

## Career Clusters

Health Science is one of the 16 Career Clusters identified by the U.S. Department of Education and adopted by the State of Alabama. These Career Clusters represent more than 79 career pathways with the purpose of assisting students in navigating their way successfully in college and careers.

The Alabama Department of Labor further defines these career pathways by selecting common occupations with related education requirements, work experience, wages and typical training needed, as defined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Included in this pamphlet are the high skilled, high demand, and high wage occupations associated with Health Science.



Planning, managing, and providing therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research and development.

## Earnings

ALABAMA STATEWIDE SELECTED OCCUPATIONS		SALARY		
Occupation	Entry	Average	Experienced	
Home Health Aides	\$16,774	\$19,206	\$20,422	
Physical Therapist Aides	\$16,712	\$22,093	\$24,783	
Pharmacy Technicians	\$19,938	\$26,487	\$29,762	
Ophthalmic Laboratory Technicians	\$24,644	\$30,802	\$33,881	
Dental Laboratory Technicians	\$22,407	\$34,754	\$40,928	
Phlebotomists	\$20,159	\$25,500	\$28,170	
Nursing Assistants	\$16,831	\$21,586	\$23,964	
Registered Nurses	\$42,535	\$55,869	\$52,536	
Physical Therapist Assistants	\$40,112	\$53,714	\$60,515	
Nurse Practitioners	\$62,747	\$88,318	\$101,104	
Physical Therapists	\$59,133	\$83,459	\$95,622	
Optometrists	\$50,619	\$96,204	\$118,996	
Pharmacists	\$89,473	\$119,015	\$133,785	
Chiropractors	\$45,057	\$80,695	\$98,514	

## Employment

ALABAMA STATEWIDE SELECTED OCCUPATIONS		TOTAL EMPLOYMENT		
Occupation	2012	2022	Average Annual Openings	
Home Health Aides	8,340	11,730	495	
Physical Therapist Aides	540	720	30	
Pharmacy Technicians	6,550	7,830	195	
Ophthalmic Laboratory Technicians	220	250	10	
Dental Laboratory Technicians	740	760	25	
Phlebotomists	1,530	1,860	60	
Nursing Assistants	20,790	23,980	715	
Registered Nurses	45,970	54,620	1,755	
Physical Therapist Assistants	1,870	2,680	125	
Nurse Practitioners	1,750	2,300	90	
Physical Therapists	2,290	3,080	135	
Surgeons	370	440	15	
Optometrists	400	470	20	
Pharmacists	5,160	5,890	195	
Chiropractors	600	660	20	

## Education

### HIGH SCHOOL OR LESS

Occupation	Work Experience	Job Training
Home Health Aides	■	○
Physical Therapist Aides	■	○
Pharmacy Technicians	■	●
Ophthalmic Laboratory Technicians	■	●
Dental Laboratory Technicians	■	●

### SOME COLLEGE – ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE

Occupation	Work Experience	Job Training
Phlebotomists	■	○
Nursing Assistants	■	○
Registered Nurses	■	○
Physical Therapist Assistants	■	○

### BACHELOR'S DEGREE AND ABOVE

Occupation	Work Experience	Job Training
Nurse Practitioners	■	○
Physical Therapists	■	○
Optometrists	■	○
Pharmacists	■	○
Chiropractors	■	○

Typical On-the-Job Training Needed to Attain Competency		Work Experience in a Related Occupation	
None	○	More than 5 years	↑
Short-term On-the-Job Training	●	1 to 5 years	◇
Moderate-term On-the-Job Training	●	Less than 1 year	▽
Long-term On-the-Job Training	●	None	■
Apprenticeship	◇		
Internship/Residency	△		

## Career Snapshot

The occupations reporting the highest average salaries require a Bachelor's degree or higher, no work experience in a related occupation, and no on-the-job training for entry. These occupations include Pharmacists, Optometrists, and Nurse Practitioners.

The occupations reporting the highest average annual openings include Registered Nurses, Nursing Assistants, and Home Health Aides. Home Health Aides require a high school degree, or less, and short-term on-the-job training. Registered Nurses and Nursing Assistants only require some college to an Associate's degree.

Occupation(s) also noted as High Demand: Home Health Aides, Registered Nurses, Physical Therapist Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Physical Therapists, and Pharmacists

Occupation(s) also noted as Fast Growing: Home Health Aides, Physical Therapist Assistants, and Physical Therapists

# Career Clusters

- Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
- Architecture & Construction
- Arts, A/V Technology & Communications
- Business Management & Administration
- Education & Training
- Finance
- Government & Public Administration
- Health Science
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
- Manufacturing
- Marketing, Sales & Service
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

For more information regarding  
Career Clusters, visit:  
[www.careertech.org/career-clusters](http://www.careertech.org/career-clusters)  
[www.altechprep.org/clusters.html](http://www.altechprep.org/clusters.html)

For Occupational Videos, visit:  
[www2.labor.alabama.gov/videos](http://www2.labor.alabama.gov/videos)

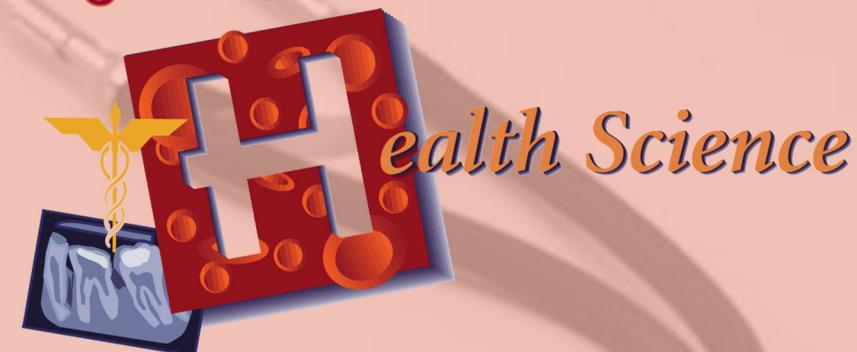


Alabama Department of Labor  
Labor Market Information Division  
649 Monroe Street  
Montgomery, AL 36131  
[www.labor.alabama.gov/lmi](http://www.labor.alabama.gov/lmi)

\*Average Annual Salary Source:  
Wage data based on the May 2014 OES Employment & Wage File,  
In partnership with the Alabama Department of Education  
Career and Technical Education Section.

This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner.

A glance into the world of...



Alabama Department of Labor  
Labor Market Information Division

