



northern health



Choose Health Care Careers in Northern British Columbia

Consider the **opportunity**

This brochure provides information on a wide range of careers: nurses, doctors, physiotherapists, pharmacists, information technologists, health record technicians, clerical supports, and administrators, to name a few. If health care is where you wish to be, please contact your school counsellors for more information.

...because

lifestyle matters

Consider Health Care Careers

Health care is the professional practice of caring – it embodies the physical, psychological, social, environmental, and spiritual needs of individuals, families, groups, and whole communities. If you are a high school graduate looking for a career in an environment that is both

Consider our Lifestyle

Northern British Columbia is a recreational paradise offering lifestyle opportunities for virtually any activity. Trails vary from the casual walkabout beginning behind your home to world class mountaineering atop the pristine snow capped Rockies. Enjoy horseback riding, a llama trek or just walk through urban or wilderness surroundings. The mountains feed countless rivers and lakes – fishing, kayaking, and swimming opportunities abound. You will have the opportunity to experience a lifestyle with all that

Combinations Work

As a career develops, the way work is accomplished will change and for many, new areas of interest will emerge. Many successful careers blend various types of work experience and post-secondary training options to prepare for new opportunities. Over the next ten years, 70% of all new jobs will require more than high school education. Of all new jobs created, over one half will require workers with career, technical, trades/apprenticeship or vocational skills. One educational trend that is emerging is combining university and college education and training. Many of the larger colleges report that up to 30% of their students already have university degrees. In these cases, students are seeking to add practical training to their theoretical background.

challenging, supportive, dynamic, and positive, health care may be the answer for you. Our region provides opportunities for all health care professionals in urban, rural, and outpost settings to appeal to an individual's career goals.

an urban environment provides – live theatre, symphony orchestras, galleries, historical and archaeological museums along with the cultural and traditional practices of more than 16 First Nations. You will also have lots of opportunity to participate in community social and sporting events. Whether you enjoy urban, rural, outdoor lifestyles or all of the above, Northern BC offers something for everyone!

For more detailed information, consult your school counsellor, College of New Caledonia academic advisor, University of Northern British Columbia Registrar Service Representative or the following website:

www.workfutures.bc.ca

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| Explanation of Post-Secondary Programs | College | Institute | University |
|---|---------|-----------|------------|
| Certificate Program usually involves one year or less of study in areas such as office administration, early childhood education or journalism. | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Apprenticeship Training is a form of education which incorporates paid workspace training with technical, in-school training. Over 200 trades have been designated under the apprenticeship act. | Yes | Yes | No |
| Diploma Program involves two years of study in a career, technical or academic program such as computer information systems or media arts. | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Bachelor's degree programs normally take four years of full-time study in such disciplines as biology, criminology, and business administration. Can be taken in Sciences (B.Sc) or Arts (B.A.). | Partial | Yes | Yes |
| Master's degree or "M.A." programs normally require two years of study after the completion of a Bachelor's degree. Often requires research and writing a thesis. Eg: Master of Business Administration, Architecture, Law or in area of specialty such as Biotechnology. | No | No | Yes |
| A Doctoral degree or "Ph.D." usually requires completion of a Master's degree and involves course work and original research which must be written as a thesis and successfully defended. | No | No | Yes |



| Occupation | Description | Salary | Final Credential |
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CLERICAL

