

“Chat and Chew” on Careers

ANESTHESIOLOGIST

An anesthesiologist is a medical physician whose specialty is monitoring and controlling pain. Their job is to administer anesthesia to a patient undergoing surgery, monitor a patient’s life-support during surgery and to evaluate and treat pain after surgery is complete.

The administration of anesthesia is very detailed and complex. Giving too much anesthesia to a patient may cause the patient to never wake up and giving too little anesthesia may cause the patient to wake up too early. Many people don’t realize it, but during surgery, the anesthesiologist is your biggest advocate.



An individual must go through at least 11 years of training to become a fully qualified doctor of anesthesia. Anesthesiologists also put in long hours after surgery. Some may work in varied areas of specialties, which may require extra training. Volunteering at a hospital or extended care unit is a good way to test your aptitude for this career.

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AUTOBODY REPAIR

Automobiles are built with specific alignment specifications. Autobody repairers make sure that cars are aligned correctly. Without proper alignment cars could run very poorly or be unsafe to drive.

Repair professionals work in automotive shops surrounded by computerized diagnostic equipment, tools and hydraulic lifts nearly 40 hours a week. Usually repairers with some vocational or community college training are more competitive for this specific occupation. With today’s cars using a variety of materials and being more complex, having a solid foundation in the latest repair technology is crucial.



If you like working with cars, aren’t afraid to get a little dirty, and you are somewhat mechanically inclined, this is an excellent occupation to consider. However, to master this career you will need to spend hours mastering your skills and learning the latest innovations.



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FIREFIGHTER

Firefighters help protect the community and public from dangers associated with fires and varied other emergency situations. Not only do firefighters put out fires, they are usually the first responders to traffic accidents, chemical spills and other emergencies. They treat injuries and will often perform various job duties associated with providing medical assistance.

Many firefighters are employed in various settings, including rural areas with forests and wetlands, chemical plants and other industrial sites. Many firefighters work odd hours, which may include 10-14 hour shifts, as well as, 24-hour shifts. Although one of their main functions is to put out fires, another important function of firefighters is to prevent fires.

Firefighters also spend a great deal of their time with the up-keep of firefighting equipment, drill practice and updating their training skills with new technology.



Being a firefighter is a very physically demanding job, which requires being a team player and having good “people skills.” The minimum requirements to be a firefighter include being a high school graduate and at least twenty-one years of age. However, more opportunities exist for those who have a vast amount of educational training. For those individuals desiring advancement options in this technologically enhanced career, a two-year degree in Fire Science Technology is highly recommended.



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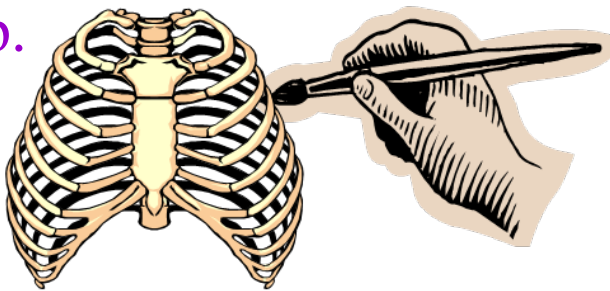
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Medical Illustrator

These individuals create drawings of the human anatomy. Their job is to accurately communicate medical information in the most visually stimulating and appealing way possible. They also create illustration concepts, such as how the heart muscle functions or what chemical changes takes place as we sleep.



Medical illustrators must be proficient in a variety of media, to include, painting, photography and computers. The minimum educational requirement to attain this job is a master’s degree. Undergraduate courses that emphasize art and science are also needed.

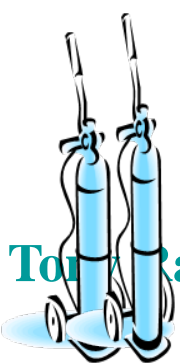
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RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

Respiratory Therapist or RTs, aid people who have serious disorders get the oxygen they need. By making use of special equipment to diagnose breathing problems, they measure the amount of air that reaches a patient’s lungs and how well the person’s blood carries oxygen to vital organs and tissues.

By using their eyes, hands and ears, RTs observe patients for trouble signs, such as swelling and pale skin. Under a physician’s order they may use devices such as inhalers and nebulizers to get medication to a patient’s lungs. Most RTs work in hospitals while others work in nursing homes, doctor’s offices, rehabilitation centers and home care.



A day in the life of an RT can be described as an “adrenaline high”. In the course of saving lives, you never know what you may get. An individual must work well under pressure, have a thorough knowledge of human anatomy, micro-biology, medical terms, as well as, a strong sense of strength and endurance. The demand for RTs actually exceeds the supply.

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SPEECH PATHOLOGIST ASSISTANT

A **speech pathologist** assistant is a person trained to assist a speech pathologist or a speech and language pathologists (SLP) in their work. They perform a wide variety of duties while under the direct supervision of a speech pathologist.

The job duties and treatment of communicative disorders in adults and children are varied. Their duties may include performing screening tests, writing reports, preparing therapeutic activities, as well as, providing actual treatment for their clients.

SPA's may work in clinics, hospitals, daycares, schools and various other health care settings. Although this occupational career field may not be too physically demanding, it can be stressful and busy at times.



An SPA may have to travel to varied locations to provide treatment to individuals of all ages with many different speech deficits. This particular occupational field is still very dominated by females. The educational requirements for this field can also vary from state to state. Educational requirements can range from a diploma to a bachelor's degree level with graduate credits.



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