Health Careers in Georgia

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Colleges
Financial Aid
Road Map
80 Health Careers

Ideal Attributes
Did you know you have an AHEC? Georgia Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) are located across the state and provide community-based education for healthcare professionals. There are six centers in the Georgia AHEC Network, and each serves a multi-county region. The AHEC mission is to meet the health needs of Georgia by improving the supply, distribution, and quality of healthcare providers.

AHECs are vitally important in the education and careers of individuals involved in the health industry. An AHEC might help a student interested in health occupations find enrichment activities and educational programs before high school graduation. Once the student enters a college or university, AHEC provides support for community-based student training. Health professionals working in Georgia depend on their AHECs for continuing education and access to first-rate library and information services. AHECs offer educational programs in smaller communities so healthcare professionals can continue to work in their community while they earn advanced degrees or attend cutting-edge seminars.

To help you explore a career in healthcare, each AHEC has a Health Careers Recruiter. This individual develops programs and activities targeting students and others interested in pursuing a profession in healthcare. Production and distribution of this guide is only one of the activities of the AHEC staff. AHECs offer enrichment programs, camps, learning tools, student counseling, volunteer and mentoring activity coordination, and access to other educational resources. We urge you to contact your regional AHEC for more information on these programs, activities and teaching tools.

**GEORGIA STATEWIDE AHEC NETWORK**

**Program Office**
Medical College of Georgia
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Room HT-2402
Augusta, GA 30912
(706) 721-8331
www.mcg.edu/ahec

**Blue Ridge AHEC**
2007 North Broad Street, NE
Rome, GA 30161
(706) 235-0776
www.blueridgeahec.org

**Foothills AHEC**
700 South Enota Drive, Suite 102
Gainesville, GA 30501
(770) 533-6866
www.foothillsahec.org

**Magnolia Coastlands AHEC**
P.O. Box 8146
Georgia Southern University
Statesboro, GA 30460
(912) 478-1050
www.magnoliacoastlandsahec.org

**SOWEGA-AHEC**
1512 West Third Avenue
Albany, GA 31707
(229) 439-7185
www.sowega-ahec.org

**SPCC/Atlanta AHEC**
1720 Peachtree Street, NW
Suite 440
Atlanta, GA 30309
(404) 815-4996
www.spcatlanatahec.org

**Three Rivers AHEC**
2022 15th Avenue
Columbus, GA 31901
(706) 256-6345
www.threeriversahec.org
Check out a variety of health careers. As a health professional, each day of your work life will be challenging and different, never boring. You will have the opportunity to help thousands of people! Each career page in this manual will provide:

- information about the kind of work the health professional does
- institutions that offer educational programs for the career
- starting salary
- high school preparation needed
- a list of professional organizations that can provide additional career information
- licensure/certification/registration requirements for the professional to practice in this field

Cardiovascular Technologists perform examinations to determine how well the heart and blood vessels function. Invasive cardiology, tests that actually go into the heart, includes procedures like heart catheterization. Non-invasive procedures may monitor the heart’s condition during exercise, or use ultrasound waves to produce images of the heart’s chambers and valves. Technologists report to a cardiologist (physician specializing in the heart) and supply data to diagnose heart disease. They also prepare patients for examinations including taking medical histories, drawing blood samples, and explaining procedures.

### Areas of Specialization
- Invasive Cardiology
- Non-invasive Echocardiography
- Non-invasive Vascular Technology

### Work Environment
- Clinics
- Hospitals
- Medical centers
- Mobile units
- Physicians' offices

### Academic Requirements
- A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Most programs require two years of study and award an associate degree. Bachelor level programs are also available.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration
- Licensure is not required in Georgia at this time.
- Credentialing for all three specialties is available through Cardiovascular Credentialing International.
- Non-invasive cardiology professionals can also receive registration through the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonographers. Most employers require registration after one year of work.

### Professional Organizations
- Alliance of Cardiovascular Professionals (804) 632-0078 www.acp-online.org
- Cardiovascular Credentialing International (800) 326-0268 www.cci-online.org
- Joint Review Committee on Education in Cardiovascular Technology (214) 206-3117 www.jrcvt.org

### Starting Salary
- $67,663 or $32.53/hour

### Ideal Attributes
- Calm & patient under pressure
- Enjoy learning new procedures & technologies
- Detail-oriented
- Flexible & able to adapt

This information gives you a sense of the work responsibilities one will have. Contact these associations for more information about the career.

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southwest Georgia Area Health Education Center (SOWEGA-AHEC) is pleased to present the eighth edition of *Health Careers in Georgia*. This publication is produced through the partnership of the Georgia Statewide AHEC Network. We would like to thank all the people who contributed time, expertise, information and resources in support of this endeavor. *Health Careers in Georgia* is funded through the Georgia State Legislature and the six regional AHECs. The financial aid information was provided by Virginia Bouldin and Sarah Baumhoff of the Georgia Student Finance Commission. Lue Healy contributed the High School Road Map additions, and Allen Siegler supplied the HOSA information. Photographs were contributed by the American Association for Respiratory Care; Darton College; Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic; Emory University; Florida State University; Georgia Institute of Technology; Landmark Hospital; Medical College of Georgia; Mercer University; NIAD Clinical Research Subcommittee; National Cancer Institute; National Eye Institute; Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital; South Georgia Medical Center; University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine and School of Music Therapy; West Albany Dental & Medical Center; Wil-Power; Bill Branson; John Crawford; Gregory Daglis and many Albany healthcare providers.

**Acknowledgments**

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College of Veterinary Medicine
Questions & Answers

Q: Healthcare professionals – are there more than just doctors and nurses?

A: Yes! There are many other professionals in the industry you may have never heard of, such as acupuncturists, perfusionists, geneticists, prosthetists and biostatisticians to name just a few. Even in a well-known field like nursing, there are many specialty areas that may be new to you – clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner, nurse anesthetist or nurse educator.

Q: What are the positive aspects of a career in healthcare?

A: There are many! The demand for healthcare professionals is growing tremendously, so job availability and mobility are very good. Helping others is the big “plus” - most of us like to feel that we can have an impact on the lives of others. Healthcare professionals contribute to the quality of our lives, help us when we are sick, troubled, or injured, and work to improve our communities.

Q: What about the negative aspects of healthcare like hard work, long hours, or catching a disease?

A: Healthcare professionals do work hard. They are dedicated individuals who take their responsibilities seriously - they have to, because they are caring for people. Healthcare has some risks, but there are many precautions taken to keep risk to a minimum. In fact, safety will be a very important part of your training as a professional.

Q: I'm not comfortable around sick people. How could I be a healthcare professional?

A: There are healthcare occupations that do not involve a lot of patient contact. Laboratory personnel, medical illustrators, health information technicians, health sciences librarians, biomedical engineers and opticians are a few examples. If you choose a career that does involve direct interaction, your training will prepare you for contact with sick or injured people. The satisfaction of using your special knowledge to help them will override your initial discomfort. After all, it’s the unknown that is scary, so the more you know about what you are doing, the more comfortable and confident you will feel.

Q: How can a healthcare professional help protect the environment?

A: Several health fields are directly connected with environmental protection. Environmental health specialists test water and soil, and inspect restaurants and swimming pools. Environmental scientists, industrial hygienists, occupational safety and health specialists, and research scientists study ways that our natural and work environments affect health.
I’m in middle school. Should I be thinking about a health career now? Could I work right out of high school?

Now is a great time to start! Browse through this guide, you’ll see that a good academic background is important. A well-rounded course load including math and science is recommended. To get a feel for what it’s like to work in a healthcare setting, look into volunteer opportunities and shadowing programs. Starting out as an orderly or an aide in housekeeping or food service is a good way to “get your foot in the door” toward exploring new opportunities in healthcare. Contact your AHEC or speak to your school counselor right away to help you plan accordingly.

I’ve been out of school awhile but want to change directions, and there are several health careers that interest me. Is it too late?

No, many adults become “career-changers,” moving to new career paths because their interests have changed, or they are seeking new opportunities to get ahead in life. Use this manual to select some options, and contact the educational programs and professional associations listed to find out what you need to do to enter a program. You may need to take some preliminary courses, but the chances are you could begin your new pursuit without too much “backtracking.” Many programs have evening, weekend, or online classes that allow people to go back to school while they work.

**Fast 17**

Fastest Growing Healthcare Occupations in Georgia (Projected to 2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>% Growth by 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Personal Care Aids</td>
<td>53%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Home Health Aids</td>
<td>46%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Medical Assistants</td>
<td>36%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Pharmacy Technicians</td>
<td>32%</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Physical Therapists</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Dental Hygienists</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Physician Assistants</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Physical Therapist Assistants</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Counselors</td>
<td>29%</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Human Service Workers</td>
<td>29%</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Occupational Therapists</td>
<td>28%</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Cardiovascular Technologists/Technicians</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<tr>
<td>13. Registered Nurses</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>14. Surgical Technologists</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>15. Respiratory Therapists</td>
<td>23%</td>
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<tr>
<td>16. Social Workers</td>
<td>23%</td>
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<tr>
<td>17. EMTs/Paramedics</td>
<td>22%</td>
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If the pace of increase in life expectancy in developed countries over the past two centuries continues through the 21st century, most babies born since 2000 in countries with long life expectancies, will celebrate their 100th birthdays [1].

Let’s fundamentally change the medical world. Allow humans to guide robots performing delicate surgeries. Create multidisciplinary facilities from today’s disconnected healthcare system and produce an interconnected network that uses Internet intelligence to link patients to doctors, doctors to doctors and hospitals, and doctors to nurses and care team members simultaneously in real-time. Integrate updates in medical science directly into patient records to cross-check treatments and medications with diagnoses and laboratory and imaging results. Make paper medical records a rarity. Healthcare’s future lies in risk prediction to prevent chronic problems before manifested; shared digital medical information to improve communication; better patient responsibility and participation to stay healthy; and personal, targeted therapies for each patient, designed to efficiently maintain or improve health.

Can Humans Routinely Live a Hundred Years?

Why not tailor medications to patients based on their individual genomic composition and new discoveries in DNA science? Can healthcare use more than a “find it and fix it” philosophy that spends most healthcare dollars to treat urgent manifestations of chronic diseases—strokes, heart attacks and cancer? Will life expectancy and freedom from disability increase as clinicians use early detection of disease and lifelong prevention strategies before chronic problems occur?
Yes, We Can

These developing trends already influence health care today. The DaVinci surgical robot lets surgeons perform intricate heart, abdomen and pelvic surgeries with precision from a remote surgical control station. The Cleveland Clinic and other institutions bring primary care and specialists under one roof with shared electronic records, digital imaging and availability of data on hand-held devices. Genetic testing is preventing cancer development and some medications are prescribed based on response of a disease predicted by its DNA. More emphasis is being placed on patient safety in hospitals and clinics while disease prevention is emphasized in all phases of health. Where these trends will take us in the future is where the excitement lies.

More Opportunities

The future also brings challenges. The United States needs more doctors, nurses, dentists, veterinarians and other healthcare workers. With patients demanding emphasis on quality, efficiency and safety, we need more medical and information technology at our fingertips than ever before. Health workforce shortages strain patient care today. Georgia lacks sufficient primary care physicians, pharmacists, nurses and therapists as does the rest of the United States. Our state’s health workforce is aging and many expect to retire over the next decade. In response, Georgia’s health education schools are increasing enrollment and they want you in their classes. Imagine launching your career at the beginning of an era where so much more is possible!

In the Next Two Decades

Older adults will stimulate science, medical arts and technology innovations and create an enormous demand for more healthcare workers. Seventy-eight million people born between 1946 and 1966 will leave the U.S. workforce in the next two decades. To “Baby Boomers”, retirement age is a 20th century idea. Medically-sophisticated seniors want an active life and expect to stay healthy much longer than their parents. In time, those of advanced age will move from outpatient care to community settings providing services designed to maintain independence and comfort with medical oversight as necessary.

With an Ounce of Prevention

Even as an older population drives the next 20 years of medical care, prevention and participation are two buzzwords compelling changes in medicine today. Heart disease, cancer and high blood pressure are among diseases responsive to prevention strategies. Readily available and inexpensive genetic mapping coupled with accurate family histories and behavior evaluation will identify young people at risk of developing chronic disease. Early intervention - smoking cessation, regular exercise, obesity avoidance and other healthy behaviors - requires engaged patient participation. More resources will target health education at a younger age so people can live longer with fewer diseases or disabilities. In return, more young people will see that 100th birthday.

A bright healthcare future is possible only when well-educated people use innovative technology wisely. Future healthcare workers will be interconnected with patients, hospitals, labs, diagnostics and home health with access via mobile phones to bio-connectivity – how their patients are faring – from wherever they may be. This “hyper-connectivity,” typical of most high school and college students, will provide the immediate access to medical information, patients and colleagues as they get from seeking internet information and digital social linking with friends and classmates today. Health education programs are implementing these technologies now to train and connect students for communication in this multidimensional environment.

This is the future of medicine. A woven network of innovative, careful science, and passionate people seeking to improve patient care, prevent disease and enhance our longevity. Can you really fit 100 candles on a birthday cake?

Complementary and alternative medicine include therapies not generally considered a part of conventional medicine. They include, but are not limited to, acupuncture, herbal medicines, dietary supplements, deep breathing exercises, meditation, chiropractic manipulation, massage and yoga. The number of Americans who use some form of complementary medicine is growing. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health, 38% of adults and 12% of children used some type of complementary or alternative medicine therapy. Many areas of complementary medicine are gaining support in the traditional medical community. Most medical schools in the United States offer courses in complementary medicine.

“To rub a sore muscle or touch another in comfort is a basic human instinct. Massage is a return to what feels like the natural path to healing. I feel that the techniques of massage combined with the spirit of touch enable the body and the mind to connect in a state of well-being.”

~ Melanie Bemis, NCTMB
Rome
Acupuncture is a type of traditional Chinese medicine that has been used for thousands of years to treat conditions such as hypertension, depression, drug dependencies, headaches, and a variety of other health problems. At the core of Chinese medicine is a belief that there is a form of energy circulating in the body, known as Qi, which must be of sufficient quantity and move freely in order for us to be healthy and free of pain. Acupuncturists access this energy from the surface of the body by inserting very fine acupuncture needles into specific points in order to relieve pain, affect organ function and treat disease. In addition, an acupuncturist may use other techniques during treatment such as electro-acupuncture, auriculotherapy, moxibustion, and cupping. These techniques use electrical impulses, ear points, heat, and suction, respectively, to enhance the therapeutic effect. Acupuncturists may also recommend herbal medicines.

Work Environment
Complementary health centers
Hospitals
Pain clinics
Private clinics
Public health clinics
Self-employed

Academic Requirements
A bachelor’s degree or 60 semester credits are required for admission into an acupuncture program. A master’s degree is the entry-level degree for this profession. Doctoral programs are also available. Educational programs last three to four years.

Educational Programs
There are currently no programs in Georgia.

Florida
Academy for Five Element Acupuncture
www.acupuncturist.edu
Dragon Rises College of Oriental Medicine
www.dragonrises.edu

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
To be eligible for certification, one must complete a formal accredited education program or be in candidacy status for accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. Applicants are required to complete a Clean Needle Technique course and pass the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) exam. Licensure is required in Georgia through the Georgia Composite Medical Board and leads to the title of Licensed Acupuncturist (L.Ac.). Physicians who wish to practice acupuncture must be authorized by the Georgia Composite Medical Board after successfully completing acupuncture training.

Professional Organizations
Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
(301) 313-0855
www.acaom.org

American Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
(866) 455-7999
www.aaaomonline.org

Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
(301) 476-7790
www.ccaom.org

Georgia Composite Medical Board
(404) 656-3913
www.medicalboard.georgia.gov

National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
(904) 598-1005
www.nccaom.org

Starting Salary
$31,127 or $14.96/hour
Chiropractors consider the central nervous system the key to maintaining good health. When the nervous system does not function properly, the human body is out of balance and may appear sick or in pain. Doctors of Chiropractic (DC) take medical histories, perform physical, orthopaedic, and neurological examinations, and may order laboratory tests. X-rays are often used to make a diagnosis. When a diagnosis involves the spinal column or joints of the extremities, chiropractors make adjustments using their hands or instruments. Depending on the diagnosis, some chiropractors might also use adjunct therapies such as water, light, ultrasound, or heat to treat patients. They do not prescribe drugs and do not perform surgery. DCs are trained to counsel patients about wellness topics including nutrition, stress management and exercise. Some chiropractors may choose to focus their practice on specialized areas such as athletic injuries, neurology, orthopedics, geriatrics or pediatrics.
Massage therapy is a rapidly growing type of complementary medicine. Massage therapists press, squeeze, and rub muscles and the soft tissues of the body to obtain a therapeutic effect. Massage therapists may use their hands, feet, massage instruments, dry and steam heat, oil, music, and light during a massage. They cannot cure serious medical conditions, but massage therapists can reduce stress, relieve aches and pain, increase flexibility of muscles and joints, and give clients a sense of well-being and relaxation. They may choose to specialize in one of many modalities such as Swedish, trigger point/neuromuscular, deep tissue, shiatsu or sports massage. Massage therapists might also choose to specialize their practice on a particular type of client such as pregnant mothers, athletes or even animals.

**Work Environment**
- Chiropractic offices
- Health clubs
- Hospitals
- Pain management clinics
- Private practice
- Professional athletics
- Resorts
- Salons
- Spas
- Wellness centers

**Academic Requirements**
A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Massage therapy programs must provide a minimum of 500 hours of training, but many provide 600 or more hours of study.

**Educational Programs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certificate</th>
<th>Diploma</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academy of Somatic Healing Arts</td>
<td>Everest Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Professional Institute</td>
<td>Georgia Career Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta School of Massage</td>
<td>Georgia Northwestern Technical College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Augusta School of Massage</td>
<td>Gwinnett College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International School of Skin and Nail Care and Massage Therapy</td>
<td>Herzing University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Georgia Technical College</td>
<td>Moultrie Technical College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanford-Brown College</td>
<td>Savannah School of Massage Therapy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Starting Salary**
$29,900 or $14.38/hour

**Ideal Attributes**
- Compassionate
- Work well with others
- Able to stand for long periods
- Dedicated

**Professional Organizations**

- American Massage Therapy Association
  - (877) 905-2700
  - www.amtamassage.org
- American Massage Therapy Association, Georgia Chapter
  - (706) 399-6885
  - www.amtaga.org
- Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals
  - (800) 458-2267
  - www.abmp.com
- Georgia Board of Massage Therapy
  - (478) 207-2440
  - www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/massage
- National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork
  - (800) 296-0664
  - www.ncbtmb.com

**Certificate Degrees**

- Academy of Somatic Healing Arts
- American Professional Institute
- Atlanta School of Massage
- Augusta School of Massage
- International School of Skin and Nail Care and Massage Therapy
- North Georgia Technical College
- Sanford-Brown College
- Savannah School of Massage Therapy

**Associate Degrees**

- Medix College
Dentistry is a broad career field which includes dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants as healthcare providers. As a group, these professionals are responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of oral health problems. As the nature of oral health problems has come to be better understood, the emphasis in dentistry has changed from treatment to prevention. Using a team approach, dental health providers are committed to preventing oral health problems through patient education programs which deal with good oral hygiene. When problems occur, the dentist and his or her team can provide treatments to restore and repair oral tissues. Population growth in Georgia and the decline in the production of dentists nationwide have ensured that careers in dentistry will be of great value and in high demand.

“When I began work in a county health department I was clinically interested in actually seeing the need. When the patient looked at me and thanked me, I felt humbled and have felt that way ever since.”

~ Charles H. Roszel, DDS
Rome
Dental assistants work side by side with dentists to increase efficiency in providing direct patient care. They greet patients, make them comfortable, and prepare them for examinations. Assistants take and develop dental x-rays, record patient histories and monitor vital signs. They sterilize instruments and pass them to the dentist during exams and treatments. Mixtures for cleaning and filling teeth are prepared by assistants, and they make impressions of teeth as study models. Dental assistants show patients how to brush and floss their teeth and instruct them on oral care following surgery, placement of a filling, or other treatments. With specialized training, they may assist in a variety of oral surgery procedures such as periodontal surgery, implants, root canals, tooth extractions and biopsies. An expanded functions certification allows dental assistants to provide preventive and restorative services. Assistants also help in the day-to-day office management, such as scheduling, billing, filing insurance and ordering supplies.

**Work Environment**

Community health agencies  
Dental and dental assisting schools  
General and specialty dental offices  
Health maintenance organizations  
Hospitals  
Military bases  
Prisons  
Private and state institutions  
Public health departments  
VA hospitals

**Academic Requirements**

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Most dental assistants enter the field through one to two-year academic programs leading to certificates, diplomas, or associate degrees. On-the-job training is also available, but formal educational programs enable students to advance more quickly in salary and responsibility. Graduation from a program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or at least two years of work experience is required for certification eligibility.

**Licensure, Certification, and Registration**

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification examinations are given by the Dental Assisting National Board. Upon passing the exam, dental assistants may use the initials CDA (Certified Dental Assistant) after their names. Most employers prefer to hire certified dental assistants.

**Professional Organizations**

American Dental Assistants Association  
(312) 541-1550  
www.dentalassistant.org  
Dental Assisting National Board, Inc.  
(800) 367-3262  
www.danb.org

**Starting Salary**

$28,308 or $13.61/hour

**Educational Programs**

**Certificate**

Advanced Career Training  
Everest Institute  
Griffin Technical College  
Gwinnett Technical College  
West Georgia Technical College

**Diploma**

Albany Technical College  
Athens Technical College  
Atlanta Technical College  
Augusta Technical College  
Columbus Technical College  
Georgia Northwestern Technical College  
Griffin Technical College  
Gwinnett Technical College  
Lanier Technical College

**Associate Degree**

Middle Georgia Technical College  
Ogeechee Technical College  
Savannah Technical College  
Valdosta Technical College  
Medix College

**Georgia Statewide AHEC Network**

www.mcg.edu/ahec
Dental hygienists are important members of the dental health care team. Working with dentists, they provide dental hygiene care by examining teeth and tissues in the mouth for abnormalities, removing tooth deposits, applying fluoride and sealants, and performing preventive services. They instruct patients on methods to improve and maintain their oral health, including brushing, flossing, and eating the proper foods. Dental hygienists record patient histories, update patient charts, and make impressions of teeth so treatment options can be evaluated by a dentist. They also do oral cancer and blood pressure screenings and take x-rays. Some hygienists design and implement school and community health programs.

Work Environment
Community health agencies
Dental and dental hygiene schools
Dental companies
Dental offices
Health maintenance organizations
Industry
Public health departments

Academic Requirements
Dental hygiene programs are available at associate degree and bachelor degree levels. Some hygienists enter post-associate dental hygiene programs to earn bachelor’s degrees in dental hygiene or related fields, such as biology or health education. A dental hygienist may also pursue a master’s degree in dental hygiene, health education, adult education or public health.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Graduation from an accredited program, successful completion of the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination, and successful completion of the state clinical board examination given by the Central-Regional Dental Testing Service are required for licensure. Upon licensure by the Georgia Board of Dentistry, dental hygienists may use the initials RDH (Registered Dental Hygienist).

Professional Organizations
American Dental Hygienists’ Association
(312) 440-8900
www.adha.org

Georgia Board of Dentistry
(478) 207-2400
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/dentistry

Georgia Dental Hygienists’ Association
www.gdha.org

Educational Programs
Associate Degree
Armstrong Atlantic State University
Athens Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
College of Coastal Georgia
Columbus Technical College
Darton College
Georgia Highlands College
Georgia Perimeter College
Lanier Technical College (with Gainesville State College)

Middle Georgia Technical College
Southeastern Technical College
Valdosta Technical College (with Valdosta State University)
West Georgia Technical College

Bachelor’s Degree
Armstrong Atlantic State University
Clayton State University
Medical College of Georgia

Starting Salary
$55,882 or $26.87/hour

• good hand-eye coordination
• work well under stressful conditions
• organized & flexible
• excellent people skills
Dentists diagnose and treat diseased and injured teeth, gums, and oral tissues. They also educate people about oral health and prevention of dental problems. This involves guidance in both hygiene and nutrition. Dentists help improve the appearance of their patients through dental techniques, such as braces and dentures. Through surgery, dentists can correct facial and dental deformities from accidents or birth defects. Usually self-employed, dentists run businesses and supervise staff. Dentistry offers a comfortable lifestyle with a good income and regular work hours.

**Areas of Specialization**
- Specialty status can be achieved by completing an ADA-accredited residency and passing a board exam.
  - Dental Public Health
  - Endodontics
  - Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology
  - Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology
  - Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
  - Orthodontics
  - Pediatric Dentistry
  - Periodontology
  - Prosthodontics

**Work Environment**
- Community health centers
- Dental schools
- Equipment manufacturing companies
- Military
- Private practice
- Public health departments

**Academic Requirements**
Each dental school has its own admissions requirements. Research these criteria before planning any pre-professional curriculum. Dental students must apply for admission and take a national admissions test before entering dental school. A bachelor’s degree or at least three years of college is usually required to enter dental school. Most dental schools conduct a four-year program leading to a doctoral degree in dentistry. An additional one to three years are required to practice in a specialty area.

**Licensure, Certification, and Registration**
Licensure is required in Georgia and can be obtained through the Georgia Board of Dentistry after graduation from an accredited program. Dental schools grant either a D.M.D. (Doctor of Dental Medicine) or a D.D.S. (Doctor of Dental Surgery). These are simply different names for the same degree.

**Professional Organizations**
- American Dental Association
  (312) 440-2500
  www.ada.org
- American Dental Education Association
  (202) 289-7201
  www.adea.org
- Georgia Board of Dentistry
  (478) 207-1680
  www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/dentistry
- Georgia Dental Association
  (404) 636-7553
  www.gadental.org

**Starting Salary**
$84,058 or $40.41/hour

**Ideal Attributes**
- excellent hand-eye coordination
- good communication skills
- strong leadership skills
- work well under pressure

**Educational Programs**
- **Doctoral Degree**
  Medical College of Georgia

**Georgia Statewide AHEC Network**
www.mcg.edu/ahec
The field of dietetics is concerned with applying the principles of food and nutrition to health. Professionals in dietetics are passionate about empowering people to take charge of their health by helping them make healthful food choices. The food we eat has a direct relationship with the maintenance and restoration of good health. Therefore, dietetics is crucial in treating illnesses, rehabilitation and recovery. Because of increased public interest in nutrition and disease prevention, dietetics is a vital and growing profession with many career possibilities.

“Nutrition is a fascinating, ever-changing career with a variety of job opportunities available. Working primarily with heart and cancer patients, I help individuals incorporate general nutrition information into specific meals and foods they can fit into their every day lives and situations. No two people are the same which makes this job particularly challenging and interesting. Working with people who are striving to improve their lives is rewarding and keeps me mindful of maintaining my own health.”

~ Debbie Walls, RD, LD, CDE
Gainesville
Usually under the direction of a registered dietitian, a dietetic technician assists in managing food service and providing nutritional care. Duties vary depending upon the work environment. Dietetic technicians may screen patients to identify nutritional problems. These patients often need help in planning meals within their budgets and diets. Dietetic technicians educate and train patients, develop menus, supervise food service personnel, and purchase and control inventory. They are often responsible for ensuring sanitation and safety standards.

**Work Environment**
- Community health programs
- Company cafeterias
- Correctional facilities
- Day care centers
- Food service industry
- Government
- Health clubs
- Health maintenance organizations
- Home health agencies
- Hospice
- Hospitals
- Long-term care facilities
- Private practice with dietitians
- Public health nutrition programs
- Research laboratories
- Restaurants
- Schools

**Academic Requirements**
A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Completion of a dietetic technician program approved by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education is required. Two-year associate degree programs combine classroom and supervised practical experiences. Many graduates of a four-year dietetic program choose to work as a dietetic technician before entering a Dietetic Internship Program.

**Licensure, Certification, and Registration**
Licensure is not required in Georgia. Graduates of an approved program are eligible to take the Registration Examination for Dietetic Technicians given by the Commission on Dietetic Registration. Once the exam is passed, technicians may use the credential DTR (Dietetic Technician, Registered). The DTR credential is required by many employers and will provide the opportunity for higher monetary compensation.

**Professional Organizations**
- American Dietetic Association (800) 877-1600
  www.eatright.org
- Georgia Dietetic Association (770) 433-9044
  www.gda-online.org

**Educational Programs**
Georgia currently has no ADA-approved dietetic technician programs.
- **Tennessee**
  Southwest Tennessee Community College
  www.southwest.tn.edu
Dietitians are experts on food nutrition and good health. They are involved in every aspect of nutrition to assist in improving the quality of life. Registered dietitians’ job responsibilities depend upon their practice settings. In hospitals, dietitians educate people about good nutrition. They may work with individuals who are most at risk of poor health including pregnant women, children, elderly, and citizens with very limited resources. They develop the most nutritious food plans possible for patients who can eat traditional foods; for patients who cannot tolerate traditional foods, they provide other diets. They supervise dietary personnel, plan institutional menus, and manage budgets.

**Ideal Attributes**
- Strong math, science & verbal skills
- Work independently
- Detail-oriented
- Good communication skills

**Areas of Specialization**
- Clinical Dietetics
- Community Dietetics
- Diabetes Education
- Gerontological Nutrition
- Management
- Nutrition Support
- Oncology Nutrition
- Pediatric Nutrition
- Renal Nutrition
- Sports Dietetics

**Work Environment**
- Business and industry
- Colleges and universities
- Food service
- Government agencies
- Health clubs
- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- Private practice (consultant)
- Public health departments
- Public schools

**Academic Requirements**
The path to becoming a registered dietitian requires two components. The first component is academic (didactic) preparation. Dietitians must complete a program of study approved by the American Dietetic Association. Most of these programs of study are at the undergraduate level, although it may be possible to complete the required course work while enrolled in a graduate program. The second component of education is an approved supervised practice component. This component can be satisfied along with the didactic preparation in a coordinated program or can be satisfied after didactic preparation in a Dietetic Internship Program.

**Starting Salary**
$38,333 or $18.43/hour

**Licensure, Certification, and Registration**
After completion of the didactic and accredited dietetic internship, students are eligible to take the Registration Examination for Dietitians. This examination is administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration. After passing the examination, students become Registered Dietitians (RD). Licensure of dietitians is required and is administered through the Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Dietitians and has the same basic requirements as registration. Licensed dietitians may use the initials LD.

