

Guide to Healthcare Careers for Wyandotte County Youth

How to earn a successful living in the growing healthcare field



Dear Educator,

Today, the healthcare field offers new and promising opportunities for our young people. From medical assistants to primary care providers, healthcare features many skilled and well-paying careers with high placement rates and increasing demand.

THE HEALTHCARE PROFESSION SHOULD REFLECT OUR COMMUNITY

Wyandotte County is blessed with an ethnically and linguistically diverse population. Yet the people who work in our hospitals and clinics don't always reflect the characteristics of our Wyandotte County communities. Thus, our healthcare employers are seeking skilled workers from diverse backgrounds who more closely represent the people of our county.

Research shows that racial and linguistic alignment between healthcare professionals and their patients increases patient satisfaction and trust in providers, improves the long-term management of chronic conditions, and even reduces potentially fatal miscommunications. Put simply, representation matters.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Whether students want a meaningful career, to make a difference in their community, or to be able to support their families, pursuing a healthcare profession listed in this guide satisfies all three.

Working together, healthcare professionals and educators developed this guide for teachers, counselors and administrators in Wyandotte County. It provides an overview of high-impact healthcare career opportunities in our county. We have selected opportunities that provide a living wage (\$33,000 or more annually), along with job security and a bright long-term labor market outlook. Each listing gives an overview of the education needed for each career, the average regional wage for each profession and projected job growth. This guide does not attempt to cover every healthcare career, but highlights those we believe offer the greatest opportunities in Wyandotte County.

This guide is a product of the Wyandotte County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Education-to-Employment Pipeline Committee. This committee seeks to create an education-to-employment pipeline for multicultural and multilingual Wyandotte County students pursuing careers in healthcare. For more information about this committee or to get involved, contact kbradford@kcmedicine.org or msalsbury@vibranthealth.org.

Development of this guide was funded in part by Health Forward Foundation funding to Vibrant Health and Sunflower Foundation funding to the Kansas City Medical Society Foundation.

CONTENTS

| | | | | | |
|------------|------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| 1 | MEDICAL – THERAPISTS | 5 | MEDICAL – OFFICE | 8 | DENTAL |
| 2-3 | MEDICAL – TECHNICIANS | 6 | MEDICAL – PHYSICIAN | 9 | WELLNESS |
| 4 | MEDICAL – NURSING | 6-7 | BEHAVIORAL HEALTH | BC | CONTACT INFORMATION |

KEY TO EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ABBREVIATIONS

MCC – Metropolitan Community College, **JCCC** – Johnson County Community College, **KCKCC** – Kansas City, Kansas Community College, **KUMC** – University of Kansas Medical Center, **UMKC** – University of Missouri-Kansas City, **KCUMB** – Kansas City University of Medicine & Biosciences, **KSU** – Kansas State University, **NWMS** – Northwest Missouri State University

MEDICAL – THERAPISTS

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Physical therapists help injured or ill people improve movement and manage pain. They typically work in private offices and clinics, hospitals, patients' homes and nursing homes.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATION NEEDED:

- Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree
- Physical Therapist License

NEARBY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

- KUMC, Rockhurst University, University of St. Mary

Related career: The Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) works with patients under the supervision of a Physical Therapist, by providing manual therapy and training patients in therapeutic exercises. Requires associate degree and PTA license; national median annual wage is \$58,790 (U.S. Dept. of Labor).

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Length of Training | 6-7 years |
| Continuing Education Required | Yes |
| Median Annual Wage (KC Metro) | \$84,640 |
| Annual Job Openings in Kansas | 100 |
| Projected 10-Year Job Growth | 11% |



Physical Therapist



Respiratory Therapist

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

Respiratory therapists care for patients who have trouble breathing from a chronic respiratory disease such as asthma or emphysema. They conduct tests, provide treatment and deliver education. Respiratory therapists primarily work in hospitals.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATION NEEDED:

