



JOB OPTIONS FOR INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED PHARMACISTS WHO DO NOT YET HAVE A U.S. PHARMACY LICENSE

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Introduction

This guide is intended to provide job seekers with some options that internationally trained pharmacist job seekers may find meaningful as alternative occupations to pharmacy, while working through the pharmacy licensing process. This guide has three sections of job titles: Mid to Senior-level positions, Entry to mid-level job titles, Entry-Level positions. Each section provides a list of job titles that you might be interested in and eligible to apply for without a U.S. pharmacy license given your background and education in pharmacy. Each section provides some sample descriptions of those jobs.

The relicensing process can take years to complete. Taking an alternative job within the healthcare field while you work towards relicensing can help you in a variety of ways, including:

- There is a potential for employers to invest in you while you are working for them and trying to relicense. This could mean employers paying for tuition and fees associated with the (FPGEC) Certification Program.
- The ability to utilize co-workers and colleagues knowledge about the licensing process.
- The ability to learn the U.S. healthcare work culture and system in a lower-pressure environment.

Potential Job Options without a U.S. Pharmacy License

This list will give you some ideas about job titles that do not require a U.S. pharmacist license, but could draw on your pharmaceutical knowledge experience and expertise. These positions may or may not be open at the time of your job search, so it is important to job search regularly and often. Global Talent recommends actively searching for open positions, at a minimum, of at least every 3 days.

Tier 1 Jobs Titles (Mid to Senior-level that generally DO NOT require certifications/license)

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Pharmacy license not required. Number of open positions is lower than tier 2 positions and number of applicants are fewer than tier 2, but all applicants are extremely well qualified; Positions are very competitive so having a well-tailored resume, high quality, well-written and well-tailored cover letter along with a high quality and complete online application will be important factors in being selected for an interview. If selected for an interview will you need to make sure you have practiced and are well-prepared for the types of questions you may get asked GLOBAL TALENT can help program participants with this.

(*) indicates sample job describe in this guide

- Academic Pharmacist*
- Biological Technician*
- Clinic Assistant
- Clinical Educator – Inter-professional (Non-RN)
- Clinical Research Associate
- Clinical Research Coordinator (Non-RN)
- Clinical Coordinator
- Consumer Safety Officer (Regulatory Health Project Manager)*
- Education Technician
- Drug Safety Specialist*
- Family Advocate
- Healthy Connections Coordinator
- Health Educator
- Health Navigator
- Health Program Specialist
- Healthcare Policy Analyst
- Health Screening Coordinator

- Health Technician
- Infection Disease Control/Prevention Specialist
- Infection Prevention Practitioner
- Medical Interpreter*
- Medical Lab Scientist
- Medical Scribe
- Pharmacologist Position with the FDA*
- Patient Care Coordinator, Non-clinical
- Psychiatric Technician and Aide*
- Wholesale and Manufacturing Sales Representative*

(*) indicates sample job describe in this guide

Sample Job Descriptions - Mid to Senior-level positions that generally do NOT require certifications/license

Academic Pharmacist

Academic pharmacists work in schools of pharmacy or medicine. Faculty positions do not require a license unless the position also involves providing services at a hospital, clinic, pharmacy, or other settings that involve patient care. They conduct research, publish articles and teach future healthcare professionals. **The requirements for this position are a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD), Bachelor of Science (BS) in Pharmacy, or a Ph.D. degree in a related field.**

Biological Technician

What Biological Technicians Do

Biological technicians help biological and medical scientists conduct laboratory tests and experiments.

Work Environment

Biological technicians typically work in laboratories. Most biological technicians work full time.

How to Become a Biological Technician

Biological technicians typically need a bachelor's degree in biology or a closely related field. It is important for prospective biological technicians to gain laboratory experience while in school.

Pay: The Annual average wage for biological technicians in Idaho was \$32,320 in 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of biological technicians is projected to grow 5 percent from 2014 to 2024, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Continued growth in biotechnology and medical research is expected to increase demand for these workers.

[Consumer Safety Officer \(Regulatory Health Project Manager\)](#)

What Is a Consumer Safety Officer?

A consumer safety officer works to inspect various industries that are regulated by the government. They inspect for health violations, regulatory non-compliance, and procedures and techniques. Different areas of focus exist within the field, and these professionals may work to monitor foods, drugs, and more.

What Consumer Safety Officers Do:

- Routinely monitor and inspect various facilities and organizations for compliance
- Coordinate review process for new drugs being developed
- Investigate any complaints related to a specific product or organization
- Begin action against violators of various codes and regulations
- Develop new inspection techniques
- Manage data and monitor it for changes
- Plan and direct new or existing regulatory programs
- Help advise various officials and representatives about different policies, methods, and techniques related to consumer safety.

The most common employer of consumer safety officers is the government, in particular the Food and Drug Administration – the FDA. These positions are available throughout the country, and the consumer safety officer will work to inspect and monitor all products and industries that are regulated by the FDA. Some other employers exist, but they are rare.

Work Environment

The overall nature of the work is a combination of field work and office work. An average day will usually involve conducting on-site inspections, meeting with state and local officials to consult with them about safety related issues, and more. In the office, filing reports, planning new regulatory programs, and reviewing new policies will be common.

In some instances, attending special training classes and conferences may be involved as well. The job requires a variety of skills in a number of locations, and as such it is one that is more likely to stay interesting for those who don't want to spend all of their time behind a desk.

How to Become a Consumer Safety Officer

In order to become a consumer safety officer, you'll need to have a bachelor's degree or higher in a field directly related to the industry. Usually, food technology, epidemiology, medical science, physical science, and other public health related areas of study are preferred. Your studies should focus on areas that are directly linked to overall consumer safety. Additionally, holding a master's or higher degree will usually open up better opportunities, and real world experience in the field will have a major impact on finding employment as well.

Pay: The Annual average wage for Public Safety Officer salary in Idaho is approximately \$55,164.

