

COUNSELLOR

Counsellors help people to solve problems and create positive change in their lives. They study for a Bachelor of Social Science or Health Science majoring in Counselling at Wintec or AUT for 3 years. Students with an undergraduate degree and work experience may study for a PG Diploma of Counselling at Unitec for 1.5 years.

DENTAL ASSISTANT

Dental assistants help dentists with patient treatment and preparation of instruments and materials. They study for a Certificate of Dental Surgery Assisting through the NZ Dental Association for 1 year.

DENTAL HYGIENIST

Dental hygienists teach people to care for their teeth and gums to prevent tooth decay or gum diseases. They treat gum disease, make mouth guards and maintain orthodontic appliances. They study for Bachelor of Oral Health at University of Otago or Bachelor of Health Science in Oral Health at AUT for 3 years.

DENTAL TECHNICIAN

Dental technicians make and fix plates, braces, dentures and mouthguards to help protect or realign teeth or replace missing teeth. They study for a Bachelor of Dental Technology at University of Otago for 3 years.

DENTAL THERAPIST

Dental therapists provide young people with dental care. They study for a Bachelor of Health Science in Oral Health at AUT or a Bachelor of Oral Health at University of Otago for 3 years. These degrees incorporate dental therapy and dental hygiene.

DENTIST

Dentists treat people who have problems with their teeth, gums or jaw. They study for a Bachelor of Dental Surgery at University of Otago for 5 years.

DIETITIAN

Dietitians give advice on food to maintain good health. They may manage food services and specific dietary needs in a hospital. They study for a Bachelor of Science (BSc) or a Bachelor of Consumer and Applied Sciences (BCApSc) majoring in Human Nutrition and Food Service Management for 3 years. This is followed by a 2 year Masters in Dietetics or Nutrition and Dietetics at University of Otago, University of Auckland or Massey University.

DOCTOR

Doctors diagnose and treat medical conditions, disorders, and diseases. Doctors can specialise in general practice or general surgery; or specific treatment or surgery in a

variety of health areas. They study for 6 years (1st year of health science degree followed by a 5-year Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery) at University of Auckland or University of Otago. This involves theoretical study and clinical study in hospitals. Once doctors graduate they work in hospitals, then specialise.

ENROLLED NURSE

Enrolled nurses work under the direction of a registered nurse to deliver care to patients in community, residential care and hospital settings. They study for 1.5 years for a Diploma of Enrolled Nursing.

HEALTH CARE ASSISTANT

Health care assistants work in rehabilitation units, aged-care facilities or in the community. They are supervised by other health professionals to support elderly, people with disabilities or patients in hospitals or under rehabilitation. Numerous agencies provide Certificate courses in Health Care Assistance which take 12 to 34 weeks to complete. Most certificates are gained while on the job.

HEALTH PROMOTER

Health promoters identify health issues and work with government and other agencies to target specific conditions contributing to ill health. University of Otago, Massey University, University of Auckland, Eastern Institute of Technology offer Certificate or Diploma courses in Health Promotion. These are six month to one year courses full-time but some may be done part-time or extramurally. Some are post-graduate programmes. Alternatively, Unitec and AUT offer 3-year Bachelors degrees as a pathway to health promotion.

MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTIST

Medical laboratory scientists work with pathologists and do laboratory tests on blood, tissues and other samples taken from patients. They study for a Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science at AUT or University of Otago for 4 years.

MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

Medical laboratory technicians work under medical laboratory scientists to test blood, tissues and other samples taken from patients. They learn on the job over 2 years and gain a Qualified Medical Laboratory Technician Certificate. Alternatively, they may do other degrees approved by NZ Institute of Medical Laboratory Science.

MEDICAL IMAGING TECHNOLOGIST

Medical Imaging technologists investigate and diagnose disease or internal damage through radiographs using x-rays and gamma rays. They do a 3 year Bachelors degree in Medical Imaging at Unitec, UCOL or ARA. Medical imaging technologists may specialise through further study in mammography, angiography, nuclear medicine, computed tomography (CT), ultrasound or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

MIDWIFE

Midwives provide support to women during pregnancy, labour and birth, then for up to six weeks after the birth. They inform parents on how to care for their babies, and give parenting advice. They study for 3 years to gain a Bachelors degree in Midwifery at AUT, Otago Polytechnic, ARA, Massey University or Wintec.

