



Learn More Earn More

Illinois' high-demand, high-wage occupations



Plan Your Future

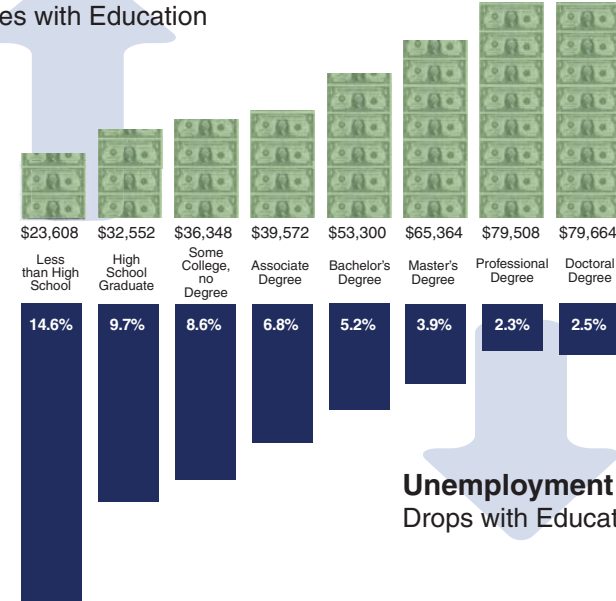
Workforce and career information help jobseekers, students, parents, counselors, educators, and business leaders to make informed career and education decisions. Most jobs in Illinois require at least a high school diploma or equivalent. Employers also stress that "soft skills," such as positive attitude and reliability, are as important as technical and computer skills when they look for job candidates.

The economic impacts of high school dropouts are astounding. Research shows that:

- High school dropouts account for half of the households on welfare and over 60% of the population incarcerated in state and federal prisons.
- Persons without a high school education or equivalent are twice as likely to be unemployed and earn over \$8,700 less per year than high school graduates.

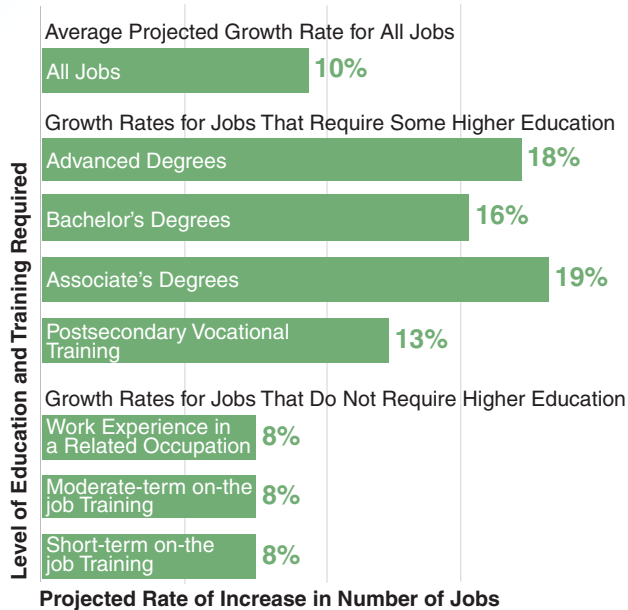
Use the information in this brochure to explore the facts on employment opportunities that you can use to plan for your future. Visit the Illinois Career Information System (CIS) at <http://ilcis.intocareers.org> for even more information. Workforce and career information will enable you to make informed career, education and training decisions.

Average Annual Income Rises with Education



Unemployment Rate Drops with Education

Jobs That Require Higher Education Are Growing Faster Than Those That Require Less Education



Where can I find more information?

The Illinois Department of Employment Security offers a wealth of information concerning the Illinois labor market. Visit www.ILWorkInfo.com to find out more about:

Career Planning: Illinois Career Resource Network

1-877-513-1987
des.icrn@illinois.gov

Labor Market Information: LMI Source

1-866-ONE-SRCE (1-866-663-7723)
des.lmi@illinois.gov

Workforce Information: Workforce Info Center

des.workinfo@illinois.gov

For assistance with employment and training issues, contact your local Illinois Employment and Training Center. Call 1-888-367-4382 to find the location nearest you.

