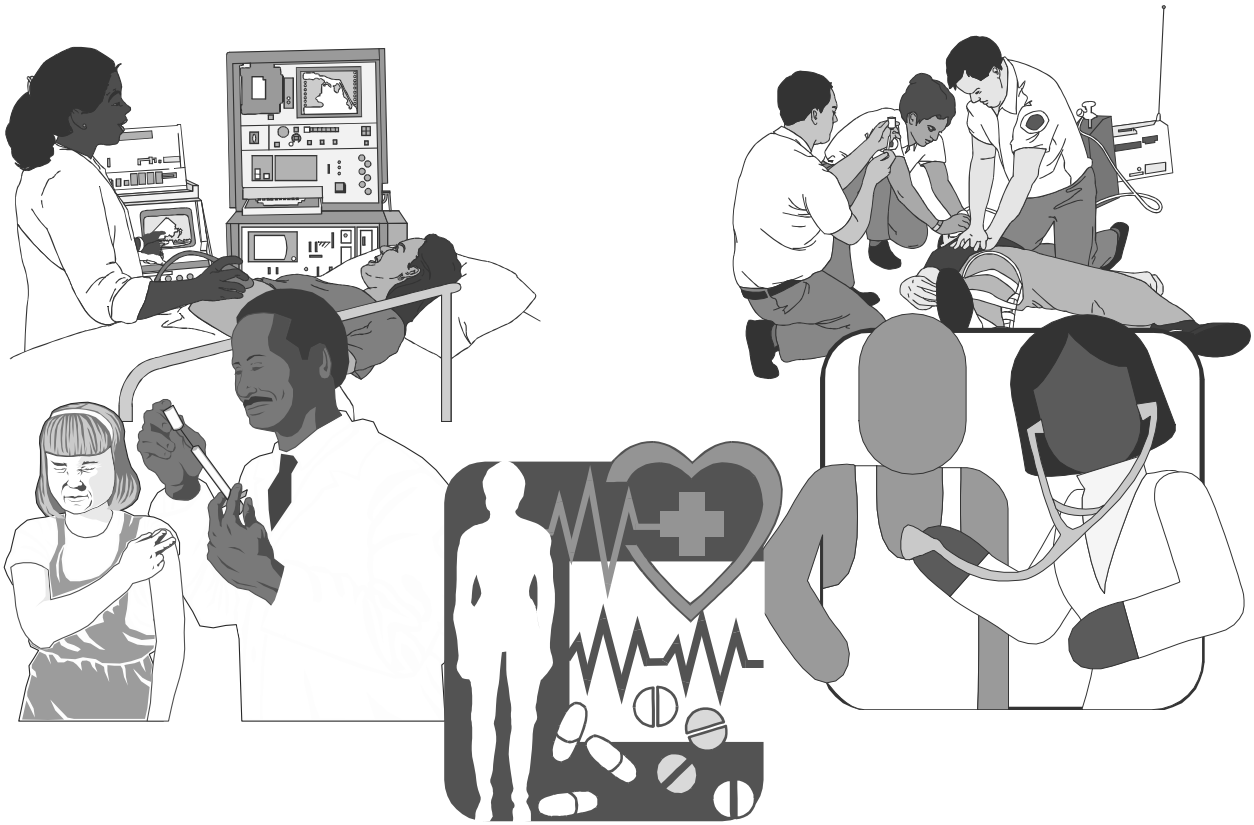
Careers
in Health Services



Newfoundland & Labrador
Health Boards Association

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Introduction

The Newfoundland and Labrador Health Boards Association (NLHBA) is anxious to promote the entry of young people into careers in the health field, and to make available to schools and health organizations useful information about these careers.

Salaries have not been included because these change constantly; however, up-to-date information is available on request from NLHBA. The Association will be pleased to do anything it can to be of assistance to you in counselling young people interested in entering a health-related career.

Dear Student:

Your interest in a health career is welcomed and encouraged. Seeking career information is the first step to a successful and fulfilling career choice.

This booklet will give you some basic information on careers in the health field. You are encouraged to write the addresses we have included to seek further information. In addition, you are encouraged to refer to other career publications in determining career choices for your future.

The careers included in our booklet certainly do not represent **all** careers in the health field, as increased knowledge, expanding services, and increased technology are forever demanding people with new skills and expertise.

Above all, when you are choosing a career, consider your own personal qualities, your willingness to undergo further training, and the degree of satisfaction you will receive.

Best wishes for a successful career choice!

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Description of Work

The CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO) of a health organization interprets and implements policies of the board of directors and assures the coordination of all departments/programs in the organization. The CEO must have a broad knowledge of all aspects of patient/resident/client care and be familiar with the legal aspects of medical practice and the government's role in health care at all levels, as well as the business management of the organization. Health administration is a complex managerial position requiring emotionally and academically mature individuals with considerable experience in the health industry.

Educational Requirements

A Master's degree in Health or Business supplemented by health related courses.

Career Potential

While opportunities are not great in numbers, they do exist in health organizations and government services. A new graduate can expect to start as a department head or a program manager. Further advancement will be dependent upon the individual's aptitude, as well as the opportunities present.

For Further Information Contact

Newfoundland and Labrador Health Boards Association
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St. John's, NL A1B 3N4
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E-mail: nlhba@nlhba.nf.ca
Website: www.nlhba.nf.ca

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER

Description of Work

The ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST is responsible for carrying out a wide variety of duties related to the control of factors in the environment which can or do affect public health and safety. In general terms, it includes where we live and spend our leisure time, what we eat and drink, and how we dispose of our wastes. This person must undertake specialized formal training to carry out inspections, investigations, analysis, health promotion activities, and to take appropriate steps to eliminate or reduce risks to human health. Program areas include food control, tobacco control, private water and sewage, recreational facilities, community water supplies, enteric disease control, indoor air quality, etc. Providing advice to other agencies and authorities, carrying out educational activities, and enforcing standards are the means applied.

Educational Requirements

Students must complete the academic high school program with Biology and have a minimum of first-year university English and Chemistry. Students may then enter the Environmental Health Program at the University of Cape Breton College, Ryerson Polytechnical University in Toronto, or the British Columbia Institute of Technology, Burnaby. Upon successful completion of either program, they must complete a minimum 12-week work term in the field of Environmental Health. Upon successful completion of the academics and work term they are eligible for certification. On completion of examinations set by the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors, they are eligible for employment anywhere in Canada.

Career Potential

Career potential has diminished, at least in the Atlantic Province, due to downsizing in governments. However, there is still some demand in Ontario and West.

For Further Information Contact

Environmental Health Coordinator
Department of Government Services
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6
Tel: (709) 729-2104
Fax: (709) 729-7400
E-mail: info@gov.nl.ca
Website: www.gov.nl.ca

HEALTH CARE COMPTROLLER

Description of Work

The health organization, in addition to contributing to the health and well-being of the community, is also a business operation and, as such, requires the services of persons with sound business/administrative training and financial experience.

The person supervising the business affairs of the organization may have a number of titles, but is generally referred to as either the Assistant Executive Director (Finance) or Comptroller. The term comptroller usually indicates that the person is responsible for the general administration of all activities relating to financial management in the facility. The COMPTROLLER prepares annual budgets; supervises and directs the preparation and recording of routine transactions, patient accounts, supplier accounts and payrolls; authorizes and controls the disbursements of money; and prepares and interprets accounts and records to administrative officials. The person will also be required to have considerable knowledge and experience in health care.

Educational Requirements

A Bachelor's degree, preferably in Commerce, with a major in accounting, supplemented by designation of Chartered Accountant (CA) or Certified General Accountant (CGA).

Career Potential

Career opportunities for the qualified individual are good. Individuals can expect to be employed in health organizations. Advancement to more senior managerial positions will be dependent upon the individual's aptitude and the opportunities present.

For Further Information Contact

Newfoundland and Labrador Health Boards Association
P.O. Box 8234 Stn 'A'
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E-mail: nlhba@nlhba.nf.ca
Website: www.nlhba.nf.ca

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

Description of Work

The HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER is responsible for the overall direction of the Human Resources Department of the health organization and may report to the Assistant Executive Director of Human Resources, the facility Manager, or directly to the Chief Executive Officer. Apart from interviewing and selecting job applicants and maintaining a good employee-relations climate, the human resources manager oversees the compilation of personnel and payroll records; maintains accurate statistics on labour turnover and absenteeism; provides advice and guidance to managers on interpretation of collective agreements and personnel policies; prepares material for labour negotiations and arbitration cases; maintains close liaison with various departments and administration to review and implement personnel policies and procedures; assists in the development of human resources plans; manages worker's compensation claims; maintains position classification and control system; and is often responsible for coordinating employee counselling and occupational health services.

