

Top 10 health care jobs for 2015

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If you're new to the job market or looking for a change of employment, you might want to consider getting into the health care sector.

The **Department of Health and Human Services** (HHS) says the demand for primary health care services will continue to grow dramatically this decade and beyond. Part of that growth results from a U.S. population that's both aging and expanding. Another reason HHS cites is the estimated growth of health insurance coverage "under full implementation" of the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, which assumes all states will expand Medicaid.

The **Bureau of Labor Statistics** projects health care-related occupations and industries will add the most new jobs in the U.S. between 2012 and 2022.

"Job prospects across the entire health care sector are expected to grow through the next decade as more Americans gain access to health insurance and providers add staff to meet the demand," said Tony Lee, publisher at CareerCast, a job-search portal.

While many top health-care jobs require at least an associates or bachelor's degree, CareerCast says it's one sector where hiring remains above-average.

And a **new CareerCast report**, using data from its Jobs Rated report metrics, lists the top 10 health care jobs heading into the new year, including salary and the field's projected job growth over the next seven years. The firm considered a number of factors in its assessment, including pay, employment prospects, stress levels and environmental factors, with data drawn from federal and private sources:

Audiologist

Average annual salary: \$69,720

Projected job growth by 2022: 34 percent

Dental hygienist

Average annual salary: \$70,210

Projected job growth by 2022: 33 percent

Dietitian

Average annual salary: \$55,240
Projected job growth by 2022: 21 percent

Medical lab technician

Average annual salary: \$34,160
Projected job growth by 2022: 22 percent

Medical technologist

Average annual salary: \$47,820
Projected job growth by 2022: 22 percent

Optician

Average annual salary: \$33,330
Projected job growth by 2022: 23 percent

Pharmacist

Average annual salary: \$116,670
Projected job growth by 2022: 14 percent

Physical therapist

Average annual salary: \$79,860
Projected job growth by 2022: 36 percent

Physiologist

Average annual salary: \$42,690
Projected job growth by 2022: 19 percent

Podiatrist

Average annual salary: \$116,440
Projected job growth by 2022: 23 percent

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