**Professional Organizations**
- American Dietetic Association
  (800) 877-1600
  www.eatright.org
- Georgia Dietetic Association
  (770) 433-9044
  www.gda-online.org
- Society for Nutrition Education
  (800) 235-6690
  www.sne.org

**Educational Programs**

**Bachelor’s Degree**
- Fort Valley State University
- Georgia Southern University
- Georgia State University
- Life University
- University of Georgia

**Master’s Degree**
- Georgia State University
- University of Georgia

**Doctoral Degree**
- University of Georgia

**Georgia Statewide AHEC Network**
www.mcg.edu/ahec
The healthcare delivery system is based on the organized communication of information and the management of a complex organization. Healthcare administrators work to create smooth-running organizations and must be skilled in financial planning, human resource management, public relations, and long range planning. There are many other professionals in the healthcare industry that work behind-the-scenes with limited patient contact. Some of these manage personnel, organize and analyze data from reports and medical records. Others focus on providing health information by creating visual materials through various forms of art media or by locating, collecting, organizing and distributing medical information. These careers, requiring a special flair for organization and detail, will always be in demand as there is a continuing need for accurate and reliable information.

“Working as a health sciences librarian allows me to use my love of learning and research while helping my community have the best healthcare possible. Every day brings a different challenge, whether it’s researching a new drug for someone just diagnosed with cancer or helping a physician find information on a controversial treatment.”

~ Rita Smith, MLIS, AHIP
Macon
A medical record is the history of a patient’s healthcare, including medical history, diagnoses, treatments, test results, and notes of doctors, nurses and other health professionals. Health information administrators (HIAs) are responsible for managing this important information so it meets legal, administrative, and medical requirements. HIAs work in a dynamic profession that is a unique blend of medicine, business, computer systems, and the law. They must maintain high ethical standards to guarantee the privacy and security of personal health information. These professionals also play vital roles in creating systems to properly organize, analyze, preserve and store large numbers of records, both paper-based and electronic. With these systems hospital administrators manage costs and revenue, physicians assess healthcare quality, accrediting agencies evaluate healthcare delivery, and patients navigate the complicated healthcare delivery system. HIAs establish department policies and procedures, formulate budgets, ensure proper reimbursement amounts and oversee adherence to regulations. Finally, HIAs hire, supervise, motivate, evaluate and manage employees.

Ideal Attributes
- highly organized
- good administrative skills
- ability to concentrate for extended periods
- excellent communication skills
- strong math & science skills

Starting Salary
$47,500 or $22.84/hour

Academic Requirements
Most bachelor degree granting programs require students to complete two years of prerequisite courses before entering the health information administration program which lasts an additional two years. Students who have already earned a bachelor’s degree in allied health, nursing, or business administration may earn a post-baccalaureate certificate through a one-year program. To be hired as head of a department, experience is usually required.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Licensure is not required in Georgia. Upon meeting the requirements of the American Health Information Management Association and passing a national certification examination, health information administrators become Registered Health Information Administrators (RHIA).

Professional Organizations
American Health Information Management Association
(312) 233-1100
www.ahima.org

Georgia Health Information Management Association
(770) 926-0769
www.ghima.org

Educational Programs

Bachelor’s Degree
Herzing University
Macon State College
Medical College of Georgia

Master’s Degree
Medical College of Georgia

Advanced Certificate
Medical College of Georgia

Work Environment
- Clinics
- Colleges and universities
- Health maintenance organizations
- Home health agencies
- Hospitals
- Information systems vendors
- Insurance companies
- Law firms
- Long-term care facilities
- Mental health facilities
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Public health departments
- Research institutions
- State and federal health agencies

 running normal
Health information technology is a profession that combines technology, management and healthcare. Working with computer information systems and technology, health information technicians collect, analyze and interpret data that doctors, nurses and other health care professionals rely on to provide quality patient care. They expertly manage patient health information and medical records by reviewing, organizing and evaluating for completeness and accuracy. Health information technicians also control access to information contained within medical records to ensure that it is kept confidential. As traditional medical records move to electronic files, health information technicians will specialize in security and privacy. They are qualified to supervise and manage file clerks and other clerical staff. They can work in every sector of the healthcare industry, but often choose to specialize in one particular area.

Starting Salary
$24,710 or $11.88/hour

Work Environment
Ambulatory care centers
Attorneys’ offices
Behavioral health facilities
Clinics
Consultant firms
Detention facilities
Health maintenance organizations
Healthcare vendors
Home health agencies
Hospitals
Insurance companies
Long-term care facilities
Non-profit organizations
Physician groups
State and federal health agencies

Academic Requirements
A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Two-year academic programs in health information technology or management lead to associate degrees. Courses may include medical terminology, anatomy, physiology, coding, and computer systems.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Licensure is not required in Georgia. Students who complete an academic program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education are eligible to take the national qualifying exam. Upon meeting the requirements of the American Health Information Management Association and successfully passing the national certification exam, health information technicians are awarded the Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) credential.

Professional Organizations
American Health Information Management Association
(312) 233-1100
www.ahima.org
Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education
(312) 233-1100
www.caahim.org
Georgia Health Information Management Association
(770) 926-0769
www.ghima.org

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec
Health sciences librarians are specialists in locating, collecting, organizing, and distributing medical information. Knowledgeable in health sciences and library management, they use their skills to provide accurate and current information to students and members of the healthcare team. These librarians select, purchase, and catalog books, audiovisuals, and journals relating to the health sciences. Also called medical librarians, they help healthcare professionals, students, and the community locate sources of information and answer puzzling problems. They manage and operate the library, plan budgets, supervise other library personnel, and teach healthcare workers how to locate and manage information using computers.

Ideal Attributes
- very organized & thorough
- good problem-solving skills
- move quickly from one task to the next
- excellent computer skills

Health Sciences Librarian

Starting Salary
$36,300 or $17.45/hour

Work Environment
Area Health Education Centers (AHECs)
Colleges and universities
Federal and state agencies
Hospitals and medical centers
Medical schools
Pharmaceutical companies
Professional associations
Research centers and foundations

Academic Requirements
A bachelor's degree is required to enter a library science master's degree program. A master's degree in library and information science is the standard for professional librarians. This is usually a one- to two-year educational program. Schools may offer postgraduate programs leading to a Doctor of Philosophy or Doctor of Library Science degree.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Licensure is not required in Georgia. Five levels of certification are available through the Academy of Health Information Professionals, a program of the Medical Library Association.

Educational Programs
Master's Degree
Valdosta State University

Professional Organizations
Georgia Health Sciences Library Association
www.ghsla.org

Medical Library Association
(312) 419-9094
www.mlanet.org

National Library of Medicine
(888) 346-3656
www.nlm.nih.gov

Southern Chapter Medical Library Association
www.scmla.org

Special Libraries Association
(703) 647-4900
www.sla.org

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec
Healthcare administrators can work in a broad spectrum of organizations. Consequently, administrators have a wide range of duties. They can be specialists or generalists. Specialists head up specific clinical departments or services. Generalists manage entire facilities or systems such as nursing homes, physician practices, hospitals, home health agencies and health systems. They ensure good communication between medical staff, administration, committees and departments by building teams and improving processes. Healthcare administrators create a smooth-running organization with well-planned departments, such as nursing, marketing and public relations, finance, and human resources. They develop policies, plan budgets, coordinate space, and plan future expansions. They are responsible for the institution’s resources and sound financial standing. Healthcare administrators are very sensitive to local needs and provide services to the communities they serve.

Work Environment

Clinics
Community health organizations
Government agencies
Health insurance organizations
Healthcare consulting firms
Hospitals and health systems
Mental health organizations
Nursing homes
Pharmaceutical supply companies
Physician practices/groups
Public health departments
Rehabilitation centers
Research institutions

Academic Requirements

Some entry-level positions in health care administration are available with a bachelor’s degree in business, health policy, or healthcare administration; however, a master’s degree in business administration, hospital administration, healthcare administration, or public health is required for most management positions. Doctoral degrees are also available. Graduation from an accredited health care administration program may provide an advantage for progressing up the career ladder.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

In Georgia, licensure is required only for nursing home administrators. Most administrators belong to professional organizations such as the American College of Health Care Administrators, the American College of Healthcare Executives, and the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging. These organizations and others have voluntary certification programs, which are often helpful in enhancing professional standing.

Starting Salary

Bachelor’s Level = $34,750 or $16.71/hour
Master’s Level = $51,000 or $24.52/hour

Professional Organizations

American College of Health Care Administrators
(202) 536-5120
www.achca.org

Association of University Programs in Health Administration
(703) 894-0940
www.aupha.org

Georgia Board of Nursing Home Administrators
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/nursinghome

Medical Group Management Association
(877) 275-6462
www.mgma.org

Educational Programs

Bachelor’s Degree
Albany State University
Argosy University
Armstrong Atlantic State University
Clayton State University
Herzing University
Macon State College
South University
Westwood College

Master’s Degree
Albany State University
Argosy University
Armstrong Atlantic State University
Brenau University
Columbus State University
Clayton State University
Emory University
Georgia College and State University
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University

Doctoral Degree
Morehouse School of Medicine
Piedmont College
Savannah State University
University of Georgia

Emory University
Georgia Southern University
University of Georgia

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec
A medical coder is a member of the health information service team. The coding professional uses a classification system to assign code numbers and letters to each symptom, diagnosis, disease, procedure, and operation that appears in the patient’s chart. These codes are used for insurance reimbursement, research, health planning analysis, and to make clinical decisions. A high degree of accuracy and a working knowledge of medical terminology, anatomy, and physiology are important skills for these professionals.

Starting Salary
$34,460 or $16.57/hour

Academic Requirements
A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Basic coding programs lead to a certificate. A two-year associate degree with a curriculum that includes medical terminology, anatomy, and physiology is recommended. A self-paced course is available through the American Health Information Management Association and usually takes 15 months to complete.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Licensure is not required in Georgia. Professional certification is available through the American Health Information Management Association and the American Academy of Professional Coders.

Professional Organizations
American Academy of Professional Coders
(800) 626-2633
www.aapc.com

American Health Information Management Association
(312) 233-1100
www.ahima.org

Educational Programs
Certificate
Advanced Career Training
Albany Technical College
Altamaha Technical College
American Professional Institute
Athens Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Augusta Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College
Columbus Technical College
Darton College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Griffin Technical College
Heart of Georgia Technical College
Kennesaw State University
Lanier Technical College
Laurus Technical Institute
Lincoln College of Technology
Medix College
Middle Georgia Technical College
North Georgia Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Sanford-Brown College
South Georgia Technical College
Southeastern Technical College
Southwest Georgia Technical College
Valdosta Technical College
West Georgia Technical College
World Outreach Medical Institute

Diploma
Everest Institute
Herzing University

Ideal Attributes
• value accuracy
• able to concentrate for long periods
• team player
• good computer skills

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec
Medical illustrators are professional artists who create visual materials to represent scientific and technical information. Visual materials are critical in explaining medical information to students, physicians, and patients. They are used to make complicated scientific information more understandable. Medical illustrators should have a strong background in art, science, and medicine. They use a variety of media including pen and ink, watercolor, acrylics, sculpting, photography, animation, and computer graphics to illustrate the desired image. A few medical illustrators specialize in a single art medium or in a particular area of medicine, such as neurosurgery or orthopedics.

**Academic Requirements**
A bachelor's degree in art, zoology (the study of animals), or a multidisciplinary major combining art and an area of the life sciences is required to enter a school of medical illustration. Medical illustration programs center on the arts, visual problem-solving, and the medical sciences and result in a master's degree after two years of course work.

**Licensure, Certification, and Registration**
Licensure is not required in Georgia, but certification is available through the Board of Certification of Medical Illustrators. To qualify, a candidate must have earned a Master's in Medical Illustration from an accredited school or worked in the field full-time for a minimum of five years.

**Educational Programs**
- **Master's Degree**
  - Medical College of Georgia

**Starting Salary**
$50,000 or $24.04/hour
Medical secretaries, also known as medical office specialists or administrative assistants, perform a variety of administrative duties in order to keep a medical office running smoothly. They possess strong computer skills and knowledge of software applications such as word processing, data processing, and bookkeeping. Familiar with medical terminology, they transcribe dictation, update records, and complete insurance forms. Medical secretaries often greet patients, take medical histories, and establish their charts. They answer phone calls, schedule appointments, prepare bills, and record payments. Speaking another language, such as Spanish, is very helpful in this career field.

**Ideal Attributes**
- very organized
- able to multi-task
- value confidentiality
- good computer & typing skills
- work well under stressful conditions

**Starting Salary**
$25,700 or $12.36/hour

**Work Environment**
- Drug companies
- Health maintenance organizations
- Hospitals
- Medical and dental offices
- Medical schools
- Public health departments

**Academic Requirements**
A high school diploma or equivalent is recommended. A medical secretary may receive on-the-job training; however, most seek formal education. Programs last from several months to two years and lead to certificates, diplomas, and associate degrees.

**Licensure, Certification, and Registration**
Licensure is not required in Georgia. Professional certification is available through the American Association of Healthcare Administrative Management. Certification in medical coding is also desirable.

**Professional Organizations**
- American Association of Healthcare Administrative Management
  (703) 281-4043
  www.aaham.org
- International Association of Administrative Professionals
  (816) 891-6600
  www.iaap-hq.org

**Educational Programs**

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<tr>
<th>Certificate</th>
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<td>West Georgia Technical College</td>
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<td>Medix College</td>
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**Georgia Statewide AHEC Network**
www.mcg.edu/ahec
A medical transcriptionist, also known as a medical language specialist, listens to medical information about a patient, evaluates the content for accuracy, types what is heard, and then places the information in the patient's medical record. When necessary, medical transcriptionists must utilize appropriate problem solving techniques if the content is inaccurate or contradictory. The dictation must provide a clear, concise record which must contain correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Transcriptionists use computers and word processors to complete many medical documents, including medical histories, physicals, operative reports and consultations. They record procedures and treatments for the medical record and for the practitioner's reference.

**Ideal Attributes**

- work independently
- strong grammar skills
- value accuracy
- excellent typing skills

**Work Environment**

- Clinics
- Hospitals
- Insurance companies
- Physicians' offices
- Private transcription companies
- Self-employed

**Academic Requirements**

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Classroom and clinical experience last from nine months for a certificate and up to two years for an associate degree.

**Educational Programs**

**Certificate**
- Albany Technical College
- Altamaha Technical College
- Atlanta Technical College
- Augusta Technical College
- Brown College of Court Reporting and Medical Transcription
- Central Georgia Technical College
- Dalton State College
- Darton College

**Associate Degree**
- Griffin Technical College
- Kennesaw State University
- Middle Georgia Technical College
- Moultrie Technical College
- Southwest Georgia Technical College
- Valdosta Technical College
- West Georgia Technical College

**Starting Salary**

$27,100 or $13.03/hour

**Professional Organizations**

- Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity
  (800) 982-2182
  www.ahdionline.org

**License, Certification, and Registration**

Licensure is not required in Georgia. The Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity offers two credentialing exams. The Registered Medical Transcriptionist (RMT) exam is available for medical transcriptionists with less than two years of experience. After gaining two years of experience, medical transcriptionists may take the certification exam which enables them to apply for the Certified Medical Transcriptionist (CMT) credential.
Careers in laboratory science are critical to the modern practice of medicine. Laboratory specialists provide data necessary for the detection, diagnosis, and monitoring of a disease and its treatment. Using sophisticated instruments, laboratory workers perform tests and report their findings to providers. These health care professionals must have great precision, accuracy, and patience. The laboratory environment offers daily opportunities to discover clues as to the body’s responses to injury and disease. These challenging careers are in great demand as there are always more discoveries to be made.

“I graduated with my ASMLT degree in Florida in 1983, making $7.50 per hour, and in those days that was considered very good pay. I have never been a day without work; techs have always been in high demand. Here I am 26 years later and still going strong. It has been a very rewarding career with new equipment, new tests available and new methodologies each year, providing a continual challenge and a variety of learning opportunities.”

~ Ginny Sutton, ASCP, MLT
Statesboro
Clinical Laboratory Scientist

Clinical laboratory scientists (CLSs), also known as medical technologists, are the backbone of nearly every laboratory. They ensure a well run operation by providing reliable results, controlling quality, and training and supervising lab technicians. They provide data so doctors and researchers can determine the presence and extent of disease and evaluate effectiveness of treatment. Using microscopes, computer-interfaced equipment, and chemicals, CLSs prepare and study body tissues and fluids. They test for bacteria, drugs, or diseases, such as leukemia, diabetes, cancer, and HIV/AIDS. CLSs understand the reasons for doing specific tests and the significance of those results. CLSs often choose specialty areas such as drug testing, therapeutic drug monitoring and biogenetics.

Areas of Specialization
- Blood Banking
- Clinical Chemistry
- Hematology
- Immunology/Serology
- Microbiology
- Molecular Diagnostics

Ideal Attributes
- organized
- work independently & as a team player
- good problem-solving skills
- work well under pressure

Starting Salary
$42,555 or $20.46/hour

Academic Requirements
Bachelor degree programs include three to four years of course work and 12 months of clinical practice. In some colleges, science graduates can complete a one-year program which leads to a certificate or degree in clinical laboratory science. Certified clinical laboratory technicians and students who have completed two years of general college courses may enter two-year clinical laboratory science programs.

Educational Programs
- Bachelor’s Degree
  - Armstrong Atlantic State University
  - Medical College of Georgia
  - Thomas University
- Master’s Degree
  - Medical College of Georgia
- Advanced Certificate
  - Armstrong Atlantic State University
  - Thomas University

Work Environment
- Blood banks
- Colleges and universities
- Consulting
- Forensics
- Government facilities
- Hospital laboratories
- Medical supply and sales
- Nursing homes
- Physicians’ offices
- Private and commercial laboratories
- Public health departments
- Research facilities

License, Certification, and Registration
Georgia does not require state licensure, but does require certification. Certification can be obtained through the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification or American Medical Technologists. Certification allows these professionals to use the credentials “MLS-ASCP” or “MT-AMT” after their names.

Professional Organizations
- American Medical Technologists
  (847) 823-5169
  www.amt1.com
- American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
  (301) 657-2768
  www.ascls.org
- American Society for Clinical Pathology
  (800) 267-2727
  www.ascp.org

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec
Clinical laboratory technicians (CLTs), also known as medical laboratory technicians, work under the supervision of clinical laboratory scientists. CLTs perform duties such as staining and reading slides; performing routine tests on patient’s blood, fluids and tissues; typing and grouping blood for transfusion; and keeping records. CLTs are also required to occasionally collect blood for testing. They use microscopes, computers, and very complicated laboratory equipment to gather data used to determine the presence, absence and extent of patient’s diseases as well as monitor the patient’s progress. As they gain experience, CLTs are given more responsibility and perform more complex testing. Some clinical laboratory technicians choose to continue their education to a bachelor’s degree.
Cytotechnologists specialize in the study of cells. They mount samples of the body’s cells on slides and study them under a microscope. They look for changes in cell structures, color, shape, and size. These changes could be signs of cancer, precancerous growths, hormonal problems, or the presence of another disease. These conditions are reported to a pathologist (physician specializing in the origin and nature of diseases) for further study. A common test that cytotechnologists analyze is the PAP test, which detects cervical or womb cancer. Cytotechnologists may also study samples from many other parts of the body to detect cancers such as those in the colon, bladder, mouth, and lungs. Results are used by physicians and other members of the healthcare team to treat patients.

**Ideal Attributes**
- Strong visual perception
- Detail-oriented
- Values accuracy
- Patient

**Work Environment**
- Educational institutions
- Hospitals
- Private laboratories
- Research facilities

**Academic Requirements**
Students must complete three years of education emphasizing biology before beginning the cytotechnology courses. These programs generally require one to two years of study and award a Bachelor of Science degree and/or a certificate of completion. Master’s level programs are also available and take two years to complete.

**Licensure, Certification, and Registration**
Georgia does not require licensure. The Board of Registry of the American Society for Clinical Pathology offers a national certification exam. To qualify for the exam, candidates must have completed a cytotechnology program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. Certified Cytotechnologists may use the credential CT.

**Starting Salary**
$46,592 or $22.40/hour

**Professional Organizations**
- American Society for Clinical Pathology
  (800) 267-2727
  www.ascp.org
- American Society for Cytotechnology
  (800) 948-3947
  www.asct.com
- American Society of Cytopathology
  (302) 543-6583
  www.cytopathology.org

**Educational Programs**
Georgia does not have an educational program for Cytotechnology.

**Alabama**
- Auburn University Montgomery
  www.aum.edu
- University of Alabama at Birmingham
  www.uab.edu

**Tennessee**
- University of Tennessee Health Science Center
  www.utmem.edu

**Georgia Statewide AHEC Network**
www.mcg.edu/ahec
Histology is the microscopic study of tissues and their structures. Histotechnicians (HTs) and histotechnologists (HTLs) are experts in slide preparation. They prepare tissues by immersing them in fluid to prevent decay, replacing the specimen’s water with wax, slicing the tissue and applying dyes. The slides are microscopically examined by a pathologist or scientist for diagnosis. Samples are also used for teaching and research. Histotechnologists perform more specialized procedures, such as electron microscopy to identify tissue parts and relate them to body functions. They can also establish new laboratory and quality control procedures.

Work Environment
Hospital laboratories
Pharmaceutical companies
Physicians’ offices
Public health departments
Research facilities

Academic Requirements
A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Students interested in becoming a histotechnician may complete one of two routes of study. They may enter an accredited histology program or acquire an associate degree plus one year of laboratory experience. Students interested in becoming a histotechnologist must complete a histologic curriculum leading to a bachelor’s degree. Those with bachelor’s degrees in related fields may also enter accredited histologic programs.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification is often required by employers. It is available through the American Society for Clinical Pathology. Those who pass may use the credentials HT or HTL after their names signifying a histotechnician or histotechnologist, respectively.

Professional Organizations
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
(301) 657-2768
www.ascls.org

American Society for Clinical Pathology
(800) 267-2727
www.ascp.org

National Society for Histotechnology
(443) 535-4060
www.nsh.org

Educational Programs
Certificate
Darton College

Associate Degree
Darton College

Bachelor’s Degree
Georgia does not have a histotechnologist program.

Florida
Barry University
www.barry.edu

Ideal Attributes
• ability to concentrate for long periods
• work well under pressure
• detail-oriented
• patient

Starting Salary
Histotechnician = $35,048 or $16.85/hour
Histotechnologist = $43,180 or $20.76/hour

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec
As part of the laboratory team, phlebotomists collect and process blood to be analyzed. They have a great deal of patient contact and help calm nervous patients before beginning the blood collection process. Their education and experience help them to draw blood with the least possible anxiety and discomfort to the patient. Because they risk exposure to diseases, phlebotomists are trained in laboratory safety and careful collection of blood. Phlebotomists are usually supervised by a medical technologist.

**Work Environment**
- Blood donation centers
- Clinics
- Home health agencies
- Hospitals
- Insurance companies
- Pheresis (blood separation) centers
- Physicians’ offices
- Public health departments
- Reference laboratories

**Academic Requirements**
A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Training can be obtained through one-year, on-the-job instruction, or through a formal phlebotomy program, which lasts several months.

**License, Certification, and Registration**
Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification is available from the American Society for Clinical Pathology and the American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians.

**Professional Organizations**
- American Medical Technologists
  (847) 823-5169
  www.amt1.com
- American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
  (301) 657-2768
  www.ascls.org
- American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians
  (828) 294-0078
  www.aspt.org
- National Phlebotomy Association
  (301) 386-4200
  www.nationalphlebotomy.org

**Educational Programs**
- Athens Technical College
- Atlanta Technical College
- Augusta Technical College
- Bainbridge College
- Central Georgia Technical College
- Chattahoochee Technical College
- Columbus Technical College
- Dalton State College
- Darton College
- DeKalb Technical College
- East Central Technical College
- Georgia Northwestern Technical College
- Griffin Technical College
- Kennesaw State University
- Lanier Technical College
- Ogeechee Technical College
- Okefenokee Technical College
- Sandersville Technical College
- Savannah Technical College
- South Georgia Technical College
- Southeastern Technical College
- Southwest Georgia Technical College
- Valdosta Technical College
- West Georgia Technical College
- World Outreach Medical Institute
Technical advances and specialized procedures have created numerous exciting careers in the reinforcement and support work of the medical team. The concept of a team is critical for the delivery of good health care. Medical support personnel, key members of the team, perform a wide range of functions in a variety of settings. They may operate life-sustaining equipment, provide medical treatment at the scene of an accident, or assist surgeons in the operating room. Some perform direct patient care while others oversee office responsibilities. Whatever the position, these critically needed specialists are vital to the daily activities of the medical field.

“After 18 years in Emergency Medical Services, making a difference keeps me at it. Creating order out of chaos and helping the public is the ultimate satisfaction!”

~ Tracie Hobbs, NREMT-P
Leesburg
Anesthesiologist assistants (AA) work directly under the supervision of a licensed anesthesiologist to provide quality anesthesia care. Unlike nurse anesthetists, anesthesiologist assistants cannot work independently, or under the direction of any physician other than an anesthesiologist. They are trained to administer drugs, obtain vascular access, apply and interpret monitors, establish and maintain the patient’s airway, and assist with preoperative assessment. Anesthesiologist assistants are currently allowed to practice in 18 states and another 6 states through physician delegation, but with the growing demand, many other states will likely open their doors to these professionals.

**Work Environment**
Ambulatory surgical centers
Hospitals
Pain centers
Physicians’ offices

**Academic Requirements**
Prior to applying to an anesthesiologist assistant program, one must have a bachelor’s degree and completed the required pre-medical curriculum. Programs leading to a master’s degree last 24 to 28 months and include both classroom and clinical work. Two of the nation’s four anesthesiologist assistant programs are located in Georgia.

**Licensure, Certification, and Registration**
Licensure is required in Georgia and can be obtained through the Georgia Composite Medical Board. Certification is obtained through the National Commission for the Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants and leads to the title Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant (AA-C).

**Starting Salary**
$118,649 or $57.04/hour

**Professional Organizations**
American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants
(850) 656-8848
www.anesthetist.org

American Society of Anesthesiologists
(847) 825-5586
www.asahq.org

National Commission for the Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants
www.aa-nccaa.org

**Educational Programs**

*Master’s Degree*
Emory University
South University

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**Ideal Attributes**
• effective verbal & written communication skills
• excellent strength, motor skills, & coordination
• work well in fast-paced, stressful environment
• attentive to detail

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Athletic trainers work to keep athletes and other physically active people in top condition. Their duties entail two main areas: injury prevention, recognition and management, and the evaluation, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries that happen during physical activity or sporting events. To help people prevent injuries, certified athletic trainers develop conditioning and nutrition programs. They must be knowledgeable about the environment, protective equipment and safety. When injuries occur, athletic trainers develop and carry out the treatment and rehabilitation prescribed by a physician. In addition to a broad knowledge of anatomy, physiology, psychology, nutrition, and conditioning, athletic trainers must be skilled in first aid procedures, CPR, and therapeutic rehabilitation.

### Academic Requirements
A bachelor’s degree is the minimum education level for practice in this field, however, more than 70 percent of athletic trainers have a master’s degree or higher.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Licensure is required through the Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers. Certification by the Board of Certification is considered the standard qualification for the practice of athletic training. Only graduates of accredited programs are eligible to take the certification exam. Students should check with the educational institution to determine if its athletic training program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education.

### Professional Organizations
- **Board of Certification**
  (402) 559-0091
  www.bocatc.org
- **Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education**
  (512) 733-9700
  www.caate.net
- **Georgia Athletic Trainers’ Association, Inc.**
  www.athletictraining.org
- **Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers**
  (478) 207-2440
  www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/trainer
- **National Athletic Trainers’ Association**
  (214) 637-6282
  www.nata.org

### Educational Programs

#### Bachelor’s Degree
- Georgia College & State University
- Georgia Southern University
- North Georgia College & State University
- University of Georgia
- Valdosta State University

#### Master’s Degree
- Armstrong Atlantic State University

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**Starting Salary**
$35,000 or $16.83/hour

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**Ideal Attributes**
- work well one-on-one & with a team
- understand sports & injuries
- good communication skills
- self-starter

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**Work Environment**
- Colleges and universities
- Corporate health programs
- Health clubs
- High schools
- Hospitals
- Industrial medicine
- Professional sports teams
- Sports medicine clinics

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**Georgia Statewide AHEC Network**
www.mcg.edu/ahec
Emergency Medical Services is a broad term used to include emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics. These technicians respond to varying degrees of healthcare crises. They are trained to skillfully operate ambulances, assess and treat life-threatening emergencies, and transport patients to a healthcare facility capable of providing appropriate treatment. These highly trained individuals respond to medical and trauma related emergencies such as heart attacks, unexpected childbirth, car accidents, fires and emergencies involving Homeland Security. They perform CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), control bleeding, place splints on broken bones, and check pulse and respiration. Paramedics receive additional training in advanced life support techniques, and may provide additional interventions, such as intravenous medication delivery, cardiac monitoring and defibrillation, and advanced airway procedures.

Starting Salary

EMT = $26,728 or $12.85/hour
Paramedic = $30,720 or $14.77/hour

Ideal Attributes

• confident
• possess strength & agility
• work well under pressure
• can multi-task
• good communication skills

Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic

Work Environment

Colleges
County ambulance services
Fire departments
Hospital ambulance services
Hospital emergency rooms
Private ambulance companies

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. EMTs and paramedics receive both classroom and practical training in emergency medical care. Basic EMT education requires 120 to 220 hours of instruction over three to six months. Intermediate EMT education requires 378 hours of training, which usually lasts nine to twelve months. Paramedics receive approximately 1000 hours of instruction. This usually takes one year to a year and a half. A paramedic may obtain an associate degree in emergency medical services with additional general college courses. A few bachelor’s and master’s programs are available.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

EMTs and paramedics must take the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians exam. The exam includes clinical and didactic sections. Once they pass the exam, EMTs and paramedics are licensed by the State of Georgia Division of Public Health Office of Emergency Medical Services.

