

ALLIED HEALTH



A variety of professionals contribute to meeting the health care needs of patients. Allied health practitioners work closely with other health professionals to provide specific therapies and comprehensive health care.

Careers within this section include:

Athletic Trainer

Audiologist

Occupational Therapist

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Physical Therapist

Physical Therapy Assistant

Respiratory Care Practitioner

Speech-Language Pathologist

Speech-Language Pathology Assistant



Athletic Trainer

What would I do?

Certified Athletic Trainers are highly educated and skilled allied health care professionals, specializing in the prevention, assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation of injuries of physically active people and athletes. Athletic Trainers strive to prevent injuries and enhance athletic performance by using their knowledge of injuries, illnesses, nutrition, strength training, conditioning, and sports psychology. Athletic Trainers develop clinical and team education programs related to injury prevention, emergency response, general and individualized health care, injury rehabilitation, and health care administration.

Where would I work?

Settings for Athletic Trainers include high schools, colleges, universities, health centers, physician offices, fitness centers, sports medicine clinics, hospitals, amateur and professional sporting events, and industrial settings.

What would I earn?

\$27,140–42,380

What do I need to know?

Athletic Trainers must graduate from a college or university with an accredited athletic training curriculum, including exercise physiology, kinesiology, and sports medicine programs. Athletic training programs consist of core courses in anatomy and biology and include clinical experience under the supervision of a certified Athletic Trainer. In addition, a successful candidate for board certification must pass an examination that includes written questions and practical applications. To retain certification, credential holders must continue taking medical-related courses and adhere to standards of practice. In the 43 States with athletic trainer licensure or registration or both in 2004, BOC certification was required.

What schools can I attend?

Colby-Sawyer College
Keene State College
New England College
Plymouth State University
University of New Hampshire

Where can I find more information?

National Athletic Trainers' Association
2952 Stemmons Freeway, Suite 200
Dallas, TX 75247-6196
(214) 637-6282
(800) 879-6282
www.nata.org

Audiologist

What would I do?

Audiologists evaluate and manage hearing and balance difficulties. They also provide rehabilitative communication assistance such as recommending, fitting, and repairing hearing instruments. Audiologists may recommend other assistive hearing equipment and/or counseling regarding improving communication techniques. Specialty areas may include: pediatrics, cochlear implantation or industrial audiology.

Where would I work?

Audiologists work in schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, speech and hearing centers, or in private practice.

What would I earn?

The average income for an audiologist in NH is \$66,572.

What do I need to know?

The entry-level degree is a clinical doctorate degree (eight years after high school); the masters degree is no longer available. Audiologists must be licensed with the state of New Hampshire before they can work independently.

What schools can I attend?

At the current time there are no academic institutions in New Hampshire offering a program for Audiologists. In the past, New Hampshire students have attended out-of-state schools such as Boston University or Northeastern University in Boston, MA, or the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA.

Where can I find more information?

Academy of Dispensing Audiologists
3008 Millwood Avenue
Columbia, SC 29205
(803) 252-5646
(800) 455-8629
www.audiologist.org

American Academy of Audiology
11730 Plaza America Drive, Suite 300
Reston, VA 20190
(703) 790-8466
(800) 222-2336
www.audiology.org

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
10801 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852
(800) 638-8255
www.asha.org

American Board of Audiology
11730 Plaza America Drive, Suite 300
Reston, VA 20190
(703) 790-8466
(800) 222-2336
www.americanboardofaudiology.org/

Occupational Therapist

What would I do?

Occupational Therapists (OTs) help children and adults acquire, regain, or maintain daily living and working skills. OTs help people increase motor skills, dexterity, strength, and independence. They also help patients acquire skills such as cooking, cleaning, using computers, and utilizing adaptive equipment.

Occupational Therapists may specialize in working with specific types of injuries, such as hand injury or brain injury; specific populations such as geriatrics or pediatrics; or a specific area, such as rehabilitation, mental health, or developmental disabilities. Others may train employees to use proper ergonomics, help people with poor vision maintain their independence, make buildings and homes more accessible, and promote health and wellness.

