Where to study

These educational institutions provide programs that will help students pursue jobs in the healthcare profession.

Statewide (continued)

Respiratory Therapy
East Los Angeles College
El Camino Community College
Foothill College – Los Altos Hills
Grossmont College
Kaplan College – Salida
Loma Linda University
Los Angeles Valley College
Modesto Junior College
Mt. San Antonio College
Napa Valley College
Ohlone College
Orange Coast College
Pima Medical Institute – Chula Vista
Platt College (Alhambra, Ontario)
San Joaquin Valley College (Bakersfield, Rancho Cordova, Temecula)
Santa Monica College

Social Worker
Azusa Pacific University
Cal State Bakersfield
Cal State Chico
Cal State Dominguez Hills
Cal State East Bay
Cal State Fresno
Cal State Fullerton
Cal State Long Beach
Cal State Los Angeles
Cal State Northridge
Cal State Sacramento
Chapman University
Loma Linda University
San Diego State University
San Francisco State University
San Jose State University
UC San Diego
University of the Pacific
University of Redlands

Surgical Technician
American Career College
(Anaheim, Los Angeles, Orange, Ontario)
American College of Healthcare
(Huntington Park, Riverside)
Carrington College California
(Citrus Heights, San Jose)
CBD College
CNM College
Concorde Career College
(North Hollywood, San Diego)
Concorde Career Institute – San Bernardino
Everest College – Redlands
Glendale Career College
Los Positas College
Mt. Diablo Adult Education
North West College (Riverside, West Covina)
Premiere Career College
San Joaquin Valley College (Bakersfield, Fresno)
Simi Valley Career Institute
Skyline College – San Bruno
Southwestern College – San Diego

Speech-Language Pathologist
Cal State Chico
Cal State East Bay
Cal State Fresno
Cal State Fullerton
Cal State Long Beach
Cal State Los Angeles
Cal State Northridge
California State University – San Francisco
Loma Linda University

Ultrasound Technician
Community Regional Medical Center
Cypress College
Foothill College – Los Altos Hills
Kaiser Permanente School of Health Sciences
Loma Linda University
Mercy College
Orange Coast College
Platt College – Alhambra
Santa Barbara City College
UC San Diego

Physician Assistant
Loma Linda University
Samuel Merritt College
Stanford University
Touro University California
UC Davis
University of Southern California
Western University of Health Sciences

Nurse Practitioner
Azusa Pacific University
Cal State Bakersfield
Cal State Dominguez Hills
Cal State Fresno
Cal State Fullerton
Cal State Long Beach
Cal State Los Angeles
Holy Names University
Loma Linda University
Samuel Merritt College
San Diego State University
San Francisco State University
Sonoma State University
United States University
UC Irvine
UCLA
UC San Diego
UC San Francisco
University of San Francisco
Western University of Health Sciences
Healthcare Professions

The following are healthcare professions that students can pursue. Included are starting salaries, education needed and schools that offer these programs. For more information or questions, e-mail Robin Clayton, Recruitment Manager, UCLA Health, at rclayton@mednet.ucla.edu.

Child Life Specialist

What they do
Child life specialists are pediatric healthcare professionals who work with children and families in hospitals and other settings to help them cope with the challenges of hospitalization, illness and disability. They provide children with age-appropriate preparation for medical procedures, pain management and coping strategies, and play and self-expression activities. They also provide information, support and guidance to parents, siblings and other family members and help patients and their families feel more comfortable in clinical settings.

Education needed
Bachelor’s Degree plus 480-hour clinical internship

Starting salary
$56,919/year or $27.26/hour

Local schools offering this program
Azusa Pacific, Loma Linda

Professional organizations
National: Southern California Child Life Networking Group childlife.org/Networking/LocalandRegional/ChildLifeGroups.cfm
Child Life Council childlife.org
Clinical Laboratory Scientist

What they do
Clinical laboratory science, also called medical technology, is the health profession that provides laboratory information and services needed for the diagnosis and treatment of disease. Clinical laboratory scientists perform a variety of laboratory tests, ensure the quality of test results, explain the significance, evaluate new methods and study the effectiveness of laboratory tests.

Education needed
Bachelor's Degree plus one year of a training program

Starting salary
$86,172/year or $41.27/hour

Medical Coder

What they do
Medical coding is a specialized profession within the wider field of healthcare administration. Professional medical coders review the documentation contained in patients' medical records, then they translate the written documentation into universally accepted, industry-standard medical code. These codes are used to submit claims to third-party payers and to gather statistical information, both by tracking incidents of specific diseases and by detecting developing trends in treatment procedures. Accurate medical coding is essential to the healthcare industry. It is how claims for payment are reported for appropriate reimbursement of provided medically necessary services.

