

For the next several weeks, we are focusing on careers in Healthcare.

Combining medical technology and the human touch, the healthcare industry diagnoses, treats, and administers care around the clock, responding to the needs of millions of people—from newborns to the terminally ill.



Careers in Healthcare

The type of work

- Prescribe medication dosages, routes, and frequencies based on patients' characteristics such as age and gender.
- Order, perform, or interpret the results of diagnostic tests such as complete blood counts (CBCs), electrocardiograms (EKGs), and radiographs (x-rays).
- Analyze and interpret patients' histories, symptoms, physical findings, or diagnostic information to develop appropriate diagnoses.
- Develop treatment plans based on scientific rationale, standards of care, and professional practice guidelines.
- Diagnose or treat acute health care problems such as illnesses, infections, and injuries.
- Prescribe medications based on efficacy, safety, and cost as legally authorized.
- Counsel patients about drug regimens and possible side effects or interactions with other substances such as food supplements, over-the-counter (OTC) medications, and herbal remedies.

Quick Facts



As one of the largest industries in 2008, healthcare provided 14.3 million jobs for wage and salary workers. Ten of the 20 fastest growing occupations are healthcare related. Healthcare will generate 3.2 million new wage and salary jobs between 2008 and 2018, more than any other industry, largely in response to rapid growth in the elderly population. A wide variety of people with various educational backgrounds are necessary for the healthcare industry to function. The healthcare industry employs some highly educated occupations that often require many years of training beyond graduate school. However, most of the occupations in the healthcare industry require less than four years of college.



Nurse Practitioner

Kris Komosa
Cardiovascular Nurse Practitioner,
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Diagnose and treat acute, episodic, or chronic illness, independently or as part of a healthcare team. May focus on health promotion and disease prevention. May order, perform, or interpret diagnostic tests such as lab work and x rays. May prescribe medication. Must be registered nurses who have specialized graduate education.

How did you become interested in this field?

Both my mother and uncle were nurses, and as a child I always enjoyed looking through their books and listening to them talk about the work they did. I also had a life threatening illness as a teen, and although it was the excellent medical care that saved my life, the greatest recollection I have is of the nurses who cared for me. They made me feel protected and cared for during a time of vulnerability.

How did you get to where you are today? What path did your employment journey take?

My career started in the cardiac care unit as a registered nurse. After several years I transitioned to the cardiac catheterization lab. During that time I began to pursue a Master's degree in nursing. I chose the nurse practitioner track because it allowed me the hands on care that I have always enjoyed. Upon my graduation, the cardiologists that I had worked with hired me as a nurse practitioner and gave me the responsibility of developing a heart failure program. I have since relocated and changed employers but my focus has been on heart failure management for the past 12 years. It has been an amazing journey, and I have seen so many advances in the way we care for these patients.

What skills or certifications do you think are needed to be successful in this field?

Although it can't be learned from a book, the greatest skill is maintaining an open and empathetic mindset. People need to have someone they know will listen and have genuine concern about their problems in order to establish a trusting relationship. It is also important to have specialty training in your area of interest in order to provide the most current, evidence-based care.

What is the best part of your job?

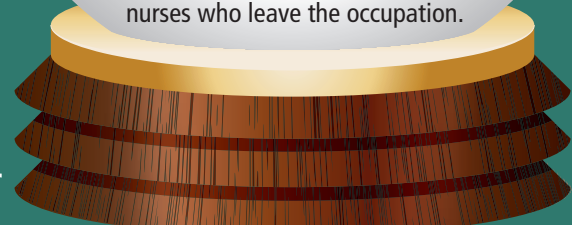
I often say I have the best job in the world! Working with chronic heart failure requires frequent visits with my patients, allowing me to get to know them in great detail, not just from a medical standpoint but personally as well. This familiarity and insight helps me deliver individualized care to my patients, and be alert to potential problems sooner. Another benefit is learning; the cardiology field is always changing with new research impacting the way we practice. It keeps me very mentally focused.

Do you have any words of advice for someone considering a career in your field?

Spend some time with a mentor to get a true appreciation of the nursing field. Occupations in healthcare can be demanding and challenging, but to those who truly have a calling, it is so rewarding.

THE FUTURE OUTLOOK

As the largest healthcare occupation, registered nurses held about 2.6 million jobs in 2008, with approximately 120,000 in Ohio. Overall job opportunities for registered nurses are expected to be excellent, but may vary by employment and geographic setting. Some employers report difficulty in attracting and retaining an adequate number of RNs. Employment of RNs is expected to grow much faster than the average and, because the occupation is very large, 581,500 new jobs will result, among the largest number of new jobs for any occupation. Additionally, hundreds of thousands of job openings will result from the need to replace experienced nurses who leave the occupation.



EARNINGS POTENTIAL

Annual Earnings Potential (2010)	Low	Median	High
United States.....	\$44,200.....	\$64,700.....	\$95,100
Ohio.....	\$44,400.....	\$58,700.....	\$78,400
Cleve/Elyria/Mentor			
OH MSA.....	\$49,900.....	\$61,200.....	\$78,300

Net Online, <http://online.onetcenter.org>

Pathways to success:

The three typical educational paths to registered nursing are a bachelor's of science degree in nursing (BSN), an associate degree in nursing (ADN), and a diploma from an approved nursing program. Nurses most commonly enter the occupation by completing an associate degree or bachelor's degree program. Individuals then must complete a national licensing examination in order to obtain a nursing license. Advanced practice nurses—clinical nurse specialists, nurse anesthetists, nurse-midwives, and nurse practitioners - need a master's degree. Advanced practice nurses require at least a master's degree. In addition, all States specifically define requirements for registered nurses in advanced practice roles. Advanced practice nurses may prescribe medicine, but the authority to prescribe varies by State. Contact your State's board of nursing for specific regulations regarding advanced practice nurses.



What Employers look for in individuals:

- Medicine and Dentistry - information and techniques needed to diagnose and treat human injuries, diseases, and deformities. This includes symptoms, treatment alternatives, drug properties and interactions, and preventive health-care measures.
- Customer and Personal Service - principles and processes for providing customer and personal services.
- Psychology - human behavior and performance; individual differences in ability, personality, and interests; learning and motivation; psychological research methods; and the assessment and treatment of behavioral and affective disorders.
- Therapy and Counseling - principles, methods, and procedures for diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of physical and mental dysfunctions, and for career counseling and guidance.
- Public Safety and Security - relevant equipment, policies, procedures, and strategies to promote effective local, state, or national security operations for the protection of people, data, property, and institutions.

Sponsors



Elyria City School District



Sources: Occupational Information Network, O*Net Online, <http://online.onetcenter.org>.** U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook, <http://stats.bls.gov/oco>