REGISTERED NURSE

Registered nurses provide health care for people of all ages, in hospitals, private practice and community settings. There are many different types of nursing roles. Specialisation occurs through choice of papers and on the job experience. They study for 3 years to gain a Bachelor of Nursing degree at any of 18 institutions.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

Occupational therapists help people to become independent and participate in daily activities when they become limited by illness, injury or circumstance. They study for 3 years to gain a Bachelors degree in Occupational Therapy at AUT, Otago Polytechnic or Otago Polytechnic on Wintec's campus.

OPTOMETRY

An optometrist examines the eyes and health of the visual pathways, diagnoses vision problems or impairments, and prescribes treatment such as glasses or contact lenses. The Bachelor of Optometry requires 5 years of study at the University of Auckland.

OSTEOPATHY

Osteopathy uses techniques such as stretching and massage of muscles, tendons and ligaments as well as manipulation of joints and soft tissues for treatment of dysfunction in your body. Unitec offer a 5 year full time program, with a Bachelor of Applied Science (Human Biology) leading into Master of Osteopathy.

PARAMEDIC

Paramedics deal with sick or injured people at accident scenes or in a medical emergency. They also transport patients to hospitals, between hospitals or from home to hospital. They use field diagnosis, medical procedures and treatment to stabilise patients then provide medical care during the trip to a hospital. They study for 3 years to gain a Bachelors degree in Paramedicine at AUT or Whitireira Polytech.

PHARMACIST

Pharmacists prepare and dispense medicines, give people advice on medications and how to take it properly. They study for 4 years for a Bachelor of Pharmacy at University of Auckland or University of Otago.

RADIATION THERAPIST

Radiation therapists use radiation equipment to treat diseases; patients with cancer mostly. They do a 3 year Bachelor of Radiation Therapy at University of Otago (Wellington).

ANAESTHETIC TECHNICIAN

An anaesthetic technician supports an anaesthetist before and during an operation. They study for a Diploma of Applied Science (Anaesthetic Technology) at AUT block courses and on the job training over 3 years.

AUDIOLOGIST

An audiologist treats people with a hearing loss. They study for a Bachelor of Science (physiology or psychology major) for 3 years followed by a Master of Audiology at University of Auckland or University of Canterbury for 2 years.

CARDIAC PHYSIOLOGIST

Cardiac physiologists measure and analyse the way patients' hearts behave to help with diagnosis of heart disease. They study for a Bachelor of Science (with a relevant major) for 3 years, gain employment as a trainee cardiac physiologist and so a PG Diploma in Medical Technology (Cardiology) at University of Otago for 2 years part-time.

CLINICAL CODER

Clinical coders analyse patient discharge records and convert them into codes so that health statistics can be produced to help with monitoring performance and writing policy. They do the ICD-10-AM Clinical Coding Course (distance learning) through Health Information Management of Australia.

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST

Psychologists treat or counsel people with behavioural and mental health issues. They study for a 3 year Bachelors degree in science, arts or social sciences majoring in psychology, then a PG Diploma for 2 years in clinical psychology at either Universities of Auckland, Waikato, Massey, Victoria, Canterbury, or Otago or AUT.

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER

Community health workers work with people to support community development in relation to health issues. A course with a focus on Social Sciences, Humanities, Arts, Social work or Social Practice can lead to a career as a Community Health Worker. A certificate or diploma would take 1-2 years to complete, while a Bachelors degree would be a minimum of 3 years.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKER (MENTAL HEALTH)

Mental health support workers have a supportive relationship with people who have been or are suffering from mental illness. They can study for a Bachelor of Health Sciences in Applied Mental Health at AUT for 3 years or a 1 or 2 year Certificate or Diploma in Mental Health at a number of institutions.

