## **Alternative Careers and Programs to Registered Nursing**

Name	Description/Length of Program/ Exams	Ave. Salary Range	Common Prerequisites	Ave. GPA	Admission Info	Programs
Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA)	<ul> <li>Nursing assistants provide basic patient care under direction of nursing staff.</li> <li>Perform duties such as feed, bathe, dress, groom, move patients, or change linens.</li> <li>May transfer or transport patients.</li> <li>8 week Certificate program</li> <li>CNA State Exam to be taken after Program</li> </ul>	\$22,000-\$40,000 Median: \$31,000	ENGL/ ESL 50 CPR Card TB Test Physical Exam	2.0 Minimum	No Waitlist	MiraCosta College     Southwestern College
Licensed Vocational Nurse	<ul> <li>Licensed Vocational Nurses care for ill, injured, or convalescing patients or persons with disabilities in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, private homes, group homes, and similar institutions. May work under the supervision of a registered nurse.</li> <li>2 year, Part-time Program (Part-Time depends on Program)</li> <li>Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS)</li> </ul>	\$40,000-\$65,000 Median: \$52,000	Biology Pharmacology CNA License	2.0 Minimum	Approximately 2 year waitlist (Waitlist Varies by Program)	MiraCosta College     San Diego City College     Southwsetern College
Biotechnology	Biotechnology is an expanding field devoted to improving human health through the research, development, testing, manufacturing, and marketing of products related to the biomedical and agricultural industries. Biotechnologists set up, operate, and maintain laboratory instruments and equipment, monitor experiments, make observations, and calculate and record results.  Certificate or Associate Degree Program  1-2 year Program	\$45,000-\$75,000 Median: \$60,000	None	2.0 Minimum	No Waitlist	*MiraCosta College     *San Diego Mesa College     *San Diego City College     *San Diego Miramar College     *Southwestern College

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Cardiovascular Technician	<ul> <li>Cardiovascular techs help doctors diagnose and treat patients with heart and blood vessel problems. Working in a medical setting doing EKGs, ultrasounds, and stress tests.</li> <li>2-year program</li> </ul>	\$35,000-\$60,000 Median: \$48,000	Chemistry Anatomy Physiology	2.0 Minimum	Approximately 1-2 year waitlist (Waitlist Varies by Program)	Orange Coast College     City College of San Francisco
Cytotechnologist	<ul> <li>Cytotechnologists examine cell samples under microscopes to look for signs of cancer and other diseases.</li> <li>Certificate or Bachelor's of Science Degree</li> <li>4 year program</li> <li>USMLE Licensing Exam</li> </ul>	\$45,000-\$70,000 Median: \$58,000	Biology Anatomy Physiology Microbiology Chemistry Nutrition College Algebra	2.75 Minimum	• Acceptance is limited to students who have completed the second year and not yet started the third year, without any breaks.	•Loma Linda University
Dental Assistant	<ul> <li>Dental assistants help dentists as they treat patients.</li> <li>10 months, Full-Time Program</li> <li>RDA Exam</li> </ul>	\$24,000-\$48,000 Median: \$34,000 Starting salary: \$15-\$25/ per hour	Dental Terminology ENGL 50 CPR Card Physical Exam	2.0 Minimum	Approximately 1 year waitlist  (Waitlist Varies by Program)  • Must attend mandatory orientation in some programs	Palomar College  San Diego Mesa College  Orange Coast College  Cypress College  Chaffey College
Dental Hygienist	<ul> <li>Dental hygienists help maintain the dental health of their patients and educate them about proper oral hygiene.</li> <li>2 year, Full-Time Program</li> </ul>	\$47,000-\$98,000 Median: \$70,000	Anatomy Physiology Microbiology Chemistry Nutrition Communication Psychology Sociology English Composition Intermediate Algebra	2.7 Minimum	Approximately 2-3 year waitlist.  (Waitlist Varies by Program)  • Beginning January 2015, waitlist will be eliminated. (Southwestern)	Southwestern College     Cypress College     Moreno Valley College     Riverside City College     Cerritos College      Loma Linda University

