# Middle School Career Investigations: Health Science Pathways

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Within the Health Science Career Cluster, there are five pathways: Biotechnology Research and Development, Diagnostic Services, Health Informatics, Support Services, and Therapeutics Services. Click on each of the icons to learn more about these pathways. Make sure to visit each one.

## Biotechnology Research and Development Description

Careers in the Biotechnology Research and Development pathway involve bioscience research and development as it applies to human health. These scientists may study diseases to discover new treatments or invent medical devices used to directly assist patients or to improve the accuracy of diagnostic tests.

## Biotechnology Research and Development Sample Careers

Sample careers in the Biotechnology and Development Pathway include Biochemist, Cell Biologist, Certified Registered Central Service Technician, Medical or Clinical Laboratory Technician, and Research Assistant.

## Biotechnology Research and Development Education and Salaries

There is a range in educational requirements and salaries in the Biotechnology Research and Development Pathway. A Cell Biologist requires at least a Master’s Degree, and in many cases also requires a Ph.D. or M.D. The average salary for a Cell Biologist is $93,490. A Clinical Laboratory Technician requires an Associate Degree and has an average salary of $51,920.

## Diagnostic Services Description

Professionals in the Diagnostic Services Pathway use tests and evaluations that aid in the detection, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases, injuries, or other physical conditions.

## Diagnostic Services Sample Careers

Sample careers in the Diagnostics Services Pathway include Athletic Trainer, Computer Tomography Technologist, Nuclear Medicine Technologist, Phlebotomist, Radiologic Technologist or Radiographer, Radiologist, and Respiratory Therapy Technician.

## Diagnostic Services Education and Salaries

There is a range in educational requirements and salaries in the Diagnostic Services Pathway. A Radiologist requires a M.D., as well as a license in the state in which he or she practices. The average salary for a Radiologist is $224,690. A Phlebotomist requires an Associate Degree, as well as technical training and has an average salary of $34,380.

## Health Informatics Description

The Health Informatics Pathway includes health care administrators who manage health care agencies as well as those individuals who are responsible for managing all of the patient data and information, financial information, and computer applications related to health care processes and procedures.

## Health Informatics Sample Careers

Sample careers in the Health Informatics Pathway include Admitting Clerk, Dental Laboratory Technician, Epidemiologist, Financial Manager, Health Educator, Medical Assistant, Medical Biller, and Medical Information Technologist.

## Health Informatics Education and Salaries

There is a range in educational requirements and salaries in the Health Informatics Pathway. A Medical Assistant requires an Associate Degree, as well as on-the-job training. The average salary for a Medical Assistant is $33,690. A Dental Laboratory Technician requires an apprenticeship and on-the-job training and has an average salary of $46,730.

## Support Services Description

Professionals in the Support Services Pathway provide a therapeutic environment for the delivery of health care. Support Services offers a full range of career opportunities from entry level to management, including technical and professional careers.

## Support Services Sample Careers

Sample careers in the Support Services Pathway include Administrative Assistant, Data Entry Specialist, Front Office Assistant, Materials Manager, Medical Transcriptionist, Mortician, and Records Processing Assistant.

## Support Services Education and Salaries

There is a range in educational requirements and salaries in the Support Services Pathway. A Medical Transcriptionist requires an Associate Degree, as well as on-the-job training. The average salary for a Medical Transcriptionist is $34,220. A Records Processing Technician requires on-the-job training and has an average salary of $42,290.

## Therapeutic Services Description

Professionals in the Therapeutic Services Pathway focus primarily on changing the health status of a patient over time. People who work in this pathway interact directly with patients; they may provide care, treatment, counseling, and health education information.

## Therapeutic Services Sample Careers

Sample careers in the Therapeutic Services Pathway include Athletic Trainer, Dental Assistant, Dentist, Home Health Aide, Licensed Practical Nurse, Massage Therapist, Optician, Pharmacy Technician, Physical Therapist, Physician, Registered Nurse, and Surgeon.

## Therapeutic Education and Salaries

There is a range in educational requirements and salaries in the Therapeutic Services Pathway. A Licensed Practical Nurse requires an Associate Degree, as well as a license to practice in his or her state. The average salary for a Licensed Practical Nurse is $42,550. A Dentist requires a Doctor of Medicine Degree and has an average salary of $185,890.