Educational Requirements

A Bachelor's degree in Commerce or Business Administration with a major in Human Resources and Industrial Relations.

Career Potential

Opportunities in this field are good as the complexities of modern day human resource management have made such positions more important. Depending on the level of knowledge of health care and human resources issues and aptitude, the individual may advance to an assistant administrative position within the organization, however these opportunities are limited in numbers.

For Further Information Contact

Newfoundland and Labrador Health Boards Association
P.O. Box 8234 Stn 'A'
St. John's, NL A1B 3N4
Tel: (709) 364-7701
Fax: (709) 364-6460
E-mail: nlhba@nlhba.nf.ca
Website : www.nlhba.nf.ca

MEDICAL SECRETARY

Description of Work

Secretaries who wish to use their skills in the health field may become a Medical Secretary. In a physician's office, the MEDICAL SECRETARY acts as receptionist, makes patient/resident appointments and, in many cases, handles financial details.

In the health organization, the medical secretary may transcribe patient histories and progress reports, or may be assigned to duties in a specific department/program or with a physician who is working on a research project. Medical secretaries are also employed in government health departments, with insurance companies, and with medical publishers.

Educational Requirements

Students must complete the academic high school program with an emphasis on English and Mathematics, supplemented by an approved Secretarial course in addition to a course in medical terminology.

Career Potential

Opportunities for employment as a Medical Secretary are good. The qualified individual can expect to be employed in health organizations and physicians' offices.

For Further Information Contact

Newfoundland and Labrador Health Boards Association
P.O. Box 8234 Stn 'A'
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Tel: (709) 364-7701
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E-mail: nlhba@nlhba.nf.ca
Website: www.nlhba.nf.ca

College of the North Atlantic - Headquarters/Bay St. George Campus
Office of the Registrar
P.O. Box 5400
Stephenville, NL A2N 2Z6
Tel: (709) 643-7835 or (709) 643-7730
Toll Free Tel: 1-888-982-2268
Fax: (709) 643-7843
E-mail: info@can.nl.ca
Website: www.can.nl.ca

DENTIST

Description of Work

The primary concern of today's dentist is to assist people in obtaining and maintaining oral health. This is done by diagnosing and treating dental caries, gum disease and other oral diseases, with the emphasis on preservation of teeth for aesthetic and functional purposes and the prevention of problems through health teaching.

The DENTIST treats diseases of the teeth through restoration of caries, crown and bridge work, prophylaxis and periodontal surgery, root canal therapy, extraction (as a last resort) and replacement of missing teeth. He/she may enter private practice or obtain a salaried position in a hospital, work in public health research, or teach in a dental training faculty. Some dentists obtain additional professional training to practice in specialty fields such as endodontics, oral surgery, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, prosthodontics and public health dentistry, to name a few.

Educational Requirements

Students must successfully complete the academic high school program and a minimum of two years university, taking specified subjects providing a background in the basic sciences. Most successful applicants, however, have an undergraduate degree. These requirements can be obtained from Memorial University of Newfoundland. Several Canadian universities offer the doctorate program in Dentistry, with Dalhousie University in Halifax being the closest. Admission into a Dentistry program requires that the applicant have an outstanding academic background.

Career Potential

Most dentists enter private practice, but some opportunities do exist for salaried positions in health organizations.

For Further Information Contact

The Newfoundland and Labrador Dental Association
139 Water Street, Suite 401
St. John's, NL A1C 1B2
Tel: (709) 579-2362
Fax: (709) 579-1250
E-mail: nfdental@nfld.net
Website: www.nlda.ca

DENTAL ASSISTANT

Description of Work

The DENTAL ASSISTANT prepares patients for dental treatment, sterilizes, arranges and transfers instruments and materials to the dentist when required. The dental assistant may also process radiographs, prepare filling materials, and be responsible for the care of equipment. Many dental assistants assume administrative responsibilities and may also be responsible for dental health education.

Educational Requirements

Students must complete the academic high school program. It is not a requirement to have completed Biology, but it is strongly suggested as programs do place an emphasis on the Sciences. Upon completion of a recognized dental assisting program, graduates must apply for licensure with the regulatory licensing authority, the Newfoundland Dental Board. Graduates are also able to write the National Dental Assisting Examining Board examinations.

Career Potential

Opportunities in this field are good. Dental Assistants can expect to be employed in private offices, health organizations, and in provincial dental departments.

For Further Information Contact

Newfoundland Dental Assistants Association
Unit #274
38 Pearson Street
St. John's, NL A1A 3R1
Tel: (709) 579-0900
Fax: (709) 579-6002
E-mail: regattaplaza@keyin.com
Keyin College Website: www.keyin.com

FOOD SERVICE WORKER

Description of Work

Mealtime can be a welcome break or the highlight of the day for a hospitalized person or resident in an extended care facility. An appetizing and tasteful meal may, in fact, have a very positive effect on patient/resident morale and thereby assist in recovery. The health care staff also appreciate well prepared food in their cafeteria or dining room.

The COOK usually works under the direction of a nutrition manager. In large institutions, the cook will be handling certain phases of meal preparation. In smaller institutions, however, the cook may be responsible for the entire operation of the kitchen. Therefore, the cook must understand nutrition and the preparation of therapeutic diets in order to assist effectively in patient/resident care. Graduates will find that a food service management career requires long hours, much of which is spent standing. Flexibility and fast adjustment to change is a must in this industry.

Educational Requirements

Students must complete the high school program or its equivalent. It would be advantageous for high school students to take a home economics course. Newfoundland students may then take a 2-year diploma course at the College of the North Atlantic. Successful completion will qualify the student graduate for interprovincial journeyman status.

Career Potential

Opportunities for well-qualified cooks are good. Individuals can move into supervisory/management positions and can expect to be employed in health organizations, hotels, fast food chains, and colleges and university food services.

For Further Information Contact

College of the North Atlantic - Headquarters/Bay St. George Campus
Office of the Registrar
P.O. Box 5400
Stephenville, NL A2N 2Z6
Tel: (709) 643-7835 or (709) 643-7730
Toll Free Tel: 1-888-982-2268
Fax: (709) 643-7843
E-mail: info@cna.nl.ca
Website: www.cna.nl.ca

NUTRITION MANAGER

Description of Work

A Nutrition Manager is involved with the daily operation of a Nutritional Services Department and is an integral member of a team that provides the necessary link between Administration/Nursing and Food Service Personnel. The Nutrition Manager is responsible for implementing all aspects of service pertaining to the mission of the facility/department; providing clients with safe, optimum quality, and economical meal service. Responsibilities include:

a. Personnel Management – staffing, scheduling, hiring, orientation, job analysis, education development of policies/implementation and payroll, human resource management and labour relations.
b. Purchasing – budget, accounting, inventory control and marketing.
c. Food Production – Menu planning/revision, recipe testing and standardization, supervising quantity production, food sanitation/safety.
d. Food Service – quality controls (food safety/sanitation), auditing, assessment, change implementation, client satisfaction, implementation of diet therapy, diet modifications/ review.

Educational Requirements

Successful completion of a two-year Food Service and Nutrition Management Program from an accredited college, or a diploma from a distance education program in Food Service and Nutrition Management.

Career Potential

Career Opportunities for Nutrition Managers are in the areas of food service management, food production, clinical support, purchasing in long term care facilities, acute care facilities, commercial catering services, government agencies, colleges, schools and universities, hospitality industry, private industry and research.

Professional Affiliations

Membership in the Canadian Society of Nutrition Management (CSNM) is available to all Nutrition Managers providing satisfactory evidence in meeting entrance criteria. Certification can be obtained after three years involvement in CSNM and upon successful completion of an examination. The candidate must provide satisfactory evidence of continuing education to maintain the DNM designation.

Membership in the Newfoundland & Labrador Society of Nutrition Management is available to all Nutrition Managers, providing entrance requirements are satisfactory.

