



Minnesota
STATE COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES

MnSCU Healthcare Programs

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities offer more than 50 healthcare programs ranging from polysomnography to clinical laboratory science and dental assistant to nursing.

Healthcare programs are offered at all 24 two-year colleges and seven state universities, with the number of offerings ranging from three at Vermilion Community College to 44 at Winona State University. MnSCU educates the majority of Minnesota graduates in the major allied health and nursing fields, and MnSCU graduates experience a high rate of related employment (the percent of students who find a job in their field of study one year after graduation). Enrollment in most programs is relatively steady, with the exception of practical nursing, where the number of graduates has declined by 10 percent in the last two years.

Some examples of MnSCU's healthcare programs, graduates and related employment:

Program Area	Number of Minnesota Graduates (2012)	Percent of Minnesota Graduates from MnSCU institutions	MnSCU Graduates' Related Employment (2010)
Registered Nursing	3,180	67%	90%
Practical Nursing	1,706	99%	91%
Dental Assistants/Hygienists	697	75%	82%
Medical Lab Technicians/Technologists	225	55-60%	91%
Radiology Technicians	183	72%	75%
Pharmacy Technicians/Assistants	167	28%	n/a
Surgical Technicians	134	75%	n/a
Physical Therapy Assistants	92	65%	n/a
Respiratory Therapists	91	71%	93%
Occupational Therapy Assistants	51	84%	n/a

Nursing is the largest healthcare discipline within the MnSCU system, with programs spanning from nursing assistant to doctor of nursing practice (DNP). Registered nursing preparation takes place at our two-year colleges, where students earn an associate degree in registered nursing and are eligible to sit for the national licensure exam (N-CLEX), and at all seven of our universities, where students earn a four-year bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) and are eligible to sit for the N-CLEX.

Many of Minnesota's hospitals are shifting their hiring practices to reach the Institute of Medicine (IOM) goal for the proportion of nurses with baccalaureate degrees to be increased to 80 percent by 2020. In Minnesota, the number of graduates from bachelor's degree programs has increased 24 percent in the

past five years. In addition, to support this goal, Metropolitan State University is offering a new collaborative program for the BSN through the Minnesota Alliance for Nursing Education (MANE), a partnership with seven community colleges: Anoka-Ramsey, Century, Inver Hills, Normandale, North Hennepin, Ridgewater, and Riverland. The MANE BSN program plan is a four-year, eight-semester (not including summers), 120-credit, concept-based baccalaureate curriculum built around a set of core competencies. Students in the MANE program begin their nursing education in a community college and graduate with a BSN degree from Metropolitan State University.

HealthForce Minnesota serves as the Center of Excellence for the MnSCU system and has partners and initiatives throughout the state. This includes programs and services such as providing accreditation consultation to nursing programs; convening clinical laboratory educators and providers; leading the legislatively mandated mental health workforce development plan; holding Scrubs Camps; partnering in national grants such as the H2P TAACCCT¹ grant; and funding and supporting start-up initiatives such as the health support specialist, the military bridge program for physical therapy assistants, and development of mental health curriculum.

Healthcare programs across the spectrum include experiential education components—internships, clinicals, practicums, etc. To address the challenging issue of finding and coordinating clinical site placements, MnSCU, through HealthForce Minnesota, has developed The Clinical Coordination Partnership. TCCP is able to increase the efficiency of scheduling clinicals for pre-licensure nursing students and advanced-practice professionals (nurse practitioners and physician assistants). The initiative is now self-sustaining, with membership fees being shared between the clinical sites and the educational programs.

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