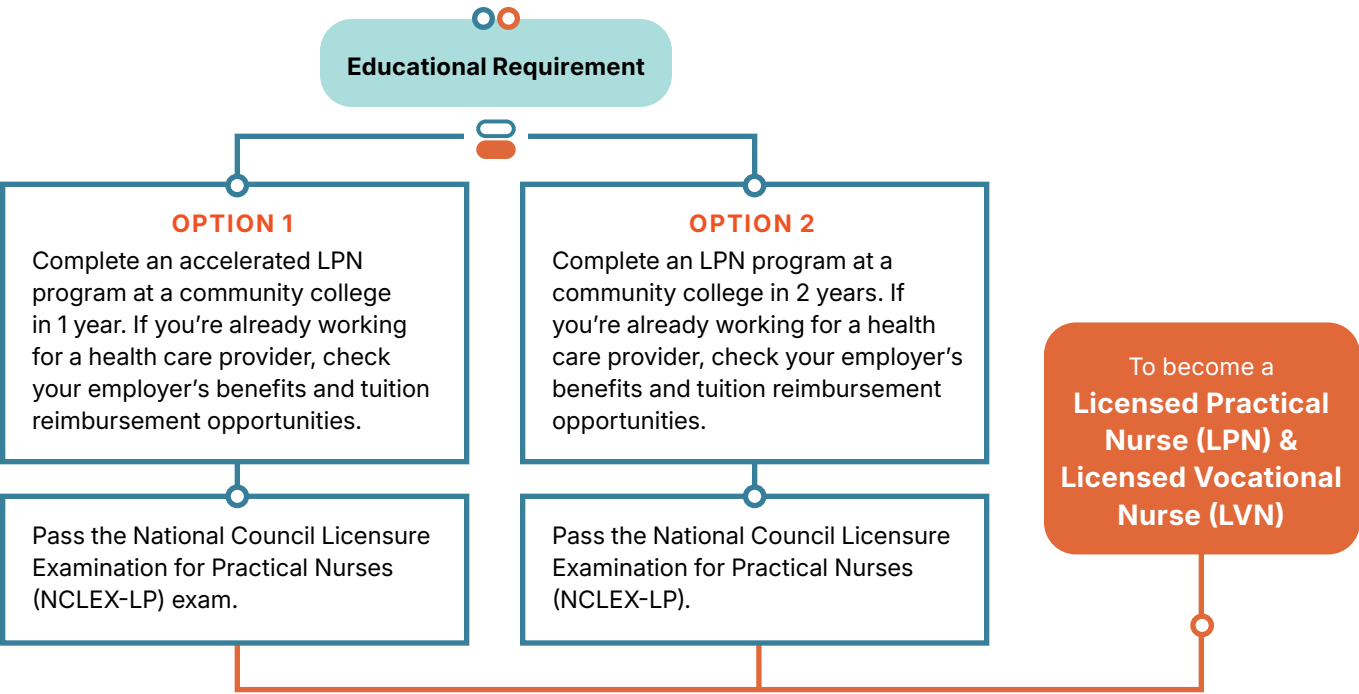
Median Salary: \$42,467 per year

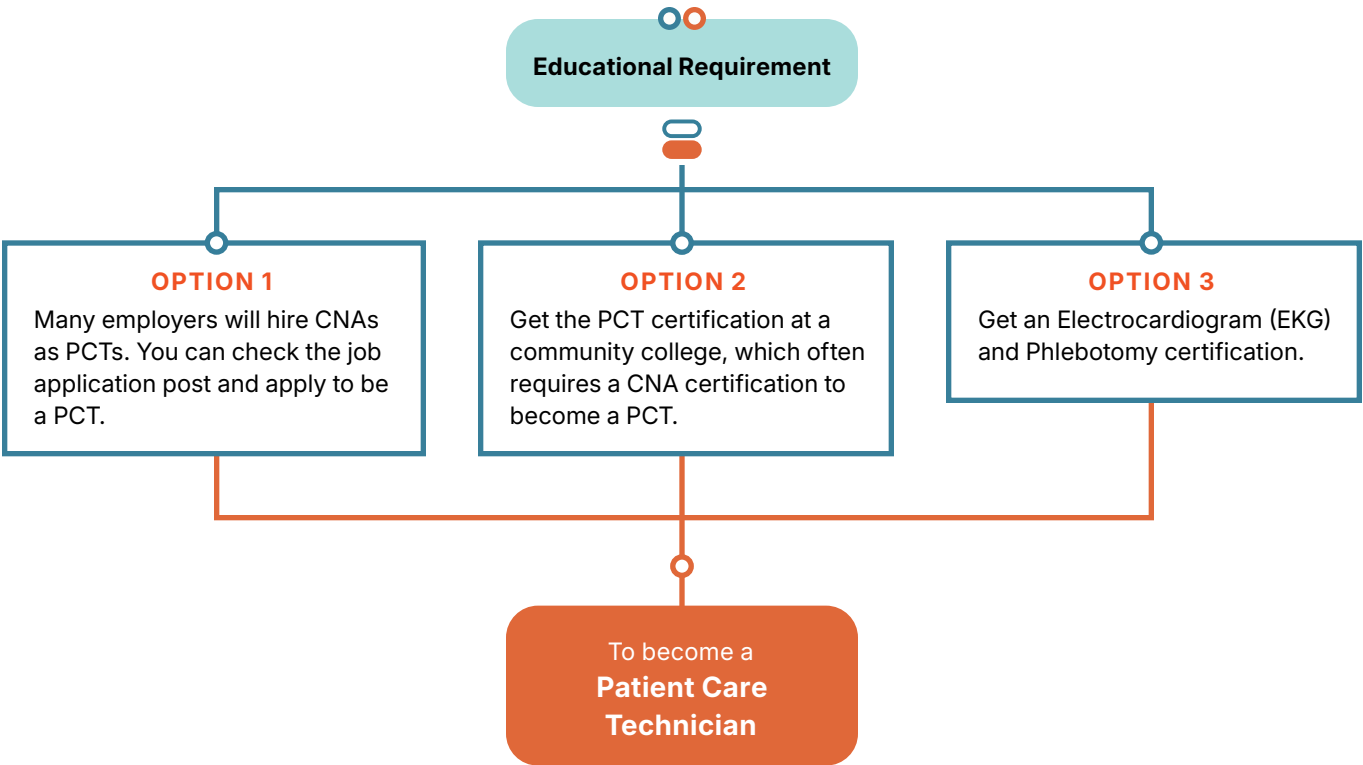
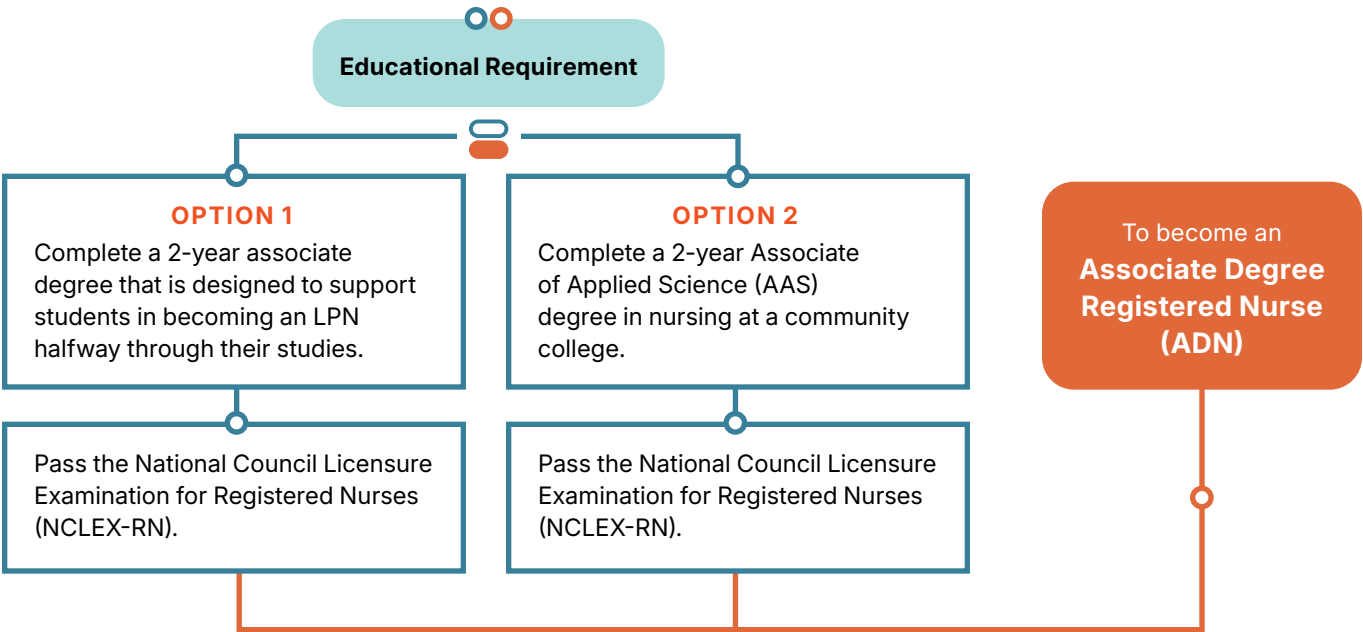
Minimum Age Requirements: 18 years old

- Transferable Skills:**
- Nursing care
 - Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
 - Medical records
 - Clinical experience
 - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
 - Vital signs
 - Infection control
 - Direct patient care
 - Licensed Practice Nurse (LPN)









Nursing Pathway

Intermediate Professions

Surgical Technologist

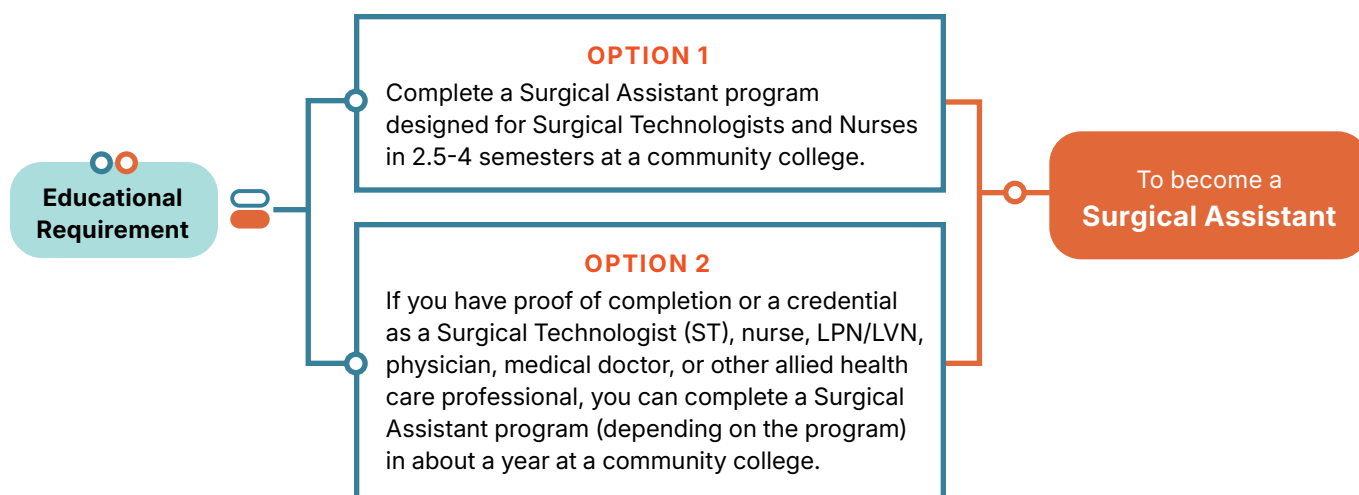
Surgical Technologists help doctors and nurses during surgeries. They get the tools ready, keep everything sterile, and hand instruments to the surgeon. Their work helps keep patients safe during operations.

 **Median Salary:** \$62,871 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

 **Transferable Skills:**

- Surgical Procedures
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Asepsis
- Surgical services



Sterile Processing Technician

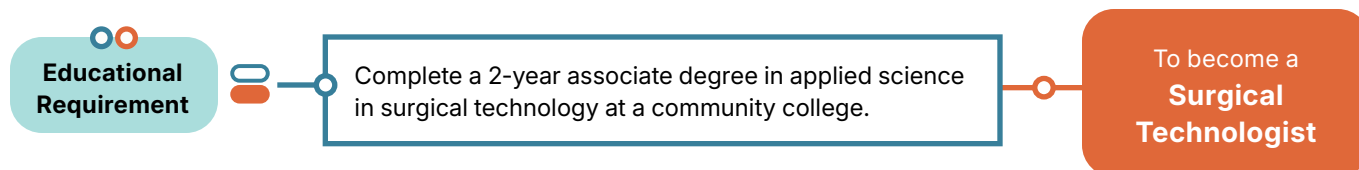
Sterile Processing Technicians clean and prepare medical tools so doctors and nurses can use them safely. They make sure everything is super clean to help prevent infections and keep patients healthy!

 **Median Salary:** \$58,955 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

 **Transferable Skills:**

- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Asepsis
- Surgical procedures
- Infection control
- Surgery
- Sterilization

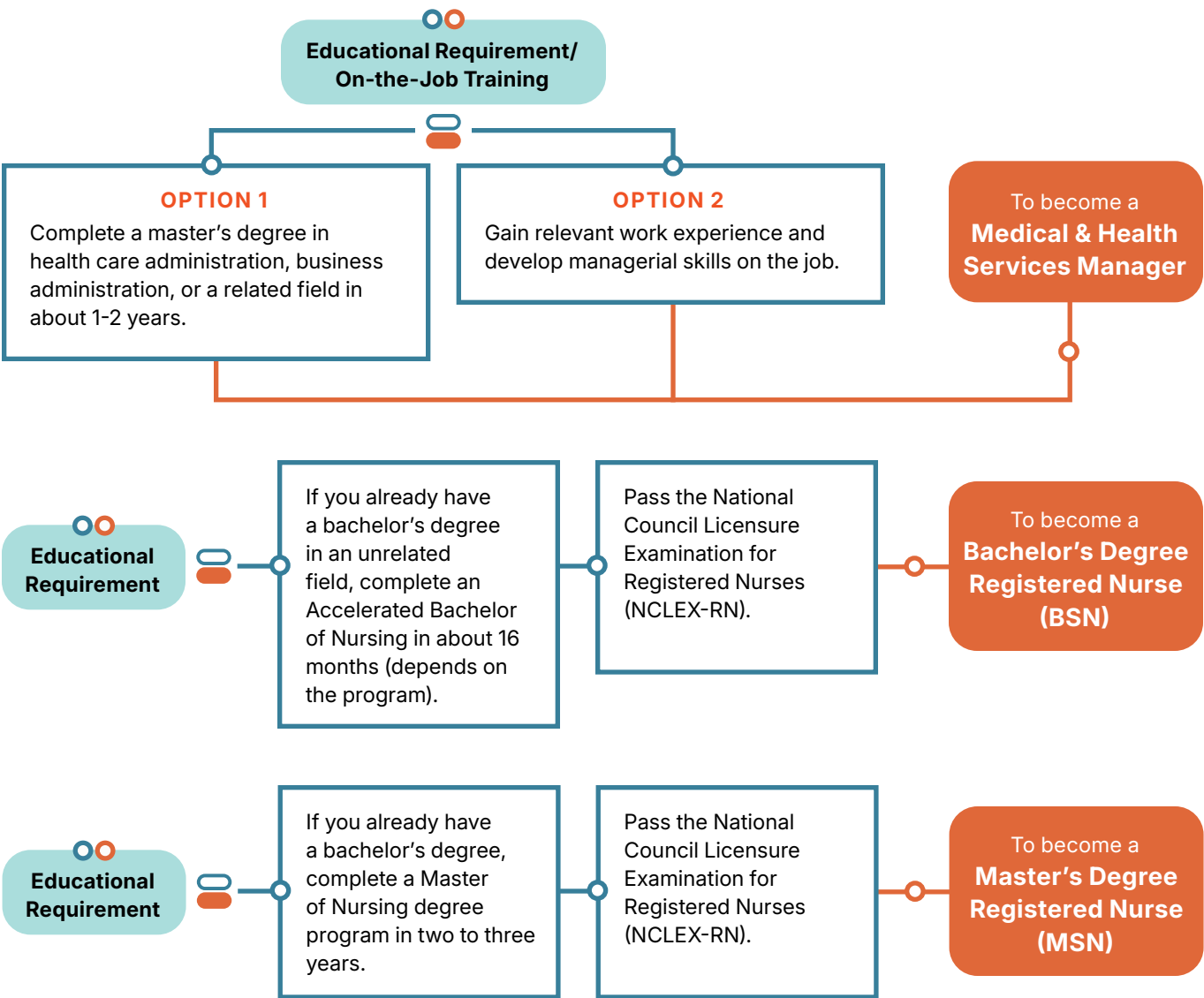


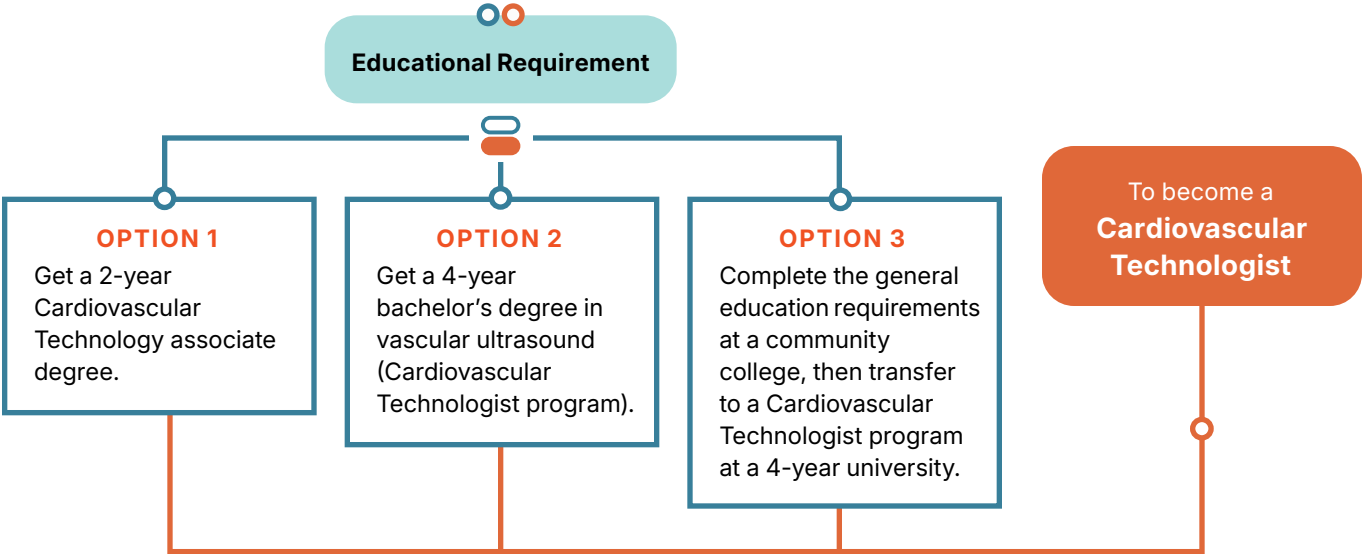
Health Education Specialist

Health Education Specialists teach people how to get and stay healthy. They also help create programs that improve health in schools, hospitals, and communities.

 **Median Salary:** \$62,235 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

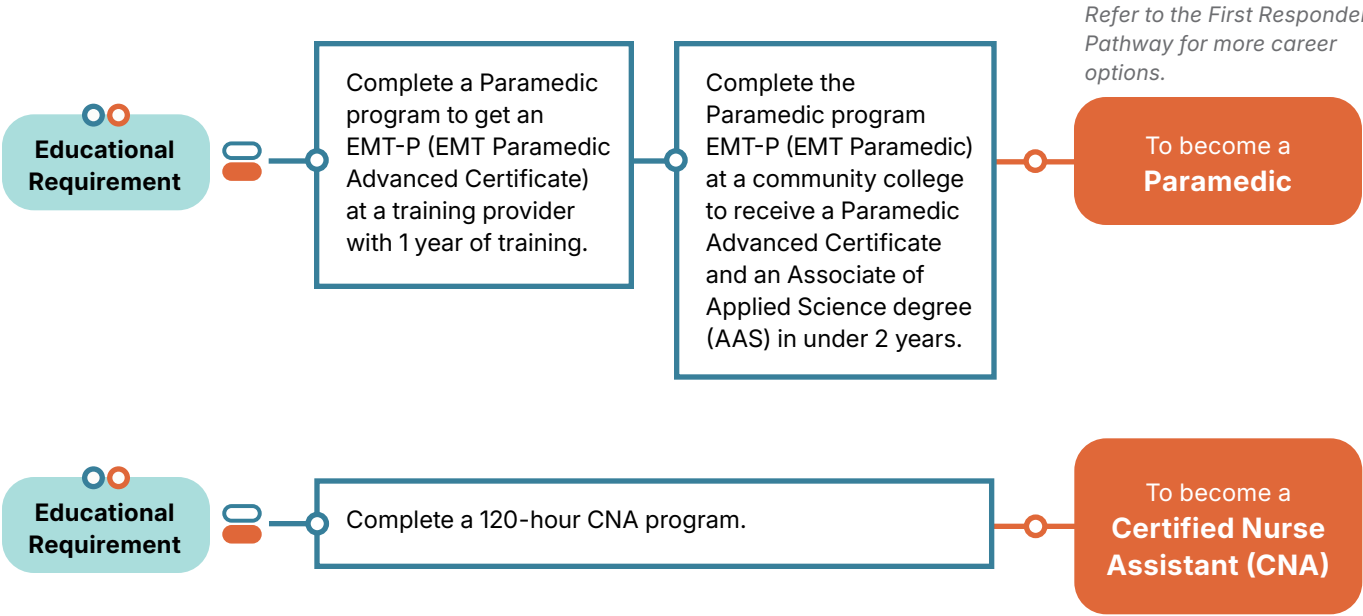




Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT)

EMTs are first responders who help people in emergencies. They provide life-saving care and safely drive sick or injured patients to the hospital in an ambulance or helicopter.

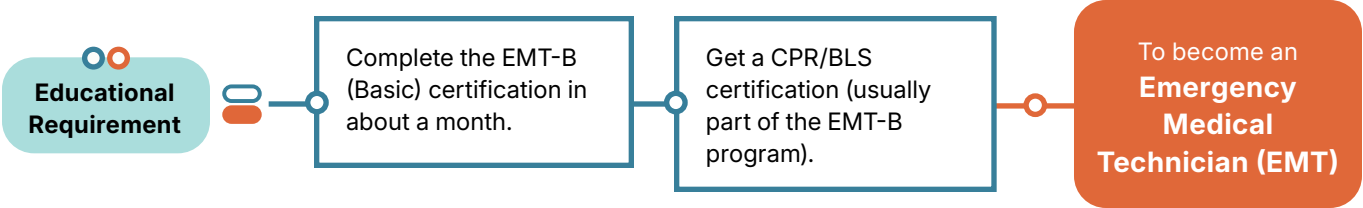
- \$ Median Salary: \$47,870 per year
- 📅 Minimum Age Requirements: 18 years old



Medical Assistant

Medical Assistants help doctors and nurses by doing important tasks such as checking patients' weight, taking notes about their health, scheduling appointments, and helping during check-ups. They keep things running smoothly at the clinic or hospital.

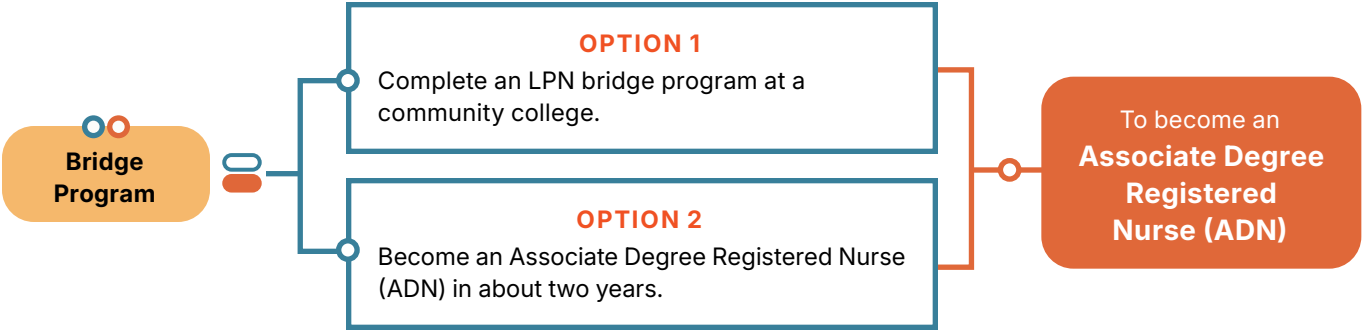
-  **Median Salary:** \$42,923 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

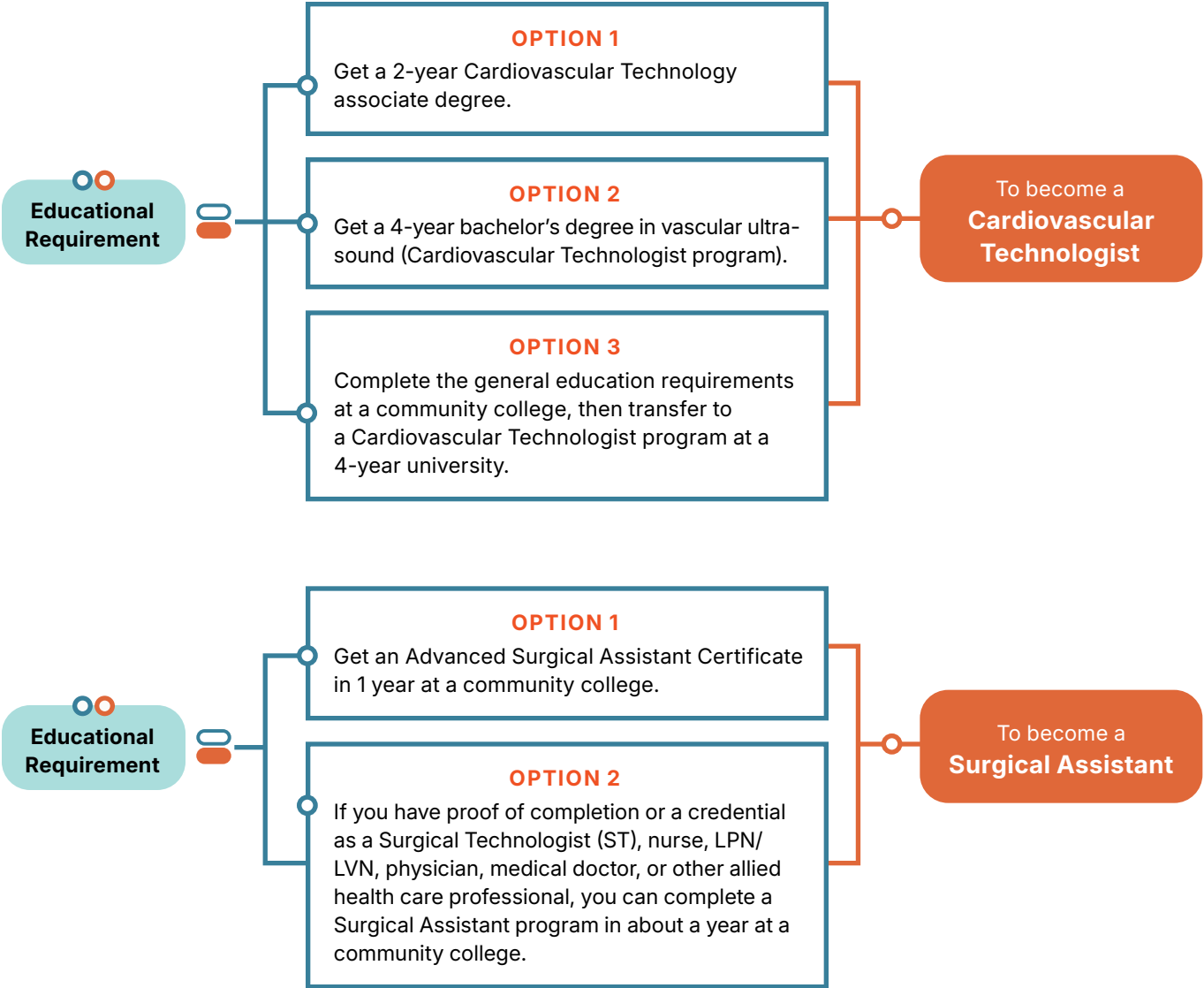


Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) & Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)

Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) and Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVN) take care of patients by checking their health, giving medicine, and helping with basic needs like bathing or dressing. They work with doctors and nurses to make sure patients feel better and stay safe.

-  **Median Salary:** \$65,987 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
-  **Transferable Skills:**
 - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
 - Basic Life Support (BLS)
 - Infection control
 - Nursing





Bachelor’s Degree Registered Nurse (BSN)

A Bachelor’s Degree Registered Nurse (BSN) provides patient care, gives medications, and assists doctors with treatments. They also take on leadership roles, educate patients about their health, and can work in a wider range of health care settings.

 **Median Salary:** \$84,280 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

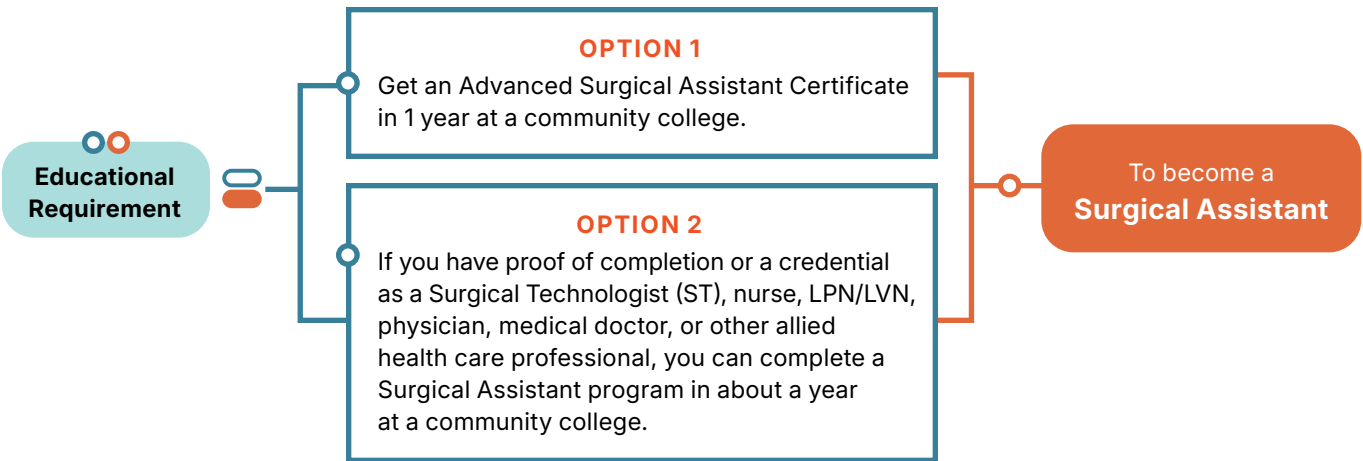
Associate Degree Registered Nurse (ADN)

An ADN cares for sick or injured patients, gives medications, and helps doctors with treatments. They work in hospitals, clinics, and other health care settings to keep patients healthy.

 **Median Salary:** \$59,387 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

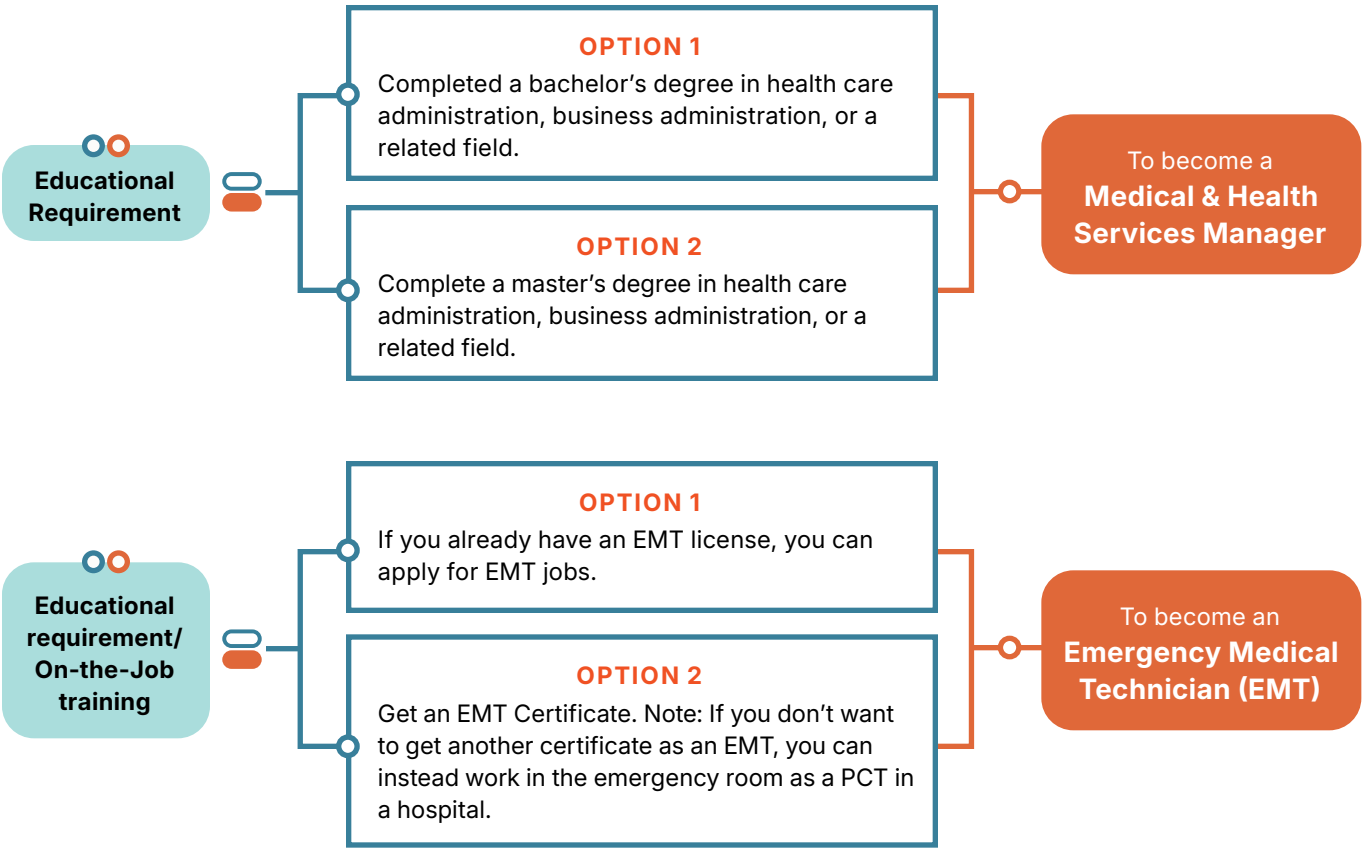
Both the Bachelor’s Degree Registered Nurse (BSN) and Associate Degree Registered Nurse (ADN) will have this learning path option:

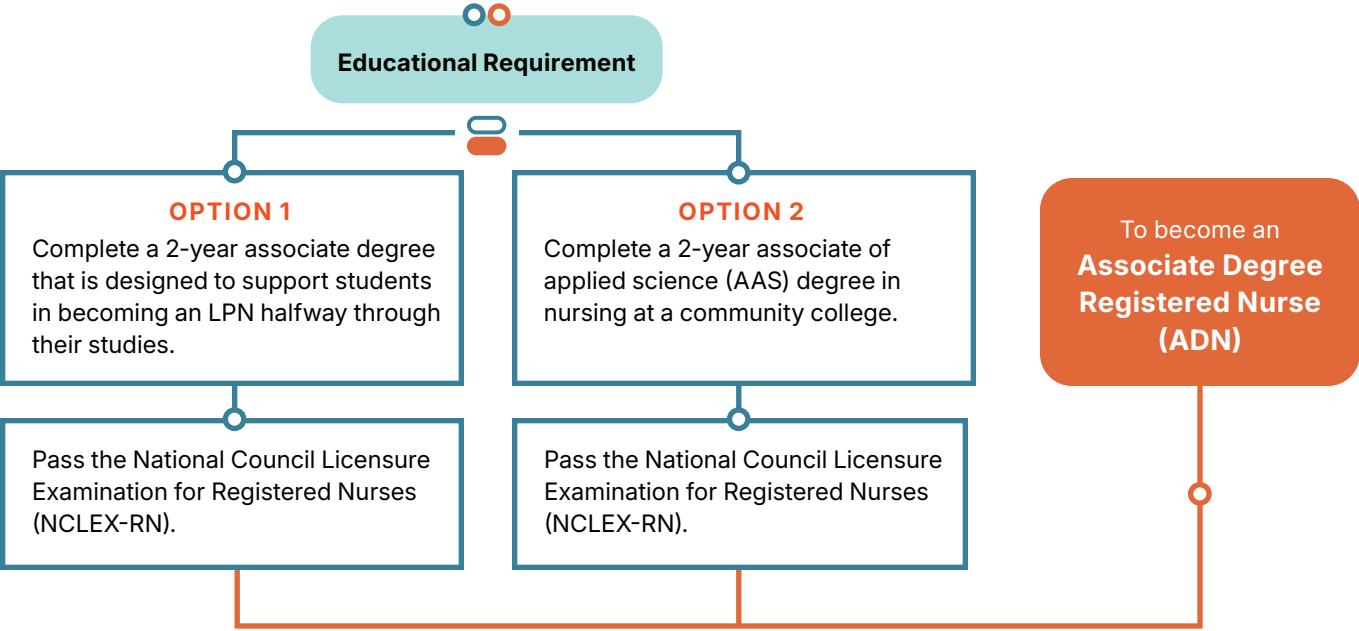
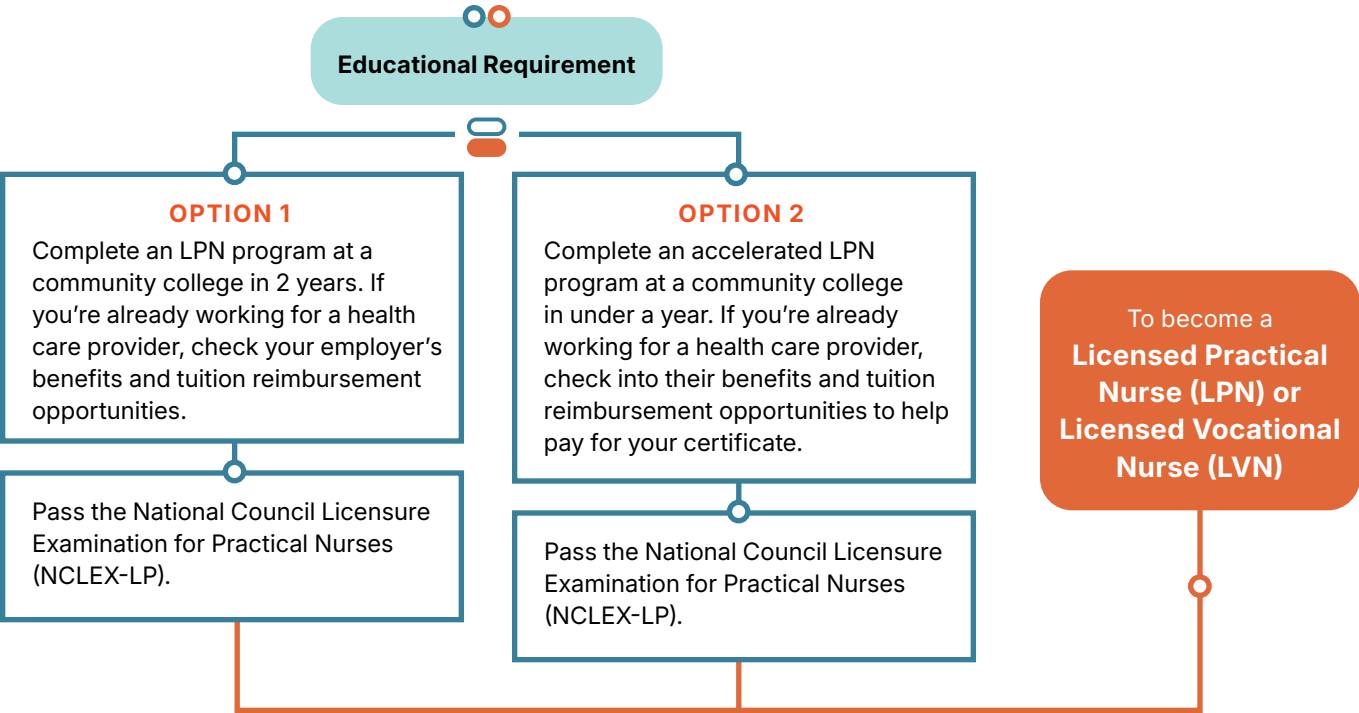