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| Clerk IV | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> workload will vary by size and type of office duties can include typing correspondence, reports and other documents maintaining filing, inventory, mailing and database systems provide general information to clients and the public, and maintaining files and records | \$36,000 | Typing & Computer Skills, Grade 12 |
| Medical Secretary (MOA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> perform a variety of secretarial and administrative duties in doctor's offices, hospital, medical clinics, and other medical settings schedule and confirm medical appointments and deliver messages between doctors and patients, type medical records and reports from handwritten notes, and interview patients to complete forms and case histories make sure doctors get paid by completing insurance and other claim forms and handling billing procedures order medical supplies as well as regular office supplies | \$42,000 - \$43,000 | Diploma |
| Health Records Clerk II | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> record and transcribe surgical proceedings, medical records, and other reports requiring knowledge of medical terminology (to transcribe means to put in written form) | \$31,000 | Certificate |
| Health Records Clerk III | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintain patient health records and related information and prepare medical, social, and administrative statistics apply knowledge of medical terminology to do the work | \$33,000 | Certificate |
| Nursing Unit Clerk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> manage patient chart records and process treatment orders, medication orders, laboratory orders, diagnostic orders, and surgical/medical orders | \$36,000 | Certificate |
| Admitting Clerk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> responsible for all patient registrations registers individuals when they enter a hospital for tests, treatment, scheduled surgery or emergency treatment | \$39,000 | Grade 12, Keyboarding, Typing & Computer Skills, Medical Terminology |
| Accounting Clerk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> perform routine bookkeeping tasks, such as preparing invoices and bank deposits | \$33,000 | Keyboarding, Computer, Grade 12 & Experience |
| Switchboard Operator | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> greet clients and visitors and direct them to the appropriate person or area monitor and operate the central multi-line telephone system and other call systems | \$37,000 | Grade 12, Typing/Computer, Communication |

ADMINISTRATION

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| Chief Executive Officer (CEO) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> establish organization objectives and formulate or approve programs and procedures, establish financial and administrative controls, formulate and approve promotion campaigns, and approve overall human resources planning select or approve the selection of middle managers, directors or other executive staff represent the organization in negotiations or other functions | Negotiated based on experience and size of organization. > \$100,000 | Degree / Bachelor / Master's |
| Accountant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> set-up and maintain accounting systems, prepare financial statements and reports for individuals, departments, and organizations develop internal control procedures for organizations and businesses and prepare income tax returns analyze financial statements to provide financial, business, and tax advice | \$49,000 - \$50,000 | Diploma / Degree / + |
| Human Resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> help businesses and organizations manage their staff workers must understand labour laws to develop company human resources policies and to interpret and negotiate collective agreements in unionized work places prepare job descriptions, assess employee performance, and maintain human resources records coordinate programs such as employee assistance programs and workplace diversity program | Advisors: \$56,000 - \$70,000 Assistants: \$39,000 - \$48,000 | Certificate / Diploma / Degree |
| Occupational Health & Safety Specialist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> develops and monitors policies to ensure that regulations relating to workplace safety are enforced | \$50,000 - \$62,000 | Diploma After Bachelor's degree |

| Occupation | Description | Salary | Final Credential |
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ALLIED HEALTH CARE WORKER