Drug Information Specialist

A drug information specialist evaluates literature and provides responses to drug information questions. They can be the pharmacy representative to pharmacy and therapeutics (P&T) committees. Their responsibilities include preparing medication-use policies and procedures, improving a health system's adverse-drug-reaction reporting and medication use evaluation programs, and creating and distributing newsletters containing pertinent medication-use information. The practice settings for this job include hospitals, the pharmaceutical industry, publication (content development) industry, poison control centers. **A pharmacy degree and one-year residency or similar training in drug information is required for this position.** An active pharmacy license is not required in non-patient care or drug dispensing settings.

Pay: The Annual average wage for Drug Information Specialist salary in Boise is \$42,671 in 2017.

Drug Safety Specialist

What Drug Safety Specialist Do

A drug safety specialist provides support for their organization related to drug safety. They are often responsible for creating and modifying medical reports to send to Food and Drug Administration, and these specialists may also help track drugs (including where they are shipped), perform auditing duties and provide demonstrations on safety regulations. Other duties the drug safety specialist may perform include reviewing information on serious adverse events and facilitating discussions as necessary on these events with health care workers and other relevant professionals, as well as determining reporting requirements on serious adverse events and preparing reports as needed. Drug safety specialists must help their organization maintain up-to-date databases on drug safety that are relevant and easy to use, as well as work efficiently to meet all relevant deadlines.

How to Become a Drug Safety Specialist

This position generally requires at least a bachelor's degree in a healthcare-related field, although a more advanced degree may be preferred. Relevant drug safety experience is generally required or preferred as well. Drug safety specialists should have good communication and interpersonal skills, as well as be proficient with basic computer programs such as the Microsoft Office suite and be able to work well on their own with minimal supervision.

Pay: The Annual average wage for Drug Safety Specialist salary in United State is \$65,054 in 2017.

Medical Interpreter

If you are bilingual and a strong communicator, you may want to research opportunities for work in hospitals as an interpreter. **Certified Medical Interpreters is a course that you can take and become licensed.** This type of role is regulated in Idaho, so standards for employment as well as pay and benefits may be very different depending on the employer. You are more likely to have benefits such as tuition reimbursement if you find work as a direct employee of a healthcare facility, instead of working for a company that provides interpretation services to hospitals. The following is one company that offers this training:

Lopez Translation and Training
107 S. Kimball Avenue
Caldwell, ID 83605
(208) 250-6507

Pharmacologist Position with the FDA

Pharmacologist work in non-laboratory settings and are responsible for reviewing and evaluating the pharmacological and toxicological data contained in New Drug Applications (NDAs) and Investigational New Drug Applications (INDAs). Pharmacologists in laboratory settings conduct research on the absorption and metabolism of chemicals and drugs. The minimum requirements to become a pharmacologist at the FDA are **a degree with a major in an appropriate biological, medical, veterinary, or physical science, or pharmacy**. This position also requires at least 30 semester hours in chemistry and physiology and 12 semester hours in pharmacology. Higher graded positions can be obtained with more education and experience.

Wholesale and Manufacturing Sales Representative

Wholesale and manufacturing sales representatives sell goods for wholesalers or manufacturers to businesses, government agencies, and other organizations. They contact customers, explain product features, answer any questions that their customers may have, and negotiate prices.

Educational requirements vary for sales representatives and depend on the type of product sold. If the products are not scientific or technical, **a high school diploma is generally enough for entry into the occupation**. If the products are scientific or technical, sales representatives typically need at least **a bachelor's degree**.

The annual average wage for wholesale and manufacturing sales representatives in Idaho was \$60,790 in May 2016. Employment of wholesale and manufacturing sales representatives is projected to grow 7 percent from 2014 to 2024, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Employment growth for sales representatives is expected to follow the economy as a whole. Employment opportunities should be best in independent agencies, which operate on a fee basis and represent several manufacturers, instead of buying and holding the product they are selling.

Tier 2 Job Titles (Entry to mid-level jobs that generally DO require short-term certifications)

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Entry-level healthcare positions that **require short-term certifications**; Market demand is high, so usually positions are regularly open; Having a previous healthcare background combined with the certification make you more competitive for the roles assuming your resume, cover letter, application are well-done with high quality and attention paid to the details; Additionally, you will need to outperform other candidates in the interview process. GLOBAL TALENT can help with this.

(*) indicates sample job describe in this guide

- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)*
- Certified Surgical Technologist (CST)
- Dental Assistant
- Drug Information Specialist*
- EMT and Paramedic*
- Health Record Specialist it is a similar program to EMR Data Integrity Analyst and EMR Document Specialist
- Medical Assistant*
- Medical Coder: also called (Medical Billing Specialist, Insurance Recovery Specialist (HB and Pb) ,Charge Capture Specialist 1 or 2and Physician Services Coder 2)*
- Medical Record and Health Information Technician
- Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologist and Technician
- Occupational Health and Safety Technician
- Pharmacy Technician*
- Phlebotomist*
- Paramedic

(*) indicates sample job describe in this guide

Sample Job Descriptions - Entry to mid-level that generally DO require short-term certifications

Certified Nursing Assistant, (CNA)

CNA, also known as orderlies and nurses' aides, is a short-term employment strategy that gets you into the nursing field, expands your professional network, and gives you contacts with companies that could potentially support you in the long term with relicensing. In order to become a CNA, you must pass the Idaho Nurse Aide Exam and a criminal background check before working as a CNA.

What Does a CNA Do?

Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA) provide intimate, hands-on healthcare to patients in medical settings, helping with bathing, dressing and the basic activities of life. A day in the life of a CNA might also include:

- Turning or repositioning bedridden patients
- Taking patients' temperature, blood pressure and other vital signs
- Answering patient calls
- Documenting patients' health issues and report to nurses
- Feeding patients, measuring and recording their food and liquid intake
- Cleaning rooms and bed linens
- Helping with medical procedures
- Dressing wounds

A certified nursing assistant job has peaks and valleys. It can be physically demanding at times with some unpleasant responsibilities, but the role also allows CNAs to build strong relationships with patients.

While CNAs can be found in hospitals, there is high demand in nursing and residential care facilities, where CNAs interact with patients on a regular basis and get to know them personally. If you're interested in joining the booming health care field, becoming a CNA—also known as a nurses' aid, home health aide, orderly or attendant—can be a place to start.

