

# **STEP CAREER PATHWAYS**

# AVL CAREER PROSPECTS



Workers in the Asheville, NC Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average hourly wage of \$24.25 in May 2022, 19 percent below the nationwide average of \$29.76, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today.



When compared to the nationwide distribution, Asheville area employment was more highly concentrated in 6 of the 22 occupational groups, including food preparation and serving related, healthcare practitioners and technical, and sales and related. Thirteen groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including business and financial operations, computer and mathematical, and management.

# PROGRAMS TO CONSIDER

## Sources:

US Bureau of Labor Statistics,  
Asheville Chamber of Commerce,  
US Census Bureau, NC Dept of  
Commerce, Indeed and Riverbird  
Research

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**NA1**

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**Phlebotomy**

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**LPN**

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**Nail Tech**

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**CCMA**

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Electrical Wiring

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EMS

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Medical Office Admin / **Medical** Coding

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Basic Machining / **CNC**

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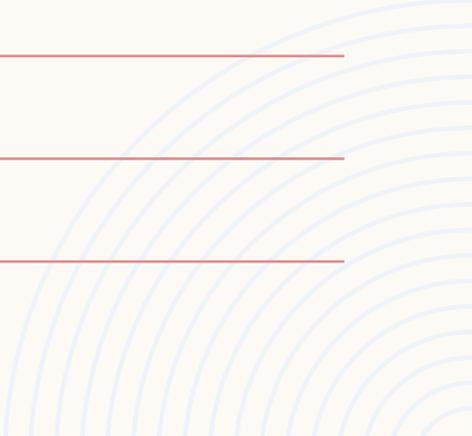
Restaurant **& Hospitality Management**

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Digital Design: Media **or** Video

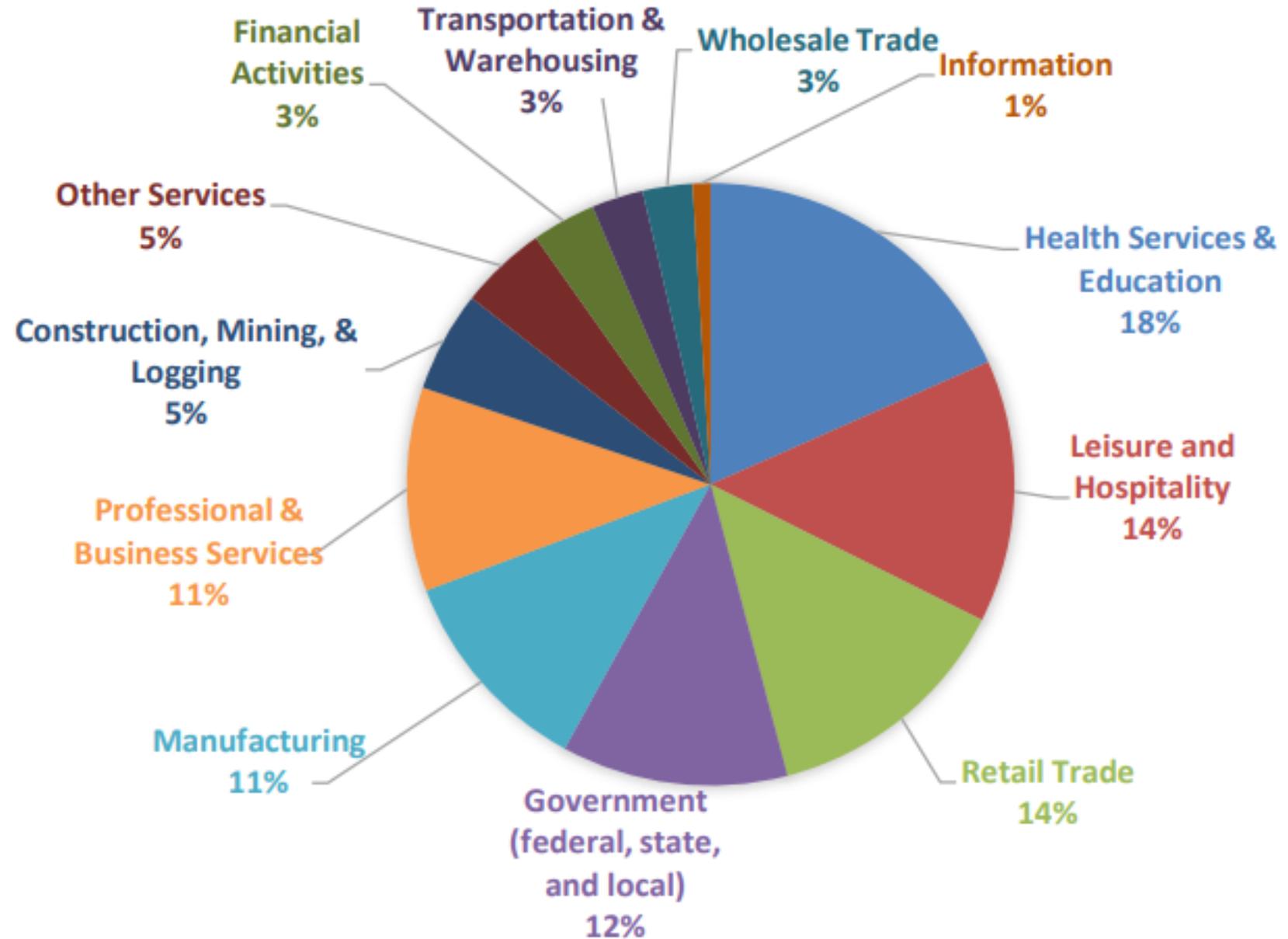
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Office **Management**



