Opportunities for a career in biosciences has never been brighter for the Greater New Orleans region. People come to the region from different cities, states, and countries to see healthcare specialists. This is especially true as the facilities to support the industry are built out. Some of these assets can be found on 1,500 acres along Canal Street spanning the Downtown and Mid-City neighborhoods. Among the most exciting projects include the new Veterans Administration Hospital, the new University Medical Center, the Louisiana Cancer Research Center, and the New Orleans BioInnovation Center (NOBIC).

People who are happy and successful working in healthcare usually like to help others. They are concerned for the welfare of patients, and can deal with people of diverse backgrounds in stressful situations. People who are caregivers must be patient and comfortable with sickness and bodily functions. Almost all positions in outpatient health care require attention to detail and good oral communication.

People with a range of educational backgrounds work in this industry. Some jobs require years of training beyond a college degree. Others require less than a college degree. People can move up the ladder in this industry by getting more education and experience. Good math and science skills are important. Some computer skills are required for every job. Specific computer based skills are needed for administration and billing jobs. Everyone needs good customer service skills. Many jobs involve evening or weekend work. Many workers are on part-time schedules.

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### Types of employment for this sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hours/Week</th>
<th>Work Schedule</th>
<th>Compensation</th>
<th>Payment Schedule</th>
<th>Common Benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time</td>
<td>Usually 35+</td>
<td>Steady</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Weekly or bi-weekly</td>
<td>Paid sick leave, vacation, health insurance, retirement savings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-Time</td>
<td>May vary</td>
<td>Hourly</td>
<td>Hourly</td>
<td>Weekly or bi-weekly</td>
<td>Usually none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temp</td>
<td>As available</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Hourly</td>
<td>Weekly or bi-weekly</td>
<td>Usually none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Employed</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>As negotiated with clients</td>
<td>Upon completion of work or on a schedule of deliveries</td>
<td>None; must pay own taxes and health insurance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some careers may have corresponding unions that eligible workers can join. These groups typically require employers to pay higher than comparable salaries to members than those of non-union positions. Unions may also negotiate additional benefits with employers on behalf of their members.
**HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA**

- Medical Assistant $15/hour
  - Duties include taking vital signs, drawing blood, preparing patients for examinations, scheduling, assembling records, and billing and coding.

- Dental Assistant $15/hour
  - Setting up equipment, preparing patients for treatment, keeping records, sterilizing equipment and maintaining inventory.

- Physical Therapist Aide $14/hour
  - Prepare patient for treatment, clean and organize work area, record treatment, and moving patients in therapy equipment.

- Occupational Therapist Aide $20/hour
  - Under the close supervision of an occupational therapist or assistant, performs selected tasks with people with disabilities.

- Nursing Assistant $22,793/year
  - Perform basic care under direction of nursing staff. Perform duties such as changing linens or feeding, helping, dressing, or moving patients.

- Medical Receptoner $24,006/year
  - Instruct, direct, and schedule patients and visitors. Prepare charts and acts as a go between for patient and medical support staff.

- Medical Billing Clerk $33,322/year
  - Completes and processes billing and insurance claims. Reviews patient insurance policy to check coverage.

- Bookkeeping & Accounting Clerk $34,902/year
  - Verifies insurance, reissues, instructions, updates, patient posting, follow-up and patient collections. Collects overdue funds from customers.

**POST-SECONDARY CERTIFICATE OR ASSOCIATE’S DEGREE**

- Dental Hygienist $54,496/year
  - Clean teeth and examine mouth for signs of disease. May also apply fluoride or sealants, and advise patients on oral hygiene.

- Physical Therapist Assistant $38,396/year
  - Assist physical therapists during treatment, help patients practice exercises, transport patients, communicate with caregivers or relatives.

- Occupational Therapist Assistant $46,301/year
  - Assist occupational therapists in providing occupational therapy treatments and procedures to people with disabilities.

- EMT and Paramedic $39,991/year
  - Assists patients, and administer first aid, provide emergency medical care and transport patients to medical facilities.

- Radiological Technologist $56,939/year
  - Maintains and uses equipment that creates images of the human body on a film or print for diagnostic purposes.

- Clinical Laboratory Technician $36,805/year
  - Conduct routine tests for disease diagnosis, treatment and prevention, often working under the supervision of a medical technologist.

- Optician $29,898/year
  - Measures for and adapt lenses and frame for customers according to optical prescription. Assist patients with use of contact lenses.

- Pharmacy Technician $29,723/year
  - Under the supervision of a pharmacist, prepare medications. May also measure, mix, count, and label drugs according to prescriptions.

**BACHELOR’S DEGREE OR ASSOCIATE DEGREE AND EXPERIENCE**

- Health Information Technician $34,091/year
  - Makes sure patient confidentiality is maintained according to federal privacy law. Requires knowledge of medical record systems.

- Computer Support Specialist $45,261/year
  - Help staff with hardware and software problems. Review as many user reported problems as possible.

- Information Security Analyst $78,000/year
  - Responsible for the security of patient and health center records. Provide security training to all employees, customers, and other parties.

**BACHELOR’S DEGREE**

- Health Educator $55,349/year
  - Teach people about behaviors that promote wellness. Develop programs and materials to encourage people to make healthy decisions.

- Occupational Therapist $71,843/year
  - Assess, plan, organize, and administer rehabilitative programs that help build or restore vocational, leisure, and daily living skills.

- Clinical Laboratory Technologist $55,640/year
  - Conducts complex laboratory for disease diagnosis, treatment and prevention.

- Diagnostic Sonographer $59,704/year
  - Produces ultrasonic recordings of internal organs for physicians’ use.

- Pharmacist $113,229/year
  - Dispense drugs prescribed by health care practitioners and inform patients about the use of these medications.

**GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE**

- Physician Assistant $94,682/year
  - Conducts physicals, provides treatment, counsel patients, gives injections, provide wound care, and assist the physician during procedures.

- Physical Therapist $85,001/year
  - Assess, plan, organize, and administer rehabilitative programs that help build or restore vocational, leisure, and daily living skills.

**MAP KEY**

- Louisiana Jump Start aligned programming available.

**Education:** Minimum education and experience required. This may vary.

- Bright Outlook. Expected to grow faster than average between now and 2024.

- Pay: Reflects median pay. Jobs that are primarily part-time are expressed as hourly pay; jobs that are primarily full-time are shown with annual pay. Those that could be either are shown both ways.

- Licensing or certification required.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- The Greater New Orleans region is home to one of only seven primate research facilities in the country, used for research that advances human health.

- Delgado Community College is the only school in the Southern United States to offer an Associate Degree in BioTechnology (visit www.dcc.edu/academics/science/math/science/stl/learnmore).