Continued on next page…

For Further Information Contact

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c/o Hoyles/Escasoni Complex
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Fax: (709) 753-9620
E-mail: nlsnm@nl.rogers.com

College of the North Atlantic - Headquarters/Bay St. George Campus
Office of the Registrar
P.O. Box 5400
Stephenville, NL A2N 2Z6
Tel: (709) 643-7835 or (709) 643-7730
Toll Free Tel: 1-888-982-2268
Fax: (709) 643-7843
E-mail: info@can.nl.ca
Website: www.can.nl.ca

REGISTERED NURSE

Description of Work

The REGISTERED NURSE combines a knowledge of the basic sciences and humanities with nursing science to care for people of all ages and cultural backgrounds. Nursing involves working with individuals, families, groups and/or communities to promote, maintain or restore health, and prevent illness. Nurses have the opportunity to work with people in settings as diverse as intensive care units, patients' homes, community settings, industrial workplaces, and nursing homes. Nurses are prepared to work with the interdisciplinary health team as direct caregivers, coordinators of care, teachers, counsellors, advocates and members of a professional group. As a career, nursing allows for a great deal of flexibility and a variety of career options. Nurses have the opportunity to practice with a wide variety of people anywhere in the world. With practice, experience and further education, nurses can expand their career options in clinical specialization (such as, nurse practitioner and clinical nurse specialist), nursing research, nursing education, and/or administration. If you are someone who enjoys working with people and welcomes a challenge, then nursing is a profession for you to consider.

Educational Requirements

Newfoundland has a 4-year Bachelor of Nursing (BN) education program which is offered collaboratively by Memorial University School of Nursing, the Centre for Nursing Studies, and Western Regional School of Nursing. The course of study is the same at the three sites. It prepares students in the fundamentals of nursing, as well as preparation in health promotion, nursing leadership, health assessment, research, and related academic areas. Applicants to the BN (Collaborative) Program must meet the general admission requirements of Memorial University of Newfoundland. Advanced Mathematics is preferred; high school Science courses must include Biology 3201 and Chemistry 3202 or equivalents. A minimum average of 70% is required in 13 specific high school credits. Mature applicants must have a high school equivalency certificate, Biology 3201, and Chemistry 3202 or equivalents to be considered for admission. Graduates of nursing programs must successfully complete a national nurse registration examination in order to be eligible for employment as a Registered Nurse (RN)

Career Potential

Newfoundland and other Canadian provinces are projecting a shortage of registered nurses as we enter the new millennium. Currently, the majority of new graduates obtain casual nursing positions and most obtain hours of work equivalent to full-time hours. Efforts are underway to increase the number of full-time positions available in the Provincial Health Care Systems in the near future. Full-time positions are available in the United States and opening up in other Canadian provinces. The changes occurring in health care will expand the employment opportunities for a nurse in the near future. Employment and Immigration Canada projections suggest “demand (for RNs) will continue to surpass employment opportunities in most other fields.”

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REGISTERED NURSE (Cont'd)

For Further Information Contact

Nursing Education Consultant
Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O. Box 6116
55 Military Road
St. John's, NL A1C 5XB
Tel: (709) 753-0124
Toll Free Tel: 1-800-563-3200
Fax : (709) 753-4940
E-Mail: info@arnnl.nf.ca
Website : www.arnnl.nf.ca

School of Nursing, Academic Program Administrator
Memorial University of Newfoundland
St. John's, NL A1B 3V6
Tel: (709) 777-6272
Fax: (709) 777-7037
Email: nursing@mun.ca
Website: www.nurs.mun.ca

Gail Piercey
Centre for Nursing Studies
Southcott Hall, 100 Forest Road
St. John's, NL A1A 1E5
Tel: (709) 777-8171
Fax: (709) 777-8177
E-mail: gpiercey@cns.nf.ca
Website: www.cns.nf.ca

Angela Targett
Western Regional School of Nursing
P.O. Box 2005
Corner Brook, NL A2H 6J7
Tel: (709) 637-5489
Fax: (709) 637-5161
Email: atargett@swgc.mun.ca

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

Description of Work

The LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE is a skilled member of the health and community services team and an integral and valued member of the family of nursing. Under the direction of a registered nurse or physician, the LPN provides basic nursing care to clients in institutional and community settings. The LPN assists the registered nurse in caring for clients whose health status is unstable. The LPN monitors blood pressure, temperature and respiration; performs treatments such as sterile dressings and hot/cold compresses; provides physical care to clients; and ensures comfort, safety and support for clients and family.

The Licensed Practical Nurse works in health organizations, community care programs, rehabilitation centres, clinics, industrial settings, and specialty areas such as the operating room, psychiatry, urology and gerontology. The LPN should be able to relate well with people, want to care for clients when they are sick, and promote health and wellness. Kindness, patience and compassion are essential qualities for the LPN. Though the work can be demanding, it is also very satisfying to be able to provide comfort and support to a sick client.

Educational Requirements

1. *High School Graduate Applicants*

   Prior to 1983
   Completion of graduation requirements as set by the Department of Education with a minimum of 65% average in Mathematics, Chemistry or Biology and Language.

   After 1983
   Completion of graduation requirements as set by the Department of Education with a minimum average of 65% in the following courses:
   Language 3101, Mathematics 3200 or 3201, Biology 3201 or Chemistry 3202, Thematic Literature 3201 or Literary Heritage 3202, two credits at the 3000 level in Social Studies, two elective credits at the 3000 level, keyboarding/word processing 1101 and Advanced Word-processing/Desktop Publishing are recommended.

2. *Adult Basic Education Applicants*
   Completion of requirements for an Adult Basic Education Level III Certificate as set by the Department of Education, Government of Newfoundland & Labrador with a minimum 65% average in the following courses:

Communication Skills:	IC 3112, IC 3321
Mathematics:	IM 3212, IM 3213, IM 3216 or IM 3219
Science:	IB 3113, IB 3115, IB 3214, IB 3316 or IH 3215, IH 3116, IH 3117, IH 3118
Employability Skills:	IE 3212
General Options:	IG 3217, IG 3119, IG 3114

Continued on next page…

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE (Cont'd)

3. Mature Applicants

An applicant who is 21 years or older who has not met the requirements in 1 or 2. Above, is eligible to apply. Applicants are required to submit:

- Proof of age
- 2 letters of reference from persons able to assess the applicant's academic ability
- a statement from the applicant detailing the reasons for requesting admission as a mature student
- official transcripts of secondary and postsecondary education

The LPN is required to obtain a license to practice from the Council for Licensed Practical Nurses. To obtain a license, an individual must successfully complete the Licensed Practical Nurse Assistant Program offered from the Centre for Nursing Studies and pass the National Practical Nurse Registration Examination. The Program will be available at other locations based on LPN human resource needs. The Practical Nurse Program is a 12-month program divided into three semesters. It begins in September and ends in August and includes classroom, labs, and clinical learning experiences.

Career Potential

There is currently no shortage of Licensed Practical Nurses in the province, except in some specific geographic areas.

For Further Information Contact

Council for Licensed Practical Nurses
9 Paton Street
St. John's, NL A1B 4S8
Tel: (709) 579-3843
Toll Free Tel: 1-888-579-2576
Fax : (709) 579-8268
Email: info@clpnnl.ca
Website: www.clpnnl.ca

Centre for Nursing Studies
Practical Nursing Program
Southcott Hall, 100 Forest Road
St. John's, NL A1A 1E5
Tel: (709) 777-8158
Fax: (709) 777-8172
Website: www.cns.nf.ca

PHYSICIAN

Description of Work

The PHYSICIAN promotes and protects health and assists persons who have problems, both physical and psychological, to regain their health. Consequently, the physician provides services both in illness prevention and treatment. Many physicians elect to be general practitioners or family physicians serving community health needs. Other physicians may specialize in particular areas of health care. Physicians are usually self-employed in private or group practice. Some physicians are employed by the Department of Health or other agencies involved in the provision of health services. Many physicians hold administrative positions or are involved in medical research and teaching.

Educational Requirements

Applicants are required to complete a Bachelor's Degree, including the prerequisite subjects of two courses in English to be completed at a recognized university or college before admission. In exceptional circumstances, an application may be considered from someone who does not expect to hold a bachelor's degree at the time of admission. Such an applicant will have completed at least 20 one-semester courses, including the prerequisite subjects of two courses in English at a recognized university or college before admission, and be a student who has work related or other experience acceptable to the Admissions Committee. Applicants applying for admission are required to have written the new Medical College Admissions Test, MCAT (introduced in 1991).

If accepted into medical school, students will then attend Memorial University of Newfoundland which offers a 4-year program leading to a Bachelor of Medical Science degree after two years and an M.D. degree after four years. Graduates will then embark on a post graduate medical education program, usually of 2-5 years duration.

Career Potential

Opportunities in this field are good, especially in rural and semi-rural areas, and in medical specialties.