Where would I work?

Occupational Therapists work in hospitals, outpatient clinics, rehabilitation centers, mental health centers, nursing homes, schools, home health agencies, and community settings.

What would I earn?

\$40,000–59,000

What do I need to know?

Occupational Therapists currently must earn a master's degree or doctorate degree from a professional program. Fieldwork of at least six months is needed in order to sit for the national certification examination to become an Occupational Therapist.

What schools can I attend?

University of New Hampshire

Where can I find more information?

American Occupational Therapy Association
PO Box 31220
4720 Montgomery Lane
Bethesda, MD 20824-1220
(301) 652-2682
(800) 377-8555
www.aota.org



Occupational Therapy Assistant

What would I do?

Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTA) work with Occupational Therapists to help children and adults gain skills needed to take part in daily activities and meaningful occupations. They are also responsible for monitoring and recording patients' progress and reporting any concerns to the supervising Occupational Therapist. The field of Occupational Therapy makes it possible for individuals to regain independence and enjoy life to its fullest.

Where would I work?

Occupational Therapy Assistants work in hospitals, outpatient clinics, rehabilitation centers, community mental health centers, nursing homes, schools, and home health agencies.

What would I earn?

\$32,768–40,712

What do I need to know?

Occupational Therapy Assistants must earn a two-year associate's degree from an accredited occupational therapy assistant program. Field work of at least 16 weeks is required in order to sit for the national certification examination to become an Occupational Therapy Assistant. Each OTA, after completion of the Certification Examination, is eligible to apply for licensure in each state in which he or she plans to work. Your OTA faculty at an accredited agency will assist you through the credentialing process.

What schools can I attend?

New Hampshire Community Technical College -
Claremont

Where can I find more information?

American Occupational Therapy Association
4720 Montgomery Lane
PO Box 31220
Bethesda, MD 20824-1220
(301) 652-2682
(800) 377-8555
www.aota.org

Physical Therapist

What would I do?

Physical Therapists (PTs) help patients/clients recover from physical injuries or diseases. PTs complete examinations and then develop a plan of care, which may include the use of exercises, functional training, manual therapy, electrical stimulation, ultrasound, and/or massage. PTs also work to promote physical fitness and health by teaching patients stretching, strengthening exercises, injury prevention, and body mechanics.

Where would I work?

Physical Therapists work in hospitals, physical therapy offices, sports facilities, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, home health agencies, school districts, early intervention programs, and/or industrial settings.

Areas of certified specialization within the physical therapy field, include: cardiovascular and pulmonary, clinical electrophysiology, geriatrics, neurology, orthopedics, pediatrics, sports therapy, aquatics, and women's health.

What would I earn?

\$50,000–72,000

What do I need to know?

Current Physical Therapist students are required to earn a master's or doctoral degree. By the year 2020 all entry level programs will be at the doctoral level. Entrance into physical therapy programs is highly competitive. During the education process multiple clinical affiliations are required, as part of the curriculum, to obtain a degree.

What schools can I attend?

Franklin Pierce University
New England College

Both schools have a Pre-Physical Therapy track for a Bachelor of Science.

Where can I find more information?

American Physical Therapy Association
1111 North Fairfax Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1488
(703) 684-2782
(800) 999-2782
www.apta.org

Physical Therapy Assistant

What would I do?

Physical Therapy Assistants assist physical therapists with patient treatment. Their duties include helping patients use special equipment and perform stretching and strengthening exercises. They monitor patients' progress and report outcomes to the supervising Physical Therapist.

Where would I work?

Physical Therapy Assistants may work in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, home health agencies, and sports facilities.

What would I earn?

\$32,000–42,000

What do I need to know?

Physical Therapy Assistants obtain an associate's degree from an accredited educational institution and then complete a national licensure exam. Admission into physical therapy assistant programs is highly competitive.

What schools can I attend?

Hesser College
New Hampshire Community Technical College -
Claremont

Where can I find more information?

American Physical Therapy Association
1111 North Fairfax Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1488
(703) 684-2782
(800) 999-2782
www.apta.org

Respiratory Care Practitioner

What would I do?

Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCPs)—also known as Certified Respiratory Therapists (CRT) and Registered Respiratory Therapists (RRT)—evaluate, treat, and care for patients with breathing abnormalities. They set up and operate testing equipment that measures lung capacity and oxygen and carbon dioxide concentrations.

They compare measurements with the norm to determine if lung deficiencies exist and work with the physician to modify treatment. RCPs treat all types of patients, including premature infants, patients with asthma or chronic lung disease (emphysema, cystic fibrosis), pneumonia, victims of a heart attack, stroke, or any condition that causes difficulty or cessation of breathing. They also teach homecare patients and their families to use, medications, ventilators and other home therapy equipment.

Where would I work?

Most RCPs work in hospitals, but a growing number of practitioners work in physicians' offices, respiratory therapy clinics, rehabilitation facilities, nursing homes, or homecare. Some take positions as traveling RCP's in which they take hospital assignments in different states for several months at a time. Respiratory Care Practitioners may specialize in neonatal care, pediatric care, geriatric care, cardiopulmonary diagnostics, sleep diagnostic centers, critical care, and subacute rehabilitation.

What would I earn?

\$38,000–51,000

What do I need to know?

Respiratory Care Practitioners must complete an associate's degree program or bachelor's degree program and pass the entry-level CRT and/or advanced-level RRT examination given by the National Board for Respiratory Care. In addition, Respiratory Care Practitioners must obtain state RCP licensure.

What schools can I attend?

New Hampshire Community Technical College -
Claremont

Where can I find more information?

American Association for Respiratory Care
11030 Ables Lane
Dallas, TX 75229-4593
(972) 243-2272
www.aarc.org
See the Life and Breath Video www.aarc.org/career

Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care
1248 Harwood Road
Bedford, TX 76021-4244
(817) 283-2835
www.coarc.com

National Board for Respiratory Care, Inc.
8310 Nieman Road
Lenexa, KS 66214-1579
(913) 599-4200
www.nbrc.org

Speech-Language Pathologist

What would I do?

Speech-Language Pathologists diagnose, prevent, and treat speech and swallowing disorders. They also help individuals improve their voice and/or language skills. Some Speech-Language Pathologists research methods of communication or develop equipment or techniques for treatment of speech and/or language disorders. Speech-Language Pathologists may work with Audiologists.

Where would I work?

Speech-Language Pathologists may work in schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, speech and hearing centers, and physicians' offices. Some are self-employed.

What would I earn?

\$40,040–52,600

What do I need to know?

Speech-Language Pathologists must complete a master's degree program. Admission into speech-language programs is highly competitive. Following completion of a degree program, Speech-Language Pathologists must pass a national examination and complete at least a nine-month, full-time internship to obtain a clinical certification. State licensure is also required.

What schools can I attend?

University of New Hampshire

Where can I find more information?

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
10801 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852
(800) 638-8255
www.asha.org



Speech-Language Pathology Assistant

What would I do?

Speech-Language Pathology Assistants are support personnel who perform tasks assigned, directed, and supervised by Speech-Language Pathologists. They follow treatment plans, document patient performance, and report this information to the supervising Speech-Language Pathologist. They may assist with speech-language and hearing screenings, clerical duties, maintenance of equipment, research projects, and in-service training.

Where would I work?

Most Speech-Language Pathology Assistants work in preschools, elementary and secondary schools, colleges, and universities. They may also work in hospitals; private offices of Speech-Language Pathologists; or speech, language, and hearing centers.

What would I earn?

\$29,000–40,000

What do I need to know?

Speech-Language Pathology Assistants must complete an associate's degree or on-the-job-training. The education program must include 100 hours of fieldwork experience. Speech-Language Pathology Assistants must be supervised by a state-licensed and certified Speech-Language Pathologist. As demand for speech-language pathology services increases, state licensing agencies may initiate recognition processes for Speech-Language Pathology Assistants.

What schools can I attend?

New Hampshire Community Technical College - Nashua

Where can I find more information?

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
10801 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852
(800) 638-8255
www.asha.org