- Associate or Bachelor's Degree
- Respiratory Therapist License

NEARBY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

- KCKCC, JCCC, KUMC

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Length of Training | 2-4 years |
| Continuing Education Required | Yes |
| Median Annual Wage (KC Metro) | \$56,110 |
| Annual Job Openings in Kansas | 100 |
| Projected 10-Year Job Growth | 23% |

MEDICAL – TECHNICIANS

MEDICAL & CLINICAL LAB TECHNICIAN

Laboratory technologists and technicians collect samples and perform tests to analyze body fluids, tissue, and other substances. They work in hospitals, medical and diagnostic laboratories or doctors' offices.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATION NEEDED:

- Associate or Bachelor's Degree

NEARBY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

- JCCC, University of Saint Mary, Rockhurst University, William Jewell College
- Workforce Partnership funding eligible*

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Length of Training | 2 years |
| Continuing Education Required | Yes |
| Median Annual Wage (KC Metro) | \$48,340 |
| Annual Job Openings in Kansas | 100 |
| Projected 10-Year Job Growth | 6% |

NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGIST

Nuclear medicine technologists prepare radioactive drugs and administer them to patients for imaging and therapeutic purposes. They work mostly in hospitals, but also in physicians' offices, diagnostic laboratories and imaging clinics.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATION NEEDED:

- Associate or Bachelor's Degree
- Nuclear Medicine Technologist License

NEARBY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

- KUMC, Research Medical Center

Note: This career builds on Radiologic Technician certification. For those already holding Radiologic Technician certification, training for Nuclear Medicine Technologist is nine months in length.

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Length of Training | 2 years |
| Continuing Education Required | Yes |
| Median Annual Wage (KC Metro) | \$77,430 |
| Annual Job Openings in Kansas | 10 |
| Projected 10-Year Job Growth | 4% |

PHLEBOTOMY TECHNICIAN

Phlebotomists draw blood for tests, transfusions, research and blood donations. They work mainly in hospitals, medical and diagnostic laboratories, blood donor centers and doctors' offices.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATION NEEDED:

- Phlebotomy Technician Certification

NEARBY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

- JCCC, Washburn Institute of Technology
- Workforce Partnership funding eligible*

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Length of Training | 1 year |
| Continuing Education Required | Yes |
| Median Annual Wage (KC Metro) | \$34,400 |
| Annual Job Openings in Kansas | 130 |
| Projected 10-Year Job Growth | 11% |

*If you are a Wyandotte County resident and meet certain criteria, there may be funding for you to pursue education for this career through Workforce Partnership at no cost to you. Call 913-279-2600 for more information.

RADIOLOGIC TECHNICIAN

Radiologic technicians perform diagnostic imaging examinations such as x-rays on patients. They work in hospitals and healthcare facilities.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATION NEEDED:

- Associate Degree
- Radiologic Technician License

NEARBY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

- MCC, Cleveland University

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Length of Training | 2 years |
| Continuing Education Required | Yes |
| Median Annual Wage (KC Metro) | \$48,300 |
| Annual Job Openings in Kansas | 50 |
| Projected 10-Year Job Growth | 9% |



Medical & Clinical Lab Technician



Surgical Technologist

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST

Surgical technologists assist in surgical operations in hospitals or surgical centers.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATION NEEDED:

- Associate Degree

NEARBY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

- MCC, JCCC

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Length of Training | 2 years |
| Continuing Education Required | Yes |
| Median Annual Wage (KC Metro) | \$46,960 |
| Annual Job Openings in Kansas | 80 |
| Projected 10-Year Job Growth | 6% |

KEY TO EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ABBREVIATIONS

MCC – Metropolitan Community College, **JCCC** – Johnson County Community College, **KCKCC** – Kansas City, Kansas Community College, **KUMC** – University of Kansas Medical Center, **UMKC** – University of Missouri-Kansas City, **KCUMB** – Kansas City University of Medicine & Biosciences, **KSU** – Kansas State University, **NWMS** – Northwest Missouri State University

MEDICAL – NURSING

REGISTERED NURSE (RN)

