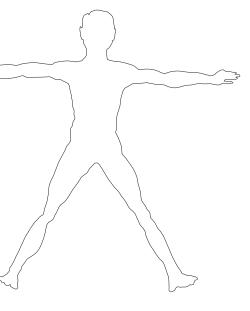


# Healthcare Jobs

A HEALTHY CAREER CHOICE



San Diego County is facing a tremendous shortage of qualified employees in almost every healthcare profession, which has impacted educational institutions in almost every field. *Healthcare Jobs: A Healthy Career Choice* is a must-read for youth and their parents who want to learn more about jobs in the healthcare sector and prepare for a career with sustainable wages, security, and career advancement opportunities.

Healthcare Jobs: A Healthy Career Choice was written by Victoria Joes and Terri Bergman at the San Diego Workforce Partnership, Inc. The Workforce Partnership wants to thanks the many individuals and organizations that contributed their time and expertise to the development of this publication:

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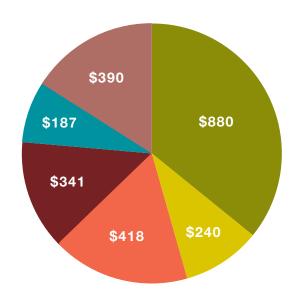
Additional copies of *Healthcare Jobs: A Healthy Career Choice* may be downloaded at no cost from www.SanDiegoAtWork.com.

# A Healthy Future

A single adult in San Diego needs to earn at least \$2,456 per month in order to meet basic expenses (see figure 1). That's about \$30,000 a year. And when we say basic, we mean basic: no clubbing in the Gaslamp, no iPod downloads, no cell phone pix and text; just rent, food, clothes, transportation, healthcare, and taxes.

So, what if you want to do more than just make ends meet? Which jobs offer a solid starting salary with lots of opportunity for promotion? What career choices would ensure your job won't be "offshored" to another country? Consider a career in the healthcare sector. Healthcare is one of the world's largest and fastest growing sectors, with some of the largest and fastest growing professions.







# What Is the Healthcare Sector?

You already know that the healthcare sector is where you go when you are feeling sick. But it is also where you go when you want to make sure you *are* OK, or when you want help making sure that you *stay* OK. The healthcare sector offers such services as diagnoses, prescriptions, administration of medicine, and surgery when you aren't feeling well. It offers physical examinations, x-rays, and blood tests to make sure everything is in working order. And it offers vaccinations against diseases and attendance at childbirth to make sure you (and your baby) stay healthy.

Healthcare services are offered at hospitals, emergency care centers, outpatient care facilities, doctor and dentist offices, medical laboratories, and long-term care facilities. The healthcare sector offers you many job choices and opportunities. You could work in a hospital, doctor's office, or clinic helping sick people get well. You could work in a laboratory and run tests and investigate diseases. Or you could work in an office and wear a suit.

Did you know that community colleges and four-year colleges and universities are seeking people with healthcare skills to teach and prepare others to be healthcare professionals? Have you thought about working in the K-12 school system as a school nurse? Are you aware that biotech companies are seeking healthcare professionals to run clinical trials for the latest medical and pharmaceutical breakthroughs? The opportunities for careers in healthcare are almost endless.

# What Jobs Are in the Healthcare Sector?

Healthcare services are delivered by doctors, nurses, physician assistants, home health aides, x-ray technicians, phlebotomists (the people who draw your blood), vaccination technicians, and midwives, to name just a few. New healthcare jobs in San Diego are being created at a rate of 3.5 percent per year. This is much faster than other jobs in the county are growing.

In 2006, the median annual wage for all healthcare professionals was \$49,700, much more than that minimum amount you would need to live in San Diego. For healthcare practitioners, technologists, and technicians, the median wage was \$62,900; for healthcare support

professionals, it was \$25,500. Some jobs pay more than others (see figure 2). In general, the more education you have, the more money you can expect to make. There are, however, some exceptions to this rule.

# What Are the Job Opportunities in Healthcare?

Not only do jobs in the healthcare sector pay well, but there are also a lot of them (see figure 3). In fact, we are facing a "service crisis" in the United States. This means that there are not enough healthcare workers to take care of the people who need assistance. So, if you have the right education and attitude, employers will hire you! This is not only true in San Diego, but also in cities all across the United States.

#### FIGURE 2

# HEALTHCARE OCCUPATIONS WITH THE HIGHEST MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGES IN SAN DIEGO, 2006

OCCUPATION	WAGE
Dental Hygienists	\$88,691
Physician Assistants	\$81,931
Nuclear Medicine Technologists	\$74,713
Speech Language Pathologists	\$73,528
Occupational Therapists	\$71,718
Physical Therapists	\$70,990
Clinical, Counseling, & School Psychologists	\$69,139
Registered Nurses	\$67,516
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	\$66,456
Radiologic Technologists & Technicians	\$59,633

Source: California Employment Development Department, Occupational Employment Projections, 2004–2014, 2006 first quarter.