INSTITUTION	FREEPHONE	WHAT YOU CAN STUDY
University of Auckland	0800616263	Audiology, Counselling, Medical Imaging, Medicine, Nursing, Optometry, Psychology, Pharmacy, Social Work, Speech and Language Therapy
AUT	0800288864	Counselling, Dental Therapy, Health Promotion, Medical Laboratory Science, Midwifery, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Oral Health, Paramedicine, Psychology, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Social Science, Anaesthetist Technician
To Ohomai (Tauranga)	0800864646	Healthcare Assistance, Community Health, Nursing, Social Work
University of Canterbury	0800827748	Audiology, Speech and Language Therapy
ARA Institute of Canterbury	0800242476	Medical Imaging, Midwifery, Nursing, Health Promotion, Social Work
EIT (Hawkes Bay)	08002255348	Community Support, Nursing, Social Work
Manukau Institute of Technology	0800109510	Certificate of Pharmacy, Health Assistance, Community Support, Health Promotion, Counselling, Nursing, Social Work
Massey University	0800627739	Nursing, Speech and Language Therapy, Social Work, Psychology
Otago Polytechnic	0800924274	Midwifery, Nursing, Occupational Therapy
University of Otago	0800808098	Dentistry, Dental Therapy, Medicine, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Radiation Therapy, Psychology, Dental Technology, Medical Laboratory Science
Southern Institute of Technology	0800403337	Nursing, Mental Health Support, Community Support
Te Wananga o Aotearoa	0800355553	Social Work
UCOL	0800468265	Medical Imaging, Nursing, Social Work, Community Support
Unitec	0800109510	Counselling, Medical Imaging, Nursing, Osteopathy, Social Work, Health Promotion
To Ohomai (Rotorua)	0800864646	Nursing, Social Work, Disability and Aged Support, Healthcare Assistance
University of Waikato	08009245286	Psychology, Social Science
Victoria University	0800 842 867	Psychology, Health Promotion
Wintec	08002946832	Counselling, Midwifery, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Social Work
Whitiera	0800944847	Nursing, Paramedicine, Social Work, Community Support

WHICH HEALTH career?

For further information please contact
Wendy Paul, New Zealand Institute of Rural Health
 wendy@nzirh.org.nz
 0275617266
 078231002

Updated
 Nov 2018



Useful websites:

- www.kiwihealthjobs.com
- www.careers.govt.nz
- www.kiaorahauora.co.nz
- www.nzirh.org.nz/health-careers/

November 2018



Which Health Career NZ

PHARMACY ASSISTANT AND PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

Pharmacy assistants work with pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in pharmacies. They are often the first point of contact for customers and assist with advice on the most suitable health products. Pharmacy technicians work under supervision of a pharmacist to receive prescriptions and prepare and dispense basic medicines. Pharmacy assistants and technicians study for the NZ Certificate in Pharmacy, Introduction to Pharmacy Practice. Assistants then do the Pharmacy Assistant module and technicians do the Pharmacy Technician module. Courses are provided by Open Polytechnic and Academy either full-time or part-time.

PHLEBOTOMIST

A phlebotomist collects blood samples and/or other body samples from patients for laboratory testing or blood banks. Phlebotomists either train on the job for 2 years or have an approved degree and train for 1 year and gain Qualified Medical Laboratory Technician certificate.

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Physiotherapists help people to correct problems with their physical ability and to regain or maintain mobility. They work with people to become physically independent after a problem caused by physical or neurological disorders. They study for 4 years to gain a Bachelors degree in physiotherapy at either AUT, Wintec or University of Otago.

PODIATRIST

Podiatrists work on prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of patients with lower limb and foot problems. They study for 3 years to gain a Bachelor of Health Science in Podiatry at AUT.

SOCIAL WORKER

Social workers help people with solving difficult issues, can put people in touch with organisations that help with housing, food, transport and money problems, inform them of their legal rights. They study for a Bachelors degree in Social Work, Social Science or Social Practice for 4 years in many universities or polytechnics in New Zealand.

SPEECH LANGUAGE THERAPIST

Speech-language therapists work with people with verbal communication difficulties or swallowing. They assess and help people with problems with their speech, language and thought processes, or with a physical difficulty. They study for 4-5 years for a Bachelor of Speech and Language Therapy at Massey University or a Bachelor of Speech and Language Pathology with Honours at University of Canterbury or a Masters of Speech and Language Therapy Practice at University of Auckland.