



Exploring Healthcare Careers in Will County

Look inside to learn about:

The Healthcare Industry

Industry Outlook & Growth

Available Training

Required Skills & Abilities

Wage Trends

Education Requirements

Career Opportunities

Industry Overview

It takes a network of connected and specialized services to make up the healthcare industry. Nursing homes, hospitals, doctors' offices, outpatient surgery centers and other facilities all provide a wide range of healthcare services.

Overall, they share a common goal of providing services to treat illness, maintain wellness and manage disease. For workers in healthcare, helping people is the core of their jobs.

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- **Are you strong in science or mathematics?**
 - **Do you like to help others?**
 - **Do you like to work in teams, share information and solve problems?**
 - **Is living a healthy lifestyle important to you?**
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In-Demand Healthcare Jobs

The Workforce Services Division of Will County has identified 20 high-demand jobs with available training programs in the healthcare field, which are listed on the back page with related wage and training information. Certain healthcare occupations may require testing or licensure. Most require drug testing and criminal background checks.

Outlook & Growth

In Will County, employment in the healthcare industry is projected to grow 17% through 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations, creating about 2,400 job openings. In fact, healthcare occupations will add more jobs than any other group of occupations.



Training

Jobs in Will County's healthcare industry require education and training after high school, yet they don't always require a four year degree. Depending on your career interests and professional goals, you can choose a training program from several weeks to more than four years. Here are some examples below:

1 Year or less

Certificate Program

- Dental Assistant
- Nursing Assistant
- Surgical Technologist

2 Years

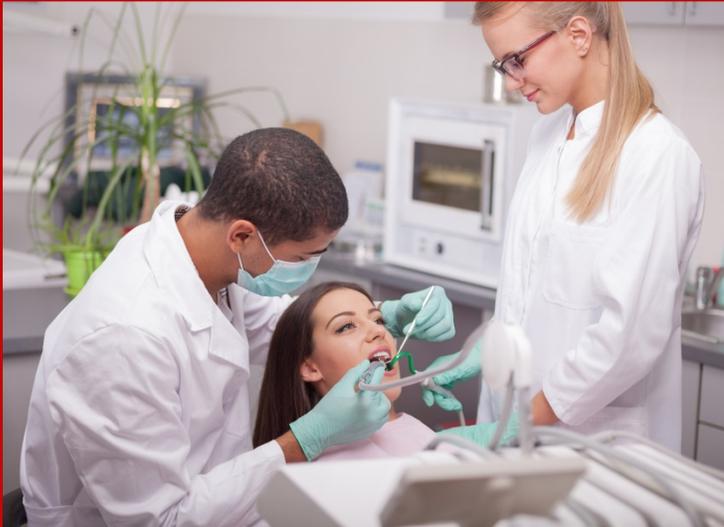
Associate Degree

- Dental Hygienist
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Registered Nurse

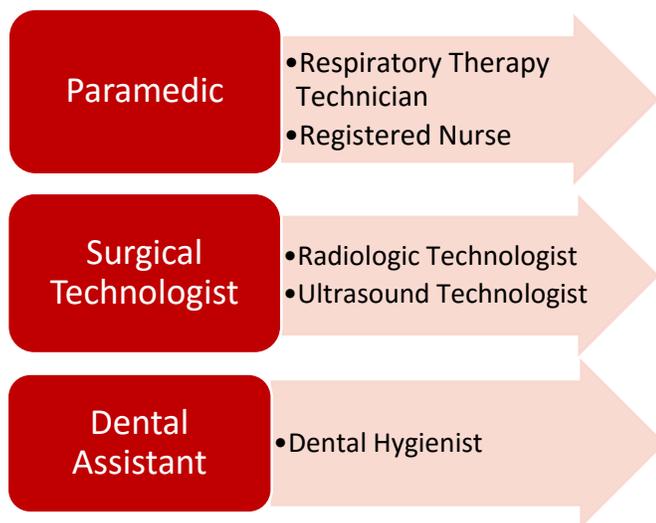
Jobs4people.org provides information about careers in healthcare and includes local Will County job postings, training programs and advice on how to find financial aid. It is a resource which will introduce you to healthcare jobs in Will County and help you figure out which ones could be the right fit for you.

Career Opportunities

There are many job specializations and opportunities within the field of healthcare. Whether you are interested in assisting medical doctors, responding to emergencies, supervising teams of experts, utilizing and maintaining medical equipment or organizing medical records and information, there are a variety of professions within this industry.



Of course, you don't have to stick to one career pathway. You may start in one career, and advance with experience and education into something different. Here are some healthcare career pathway examples:



These career pathway examples are just a way to get you started – the next step is up to you!

Required Skills & Abilities

Although completing the required technical training is critical to landing a job in healthcare, there are additional skills employers also look for. To move ahead in, and even begin your career, you will need to demonstrate good interpersonal and communication skills.



How many of the top 9 healthcare interpersonal skills do you see in yourself?

1. **Communication**
2. **Dealing with criticism**
3. **Dealing with pressure**
4. **Empathy**
5. **Flexibility**
6. **Self-confidence**
7. **Strong work ethic**
8. **Team player**
9. **Time management**



Will County In-Demand Healthcare Jobs

Job Title	Annual Job Openings Chicago Metro	Annual Job Openings Will County	Average Starting Hourly Wage	Average Hourly Wage with Experience
Certificate				
 Dental Assistants	298	37	\$10.77	\$16.67
 Diagnostic Medical Sonographers*	66	<10	\$29.24	\$36.60
 Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses*	717	41	\$16.09	\$22.29
 Medical Assistants*	598	47	\$11.59	\$16.15
 Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians*	182	11	\$11.17	\$20.57
 Medical Records & Health Information Technicians*	213	13	\$11.17	\$18.59
 Medical Secretaries*	408	35	\$11.04	\$16.66
 Nursing Assistants	1,423	83	\$8.31	\$11.20
 Pharmacy Technicians	276	35	\$8.40	\$12.77
 Secretaries and Administrative Assistants*	1,315	121	\$9.61	\$16.60
 Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers*	1,220	98	\$13.36	\$24.73
 Surgical Technologists*	47	<10	\$16.42	\$23.12
Associate Degree				
 Dental Hygienists	182	23	\$23.52	\$33.31
 Occupational Therapy Assistant	78	11	\$18.30	\$28.85
 Paramedics	315	91	\$12.07	\$28.48
 Physical Therapist Assistants	179	25	\$12.43	\$25.69
 Radiologic Technologists	113	<10	\$18.99	\$29.79
 Registered Nurses	2,346	146	\$23.35	\$33.01
 Respiratory Therapists	72	<10	\$18.01	\$24.49
 Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	88	<10	\$11.40	\$14.45

*Earning an associate degree will also satisfy educational requirements for this job.