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Diagnostic Medical Sonographer	<ul> <li>Diagnostic medical sonographers use ultrasound equipment to capture images of patients' internal organs, tissues, and blood flow.</li> <li>2 year, Full-Time Program</li> </ul>	\$44,000-\$86,000 Median: \$63,000 \$29.00- \$35.00/hour	Anatomy Physiology Medical Terminology Intermediate Algebra CPR training	2.0 Minimum	Approximately 2 year waitlist.  (Waitlist Varies by Program)  • Must attend mandatory orientation in some programs.	Orange Coast College  Cypress College  Santa Barbara City College  Mt. San Jacinto College  *Accreditation Pending*)
Dietitian/ Nutritionist	Dietitians provide individuals, organizations, and companies with information and advice about food and nutrition.      Bachelor's Degree Required	\$33,000-\$75,000 Median: \$52,000	Biology Anatomy Chemistry Microbiology Nutrition Statistics Psychology Sociology	3.0 Minimum	Application process  No Waitlist	University of Nevada, Las Vegas & Reno (WUE)     California State     Northridge     San Diego State     University     California State Fresno     California State San     Bernardino     San Jose State University     UC Davis
Dietetic Technician	<ul> <li>Dietetic Technicians assist the Registered Dietitian in providing nutrition care services to patient in health care facilities and nutrition education for clients of community agencies, or provide food/nutrition services for schools.</li> <li>Some programs require that students participate in scheduled course clinical experience concurrent with classroom courses.</li> <li>2 year, Full-Time Program</li> </ul>	\$35,000-\$45,000 Median: \$40,000	Medical Terminology Food Management Food Sanitation Food Safety CPR Card Blood borne pathogen training	2.0 Minimum	Waitlist Varies by Program	San Diego Mesa College      Orange Coast College      Chaffey College      Los Angeles City College      Long Beach City College

Name	Description/Length of Program/ Exams	Ave. Salary Range	Common Prerequisites	Ave. GPA	Admission Info	Programs
Electrocardiograph Technician (EKG Program)	<ul> <li>Electrocardiograph Technicians assess the heart by looking at its electrical activity. With additional training, these Technicians can conduct stress testing and Holter monitoring.</li> <li>2 semester program</li> </ul>	\$40,000-\$60,000 Median: \$50,000	High School Diploma or GED CPR Card Physical Exam	2.0 Minimum	Waitlist Varies by Program  • Assessment and orientation required	•Grossmont College
EMT (Emergency Medical Technician)	<ul> <li>The Emergency Medical Technician works to render emergency medical care using proper techniques of care and transportation.</li> <li>17-18 week Certificate Program and include some evenings and Saturdays.</li> <li>National Registry certification for Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) Exam</li> <li>National Registry and State Certification (NRSC) Exam.</li> <li>EMT training differs from Paramedic training and covers less extensive prehospital emergency care.</li> </ul>	\$20,000-\$30,000 Median: \$25,000	18 years of age     Completion of     Emergency Medical     Responder and     Healthcare Provider     courses     CPR Card     College level reading	2.0 Minimum	No Waitlist  • First come, first serve basis in some programs	Palomar College
EMT/Paramedic	<ul> <li>Paramedics provide immediate medical care in emergency situations, and transport patients to hospitals.</li> <li>NREMT &amp; NRSC Exam</li> <li>Some programs offer Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic (MICP) training.</li> <li>EMT programs differ from EMT/Paramedic programs</li> </ul>	\$25,000-\$60,000 Median: \$40,000	18 years of age     One year FULL TIME EMT-1 (basic) work experience in the PRE- HOSPITAL setting     Anatomy     Physiology     Intermediate Algebra     Medical Terminology     CPR Card     Current EMT- 1 Card	2.0 Minimum	No Waitlist     First come, first serve basis in some programs     In good mental/physical condition     Two letters of recommendation from EMS or medical personnel	Palomar College     Saddleback College     San Diego Miramar College     Southwestern College