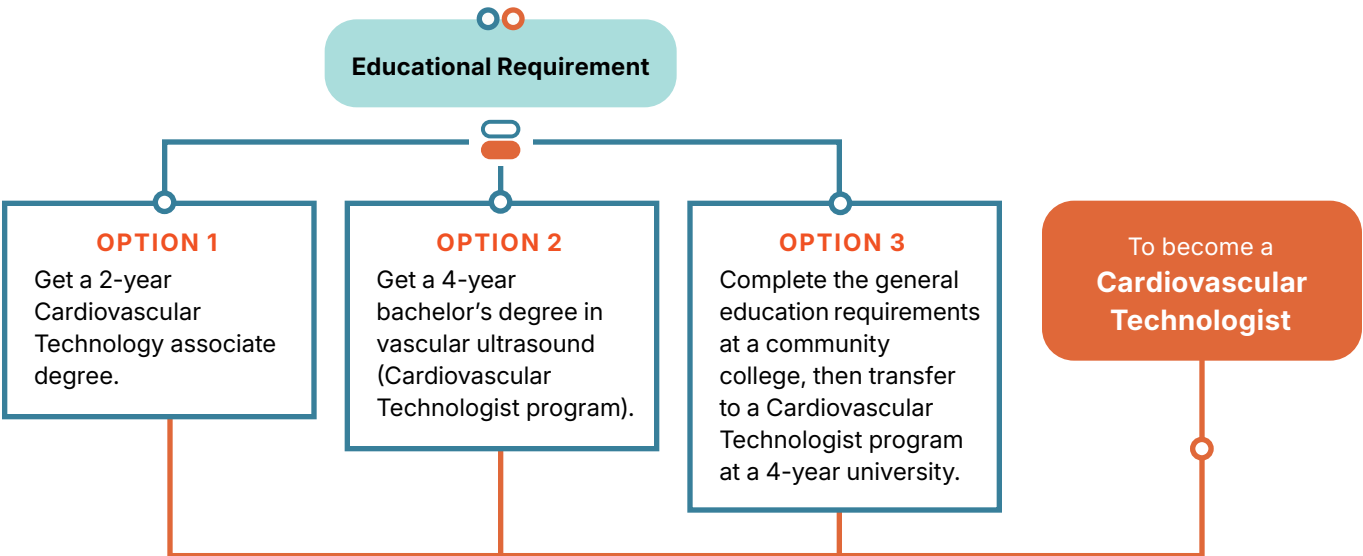
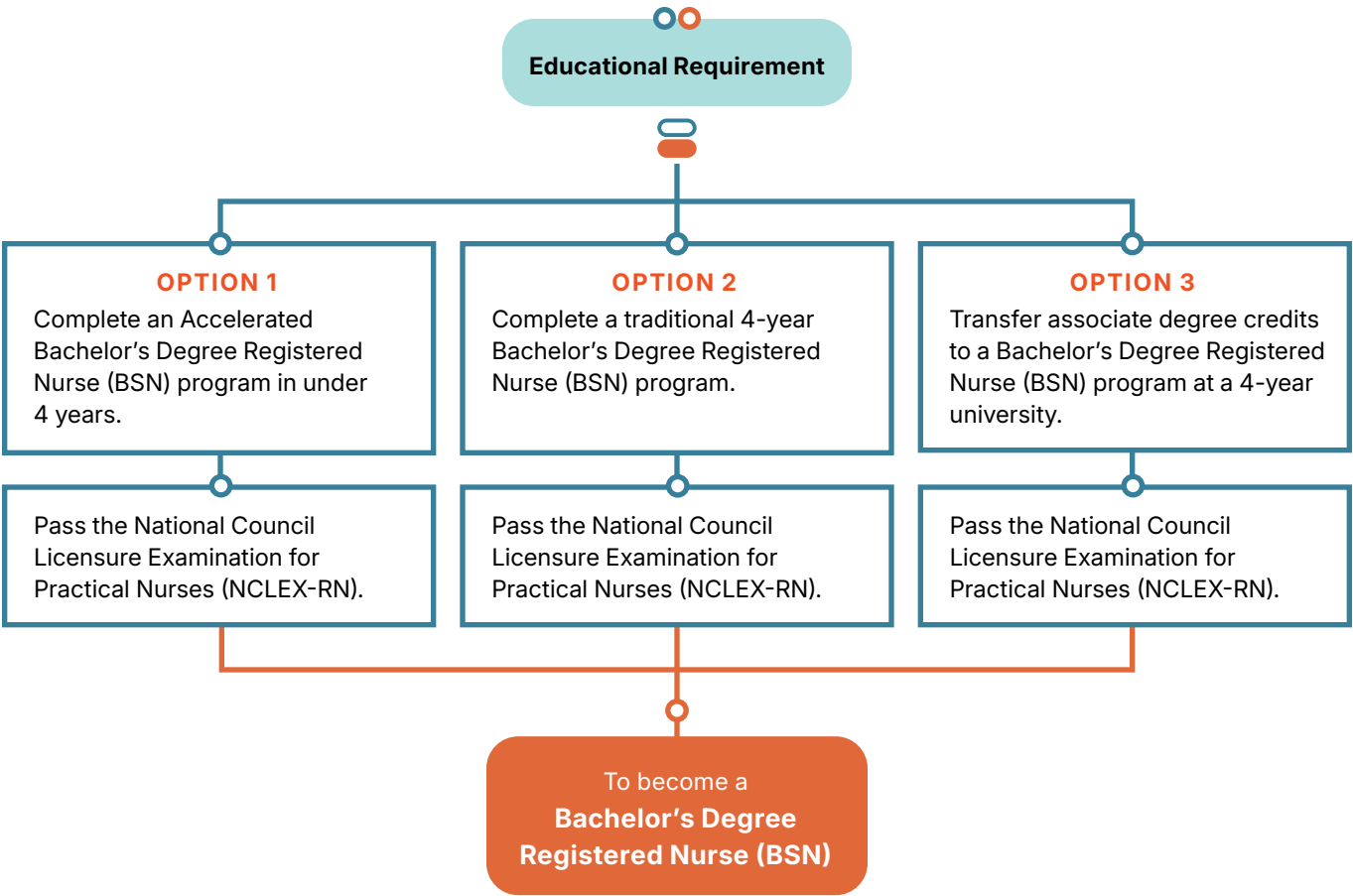
Patient Care Technician

Patient Care Technicians help patients by checking vital signs, assisting with daily activities like bathing and eating, and supporting nurses and doctors in medical care.

- Median Salary:** \$41,897 per year
- Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
- Transferable Skills:**
 - Nursing
 - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation certification
 - Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
 - EKG
 - Phlebotomy







Nutrition Pathway



About the Nutrition Pathway

This pathway features jobs that promote health through food and nutrition, including education, counseling, and programs that support healthy eating, disease prevention, and overall wellness. Nutrition professionals teach people how food affects health through food access, education, and advocacy.

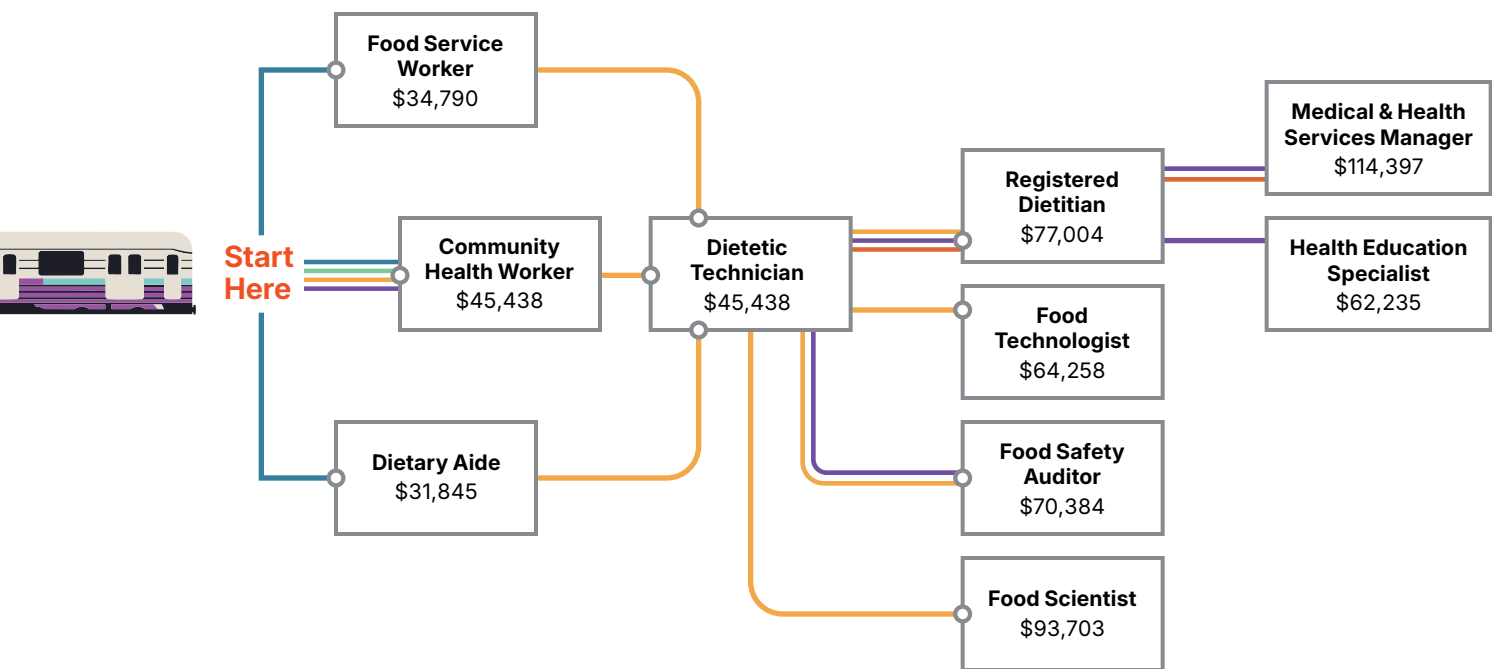
Jobs featured in this pathway include:

- Community Health Worker
- Dietary Aide
- Dietetic Technician
- Food Safety Auditor
- Food Scientist
- Food Service Worker
- Food Technologist
- Health Education Specialist
- Medical & Health Services Manager
- Registered Dietitian



Nutrition Pathway

These are examples of different ways to move between or into new careers within this field. We know everyone's career journey is unique, so think of these examples as a way to inspire your pathway, not the only way to do it. You can also move between the different pathways, start further along the pathway, or explore roles not mentioned at all in the pathway. Always check employer job descriptions to make sure that you have the right skills, education, and experience for that particular role.

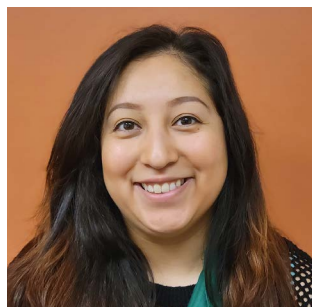


Key

The colors in the chart show the different years of education or training needed to move from one role to the next. There are often several ways to advance, and some paths have more than one line color to represent multiple education and training options.

- Education Requirement of less than 6 months
- Education Requirement of 6 months to 1 year
- Education Requirement of 1–2 years
- Education Requirement of 2–4 years
- Education Requirement of 4–6 years
- Education Requirement of 6 years or more
- On-the-job experience
- Bridge Programs

diet & nutrition



"My mom used to quote the movie Legally Blonde and say 'If you can't fix the fabric, then change the fabric.' That's kind of how I approached my career. I knew nutrition was the right path for me, but something about it clashed with my identity."

andrea

Andrea's career path

The first day of my college orientation I saw the **nutrition major** and I realized that nutrition was the right path for me. Nutrition is food, it's culture, it's food as medicine. My family and my ancestors taught me that nutrition is healthcare. So I knew I wanted to do nutrition, but that it might not look like the traditional dietitian who helps with weight loss or coordinates with insurers.

After undergrad, I got accepted into a **residency program**, but had to take a gap year before I could start due to my health. During that time I felt like a failure but started doing all kinds of different jobs and I realized I had a lot of passions. I learned that I can't fail, so I allowed myself to do whatever I wanted.



**Bachelor's
in Nutrition**

advice

"The advice I give anyone who is interested in nutrition is to not let the field tell you what to do or how you belong in the field. You get to decide that. You have autonomy. You decide where you belong."

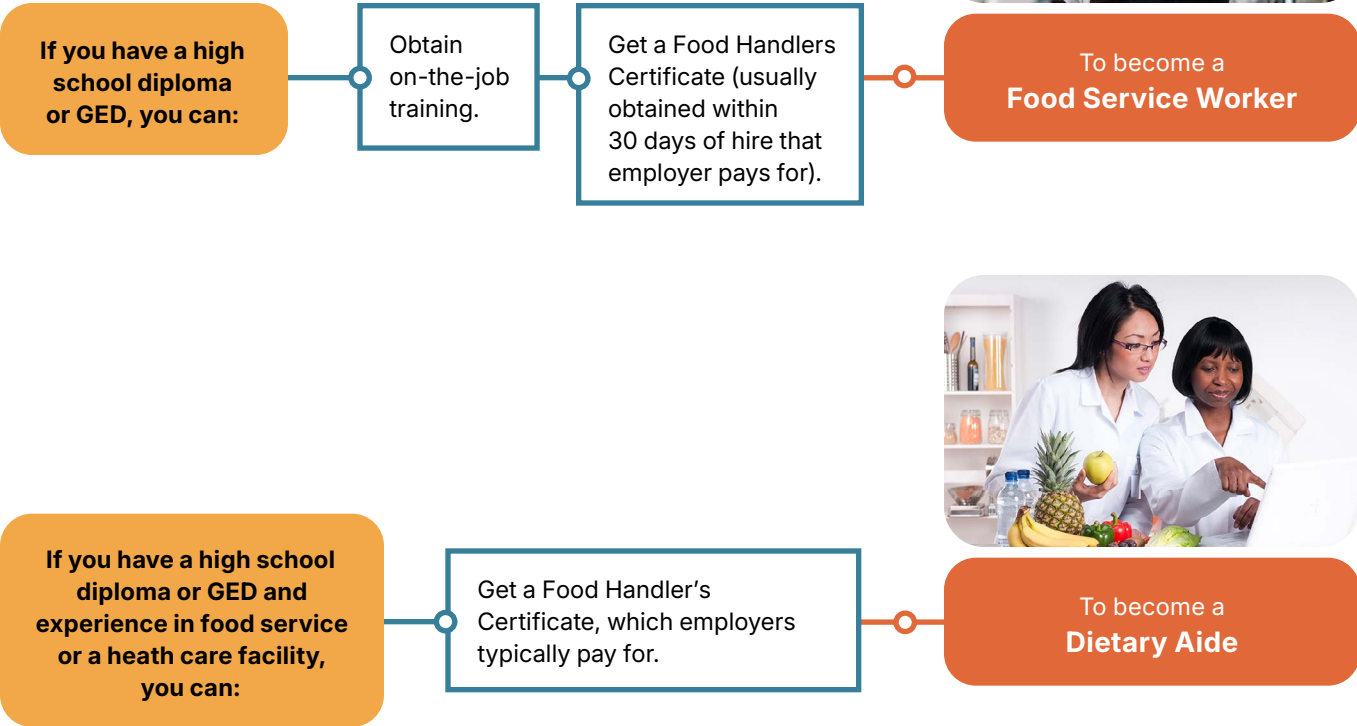
Now I'm a **registered dietitian** and I work with clients one on one. Most of my clients are either in women's health, or mental health nutrition, or neurodivergent, or maybe bipolar. I take each of their unique circumstances and help them achieve their nutrition goals.

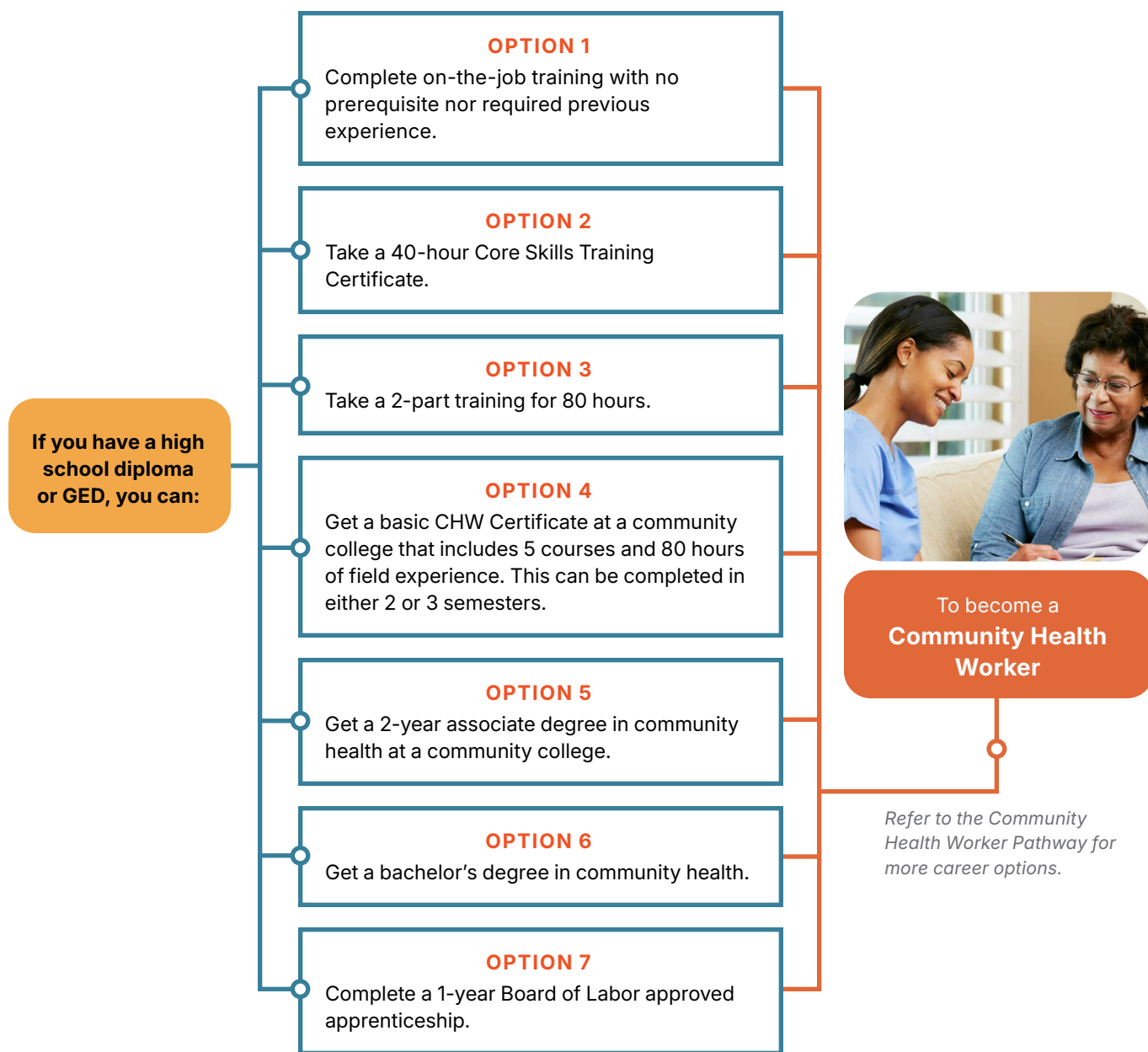
→ To learn more about Andrea's career journey, visit www.hmprg.org/your-career-in-health.

Discover a Career in Nutrition!

Nutritionists help people stay healthy by teaching them what to eat and how food affects the body. They create meal plans, give advice on healthy habits, and work in places like schools, hospitals, or fitness centers. Their goal is to help others feel their best through good nutrition!

Let's explore the Nutrition Pathway and see if this is the right career path for you!





Learn more about the Nutrition pathway. →

Nutrition Pathway Entry-Level Professions

Food Service Worker

Food Service Workers help prepare and serve meals in places like schools, hospitals, and restaurants. They might cook food, serve it to customers, clean up, and make sure everything is safe and clean. Their job helps keep people full, happy, and healthy every day!

 **Median Salary:** \$34,790 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

 **Transferable Skills:**

- Food safety practices

Dietary Aide

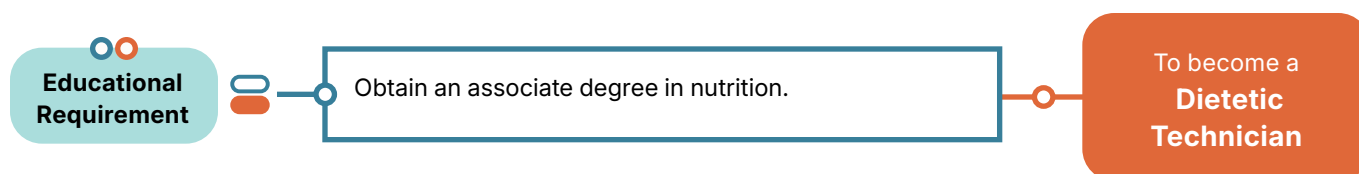
Dietary Aides help prepare and serve food to people in hospitals, nursing homes, or care centers. They make sure meals are healthy, safe, and made just right for each person's needs.

 **Median Salary:** \$31,845 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

 **Transferable Skills:**

- Food preparation
- Nutritional knowledge
- Medical terminology



Nutrition Pathway Intermediate Professions

Dietetic Technician

Dietetic Technicians help people eat healthy by working with dietitians to plan meals, teach about nutrition, and support people with special diets. They often work in hospitals, schools, or care centers to help others feel their best through better food choices.

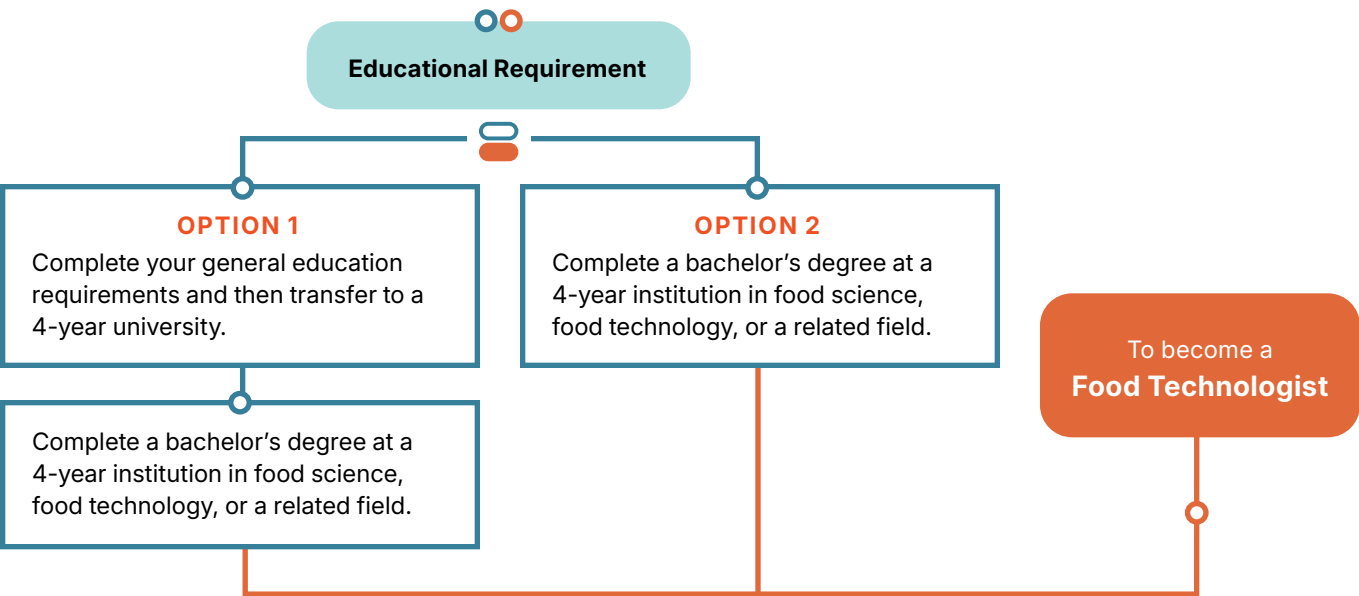
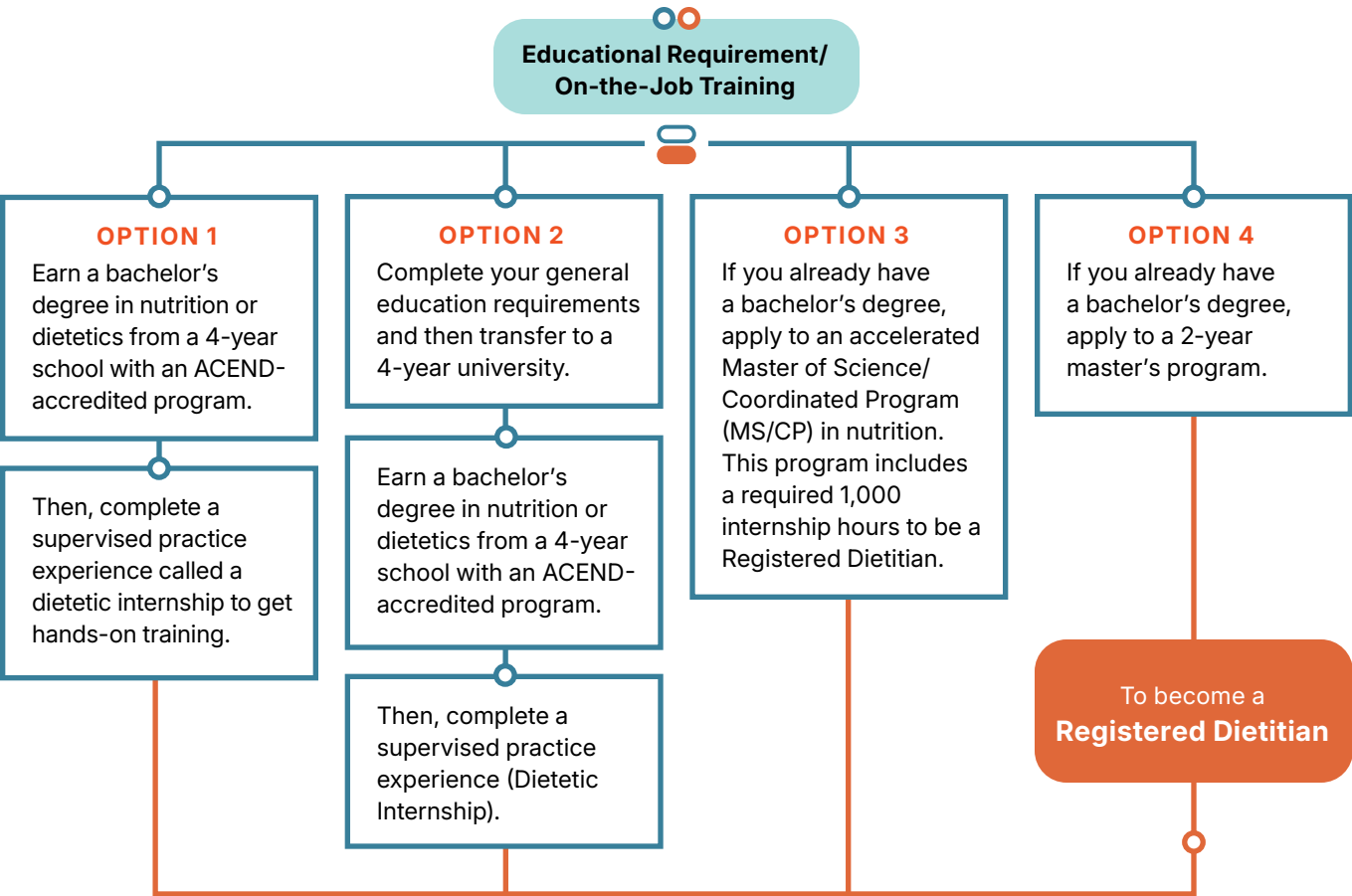
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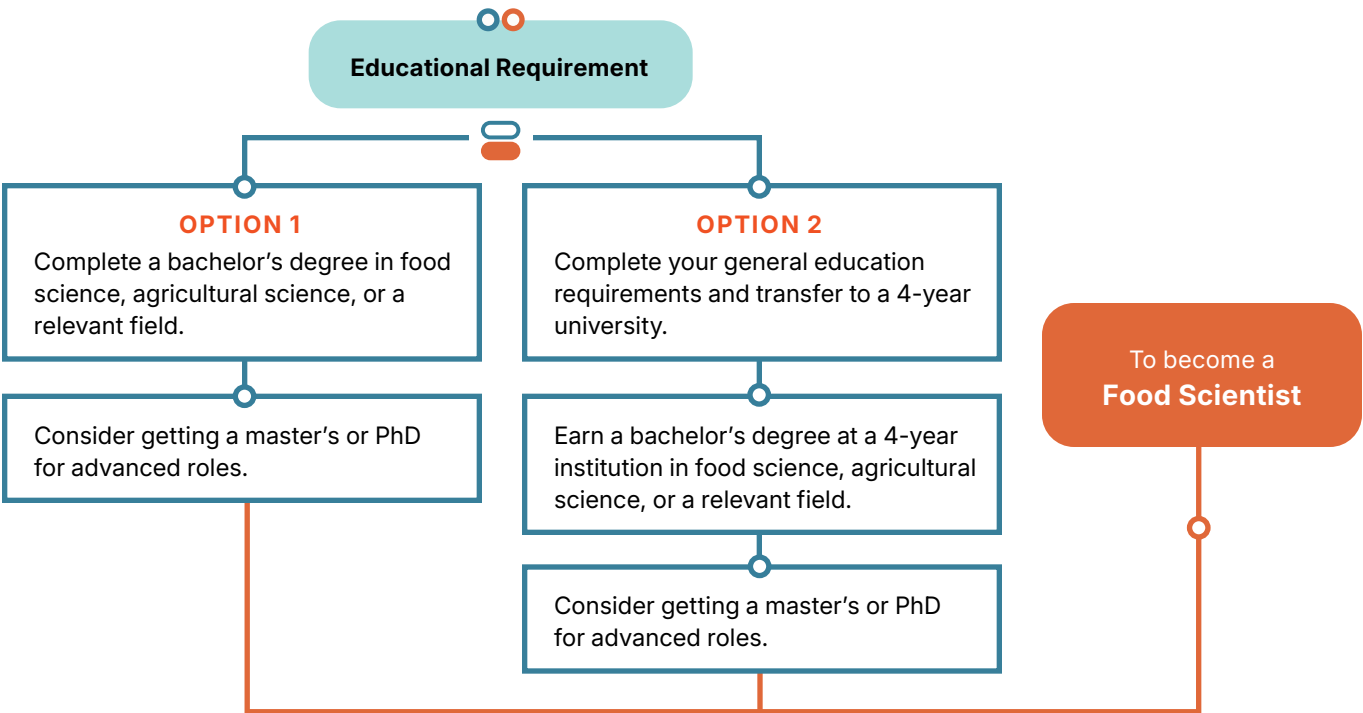
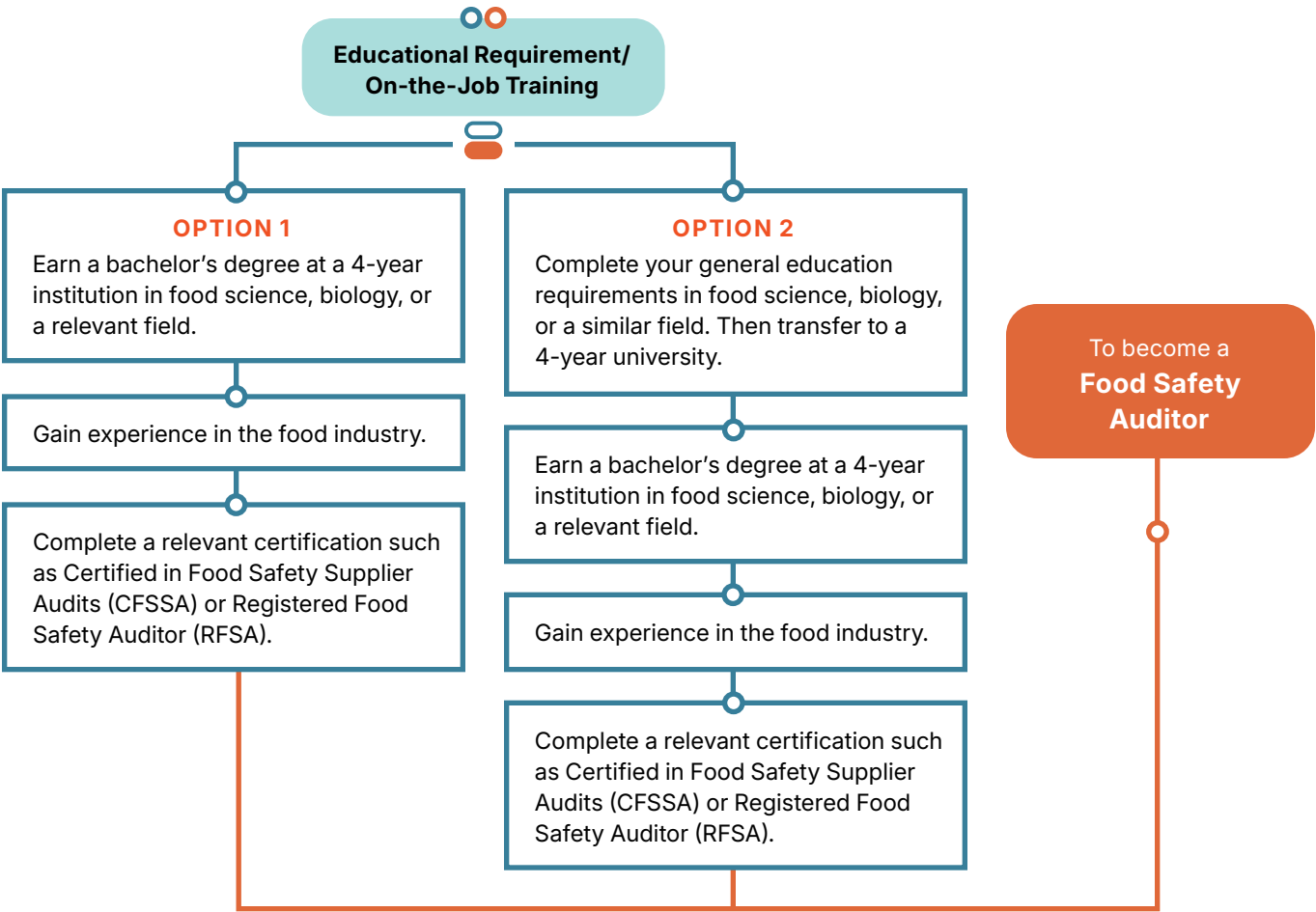
 **Median Salary:** \$45,438 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

 **Transferable Skills:**

- Nutritional assessments
- Food and nutrition knowledge
- Educating patients





Nutrition Pathway

Specialist Professions

Registered Dietitian

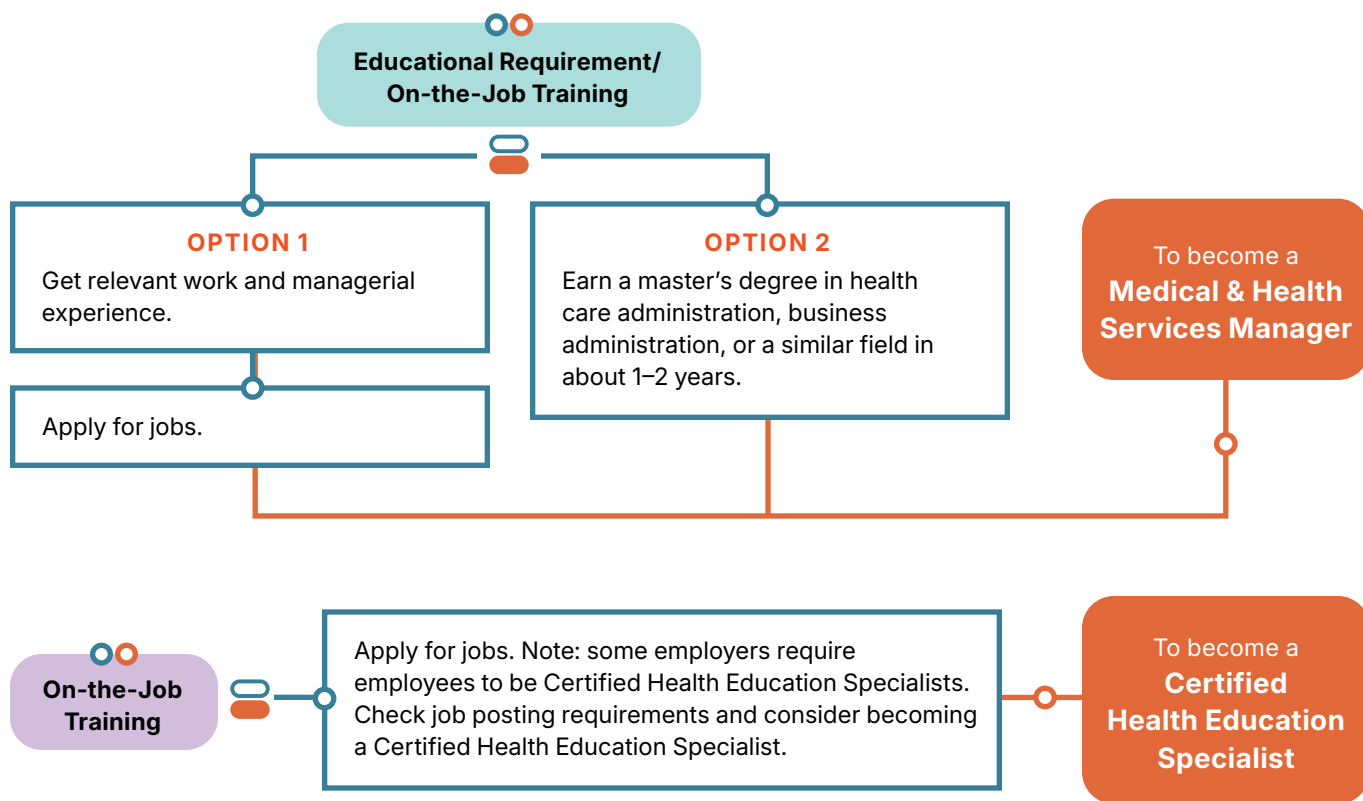
A Registered Dietitian is a food and nutrition expert who helps people eat healthy and feel their best. They teach others how food affects the body, help plan meals, and support people with special health needs. Their job is all about helping others stay strong, healthy, and happy with smart food choices.



Median Salary: \$77,004 per year



Minimum Age Requirements: 18 years old



Oral Health Pathway



About the Oral Health Pathway

This pathway features careers that promote oral and dental health through prevention, treatment, education, and support services aimed at maintaining healthy teeth and gums.