Registered nurses provide and coordinate patient care and educate patients and the public about various health conditions. They work in hospitals, physicians' offices, home health care services, and nursing care facilities. Others work in outpatient clinics and schools.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATION NEEDED:

- Associate or Bachelor's Degree
- Practical Nurse License

NEARBY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

- Associate Degree – KCKCC, JCCC, MCC
- Bachelor's Degree – KU, UMKC, Park University, Research College of Nursing, Avila University, William Jewell College, Saint Luke's College of Health Sciences at Rockhurst University, University of Saint Mary
- Workforce Partnership funding eligible*

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Length of Training | 2-4 years |
| Continuing Education Required | Yes |
| Median Annual Wage (KC Metro) | \$66,190 |
| Annual Job Openings in Kansas | 1,870 |
| Projected 10-Year Job Growth | 10% |



Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE (LPN)

Licensed practical nurses provide basic nursing care in nursing homes and extended care facilities, hospitals, physicians' offices and private homes.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATION NEEDED:

- Practical Nursing Certificate
- Practical Nurse License

NEARBY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

- Donnelly College, KCKCC, JCCC, MCC
- Workforce Partnership funding eligible*

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Length of Training | 1-2 years |
| Continuing Education Required | Yes |
| Median Annual Wage (KC Metro) | \$46,160 |
| Annual Job Openings in Kansas | 520 |
| Projected 10-Year Job Growth | - 1% |

*If you are a Wyandotte County resident and meet certain criteria, there may be funding for you to pursue education for this career through Workforce Partnership at no cost to you. Call 913-279-2600 for more information.

MEDICAL – OFFICE

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Medical assistants complete administrative and clinical tasks in hospitals, offices of physicians, and other healthcare facilities.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATION NEEDED:

- Certified Medical Assistant

NEARBY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

- KCKCC, MCC-Penn Valley
- Workforce Partnership funding eligible*

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Length of Training | 2 years or less |
| Continuing Education Required | Yes |
| Median Annual Wage (KC Metro) | \$34,050 |
| Annual Job Openings in Kansas | 600 |
| Projected 10-Year Job Growth | 14% |

MEDICAL INTERPRETER

Health or medical interpreters work in healthcare settings and help patients communicate with doctors, nurses, technicians, and other medical staff. They must have knowledge of medical terminology and of common medical terms in both languages.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATION NEEDED:

- Certified Medical Interpreter (through National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters)*

NEARBY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

- JCCC, MCC

**Wage data is based on individuals with National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters Certification. This is not the same as the certificate of completion provided by the JCCC and MCC programs.*

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Length of Training | Less than 1 year |
| Continuing Education Required | Yes |
| Median Annual Wage (KC Metro) | \$56,760* |
| Annual Job Openings in Kansas | 80 |
| Projected 10-Year Job Growth | 13% |

MEDICAL RECORDS/HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNICIAN

Medical records and health information technicians organize and manage health information data. They work in medical offices.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATION NEEDED:

- Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) or other certification

NEARBY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

- MCC, JCCC, Park University
- Workforce Partnership funding eligible*

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Length of Training | 2 years or less |
| Continuing Education Required | Yes |
| Median Annual Wage (KC Metro) | \$41,180 |
| Annual Job Openings in Kansas | 150 |
| Projected 10-Year Job Growth | 7% |

KEY TO EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ABBREVIATIONS

MCC – Metropolitan Community College, **JCCC** – Johnson County Community College, **KCKCC** – Kansas City, Kansas Community College, **KUMC** – University of Kansas Medical Center, **UMKC** – University of Missouri-Kansas City, **KCUMB** – Kansas City University of Medicine & Biosciences, **KSU** – Kansas State University, **NWMS** – Northwest Missouri State University

MEDICAL – PHYSICIAN

PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN

Physicians in primary care diagnose and treat general illnesses and injuries and provide physical examinations. Areas of primary care include family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics and hospital medicine.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATION NEEDED:

- Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathy Degree plus residency
- Physician License