Name	Description/Length of Program/ Exams	Ave. Salary Range	Common Prerequisites	Ave. GPA	Admission Info	Programs
Health Care Administration	<ul> <li>Health care administrators work behind the scenes at hospitals and other medical facilities, making sure they run smoothly.</li> <li>A bachelor's degree is acceptable for many entry-level positions.</li> <li>A master's degree is needed for most positions.</li> </ul>	\$50,000- \$140,000 Median: \$82,000	Accounting Communication Biology College Algebra Psychology Sociology	2.5 Minimum	Application process  Requirements vary per program	Cypress College     CSU Northridge     CSU Fresno     CSU San Bernardino     CSU Dominguez Hills     CSU San Marcos     (Sociology- Health and Mental Health Option)     SDSU (Health Communication)
Kinesiology	Options in Health Science, Applied Exercise Science, Pre-Physical Therapy, Physical Education, and Fitness Specialist.     Bachelor's Degree Program	\$58,000-\$64,000 Median: \$61,000	Kinesiology Biology Anatomy Physiology Chemistry Psychology CPR training College level Math (depends on option chosen)	2.5 Minimum	Application process  • This program is an impacted program	•CSU San Marcos     •San Diego State University
Massage Therapist	<ul> <li>Massage therapists reduce clients' pain and stress by using their hands to manipulate clients' muscles and other soft tissues.</li> <li>2 year Technical Training</li> </ul>	\$17,000-\$69,000 Median: \$35,000	None	2.0 Minimum	No Waitlist	MiraCosta College     Fullerton College
Medical Insurance Coding Specialist/Coder	Medical coders read medical documentation (i.e. patient charts) then assign the proper code to the completed service or procedure, relying upon their knowledge and classification manuals. Once the proper coding is completed, medical coders key the code into the computer system.      2-3 Semester Program	\$20,000-\$40,000 Median: \$30,000	None	2.0 Minimum	No waitlist	Southwestern College     Cypress College     East Los Angeles College

Name	Description/Length of Program/ Exams	Ave. Salary Range	Common Prerequisites	Ave. GPA	Admission Info	Programs
Medical/Clinical	The Medical Assistant Program is	\$22,000-\$40,000	Anatomy	2.0	Application Process	Palomar College
Assistant	designed to educate the student for immediate employment providing assistance to the physician in caring for	Median: \$31,000	Physiology Medical Terminology CPR Card	Minimum	Orientation may be required	Southwestern College
	patients in the medical office or clinic.		HIPAA Training			Saddleback College
	• 1-Full year program					Orange Coast College
	<ul> <li>Typing test may be required National Certified Medical Assistant examination</li> </ul>					•Long Beach City College
Medical Laboratory Technician	A Medical Laboratory Technician performs routine clinical laboratory testing	\$48,000-\$55,000	Anatomy Physiology	2.0 Minimum	No Waitlist	•San Diego Miramar
	procedures to provide scientific information needed in diagnosis, prognosis	Median: \$52,000	Microbiology Chemistry			Southwestern College
	and treatment of disease.		Communication			•El Camino College
	CA certified Phlebotomy Technician I or II Certification		Intermediate Algebra English Composition CPR Card			•Mt. San Antonio College
Neurodiagnostic Technology	Neurodiagnostic Technologists diagnose patients with neurological disorders such	\$30,000-\$70,000	Medical Terminology	2.0 Minimum	Waitlist Varies by Program	Orange Coast College
, recimiology	as epilepsy, stroke, coma, multiple sclerosis, and many others. Technicians	Median: \$50,000	Anatomy			•GateWay Community College-Phoenix, AZ
	measure and record electrical activity in patients' brains and nervous systems.		Physiology			conege i nocini, ne
			Intermediate Algebra			
			English Composition			
Nuclear Medicine Technologist	Nuclear medicine technologists perform imaging tests using radioactive materials in	\$80,000- \$110,000	Biology Anatomy	Cumulative GPA of	Until further notice, the Nuclear Medicine	•University of Nevada, Las Vegas (WUE)
	order to help doctors diagnose diseases.	Median: \$95,000	Physiology Microbiology Chemistry	2.75-4.00	Program will admit students only in	
	Bachelor's Degree	iviediaii. \$35,000	Physics		alternate years.	
			Statistics			
			Computer Science			
			English			
			Critical Thinking Arts/ Humanities			
			Social Science			