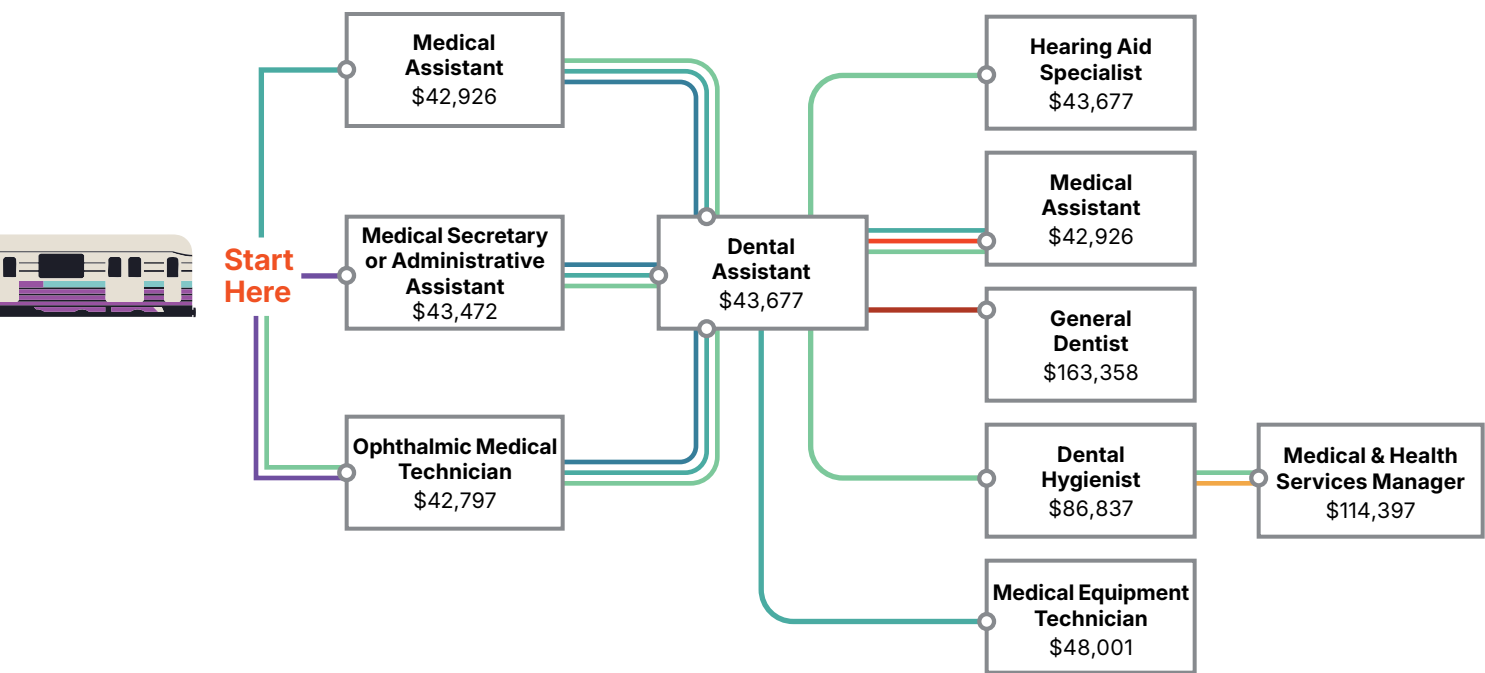
Jobs featured in this career pathway include:

- Dental Assistant
- Dental Hygienist
- General Dentist
- Hearing Aid Specialist
- Medical & Health Service Manager
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Equipment Technician
- Medical Secretary & Administrative Assistant
- Ophthalmic Medical Technician



Oral Health Pathway

These are examples of different ways to move between or into new careers within this field. We know everyone's career journey is unique, so think of these examples as a way to inspire your pathway, not the only way to do it. You can also move between the different pathways, start further along the pathway, or explore roles not mentioned at all in the pathway. Always check employer job descriptions to make sure that you have the right skills, education, and experience for that particular role.



MY CAREER JOURNEY

oral health

"People will walk around with a toothache for months before coming to the dentist. When they finally come and the work is finished and they leave smiling—that just does something to me. I love helping the community and seeing the difference I make when people leave."



Lashaundra's career path

I started out as a **Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)** because I wanted to become a nurse. I started taking classes while working as a CNA, but it was not good for me. I would have to work overnight, go to school during the day, and juggle taking care of my son.

I took my son to the dentist one day and I found out about being a Dental Assistant. I found an **accelerated dental assistant program** that I completed in 9 months. The program even helped me get an internship and a job after graduating.


**Certification:
Dental Assistant
Associate Degree**

There's so much you can learn in this field. There's always **ways to advance and grow**. I've done everything from sterilizing instruments, to teaching students, to assisting with oral surgeries. There's always something new to learn.

lashaundra

advice

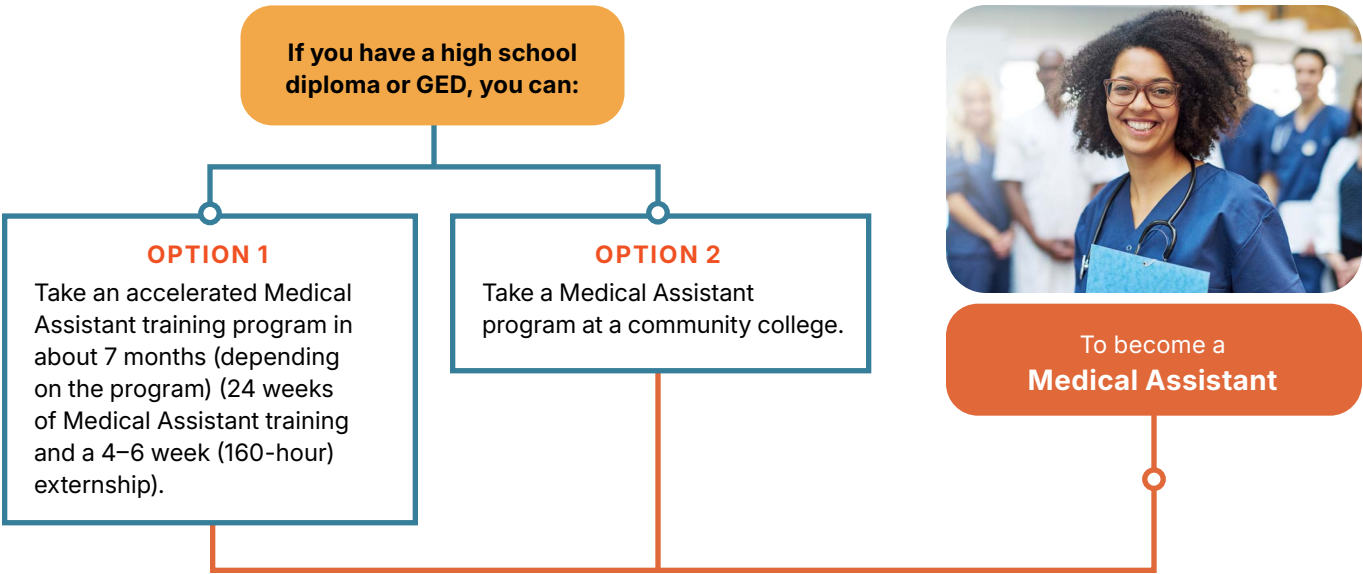
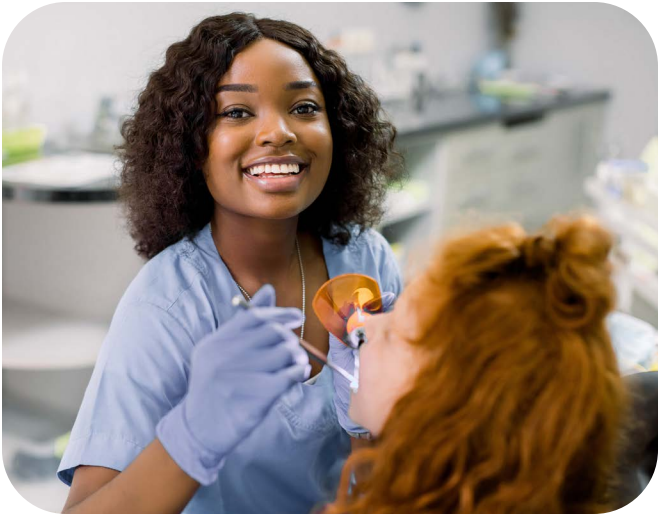
"My advice is to realize that things will look scary at first, but you got it. Don't doubt yourself. Dentistry is very hands on so you'll learn through repetition. It's a learning process and that just takes time."

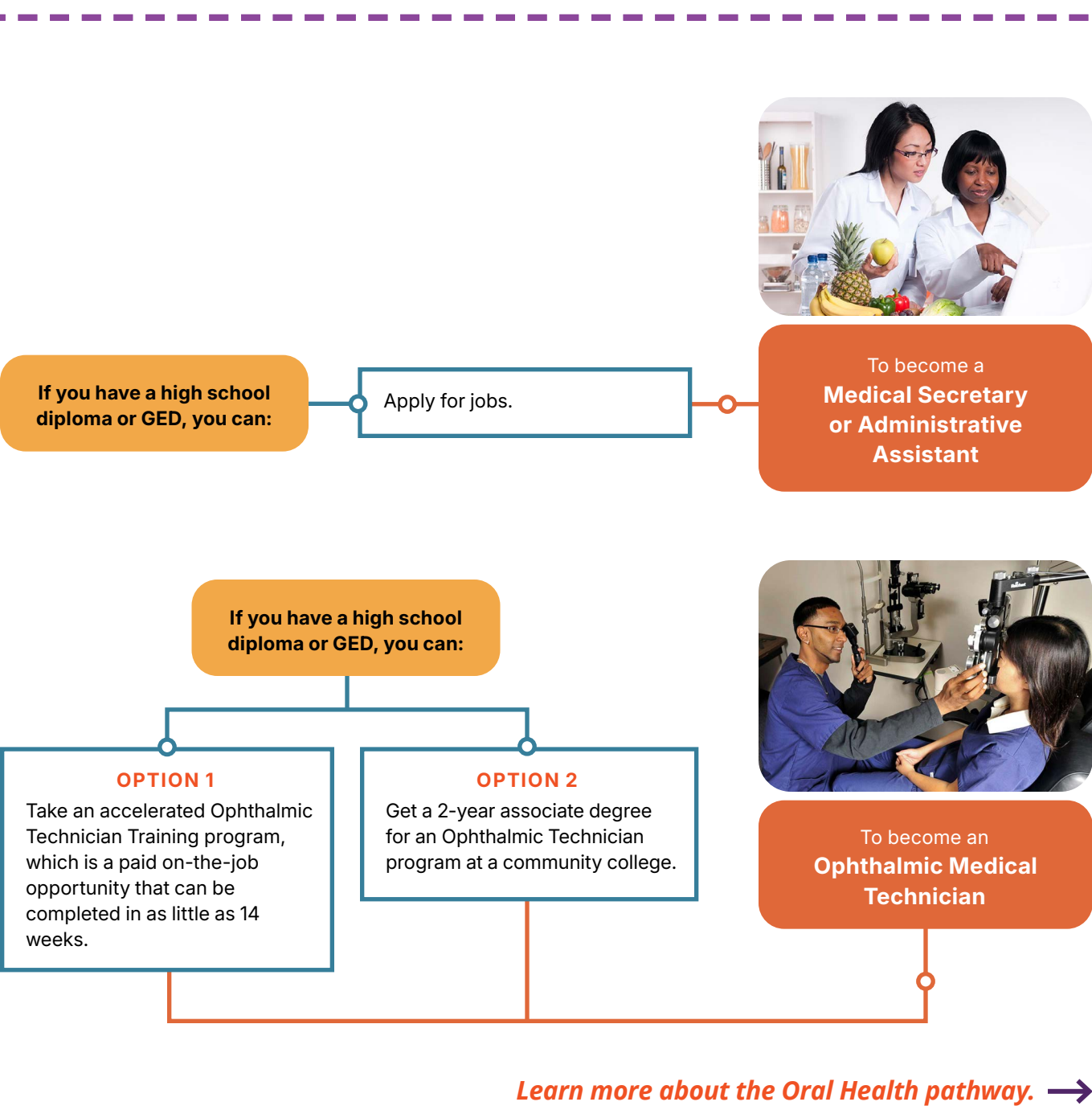
→ To learn more about Lashaundra's career journey, visit www.hmprg.org/your-career-in-health.

Start Exploring a Career in Oral Health!

Oral Health covers careers from a Medical Assistant to a Dentist. A career in oral health means helping people take care of their teeth, gums, and mouths. You might clean teeth, teach good brushing habits, or help fix dental problems. These jobs keep people healthy and smiling.

If you like helping others and working with your hands, oral health could be a great path for you.





Oral Health Pathway

Entry-Level Professions

Medical Assistants

Medical Assistants help doctors and nurses take care of patients. They do a mix of office work, from scheduling appointments and welcoming patients to medical tasks like checking blood pressure and getting people ready to see the doctor. They help things run smoothly and make sure patients feel comfortable and cared for.

 **Median Salary:**
\$42,926 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:**
18 years old

 **Transferable Skills:**

- Infection control
- Medical records
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification

Medical Secretaries & Administrative Assistants

Medical Secretaries & Administrative Assistants help hospitals and clinics stay organized. They schedule appointments, help with billing, keep track of medical records, and talk to patients to make sure they have the information they need. They're the friendly faces who help everything run smoothly behind the scenes.

 **Median Salary:**
\$43,472 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:**
18 years old

 **Transferable Skills:**

- Medical records

Ophthalmic Medical Technician

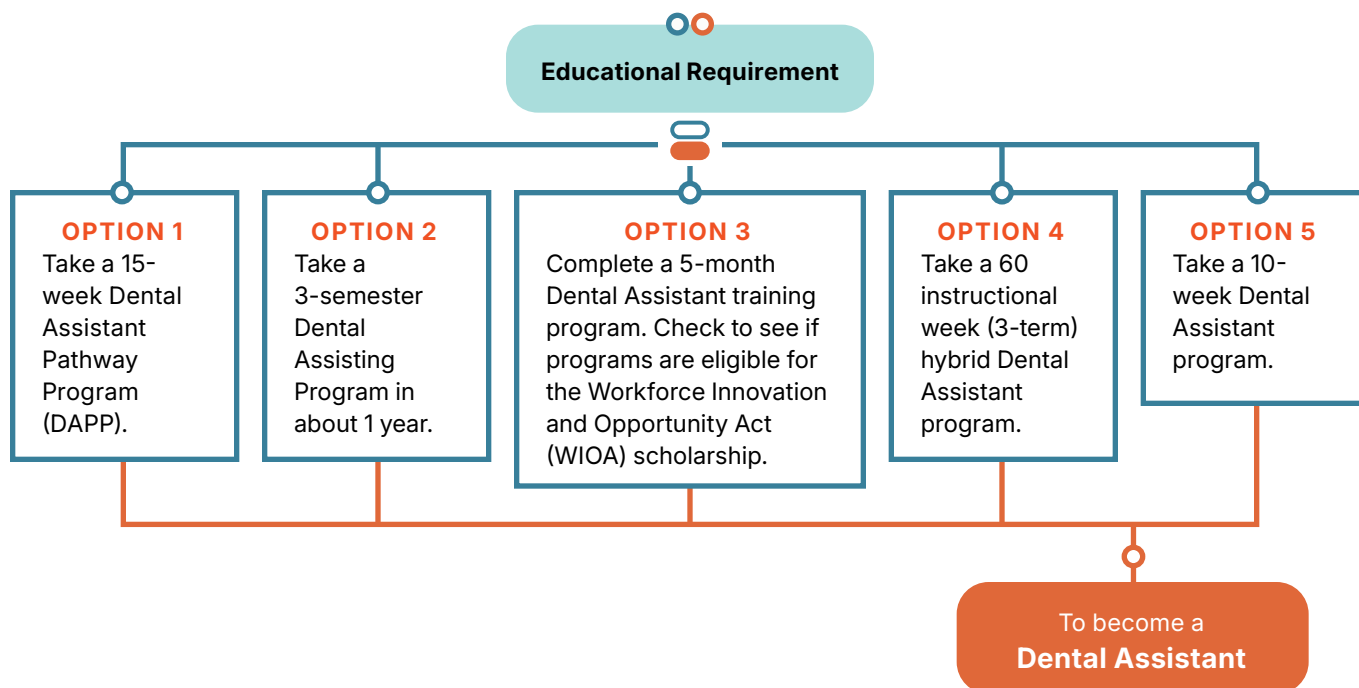
Ophthalmic medical technicians help people see better by making eyeglasses and contact lenses. They use special tools to follow the doctor's instructions and create lenses that fit each person's needs. Their work helps bring the world into clearer focus.

 **Median Salary:**
\$42,797 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:**
18 years old

 **Transferable Skills:**

- Patient education and counseling
- Patient preparation
- Medical records



 Learning Path Option  Steps to Your Next Career Move

Oral Health Pathway

Intermediate Professions

Dental Assistants

Dental Assistants help keep the Dentist's office running smoothly. They care for patients, take X-rays, keep records organized, and help schedule visits. Their support helps everyone smile a little brighter.

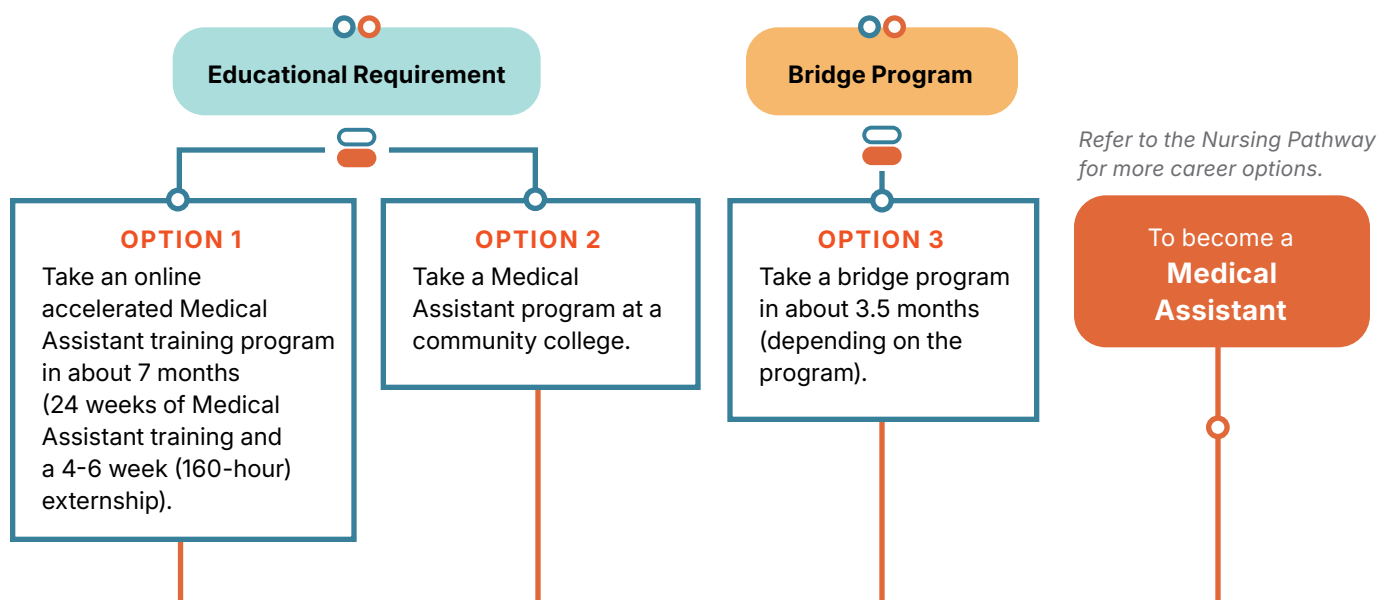
 **Median Salary:** \$43,677 per year

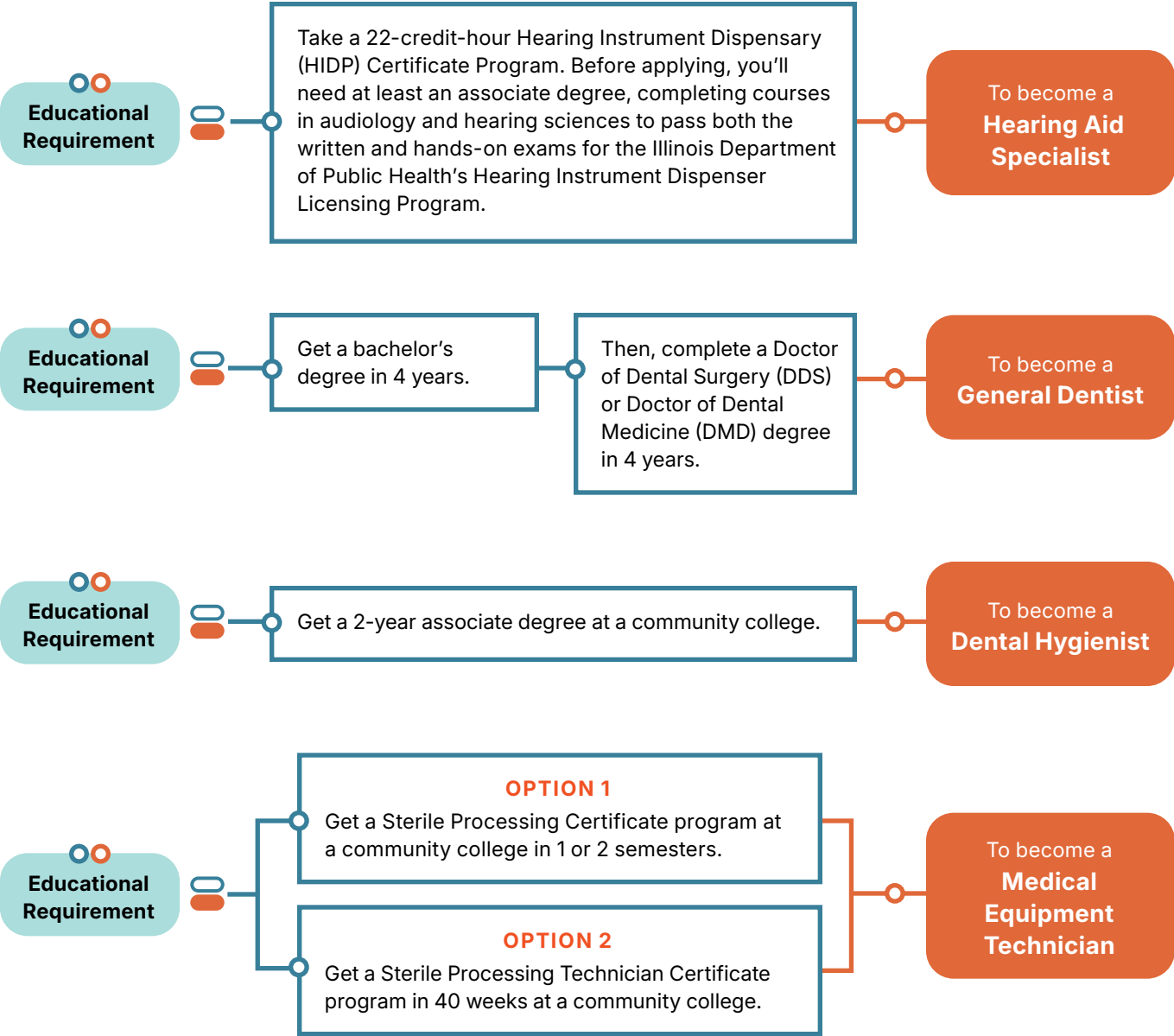
 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

 **Transferable Skills:**

- Infection control
- Patient education and counseling
- Medical records

- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certificate
- Dentures
- Dentistry
- Oral hygiene
- Oral health
- Treatment planning
- Oral and maxillofacial surgery
- Endodontics
- Dental procedures
- Sterilization
- Patient preparation
- Radiography
- Periodontology
- Disinfecting





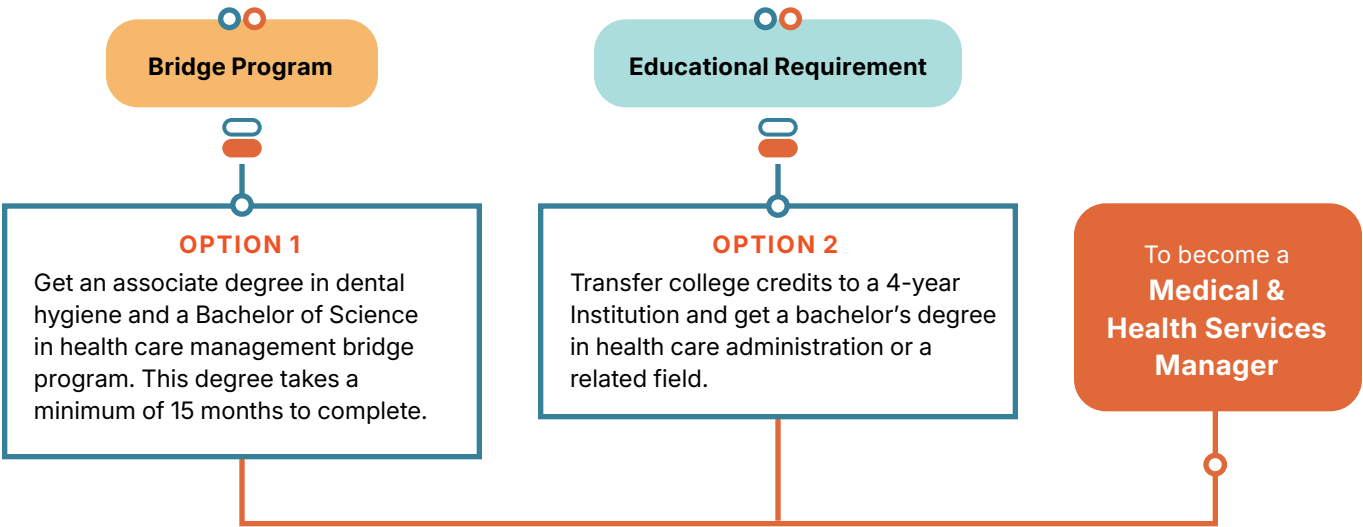
Oral Health Pathway

Specialist Professions

Dental Hygienists

Dental Hygienists help people keep their mouths healthy. They clean teeth, check for problems like cavities or gum disease, and teach you how to take care of your teeth at home. They also help the Dentist by keeping track of patient records.

-  **Median Salary:** \$86,387 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
-  **Transferable Skills:**
 - Clinical experience



Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Pathway



About the Physical & Occupational Therapy Pathway

This pathway features jobs that help people improve mobility, function, and independence following injury, illness, or disability.

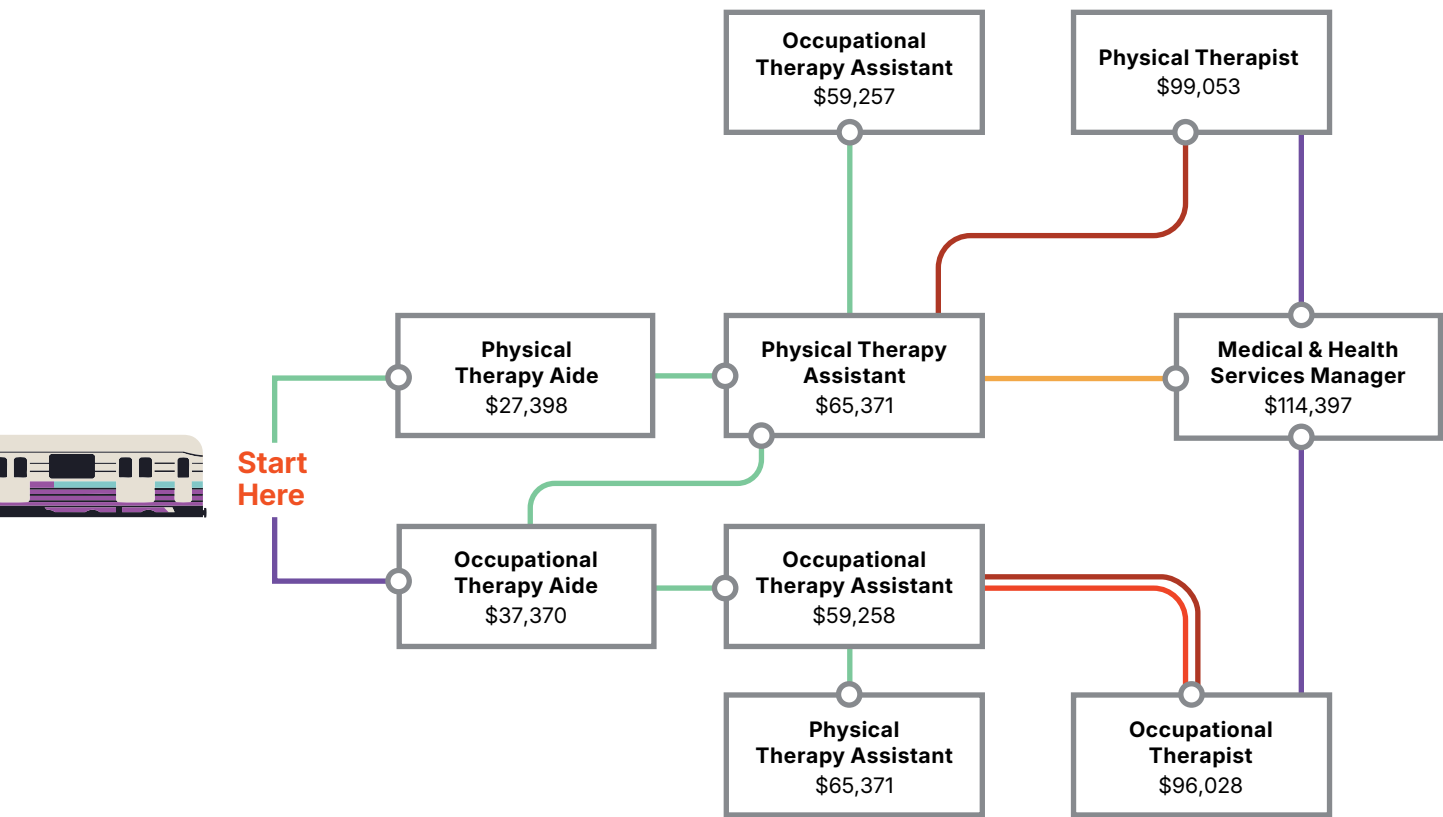
Jobs featured in this career pathway include:

- Medical & Health Service Manager
- Occupational Therapist
- Occupational Therapy Aide
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Physical Therapist
- Physical Therapist Aide
- Physical Therapist Assistant

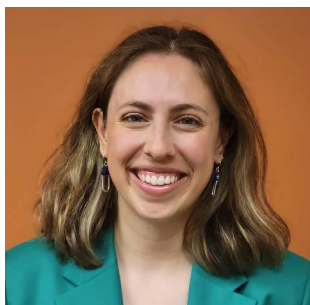


Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Pathway

These are examples of different ways to move between or into new careers within this field. We know everyone’s career journey is unique, so think of these examples as a way to inspire your pathway, not the only way to do it. You can also move between the different pathways, start further along the pathway, or explore roles not mentioned at all in the pathway. Always check employer job descriptions to make sure that you have the right skills, education, and experience for that particular role.



physical therapy



jessica

"I see people at their most vulnerable, typically after they've experienced something traumatic or an abrupt change. Often they're scared, but it's so rewarding when you're able to help acknowledge what they've been through and help them get back to doing something for themselves."

Jessica's career path

I thought I wanted to be a veterinarian for the longest time, but my junior year of college I realized I didn't want that. I was stressed trying to figure out what to do, so I went to a career fair and started working in food manufacturing as a **Quality Control Technician**.

I had several friends who were physical therapists and they suggested I look into it. They thought I would be a good fit. So I started shadowing some physical therapists and then decided to go back to school to get my **Doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT)**.


**Doctorate in Physical
Therapy (DPT)**

Once I finished my DPT, I could start working. Physical Therapy doesn't require a residency or additional licensing. I specifically work in **acute care** in a hospital.

advice

"I think having a mentor, whether or not they're in your field, is extremely powerful. Having someone who knows you and is looking out for you sets you up for success. Every major decision I've made throughout my life was either supported by or encouraged by a mentor."

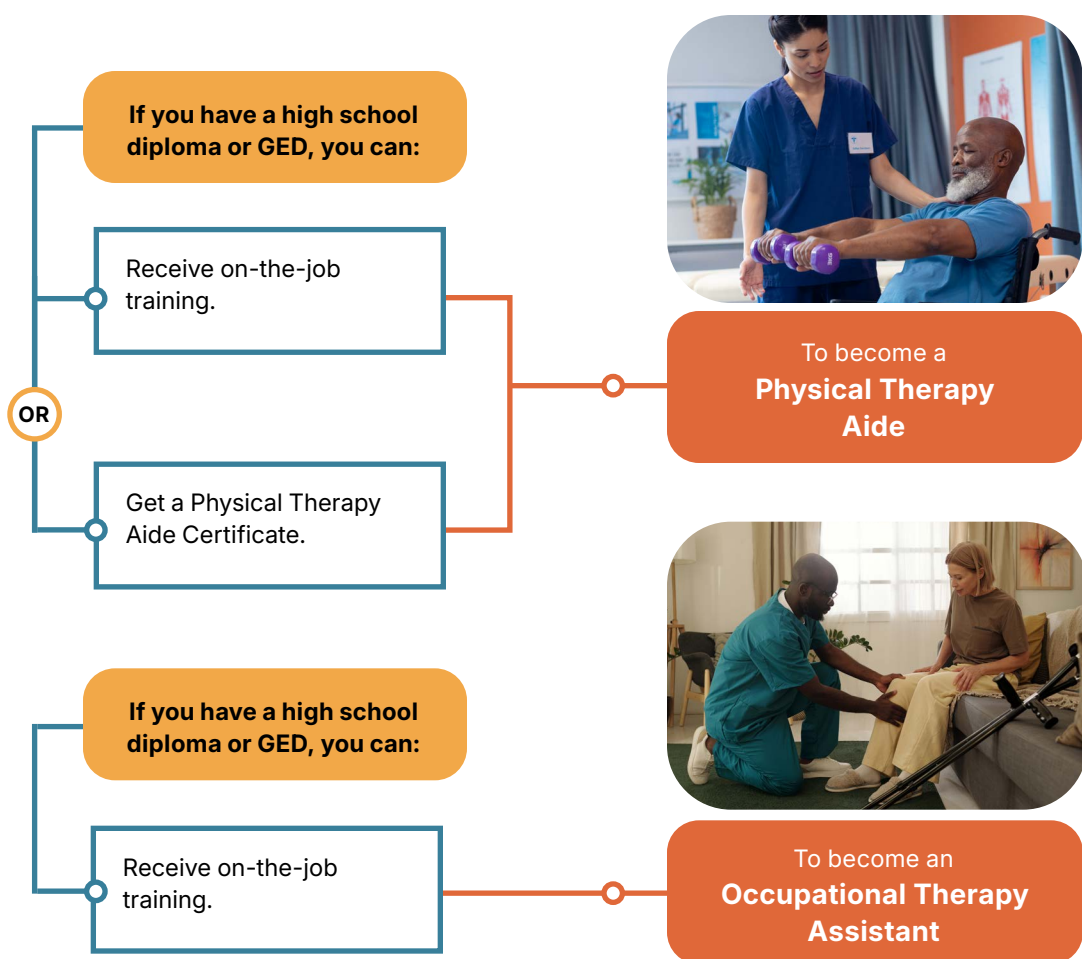
→ To learn more about Jessica's career journey, visit www.hmprg.org/your-career-in-health.

Take Steps Towards Becoming a Physical or Occupational Therapist!

Did you know that **Physical Therapists (PT)** help people move better, feel less pain, and get stronger? They help patients recover from injuries, surgeries, or illnesses and teach ways to stay active and healthy. Similarly, **Occupational Therapists (OT)** also help people recover and build skills for daily life

and work. They create plans to help patients become more independent after an injury, illness, or disability.

Let's explore the **PT & OT Pathway** and see if you should add them to your career plan!



Learn more about the PT & OT pathway. →

Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Pathway

Entry-Level Professions

Physical Therapy Aides

Physical Therapist Aides (PTAs) help patients recover from injuries and manage pain. They set up therapy areas, help patients move, and support the therapy team with tasks.



Median Salary: \$27,398 per year

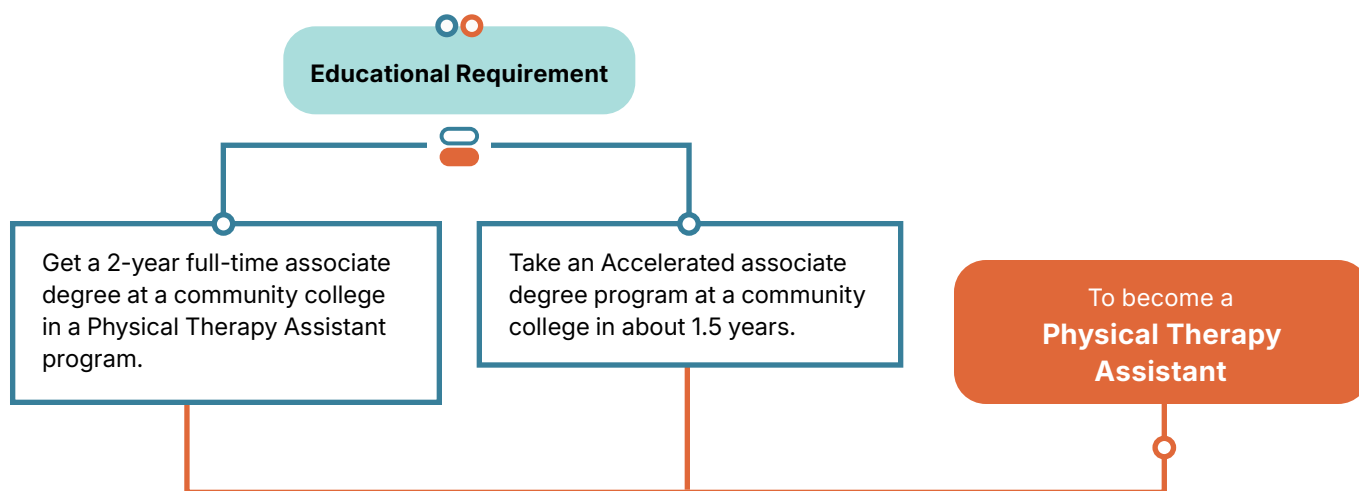


Minimum Age Requirements: 18 years old



Transferable Skills:

- Rehabilitation
- Patient treatment
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Physical therapy



Occupational Therapy Aides

Occupational Therapy Aides (OT) help patients during therapy. They set up equipment, take vital signs, and assist Therapists by guiding patients to their sessions.

Continued on next page.



Median Salary: \$37,370 per year

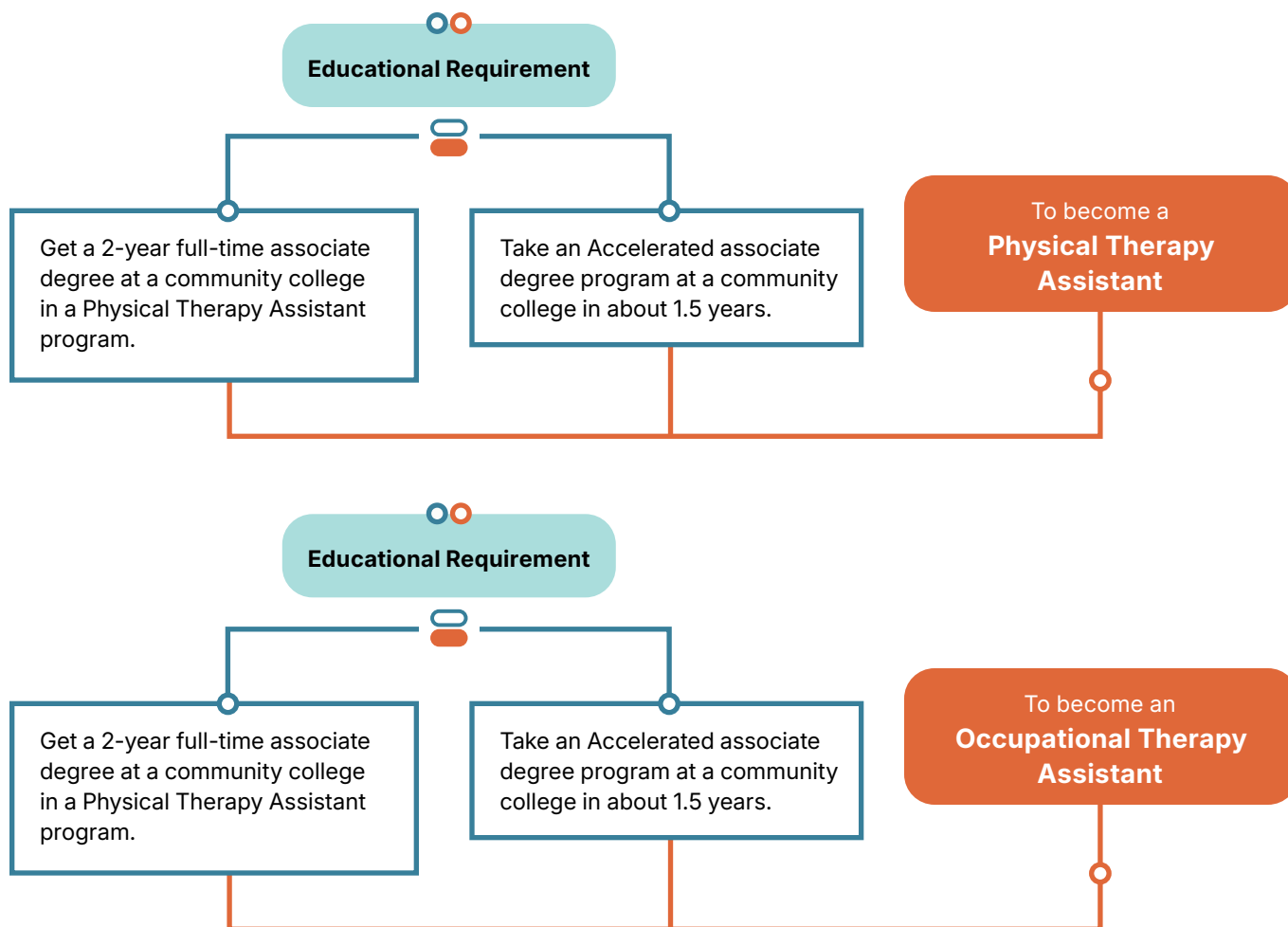


Minimum Age Requirements: 18 years old



Transferable Skills

- Rehabilitation
- Treatment planning
- Patient treatment
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Home health care
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Physical therapy



Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Pathway Intermediate Professions

Physical Therapy Assistants

Physical Therapy Assistants help patients move better and feel less pain. They work with Physical Therapists to guide patients through exercises and treatments to help them recover.

