



Top 10 Highest Paying Allied Health Specialties

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Healthcare is one of the largest and fastest-growing industries in the country and allied health professionals make up as much as **60% of the workforce**. The Bureau of Health Workforce projects that by 2030 the demand for allied health professionals will increase between **7% and 30%**, depending on the specialty. Allied health professionals work directly or indirectly with patients, but are not registered nurses. These positions don't require a nursing degree, but are just as important and still offer a lucrative career in healthcare. Although salaries for allied health jobs vary by specialty, location, facility, education, and experience, these 10 professions usually rank among the highest paying in the field.

1. Cardiac Cath Lab Technologist

- **Education Requirements:** Associate of Applied Science or Associate of Science degree in cardiovascular technology
- **Relevant Certifications:** [RCIS](#)
- **Salary Range:** \$51,500 to \$128,500
- **Average Annual Salary:** \$92,717
- **Average Hourly Rate:** \$45

Cardiac catheterization laboratory technologists specialize in running tests to determine heart health and function. They primarily assist in performing cardiac catheterizations, which require the medical team to thread a catheter through the patient's blood vessel to their heart to determine whether there's any blockage or electrical issues. Once a cardiac catheter is properly placed, techs perform tests to assess just how well the patient's heart is working. Cardiac cath lab techs also have comprehensive knowledge of pacemaker implantation and how to troubleshoot. Required fields are marked *

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2. Occupational Therapist

Occupational therapists help people with physical, mental, or cognitive disabilities improve their strength, dexterity, and motor skills. They help patients overcome the limitations of their disabilities by teaching them new ways to perform daily activities. They help patients overcome the limitations of their disabilities by teaching them new ways to perform daily activities. They help patients overcome the limitations of their disabilities by teaching them new ways to perform daily activities. They help patients overcome the limitations of their disabilities by teaching them new ways to perform daily activities.

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3. Speech Language Pathologist

- **Education Requirements:** Master's degree in speech language pathology
- **Relevant Certifications:** [CCC-SLP](#)
- **Salary Range:** \$42,000 to \$146,500
- **Average Annual Salary:** \$92,093
- **Average Hourly Rate:** \$44

Speech-language pathologists are experts in communication and specialize in helping patients of all ages learn to communicate more effectively. SLPs evaluate, diagnose, and treat a wide range of language, speech, and cognitive communication issues that require individualized plans and often involve lengthy rehabilitation. Their patient populations may include everyone from children with developmental delays to elderly stroke victims. SLPs may also diagnose and treat swallowing disorders.

4. Clinical Lab Scientist

- **Education Requirements:** Bachelor's degree in medical laboratory science
- **Relevant Certifications:** [MLS\(ASCP\)](#)
- **Salary Range:** \$31,500 to \$147,000
- **Average Annual Salary:** \$91,309
- **Average Hourly Rate:** \$44

Clinical lab scientists, also called medical laboratory scientists, specialize in analyzing biological specimens to identify the absence or presence of disease. Specimens utilized may include blood, urine, tissue, cells, and other materials derived from humans. They perform a wide array of analytical tests, using various analytical and diagnostic equipment. These tests are used to identify and treat diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and many other medical conditions. A CLS is rarely personally involved with patients, making it an ideal career choice for those who enjoy science and research but prefer limited patient interaction.

5. Physical Therapist

- **Education Requirements:** Doctor of Physical Therapy
- **Relevant Certifications:** [ABPTS-Certified Specialist](#)
- **Salary Range:** \$47,000 to \$135,000
- **Average Annual Salary:** \$89,349
- **Average Hourly Rate:** \$43

Physical therapists specialize in helping patients with illnesses, injuries, physical disabilities, or other health conditions that impact daily function. PTs carefully evaluate each patient to identify specific problems and assess their overall function. They plan and implement individualized treatments to help their patients increase coordination, agility, range of motion, flexibility, and strength. Their goal is to help relieve pain, improve mobility, limit or prevent permanent disability, and restore function. PTs work with patients of all ages, providing hands-on therapy, stretching, and therapeutic exercise that helps enhance their overall quality of life and physical function. They may also train patients to use specialized equipment, such as canes, crutches, walkers, and wheelchairs.

