



Career Community:

Health



starkstate.edu/academics



Career Community:

Health

Critical skills and abilities

- active listening
- critical thinking
- decision making
- monitoring
- oral communication
- problem sensitivity
- social perceptiveness

Specialized skills and knowledge

- critical care
- discharge planning
- Epic EMR
- medication administration
- Microsoft 365
- patient management software
- treatment planning

Short-term certificates in this Career Community

- dental assisting
- dietary manager
- expanded functions dental auxiliary
- medical assisting
- medical billing specialist
- medical coding
- phlebotomy technician
- practical nursing (LPN)
- sports massage specialist

Top hiring industries

- ambulatory health care services
- outpatient care centers
- colleges, universities and professional schools
- general medical and surgical hospitals
- home health care services
- medical laboratories
- skilled nursing facilities



Schedule an appointment with a career specialist to explore opportunities in these industries.

Do you desire to help, heal and care for others?

These programs lead to careers in nursing and health-related occupations in a hospital or health care setting: dental, dietary, health information management, massage therapy, medical coding, medical assisting, medical laboratory, physical therapy assistant, occupational therapy assistant, respiratory care, surgical technologies and pre-medical transfer pathways.

Majors in this Career Community

Some programs may require background check.

EXPLORATORY MAJOR

If you know this career community is the right fit for you but you're unsure of your major, choose the **health exploratory major** to get started in the right direction. Your first 15 credit hours are applicable to all majors within this career community, and you'll get the experience to know which major is right for you.

ALLIED DENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONS

DENTAL ASSISTING

Offered days and evenings, the curriculum includes instruction in dental terminology, dental sciences, materials, radiography, dental insurance claim processing, preventative dentistry and general chair-side procedures. After two semesters, you can earn a short term certificate and are eligible to take the Ohio Certification Exam (CODA) or the American Medical Technologists-Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) Exam. You are eligible for the Ohio dental radiographer's certificate while in the program. You also can continue on for an associate degree in dental assisting. Graduates work in dental offices, dental clinics and public health facilities.

DENTAL HYGIENE

As a dental hygienist, you will expose and process dental radiographs; gather assessment data to evaluate oral health; examine the head, neck and oral cavity for signs of disease; educate patients about their oral health; provide oral hygiene instructions; remove soft and hard deposit from teeth; and apply fluoride, dental sealants and other therapeutic medicaments. Along with academic and laboratory courses, you will gain clinical experience in Stark State's on-campus Dental Hygiene Clinic. Graduates who are eligible to take national and regional board exams for licensure can work in dental offices, public health departments, nursing homes, school systems, private industry, academic institutions or for dental sales manufacturers. This career features excellent salaries and scheduling flexibility.

EXPANDED FUNCTION DENTAL AUXILIARY

Prepare for a career as an advanced restorative dental professional employed by private dental offices, dental clinics and other public health dental facilities. The program requires you to be a certified dental assistant (Ohio or national certification), registered dental assistant (AMT), a registered dental hygienist or a dental hygiene student in your final year of training in an ADA-accredited degree program. Graduates of this program are eligible to sit for the CODT Ohio EFDA certification exam or CDCA exam.

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

As a registered health information technician (RHIT), you'll manage medical records and health information systems while protecting the privacy and security of patient information and code health information for reimbursement and research. The five-semester program begins each fall, resulting in an associate degree in HIT. Our grads are eligible to take the national certification exam and also can continue on for a bachelor's degree in health information management via distance learning.

NURSING

ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN NURSING (ADN)

Combine technology with caring to help people achieve and maintain optimal health. The associate degree nurse can practice in a variety of settings: hospitals, long-term and extended-care facilities, clinics and other health care agencies. Stark State College's accredited ADN program consists of five semesters of academic coursework and hands-on learning experiences in the classroom, learning laboratory and clinical settings. Graduates are qualified to take the licensing exam for registered nurses (RN).

RN COMPLETION FOR LPNS

Graduates of an approved practical nurse program can move to registered nurse status via this program. LPNs seeking consideration for advanced standing admission to Stark State's ADN program must meet a number of requirements.