CNA Job Outlook & Salary

The Annual average wage for nursing assistants in Idaho was \$25,630 in May 2016.

These days, the job prospects for CNAs are bright. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) estimates that demand for the profession will rise at a rate of 17 percent through 2024—much faster than typical job growth. As the population ages, demand for round-the-clock personal services is on the upswing.

In 2016-17, the BLS estimates a median income in the U.S. of \$25,090 for CNAs. But your earnings will vary according to where you live; the BLS found that the top 10 percent of nursing assistants earned more than \$36,000.

By taking on more training, CNAs can move into higher-paying roles as licensed practical nurses or registered nurses.

How to Become a CNA

You will need to earn a certificate and pass a competency exam. This may take 4-12 weeks. In CNA classes, you'll learn about infection control, taking vital signs and delivering personal care. Topics might also include communication skills and patients' rights. Upon completing your coursework, you'll take the CNA certification exam, which usually includes a multiple-choice exam and a manual skills test.

Many schools offer convenient online options for CNA certificate programs. Before you enroll, be sure to check that the course is accredited by a recognized agency. GLOBAL TALENT can help you identify an acceptable certification program.

Pay: The Annual average wage for orderlies in Idaho was \$25,560 in May 2016. The Annual average wage for nursing assistants in Idaho was \$25,630 in May 2016.

The program Available at:

- College of Western Idaho-Nampa, ID: [Certified Nursing Assistant \(CNA\)](#). This program is 12 weeks long.
- College of Southern Idaho-Twin Falls, ID: [Certified Nursing Assistant](#). This program is from 3 to 8 weeks long.

Note: Individuals who can provide documentation of licensure as a nurse or physician from another state or country may be added to the registry without completing a CNA training course or testing. However, if any evidence exists of negative action on that license, the individual's application will be denied. The Long Term Care Supervisor makes the determination for all applicants as to whether or not they can be admitted onto the registry after reviewing the submitted documentation. Please, contact the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's Bureau of Facility Standards CNA Registry for more information about what documentation you will need to submit for review. Their address is: 3232 W Elder Street Boise, ID 83705. Email: IDNAP@DHW.IDAHO.GOV. Phone Number: (208) 334-6620

[EMT and Paramedic](#)

What EMTs and Paramedics Do

Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics care for the sick or injured in emergency medical settings. People's lives often depend on the quick reaction and competent care provided by these workers. EMTs and paramedics respond to emergency calls, performing medical services and transporting patients to medical facilities.

Work Environment

Most EMTs and paramedics work full time. Their work is physically strenuous and can be stressful, sometimes involving life-or-death situations.

How to Become an EMT or Paramedic

All emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics must complete a postsecondary educational program. All states require EMTs and paramedics to be licensed; requirements vary by state.

Pay: The Annual average wage for EMTs and paramedics in Idaho was \$37,360 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics is projected to grow 24 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Emergencies, such as car crashes, natural disasters, and acts of violence, will continue to create demand for EMTs and paramedics.

The program Available at:

- College of Western Idaho-Nampa, ID. [Emergency Medical Technician \(EMT\)](#). This program is 17 weeks long.
- College of Southern Idaho-Twin Falls ID. [Emergency Medical Technician \(EMT\)](#). This program is 51 weeks long.

[Medical Assistant](#)

What Medical Assistants Do

Medical assistants complete administrative and clinical tasks in the offices of physicians, hospitals, and other healthcare facilities. Their duties vary with the location, specialty, and size of the practice.

Work Environment

Most medical assistants work in physicians' offices, hospitals, outpatient clinics, and other healthcare facilities.

How to Become a Medical Assistant

Most medical assistants have postsecondary education such as a certificate. Others enter the occupation with a high school diploma and learn through on-the-job training. In Idaho a medical assistants almost always require to have a certification.

Pay: The Annual average wage for medical assistants in Idaho was \$31,150 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of medical assistants is projected to grow 23 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. The growth of the aging baby-boom population will continue to increase demand for preventive medical services, which are often provided by physicians. As their practices expand, physicians will hire more assistants to perform routine administrative and clinical duties, allowing the physicians to see more patients.

The program Available at:

- College of Western Idaho- Boise, ID: [Medical Assistant](#). This program is 9 months to 1 year long
- College of Southern Idaho- Twin Falls, ID: [Medical Assistant](#). This program is 10 months long.

Medical Biller/Coder Job Description

WHAT DO MEDICAL BILLER/CODERS DO?

The medical and insurance fields are booming industries, and if you are well organized and ready for a challenge, you might make your career as a medical biller/coder. Medical billers write down health and treatment information for input into written and electronic patient records. These records are used for insurance claims, medical histories and possible donor or patient registries. Because of the highly technical nature of this work, and the sensitivity of private health information, billers and coders must ensure that health information is secure at all times.

Billers and coders review the information written by doctors and nurses and add that to a patient's records, often using electronic health records (EHRs) to input information. They work with insurance companies to make sure that hospital bills are covered, and that bills for any copay a patient might owe are delivered.

HOW MUCH DO MEDICAL BILLER/CODERS MAKE?

The Annual average wage for Medical Billers and Coders in Idaho was \$31,350 in 2016.

WHAT ARE THE EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS?

Typically, one needs at least an associate's degree in health information technology or a similar area. Certification is also available and highly encouraged by employers, such as Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT).

JOB SKILLS AND REQUIREMENTS

Analytical Skills: Medical biller/coders must be able to read medical records and decide the best way to record those records so that they are logical and understandable.

Attention to Detail: Accuracy is very important in medical records, for diagnosis, treatment and billing. Attention is the key.

Interpersonal Skills: Medical billers and coders work with doctors, nurses, insurance companies and other information techs to create medical records. Being personable and easy to work with helps.

Technical Skills: Medical biller/coders often use specialized software to record medical information. Being able to quickly understand technology is necessary.