IDES is an equal opportunity employer and complies with all state and federal nondiscrimination laws in the administration of its programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. The IDES Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Officer is responsible for compliance and can be reached at (312) 793-9290 or TTY (888) 340-1007.

Note: The information contained in this brochure is subject to change at any time. For the latest information, visit the IDES Web site at www.ides.illinois.gov

Education and Training Level Definitions

The categories of education, training and experience used here were developed by the Occupational Outlook Handbook staff of the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, with minor adjustments by the workforce development agencies in Illinois to better suit the economic and regulatory nature of the state's economy.

Work Experience + 4 Years of College (Bachelor's Degree) or More:

Describes managerial occupations that usually are filled through promotion after experience is gained in a non-managerial occupation that requires a bachelor's degree or higher. This category includes Master's, Doctoral and First professional degrees, which generally take at least one to three years of full-time academic study beyond a bachelor's degree.

4 Years of College (Bachelor's Degree):

Considered the minimum hiring requirement for many professional occupations and usually requires four to five years of academic study after high school graduation. Associate's degree: usually requires at least two years of full-time academic work after high school and is the minimum training level for a number of occupations including many in Illinois that require licensure or certification through the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation. Postsecondary vocational training: describes the necessary hiring or licensure requirement for a variety of occupations. Training programs range from one to three years in length and can include combinations such as course work that does not result in a degree or formal vocational training programs that result in a certificate or diploma.

2 Years of College (Associate's Degree):

Usually requires at least two years of full-time academic and is the minimum training level for a number of work after high school occupations including many in Illinois that require licensure or certification through the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation.

Long-Term On-the-Job Training:

Describes occupations that usually require more than one year of on-the-job training or a combination of classroom instruction and work experience such as formal or informal apprenticeships, many of which last up to four years. Also included in this category are occupations where employer-sponsored training programs are the chief hiring requirement. Occupations in the arts, entertainment and sports areas, which require natural abilities and skills developed over many years, are also classified here.

Moderate-Term On-the-Job Training:

Describes training for occupations where in one to twelve months of combined on-the-job experience and informal classroom activities the average worker can achieve necessary skill levels. This training generally includes observing experienced workers and assuming greater job responsibilities as lower level job skills are mastered. Many of the persons in occupations classified in this training level are already considered employed in this field.

Short-Term On-the-Job Training:

The training category assigned to a large number of occupations where in just a few days, weeks or months through observing experienced workers and asking questions the average worker can achieve the necessary skill levels.

Contact Information

Illinois Department of Employment Security
Economic Information and Analysis Division
33 S. State Street, 9th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603
Toll-free: 1-866-ONE-SRCE (1-866-663-7723)
www.ides.illinois.gov

Career Web Resources

Illinois Career Resource Network
www.ILWorkInfo.com/icrn

Occupational Outlook Handbook
www.bls.gov/oco/

Career Guide to Industries
www.bls.gov/oco/cg/

Career Voyages
www.careervoyages.gov/

O*NET Resource Center
www.onetcenter.org

Illinois Student Assistance Commission
www.collegezone.com

The New Freedom Initiative's Online Resource for Americans with Disabilities
www.disabilityinfo.gov/

Job Search Web Resources

Illinois Skills Match
www.illinoisskillsmatch.com

Career OneStop
<http://www.jobbankinfo.org>

Illinois Employment & Training Center
<http://www.ides.illinois.gov/ietc/map.asp>
1-888-For-IETC (1-888-367-4382)

You can also find out how to contact your Illinois Department of Employment Security local labor market economist by selecting the Contact Info link at the Web site **imi.ides.state.il.us**.

For more information about occupations and wages, and to access our career exploration tools, visit our One Source Portal page at: **www.ILWorkInfo.com**.

Illinois Occupations with the Most Openings Each Year

These tables list occupations expected to have the most job openings each year. “Best Bet” occupations (indicated below by a ♦) combine a high growth rate with a large number of annual openings and pay well for the level of training or education. For a complete listing of occupations, wages and skills information, visit LMI Source at lmi.ides.state.il.us.