RN COMPLETION FOR PARAMEDICS

Graduates of an accredited paramedic program can transition into nursing, capitalizing on their emergency services training skills. This program offers paramedics the associate degree nursing education required for licensure and a foundation to pursue further education in nursing. It features both classroom and web instruction to accommodate paramedic work schedules.

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSING

You can work in all medical areas, such as hospitals, nursing homes, health care clinics and even in a patient's home. Upon completion of the program, you'll receive a graduation certificate and will then be eligible to sit for the NCLEX PN exam to receive licensure. Our practical nursing program consists of two semesters of academic coursework and hands-on learning experiences in the classroom, learning laboratory and clinical settings. This program will prepare you to qualify for the licensing examination for licensed practical nurses.



RESPIRATORY, LABORATORY AND SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY

MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY

Analyze the blood, tissues and fluids in the human body using precision instruments. Technicians assist in performing complicated chemical, microscopic and bacteriological tests and may also type and cross-match blood samples. Graduates of this accredited program are eligible to take the certification exam through the American Society of Clinical Pathology. This accredited program gets regular input from local business and industry, so you'll get an education tailored to the job market.

RESPIRATORY CARE

Assess, treat, manage and diagnostically evaluate patients with lung and heart problems. You may work in diagnostic departments, critical care units, emergency departments, nursery and delivery rooms, and general medical and surgical hospital floors, as well as long-term acute care facilities, home care, sleep labs and other specialty care areas. You'll train in adult, pediatric and neonatal care. Graduates of this accredited program are eligible to take the national credentialing exam to become a registered respiratory therapist.

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY

You'll prepare the operating room and instrumentation for the procedure, may assist with preparation of the patient for surgery and assist the operating room team during surgery. You'll experience classroom, lab and clinical learning that includes completing 120+ surgical cases. Graduates of this accredited program are eligible to take the certification exam to become a certified surgical technologist.

THERAPY AND WELLNESS

DIETARY MANAGER

You'll assist with nutrition therapy, dietetics, employee management and food safety, all under the direction of a dietitian in a variety of health care facilities, including nursing homes, rehab facilities, senior living communities, hospitals, correctional facilities and schools. Earn a certificate that includes both classroom and field experience making you eligible to take the national certification exam. The dietary manager certificate credit hours can be applied to the dietetic technician associate of science degree for those who qualify.

DIETETIC TECHNICIAN

Become a registered professional in the food and nutrition area, working under the supervision of a registered dietitian independently or as part of a team. Stark State's associate degree includes both lecture and hands-on experiences in required areas of competency. After graduation, you'll be eligible to take the national computer-based registration exam to become a nutrition and dietetics technician, registered (NDTR). The employment outlook is expected to grow for nutrition and dietetics technicians in nursing homes, residential care facilities and public/community health settings.

MASSAGE THERAPY

Apply specific techniques to the muscular structures and soft tissues of the human body to relieve pain and restore function. You'll learn proficiency of hands-on skills as well as extensive knowledge of anatomy, physiology and massage therapy theory. Our associate degree program takes five semesters. Program graduates are eligible to take state licensing exams, giving them status as limited medical practitioners able to work in private practice as well as in hospitals, clinics, spas, doctor and chiropractor offices, and many other venues.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

Work under the supervision of a registered occupational therapist to help patients achieve maximum independence in activities of daily living, work, leisure and play, education and social participation. Occupational therapy personnel work in hospitals, extended care facilities, schools, workshops, mental health centers, clinics and home-health agencies. Graduates of this accredited program are eligible to take the national certification exam and the state licensure exam.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

Help doctors of physical therapy in testing patients to determine the extent of their capabilities, then implement the therapist's treatment plan. The assistant uses a variety of specialized equipment and various forms of heat, cold, light and electricity. You may help patients perform therapeutic exercises to strengthen, stretch or relax muscles, promote circulation or enhance coordination. Graduates of our accredited program will be eligible to apply to take licensure exams.