THE FUTURE OF MEDICAL BILLER/CODERS

Medical records and health information tech jobs will grow by 21% between 2010 and 2020, according to the BLS. This is faster than the average job.

The program Available at:

- College of Western Idaho- Boise, ID: [Medical Coding](#). This program is 26 weeks.
- Idaho State University- Pocatello, ID: [Medical Coding](#). This program is 1.5 year program long.

Pharmacy Technician

A Pharmacy Technician is an entry-level staff position in a hospital or retail pharmacy. It requires limited pharmacy education. For more information on how to become a Certified Pharmacy Technician, follow the link to [the Idaho State Board of Pharmacy](#). Becoming a Pharmacy Technician can have some advantages; it will make you more employable and provide income to support you while you go through the FPGEC and licensing process. It will help you learn the U.S. job culture and get acquainted with the U.S. pharmacy career. It has the ability to make you more marketable when you start your 1,740 intern hours and can increase your responsibilities in your internship. You may improve your chances of receiving a salary as you complete your 1,740 internship hours Registering as a Pharmacy Technician includes showing proof of some types of pharmacy education, plus an application packet, which you can find in the Important Links section.

The following requirements must be met with the submission of the application

1. Complete the attached application - all fields are required. Blank fields will delay processing.
2. Registration Fee - amount indicated on the application
3. Proof of High School Graduation, equivalent, or greater: submit a copy of one of the following;
 - High School Diploma
 - GED
 - High School or College Transcripts that indicate date of graduation

Or

Waiver Request (Technician in Training only) -

The Executive Director of the Idaho State Board of Pharmacy has authority to approve waivers under two conditions;

- The applicant is at least 16 years old and is enrolled in a school supervised program or,
- The applicant is at least 16 years old and is the child of the pharmacy owner
- Copy of government issued photo ID – (Do not fax as they are unreadable and the picture unrecognizable)
- Driver's License

Or

- Passport
- Fingerprints – All are required to submit completed fingerprint card and a fee for a background check. See 'Fingerprint Processing Instructions' for current background check fee amount – included in fingerprint packet. To request a fingerprint packet send an email to info@bop.idaho.gov
- Non-Criminal Justice Applicant Privacy Statement – included in fingerprint packet
- All individual registrants/licensees must register to receive the Idaho State Board of Pharmacy Newsletter. To subscribe to the Idaho State Board of Pharmacy Newsletter Alert e-mail list, send an email to IdahoBOPNewsletter@nabp.net with the word "Subscribe" in the subject heading.

Pharmacy Tech Training in Idaho

Below lists schools available for training:

[The College of Western Idaho](#), having campuses through the state, is offering a Pharmacy Technician Program that can be completed in 5 months where you will receive 120 hours of classroom training. Contact Student Services at 208-562-3000 for more information.

Pay: The Annual average wage for pharmacy technicians in Idaho was \$33,710 in May 2016.

The program Available at:

- College of Western Idaho-Boise, ID, Fruitland ID: [Certified Pharmacy Technician](#). This program is 10 months long.
- Idaho State University-Pocatello, ID: [Advanced Technical Certificate](#) .This program is 11 months to 1.5 year long.

[Phlebotomist](#)

What Phlebotomists Do

Phlebotomists draw blood for tests, transfusions, research, or blood donations. Some explain their work to patients and provide assistance when patients have adverse reactions after their blood is drawn.

Work Environment

Phlebotomists work mainly in hospitals, medical and diagnostic laboratories, blood donor centers, and doctors' offices

How to Become a Phlebotomist

Phlebotomists typically enter the occupation with a postsecondary non-degree award from a phlebotomy program. Almost all employers look for phlebotomists who have earned professional certification.

Pay: The Annual average wage for phlebotomists in Idaho was \$30,750 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of phlebotomists is projected to grow 25 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Hospitals, diagnostic laboratories, blood donor centers, and other locations will need phlebotomists to perform blood work.

The Program Available at:

- College of Western Idaho- Boise ID: [Phlebotomy and Specimen Processing Certificate](#). This program is 15 weeks long.
- Idaho State University-Pocatello ID: [Phlebotomy Technician](#) .This program is 120 hrs of classroom and 40 hours of clinical.

Tier 3 Job Titles (Entry-Level positions that generally DO NOT Require Certifications)

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These are entry level positions that generally **require no certification** or in some cases basic certifications like CPR, Assist with Medications, etc. There are always openings; 100+ applicants generally apply for each opening because there are a lot of people with the required skill set. These could be considered health-care related survival jobs that could lead to advancement if you do a good job in the role.

(*) indicates sample job describe in this guide

- Administrative Assistant
- Administrative Specialist
- Central Processing Associate*
- Central Processing Tech
- Credentialing Assistant
- Diet Clerk
- Distribution Clerk
- Electroneurodiagnostic Tech
- Employee Health Services Specialist
- Environmental Services Tech
- Film Librarian – maintain accurate records of patient films
- Health Record Specialist
- Healthcare Resource Specialist
- Lab Office Assistant
- Meals on Wheels Coordinator
- Medical Receptionist
- Medical Writer*
- Medical Tech
- Office Assistant
- Occupational Health and Safety Technician

- Operating Room Assistant
- Optician, Dispensing*
- Patient Access Specialist
- Patient Accounts Representative
- Patient Advocate*
- Patient Care Representative
- Patient Care Attendant *
- Patient Services Representative
- Patient Specialist
- Pharmacy Aide*
- Production Operator
- Psychiatric Technician and Aide*
 - Sterile Processing Tech

(*) indicates sample job describe in this guide

Sample Job Descriptions - Entry-Level positions that generally DO NOT Require Certifications

Central Processing Associate

What Central Processing Associate Do

The Central Processing Associate is responsible for providing support and service to Central Processing Technicians and OR staff. Oral communication is essential in sharing information with team members in the area. Also maintains a safe and clean work environment, by assuring area is neat and organized, answers phone regarding instruments needing to be re-run for surgery, organizes carts in decontam area to maintain a good work flow, and place utensil items, containers, lids etc., on cart wash rack.

Work Environment

Most Central Processing Associate works in physicians' offices, hospitals, outpatient clinics, and other healthcare facilities.