FIGURE 3

# HEALTHCARE OCCUPATIONS WITH THE GREATEST EMPLOYMENT IN SAN DIEGO, 2004 AND 2014

OCCUPATION	2004 EMPLOYMENT	2014 PROJECTED
Registered Nurses	17,690	22,460
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants	6,870	8,250
Medical Assistants	5,230	7,090
Home Health Aides	3,600	5,470
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	4,560	5,050
Dental Assistants	3,640	4,550
Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	1,600	2,000
Medical Records and Health Information Technicians	1,320	1,610
Physical Therapists	1,160	1,480
Dental Hygienists	1,100	1,370

 $Source: \ California\ Employment\ Development\ Department,\ Occupational\ Employment\ Projections,\ 2004-2014.$ 

# Where Can a Career in Healthcare Take You?

Once you get a job in healthcare and learn it well, your goals may change. If you are happy at your job, you may wish to stay where you are. But you may want to learn more, do more, and earn more. If this is the case, you will want to move up a career ladder.

Career ladders allow you to build on your knowledge and experience to move to more advanced positions with more responsibility and increased pay. Moving up a career ladder in healthcare almost always requires more education. It is rare for anyone to move up the ladder based solely on experience, or just "time on the job."

There are three major healthcare career ladders. The first is the *patient care career ladder* (see figure 4). This ladder is for individuals who work directly with patients, such as nurses, dental hygienists, and occupational therapists.

Individuals working in patient care can follow various paths from nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants into nursing, occupational or physical therapy, respiratory therapy, or surgical technicians, while dental assistants can become dental hygienists. Individuals on this ladder can also move into teaching or management positions.

There are many educational programs that prepare you for healthcare careers, including Regional Occupational Program (ROP) and adult education programs, certificate programs, public and private two-year and four-year college programs, and advanced graduate degree programs. When picking a program and school to go to, it is important to look at both the cost of the education and the salary you will make once you finish your schooling (see figure 5). You do not want to be paying more for your education than you will be able to make during your career as a healthcare professional!

In general, public schools are much less expensive than private ones, but private schools may be able to let you start your program, while public schools may have to place you on a waiting list. Shorter programs (ROP, adult education) can be cheaper than two-year programs, which can be cheaper than four-year programs. However, some places you might want to work may require a four-year degree, or they may pay more for people who have that

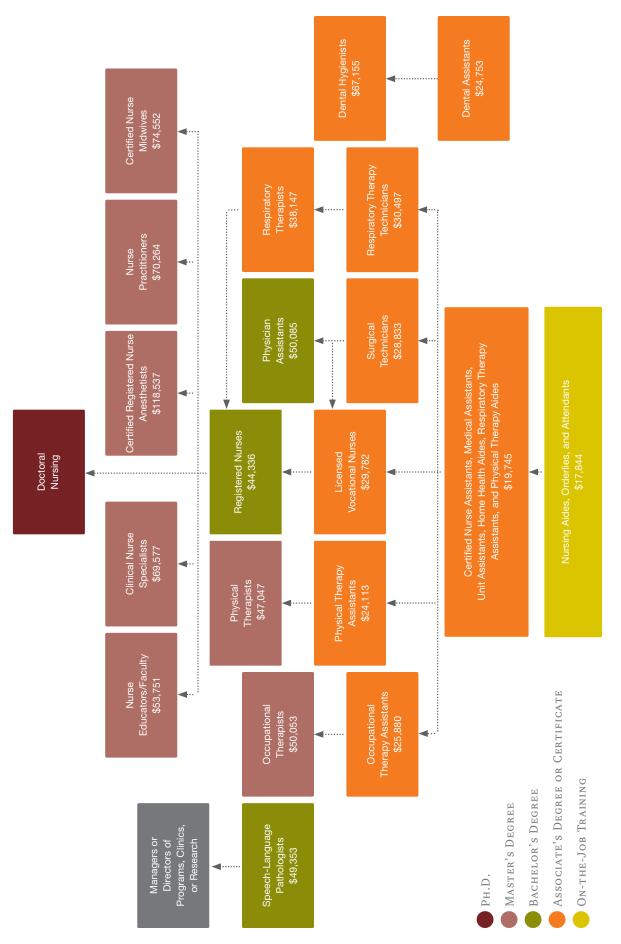
four-year degree. It is important for you to check out all of these things before you decide where you want to go to school.

The second ladder is the *technical career ladder* for workers who dispense medications, run tests, or prepare patients' food, such as pharmacy technicians, diagnostic ultrasonographers, and dietetic technicians (see figure 6). There are a number of paths up this ladder, including ones for pharmacy careers, lab careers, and various technician careers. People with these jobs usually work in hospitals, medical offices, and medical laboratories.

There are a variety of educational programs that prepare you for occupations on the technical career ladder, from ROP and adult education, to certificate programs, public and private two-year programs, public and private four-year programs, and graduate degree programs. For some of the occupations, the only preparation is on-the-job training (OJT). The costs of these programs vary widely, as do the entry level salaries for the occupations (see figure 7).

