



## INTRODUCTION

The Virginia Ready Healthcare Career Pathways Book aims to inform, educate, and motivate aspiring scholars who are looking to pursue a career in the healthcare industry using their credentials. It is a comprehensive guide that highlights the various pathways available in the field.

This book is tailored to help scholars understand the educational requirements, skills, and traits necessary to thrive in various healthcare roles - including Certified Medical Assistant, Emergency Medical Technician, Pharmacy Technician, and more. Whether you are a seasoned healthcare professional seeking career advancement or a newcomer looking to enter the industry, our careers pathway book offers a clear path to professional goals.

Overall, the Virginia Ready Healthcare Career Pathways Book is an invaluable resource for scholars who have earned or will earn their healthcare credential.

"Healthcare is not a profession; it's a calling to make a positive impact on others' lives."

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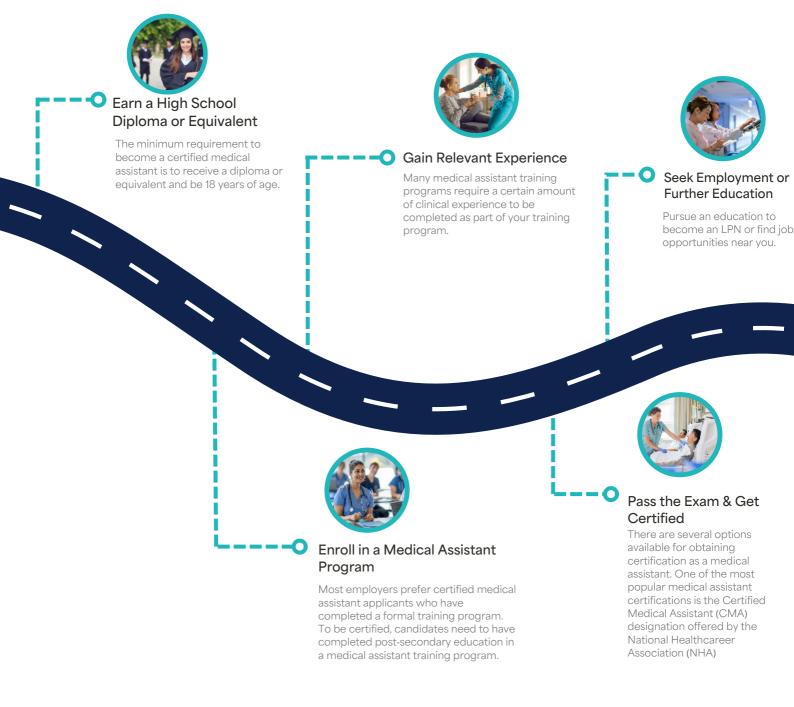


## CERTIFIED MEDICAL ASSISTANT

#### CAREER PATHWAY

Certified medical assistants play an essential role in the healthcare industry by working alongside doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals. Their duties range from clinical responsibilities to administrative tasks and differ based on the workplace setting. These tasks include taking patient medical histories and records, measuring vital signs (including blood pressure, temperature, and weight), aiding doctors during patient exams, scheduling patient appointments, and preparing laboratory samples for testing.

Skillset for Certified Medical Assistant: Communication, time management, flexibility, ethical and responsible nature, and strong interpersonal skills.





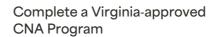
## CERTIFIED NURSE AIDE

#### CAREER PATHWAY

A Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) or nurse aide provides basic care to patients under the supervision of licensed nursing staff. Among their various roles, they monitor patients' health status, and aid in feeding, bathing, dressing, grooming, toileting, and administering necessary treatments while working in a healthcare or nursing facility. In Virginia, there are also Certified Nursing Aids (ACNAs) who have received additional training to perform complex patient care skills such as phlebotomy, point-of-care testing, scans, EKGs, and catheter removal.

Tip: A Certified Nurse Aide role is very similar to a Patient Care Technician and differs slightly in responsibilities depending on the employer. Make sure to check out the Certified Nurse Aide pathway to compare your options!





Depending on the student's schedule, there are CNA programs that are longer, more flexible to accommodate your schedule. The advantage of CNA programs is that they generally take just 4-12 weeks to finish.



completed in order to renew the certification. In Virginia, to



# EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

#### CAREER PATHWAY

Emergency Medical Technicians are professionals trained to handle medical and trauma-related emergencies. They operate ambulances to transport patients to medical facilities, evaluate and treat life-threatening conditions, control bleeding, and monitor vital signs. Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians (AEMTs) have advanced training and schooling and can administer limited pharmacological interventions.