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| Audiologists | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> diagnose, evaluate, and treat hearing disorders and impairment and their effect on communication | \$54,000 - \$68,000 | Master's degree, Following Bachelor's degree in Linguistics or Psychology or Science |
| Social Worker | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> interview clients individually, in families or in groups to assess their situation and problems and determine the types of services required plan programs of assistance for clients including referral to agencies that provide financial assistance, legal aid, housing, medical treatment, and other services and investigate cases of child abuse or neglect, taking authorized protective action when necessary | \$41,000 - \$59,000 | Bachelor's degree |
| Counselor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> counsel clients, provide therapy, evaluate the effectiveness of counseling programs and clients' progress in resolving identified objectives, and follow up results of counseling programs and clients' adjustments | \$47,000 - \$59,000 | Degree/Bachelor/Master's |
| Psychologist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> examine behaviour, diagnose psychological and emotional disorders, counsel clients, and provide therapy also counsel individuals and groups to achieve more effective personal, social and vocational development, and adjustment | \$68,000 - \$85,000 | |
| Physiotherapist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improve mobility, relieve pain, and prevent or limit permanent physical disabilities of patients suffering from injuries or disease | Grade 1 \$52,000 - \$64,000 Grade 2 \$67,000 - \$83,000 | Bachelor degree, First Year Science Followed by a four year degree |
| Recreational Therapist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> employ sports and games to help maintain and improve the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of individuals organize activities such as games, sports, and field trips, to help clients build confidence, socialize effectively, and remedy the effects of illness, disability or age | \$44,000 - \$54,000 | Diploma |
| Speech Language Pathologist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> concerned with disorders of speech and language that impair communication | \$54,000 - \$68,000 | Master's degree (See Audiology) |
| Occupational Therapist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> help individuals with mental, physical, developmental or emotional disorders to develop, recover or maintain daily living and work skills | \$52,000 - \$64,000 | Bachelor's degree |
| Respiratory Therapist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use ventilators and other equipment to treat patients with heart or lung problems | \$45,000 - \$56,000 | Diploma/Bachelor's degree |
| Pharmacist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prepare and dispense drugs on the prescription order of a physician, dentist or veterinarian provide drug information on the safe and appropriate use of drugs to the public advise physicians and other health practitioners on the selection, dosages, and side effects of medication pharmacy care includes the identification, prevention, and resolution of medication-related problems | \$68,000 - \$85,000 | Bachelor's degree |
| Infection Control Practitioner | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in collaboration with health care team develop, direct, and maintain an infection control program to reduce the risk of infection within health care using quality and epidemiological principles | \$49,000 - \$65,000 | Bachelor's degree |
| Environmental Health Officer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure compliance with public health and safety regulations and conduct inspections to ensure compliance with regulations that govern product labelling and quality workers in this group prevent the spread of foreign plants, animal pests, and disease by conducting inspections to ensure that food, water, and air meet government standards and that regulations relating to environmental health and safety are enforced | \$47,000 - \$55,000 | Diploma |
| Nuclear Medicine Technologist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use radioactive tracers that are generally injected into the bloodstream of patients the path of the radioactive material is followed as it travels through a patient's system and is picked up by the bones or organs to be examined the images produced help determine the nature of a disease and the extent of involvement and also help measure responses to treatment | Grade 1 \$50,000 - \$63,000 | Diploma |

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| Ultrasound Technologist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use medical devices to transmit ultrasound through various parts of the body through returned echoes, images are created on screens to show the shape and composition of organs, tissues, and other body mass such as fluid accumulation the information from these images is then provided to a physician (a sonologist) for diagnosis and treatment | \$50,000 - \$63,000 | Certificate/ Diploma/Degree |
| Biomedical Technologist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> service medical equipment such as heart monitors, etc. design, research, evaluate, and test medical electrical and electronic equipment and systems | \$47,000 - \$59,000 | Certificate/ Diploma/Degree |
| Electroneurophysiology Technologist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use sensitive electronic equipment to test the function of the central and peripheral nervous systems technology includes examinations of electroencephalograms (EEGs, which test the electrical activity in the brain), electromyograms (EMGs, which monitor the electrical activity of peripheral nervous and muscular systems) and evoked potentials (EPs, which analyze the electrical activity resulting from the stimulation of sensory pathways) | \$47,000 - \$58,000 | Diploma |
| Medical Laboratory Technologist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> collect and test specimens such as blood, tissue, and body fluids to assist in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease with additional training, medical laboratory technologists may specialize in clinical chemistry, clinical microbiology, hematology, histotechnology, immunohematology, and cytotechnology | \$47,000 - \$58,000 | Certificate/Diploma |
| Medical Imaging Technologist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use highly sophisticated X-ray equipment, mammographs or CT (computerized tomography) scanners to produce images that are used by radiologists to diagnose the extent of disease or injury these images may be displayed on X-ray film, movie film, videotape, television monitors or computer read-outs | \$47,000 - \$58,000 | Diploma |
| Information Systems Services Computer Programmers & Operators | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> analyze information processing or computation needs, design computer systems that provide solutions to these problems or perform the needed computations, analyze databases, and supervise computer programmers | \$55,000 - \$68,000 | Certificate/Diploma |
| Assistants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physiotherapy Occupational Therapy Recreation Therapy Pharmacy Laboratory Dental Rehab | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> generally preform tests or rehabilitation therapy under the supervision of health care professionals occupational therapy assistants prepare and maintain work materials and supplies and may assist patients in crafts or other activities as directed by an occupational therapist physiotherapy assistants accompany patients to treatment rooms, assist patients in the use of therapeutic equipment and with maintenance programs as directed and supervised by a physiotherapist, clean physiotherapy equipment, change linen, and maintain appointment schedules rehabilitation assistants carry out treatment programs such as massage, thermotherapy, traction and hydrotherapy in addition to the above duties, these technical-support assistants also keep records of treatments and progress and conduct other office administrative duties. | \$36,000 - \$42,000 | Certificate &/or OJT |
| Processing Aides | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> clean, package, sterilize, store, and handle sterile supplies with a focus on infection control and aseptic technique | \$38,000 | Certificate |
| Pharmacy Technician | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> help licensed pharmacists provide medication and other health care products to patients perform routine tasks to help prepare prescribed medication for patients, such as counting and labelling refer any questions regarding prescriptions, drug information or health matters to a pharmacist | \$41,000 - \$59,000 | Certificate |
| Child Life Specialist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides assistance to various types of children in different situations at the hospital, often as a distraction during a medical procedure or to help explain why and how a procedure will be preformed help make hospitals and medical procedures less frightening for children | \$47,000 | Bachelor's degree in Child Life |
| Dental Hygienists | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> may examine patients, collect their health history, and consult with dentists after coming up with an initial dental assessment remove deposits from teeth, clean and stimulate the gums to prevent gum disease, and desensitize hypersensitive teeth | \$48,000 - \$59,000 | Diploma, one year Science with two Year Diploma |
| Dietitian | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> clinical dietitians provide nutritional services for patients in institutions such as hospitals and care homes assess patients' nutrition needs, develop and implement nutrition programs, and evaluate and report the results identify community needs and develop programs and services to meet these needs involvement in advocacy and policy development to improve access to safe nutritious food | \$49,000 - \$61,000 | Bachelor's degree |