FIGURE 4
PATIENT HEALTHCARE LADDER

with Entry Wage and Employer Preferred Education Level



Source: Careers in San Diego's Healthcare Sector: A Healthy Future; U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2006-2007; www.acinet.org; and www.Salary.com

FIGURE 5

PATIENT CAREER LADDER OCCUPATIONS with Entry Wage and Education Cost\*

PROGRAMS		CERTIFICATE PUBLIC	CERTIFICATE PRIVATE	PUBLIC 2 YEAR		PUBLIC 4 YEAR		MASTER'S PUBLIC	MASTER'S PRIVATE		ENTRY
Certified Nurse Midwives								\$7,516			\$74,552
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists									\$50,445		\$118,537
Clinical Nurse Specialists							\$38,850				\$69,577
Dental Assistants	Free	\$390-\$760	\$4,675- \$8,950								\$24,753
Dental Hygienists				\$1,200							\$67,155
Dental Laboratory Technicians											\$23,254
Dietetic Technicians				\$1,200		\$6,244					\$22,702
Education Administrators or Supervisors of Counselors								\$7,516	\$38,850		\$39,922
Home Health Aides	\$40 Fee	\$52	\$250-\$4,180								\$15,722
Licensed Practical and Vocational Nurses	\$2,700		\$12,075- \$24,043	\$1,200							\$29,782
Massage Therapists			\$3,410- \$14,400		\$2,995		\$15,050		\$15,750		\$25,219
Medical Assistants	Free	\$760	\$4,995- \$12,250								\$19,745
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers		\$4,207		\$1,200		\$6,244	\$86,480				\$27,424
Nurse Educators/Faculty			\$35,700 Post MSN Program					\$7,516			\$53,751
Nurse Practitioners								\$7,516			\$70,264
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants	Free	\$610	\$3,200- \$5,483								\$17,844
Occupational Therapist Assistants				\$1,200							\$32,926
Occupational Therapists									\$66,628	\$134,520	\$50,053
Physical Therapist Aides	Free	\$130									\$18,118
Physical Therapist Assistants				\$1,200							\$24,113
Physical Therapists								\$7,348			\$47,047
Physician Assistants									\$33,500		\$50,085
Psychiatric Technicians		\$920		\$1,340							\$36,483
Registered Nurses	\$300 Refresher Program			\$1,200	\$45,209	\$2,400- \$6,244	\$86,480- \$121,920		\$51,120		\$44,336
Respiratory Therapists				\$1,200	\$21,216						\$38,147
Respiratory Therapy Technicians					\$26,693						\$30,497
Speech Language Pathologists						\$6,244		\$7,408			\$49,353
Surgical Technologists		\$1,200	\$15,635-	\$1,200							\$28,833

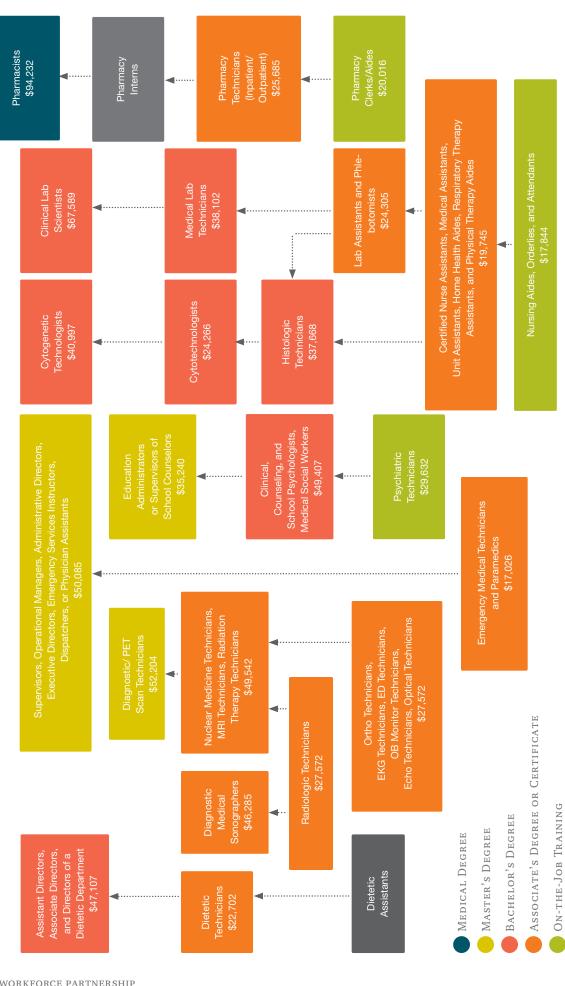
<sup>\*</sup> Cost covers the entire period of the program, from entrance to completion.

Source: Careers in San Diego's Healthcare Sector: A Healthy Future; and San Diego County university, college, adult education, and ROP websites.

FIGURE 6

# TECHNICAL HEALTHCARE LADDER

with Entry Wage and Employer Preferred Education Level



Source: Careers in San Diego's Healthcare Sector: A Healthy Future; U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2006-2007; www.acinet.org; and www.Salary.com.

