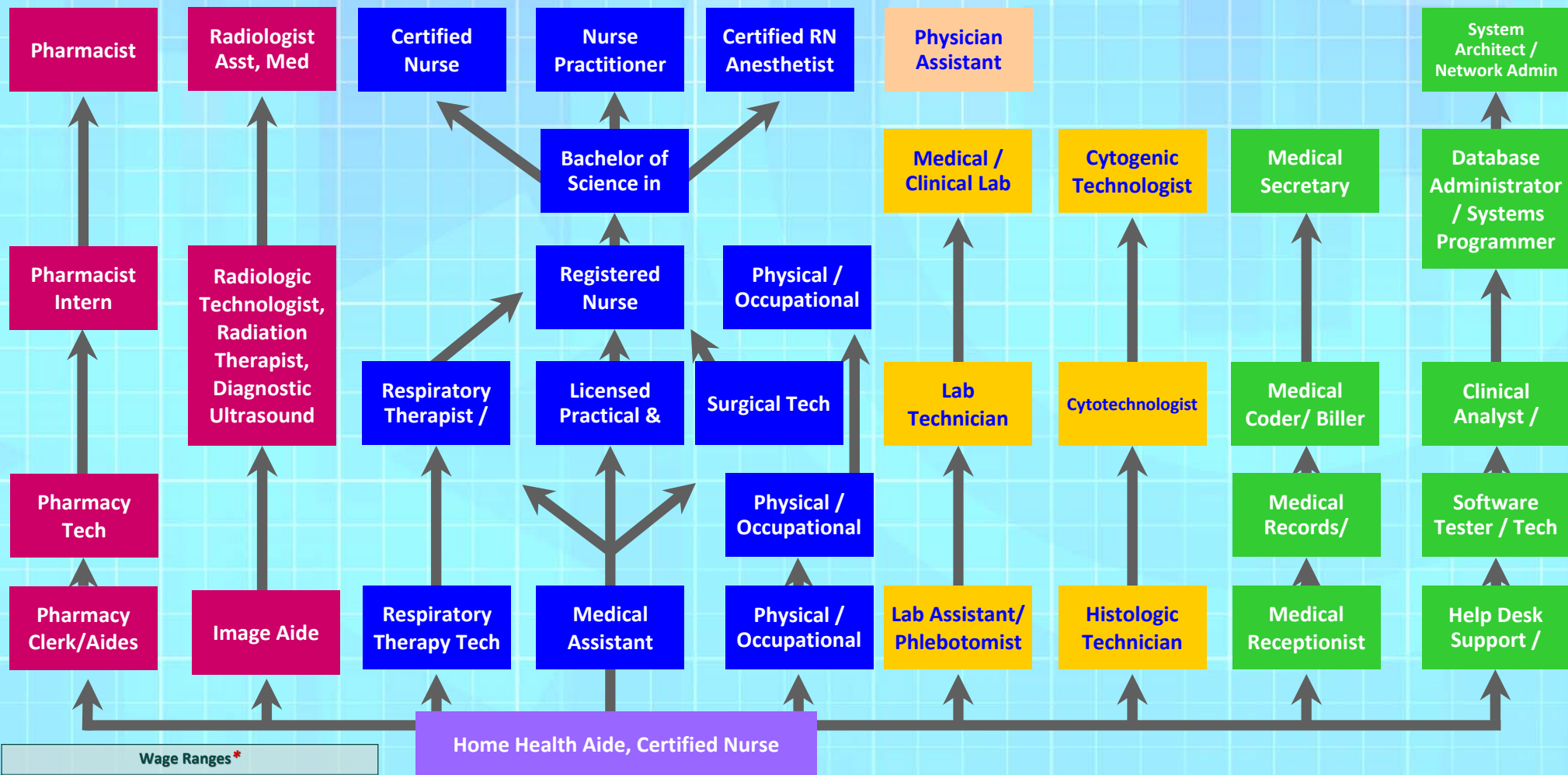


Career Paths in Health Care



| Wage Ranges* | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Starting → + Experience/Education |
| Medical Assistant | \$13.31 → \$20.56 |
| Pharmacy Clerk/Aide | \$8.72 → \$16.10 |
| Physical/Occ. Therapy Asst. | \$19.27 → \$30.02 |
| Lab Technician | \$13.49 → \$24.80 |
| Medical Secretary | \$13.19 → \$24.50 |
| Registered Nurse | \$26.05 → \$48.99 |
| Respiratory Therapist | \$22.81 → \$38.27 |
| Radiologic Technologist | \$22.41 → \$42.50 |

Source: Career Path adapted from www.HealthCareWork.info, a project of the Northwest Alliance for Health Skills and NW WDC

A wide range of certificates and degrees are offered by King County's Community and Technical Colleges and private training providers. To learn more about the training programs available, visit www.checkoutcollege.com or www.careerbridge.wa.gov.

*These are average hourly wages in the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett MSA, March 2010, www.workforceexplorer.com

Health Care

Trends

Health care has become one of the largest employment sectors in Washington State. Statewide, the health care industry has consistently led other industries in terms of job openings (*Washington State Job Vacancy Survey Report*, Washington State Employment Security Department, June 2009). In King County, employment growth in the health care sector was steady during the last decade, with more than 14,000 new jobs added between 2000 and 2007. Despite a slowdown with the economic recession that began in 2008, employment growth in health care has remained positive, and the industry is expected to see average annual growth of 1.9% from 2007 to 2017 (Washington State Employment Security Department).

Employers in King County and across the state continue to report job vacancies for health care practitioners and support personnel. Of the total job vacancies reported in King County in October 2009, the largest concentration (representing 16% of total vacancies) was in the health care industry (*Job Vacancy Survey*, Washington State Employment Security Department, October 2009).

In particular, hospital vacancies have remained high or increased in most professions for three straight years, most notably in nursing, imaging, rehabilitation, operating rooms, and laboratory departments (*Results of the 2008 Hospital Work Force Survey*, Washington State Hospital Association/Health Workforce Institute, June 2009). This trend, combined with the expected convergence of an aging population (increasing the demand for health care services) and an aging workforce (accelerating attrition) on the horizon, ensures that jobs in nursing and allied health will continue to be in demand.

Wages

The average annual wage in King County for Healthcare and Social Assistance in 2009 quarter 1 was \$46,118 (source: Washington State Employment Security Department).

[Note: Wages are averages of all occupations within the sector – including entry level and high level positions.]

For detailed information about occupations within this sector (e.g. current wage ranges per occupation, training schools, employment projections, and a link to jobs listed at WorkSource):

1. Go to www.workforceexplorer.com,
2. Click on the 'Wage and Benefit Information' link, and
3. Click on the 'Occupation Explorer' link to start your search.