Continued on next page.



Median Salary: \$65,371 per year

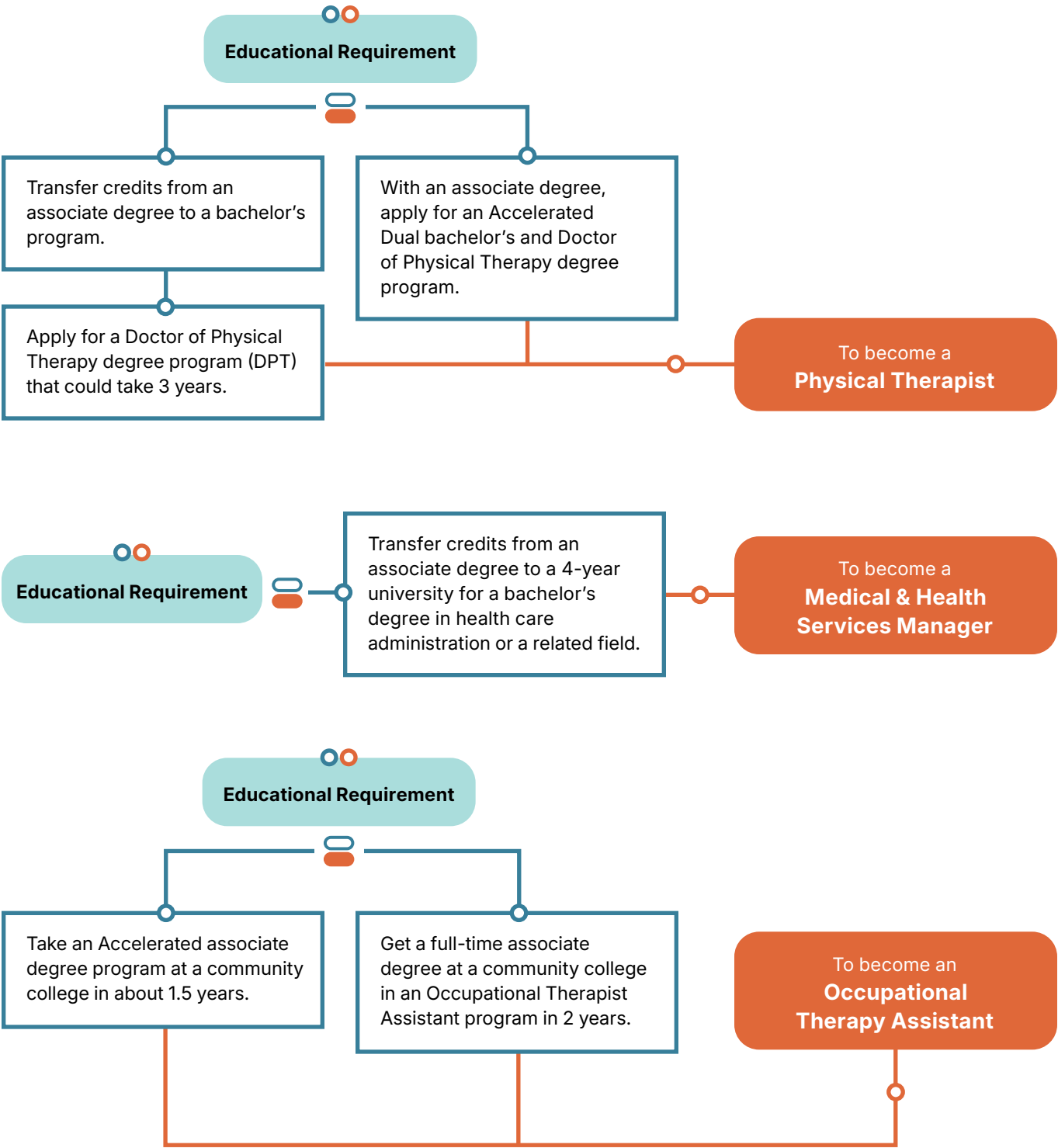


Minimum Age Requirements: 18 years old



Transferable Skills

- Rehabilitation
- Treatment Planning
- Manual Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Exercise Therapy



Occupational Therapy Assistants

Occupational Therapy Assistants help people regain and learn everyday skills, like dressing or eating. They work with Therapists to support patients in becoming more independent.



Median Salary: \$59,258 per year

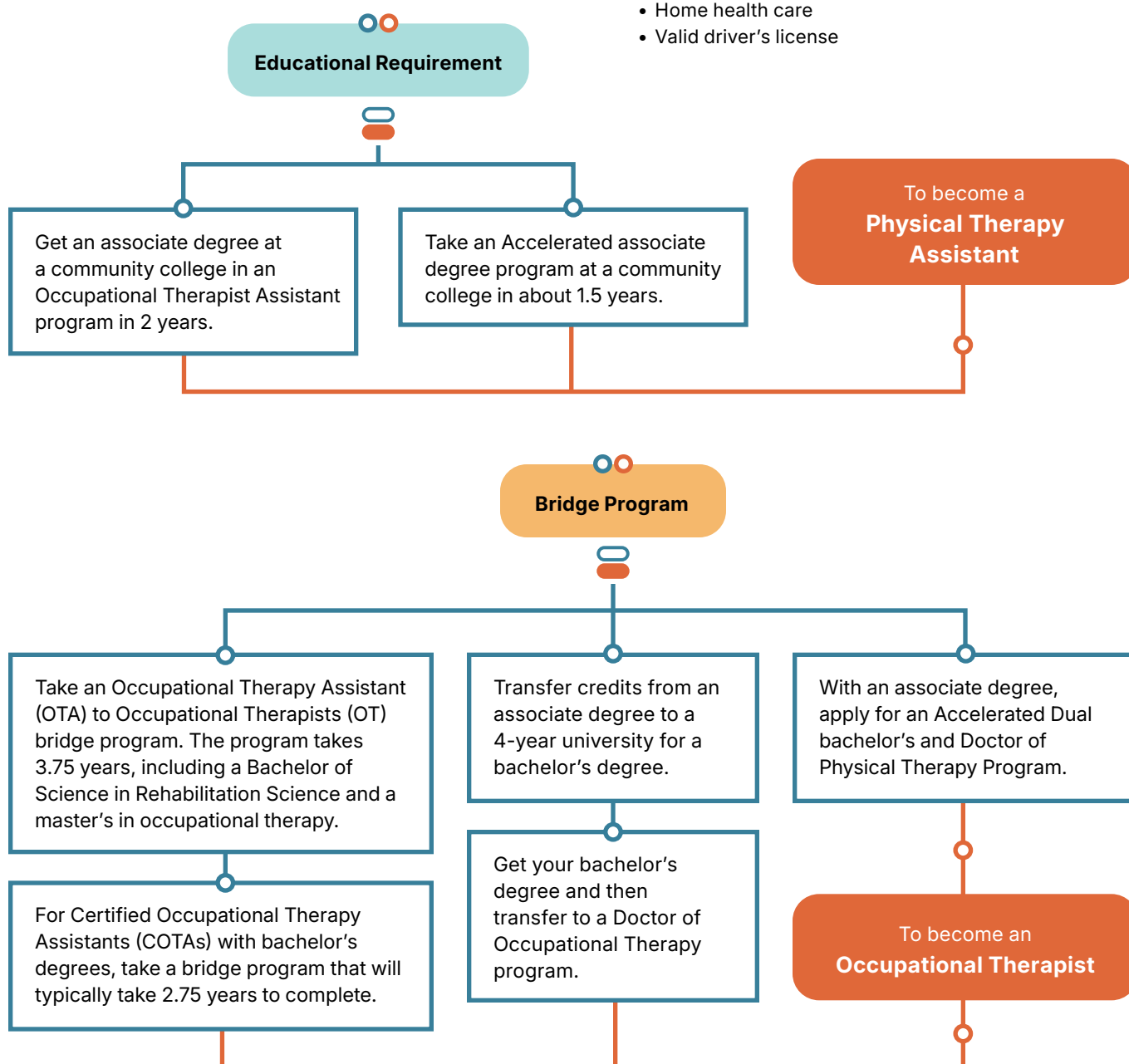


Minimum Age Requirements: 18 years old



Transferable Skills

- Rehabilitation
- Treatment planning
- Patient treatment
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Home health care
- Valid driver's license



Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Pathway

Specialist Professions

Physical Therapist

Physical Therapists help people move better, feel less pain, and get stronger. They work with patients to recover from injuries, illnesses, or surgeries and stay active and healthy.

 **Median Salary:** \$99,054 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

Occupational Therapist

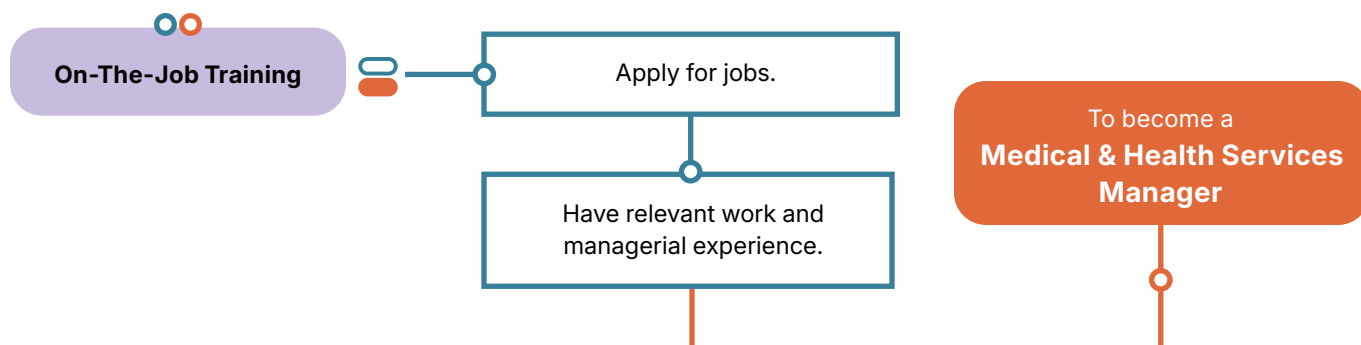
Occupational Therapists help people with injuries, illnesses, or disabilities regain skills for daily life and work. They create personalized plans to help patients become more independent and reach their goals.

 **Median Salary:** \$96,028 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

 **Transferable Skills**

- Billing
- Driver's license



Public Health Research Pathway

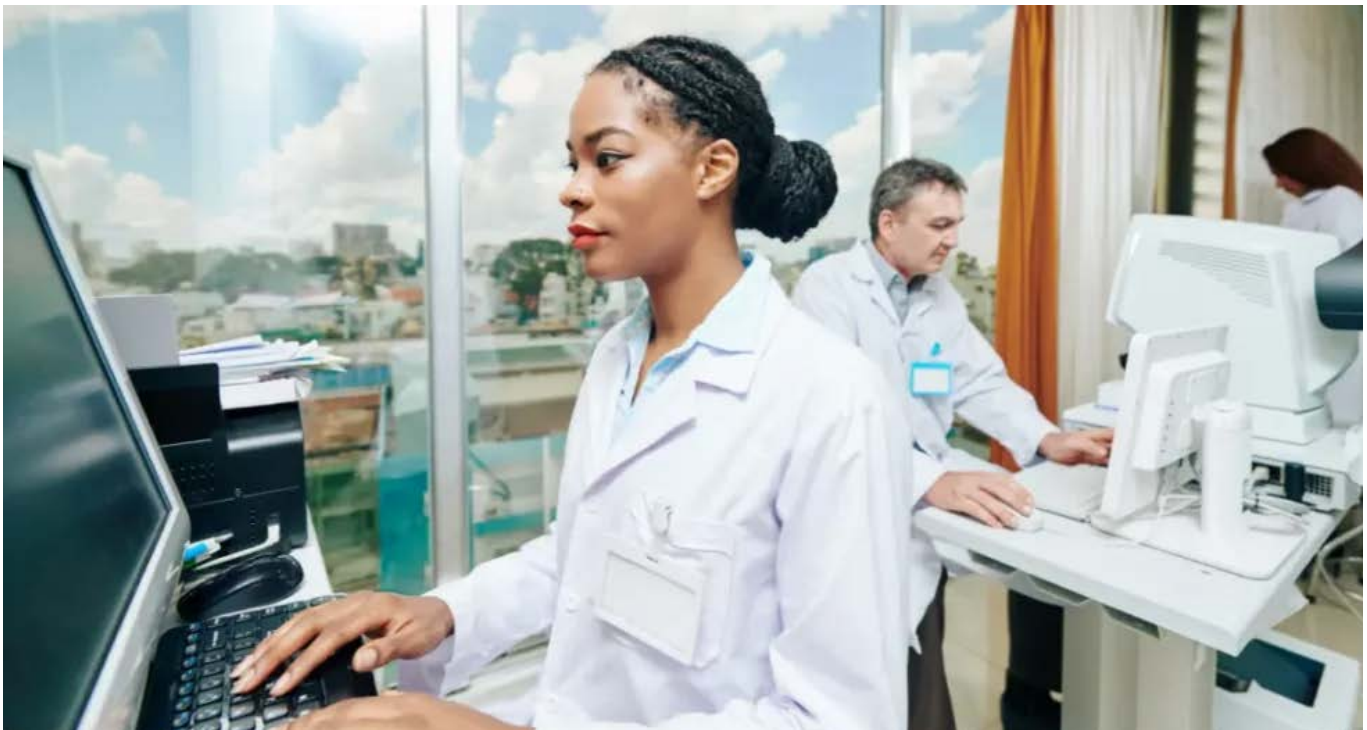


About the Public Health Research Pathway

Public health researchers help us learn how to keep communities healthy. They collect and study data to find out the root causes of health problems and how to fix them. Even though their work is often done behind the scenes, it helps create rules, through policies and programs, that make life healthier for everyone.

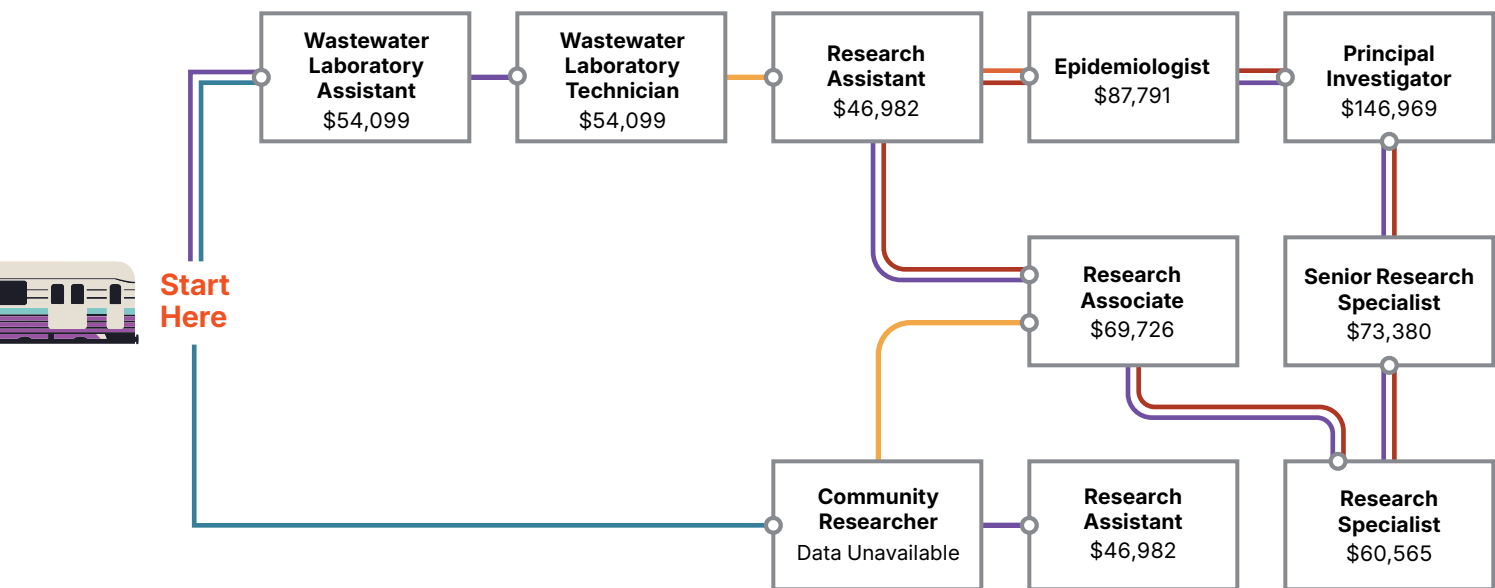
Jobs featured in this career pathway include:

- Community Researcher
- Epidemiologist
- Principal Investigator
- Research Assistant
- Research Associate
- Research Specialist
- Senior Research Specialist
- Wastewater Laboratory Assistant
- Wastewater Laboratory Technician



Public Health Research Pathway

These are examples of different ways to move between or into new careers within this field. We know everyone’s career journey is unique, so think of these examples as a way to inspire your pathway, not the only way to do it. You can also move between the different pathways, start further along the pathway, or explore roles not mentioned at all in the pathway. Always check employer job descriptions to make sure that you have the right skills, education, and experience for that particular role.



Key

The colors in the chart show the different years of education or training needed to move from one role to the next. There are often several ways to advance, and some paths have more than one line color to represent multiple education and training options.

- Education Requirement of less than 6 months
- Education Requirement of 6 months to 1 year
- Education Requirement of 1–2 years
- Education Requirement of 2–4 years
- Education Requirement of 4–6 years
- Education Requirement of 6 years or more
- On-the-job experience
- Bridge Programs

public health research

"There were a lot of failures that I went through in terms of education and figuring out what I wanted to do before I could find something that I really enjoy. Sometimes you have to fail to see what doesn't work so you can be successful. Failing is the new winning."



ryan

Ryan's career path

Originally, I wanted to be a psychiatrist so I started college as a pre-med student, but quickly realized that wasn't what I wanted to do. I had a friend in one of my classes ask me if I wanted to help out with a **research opportunity**. That's when I realized I was good at research and I really enjoyed it.

I stayed with that lab for the rest of my time during undergrad and then after graduating they hired me on full time. Now I'm a **Research Coordinator and Social Epidemiologist**.

I enjoy researching and asking questions so I decided to pursue a **master's degree**. During that time I was still working full time and I had an internship. That took a lot out of me. I had to find ways to protect my mental health.


Software Skills:
Excel, Zotero,
Covidence, Epic


Master's of Public Health

advice

"Make sure you're patient, not only with what you're working on, but with yourself. Sometimes things get complicated and not everything is going to get done super quickly. Things take time and you have to be okay with that. Some times you're going to fall and it's about how you choose to get back up."

→ To learn more about Ryan's career journey, visit www.hmprg.org/your-career-in-health.

Dive into a Career in Public Health Research!

Public health researchers study ways to keep people and communities healthy. They collect information, look for health problems, and find ways to prevent sickness and improve lives. Their work helps create safer schools, cleaner water, and better health for everyone.

Let's explore the Public Health Research Pathway and see if it's a fit for you!



If you have a high school diploma or GED, you can:

Get on-the-job training.

To become a
Wastewater Laboratory Assistant



If you have a high school diploma or GED, you can:

Work with a local college or university to get trained as a community researcher. Some schools have special programs for this.

To become a
Community Researcher

Learn more about the Public Health Research pathway. →

Public Health Research Pathway

Entry-Level Professions

Wastewater Laboratory Assistant

A Wastewater Laboratory Assistant helps test dirty water to make sure it's cleaned and safe before going back into nature. They collect samples, run simple tests, and help keep the lab organized. Their work helps protect people and the environment.



Median Salary: \$54,099 per year

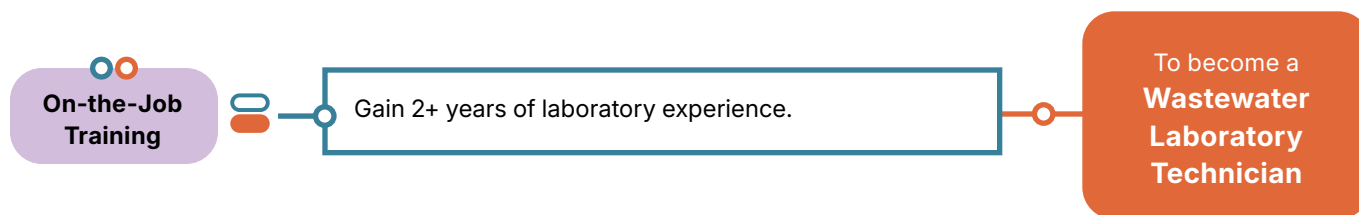


Minimum Age Requirements: 18 years old



Transferable Skills:

- Water science and testing techniques
- Safety practices
- Laboratory procedures and techniques



Wastewater Laboratory Technician

A Wastewater Laboratory Technician tests dirty water to make sure it's cleaned properly before going back into the environment. They use special tools to check for germs and chemicals, helping keep our water and communities safe.



Median Salary: \$54,099 per year

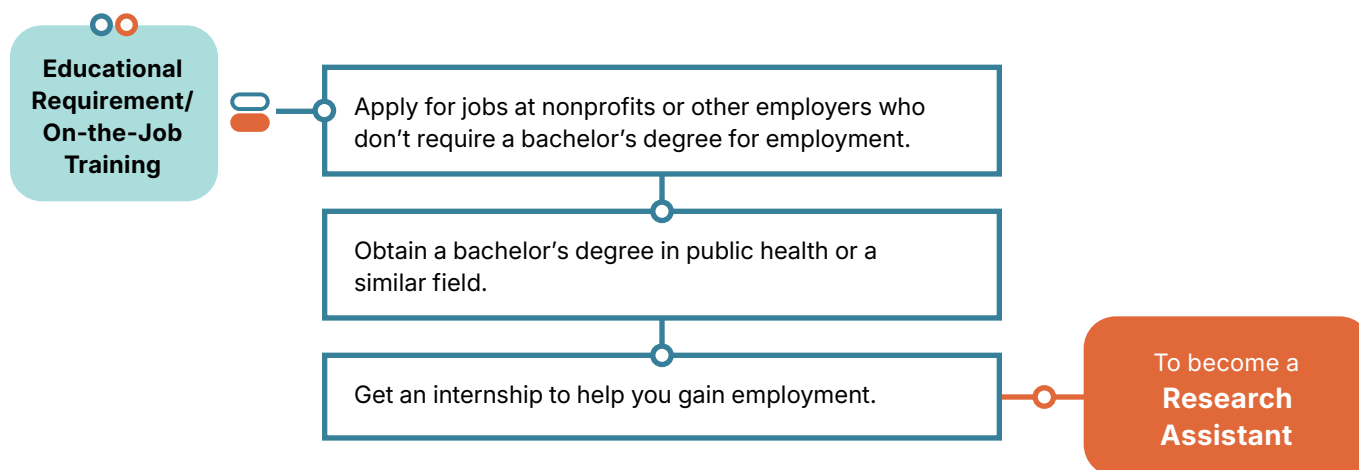


Minimum Age Requirements: 18 years old



Transferable Skills:

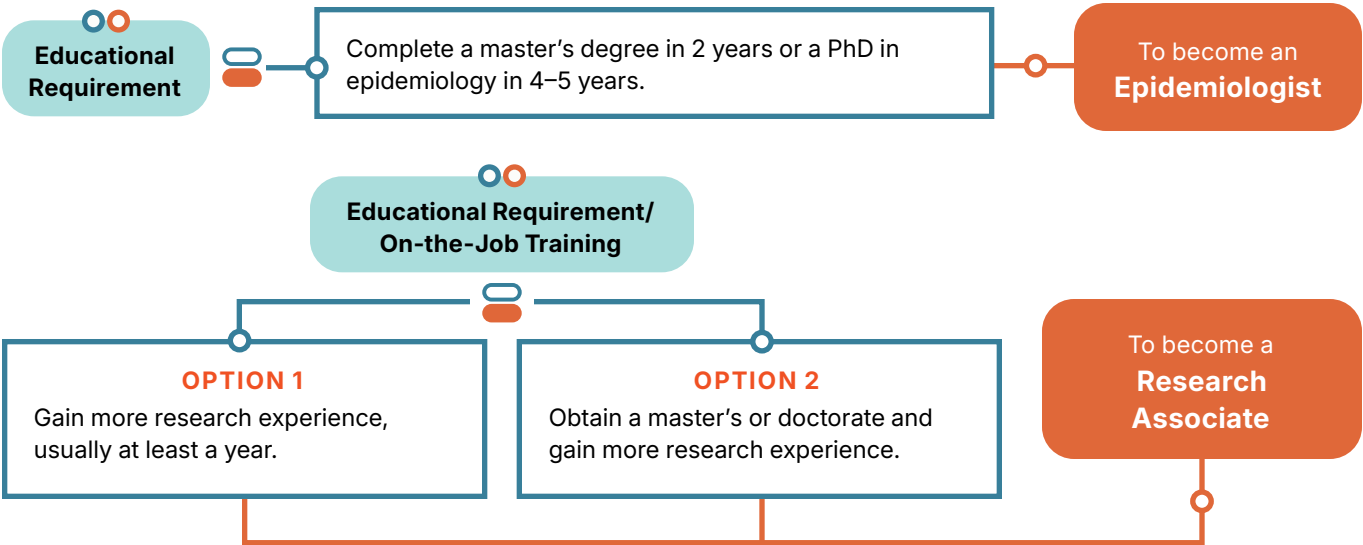
- Laboratory techniques
- Data collection and analysis
- Documentation and reporting



Research Assistant

A Research Assistant helps scientists learn more about how to keep people healthy. They collect and study information, help plan studies, and keep everything organized. Their work helps find answers to big health questions and improve lives.

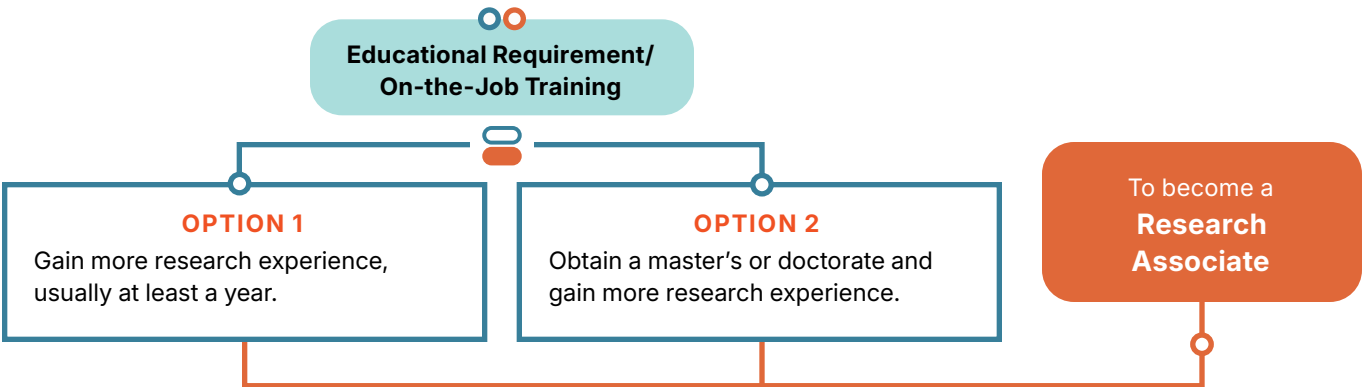
-  **Median Salary:** \$46,982 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
-  **Transferable Skills:**
 - Data analysis
 - Project management
 - Research methods

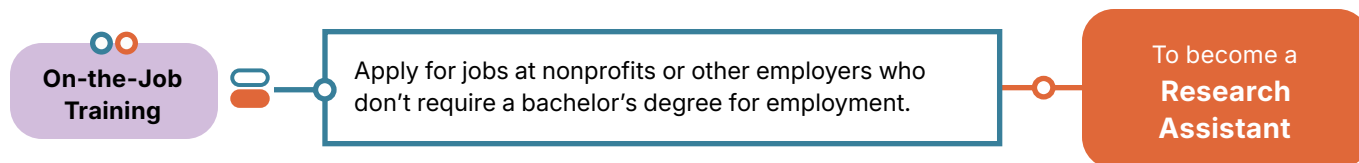


Community Researcher

A Community Researcher listens to people in their community to learn what they need to stay healthy and safe. They ask questions, gather information, and share it with others to help make life better for everyone in the community. They often come from and live in the same neighborhood where they are doing their research.

-  **Median Salary:** Data unavailable
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
-  **Transferable Skills:**
 - Data analysis and collection
 - Research methods





Public Health Research Pathway Intermediate Professions

Epidemiologist

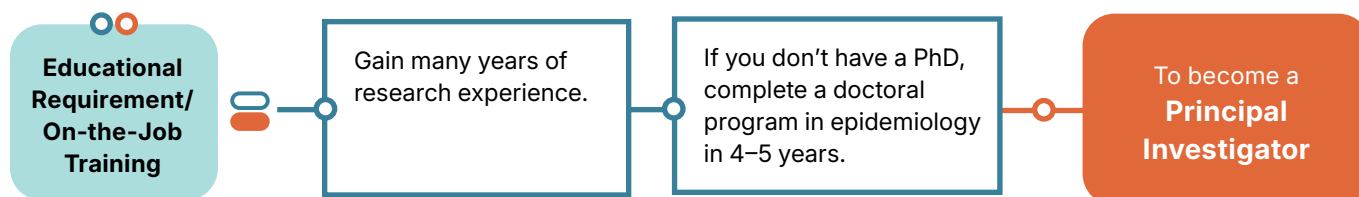
An Epidemiologist is a scientist who studies how and why people get sick. They look for patterns, causes, and ways to stop diseases from spreading and help keep communities healthy.

Median Salary: \$87,791 per year

Minimum Age Requirements: 18 years old

Transferable Skills:

- Study design and methodology
- Data analysis
- Scientific writing and publication
- Project management
- Compliance
- Grant and funding experience



Research Associate

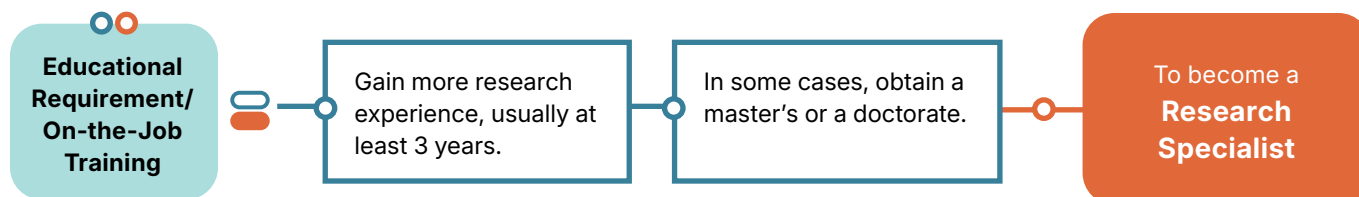
A Research Associate helps lead and manage science or health studies. They collect and study information, look for patterns or answers, and help share what they learn to help people live healthier lives.

Median Salary: \$69,726 per year

Minimum Age Requirements: 18 years old

Transferable Skills:

- Project management
- Data analysis
- Data visualization
- Laboratory techniques
- Statistical analysis



Research Specialist

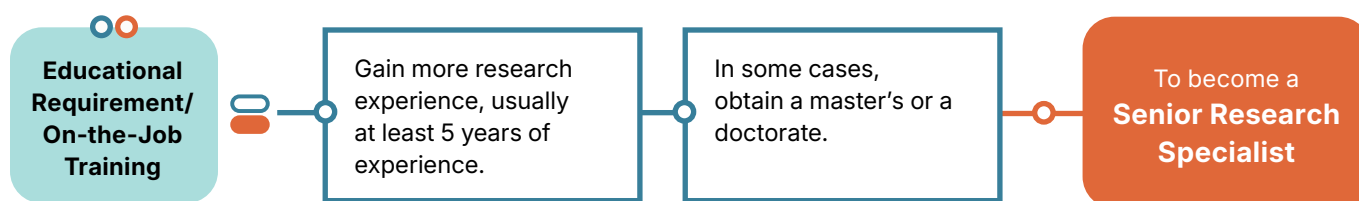
A Research Specialist studies problems, gathers facts, and helps find solutions to real-world questions. They work with a team to test ideas, look at data, and share what they discover to help improve lives and communities.

 **Median Salary:** \$60,565 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

 **Transferable Skills:**

- Project management
- Data analysis
- Independent research
- Research strategies
- Mentoring



Public Health Research Pathway Specialist Professions

Senior Research Specialist

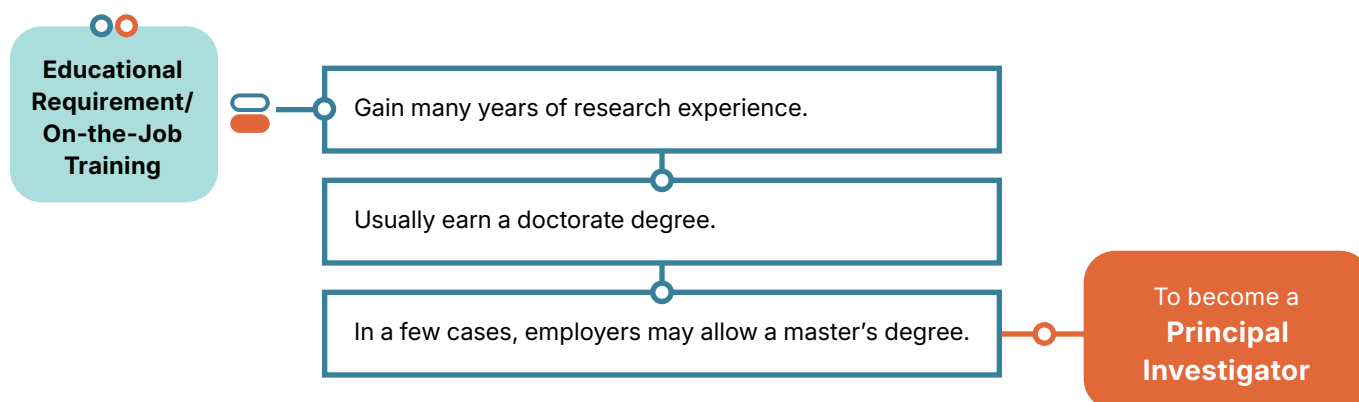
A Senior Research Specialist is an experienced expert who leads research projects to help solve big problems. They guide teams, study data, and share important findings that can make a difference in people's lives.

 **Median Salary:** \$73,380 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

 **Transferable Skills:**

- Research design
- Research implementation
- Data analysis
- Data Interpretation
- Laboratory procedures
- Laboratory techniques
- Leadership
- Scientific writing
- Grants and fundraising experience
- Budgeting



 Learning Path Option  Steps to Your Next Career Move

Respiratory Therapy Pathway



About the Respiratory Therapy Pathway

This pathway features jobs that support patients with breathing, heart, and other health conditions by diagnosing, treating, and supporting patients in a variety of health care settings.

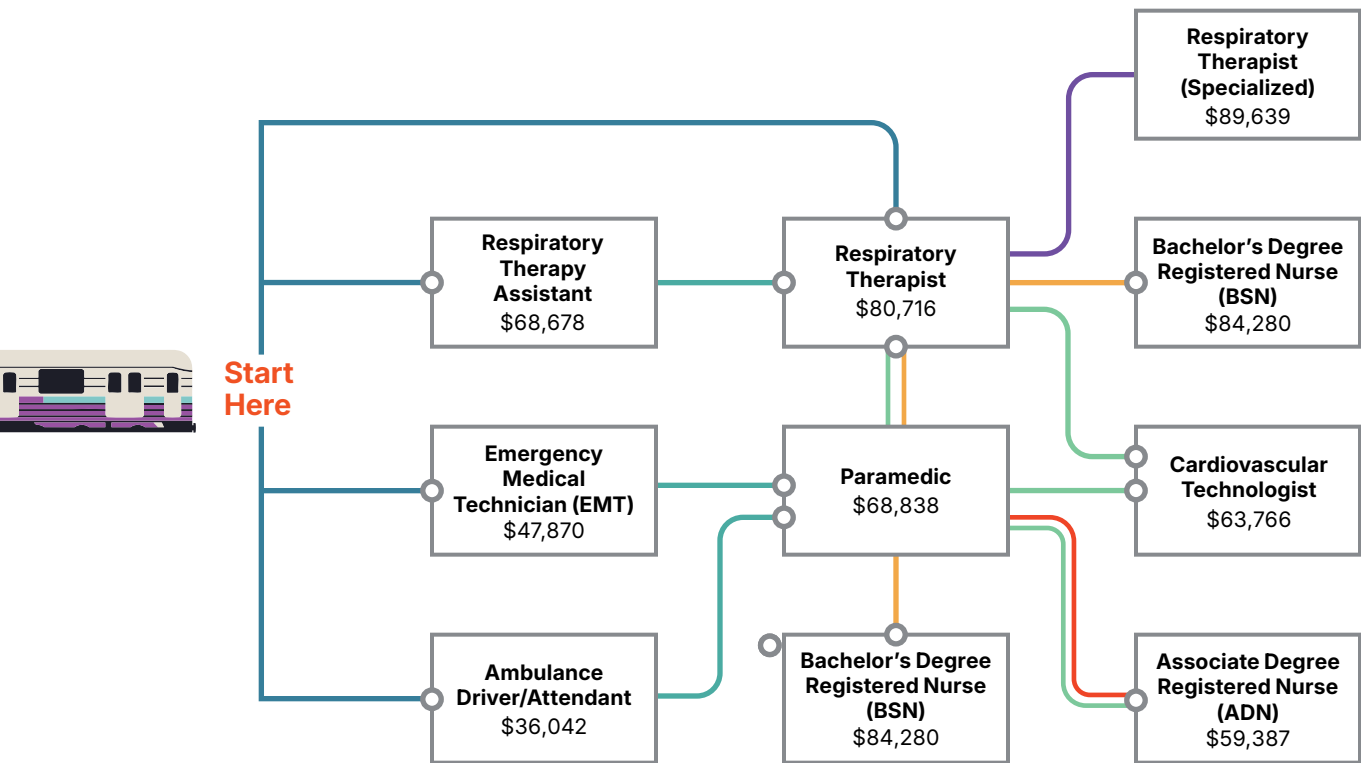
Jobs featured in this career pathway include:

- Bachelor Degree Registered Nurse (BSN)
- Associate Degree Registered Nurse (ADN)
- Respiratory Therapist
- Respiratory Therapy Assistant
- Cardiovascular Technologist
- Paramedic
- EMT
- Ambulance Driver and Attendant



Respiratory Therapy Pathway

These are examples of different ways to move between or into new careers within this field. We know everyone's career journey is unique, so think of these examples as a way to inspire your pathway, not the only way to do it. You can also move between the different pathways, start further along the pathway, or explore roles not mentioned at all in the pathway. Always check employer job descriptions to make sure that you have the right skills, education, and experience for that particular role.