FIGURE 7

TECHNICAL CAREER LADDER OCCUPATIONS with Entry Wage and Education Cost\*

PROGRAMS	OJT	ROP AND ADULT ED	CERTIFICATE PUBLIC	CERTIFICATE CERTIFICATE PUBLIC PRIVATE	PUBLIC 2 YEAR	PRIVATE 2 YEAR	PUBLIC 4 YEAR	PRIVATE 4 YEAR	MASTER'S PUBLIC	MASTER'S PRIVATE	PH.D. PRIVATE	ENTRY
Assistants, Associates, or Directors of a Dietetic Department					\$1,200		\$6,244					\$47,107
Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians					\$2,500							\$27,572
Clinical, Counseling, and School Psychologists							\$6,244- \$69,624	\$56,000	\$7,516- \$31,504	\$35,280- \$49,500		\$49,407
Cytogenetic Technologists							\$6,244- \$69,624	\$21,620- \$121,920				\$40,997
Cytotechnologists					\$1,200							\$24,266
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers			\$10,000									\$46,285
Diagnostic PET Scan Technicians				\$15,867	\$1,200	\$21,150						\$52,204
Dietetic Assistants	Employer Provided											Not Avail.
Dieticians and Nutritionists			\$624	\$2,000- \$4,200	\$1,200		\$6,244	\$86,480	\$7,516			\$33,959
EKG Technicians					\$2,500							\$27,572
Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics		\$110	\$184- \$1,144		\$1,200							\$17,026
Histologic Technicians							\$6,244- \$69,624	\$86,480				\$37,668
Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians		free					\$6,244- \$69,624	\$86,480				\$24,266
Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists							\$6,244- \$69,624	\$86,480- \$121,920				\$38,102
Medical Equipment Preparers	Employer Provided											\$23,000
Nuclear Medicine Technologists			\$10,000									\$49,542
Opticians				\$7,870								\$25,900
Pharmacists											\$34,438	\$94,232
Pharmacy Aides	Employer Provided											\$20,016
Pharmacy Technicians		free	\$1,595	\$7,500- \$10,080								\$25,685
Phlebotomists		free		\$2,595								\$24,305
Radiologic Technologists				\$15,867	\$1,200	\$21,150						\$27,572
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<sup>\*</sup> Cost covers the entire period of the program, from entrance to completion.

Source: Careers in San Diego's Healthcare Sector: A Healthy Future; and San Diego County university, college, adult education, and ROP websites.

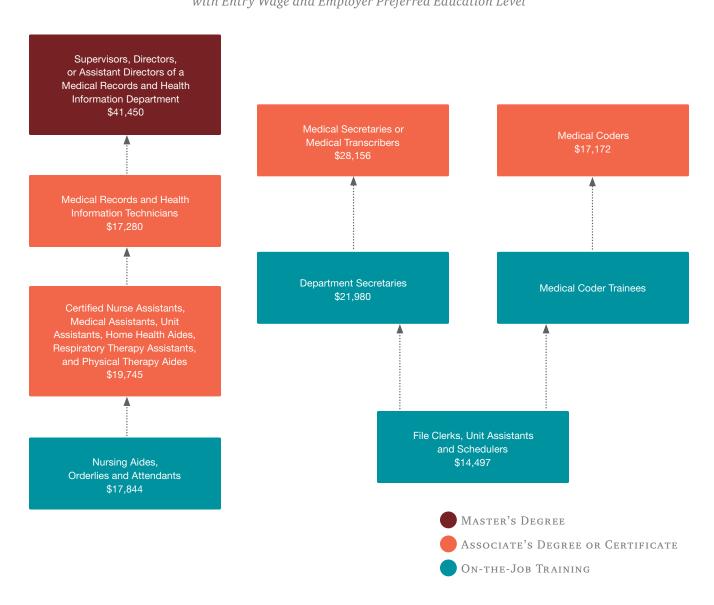
The third ladder is the *clerical career ladder*, for individuals who process paperwork or handle records, billing, or scheduling, such as a medical transcriptionists or secretaries (see figure 8). There are two main paths for this ladder. You can start as a nursing aide, orderly, or attendant and move into the medical records arena, or you can start as a file clerk, unit assistant, or scheduler, and become a medical coder, department secretary, or medical transcriber.

Occupations on the clerical career ladder tend to require less education—only extending from ROP and adult education programs, to certificate and two-year programs—and at a substantially lower cost (see figure 9). Starting salaries for these jobs, however, are also much lower, and do not rise above the very basic cost of living in San Diego until individuals move into management positions.

FIGURE 8

CLERICAL HEALTHCARE LADDER

with Entry Wage and Employer Preferred Education Level



Source: Careers in San Diego's Healthcare Sector: A Healthy Future; U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2006-2007; www.acinet.org; and www.Salary.com.

#### FIGURE 9

## CLERICAL CAREER LADDER OCCUPATIONS

with Entry Wage and Education Cost\*

OCCUPATION	ROP AND ADULT ED	CERTIFICATE PUBLIC	CERTIFICATE PRIVATE	PUBLIC 2 YEAR	ENTRY LEVEL SALARY
File Clerks, Unit Assistants, and Schedulers	Free				\$14,497
Medical Records and Health Information Technicians				\$1,200	\$17,280
Medical Coders				\$1,200	\$17,720
Department Secretaries	\$3,595				\$21,980
Medical Transcriptionists		\$388–\$1,395	\$5,995–\$8,625	\$1,200	\$28,156
Supervisors, Directors, or Assistant Directors of a Medical Records and Health Information Department				\$1,200	\$41,450

<sup>\*</sup> Cost covers the entire period of the program, from entrance to completion.