For Further Information Contact

Executive Director
Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association
164 MacDonald Drive
St. John's, NL A1A 4B3
Tel: (709) 726-7424
Toll Free Tel: 1-800-563-2003
Fax: (709) 726-7525
E-mail: nlma@nlma.nf.ca
Website: www.nlma.nf.ca

Memorial University of Newfoundland
Faculty of Medicine
St. John's, NL A1B 3V6
Tel: (709) 777-6615
Fax: (709) 777-8422
Email: munmed@mun.ca
Website: www.med.mun.ca/admissions

AUDIOLOGY

Description of Work

The AUDIOLOGIST is a specialized professional operating with a high degree of independence in the identification, evaluation and rehabilitation of persons of all ages with auditory disorders. The practice of Audiology involves the use of diagnostic techniques, tools, standardized test procedures, and calibrated electroacoustic and physiologic equipment. The focus is on all aspects of auditory impairment and its associated communicative disorders and includes counselling, case management, therapy, education, and prescribing/dispensing hearing aids or assistive listening devices. An Audiologist is also responsible for program planning, health promotion, continuous quality improvement, staff education, and public awareness.

Educational Requirements

Students must complete the academic high school program with an emphasis on Physics, Biology and English. Students may then attend a post secondary institution to obtain a Bachelors degree (B.A. or B.Sc.) with an emphasis on Psychology, Linguistics and Statistics. To work as an Audiologist in Newfoundland, a Master's degree in Audiology or Human Communication Disorders is required. Currently, the 2-3 year program is offered at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, and the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, British Columbia. To become an Audiologist, one must be prepared to undertake a total length of university study of at least 6-7 years. Often, there are bursaries available for students in their final year. For information on bursaries contact the Executive Director of NLHBA.

Most years there are bursaries available for students in their final year. For information on bursaries, contact the Executive Director, NLHBA.

Career Potential

Opportunities in this field are excellent. Individuals can expect to be employed by health organizations, educational institutions, with hearing aid manufacturers, in private business, or with research centers.

For Further Information Contact

Newfoundland and Labrador Assoc. of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists
P.O. Box 21212
St. John's, NL A1A 5B2
E-mail: info@nlaslpa.ca
Website: www.nlaslpa.ca

DIETITIAN

Description of Work

Registered Dietitians are health care professionals educated in nutrition and food. Dietitians provide information on nutrition and apply this knowledge to improve the health of individuals and groups.

There are many different areas in which dietitians can work. **Clincial Dietitians** assess the nutritional needs of patients/clients. They develop nutrition plans to treat and rehabilitate patients. They also educate patients and their caregivers about their disease and the effect of nutrition. **Food Service Management** ensures safe, sanitary and cost-effective preparation and distribution of food to patients and clients. **Community Dietitians/Nutritionists** work with individuals and community groups to identify nutrition issues, then develop and implement nutrition and health promotion programs to improve health. **Consulting Dietitians** have their own private consulting business and provide expertise in nutrition, food and food service systems to individuals, institutions and businesses. **Dietitians in Education** teach nutrition, food, food service management and related topics at high schools, community colleges and universities. **Research Dietitians** plan and complete research projects in relationship to nutrition, food and food service management. **Dietitians in Business** work for the private sector in the areas of research, food service management and marketing.

Many of the skills learned through the dietitian's university education and practical experience enable the dietitian to fill a variety of other jobs such as:

- Quality Assurance Co-ordinators
- Pharmaceutical Representatives

Educational Requirements

To become a dietitian, students must complete the following academic program and practical training:

- A Bachelor of Science in Nutrition or related degree (Human Ecology or Biochemistry), with major course work in:
  - Chemistry
  - Biology
  - Nutrition
  - Food Service Administration
  - Social Sciences

- A post graduate Dietetic Internship and/or a Masters Degree approved by Dietitians of Canada.
- Meet registration requirements and have membership in Dietitians of Canada and the Newfoundland Dietetic Association.

Career Potential

Because of their unique training, dietitians are becoming involved in increasingly diversified and specialized areas. As the profession continues to expand towards non-traditional sectors of employment, future opportunities will also expand.

Continued on next page…

DIETITIAN (Cont'd)

For Further Information Contact

Dietitians of Canada
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Toronto, ON M5G 1V2
Tel: (416) 596-0857
Fax: (416) 596-0603
E-mail: centralinfo@dietitians.ca
Website: www.dietitians.ca

HOME SUPPORT WORKER

Description of Work

The HOME SUPPORT WORKER provides home-care services for elderly, ill or disabled individuals, or for families during periods of disruption or crisis. Some of the duties may be: planning, preparing and serving meals and special diets, either independently or with the employer; administering bedside and personal care under the general direction of a home care agency or nurse; assisting with exercises, medical routines and medication as directed, and with mobility in the home; and using equipment such as lifts, wheelchairs and hydraulic tub seats, and assisting with braces and artificial limbs as required. Other duties may include light housekeeping, grocery shopping, running errands, and accompanying clients to the physician's office or on outings. The Home Support Worker is employed by both profit and non-profit agencies such as private home care agencies and Victoria Order of Nurses. They can also be self-employed.

Educational Requirements

Individuals wishing to take a formal home support worker training program must have 18 high school credits; or Grade 10 pass; or the Adult Basic Education or equivalent - BTSD (Level III) or GED pass; or be a mature student. Applicants must provide a record of good conduct and a medical certificate indicating that they have met immunization requirements and are medically fit for entry into the program. A number of private home care agencies around the province hire individuals without formal training and offer an in-house training program. The majority of training is on-the-job and takes about 120 hours to complete. Employers would prefer applicants to have cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid, or at least be willing to take these courses.

Career Potential

Opportunities in this field are fair.

For Further Information Contact

School of Health Sciences
College of the North Atlantic
P.O. Box 1693
St. John's, NL A1C 5P7
Tel: (709) 758-7636
Toll Free Tel: 1-888-982-2268
Fax: (709) 758-7634
E mail: info@cna.nl.ca
Website : www.cna.nl.ca

MASSAGE THERAPIST

Description of Work

Massage Therapy involves an assessment of soft tissues and joints of the body, and the treatment and prevention of physical dysfunction and pain of soft tissues and joints by manipulation to develop, maintain, rehabilitate or augment physical function or relieve pain. THE MASSAGE THERAPIST administers appropriate massage techniques; hydrotherapy modalities; performs patient assessments; develops treatment plans; maintains records of treatments given; and instructs patients in remedial exercises.

Educational Training

There are several nationally recognized private vocational institutions in Canada and one community college which offer massage therapy training which offer a minimum of 2 years of training. Some of these programs require a high school diploma with Level III Chemistry and Biology, and a 2-day workshop in introductory massage. As of September 1996, the West Coast College of Massage Therapy in Vancouver will be changing their program to 3 years, with most of the additional hours being in the form of increased practical classroom and internship training. The entrance requirements will then increase, and first year university Biology and Chemistry will be required for entry into the program. Acceptable alternative requirements include an RN degree or diploma, or a university degree.

Career Potential

While in Newfoundland most RMT's are self-employed or have set up a clinic with other massage therapists, graduates may be found in varied professional settings such as chiropractic clinics, health spas, cruise ships, hotels and resorts, or public health clinics. Prospects for employment are moderate due to an influx of massage therapists to the marketplace since 1997 because of the increase in massage therapy programs across Canada.

For Further Information Contact

Newfoundland and Labrador Massage Therapists Association
P.O. Box 23212
Churchill Square, St. John's, NL A1B 4J9
Tel: (709) 726-4006
Fax : (709) 754-5999
E-mail: info@nlmta.ca
Website: www.nlmta.ca

Newfoundland and Labrador Massage Therapists' Board
Tel: (709) 739-739-7181
Toll Free Tel: 1-888-739-7181
Fax: (709) 739-7182
Toll Free Fax : 1-888-739-7182

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

Description of Work

Occupational Therapy is a health profession that is concerned with what people do. Occupational therapists enable individuals, groups, organizations and communities to choose, organize and perform occupations that they find useful or meaningful in their environment. In this context, occupation is viewed broadly to include everything people do to "occupy" themselves in enjoying life, looking after themselves and others, and contributing to the social and economic productivity of their communities. Health is also viewed broadly as the ability and opportunity to live a full and meaningful life.

Occupational therapists work with people, individually or collectively, to enable them to be active agents in shaping their personal lives and communities. Experiential, participatory approaches are used with people to identify and prioritize goals in everyday occupations, and to analyze the physical, mental, spiritual, and environmental strengths and barriers for realizing those goals. Collaborative planning is advocated to maximize choice in decision making. To be accountable, occupational therapists involve people in evaluating both the processes and outcomes of occupational therapy. Occupational therapists emphasize team approaches in which lay people and professionals, individuals, families, teachers, employers, managers, communities, and organizations, share power by working as partners.