Professional Organizations

Georgia Association of Emergency Medical Services
(478) 633-7514
www.ga-ems.com

Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
(800) 34-NAEMT
www.naemt.org

National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians
(614) 888-4484
www.nremt.org

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec
Educational Programs

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN PROGRAMS**

Certificate
- Albany Technical College
- Altamaha Technical College
- Athens Technical College
- Atlanta Technical College
- Augusta Technical College
- Bainbridge College
- Central Georgia Technical College
- Chattahoochee Technical College
- Darton College
- DeKalb Technical College
- East Central Technical College
- Georgia Northwestern Technical College
- Griffin Technical College
- Gwinnett Technical College
- Heart of Georgia Technical College
- Lanier Technical College
- Medix College
- Moultrie Technical College
- North Georgia Technical College
- Ogeechee Technical College
- Okefenokee Technical College
- Savannah Technical College
- South Georgia Technical College
- Southeastern Technical College
- Southwest Georgia Technical College
- Valdosta Technical College
- West Georgia Technical College

Diploma
- Albany Technical College
- Athens Technical College
- Atlanta Technical College
- Augusta Technical College
- Central Georgia Technical College
- Chattahoochee Technical College
- DeKalb Technical College
- Griffin Technical College
- Gwinnett Technical College
- Heart of Georgia Technical College
- Lanier Technical College
- Medix College
- North Georgia Technical College
- Ogeechee Technical College
- Okefenokee Technical College
- Savannah Technical College
- South Georgia Technical College
- Southeastern Technical College
- Southwest Georgia Technical College
- Valdosta Technical College
- West Georgia Technical College

**PARAMEDIC PROGRAMS**

Certificate
- Bainbridge College
- Darton College
- Medix College

Diploma
- Albany Technical College
- Athens Technical College
- Atlanta Technical College
- Augusta Technical College
- Central Georgia Technical College
- Chattahoochee Technical College
- DeKalb Technical College
- Griffin Technical College
- Gwinnett Technical College
- Heart of Georgia Technical College
- Lanier Technical College
- North Georgia Technical College
- Ogeechee Technical College
- Okefenokee Technical College
- Savannah Technical College
- Southeastern Technical College
- Southwest Georgia Technical College
- Valdosta Technical College
- West Georgia Technical College

Associate Degree
- Albany Technical College
- Athens Technical College
- Central Georgia Technical College
- Darton College
- DeKalb Technical College
- Griffin Technical College
- Gwinnett Technical College
- Heart of Georgia Technical College
- Lanier Technical College
- North Georgia Technical College
- Ogeechee Technical College
- Okefenokee Technical College
- Savannah Technical College
- Southeastern Technical College
- Southwest Georgia Technical College
- Valdosta Technical College
- West Georgia Technical College

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec
Two of the fastest growing occupations in Georgia and the United States, home health aides and personal and home care aides, provide support to people who are unable to care for themselves. Their clients may be people with disabilities, the elderly, or individuals who have just been released from a hospital or nursing home. These professionals provide an alternative to institutional living by providing care at a client’s personal home or residential facility. Home health aides provide health-related services. They may administer medications, change dressings/bandages, provide skin care, help with prescribed exercises, and take pulse, blood pressure and temperature. They may also work with medical equipment such as ventilators and prosthetics. Personal and home care aides provide mainly housekeeping and routine personal care services. Their duties include planning and cooking meals, cleaning and shopping. They also help clients bathe, dress, groom and eat. Both home health aides and personal and home care aides may be responsible for keeping records and reporting to a supervisor, medical staff, or the client’s family about their client’s condition and progress.

Work Environment
- Assisted living residences
- Home health agencies
- Hospice
- Private homes
- Residential care facilities

Academic Requirements
A high school diploma or equivalent is usually not necessary. On-the-job training is often provided by the client’s family or home healthcare agency. Some high schools and technical colleges offer courses that would be helpful for this career. Online training is available through the National Association for Home Care and Hospice.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Licensure is not required in Georgia. Voluntary certification is available through the National Association for Home Care and Hospice.

Professional Organizations
- Georgia Association for Community Care Providers
  (678) 943-2617
  www.gaccp.org
- National Association for Home Care and Hospice
  (202) 547-7424
  www.nahc.org
- Private Duty Homecare Association
  (202) 547-7424
  www.pdhca.org

Educational Programs
Contact local high schools, technical colleges, or home health agencies to find courses available in your area. You may also contact the National Association for Home Care and Hospice for online training opportunities.
Medical assistants perform both clinical and administrative duties. Most physicians hire at least one medical assistant. Preparing patients for examinations, they take vital signs, such as blood pressure, temperature, pulse, and respiration. They assist with first aid, collect and process specimens, and perform procedures such as EKGs. They also may assist with office surgery and physical exams. As the physician’s right hand, these professionals schedule appointments, prepare and maintain patient records, and arrange hospital admissions. They type reports, process health insurance forms, order supplies, and keep financial records. A medical assistant serves as a liaison between the physician and others, such as pharmaceutical salespeople.

Work Environment
Chiropractors’ offices
Medical clinics
Optometrists’ offices
Physical therapy clinics
Physicians’ offices
Podiatrists’ offices

Academic Requirements
A high school diploma or equivalent is required. On-the-job training is available but many choose a one- or two-year medical assisting program. Two-year programs result in associate degrees while one-year programs grant certificates or diplomas.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Licensure is not required in Georgia. Only graduates of medical assisting programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs or the Accreditation Bureau of Health Education Schools are eligible to take the certification exam offered by the American Association of Medical Assistants. Certified Medical Assistants may use the initials CMA (AAMA) after their names. A professional credential (RMA - Registered Medical Assistant) is also offered by American Medical Technologists.

Educational Programs

Certificate
Advanced Career Training
American Professional Institute
Bainbridge College
Dalton State College
Laurus Technical Institute
Lincoln College of Technology
Medix College
Sanford-Brown College
World Outreach Medical Institute

Diploma
Albany Technical College
Athens Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Augusta Technical College
Brown Mackie College
Central Georgia Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College
Columbus Technical College
DeKalb Technical College
East Central Technical College
Everest Institute
Flint River Technical College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College

Griffin Technical College
Gwinnett Technical College
Heart of Georgia Technical College
LaGrange Technical College
Middle Georgia Technical College
Moultrie Technical College
North Georgia Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Okefenokee Technical College
Sandersville Technical College
Savannah Technical College
South Georgia Technical College
Southeastern Technical College
Southwest Georgia Technical College
Valdosta Technical College
West Georgia Technical College

Associate Degree
Bainbridge College
Brown Mackie College
Central Georgia Technical College
Flint River Technical College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Gwinnett College
Lincoln College of Technology
Medix College
Moultrie Technical College
North Georgia Technical College
South Georgia Technical College
Southeastern Technical College
Southwest Georgia Technical College
Valdosta Technical College
West Georgia Technical College
Westwood College

Starting Salary
$24,315 or $11.69/hour

Ideal Attributes
• good communication skills
• value accuracy
• attentive to detail
• team player
• empathetic
Perfusionists are important members of the open heart surgical team. During open heart surgeries, perfusionists manage and monitor the heart-lung machine which performs the function of the human heart and lungs. These professionals monitor the patient’s condition and work to maintain the body in the same physiological state as would be done by the native heart and lungs. Perfusionists sometimes perform similar functions outside of the operating room such as monitoring and maintaining artificial hearts, ventricular assist devices, and other circulatory assist devices. Perfusionists must have a thorough knowledge of pathophysiology, pharmacology, anatomy, physiology, and artificial circulation technology in order to perform these duties competently and safely. Perfusion care is performed in a team-oriented setting, and is considered to be highly stressful.

Work Environment
Equipment manufacturers
Hospitals

Academic Requirements
A strong background in science is recommended. Some programs require candidates to have backgrounds in medical technology, respiratory therapy, or nursing. A bachelor’s degree is required for all programs that are not bachelor degree granting programs. Programs are generally one to two years in length. Admission into schools of perfusion is extremely competitive.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Licensure is required in Georgia through the Georgia Composite Medical Board. Certification is available through the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion. After passing the examination, individuals may use the initials CCP (Certified Clinical Perfusionist). This is a voluntary process, but most employers require certification.

Professional Organizations
American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion, Inc.  
(601) 582-2227
www.abcp.org
American Society of Extracorporeal Technology
(804) 565-6363
www.amsect.org

Educational Programs
Georgia does not have an educational program.

Florida
Barry University
www.barry.edu

South Carolina
Medical University of South Carolina
www.musc.edu/chp/cp

Starting Salary
$84,010 or $40.39/hour
Over 80 sleep-related disorders such as Obstructive Sleep Apnea, Periodic Limb Movement Disorder, Narcolepsy, and REM Behavior Disorder have been linked to many health problems such as hypertension, cardiac failure, obesity, diabetes and stroke. Polysomnographic technologists, also known as sleep technologists, assist in evaluating, treating, and caring for patients with sleep disorders. Under the direction of physicians, these technologists gather data, apply necessary equipment for testing and treatment, accumulate data throughout the recording process, score the data and print a preliminary report. They use a great deal of independent judgment to make recommendations to the healthcare team regarding the patient’s visit to the sleep lab.

Ideal Attributes
- work well independently
- strong mechanical aptitude
- good troubleshooting skills
- work well with people of all ages
- good communication skills

Polysomnographic Technologist

Starting Salary
$37,440 or $18.00/hour

Work Environment
Educational institutions
Home care companies
Hospitals
Medical centers
Portable labs
Private clinics
Research facilities

Academic Requirements
A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Polysomnographic technologists may complete two years of education leading to associate degree. Certificate programs are also available. Graduation from a program accredited by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care is highly recommended.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Licensure is not required in Georgia. The Registered Polysomnographic Technologist credential (RPSGT) is available from the Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists through the successful completion of an examination.

Professional Organizations
American Academy of Sleep Medicine
(708) 492-0930
www.aasmnet.org

American Association of Sleep Technologists
(708) 492-0796
www.aastweb.org

Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists
(703) 610-9020
www.brpt.org

Educational Programs

Certificate
Central Georgia Technical College
Darton College
Griffin Technical College

Associate Degree
Darton College

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec
Surgical technologists provide care for patients before, during, and after surgery. They work closely with surgeons, anesthesiologists, and nurses to facilitate the safe and effective conduct of invasive surgical procedures. Before a surgical procedure, surgical technologists help the surgical staff scrub and put on gloves and gowns. They position patients on the operating table, prepare the skin and help apply equipment and monitoring devices. During an operation, they maintain the sterility of the operating room, pass instruments, keep the operative site visible and may operate lights, suction machines, and diagnostic equipment. Surgical technologists can also apply sterile dressings, and prepare specimens for the lab.

**Work Environment**
- Ambulatory surgical facilities
- Animal hospitals
- Crime labs/autopsy labs
- Hospitals
- Physicians’ offices
- Veterinary offices

**Academic Requirements**
A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Education in surgical technology usually lasts from nine to fifteen months for a diploma or certificate and two years for an associate degree.

**Licensure, Certification, and Registration**
Licensure is not required in Georgia. Surgical technologists are required to obtain certification through the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting and which leads to the credential of Certified Surgical Technologist (CST).

**Professional Organizations**
- Association of Surgical Technologists
  (303) 694-9130
  www.ast.org
- National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting
  (800) 707-0057
  www.nbstsa.org

**Starting Salary**
$30,850 or $14.83/hour

**Educational Programs**

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**Georgia Statewide AHEC Network**
www.mcg.edu/ahec
Professionals in the field of medicine are some of the most trusted and respected members of the healthcare team and community. The profession requires responsible, hard-working individuals who can deal with considerable stress. They must possess a sincere commitment to help others, much compassion, patience, excellent judgment, good decision-making skills, and a willingness to make personal sacrifices. A desire to learn is essential because healthcare providers must keep up with new advances in technology, equipment, procedures and medications. Physicians act as the “coach” of the team by overseeing other healthcare associates. A career in medicine is one of the most challenging positions in the world, but also offers some of the most exciting and rewarding opportunities to serve people.

“The challenge to make whole the mind, body and soul for the greatest number of people at the least cost is the premier health question of the 21st century. But I have no doubt that we will – with rapidity – see the day that the ‘poorest in the richest’ nation will receive ongoing quality healthcare.”

~ Marvin L. Crawford, MD, MDiv
Atlanta
Physicians perform medical examinations, take medical histories, request lab studies, and order x-rays to diagnose and treat illnesses and injuries. They teach people about their own bodies and help them to understand the effects of diet, exercise, and aging. Also known as allopathic physicians and MDs, they are licensed to perform surgery and prescribe medications. They usually choose an area of specialization. More and more primary care physicians (family physicians, pediatricians, internists, obstetricians and gynecologists, general surgeons) are needed to take care of the majority of medical problems. These doctors are an integral part of the healthcare team and are desperately needed in rural areas. Other physicians work in research to find new ways to diagnose, control, and cure diseases. Doctors who have their own practices must oversee personnel, payroll, billing, and other business-related functions.

Areas of Specialization
- Allergy and Immunology
- Anesthesiology
- Colon and Rectal Surgery
- Dermatology
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Medical Genetics
- Neurological Surgery
- Neurology
- Nuclear Medicine
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Otolaryngology
- Pathology
- Pediatrics
- Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Plastic Surgery
- Preventive Medicine
- Psychiatry
- Radiation Oncology
- Radiology
- Surgery
- Thoracic Surgery
- Urology

Work Environment
- Community health centers
- Health maintenance organizations
- HIV/AIDS clinics
- Hospitals
- Indian Health Service
- Medical schools
- Military
- Prisons
- Private practices
- Public health departments
- Research facilities
- Substance abuse treatment centers
- Urgent care centers
- Veterans’ Affairs

Academic Requirements
A four-year undergraduate degree emphasizing the sciences and liberal arts is required to enter medical school. Medical schools require applicants to take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). Some medical schools have early admissions programs, which allow more flexibility in course scheduling during the last two years of college. Medical school generally requires four years of study. Some schools offer combined bachelor’s and medical degrees; training lasts from six to eight years. Students are accepted into this type of program directly from high school.

Physicians undergo graduate medical training (residency) after completion of medical school. Residency training in a general specialty can last from three to five years. Subspecialty training can take an additional one to three years.

Visit the websites below to learn more about physician specialties including the nature of the work, training, length of residency, and salary information.

American Board of Medical Specialties
(312) 436-2600
www.abms.org

Association of American Medical Colleges – Careers in Medicine
(202) 828-0400
www.aamc.org/students/cim

Starting Salary
$124,575 - $168,242 or
$59.82 - $80.89/hour

Ideal Attributes
- good leadership skills
- committed to life-long learning
- care about people
- work confidently under stressful conditions

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec
**Licensure, Certification, and Registration**

To practice medicine, physicians and resident physicians must have a license through the Georgia Composite Medical Board. During residency training, physicians generally work toward obtaining certification from one of the 24 American Board of Medical Specialties Member Boards. Board certification is a voluntary procedure but one that is chosen by most physicians.

**Professional Organizations**

There are also professional organizations in each area of specialization.

- **American Medical Association**
  - (800) 621-8335
  - www.ama-assn.org

- **Georgia Composite Medical Board**
  - (404) 656-3913
  - www.medicalboard.georgia.gov

- **Georgia State Medical Association**
  - (404) 752-1564
  - www.gsmanet.org

- **Liaison Committee on Medical Education**
  - (American Medical Association)
  - (312) 464-4933
  - www.lcme.org

- **Medical Association of Georgia**
  - (800) 282-0224
  - www.mag.org

- **National Medical Association**
  - (202) 347-1895
  - www.nmanet.org

**Educational Programs**

**Doctoral Degree**
- Emory University
- Medical College of Georgia
- Mercer University
- Morehouse School of Medicine

**Georgia Statewide AHEC Network**
www.mcg.edu/ahec
A doctor of osteopathic medicine (DO) performs medical examinations, orders x-rays and laboratory studies, performs surgery and prescribes medications in the diagnosis and treatment of illnesses and injuries. Also known as osteopathic physicians, they are licensed to practice medicine in all 50 states. DOs emphasize the importance of prevention, diet, exercise, and environment in staying well, and the role the musculoskeletal system (nerves, joints, muscles, and bones) plays in disease, illness, and injury. Over half of all DOs practice in primary care specialties, such as pediatrics, family medicine, obstetrics/gynecology and internal medicine. Physicians who have their own practices must oversee personnel, payroll, billing, and other business-related functions. Osteopathic physicians represent 6 percent of the total U.S. physician population; however, they comprise 15 percent of all doctors who serve communities with populations of fewer than 10,000 people.
The foot is sometimes the first part of the human body to reveal a serious condition, such as diabetes. Doctors of podiatric medicine (DPM), also called podiatrists, are trained to diagnose and treat disorders, diseases, and injuries of the foot, ankle and lower leg. These physicians can prescribe medications, admit patients to hospitals, treat emergencies in the emergency room, order physical therapy, and perform surgery. Podiatrists treat conditions such as calluses, ingrown toenails, hammertoes, bunions, and injuries to the foot and lower leg. They are trained to design custom-made shoes and to fit corrective inserts, called orthotics, inside the shoes of patients. Foot problems will continue to rise due to the growing rates of obesity, diabetes and the aging population. This trend ensures that podiatrists will be in high demand and have job security.

Areas of Specialization
- Biomechanics
- Geriatrics
- Orthopedics
- Pediatrics
- Primary Podiatric Medicine
- Sports Medicine
- Surgery
- Wound Care

Work Environment
- Community health departments
- Health maintenance organizations
- Health professions schools
- Hospitals
- Long-term care facilities
- Military and VA hospital system
- Private or group practices
- U.S. Public Health Service

Academic Requirements
More than 95 percent of the applicants to the eight colleges of podiatric medicine in the United States already have a bachelor’s degree; many have attended graduate school. Colleges of podiatric medicine require applicants to take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) and apply for admission through the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine. Programs require four years of study, which include classes in anatomy, chemistry, pharmacology and pathology. Students work at clinical sites under the supervision of certified physicians and podiatrists. Graduates receive a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) degree. Graduates then complete residency programs of two to three years.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
To practice in Georgia, podiatrists must be licensed through the Georgia State Board of Podiatry. Specialty certification can be obtained in the areas of primary care and orthopedics and/or surgery.

Professional Organizations
- American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
  (800) 922-9266
  www.aacpm.org
- American Podiatric Medical Association
  (301) 581-9200
  www.apma.org
- Council on Podiatric Medical Education
  (301) 581-9200
  www.cpme.org
- Georgia Podiatric Medical Association
  (770) 536-0913
  www.gapma.com
- Georgia State Board of Podiatry
  (478) 207-2440
  www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/podiatry

Starting Salary
$88,000 or $42.31/hour

Ideal Attributes
- work well with people of all ages
- committed to lifelong learning
- excellent manual dexterity
- good communication skills

Educational Programs
- Georgia does not have an educational program for podiatrists.
- Florida
  Barry University-School of Graduate Medical Sciences
  www.barry.edu/gms

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec

Doctor of Podiatric Medicine
Physician assistants (PAs) are healthcare professionals who practice medicine as a team with their supervising physician. PAs deliver a broad range of medical and surgical services to diverse populations in rural and urban settings. As part of their comprehensive responsibilities, PAs conduct physical examinations, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel patients on preventive healthcare, assist in surgery, and prescribe medications in all 50 states. Physicians may delegate to PAs those medical duties that are within the physician’s scope of practice and the PAs training and experience. These highly trained healthcare professionals allow the increase in quality as well as quantity of medical care services. Physician assistants perform a vital service in rural and underserved regions of Georgia by providing access to quality healthcare services where there is a shortage of physicians. The demand for PAs is on the rise and is considered one of the fastest growing occupations in the country.

Areas of Specialization
A few postgraduate programs are available for PAs who want to gain advanced education in medical specialties. Most specialty training is provided on-the-job under a physician who has chosen a specialty.

Work Environment
- Clinics
- Community health centers
- Health maintenance organizations
- Hospitals
- Medical colleges and universities
- Military
- Nursing homes

Academic Requirements
A bachelor’s degree and previous healthcare experience is required for entrance into a physician assistant program. A master’s degree is the entry level education standard for the profession. The program includes two or more years of classroom and laboratory instruction and clinical rotations in internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology, emergency medicine, behavioral medicine, surgery, orthopedics, and geriatric medicine. Graduation from a program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission of Education for the Physician Assistant is required.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
To practice in Georgia, physician assistants must be certified through the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. Certification leads to the title of Physician Assistant-Certified (PA-C). Upon certification, licensure must be applied for from the Georgia Composite Medical Board.

Professional Organizations
- American Academy of Physician Assistants
  (703) 836-2272
  www.aapa.org
- Georgia Association of Physician Assistants
  (888) 811-4272
  www.gapa.net
- Georgia Composite Medical Board
  (404) 656-3913
  www.medicalboard.georgia.gov

Ideal Attributes
- good communication skills
- life-long learner
- care about people
- team player
- dedicated

Starting Salary
$71,750 or $34.59/hour

Educational Programs
Master’s Degree
- Emory University
- Medical College of Georgia
- Mercer University
- South University

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec
The mental and social services field requires talented hearts as well as talented minds. Since pain often goes far beyond the physical body, these workers are needed to assist an individual in total recovery. Their responsibilities may include mental health promotion, the identification, treatment and rehabilitation of persons with psychological disorders, or serving as a bridge between people and resources needed to help resolve challenges. Many times, the team intervenes to help victims of abuse, family strife, and behavioral problems. These professionals often humanize and personalize the healthcare process. Although extremely challenging and diverse, these careers offer much satisfaction and personal reward.

“I work with young people and their families. My specialty in child and adolescent psychiatry requires me to do a lot of listening and ‘figuring’ things out to get my patients and their families back on track. ADHD is a common diagnosis found among the young people with whom I interact.”

~ David Sorkey, MD
Columbus
Counselors work with people to help them solve their personal and social problems. They help families work through conflicts by improving communication and relationships. They may help physically, emotionally, mentally, or socially impaired people become more self-sufficient. Counselors work with clients who struggle with substance abuse, other addictions, family and marital problems, stress, and aging. They may also work with individuals, couples or families having difficulty adjusting to normal developmental or family issues. They work together with other professionals to assist patients in their recoveries. The demand for counselors is expected to continue to grow.

### Ideal Attributes
- good listening skills
- sensitive & objective
- emotionally stable
- organized & responsible
- empathetic

### Areas of Specialization
- Career Counseling
- College Counseling
- Community Counseling
- Gerontological Counseling
- Marriage, Couple and Family Counseling
- Mental Health Counseling
- Pastoral Counseling
- Rehabilitation Counseling
- School Counseling
- Student Affairs
- Substance Abuse Counseling

### Educational Programs
#### Master's Degree
- Albany State University
- Argosy University
- Augusta State University
- Brenau University
- Clark Atlanta University
- Columbus State University
- Fort Valley State University
- Georgia Southern University
- Georgia State University
- Mercer University
- North Georgia College & State University
- Richmont Graduate University
- South University
- Thomas University
- University of Georgia
- University of West Georgia
- Valdosta State University

#### Doctoral Degree
- Argosy University
- Georgia State University
- University of Georgia

### Work Environment
- Churches
- Drug rehabilitation centers
- Halfway houses
- Hospice programs
- Hospitals
- Mental health agencies
- Nursing homes
- Prisons
- Private practice
- Schools, colleges, and universities
- Social agencies

### Academic Requirements
A bachelor's degree in education, social work, sociology, psychology, criminal justice, or health science is required to enter a graduate program in counseling. Programs grant a master's degree which is considered the entry-level degree for professional practice. These are typically two-year programs including supervised clinical work. Doctorate programs are also available. Some areas of counseling require either a Ph.D. or both counseling and teaching certificates.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Georgia requires licensure through the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists. An exam is required to become licensed; this requires a master's degree and three years of experience. Certification is available through the National Board for Certified Counselors and the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification. School counselors working in Georgia must be certified by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. Many employers require certification.

### Professional Organizations
- American Counseling Association
  (800) 347-6647
  www.counseling.org
- American School Counselor Association
  (800) 306-4722
  www.schoolcounseling.org
- Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists
  (478) 207-2440
  www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/counselors
- National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc.
  (336) 547-0607
  www.nbcc.org

### Starting Salary
$39,250 or $18.87/hour

### Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec
Genetic counselors are health professionals with specialized education and experience in the areas of medical genetics and counseling. They work as a member of a team dedicated to counseling families with birth defects and genetically-inherited health problems, or who are at risk for developing such diseases or conditions themselves. They identify families at risk, investigate the problem present in the family, interpret information about the disorder, analyze inheritance patterns and risks of recurrence, and review available options with the family. Genetic counselors also provide supportive counseling to families, serve as patient advocates, and refer individuals and families to community or state support services. They serve as educators and resource people for other healthcare professionals and for the general public. Because of the rapid advances in genetic research as a result of the Human Genome Project, and the small number of training programs nationwide, the demand for genetic counselors is expected to grow significantly.

Ideal Attributes
• strong communication skills
• excellent problem-solving skills
• enjoy research & teaching
• extensive knowledge of genetics
• well-developed interpersonal skills

Work Environment
Diagnostic laboratories
Government agencies
Health maintenance organizations
Hospitals/medical facilities
Physicians’ offices
Private practices
Public health settings
Universities
University medical centers

Academic Requirements
A bachelor’s degree in a relevant field is required to enter a graduate program in genetic counseling. Most enter the field from a variety of disciplines, including biology, genetics, nursing, psychology, public health and social work. Programs last two years, including clinical experience, and lead to a master’s degree.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Licensure for genetic counselors is not required in Georgia. Genetic counselors must obtain certification through the American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC). Certification leads to the title of Certified Genetic Counselor (CGC).

Professional Organizations
American Board of Genetic Counseling
(913) 895-4617
www.abgc.net

National Society of Genetic Counselors
(312) 321-6834
www.nsgc.org

Educational Programs
Georgia does not have an educational program for genetic counselors.

Alabama
University of Alabama, Birmingham
www.ua.edu

North Carolina
University of North Carolina, Greensboro
www.uncg.edu

South Carolina
University of South Carolina School of Medicine
www.sc.edu

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec

Starting Salary
$48,000 or $23.08/hour
People are not always able to take care of their own needs. Consider the needs of the recovering addict who requires ongoing support to stay sober, the adult with a mental illness who requires support and medication to function on his/her job, the elderly widower with failing eyesight and a limited income who needs help with meals and transportation, and the developmentally challenged child who needs a variety of services to maximize his/her potential. These are the kinds of clients human services workers serve. They meet the individual, family or group at their level of need and serve as a “bridge” between people and their problems and the resources necessary to solve them. They evaluate the needs of their clients and find agencies such as public health clinics, food banks, drug treatment programs and mental health centers that provide services to meet those needs. The goal of the human services worker is to enable their clients to function as effectively and independently as possible in their homes, communities, and jobs. Human services workers serve clients in a variety of public outreach organizations while working alongside social workers, detectives, doctors and other specialists.

**Work Environment**
- Adult daycare facilities
- Churches
- Community mental health centers
- Day/residential treatment facilities
- Group homes
- Health departments
- Hospitals
- Military
- Nursing homes
- Prisons
- Public health departments
- Public welfare agencies
- Schools
- Substance abuse treatment centers

**Academic Requirements**
Educational programs are available at the two-year associate degree and four-year bachelor’s degree levels.

**Licensure, Certification, and Registration**
Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification is available through the National Organization for Human Services which leads to the Human Services Board Certified Practitioner (HS-BCP) credential.

**Starting Salary**
- **Associate’s Level** = $27,500 or $13.22/Hour
- **Bachelor’s Level** = $30,000 or $14.42/Hour

**Professional Organizations**
- Council for Standards in Human Service Education
  - www.cshse.org
- National Organization for Human Services
  - (770) 924-8899
  - www.nationalhumanservices.org

**Educational Programs**

**Associate Degree**
- Atlanta Metropolitan College
- Darton College
- Georgia Highlands College

**Bachelor’s Degree**
- Clayton State University
- Kennesaw State University
- Macon State College
- Mercer University
- Shorter College
- Spelman College

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**Ideal Attributes**
- Good listener & communicator
- Committed to helping others
- Problem-solver
- Patient
Psychologists are mental health professionals who specialize in human behavior. Through methods including interviews, tests, and questionnaires, psychologists are able to find out more about a person’s thoughts, feelings, development, information processing abilities, intellectual level, perceptions, and relationships. Depending upon the area of specialty, psychologists are committed to preventing, identifying, and treating problems that people have with their mental or physical health, personal relationships, and academic or occupational functioning. Working with people of all ages, they deal with issues such as stress management, depression, anxiety, self-esteem, eating disorders, aggressive/violent behavior, marital and family conflict, alcoholism and substance abuse. They also work with people with autism, attention deficit disorder, learning disabilities, and traumatic brain injury.

Areas of Specialization
- Clinical Child Psychology
- Clinical Health Psychology
- Clinical Neuropsychology
- Clinical Psychology
- Counseling Psychology
- Family Psychology
- Forensic Psychology
- School Psychology

Academic Requirements
A bachelor’s degree in a relevant field is required to enter master’s and doctoral programs in psychology. A master’s degree in school psychology is the only master’s level program that qualifies one to work as a psychologist. Earning a master’s degree in school psychology typically requires two to three years of study. Specialist and doctoral degrees are also available in school psychology. Most doctoral degrees involve 5 to 6 years of study, including a one-year internship. Many psychologists then choose to do additional formal post-doctoral training in a specialty area.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Georgia requires licensure through the Georgia State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. To be licensed, an individual must graduate from a program approved by the American Psychological Association, complete an internship and a 1500-hour post-doctoral work experience; and pass the National Licensure Exam, the Georgia Jurisprudence Exam and an oral exam. Individuals who have a master’s degree in school psychology can become a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP). To be eligible for this certification, an individual must complete a master’s program in school psychology, which is approved by the National Association of School Psychologists; complete a 1200-hour internship and pass a national school psychology exam. A Nationally Certified School Psychologist may call him or herself a psychologist when working in a school system but not when working in private practice.