Skillset for Emergency Medical Technician: Level-headed in stressful situations, critical-thinking skills, compassionate, and strong interpersonal skills.



## PATIENT CARE TECHNICIAN

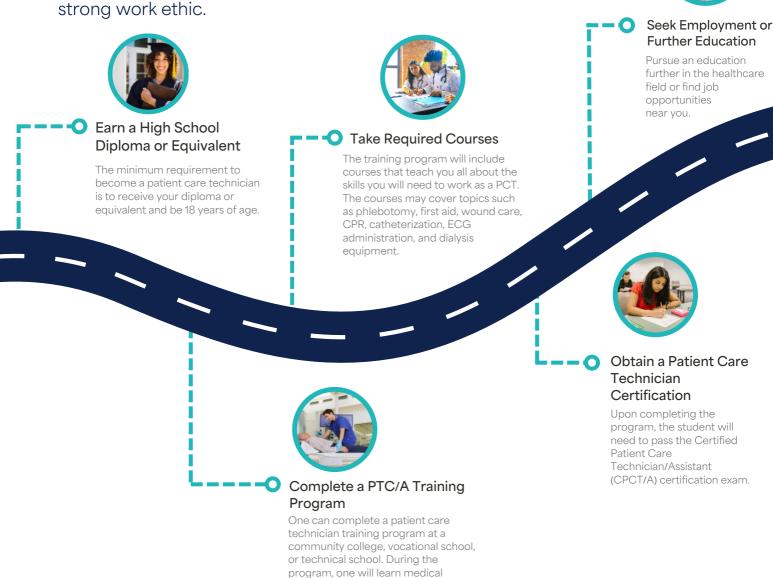
#### CAREER PATHWAY

Patient Care Technicians are essential in providing care to patients in medical facilities. Their duties and responsibilities include:

- monitoring patients' health,
- · administering medication,
- · offering emotional support,
- · providing guidance to patients and their families,
- checking patients' blood pressure, heartbeat, and pulse regularly,

Tip: A Certified Nurse Aide role is very similar to a Patient Care Technician and differs slightly in responsibilities depending on the employer. Make sure to check out the Certified Nurse Aide pathway to compare your options!

Skillset for Patient Care Technician: Excellent communication skills, empathy, attention to detail, physical dexterity, stress management, and strong work ethic



terminology, anatomy and physiology,

pharmacology, and more.

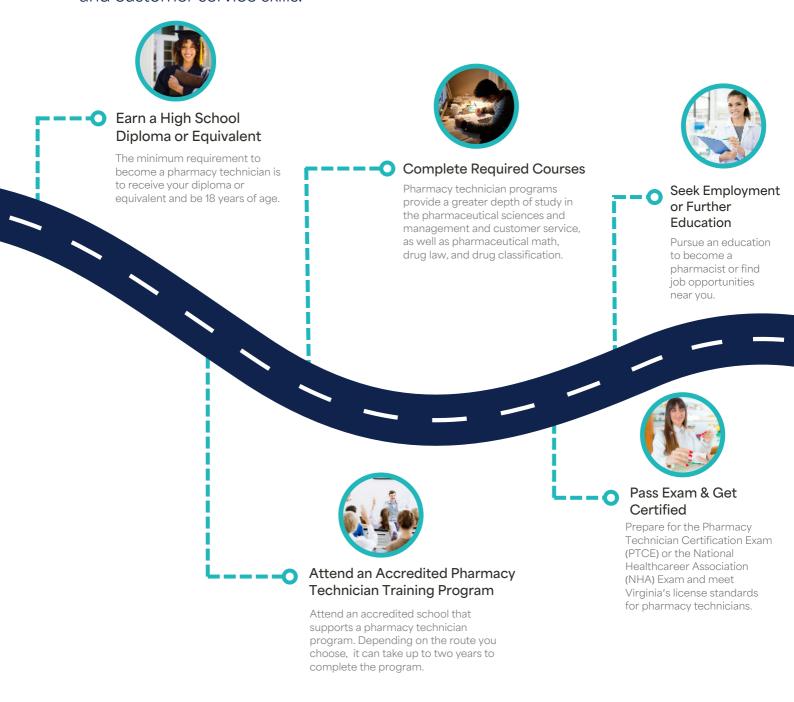
## PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

#### CAREER PATHWAY

Pharmacy technicians are responsible for carrying out various operations within the pharmacy including:

- · receiving and verifying prescription orders
- filling orders by measuring, compounding (mixing), counting, and labeling medications,
- preparing intravenous solutions,
- · managing the inventory of medication by ordering, stocking, and packaging

**Skillset for Pharmacy Technician:** Computer knowledge, strong mathematical and science skills, problem-solving and critical thinking skills, organizational skills, and customer service skills.



