

# CONNECTING TO YOUR FUTURE

This newsletter, by the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, Inc., was created to provide career and labor market information to educators and students.

April 2007

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## Careers in Healthcare

Healthcare is the largest industry in America. The aging of our population, combined with continued medical advances, will significantly increase healthcare demand and career opportunities. At the same time, the severe workforce and leadership shortages that already exist in many health professions are projected to worsen. As a result, tremendous career opportunities exist and will continue to grow for students interested in healthcare delivery, policy, public health, leadership, medicine, nursing and other vital health professions.



Unlike other industries, the Healthcare Industry has grown and thrived despite the down economy. Despite the fact that the healthcare industry is growing strong and has considerable opportunities, there are still significant challenges in the way that healthcare is financed and delivered. We need talented, capable leaders and professionals to develop and implement innovative solutions to these and other critical public health issues.

There is a significant and growing need for more leaders and professionals from ethnic groups currently under-represented in healthcare leadership, public health and medicine. Healthcare leaders and workforce members that are representative of our diverse population will be more effective at addressing our most critical issues and providing culturally competent care.

Retrieved 2/13/07 from <http://www.healthcareers.org/main/careers.htm>  
Health Career Connection

## Medical Careers Encompass Many Things

The United States spends about 11 percent of its gross national product, over \$500 billion, each year on health care. While much of this money goes to develop new procedures and advanced equipment, we spend most in the areas of treatment and prevention. Our system requires highly trained workers. Almost 7 million people work in the healthcare field. Economists expect long-term job growth in this industry to be higher than average, however some medical careers will grow much faster than others.

Students thinking about pursuing a medical career often do so because they have an idealized notion about helping others. Often, they are not aware of the many different job possibilities in medicine unless they know people who work in the field. Many people only associate medical careers with hospitals and doctors' offices. They do not realize there are other opportunities in different settings and related fields. They forget that medical workers also maintain health, prevent illness, and provide support for practitioners. Students are encouraged to investigate the many medical job possibilities and focus their healthcare career exploration.

Retrieved 2/13/07 from <http://library.thinkquest.org/15569/>  
ThinkQuest's Healthcare Career Resource Center



Physical Therapy  
Occupational Spotlight

## Physical Therapy Careers

Physical therapy is considered one of the best and fastest growing careers. As experts in maximizing function, physical therapists rehabilitate mobility limitations caused by disease and injury. They are also involved in injury prevention and promotion of health, wellness and fitness. They specialize in hands-on evaluation and care of joints and muscles but also use therapeutic exercises to promote recovery.

Physical therapists must graduate from an accredited PT program and pass state and national licensure examinations. They may specialize in **cardiovascular and pulmonary, clinical electrophysiologic, geriatric, neurologic, orthopaedic, pediatric, and/or sports**. For additional career information, required education and training, please visit [apta.org](http://apta.org) or [wpta.org](http://wpta.org).

Anchored by one of the nation's largest multi-specialty group practices, a 325-bed teaching hospital with Level II Trauma Center, and more than 30 regional medical and eye care locations, **Gundersen Lutheran Health System**, based in La Crosse, Wis., serves 500,000 residents of western Wisconsin, southeastern Minnesota and northeastern Iowa.

Visit [gundluth.org](http://gundluth.org) to view physical therapy openings, learn about Gundersen Lutheran or apply.

No hard copy or e-mailed applications or resumes, please.

Gundersen  
Lutheran.  
HEALTH SYSTEM

EOE/AA/LED/TTP

The Youth Council, acting under the direction of the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, Inc. (WDB), is working to establish a comprehensive youth development system that provides effective learning environments linking education, employment, leadership development, mentoring, and sustained support for youth to achieve economic self-sufficiency. The WDB is a business-led Board that formulates strategies to address workforce development issues in western Wisconsin. For more information contact Beth Sullivan, Director of Marketing and Planning, at (608) 789-5610, [SullivanB@workforceconnections.org](mailto:SullivanB@workforceconnections.org), or visit our website at [www.wjjobcenter.org](http://www.wjjobcenter.org).