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NURSING

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| Registered Nurse (RN) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide direct nursing care and overall management of patient care by working with other care givers | \$49,000 - \$65,000 | Bachelors degree |
| Registered Psychiatric Nurse (RPN) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> work specifically in psychiatric and mental health areas | \$49,000 - \$65,000 | Diploma |
| Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide basic bedside care take vital signs such as blood pressure, temperature, and pulse and respiration distribute medication to patients, treat bedsores, prepare and give injections and enemas, insert catheters, and perform other personal treatment | \$43,000 | Certificate |
| Care Aide – Long-Term | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide patients with assistance in activities of daily living in long-term care facilities help patients bathe and get dressed and groomed basic measurements such as patients' blood pressure, temperature, and pulse they collect specimens such as urine, feces or sputum, administer suppositories, colonic irrigation and enemas, and perform other procedures | \$40,000 | Certificate |
| Porter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> transport patients in wheelchairs or stretchers for treatment or surgery, carry messages, reports, requisitions, and specimens from one department to another and maintain inventory of supplies | Porters \$33,000 Patient Porters \$36,000 | On-the-job training LPN Certificate |
| Detox Worker/ OccupationCounsellor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide personal care and guidance to assist clients to return to the community | \$39,000 | Certificate |
| Mental Health Support Worker | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> work with Mental Health Team provide personal care | \$40,000 | Certificate |
| Public Health Nurse | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> focus on the prevention of health problems provide immunizations, blood pressure testing, and other health screening work with community leaders, teachers, parents, and physicians in community health education | \$49,000 - \$65,000 | Bachelor's degree |