Key

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- Education Requirement of 1–2 years
- Education Requirement of 2–4 years
- Education Requirement of 4–6 years
- Education Requirement of 6 years or more
- On-the-job experience
- Bridge Programs

respiratory therapist



"My wife and kids motivated me to become a respiratory therapist. At the end of the day, I'm doing it for them and their future. But I'm also doing this for myself, because I enjoy learning about the human body."

jonathan

Jonathan's career path

Right out of high school, my uncle got me a job at a hospital as a **patient transporter**. I worked in that position for 10 years and enjoyed working in healthcare. I liked working with patients, families, and talking with nurses and doctors.

I needed a new career path where I could make more money so I started taking classes at **Malcolm X College** to become a respiratory therapist.

A professor at Malcolm X was invested in my success and helped me get an interview, so I was able to be hired as a **respiratory therapist** before I actually graduated.



Program Spotlight:
Malcolm X, Associate in
Respiratory Therapy



Certification:
National
Board Exams

advice

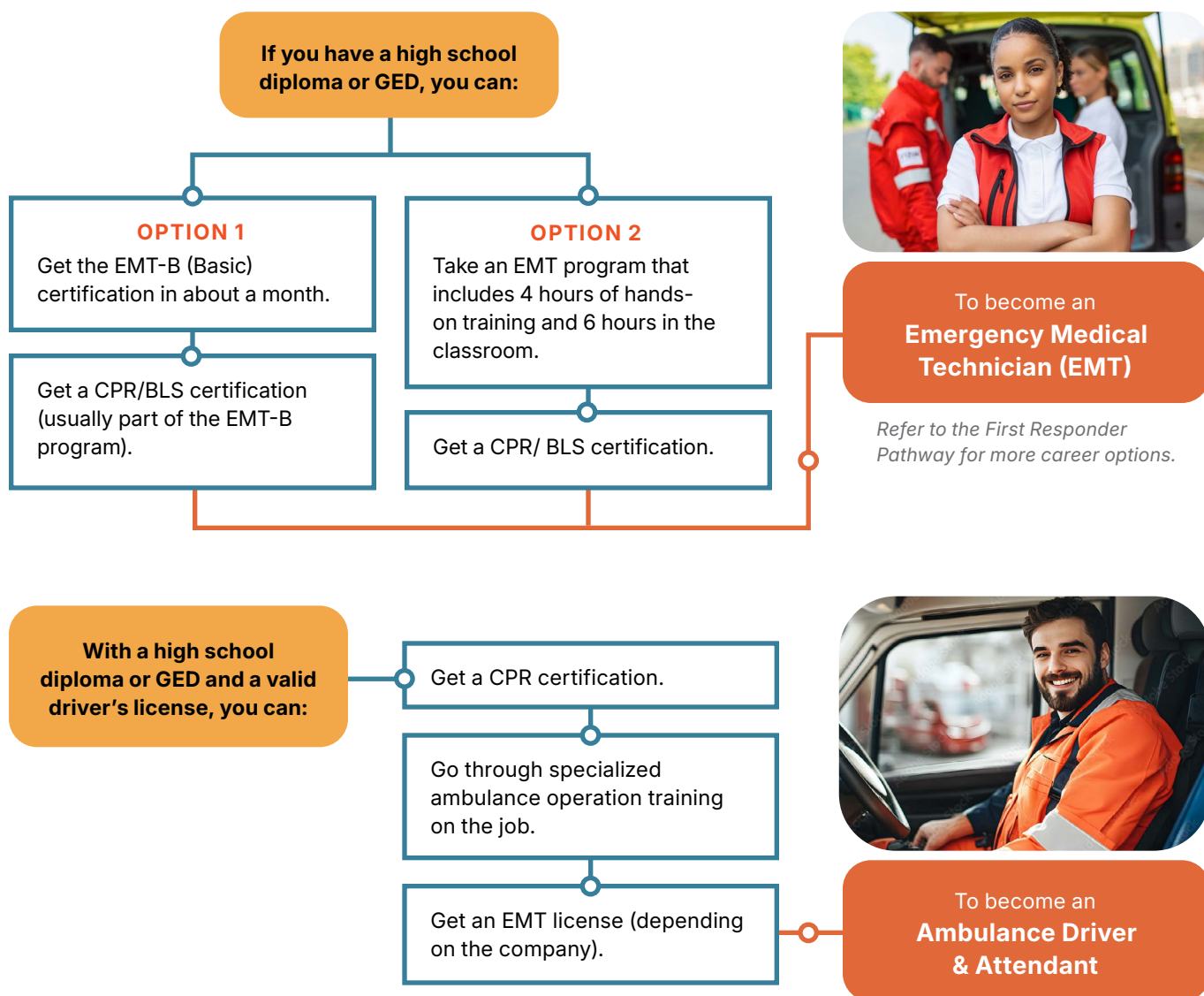
"It's important to know anatomy and physiology of the human body, especially your lungs, heart, and kidneys. Respiratory therapists have to know exactly how breathing affects bodies. It also helps to be good at educating a patient and building a care plan for patients."

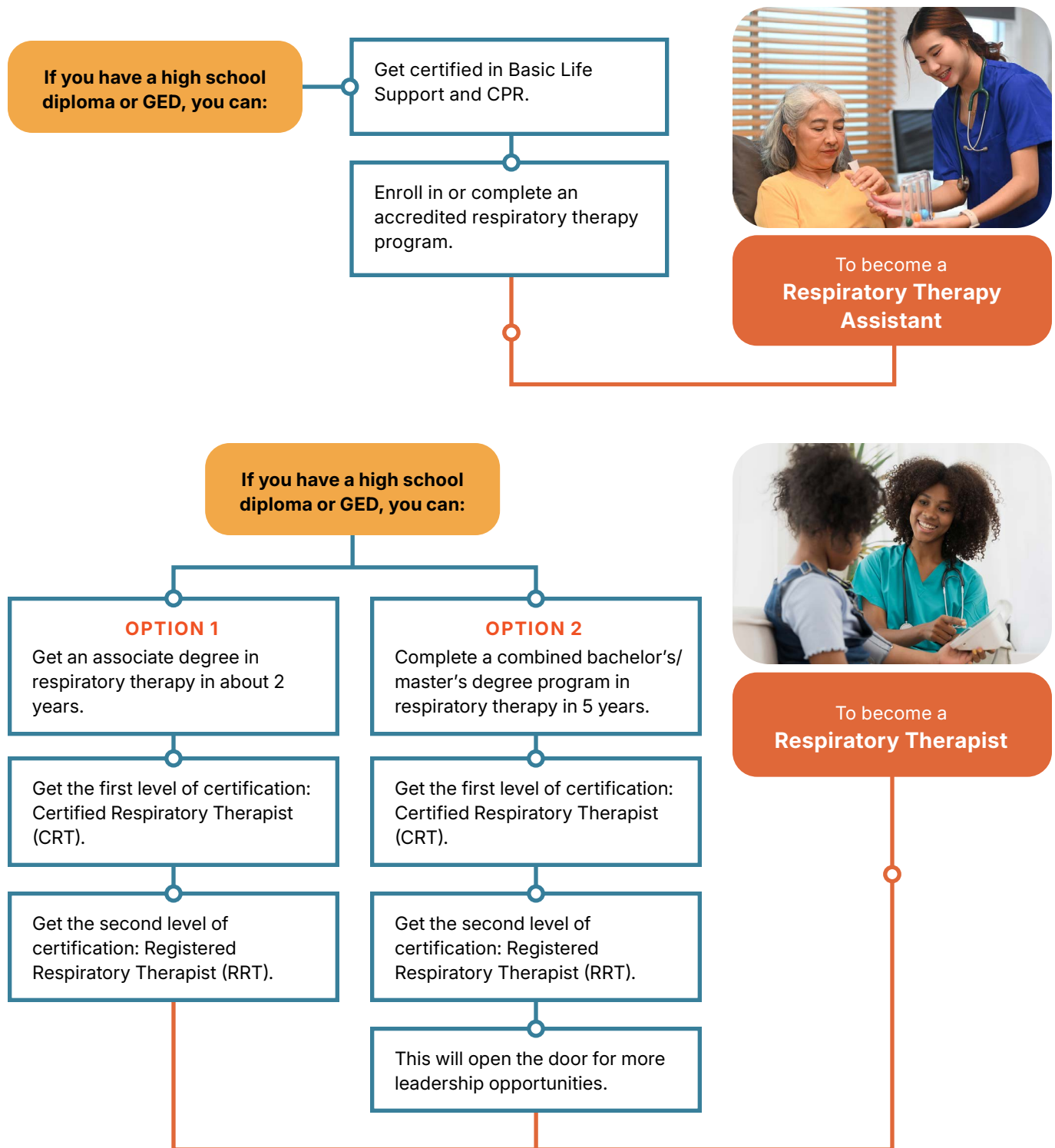
→ To learn more about Jonathan's career journey, visit www.hmprg.org/your-career-in-health.

Start Your Journey to be a Respiratory Therapist!

Respiratory Therapists (RTs) help people who have trouble breathing due to conditions like asthma, emphysema, or COVID-19. If you're interested in this career, there are different paths you can take to get started and grow in the field.

Let's explore the Respiratory Therapist Pathway and see where you can begin.





Learn more about the Respiratory Therapy pathway. ➔

Respiratory Therapy Pathway

Entry-Level Professions

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

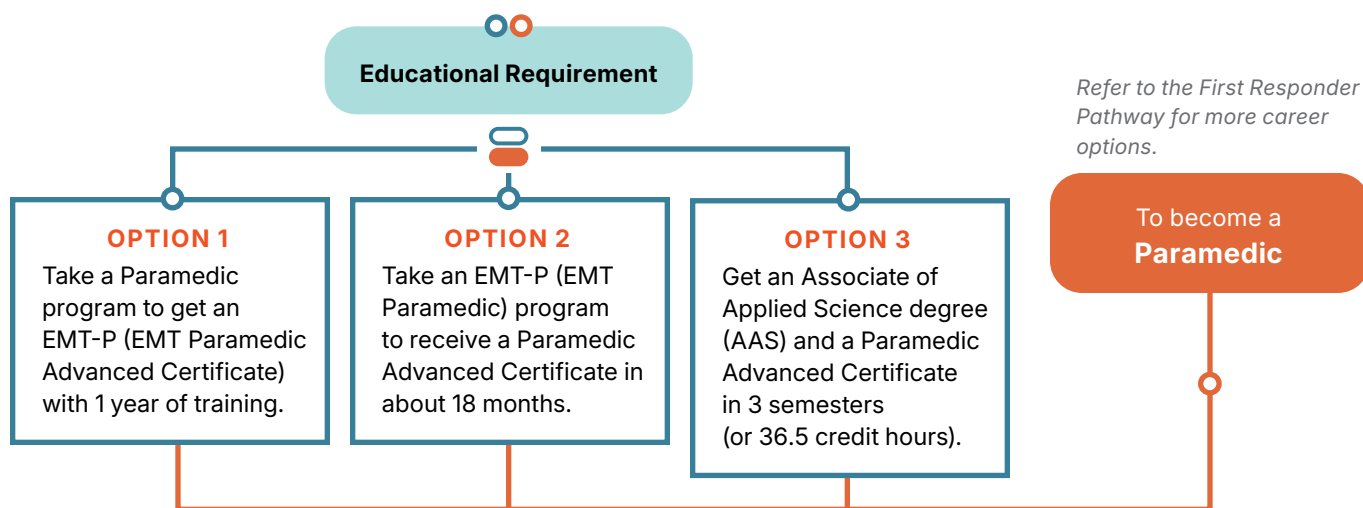
EMTs are first responders who help people in emergencies. They provide life-saving care and safely transport sick or injured patients to the hospital in an ambulance.

 **Median Salary:** \$47,870 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

 **Transferable Skills:**

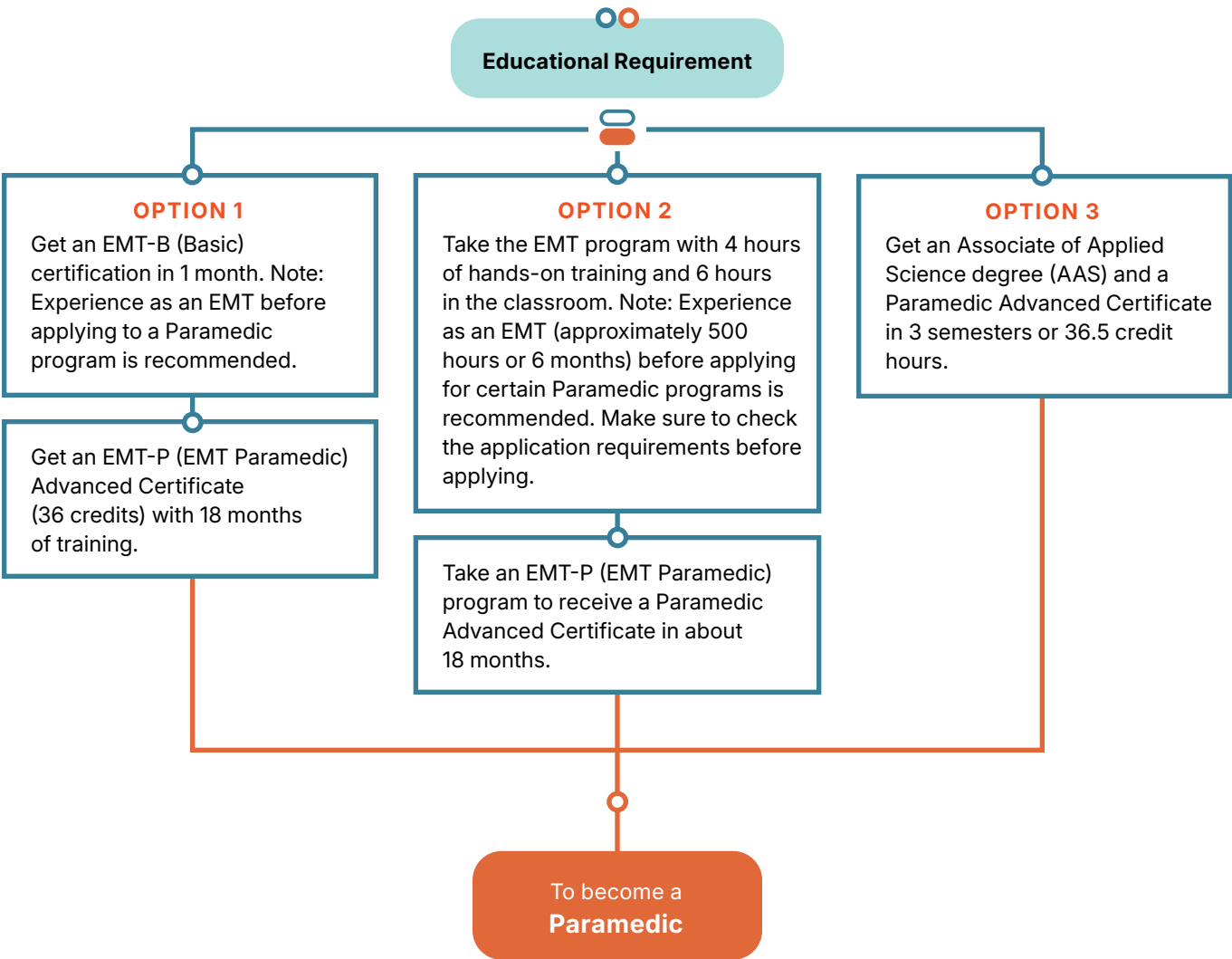
- EMT-B certification
- Patient transport
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Electrocardiography
- Vital signs
- Emergency vehicle operation
- National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- Number system
- Medical assistance
- Patient rights
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Driver's license



Ambulance Driver & Attendant

Ambulance Drivers and Attendants drive ambulances and help transport patients safely to the hospital.

-  **Median Salary:** \$36,042 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
-  **Transferable Skills:**
 - EMT-B certification
 - Patient transport
 - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
 - Patient rights
 - Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
 - Driver's license



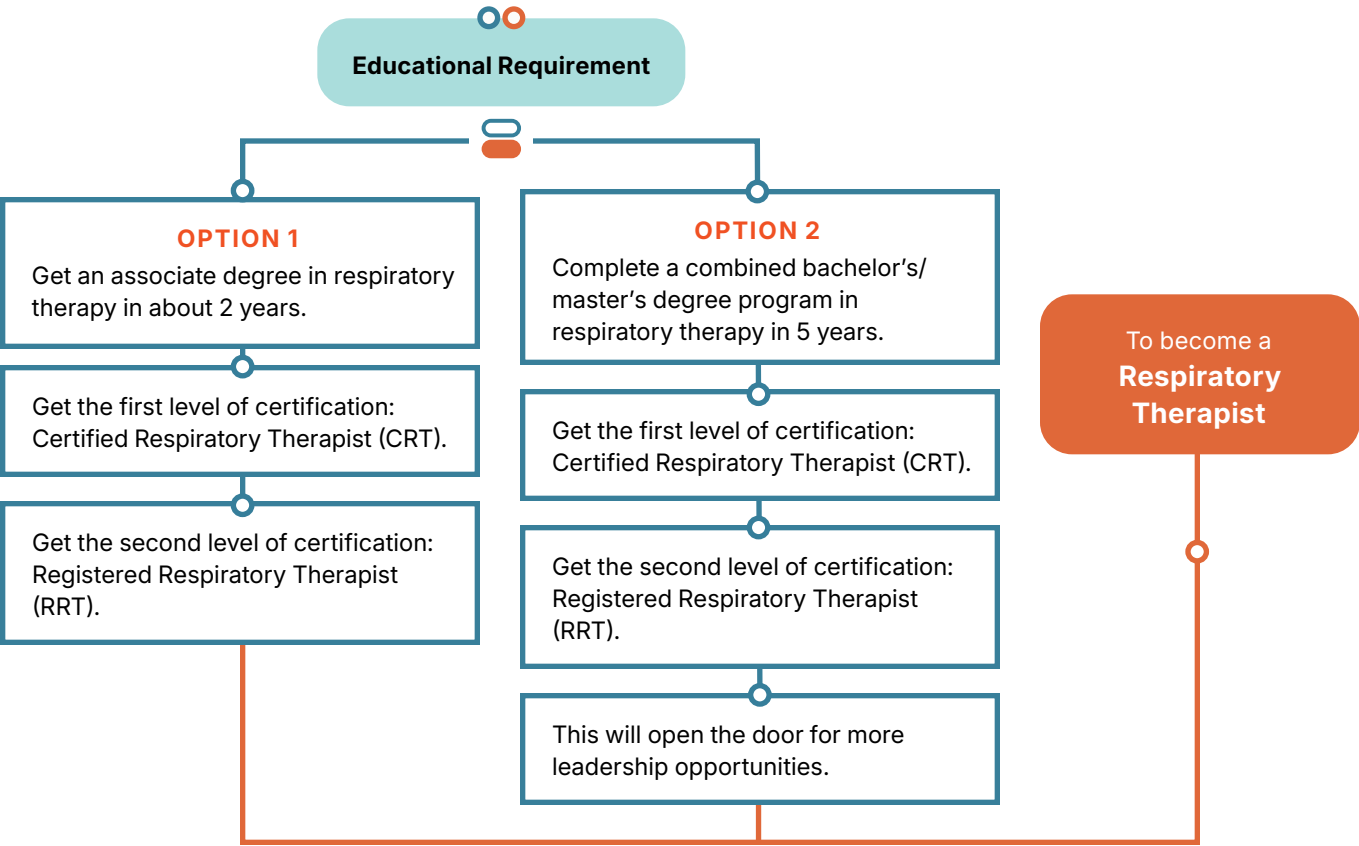
Respiratory Therapy Pathway

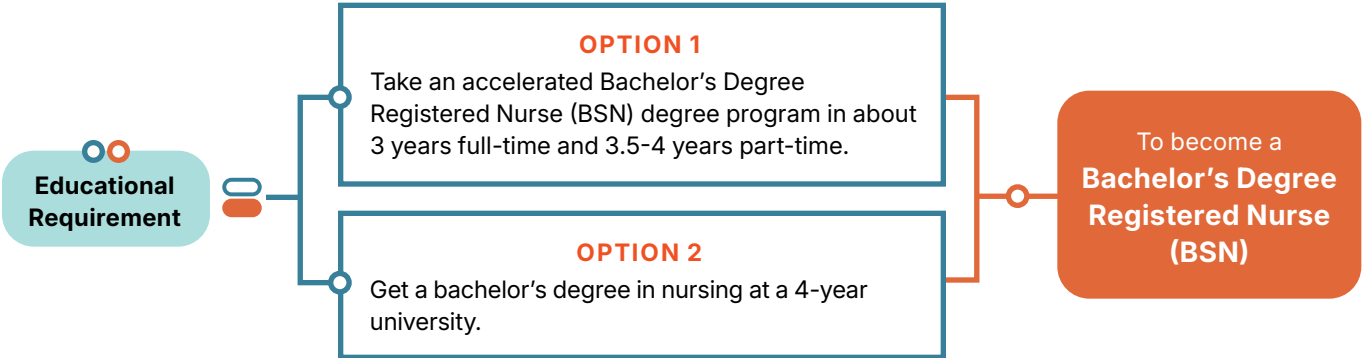
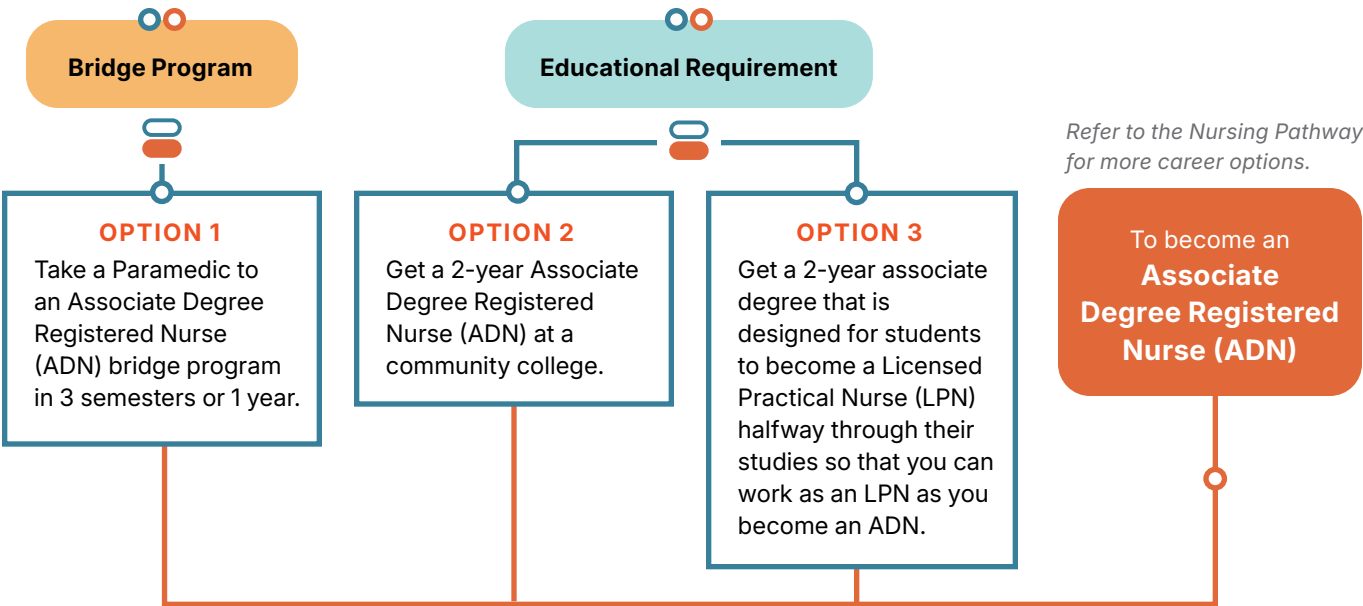
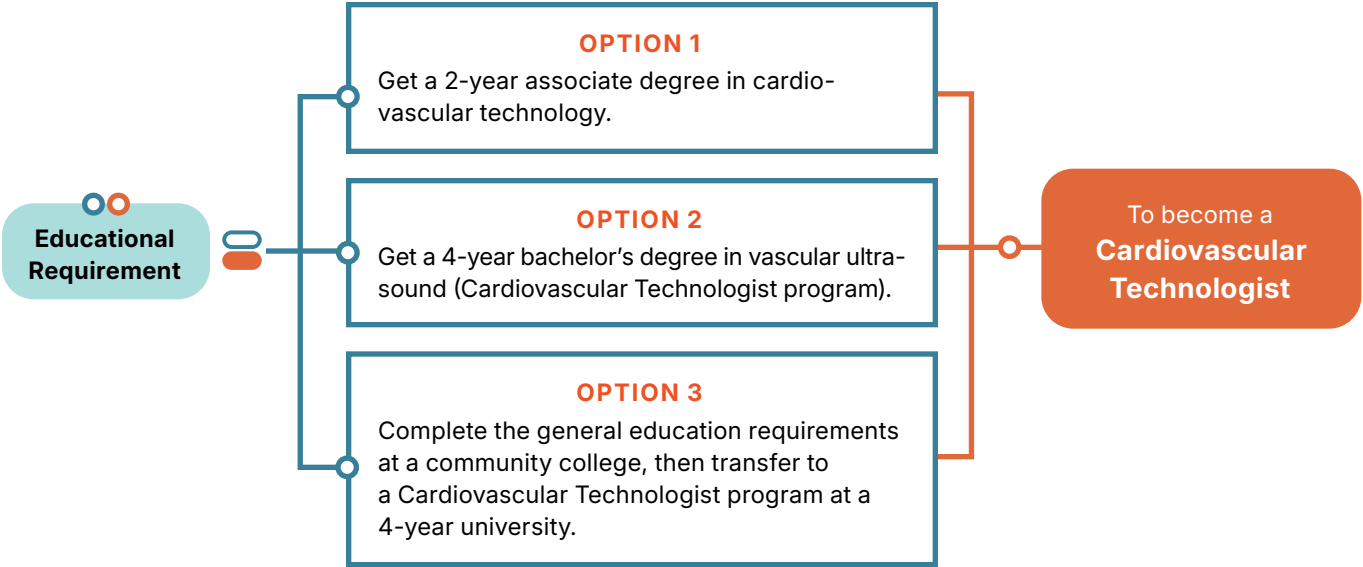
Intermediate Professions

Paramedic

Paramedics provide advanced emergency care. They can give medicine, start IVs, and treat serious injuries before patients get to the hospital.

-  **Median Salary:** \$68,838 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
-  **Transferable Skills:**
 - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
 - Electrocardiography (when needed)





Respiratory Therapy Pathway

Specialist Professions

Respiratory Therapist

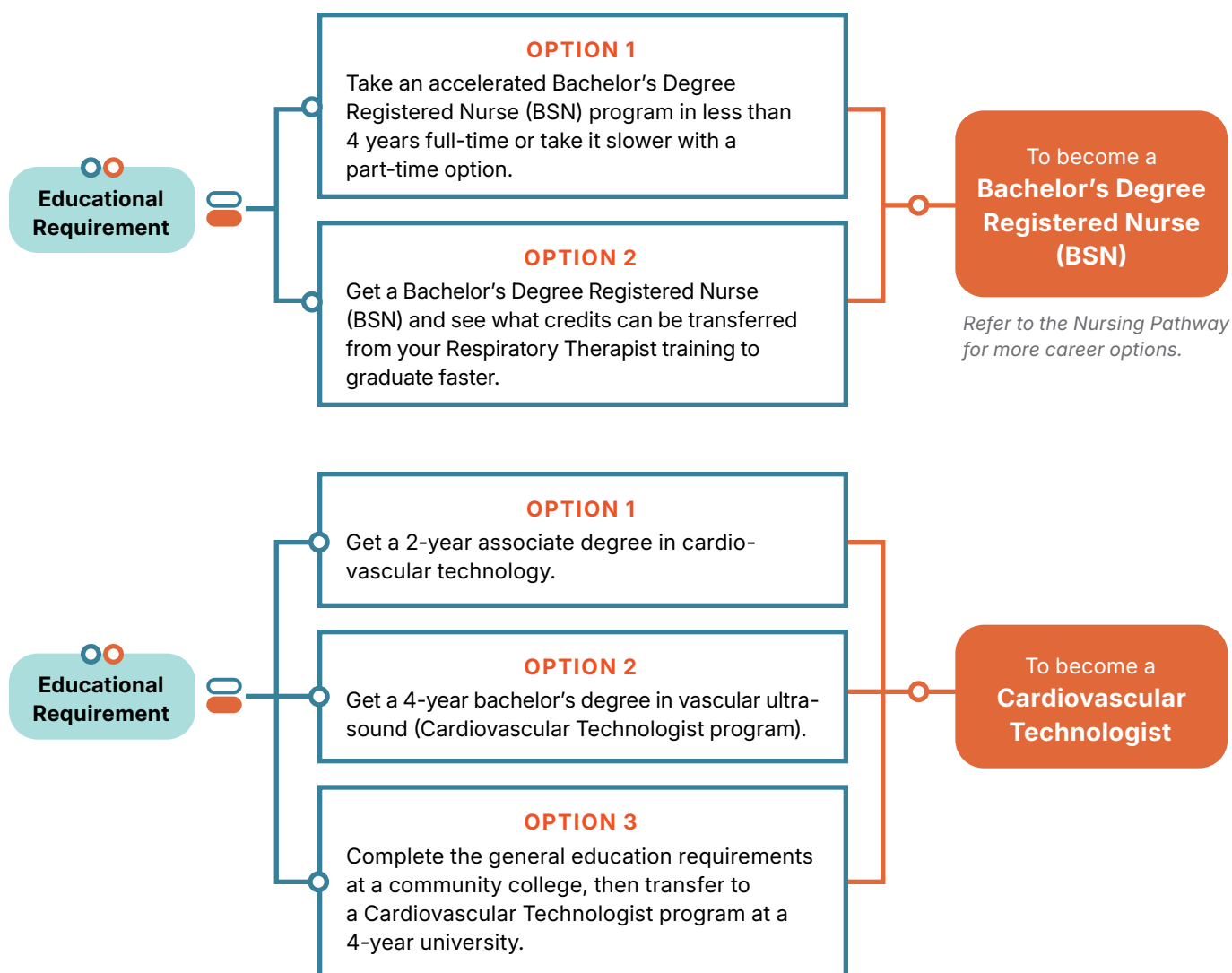
Respiratory Therapists help people who have trouble breathing. They care for patients with asthma, lung disease, or other breathing problems and use special machines to help them breathe better.

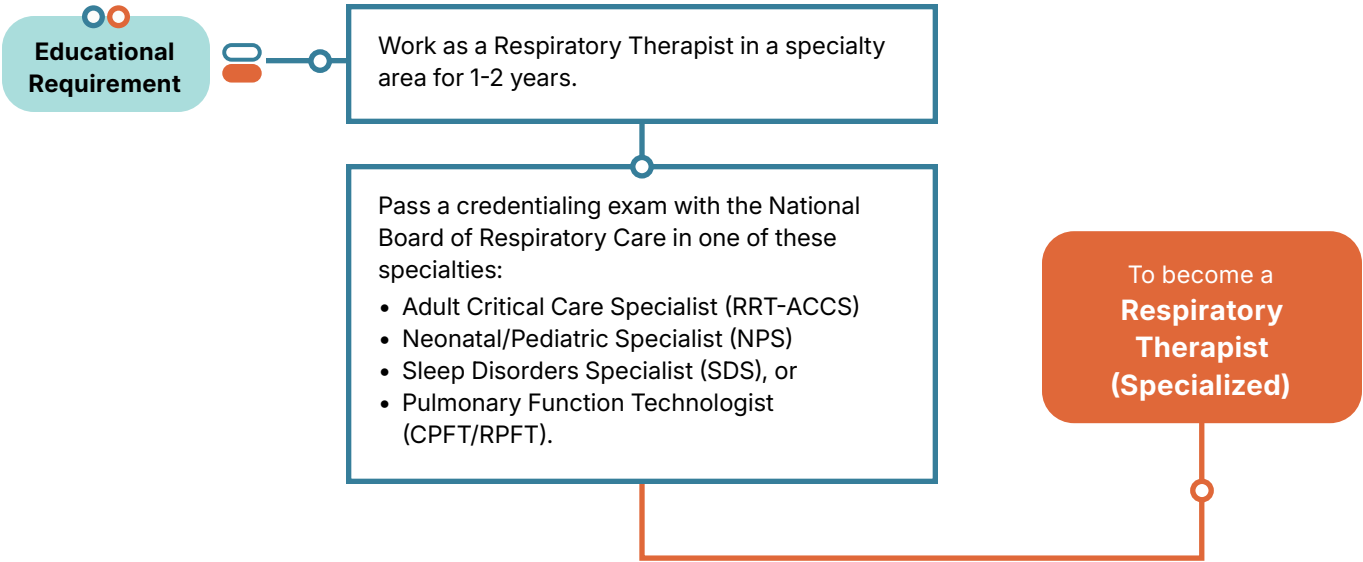
 **Median Salary:** \$80,716 per year

 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

 **Transferable Skills:**

- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) certification





Social Worker Pathway



About the Social Worker Pathway

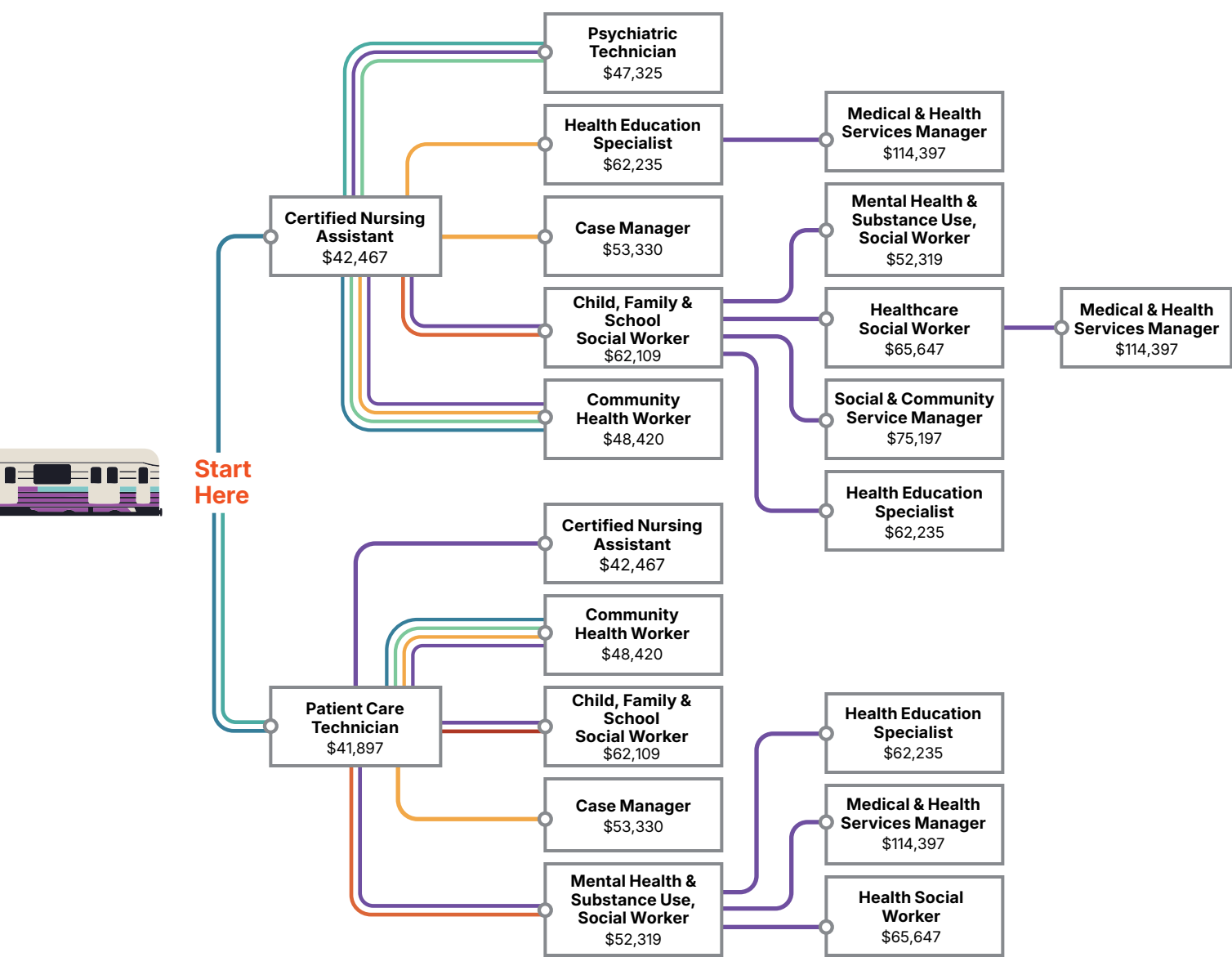
This pathway features jobs that support individuals, families, and communities by addressing social, emotional, and economic challenges and connecting people to resources and services.

Jobs featured in this career pathway include:

- Case Manager
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Child, Family & School Social Worker
- Community Health Worker
- Health Education Specialist
- Healthcare Social Worker
- Medical & Health Service Manager
- Mental Health & Substance Use Social Worker
- Patient Care Technician
- Psychiatric Technician
- Social & Community Service Manager



Social Worker Pathway



Career pathway continues on page 252.

Key

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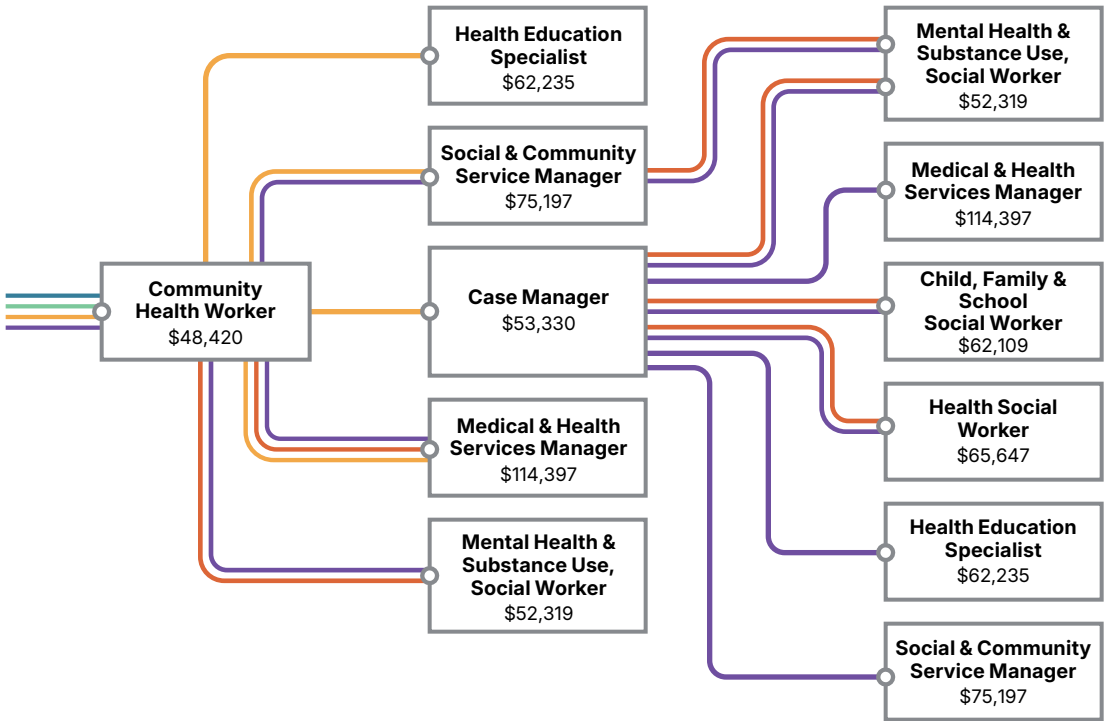
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- Education Requirement of 2–4 years
- Education Requirement of 4–6 years
- Education Requirement of 6 years or more
- On-the-job experience
- Bridge Programs

These are examples of different ways to move between or into new careers within this field. We know everyone's career journey is unique, so think of these examples as a way to inspire your pathway, not the only way to do it. You can also move between the different pathways, start further along the pathway, or explore roles not mentioned at all in the pathway. Always check employer job descriptions to make sure that you have the right skills, education, and experience for that particular role.

Pathway continued
from page 251.



Start
Here



MY CAREER JOURNEY

social worker

“People work takes passion. It’s not just a means to an end. We give so much more of ourselves than people realize, and yet, the work we do is essential to building stronger, healthier communities.”



ronisha

Ronisha’s career path

I went to college with the hopes of being a pre-medical student, but then life happened and I became very ill due to my chronic health condition. While sick, a **Social Worker** saved my life and listened to me. It was that experience that made me decide that social work is something that I wanted to pursue.