Professional Organizations
- American Psychological Association
  (800) 374-2721
  www.apa.org
- Georgia Psychological Association
  (404) 634-6272
  www.gapsychology.org
- Georgia State Board of Examiners of Psychologists
  (478) 207-2440
  www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/psych
- National Association of School Psychologists
  (866) 331-6277
  www.nasponline.org

Ideal Attributes
- Interested in people
- Good analytical & problem-solving ability
- Excellent communication skills
- Emotionally stable
- High degree of self-awareness

Educational Programs

School Psychology Programs
- Georgia Southern University
- Georgia State University
- University of Georgia
- Valdosta State University

Clinical & Counseling Psychology Programs
- Argosy University
- Emory University
- Georgia Southern University
- Georgia State University
- University of Georgia
- University of West Georgia

Areas of Specialization
Starting Salary
$62,500 or $30.05/hour

Work Environment
Colleges and universities
Consulting firms
Corporations
Federal and state agencies

Educational Programs
School Psychology Programs
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
University of Georgia
Valdosta State University

Clinical & Counseling Psychology Programs
Argosy University
Emory University
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
University of Georgia
University of West Georgia

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
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Professional Organizations
- American Psychological Association
  (800) 374-2721
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  www.gapsychology.org
- Georgia State Board of Examiners of Psychologists
  (478) 207-2440
  www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/psych
- National Association of School Psychologists
  (866) 331-6277
  www.nasponline.org
Social workers ensure that individuals, families and communities have the resources they need to help solve problems such as discrimination, child abuse, homelessness, drug abuse, and poverty. They provide counseling to clients in every stage of life on issues such as divorce, death, stress and unemployment. Social workers seek social justice for vulnerable and oppressed populations and are committed to positive social change. These professionals often assist with placing people back into society after hospitalization or rehabilitation. They may also organize support groups for families of patients suffering from cancer, AIDS, Alzheimer's disease, or other illnesses. Simply put, social workers help people help themselves.

Areas of Specialization

There are many areas of specialization in which a social worker may practice. These are just a few examples:

- Child Welfare
- Forensics
- Geriatric Social Work
- Marriage and Family
- Physical and Mental Health
- School Social Work
- Social Policy and Community Practice

Work Environment

Community advocacy groups
Government agencies
HIV/AIDS clinics
Home health agencies
Hospice
Hospitals
Mental health/substance abuse centers
Nursing homes
Prisons
Schools
Social service agencies
Universities

Academic Requirements

Programs are offered at both the bachelor’s and master’s levels. The Master of Social Work is usually pursued after gaining some work experience and is often necessary to work in clinical settings. Doctoral programs are also available in social work, but a master’s is considered the terminal degree for practice.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Georgia requires licensure through the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists. Certification in several specialty areas is available through the National Association of Social Workers.

Professional Organizations

- Council on Social Work Education
  (703) 683-8080
  www.cswe.org

- Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists
  (478) 207-2440
  www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/counselors

- National Association of Social Workers
  (202) 408-8600
  www.naswdc.org

- National Association of Social Workers - Georgia Chapter
  (770) 234-0567
  www.naswga.org

Educational Programs

Bachelor’s Degree

- Albany State University
- Augusta State University
- Clark Atlanta University
- Dalton State College
- Fort Valley State University
- Georgia State University
- Savannah State University
- Thomas University
- University of Georgia
- Valdosta State University

Master’s Degree

- Clark Atlanta University
- Georgia State University
- Kennesaw State University
- Savannah State University
- University of Georgia
Nursing, a demanding but rewarding profession, is one of the most popular health careers. As the United States healthcare system experiences a dramatic transformation during healthcare reform, nurses will play an important role. Nurses are critical because they expand access to care, improve the quality and safety of healthcare, and reduce healthcare costs. The profession of nursing offers a wide variety of career opportunities through multiple levels of education and professional practice. Becoming a nursing assistant can be achieved in only a few weeks through a certification program, while a licensed practical nurse program requires up to two years of study. Registered nursing programs, offered at the associate, bachelor’s, and master’s level, offer advanced education and training in fields such as anesthesia and midwifery. As they provide personal and direct client care, nurses require excellent clinical skills, sensitivity, stamina, compassion and judgment in order to meet the physical and emotional needs of their patients.

Visit these websites for more information on the field of nursing:
www.discovernursing.com
www.nursesource.org

“It is a privilege to have the knowledge of the workings of the human body and an honor to use it. However, nursing is so much more than just caring for the physical being, it considers all that makes a being human. Nurses enhance the human experience. Who couldn’t love a profession like this?”

~ Rubye Feagins Stafford, RN
Columbus
Clinical Nurse Specialist

Clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) are advanced practice registered nurses that function in one of nursing's many areas of specialization. They may choose to practice in a specialty area that focuses on a type of disease (such as diabetes or cancer), a setting (such as the emergency room, home health or rehabilitation), a population (such as pediatric, adult or geriatric), or a procedure (such as surgery). Clinical nurse specialists provide direct care to patients and teach patients, families and peers in a variety of healthcare settings. They can also work as consultants, nurse managers and assist in health related research and innovation.

Areas of Specialization
There are many nursing specialties that a CNS may select. Specialty certification is available from several organizations. The American Nurses Credentialing Center offers specialty certification for clinical nurse specialists in the following areas:

- Adult Health
- Adult Psychiatric and Mental Health
- Child/Adolescent Psychiatric and Mental Health
- Diabetes Management
- Gerontology
- Home Health
- Pediatrics
- Public/Community Health

Industries
- Nursing homes
- Physicians' offices
- Private homes
- Public health departments/clinics
- Schools

Educational Programs
- Master's Degree
  - Armstrong Atlantic State University
  - Georgia College & State University
  - Georgia Southern University
  - Georgia State University
  - Mercer University - Georgia Baptist College of Nursing

- Advanced Certificate
  - Armstrong Atlantic State University
  - Georgia Southern University
  - Georgia State University

Academic Requirements
In order to enter a clinical nurse specialist program one must be prepared as a registered nurse with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree and hold a current nursing license. CNS programs are focused on specific specialties such as medical/surgical, adult health, community health, psychiatric and mental health, or acute/critical care. Programs last one to two years and lead to a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) or a post-MSN certificate.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Registered nursing licensure is required by the Georgia Board of Nursing. National certification is offered in many specialties through the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Specialty certifications are also available from other organizations accredited by The American Board of Nursing Specialties (www.nursingcertification.org).

Professional Organizations
- American Nurses Association
  (800) 274-4262
  www.nursingworld.org

- Georgia Board of Nursing
  (478) 207-2440
  www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/rn

- Georgia Nurses Association
  (404) 325-5536
  www.georgianurses.org

- National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
  (717) 234-6799
  www.nacns.org

Starting Salary
$70,313 or $33.81/hour

Ideal Attributes
- like solving complex problems
- enjoy teaching
- able to handle multiple tasks at same time
- work well under stress
- strong communication skills

Work Environment
- Colleges and universities
- Community agencies
- Hospitals

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec
In addition to providing basic bedside care, licensed practical nurses (LPNs) may also give injections and medications. They collect specimen for laboratory tests, change dressings, evaluate patient needs, implement care plans, and supervise nursing assistants. LPNs often check a patient’s temperature, pulse, breathing, and blood pressure. In an office setting, they may make appointments and keep patient records. In a home setting, under the supervision of physicians and/or registered nurses, LPNs instruct family members on nursing care.
Anesthesia is the use of drugs, gases, and nerve blocks to provide a partial or total loss of pain during surgery. Caring for patients before, during, and after surgical procedures, nurse anesthetists blend nursing skills with the practice of anesthesia. They provide services similar to those of anesthesiologists (physicians specializing in anesthesia), and may work independently or under the supervision of a physician. Nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) administer more than 65 percent of the anesthetics given in this country, and are often the sole anesthesia provider in rural areas. These nurses interview patients before surgery and design a customized plan of care based on medical history and type of surgery. During surgery, nurse anesthetists administer anesthetic drugs, monitor the patient's vital signs (blood pressure, heart function, temperature) and adjust the doses of anesthetics and other medications to assure optimal patient safety and comfort. They also manage the patient's airway and control breathing. Nurse anesthetists have the critical responsibility of safeguarding patients during surgery, and as a result, practice in the highest paid nursing specialty.

### Work Environment
- Ambulatory surgical centers
- Dental offices
- Hospitals
- Military
- Pain clinics
- Private physician surgical centers

### Academic Requirements
A bachelor's degree in nursing, a current nursing license, and a minimum of one year's experience as a registered nurse in an acute care area are required. Nurse anesthesia programs last from 24 to 36 months, depending upon the institution and the type of degree offered. All nurse anesthesia programs are at the graduate level, and all will be doctorate level programs by 2020.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Registered nursing licensure, authorization for advanced practice, and national certification are required by the Georgia Board of Nursing. Certification in the specialty of anesthesia is available through the Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthetists. Upon passing the certifying exam, graduate nurse anesthesia students may use the credential CRNA (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist).

### Professional Organizations
- American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
  - (847) 692-7050
  - www.aana.com
- Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists
  - (770) 487-3900
  - www.gana.org

### Ideal Attributes
- Maintain concentration for long periods
- Excellent manual dexterity
- Work well under considerable stress
- Able to analyze & problem solve

### Starting Salary
$122,720 or $59.00/hour

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**Educational Programs**

**Master's Degree**
- Medical College of Georgia
- Mercer University
Our nation is facing a serious nursing shortage that is expected to continue over the next decade. Across the country, thousands of qualified applicants are turned away from nursing programs due to the insufficient number of nursing faculty. Nurse educators play a vital role in preparing future generations of nurses. Nurse educators are registered nurses with advanced education (a master's or doctoral degree in nursing) and extensive clinical experience. Nurse educators are employed as faculty members in nursing schools, or they may work as hospital-based staff development educators or clinical supervisors. They design education programs, develop lesson plans, teach courses and oversee students’ clinical practice. Many nurse educators also choose to continue clinical practice in addition to teaching.

Nurse Educator

Nurse Educator • excellent critical thinking skills • passion for teaching • strong clinical background & experience • motivational & supportive • professionalism

Starting Salary
$54,000 or $25.76/hour

Work Environment
Colleges and universities
Community health agencies
Healthcare facilities
Healthcare research centers
Home care agencies
Hospital-based schools of nursing
Hospitals
Long-term care facilities
Technical colleges

Academic Requirements
Nurse educator programs are available at the master, post-master’s certificate, and doctoral levels.

Nurse educators who work in academic settings must hold a master’s degree in nursing, although a doctoral degree is considered the preferred degree for academic-based nurse educators.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Registered nurse licensure is required by the Georgia Board of Nursing. Voluntary certification is offered by the National League for Nursing for the Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) credential.

Specialty certifications, such as nurse practitioner, nurse midwifery, and nurse anesthetist are required if teaching in those specific areas.

Professional Organizations
American Nurses Association (800) 274-4ANA www.nursingworld.org
National League for Nursing (800) 669-1656 www.nln.org

Educational Programs

Master's Degree
Albany State University
Brenau University
Clayton State University
Georgia College & State University
Kennesaw State University
Mercer University
North Georgia College & State University
Thomas University
University of West Georgia
Valdosta State University

Doctoral Degree
Kennesaw State University
Mercer University

Advanced Certificate
Albany State University
Emory University
Georgia College & State University
Mercer University
North Georgia College & State University
Thomas University
University of West Georgia

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec
Nurse-midwifery is one specialty that a registered nurse may choose. These nurses are educated in midwifery and receive additional training in women’s healthcare. Nurse-midwives provide care for healthy women before, during, and after childbirth. During the birthing process, they spend time with the mother to provide needed emotional and physical support. They provide labor support and conduct the delivery, help in newborn care, and counsel mothers on infant growth and future pregnancies. Nurse-midwives are prized members of the childbirth team because they offer safe, accessible birth care. This is especially true in many rural and inner-city areas with few physicians. Nurse-midwifery has helped to reduce infant mortality by providing early care to pregnant women, and by increasing the use of prenatal care facilities. Nurse-midwives also provide regular gynecological care including annual visits, contraception and hormone therapy throughout the woman’s lifespan.

**Starting Salary**

$70,800 or $34.04/hour

**Work Environment**

- Birthing centers
- Clinics
- Health maintenance organizations
- Hospitals
- Physicians’ offices
- Public health departments

**Academic Requirements**

A Bachelor of Science in Nursing, a current nursing license, and experience in a related field are usually required to enter a master’s level program in nurse-midwifery. Some schools offer bachelor’s degree programs so that nurses with diplomas or associate degrees may gain the extra credits required to enter a master’s program.

**Educational Programs**

- **Master’s Degree**
  Emory University

- **Advanced Certificate**
  Emory University

**Licensure, Certification, and Registration**

Registered nursing licensure is required by the Georgia Board of Nursing. Certification is available from the American Midwifery Certification Board. Upon certification, nurses may use the credential CNM (Certified Nurse-Midwife).

**Professional Organizations**

- American College of Nurse-Midwives
  (240) 485-1800
  [www.midwife.org](http://www.midwife.org)

- American Midwifery Certification Board
  (410) 694-9425
  [www.amcbmidwife.org](http://www.amcbmidwife.org)

- Georgia Board of Nursing
  (478) 207-2440
  [www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/rn](http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/rn)

- Georgia Nurses Association
  (404) 325-5536
  [www.georgianurses.org](http://www.georgianurses.org)

- National League for Nursing
  (800) 669-1656
  [www.nln.org](http://www.nln.org)

- Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
  [www.mcg.edu/ahec](http://www.mcg.edu/ahec)

**Ideal Attributes**

- Patient & compassionate
- Work independently
- Excellent observation & communication skills
- Work well under pressure
- Enjoy teaching
As the nation continues to experience a lack of adequate health care providers, the health system depends on nurse practitioners (NPs) for delivery of quality healthcare. NPs are registered nurses who have advanced educational preparation and specialty certification that qualifies them to assess health conditions, identify and diagnose problems, write prescriptions for medications and develop plans to improve healthcare outcomes. NPs conduct health screenings and physical exams, prescribe tests and medications, and educate patients about their conditions and the need for preventive activities. Taking a holistic approach to treatment, they consider not only the physical component of wellness, but mental and spiritual factors as well. They deliver quality primary care in diverse settings including underserved areas, rural communities, inner-city areas, hospitals, clinics, and retail stores. Some NPs own their own practices and are reimbursed for services by the state and federal government and many insurance companies. NPs work in collaboration with physicians and other healthcare providers.

Areas of Specialization
- Acute Care
- Adult Health
- Diabetes Management
- Family Health
- Gerontology Health
- Pediatric/Child Health
- Psychiatric/Mental Health
- School Health
- Women’s Health

Educational Programs
**Master’s Degree**
- Albany State University
- Armstrong Atlantic State University
- Brenau University
- Emory University
- Georgia College & State University
- Georgia Southern University
- Georgia State University
- Kennesaw State University
- Medical College of Georgia
- North Georgia College & State University
- Valdosta State University

**Advanced Certificate**
- Albany State University
- Armstrong Atlantic State University
- Emory University
- Georgia College & State University
- Georgia Southern University
- Georgia State University
- Medical College of Georgia

Hospitals
- Migrant health centers
- Military
- Minute/Chain store clinics
- Physicians’ offices
- Public health departments
- Rural health clinics

Academic Requirements
To enter a nurse practitioner program in Georgia, one must have a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree and hold a current nursing license. Programs provide concentration in areas of specialization such as Family, Adult, and Pediatrics. Sub-specializations are also available. Programs last from one to two years with full-time study and lead to a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) or a post-MSN certificate.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Registered nursing licensure is required by the state through the Georgia Board of Nursing. Certification is required for areas of specialization and is available through the American Nurses Credentialing Center and other nursing certification organizations accredited by the American Board of Nursing Specialties (www.nursingcertification.org).

Professional Organizations
- American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
  (512) 442-4262
  www.aanp.org
- American Nurses Association
  (800) 274-4ANA
  www.nursingworld.org
- Georgia Nurses Association
  (404) 325-5536
  www.georgianurses.org

Ideal Attributes
- committed to life-long learning
- good communication skills
- work well under pressure
- like to teach & counsel
- knowledgeable about own limitations

Starting Salary
$70,100 or $33.70/hour

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec
By providing routine patient care, nursing assistants play a vital role in healthcare delivery. Working under the supervision of a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or physician, they answer patient call lights, serve meals, and check blood pressure, temperature, pulse, and breathing. Assistants visit with patients while helping them change position, walk, bathe, and eat. They generally have a great deal of patient contact and are important in developing patient relationships that foster trust. Those who work in nursing homes are called geriatric assistants. Some patients are discharged from hospitals needing additional home care. Nursing assistants allow these people to recover at home rather than in hospitals or nursing homes. They assist with medications, change linens, and teach family members to care for the patient during recovery.

**Work Environment**
- Home health agencies
- Hospitals
- Mental health institutions
- Nursing homes
- Physicians’ offices
- Private homes

**Academic Requirements**
A high school diploma or equivalent is recommended. Training is available at high schools, nursing homes, technical colleges, home care agencies and private schools. Education consists of at least 85 hours of lectures, demonstrations, and supervised practice.

**Licensure, Certification, and Registration**
Licensure is not required. The required Georgia certification is given by state-approved training facilities. Upon certification the initials CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) may be used.

**Starting Salary**
$19,656 or $9.45/hour

**Professional Organizations**
- Georgia Health Partnership
  1-800-766-4456
  www.ghp.georgia.gov
- Nursing Assistant Central
  www.nursingassistantcentral.homestead.com

**Education Programs**
Education for this career is offered by numerous organizations. Please visit the Georgia Health Partnership website at www.ghp.georgia.gov for a list of approved programs.

**Certificate**
- Albany Technical College
- Altamaha Technical College
- American Professional Institute
- Athens Technical College
- Atlanta Technical College
- Augusta Technical College
- Bainbridge College
- Central Georgia Technical College
- Chattahoochee Technical College
- Columbus Technical College
- Dalton State College
- DeKalb Technical College
- East Central Technical College
- Everest Institute
- Flint River Technical College
- Georgia Northwestern Technical College
- Griffin Technical College
- Heart of Georgia Technical College
- Kennesaw State University
- Lanier Technical College
- Medix College
- Moultrie Technical College
- North Georgia Technical College
- Ogeechee Technical College
- Okefenokee Technical College
- Sandersville Technical College
- Savannah Technical College
- South Georgia Technical College
- Southeastern Technical College
- Southwest Georgia Technical College
- Valdosta Technical College
- West Georgia Technical College
- World Outreach Medical Institute

**Georgia Statewide AHEC Network**
www.mcg.edu/ahec
Registered Nurses (RNs) care for patients by providing both treatment and education. They work closely with physicians and other health professionals as part of a healthcare team. RNs use a broad knowledge base to assess and understand problems, administer treatments and make decisions about patient care. They interpret and respond to patient symptoms, reactions, and progress. RNs also teach patients and families about proper healthcare, assist in patient rehabilitation, and provide emotional and physical support to promote recovery and well-being. Nurses often choose to work in specialized areas such as pediatrics, nursing administration, or public health. Registered nurses may supervise nursing aides, assistants, and licensed practical nurses (LPNs). The state of Georgia is predicted to need approximately 20,000 additional nurses by the year 2012. Nursing is a challenging and highly rewarding career that will continue to be in high demand well into the future.

**Ideal Attributes**
- genuinely care for people
- work well under pressure
- highly organized & flexible
- handle emergencies

**Areas of Specialization**
There are many workplace settings, populations and medical conditions that an RN can specialize in such as medical-surgical, pediatrics, geriatrics, psychiatric/mental health, administration, emergency, school nursing, and rehabilitation. Visit the American Board of Nursing Specialties to see all of the specialty certifications available to registered nurses (www.nursingcertification.org).

**Work Environment**
- Birthing centers
- Colleges and universities
- Community health centers
- Dialysis centers
- Hospitals
- Industry
- Mental health institutions
- Migrant centers
- Military
- Nursing homes
- Physicians’ offices
- Prisons
- Private homes
- Public health departments
- Public schools
- Rehabilitation centers

**Academic Requirements**
To become a Registered Nurse, students must complete an accredited nursing program leading to an associate degree or bachelor’s degree in nursing. Advanced education and training is also available at the master's and doctoral levels.

- Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN), Associate of Applied Science (AAS), or Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) - Offered primarily by community colleges. These are two-year programs.
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) - Offered by colleges and universities is usually a four-year program.
- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) or Master’s in Nursing (MN) - Offered by colleges and universities, a master’s generally requires one to three years of additional training after obtaining a B.S.N.
- Doctor of Nursing Science (DNSc, DNS, DSN), Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP or DrNP) or Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) - Offered by universities, a doctorate requires numerous years of additional education and research experience.

**Licensure, Certification, and Registration**
Licensure is required by the Georgia Board of Nursing. After licensure, nurses may use the Registered Nurse credential – RN. Certification demonstrating excellence in a specialty area is available from the American Nurses Credentialing Center and other nurse certification organizations accredited by the American Board of Nursing Specialties.

**Professional Organizations**
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing (202) 463-6930 www.aacn.nche.edu
- American Nurses Association (800) 274-4ANA www.nursingworld.org
- Georgia Board of Nursing (478) 207-2440 www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/rn
- Georgia Nurses Association (404) 325-5536 www.georgianurses.org
- National League for Nursing (800) 669-1656 www.nln.org

**Starting Salary**
$50,066 or $24.07/hour
Registered Nurse (Cont’d)

Educational Programs

Many of the following schools offer bridge or completion programs (examples: LPN to RN, EMT to RN, RN to BSN, RN to MSN) that allow you to move to the next career level while giving credit for skills already learned through school or work experience. Many schools offer satellite programs for registered nursing education on other college campuses. Contact the individual schools for more information, or the Georgia Board of Nursing website to see a list of approved schools and satellite programs.

Associate Degree
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
Athens Technical College
Bainbridge College
Chattahoochee Technical College
College of Coastal Georgia
Columbus Technical College
Dalton State College
Darton College
Georgia Highlands College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Georgia Perimeter College
Gordon College
Gwinnett Technical College
Macon State College
Middle Georgia College
North Georgia College & State University
South Georgia College
Southwest Georgia Technical College
West Georgia Technical College

Bachelor’s Degree
Albany State University
Armstrong Atlantic State University
Augusta State University
Brenau University
Clayton State University
College of Coastal Georgia
Columbus State University
Emory University
Georgia College & State University
Georgia Southern University
Georgia Southwestern State University
Georgia State University
Kennesaw State University
LaGrange College
Macon State College
Medical College of Georgia
Mercer University – Georgia Baptist College of Nursing
Piedmont College
Shorter College
Thomas University
University of West Georgia
Valdosta State University

Master’s Degree
Albany State University
Armstrong Atlantic State University
Brenau University
Clayton State University
Emory University
Georgia College & State University
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
Kennesaw State University
Medical College of Georgia
Mercer University – Georgia Baptist College of Nursing
North Georgia College & State University
University of West Georgia

Doctoral Degree
Emory University
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
Kennesaw State University
Medical College of Georgia
Mercer University – Georgia Baptist College of Nursing

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec
Members of the pharmacy team are some of the most accessible health care professionals. These individuals are responsible for providing their clients with confidence, guidance and awareness about using medications. Pharmacists work with physicians to accurately prepare prescriptions and dosages. Safely dispensing effective medicines to cure, prevent, or alleviate disease is a primary goal of these specialists. Individuals in this career must shoulder great responsibility, but they also enjoy the challenge and gratification of helping consumers make informed choices.

“The greatest reward I receive from my practice is the positive feedback I get from customers. Patients frequently come from their doctor with a new medication or a newly diagnosed condition and can remember only a fraction of what their physician has said. When I can reinforce what the doctor has told them, explain their medications and what can be expected, the patients are less anxious and more likely to comply with the new treatment. Never underestimate the impact that giving undivided attention and informed counseling can have.”

~ Ed Dozier, RPh
Albany
Pharmacists dispense prescribed drugs, help consumers select over-the-counter medications, and prepare ointments, powders, and capsules. These healthcare professionals serve as medication "specialists" on patient-care teams by providing information to assure optimal patient outcomes with drug therapy. Pharmacists partner with physicians to assist patients in managing chronic diseases such as diabetes. They may educate and counsel patients on aspects of their disease or condition. Many pharmacists own or manage pharmacies and may have other duties such as purchasing drugs and other health-related supplies and supervising pharmacy staff.

**Areas of Specialization**
- Ambulatory Care Pharmacy
- Nuclear Pharmacy
- Nutrition Support Pharmacy
- Oncology Pharmacy
- Pharmacotherapy
- Psychiatric Pharmacy

**Work Environment**
- Clinics
- Colleges and universities
- Community pharmacies
- Health maintenance organizations
- Hospitals
- Military
- Pharmaceutical industry
- Public health departments
- Retail drug chains

**Academic Requirements**
All of Georgia's pharmacy schools require students to take the Pharmacy College Admissions Test prior to admission. A Doctor of Pharmacy degree (Pharm. D.) requires six years of education: two years of pre-pharmacy study and four years of the pharmacy program. Some schools offer accelerated programs condensing the program into three years. Students may elect additional training in a specialty area.

**Licensure, Certification, and Registration**
Licensure is required through the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy. All graduates are required to pass the North American Pharmacist Licensure Exam.

**Professional Organizations**
- American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (703) 739-2330 www.aacp.org
- American Pharmacists Association (202) 628-4410 www.pharmacist.com
- American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (866) 279-0681 www.ashp.org
- Georgia State Board of Pharmacy (478) 207-2440 www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/pharmacy

**Starting Salary**
$96,000 or $46.15/hour

**Ideal Attributes**
- good people skills
- organized
- move quickly from one task to another
- attentive to detail
- precise

**Educational Programs**
**Doctoral Degree**
- Mercer University
- Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Georgia Campus
- South University
- University of Georgia
Pharmacy technicians work under the direct supervision of a pharmacist. They are trained to receive and screen prescription orders for completeness and accuracy and to prepare and distribute medications. Compounding (mixing), counting and labeling medications, preparing IVs and determining drug charges are all duties a pharmacy technician may perform. Pharmacy technicians must be skilled in basic computer operations as well as ordering, stocking, packaging, and maintaining the inventory of medications.

Starting Salary
$24,960 or $12.00/hour

Ideal Attributes
• value accuracy
• good hand-eye coordination
• team player
• can work independently
• excellent communication skills

Work Environment
Clincs
Health maintenance organizations
Home health pharmacies
Hospitals
Mail order pharmacies
Nursing home pharmacies
Retail drug stores and chains

Academic Requirements
A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Many pharmacy technicians are trained on the job. Most formal training programs require 18 months to two years of study and lead to a certificate, diploma, or associate degree.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Licensure is not required in Georgia. National certification may be obtained through the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB). Upon passing the exam, the initials CPhT (Certified Pharmacy Technician) may be used.

Professional Organizations
American Pharmacists Association
(800) 237-2742
www.pharmacist.com

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
(301) 657-3000
www.ashp.org

National Pharmacy Technician Association
(888) 247-8700
www.pharmacytechnician.org

Pharmacy Technician Certification Board
(800) 363-8012
www.ptcb.org

Educational Programs
Certificate
American Professional Institute
Kennesaw State University
Medix College
World Outreach Medical Institute

Diploma
Albany Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Augusta Technical College

Central Georgia Technical College
Columbus Technical College
Everest Institute
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Griffin Technical College
Heart of Georgia Technical College
North Georgia Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Southeastern Technical College
Southwest Georgia Technical College
Valdosta Technical College

Associate Degree
Albany Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Augusta Technical College
Brown Mackie College
Columbus Technical College
Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Griffin Technical College

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec
Public health professionals are involved in the promotion of good health and the prevention of disease and injury. Rather than focusing on diagnosing and treating disease in individuals, public health professionals seek to improve the health of communities through prevention and health promotion. They may analyze statistical data to identify health trends in communities, work to ensure a healthy environment and workplace, study disease or teach health education programs. Public health achievements include the fluoridation of drinking water, car seat and seat belt use, tobacco-free environments, and vaccinations. For more information on careers in public health, visit www.pathwaystopublichealth.org.

“Helping people safeguard their health while keeping infectious diseases to a minimum is a challenging occupation.”

~ Jonathan Fairley, MPH
Valdosta
Biostatisticians use statistical reasoning and methods to determine the cause of disease and injuries and to identify health trends in communities. Biostatisticians work closely with epidemiologists, survey researchers, local community planners, state and national health policy analysts and government officials to solve public health problems. They may analyze such things as the occurrence of gun violence, drunk driving injuries, the efficacy of new drugs, or trends in cancer incidence. Their duties include designing public health studies and clinical trials, analyzing and interpreting statistical results, identifying risk factors associated with various diseases, and creating new statistical software and models.

Ideal Attributes

• strong quantitative/math skills
• excellent oral & written communication skills
• good statistical programming abilities
• able to multi-task effectively

Work Environment

Colleges and universities
Consulting firms
Hospitals
Industry
International health agencies
Local, state, and federal government
Non-profit organizations
Pharmaceutical industry
Private health agencies
Public health departments
Research institutions
Research laboratories

Academic Requirements

A bachelor’s degree is required for admission into a graduate program. Programs leading to a Master’s of Public Health or Master of Science degree usually take two years to complete. A doctoral degree takes 4 to 6 years and leads to a Doctor of Public Health or PhD.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

State licensure is not required in Georgia. The American Statistical Association is developing a certification program.

Professional Organizations

American Public Health Association  (202) 777-APHA
www.apha.org
American Statistical Association  (888) 231-3473
www.amstat.org
International Biometric Society  (202) 712-9049
www.tibs.org

Educational Programs

Master’s Degree
Emory University
Georgia Southern University
Medical College of Georgia
University of Georgia

Doctoral Degree
Emory University
Georgia Southern University
Medical College of Georgia

Starting Salary

Master’s Level = $58,000 or $27.89/hour
Doctorate Level = $85,000 or $40.87/hour
Environmental health specialists evaluate the environmental quality of a community and take action to safeguard human health and safety. They collect and analyze information related to air, food, water and soil to determine if a hazard to public health exists, and create strategies to prevent and eliminate such hazards and protect the environment. There are many career opportunities in environmental health. Environmental health specialists may choose to focus on environmental legislation, community planning, toxicology (the study of harmful effects of chemicals on humans and other living organisms), waste management or many other areas. They inspect individual sewage disposal systems, swimming pools, spas, non-community water systems, and locations such as retail food establishments, childcare facilities, and schools. They are responsible for enforcing local, state, and federal environmental health regulations that pertain to water quality, air quality, handling of hazardous and infectious wastes, and cleanliness and safety of housing and institutional environments. These professionals must exercise considerable initiative and sound judgment while working with limited supervision.

**Work Environment**
- Consulting firms
- Environmental agencies
- Government agencies
- Local and state health departments
- Private organizations
- Private research facilities

**Academic Requirements**
A bachelor's degree in environmental health or related field with a strong background in science is required. Many environmental health specialists have graduate degrees in public health with a concentration in environmental health.

