

HSHS
High School

BOOTCAMP



Summary of Hospital Departments

HSHS St. Vincent Hospital



Hospital Sisters
HEALTH SYSTEM

Glossary of Terms and Roles

Registered Nurse (RN)

ADN: Associate's Degree in Nursing; Two-year degree

BSN: Bachelor's Degree in Nursing; Four-year degree

Anesthesia Technologist

High school diploma or GED required

Anesthesiologist

Medical degree; 12 to 14 years of education and training

Certified Medical Assistant (CMA)

One-year program

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)

Six- to 16-week program

Clinical*

Direct care of patients

Electroencephalographic Technologist (EEG Tech)

Two-year degree and certificate

Electrocardiogram (EKG)

Test that monitors the function of the heart

Electrocardiogram Technician (EKG Tech)

High school diploma or GED required

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

Basic (EMT-B): Eight- to 16-week program;

Paramedic: Two-year program

Exercise Physiologist

Four-year degree

Non-Clinical

Support of all hospital functions

Patient Care Associate (PCA)

High school diploma or GED

Pharmacist

Six- to eight-year program for PharmD credential

Pharmacy Technologist

Certificate program

Physician

Eight to 16 years of education and training depending on specialty

Respiratory Therapist (RT)

Two- to four-year degree

Radiation Technologist (Rad Tech)

One- to two-year certificate or degree

Sonographer

Certificate or two-year or four-year degree

Sterile Processing Technician

High school diploma or GED required

Surgical Tech

Certificate

Telemetry Tech

High school diploma or GED

* As students shadow in various hospital departments, situations involving a patient's bodily exposure may occur. This is normal and will be handled by hospital colleagues in a way that is dignified and respectful. We ask that students who feel uncomfortable please tell their supervisor.

Summary of Hospital Departments

Health Care Professions

- **Inpatient Therapy**

Description: Physical therapy: Helps patients restore the ability to move, relieve pain and regain strength after an injury or surgery.

Occupational therapy: Helps patients live as independently as possible. Focuses on restoring function for daily activities like getting dressed, cooking, working or exercising.

Speech therapy: Helps restore function to patients with communication, reasoning/cognition and swallowing difficulties resulting from an illness, injury, cancer or chronic condition.

- **Laboratory**

Positions include: Medical laboratory scientists, medical laboratory technicians, pathologists, laboratory assistants, phlebotomists

Description: Provides a wide range of laboratory tests that aid clinicians in diagnosing, treating and managing patient care. Between 60% to 70% of clinical decisions are influenced by laboratory test results.

- **Pharmacy**

Positions include: Pharmacists, pharmacy technicians

Description: Uses clinical knowledge along with accuracy and verification to ensure each patient receives optimal care and the right medication. Pharmacists collaborate with providers, nurses and other members of the health care team to optimize patient care. Pharmacy technicians are responsible for mixing, prepping and distributing medications. They also meet with patients to gather an accurate home medication list to ensure needed medications are continued in the hospital. Pharmacy technician is an entry-level position with a career ladder for advancement. Practice rotations and intern positions are available for pharmacy students.

- **Radiation Oncology**

Positions include: Radiation therapists (RT(T)), physicists, dosimetrists (CMD), registered nurses (RN)

Description: Uses a treatment machine called a linear accelerator to produce radiation to treat cancer patients or provide pain relief in non-cancerous situations. Radiation therapists run the machine and the CT planning scanner where immobilization devices are created. Nurses take care of any side effects and teaching. Physicists ensure the machine and treatment plans are performing as planned. Dosimetrists work with providers to create treatment plans specifically for each individual patient.

- **Radiology**

Positions include: Radiologists, technicians, support personnel, imaging

Description: Uses imaging to provide a wide range of services including X-rays, CT scans, MRI scans, ultrasound and nuclear medicine. Provides precise and prompt diagnostic imaging to support patient care across numerous medical specialties. Focuses on patient comfort and safety while prioritizing efficiency and excellence in delivering high-quality imaging services.

Health Care Professions: Nursing

Nurses are trained health care providers who work closely with doctors to provide care and support to individuals during illness or injury. They also promote health and prevent disease.

“Nurses are in every community – large and small – providing expert care from birth to the end of life. Nurses’ roles range from direct patient care and case management to establishing nursing practice standards, developing quality assurance procedures and directing complex nursing care systems.”

(ANA, 2025).

- **Cardiac/Medical/Neuro/Stroke (7th Floor)**

Positions include: Patient care assistants (PCA), registered nurses (RN)

Requirements: High school student or above for PCA positions. Great opportunity to develop in the medical field for PT, PA, RN, MD, etc.

Description: Comprehensive stroke center reflecting the highest level of competence and commitment to treatment of serious stroke events. PCAs, under the direction and supervision of RNs, provide direct and non-direct patient care according to scope of their practice. Assigned preceptor duties as needed.

- **Inpatient Surgical (8th Floor)**

Positions include: PCAs, RNs

Description: Provides multidisciplinary patient- and family-centered, pre- and post-operative care that focuses on helping patients achieve the best possible outcomes. Surgical services include orthopedic, neurology, EENT, thoracic, GYN oncology, vascular, general abdominal and urology. Level II trauma center.

- **Intensive Care Unit (ICU) (6th Floor)**

Positions include: PCAs, telemetry techs, nurse externs I, nurse externs II, RNs

Description: Cares for medical, surgical, trauma, neuro and cardiac patients requiring high-acuity care. Fast-paced unit with many opportunities for professional growth and education. Some nurses have specialized training to care for our highest acuity patients.

- **Medical/Oncology (Nursing, 9th Floor)**

Positions include: PCAs, RNs

Description: Specializes in oncology and peritoneal dialysis.

- **Obstetrics (3rd Floor)**

Positions include: RNs, surgical techs, clerks

Description: Includes labor and delivery, newborn care, postpartum care, gynecological surgery and circumcision. Care for new mothers before and after delivery and for newborns from birth to discharge.

- **Pediatrics (10th Floor)**

Description: Specializes in the care of children birth to 18 years of age with a wide range of diagnoses including respiratory, neurological, surgical, oncology and more. Pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) specializing in critical care for children is also on this floor.

- **Regional Emergency and Trauma Center and Comprehensive Stroke Center**

Emergency Department (ED)

Positions include: Emergency medical providers, trauma surgeons, certified emergency and trauma nurses, health unit coordinators, emergency technicians, other specialists

Description: Provides extensive trauma and stroke care. Assesses the patient's condition and determines if the patient should be treated by specialists.

- **Telemetry**

Positions include: Telemetry technicians

Description: Observe telemetry monitors and work with all members of the health care team to provide safe patient care. Provide direct and non-direct patient care according to their scope of practice, understanding and reacting to patient needs.



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