How to Central Processing Associate

Becoming Central Processing Associate require a High school diploma or equivalent preferred with excellent communication skills that include oral comprehension/expression and written, ability and willingness to exhibit behaviors consistent with standards for performance improvement and organizational values (e.g., efficiency & financial responsibility, safety, partnership & service, teamwork, compassion, integrity, and trust.

Pay: The Annual average wage for Central Processing Associate in Idaho was \$ \$26,077 in May 2016.

Medical Writer

Medical writers work for pharmaceutical companies, medical device manufacturers, publishing companies of medical textbooks, government healthcare institutions, and more. Medical writers cover topics such as medical research, regulatory affairs, or general medical knowledge. The minimum requirement to become a medical writer is a **bachelor's degree**. Most also have a master's degree or higher. It is helpful to have a background in biological sciences to present scientifically accurate information.

Optician, Dispensing

What Dispensing Opticians Do

Dispensing opticians help fit eyeglasses and contact lenses, following prescriptions from ophthalmologists and optometrists. They also help customers decide which eyeglass frames or contact lenses to buy.

Work Environment

About half of opticians worked in offices of optometrists or offices of physicians in 2014. Other opticians worked in stores that sell eyeglasses, contact lenses, visual aids, and other optical goods. These stores may be stand-alone businesses or parts of larger retail establishments, such as department stores.

How to Become a Dispensing Optician

Opticians typically have a high school diploma or equivalent and some form of on-the-job training. Some opticians enter the occupation with an associate's degree or a certificate from a community college or technical school. About half of the states require opticians to be licensed.

Pay: The Annual average wage for opticians, dispensing in Idaho was \$33,260 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of opticians is projected to grow 24 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. An aging population and increasing rates of chronic disease are expected to lead to greater demand for corrective eyewear.

Patient Advocate

What Patient Advocate Do

Patient advocates are the Horse Whisperers of modern healthcare. They work with patients to help them navigate the confusing and murky waters of healthcare, from insurance, to costs for procedures and much more. Patient advocates meet one-on-one with patients; helping them understand procedures, connect with doctors and specialists, looking at options for treatment, financial responsibilities and more.

Work Environment

Since this is a very new job, very few degree or accreditation programs exist. Because of the highly technical and medical based nature of the job, many people come from a nursing or similar healthcare background, using their years of experience in the field to help them understand both the patient's needs and the complexity of healthcare.

How to Become a Patient Advocate

High School Diploma or equivalent required. College courses in business and/or medical terminology preferred. Minimum one year as a registrar in Medical Center. Demonstrates ability to work with a variety of people under adverse conditions, ability to Use basic office equipment, ability to understand and interpret legal documents and Demonstrates excellent oral and written communication skills with excellent, professional interaction skills with patients and staff.

Pay: The Annual average wage for Patient Advocate in Idaho was \$37,065 in 2017.

Patient Care Attendant

What Patient care attendant Do

A patient care attendant helps patients with basic grooming and dressing needs, administers medication, and, when working in a patient's home, often attends to basic housekeeping duties which the patient cannot get to. Throughout these routine tasks, a patient care attendant keeps the patient company, keeping an eye out for any changes in the patient's physical, emotional, or mental condition. The patient care attendant communicates the status of the patient, including any changes, periodically, to a supervisor, case manager, or nurse.

Work Environment

Patient Care Attendants are assigned to support the provision of a safe environment for patients who meet the following criteria:

- **Critical Primary Criteria**
 - a. Suicidal patient
 - b. Administrative hold patient
 - c. Pediatric patient not boarded in a secured area and/or at risk of harm
- **Limited, non-critical Secondary Criteria**
 - a. Impulsive
 - b. Self-injurious
 - c. Cognitively impaired / confused
 - d. Unsteady gait

Skills, knowledge, Education and Experience:

Education for this position usually comes from on-the-job training with supervisors, High School Diploma preferred, previous experienced patient care attendants, and registered nurses. Workers receive training in housekeeping duties,

emergency response procedures, safety techniques, American Heart Association HeartSaver AED or HeartSaver First Aid CPR AED Adult/Child/Infant certification required and special patient care considerations. The exact length of the training varies based on the employer; an evaluation may be completed at the end of the training to ensure that the individual can properly perform the necessary work duties.

Pay: The Annual average wage for Patient care attendant in Boise is \$24,790 in May 2017.

Pharmacy Aide

What pharmacy aides Do

Record drugs delivered to the pharmacy, store incoming merchandise, and inform the supervisor of stock needs. May operate cash register and accept prescriptions for filling. Have a high level of social interaction they constantly interact with customers and patients.

Work Environment

Almost always work indoors, must be very exact in their work. Errors could cause serious health problems for patients, generally have a set schedule each week.

How to Become a pharmacy aides

Pharmacy aide typically needs **have a high school diploma** or equivalent complete short-term, on-the-job training Some previous work-related skill, knowledge, or experience is usually needed Employees in these occupations need anywhere from a few months to one year of working with experienced employees.

Pay: In Idaho, pharmacy aides earn a median wage of [\\$27,350](#) per year.

Psychiatric Technician and Aide

What Psychiatric Technician and Aide Do

Psychiatric technicians and aides care for people who have mental illness and developmental disabilities. Technicians typically provide therapeutic care and monitor their patients' conditions. Aides help patients in their daily activities and ensure a safe, clean environment.

Work Environment

Psychiatric technicians and aides work in psychiatric hospitals, residential mental health facilities, and related healthcare settings. They may spend much of their shift on their feet, and they have high injury and illness rates.

How to Become a Psychiatric Technician or Aide

Psychiatric technicians typically need postsecondary education, and aides need at least a high school diploma. Both technicians and aides get on-the-job training.

Pay: The Annual average wage for psychiatric technicians in Idaho was \$29,060 in May 2016, The Annual base wage for psychiatric aides in Idaho is \$29,004 in 2017.