**Licensure, Certification, and Registration**
Licensure is not required in Georgia. The National Environmental Health Association and the Georgia Board of Registered Environmental Health Professionals offer the Registered Environmental Health Specialist credential.

**Starting Salary**
$34,000 or $16.35/hour

**Professional Organizations**
- Georgia Environmental Health Association
  (912) 427-5768
  www.geha-online.org
- National Center for Environmental Health
  (800) 232-4636
  www.cdc.gov/nceh
- National Environmental Health Association
  (866) 956-2258
  www.neha.org

**Educational Programs**

**Bachelor's Degree**
- University of Georgia

**Master's Degree**
- Emory University
- Fort Valley State University
- Georgia Southern University
- University of Georgia

**Doctoral Degree**
- University of Georgia
Epidemiology is a science that focuses on the prevention of disease and promotion of health in human populations. Epidemiologists are scientists who study why diseases, injuries and other health-related conditions are present in populations; how diseases work inside the body; what puts people at risk for disease, injury and other health-related conditions; and how they impact populations. These scientists work to understand the cause of disease and ways to predict, prevent, and control disease. They use statistics to identify and measure patterns of human disease occurrence in populations in order to provide scientific data to local, state, and federal agencies. Epidemiologists can be broken down into three groups: applied, research and clinical. Applied epidemiologists usually work in communities where there is prevalent disease. They evaluate the status of a disease in the community and construct programs for effective prevention, intervention, and control of these diseases. Research epidemiologists study infectious and chronic diseases that can affect the entire body, attempting to eradicate or control these diseases. Clinical epidemiologists work primarily as consultants for hospitals. They inform the medical staff of infectious outbreaks and provide containment solutions.

Starting Salary
Master's Level = $41,500 or $19.95/hour

Work Environment
Colleges and universities
Consulting firms
Hospitals
Industry
Local, state and federal government
Non-profit organizations
Public health departments
Research institutes
Research laboratories

Academic Requirements
A bachelor's degree is required for admission into a graduate program. Programs leading to a Master of Public Health degree usually take two years to complete. A doctoral degree takes 3 to 5 years and leads to a Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) or Ph.D.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
State licensure is not required in Georgia. There are no certification or registration requirements for this career.

Professional Organizations
American College of Epidemiology
(919) 861-5573
www.acepidemiology.org

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
(202) 789-1890
www.apic.org

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
(770) 458-3811
www.cste.org

Society for Epidemiologic Research
(801) 525-0231
www.epiresearch.org

Educational Programs
Master's Degree
Emory University
Georgia Southern University
Morehouse School of Medicine
University of Georgia

Doctoral Degree
Emory University

Ideal Attributes
• strong interest in biology or science
• analytical & critical thinking skills
• excellent verbal & written communication skills
• interest in solving problems

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec
Health educator work to promote, maintain, and improve individual and community health. They assist individuals in adopting healthy behaviors and learning behavior modification techniques. They determine the health needs of communities then plan, implement, administer, and evaluate programs that will encourage healthy lifestyles, policies and environments. Health educators may educate on such topics as infectious disease, drug abuse, nutrition, safety, human relations, stress management, and weight control. They often choose to focus on specific population groups or health issues. They are skilled in writing educational materials, public information reports, and grant proposals.

**Ideal Attributes**
- enjoy teaching & working with others
- good communication skills
- desire to be a change agent
- committed to life-long learning
- organized & detail oriented

**Starting Salary**
Bachelor’s Level = $31,500 or $15.15/hour

**Work Environment**
- Business and industry
- Colleges and universities
- Community organizations
- Faith-based organizations
- Hospitals and other healthcare settings
- Local, state, federal, and international government agencies
- Schools

**Academic Requirements**
A bachelor’s degree in health education, community health, health promotion and behavior or related area is required for entry-level positions. A master’s degree, typically a Master of Public Health, may be needed for higher level positions.

**Licensure, Certification, and Registration**
Licensure is not required in Georgia. Voluntary credentialing as a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) is available from the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing.

**Professional Organizations**
- American Association for Health Education
  (800) 213-7193
  www.aahperd.org/aahe
- American Public Health Association
  (202) 777-APHA
  www.apha.org
- Georgia Public Health Association
  (678) 302-1132
  www.gapha.org
- Society for Public Health Education
  (202) 408-9804
  www.sophe.org

**Educational Programs**

**Bachelor’s Degree**
- Armstrong Atlantic State University
- Columbus State University
- Georgia College & State University
- Georgia Southern University
- Kennesaw State University
- University of Georgia

**Master’s Degree**
- Armstrong Atlantic State University
- Emory University
- Georgia College & State University
- Georgia Southern University
- Georgia State University
- Kennesaw State University
- Mercer University
- Morehouse School of Medicine
- University of Georgia

**Doctoral Degree**
- Emory University
- Georgia Southern University
- University of Georgia

**Georgia Statewide AHEC Network**
www.mcg.edu/ahec
Industrial hygienists are environmental health specialists who specialize in business and industry. They search for hazards, diseases, and hidden dangers in the workplace, and suggest procedures to eliminate them. Industrial hygienists help to establish regulations to ensure worker health and safety by conducting surveys to determine exposure to toxic and harmful chemical and physical substances. They are involved in helping employers find solutions to such problems as carpal tunnel syndrome, a repetitive motion disorder of the hands common in many computer operators and typists. These professionals study work-related conditions leading to birth defects, mental retardation, mental illnesses, and cancer.

Ideal Attributes
- highly-developed problem-solving skills
- strong critical thinking skills
- knowledgeable about health & safety regulations
- good communication skills

Work Environment
Consulting firms
Environmental agencies
Government agencies
Industry
Insurance companies
Labor unions
Manufacturing companies
Military

Academic Requirements
Industrial hygienists generally have obtained a bachelor's degree in one of the sciences, engineering or environmental health science with a focus on occupational health. Most have graduate degrees in occupational safety and health, industrial hygiene engineering, physical or natural science, environmental health science or toxicology.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Licensure is not required in Georgia. Although it is optional, certification is preferred by most employers and is offered by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene. This process is usually completed after gaining five years of work experience with a bachelor’s degree, four years with a master’s degree, and three years with a Ph.D. Once certified, professionals are awarded the credential Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH).

Professional Organizations
American Board of Industrial Hygiene
(517) 321-2638
www.abih.org
American Industrial Hygiene Association
(703) 849-8888
www.aiha.org

Educational Programs

Bachelor’s Degree
University of Georgia

Master’s Degree
Emory University
Georgia Southern University
University of Georgia

Doctoral Degree
University of Georgia

Starting Salary
$50,343 or $24.20/hour

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec
“I love radiology because it gives me the opportunity to take images of the most complex and dynamic system ever created, the human body. Through imaging, doctors are able to assess and treat all types of injuries and diseases. There are many areas of radiology that one can explore and these include diagnostic, ultrasound, CT and MRI. With the latest ‘state of the art’ equipment to work with, you, too, can explore the world and wonders of radiology.”

~ Myron Williams, USN/RET/RT
Gainesville

Professionals in the field of radiologic and imaging science provide the healthcare team with diagnostic and therapeutic services. Using radiation, radioactivity, ultrasound and other methods, they produce images, treat cancer, explore body functions and structure, and provide diagnoses. The information they provide on the presence and extent of an injury, disease, or impairment is used by the healthcare team to make decisions on how to treat the identified problem. These professionals are trained to operate diagnostic equipment, keep accurate records, and when appropriate, protect the patient and themselves from any harmful effects of a procedure. A career in this field offers challenging and rewarding opportunities.
Cardiovascular technologists perform examinations to determine how well the heart and blood vessels function. Invasive cardiology, tests that actually go into the heart, includes procedures like heart catheterization. Non-invasive procedures may monitor the heart’s condition during exercise, or use ultrasound waves to produce images of the heart’s chambers and valves. Technologists report to a cardiologist (physician specializing in the heart) and supply data to diagnose heart disease. They also prepare patients for examinations including taking medical histories, drawing blood samples, and explaining procedures.

Areas of Specialization
- Invasive Cardiology
- Non-invasive Echocardiography
- Non-invasive Vascular Technology

Work Environment
- Clinics
- Hospitals
- Medical centers
- Mobile units
- Physicians’ offices

Academic Requirements
A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Most programs require two years of study and award an associate degree. Bachelor level programs are also available.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Licensure is not required in Georgia at this time. Credentialing for all three specialties is available through Cardiovascular Credentialing International. Non-invasive cardiology professionals can also receive registration through the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonographers. Most employers require registration after one year of work.

Professional Organizations
- Alliance of Cardiovascular Professionals
  (804) 632-0078
  www.acp-online.org
- Cardiovascular Credentialing International
  (800) 326-0268
  www.cci-online.org
- Joint Review Committee on Education in Cardiovascular Technology
  (214) 206-3117
  www.jrccvt.org

Educational Programs
- **Associate Degree**
  Augusta Technical College (with Harry T. Harper, Jr., M.D., School of Cardiac and Vascular Technology)
  Central Georgia Technical College
  Darton College
  Georgia Northwestern Technical College
  Sanford-Brown College

- **Bachelor’s Degree**
  Armstrong Atlantic State University

Starting Salary
$67,663 or $32.53/hour

Ideal Attributes
- calm & patient under pressure
- enjoy learning new procedures & technologies
- detail-oriented
- flexible & able to adapt
Diagnostic Medical Sonographer

Diagnostic medical sonography, also referred to as ultrasound, is used to diagnose abnormalities throughout different parts of the body. Fetal growth and development in expectant mothers is also examined with ultrasound. Ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves to produce images of body tissues. Sonographers display these images on a video monitor and are able to identify anatomy and pathology of the various organs. Sonographers prepare patients for the exam, explain procedures, select appropriate equipment, operate the ultrasound machine, and obtain medical images used for diagnosis. They keep accurate records, including patient information and sonographic data. Their observations are reviewed and interpreted by a physician. Sonographers may also be responsible for some preliminary image interpretation.

Ideal Attributes
- extensive knowledge of anatomy & pathology
- can analyze visual findings
- able to problem-solve
- good communication skills
- enjoy working with people of multiple backgrounds & cultures

Starting Salary
$48,173 or $23.16/hour

Work Environment
- Clinics
- Hospitals
- Mobile services
- Physicians' offices

Academic Requirements
A high school diploma or equivalent is required to enter a diagnostic medical sonography program. There are three types of programs available: one-year certificate or diploma programs, two-year associate degree programs, and four-year bachelor's degree programs.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification is available through the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography for candidates with approved clinical and academic backgrounds. Upon passing the exam, sonographers become Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (RDMS). Most employers require certification.

Professional Organizations
- American Institute for Ultrasound in Medicine
  (800) 638-5352
  www.aium.org
- American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography
  (800) 541-9754
  www.ardms.org
- American Society of Radiologic Technologists
  (800) 444-2778
  www.asrt.org
- Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography
  (800) 229-9506
  www.sdms.org

Educational Programs

Diploma
- Georgia Northwestern Technical College
- Institute of Allied Medical Professions
- Ogeechee Technical College
- Sanford-Brown College

Associate Degree
- Athens Technical College
- Columbus Technical College
- Darton College
- Institute of Allied Medical Professions

Bachelor's Degree
- Armstrong Atlantic State University
- Medical College of Georgia

Advanced Certificate
- Grady Health System
Medical Dosimetrist

Starting Salary
$67,663 or $32.53/hour

Work Environment
Cancer treatment centers
Hospitals
Medical research laboratories
Medical schools
Vendor sales/support

Academic Requirements
The education and training for this career varies depending on previous experience. Most programs require the applicant to be a registered radiation therapist or have a baccalaureate degree with specific pre-requisites. Educational programs for medical dosimetrists can range from 12 months to 24 months. Graduates of formal medical dosimetry education programs must have six months of clinical medical dosimetry training/experience under the direction of a certified medical dosimetrist, medical physicist or radiation oncologist in order to be eligible for certification in medical dosimetry.

License, Certification, and Registration
Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification may be obtained through the Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board. Upon certification, the credential CMD (Certified Medical Dosimetrist) may be used.

Professional Organizations
American Association of Medical Dosimetrists
(703) 234-4063
www.medicaldosimetry.org

Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board
(886) 813-6322
www.mdcb.org

Ideal Attributes
- strong math & science skills
- excellent critical thinking skills
- work independently
- team player
- good computer skills

Medical dosimetrists are vital members of the radiation therapy team. Dosimetrists work under radiation oncologists (physicians specializing in the treatment of cancer through radiation) in planning radiation treatments for patients. After a tumor is located in a patient, dosimetrists use the physician’s instructions to calculate the radiation dosage. They may also be involved in research and the development of new therapy techniques. These medical professionals must work well under stressful conditions while maintaining a high level of concentration.

Educational Programs

Master's Degree
Medical College of Georgia

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec
Nuclear medicine technologists use radioactive materials and complex instruments to “see” organ images and body functions, and assist in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases. Skilled in patient care, nuclear medicine technologists instruct patients prior to medical procedures. Under the direction of a physician, they calculate dosages and administer appropriate radioactive drugs. Technologists must also document the use and disposal of radioactive materials. Technological innovations may increase the diagnostic uses of nuclear medicine. New nuclear imaging technologies, including positron emission tomography/computed tomography systems (PET/CT) and single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT), are expected to be used increasingly and will contribute to employment growth. The wider use of nuclear medical imaging to observe metabolic and biochemical changes during neurology, cardiology, and oncology procedures will also spur demand for nuclear medicine technologists.

Starting Salary
$50,197 or $24.13/hour

Work Environment
Cardiology centers
Clinics
Hospitals
Imaging centers
Pharmaceutical companies
Research facilities

Academic Requirements
A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Three programs are available: two-year associate degree programs, four-year bachelor’s degree programs, and one-year post-baccalaureate certificate programs. Bachelor’s level programs may provide advanced training making graduates more competitive for jobs.

License, Certification, and Registration
Licensure is not required in Georgia. To be eligible for certification, graduation from an accredited program is required. Registration and certification are available through the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board or the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. After obtaining certification, technologists may then use the credentials CNMT or RT(N), meaning Certified Nuclear Medicine Technologist and Registered Technologist, Nuclear. Most employers require certification and/or registration.

Professional Organizations
American Registry of Radiologic Technologists
(651) 687-0048
www.arrt.org

American Society of Radiologic Technologists
(800) 444-2778
www.asrt.org

Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology
(405) 285-0546
www.jrcnmt.org

Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board
(404) 315-1739
www.nmtcb.org

Society of Nuclear Medicine
(703) 708-9000
www.snm.org

Educational Programs

Bachelor's Degree
Armstrong Atlantic State University
Medical College of Georgia
Radiation plays a major role in treating cancer by relieving symptoms, and many times, producing a cure. It is often supplemented with surgery or chemotherapy, and requires skillful application by radiation therapists. These therapists position patients and give prescribed radiation under the direction of a radiation oncologist (physician specializing in the treatment of cancer through radiation). They provide emotional support to patients, keep records, administer treatment, and provide radiation protection for their patients and themselves.

**Ideal Attributes**
- Team player
- Compassionate
- Detail oriented
- Excellent critical thinking skills
- Responsible

**Work Environment**
- Cancer centers
- Colleges and universities
- Hospitals
- Research laboratories

**Academic Requirements**
A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Many educational programs are available: certificate, associate degree and bachelor’s degree. Programs may last from one to four years depending on prior experience and degree awarded. Admission to advanced certificate programs is restricted to graduates of accredited radiography programs.

**Licensure, Certification, and Registration**
Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification may be obtained through the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. RT(T) (registered technologist, radiation therapy) is the credential awarded upon certification. Most employers require certification.

**Professional Organizations**
- American Registry of Radiologic Technologists
  (651) 687-0048
  www.arrt.org
- American Society of Radiologic Technologists
  (800) 444-2778
  www.asrt.org
- Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology
  (312) 704-5300
  www.jrcert.org

**Educational Programs**

**Certificate**
- Institute of Allied Medical Professions

**Associate Degree**
- Georgia Northwestern Technical College

**Bachelor’s Degree**
- Armstrong Atlantic State University
- Medical College of Georgia

**Advanced Certificate**
- Armstrong Atlantic State University
- Grady Health System

**Starting Salary**
$54,300 or $26.11/hour
Radiologic technologists, also called radiographers, produce images for interpretation by a radiologist who is a physician specializing in the use of radiation in the diagnosis and treatment of disease. They use their knowledge of radiation, equipment, computers and anatomy to produce high quality images and minimize radiation dose. They give patients chemical mixtures so that body organs will be visualized. They process and evaluate images, and educate patients on procedures. Radiologic technologists understand the benefits and hazards of radiation, and are experts in safeguarding their patients and personnel from excessive radiation exposure.

Areas of Specialization
- Bone Densitometry
- Cardiovascular/Interventional
- Computed Tomography
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging
- Mammography
- Nuclear Medicine
- Radiation Therapy
- Sonography

Work Environment
- Clinics
- Colleges and universities
- Equipment sales
- Government facilities
- Hospitals
- Mobile facilities
- Physicians’ offices
- Public health departments
- Specialized imaging centers
- Urgent care centers

Academic Requirements
A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Education in radiologic technology is available in two-year certificate, diploma or associate degree programs, and four-year bachelor's degree programs. Registered radiologic technologists may take advanced level examinations in mammography, cardiovascular-interventional technology, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, quality management, and bone densitometry. Radiologic technologists may also acquire additional education and practice in sonography, vascular sonography, nuclear medicine, or radiation therapy.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Licensure is not required in Georgia. Graduation from an accredited program is required for certification eligibility. Certification may be obtained through the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. All hospitals and most other employers require certification.

Professional Organizations
- American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (651) 687-0048 www.arrt.org
- American Society of Radiologic Technologists (800) 444-2778 www.asrt.org
- Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (312) 704-5300 www.jrcert.org

Educational Programs

Certificate
- Dalton State College
- DeKalb Medical Center
- Grady Health System
- Institute of Allied Medical Professions
- University Health Care System

Diploma
- Albany Technical College
- Georgia Northwestern Technical College
- Heart of Georgia Technical College
- Middle Georgia Technical College
- Moultrie Technical College
- Ogeechee Technical College

Associate Degree
- Okefenokee Technical College
- Southeastern Technical College

Bachelor’s Degree
- Armstrong Atlantic State University
- Emory University
- Gwinnett Technical College
- Heart of Georgia Technical College
- Lanier Technical College
- Middle Georgia Technical College
- Moultrie Technical College
- Southwest Georgia Technical College
- Valdosta Technical College
- West Georgia Technical College

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec

Ideal Attributes
- excellent patient care skills
- comfortable using sophisticated equipment
- good communication skills
- ability to follow instructions
The field of medical engineering and scientific research offers you the opportunity to become a health care detective. Using scientific information, technology, and engineering skills, members of this healthcare team enjoy the challenge of making new discoveries and the satisfaction of finding creative solutions. Biomedical engineers enjoy creating solutions to patients’ medical problems by designing medical devices. Geneticists study genes in humans, plants and animals and hunt for genes that may cause inherited diseases. Biomedical equipment technicians inspect, repair and test medical equipment. Naturally curious, the professionals in this field are precise and exacting in their work.

“Georgia’s biotech footprint, while deepest in Atlanta, spreads from the hardwood forests in the northern part of the state, where natural medicines are being cultivated on small family farms, to the planned pine forests in the south, which are being cultivated as feedstock for ethanol and electricity. Research collaboration is leading toward developing some of tomorrow’s healthcare solutions.”

~ Jerry Grillo
Georgia Trend
May 2009
Biomedical engineers work in areas of healthcare to improve patients’ quality of life. More specifically, they combine their expertise in engineering, biology and medicine to create solutions to patients’ medical problems. Using computers, they are able to simulate parts of the human body, much like video games can simulate flight in a plane. This technology is used to design wonders like heart pacemakers, heart valves, artificial kidneys, blood vessels, and joints. Many things taken for granted, such as eyeglasses and thermometers, were invented by biomedical engineers. They also design high-tech devices such as surgical lasers, battery-powered artificial limbs, and large imaging systems such as x-ray, computerized tomography and magnetic resonance imaging machines.

Starting Salary
$57,500 or $27.65/hour

Areas of Specialization
- Bioinstrumentation
- Biomaterials
- Biomechanics
- Cellular, Tissue, and Genetic Engineering
- Clinical Engineering
- Medical Imaging
- Orthopaedic Bioengineering
- Rehabilitation Engineering
- Systems Physiology

Work Environment
- Government agencies
- Hospitals
- Medical device, pharmaceutical, and biotechnology companies
- Research facilities
- Space and undersea programs

Academic Requirements
Most biomedical engineers hold bachelor’s degrees in biomedical engineering; however, others choose mechanical, electrical, or chemical engineering with a specialty in biomedical engineering. Either choice often requires continued education in master’s or doctoral degree programs.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Licensure is not required in Georgia. After three years of experience, clinical engineers working in hospitals may choose to be certified by the American College of Clinical Engineering.

Professional Organizations
- American College of Clinical Engineering
  (610) 825-6067
  www.accenet.org
- Biomedical Engineering Society
  (301) 459-1999
  www.bmes.org
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers/Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society
  (732) 981-3433
  www.embs.org

Educational Programs

Bachelor’s Degree
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Mercer University

Master’s Degree
- Mercer University

Doctoral Degree
- Georgia Institute of Technology (with Emory University)
Biomedical equipment technicians are specialists in electronic and mechanical equipment used to diagnose and treat diseases. A technician installs new equipment, such as electrocardiographs (EKGs) and artificial kidney machines. They adjust and test equipment for proper operation. Their work ranges from maintenance of electronic devices to sophisticated diagnostic equipment. Also known as biomedical engineering technicians, they periodically inspect machines, calibrate and repair them when necessary, and make sure they keep an adequate supply of spare parts in inventory. They perform safety inspections on electrical and radiation equipment. Technicians demonstrate the use of equipment for other medical personnel, propose new equipment purchases or modifications, and maintain adequate records on service and calibrations.

**Work Environment**

- Clinics
- Dialysis clinics
- Government agencies
- Hospitals
- Industry
- Medical equipment manufacturers
- Medical schools
- Third party independent service organizations

**Academic Requirements**

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Technicians complete one- to three-year programs leading to certificates, diplomas, or associate degrees in biomedical equipment technology, electronics, or an engineering-related field. Four-year bachelor's degrees are offered by some universities and colleges. Some technicians with electronics experience may train on-the-job.

**Licensure, Certification, and Registration**

Licensure is not required in Georgia. Voluntary certification enhances earnings and may be obtained through the International Certification Commission for Clinical Engineering and Biomedical Technology. The following certifications are available: certified biomedical equipment technician (CBET), certified radiology equipment specialist (CRES), and certified laboratory equipment specialist (CLES).

**Starting Salary**

$36,632 or $17.61/hour

**Professional Organizations**

- Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation
  (703) 525-4890
  www.aami.org
- Georgia Biomedical Instrumentation Society
  (229) 228-8015
  www.gbisonline.org

**Educational Programs**

- **Certificate**
  - Central Georgia Technical College
  - Southwest Georgia Technical College

- **Diploma**
  - Okefenokee Technical College

- **Associate Degree**
  - Chattahoochee Technical College

- **Bachelor's Degree**
  - DeVry University

**Ideal Attributes**

- Enjoy working with technology & machines
- Like challenges
- Strong science background
- Attentive to details

**Georgia Statewide AHEC Network**

www.mcg.edu/ahec
Why do you have red hair but your sister is a blonde? Why does a plant have red and purple blooms? The answer lies in genetics, the study of the genetic material, or genes, passed from parent to offspring. Geneticists study genes in humans, plants, and animals. In the laboratory they analyze genes found in cells, viruses, and bacteria. They breed a wide variety of organisms to study inherited traits. Computers enable geneticists to analyze and compare the genome sequence of human and other organisms, and to scrutinize large populations to search for genes that make members more susceptible to inherited diseases or birth defects. Geneticists may mutate, or change, genes in plants to improve crop production and disease-resistance. They may diagnose inherited diseases in people using sophisticated laboratory methods, and hunt for new genes that cause disease. Human geneticists may specialize in forensic applications using DNA analysis in criminal investigation, mass fatality identification, or establishment of family relationships. Geneticists work to develop new plants, drugs, and foods that will improve the quality of life for people throughout the world.

Areas of Specialization
- Bacterial and Viral Genetics
- Bioinformatics
- Clinical Genetics
- Forensics
- Genetic Counseling
- Genetic Testing
- Human Genetics
- Plant and Animal Genetics
- Population Genetics

Work Environment
- Biotech companies
- Colleges and universities
- Crime or forensic laboratories
- Hospitals

Academic Requirements
A four-year college degree emphasizing the biological sciences is recommended. The minimum educational requirement is a bachelor's in genetics, botany, microbiology, biochemistry, or another branch of science followed by a Ph.D. Some geneticists earn medical degrees, followed by a residency in internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics, or another area. Two or more years of post-doctoral research in a specialized area of genetics is usually needed. Some geneticists earn a combined M.D./Ph.D.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Physicians who work as geneticists must be licensed through the Georgia Composite Medical Board. Medical geneticists (M.D. or Ph.D.) are certified by the American Board of Medical Genetics.

Professional Organizations
- American Board of Medical Genetics
  (301) 634-7315
  www.abmg.org
- American Society of Human Genetics
  (866) 486-4363
  www.ashg.org
- Genetics Society of America
  (866) 486-4363
  www.genetics-gsa.org

Starting Salary
$85,000 or $40.87/hour

Ideal Attributes
- patient
- good analytical skills
- attention to detail
- work independently
- curious

Doctoral Degree
- Emory University
- University of Georgia

Educational Programs
Sometimes considered the “human element” of recovery, therapy and rehabilitation help people return to independence and self-reliance. Therapy and rehabilitation programs are designed for patients of all ages, with physical, emotional, social, and mental limitations, who need stimulation of their minds and muscles. The creative arts therapy careers include many exciting opportunities to use music, art and dance to facilitate rehabilitation. Other challenging pursuits include respiratory, physical, and occupational therapy. These specialists demonstrate a high level of commitment, patience, and compassion while helping clients reach their greatest potential. In this rewarding and satisfying healthcare field, professionals often see their patients begin to lead more enjoyable lives.

“Physical therapy provides the opportunity to meet new people on a daily basis, and enhance the enjoyment and fulfillment they get out of life by improving their physical function and abilities. It also gives me an inside track in working with young people and athletes from middle school age all the way up to the collegiate level.”

~ Michael Shiver, PT
Camilla

Audiologist
Creative Arts Therapist
Occupational Therapist
Occupational Therapy Assistant
Orthotist
Physical Therapist
Physical Therapist Assistant
Prosthetist
Recreational Therapist
Respiratory Therapist
Speech/Language Pathologist
Audiologists specialize in working with people of all ages. They use equipment such as audiometers and computers to identify and assess the nature and degree of hearing, balance, and related problems and also evaluate the impact of these problems on an individual's daily life. Audiologists work closely with physicians, speech pathologists, educators, and psychologists to make a diagnosis and determine appropriate treatment. Audiologists may perform intraoperative monitoring during surgical procedures, conduct research, provide hearing conservation and audiology services related to legal issues, serve as preceptors to audiology students, and/or provide services to patients who are candidates for or recipients of cochlear implantation. Audiologists also provide counseling, information regarding communication strategies, and assistance to individuals and their families in their adjustment to hearing and balance problems.

### Ideal Attributes
- good listening skills
- compassionate & caring
- effective communicator
- good problem-solver & critical thinker
- organized

### Starting Salary
$51,338 or $24.68/hour

### Work Environment
- Colleges and universities
- Hospitals
- Outpatient centers
- Physicians' offices
- Research centers
- Self-employed/private practice
- Speech and hearing centers
- State and local government
- Veterans administration
- health facilities

### Academic Requirements
A Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) is the entry-level degree for this profession. Prerequisites for admission to audiology programs vary among universities, and admissions personnel should be consulted. In general, undergraduate coursework in communication disorders and in basic science is considered to provide a good foundation for doctoral study in audiology.

### Educational Programs
There are no programs in Georgia.

**Alabama**
- Auburn University
  www.auburn.edu
- University of South Alabama
  www.southalabama.edu

**Florida**
- University of Florida
  www.ufl.edu

**Tennessee**
- East Tennessee State University
  www.etsu.edu
- University of Tennessee
  www.tennessee.edu

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration
A license is required in Georgia through the State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. The national credential for practice in audiology is the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

### Professional Organizations
- American Academy of Audiology
  (800) AAA-2336
  www.audiology.org
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
  (800) 638-8255
  www.asha.org
- Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association
  (561) 477-8100
  www.gsha.org
- Georgia State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
  (478) 207-2440
  www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/speech

### Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec
Many physicians and healthcare providers support the use of creative therapies such as art, music, and dance to encourage healing, improve well-being, and promote quality of life. Therapists in these disciplines work with people of all ages who may have developmental, medical, social, physical or psychological needs. They conduct assessments and develop treatment plans in conjunction with other healthcare providers. Creative arts therapists design and implement therapy sessions using art, music or dance to help their clients relieve stress, build self-confidence, increase social and communication skills, and improve health, all within a non-threatening environment.

**Ideal Attributes**
- Compassionate
- Creative
- Patient
- Work well with other healthcare providers

**Starting Salary**
Music Therapy = $27,100 or $13.03/hour

**Work Environment**
- Adult day treatment centers
- Correctional facilities
- Home health agencies
- Hospice
- Hospitals
- Mental health centers
- Neonatal intensive care units
- Nursing homes
- Outpatient clinics
- Private practice
- Rehabilitation facilities
- Schools
- Substance abuse programs
- Wellness centers

**Academic Requirements**
Programs for music therapists are offered at the bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree levels. Music therapists must complete a bachelor’s degree or Music Therapy Equivalency and 1200 hours of clinical training under a Board Certified Music Therapist before graduation. Dance therapists must earn a master’s degree and complete a 700-hour supervised clinical internship. Art therapists must earn a master’s degree.

**Licensure, Certification, and Registration**
Licensure is not required in Georgia, but certification is preferred by many employers. Music therapists obtain certification from the Certification Board for Music Therapists. Dance therapists obtain registration through the American Dance Therapy Association. Art therapists obtain registration from the Art Therapy Credentials Board.