Education needed
Bachelor's Degree plus 480-hour clinical internship

Starting salary
$51,114/year or $24.48/hour

Local schools offering this program
Azusa Pacific, Loma Linda

Professional organizations
Local: AAPC – Region 8 West
National: AAPC
aapc.com

Nurse Practitioner

What they do
A nurse practitioner is a registered nurse (RN) who has completed advanced education and training in the diagnosis and management of common and chronic illnesses. Nurse practitioners focus on individualized care by treating their patients and educating them about preventative health measures.

Education needed
Master's Degree (Master of Science in Nursing)

Starting salary
$110,079/year or $52.72/hour

Local schools offering this program
Azusa Pacific, Cal State Los Angeles, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cal State Fullerton, UCLA

Professional organizations
Local: California Association for Nurse Practitioners
campweb.org
National: American Association of Nurse Practitioners
aanp.org

Medical Assistant

What they do
Medical assistants complete administrative and clinical tasks in the offices of physicians, podiatrists, chiropractors and other health practitioners. Their duties vary with the location, specialty and size of the practice.

Medical assistants typically do the following:
- Take patient history and measure vital signs
- Help the physician with patient examinations
- Give patient injections or take EKGs, as directed by the physician
- Schedule patient appointments
- Prepare blood for laboratory tests
- Help patients feel at ease in medical settings

Education needed
High School Diploma/GED

Starting salary
$42,804/year or $20.50/hour

Local schools offering this program
American Career College, Everest College, Orange Coast College, Pasadena City College

Professional organizations
Local: California Certification Board for Medical Assistants
cbma.org
National: American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA)
aama-ntl.org
Pharmacist

What they do

Pharmacists are health professionals who, in addition to dispensing prescription medication to patients, also provide information about the drugs that their doctors have ordered for them. They explain doctors’ instructions to patients so that these individuals can use the medications safely and effectively. At UCLA, pharmacists see patients in the outpatient and inpatient settings to help with control of problems, such as high blood pressure, and to optimize patients’ medication use at the lowest cost possible.

Education needed
Master’s Degree

Starting salary
$70,446/year or $35.37/hour

Pathologists’ Assistant

What they do

Pathologists’ assistants (PAs) are highly trained health professionals who carry out their duties under the direction and supervision of a pathologist to make laboratories more efficient and cost effective. PAs prepare, examine and dissect anatomic specimens to help pathologists make clinical diagnoses. Typically, PAs work with surgical and/or autopsy pathology and help with administrative duties, such as training and preparing for pathology conferences.

Education needed
Bachelor’s Degree plus certification

Starting salary
$40,069/year or $19.19/hour

Pharmacists

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Education needed
Doctoral Degree

Starting salary
$138,789/year or $66.47/hour

Phlebotomy Technician

What they do

The primary function of a phlebotomy technician is to obtain patient blood specimens by venipuncture or microtechniques. The phlebotomist aids in the collection and transportation of other laboratory specimens, and may be involved with patient data entry. A phlebotomy technician also draws blood for transfusions, donations and research.

Education needed
High School Diploma/GED plus license

Starting salary
$42,198/year or $20.21/hour

Pharmacy Technician

What they do

A pharmacy technician, also known as a pharmaceutical technician, is a healthcare worker who performs pharmacy-related functions, generally working under the direct supervision of a licensed pharmacist or other healthcare professional. Pharmacy technicians are employed in a variety of locations, usually in community retail and hospital pharmacies but also in long-term care facilities, pharmaceutical companies, third-party insurance companies, computer software companies, or in government or teaching. Job duties include dispensing prescription drugs and other medical devices to patients and instructing on their use. They may also perform administrative duties in pharmaceutical practice, such as reviewing prescription requests with doctors’ offices and insurance companies to ensure correct medications are provided and payment is received. In recent times, pharmacy technicians also speak directly with patients on the phone to make sure they take their medications on time.

Education needed
High School Diploma/GED plus license

Starting salary
$40,465/year or $19.38/hour

Occupational Therapist

What they do

The role of an occupational therapist is to work with a client to help him or her achieve a fulfilled and satisfied state in life through the use of purposeful activity or interventions designed to achieve functional outcomes that promote health, prevent injury or disability and that develop, improve, sustain or restore the highest possible level of independence.

Education needed
Master’s Degree

Starting salary
$75,605/year or $36.02/hour

Professional associations
- National: American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)  aota.org
- Local: California Board of Occupational Therapy  calbotoe.org

Phlebotomy Technician

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The primary function of a phlebotomy technician is to obtain patient blood specimens by venipuncture or microtechniques. The phlebotomist aids in the collection and transportation of other laboratory specimens, and may be involved with patient data entry. A phlebotomy technician also draws blood for transfusions, donations and research.