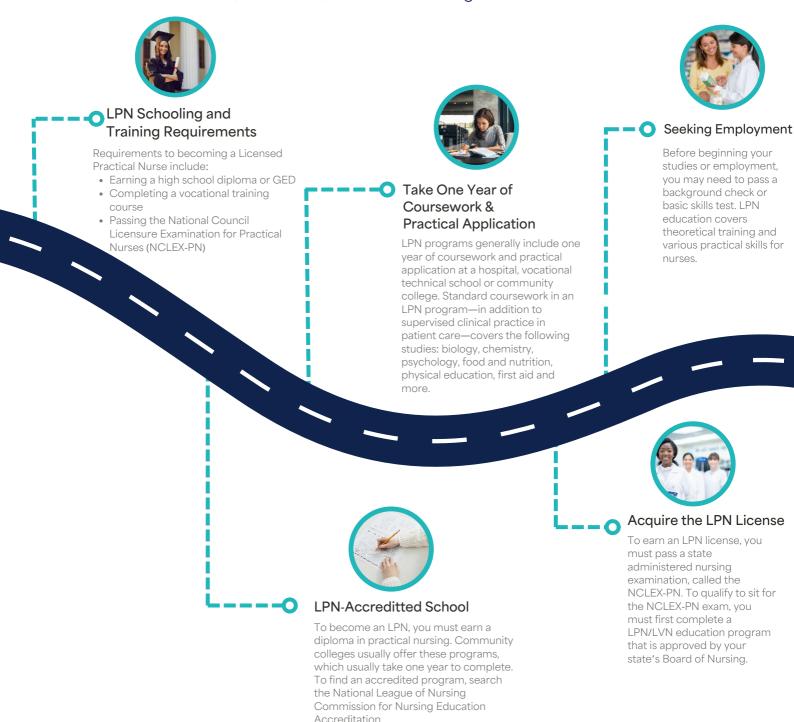


## LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

#### CAREER PATHWAY

Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) work in collaboration with physicians or registered nurses to provide essential nursing care. Some of their duties may include collecting specimens for laboratory tests, evaluating patients' needs, implementing care plans, and changing dressings. In addition to monitoring vital signs, LPNs may also administer prescribed injections, medications, and IVs in certain situations. In addition to their nursing duties, experienced LPNs may supervise nursing assistants.

Skillset for Licensed Practical Nurse: Communication skills, problem-solving skills, critical observation, resilience, and stress management.