**Professional Organizations**
- American Art Therapy Association
  (888) 290-0878
  www.arttherapy.org
- American Dance Therapy Association
  (410) 997-4040
  www.adta.org
- American Music Therapy Association
  (301) 589-3300
  www.musictherapy.org

**Educational Programs**

**Music Therapy**
Bachelor’s Degree
Georgia College & State University
University of Georgia

Master’s Degree
Georgia College & State University
University of Georgia

**Art Therapy**
Georgia does not have an art therapy program.

**Florida**
Florida State University
www.fsu.edu

**Dance Therapy**
There are no formal education programs in the southeast. Contact the American Dance Therapy Association for programs available in other parts of the country.

**Georgia Statewide AHEC Network**
www.mcg.edu/ahec
Occupational therapy is a health and rehabilitation profession that helps people regain and build skills that are important for health and well-being as they pursue their everyday occupations. Occupational therapists (OTs) work with people of all ages who, because of physical, developmental, social, or emotional deficits, need specialized assistance in learning skills that will enable them to lead independent, productive, and satisfying lives. OTs teach new job skills or adaptations of current abilities. They recommend and/or design splints, special devices and adaptive equipment or technology to promote and maintain independent functioning. The ultimate goal of the OT is to enhance the client’s quality of life by helping them achieve the highest level of independence possible.

Areas of Specialization
- Geriatrics
- Home Health
- Mental Health
- Neonatology
- Pediatrics
- Rehabilitation
- School Systems
- Work Evaluation

Work Environment
- Adult day care facilities
- Assisted living centers
- Home health agencies
- Hospice centers
- Hospitals
- Mental health centers
- Nursing homes
- Physicians’ offices
- Prisons
- Public and private schools
- Rehabilitation centers
- Retirement communities

Academic Requirements
Occupational therapist programs are offered at the master’s degree level. These programs last two to three years.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Georgia requires licensure through the Georgia State Board of Occupational Therapy. Licensure requires completion of a program approved by either the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education or the World Federation of Occupational Therapy. Applicants must successfully complete supervised fieldwork experience and pass the national certification exam. Upon certification, therapists may use the credential Registered Occupational Therapist (OTR).

Professional Organizations
- American Occupational Therapy Association
  (301) 652-2682
  www.aota.org
- Georgia Occupational Therapy Association
  (770) 435-5910
  www.gaota.com
- Georgia State Board of Occupational Therapy
  (478) 207-2440
  www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/ot

Educational Programs
- Master’s Degree
  - Brenau University
  - Medical College of Georgia

Ideal Attributes
- work well with others
- work well with long-term goals
- work independently
- good communication skills
- collaborate with others

Starting Salary
$52,300 or $25.15/hour
Occupational therapy assistants (OTAs) help people adapt to physical, emotional, inborn, or developmental disabilities. An OTA works with the very young to the very old whose abilities are impaired by developmental disabilities, the aging process, physical injury, disease, psychological and social disabilities, and/or learning disabilities. Occupational therapy assistants help individuals learn or relearn self-care and daily skills such as dressing and eating. They aid in educational, recreational, and vocational activities to restore independence and self-reliance. Assisting the occupational therapist, they participate in evaluations, treatment planning, and reviews of patient progress.

**Ideal Attributes**
- team player
- very observant
- enjoy helping others
- creative

**Occupational Therapy Assistant**

**Attributes**
- very observant
- enjoy helping others
- creative

**Work Environment**
- Adult day care facilities
- Assisted living facilities
- Clinics
- Home health agencies
- Hospice programs
- Hospitals
- Industry
- Mental health centers
- Nursing homes
- Physicians’ offices
- Prisons
- Rehabilitation centers
- Schools

**Academic Requirements**
A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Occupational therapy assistant programs involve two years of study, including four months of supervised practical experience, and grant an associate degree upon completion.

**Licensure, Certification, and Registration**
Georgia requires licensure through the Georgia State Board of Occupational Therapy. A national certification exam is given by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy. Upon passing the exam, assistants become Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants (COTA).

**Starting Salary**
$37,398 or $17.98/hour

**Professional Organizations**
- American Occupational Therapy Association
  (301) 652-2682
  www.aota.org
- Georgia Occupational Therapy Association
  (770) 435-5910
  www.gaota.com
- Georgia State Board of Occupational Therapy
  (478) 207-2440
  www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/ot
- National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc.
  (301) 990-7979
  www.nbcot.org

**Educational Programs**

**Associate Degree**
- Augusta Technical College
- Brown Mackie College
- Darton College
- Georgia Northwestern Technical College
- Middle Georgia College
Physical therapists (PTs) work with people of all ages and various disabilities. They help clients conquer the challenges of recovery – an athlete needing to gain strength and flexibility, an accident victim learning to use an artificial limb, or a stroke patient needing rehabilitation at home. They use a variety of interventions such as exercises, joint mobilization/manipulation, electrical stimulation, massage, and other physical agents such as water immersion, ultrasound, heat and cold. These therapies help clients develop endurance, coordination, increase joint mobility and range of motion, increase muscle strength, decrease pain, and prevent further injury. PTs also work with patients to overcome emotional and physical barriers that hinder recovery. Although many PT’s practice in hospitals, more than 70 percent work outside hospital walls.

**Areas of Specialization**
- Cardiovascular and Pulmonary
- Clinical Electrophysiology
- Geriatrics
- Neurology
- Orthopedics
- Pediatrics
- Sports

**Educational Programs**

**Doctoral Degree**
- Armstrong Atlantic State University
- Emory University
- Georgia State University

- Medical College of Georgia
- Mercer University
- North Georgia College & State University

**Academic Requirements**
An undergraduate degree and shadowing experience are required for admission into physical therapy programs at the doctoral level. DPT programs last three years.

**Professional Organizations**

- American Physical Therapy Association
  (800) 999-2782
  www.apta.org
- Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy
  (703) 299-3100
  www.fsbpt.org
- Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy
  (478) 207-2440
  www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/pt
- Physical Therapy Association of Georgia
  (770) 433-2418
  www.ptagonline.org

**Licensure, Certification, and Registration**
Physical therapists are required to have a license through the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy. Applicants must graduate from an approved program and pass a national exam and a Georgia State Practice Act examination administered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy.

**Starting Salary**
$60,902 or $29.28/hour
Physical therapist assistants (PTAs) provide physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist (PT). PTAs help people of all ages who have health-related conditions that can interfere with their ability to function in their daily lives. They perform many of the same functions as PTs but do not participate in evaluating clients or in developing therapy programs. Their duties include implementing the plan of care designed by a physical therapist, educating patients in activities of daily living, teaching therapeutic exercises, and providing treatments using special equipment. PTAs observe their patient's progress and report treatment responses to the physical therapist.

**Ideal Attributes**
- patient
- follow directions well
- team player
- good motivator
- good physical condition

**Work Environment**
- Education and research institutions
- Extended care facilities
- Home health agencies
- Hospice
- Hospitals
- Industry
- Physical therapy clinics
- Private and public schools
- Rehabilitation centers
- Sports medicine clinics

**Academic Requirements**
A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Physical therapist assistants must complete a two-year educational program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education leading to an associate degree. The curriculum usually includes a year of general education courses and a year of specific technical courses on physical therapy procedures and clinical experiences.

**Licensure, Certification, and Registration**
Licensure is required in Georgia. After obtaining an associate degree from an accredited PTA program, graduates are able to sit for a state-administered national physical therapist assistant examination through the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy.

**Professional Organizations**
- American Academy of Physical Therapy
  (888) 717-2278
  www.aaptnet.org
- American Physical Therapy Association
  (800) 999-2782
  www.apta.org
- Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy
  (478) 207-2440
  www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/pt
- Physical Therapy Association of Georgia
  (770) 433-2418
  www.ptagonline.org

**Educational Programs**

**Associate Degree**
- Athens Technical College
- Chattahoochee Technical College
- Darton College
- South University

**Starting Salary**
$40,901 or $19.66/hour

**Georgia Statewide AHEC Network**
www.mcg.edu/ahec
Prosthetists and orthotists are clinical practitioners who evaluate and treat people who have physical impairments such as limb loss or paralysis. These specialized health professionals create solutions for each patient’s unique needs. The prosthetist assesses the needs of persons with limb loss, such as an arm amputation due to electrical burns, or a leg amputation due to diabetes or vascular disease. These creative professionals design prostheses (artificial limbs) as part of a treatment plan. The orthotist assesses the needs of persons with weakness or deformities of the limbs, spine or skull. They design treatments such as a Halo for life threatening neck injuries, spinal orthoses for scoliosis, ankle/foot orthoses for children with cerebral palsy and knee orthoses to allow athletes to return to sports. Prosthetists and orthotists are capable of finding solutions for each patient’s unique physical challenge by applying problem-solving skills to create a plan of care that meets the patient’s lifestyle and goals. Developing the plan of care involves a combination of materials, specialized component parts, hand skills and specialized techniques, computer aided design and construction using lightweight materials such as carbon fiber, titanium and thermoplastics. The profession is a hidden gem in rehabilitation medicine because the prosthetist and orthotist uses a unique set of hand skills and modern technology to make a difference in the lives of each person they treat.

Work Environment

Government agencies
Hospitals
Privately-owned facilities
Rehabilitation centers
Research and design laboratories
Self-employed
Universities
Veteran’s Affairs medical centers

Academic Requirements

A bachelor’s degree including prerequisite courses in math, statistics, physics, chemistry, general psychology, abnormal psychology, human anatomy and human physiology are required to gain admission into a graduate program offering the entry-level master’s degree in prosthetics and orthotics.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required through the Georgia Composite Medical Board. To attain licensure, the individual must have successfully completed one year of experience under a board certified practitioner, and a test to become certified by the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics. This organization grants certifications for Certified Orthotist (CO), Certified Prosthetist (CP), and Certified Prosthetist-Orthotist (CPO).

Professional Organizations

American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists
(202) 380-3663
www.oandp.org
www.opcareers.org

American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics, and Pedorthics
(703) 836-7114
www.abcop.org

National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education
(703) 836-7114
www.ncope.org

Educational Programs

Master’s Degree
Georgia Institute of Technology

Starting Salary
$58,500 or $28.13/hour

Ideal Attributes
• creative
• excellent hand-eye coordination
• problem-solving skills
• work independently
• good communication skills

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec
Recreational therapists, also known as therapeutic recreation specialists, are healthcare providers who use recreation and leisure activities to improve the health, quality of life, functional ability, and independence of individuals of all ages with temporary or permanent disabilities or illnesses. They plan and implement individual treatment programs utilizing a variety of techniques including: adventure therapy, anger management, aquatic therapy, expressive arts, leisure education, therapeutic reminiscence, animal assisted therapy, exercise or other physical activity, relaxation techniques, social skill interventions, and the therapeutic use of play. Recreational therapists set goals and objectives developed from individual assessments that identify the clients’ needs, abilities and interests that will help improve their physical, cognitive, emotional, or social needs.

**Ideal Attributes**
- empathy
- adaptable
- creative
- patient
- good problem-solving skills

**Work Environment**
- Adult day care programs
- Camps
- Community mental health centers
- Community parks and recreation departments
- Hospice
- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- Prisons
- Private practice
- Psychiatric hospitals
- Rehabilitation centers
- Residential treatment centers
- School systems
- Substance abuse centers

**Starting Salary**
- $33,750 or $16.23/hour

**Academic Requirements**
A bachelor’s degree in therapeutic recreation (or in recreation with an emphasis in therapeutic recreation) is required. An internship of at least 480 hours must be completed under the supervision of a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist. Graduate programs are also available.

**Licensure, Certification, and Registration**
Licensure is not required in Georgia. Certification is highly recommended and is available through the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification. Upon passing the certification exam, professionals are designated as a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS).

**Professional Organizations**
- American Therapeutic Recreation Association
  (601) 450-2872
  www.atra-online.com
- National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification
  (845) 639-1439
  www.nctrc.org
- National Recreation and Park Association/National Therapeutic Recreation Society
  (800) 626-6772
  www.nrpa.org/ntrs.aspx

**Educational Programs**
- Bachelor’s Degree
  Georgia Southern University

**Georgia Statewide AHEC Network**
www.mcg.edu/ahec
Respiratory therapists, under the direction of physicians, administer respiratory care and life support to patients with heart and lung difficulties. They care for people with respiratory ailments and cardiopulmonary diseases. These conditions could include pneumonia, chronic bronchitis, emphysema and heart disease, as well as lung transplant and heart attack patients, accident victims and premature infants. They measure lung function, analyze blood samples for gases, monitor life support equipment, and use equipment that delivers oxygen or enhances breathing. Respiratory therapists may also participate in pulmonary rehabilitation, smoking cessation counseling, education and polysomnography - the diagnosis of breathing disorders during sleep. They use a great deal of independent judgment to make recommendations to the healthcare team regarding patients’ respiratory care. The growth of the aging population, as well as advances in medications and treatment options, will continue to increase the demand for respiratory therapists.

### Ideal Attributes
- work independently
- strong mechanical aptitude
- creative problem-solver
- work well with people of all ages
- good verbal & written communication skills

### Academic Requirements
Respiratory therapists complete two to four years of education leading to associate or bachelor’s degrees, respectively. Graduation from a program accredited by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care is required for certification.

### Areas of Specialization
- Cardiopulmonary Diagnostics
- Critical Care
- Neonatal Care
- Pulmonary Rehabilitation

### Work Environment
- Home health agencies
- Hospice care
- Hospitals
- Industry
- Medical supply and equipment sales
- Nursing homes
- Physicians’ offices

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Licensure is required through the Georgia Composite Medical Board. A graduate must earn his/her Certified Respiratory Therapist credential (CRT) from the National Board for Respiratory Care in order to be eligible for a state license. Graduates of advanced therapist programs are eligible for both the entry level (CRT) and the advanced practice Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credentials in respiratory care.

### Professional Organizations
- American Association for Respiratory Care
  (972) 243-2272
  [www.aarc.org](http://www.aarc.org)
- Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care
  (817) 283-2835
  [www.coarc.com](http://www.coarc.com)
- Georgia Society for Respiratory Care
  (972) 951-6080
  [www.gasrc.org](http://www.gasrc.org)
- National Board for Respiratory Care
  (888) 341-4811
  [www.nbrc.org](http://www.nbrc.org)

### Educational Programs
#### Associate Degree
- Athens Technical College
- Augusta Technical College
- Columbus Technical College
- Dalton State College
- Darton College
- Everest Institute
- Georgia Northwestern Technical College
- Griffin Technical College
- Gwinnett Technical College
- Heart of Georgia Technical College
- Macon State College
- Okefenokee Technical College
- Southwest Georgia Technical College

#### Bachelor’s Degree
- Armstrong Atlantic State University
- Georgia State University

#### Master’s Degree
- Georgia State University
Speech/language pathologists are professionals who are educated to assess and treat language, speech, and swallowing disorders. Stuttering, pronunciation, word organization, word recall, memory, auditory comprehension, slurred speech and swallowing disorders are areas of specialization for these professionals. These disorders could be a result of hearing loss, head injury, intellectual disability, stroke, learning problems or an emotional problem. They give tests to determine the disability and its extent and are then able to develop treatment programs. About half of the speech pathologists’ patients are children. However, these professionals also work with adults and the geriatric population in a variety of settings. Because their professions are so closely related, speech/language pathologists and audiologists usually work together. Other professionals that speech/language pathologists work with include: otolaryngologists, dietitians, lactation consultants, teachers, nurses, social workers, case managers, occupational therapists, physical therapists and doctors.

Academic Requirements
Speech/language pathologists acquire a master’s degree after earning a bachelor’s degree preferably in one of the scientific disciplines or in speech pathology. A master’s degree in speech/language pathology is considered the entry level degree. Doctoral degrees are also available.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Licensure is required through the Georgia State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. Certification is required through the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. After graduation, a clinical fellowship of 1260 hours must be completed under the supervision of a certified speech/language pathologist before one is eligible for certification. Upon passing the certification exam, speech/language pathologists earn the Certificate of Clinical Competence and can use the credential CCC-SLP after their names. Certification to work in the K-12 grade setting is also required and offered through the Georgia Professional Standards Commission.

Professional Organizations
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
(800) 638-8255
www.asha.org

Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association
(561) 477-8100
www.gsha.org

Georgia State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/speech
Animals have always lived in close proximity to humans as pets, beasts of burden, and sources of food. The study of the care and treatment of animals dates back to the ancient Egyptians, who recognized that animal diseases could be transferred to humans. Today’s veterinary professionals work closely with pets, livestock, and their owners. They must be patient with animals and sensitive to the feelings of the owners. Manual dexterity and good communication skills are desirable. Veterinarians and veterinary technicians often work long hours, including evenings and weekends. They may be bitten, kicked, or scratched while treating their patients. But for the person who loves animals and is fascinated by science and medicine, it is a rewarding career. These professionals enjoy diverse employment opportunities including public health, wildlife preservation, private practice, education, research and government.

“James Herriot said it best, ‘Veterinary medicine is a wonderful blend of science and soul.’ This statement captures the true passion I have for my career as a small animal veterinarian. The nurturing and sharing of the human-animal bond is the reason our profession exists. At the end of the day, nothing is more fulfilling than the realization of how I was able to help the pets and ‘their’ people.”

~ Leslie Johnson, DVM
Tifton
Doctors of Veterinary Medicine, or veterinarians, are trained to diagnose, treat, and prevent diseases and illnesses in animals. They help to prevent the transmission of diseases, such as rabies and salmonella between animals and humans. Most veterinarians in private practice focus on animals they prefer to treat. The majority treat small or companion animals such as dogs, cats, birds, and reptiles. They may work as employees or open their own clinic. Other veterinarians limit their practices to large animals such as horses, cattle, sheep, and alpacas. They often travel to farms and ranches in fully equipped vehicles to provide veterinary services. Veterinarians also may help prevent the spread of diseases through our food production industries, such as poultry, beef and dairy cattle, and swine. They teach food producers how to manage their animals, provide better methods for caring for them, and conduct background research to help industries with the production process. Other veterinarians work with state and federal government agencies to investigate disease outbreaks and limit the transmission among animals and people. Public health veterinarians are responsible for prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, like avian influenza, rhinovirus, and tuberculosis. Veterinarians also play an important role in biomedical research that can aid in human medicine.

Areas of Specialization

There are veterinary specialty organizations for each of the specializations listed below. For more information, contact the American Board of Veterinary Specialties.

- Animal Behavior
- Dentistry
- Dermatology
- Emergency & Critical Care
- Internal Medicine
- Laboratory Animal Medicine
- Microbiology
- Nutrition
- Ophthalmology
- Pathology
- Pharmacology
- Poultry Medicine
- Preventive Medicine
- Radiology
- Surgery
- Theriogenology
- Toxicology
- Veterinary Practice
- Zoological Medicine

Work Environment

- Agribusiness
- Aquaria
- Emergency care centers
- Food animal industries
- Governmental agencies
- Military
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Private practice
- Public health departments
- Research institutions
- Veterinary colleges
- Wildlife conservation & rehabilitation facilities
- Zoos

Academic Requirements

Some veterinary medical colleges do not require applicants to have undergraduate degrees, but applicants must satisfy certain course requirements. Acceptance into vet school is highly competitive in terms of grades, test scores, and work experience. Applicants may be required to submit scores for one or more of the following: the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Biology Subject Test.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Veterinarians must be licensed through the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine. Prior to licensure, veterinarians must pass the State Laws and Rules Exam, the National Board Exam, and the Clinical Competency Test. To become certified in a specialty area, veterinarians must pass national certification exams.

Starting Salary

$60,450 or $29.06/hour

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec

Ideal Attributes

- committed to life-long learning
- enjoy science
- effective team leader
- compassionate & caring
- good communication skills
Professional Organizations

American Board of Veterinary Specialties
(800) 248-2862
www.avma.org/education/abvs

American Veterinary Medical Association
(847) 925-8070
www.avma.org

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
(877) 862-2740
www.aavmc.org

Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/veterinary

Georgia Veterinary Medical Association
(678) 309-9800
www.gvma.net

Educational Programs

Doctoral Degree
University of Georgia
Veterinary technicians work under the supervision of veterinarians. They are trained to take an animal's medical history from its owner, perform laboratory tests, sterilize instruments, dress wounds, monitor anesthesia, assist during diagnostic and surgical procedures, and take x-rays. In some animal clinics, veterinary technicians also serve as office managers. Veterinary technicians can be employed by many government agencies, both at the federal and state level. These professionals allow a vet to function at peak capacity.

Ideal Attributes
- enjoy variety of animals
- comfortable with fast-paced environment
- compassionate
- detail oriented
- enjoy helping people

Work Environment
- Agribusiness
- Aquaria
- Governmental agencies
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Research institutions
- Sales
- Veterinarians' offices
- Veterinary/veterinary technician schools
- Wildlife conservation and rehabilitation facilities
- Zoos

Academic Requirements
Two- and four-year programs are available leading to associate or bachelor's degrees, respectively.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration
Licensure is required by the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine. Registration may be obtained through the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine.

Professional Organizations
- American Veterinary Medical Association
  (847) 925-8070  www.avma.org
- Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine
  (478) 207-2440  www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/veterinary
- Georgia Veterinary Technician and Assistant Association
  www.gvtaa.org
- National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America
  (765) 742-2216  www.navta.net

Educational Programs

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<tr>
<th>Associate Degree</th>
<th>Bachelor's Degree</th>
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<td>Fort Valley State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gwinnett Technical College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ogeechee Technical College</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec
Because so many everyday activities involve vision, the gift of sight is one of our most valuable senses. Vision care professionals detect and correct optical problems through eye examinations, prescription glasses, contacts, and vision therapy exercises. These experts also promote the prevention of eye injury and good vision maintenance. Advances in technology, public awareness, and the aging population will increase the demand for vision care specialists faster than many healthcare occupations.

“I personally benefited from improvement derived from vision correction. The prospect of being trained in a profession that provides a stable income with independence was attractive. There are unexpected rewards. Ability to select who you work with, involvement with community organizations, relationships with other professionals, and opportunities for professional and personal growth all made optometry the right choice for me.”

~ Jerry Prchal, OD
Opticians can be described as visual pharmacists. They fill the prescriptions of optometrists and ophthalmologists (physicians specializing in eye care). They do not examine eyes or prescribe lenses, but they help patients select eyeglasses according to their lifestyle, occupation, and facial features. They prepare the order according to the prescription, curvature placement, style, color, material, and size for the lenses. Special equipment is used to cut, grind, edge, and finish these eyeglasses. They verify the prescription after it is filled and adjust the glasses to fit the customer’s face. Opticians, sometimes called ophthalmic dispensing technicians, often do their own laboratory work. Office management, sales, and repairs are also part of their daily routine. Opticians can fit contact lenses under the supervision of an optometrist or ophthalmologist. Licensed opticians can open their own eyeglass business.

Ideal Attributes

- strong critical thinking skills
- good listener
- value accuracy
- well-developed manual dexterity

Work Environment

Department stores
Manufacturers
Offices of ophthalmologists & optometrists
Retail chain stores
Self-employed
Wholesale labs

Academic Requirements

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Requirements vary by employer, but on-the-job training includes two years of experience under a licensed optician, optometrist, or ophthalmologist. Formal education is offered at a few technical colleges through diploma and associate degree programs.

Licensure, Certification, and Registration

Licensure is required in Georgia by the Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians. Applicants are required to pass the examinations given by American Board of Opticianry/National Contact Lens Examiners and the Georgia Practical Examination before becoming a licensed dispensing optician (LDO). Certification is available through the American Board of Opticianry and the National Contact Lens Examiners.

Professional Organizations

American Board of Opticianry
National Contact Lens Examiners
(703) 719-5800
www.abo-ncle.org

Contact Lens Society of America
(800) 296-9776
www.clsa.info

Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians
(478) 207-2440
www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/opticians

National Academy of Opticianry
(800) 229-4828
www.nao.org

Opticians Association of Georgia
(770) 666-5489
www.oagonline.org

Educational Programs

Diploma
DeKalb Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College
Valdosta Technical College

Associate Degree
DeKalb Technical College
Ogeechee Technical College

Starting Salary

$36,920 or $17.75/hour

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec
Optometrists, also called Doctors of Optometry, are independent healthcare professionals who are specifically licensed to diagnose and treat conditions of the human visual system. These conditions include eye diseases as well as difficulties with vision that are not related to disease. Optometrists usually treat patients with medications, eyeglasses, contact lenses or vision therapy. Since many diseases may affect the eyes, optometrists are often the first to find signs of conditions such as diabetes and hypertension. Although there are no specialties in optometry, many optometrists emphasize areas of practice such as sports vision, vision and learning, low vision rehabilitation, contact lenses and vision therapy. Most optometrists are self-employed and therefore must know how to develop and manage a business.

**Starting Salary**

$80,000 or $38.46/hour

**Work Environment**

- Education
- Hospital-based clinics
- Military
- Multi-doctor practices
- Private practice
- Public health
- Research
- Retail eye care centers

**Academic Requirements**

The minimum requirement for application to a school of optometry is three years or 90 semester hours of pre-optometric study at an accredited college or university, however most schools highly recommend a bachelor’s degree. Schools vary in entry requirements, but all applicants are required to pass the Optometry Admissions Test prior to entering a school of optometry. The four-year professional degree program leads to a Doctor of Optometry (O.D.). A one-year residency following graduation is recommended.

**Licensure, Certification, and Registration**

Licensure is required in Georgia through the Georgia State Board of Optometry. Both written and clinical exams given by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry must be passed to obtain a license.

**Professional Organizations**

- American Optometric Association and the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education
  - (800) 365-2219
  - www.aoa.org
- Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
  - (301) 231-5944
  - www.opted.org
- Georgia State Board of Optometry
  - (478) 207-2440
  - www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/optometry
- National Board of Examiners in Optometry
  - (800) 969-3926
  - www.optometry.org
- Opticians Association of Georgia
  - (770) 666-5489
  - www.oagonline.org

**Educational Programs**

- Georgia does not have an educational program in Optometry.
- **Alabama**
  - University of Alabama at Birmingham
  - www.uab.edu
- **Florida**
  - NOVA Southeastern University
  - www.optometry.nova.edu
- **Tennessee**
  - Southern College of Optometry
  - www.sco.edu
The following is a list of educational programs available at colleges and universities in Georgia for the health careers identified in this guide. This is not a complete listing of educational programs offered by these schools - it only includes educational programs for health careers covered in this guide. To find the degree level awarded by each school, see the individual pages for each health profession. Some programs are jointly administered with other institutions. Many schools have satellite campuses and online programs that increase accessibility to their educational programs. For more information, talk to your career counselor or make a direct contact with the institution. Graduation from an accredited program is often required in order to obtain certification, registration or licensure. Ask about the accreditation status of programs in which you are interested.