Source: Careers in San Diego's Healthcare Sector: A Healthy Future; and San Diego County university, college, adult education, and ROP websites.

# How Do You Plan for a Career in Healthcare?

There are several steps you need to take even before you begin applying to schools and programs. These steps will help ensure that you succeed in school and find satisfaction in your career. First, you need to conduct occupational research. While it is important to know how much a job pays, it is just as important to determine if you are good fit for the job. What are the typical hours? What are the daily duties? If you faint at the sight of blood, you will not want to seek a job as a phlebotomist.

After you have decided which occupations suit you, you need to research education and training providers that prepare people for those jobs (see figures 10 and 11). How much do the programs cost? How long do they take? Are they full-time or part-time programs? Choose the programs that best fit you, and then prepare yourself to apply to those programs.

San Diego County has numerous healthcare education and training programs, but many of the region's universities, community colleges, and public and private training institutions have lengthy waiting lists. These programs are "impacted," which means there are more people wanting to enroll than there are seats in the class. This is especially true for education programs preparing individuals to be cardiovascular technologists, licensed vocational nurses, physical therapist assistants, registered nurses, respiratory therapists, and surgical technologists.

# How Do You Prepare for a Healthcare Educational Program?

You can increase your chances of securing a spot in your desired healthcare educational program by preparing early. In high school, take advanced placement (AP) biology and chemistry. Advanced placement courses allow you to earn college credit, so you can get these introductory courses out of the way.

Education and training providers want to ensure that they admit serious students who will succeed in their programs. With limited space in classrooms, your high school and general education grade point average (GPA) is all the more critical. Getting good grades has always been important, but now is the time to buckle down and study hard so that you can compete with other students. Additionally, consider working or volunteering for a hospital or other medical institution. School admissions officers look favorably on students with work or volunteer experience in their field.

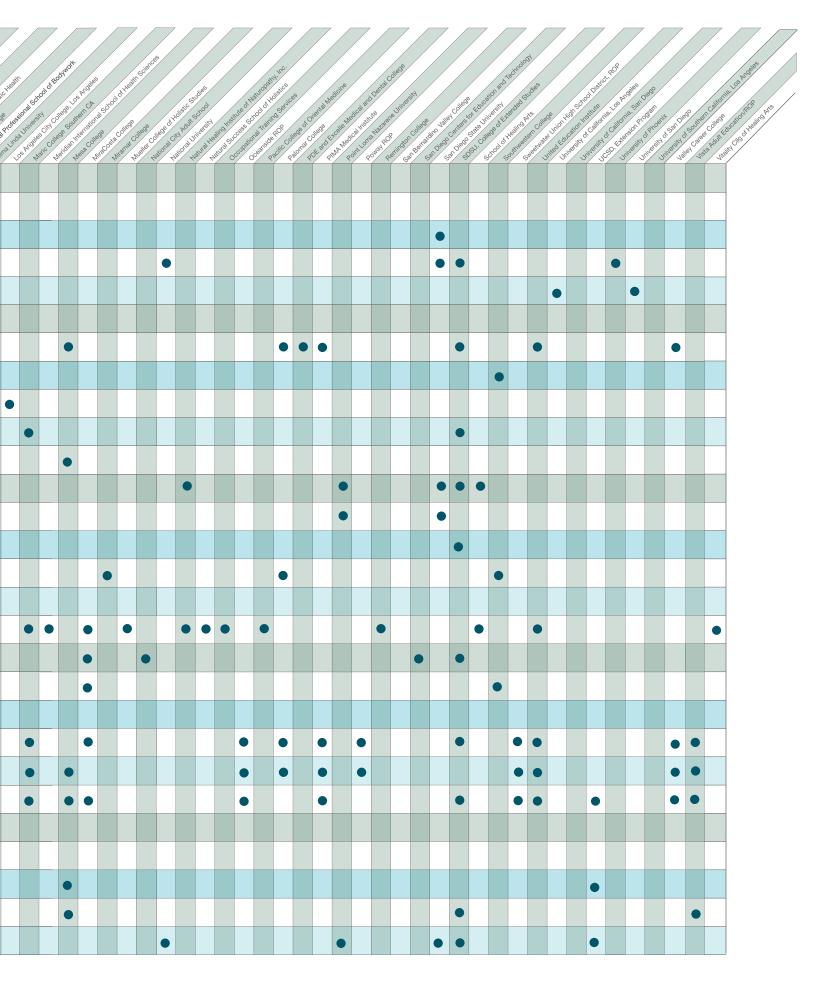
If you are no longer in high school, you need to make sure you are prepared to enter and succeed in a healthcare educational program. Maybe you need to pass your general education development test (GED), or perhaps you have difficulty with the english names for medical terminology. San Diego has a wealth of resources for you, such as ROP (www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/rop/), continuing education (www.sandiegocet.net), and adult education (www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/adulted/). Most of these programs are tuition-free and can help you "catch up."

