

BEST MEDICAL CAREERS FOR LONG-TERM ADVANCEMENT



Are you excited about beginning a new career in the medical field? Are you considering returning to school to prepare for your new career? Be careful to think about the long-term investment you are making. While it might be tempting to get into the field as quickly as possible with the least time and money invested, you should consider what will be the best education and find out exactly which job in healthcare is the best fit for you. The healthcare field is large in scope and not all jobs are the same. Some may pay more at the entry level, but then leave you little room for growth in just a few short years. Others may only require a few months training to be qualified for a position, but then leave no room for advancement without acquiring further education. When choosing a new career field, it is important to ensure you will have room to grow once you enter the field. A little research before you begin will help guarantee you see the best benefit from the time and money you invest in your education. With the right time and educational investment, you can be ready to start a long and productive healthcare career. If you are prepared to begin a career in a field with opportunities for long-term growth, consider the following two options for a career move into the medical field. Registered Nursing: Nursing is an excellent choice for a rewarding career in the medical field with plenty of room to advance. Nurses are responsible for patient care on a day-to-day basis, providing ordered medications and treatments. A career in nursing begins with an associate's degree or nursing diploma which can be achieved in as little as 2-3 years. A newly licensed nurse will most likely begin as a staff nurse prior to advancing to a supervisory position. After obtaining some solid experience in the field, nurses can advance to a more specialized position by furthering their education with a bachelor's degree, while a master's degree can lead to roles as an advanced practice nurse or even administrator of a healthcare facility. On average, registered nurses earn approximately \$67,000 and pay can vary with your specialty and experience. At the upper end, nurses' salaries can reach \$95,000. Pharmacy Technician: Another career with excellent potential for long-term success is pharmacy technician. Pharmacy technicians generally assist the pharmacist by taking and filling medication orders, consulting with doctors, and verifying a patient's insurance prescription coverage. A pharmacy technician's education begins with obtaining either a diploma or associate's degree, but if the goal is to advance within the field, having a bachelor's degree will open more doors and even allow you to move into pharmaceutical sales. On average, pharmacy technicians make around \$30,000 a year, topping at around \$40,000, while sales representatives for pharmaceutical companies make over \$90,000 with commissions.

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