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
www.abac.edu
Tifton
(800) 733-3653
(229) 391-5001
Registered Nurse

Albany State University
www.potentialrealized.org
Albany
(229) 430-4600
Counselor
Healthcare Administrator
Nurse Educator
Nurse Practitioner
Registered Nurse
Social Worker

Argosy University
www.argosy.edu
Atlanta
(888) 671-4777
(770) 671-1200
Counselor
Healthcare Administrator
Nurse Educator
Nurse Practitioner
Registered Nurse
Social Worker

Armstrong Atlantic State University
www.armstrong.edu
Savannah
(800) 633-2349
(912) 344-2576
Athletic Trainer
Cardiovascular Technologist
Clinical Laboratory Scientist
Clinical Nurse Specialist
Dental Hygienist
Diagnostic Medical Sonographer

Bainbridge College
www.bainbridge.edu
Bainbridge
(229) 248-2500
Emergency Medical Technician
Licensed Practical Nurse
Medical Assistant
Medical Secretary
Nursing Assistant
Paramedic
Phlebotomist
Registered Nurse

Brenau University
www.brenau.edu
Gainesville
(800) 252-5119
(770) 538-4306
Counselor
Healthcare Administrator
Nurse Educator
Nurse Practitioner
Occupational Therapist
Registered Nurse

Clark Atlanta University
www.cau.edu
Atlanta
(404) 880-8000
Counselor
Social Worker

Clayton State University
www.clayton.edu
Morrow
(678) 466-4000
Dental Hygienist
Healthcare Administrator
Human Services Worker
Nurse Educator
Registered Nurse

College of Coastal Georgia
www.ccga.edu
Brunswick
(800) 675-7235
(912) 279-5700
Clinical Laboratory Technician
Dental Hygienist (with Armstrong Atlantic State University)
Radiologic Technologist
Registered Nurse

Health Educator
Healthcare Administrator
Nuclear Medicine Technologist
Nurse Practitioner
Physical Therapist
Radiation Therapist
Radiologic Technologist
Registered Nurse
Respiratory Therapist
Speech-Language Pathologist

Atlanta Metropolitan College
www.atm.edu
Atlanta
(404) 756-4000
Human Services Worker

Augusta State University
www.aug.edu
Augusta
(706) 737-1405
Counselor
Registered Nurse
Social Worker

Brenau University
www.brenau.edu
Gainesville
(800) 252-5119
(770) 538-4306
Counselor
Healthcare Administrator
Nurse Educator
Nurse Practitioner
Occupational Therapist
Registered Nurse

Graduation from an accredited program is often required in order to obtain certification, registration or licensure. Ask about the accreditation status of programs in which you are interested.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>www Link</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Numbers</th>
<th>Programs</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Columbus State University</td>
<td><a href="http://www.colstate.edu">www.colstate.edu</a></td>
<td>Columbus</td>
<td>(706) 507-8800</td>
<td>Counselor, Health Educator, Healthcare Administrator, Registered Nurse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalton State College</td>
<td><a href="http://www.daltonstate.edu">www.daltonstate.edu</a></td>
<td>Dalton</td>
<td>(800) 829-4436, (706) 272-4436</td>
<td>Clinical Laboratory Technician, Licensed Practical Nurse, Medical Assistant, Medical Secretary, Medical Transcriptionist, Nursing Assistant, Phlebotomist, Radiologic Technologist, Registered Nurse, Respiratory Therapist, Social Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darton College</td>
<td><a href="http://www.darton.edu">www.darton.edu</a></td>
<td>Albany</td>
<td>(866) 775-1214, (229) 317-6000</td>
<td>Cardiovascular Technologist, Clinical Laboratory Technician, Dental Hygienist, Diagnostic Medical Sonographer, Emergency Medical Technician, Health Information Technician, Histotechnician, Human Services Worker, Medical Coder, Medical Transcriptionist, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Paramedic, Phlebotomist, Physical Therapist Assistant, Polysomnographic Technologist, Registered Nurse, Respiratory Therapist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emory University</td>
<td><a href="http://www.emory.edu">www.emory.edu</a></td>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>(404) 727-6123</td>
<td>Anesthesiologist Assistant, Biomedical Engineer (with Georgia Institute of Technology), Biostatistician, Doctor of Medicine, Environmental Health Specialist, Epidemiologist, Geneticist, Health Educator, Healthcare Administrator, Industrial Hygienist, Nurse Educator, Nurse-Midwife, Nurse Practitioner, Physical Therapist, Physician Assistant, Psychologist, Radiologic Technologist, Registered Nurse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia Highlands College</td>
<td><a href="http://www.highlands.edu">www.highlands.edu</a></td>
<td>Rome</td>
<td>(800) 332-2406, (706) 802-5000</td>
<td>Dental Hygienist, Human Services Worker, Registered Nurse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia Institute of Technology</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gatech.edu">www.gatech.edu</a></td>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>(404) 894-2000</td>
<td>Biomedical Engineer (with Emory University), Orthotist, Prosthetist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Perimeter College</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gpc.edu">www.gpc.edu</a></td>
<td>Dunwoody</td>
<td>(770) 274-5130</td>
<td>Dental Hygienist, Registered Nurse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Southern University</td>
<td><a href="http://www.georgiasouthern.edu">www.georgiasouthern.edu</a></td>
<td>Statesboro</td>
<td>(912) 478-4636</td>
<td>Athletic Trainer, Biostatistician, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Counselor, Dietitian, Environmental Health Specialist, Epidemiologist, Health Educator, Healthcare Administrator, Industrial Hygienist, Nurse Practitioner, Psychologist, Recreational Therapist, Registered Nurse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia College &amp; State University</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gcsu.edu">www.gcsu.edu</a></td>
<td>Milledgeville</td>
<td>(800) 342-0471, (478) 445-5004</td>
<td>Athletic Trainer, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Health Educator</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>College &amp; University Programs</th>
<th>Georgia Southwestern State University</th>
<th>Georgia State University</th>
<th>LaGrange College</th>
<th>Life University</th>
<th>Mercer University</th>
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<td>(800) 338-0082</td>
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<td>(800) 593-2885</td>
<td>(800) 543-3202</td>
<td>(800) 342-0841</td>
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<td>(229) 928-1273</td>
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<td>(706) 880-8000</td>
<td>(770) 426-2600</td>
<td>(678) 547-6000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Registered Nurse</td>
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<td>Registered Nurse</td>
<td>Chiropractor</td>
<td>Macon</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dietitian</td>
<td>(800) 342-0841</td>
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<td>(478) 301-2700</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.mcg.edu/ahc">www.mcg.edu/ahc</a></td>
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<td>Biomedical Engineer</td>
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<td>Clinical Nurse Specialist</td>
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<td>Counselor</td>
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<td>Doctor of Medicine</td>
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<td>Health Educator</td>
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<td>Human Services Worker</td>
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<td>(678) 359-5555</td>
<td>(770) 423-6000</td>
<td>(478) 471-2700</td>
<td>(706) 721-0211</td>
<td>(478) 934-6221</td>
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<td>Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (Georgia Campus)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pcom.edu">www.pcom.edu</a></td>
<td>Suwanee</td>
<td>(866) 282-4544 (678) 225-7500</td>
<td>Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, Pharmacist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Piedmont College</td>
<td><a href="http://www.piedmont.edu">www.piedmont.edu</a></td>
<td>Demorest</td>
<td>(800) 277-7020 (706) 788-3000</td>
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<td>Richmont Graduate University</td>
<td><a href="http://www.richmont.edu">www.richmont.edu</a></td>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>(888) 924-6774 (404) 233-3949</td>
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<td>Savannah State University</td>
<td><a href="http://www.savannahstate.edu">www.savannahstate.edu</a></td>
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<td>(800) 788-0478 (912) 356-2181</td>
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<td>Shorter College</td>
<td><a href="http://www.shorter.edu">www.shorter.edu</a></td>
<td>Rome</td>
<td>(800) 868-6980 (706) 291-2121</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.sgc.edu">www.sgc.edu</a></td>
<td>Douglas</td>
<td>(912) 389-4510</td>
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<td>South University</td>
<td><a href="http://www.southuniversity.edu">www.southuniversity.edu</a></td>
<td>Savannah</td>
<td>(866) 629-2901 (912) 201-8000</td>
<td>Anesthesiologist Assistant, Counselor, Healthcare Administrator, Medical Assistant, Pharmacist, Physical Therapist Assistant, Physician Assistant</td>
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<td>Spelman College</td>
<td><a href="http://www.spelman.edu">www.spelman.edu</a></td>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>(404) 681-3643</td>
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<td>Thomas University</td>
<td><a href="http://www.thomasu.edu">www.thomasu.edu</a></td>
<td>Thomasville</td>
<td>(800) 538-9784 (229) 226-1621</td>
<td>Clinical Laboratory Scientist, Counselor, Nurse Educator, Registered Nurse, Social Worker</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Georgia</td>
<td><a href="http://www.uga.edu">www.uga.edu</a></td>
<td>Athens</td>
<td>(706) 542-3000</td>
<td>Athletic Trainer, Biostatistician, Counselor, Dietitian, Environmental Health Specialist, Epidemiologist, Geneticist, Health Educator, Healthcare Administrator, Industrial Hygienist, Music Therapist, Pharmacist, Psychologist, Registered Nurse, Social Worker, Speech/Language Pathologist, Veterinarian</td>
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<td>University of West Georgia</td>
<td><a href="http://www.westga.edu">www.westga.edu</a></td>
<td>Carrollton</td>
<td>(678) 839-5000</td>
<td>Counselor, Nurse Educator, Psychologist, Registered Nurse, Speech/Language Pathologist</td>
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<td>Valdosta State University</td>
<td><a href="http://www.valdosta.edu">www.valdosta.edu</a></td>
<td>Valdosta</td>
<td>(800) 618-1878 (229) 333-5800</td>
<td>Athletic Trainer, Counselor, Dental Hygienist (with Valdosta Technical College), Health Sciences Librarian, Nurse Educator, Nurse Practitioner, Psychologist, Registered Nurse, Social Worker, Speech/Language Pathologist</td>
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The following is a list of educational programs that are available in Georgia for the health careers identified in this guide. This is not a complete list of educational programs offered by these schools - it only includes educational programs for health careers covered in this guide. Some of these programs are jointly administered with other institutions. Many schools have multiple campuses and online programs that increase accessibility to their educational programs. Check out Georgia Virtual Technical College (www.gvtc.org) to see all of the online programs available through the Technical College System of Georgia (www.tcsg.edu). To find the specific certification, diploma or degree awarded by each school, see the individual pages for each health profession. Please note that schools with more than one campus may not offer every program at every campus. For more information on the programs, talk to your career counselor or make a direct contact with the institution. Graduation from an accredited program is often required in order to obtain certification, registration or licensure. Ask about the accreditation status of programs in which you are interested.

### Albany Technical College
www.albanytech.edu
Albany
(877) 261-3113
(229) 430-6180
Dental Assistant
Emergency Medical Technician
Licensed Practical Nurse
Medical Assistant
Medical Coder
Medical Secretary
Medical Transcriptionist
Nursing Assistant
Paramedic
Pharmacy Technician
Radiologic Technologist
Surgical Technologist

### Altamaha Technical College
www.altamahatech.edu
Jesup Campus (Main)
(912) 427-5800
(800) 645-8284
Baxley Campus
(912) 367-1700
Hazlehurst Campus
(912) 379-0041
Emergency Medical Technician
Licensed Practical Nurse
Medical Coder
Medical Secretary
Medical Transcriptionist
Nursing Assistant

### Athens Technical College
www.athenstech.edu
Athens Campus (Main)
(706) 355-5000
Elbert County Campus
(706) 213-2100
Greene County Campus
(706) 453-7435
Walton County Campus
(770) 207-3130
Dental Assistant
Dental Hygienist
Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
Emergency Medical Technician
Licensed Practical Nurse
Medical Assistant
Medical Coder
Nursing Assistant
Paramedic
Phlebotomist
Physical Therapist Assistant
Radiologic Technologist
Registered Nurse
Respiratory Therapist
Surgical Technologist
Veterinary Technician

### Atlanta Technical College
www.atlantatech.edu
Atlanta
(404) 225-4400
Dental Assistant
Emergency Medical Technician
Health Information Technician
Licensed Practical Nurse
Medical Assistant
Medical Coder
Medical Transcriptionist
Nursing Assistant
Paramedic
Pharmacy Technician
Phlebotomist

### Augusta Technical College
www.augustatech.edu
Augusta Campus
(706) 771-4000
Thomson Campus
(706) 595-0166
Waynesboro Campus
(706) 437-6801
Cardiovascular Technologist (with Harry T. Harper, Jr., M.D., School of Cardiac and Vascular Technology)
Dental Assistant
Emergency Medical Technician
Licensed Practical Nurse
Medical Assistant
Medical Coder
Medical Secretary
Medical Transcriptionist
Nursing Assistant
Occupational Therapy Assistant
Paramedic
Pharmacy Technician
Phlebotomist
Radiologic Technologist
Respiratory Therapist
Surgical Technologist

### Central Georgia Technical College
www.centralgatech.edu
Macon Campus (Main)
(478) 757-3400
Milledgeville Campus
(478) 445-2301
Biomedical Equipment Technician
Cardiovascular Technologist
Clinical Laboratory Technician
Dental Hygienist
Emergency Medical Technician
Licensed Practical Nurse
Medical Assistant
Medical Coder
Medical Secretary
Medical Transcriptionist
Nursing Assistant
Paramedic
Pharmacy Technician
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<td>Respiratory Therapist</td>
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<td><strong>Gwinnett Technical College</strong></td>
<td><strong><a href="http://www.gwinnetttech.edu">www.gwinnetttech.edu</a></strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lawrenceville</td>
<td>(770) 962-7580</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dental Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Medical Technician</td>
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<td>Licensed Practical Nurse</td>
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<td>Veterinary Technician</td>
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</table>

**Notes:**
- Listed programs, institutions, and contact information are subject to change.
- For the most current information, please visit the respective college’s website.
- Additional programs and specializations not listed may be available.
- Please contact the institutions directly for the latest updates and details.
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dublin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(800) 200-4484</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(478) 275-6589</td>
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<td>Surgical Technologist</td>
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<td><strong>Moultrie Technical College</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.moultrieplex.edu">www.moultrieplex.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Moultrie Campus (Main)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(229) 891-700</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tifton Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(229) 391-260</td>
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<td>Turner County Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(229) 567-2045</td>
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<td>(770) 531-6300</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dawson Campus</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(706) 216-5461</td>
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<td>Forsyth Campus</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(770) 781-6800</td>
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<td>Jackson Campus</td>
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<td>(706) 335-1931</td>
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<td>Winder-Barrow Campus</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(770) 868-4080</td>
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<td>Dental Hygienist (with Gainesville State College)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Warner Robins</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(800) 474-1031</td>
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<td>(706) 754-7700</td>
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<td>(706) 439-6300</td>
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<td>(706) 779-8113</td>
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<td>Waycross Campus (Main)</td>
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<td>(877) 332-8682</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(912) 287-6584</td>
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<td>Alma Campus</td>
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<td>(912) 632-0951</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Statesboro</td>
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<td>(800) 646-1316</td>
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<td>(912) 681-5500</td>
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<td>Dental Assistant</td>
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<td>Diagnostic Medical Sonographer</td>
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<td><strong>Sandersville Technical College</strong></td>
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<td>(478) 553-2050</td>
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<td>Hancock County Center</td>
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<td>(706) 444-1253</td>
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<td>Jefferson County Center</td>
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<td>(478) 625-1901</td>
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<td><strong>Savannah Technical College</strong></td>
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<td>(912) 443-5700</td>
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<td>Effingham Campus</td>
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<td>(912) 754-2880</td>
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<td>Liberty Campus</td>
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<td>(912) 408-3024</td>
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</table>
Licensed Practical Nurse
Medical Assistant
Medical Secretary
Nursing Assistant
Paramedic
Phlebotomist
Surgical Technologist

South Georgia Technical College
www.southgatech.edu
Americus Campus (Main)
(229) 931-2394
Crisp County Campus
(229) 271-4040
Emergency Medical Technician
Licensed Practical Nurse
Medical Assistant
Medical Coder
Medical Secretary
Nursing Assistant
Phlebotomist

Southeastern Technical College
www.southeasterntech.edu
(877) 495-9188
Glennville Campus
(912) 654-5276
Swainsboro Campus
(478) 289-2200
Vidalia Campus
(912) 538-3117
Clinical Laboratory Technician
Dental Hygienist
Emergency Medical Technician
Licensed Practical Nurse
Medical Assistant
Medical Coder
Medical Secretary
Nursing Assistant
Paramedic
Pharmacy Technician
Phlebotomist
Radiologic Technologist
Registered Nurse
Respiratory Therapist
Surgical Technologist

Valdosta Technical College
www.valdostatech.edu
Valdosta
(229) 333-2100
Clinical Laboratory Technician
Dental Assistant
Dental Hygienist (with Valdosta State University)
Emergency Medical Technician
Health Information Technician
Licensed Practical Nurse
Medical Assistant
Medical Coder
Medical Secretary
Medical Transcriptionist
Nursing Assistant
Optician
Paramedic
Pharmacy Technician
Phlebotomist
Radiologic Technologist
Registered Nurse
Surgical Technologist

West Georgia Technical College
www.westgatech.edu
Carroll Campus
(770) 836-6800
Coweta Campus
(678) 423-2000
Douglas Campus
(770) 947-7200
LaGrange Campus
(706) 845-4323
Murphy Campus
(770) 537-6000
Clinical Laboratory Technician
Dental Assistant
Dental Hygienist
Emergency Medical Technician
Licensed Practical Nurse
Medical Assistant
Medical Coder
Medical Secretary
Medical Transcriptionist
Nursing Assistant
Paramedic
Phlebotomist
Radiologic Technologist

Southwest Georgia Technical College
www.southwestgatech.edu
Thomasville Campus (Main)
(229) 225-4096
Grady County Campus
(229) 378-2901
Biomedical Equipment Technician
Clinical Laboratory Technician

Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec
The following is a list of educational programs for the health careers identified in this guide that are offered through hospitals and proprietary schools in Georgia. This is not a complete listing of educational programs offered by these schools - it only includes educational programs for health careers covered in this guide. To find the specific certification, diploma or degree awarded by each school, see the individual career pages. There are many hospitals in Georgia that offer nursing assistant training programs. Please visit the Georgia Health Partnership website at www.ghp.georgia.gov for a list of approved programs. Some proprietary schools offer online programs that increase accessibility to their educational programs. Check with individual schools to see if they offer these options. Please note that schools with more than one campus may not offer every program at every campus. For more information on the individual programs, talk to your career counselor or make a direct contact with the institution. Only proprietary schools that are authorized by the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission and accredited by an agency recognized by the US Department of Education are included in this directory. The schools that follow are accredited by one or more of the following agencies: Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology, Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools, Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools, Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training, and Council on Occupational Education. Graduation from an accredited program is often required in order to obtain certification, registration or licensure. Ask about the accreditation status of programs in which you are interested.

**HOSPITAL-BASED PROGRAMS**

**DeKalb Medical Center**
www.dekalbmedical.org
Decatur
(404) 501-5307
Radiologic Technologist

**Grady Health System**
Schools of Radiation and Imaging Technologies
www.gradyhealthsystem.org
Atlanta
(404) 616-3610
Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
Radiation Therapist (applicant must be a Radiologic Technologist)
Radiologic Technologist

**University Health Care System**
Stephen W. Brown School of Radiography
www.universityhealth.org
Augusta
(706) 774-5010
Radiologic Technologist

**PROPRIETARY SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

**Academy of Somatic Healing Arts**
www.ashamassage.com
Norcross
(866) 553-2661
(770) 368-2661
Massage Therapist

**Advanced Career Training**
www.act-edu.com
Morrow
(678) 422-4500
Dental Assistant
Medical Assistant
Medical Coder

**American Professional Institute**
www.api.edu
Decatur
(404) 371-3338
Duluth
(678) 473-7820
Gainesville
(770) 297-8080
Macon
(478) 314-4444
Milledgeville
(478) 452-3900
Massage Therapist
Medical Assistant
Medical Coder
Nursing Assistant
Pharmacy Technician
Surgical Technologist

**Atlanta School of Massage**
www.atlantaschoolofmassage.com
Atlanta
(877) 359-7290
(770) 454-7167
Massage Therapist

**Augusta School of Massage, Inc.**
www.augustamassage.com
Evans
(706) 863-4799
Massage Therapist
Brown College of Court Reporting
and Medical Transcription
www.browncollege.com
Atlanta
(800) 849-0703
(404) 876-1227
Medical Transcriptionist

Brown Mackie College
www.brownmackie.edu/atlanta
Atlanta
(770) 510-2310
Medical Assistant
Occupational Therapy Assistant
Pharmacy Technician
Surgical Technologist

DeVry University
www.devry.edu
Alpharetta
(770) 619-3600
Atlanta
(770) 916-3704
Decatur
(404) 270-2700
Stockbridge
(678) 284-4700
Biomedical Equipment Technician
Health Information Technician

Everest Institute
www.everest.edu
Decatur
(404) 327-8787
DeKalb
(404) 327-8787
Jonesboro
(770) 603-0000
Marietta
(770) 303-7997
Norcross
(770) 921-1085
Dental Assistant
Massage Therapist
Medical Assistant
Medical Coder
Medical Secretary
Nursing Assistant
Pharmacy Technician
Respiratory Therapist
Surgical Technologist

Georgia Career Institute
www.georgiacareerinstitute.com
Conyers
(877) 222-6306
(770) 922-7653
Massage Therapist

Gwinnett College
www.gwinnetcollege.com
Lilburn
(770) 381-7200
Sandy Springs
(770) 457-2021
Massage Therapist
Medical Assistant
Medical Secretary

Herzing University
www.herzing.edu
Atlanta
(404) 816-4533
Health Information Administrator
Healthcare Administrator
Massage Therapist
Medical Coder

Institute of Allied Medical Professions
www.iamp.edu
Atlanta
(404) 255-4500
Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
Radiation Therapist
Radiologic Technologist

International School of Skin and Nail Care and Massage Therapy
www.ssomt.com
Atlanta
(877) 843-1005
(404) 843-1005
Massage Therapist

Laurus Technical Institute
www.laurus.edu
Decatur
(404) 303-2929
Medical Assistant
Medical Coder
Medical Secretary

Lincoln College of Technology
www.lincolnedu.com
Marietta
(770) 226-0056
Medical Assistant
Medical Coder

Medix College
www.medixschool.edu/atlanta.php
Smyrna
(770) 980-0002
Dental Assistant
Emergency Medical Technician
Massage Therapist
Medical Assistant
Medical Coder
Medical Secretary
Nursing Assistant
Paramedic
Pharmacy Technician

Sanford-Brown College
www.sb-atlanta.com
Atlanta
(888) 740-1333
Cardiovascular Technologist
Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
Massage Therapist
Medical Assistant
Medical Coder

Savannah School of Massage Therapy
www.ssomt.com
Savannah
(912) 355-3011
Massage Therapist

Westwood College
www.westwood.edu
Atlanta Midtown
(800) 613-4595
Atlanta Northlake
(866) 821-6145
Healthcare Administrator
Medical Assistant

World Outreach Medical Institute
www.worldoutreachmi.com
Decatur
(404) 299-1271
Medical Assistant
Medical Coder
Nursing Assistant
Pharmacy Technician
Phlebotomist
Surgical Technologist
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<th>Hospital</th>
<th>City</th>
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<td>Anchor Hospital</td>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>(770) 991-6044</td>
<td><a href="http://www.anchorhospital.com">www.anchorhospital.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Appling HealthCare System</td>
<td>Baxley</td>
<td>(912) 367-9841</td>
<td><a href="http://www.appling-hospital.org">www.appling-hospital.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Archbold Memorial Hospital (John D.)</td>
<td>Thomasville</td>
<td>(229) 228-2000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.archbold.org">www.archbold.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Athens Regional Medical Center</td>
<td>Athens</td>
<td>(706) 475-7000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.armed.org">www.armed.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Atlanta Medical Center</td>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>(404) 265-4000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.atlantamedcenter.com">www.atlantamedcenter.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta VA Medical Center</td>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>(404) 321-6111</td>
<td><a href="http://www.l.va.gov/atlanta">www.l.va.gov/atlanta</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>BJC Medical Center</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>(706) 335-1000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bjcmc.org">www.bjcmc.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bacon County Hospital</td>
<td>Alma</td>
<td>(912) 632-8961</td>
<td><a href="http://www.baconcountyhospital.com">www.baconcountyhospital.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Barrow Regional Medical Center</td>
<td>Winder</td>
<td>(770) 867-3400</td>
<td><a href="http://www.barrownational.com">www.barrownational.com</a></td>
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<td>Berrien County Hospital</td>
<td>Nashville</td>
<td>(229) 543-7100</td>
<td><a href="http://www.berrienhospital.com">www.berrienhospital.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bleckley Memorial Hospital</td>
<td>Cochran</td>
<td>(478) 934-6211</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Bradley Center of St. Francis</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
<td>(706) 320-3700</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sfhealth.org">www.sfhealth.org</a></td>
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<td>Brooks County Hospital</td>
<td>Quitman</td>
<td>(229) 263-4171</td>
<td><a href="http://www.archbold.org">www.archbold.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Burke Medical Center</td>
<td>Waynesboro</td>
<td>(706) 554-4435</td>
<td><a href="http://www.burkemedical.net">www.burkemedical.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Calhoun Memorial Hospital</td>
<td>Arlington</td>
<td>(229) 725-4272</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Candler County Hospital</td>
<td>Metter</td>
<td>(912) 685-5741</td>
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<td>Candler Hospital</td>
<td>Savannah</td>
<td>(912) 819-6000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sjchs.org">www.sjchs.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carl Vinson VA Medical Center</td>
<td>Dublin</td>
<td>(800) 595-5229</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dublin.va.gov">www.dublin.va.gov</a></td>
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<td>Cartersville Medical Center</td>
<td>Cartersville</td>
<td>(770) 382-1530</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cartersvillemedical.com">www.cartersvillemedical.com</a></td>
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<td>Central Georgia Rehabilitation Center</td>
<td>Macon</td>
<td>(478) 201-6500</td>
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<td>Central State Hospital</td>
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<td>(478) 445-4128</td>
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<td>Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center</td>
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<td>(800) 836-5561</td>
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<td>Charlton Memorial Hospital</td>
<td>Folkston</td>
<td>(912) 496-2531</td>
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<td>Chatuge Regional Hospital</td>
<td>Hiawassee</td>
<td>(706) 896-2222</td>
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<td>Chestatee Regional Hospital</td>
<td>Dahlonega</td>
<td>(706) 864-6136</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston</td>
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<td>(404) 785-6000</td>
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<td>Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Hughes Spalding</td>
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<td>Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Scottish Rite</td>
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<td>Clinch Memorial Hospital</td>
<td>Homerville</td>
<td>(912) 487-5211</td>
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<td>Coastal Harbor Treatment Center</td>
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<td>Coffee Regional Medical Center</td>
<td>Douglas</td>
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<td>Coliseum Medical Centers</td>
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<td>(478) 765-7000</td>
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<td>Coliseum Northside Hospital</td>
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<td>(478) 757-8200</td>
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<td>Coliseum Psychiatric Center</td>
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<td>Colquitt Regional Medical Center</td>
<td>Moultrie</td>
<td>(888) 262-2762</td>
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<td>Columbus Specialty Hospital</td>
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<td>(706) 571-1000</td>
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<td>Crisp Regional Hospital</td>
<td>Cordele</td>
<td>(229) 276-3100</td>
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<tr>
<td>DeKalb Medical Center at North Decatur</td>
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<td>(404) 501-1000</td>
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<td>DeKalb Medical Center at Downtown Decatur</td>
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<td>Devereux Georgia Treatment Network</td>
<td>Kennesaw</td>
<td>(800) 342-3357</td>
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<td>Doctors Hospital</td>
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<td>(706) 651-3232</td>
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<td>Doctors Hospital of Columbus</td>
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<td>(706) 494-4262</td>
<td><a href="http://www.columbusregional.com">www.columbusregional.com</a></td>
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<td>Dodge County Hospital</td>
<td>Eastman</td>
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<td>Donalsonville Hospital</td>
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<td>Dorminy Medical Center</td>
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<td>Early Memorial Hospital</td>
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<td>East Central Regional Hospital</td>
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<td>(706) 792-7000</td>
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<td>Gracewood</td>
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<td>Emory-Adventist Hospital</td>
<td>Smyrna</td>
<td>(770) 434-0710</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emory Eastside Medical Center</td>
<td>Snellville</td>
<td>(770) 979-0200</td>
<td><a href="http://www.emoryeastside.com">www.emoryeastside.com</a></td>
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<td>Emory Johns Creek Hospital</td>
<td>Johns Creek</td>
<td>(678) 474-7000</td>
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<td>Emory University Hospital</td>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>(404) 712-2000</td>
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<td>Emory University Hospital</td>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>(404) 686-4411</td>
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# Hospitals in Georgia

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<td>Emory University Orthopaedics and Spine Hospital</td>
<td>Tucker</td>
<td>(404) 251-3000</td>
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<td>Evans Memorial Hospital</td>
<td>Claxton</td>
<td>(912) 739-2611</td>
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<td>Fairview Park Hospital</td>
<td>Dublin</td>
<td>(478) 275-2000</td>
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<td>Fannin Regional Hospital</td>
<td>Blue Ridge</td>
<td>(706) 632-3711</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fanninregionalhospital.com">www.fanninregionalhospital.com</a></td>
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<td>Flint River Community Hospital</td>
<td>Montezuma</td>
<td>(478) 472-3100</td>
<td><a href="http://www.resurgencehealthgroup.com/hospitals">www.resurgencehealthgroup.com/hospitals</a></td>
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<td>Floyd Medical Center</td>
<td>Rome</td>
<td>(706) 509-5000</td>
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<td>Georgia Regional Hospital at Atlanta</td>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>(404) 243-2100</td>
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<td>Georgia Regional Hospital at Savannah</td>
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<td>Gordon Hospital</td>
<td>Calhoun</td>
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<td>Grady General Hospital</td>
<td>Cairo</td>
<td>(229) 377-1150</td>
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<td>Grady Memorial Hospital</td>
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<td>Greenleaf Center</td>
<td>Valdosta</td>
<td>(229) 247-4357</td>
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<td>Gwinnett Medical Center</td>
<td>Lawrenceville</td>
<td>(678) 312-4321</td>
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<td>Gwinnett Medical Center – Duluth</td>
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<td>Habersham County Medical Center</td>
<td>Demorest</td>
<td>(706) 754-2161</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hcmcmed.org">www.hcmcmed.org</a></td>
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<td>Hallmark Youthcare of Atlanta</td>
<td>Stockbridge</td>
<td>(770) 474-8888</td>
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<td>Dalton</td>
<td>(706) 272-6000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hiltonhealth.com">www.hiltonhealth.com</a></td>
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<td>Hart County Hospital</td>
<td>Hartwell</td>
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<td>Henry Medical Center</td>
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<td>(678) 604-1000</td>
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<td>Higgins General Hospital</td>
<td>Bremen</td>
<td>(770) 824-2000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tanner.org">www.tanner.org</a></td>
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<td>Hillside Hospital</td>
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<td>(404) 875-4551</td>
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<td>Houston Medical Center</td>
<td>Warner Robins</td>
<td>(478) 922-4281</td>
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<td>Hughston Hospital</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
<td>(866) 484-4786</td>
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<td>Hutcheson Medical Center</td>
<td>Fort Oglethorpe</td>
<td>(706) 858-2000</td>
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<td>Irwin County Hospital</td>
<td>Ocilla</td>
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<td>Jasper Memorial Hospital</td>
<td>Monticello</td>
<td>(706) 468-6411</td>
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<td>Jeff Davis Hospital</td>
<td>Hazlehurst</td>
<td>(912) 375-7781</td>
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<td>Jefferson Hospital</td>
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<td>(478) 625-9816</td>
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<td>(912) 369-9400</td>
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<td>Lighthouse Care Center of Augusta</td>
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<td>(706) 651-0005</td>
<td><a href="http://www.psysolutions.com">www.psysolutions.com</a></td>
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<td>Louis Smith Memorial Hospital</td>
<td>Lakeland</td>
<td>(229) 482-8440</td>
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<td>Martin Army Community Hospital</td>
<td>Fort Benning</td>
<td>(888) 293-2148, (706) 544-2273</td>
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<td>McDuffie Regional Medical Center</td>
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<td>Meadows Regional Medical Center</td>
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<td>The Medical Center</td>
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<td>Medical Center of Central Georgia</td>
<td>Macon</td>
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<td>Medical College of Georgia Children's Medical Center</td>
<td>Augusta</td>
<td>(888) 721-5437, (706) 721-5437</td>
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<td>Medical College of Georgia Medical Center</td>
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<td>(800) 736-2273, (706) 721-2273</td>
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<td>Memorial University Medical Center</td>
<td>Savannah</td>
<td>(912) 350-8000</td>
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<td>Memorial Hospital and Manor</td>
<td>Bainbridge</td>
<td>(229) 246-3500</td>
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<td>Memorial Hospital of Adel</td>
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<td>Miller County Hospital</td>
<td>Colquitt</td>
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<td>Minnie G. Boswell Memorial Hospital</td>
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<td>(706) 453-7331</td>
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<td>Mitchell County Hospital</td>
<td>Camilla</td>
<td>(229) 336-5284</td>
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<td>Monroe County Hospital</td>
<td>Forsyth</td>
<td>(478) 994-2521</td>
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<td>Morgan Memorial Hospital</td>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>(706) 342-1667</td>
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<td>Mountain Lakes Medical Center</td>
<td>Clayton</td>
<td>(706) 782-3100</td>
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<td>Murray Medical Center</td>
<td>Chatsworth</td>
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<td>Newnan Hospital</td>
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<td>Newton Medical Center</td>
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<td>Roswell</td>
<td>(770) 751-2500</td>
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<td>Northeast Georgia Medical Center</td>
<td>Gainesville</td>
<td>(770) 219-9000</td>
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<td>(770) 270-3000</td>
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<td>Northside Hospital - Atlanta</td>
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<td>(404) 851-8000</td>
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<td>(770) 720-5100</td>
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<td>Northside Hospital - Forsyth</td>
<td>Cumming</td>
<td>(770) 844-3200</td>
<td><a href="http://www.northside.com">www.northside.com</a></td>
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<td>Northwest Georgia Regional Hospital</td>
<td>Rome</td>
<td>(706) 295-6011</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nwgrh.dhr.state.ga.us">www.nwgrh.dhr.state.ga.us</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hospitals in Georgia