After completing my undergraduate studies, I began work as a **Medical Social Advocate**.

Master’s in Social Work

I took a short break after completing undergrad and then I started my **Master’s in Social Work**. While working on my master’s degree I was also placed at a **practicum**. I was balancing school, work, and practicum. That was a lot and it forced me to reevaluate my own self care and work life balance.

Licensing exams are a major barrier in social work. Many of my colleagues have failed multiple times and start to doubt their capabilities, despite embodying the profession’s values. Their careers and wages are dependent on these tests that fail to capture their true worth.

Accreditation: Licensed Social Worker (LSW)/Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)

advice

“Good social workers need to have an open mind and open heart. Learn how to determine what you’re trying to promote and what need you’re trying to help with, but don’t take it personally when people don’t follow through. All that we can do is continue to show up everyday and support them on their journey.”

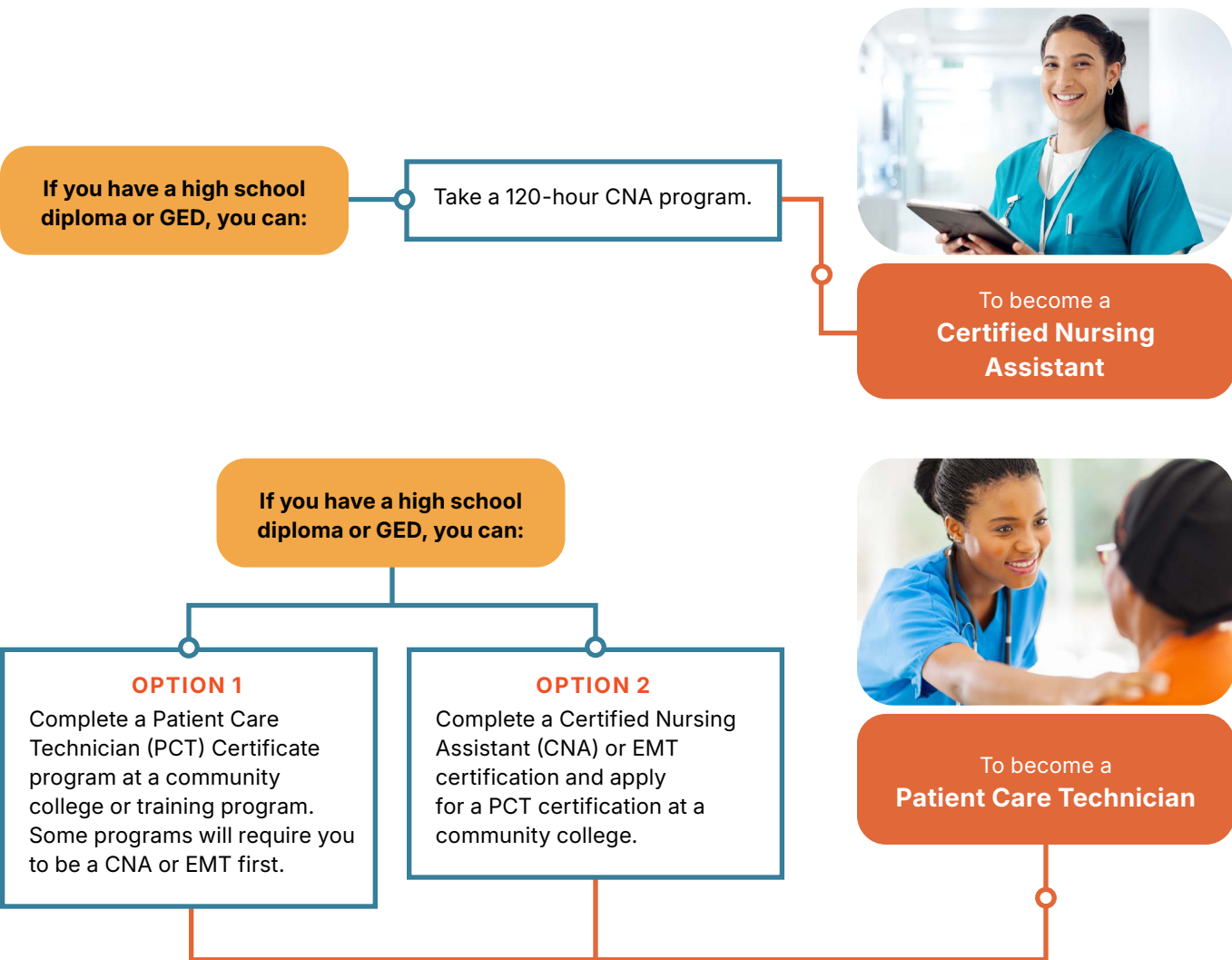
→ To learn more about Ronisha’s career journey, visit www.hmprg.org/your-career-in-health.

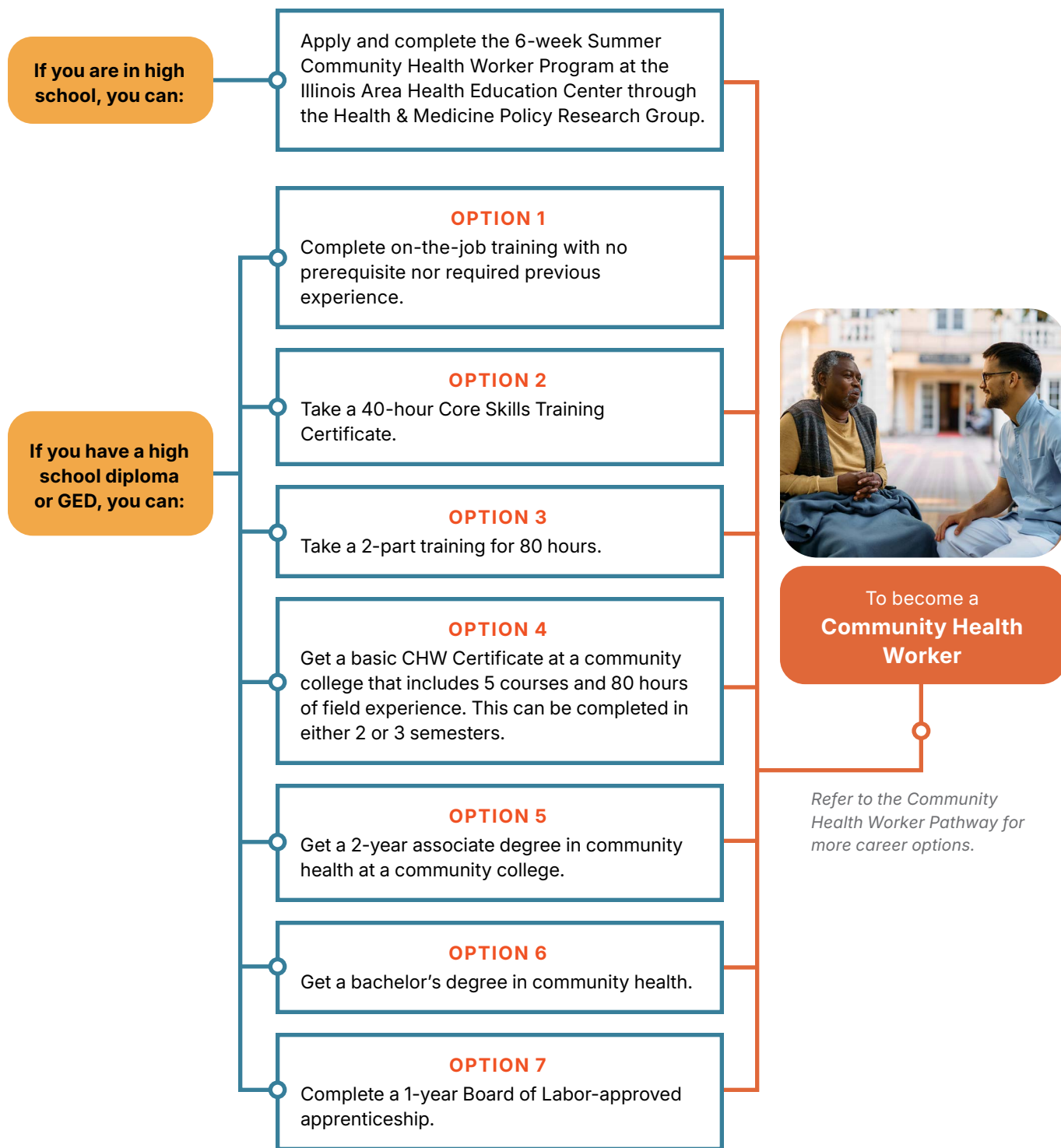
Explore a Career in Social Work!

Social Workers help people through life's toughest challenges. There are many types of social workers, and each one makes a big difference. Health Care Social Workers support people and their families as they deal with illness or caregiving. Child, Family, & School Social Workers focus on helping kids and families thrive. Some support students in schools, while others help with foster care or adoption. Mental Health &

Substance Use Social Workers guide people through emotional struggles, addiction, and recovery by offering counseling, support, and resources. No matter the path, social workers are problem-solvers, listeners, and strong supporters of well-being.

Let's explore the Social Work Pathway and see if it's the career for you!





Learn more about the Social Work pathway. →

Social Worker Pathway

Entry-Level Professions

Certified Nursing Assistant

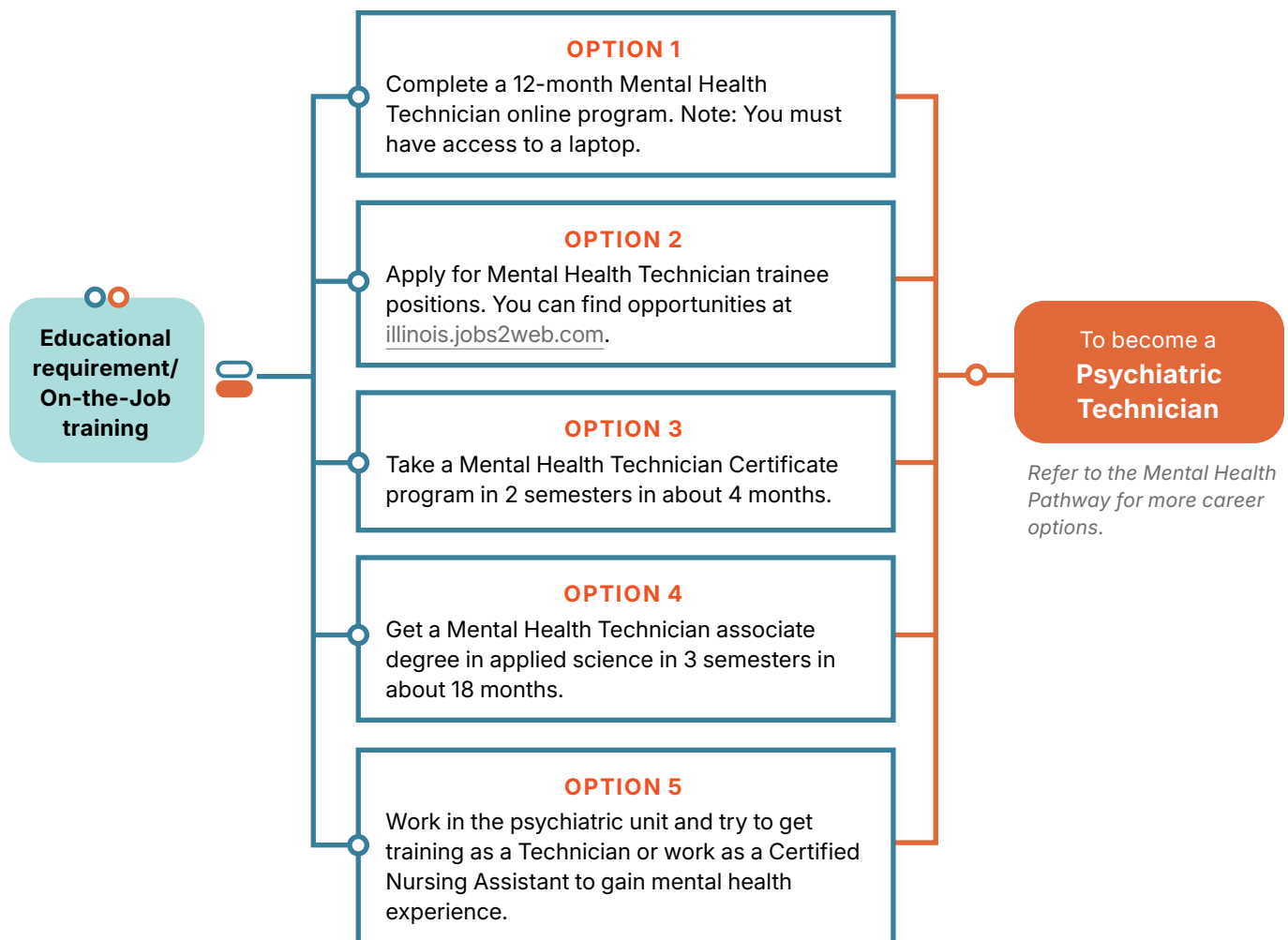
Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) help nurses care for patients by feeding, bathing, and moving them. They also stock medical supplies and record important patient information.

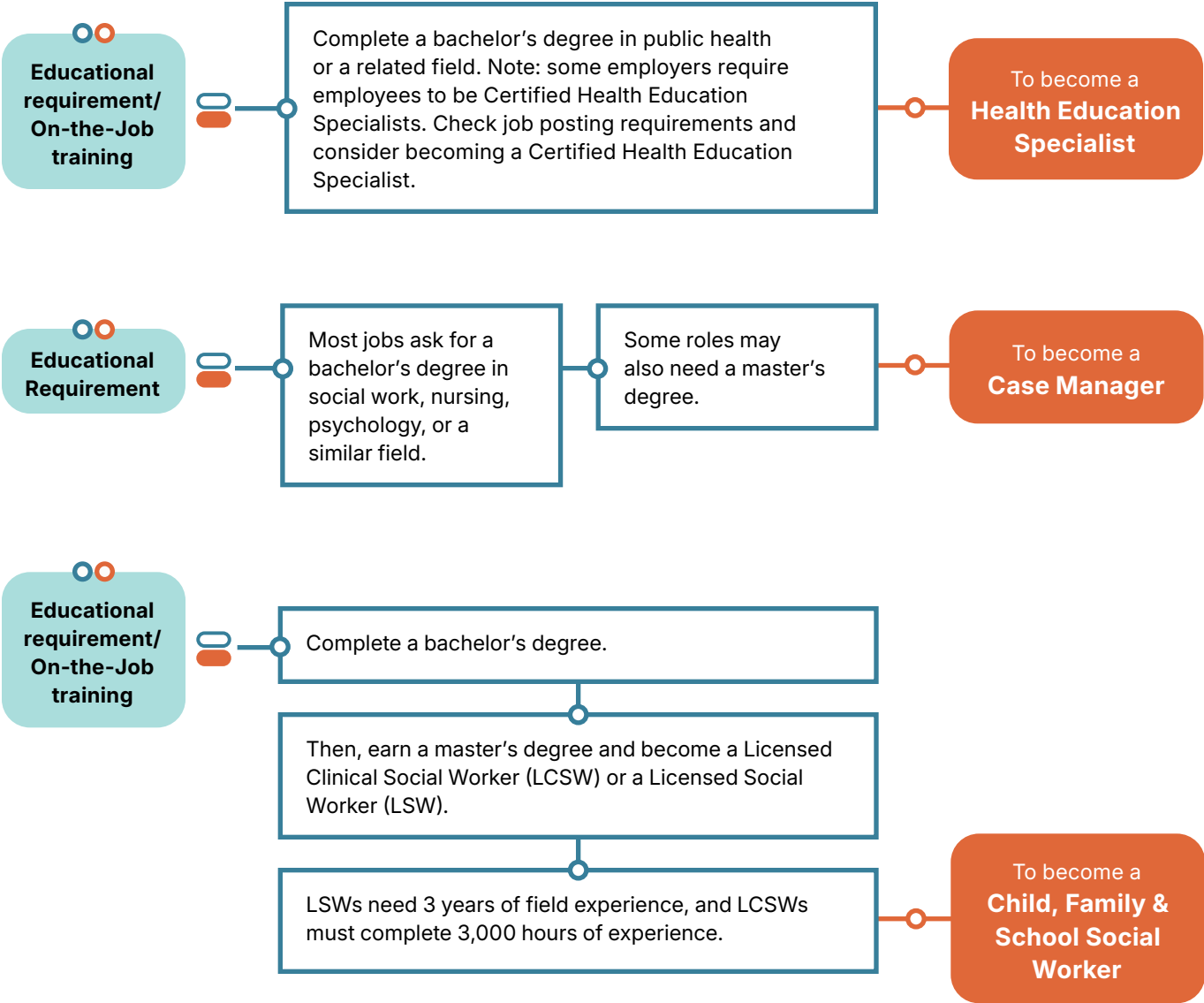
 **Median Salary:** \$42,467 per year

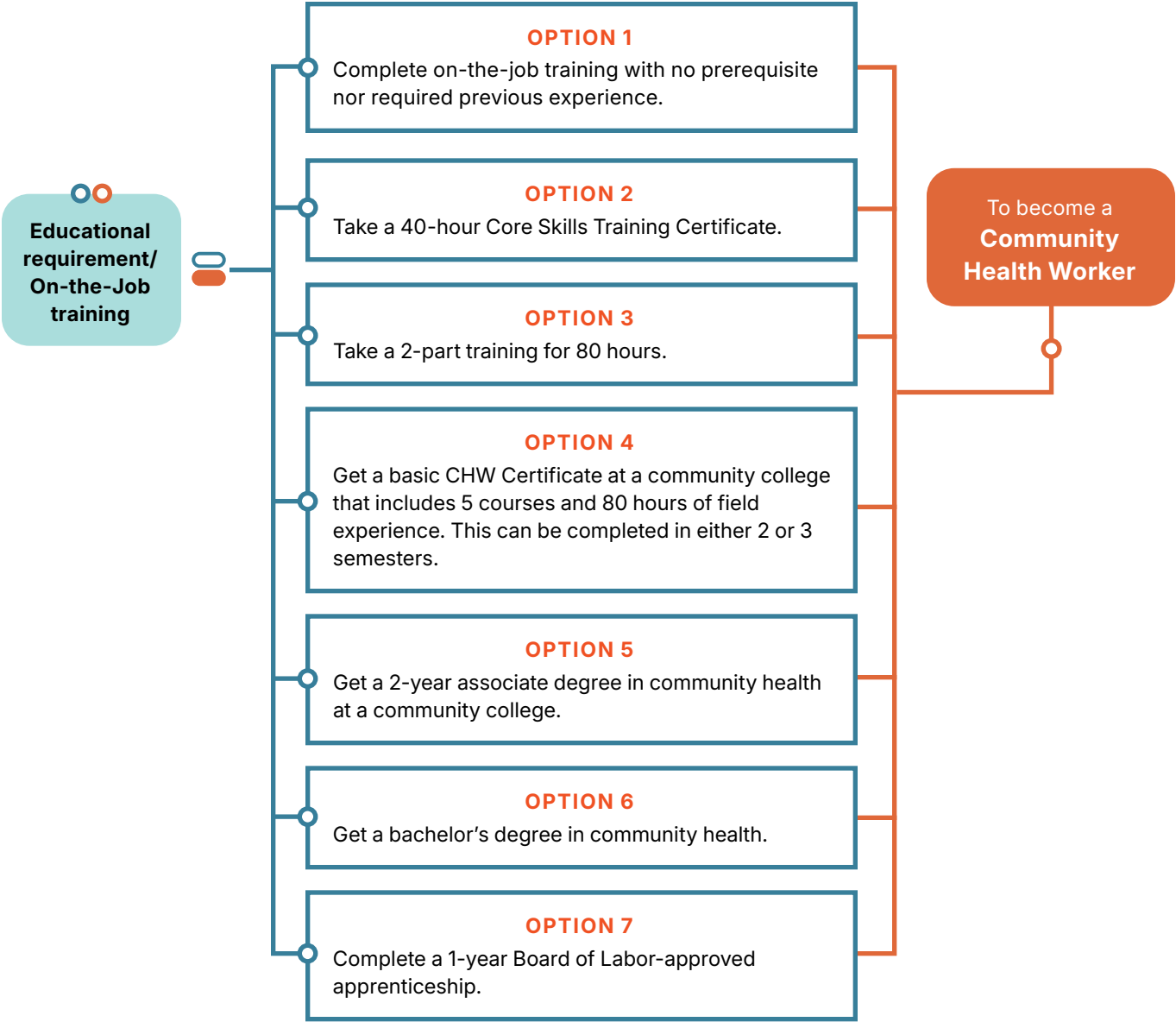
 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old

 **Transferable Skills:**

- Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)
- Patient assistance
- Patient Care
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
- Medical records (including electronic)
- Vital signs







Patient Care Technicians

Patient Care Technicians help patients by checking vital signs, assisting with daily activities like bathing and eating, and supporting nurses and doctors in medical care.

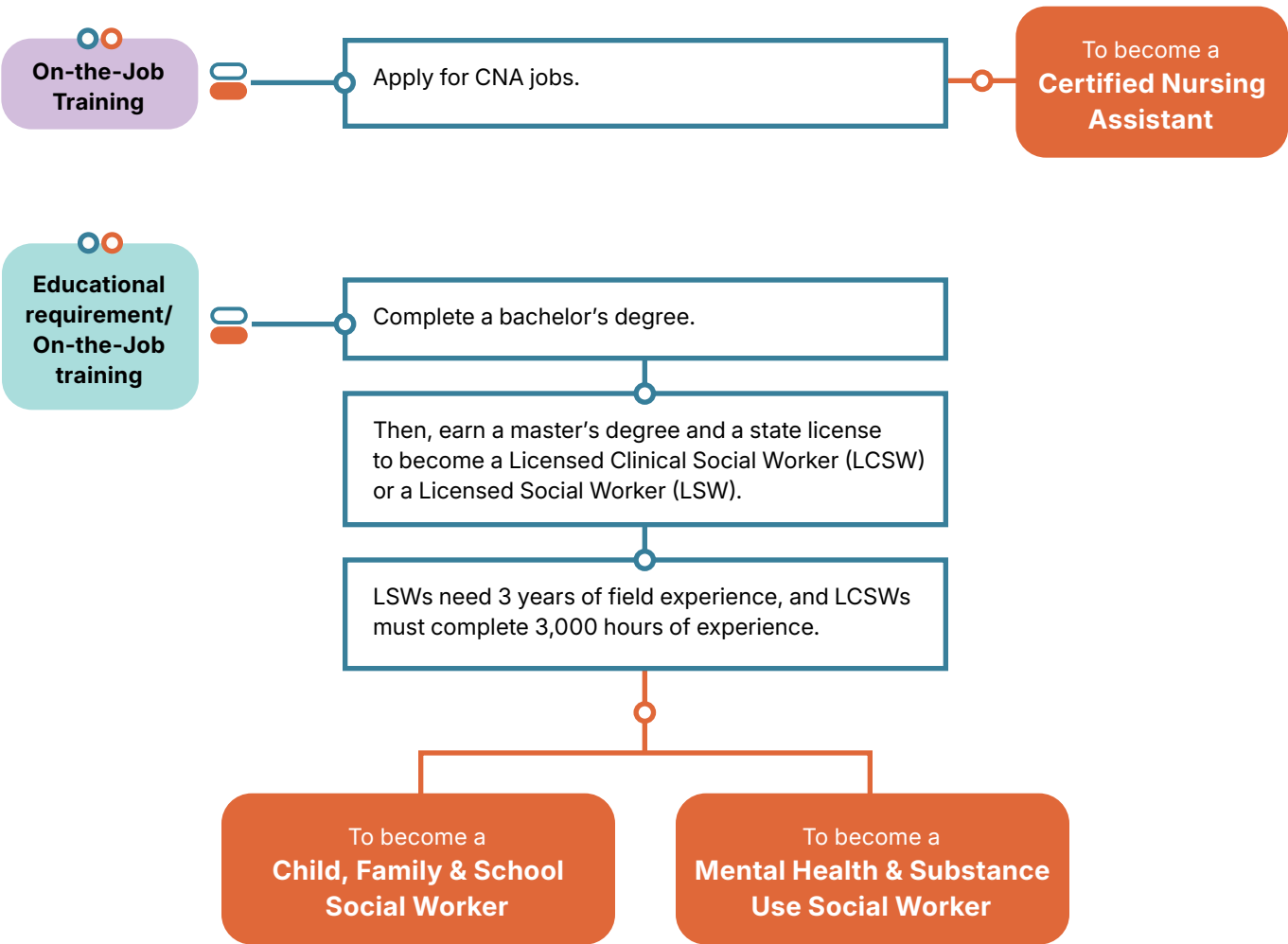
 **Median Salary:** \$41,897 per year

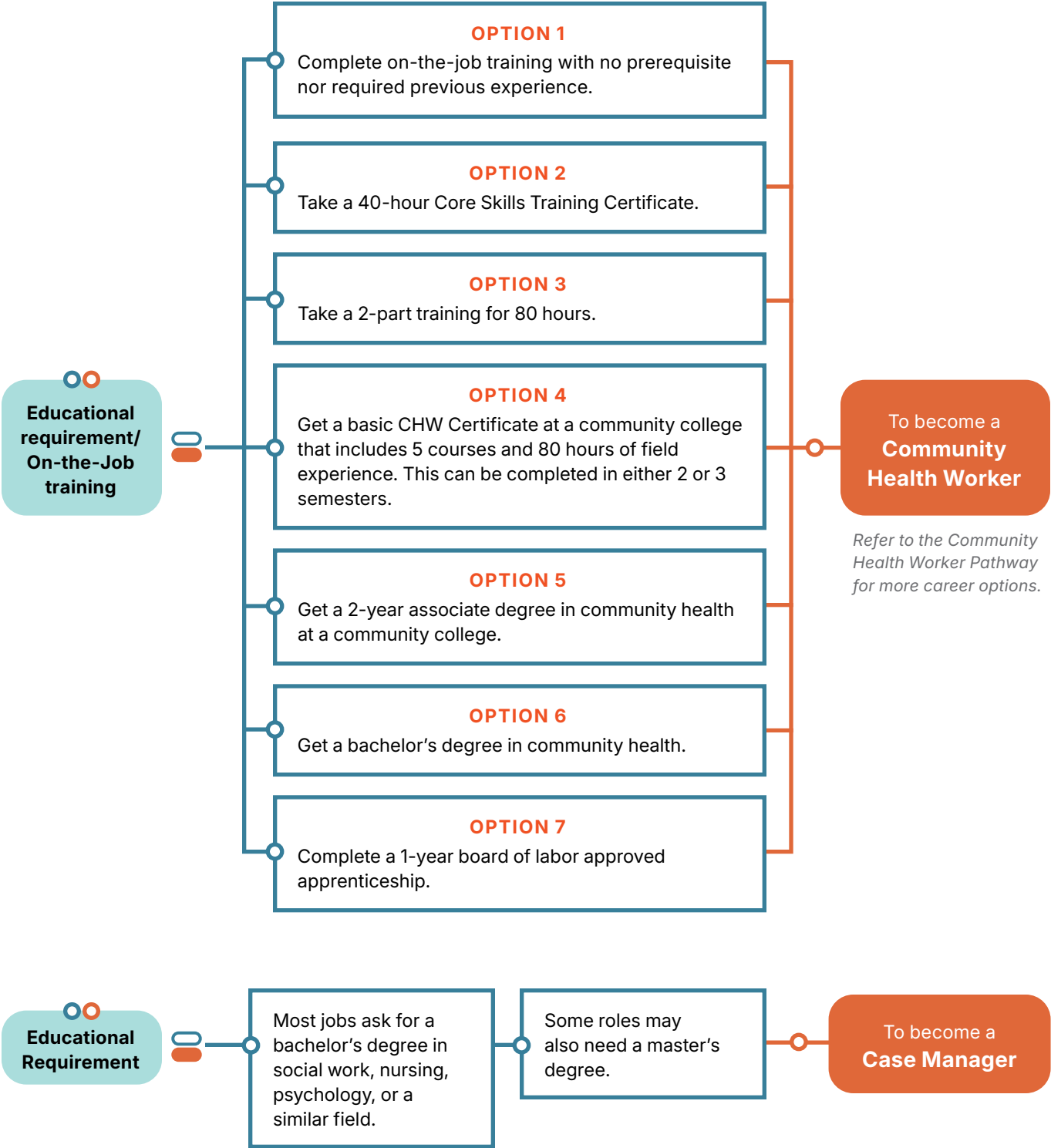
 **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old



Transferable Skills:

- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation certification (CPR)
- Caregiving
- Housekeeping
- Nursing care
- Infection control
- Medical records (including electronic)
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)
- Vital signs
- Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
- Personal care (such as bathing, helping patients brush teeth, cleaning bed sheets etc.)
- Patient assistance
- Patient care
- Blood pressure

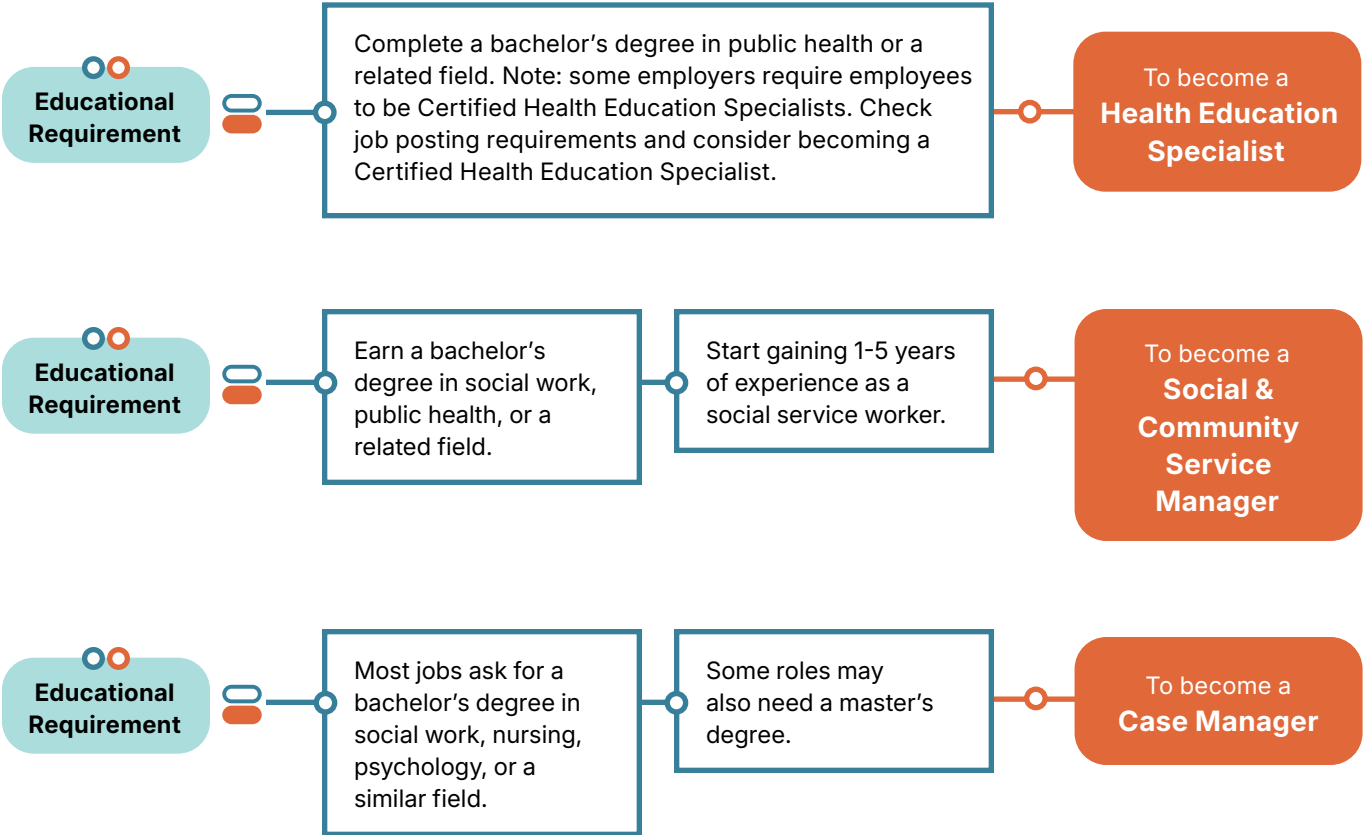


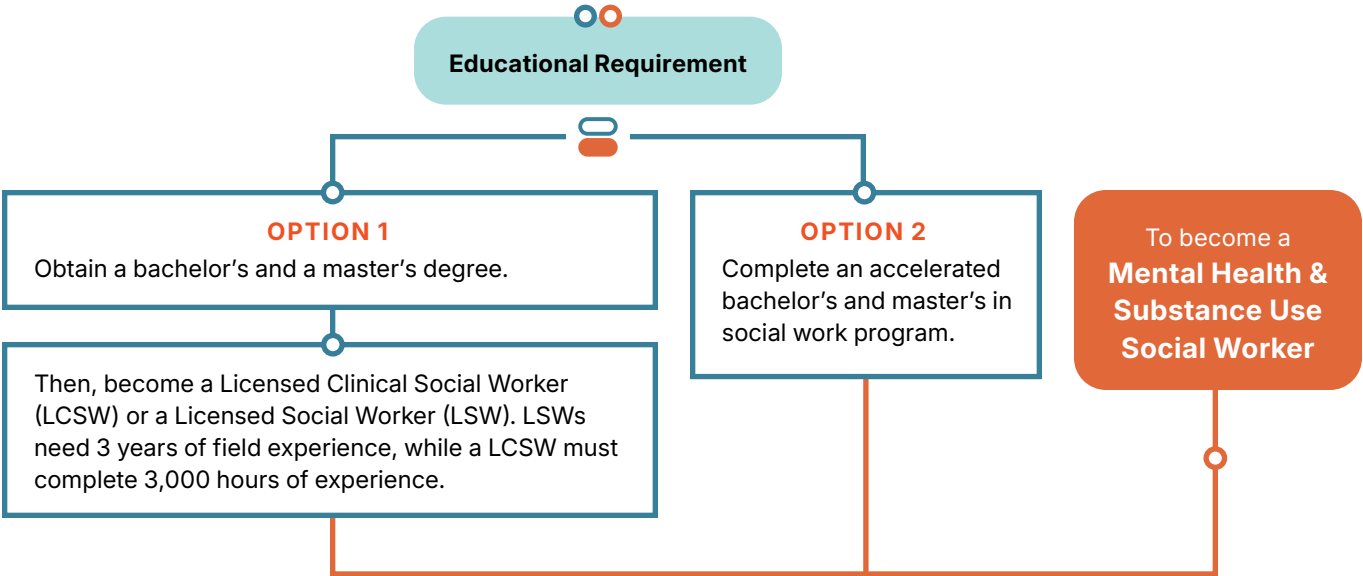
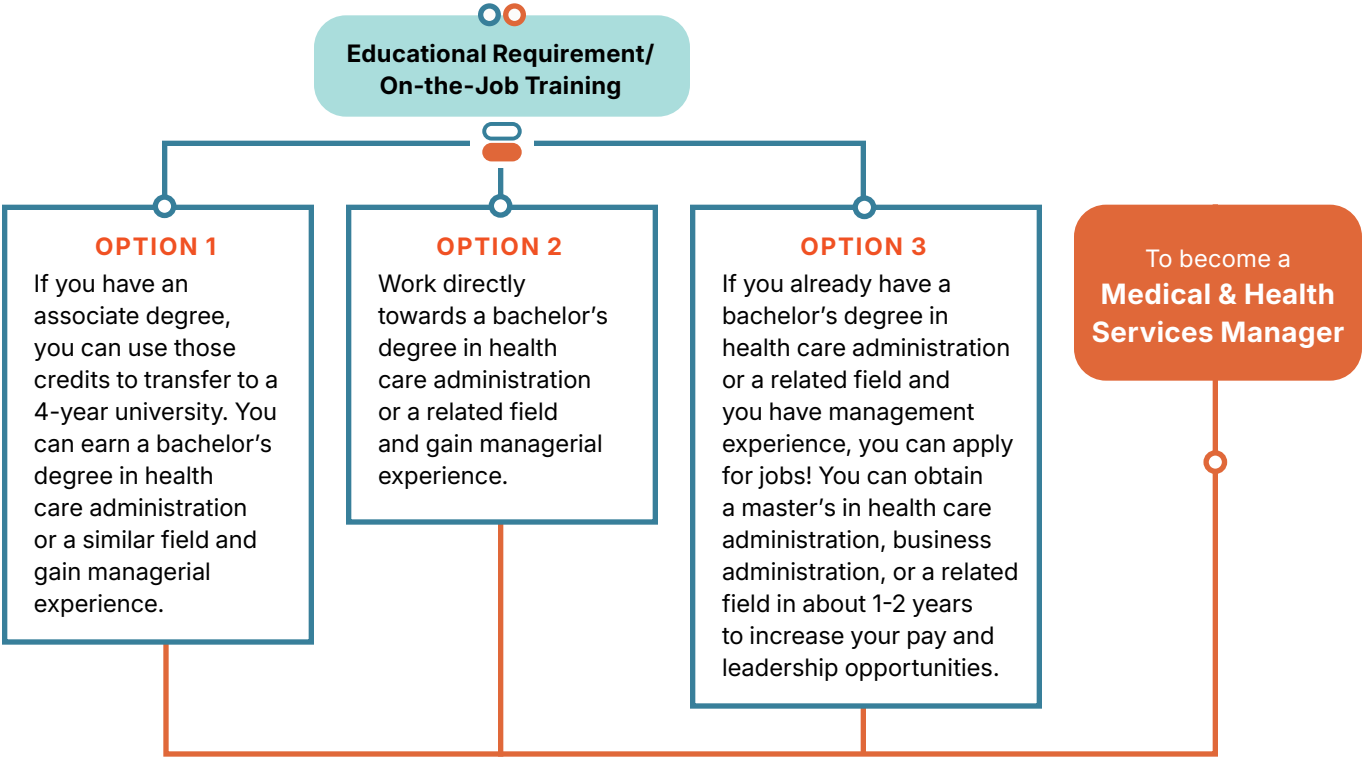


Community Health Workers

Community Health Workers help people stay healthy and get the care they need. They work in neighborhoods to teach families about health, connect them to doctors or clinics, and support them through tough times.

-  **Median Salary:** \$48,420 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
-  **Transferable Skills:**
 - Health education





Social Worker Pathway

Intermediate Professions

Health Education Specialist

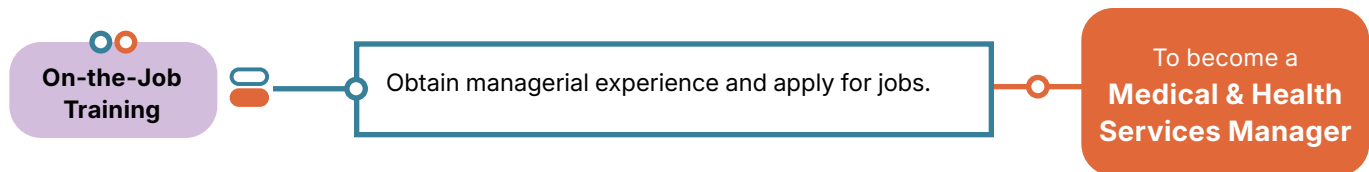
Health Education Specialists teach people how to stay healthy and make good choices. They also help create programs that improve health in schools, hospitals, and communities.



Median Salary: \$47,325 per year



Minimum Age Requirements: 18 years old



Child, Family & School Social Worker

Child, Family, & School Social Workers help kids and their families feel safe, supported, and healthy. They can help children in tough situations, like finding a new home or getting adopted. In schools, they make sure students have what they need to learn and feel good about themselves.