TRADES

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| Power or Stationary Engineer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> operate stationary engines and other equipment such as boilers, turbines, generators, and compressors, to provide heat ventilation, power and so on for buildings, industrial plants, and other worksites hands-on tasks such as starting-up and shutting-off equipment and inspecting and repairing equipment | \$47,000 | Certificate or Diploma |
| Cook | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prepare and cook complete meals or individual dishes and foods and prepare and cook special meals for patients as instructed by a dietician or chef plan menus, determine size of food portions, and estimate food requirements and costs as well as monitor and order supplies | \$38,000 | Journey person Certification |
| Carpenter, Electrician, Painter, Plumber, etc. | <p>Carpenter Electrician Painter Plumber</p> | \$51,000 \$53,000 \$48,000 \$52,000 | Journey person Certification |
| Horticulturist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> plant, cultivate, and harvest trees, shrubs, flowers, vegetables, and plants prepare soil, transplant plants, apply pesticides, graft plants, and transplant seedlings and cuttings activities include regulating greenhouse conditions and outdoor irrigation systems | \$38,000 | Certificate/ Diploma/ Apprenticeship |

| Occupation | Description | Salary | Final Credential |
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PHYSICIANS

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| Family Practice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> examine patients, obtain medical histories, and order laboratory tests, X-rays, and other diagnostic procedures may consult with other medical practitioners to evaluate patients' health prescribe and administer medications and treatments – may include performing and assisting in routine surgery also report births, deaths, and contagious diseases to government authorities | Net > \$100,000 | Bachelor's degree plus Medical School |
| Specialist examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surgeon Internist Anesthesia Pathology Radiology Laboratory | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> clinical medicine specialists diagnose and treat diseases and physiological or psychiatric disorders and act as consultants to other physicians ~ for example, pediatricians diagnose problems such as communicable diseases, congenital abnormalities or developmental and behavioural problems psychiatrists care for people with acute and chronic mental illness such as depression, schizophrenia, and manic depression laboratory medicine specialists study the nature, cause, and development of diseases in humans they participate in the day-to-day care of hospital patients by providing and interpreting laboratory information to help solve diagnostic problems and to monitor the effects of therapy they work closely with other physicians in the management of diseases such as cancer, anemia, and diabetes surgeons perform and supervise surgical procedures work with precision and work well under stress | Net > \$100,000 | M.D. Designation plus Specialist Training |
| Dentists | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> examine patients' teeth, gums, and jaws to diagnose disease, injury, and decay remove decay and fill cavities clean teeth and instruct patients on oral hygiene, covering topics such as diet, brushing, flossing and the use of fluorides extract teeth and make moulds and measurements for bridges and for dentures administer anesthetics and write prescriptions for antibiotics and other medications | Net > \$100,000 | Bachelor's degree plus Dental School |
| Midwife | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> carry out examinations necessary to establish and monitor normal pregnancies and advise pregnant women as soon as any risk is detected counsel and educate women concerning diet, exercise, and other prenatal health practices during labour, midwives monitor the condition of the mother and the baby and guide the birthing process when an emergency arises, take appropriate measures and arrange contact with physicians (obstetricians) examine and care for newborn babies and educate mothers on health care midwives are employed by the BC Women's Hospital and they also practice in homes and in the community | Fee for Service | Bachelor's degree in Midwifery |
| Chiropractors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> diagnose and treat patients whose health problems are associated with the bodies muscular, nervous, and skeletal systems, especially the spine in cases where a problem is found in the musculoskeletal structures, chiropractors manually manipulate or adjust the spinal column may also use water, light, massage ultrasound, and electric and heat therapy and may apply support, such as straps, tapes, and braces | Private Enterprise | three Years of Science, Post-Secondary Plus four Years of Chiropractic |

ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES

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| Homeopathy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> diagnose illness and treat patients in some cases give the patient, either orally or by injection, a minute amount of an herbal or chemical extract that, in a healthy patient, would reproduce or mimic the disease's symptoms however, when a patient is unwell, this diluted substance acts as a treatment to cure or relieve the disease alternatively, they may suggest lifestyle change | Private Enterprise | Training Programs for Specific Interest No Regulatory Body |
| Acupuncturist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> diagnose diseases, physiological disorders and injuries of the patient treat patients by using acupuncture needles or laser and electric stimulation | Private Enterprise | Certificate |
| Optometrist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> examine eyes to diagnose vision problems and ocular disease (disease pertaining to the eye) prescribe and fit eyeglasses and contact lenses and recommend treatments such as exercises to correct vision problems | Private Enterprise | two to three Qualifying Years Prior to degree |