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Occupational Therapy Assistant	<ul> <li>Occupational Therapist Assistants work under the direct supervision of a Occupational Therapist to provide all levels of patient treatment to people who are limited by physical injury or illness, mental health problems, developmental or learning disabilities, or the aging process.</li> <li>OTAs assist OTs in assessing patient needs, determining therapeutic goals, planning and implementing treatment activities, communicating with patients and health care providers and documenting patient progress.</li> </ul>	\$45,500-\$55,500  Median: \$50,500  \$22-30 an hour for an entry level position	Intermediate Algebra English Composition Anatomy Physiology Communication	2.0 Minimum	Approximately 1-2 year waitlist. (Waitlist Varies by Program)	Grossmont College     Santa Ana College
Occupational Therapist	<ul> <li>2 year, Full-Time Program</li> <li>Occupational Therapists work with clients who have physical, mental, and developmental problems to help them relearn or develop skills. OTs may help injured clients learn to walk again, or show them new ways to cook or clean. OTs develop treatment plans to help clients function at work, school, or home.</li> <li>Master's Degree</li> <li>GRE Exam. The test must have been taken within the last five 5 years.</li> </ul>	\$76,000- \$100,000 Median: \$87,000	BA/BS Degree Biology Anatomy Physiology Chemistry Physics Psychology Sociology Human Development	3.0 Minimum	• Selection is based on recommendation letters, GPA, work/volunteer experience in an occupational therapy department, and interview.	St. Augustine University     Loma Linda University
Orthopedic Technology	<ul> <li>Orthopedic Technologists apply, adjust, and remove casts, splints, and braces. They also set up, adjust, and maintain traction configurations, assist with the care of acutely injured patients, and assist the physician in the reduction and/or manipulation of orthopedic injuries.</li> <li>Orthopedic Technologists are employed in hospitals, clinics, and private practice offices.</li> <li>1 year Program</li> </ul>	\$30,000-\$45,000 Median: \$38,000	Anatomy Physiology It is recommended that students have experience working as a medical assistant or have completed the Clinical Assistant program requirements as this program builds upon those skills and knowledge base.	2.0 Minimum	Waitlist Varies by Program	Grossmont College     West Valley College

Name	Description/Length of Program/ Exams	Ave. Salary Range	Common Prerequisites	Ave. GPA	Admission Info	Programs
Pharmacy Technician	Pharmacy technicians work under the supervision of pharmacists to prepare and fill medical prescriptions for patients.      Certificate or Associate Degree Program     1-2 year Program	\$35,000-\$45,000 Median: \$40,000	Basic Math Basic English CPR Card	2.0 Minimum	Waitlist Varies by Program	Imperial Valley College     Santa Ana College     Cerritos College     San Bernardino Valley     West Los Angeles
Physical Therapy Assistant	<ul> <li>Physical therapy assistants work under the direction of physical therapists to reduce patients' pain and help them regain movement. PTA's administer treatments such as massages, hot or cold packs, and electrical stimulation.</li> <li>2 Year, Full-Time Program</li> </ul>	\$40,000-\$70,000 Median: \$55,000	Biology Anatomy Physiology	2.0 Minimum	Lottery system for admission – SD Mesa (Waitlist Varies by Program)	San Diego Mesa College     Cerritos College
Physical Therapist	<ul> <li>Physical therapists assess and treat patients who have problems with movement due to illness, injury, or physical disabilities. Physical therapist design treatment plans to help patients achieve as much movement as possible.</li> <li>Doctorate (Ph.D) Program</li> </ul>	\$60,000- \$106,000 Median: \$74,000	Chemistry Physics Biology Anatomy Physiology	3.0 Minimum	• Selection is based on recommendation letters, GPA, work/volunteer experience in physical therapy settings, and interview.	•St. Augustine University
Physician Assistant	Physician Assistants provide health care services in a variety of settings with the direction and supervision of a doctor of medicine or osteopathy. Physician Assistants are formally trained to examine patients, diagnose injuries and illnesses, and provide treatment. They play an integral mid-level role in triaging patients at emergency point of entry.	\$60,000-\$80,000 Median: \$70,000	Anatomy Physiology Microbiology Chemistry Physics Psychology Sociology English Composition Intermediate Algebra	2.7 Minimum	Waitlist Varies by Program  • A minimum of 2,000 hours of paid "hands-on" patient care experience in the disciplines of medicine, nursing or allied health is required. Volunteer experience will not fulfill the patient care experience requirement and will not be considered.	Riverside City College     Moreno Valley College