Education needed
High School Diploma/GED plus license

Starting salary
$42,198/year or $20.21/hour

Professional organizations
- National: American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians  aspt.org
- Local: Phlebotomists – California Department of Public Health  cdph.ca.gov/programs/fs/pages/phlebotomist.aspx
- National: American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians  aspt.org

Pharmacy Technician

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Education needed
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Starting salary
$40,465/year or $19.38/hour

Professional organizations
- National: American Pharmacists Association  pharmacist.com
- Local: California Pharmacists Association  cpha.com

Pharmacist

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Education needed
Doctoral Degree

Starting salary
$138,789/year or $66.47/hour

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- National: American Pharmacists Association  pharmacist.com
- Local: California Pharmacists Association  cpha.com

Pathologists’ Assistant

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Pathologists’ assistants (PAs) are highly trained health professionals who carry out their duties under the direction and supervision of a pathologist to make laboratories more efficient and cost effective. PAs prepare, examine and dissect anatomic specimens to help pathologists make clinical diagnoses. Typically, PAs work with surgical and/or autopsy pathology and help with administrative duties, such as training and preparing for pathology conferences.

Education needed
Bachelor’s Degree plus certification

Starting salary
$40,069/year or $19.19/hour

Professional organizations
- National: American Association of Pathologists’ Assistants  pathassist.org
- Local: American Society of Pathologists’ Assistants – California  pathassist.org

Pharmacists

What they do

Pharmacists are health professionals who, in addition to dispensing prescription medication to patients, also provide information about the drugs that their doctors have ordered for them. They explain doctors’ instructions to patients so that these individuals can use the medications safely and effectively. At UCLA, pharmacists see patients in the outpatient and inpatient settings to help with control of problems, such as high blood pressure, and to optimize patients’ medication use at the lowest cost possible.

Education needed
Master’s Degree

Starting salary
$70,446/year or $35.37/hour

Professional organizations
- National: American Pharmacists Association  pharmacist.com
- Local: California Pharmacists Association  cpha.com

Pharmacist

What they do

Pharmacists are health professionals who, in addition to dispensing prescription medication to patients, also provide information about the drugs that their doctors have ordered for them. They explain doctors’ instructions to patients so that these individuals can use the medications safely and effectively. At UCLA, pharmacists see patients in the outpatient and inpatient settings to help with control of problems, such as high blood pressure, and to optimize patients’ medication use at the lowest cost possible.

Education needed
Doctoral Degree

Starting salary
$138,789/year or $66.47/hour

Professional organizations
- National: American Pharmacists Association  pharmacist.com
- Local: California Pharmacists Association  cpha.com
Physical Therapist

What they do
Physical therapists (PTs) provide services that help restore function, improve mobility, relieve pain, and prevent or limit permanent physical disabilities of patients with injuries or disease. PTs work closely with patients and clients to restore, maintain, and promote their overall fitness and wellness for healthier and more active lifestyles. Patients may include accident victims and individuals with disabling conditions, such as low back pain, fractures, head injuries, arthritis, heart disease, strokes and cerebral palsy.

Education needed
Doctoral Degree

Starting salary
$71,827/year or $34.40/hour

Local schools offering this program
Azusa Pacific, Cal State Long Beach, Cal State Northridge, Loma Linda, Mount St. Mary’s, USC

Professional organizations
Local: California Physical Therapy Association ccapfa.org
National: American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) apta.org

Radiation Therapist

What they do
Radiation therapists are skilled medical professionals with in-depth training in physics, radiation safety, patient anatomy and patient care. As part of the medical radiation oncology team, radiation therapists use machines called linear accelerators to administer radiation treatment that helps shrink and eliminate cancerous tumors. The therapist utilizes imaging technology, such as a CT (computed tomography) to help the physician precisely locate a tumor. Success as a radiation therapist requires a positive attitude, excellent interpersonal and communication skills, technological expertise and the ability to manage complex details under challenging working conditions.

Education needed
Associate’s Degree
(Bachelor’s Degree is recommended)

Starting salary
$93,981/year or $45.01/hour

Local schools offering this program
Azusa Pacific, Cal State Long Beach, Cal State Northridge, Loma Linda, Mount St. Mary’s, USC

Professional organizations
Local: The Southern California Society of Radiation Therapists myscrt.org
National: The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists arrt.org

Physician Assistant

What they do
Physician assistants are nationally certified and state licensed to practice medicine. They conduct physical examinations, diagnose and treat illnesses, prescribe medication, perform medical procedures, order tests, and much more.