Educational Requirements

Students are required to complete the academic high school program with an emphasis on the Sciences. Entrance requirements for Occupational Therapy programs vary, and students are advised to consult their guidance counsellor or university for details. Students obtain a 4-year Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Therapy. The program is offered at several universities in Canada, with Dalhousie University in Halifax being the closest.

There are special arrangements for Newfoundland & Labrador students at Dalhousie University and there is a "Return in Service" requirement. Most years there are bursaries available for students in their final year at Dalhousie and other universities. For information on bursaries, contact the Executive Director, NLHBA.

Career Potential

Occupational Therapy practice is broad in scope and offers a wide range of career opportunities for men and women. Occupational therapists work in either public or private sectors, with any age group, and with individual, group, organizational or community clients. Work may be conducted in institutions, businesses, or communities. Career development is open and highly flexible. Occupational therapy leaders with masters and doctoral degrees in occupational therapy or related fields are in high demand in practice specialties, management, consulting, community development, policy development, programme development and evaluation, and academia.

Occupational therapy practice may enable occupation directly through individualized therapy, or indirectly through management, staff education, environmental modifications, policy development, advocacy, evaluation, research and more. Job opportunities are increasing in community health, health promotion, employment adjustment, human resource development, community development, public education, advocacy, homemaking and parenting support, research and other areas.

Continued on next page…

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST (Cont'd)

For Further Information Contact

Brenda Head, B.Sc. (O.T.)
Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Coordinator
Memorial University, Health Sciences Centre
St. John's, NL A1B 3V6
Tel: (709) 777-7105
Fax: (709) 777-6746
Email: bhead@mun.ca
Website: www.med.mun.ca/otpt

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Description of Work

Physiotherapy is a health profession which uses scientifically-based knowledge and specialized clinical skills to prevent or alleviate movement dysfunction in people. Physiotherapy helps keep people in motion throughout all stages of their lives. PHYSIOTHERAPISTS work with individuals who have physical disorders caused by injury, disease, aging or birth abnormalities. They assess clients to determine their physical status and the potential for change. Therapy, when indicated, often focuses on: decreasing pain, increasing joint movement and flexibility, restoring muscle strength and endurance, improving balance and coordination, enhancing tolerance in exercise and daily activities, and educating about the condition and the therapy program. The treatment techniques physiotherapists use include: therapeutic exercise and specific techniques of mobilization, manipulation or facilitation; physical agents such as heat, cold, water, electrical energy; and assistive devices such as canes, crutches, braces and artificial limbs. An important part of the therapy program is providing advice on ways to prevent future injury or deterioration.

Educational Requirements

There are 13 Physiotherapy Schools in Canada. The course of study involves a minimum of four years university study, leading to a Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy. Entrance requirements vary considerably from one school to another. Some schools accept students directly out of high school (Level III) into a 4-year program, others accept students into a 3-year professional program following a 1-year university study prerequisite, while others require an undergraduate degree for admission. Course requirements also vary. Students are advised to consult the calendars of the respective schools. A high school background in the basic sciences (Biology, Chemistry, or Physics) is recommended.

There are special arrangements for Newfoundland & Labrador students at Dalhousie University and there is a "Return in Service" requirement. Most years there are bursaries available for students in their final year at Dalhousie and other universities. For information on bursaries, contact the Executive Director, NLHBA.

Career Potential

Opportunities in this profession are good. Individuals can expect to find employment in health organizations, rehabilitation centres, private practices, sports clinics, community agencies, or home care programs. Career path options include specialization or post-graduate study in a Masters or PhD. Program. Following completion of a PhD., therapists usually teach and/or conduct research in the field.

For Further Information Contact

Janet O'Dea
Provincial Coordinator of Clinical Education, PT
Memorial University
Health Sciences Centre, Rm. 2765
Prince Philip Drive
St. John's, NL A1B 3V6
Tel: (709) 777-7080
Fax: (709) 777-6746
E-mail: jodea@mun.ca
Website: www.med.mun.ca/otpt

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSISTANT

Description of Work

The OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT/PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSISTANT is a member of the multidisciplinary health care team that aids in implementing the components of the treatment plan as delegated by the occupational therapist or physiotherapist. He/she will perform delegated therapeutic skills safely and effectively under the supervision of the occupational therapist or physiotherapist. The ASSISTANT observes and reports change, and uses sound judgement and problem-solving skills in the performance of their duty. He/she must also communicate effectively in order to develop positive working relationships.

Education Requirements

The Occupational Therapy Assistant/Physiotherapy Assistant Program is a one year certificate program offered in Newfoundland by College of the North Atlantic. The entrance requirements include a provincial High School Graduation Certificate with a 60% average in Language, Mathematics (2 credits), Science (2 credits from Level 3 Biology, Chemistry, Geology, or Physics), and Electives (4 credits);

OR

An Adult Basic Education Certificate indicating completion of the academic stream with an overall 60% average including the following courses: Communications, Mathematics, and Science (from one of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, or Earth Sciences);

OR

Applicants who do not meet the entrance requirements, and are 19 years of age or older, may be considered on an individual basis under the Mature Student Clause.

Career Potential

Opportunities are expected to be good in Canada. Individuals can expect to be employed in health organizations, rehabilitation centres, private practices, sports clinics, community agencies and home care programs.

For Further Information Contact

School of Health Sciences
College of the North Atlantic
P.O. Box 1693
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Fax: (709) 758-7634
E mail: info@cna.nl.ca
Website : www.cna.nl.ca

PROSTHETIST/ORTHOTIST

Description of Work

This health profession concerns itself with assisting people who have medical or congenital problems which require a Prosthesis (limb) or Orthosis (brace). The PROSTHETIST provides care for individuals with partial or total absence of the upper or lower extremities. This is accomplished through assessing, designing, fabricating, and fitting functional and/or cosmetic devices at the request of, and in consultation with, the physician. The ORTHOTIST specializes in the bracing of the skeletal system. This includes orthopaedic footwear, spinal devices, i.e. custom control & hyperextension orthosis & cervical collars, custom upper and lower orthosis, i.e. ankle foot orthosis (AFO's), arm abduction and wrist hand orthosis (WHO). Orthotists are also involved in customized special seating devices and wheelchair adaptations.

Educational Requirements

The Prosthetic/Orthotic Clinical Program is a two-year post degree/diploma program. Most students entering the program have degrees in Kinesiology, Physical Education, Specialized Services, Engineering etc., or are graduates of the Prosthetic/Orthotic Technician Program. The clinical programs are offered at George Brown College in Toronto or the British Columbia Institute in British Columbia. Upon completion of the two- year clinical program, students are required to serve a twenty-two month internship in either Prosthetics or Orthotics to be eligible to write exams set by the Canadian Board of Certification. If they wish to be certified in the second discipline, an additional two-year internship is required. There is also a Prosthetic/Orthotic Technical Program offered at George Brown College. This is geared more towards mechanical aspects of the profession. Applicants should complete an academic high school program and demonstrate manual dexterity, mechanical aptitude and good interpersonal skills.

Career Potential

Currently there is a shortage of Prosthetists and Orthotists in Canada. Individuals can expect to be employed in health organizations, rehabilitation centers, or in private facilities.

For Further Information Contact

Prosthetic/Orthotic Services
The Dr. Leonard A. Miller Centre
100 Forest Road
St. John's, NL A1A 1E5
Tel: (709) 777-6555

Orthotic & Adaptive Seating Dept.
Janeway/Children's Health and Rehabilitation Centre
Health Sciences Centre
300 Prince Philip Drive
St. John's, NL A1B 3V6
Tel: (709) 777-4820
Fax: (709)777-4879
Websites: www.hccsj.nf.ca
www.pando.ca

PSYCHOLOGIST

Description of Work

Psychology is a science devoted to seeking out, through research, the regularities of thought, emotion, and behaviour and relating them to causes. Psychology is a discipline concerned with the dissemination, through teaching at all levels, of the expanding knowledge of behaviour and mental processes. The PSYCHOLOGIST is concerned with applying scientific knowledge, behaviour to enhance individual development, and the alleviation of disability from mental, emotional or physical causes.

Many clinical and counselling psychologists treat individuals who have emotional distress, maladaptive behaviour, learning disabilities, and developmental handicaps, either privately or through some agency or institution such as a mental health facility. Clinical psychologists may also specialize in administering and interpreting tests.