PRE-MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL CONCENTRATION

If you're interested in pursuing a career as a physician, pharmacist, dentist or a veterinarian, you'll want to consider this associate of science pre-medical professional degree as your first step. You'll get the foundational coursework in the sciences and math required for most pre-medical professional degrees. Our courses are taught by highly credentialed faculty in a small classroom setting, promoting discussions between you and your instructor and you and your peers. Our laboratory facilities have been ranked as centers of excellence, giving you hands-on experience in today's lab techniques. Best of all, most of our courses will transfer to public universities in Ohio. You're encouraged to contact the university where you plan to complete your bachelor's degree to determine which electives are best suited for your program.

Stark State College partners with Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) for students interested in becoming a pharmacist. Complete all pre-requisite coursework at Stark State and directly apply to the College of Pharmacy at NEOMED. No bachelor's degree needed. Not only do you get a high-quality education, but also strong support and advising from both Stark State and NEOMED.

Consider these and other careers

job title/description	Canton/Akron entry-level annual earnings	Canton/Akron average annual earnings
dental hygienist administer oral hygiene care to patients; assess patient oral hygiene problems or needs and maintain health records; advise patients on oral health maintenance and disease prevention; may provide advanced care such as soft tissue management or administering topical anesthesia	61,913	72,762
licensed practical and licensed vocational nurse* provide nursing care for ill, injured or convalescing patients or persons with disabilities in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, private homes, group homes and similar institutions; may work under the supervision of a registered nurse; licensing required	42,995	51,303
massage therapist perform therapeutic massages of soft tissues and joints; may assist in the assessment of range of motion and muscle strength or propose client therapy plans	21,609	51,106
medical assistant perform administrative and certain clinical duties under the direction of a physician; administrative duties may include scheduling appointments, maintaining medical records, billing and coding information for insurance purposes; clinical duties may include taking and recording vital signs and medical histories, preparing patients for examination, drawing blood and administering medications as directed by physician	29,406	37,336
medical records specialist/health information management compile, process and maintain medical records of hospital and clinic patients in a manner consistent with medical, administrative, ethical, legal and regulatory requirements of the health care system; classify medical and health care concepts, including diagnosis, procedures, medical services and equipment, into the health care industry's numerical coding system; includes medical coders	32,458	44,960
occupational therapy assistant assist occupational therapists in providing occupational therapy treatments and procedures; in accordance with state laws, may assist in development of treatment plans, carry out routine functions, direct activity programs and document the progress of treatments; generally requires formal training	48,860	60,715
physical therapist assistant assist physical therapists in providing physical therapy treatments and procedures; in accordance with state laws, may assist in the development of treatment plans, carry out routine functions, document the progress of treatment, and modify specific treatments in accordance with patient status and within the scope of treatment plans established by a physical therapist; generally requires formal training	49,587	63,098
registered nurse* assess patient health problems and needs, develop and implement nursing care plans, and maintain medical records; administer nursing care to ill, injured, convalescent or disabled patients; may advise patients on health maintenance and disease prevention or provide case management; licensing is required	62,409	77,102
respiratory therapist assess, treat and care for patients with breathing disorders; assume primary responsibility for all respiratory care modalities, including the supervision of respiratory therapy technicians; initiate and conduct therapeutic procedures; maintain patient records; select, assemble, check and operate equipment	53,928	66,863

careers represented may require further education; an advisor will help you determine your pathway

source: Team NEO (Lightcast Data 2024)

*note: Salary figures are based on available data at the time of publication. Actual salaries may vary and could be higher than what's shown.



6200 Frank Ave NW
North Canton, OH 44720

Admissions

330-494-6170 ext. 4228 | 1-800-797-8275 | info@starkstate.edu

Career Services

330-966-5459 | careerservices@starkstate.edu

Some careers represented in this viewbook may require further education. The information provided is based on regional data and subject to change. Please see an SSC advisor to make sure you're on the path to success. / Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission / Stark State College is committed to non-discrimination. For the full policy: starkstate.edu/non-discrimination