Median Salary: \$62,109 per year

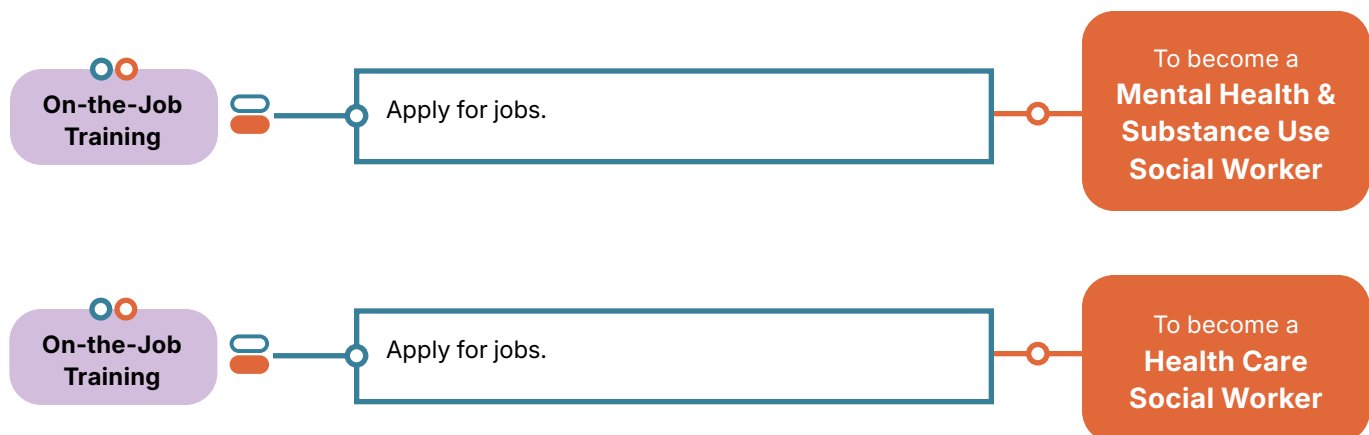


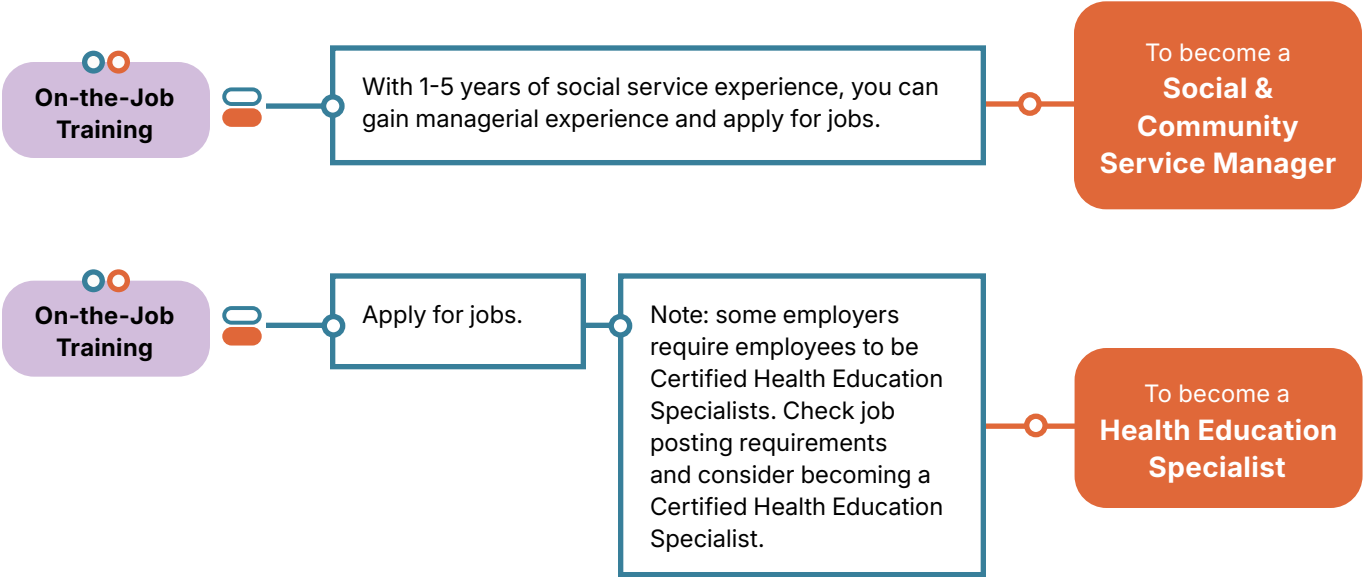
Minimum Age Requirements: 18 years old



Transferable Skills:

- Psychology
- Mental health
- Crisis intervention
- Human services
- Treatment planning
- Social work
- Case management
- Driver's license

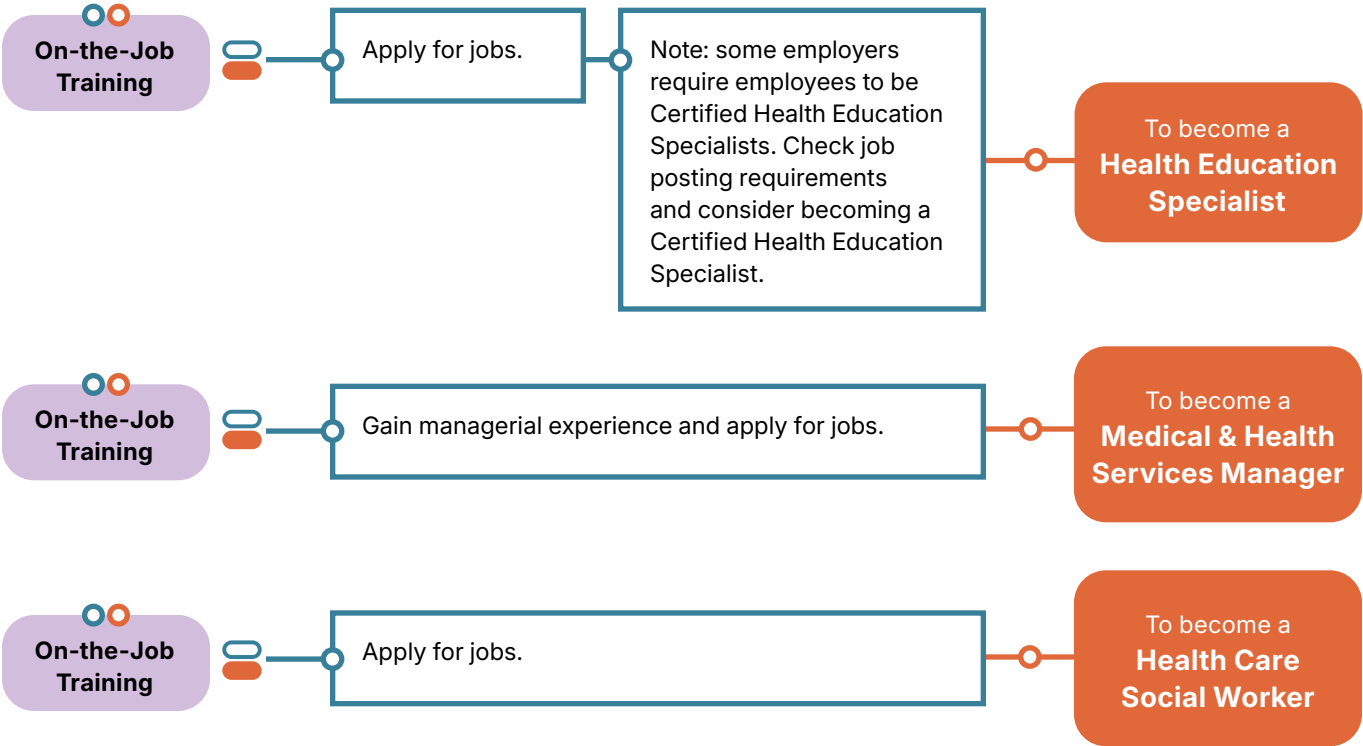




Mental Health & Substance Use Social Worker

Mental Health & Substance Use Social Workers help people who are feeling sad, stressed, or having a hard time with drugs or alcohol. They listen, give support, and help people feel better and stay safe.

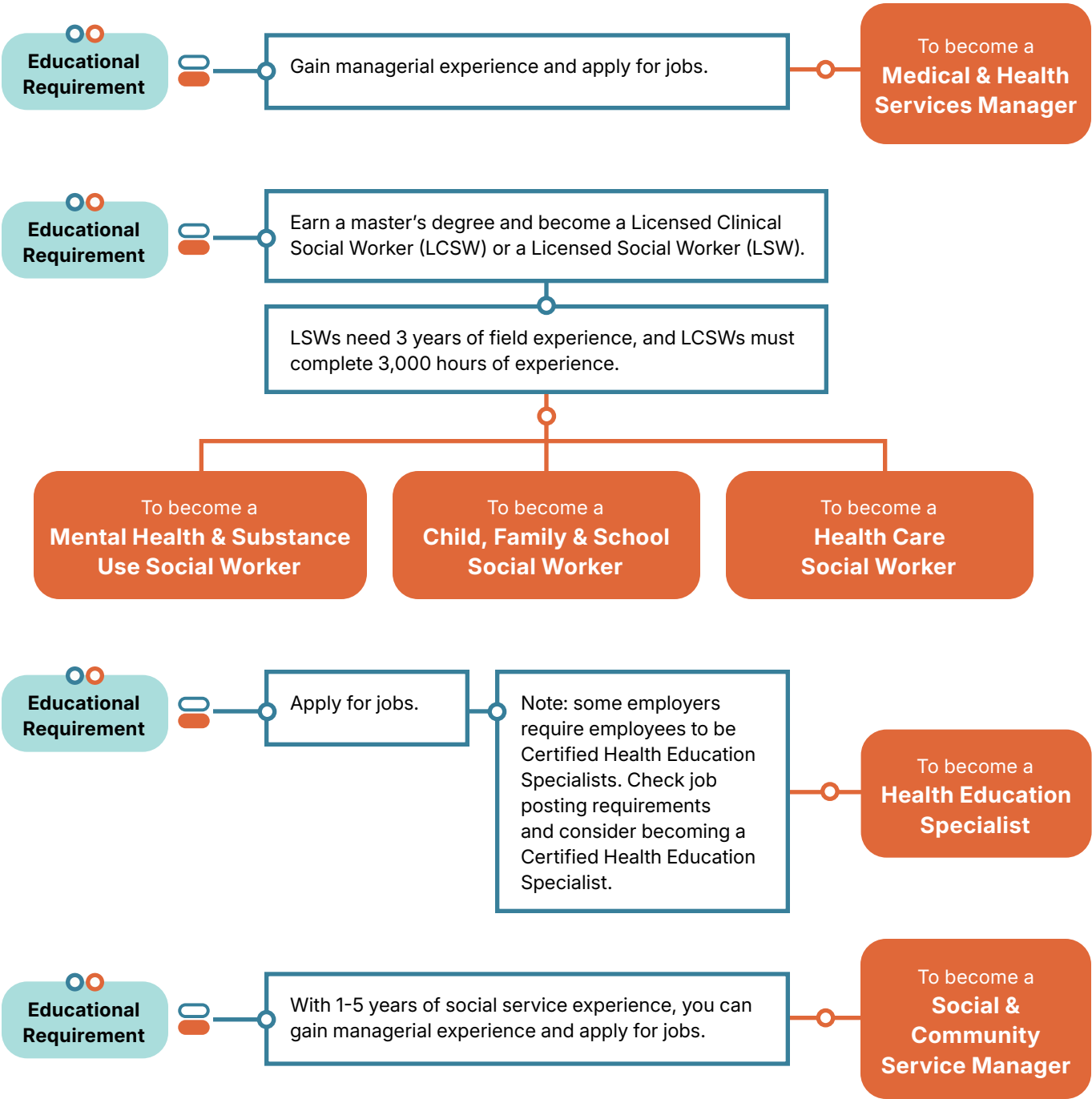
- Median Salary:** \$52,319 per year
- Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
- Transferable Skills:**
 - Driver's license



Case Manager

Case Managers help people get the care and support they need. They make plans, solve problems, and connect people to services like doctors, jobs, or housing to help them live better lives.

-  **Median Salary:** \$53,330 per year
-  **Minimum Age Requirements:** 18 years old
-  **Transferable Skills:**
 - Care coordination



Social & Community Service Manager

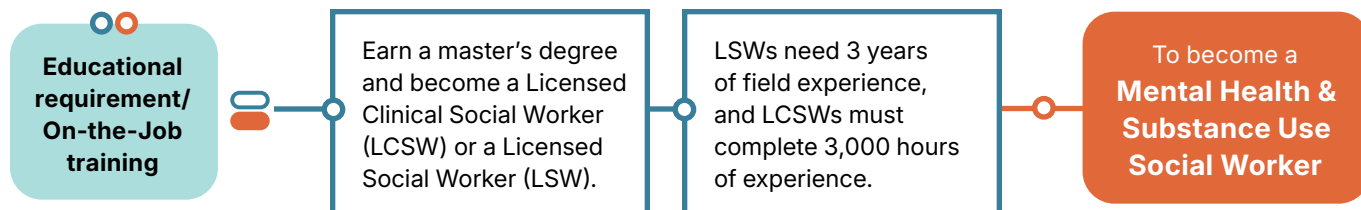
Social & Community Service Managers make sure programs that help people in the community run smoothly. They lead teams, plan activities, and work to make life better for everyone.



Median Salary: \$75,197 per year



Minimum Age Requirements: 18 years old



Social Worker Pathway Specialist Professions

Health Care Social Worker

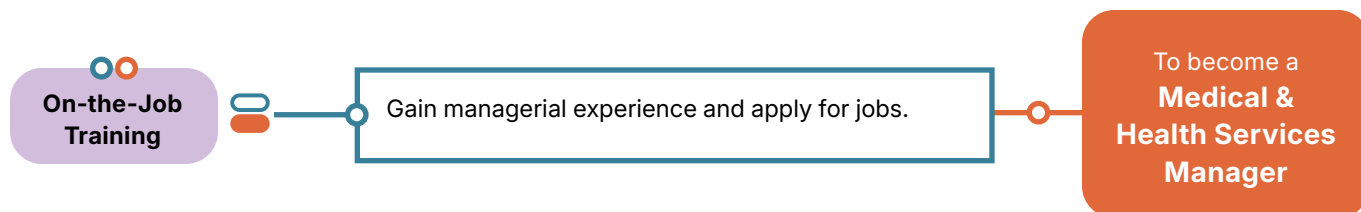
Health Care Social Workers help people who are sick or caring for someone who is sick. They give support, listen, and help families feel stronger during hard times.



Median Salary: \$65,647 per year



Minimum Age Requirements: 18 years old



Urban Agriculture Pathway



About the Urban Agriculture Pathway

Urban agriculture is an important part of public health, especially in cities like Chicago, where systemic racism and decades of not putting money into Black and Brown communities have created widespread food deserts—neighborhoods with limited access to fresh, affordable, and nutritious food. In these areas, health problems linked to diet-related illnesses are not just a coincidence but a direct result of unjust systems.

Urban agriculture is an important part of public health—it's about healing, caring for the earth, and standing up for justice. It can grow not just crops, but health, opportunity, and liberation for communities who have long been denied access to both land and nourishment.

To find urban agriculture careers, check out Advocates for Urban Agriculture's Job Board and Solidary News [here](#), or look up "Advocates for Urban Agriculture Job Board."

This pathway features jobs that grow, distribute, and promote access to healthy food in cities. Some of these jobs involve helping to engage or educate others in these areas.

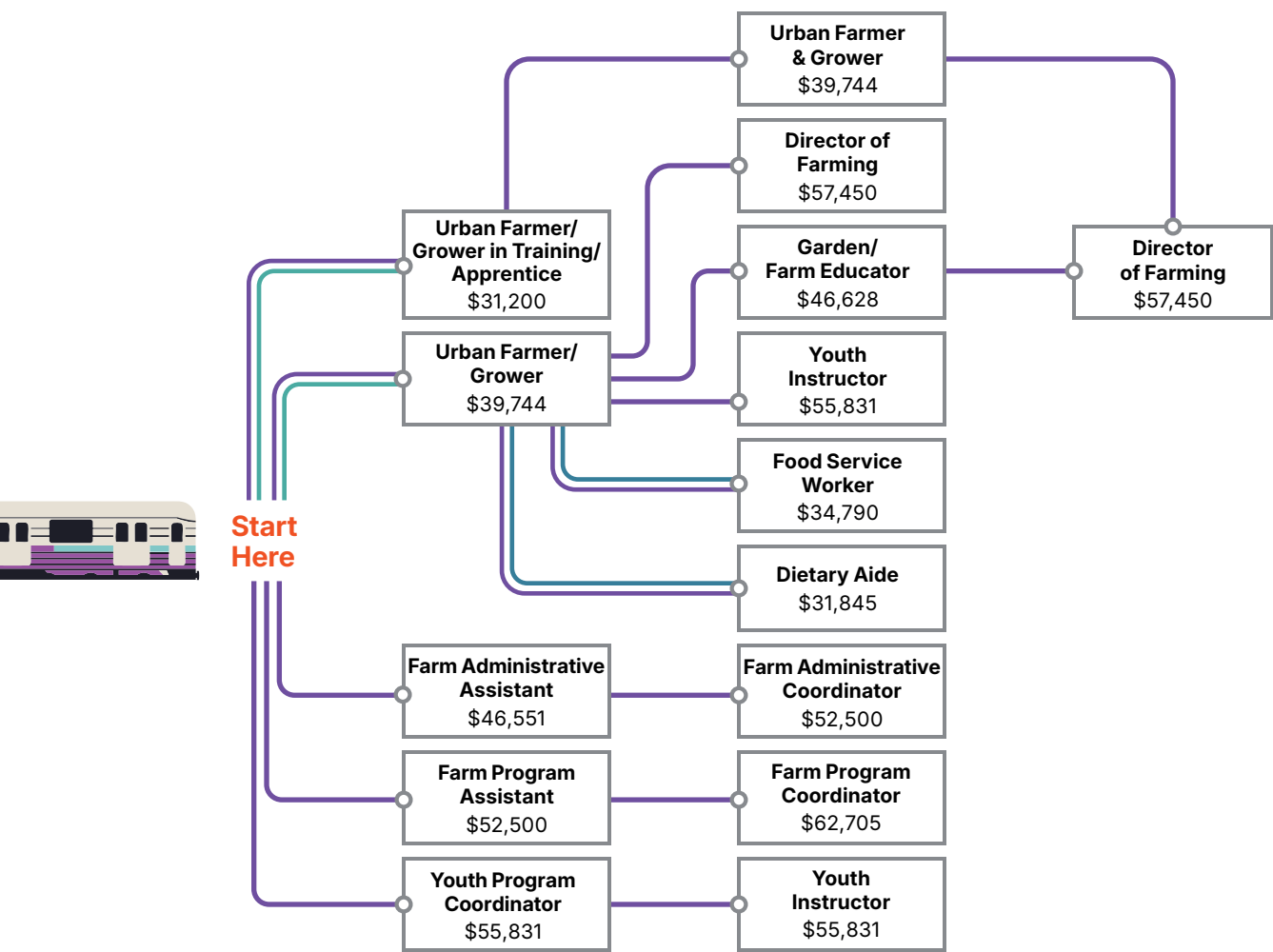
Jobs featured in this career pathway include:

- Dietary Aide
- Director of Farming
- Farm Administrative Assistant
- Farm Administrative Coordinator
- Farm Program Assistant
- Farm Program Coordinator
- Food Service Worker
- Garden/ Farm Educator
- Urban Farmer/ Grower
- Urban Farmer/ Grower in Training/ Apprentice
- Youth Instructor
- Youth Program Coordinator



Urban Agriculture Pathway

These are examples of different ways to move between or into new careers within this field. We know everyone’s career journey is unique, so think of these examples as a way to inspire your pathway, not the only way to do it. You can also move between the different pathways, start further along the pathway, or explore roles not mentioned at all in the pathway. Always check employer job descriptions to make sure that you have the right skills, education, and experience for that particular role.



Key

The colors in the chart show the different years of education or training needed to move from one role to the next. There are often several ways to advance, and some paths have more than one line color to represent multiple education and training options.

- Education Requirement of less than 6 months
- Education Requirement of 6 months to 1 year
- Education Requirement of 1–2 years
- Education Requirement of 2–4 years
- Education Requirement of 4–6 years
- Education Requirement of 6 years or more
- On-the-job experience
- Bridge Programs

MY CAREER JOURNEY

urban farmer



chamika

Chamika's career path

I studied **architecture** in school but I wanted to do something fulfilling. For 10 years I worked for the local park district doing ADA compliance work to make sure our green spaces were inclusive to those with disabilities.



Program Spotlight:
Windy City Harvest
Apprenticeship

If you complete the apprenticeship and take a business course, then you can apply to be in what's called the **incubator space**. I applied and I got it! So after nine years of homesteading, I finally have a farm.

"Food is very powerful. If you're struggling with any physical, mental, digestive, health related illness, check your food. As humans we are so interconnected with the Earth, but we've lost that connectivity."

My family used the pandemic as an opportunity to grow more in tune with each other. It was at this time that my 8 year old noticed that I was happiest when growing food, sharing food, cooking food, homesteading. They convinced me to quit my job of 10 years and go back to school to become a **farmer**.

I completed an **apprenticeship** with Windy City Harvest. It was a nine-month apprenticeship that taught us a lot about urban agriculture. It was all hands-on learning where we were growing from seed to harvest.

advice

"Farming isn't easy and it's not always the most lavish income. But you can make good money farming if you understand that farming doesn't just take place on the land. It involves policy advocacy, accounting, food, and the environment. There's so many components that go into farming. If you want a career in agriculture—do it. The universe will find a way if it's what you're supposed to do."

→ To learn more about Chamika's career journey, visit www.hmprg.org/your-career-in-health.

youth farm coordinator

"My favorite thing about my job is seeing the community come together. Participants start to interact and learn each others names. They share recipes and encourage each other. It's beautiful to see."



iririan

Iririan's career path

In high school, I worked at the **Youth Farm Program** in the summer. This program paid me and taught me all about Urban Agriculture. I learned about farming, gardens, providing food to people, and the environment.


Program Spotlight:
Chicago Botanical
Garden's Youth Farm
Program

After getting my **associate degree**, the Chicago Botanical Garden reached back out to me about being a **Youth Farm Coordinator**. I worked with the youth and taught them about urban agriculture and the environment. It was a full circle moment for me.

advice

"When I started, I was really hard on myself and felt like I had to be perfect, but there are going to be mistakes. Don't be too hard on yourself, you're going to learn through everything that you go through. Just stay calm and focus on connecting with people. Be patient and put yourself in the shoes of the people you're helping."

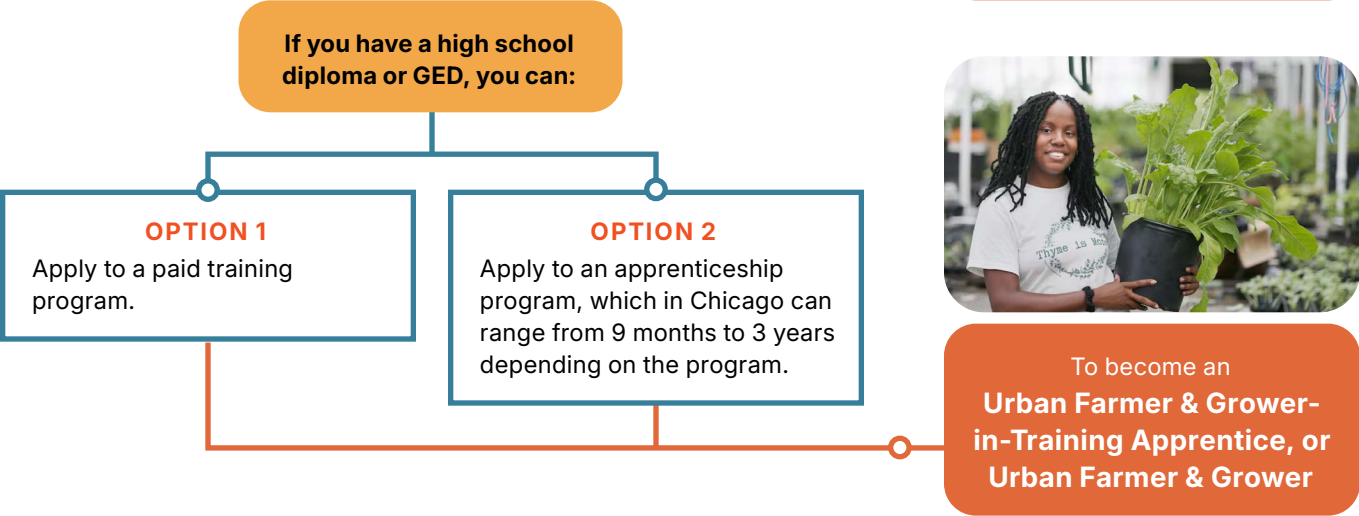
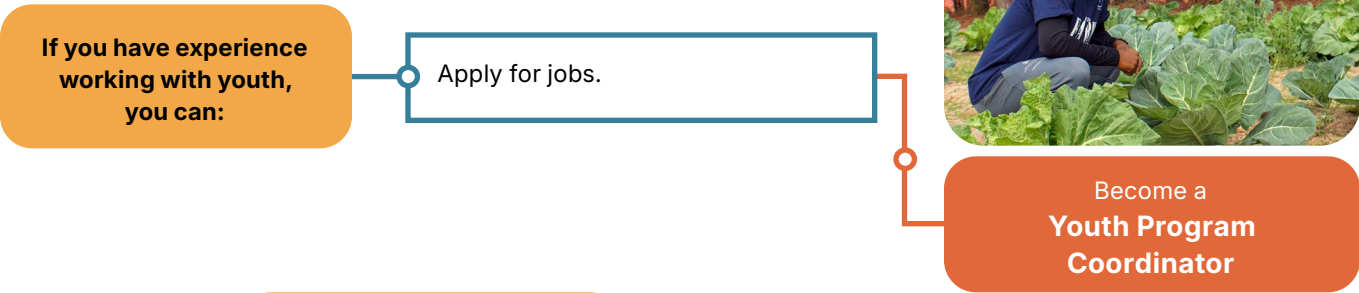
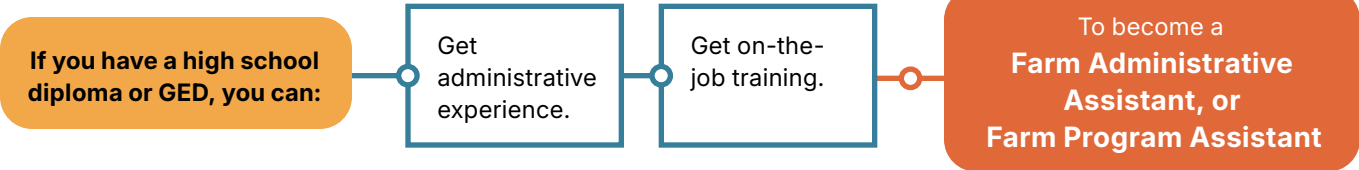
Now I work in **Veggie RX** as a **Community Health Worker**. I assist a Spanish speaking community and deliver them a box of fresh vegetables each week. We also offer cooking classes, recipes, and even have a dietitian on staff. I spend a lot of time connecting with the participants and reassuring them that they can use the services. Some of them see it as charity, but its not. It's a program to help them better themselves and live longer, healthier lives.

➔ To learn more about Iririan's career journey, visit www.hmprg.org/your-career-in-health.

Enter a Career in Urban Agriculture!

A career in **urban agriculture** means growing healthy food in cities and helping people live better lives. These workers plant gardens, teach others about healthy eating, and make sure communities have fresh food and green spaces. They care about people and the planet.

Let's explore the Urban Agriculture Pathway and see where it could take you!



Learn more about the Urban Agriculture pathway. ➔

Urban Agriculture Pathway

Entry-Level Professions

Urban Farmer & Grower-in-Training Apprentice

Urban Farmers and Grower-in-Training Apprentices help grow fresh fruits and vegetables in city spaces like gardens, urban farms, and greenhouses. They learn how to plant, take care of crops, and work as a team to bring healthy food to their communities. It's a great way to learn about nature, stay active, and make a difference where you live.



Median Salary: \$31,200 per year

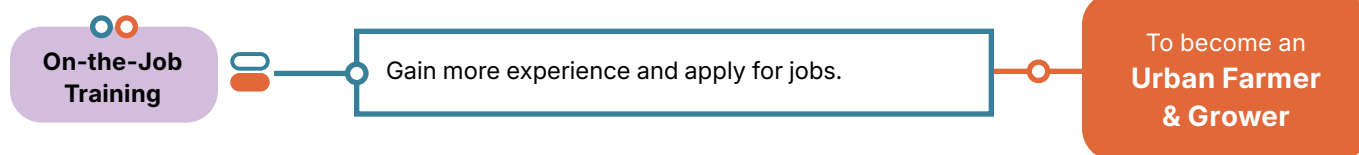


Minimum Age Requirements: 18 years old



Transferable Skills:

- Horticulture
- Soil management
- Pest and disease management
- Water conservation
- Composting



Urban Farmer & Grower

Urban Farmers and Growers grow fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs in city spaces like rooftops, gardens, or greenhouses. They help bring healthy food to neighborhoods, care for plants every day, and teach others how to grow food too. It's a fun and important job that helps people and the planet!



Median Salary: \$39,744 per year

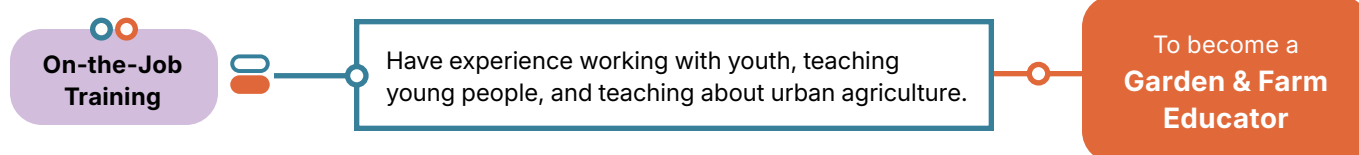
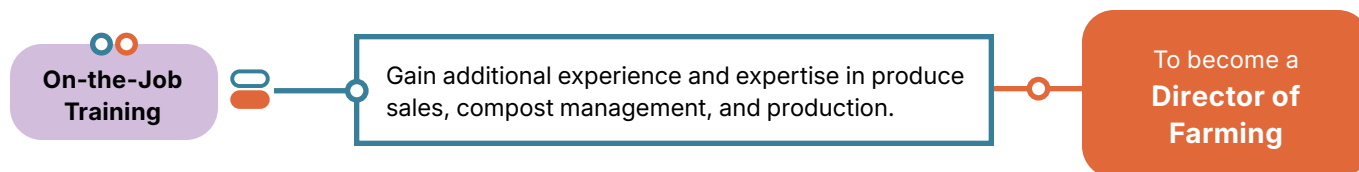


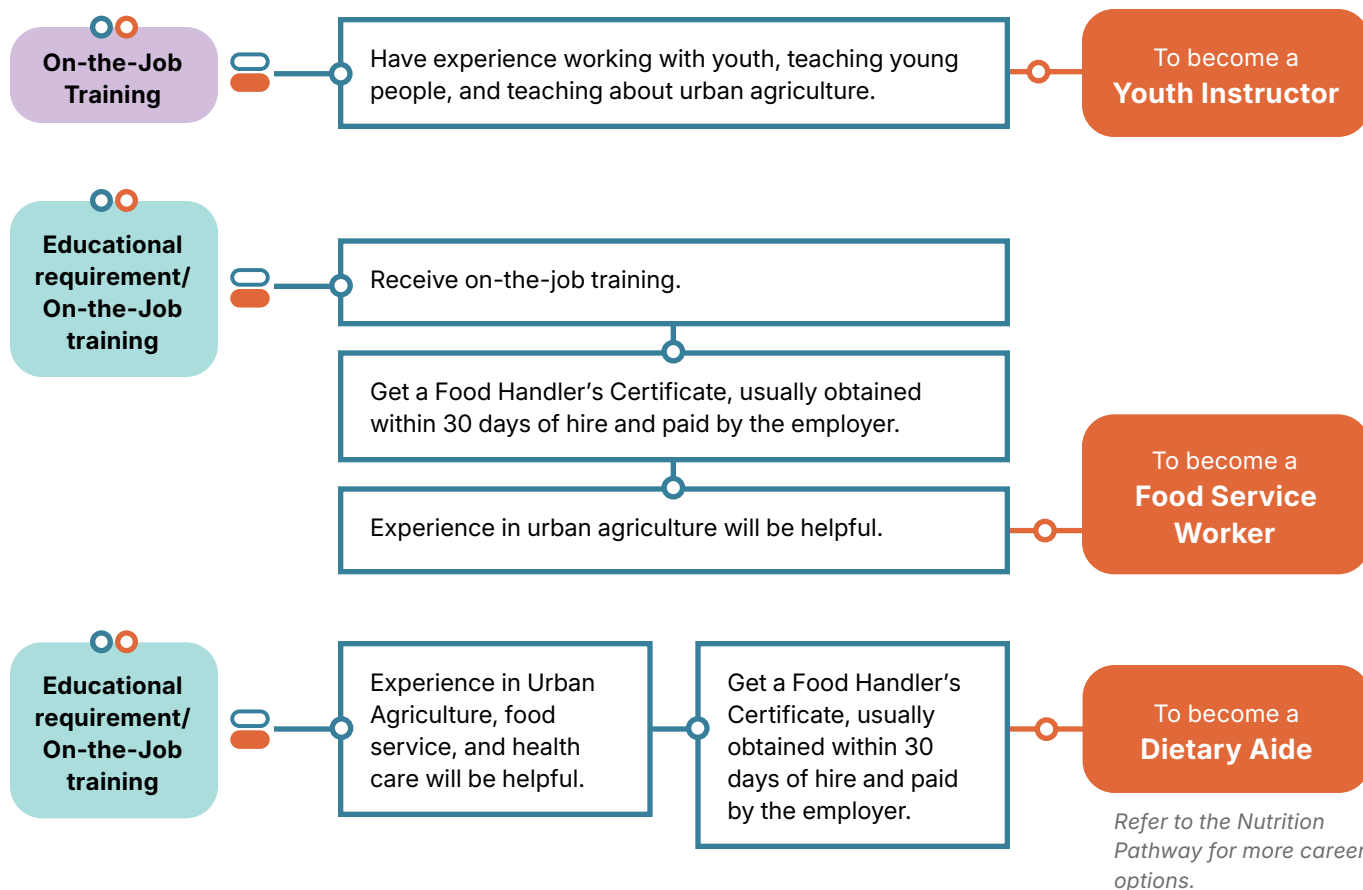
Minimum Age Requirements: 18 years old



Transferable Skills:

- Horticulture
- Soil management
- Pest and disease management
- Water conservation
- Composting
- Teaching
- Mentorship
- Grant management





Farm Administrative Assistant

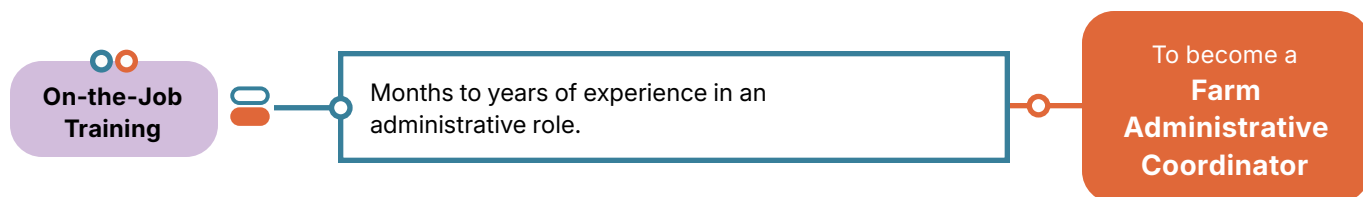
A Farm Administrative Assistant helps keep a farm running smoothly. They work in the office, organize schedules, answer phone calls, and help with farm records like the number of plants and harvests. It's a great job for someone who likes farming and staying organized!

Median Salary: \$46,551 per year

Minimum Age Requirements: 18 years old

Transferable Skills:

- Filing
- Data entry
- Scheduling
- Supply inventory
- Compliance and documentation



Youth Program Coordinator

A Youth Program Coordinator on a farm creates fun and educational activities for kids and teens. They teach about growing food, caring for animals, and the environment. It's a great job for someone who loves nature, helping young people, and making learning exciting!



Median Salary: \$55,831 per year

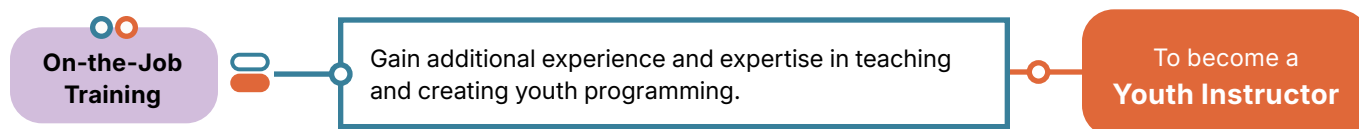


Minimum Age Requirements: 18 years old



Transferable Skills:

- Youth engagement
- Program implementation
- Leadership and mentorship
- Cultural competency



Urban Agriculture Pathway Intermediate Professions

Urban Farmer & Grower

Urban Farmers and Growers grow fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs in city spaces like rooftops, gardens, or greenhouses. They help bring healthy food to neighborhoods, care for plants every day, and teach others how to grow food too. It's a fun and important job that helps people and the planet!



Median Salary: \$46,628 per year



Minimum Age Requirements: 18 years old

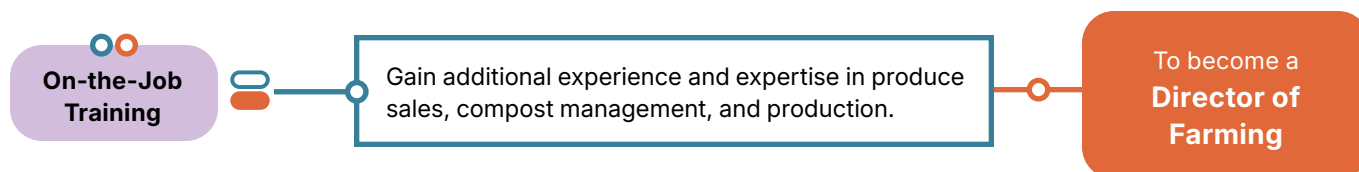


Transferable Skills:

- Agricultural knowledge and practices
- Program and curriculum development
- Leadership
- Operational planning
- Community engagement
- Environmental stewardship
- Budget management
- Strategic planning

Garden & Farm Educator

A Garden and Farm Educator teaches kids and adults how to grow plants, care for gardens, and understand where food comes from. They make learning about nature fun and help people become healthier and more connected to the earth!



Career Overviews



Explore Your Options with Career Overviews!

Curious about what job best fits you? This is your go-to guide!

Wondering what type of roles you could apply for in certain health careers? This section gives you a quick look at the different careers you can explore in each of the following fields:

- Government Public Health
- Nonprofit Public Health
- Bachelor of Public Health
- Holistic Health
- Reproductive Health

These fields have less traditional advancement pathways, and you can often move into different roles with relevant experience or training. Check out each career's entry in the [Health Career Directory](#) to learn more about what it takes to get there.

In the following sections, you'll learn about the many roles that you can explore in each field. Start with your interests and goals and see where you can go in the health field.

Let's dive in and find your future career!



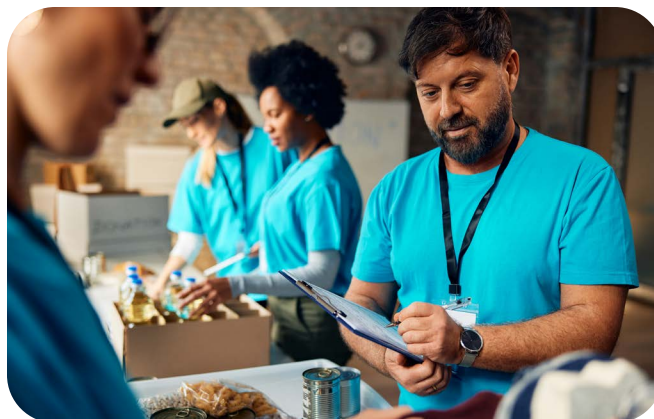
Work in a Government Public Health Career!

Government public health jobs can be a little tricky to find since each agency works differently, and job titles aren't always clear. For example, the Cook County Department of Public Health is part of the Cook County Health system. Some people assume all jobs are only for doctors and nurses, but there are also great public health roles that you can apply for within the Cook County Health system, too!

While there aren't a ton of entry-level jobs, roles like Community Health Workers (CHWs), Health Promoters, and Community Resource Navigators are great ways to get started. Government fellowship programs can also be a helpful first step into this field.

Keep in mind: moving up in government jobs can take time since people often stay for the long term because of the strong benefits and job security. Government jobs currently are not as secure due to federal funding cuts to governmental public health programs and services. If you're having a hard time finding a government role right away, other places like worker centers or public health nonprofits also hire CHWs and other public health professionals. They do similar work that supports public health in the community.