Job Outlook

Employment of psychiatric technicians and aides is projected to grow 5 percent from 2014 to 2024, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Demand for this occupation will stem from the growth of the older population. Older people typically experience

Tier 4 Job Titles (Entry to mid-level jobs requiring longer-term formal education programs)

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In this part, the job titles described require to hold associate degree or higher to be eligible for the job, usually its 2 years education program, with the possibility to take more credit to reach a bachelor. These job wage is higher and the competition for the position is low that jobs that require just certification.

(*) indicates sample job description

- Dental Hygienist*
- Emergency medical technician (EMT)*
- Epidemiologist*
- Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologist and Technician*
- Medical Records and Health Information Technician*
- Occupational Health and Safety Technician*
- Physician Assistant*
- Physical Therapist Assistant and Aide*
- Physiology, Personal Training*
- Radiation Therapist*
- Radiologic and MRI Technologist*
- Registered Nurse*
- Surgical Technologist*
- Therapist* (*) indicates sample job description

Sample Job Descriptions- Entry to mid-level jobs requiring longer-term formal education programs

Dental Hygienist

What Dental Hygienists Do

Dental hygienists clean teeth, examine patients for signs of oral diseases such as gingivitis, and provide other preventive dental care. They also educate patients on ways to improve and maintain good oral health.

Work Environment

In 2014, almost all dental hygienists worked in dentists' offices, and more than half worked part time.

How to Become a Dental Hygienist

Dental hygienists need an associate's degree in dental hygiene. Programs typically take 3 years to complete. All states require dental hygienists to be licensed; requirements vary by state.

Pay: The Annual average wage for dental hygienists in Idaho was \$73,630 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of dental hygienists is projected to grow 19 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Ongoing research linking oral health to general health will continue to spur demand for preventive dental services, which are provided by dental hygienists.

The program Available at:

- College of Southern Idaho-Twin Falls, ID: [Associate of Applied Science - Dental Hygiene](#), this program is 2 years long.
- Idaho State University-Pocatello, ID: [Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene](#), this program is 4 years long.

[Emergency medical technician \(EMT\)](#)

What EMTs and Paramedics Do

Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics care for the sick or injured in emergency medical settings. People's lives often depend on the quick reaction and competent care provided by these workers. EMTs and paramedics respond to emergency calls, performing medical services and transporting patients to medical facilities.

Work Environment

Most EMTs and paramedics work full time. Their work is physically strenuous and can be stressful, sometimes involving life-or-death situations.

How to Become an EMT or Paramedic

All emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics must complete a postsecondary educational program. All states require EMTs and paramedics to be licensed; requirements vary by state.

Pay: The Annual average wage for EMTs and paramedics in Idaho was \$37,360 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics is projected to grow 24 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Emergencies, such as car crashes, natural disasters, and acts of violence, will continue to create demand for EMTs and paramedics.

- Idaho State University-Pocatello, ID: [Associate of Science in Paramedic Science](#) , this program will last 4 semesters, about 64 credits.
- College of Southern Idaho-Twin Falls, ID [Associate of Applied Science – Paramedic](#), this program is 3 semesters long.

[Epidemiologist](#)

What Epidemiologists Do

Epidemiologists are public health professionals who investigate patterns and causes of disease and injury in humans. They seek to reduce the risk and occurrence of negative health outcomes through research, community education, and health policy.

Work Environment

Epidemiologists work in offices and laboratories, usually at health departments for state and local governments, in hospitals, and at colleges and universities. Some do fieldwork to conduct interviews and collect samples for analyses. Fieldwork may bring epidemiologists into contact with infectious disease, but the risk is minimal because they receive appropriate training and take extensive precautions before interacting with samples or patients.

How to Become an Epidemiologist

Epidemiologists need at least a master's degree from an accredited college or university. Most epidemiologists have a master's degree in public health (MPH) or a related field, and some have completed a doctoral degree in epidemiology or medicine.

Pay: The median annual wage for epidemiologists in Idaho was \$60,515 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of epidemiologists is projected to grow 6 percent from 2014 to 2024, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Epidemiologists are likely to have good job prospects overall.

The program Available at:

- Idaho State University-Pocatello and Meridian, ID: [Master of Public Health](#), this program is 2 years program
- Idaho State University-Pocatello and Meridian, ID [Master of Health Education](#) , this program is one year long, 30 credits
- Boise State University-Boise, ID: [Master of Health Science \(MHS\)](#), this program is 2 years long

For more information about the admission of the above degrees please go the links attach to them.

[Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologist and Technician](#)

What Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians Do

Medical laboratory technologists (commonly known as medical laboratory scientists) and medical laboratory technicians collect samples and perform tests to analyze body fluids, tissue, and other substances.

Work Environment

About half of all medical laboratory technologists and technicians were employed in hospitals in 2014. Others worked in doctors' offices or diagnostic laboratories.

How to Become a Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologist or Technician

Medical laboratory technologists typically need a bachelor's degree. Technicians usually need an associate's degree or a postsecondary certificate. Some states require technologists and technicians to be licensed.

Pay: The Annual average wage for medical and clinical laboratory technologists in Idaho was \$62,200 in May 2016, The Annual average wage for medical and clinical laboratory technicians in Idaho was \$34,160 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of medical laboratory technologists and technicians is projected to grow 16 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. An increase in the aging population is expected to lead to a greater need to diagnose medical conditions, such as cancer and diabetes type 2, as it requires laboratory procedures.

The program Available at:

- College of Southern Idaho Twin Falls, Idaho: [Radiologic Technology Associates](#). This program is a 22 months long 4 regular semesters, 1 short semester.
- Boise State University: Bachelor of Science. [Diagnostic Radiography Emphasis](#). The program is approximately 4 years long.

Medical Record and Health Information Technician

What Medical Records and Health Information Technicians Do

Medical records and health information technicians, commonly referred to as health information technicians, organize and manage health information data. They ensure that the information maintains its quality, accuracy, accessibility, and security in both paper files and electronic systems. They use various classification systems to code and categorize patient information for insurance reimbursement purposes, for databases and registries, and to maintain patients' medical and treatment histories.

Work Environment

Health information technicians held about 188,600 jobs in 2014. Most health information technicians work in hospitals or physicians' offices.