Education needed
Two years of college education in sciences
Completion of PA program

Starting salary
$105,340/year or $50.45/hour

Local schools offering this program
University of Southern California, Loma Linda University, Marshall B. Ketchum University

Professional organizations
Local: California Academy of Physician Assistants capaed.org
National: American Academy of Physician Assistants aapa.org

Radiologic Technologist

What they do
Radiologic technologists are the healthcare professionals who perform diagnostic imaging procedures, such as X-ray examinations, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans and computed tomography (CT) scans. Most technologists work in hospitals, though some work in doctors’ offices and private clinics.

Radiologic technologists typically do the following:
• Adjust and maintain imaging equipment
• Precisely follow orders from physicians on what areas of the body to image
• Prepare patients for procedures, including taking a medical history, answering questions about the procedure and putting patients at ease
• Protect the patient by shielding exposed areas that do not need to be imaged
• Position the patient and the equipment in the location needed to get the correct image
• Operate the computerized equipment to take the images
• Work with radiologists reading the images to determine whether other images need to be taken
• Keep detailed patient records

Education needed
Associate’s Degree/
Bachelor’s Degree

Starting salary
$70,491/year or $33.76/hour

Local schools offering this program
Cal State Northridge, Charles R. Drew University, LA City College, Pasadena City College

Professional organizations
Local: California Society of Radiologic Technologists csrt.org
National: The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists arrt.org
**Registered Nurse**

**What they do**

Registered nurses (RNs) require a large base of knowledge to assess, plan and intervene to promote health, prevent disease and help patients cope with illness. The RN manages teams in hospitals and clinics. When providing direct patient care, nurses observe, assess and record symptoms, reactions and progress, which provides the basis for care planning and intervention. They are health educators and advocates for patients, families and communities.

**Education needed**

Bachelor’s Degree

**Starting salary**

$80,096/year or $38.36/hour

**Professional organizations**

Local: California Board of Registered Nursing
m.ca.gov

National: American Nurses Association
nursingworld.org

**Respiratory Therapist**

**What they do**

Respiratory therapy is the healthcare discipline that specializes in the promotion of optimum cardiopulmonary function and health. Respiratory therapists apply scientific principles to prevent, identify and treat acute or chronic dysfunction of the cardiopulmonary system. Their knowledge of the scientific principles underlying cardiopulmonary physiology and pathophysiology, as well as biomedical engineering and technology, enable them to effectively assess, educate and treat patients with cardiopulmonary disorders. Respiratory therapists administer treatments to help patients with pneumonia, asthma and other diseases breathe easier. They also assist with operating ventilators.

**Education needed**

Associate’s Degree

(Bachelor’s Degree is recommended)

**Starting salary**

$66,983/year or $32.08/hour

**Professional organizations**

Local: CA Society for Respiratory Care
ccsc.org

National: American Association for Respiratory Care
aarc.org

**Speech-Language Pathologist**

**What they do**

Speech-language pathologists assess, diagnose, treat and help to prevent speech, language, cognitive, communication, voice, swallowing, fluency and other related disorders. Speech-language pathologists work with people who cannot make speech sounds or cannot make them clearly; those with speech rhythm and fluency problems, such as stuttering; those with voice quality problems, such as inappropriate pitch or harsh voice; those with problems understanding and producing language; those who wish to improve their communication skills by modifying an accent; and those with cognitive communication impairments, such as attention, memory and problem-solving disorders. They also work with people who have oral motor problems that cause eating and swallowing difficulties.

**Education needed**

Bachelor’s Degree plus certification

**Starting salary**

$94,566/year or $45.29/hour

**Professional organizations**

Local: California Speech Language Hearing Association (CSHA)
csla.org

National: American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)
asha.org

**Social Worker**

**What they do**

The field of social work utilizes social theories to understand human problems, to enhance people’s lives and to improve society as a whole. Many who work in this field specialize in particular areas, such as aiding children, assisting those with life-threatening problems or helping people overcome addictions.