Work Experience + 4 Years of College (Bachelor’s Degree) or More

Occupational Title	Annual Openings	Hourly Wages Entry	Hourly Wages Experienced	Skills*	Description
General & Operations Managers	1,704	\$28.15	\$70.17	Active Listening, Mgt of Personnel Resources, Time Management	Plan, direct, or coordinate the operations of companies or public and private sector organizations.
Lawyers	1,132	\$33.15	\$84.40	Reading Comprehension, Judgment/ Decision Making, Writing	Represent clients in legal proceedings, draw up legal documents, and manage or advise clients on legal transactions.
Management Analysts	1,077	\$22.15	\$53.70	Writing, Reading Comprehension, Speaking	Conduct organizational studies and evaluations, conduct measurement studies, and prepare operations and procedures manuals.
Sales Managers	665	\$25.09	\$65.08	Active Listening, Speaking, Mathematics	Direct the actual distribution or movement of a product or service to the customer and coordinate sales.
Financial Managers	559	\$30.73	\$68.70	Mgt of Financial Resources, Judgment/ Decision Making, Critical Thinking	Represent clients in legal proceedings, draw up legal documents, and manage or advise clients on legal transactions.
Education Administrators, Elementary & Secondary	450	N/A	N/A	Coordination, Speaking, Reading Comprehension	Plan, direct, or coordinate the academic, clerical, or auxiliary activities of public or private elementary or secondary level schools.
Clergy	449	\$11.11	\$24.29	Speaking, Active Listening, Service Orientation	Conduct religious worship and perform other spiritual functions associated with beliefs and practices of religious faith or denomination.
Administrative Services Managers	447	\$16.26	\$38.94	Social Perceptiveness, Time Management, Reading Comprehension	Plan, direct, or coordinate supportive services of an organization, such as recordkeeping, mail distribution, telephone operator/receptionist.
Computer & Info. Systems Managers ♦	344	\$34.71	\$66.96	Reading Comprehension, Critical Thinking, Active Listening	Plan, direct, or coordinate activities in such fields as data processing, information systems, and computer programming.
Pharmacists ♦	342	\$39.81	\$55.62	Active Listening, Speaking, Reading Comprehension	Dispense drugs prescribed by physicians and other health practitioners and provide information to patients about medications.
Educational, Vocational & School Counselors	329	\$15.05	\$38.08	Speaking, Active Listening, Service Orientation	Counsel individuals and provide group educational and vocational guidance services.
Medical & Health Services Managers	311	\$25.02	\$50.09	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Critical Thinking	Plan, direct, or coordinate medicine and health services in hospitals, clinics, managed care organizations, public health agencies, or similar organizations.
Physical Therapists ♦	306	\$27.09	\$45.75	Active Listening, Instructing, Time Management	Assess, plan, organize, and participate in rehabilitative programs that improve mobility, relieve pain, and increase strength of patients suffering from disease or injury.

* Top three required skills from O*NET (www.ONETcenter.org)
 ♦ “Best Bet” Occupation

Source: 2008-2018 Long-term Occupational Projections and 2009 Q3 Wages,
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4 Years of College (Bachelor’s degree)