How to Become a Medical Records or Health Information Technician

Health information technicians typically need a postsecondary certificate to enter the occupation, although some may need an associate's degree. Certification is often required.

Pay: The Annual average wage for medical records and health information technicians in Idaho was \$36,220 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of health information technicians is projected to grow 15 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. The demand for health services is expected to increase as the population ages.

The program Available at:

- Idaho State University-Pocatello, ID: [Health Information Technology Associate Degree](#). This program is 2 years long.
- Boise State University-Boise, ID: [Health Informatics and Information management \(HIIM\) emphasis Bachelor Degree](#). This program is 4 years long.

Occupational Health and Safety Technician

What Occupational Health and Safety Technicians Do

Occupational health and safety technicians collect data on the health and safety conditions of the workplace. Technicians work with occupational health and safety specialists in conducting tests and measuring hazards to help prevent harm to workers, property, the environment, and the general public.

Work Environment

Occupational health and safety technicians work in a variety of settings, such as offices, factories, and mines. Their jobs often involve considerable fieldwork and travel. Most work full time.

How to Become an Occupational Health and Safety Technician

Occupational health and safety technicians typically enter the occupation through one of two paths. Some technicians learn through on-the-job training; others enter with postsecondary education such as an associate's degree or certificate.

Pay: The Annual average wage for occupational health and safety technicians in Idaho was \$43,160 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of occupational health and safety technicians is projected to grow 9 percent from 2014 to 2024, faster than the average for all occupations. Technicians will be needed to conduct tests, measure hazards, and ensure that employers are adhering to existing and new safety and health regulations.

The program Available at:

- Boise State University- Boise, ID: [Pre-Occupational Therapy Program](#). This program may vary in length between: 2-3 years.
- Idaho State University -Pocatello, ID: [Master of Occupational Therapy](#). This is 8 semester program.

Physician Assistant

What Physician Assistants Do

Physician assistants, also known as PAs, practice medicine on teams with physicians, surgeons, and other healthcare workers. They examine, diagnose, and treat patients.

Work Environment

Physician assistants work in physicians' offices, hospitals, and other healthcare settings. Most work full time.

How to Become a Physician Assistant

Physician assistants typically need a master's degree from an accredited educational program. All states require physician assistants to be licensed.

Pay: The Annual average wage for physician assistants in Idaho was \$98,140 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of physician assistants is projected to grow 30 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. As demand for healthcare services grows, physician assistants will be needed to provide care to patients.

The program Available at:

- Idaho State University-Pocatello, ID: [Masters of Physician Assistant Studies](#). This program is 2 years (24 month) long
- University of Idaho-Moscow-ID: [Pre-Physician's Assistant Studies](#) . This program is and4 years long.
- Boise State University Boise, Boise: [Pre-Physician Assistant Program](#) .This program is 4 years long.

Physical Therapist Assistant and Aide

What Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides Do

Physical therapist assistants sometimes called *PTAs*, and physical therapist aides work under the direction and supervision of physical therapists. They help patients who are recovering from injuries and illnesses regain movement and manage pain.

Work Environment

Most physical therapist assistants and aides work in physical therapists' offices or in hospitals. Physical therapist assistants and aides are frequently on their feet and moving as they set up equipment and help care for patients.

How to Become a Physical Therapist Assistant or Aide

Physical therapist assistants entering the profession need an associate's degree from an accredited program. All states require physical therapist assistants to be licensed or certified. Physical therapist aides usually have a high school diploma and receive on-the-job training.

Pay: The Annual average wage for physical therapist assistants in Idaho was \$44,650 in May 2016, The Annual average wage for physical therapist aides in Idaho was \$26,110 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of physical therapist assistants and aides is projected to grow 40 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Demand for physical therapy services is expected to increase in response to the healthcare needs of an older population and individuals with chronic conditions, such as diabetes and obesity.

The program Available in 3 places:

- Idaho State University-Pocatello, ID: [Physical Therapist Assistant](#). This program is 2 years long consisting of 5 semesters.
- College of Western Idaho- Nampa, ID: [Physical Therapist Assistant](#). This program is 2 years long.
- Brigham Young University- Rexburg, ID: [Physical Therapist Assistant](#). This program is 2 years long program

[Personal Training](#)

What Personal Training Do

Personal trainers talk with their clients and to find out their exercise goals, their ability and work with them to create personalized plans for attaining those goals, which may include diet and nutrition information. As the client visits again and again, personal trainers help them track their progress. Many personal trainers work in gyms, but some will work in a client's home.

Work Environment

Fitness trainers and instructors held about 279,100 jobs in 2014. They work in facilities such as health clubs, fitness or recreation centers, gyms, and yoga and Pilates studios.

How to Become a Personal Training

Many employers are starting to look at applicants with at least an associate's degree in kinesiology, physical education, or similar. Certification depends on what type of fitness instructor you want to be. But typically, you will need certification in whatever type of fitness you are interested in, and most gyms will want you to be certified in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

Pay: The Annual average wage for Personal Training in Idaho was \$30,660 in May 2016.

The program Available at:

- College of Western Idaho-Nampa, ID: [Exercise Science Associate of Arts](#), this program is 2 years long.

Radiation Therapist

What Radiation Therapists Do

Radiation therapists treat cancer and other diseases in patients by administering radiation treatments.

Work Environment

Radiation therapists work in hospitals, offices of physicians, and outpatient centers. Most radiation therapists work full time.

How to Become a Radiation Therapist

Most radiation therapists complete programs that lead to an associate's degree or a bachelor's degree in radiation therapy. Radiation therapists must be licensed or certified in most states. Requirements vary by state, but often include passing a national certification exam.

Pay: The Annual average wage for radiation therapists in Idaho was \$88,360 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of radiation therapists is projected to grow 14 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. The risk of cancer increases as people age, so an aging population may increase demand for radiation therapists.