**Social workers:**

- Act as advocates for their clients
- Educate clients and teach them new skills
- Link clients to essential resources within the community
- Protect vulnerable clients and ensure that their best interests are observed
- Counsel clients who need support and assistance
- Research social problems to look for remedies

**Education needed**

Bachelor’s Degree

**Starting salary**

$94,566/year or $45.29/hour

**Professional organizations**

Local: National Association of Social Workers – California
naswca.org

National: National Association of Social Workers
socialworkers.org

**Starting salary**

$80,096/year or $38.36/hour

**Professional organizations**

Local: California Board of Registered Nursing
m.ca.gov

National: American Nurses Association
nursingworld.org
Ultrasound Technician

What they do
An ultrasound technician, often called a diagnostic medical sonographer or simply a sonographer, operates special equipment that uses sound waves to help diagnose patients’ ailments. They work directly with patients and physicians. Ultrasound technicians may specialize in obstetric and gynecologic sonography, abdominal sonography, nervosonography, breast sonography, vascular sonography or cardiac sonography. They can work in a hospital or a community clinic.

Education needed
Associate’s Degree (Bachelor’s Degree is recommended)

Starting salary
$85,337/year or $40.87/hour

Local

American Career College
4029 Rosewood Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90004
(323) 658-7555
americancareercollege.edu

Azusa Pacific University
901 E Aliso Ave
Azusa, CA 91702
(626) 969-3434 / apu.edu

Cal State Dominguez Hills
1000 E Victoria St
Carson, CA 90747
(310) 243-3696 / csudh.edu

Cal State Fullerton
800 N State College Blvd
Fullerton, CA 92831
(657) 278-2011 / fullerton.edu

Cal State Long Beach
1250 Bellflower Blvd
Long Beach, CA 90840
(562) 985-4111 / csulb.edu

Cal State Los Angeles
5155 State University Dr
Los Angeles, CA 90032
(323) 343-3000 / calstate.edu

Cal State Northridge
18111 Nordhoff St
Northridge, CA 91330
(818) 677-2000 / csun.edu

Career Colleges of America
1803 S La Cienega Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90036
(310) 287-9901 / careercolleges.org

Charles R. Drew University
1731 E 120th St
Los Angeles, CA 90035
(323) 653-4800 / cdrew.edu

College of the Canyons
26455 Rockwell Canyon Rd
Santa Clarita, CA 91355
(661) 259-7800 / canyons.edu

Concorde Career College
12412 Victory Blvd
North Hollywood, CA 91606
(818) 766-8135
concorde.edu/campus/north-hollywood

El Camino College
16007 Crenshaw Blvd
Torrance, CA 90016
(310) 660-3593 / elcamino.edu

Everest College
300 S. Robertson Blvd, Ste 300
Los Angeles, CA 90034
(888) 319-0273 / everest.edu

Kaplan College
6180 Laurel Canyon Blvd, Ste 101
North Hollywood, CA 91606
(818) 763-2653
kaplancollege.com

Loma Linda University
11060 Anderson St
Loma Linda, CA 92350
(909) 558-1000 / llu.edu

Long Beach City College
4901 East Carson St
Long Beach, CA 90808
(562) 938-4111 / lbcc.edu

Los Angeles City College
855 N Vermont Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90402
(323) 563-4000 / lacitycollege.edu

Los Angeles Valley College
5801 Fulton Ave
Valley Glen, CA 91410
(818) 547-2600 / lvcc.edu

Mount St. Mary’s College
12001 Chalon Rd
Los Angeles, CA 90049
(310) 554-8250 / msmc.la.edu

Orange Coast College
2701 Fairview Rd
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
(714) 432-5072
orangecoastcollege.edu

Professional organizations
Local: Association of Surgical Technologists (AST) ast.org
National: American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography ardms.org

Local schools offering this program
Azusa Pacific, Loma Linda, Orange Coast College, Platt College

Education needed
Associate’s Degree or 12-month Certificate Program

Starting salary
$44,078/year or $21.11/hour

Where to study

These educational institutions provide programs that will help students pursue jobs in the healthcare profession.

Where to study

UCLA
Ultrasound Technician

What they do
Ultrasound technicians assist in surgical operations under the supervision of surgeons, registered nurses or other surgical personnel. They are members of operating room teams, which most commonly include surgeons, anesthesiologists and circulating nurses.

Surgical techs can work in a variety of locations, including hospitals, physicians’ offices, dentists’ offices, outpatient clinics or military hospitals.

The main job duties are:
• Making sure all equipment is functioning correctly
• Handing the surgeon tools during procedures
• Monitoring patients’ vital statistics

Education needed
Associate’s Degree (Bachelor’s Degree recommended)

Starting salary
$85,337/year or $40.87/hour

Local schools offering this program
Azusa Pacific, Loma Linda, Orange Coast College, Platt College

Professional organizations
National: American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography ardms.org

Local: Association of Surgical Technologists (AST) ast.org

Education needed
Associate’s Degree

Starting salary
$44,078/year or $21.11/hour

Local schools offering this program
Azusa Pacific, Loma Linda, Orange Coast College, Platt College

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