Name	Description/Length of Program/ Exams	Ave. Salary Range	Common Prerequisites	Ave. GPA	Admission Info	Programs
Polysomnographic (PSG) Technology	<ul> <li>Polysomnographic Technologists diagnose treat of disorders of sleep and daytime alertness such as narcolepsy, sleep apnea, insomnias and many others.</li> <li>2 Year, Full-Time Program</li> </ul>	\$40,000-\$50,000 Median: \$45,000	Anatomy Physiology Intermediate Algebra English Composition CPR Card	2.0 Minimum	Waitlist varies by Program.  • Health Occupations course required in order to apply to the program.	Orange Coast College
Psychiatric Technician	<ul> <li>A Psychiatric Technician help people who are emotionally and/or developmentally disabled. They are employed by private and state hospitals and many community facilities. Psychiatric Technicians will also find a variety of jobs available in the fields of correction and human services. These include day care centers, substance abuse programs, special education and many other areas promoting mental health.</li> <li>Certificate or Associate Degree Program</li> <li>1-2 year Program</li> </ul>	\$42,000-\$52,000 Median: \$47,000	Biology Psychology English Composition Intermediate Algebra CPR Card	2.0 Minimum	<ul> <li>24 are selected for admission each fall and spring semester. The number of applicants usually exceeds available seats.</li> <li>Selection is based on completion of required prerequisites, GPA, and date of application.</li> </ul>	Oypress College      Mt. San Antonio College      San Bernardino College
Radiologist Technician	<ul> <li>The Radiologic Technologist prepares demonstrations of human anatomy on an x-ray film or fluoroscopic screen for diagnostic use by a radiologist or other medical specialist. Graduates of the program are eligible for examination by the American Registry of Radiologist Technologists.</li> <li>2 Year, Full-Time Program</li> </ul>	\$65,000-\$80,000 Median: \$72,000	Anatomy Medical Terminology Physiology Physics Intermediate Algebra English Composition Computer Information Systems CPR Card	2.0 Minimum	Lottery System (Mesa College) Waitlist Varies by Program	San Diego Mesa College     Orange Coast College     Long Beach City College     Cypress College      Mt. San Antonio College

Name	Description/Length of Program/ Exams	Ave. Salary Range	Common Prerequisites	Ave. GPA	Admission Info	Programs
Respiratory Therapist	<ul> <li>Respiratory therapists help doctors diagnose and treat patients with breathing problems caused by lung diseases or medical emergencies.</li> <li>2 Year, Full-Time Program</li> <li>CRT Exam</li> </ul>	\$39,000-\$72,000 Median: \$53,000 \$23-\$32/ hour entry level wage	Chemistry Anatomy Physiology	2.0 Minimum	Waitlist Varies by Program	•Grossmont College  •Orange Coast College
Surgical Technologist	Surgical Technologists assist surgeons before, during, and after operations. The surgical technologist works under the supervision of a surgeon to ensure that the operating room environment is safe, the equipment functions properly, and the operative procedure is conducted under conditions that maximize patient safety.  Certificate or Associate Degree Program  1-2 Year Program	\$35,000-\$50,000 Median: \$42,000	Biology Medical Terminology Pharmacology	2.0 Minimum	Approximately 2-3 year waitlist  (Waitlist varies by Program)	MiraCosta College     Southwestern College
Speech, Language, Pathology Assistant	Speech-Language Pathology Assistants work under the guidelines of the Speech Pathologist in testing and therapeutic application modalities. They provide direct treatment following specific plans and document patient/client progress. They conduct screenings for speech, hearing, and language disorders. Assistants work with children and adults in the clinical, educational, and medical settings.      2 Year, Full-Time Program	\$30,000-\$45,000 Median: \$38,000 \$19-\$27/ hour entry level wage	Anatomy Physiology Human Development English Composition Intermediate Algebra CPR Card	2.0 Minimum	Waitlist Varies by Program	Orange Coast College     Santa Ana College     Cerritos College

- Common prerequisites and admission information depend on the school of choice.
- To search for ANY Community College Career Program, go to the California Chancellor's Office website at: <a href="www.cccco.edu">www.cccco.edu</a>.
- → Click on "Discover Community College's." Next, click on "Find A Program," under *Tools for Students* to search for your program of interest.