

CAREER LADDER HEALTHCARE

Last Updated: February 2026

NOVA

Northern Virginia
Community College

www.nvcc.edu/lmi



Direct Patient Care

Caregivers, Home Health Aides,
Sterile Processing Technicians

\$14.79 - \$22.30/hr.
4,678 Postings



Diagnostic/Therapeutic

No high-growth jobs at the high
school level in this pathway

\$21.30 - \$23.41/hr.
4,235 Postings



Administrative/Corporate

Receptionists and Information
Desk Clerks

\$16.15/hr.
1,852 Postings

High School Diploma or GED



Certificate or Diploma (1-2 yrs.) Diploma, Certificate, License, or Apprenticeship Programs



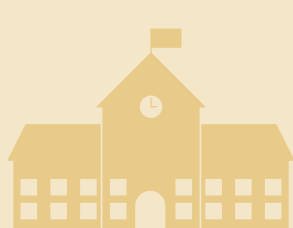
Associate Degree (2 yrs.)



Bachelor's Degree (4 yrs.)



Post-Graduate Degree



Nursing Assistants, Medical
Assistants, Dental Assistants,
Emergency Medical Technicians and
Paramedics, Surgical Technologists,
Licensed Practical and Vocational
Nurses

\$18.70 - \$33.99/hr.
6,744 Postings

Pharmacy Technicians, Health
Technicians, Phlebotomists

\$21.30 - \$23.41/hr.
4,235 Postings

Medical Administrative Assistants,
Medical Coders/Billers

\$20.46 - \$24.76/hr.
1,293 Postings

Physical Therapist Assistants,
Occupational Therapy
Assistants, Registered Nurses*,
Dental Hygienists

\$81,968 - \$103,691/yr.
17,068 Postings

Laboratory Technicians,
Respiratory Therapists, Radiologic
Technologists, Ultrasound
Technicians, MRI/CT Technologists

\$71,230 - \$114,192/yr.
6,785 Postings

No high-growth jobs at the
associate degree level in this
pathway

Health Care Social Workers,
Registered Nurses*,
Health Educators

\$79,863 - \$125,235/yr.
15,827 Postings

Mental Health Counselors, Medical
Technologists, Dietitians and
Nutritionists

\$67,428 - \$88,042/yr.
2,636 Postings

Clinic Managers/Directors,
Directors of Nursing,
Administrative Managers

\$137,515/yr.
3,326 Postings

Speech Language Pathologists,
Physical Therapists,
Occupational Therapists, Physician
Assistants, Nurse Practitioners,
Nurse Anesthetists

\$106,524 - \$237,415/yr.
7,763 Postings

Pharmacists, Dentists, Family
and General Practitioners,
Physicians/Surgeons, Psychiatrists,
Anesthesiologists

\$156,604 - \$483,916/yr.
3,929 Postings

No high-growth jobs at the post-
graduate level in this pathway

*Employment as a Registered Nurse requires, at a minimum, an associate degree. However, many employers may prefer (and are increasingly requiring) a bachelor's degree.

Occupations grouped by level of education typically required for employment, as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Openings represent the total number of online job postings from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 in the NOVA region, as compiled by Lightcast. Wages represent the 25th percentile of hourly pay for positions at the High School/GED and Certificate/Diploma levels, and median annual salaries for positions at the associate, bachelor, and post-graduate degree levels. Wages calculated by Lightcast based on 2024 Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) data from the BLS.