Note: Not all careers listed have a corresponding directory entry. Refer to posted job descriptions for more information on these roles.



Here are some job options:

Finance

- Coordinator of Grants Management
- Finance Director (or Manager)
- Grant Program Coordinators
- Grant Writers
- Grants Research Specialists
- Supervisor of Grants Administration

Nutrition

- Director of Nutrition
- Public Health Nutritionist
- Regional Nutrition Coordinator

Administrative/Operations

- Administrative Assistant
- Human Resources Assistant
- Operations Associate
- Operations Director

Continued

Clinical/Direct Service

Behavioral Health Assistant
Case Manager Assistant
Public Health Nurse

Environmental Health & Occupational Safety

Building/Construction Inspector (Supervising Role, plus Inspector)
Director of Environmental Health & Safety
Director of Environmental Inspections
Environmental Engineer
Environmental Investigator
Senior Environmental Inspector

Policy/Advocacy

Community Outreach Coordinator
Director/Community Liaison
Policy Analyst

Research

Coordinator of Research and Evaluation
Data Scientist
Database Analyst
GIS Database Analyst
GIS Manager
Grants Research Specialist
Health Code Enforcement Inspection Analyst
Program Analyst
Public Health Informatics
Senior Data Entry Operator

Leadership

Commissioner of Health
Deputy Commissioner
First Deputy Commissioner

Urban Planning

Director of Planning, Research & Development

Infectious Disease Surveillance & Prevention

Communicable Disease Control Investigator
Director of Disease Investigation
Director of Epidemiology
Epidemiologist
Regional Communicable Disease Investigator
Supervising Disease Control Investigator

Communications/Social Media

Director of Marketing

Labor Relations

Labor Relations Supervisor

Programs

Program Director (or Officer)
Program (or Project) Coordinator
Project Manager
Training Officer

government public health



"When I think about moments I'm proud of, I think of working at the Health Department during COVID. It was such a trying and exhausting time. People were dying. But everyone in the department was committed to meeting the needs of the community."

gina

Gina's career path

I always thought I'd be a physician, it runs in my family, but I didn't score well on the MCAT. So after college I joined **City Year Chicago, an AmeriCorps program**. It was life altering. It ignited my passion for social change and community service. It was the start of my career in public health.

I got an educational stipend from City Year Chicago so I pursued my **Master's in Public Health**. It allowed me to connect what I was seeing with theory.



Master's of Public Health

advice

"It's important to remember to explore. You don't have to stay in any position forever. There's always opportunities to learn and to grow. Public Health is so broad, so if there's ever a position that doesn't feel right for you, you can find other opportunities."

I then moved into a position at the Cook County Department of Public Health. I served as the **Director of Health Promotion** and managed a team that implemented programs related to teen pregnancy. It was pretty traditional public health programming.

Now I work at a public charity as the **Program Director of Health Workforce**. I'm helping build relationships and analyzing trends in the health workforce.

→ To learn more about Gina's career journey, visit www.hmprg.org/your-career-in-health.

Work in a Nonprofit Public Health Career!

There are many ways to work in public health through nonprofits, but the paths aren't always clearly laid out. These organizations do a lot of different things and usually fall into five main areas: research, policy and advocacy, programs, fundraising, and clinical work. Some nonprofits focus on just one area, while others do a mix.

Job titles in this space can vary a lot, which can make it harder to know where to start. While many nonprofits still ask for a bachelor's degree, more are beginning to value people's lived experiences and the skills they bring to the table.

If you're interested in growing your career in public health nonprofits, the most important thing is to build your transferable skills—like communication, leadership, and working with communities—so you can move across roles and organizations more easily.

Note: Not all careers listed have a corresponding directory entry. Refer to posted job descriptions for more information on these roles.



Here are some job options:

Finance

Finance Director (or Manager)
Supervisor of Grants Administration

Fundraising

Development Associate/Assistant
Development Director
Fundraising Coordinator
Fundraising Director
Grant Program Coordinators
Grant Writer

Policy/ Advocacy

Organizer
Outreach Coordinator
Outreach Director
Policy Analyst
Policy Director

Continued

Administrative/ Operations

Administrative Assistant
Human Resources Assistant
Operations Associate
Operations Director

Events

Events Coordinator
Events Director

Programs

Program Coordinator
Program Director (or Officer)
Training Director
Training Manager
Volunteer Coordinator



Communications/Social Media

Communications Associate/Specialist
Communications Coordinator
Communications Director

Clinical/Direct Service

Case Manager
Community Health Worker
HIV Testing Counselor
Prevention Navigator

Leadership

Deputy Director
Executive Director

Research

Public Health Analyst (policy or another focus area)
Public Health Research Assistant
Research Director

nonprofit public health

"My favorite thing about nonprofit work is that it tends to be mission driven. My personal ethos of service is built around wanting to create better access, whether education, healthcare, or housing. I genuinely want to see people have the ability to lead healthier lives."



veronica

Veronica's career path

I began my career as a community health worker specializing in end-of-life care and end-of-life planning. My title was actually Community Outreach Coordinator, but later I learned that I was really a **Community Health Worker**.

Now I'm an **Executive Director of a foundation**. When I applied for the job I thought it was a long shot since I didn't have experience as an executive director, but I got my dream job! It really was a matter of staying in relationship with the organizations that offer opportunities that align with your passions.

In order to really advance in your career, you really need to have a **master's degree**. I knew I wanted to move into a leadership position, but I hadn't been given leadership opportunities. So, I picked a master's program that allowed me to learn about organizational leadership.


**Master's Degree
in Organizational
Leadership**


Program Spotlight:
University
Without Walls

advice

"It's important to believe in yourself and to know your own worth. Make sure you continuously work on self-improvement. It doesn't have to be a degree program, but even professional or personal development goes a long way. Be an avid learner, and improve yourself, your craft, and your abilities to serve others."

→ To learn more about Veronica's career journey, visit www.hmprg.org/your-career-in-health.

What Can You Do with a Bachelor of Public Health?

A bachelor's degree in public health opens the door to many meaningful careers focused on improving the health and well-being of communities. With this degree, you can step into roles that help shape programs, protect the environment, educate others, and respond to public health emergencies.



Here are just a few jobs you can explore:

- Emergency Management Director
- Environmental Health Specialist
- Grant Program Coordinator
- Health Education Specialist
- Health Inspector
- Health Services Coordinator
- Medical & Health Services Manager
- Occupational Health & Safety Specialist
- Program Coordinator
- Public Health Analyst (policy)
- Public Health Research Assistant
- Public Health Technician
- Social & Community Service Manager
- Social Science Research Assistant

Whether you're helping design programs, supporting policy change, or keeping workplaces and neighborhoods safe, this degree gives you a strong foundation to grow your impact.

Explore a Career in Holistic Health!

If you're passionate about whole-body wellness and natural healing, a career in holistic health could be a great fit. These careers focus on treating the mind, body, and spirit, and not just symptoms but using natural methods and personalized care.



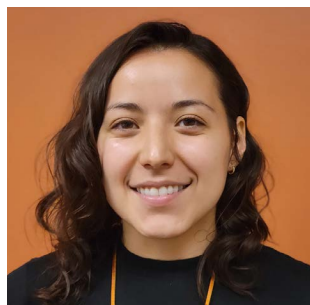
Here are some roles you can explore:

- Acupuncturist
- Ayurvedic Practitioner
- Herbalist
- Massage Therapist
- Midwife
- Naturopath
- Nutritionist
- Somatic Therapist

These paths often require specialized training or certification, and many allow you to work in private practice, wellness centers, alongside traditional health care providers, or for yourself. If you love helping others feel their best, inside and out, this could be the path for you.

MY CAREER JOURNEY

holistic health



adi

Adi's career path

I started in **somatics** simply by needing the services myself. I was very lucky that my first somatics practitioner was also practicing something called *curanderismo*. It's the cultural healing practices of Mexico, which was so beautiful for me to learn and receive healing aspects from my family's home country, from my cultural heritage.

While working with my client, I was also going through an **apprenticeship** with an elder, who was also my practitioner. The first part of my apprenticeship took about six months. Then the second part took a year and required 200 client hours. Once I finished that, I was given permission to start holding ceremonies and work with more clients individually as a somatics practitioner.

"Somatics is healing through the body as opposed to the mind. Most indigenous and ancestral practices don't believe the mind controls the body, but that they're two counterparts that work together. So my work is helping people lower the volume of their brain so that their body can speak."

The transition from being a client to a practitioner was a little backwards. My **first client** approached me and told me that they wanted to work with me even though I still didn't have any formal training yet.



Certification:
Mind Body Coaching
Trauma-Informed
Somatics Therapy

advice

"If you want to start a career in somatics, think about where you come from, what people you come from. These practices have homes. These practices have been part of our cultures for longer than these certifications have been around. Finding the connection is important, because somatic work is about caring for the land and caring for one another."

→ To learn more about Adi's career journey, visit www.hmprg.org/your-career-in-health.

Explore a Career in Reproductive Health!

Reproductive health careers focus on supporting individuals and families through every stage of life—from education and fertility to pregnancy, birth, and beyond. If you care deeply about people’s health, choices, and well-being, this path offers many meaningful ways to make a difference.

Here are some professions to explore:

- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- Community Health Worker
- Doula
- Lactation Consultant
 - Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC)
 - Certified Lactation Specialist (CLS)
 - International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC)
- Midwife
 - Certified Professional Midwife
 - Nurse Midwife



You can also grow into specialized roles like:

- Genetic Counselor
- Health & Sex Educator
- Sex Therapist
- Surgical Technologist (Labor and Delivery)

Some roles require certifications or advanced degrees, while others allow you to start with training and on-the-job experience. Whether you’re supporting birth, providing education, or guiding people through health decisions, this field is all about care, connection, and advocacy.

MY CAREER JOURNEY

midwife

“Race and identity have definitely played a role in my journey. It’s not a coincidence that I’m only one of two qualified Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) in the state of Illinois. We have not been centered in this work, but I’m happy that there is starting to be a shift.”



star

Star’s career path

I had a really bad experience giving birth to my first child. It left me traumatized. I started looking into it more and realized that there needs to be more Black midwives and representation from my community. So I started to train as a **Doula** first, because I knew the sacrifice to become a midwife would be a lot and I wanted to focus on raising my children first.

When I moved from California to Illinois, it was illegal to practice here as a **CPM**. So I pushed for a local organization, the Illinois Council of Certified Professional Midwives (ICCPM), to legalize home birth midwives.



Certification:
Certified Professional
Midwife (CPM)

I went on to pursue my CPM once it was legalized, but the only school was in an all-white Amish community and I didn’t feel safe driving there. It was hard because I wasn’t able to have a typical nine to five; you have to be available to attend births. So I had to be creative. I did a lot of doula work while training on **midwifery work**.

advice

“Make sure to figure out in what capacity you have been called to serve in this work. Once you’re there, completely submit yourself to it and know that everything that you need will follow.”

→ To learn more about Star’s career journey, visit www.hmprg.org/your-career-in-health.

Career Support Resources



Find support for your next step!

Now, you are aware of health career options. Let's make sure you are prepared from your resume to interview practice. Many of our partner organizations have great resources to get you started and advancing in your career journey.

Case Management Resources

LISC Chicago Financial Opportunity Center

- Helps clients find a better job, identify and apply for public benefits, and improve financial literacy.
- You can find and contact a Financial Opportunity Center that is closest to you here: chipublib.digitallearn.org/attachments/1218.
- Learn more about the financial opportunity centers here: www.lisc.org

Of Color, Inc.

- Offers a variety of employment and training programs, including services to reintegrate veterans experiencing homelessness into the workforce through their Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP).
- Illinois Youth Investment Program (IYIP) provides employment services including job placement, job retention, education/vocational linkage, and increased household income.

- Helps veterans, returning citizens, and dislocated workers who are restarting their job develop new skills and negotiate temporary to permanent work arrangements.
- They also offer employment preparation, coaching, mentoring, individual career tutoring, and hiring events.
- Learn more here: www.ofcolorinc.org

The Chicago Lighthouse

- Focuses on employment and training for people with disabilities.
- Offers a variety of employment and training opportunities including: job club for job support, a job readiness, placement, and retention program, transitional jobs program, and a customer service training program.
- Learn more here: chicagolighthouse.org

ScaleLIT

- ScaleLit's career pathway navigators assist job seekers of all abilities, skill level, and housing statuses.
- They offer a variety of employment and training resources, including: career services and support, adult education and literacy services, job training and education, IDES (Illinois Department of Employment Security), employment services, job support for older adults, job services for young people, job support for job seekers with disabilities, and more!
- Learn more here: scalelit.org/jobseeker

Safer Foundation

- Focuses on employment and training for returning citizens. They offer a variety of job placement support including finding immediate employment, long-term employment, and how to build your career
- Learn more here: saferfoundation.org/job-placement

Pro Tip

There are so many options out there that you may need someone to hold you accountable to ensure you keep moving forward. Don't hesitate to work with a career coach or mentor to keep you supported. You want to see you thrive!

Educational Programs & Training Programs

Resources And Programs for Increasing Diversity in Health Professions in Illinois (RAPID-IL)

- A database of available programs located throughout Illinois.
- You can search by educational level (e.g., high school), health profession of interest (e.g., dentistry, public health), and other filters.
- Learn more here: www.healthcareerpaths.org

Chicagoland Career Pathways

- A database of low-barrier career pathway options in metro Chicago
- Learn more here: www.careerpathways.net

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

An Alternative Way to Get Your Bachelor's Degree

University Without Walls

- Offered by Northeastern University
- Self-paced program that builds on prior college-level learning outside of school and leads to a Bachelor of Arts degree.
- Check out Maureen's story ([see page 92](#)) to learn about how she completed her bachelor's degree in one year through the University Without Walls program!
- Learn more here: catalog.neiu.edu/nontraditional-degree-programs/university-without-walls

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: Bachelor's Degree Programs for Incarcerated Individuals

Northwestern Prison Education Program at Northwestern University

- Incarcerated students in the Northwestern Prison Education Program (NPEP) at Stateville and Logan Correctional Centers pursue a Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences, attending full-time classes year-round. The degree typically takes 4–5 years to complete. Men from across Illinois can apply and, if accepted, are transferred to Stateville. Women apply directly from Logan Correctional Center.
- Learn more here: sites.northwestern.edu/npep/programs/

University Without Walls—Stateville Program

- Northeastern University & Neighborhood Arts/Education Project (PNAP)
- Is a self-paced program that builds on prior college-level learning outside of school and leads to a Bachelor of Arts degree accessible for incarcerated individuals at Stateville Prison.
- Learn more here: neu.edu/academics/colleges-departments/nontraditional-degree-programs/university-without-walls/university-without-walls-stateville-program

Resume, Cover Letter, and Interview Resources

From the Chicago Public Library

Free resume and cover letter resources offered by the Chicago Public Library. Learn more about these resources here: chipublib.org/blogs/post/make-your-resume-great-with-library-resources

Got Resume Builder

- Provides formats and templates for your resume and cover letter along with writing tips and suggestions.
- Learn more here: gotresumebuilder.com

Brainfuse

- For job seekers and adult learners.
- Offers one-on-one resume/cover letter feedback from a professional reviewer and interview preparation.
- Learn more here: chipublib.org/resource/brainfuse-job-seekers-and-adult-learners

Chicago DigitalLearn

- On demand course for creating resumes
- Offers information on different types of resumes and what to include, resume writing tips, and how to use Microsoft Word resume templates.
- Learn more here: chipublib.digitallearn.org/courses/creating-resumes-2b50e1b0-6b61-48d1-9425-cd7c198111d2

Digital Skills Resources

From the Chicago Public Library

Cybernavigator Technology Tutors

- Get one-on-one help with computer basics, email, internet basics (including search and security), online forms and applications, document creation, eBooks, and other digital content.
- Learn more here: <https://www.chipublib.org/news/cybernavigators/>

Chicago DigitalLearn

- Online courses: Computer and internet basics, being safe online, ways to connect with others online, job skills, health information, and more.
- Learn more here: chipublib.digitallearn.org/courses

Jobs and Small Business Resources

- Employment, small business, and job fair information and events.
- Learn more here: chipublib.org/jobs-small-business

Access to LinkedIn Learning

- Gain new skills, grow and develop in your job role, or learn something new.
- Learn more here: www.linkedin.com/learning-login/go/chipublib

Transportation Resources

Reduced Fare and Free Ride Programs

- Supported by the Chicago Transit Authority
- Reduced fare for children ages seven through eleven, elementary and high school students 7-20 years old, seniors, Medicare recipients, and people with disabilities
- Free ride programs for veterans, seniors, and people with disabilities
- Learn more here: transitchicago.com/reduced-fare-programs

Information on Suspended Driver's Licenses

- Since 2021, local governments and courts can no longer suspend your driver's license for automatic camera ticket debt or unpaid traffic tickets.
- Learn more at the Chicago Jobs Council website: <https://www.cjc.net/license-to-work>

Workers' Rights Resources and Unionizing Your Workplace

Your Rights on the Job

Women Employed

- Gives a large range of resources outlining work rights, including fair pay, paid time off, transparency, and protections against discrimination and harassment
- Learn more here: womenemployed.org/resources/your-rights-on-the-job

Basic Steps to Forming a Union

National Labor Relations Board

- Guides you through the basic steps of how to unionize your workplace
- Learn more here: <https://www.nlrb.gov/sites/default/files/attachments/pages/node-184/steps-to-forming-a-union-final-412.pdf>

Steps to Creating a Union Workplace

OPEIU

- Office and Professional Employees International Union
- Outlines in more detail how to unionize your workplace
- Learn more here: opeiu8.org/need-a-union/steps-to-creating-a-union-workplace/

Education on workers' rights and worker empowerment

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Labor Education Program

- Educational content for frontline workers about their rights as workers and strategies for protecting those rights.
- Learn more here: lep.illinois.edu/workers-rights

Additional Social Services

2-1-1 Metro Chicago

- A free, confidential resource that outlines health, housing, food, utility, mental health services, and more throughout Chicago
- Learn more here: 211metrochicago.org/

Glossary

A

Ability to motivate and guide others—The skill of encouraging people and helping them move toward a goal.

Ability to provide effective and supportive feedback—Giving advice that helps someone improve while staying kind and respectful.

Accelerated—Something that moves faster than normal, like a school program that takes less time.

Accounting—Keeping track of money that comes in and goes out.

Active listening—Paying close attention to someone speaking and showing you understand.

Adaptive equipment—Tools that help people do daily tasks, like wheelchairs or grab bars.

Addressing health inequities—Working to make sure everyone has a fair chance at good health.

Addressing systemic inequalities—Finding and fixing unfair rules or systems that hurt some groups of people.

Administrative tasks—Office work that keeps things organized, like scheduling and filing.

Administer medications—Giving medicine to patients safely.

Advocate / Advocacy—Speaking up for yourself or others to get what is needed.

Advanced analytics—Using detailed math and computer tools to study data and find patterns.

Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) certification—A special medical training for treating people with serious heart problems.

Agile methodology—A way of managing projects by breaking them into smaller steps and making changes quickly when needed.

Agricultural knowledge and practices—Knowing how to grow food, raise animals, and care for the land.

Anatomy—The study of the parts of the body.

Anesthesia—Medicine that makes people not feel pain during surgery.

Anti-oppressive—Actions that try to stop unfair treatment of people.

Anti-racist—Working to fight against racism.

Anti-racist and anti-oppression policy analysis—

Checking rules or laws to make sure they are fair and not harmful to certain groups.

Applicant tracking systems—Computer programs that help employers keep track of job applications.

Applied science—Using science to solve real-world problems.

Architecture—The art and science of designing buildings.

Art therapy—Using art, like drawing or painting, to help people feel better and heal.

Asepsis—Keeping things very clean to stop the spread of germs.

Assisting with mental and emotional well-being—

Helping people with their feelings and mental health.

Associate degree—A 2-year college degree.

Attention to detail—Being very careful and noticing small things.

Auditing—Checking records, like money reports, to make sure they are correct.

Audiology—The study of hearing and hearing problems.

Auditory brainstem response—A test that shows how the brain reacts to sounds.

B

Basic Life Support (BLS)—Training that teaches how to save lives in emergencies, like CPR.

Behavioral health—How actions and habits affect mental and physical health.

Behavioral science—The study of why people act the way they do.

Been rooted—Having a strong connection to your culture, history, or traditions.

Billing—Sending and keeping track of bills for services.

Biopsies—Taking a small piece of tissue from the body to study it.

Biostatistics—Using math to study health and medicine.

Blood banking—Collecting and storing blood for people who need transfusions.

Breathwork—Breathing exercises to help relax or feel better.

Bridge Program—A program that helps students move from one level of education to another.

Budget development / managing budgets—Planning and controlling how money is spent.

Building codes—Rules that make sure buildings are safe.

Building inspection technology—Tools and methods used to check if buildings are safe.

Building relationships, being a representative for an organization—Making connections with people while showing the values of a group you work for.

Business intelligence—Using data to make smart business decisions.

Business metrics—Measurements that show how well a business is doing.

Business processes—Steps or activities businesses follow to get work done.

Business requirements—The needs a project or business must meet to be successful.

C

Campaigns (fundraising sense)—Efforts to raise money for a cause or group.

Capillary—The smallest blood vessels in the body.

Capacity building—Helping people or organizations get stronger skills and resources.

Care coordination—Organizing health care services so patients get the right care.

Care management—Working with patients to plan and track their health care.

Career advancement—Moving up in a job or profession.

Career pathway—A series of steps that help people grow in a job or field.

Case management—Helping people get the services they need, like housing or health care.

Cardiac catheterization—A test where doctors use a thin tube to check or treat the heart.

Cardiac stress testing—A test that shows how well the heart works when it is under stress, like exercise.

Cardiology—The study and care of the heart.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)—A lifesaving action used when someone's heart or breathing stops.

Certified Infection Control (CIC)—A certificate showing skill in stopping the spread of infections.

Certified Interpreter—A trained person who helps people understand each other across different languages.

Chemical analysis—Testing substances to learn what they are made of.

Childbirth education—Teaching parents about pregnancy, birth, and caring for a baby.

Client advocacy—Speaking up for the needs of clients.

Clinical experience—Hands-on practice in a medical setting.

Clinical laboratory science—Studying samples like blood to help diagnose disease.

Clinical psychology—A type of psychology focused on diagnosing and treating mental health problems.

Clinical supervision—When a trained professional oversees and guides someone learning in health care.

Clinical trial management systems (CTMS)—Computer systems that track medical research studies.

Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT)—A type of therapy that helps people change unhelpful thoughts and behaviors.

Collaborating and coordinating multiple teams in high-stress situations—Working with many groups at once, especially in emergencies.

Communication skills—The ability to share information clearly and respectfully.

Communicable diseases—Illnesses that can spread from one person to another.

Communicating scientific findings—Sharing research results with others in clear ways.

Community colleges—Schools that offer 2-year degrees and certificates.

Community engagement—Working with and involving people in a community.

Community health—Health of a whole community or group of people.

Community knowledge—What people know from living and working in their community.

Community mental health services—Support for mental health provided in community settings.

Community outreach—Programs or events to connect with people in a community.

Compliance—Following rules or laws.

Compliance and documentation—Keeping records to show rules are being followed.

Compliance reporting and monitoring—Checking and reporting if laws and rules are being followed.

Conflict resolution—Solving disagreements in a peaceful way.

Construct study casts—Making models of teeth or bones for study.

Construction inspection—Checking buildings and structures for safety and quality.

Construction management—Planning and leading building projects.

Consulting—Giving expert advice to organizations.

D

Data analysis—Looking at information to find meaning or patterns.

Data collection—Gathering information to study.

Data entry—Typing or recording information into a system.

Data governance—Rules for how data is handled and kept safe.

Data interpretation—Explaining what information means.

Data management—Organizing and storing information.

Data science—Using computers and math to study data and make predictions.

Data visualization—Showing information in charts, graphs, or pictures.

Delegation—Giving tasks to others to complete.

Dental instruments—Tools used by Dentists.

Dental radiology—Taking and studying dental X-rays.

Dentistry—The care of teeth and gums.

Dentures—Artificial teeth.

Developing and implementing nutrition programs—Creating and starting plans to help people eat healthier.

Developing and implementing safety programs—Making and running plans to keep people safe.

Diagnosis—Figuring out what illness or problem someone has.

Diagnostic imaging—Using machines like X-rays or MRIs to look inside the body.

Disabilities—Conditions that make certain activities harder.

Disability justice—The belief that people with disabilities deserve fairness and equal rights.

Disaster planning—Preparing for emergencies like floods or fires.

Disaster recovery—Helping people and communities return to normal after disasters.

Discharge planning—Helping patients prepare to leave the hospital safely.

Discharge summaries—Written reports about a patient's hospital stay and next steps.

Documentation—Keeping written records.

Documentation and reporting—Writing and sharing official records.

Doppler ultrasonography—A test that uses sound waves to look at blood flow.

Donors—People or groups who give money, blood, or other support.

E

ECFMG—A certificate doctors trained outside the U.S. need to work in the U.S.

Economics—The study of money, trade, and resources.

Educating patients—Teaching patients about their health.

Educational requirement—The level of schooling needed for a job.

Electronic data capture (EDC)—Collecting research data using a computer system.

Electronic medical records (EMR)—Digital versions of patients' health records.

Electrical inspection—Checking electrical systems to make sure they are safe.

Electrocardiography (ECG or EKG)—A test that measures heart activity.

Employee onboarding—Teaching new employees how to start their jobs.

Employee relations—Managing relationships between workers and employers.

Emergency management—Planning for and responding to disasters.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)—Teams that give urgent care and transport patients.

Emergency preparedness—Being ready for emergencies before they happen.

Emergency response—Acting quickly to help during an emergency.

Emergency vehicle operation—Driving ambulances or other emergency vehicles safely.

Endodontics—Dental care focused on the inside of teeth, like root canals.

Environmental compliance—Following laws that protect the environment.

Environmental engineering—Using science and engineering to solve environmental problems.

Environmental health—How the environment affects people's health.

Environmental health & safety—Protecting health by keeping homes, schools, and workplaces safe.

Environmental impact assessments—Studying how projects affect the environment.

Environmental laws—Rules that protect the environment.

Environmental regulations—Government rules about how people and businesses treat the environment.

Environmental science—The study of nature and how humans affect it.

Environmental stewardship—Taking care of the environment responsibly.

Environmental technology—Tools and machines that help the environment.

Epidemiology—The study of how diseases spread.

Epidemiological investigations—Research to find out why and how diseases spread.

Epidemiological method—Steps used to study health and disease.

Ethics / ethical—Ideas about what is right and wrong.

Exercise therapy—Using physical activity to help people heal.

Expanded functions—Extra skills or duties allowed in a profession, like Dental Assistants being able to do more tasks.

F

Field experience—Hands-on work in a real-world setting.

Field inspection—Checking buildings, land, or systems in person.

Fingerstick—A small poke on the finger to get a drop of blood.

Finance—Managing money.

Financial statements—Reports that show how money is being used.

Fluoroscopy—A type of X-ray that shows moving images inside the body.

Food and nutrition knowledge—Understanding how food affects health.

Food deserts—Places where people have little access to healthy, affordable food.

Food production methods—Ways food is grown, made, or prepared.

Food safety management systems—Rules and practices to keep food safe.

Food service management—Running a kitchen or food program.

Food sovereignty—The right of people to control their own food systems.

Focus groups—Small group discussions used to gather opinions.

Functional electrical stimulation—A treatment that uses small electrical currents to help muscles work.

G

Gastroenterology—The study of the stomach, intestines, and digestive system.

Gender-affirming care—Health care that supports people in living as the gender they know themselves to be.

Genetics—The study of how traits are passed down from parents to children.

Geography—The study of Earth's land, water, and people.

Geriatrics—Health care that focuses on older adults.

Good clinical practice—Rules that make sure medical research is done safely and honestly.

Grant writing—Writing proposals to ask for money to support projects.

Graphic design—Using images, colors, and words to share information or ideas.

Group therapy—Counseling where a small group of people meet with a Therapist to share and learn together.

H

Health care delivery systems—The way health care services are organized and provided.

Health disparities—Differences in health between groups of people, often caused by unfair systems.

Health equity—The goal that everyone has a fair chance to be healthy.

Health information management—Keeping patient health records safe, accurate, and organized.

Health literacy—Being able to understand health information and use it to make good choices.

Health policy—Rules and laws that guide how health care works.

Health promotion—Activities that help people stay healthy, like exercise programs or nutrition classes.

Health sciences—The study of subjects that connect to medicine, health, and the human body.

Health technology—Tools like computers, machines, or apps that support health care.

Health care finance—Managing money in health care, like budgets and insurance.

Health care informatics—Using computers and data to improve health care.

Health care systems—The organizations and people that work together to provide care.

Hematology—The study of blood and blood diseases.

Histology—The study of tissues under a microscope.

Home health care—Medical or supportive care given in a person's home.

Hospital administration—Managing how hospitals are run.

Human anatomy—The study of body parts and how they work together.

Human development—How people grow and change through life.

Human resources—The part of an organization that manages hiring, pay, and support for workers.

Human services—Jobs that help meet people's needs, like housing, counseling, or social support.

I

Immunizations—Shots that protect people from diseases.

Immunology—The study of the body's defense system against sickness.

Inclusion—Making sure everyone feels welcome and valued.

Income share agreements (ISAs)—A way to pay for school where you give back part of your future income instead of paying upfront.

Infection control—Steps to stop the spread of germs.

Information systems—Computer systems that store and share information.

Informatics—Using data and technology to solve problems.

Innovation—Creating new ideas, tools, or ways of doing things.

Interpersonal skills—Skills for getting along and working well with others.

Internship—A short-term job that helps someone learn skills in a real workplace.

Intervention—An action taken to improve a situation, especially in health or education.

Interviewing—Asking or answering questions to share information, often in job or research settings.

Inventory management—Keeping track of supplies and products.

Involuntary commitment—A legal process where a person is placed in a hospital for mental health treatment, even if they don't want to go, because they may be unsafe.

J

Job placement—Helping someone find a job.

Job readiness—Having the skills and attitude needed to succeed at work.

Justice—Fair and equal treatment for all people.

L

- Labor and delivery**—The process of giving birth.
- Labor market analytics**—Studying job trends and worker needs to understand careers and hiring.
- Labor techniques**—Methods that help during childbirth.
- Laboratory procedures**—Steps used in labs to test or study samples.
- Laboratory safety protocols**—Rules that keep labs safe.
- Laboratory skills**—Abilities needed to work in a lab, like measuring or testing.
- Laboratory techniques**—Special methods used in lab work.
- Language fluency**—The ability to speak and understand a language well.
- Leadership**—Guiding and supporting a group of people.
- Learning technical skills**—Gaining practical skills to use in jobs.
- License / licensed**—Official permission to do a job.
- Lifelong learning**—Continuing to learn new things throughout life.
- Lived experience**—Knowledge gained from personal life, not just from school or books.
- Literature reviews**—Summaries of what research has already been done on a topic.
- Liberation**—Freedom from unfair control or limits for everyone.
- Local regulations**—Rules or laws that apply to a city, county, or region.

K

- Kinesiology**—The study of body movement.
- Knowledge management**—Sharing and organizing information so it's easy to find and use.

M

- Macro-level**—Looking at the “big picture,” like how systems, policies, or whole communities work.
- Magnet status**—A special award that shows a hospital provides high-quality nursing care.
- Malpractice**—When a doctor or other professional makes a serious mistake that harms a patient.
- Managed care**—A system that helps control health care costs and quality, often through insurance.

- Management**—Organizing and leading people or projects to reach goals.
- Mandated reporter**—A person (like a teacher or doctor) who must report suspected abuse or neglect by law.
- Marketing**—Sharing information about products or services to get people interested.
- Maternal health**—The health of mothers during pregnancy, birth, and after childbirth.
- Mechanical skills**—The ability to work with tools, machines, and equipment.
- Medical billing**—Sending bills for health care services to patients or insurance companies.
- Medical coding**—Turning health care services into codes for billing and records.
- Medical ethics**—Rules about what is right and fair in health care.
- Medical terminology**—Special words used in health care.
- Medicine**—The science and practice of caring for sick or injured people.
- Mental health**—A person's emotional and mental well-being.
- Microbiology**—The study of tiny living things, like bacteria and viruses.
- Midwifery**—Health care that helps people during pregnancy, childbirth, and after birth.
- Motivational interviewing**—A type of counseling that helps people find their own reasons to make healthy changes.

N

- Neonatal**—Relating to newborn babies.
- Nephrology**—The study of the kidneys and their diseases.
- Networking**—Building relationships that can help with career or personal growth.
- Neurology**—The study of the brain, spinal cord, and nerves.
- Nonprofit**—An organization that serves a mission instead of making profit for owners.
- Nursing**—The job of caring for sick, injured, or recovering people.
- Nutrition**—The study of food and how it affects health.

O

- Obstetrics**—Health care focused on pregnancy and childbirth.
- Occupational health and safety**—Keeping workers safe and healthy on the job.
- Occupational therapy**—Helping people build skills to live and work as independently as possible.
- Oncology**—The study and treatment of cancer.
- Ophthalmology**—The study of the eyes and vision.
- Optometry**—Checking eyesight and giving glasses or contacts.
- Oral health**—The health of teeth, gums, and mouth.
- Organizational skills**—The ability to plan, arrange, and manage tasks or projects.
- Orthopedics**—The branch of medicine dealing with bones, joints, and muscles.
- Outpatient care**—Medical care where patients do not stay overnight in a hospital.

P

- Palliative care**—Care that focuses on comfort and quality of life for people with serious illness.
- Pathology**—The study of diseases and how they affect the body.
- Pediatrics**—Health care for babies, children, and teenagers.
- Peer support**—Help and encouragement from people with similar experiences.
- Pharmacology**—The study of medicines and how they work.
- Pharmacy**—Preparing and giving out medicines.
- Phlebotomy**—Drawing blood from patients for tests or donation.
- Physical therapy**—Exercises and treatments that help people move better and recover from injury.
- Physician**—A medical doctor.
- Physiology**—The study of how the body works.
- Policy**—A plan or rule made by organizations or governments.
- Preventive care**—Care that helps stop sickness before it happens, like vaccines or checkups.
- Primary care**—General health care that is usually the first stop for patients.

- Privacy**—The right to keep personal information safe.
- Procedure**—A set of steps for doing something, often in health care.
- Program evaluation**—Checking if a program is working as planned.
- Project management**—Planning and leading a project to finish on time and meet goals.
- Psychiatry**—Medical care that focuses on mental health.
- Psychology**—The study of how people think, feel, and behave.
- Public administration**—Running government programs and services.
- Public health**—Protecting and improving the health of communities.

Q

- Quality assurance**—Making sure products or services meet set standards.
- Quality improvement**—Efforts to make services or care better and safer.
- Quantitative research**—Research that uses numbers and data to find answers.
- Qualitative research**—Research that studies experiences, stories, and opinions instead of numbers.

S

- Safety protocols**—Rules that keep people safe at work or in health care.
- Scheduling**—Planning times for appointments, meetings, or work shifts.
- School health services**—Health care provided at schools to support students.
- Screening**—Tests or checks to find health problems early.
- Secondary care**—Health care from specialists after a patient sees their regular doctor.
- Service learning**—Learning by doing community service and reflecting on the experience.
- Shortage**—Not having enough workers, supplies, or resources.
- Simulation training**—Practicing skills in a safe, pretend setting before working with real people.
- Skill development**—Learning and improving abilities needed for school, work, or life.
- Social determinants of health**—Conditions like housing, education, jobs, and safety that affect health.

Social services—Programs that help people meet basic needs like food, housing, or counseling.

Social work—Helping people solve problems in their daily lives.

Sociology—The study of how people live and work together in society.

Soft skills—Personal skills like communication, teamwork, and problem-solving.

Specialization—Focusing on one area of work or study.

Speech therapy—Helping people improve their speech, language, or swallowing.

Stakeholders—People or groups who are affected by or have an interest in a decision or project.

Stress management—Healthy ways to handle stress, like exercise, rest, or talking to someone.

Substance dependence—When someone cannot stop using drugs or alcohol even though it causes harm.

Substance use—Using drugs, alcohol, or other substances that affect the body and mind.

Supervision—Watching over and guiding others' work.

Surgical care—Medical treatment that involves operations.

Sustainability—Using resources in ways that protect the environment and future needs.

T

Teamwork—Working well with others to reach a goal.

Technical skills—Abilities needed to work with tools, technology, or equipment.

Telehealth—Health care provided through video calls, phone, or online tools.

Therapy—Treatment that helps people feel better physically or emotionally.

Time management—Using time wisely to get tasks done.

Training—Learning how to do a task or job.

Transcription—Writing down or typing spoken words.

Treatment planning—Making a plan for a patient's health care needs.

U

Unconscious bias—Attitudes or stereotypes people may not realize they have that affect decisions.

Underrepresented groups—Communities that do not have equal representation or opportunities.

Universal health care—A system where everyone has access to health care.

Urban health—Health issues and services in cities.

V

Vaccination—A shot that helps protect people from getting sick.

Values—Beliefs or principles that guide how people act.

Verbal communication—Sharing ideas through speaking.

Vision care—Health care for eyes and sight.

Volunteerism—Helping others or the community without pay.

W

Wellness—A healthy balance of body, mind, and lifestyle.

Workforce development—Programs that help people get skills and training for jobs.

Workplace culture—The shared values, attitudes, and practices in a workplace.

Wound care—Cleaning and treating cuts, burns, or injuries to help them heal.

X

X-ray—A type of medical picture that shows bones and some tissues inside the body.

Y

Youth development—Programs and activities that support young people's growth, learning, and health.

Z

Zoology—The study of animals and how they live.

References

We used a variety of sources, including talking with experts, to gather the information and data presented in this guide. All of our data were collected with a focus on Chicago and Cook County, Illinois between 2024 and 2025. For more information about how we made this resource, see page 3.

Information about program costs, durations, requirements, and pathway options were gathered from the websites of local Chicago and Cook County-area academic programs and other reference sites including, but not limited to:

City Colleges of Chicago: www.ccc.edu
College of DuPage: www.cod.edu
Dominican University: www.dom.edu
Elgin Community College: www.elgin.edu
Harper College: www.harpercollege.edu
Loyola University Chicago: www.luc.edu
Northeastern Illinois University: www.neiu.edu
North Shore College: www.northshorecollege.com
Oakton Community College: www.oakton.edu
Prairie State College: www.prairiestate.edu
Rosalind Franklin University: www.rosalindfranklin.edu
Rush University: www.rush.edu
Tukiendorf Training Institute, Inc: www.ttmedicalschool.com
University of Illinois at Chicago: www.uic.edu
Education Data Initiative: www.educationdata.org
College Factual: www.collegefactual.com
College Illinois!: www.collegeillinois.org
Business Insider: www.businessinsider.com

General information about position descriptions, salaries, position outlooks, transferrable skills, and other advancement opportunities was informed by the following resources:

CareerExplorer: www.careerexplorer.com
City of Chicago: www.chicago.gov
GlassDoor: www.glassdoor.com
Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity: www.illinoisworknet.com
Illinois Health Careers: www.illinoishealthcareers.com
Indeed: www.indeed.com
Lightcast: www.lightcast.io
Salary.com: www.salary.com
Talent.com: www.talent.com
United States Department of Labor: www.dol.gov
United States Bureau of Labor Statistics: www.bls.gov
Zippia Career Expert: www.zippia.com
Ziprecruiter: www.ziprecruiter.com

Information about specific career pathways and positions was gathered from the following resources:

American Association of Naturopathic Medicine:
www.aanmc.org

American Association for Respiratory Care:
www.aarc.org

American Institute of Alternative Medicine:
www.aiam.edu

American Psychological Association:
www.psychology.org

American Registry of Radiologic Technologists:
www.arrt.org

Becker's Dental and DSO Review:
www.beckersdental.com

Careers in Public Health:
www.careersinpublichealth.net

Illinois Eye Center: www.illinoiseyecenter.com

Inspection Certificates Associates:
www.icaschool.com

National Network of Public Health Institutes:
www.nnphi.org

National Society of Genetic Counselors:
www.nsgc.org

Nutrition Education Network: www.nutritioned.org

Phlebotomy USA: www.phlebotomyusa.com

Somatic Experiencing International:
www.traumahealing.org

Urban Growers Collective:
www.urbangrowerscollective.org

Let's put what you've learned into action!

Visit www.hmprg.org/your-career-in-health for additional resources, including video interviews of the featured workers.