Educational Requirements

Students must complete the academic high school program with an emphasis on the Sciences. Students may then attend Memorial University of Newfoundland to obtain a Bachelor's degree in arts or science, with a major in psychology. A Master's degree is generally the minimum requirement for employment as a psychologist.

Career Potential

Opportunities in this field are average to good, especially in the specialty areas. Psychologists can expect to work in health organizations, schools, community agencies, or in private practice.

For Further Information Contact

Association of Newfoundland Psychologists
Dr. Joyce Nicholls-Goudsmid, President
P.O. Box 13700, Station 'A'
St. John's, NL A1B 4G1
Tel: (709) 739-5405
E-mail: joycen_g@hotmail.com
Website: www.nfpsych.com

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

Description of Work

The SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST is a specialized professional operating with a high degree of independence in the prevention, identification, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of communication and feeding/swallowing disorders in people of all ages. Assessment protocols used by the speech-language pathologist can include the use of standardized assessment tools, computerized equipment, and other diagnostic techniques. Intervention often includes case management, consultation with other professionals, counselling of clients/caregivers, therapy, education, and recommendations for use of various assistive devices. The Speech-Language Pathologist is also responsible for program development, health promotion, continuous quality improvement, staff and community education, and public awareness.

Educational Requirements

Students must complete the academic high school program with an emphasis on Physics, Biology and English. Students may then attend a post secondary institution to obtain a Bachelor's degree (B.A., B.Ed., or B.Sc.) in Psychology, Educational Psychology, Linguistics, Nursing, or other health or behavioural sciences. To work as a Speech-Language Pathologist in Newfoundland, a Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology or Human Communication Disorders is required. Currently, the program is offered at 8 universities across Canada (with the nearest being Dalhousie University in Halifax) and in the United States. To become a Speech-Language Pathologist, one must be prepared to undertake a total length of university study of at least 6-7 years. Often, there are bursaries available for students in their final year. For information on bursaries contact the Executive Director of NLHBA.

Career Potential

Opportunities in this field are excellent. Individuals can expect to be employed by health organizations, educational institutions, rehabilitation centres, private industry, or with research centres.

For Further Information Contact

Newfoundland and Labrador Assoc. of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists
P.O. Box 21212
St. John's, NL A1A 5B2
E-mail: info@nlaslpa.ca
Website: www.nlaslpa.ca

SOCIAL WORKER

Description of Work

The SOCIAL WORKER in the health system provides psycho-social assessment and treatment to individuals and families with illness or mental health related issues; offers various direct and indirect interventions such as adjustment therapy, crisis counselling, resource counselling, etc.; consults with other members of the health care team and interprets the client's social and emotional situation to ensure that the treatment plan addresses relevant psycho-social concerns. Group work, community work, education and policy/program planning are also significant social work roles.

Educational & Licensing Requirements

A Bachelors, Masters degree or Ph.D. in Social Work. Social Workers must pass through a licensing process and hold a valid "RSW" designation before beginning practice.

Career Potential

While there is no current shortage, new Social Workers are required annually to meet attrition and expanding services. Career opportunities exist in health organizations, community health programs and community agencies.

For Further Information Contact

Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Social Work
P.O. Box 5244, Stn 'C'
St. John's, NL A1C 5W1
Tel : (709) 753-0200
Fax : (709) 753-0120
E-mail: info@nlasw.ca
Website: www.nlasw.ca

DIAGNOSTIC NEUROPHYSIOLOGY TECHNOLOGIST

Description of Work

DIAGNOSTIC NEUROPHYSIOLOGY (DNP) TECHNOLOGY has currently expanded to include Electroencephalography (EEG), Electromyography (EMG), Brain Auditory/Visual/ Somatosensory Evoked Potentials (EP), and Polysomnography (Sleep Disorders). Responsibilities vary depending on the speciality area of technology, but generally include: interviewing patients and obtaining accurate history; assessing any relevant patient questionnaires; explanation of procedures; preparation of patients for proper study; operation of sophisticated analogue and digital equipment; strict observation of patients and documentation of events; analyzing and processing the record for the reporting Neurologist.

The results of these varied specialized studies are essential in diagnosis and treatment of neurological, muscular/nerve, and sleep disorders.

Educational Requirements

Students must complete Level III of the academic high school program with an emphasis on Sciences, which is followed by a 3-year formal training program. During various levels of the program, written and practical examinations are provided. Students who are successful in all examinations become Registered Technologists through Registration Boards, such as the Canadian Board of Registration of Electroneurophysiology Technologists, and the American Board of Registration of Polysomnograph Technologists.

Career Potential

Presently, there are six DNP laboratories throughout the province involving all of the major hospitals. The need to train is based upon supply and demand within the field.

For Further Information Contact

Newfoundland Society of Electroneurophysiology Technologists
Diagnostic Neurophysiology Department
5th Floor, Health Sciences Centre
St. John's, NL A1B 3V6
Tel: (709) 777-6350
E-mail: nset@canada.com
Website: www.nsetweb.org

DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGIST

Description of Work

The DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGIST (X-Ray Technologist) is a health care professional who utilizes radiation to produce images of the patient's anatomical structure. The qualified technologist plays an important role in the early diagnosis, control and treatment of diseases. In general, the role of the diagnostic radiological technologist is to produce a visual image of some part of the patient/resident's body, which a radiologist then examines to determine whether injury or disease is present.

In order to obtain this image, the radiological technologist must be highly skilful in the operation of x-ray and film processing equipment, have a thorough knowledge of the normal human anatomy and normal anatomic variations so that the patient can be accurately positioned, and know the radiographic characteristics of numerous pathologic conditions; that is, their effect on the normal radiopacity of structures so that the exposure factors can be selected accordingly. The technologist must be adaptable to meet challenges presented by the patient's physical or psychological state.

The radiological technologist will be working in an environment where there will be emission of ionizing radiation; therefore, the technologist must be aware of the various hazards of ionizing radiation and use all precautions to protect the patient/resident, as well as himself/herself and other personnel from unnecessary exposure. The diagnostic radiological technologist holds a respected place on the health team, providing specialized skills and knowledge in such related fields as Computerized Tomography, and Magnetic Resonance Imaging.

Educational Requirements

Students must complete the academic high school program with an emphasis on Biology, Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics. Students may then attend a three-year program in Medical Radiography at the College of the North Atlantic. Graduates may elect to further their studies and obtain a Bachelor of Technology degree from Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Upon successful completion of either Medical Radiography at College of the North Atlantic, students must then complete national registration exams set by the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT) that qualify the student as a Registered Technologist. Successful completion of these exams is a requirement to practice.

By the year 2005, a degree will be required as entry into the career.

Career Potential

There is currently no shortage of X-Ray Technologists in Newfoundland; however, new graduates are required to meet attrition. Registered Radiological Technologist are qualified to work anywhere in Canada and any country which accepts the CAMRT designation. Employment in the U.S. requires graduates to challenge American examinations.

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For Further Information Contact

School of Health Sciences
College of the North Atlantic
P.O. Box 1693
St. John's, NL A1C 5P7
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Fax: (709) 758-7634
E mail: info@cna.nl.ca
Website : www.cna.nl.ca

DIAGNOSTIC ULTRASONOGRAPHER

Description of Work

DIAGNOSTIC ULTRASONOGRAPHERS use ultrasound equipment to transmit high frequency sound pulses through various parts of the body to produce and record diagnostic images. Ultrasound technology is used routinely in obstetrics, neurology, ophthalmology and cardiology. A thorough knowledge of anatomy and physiology plus a high degree of technical skill are necessary for individuals employed in this area. Duties include: preparing patients for examinations; explaining the procedures; recording any additional medical history considered necessary; selecting equipment appropriate for use in ultrasound tests ordered by a physician; monitoring examinations to evaluate the quality and consistency of diagnostic images; and adjusting the equipment as required.

Educational Requirements

Students interested in the one-year program Diagnostic Ultrasonography offered by College of the North Atlantic must have successfully completed an accredited program in Medical Radiography and possess current registration with the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT).

The Canadian Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (CSDMS) has adopted as its certifying examinations the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) examinations. Successful completion of these examinations is a requirement to practice.

Career Potential

Career opportunities in this field are fair to good. The rapid growth of ultrasound in the diagnosis of specific disease processes and obstetrical conditions has produced a demand in Newfoundland and other provinces for qualified sonographic technologists. Career opportunities vary from hospital/clinic setting to education, industry and research. ARDMS registered Sonographers are qualified to work in any country which accepts the highly recognized ARDMS designation. The ARDMS examinations are offered and generally accepted worldwide as the qualifying standard for entry to practice.