NEARBY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

- UMKC, KCUMB, KUMC

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Length of Training | 11-15 years |
| Continuing Education Required | Yes |
| Median Annual Wage (KC Metro) | \$208,000 |
| Annual Job Openings in Kansas | 30 |
| Projected 10-Year Job Growth | 3% |



Primary Care Physician



Mental Health Therapist

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

CHILD PSYCHIATRIST

Child psychiatrists diagnose and treat mental illnesses in children through a combination of personal counseling (psychotherapy), psychoanalysis, hospitalization and medication. Psychiatrists may prescribe medications to correct chemical imbalances that cause some mental illnesses.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATION NEEDED:

- Doctor of Medicine Degree plus residency
- Physician License

NEARBY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

- KUMC

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Length of Training | 12-13 years |
| Continuing Education Required | Yes |
| Median Annual Wage (KC Metro) | \$250,000 |
| Annual Job Openings in Kansas | n/a |
| Projected 10-Year Job Growth | n/a |

PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER (PMHNP)

PMHNPs assess, diagnose and treat the mental health needs of patients. Many PMHNPs provide therapy and prescribe medications for patients who have mental health disorders or substance abuse problems.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATION NEEDED:

- Master's or Doctorate Degree
- Pediatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner License

NEARBY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

- KUMC

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Length of Training | 8-10 years |
| Continuing Education Required | Yes |
| Median Annual Wage (KC Metro) | \$106,560 |
| Annual Job Openings in Kansas | n/a |
| Projected 10-Year Job Growth | n/a |

SOCIAL WORKER/CASE MANAGER

Social workers and case managers help people solve and cope with problems in their everyday lives. They develop and evaluate programs and services to ensure that basic client needs are met, and they research, refer and advocate for community resources for their clients. They work in a variety of settings, including mental health clinics, schools, social service agencies, hospitals and private practices.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATION NEEDED:

- Bachelor's or Master's Degree

NEARBY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

- UMKC, Avila University, Park University, Ottawa University-Overland Park, KU-Edwards

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Length of Training | 4-6 years |
| Continuing Education Required | Yes |
| Median Annual Wage (KC Metro) | \$38,720 |
| Annual Job Openings in Kansas | 110 |
| Projected 10-Year Job Growth | 9% |

MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIST

Mental health therapists work with individuals to promote optimum mental and emotional health. They may help clients process their reactions and adjust to difficult changes in their life, such as divorce and layoffs. They help clients develop strategies and skills to change their behavior and to cope with difficult situations.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATION NEEDED:

- Master's Degree plus internship, residency
- License (LMSW, LCSW, LMFT, LCP or LPC)

NEARBY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

- UMKC, Avila University, KU

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Length of Training | 7-8 years |
| Continuing Education Required | Yes |
| Median Annual Wage (KC Metro) | \$47,270 |
| Annual Job Openings in Kansas | n/a |
| Projected 10-Year Job Growth | n/a |

KEY TO EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ABBREVIATIONS

MCC – Metropolitan Community College, **JCCC** – Johnson County Community College, **KCKCC** – Kansas City, Kansas Community College, **KUMC** – University of Kansas Medical Center, **UMKC** – University of Missouri-Kansas City, **KCUMB** – Kansas City University of Medicine & Biosciences, **KSU** – Kansas State University, **NWMS** – Northwest Missouri State University

DENTAL

DENTAL HYGIENIST

Dental hygienists examine patients for signs of oral diseases, such as gingivitis, and provide preventive care, including oral hygiene.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATION NEEDED:

- Associate Degree
- Dental Hygienist License

NEARBY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

- MCC, UMKC, JCCC
- Workforce Partnership funding eligible*

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Length of Training | 3 years |
| Continuing Education Required | Yes |
| Median Annual Wage (KC Metro) | \$72,440 |
| Annual Job Openings in Kansas | 140 |
| Projected 10-Year Job Growth | 1% |



Dental Hygienist

DENTAL ASSISTANT

Dental assistants work with dentists in patient care. They help dentists during a procedure by passing instruments and holding equipment such as suction hoses, matrix bands and dental curing lights. They may take x-rays or prepare materials for dental impressions or temporary crowns under the dentist's direction.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATION NEEDED:

- Post-secondary certificate

NEARBY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

- MCC
- Workforce Partnership funding eligible*

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Length of Training | 1 year or less |
| Continuing Education Required | Yes |
| Median Annual Wage (KC Metro) | \$39,920 |
| Annual Job Openings in Kansas | 320 |
| Projected 10-Year Job Growth | 1% |

*If you are a Wyandotte County resident and meet certain criteria, there may be funding for you to pursue education for this career through Workforce Partnership at no cost to you. Call 913-279-2600 for more information.

WELLNESS

DIABETES CARE AND EDUCATION SPECIALIST

Diabetes care and education specialists provide collaborative, comprehensive, and person-centered care and education to people with diabetes and cardiometabolic conditions. They have achieved a core body of knowledge and skills in the biological and social sciences, communication, counseling, and education and who have experience in the care of people with diabetes and related conditions.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATION NEEDED:

- Master's Degree or higher and clinical hours requirement
- Certification CDCES or BC-ADM

NEARBY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

- Kansas City-area testing sites through the Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Length of Training | 6-8 years |
| Continuing Education Required | Yes |
| Median Annual Wage (KC Metro) | \$76,764 |
| Annual Job Openings in Kansas | 70 |
| Projected 10-Year Job Growth | 10% |

DIETICIAN

Dietitians create customized nutritional programs based on the health needs of patients or residents and counsel patients on how to improve their health through nutrition. They also develop programs and counsel the public on topics related to food, health and nutrition.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATION NEEDED:

- Bachelor's or Master's Degree
- Certification (CDR)

NEARBY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

- KSU (online), KUMC (MS)

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Length of Training | 4-6 years |
| Continuing Education Required | Yes |
| Median Annual Wage (KC Metro) | \$55,090 |
| Annual Job Openings in Kansas | 50 |
| Projected 10-Year Job Growth | 11% |

DIETETIC TECHNICIAN

Dietetic technicians work in a variety of settings in flexible roles that navigate between food service and clinical nutrition care.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATION NEEDED:

- Associate Degree
- Certification (DTR)

NEARBY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

- Associate Degree – St. Louis Community College
- Bachelor's Degree – KSU, NWMS

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Length of Training | 2-4 years |
| Continuing Education Required | Yes |
| Median Annual Wage (KC Metro) | \$42,280 |
| Annual Job Openings in Kansas | n/a |
| Projected 10-Year Job Growth | n/a |

KEY TO EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ABBREVIATIONS

MCC – Metropolitan Community College, **JCCC** – Johnson County Community College, **KCKCC** – Kansas City, Kansas Community College, **KUMC** – University of Kansas Medical Center, **UMKC** – University of Missouri-Kansas City, **KCUMB** – Kansas City University of Medicine & Biosciences, **KSU** – Kansas State University, **NWMS** – Northwest Missouri State University

==== KANSAS CITY ====

**MEDICAL SOCIETY
FOUNDATION**

==== CHARITABLE CARE, EDUCATION, PREVENTION & WELLNESS ====

**Kansas City Medical Society Foundation
6750 Antioch Rd., Suite 305-J
Merriam, KS 66204**

<https://kcmedicine.org/foundation>



**Vibrant Health
21 N. 12th St., Suite 300
Kansas City, KS 66102**

<https://vibranthealthkc.org>



**Unified Government Public Health Department
619 Ann Avenue
Kansas City, KS 66101**

<https://www.wycokck.org/Health>

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTING ORGANIZATIONS

- Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas
- Donnelly College
- Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools
- Kansas State University
- Kansas State University - Olathe
- KU TRIO Educational Opportunity Centers
- NBC Community Development Corporation
- Rosedale Development Association
- The University of Kansas Medical Center
- The University of Kansas Medical Center Institute for Community Engagement
- Workforce Partnership
- Wyandotte Behavioral Health Network
- Young Women on the Move