## FIGURE IO REVISED 04/01/08

# LOCAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

that Prepare Individuals for

that Prepare Individuals for HEALTHCARE CAREERS		, 8 <sup>1</sup>	Profession Profession	national.	Jriversity	Soldy Wind	Tollege Ca	attr Alias	gate United	desity State Unit	Thing of the Control	College.	od Dieds	ondido Ada	de juit schoo	outrer Car	alforth	sole de la	and thic	in HS Dist	Jands Sch	Agley Colle
	PE	adenyd	iliant Inte	arican AZI	15a Paul	ody Mins	Ohiton,	intornia Ca	attornia Cr	Vachuar,	nula Vist	Collega	Corde Les	ondida	Cler	dale	Gro	ssmot Gross	amor.	Healing	Imperial	Internation
Anesthesia Technologists																	•					
Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians																	•					
Certified Nurse Midwives																						
Clinical, Counseling, School Psychologists, and Social Workers		•		•					•													
Clinical Nurse Specialists																						
Cytogenetic Technologists and Cytotechnologists																						•
Dental Assistants												•						•				
Dental Hygienists																						
Dental Laboratory Technicians																						
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers / Ultrasound Technicians																						
Dietetic Department Supervisors, Assistant Directors, or Directors																						
Dieticians and Nutritionists																						
Dietetic Technicians																						
EKG Technicians																	•					
Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics																		•				
Histotechnologists and Histologic Technicians																						•
Holistic Health Practitioners and Massage Therapists	•				•							•		•	•						•	
Home Health Aides										•			•			•		•				
Licensed Vocational and Practical Nurses											•	•			•	•	•	•				
Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians																						
Medical Assistants, Administrative (Front Office)	•											•	•		•		•	•				
Medical Assistants, Clinical (Back Office)	•											•	•		•			•				
Medical Coders, Insurance and Billing Specialists												•			•		•	•				
Medical Equipment Preparers																	•					
Medical Records, Health Information Department Supervisors, Assistant Directors, or Directors																						
Medical Records and Health Information Technicians																						
Medical Transcriptionists								•									•					
Mental Health, Substance Abuse Social Workers and Counselors											•											