Oconee Regional Medical Center
Milledgeville
(478) 454-3505
www.oconeeregional.com

Palmyra Medical Centers
Albany
(229) 434-2000
www.palmyramedicalcenters.com

Peach Regional Medical Center
Fort Valley
(478) 825-8691
www.peachregional.org

Peachford Hospital
Atlanta
(770) 445-3200
www.peachfordhospital.com

Perry Hospital
Perry
(478) 987-3600
www.hhc.org

Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital
Albany
(877) 312-1167
(229) 312-1000
www.phoebeputney.com

Phoebe Sumter Medical Center
Americus
(229) 924-6011
www.phoebesumter.org

Phoebe Worth Medical Center
Sylvester
(229) 776-6961
www.phoebeworth.com

Piedmont Fayette Hospital
Fayetteville
(770) 719-7000
www.fayettehospital.org

Piedmont Hospital
Atlanta
(404) 605-5000
www.piedmonthospital.org

Piedmont Mountainside Hospital
Jasper
(706) 692-2441
www.piedmontmountainsidehospital.com

Polk Medical Center
Cedartown
(770) 748-2500
www.polkmccenter.com

Putnam General Hospital
Eaton
(706) 485-2711
www.putnamgeneral.com

Redmond Regional Medical Center
Rome
(706) 291-0291
www.redmondregional.com

Ridgeview Institute
Smyrna
(800) 329-9775
(770) 434-4567
www.ridgeviewinstitute.com

Rockdale Medical Center
Conyers
(770) 918-3000
www.rockdalemccenter.org

Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation
Warm Springs
(706) 655-5000
www.rooseveltrehab.org

St. Francis Hospital
Columbus
(706) 596-4000
www.stfrancis.com

St. Joseph’s Hospital
Savannah
(912) 819-4100
www.sjchs.org

St. Joseph’s Hospital of Atlanta
Atlanta
(404) 843-7001
www.sjhotlanta.org

St. Mary’s Health Care System
Athens
(706) 389-3000
www.stmarysathens.org

St. Simons By-The-Sea Hospital
St. Simons Island
(912) 638-1999
www.ssbythesea.com

Satilla Regional Medical Center
Waycross
(912) 283-3030
www.satilla.org

Screven County Hospital
Sylvania
(912) 564-7426

Select Specialty Hospital - Atlanta
Atlanta
(404) 686-2270
www.selectmedicalcorp.com

Select Specialty Hospital - Augusta
Augusta
(706) 731-1200
www.selectmedicalcorp.com

Select Specialty Hospital - Savannah
Savannah
(912) 819-7972
www.selectmedicalcorp.com

Shepherd Center
Atlanta
(404) 352-2020
www.shepherd.org

Smith Northview Hospital
Valdosta
(229) 671-2000
www.smithhospital.com

South Fulton Medical Center
East Point
(404) 466-1170
www.southfultonmedicalcenter.com

South Georgia Medical Center
Valdosta
(229) 333-1000
www.sgmc.org
Southeast Georgia Health System
Brunswick Campus
Brunswick
(912) 466-7000
www.sghs.org

Southeast Georgia Health System
Camden Campus
St. Marys
(912) 576-6200
www.sghs.org

Southern Regional Medical Center
Riverdale
(770) 991-8000
www.southernregional.org

Southeast Georgia Regional Medical Center
Cuthbert
(229) 732-2181

Southwestern State Hospital
Thomasville
(229) 227-3020
www.swsh.org

Spalding Regional Medical Center
Griffin
(770) 228-2721
www.spaldingregional.com

Stephens County Hospital
Toccoa
(706) 282-4200
www.stephenscountyhospital.com

Stewart-Webster Hospital
Richland
(229) 887-3366

Summit Ridge Hospital
Lawrenceville
(678) 442-5858
www.summitridgehospital.net

Sylvan Grove Hospital
Jackson
(770) 775-7861
www.sylvangrovehospital.com

Talbot Recovery Campus
Atlanta
(770) 994-0185
www.talbottcampus.com

Tanner Medical Center-Carrollton
Carrollton
(770) 836-9666
www.tanner.org

Tanner Medical Center-Villa Rica
Villa Rica
(770) 456-3000
www.tanner.org

Tattnall Community Hospital
Reidsville
(912) 557-1000

Taylor Regional Hospital
Hawkinsville
(478) 783-0200
www.taylorregional.org

Taylor-Telfair Regional Hospital
McRae
(229) 868-5621

Tift Regional Medical Center
Tifton
(800) 648-1935
(229) 382-7120
www.tiftrregional.com

Trinity Hospital of Augusta
Augusta
(706) 481-7000
www.trinityofaugusta.com

Turning Point Hospital
Moultrie
(800) 342-1075
(229) 985-4815
www.turningpointcare.com

Union General Hospital
Blairsville
(706) 745-2111
www.uniongeneralhospital.com

University Hospital
Augusta
(706) 722-9011
www.universityhealth.org

Upson Regional Medical Center
Thomaston
(706) 647-8111
www.urmc.org

Walton Regional Medical Center
Monroe
(770) 267-8461
www.waltonregional.com

Walton Rehabilitation Hospital
Augusta
(800) 492-5866
(706) 724-7746
www.wrh.org

Warm Springs Medical Center
Warm Springs
(706) 655-3331
www.warmspringsmc.org

Washington County Regional Medical Center
Sandersville
(478) 240-2000
www.wcrmc.com

Wayne Memorial Hospital
Jesup
(912) 427-6811
www.wmhosp.com

WellStar Cobb Hospital
Austell
(770) 732-4000
www.wellstar.org

WellStar Douglas Hospital
Douglasville
(770) 949-1500
www.wellstar.org

WellStar Kennestone Hospital
Marietta
(770) 793-5000
www.wellstar.org

WellStar Paulding Hospital
Dallas
(770) 445-4411
www.wellstar.org
Hospitals in Georgia

WellStar Windy Hill Hospital
Marietta
(770) 644-1000
www.wellstar.org

Wesley Woods Geriatric Hospital
Atlanta
(404) 728-6200
www.emoryhealthcare.org

West Central Georgia Regional Hospital
Columbus
(706) 568-5000
www.wcgrh.org

West Georgia Medical Center
LaGrange
(706) 882-1411
www.wghs.org

Wheeler County Hospital
Glenwood
(912) 523-5113

Wildwood Lifestyle Center & Hospital
Wildwood
(800) 634-9355
(706) 820-1493
www.wildwoodhealth.org

Willingway Hospital
Statesboro
(800) 242-9455
www.willingway.com

Wills Memorial Hospital
Washington
(706) 678-2151
www.willsmemorialhospital.com

Winn Army Community Hospital
Fort Stewart
(912) 435-6837
www.winn.amedd.army.mil

Youth Villages Inner Harbor Campus
Douglasville
(800) 255-8657
(770) 942-2391
www.youthvillages.org
You know you want to go to college, and you know that college can be expensive. So how are you going to pay for it? More than half of the students who attend college receive some sort of financial aid to help meet costs. There is a lot of financial aid available. More than 90 billion dollars was awarded last year. Finding and applying for that aid will require some effort by you, but there is help along the way! This section is designed to provide you with some of the information you need to know about financial aid.

Check out these free resources:

- GAciscollege411.org is the #1 resource for Georgia residents seeking financial aid for education beyond high school. The Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) administers this free, one-stop, online resource that helps Georgia students expand their opportunities and pay for college. GAciscollege411.org includes basic information about financial aid and is the official source of information about all state-funded scholarships, grants, and loans available to Georgia students. Just go to the homepage and click on the “Financial Aid Planning” tab at the top of the page. Professional financial aid consultants are also on hand to serve you and your parents at 1-800-505-4732.

- You can get answers and good advice by talking with your parents, visiting your public library, and searching the Internet. Helpful websites are listed on page 129.

- Every college has a financial aid office, and once you begin applying for admission to colleges, you can start to take advantage of the expertise offered by those offices.

- If you are a student in middle or high school, you should talk to your guidance counselor. Your counselor has a tremendous amount of information and experience, and he or she can help you get off to a good start as you begin to search for financial aid.

By the time you reach your senior year in high school, you will be deeply involved in the financial aid process. However, there are some things you need to do long before that.

Save. If your parents started saving for your college education when you were born, that’s fantastic. Even if that didn’t happen there’s still time for you and your parents to save a good chunk of money for college - especially if you have a summer or after-school job. Check into the Georgia Higher Education 529 Savings Plan and Series EE Savings Bonds. Remember, every dollar you save now is a dollar you don’t have to borrow later.

Study. If you live in Georgia, you have probably heard of the HOPE Scholarship, which is administered by GSFC. HOPE helps pay for your education at a Georgia college - if you graduate from a Georgia high school with a B average in core subjects. You certainly should set your sights on HOPE, especially if you are still in middle school. There are other scholarships that also reward academic achievement. Study hard, make good grades, and apply for academic scholarships. Even if you don’t get all the scholarships you apply for, you’ll be a better student and better prepared for success in college.

Research. Students should begin looking for scholarships no later than the 10th grade! By visiting the GAciscollege411.org website and reviewing pages 126-127 of this guide, you will become familiar with some of the major sources of financial aid provided by the state and by the federal government. Talk to your parents, your counselor, your librarian, or the financial aid officer at your local college about the special financial aid opportunities available in your community. Professional organizations also have many resources to help those who are seeking financial assistance for the individual health occupation they represent. National organizations can put you in touch with local chapters. Check specific career pages for contact information.
# State and Federal

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Under-Graduate/ Graduate</th>
<th>Georgia Residency Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Georgia’s HOPE Scholarship and Grant</td>
<td>To provide scholarships and grants to recent high school graduates and non-traditional students attending public and eligible private institutions in Georgia</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Tuition Equalization Grant (GTEG)</td>
<td>To provide non-repayable funds to Georgia residents attending eligible private colleges in Georgia</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Georgia College &amp; State University (ROTC Grant)</td>
<td>To assist students enrolled in the Army ROTC program at North Georgia College &amp; State University</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HERO Scholarship</td>
<td>To provide assistance to members of the Georgia National Guard and U.S. Military Reservists who served in combat zones and their children and spouses</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Enforcement Personnel Dependents Grant (LEPD)</td>
<td>To assist children of Georgia law enforcement officers, firefighters, prison guards, and Georgia EMTs who have been disabled or killed in the line of duty</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Public Safety Memorial Grant</td>
<td>To assist children of Georgia law enforcement officers, firefighters, prison guards, and Georgia EMTs who have been disabled or killed in the line of duty</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Pell Grant</td>
<td>To provide non-repayable funds to students for education expenses</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG)</td>
<td>To provide non-repayable funds to students for education expenses</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)</td>
<td>To provide non-repayable funds to students for education expenses</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal College Work-Study Program</td>
<td>To provide jobs for students who must earn part of their educational expenses</td>
<td>U/G</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) Grant</td>
<td>To provide non-repayable funds to students for education expenses</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## STUDENT AND PARENT LOANS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Under-Graduate/ Graduate</th>
<th>Georgia Residency Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Stafford Loan</td>
<td>To provide low-interest repayable funds to students for education expenses</td>
<td>U/G</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal PLUS Loan</td>
<td>To provide low-interest repayable funds to parents of dependent undergraduate students</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal GRAD PLUS Loan</td>
<td>To provide low-interest repayable funds to graduate students</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Perkins Loan</td>
<td>To provide low-interest repayable funds to students for education expenses</td>
<td>U/G</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Service Cancelable Loans</td>
<td>To assist students enrolled in critical fields of study (e.g., Nursing, Physical Therapy, Pharmacy, etc.). Visit GAcollege411.org for a complete listing</td>
<td>U/G</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Military Scholarships</td>
<td>To assist Georgia students seeking a military career enrolled at Georgia Military College or North Georgia College &amp; State University</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Georgia Student Finance Commission scholarship, grant, and loan programs</td>
<td>A variety of programs that serve smaller numbers of students by providing financial assistance for education expenses</td>
<td>U/G</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Financial Aid Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Year Maximums</th>
<th>Institution Restrictions</th>
<th>Need-Based</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Eligible colleges, universities, technical colleges, and career colleges in Georgia</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Contact your high school guidance counselor, college financial aid administrator, or GSFC at (770) 724-9000 in Metro Atlanta or toll-free in GA at 1-800-505-4732. Funded by the Georgia Lottery for Education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$950 (Subject to change)*</td>
<td>Eligible private colleges and universities in Georgia</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Recipients must be full-time students (12 hours per term).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,500 (Subject to change)*</td>
<td>North Georgia College &amp; State University</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Contact North Georgia College &amp; State University for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>Eligible colleges, universities, and technical colleges in Georgia</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>HERO recipients may receive up to $8,000 for four years of study. Additional documents (e.g., military record) required for submission. Please contact the financial aid administrator at your college for other requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,000 (Subject to change)*</td>
<td>Eligible colleges, universities, technical colleges, and career colleges in Georgia</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>LEPD recipients may receive up to $8,000 for four years of undergraduate study.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Eligible public colleges, universities, and technical colleges in Georgia</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>The Public Safety Memorial Grant award covers the cost of attendance minus any other aid received. Funded by the Georgia Lottery for Education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5,350</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Submit additional documents (e.g., tax records) if requested by the school's financial aid administrator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$750-1st year academic study</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Only available for 1st and 2nd year undergraduate students. Contact the financial aid administrator for other requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1300-2nd year academic study</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Exceptional need is required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Contact the college financial aid administrator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Eligible colleges, universities, technical colleges, and career colleges in Georgia</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Submit additional documents (e.g., tax records) if requested by the college financial aid administrator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Participating colleges, universities, technical colleges, and career colleges</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>The rates for Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans are 5.6% fixed and 6.8% fixed, respectively. NOTE: Students who do not demonstrate need may qualify for an Unsubsidized Loan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Participating colleges, universities, technical colleges, and career colleges</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>The current interest rate is 8.5% fixed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Participating colleges</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>The current interest rate is 8.5% fixed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>5% interest rate. Contact the college financial aid administrator regarding the loan amount.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,000 to $4,500</td>
<td>GSFC-approved colleges, universities, and technical colleges</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Visit GAcollege411.org regarding program requirements, application procedures, loan amounts, and service repayment obligations. You may also contact the college financial aid administrator for information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Georgia Military College or North Georgia College &amp; State University</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Recipients are obligated to serve in the Georgia National Guard after graduation. Contact Georgia Military College or North Georgia College &amp; State University for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Eligible colleges and universities</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Includes Robert C. Byrd Scholarship and more.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Minimum awards shown are subject to change based on the number of students eligible and changes in State appropriations.
What is financial aid?

Financial aid is money awarded to a student to help pay educational costs. The federal government, the state government and many private organizations provide financial aid to eligible students in the form of grants, scholarships, loans, alternative loans, and employment. In addition, most individual colleges offer their own scholarships, grants and other aid to students who attend. **Be sure to check with each school to see what is available.**

Some financial aid is **merit-based**; an academic scholarship is one example. A great deal of aid is **need-based**; all federal grants and some federal loans are awarded based on the financial need of the student and the student's family.

Another important distinction is that some aid is considered a **gift**, meaning that it does not have to be repaid. Scholarships and grants are examples of gift aid. Most forms of aid must be repaid. Most loans **must be repaid** in cash. Students can repay some financial aid by working at a part-time job while in school.

How much need-based financial aid am I entitled to?

The total cost of attending a school minus the expected family contribution, equals your eligibility for need-based funds otherwise known as your financial need.

What is the "total cost of attending" a school?

For the purposes of calculating financial aid, the total educational costs of attending a college include: tuition and fees, books and supplies, housing, meals, transportation, and personal expenses such as clothes, laundry, recreation, medicine, and health care. Add all those items and you've got the cost of attending. Obviously, the cost of attending varies greatly from one school to another. In general, costs will be lowest at a public technical college, higher at a community/junior college, still higher at a public four-year college, and highest at a private college. The total cost of attending college in Georgia today may range from about $1,500 per year to more than $40,000 per year.

What is the "expected family contribution (EFC)?"

This is the share of the total cost of attending that the student and his or her family is expected to pay. The EFC is calculated by whatever organization is awarding the financial aid - usually the federal government or the college the student will attend. The family's assets, family size, number of family members currently attending college, and income (including any income the student may earn from part-time jobs), are some of the factors taken into account when calculating the EFC.

The first step in determining the EFC is for the student to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Financial Aid (FAFSA). This should be done as early as possible in the year that the student plans to start college. The form asks for a great deal of detailed information about the financial situation of the student's family. It's a good idea for you and your parents to complete your income tax returns before filling out the FAFSA, as a lot of the same information is asked for on both forms. The Federal Government is working on a way to connect your income tax filing to the FAFSA to automatically fill portions of the FAFSA. Ask your parents to prepare their IRS forms as early as possible this year. Follow the instructions on FAFSA carefully, fill out the information completely, and send in the form as soon as possible. Based on the information on FAFSA, federal processors will determine your EFC. The result will be sent to you and to all of the colleges that you listed on the FAFSA.

Once your college financial aid office has your EFC, it will prepare a proposed financial aid package. Typically, this will be a combination of Stafford loans, PLUS loans, and perhaps student employment or work study opportunities. The goal is to devise a package that equals your family's financial need.

**NOTE:** Most colleges use the EFC that is generated by the FAFSA form. However, some schools use other means to determine EFC. Be sure to look at each financial aid application packet provided by the colleges you are interested in to determine what each school requires.
**What's the difference between a scholarship and a grant?**

- Usually, scholarships are awarded to students who demonstrate some kind of skill, or talent, or achievement. Georgia’s HOPE Scholarship, for instance, is awarded on the basis of academic achievement - earning an overall B average in four years of high school. Scholarships also are awarded to students who excel at sports, music, debating, or some other area.

- The federal PELL Grant is based on financial need; other grants are awarded to students simply because they fall into some special category. GSFC’s Tuition Equalization Grant is awarded to any Georgia student who attends a private college in Georgia. There is no academic requirement and no need requirement. Another example is the HOPE Grant, which pays tuition and fees, plus a book allowance, to any Georgia resident enrolled in a diploma or certificate program at a HOPE-eligible college or technical college. Again, there is no academic requirement and no need requirement.

Scholarships and grants do have one very important thing in common: they are both considered "gift aid." That is, students who receive grants or scholarships are not obligated to make any kind of repayment.

**Can students qualify for loans?**

Absolutely. Billions of dollars are loaned to students every year. Parents of students also can borrow money to help pay for their children’s education. The biggest source of educational loans is the federal government. Stafford loans are federal loans made to students. PLUS loans are federal loans made to parents of students. Unlike scholarships and grants, loans, plus interest, must be repaid. Interest charged on Stafford and PLUS loans is relatively low, and can be repaid over a long period - up to 10 years. Still, repaying a loan is serious business, and every student should be aware of his or her financial obligations regarding loan repayment. In fact, students who take out federal loans are required to receive loan counseling when a loan is first made and just before a student graduates or for any other reason leaves college.

**What are Service-Cancelable Loans?**

These programs encourage students to pursue an education, and eventually a career, in a particular "critical-need" field. For example, it might be determined that a particular region of Georgia is experiencing a severe shortage of trained nurses. That shortage, in that location, constitutes a critical need. Students who receive service-cancelable loans have two repayment options:

- They can repay the loan in cash, plus interest or
- After satisfactory completion of their courses of study, they can cancel the loan debt by working in their critical need field, in an agreed-upon region of the state, for a certain number of years. Of course, the borrower earns a regular salary at the same time they are canceling their loan debt through service.

In Georgia, some service-cancelable loans are funded by the federal government and some by the state government. All service cancelable loans are subject to change or elimination based upon changes in State appropriations. The GSFC is the only agency that offers service-cancelable loans in Georgia.

**For More Information:**

- GAcollege411.org / 1-800-505-4732
  - explore careers
  - prepare for the SAT, ACT, GRE, COMPASS, and ASSET
  - compare and apply to Georgia colleges, universities and technical colleges
  - learn about and apply for financial aid
- Georgia Higher Education Savings Plan – www.gacollegesavings.org
- The College Board/College Scholarship – www.collegeboard.com
- FastWeb – www.fastweb.com
Freshman Year

- Meet with your counselor in the early fall and spring to schedule your classes and develop a four-year plan that will prepare you for college. Take the most difficult classes that you can handle!
- Set up an account at www.GAcollege411.org.
- Begin exploring careers. Use the assessments and tools available online - see useful websites at the end of this section. Interview people who are working in the fields that interest you.
- Get involved! Participate in school and community activities that you are passionate about.
- Create a file and resume for report cards, awards and honors, school and community activities, and volunteer work.
- Check your GPA – bring up grades that can help you earn HOPE!
- Create a college savings account and add to it regularly. Begin investigating scholarships.

Sophomore Year

- Enroll in the classes that are designed to prepare you for college. Estimate your GPA with your counselor to see if you need to brush up on any subjects.
- Continue your career exploration. See your counselor in October and January to discuss career plans.
- Check College/PROBE Fair schedules and talk to college representatives when they visit your region.
- Continue and expand extracurricular involvements in a few well-chosen activities.
- Keep your college planning file and resume up to date.
- Take the PSAT (free for 10th graders in Georgia). This test will help you develop good test-taking skills.

Junior Year

- Study the admissions requirements for the colleges and universities that interest you. If you choose a “dream” school, also choose a “safety” school that you know you can get into, would be happy attending, and that you can afford. You need a “safety” school for financial and academic reasons.
- Take the Georgia High School Graduation Test.
- Meet with your counselor. Confirm that you are taking appropriate courses to meet college entrance requirements. Estimate your HOPE GPA – try to add classes to boost it, if necessary!
- Attend College/PROBE fairs where you can talk face-to-face with college representatives about their academic programs, campus life, and financial assistance offerings. Arrange visits to colleges you might want to attend. Make appointments with admissions officers and with departments and classes you might want to visit.
- Set up a calendar for taking tests and completing college applications.

**Determine which tests you need to take.**
Students who plan to enter 2-year and technical colleges can take the COMPASS test free and can save the time and expense of the SAT or ACT. If you are NOT a college prep student, you DO NOT NEED TO TAKE THE SAT OR ACT!
- Ask your counselor about the free SAT online course available to all Georgia high school students. This online course is prepared by the College Board, the maker of the real SAT. It contains many drills, practice tests, and even scores your essays! Read up on test-taking strategies.
- Register to take the PSAT, which is also the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT), always given in October. This is the only time you can test to qualify for a National Merit Scholarship.
In the spring, register for and take the SAT Reasoning Test, or ACT (American College Test). Most students DO NOT NEED TO TAKE THE SUBJECT TESTS. These are only required for the most selective schools. Check with the schools where you plan to apply to see if they are needed. If you need to take the SAT Subject Tests, take them immediately after completing that subject in school. For example, if you studied AP US History, take the US History exam on the May or June test date as you complete the class.

• Discuss your family's financial resources and review plans for seeking financial aid.
• Identify who might write you a recommendation, start with teachers, counselors, and employers.
• See your high school counselor about available summer enrichment programs.
• Consider "shadowing" someone for a day to learn about his/her career.
• By the end of your junior year, you should be making some pretty definite decisions about college. You should have a short list of schools to which you might want to apply.

Senior Year

July
• If you haven't already, research the websites of colleges you are interested in. Access everything you need online.
• Visit selected college campuses; talk to graduates and students at the institutions.

August/September
• Take strong academic courses and keep your grades up. One predictor of how well students perform their freshman year in college is the level of difficulty of the 12th grade curriculum.
• Check with your counselor and college websites to determine which admissions tests are required and the deadlines for applying.

October/November
• Attend College/PROBE fairs.
• Apply to colleges with varying admission requirements (least selective to most selective).
• Ask your counselor to look over your application forms and have a teacher check over your application essays and comment with helpful tips.
• Mail completed admissions’ forms to colleges.
• Check military academy and ROTC application and scholarship deadlines if appropriate.
• Apply for merit-based scholarships.

December
• Send applications and copies of high school grades to colleges before Christmas, unless a college indicates otherwise.
• Give your guidance counselor all required forms at least two weeks before they are due.
Begin planning for filing FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid. You will need to file FAFSA to get any type of federal financial help – grants, loans, etc. Apply NOW for a FAFSA PIN number at www.pin.ed.gov.

January/February
- **January 1 is a very big date.** It's the first day you can file FAFSA. File electronically at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- Communicate with colleges to be sure your admissions' files are complete.
- Ask your counselor to send your first semester's grades to the colleges where you have applied, along with any other information not already forwarded.

March/April/May/June
- If you feel that you will qualify for the HOPE Scholarship, apply through your GACollege411 account.
- If you are going to technical college, you can receive the HOPE Grant regardless of your grades!
- Keep a record of acceptances, rejections, and financial aid awards.
- Reply promptly to colleges to notify them of your decision.
- Reply promptly when you are notified that you have been awarded a financial aid package.
- Meet the reply deadline and admissions deposit deadline or you may lose the acceptance or aid offers.
- Request that a final transcript be sent to the college of your choice.
- Mid-June, check your HOPE status online at your GACollege411 account.

Useful Websites
- GACollege411.org
- Explore Health Careers – explorehealthcareers.com
- Lifeworks Career Finder – science.education.nih.gov/lifeworks
- Careervoyages.gov
- Occupational Outlook Handbook - bls.gov/oco
- America’s Career InfoNet – acinet.org
- Medical Mysteries – medmyst.rice.edu
- Mapping Your Future – mappingyourfuture.org
- Georgia Career Information Center – www.gacic.peachnet.edu
- Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia – usg.edu
- Technical College System of Georgia – tcsd.edu
Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)

HOSA is an association for future healthcare professionals and provides a unique program of leadership development, motivation, and recognition exclusively for secondary, postsecondary, adult, and collegiate students enrolled in Healthcare Science Technology Education (HSTE) programs.

HOSA is 100% healthcare! Since its inception in 1976, HOSA has grown steadily reaching nearly 107,000 members through 47 chartered HOSA State Associations and approximately 3,000 secondary and postsecondary/collegiate chapters in 2008-2009. HOSA is not a club to which a few students in school join. Rather, HOSA is a powerful instructional tool that works best when it is integrated into the HSTE curriculum and classroom. HSTE instructors are committed to the development of the total person. Those who join the HSTE-HOSA Partnership recognize the importance of providing students with training far beyond the basic technical skills needed for entry into the healthcare field. The rapidly changing industry needs dedicated workers who, in addition to their technical skills, are people-oriented and capable of playing a leadership or followership role as a member of a healthcare team.

Georgia HOSA was started in 2000 and now boasts over 7,400 members through 188 active local chapters. If you do not have a chapter at your school contact your healthcare science teacher about starting one today!

Helpful Websites

www.hosa.org  www.georgiahosa.org

Healthcare Science Technology Education (HSTE)

An exciting way to investigate a health career is through Healthcare Science Technology Education. This is a program offered to high school students in grades 9-12 in many systems across the state, providing instruction that introduces you to health related careers, medical terminology, communication, and health sciences. The program is available to qualified and motivated students and prepares them for the pursuit of an appropriate health career. Rather than career specific, the program takes a comprehensive approach to meet the needs of all students in preparation for any and all healthcare professions.

This education offers hands-on opportunities in the classroom and in real clinical settings. Here are a few examples:

- Observe surgery
- Stand side-by-side with a practicing veterinarian
- Explore real world forensics
- Perform laboratory procedures
### Length of Study

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Georgia Statewide AHEC Network
www.mcg.edu/ahec
4+ Years (continued)
Human Services Worker (B)
Industrial Hygienist (B)
Music Therapist (B)
Nuclear Medicine Technologist (B)
Perfusionist (B)
Radiation Therapist (B)
Radiologic Technologist (B)
Recreational Therapist (B)
Registered Nurse (B)
Respiratory Therapist (B)
Social Worker (B)
Veterinary Technician (B)

5 Years
Clinical Laboratory Scientist
(for college science graduates -AC)
Cytotechnologist (one must already have a B
to enter this 1-year program -AC)
Dietitian (one must have a B and complete an internship
to become registered)
Health Educator (M)
Health Information Administrator (must already have a B
with coursework in science & statistics -AC)
Nuclear Medicine Technologist (one must have a B -AC)

6 Years and Beyond (continued)
Doctor of Medicine (DOC)
Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DOC)
Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DOC)
Environmental Health Specialist (M on to DOC)
Epidemiologist (M on to DOC)
Genetic Counselor (M)
Geneticist (DOC)
Health Sciences Librarian (M)
Healthcare Administrator (M on to DOC)
Industrial Hygienist (M)
Medical Dosimetrist (M)
Medical Illustrator (M)
Music Therapist (M on to DOC)
Nurse Anesthetist (M)
Nurse Educator (M or AC on to DOC)
Nurse-Midwife (M or AC)
Nurse Practitioner (M or AC on to DOC)
Occupational Therapist (M)
Optometrist (DOC)
Orthotist (M)
Pharmacist (DOC)
Physical Therapist (DOC)
Physician Assistant (M)
Prosthetist (M)
Psychologist (DOC)
Social Worker (M on to DOC)
Speech/Language Pathologist (M on to DOC)
Veterinarian (DOC)

OJT - on the job training
C - certificate
D - diploma
A - associate degree
B - bachelor's degree
AC - advanced certificate
M - master's degree
DOC - doctoral degree
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Please help us improve future editions by letting us know what you think.

- What features did you find especially useful?
- Are there any careers you would like added in future manuals?
- What information would you like to see expanded or added to the next edition?
- Was the manual easy to read and follow?
- Have you found this manual helpful in research?
- Other comments or suggestions

E-mail us at info@sowega-ahec.org

or write to us at:

Health Careers in Georgia
SOWEGA-AHEC
1512 W 3rd Avenue
Albany, GA 31707

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