

**Fast Facts for ALLIED HEALTHCARE CAREERS**  
 Sponsored by: *Medi-Sota, Inc. & Rural Health Alliance*

<b>NURSING</b>			
<b>Acronym(s)</b>	<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Minimum Years Education</b>	<b>Helpful Web Site</b>
<b>CNA/NAL</b>	Certified Nursing Assistant	weeks	<a href="http://www.nursingassistantcentral.com">www.nursingassistantcentral.com</a>
<b>LPN</b>	Licensed Practical Nurse	1 year	<a href="http://www.discovernursing.com">www.discovernursing.com</a>
<b>RN</b>	Registered Nurse	2-4 years	<a href="http://www.nsna.org">www.nsna.org</a>
<b>NP</b>	Nurse Practitioner	5 years + experience as RN	<a href="http://www.npcentral.net">www.npcentral.net</a>
<b>CNS</b>	Clinical Nurse Specialist	6 years + experience as RN	<a href="http://www.nacns.org">www.nacns.org</a>
<b>CRNA</b>	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	7 years + experience as RN	<a href="http://www.aana.com">www.aana.com</a>
<b>THERAPY</b>			
<b>PTA</b>	Physical Therapy Assistant	2 years	<a href="http://www.apta.org">www.apta.org</a>
<b>COTA</b>	Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant	2 years	<a href="http://www.aota.org">www.aota.org</a>
<b>RT</b>	Respiratory Therapist	2-4 years	<a href="http://www.aarc.org">www.aarc.org</a>
<b>PT</b>	Physical Therapist	6 years	<a href="http://www.apta.org">www.apta.org</a>
<b>OT</b>	Occupational Therapist	6 years	<a href="http://www.aota.org">www.aota.org</a>
<b>PHARMACY</b>			
<b>RPH</b>	Registered Pharmacist	7 years	<a href="http://www.aphanet.org">www.aphanet.org</a>
<b>CPHT</b>	Certified Pharmacy Technician	2 years	<a href="http://www.pharmacytechnician.com">www.pharmacytechnician.com</a>
<b>RADIOLOGY/IMAGING</b>			
<b>ARRT</b>	Registered Radiological Technologist	2-4 years	<a href="http://www.rrt.org">www.rrt.org</a>
<b>RDMS</b>	Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer	2-4 years	<a href="http://www.ardms.org">www.ardms.org</a>
<b>LABORATORY</b>			
<b>MLT</b>	Medical Laboratory Technologist	2 years	<a href="http://www.ascp.org">www.ascp.org</a>
<b>MT</b>	Medical Technologist	4 years	<a href="http://www.naacls.org">www.naacls.org</a>
<b>HEALTH INFORMATION/MEDICAL RECORDS</b>			
<b>RHIT/RHIA</b>	Registered Health Information Technician	2-4 years	<a href="http://www.ahima.org">www.ahima.org</a>
<b>OTHER</b>			
<b>CST</b>	Certified Surgical Technician	2 years	<a href="http://www.ast.org">www.ast.org</a>
<b>LSW</b>	Licensed Social Worker	4-6 years	<a href="http://www.cswe.org">www.cswe.org</a>