For Further Information Contact

School of Health Sciences
College of the North Atlantic
P.O. Box 1693
St. John's, NL A1C 5P7
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Fax: (709) 758-7634
E mail: info@cna.nl.ca
Website : www.cna.nl.ca

CARDIOLOGY TECHNOLOGIST

Description of Work

The Cardiology Technologist is involved in the performance of vital cardiac testing utilizing a wide range of sophisticated medical equipment essential for providing the cardiologist with valuable diagnostic information. The Cardiology Technologist is skilled in a variety of non-invasive diagnostic cardiology procedures, including elecrocardiograms, exercise tolerance testing (physician supervised), ambulatory ECG monitoring, routine venipuncture, arrhythmia recognition, event monitoring, ambulatory ECG analysis, pacemaker assessment and programming, advanced exercise tolerance testing, advanced cardiac life support, pacemaker I lead analysis on implant, advanced elective procedures, and basic auscultation.

Educational Requirements

Students must complete the academic high school program with a C+ in Biology 12 (to include Human Biology), Chemistry 11, English 12, Math 12 or Applied Math 12, Physics 11 or Applied Physics 12, and Basic computer keyboard skills. Students may then complete a BCIT certificate or diploma program. Upon completion of one of these programs, students are eligible to write the national registration examinations set by the Canadian Society of Cardiology Technologists.

Career Potential

Students may chose specific areas of this program to add to their existing medical technology knowledge and skills, or entire certificate or diploma programs may be taken to gain employment in hospital cardiology departments, private physicians' offices and laboratories.

For Further Information Contact

Cardiology Technologists of Newfoundland and Labrador
Jackie Kennedy, Education Coordinator
6 Kennedy Place
Mount Pearl, NL A1N 2A1
Tel: (709) 745-2084 or (709) 777-8276
E-mail: kenja@warp.nfld.net
Website: www.csct.ca

LABORATORY TECHNOLOGIST

Description of Work

The LABORATORY TECHNOLOGIST is an important part of the health team because the practice of modern medicine relies increasingly on the availability of laboratory test data. The technologist is responsible for producing accurate and reliable laboratory results which are essential to the clinician in the diagnosis, monitoring and treatment of disease. Some of the procedures performed include analyzing blood, body fluids and tissues; preparing tissues for microscopic examination; performing blood counts; and preparing for transfusions. These areas of testing are usually in specialty areas such as - Clinical Chemistry, Microbiology, Haematology, Immuno-Haematology, and Histology.

In many large hospitals, the technologist will work in one of these specialties, while in smaller hospitals the work will be more diversified.

Educational Requirements

Students must complete the academic high school program with an emphasis on the Sciences. Students may then attend the 3-year program at College of the North Atlantic. Upon successful completion, students are eligible to write examinations set by the Canadian Society of Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS).

Career Potential

Career opportunities in this field are good as there is a developing shortage plus expanding services which require the employment of additional technologists.

For Further Information Contact

School of Health Sciences
College of the North Atlantic
P.O. Box 1693
St. John's, NL A1C 5P7
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Toll Free Tel: 1-888-982-2268
Fax: (709) 758-7634
E mail: info@cna.nl.ca
Website : www.cna.nl.ca

NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGIST

Description of Work

Nuclear medicine is the application of radioactive materials for the diagnosis and treatment of patients. The nuclear medicine technologist is responsible for performing diagnostic and therapeutic nuclear medicine procedures. He/she ensures the optimum operation of all equipment used in the profession by the accurate implementation of a quality control program involving the assessment of radiation detection gamma cameras, computers, and other equipment used in the department. Adhering to radiation protection guidelines and proper drug preparation techniques, and administering the radiopharmaceutical to the patient by way of an intravenous injection is also the responsibility of the technologist. He/ she operates the radiation detection equipment that gives an assessment of the distribution of the radiopharmaceutical within the body, and then analyzes the data to obtain the best information from the study. The technologist presents the information to the nuclear medicine physician for consultation, in order that the physician can provide a complete report of the findings to the patient's physician

Educational Requirements

Students must complete the high school program with Grade 12 level courses including English, Math, Physics and either Biology or Chemistry, and must have an overall average of 70%. Students may then attend and complete a four-year Degree program or a three-year Diploma program offered collaboratively by Faculty of Health Professions, Dalhousie University and Health Sciences Education, QEII Health Sciences Centre. Graduates must then write national registration exams and meet the clinical competency requirements as set by the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT) in order to practice.

Career Potential

Registered Nuclear Medicine Technologists are qualified to work anywhere in Canada and any country which accepts the CAMRT designation. With experience and further education, there are other job opportunities including administration, education, research, technical sales and application.

For Further Information Contact

Allied Health Schools
QEII Health Sciences Education
Student Services, Room 640 Bethune Building, VG Site
1278 Tower Road
Halifax, NS B3H 2Y9
Tel: (902) 473-5510
Fax: (902) 473-5515

RADIATION THERAPIST

Description of Work

Radiation Therapy is the branch of medicine using ionizing radiation produced by high energy x-rays or cobalt 60 equipment in the treatment of malignant diseases. The RADIATION THERAPY TECHNOLOGIST correctly administers the treatments prescribed by the physician specialist (oncologist) and provides a daily liaison between the patient/resident and the oncologist.

Educational Requirements

Students must complete 10 university full course credits including physics, chemistry, math, and biology. Academically-qualified applicants will be asked to visit a clinical site, may be interviewed and/or write an admissions/aptitude test, and may be given a test of English proficiency. December 31 is the application deadline for classes beginning the following September. Applications may be accepted beyond December 31 subject to availability of positions.

A limited number of bursaries are generally available to provide financial assistance to students studying outside the province.

Career Potential

The Radiation Therapist enjoys a challenging, exciting and respected career with a variety of opportunities for specialization. Opportunities for growth may include clinical research, management, teaching, commercial sales and post-graduate studies. Career opportunities in this field are good. Generally, the demand for qualified technologists exceeds the number available.

For Further Information Contact

Newfoundland Cancer Treatment and Research
Dr. H. Bliss Murphy Cancer Centre
300 Prince Philip Drive
St. John's, NL A1B 3V6
Tel: (709) 777-6480
Fax: (709) 777-0927
E-mail: info@nctrf.nf.ca
Website: www.nctrf.nf.ca

Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists
1095 Carling Avenue - Suite 500
Ottawa, ON K1Y 4P6
Tel: (613) 234-0012
Toll Free Tel: 1-800-463-9729
Fax: (613) 234-1097
Website: www.camrt.ca

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

Description of Work

The RESPIRATORY THERAPIST assists in the diagnosis, treatment and promotion of the well-being of patients with cardio-respiratory and related disorders through the use of specialized training and skills in respiratory care, and provides a wide range of services to the community including specialized services in home care, intensive care, neonatal/pediatric units, pulmonary diagnostics, anesthesia assistance, and education of physicians and other allied health professionals.

Educational Requirements

The minimum entry requirement for a Respiratory Therapy Program is graduation from high school. Students accepted into this Program would undertake a two- or three-year program depending upon the school they attend. The closest training centre for Respiratory Therapy is at College of the North Atlantic in St. John's.

Students who graduate from an accredited school of Respiratory Therapy are then eligible to challenge the Canadian Board for Respiratory Care examinations. Upon successful completion of the CBRC examination, the student would be credentialed by the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists (CSRT) as a Registered Respiratory Therapist.

Career Potential

Career opportunities in this field are quite good. A respiratory therapist, in addition to hospital practice, may also move into other related areas of health care such as advanced techniques in pulmonary function; respiratory home care services; clinical perfusion; para-medical involvement in anaesthesia; consulting services to industry, government or professional associations; health organizations; as well as with research and development firms. The increased awareness of Respiratory Therapy has brought about international career opportunities.

For Further Information Contact

School of Health Sciences
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P.O. Box 1693
St. John's, NL A1C 5P7
Tel: (709) 758-7636
Toll Free Tel: 1-888-982-2268
Fax: (709) 758-7634
E mail: info@cna.nl.ca
Website : www.cna.nl.ca

AMBULANCE ATTENDANT

Description of Work

When a serious emergency occurs either in the home, on the job, on the highway, in a recreational area, or elsewhere, the AMBULANCE ATTENDANT provides initial care at the site and continuing care during transportation to the nearest hospital. The ambulance attendant must be able to assess the emergency situation; perform the required care; ensure a safe, smooth ride; and protect the casualty from further injury or worsening of his condition enroute to the hospital. In some settings, he/she works with medical and nursing personnel in hospital emergency and receiving departments.