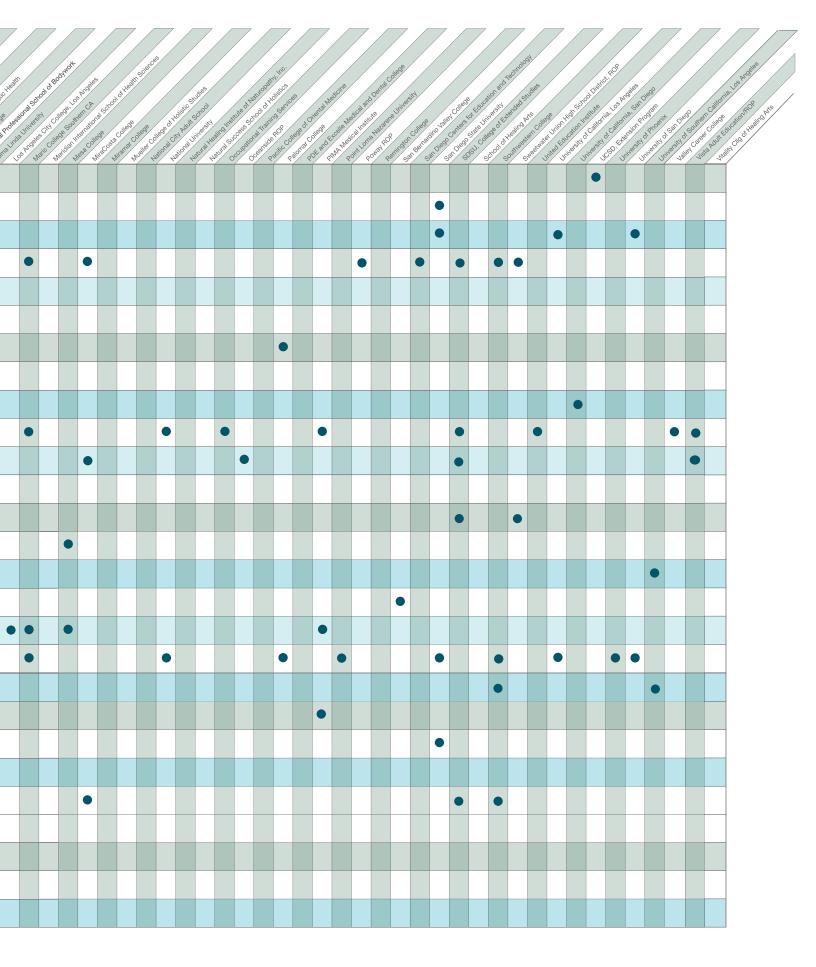
# FIGURE IO (CONT.) REVISED 04/01/08

# LOCAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

that Prepare Individuals for

# HEALTHCARE CAREERS

HEALTHCARE CAREERS	P	xcadamy o	of Profession	arican Car	Jed Pacific	Jody Mind	Srighton H	altornia .	Salitornia	Shadman,	String Co	a Adult	oncorde	jarae F	addentrale	sendale C	adden Car	io AC	3rossmort	Jhio, He	ealing Hands	Darial Valle	ernation
Nuclear Medicine Technologists																							
Nurse Educators/Faculty								•															
Nurse Practitioners																							
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants (Certified Nursing Assistants)						•				•			•			•		•			•		
Occupational Therapists																							•
Occupational Therapist Assistants																	•						
Opticians and Optical Technicians		•																•					
Orthopedic Technologists																	•						
Pharmacists																							
Pharmacy Technicians	•																	•			•		
Phlebotomists and Phlebotomy Technicians (Medical Lab Assistants)																		•					
Physical Therapists _																							
Physical Therapist Aides, Sports Medicine Aides, and Athletic Training Assistants																		•					
Physical Therapist Assistants																							
Physician Assistants																							
Psychiatric Technicians																							
Radiologic Technologists (X-Ray Technicians)																							
Registered Nurses							•				•						•				•		
Registered Nurse Anesthetists and Operating Room Specialists																							
Respiratory Therapists												•					•						
Speech Language Pathologists																						_	
Speech Language Pathologist Assistants																	•						
Surgical Technologists												•			•								



# FIGURE 11 (revised 04/01/08)

# Web Addresses of Local Educational Institutions

school	link
Academy of Professional Careers, Indio	www.apcschool.edu
Alliant International University	www.alliant.edu/wps/wcm/connect/website
American Career College, Los Angeles	www.americancareer.com
Azusa Pacific University	www.apu.edu
Body Mind College	www.bodymindcollege.com
Brighton Health Alliance	www.brightonhealth.com
California State University, San Marcos	www.csusm.edu
California State University, San Marcos Extended Studies	www.csusm-es.org
Chapman University	www.chapman.edu
Chula Vista Adult School	www.suhsd.k12.ca.us/adult-education
City College, San Diego	www.sdcity.edu
Concorde Career College	www.concordecareercolleges.com
Escondido Adult School/ROP	http://ae.euhsd.k12.ca.us
Feldenkrais Southern California Movement Institute	www.feldenkraislearning.com
Glendale Career College	www.success.edu
Golden Care Academy	www.goldencareacademy.org
Grossmont College	www.grossmont.edu
Grossmont College, ROP	www.grossmont.edu/rop
Grossmont Union High School District, Adult Education	www.guhsd.net/adult
Grossmont Union High School District, ROP	http://rop.guhsd.net
Healing Hands School of Holistic Health	www.healinghandsschool.com
Imperial Valley College	www.imperial.edu
International Professional School of Bodywork	www.ipsb.edu
Loma Linda University	www.llu.edu
Los Angeles City College, Los Angeles	www.lacitycollege.edu
Maric College	www.mariccollege.edu
Meridian International School of Health Sciences	http://meridianway.com
Mesa College	www.sdmesa.sdccd.cc.ca.us
MiraCosta College	www.miracosta.cc.ca.us
Miramar College	www.miramarcollege.net
Mueller College of Holistic Studies	www.mueller.edu
National City Adult School	www.suhsd.k12.ca.us/nca
National University	www.nu.edu
Natural Healing Institute of Naturopathy, Inc.	www.naturalhealinginst.com
Natural Success School of Holistics	www.naturalsuccess.com
Never Stop Learning (SDSU, College of Extended Studies)	www.neverstoplearning.net/healthcare
Occupational Training Services	www.ots-sdchc.org
Oceanside ROP	www.rop.oside.k12.ca.us/general.html
Pacific College of Oriental Medicine	www.pacificcollege.edu
Palomar College	www.palomar.edu
PDE and Excelle Medical and Dental College	www.excellecollege.com
PIMA Medical Institute	www.pmi.edu
Point Loma Nazarene University	www.pointloma.edu
Poway ROP	www.powayusd.com/ pusdctae/ ROP.htm
Remington College	www.remingtoncollege.edu
San Bernardino Valley College	www.valleycollege.edu

San Diego Centers for Education and Technology	www.sandiegocet.net
San Diego State University (see Never Stop Learning for Extended Studies)	www.sdsu.edu
School of Healing Arts	www.schoolofhealingarts.com
Southwestern College	www.swc.cc.ca.us
Sweetwater Union High School District, ROP	www.suhsd.k12.ca.us/rop
United Education Institute	www.uei-edu.com
University of California, Los Angeles	www.ucla.edu
University of California, San Diego	www.ucsd.edu
University of California, San Diego, Extension Program	www.extension.ucsd.edu
University of Phoenix	www.phoenix.edu
University of San Diego	www.sandiego.edu
University of Southern California, Los Angeles	www.usc.edu
Valley Career College	www.valleycareercollege.com
Vista Adult Education/ROP	http://209.66.220.47
Vitality College of Healing Arts	www.vitalitycollege.com

If you already work outside of the healthcare field but are interested in a career change, you may want to get some of your introductory courses out of the way at a community college. This has the extra added benefit of allowing you to "get a taste" of healthcare training before committing to a long program.