In Idaho there are 3 places that offer the program:

- College Of Southern Idaho-Twin Falls, ID: [Radiologic Technology Associate of Science](#). This program is 22 months long
- Boise State University-Boise, ID: [Diagnostic Radiography Bachelor of Science](#). This program is 38 months long

- Idaho State University-Pocatello, ID: [Radiologic Technology Bachelor of Radiologic Science](#). This program is 18 months long.

Radiologic and MRI Technologist

What Radiologic and MRI Technologists Do

Radiologic technologists, also known as radiographers, perform diagnostic imaging examinations, such as x-rays, on patients. MRI technologists operate magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanners to create diagnostic images.

Work Environment

Radiologic and MRI technologists work in healthcare facilities, and more than half work in hospitals.

How to Become a Radiologic or MRI Technologist

Radiologic technologists and MRI technologists typically need an associate's degree. Many MRI technologists start out as radiologic technologists and specialize later in their career. Radiologic technologists must be licensed or certified in most states. Few states license MRI technologists. Employers typically require or prefer prospective technologists to be certified even if the state does not require it.

Pay: The Annual average wage for radiologic technologists in Idaho was \$53,080 in May 2016, the Annual average wage for magnetic resonance imaging technologists in Idaho was \$65,240 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of radiologic and MRI technologists is projected to grow 9 percent from 2014 to 2024, faster than the average for all occupations. As the population grows older, there will be an increase in medical conditions that require imaging as a tool for making diagnoses.

The program Available at:

- College of Southern Idaho-Twin Falls, ID: [Radiologic Technology Associates](#), this program is 22 months long.
- Boise State University -Boise, ID: [Diagnostic Radiography Emphasis](#), this program is 48 months long.

[Registered Nurse](#)

What Registered Nurses Do

Registered nurses (RNs) provide and coordinate patient care, educate patients and the public about various health conditions, and provide advice and emotional support to patients and their family members.

Work Environment

Registered nurses work in hospitals, physicians' offices, home healthcare services, and nursing care facilities. Others work in correctional facilities or schools, or serve in the military.

How to Become a Registered Nurse

Registered nurses usually take one of three education paths: a bachelor's degree in nursing, an associate's degree in nursing, or a diploma from an approved nursing program. Registered nurses also must be licensed.

Pay: The Annual average wage for registered nurses in Idaho was \$62,470 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of registered nurses is projected to grow 16 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Growth will occur for a number of reasons, including an increased emphasis on preventive care; growing rates of chronic conditions, such as diabetes and obesity; and demand for healthcare services from the baby-boom population, as they live longer and more active lives.

The program Available at:

- College of Western Idaho-Nampa, ID: [Associates of Science Degree in Nursing](#), this program is 24 months long
- College of Southern Idaho-Twin Falls, ID: [Associate Degree Nursing](#), this program is 4 semesters, 2 years long.
- Boise State University-Boise, ID: [RN to BS Online Completion Track](#), this program is 3 semester long online program
- Idaho State University – Meridian, ID: [Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing](#), this program is 3 semesters long.

[Surgical Technologist](#)

What Surgical Technologists Do

Surgical technologists, also called operating room technicians, assist in surgical operations. They prepare operating rooms, arrange equipment, and help doctors during surgeries.

Work Environment

Most surgical technologists work in hospitals. They spend much of their time on their feet.

How to Become a Surgical Technologist

Surgical technologists typically need a postsecondary certificate or an associate's degree. Certification can be beneficial in finding a job. A small number of states regulate surgical technologists.

Pay: The Annual average wage for surgical technologists in Idaho was \$47,790 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of surgical technologists is projected to grow 15 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Advances in medical technology have made surgery safer, and more operations are being done to treat a variety of illnesses and injuries.

The program Available at:

- College of Western Idaho-Boise, ID: [Surgical Technology Associate](#) , this program is 2 years long (24 months).
[Technical Certificate in Surgical](#), this program is 1 year long (12 months).
- College of Southern Idaho- Twin Falls, ID: [Surgical Technology](#) , this program is 2 years long.

[Therapist](#)

What Respiratory Therapists Do

Respiratory therapists care for patients who have trouble breathing—for example, from a chronic respiratory disease, such as asthma or emphysema. Their patients range from premature infants with undeveloped lungs to elderly patients who have diseased lungs. They also provide emergency care to patients suffering from heart attacks, drowning, or shock.

Work Environment

Respiratory therapists held about 120,700 jobs in 2014. Most respiratory therapists work in hospitals.

How to Become a Respiratory Therapist

Respiratory therapists typically need an associate's degree, but some have bachelor's degrees. Respiratory therapists are licensed in all states except Alaska; requirements vary by state.

Pay: The Annual average wage for respiratory therapists in Idaho was \$55,100 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of respiratory therapists is projected to grow 12 percent from 2014 to 2024, faster than the average for all occupations. Growth in the middle-aged and elderly population will lead to an increased incidence of respiratory conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and pneumonia. These respiratory disorders can permanently damage the lungs or restrict lung function.

The program Available at:

- Idaho State University-Pocatello, ID: [Associate of Science in Respiratory](#), this program is 3 years long.
- Stevens-Henager-Boise, ID: [Associate's Degree in Respiratory Therapy](#), this program is 20 months long
- Boise State University-Boise, ID: [Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care](#), this program is a 4 year long.

Professional Organizations

There are several positions available for pharmacists within professional pharmacy organizations such as [American Pharmacists Association](#) (APhA), [American Society of Consultant Pharmacists](#) (ASCP), and [American Society of Health-System Pharmacists](#) (ASHP). **An active license is not required to hold these positions** because they are not directly involved with patient care. Some positions include:

- Senior Vice President of Professional Affairs
- Chief Financial Officer
- Chief Executive Officer
- Senior Vice President of Human Resources

- Chief Strategy Officer
- Chief Operating Officer
- Senior Vice President of Communications
- Director of Periodicals
- Senior Assistant Editor
- Assistant Editor
- Participants in developing a career pathway plan that builds on their education, experience, and skills.

Note:

For more information related degree programs and availability look at the guide in this link:

<http://globaltalentidaho.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Healthcare-Education-Pathways-Guide.pdf>

For more details about health care jobs and statistics look in this link:

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/home.htm>