

# Interested in healthcare as a profession?

*Is being a midwife sort of interesting but not quite your cup of tea?*

Other related fields include:

**Obstetrician/Gynecologist (OB/GYN):** a medical doctor who takes care of pregnant women, including those with major health issues. Also performs surgeries on women's reproductive organs. Some doctors only do one or the other, but most do both.

**Education:** 4 years of college, 4 years of medical school, plus more years (4+) as resident in the specialty.

**Average CA salary:** \$300,000/year. (NOTE: malpractice insurance and college loans need to be considered with this salary.)

**Certified Nurse-Midwife:** A nurse who has advanced training in midwifery, mostly works in the hospital. Can instead have a birth center or homebirth practice. In CA, works under supervision of an OB/GYN.

**Education:** Most have a bachelor's degree in nursing and a master's degree in midwifery.

**Average CA Salary:** \$110,000/year for hospital based work, less for out-of-hospital work.

**Nurse:** Works in a doctor's office or in the hospital, or does home health visits.

**Education:** Options include an associate's degree, a bachelor's degree, master's degree, and more. The flexibility of hours and options of workplace make this appealing to many who want to have families.

**Average CA Salary:** \$71,000/year for RN; less for less education.

**Sonographer/Ultrasound Technician:** Performs the sonography using ultrasound that look inside the uterus (or other parts of the body).

**Education:** An associate's degree on up.

**Average CA Salary:** \$96,000 for a sonographer, less for technician.

**Medical Assistant:** Performs basic healthcare tasks such as taking blood pressure, weight, temperature, etc. under supervision of a doctor.

**Education:** A certificate that takes roughly 1-2 years, possibly less.

**Average CA Salary:** \$33,000/year.

**Perinatologist or Neonatologist:** Highly specialized medical doctors who care for medically complex pregnant women and their unborn babies, or for high-risk newborn babies.

**Education:** 4 years of college, 4 years of medical school, plus more years as resident in the specialty.

**Average CA Salary:** \$473,000/year. (NOTE: malpractice insurance and college loans need to be considered with this salary.)

**Phlebotomist/Phlebotomy Technician:** Draws blood from people for purposes of testing for diseases and conditions. Most likely would work in a lab, doctor's office, or hospital.

**Education:** Most likely a certification is required. Community colleges may offer it.

**Average CA Salary:** \$35,000/year.