

middle-skill healthcare support occupations

The *Healthcare Support* occupation group has 88% of its employment in middle-skill occupations. The top three occupations with the most projected total openings in this occupation group are *Nursing Assistants*, *Medical Assistants*, and *Dental Assistants*. These three occupations combined are projected to have over 21,000 total openings between 2014 and 2024.

TOP MIDDLE-SKILL HEALTHCARE SUPPORT OCCUPATIONS BY TOTAL OPENINGS

Occupation	Employment		Openings		Average Wage
	2014	2024	Growth	Total	
Nursing Assistants	48,370	53,484	5,114	16,039	\$23,869
Medical Assistants	9,533	10,568	1,035	3,022	\$29,472
Dental Assistants	5,057	5,746	689	1,940	\$34,795
Physical Therapist Assistants	1,974	2,721	747	1,318	\$50,222
Phlebotomists	1,981	2,449	468	881	\$28,794
Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers	2,139	2,410	271	717	\$21,640
Occupational Therapy Assistants	962	1,357	395	673	\$55,519
Massage Therapists	2,315	2,661	346	518	\$31,426
Medical Equipment Preparers	1,150	1,309	159	399	\$29,983
Medical Transcriptionists	1,491	1,319	0	311	\$35,779

These middle-skill occupations can often lead to high-paying and high-skill job opportunities. For example, *Nursing Assistants* could take the skills and experiences gained in the occupation and combine that with further education, which could lead to employment as *Registered Nurses*.





Eighty percent of *Healthcare Support* occupations are found in the *Health Care and Social Assistance* sector. Some of the skills and knowledge that are typically required of *Healthcare Support* occupations can be found in other occupations across a wide range of industries. For example, knowledge of customer and personal service is important for 9 of the 10 top middle-skill *Healthcare Support* occupations with the most openings, but it is also important for many other occupations, especially those that require direct contact with customers.

TOP SKILLS	
Baseline	Specialized
Communication Skills	Patient Care
Writing	Patient Direction
Computer Skills	Vital Signs Measurement
Physical Demand	Patient/Family Education and Instruction
Building Effective Relationships	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

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TOP CERTIFICATIONS

- Certified Nursing Assistant

- First Aid CPR AED

- Certified Medical Assistant

- Home Health Aide

- Basic Cardiac Life Support

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Certifications can be of great importance when pursuing a *Healthcare Support* occupation. In fact, 56% of online job postings for *Healthcare Support* occupations between May 2015 and April 2017 mentioned certifications. Many of these certifications directly correspond to a particular occupation, such as *Certified Nursing Assistant*, *Certified Medical Assistant*, and *Home Health Aide*. Some certifications, such as First Aid CPR AED, may be valuable across a wide range of healthcare occupations.