Occupational Title	Annual Openings	Hourly Wages Entry	Hourly Wages Experienced	Skills*	Description
Registered Nurses ♦	4,238	\$22.53	\$36.01	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Critical Thinking	Assess patient health problems and needs, develop and implement nursing care plans, and maintain medical records.
Elem. School Teachers, excluding Special/Vocational Education	3,305	N/A	N/A	Instructing, Speaking, Learning Strategies	Teach pupils in public or private schools at the elementary level basic academic, social, and other formative skills.
Secondary School Teachers, excluding Special/Vocational Education	2,236	N/A	N/A	Instructing, Speaking, Learning Strategies	Instruct students in secondary public or private schools in one or more subjects, such as English, mathematics, or social studies.
Accountants & Auditors	1,975	\$20.64	\$39.57	Mathematics, Active Learning, Critical Thinking	Examine, analyze, and interpret accounting records for the purpose of giving advice or preparing statements.
Middle School Teachers, excluding Special/Vocational Education	1,262	N/A	N/A	Instructing, Speaking, Learning Strategies	Teach students in public or private schools in one or more subjects at the middle, intermediate, or junior high level.
Securities, Commodities & Financial Services Sales Agents	810	\$17.63	\$54.69	Systems Analysis, Judgment/Decision Making, Mgt of Financial Resources	Buy and sell securities in investment and trading firms, or call upon businesses and individuals to sell financial services.
Market Research Analysts	803	\$15.89	\$37.03	Mathematics, Critical Thinking, Writing	Research market conditions in local, regional, or national areas to determine potential sales of a product or service.
Computer Software Engineers, ♦ Systems	638	\$27.20	\$52.73	Complex Problem Solving, Technology Design, Troubleshooting	Research, design, develop, and test operating systems-level software, compilers, and network distribution software.
Computer Systems Analysts ♦	615	\$26.94	\$46.04	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Complex Problem Solving	Analyze science, engineering, business, and all other data processing problems for application to electronic data processing systems.
Insurance Sales Agents	609	\$12.78	\$38.36	Active Listening, Speaking, Time Management	Sell life, property, casualty, health, automotive, or other types of insurance.
Computer Software Engineers, ♦ Applications	574	\$27.85	\$50.25	Programming, Critical Thinking, Complex Problem Solving	Develop, create, and modify general computer applications software.

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2 Years of College (Associate degree)

Occupational Title	Annual Openings	Hourly Wages Entry	Hourly Wages Experienced	Skills*	Description
Registered Nurses ♦	4,238	\$22.53	\$36.01	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Critical Thinking	Assess patient health problems and needs, develop and implement nursing care plans, and maintain medical records.
Computer Support Specialists	715	\$15.47	\$29.44	Troubleshooting, Reading Comprehension, Critical Thinking	Answer questions concerning hardware and software, printing, installation, e-mail, or resolve computer problems for clients.
Dental Hygienists	368	\$21.13	\$35.80	Active Listening, Speaking, Reading Comprehension	Clean teeth and examine oral areas, head, and neck for signs of oral disease.
Paralegals & Legal Assistants	327	\$17.70	\$29.79	Reading Comprehension, Time Management, Active Listening	Assist lawyers by researching legal precedent, investigating facts, or preparing legal documents.
Medical Records & Health Information Technicians	273	\$11.02	\$19.02	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Time Management	Maintain medical records of hospital and clinic patients in a manner consistent with the regulatory requirements of the health care system.
Medical & Clinical Lab Technicians	208	\$13.14	\$22.87	Reading Comprehension, Active Listening, Speaking	Perform routine medical laboratory tests for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease.
Radiologic Technologists/Technicians	201	\$19.17	\$31.86	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Speaking	Take X-rays, CAT scans, magnetic resonance images, and administer nonradioactive materials into patient's blood stream for diagnostic purposes.
Respiratory Therapists ♦	180	\$20.32	\$28.64	Active Listening, Instructing, Reading Comprehension	Assess, treat, and care for patients with breathing disorders.
Interior Designers	149	\$14.89	\$29.39	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Mgt of Financial Resources	Plan, design, and furnish interiors of residential, commercial, or industrial buildings.
Environmental Science & Protection Technicians	132	\$12.75	\$26.99	Reading Comprehension, Critical Thinking, Science	Performs laboratory and field tests to monitor the environment and investigate sources of pollution, including those that affect health.
Physical Therapist Assistants ♦	124	\$16.94	\$28.10	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Time Management	Assist physical therapists in providing physical therapy treatments and procedures.
Veterinary Technologists/Technicians	106	\$12.51	\$19.68	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Speaking	Perform medical tests in a laboratory environment for use in the treatment and diagnosis of diseases in animals.

