

FLASH FORWARD

CAREER LADDER in Health Sciences

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The Health Science Career Cluster is the focus of this month's Flash Forward. Career Clusters are designed to aid job seekers and students in deciding a career path. They can be used to help make decisions on entering education and training programs and furthering education. They are also useful in helping dislocated workers decide the next step in changing career paths.

The Health Science Career Cluster includes careers that diagnosis and treat injuries and diseases and promote health and wellness. Example occupations within this career cluster are Pharmacy Technicians, Dental Hygienists, and Physical Therapists.

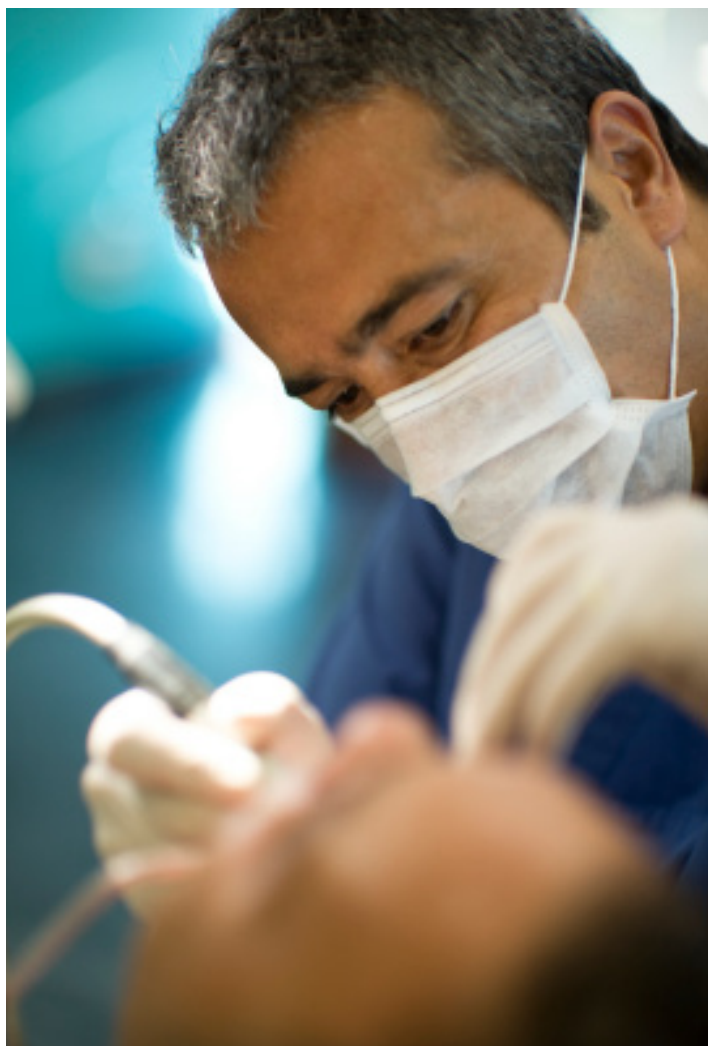
Coursework that often appeals to people interested in occupations in this cluster include Anatomy/Physiology, Biology, Chemistry, Physical Education, and Child Development. After school activities may have included athletics, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA), Science Club, or Wellness Club. Outside of school or work, people interested in this career cluster are often involved in activities such as volunteering at a hospital or nursing home, volunteering with the Red Cross, taking certified CPR classes, or participating in health fairs.

All of the occupations in this cluster are in particularly high demand in the Omaha area and the Northeast Region of the state.

Some example programs of study for occupations in this career cluster include Biochemistry, Medical Technology, Biology, Nutrition, Nursing, or Medicine. Coursework in this field of study often includes Biology, Immunology, Chemistry, Anatomy, Microbiology, Laboratory Techniques, Nutrition, and Pharmacology.

Demand for workers in this career cluster is high across the state for these occupations, especially for Pharmacy Technicians, Medical Assistants, Dental Assistants, Registered Nurses, and Pharmacists. This is to be expected because healthcare is needed everywhere there are people. These occupations are also on the rise due to the ageing population, as individuals get older their healthcare needs rise, creating a demand for workers in the field. All of the occupations in this cluster are in particularly high demand in the Omaha area and the Northeast Region of the state.

Wages for occupations within the Health Science Career Cluster vary across the state. For example, Registered Nurses earned an average of \$27.70 per hour in the Omaha Consortium compared to \$23.90 per hour in the Mid Plains region according to June 2009 Occupational Employment Statistics (OES). Wages not only vary by geographic region, they can also vary from occupation to occupation depending on what industry one is working in. For



example, Registered Nurses working in the Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services Industry made an average of \$28.35 per hour compared to those working in the Social Assistance Industry who made \$19.90 per hour, on average. It is important to keep in mind that some industries employ a greater number of workers in an occupation than others. For the Health Sciences Career Cluster almost all of the occupations listed are heavily concentrated in the Health Care and Social Assistance Industry. Of the fifteen occupations listed, six have over 90% of their employment in this industry, with the highest concentration being Dental Hygienists at 98.0%.



Not all of the occupations in this Career Cluster are found mostly in the Health Care and Social Assistance Industry. For Pharmacy related jobs, the Retail Trade Industry employs the highest concentration; 63.5% of Pharmacists and 68.8% of Pharmacy Technicians are employed in retail establishments. This is in part due to the fact that most pharmacies are not located in a Hospital or other care facility and are often times independent businesses classified in the retail sector. Veterinarians also have higher concentrations of workers outside of the Health Care and Social Assistance industry. The Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services Industry employs 65.4% of Veterinarians. This is not surprising as Veterinary Services are classified under this industry.

Nebraska Department of Labor, Nebraska Career Connections, Future Force Nebraska, Nebraska Department of Education, and Nebraska Department of Economic Development. For more information visit www.nebraskacareerconnections.org.

Posters were recently released highlighting in demand occupations in each of the six Career Clusters. Career ladder posters outline the jobs available after each step in the education process. The career ladder poster for Health Sciences can be found online at www.dol.nebraska.gov.

Career clusters were developed by a partnership between the

CAREERS FOR TODAY AND CAREERS FOR TOMORROW

Occupation	Highest Employing Industry	% of Occupation Employed in Top Industry
Now		
Pharmacy Technicians	Retail Trade	68.8%
Medical Assistants	Health Care and Social Assistance	90.4%
Dental Assistants	Health Care and Social Assistance	96.6%
Next		
Emergency Medical Technicians & Paramedics	Health Care and Social Assistance	90.6%
Medical Records & Health Information Technicians	Health Care and Social Assistance	84.3%
Radiologic Technologists & Technicians	Health Care and Social Assistance	93.3%
Registered Nurses	Health Care and Social Assistance	83.1%
Dental Hygienists	Health Care and Social Assistance	98.0%
Later		
Occupational Therapists	Health Care and Social Assistance	75.6%
Veterinarians	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	65.4%
Physical Therapists	Health Care and Social Assistance	86.3%
Physician Assistants	Health Care and Social Assistance	91.1%
Pharmacists	Retail Trade	63.5%
Family & General Practitioners	Health Care and Social Assistance	80.7%
Dentists	Health Care and Social Assistance	61.0%