



The
Growth
Company

GC Employment

Working in Health & Social Care



Contents

Opportunities

Nursing	4
Counsellor	4
Social Worker	5

How to progress in the field

Apprenticeships with GC Education & Skills	6
Short courses	6
Volunteering	6

Core Functions

Core Functions	7
----------------	---

How can I 'step up' into a senior role?

Gain qualifications	8
Gain skills and complete training	8
What else do employers want?	8

How do I get started?

What skills do I need?	9
What are the initial roles I could do?	9

1.4m*
people employed
within the NHS

1.6m*
people employed
within social care

500,000*
additional roles
available by 2030

Would you like to work in a role where you have the capacity to change lives for the better? In the Health and Social Care sector, you can work in a fast-paced environment where no two days are the same. With over 80 different possible job roles within the sector*, there's a lot of choice for exactly how you can impact lives, too.

With lots of progression opportunities and high demand for new people, Health and Social care can help you achieve your employment goals.

* Prospects.ac.uk information

Opportunities



Here are some of the typical job opportunities within Health and Social Care, and how you can make your first steps within the sector:

Nursing

There are a wide range of opportunities within the nursing profession, whether you would like to care for children and young people, adults or specialise in a particular area, such as emergency response or minor injuries. Opportunities include:

- Senior Staff Nurse
- Ward Sister/Charge Nurse
- Advanced Nurse Practitioner
- Lead Nurse
- Matron

Counsellor

Counsellors provide a safe and confidential environment for clients to talk. You will actively listen to clients, helping them to explore their behaviour patterns and make their own choices. Sessions with clients can cover a range of issues, including:

- Divorce or relationship difficulties
- Illness
- Bereavement
- Unemployment or job uncertainty
- General anxiety

Promotion is likely to be into team leader or management roles. These usually involve less time spent with individual clients and more on supervising a staff team and working on overall strategy.

Social worker

Social workers support individuals and their families through difficult times and ensure that vulnerable people are safeguarded from harm, improving their lives. This often means using professional judgment and procedures set by government to make tough decisions.

Specialist roles include:

- Homelessness Officer
- Day-care Social Worker
- Education Welfare Officer
- Healthcare and Mental Health Social Worker

Social work is a profession where promotion is likely to take you away from hands-on work. Three to five years after qualifying, it's possible to become a senior practitioner or team manager.

Other career paths in this sector include:

- Midwifery
- Healthcare Assistant (Hospice)
- Home Carer
- Physiotherapist

Gain qualifications with GC Education and Skills



GC Education & Skills have been providing high-quality education and skills to individuals and businesses for over 30 years, and as an Ofsted Grade 2: Good provider you can be assured the quality of our training and excellent support can help you achieve your future goals.

There are a wide range of ways to get into Health and Social Care, including:

Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is the ideal route to gain a recognised qualification whilst working with an employer and earning a salary. GC Education & Skills provide apprenticeships which offer on the job training whilst studying across many areas of Health and Social Care, such as: Nursing and Midwifery, Psychology and Counselling, Adult Care Work and Early-Years Childhood Studies.

Short courses

GC Education & Skills offer a wide range of courses and apprenticeships for adults and young people. Whether you are a school or college leaver and starting your journey or an adult looking for a career change or wanting to brush up on skills you already have – we have a course for you!

Our Employability Course will support you in learning and developing the key skills, qualities and attitudes which are wanted by all employers. This course improves your employment prospects and help you progress along the career ladder if you're already employed. [Click here to find out more.](#)

We also provide a Functional Skills qualification to support learners who wish to improve their English and maths skills. These qualifications will build your confidence and motivation, and the skills you gain will be valuable in the workplace or in any further learning. [Click here to find out more.](#)

Volunteering

You could get a volunteer position as a befriender to lonely older members of your community.

If you would like to get a real taste of what it is like to work in the sector and gain valuable Health and Social Care work experience, there are a wide range of volunteering opportunities available to work around your life: Visit doit.life/volunteer

If you would like to enquire about apprenticeships or courses, please email recruitment@gceducationandskills.ac.uk, visit gceducationandskills.ac.uk or phone us on **0161 233 2566**

Core Functions

Want to work in Health and Social Care, but the traditional avenues aren't for you? There are also a wide range of roles that utilise different skill sets to support Health and Social Care staff, directly impacting real people's lives for the better.



Accounting - There are many exciting options in the accounting profession as you can work in a variety of industries. Accounting pays well, offers prospects for advancement, and allows you to assist organisations thrive into the next decade and beyond.



Business Administration - This is a fast-paced job with opportunities to advance and work in a range of sectors and businesses. It's also a professional route that may lead to lots of options if you decide to move into another business sector later in life.



Human Resources - HR professionals' have a responsibility to look after the wellbeing and happiness of employees. A well-trained and organised HR department is essential for maintaining a motivated and productive workforce.



Digital Marketing - As technology advances, so are the possibilities for more effective marketing. There's a variety of professional options to select from, whether you want to get into management, analytics, product design, or anything else.



IT - IT requires you to continually utilise your talents to stay up to date with modern technologies. You will develop the skills to support internal and external customers, helping them to be productive by problem-solving and troubleshooting non-routine issues.

All these roles offer a lot of flexibility within your career. Once you've trained and worked in one of these professions you can move between sectors, offering a lot of professional freedom.

How can I 'step up' into a senior role?

A lot of roles, such as Care Assistants or Support Workers, require you complete a Level 2 or Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care. Once you've achieved this qualification, there are lots of opportunities to step up into more senior roles.

Gain a qualification

There are over 50 vocational qualifications at different levels in social care. They're specific to social care and teach you the practical skills and knowledge you need for the role you want.

You could also do an apprenticeship to help you progress; they're available for new and existing staff of any age.

Gain skills and complete training

In any role you'll have to do some mandatory training; this might include health and safety, food hygiene, or fire safety.

There should be plenty of opportunities to do additional training at work and this could include classroom-based training, e-learning or on the job training.

Typical progression pathway:



What else do employers want?

Employers in the Health and Social Care sector look for candidates with:

- The ability to stay calm in high-pressure situations
- Attention to detail with good observation and analytical skills
- Empathy and excellent communication skills to deal with patients and their families in difficult times
- The ability to work in a team as very rarely will you be able to help a patient without input from multiple people.

As you make steps further into the Health and Social Care sector, it's important to remember that you are not alone. At GC Employment, our friendly teams are always on hand to help you into work, and to provide careers advice and support.

How do I get started?



Wondering how best to progress within the Health and Social Care sector? In this section, we'll make it clear how you can move forward within the sector, whether you're already experienced, or someone making their first steps into a new career.

What skills do I need?

In order to gain your first role in the Health and Social Care sector, employers often look for the following qualifications:

- Level 1 Award in Preparing to Work in the Care Sector
- Level 2 or 3 Certificate in Preparing to Work in the Care Sector.

Often you will need core qualifications in English and Maths to start these courses.

What are the initial roles I could do?

There are lots of entry-level care roles you could apply for, such as Care Worker, or Personal Assistant.

There are also support roles such as Office and Administration, Cook or Kitchen Assistant, Driver or Transport Manager or Housekeeping.

For more information about gaining these qualifications and get your career started in the sector, visit the National Careers Service website at: nationalcareers.service.gov.uk or call **0800 100 900**