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Vocational Training After High School

Occupational Title	Annual Openings	Hourly Wages Entry	Hourly Wages Experienced	Skills*	Description
Licensed Practical Nurses ♦	1,273	\$15.50	\$22.80	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Time Management	Care for ill, injured, convalescent, or disabled persons in hospitals, nursing homes, private homes, group homes, and similar institutions.
Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics ♦	1,089	\$11.63	\$24.31	Troubleshooting, Repairing, Equipment Selection	Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles.
Preschool Teachers, excluding Special/Vocational Education	849	\$9.58	\$15.79	Instructing, Learning Strategies, Speaking	Instruct children (normally up to 5 years of age) in activities designed to promote social, physical, and intellectual growth.
Fitness Trainers/Aerobics Instructors	659	\$8.63	\$20.46	Instructing, Speaking, Coordination	Instruct or coach groups or individuals in exercise activities and the fundamentals of sports.
Hairdressers/Stylists/Cosmetologists	655	\$8.54	\$15.62	Active Listening, Speaking, Time Management	Provide beauty services, such as shampooing, cutting, coloring, and styling hair, and massaging and treating scalp.
Medical Secretaries	527	\$11.85	\$19.45	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Speaking	Perform secretarial duties utilizing specific knowledge of medical terminology and hospital, clinic, or laboratory procedures.
Legal Secretaries	495	\$14.46	\$24.94	Reading Comprehension, Active Listening, Time Management	Perform secretarial duties utilizing legal terminology, procedures, and documents.
Emergency Medical Technicians & Paramedics	444	\$10.01	\$22.13	Active Listening, Critical Thinking, Speaking	Assess injuries, administer emergency medical care, and extricate trapped individuals.
Library Technicians	398	\$9.16	\$16.50	Reading Comprehension, Service Orientation, Active Listening	Assist librarians by helping readers in the use of library catalogs, databases, and indexes to locate books and other materials.
Bus/Truck Mechanics & Diesel Engine Specialists	290	\$14.76	\$24.63	Equipment Maintenance, Troubleshooting, Repairing	Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul trucks, buses, and all types of diesel engines.

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Long-Term On-the-Job Training

Occupational Title	Annual Openings	Hourly Wages Entry	Hourly Wages Experienced	Skills*	Description
Restaurant Cooks	1,250	\$8.69	\$12.08	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Speaking	Prepare, season, and cook soups, meats, vegetables, desserts, or other foodstuffs in restaurants.
Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers	1,131	\$18.60	\$37.28	Judgment/Decision Making, Active Listening, Speaking	Maintain order, enforce laws and ordinances, and protect life and property in an assigned patrol district.
Carpenters	848	\$16.49	\$34.22	Active Listening, Mathematics, Equipment Selection	Construct, erect, install, or repair structures and fixtures made of wood; building frameworks, including partitions, joists, studding, and rafters.
Electricians ♦	832	\$22.08	\$37.60	Installation, Active Listening, Repairing	Install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures.
Fire Fighters	753	\$10.53	\$32.11	Active Listening, Equipment Maintenance, Equipment Selection	Control and extinguish fires or respond to emergency situations where life, property, or the environment is at risk.
Plumbers, Pipefitters & Steamfitters ♦	619	\$23.28	\$40.36	Installation, Active Listening, Repairing	Assemble, install, alter, and repair pipelines or pipe systems that carry water, steam, air, or other liquids or gases.
Welders Cutters Solderers & Brazers	527	\$12.17	\$20.21	Operation & Control, Equipment Selection, Equipment Maintenance	Use hand-welding, flame-cutting, hand soldering, or brazing equipment to weld or join metal components.
Machinists	450	\$11.79	\$22.07	Operation & Control, Operation Monitoring, Mathematics	Set up and operate a variety of machine tools to produce precision parts and instruments.
Claims Adjusters/Examiners/ Investigators	415	\$19.20	\$37.21	Reading Comprehension, Active Listening, Judgment/Decision Making	Review settled claims to determine that payments and settlements have been made in accordance with company practices and procedures.