Many healthcare education and training programs will not even accept an application until you have successfully completed anatomy, microbiology, and physiology, or other prerequisites at an accredited institution – either theirs or another's. Accredited means the institution is officially recognized as meeting essential academic excellence requirements. Check to make sure a school is accredited before you register for any courses there.

You can complete your prerequisites in one of two ways. First, you can apply to a college or university, and once admitted, begin taking the required courses. When you complete those courses, you then apply to the specific program at that same school. For example, you can apply and get into Cal State San Marcos, follow the pre-nursing coursework, and then apply to the nursing program. The second way is to complete the prerequisites at your local community college and then apply to transfer to the program of your choice at another educational institution. Either way, apply to multiple schools immediately, and get on as many waiting lists as possible.

If you have already completed your prerequisites and you are waitlisted, you can take your general education requirements. For example, if you are on the waiting list to enter the bachelor of science in nursing program at San Diego State University, you can take general psychology and oral communication classes to reduce your course load once you have been accepted.

# How Do You Pay for Your Healthcare Training?

Once you have identified your future job and the appropriate schools, identify opportunities to finance your education. Some resources to consider are:

- The Education Department's Federal Student Aid (FSA) program, www.studentaid.ed.gov.
- California State Educational Funding Opportunities, http://www.csac.ca.gov.
- California Student Opportunity and Access Program, http://www.sandiegocalsoap.com/resources/financialaid.php.
- Local community groups, such as the Rotary or Kiwanis clubs.
- Specialty scholarships for specific ethnic, religious, or professional affiliations. Visit your local library or bookstore and check out the most current annual scholarship handbooks.
- Academic scholarships through the school you want to attend.
- Healthcare employers; many San Diego employers provide tuition reimbursement to their staff and flexible work schedules to accomodate studies. Taking a "first step" healthcare job with an employee may provide you with the money you need to move up your healthcare ladder.

## What Does This Mean to You?

All the information provided in this booklet is aimed at making you aware of the job opportunities in the healthcare sector. Healthcare sector jobs are plentiful, they provide sustainable wages, they allow you to work in different environments, and they let you create a career with increased responsibilities and earnings. The rest is up to you. The sky is the limit.

If you are interested in a career in healthcare, please contact your school counselor, college career center, or local career center. The San Diego Career Centers are listed for your convenience inside the back cover of this booklet.

# San Diego Workforce Partnership, Inc.

San Diego Workforce Partnership, Inc. (Workforce Partnership) has been in operation since 1974, when a joint powers agreement between the City and the County of San Diego created what is now a nonprofit public benefit corporation. The Workforce Partnership's mission is:

To lead the development and implementation of creative solutions to regional workforce issues, and fuel economic growth and prosperity through research, community engagement, and innovative collaborations and partnerships.

The Workforce Partnership has long created workforce solutions<sup>SM</sup> for the region's employers and individuals through public and private partnerships. We provide cost-effective, quality programs and services that promote self-sufficiency and address the current and long-term needs of the region's employers. This is largely accomplished through the Workforce Partnership's regional network of One-Stop Career Centers and its targeted adult and youth employment and training programs. These resources provide job seekers and employers with universal access to labor market information and comprehensive employment resources.

For more information on the Workforce Partnership visit our website at www.SanDiegoAtWork.com or contact us through one of our One-Stop Career Centers:

## METRO CAREER CENTER

Operated by San Diego Workforce Partnership 3910 University Avenue San Diego, CA 92105 Phone: (619) 516-2200

## Metro Career Center/ Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch

Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Public Library 9005 Aero Drive San Diego, CA 92123 Phone: (858) 715-0442

#### SOUTH METRO CAREER CENTER

Operated by San Diego Workforce Partnership 4389 Imperial Avenue San Diego, CA 92113 Phone: (619) 266-4200

## SOUTH COUNTY CAREER CENTER

Operated by Arbor E&T 1111 Bay Boulevard, Suite E Chula Vista, CA 91911 Phone: (619) 628-0300

## SOUTH COUNTY CAREER CENTER/ BONITA BRANCH

Bonita-Sunnyside Public Library 4375 Bonita Road Bonita, CA 91902 Phone: (619) 472-6602

#### EAST COUNTY CAREER CENTER

Operated by Grossmont Union High School District 924 East Main Street El Cajon, CA 92021 Phone: (619) 590-3900

# East County Career Center/ Spring Valley Branch

Spring Valley Public Library 836 Kempton Street Spring Valley, CA 91977 Phone: (619) 667-0133

## NORTH COUNTY COASTAL CAREER CENTER

Operated by Arbor E&T 1949 Avenida Del Oro, Suite 106 Oceanside, CA 92056 Phone: (760) 631-6150

### NORTH COUNTY INLAND CAREER CENTER

Operated by Arbor E&T 463 North Midway Drive Escondido, CA 92027 Phone: (760) 871-1962

San Diego Workforce Partnership, Inc. 3910 University Avenue, Suite 400 San Diego, CA 92105

Tel: 619-228-2900 TDD: 619-228-2983

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