Western Wisconsin  
**Workforce  
Development  
Board, Inc.**  
7 Rivers  
region  
On the Upper Mississippi

# Cutting Edge Jobs in Healthcare

As the world continues to advance and change technologically, we are living longer, retiring later and pursuing higher education at a higher rate than generations before us, and the employment market is changing right alongside us.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, technology is just one of the few factors in determining what's going to be the next great opportunity out there. Demographic shifts, legislative changes, business trends and consumer behavior also factor into what's going to be the next big thing and what's going to be history.

Here are some of today's jobs that are on the cutting edge:

## 1. Radiation Therapist

**What they do:** Work with radiation oncologists to administer treatment as prescribed and supervised by the doctor. They also maintain records and check the operations of the radiology equipment.

**What you need:** An associate or bachelor's degree in radiology and certification under the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. Licensing may also be required.

## 2. Nurse Paralegal

**What they do:** Similar to legal nurse consultants (LNC's), they are hired to assist law firms, government agencies and insurance companies with expertise on medical-related cases. Unlike LNCs, nurse paralegals have a stronger focus on the legal relations to medicine.

**What you need:** A bachelor's or advanced degree in nursing or another health-related field and certification.

## 3. Genetic Counselor

**What they do:** Assist families who have members with birth defects and other genetic disorders, and also aid in educational and administrative roles related to genetic counseling and inherited health issues.

**What you need:** A bachelor's degree concentrating on biology/bioscience, psychology, genetics or nursing and a master's degree in genetic counseling. The American Board of Genetic Counseling and the American Board of Medical Genetics offer certification.

## 4. Legal Nurse Consultant

**What they do:** Perform an analysis of medical information as related to law. They conduct legal research, interview expert witnesses and assist with legal paperwork and processes.

**What you need:** An RN license. Formal training as a legal nurse consultant (LNC) is not required, but helpful.

## 5. Art Therapist

**What they do:** Treat physical, mental and emotional disabilities through art expression.

**What you need:** A master's degree in art therapy with completed curriculum under the American Art Therapy Association's educational standards. To be a registered art therapist, 1,000 hours of direct client contact must be reached after graduation.

## 6. Computer Forensic Expert

**What they do:** Use computer investigation and analysis to determine legal evidence. They uncover deleted information and can help the legal system track down people attempting to cover their illegal actions, such as hackers and inside traders.

**What you need:** A wide range of computer hardware and software experience, as well as an associate or bachelor's degree in computer forensics, computer science or another related field.



## 7. Medical Illustrator

**What they do:** Create images that visually communicate bioscientific and medical discoveries. They also act as consultants, advisers, administrators and educators in biological science communications.

**What you need:** A bachelor's degree with a major in art and a minor in biological sciences or vice versa; a portfolio of artwork demonstrating competence. A majority of medical illustrators have master's degrees in medical illustration.

Retrieved 2/13/07 from

<http://www.careerbuilder.com/JobSeeker/careerbytes/CBArticle.aspx?articleID=561>



## Health Care Job Market

The United States are experiencing a high demand for various levels of healthcare personnel such as technologists, computer coders (medical records), and clinical documentation personnel as well as home health aides, medical assistants, physician assistants and nurses. Ten out of twenty occupations projected to grow the fastest are concentrated in health services.

Many healthcare jobs require less than four years of college education although most technical jobs require at least a two-year technical degree. There are also a variety of post-high school programs that provide specialized training for jobs in health services.

Students - contact your local Job Center ([www.wvjobcenter.org](http://www.wvjobcenter.org)), your local technical college, your guidance counselor, or go to [www.bls.gov/oco/cg/cgs035.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oco/cg/cgs035.htm) for more information on healthcare careers.

## Bet You Didn't Know

**Western Technical College offers a 65-credit, Associate in Applied Science degree program in Health Information Technology.**

**For more details please go to:**

**[http://www.westerntc.edu/ClassInformation/ProgramInformation.aspx?PROGRAM\\_NBR=105301](http://www.westerntc.edu/ClassInformation/ProgramInformation.aspx?PROGRAM_NBR=105301)**



This newsletter is formatted and edited by Workforce Connections, Inc. staff.

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