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Moderate-Term On-the-Job Training

Occupational Title	Annual Openings	Hourly Wages Entry	Hourly Wages Experienced	Skills*	Description
Customer Service Representatives	4,557	\$11.24	\$20.29	Active Listening, Speaking, Writing	Interact with customers to provide information in response to inquiries about products and services and to handle and resolve complaints.
Truck Drivers, Heavy/Tractor Trailer	2,239	\$14.09	\$23.78	Operation & Control, Equipment Maintenance, Reading Comprehension	Drive a tractor-trailer combination or a truck with a capacity of at least 26,000 GVW, to transport and deliver goods, livestock, or materials.
Sales Reps, Wholesale/Manufacturing	1,742	\$15.32	\$40.73	Speaking, Social Perceptiveness, Persuasion	Sell goods for wholesalers or manufacturers to businesses or groups of individuals.
Executive Secretaries & Administrative Assistants	1,690	\$15.12	\$25.61	Reading Comprehension, Writing, Coordination	Provide high-level administrative support by conducting research, preparing statistical reports, handling information requests, and performing clerical functions.
Bookkeeping/Accounting/Auditing Clerks	1,519	\$11.86	\$19.89	Mathematics, Reading Comprehension, Writing	Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete.
Team Assemblers	1,469	\$8.46	\$15.16	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Speaking	Work as part of a team having responsibility for assembling an entire product or component of a product.
General Maintenance & Repair Workers ♦	1,292	\$12.19	\$24.32	Equipment Maintenance, Repairing, Troubleshooting	Perform work involving the skills of two or more maintenance or craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, of an establishment in repair.
Construction Laborers	1,276	\$9.38	\$26.85	Equipment Selection, Operation & Control, Mathematics	Perform tasks involving physical labor at building, highway, and heavy construction projects, tunnel and shaft excavations, and demolition sites.
Secretaries, except Legal/Medical/Executive	1,105	\$10.30	\$17.80	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Time Management	Perform routine clerical and administrative functions such as drafting correspondence, scheduling appointments, or providing information to callers.
Pharmacy Technicians ♦	825	\$10.46	\$15.34	Active Listening, Speaking, Service Orientation	Prepare medications under the direction of a pharmacist.

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Short-Term On-the-Job Training

Occupational Title	Annual Openings	Hourly Wages Entry	Hourly Wages Experienced	Skills*	Description
Cashiers	6,879	\$7.82	\$9.78	Mathematics, Service Orientation, Speaking	Receive and disburse money in establishments other than financial institutions.
Retail Salespersons	6,552	\$8.20	\$13.87	Active Listening, Mathematics, Speaking	Sell merchandise, such as furniture, motor vehicles, appliances, or apparel in a retail establishment.
Waiters and Waitresses	5,609	\$7.92	\$10.87	Active Listening, Speaking, Service Orientation	Take orders and serve food and beverages to patrons at tables in dining establishment.
Laborers & Freight/Stock Movers, Hand	4,399	\$8.52	\$14.53	Active Listening, Equipment Selection, Operation & Control	Manually move freight, stock, or other materials or perform other unskilled general labor.
Fast Food Prep & Serving Workers	3,718	\$8.03	\$9.24	Active Listening, Speaking, Instructing	Perform duties which combine both food preparation and food service.
General Office Clerks	2,675	\$9.05	\$15.70	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Speaking	Perform duties too varied to be classified in any specific clerical occupation, requiring limited knowledge of office management systems.
Janitors & Cleaners, except Maids/ ♦ Housekeepers	2,647	\$8.63	\$14.63	Equipment Maintenance, Repairing, Troubleshooting	Keep buildings in clean and orderly condition.
Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	2,222	\$8.52	\$12.64	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Mathematics	Receive, store, and issue sales floor merchandise and other items from stockroom, warehouse, or storage yard to fill shelves or customers' orders.
Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants ♦	1,869	\$9.23	\$13.28	Service Orientation, Social Perceptiveness, Active Listening	Provide basic patient care under direction of nursing staff.

* Top three required skills from O*NET (www.ONETcenter.org)
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