Educational Requirements

Many employers of ambulance attendants require that they complete a high school program or its equivalent. By statutory requirement, an attendant must possess a Class 4 driver's license. All attendants are strongly encouraged to participate in courses which lead to certification as an Ambulance Attendant Level I or II.

Level I Certification is obtained under completion of a 50-hour course which includes Standard First Aid, CPR, Defensive Driving, Light Rescue, and Oxygen Therapy.

Level II courses are approximately 90 hours long and include Advanced First Aid, Laws and Legal Concepts and Requirements, Oxygen Therapy, Driver Training, and Auto Extrication.

Career Potential

Career opportunities in this field are fair. Generally, ambulance attendants are trained only as positions become vacant.

For Further Information Contact

Department of Health and Community Services
P.O. Box 8700
Confederation Building
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6
Tel: (709) 729-4984
Fax: (709) 729-5824
E-mail: healthinfo@gov.nl.ca
Website: www.gov.nl.ca/health

Health Care Corporation of St. John's
Waterford Bridge Road
St. John's, NL A1B 4J8
Tel: (709) 777-1300
Fax: (709) 777-1302
Website: www.hccsj.nl.ca

BIOMEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST

Description of Work

The Biomedical Technologist is a health care professional who works primarily to maintain medical equipment used on patients in a health care facility. They are often employed directly by a hospital or may work for a manufacturer. The equipment maintained is usually electronic in nature and includes critical devices such as defibrillators, electrocardiographs, ventilators, and lasers. Regular preventative maintenance is required for most high-risk devices. Biomedical Technologists often need to respond quickly to equipment problems as they occur during normal clinical use. Biomedical Technologists need to have a good understanding of the operation and intended use of medical equipment performance criteria.

Experienced Biomedical Technologists are a valuable resource to a health care facility in that they can provide guidance on proper equipment use and act as advisors to other clinical professionals when new equipment is being evaluated for purchase or when technical questions arise relating to equipment.

Educational Requirements

To obtain training for this field in Newfoundland, students must complete the academic high school program followed by completion of the three-year Electronics Technology Program at the College of the North Atlantic. The students would specialize in biomedical technology in their third year of that program. Graduates may elect to further their studies and obtain a Bachelor of Technology degree from Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Career Potential

This is a small field in Newfoundland and graduates may have to look across Canada to find employment in this field. It is anticipated that demand will continue into the future for biomedical technologists who have good technical, computer, and communication skills.

For Further Information Contact

Electronics Engineering Technology
College of the North Atlantic
P.O. Box 1693
St. John's, NL A1C 5P7
Tel: (709) 758-7636
Toll Free Tel: 1-888-982-2268
Fax: (709) 758-7634
E mail: info@cna.nl.ca
Website : www.cna.nl.ca

HOSPITAL ENGINEER

Description of Work

The HOSPITAL ENGINEER in a modern hospital ensures that the plant and its equipment function properly. The physical plant department includes buildings and grounds, power plan and maintenance. In the management of this department, the chief engineer advises administration and department heads on the technical aspects of the plant operation. He may also have responsibility for staff training. A large hospital might have a professional engineer in charge of the physical plant, with a large and specialized staff. In a smaller institution, the engineer will be responsible for all aspects of the operation.

Educational Requirements

Students must complete the high school program or its equivalent. Students may then enrol in the 10-month certificate-level program at Cabot Institute of Arts, Technology and Continuing Education designed to assist persons in developing sufficient basic skills and knowledge to enter the labour force as a Power Engineer (Fourth Class), or follow Memorial University's Engineering program. Power Engineering students at Cabot are then eligible to write examinations set by the Interprovincial Certificate Program which gives a fourth-class certificate. Students who graduate from Memorial University with a degree in engineering must apply for professional status with the Association of Professional Engineers of Newfoundland in order to practice engineering.

Career Potential

The graduate may obtain employment as a Power Engineer in most large plants or buildings in both the public and private sector, such as Government buildings, health and educational institutions; and manufacturing, production and service industries.

For Further Information Contact

College of the North Atlantic
P.O. Box 1693
St. John's, NL A1C 5P7
Tel: (709) 758-7636
Toll Free Tel: 1-888-982-2268
Fax: (709) 758-7634
E mail: info@cna.nl.ca
Website : www.cna.nl.ca

Faculty of Engineering and Applied Sciences
Memorial University of Newfoundland
St. John's, NL A1B 3X8
Tel: (709) 737-8812
Fax: (709) 737-4042
Website: www.engr.mun.ca

OPTOMETRIST

Description of Work

The OPTOMETRIST is an independent primary health care provider who specializes in the examination, diagnosis, treatment, management and prevention of diseases and disorders of the visual system, the eye and associated structures, as well as the diagnosis of related systemic conditions. The Optometrist provides treatment by prescribing pharmaceuticals, ophthalmic lenses, contact lenses, or other optical aids, and provides vision therapy when indicated to preserve and restore maximum efficiency of vision.

Educational Requirements

Students must complete the academic high school program with an emphasis on Math and the Sciences. Students must then complete at least two years of undergraduate courses with an emphasis on English, Math and the Sciences. Upon completion of these courses, students may seek admission to a professional college of Optometry, such as the University of Waterloo, to complete a further four years of university education leading to the degree Doctor of Optometry (O.D.).

Career Potential

Opportunities in this field are good, as there are many areas in Newfoundland, and Canada in general, which do not have adequate vision care services. Also, there has been greater public awareness of proper vision care, and public demand for these services is increasing.

For Further Information Contact

The Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Optometrists
P.O. Box 8042
St. John's, NL A1B 3M7
Tel: (709) 739-8284
Fax: (709) 739-8378
E-mail: nlao@nl.rogers.com
Website: www.nao.opto.ca

PHARMACIST

Description of Work

The PHARMACIST is responsible for ensuring the delivery of optimal drug therapy to clients in both the community and hospital setting. To achieve this, a pharmacist reviews prescriptions to ensure they are appropriate, dispenses the medication, and counsels the client on the correct use. Once the medication is dispensed, a pharmacist monitors the patient to ensure that medication-related problems are minimized and maximum beneficial effects are achieved. Pharmacists provide advice on the selection and use of nonprescription medicines and other health care aids. Pharmacists therefore provide both products and drug/health information to clients. Specific professional services which a pharmacist may provide include: medication history taking, patient education, and consulting with medical, nursing and other health care professionals regarding drug selection, drug disposition in the body, drug effects and adverse reactions. The Pharmacist may also be involved in teaching, business administration, purchasing, and inventory control. Within the hospital setting, in addition to the previously identified activities, the pharmacist is responsible for developing and implementing systems to ensure the safe and optimal distribution of medications to patients.

Pharmacists also work in various branches of the pharmaceutical industry conducting research, promoting drug products (marketing), assessing the cost effectiveness of drug therapy (pharmacoeconomics), working with government to have drugs approved for sale in Canada (regulatory affairs) and organizing and supervising manufacturing operations.

Career opportunities also exist for pharmacists in teaching and research within Faculties of Pharmacy at universities.

Educational Requirements

Students must complete two years of general studies. The subjects to be taken during the two years include Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, English, Psychology, Statistics and electives. They must write the Pharmacy College Admission Test. Students may then apply for admission to the 3-year Pharmacy Degree Program at Memorial University of Newfoundland. Upon receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy, students will be qualified to write the Pharmacy Examining Board examinations, after which they may write the provincial licensing examinations in any province in Canada. They will then be eligible to practice in that province.

Career Potential

The demand for pharmacists is high. Many regions of the country, including Newfoundland, are experiencing shortages and graduates have no difficulty obtaining employment. It is anticipated that this situation will continue for a number of years. Though many pharmacists enter community pharmacy practice, positions are also available in hospital, government services, industry, academia, licensing and advocacy organizations, and drug information centres.

Continued on next page…

PHARMACIST (Cont'd)

For Further Information Contact

School of Pharmacy
Memorial University of Newfoundland
Health Sciences Centre
300 Prince Philip Drive
St. John's, NL A1B 3V6
Tel: (709) 777-7211 or (709) 777-8300
Fax: (709) 777-7044
E-mail: pharminfo@pharm.mun.ca
Website: www.pharm.mun.ca

Pharmacists Association of Newfoundland and Labrador
702 Water Street
St. John's, NL A1E 1C1
Tel: (709) 753-7881
Toll Free Tel: 1-866-753-7881
Fax: (709) 753-8882 or (709) 737-0917
E-mail: email@panl.net
Website: www.panl.net