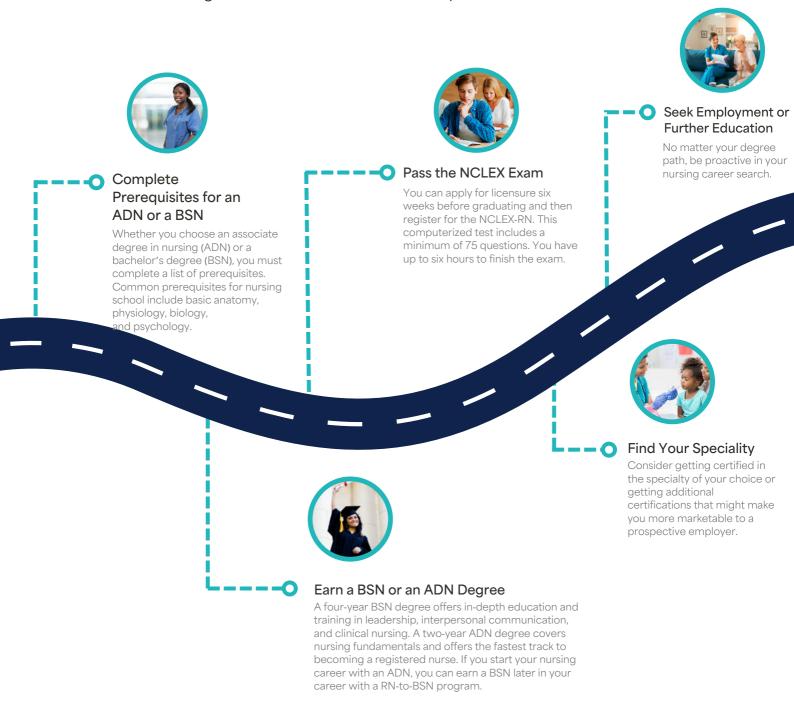


## REGISTERED NURSE

#### CAREER PATHWAY

Registered Nurses (RNs) work alongside physicians and other healthcare professionals to provide comprehensive care to patients. RNs utilize their extensive knowledge to evaluate and comprehend medical problems, deliver treatments, and make informed decisions regarding patient care. They analyze and respond to patient symptoms, reactions, and progress. In addition, RNs educate patients and their families about health promotion and provide vital emotional and physical support to ensure the patient's overall well-being.

Skillset for Registered Nurse: Leadership, compassion, excellent communication, broad knowledge of medical terms, and interpersonal skills.

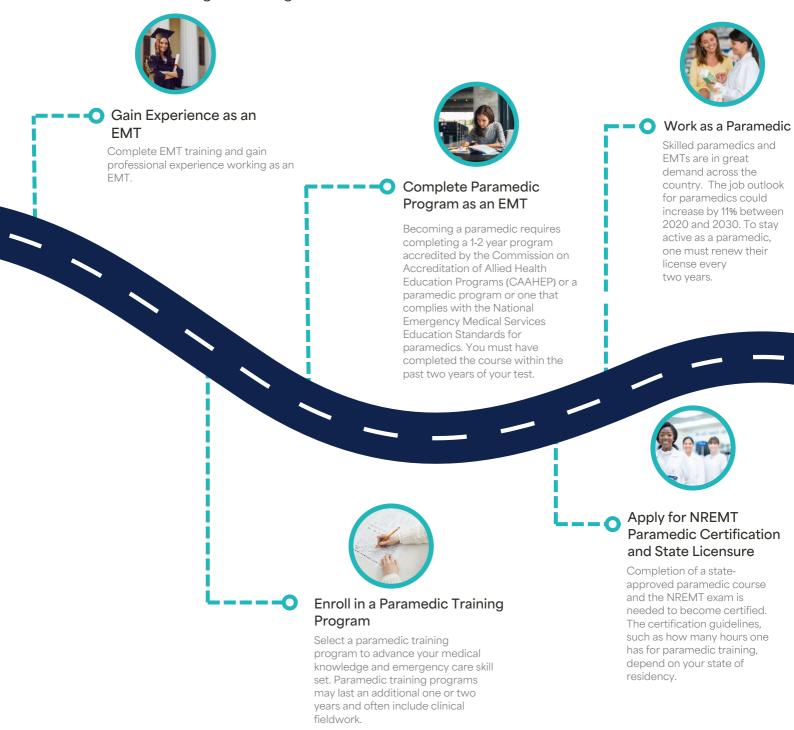


## **PARAMEDIC**

#### CAREER PATHWAY

Paramedics work with emergency response teams to provide immediate care to patients at the scene, collaborating with medical personnel, law enforcement officers, and firefighters. Their duties range from setting broken limbs to administering IVs, taking vital signs, providing emergency medical assistance such as CPR or bandaging a wound, transporting patients safely in an ambulance, and providing doctors and nurses with a brief overview of the patient's condition when they arrive at the hospital.

**Skillset for Paramedic:** Communication skills, stress management, problem-solving, decision-making, and triage skills.



## PHARMACIST

#### CAREER PATHWAY

Pharmacists are essential members of patient care teams, providing valuable insights to ensure optimal health outcomes from drug therapy. By working closely with physicians, pharmacists help patients manage chronic illnesses, provide immunizations, and even initiate treatment for certain conditions. In addition, pharmacists educate and counsel patients on various aspects of their disease or condition, including the medications used to treat it. Many pharmacists own or manage pharmacies, which may include responsibilities such as supervising staff and purchasing health-related supplies.

**Skillset for Pharmacist**: Computer knowledge, managerial skills, math and science skills, analytical skills, and customer service skills.