6. Echo Tech

- **Education Requirements:** Associate or Bachelor's degree in cardiac sonography
- **Relevant Certifications:** [RDCS](#)
- **Salary Range:** \$60,500 to \$121,000
- **Average Annual Salary:** \$89,340
- **Average Hourly Rate:** \$43

Echo techs, also called echocardiographers, are sonographers with specialized training in echocardiogram technology. They specialize in performing diagnostic echocardiogram exams to create live images of a patient's heart and help physicians and cardiologists identify, diagnose, and treat various heart ailments and assess function. An echo tech's primary responsibility is to gather data, which may include inserting IVs and injecting contrast if allowed in their facility and state of practice. They may also perform echocardiography stress tests on patients to determine how well their heart and blood vessels are working during exercise.

7. Interventional Radiology Technologist

- **Education Requirements:** Associate degree / Bachelor's degree usually required
- **Relevant Certifications:** [ARRT CI / CV / VI](#)
- **Salary Range:** \$52,500 to \$129,500
- **Average Annual Salary:** \$88,807
- **Average Hourly Rate:** \$43

Interventional radiology technologists fulfill a vital sub-specialty of radiology. They specialize in using minimally invasive, image-guided procedures to diagnose and treat disease in nearly every organ. IR techs also assist physicians with interventional procedures that result in less risk, pain, and recovery time compared to traditional surgeries. Their overall goal is to use the least invasive techniques available to improve patient outcomes.

8. CVOR Technologist

- **Education Requirements:** High School Diploma/GED and Surgical Technologist Program required / Associate degree sometimes preferred
- **Relevant Certifications:** [CST](#)
- **Salary Range:** \$32,500 to \$153,500
- **Average Annual Salary:** \$85,391
- **Average Hourly Rate:** \$41

CVOR techs, also called cardiovascular operating room technologists or cardiovascular surgical system, specialize in supporting surgical teams during operations involving the cardiovascular system. They assist cardiac surgeons before, during, and after all types of heart surgeries by preparing the CVOR, providing preoperative and postoperative transport of the patient, assisting the surgical staff during the operation, and monitoring the patient throughout their procedure.

9. Nuclear Medicine Tech

- **Education Requirements:** Associate degree or higher in nuclear medicine
- **Relevant Certifications:** [CNMT / ARRT NMT certification](#)
- **Salary Range:** 48,500 to \$125,500
- **Average Annual Salary:** \$84,341
- **Average Hourly Rate:** \$41

Nuclear medicine technologists specialize in preparing and administering small amounts of radioactive drugs, called radiopharmaceuticals, to patients. These drugs are traced through diagnostic scans using sophisticated radiation-detecting equipment to capture images for medical diagnoses or treatments. NMTs don't diagnose patients but work closely with physicians and other healthcare professionals who diagnose and evaluate serious conditions, such as cancer and heart disease. They may also deliver precise doses of radiopharmaceuticals to a precise area inside a patient's body to treat tumors and other medical conditions.

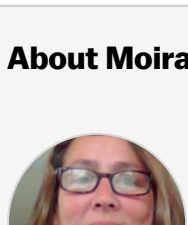
10. Diagnostic Medical Sonographer

- **Education Requirements:** Associate degree in diagnostic medical sonography
- **Relevant Certifications:** [RDMS / ARRT-S](#)
- **Salary Range:** \$51,500 to \$117,500
- **Average Annual Salary:** \$81,160
- **Average Hourly Rate:** \$39

Diagnostic medical sonographers, also called sonography technicians or ultrasound techs, specialize in operating ultrasonic equipment to create digital images of the inside of a patient's body. This equipment uses non-ionizing, high-frequency sound waves to capture images of internal organs, tissues, and even blood flow for diagnostic purposes. Images can be used to track fetus development and high-risk pregnancies or detect heart defects, tumors, cancers, liver damage, kidney dysfunction, gallstones, and other abnormalities inside the human body.

Apply to one of these allied health specialties today at [Vivian Health](#).

About Moira K. McGhee



Moira K. McGhee has been a professional writer since 1999. She's written 1,000s of print or digital feature articles, blogs, advertorials, and more throughout her career. Her work has been featured in several nationally distributed magazines, on numerous websites, and in two super-fun cozy crime anthologies. Moira especially enjoys writing about nurses and the amazing jobs they do.

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