# AVL METRO AREA

## Major Industry Employment Distribution



<b>Major Industry Employment (Asheville Metro)</b>	<b>June 2021</b>	<b>June 2022</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Construction, Mining, & Logging	9,900	10,800	9.1%
Manufacturing	21,900	22,600	3.2%
Wholesale Trade	5,100	5,300	3.9%
Retail Trade	25,400	27,000	6.3%
Transportation & Warehousing	5,300	5,500	3.8%
Information	1,900	1,900	0.0%
Financial Activities	6,700	6,800	1.5%
Professional & Business Services	19,400	21,900	12.9%
Health Services & Education	35,700	36,700	2.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	27,800	28,200	1.4%
Other Services	9,100	9,300	2.2%
Government (federal, state, and local)	23,900	24,100	0.8%
<b>Average Hourly Wages (Total Private)</b>	<b>June 2021</b>	<b>June 2022</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Asheville Metro	\$26.46	\$27.08	2.3%
North Carolina	\$27.74	\$29.23	5.4%
United States	\$30.27	\$31.82	5.1%

<b>Program</b>	<b>% National Growth</b>	<b>Average NC Income (\$)</b>	<b>AVL Popularity - 25 mi radius (# jobs posted in last 2 wks)</b>	<b>Length of program</b>
<b>Basic Emergency Medical Science (EMS)</b>	7%	41,800 / 44,875	27	2 Sem (certificate) / AAS
<b>Electrical Systems Tech-Electrical Wiring**</b>	7%	43,000 / 60,040	20	Certificate / Diploma / AAS (+Apprenticeship)
<b>Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)</b>	6%	56,532	83	3 Sem (+Licensure Exam)
<b>Office Management</b>	0%	39,680	12	3 Sem (Certificate)
Digital Media Tech Design: Media / Video**	3%	50,710	3 / 3	2 / 3 Sem (Certificates)
Phlebotomy	10%	37,380	15	1 Sem (high difficulty)
Nail Tech**	2%	48,637	1	2 Sem (Certificate)
Restaurant** / Hospitality Management	10%	59,440	96 / 100	2 (Certificate) / 5 (AAS)

**Popularity determined by # jobs listed on indeed within 25 miles of AVL in last 14 days**

\*\* Entry to field relies heavily on work experience / portfolio / equipment / entrepreneurship

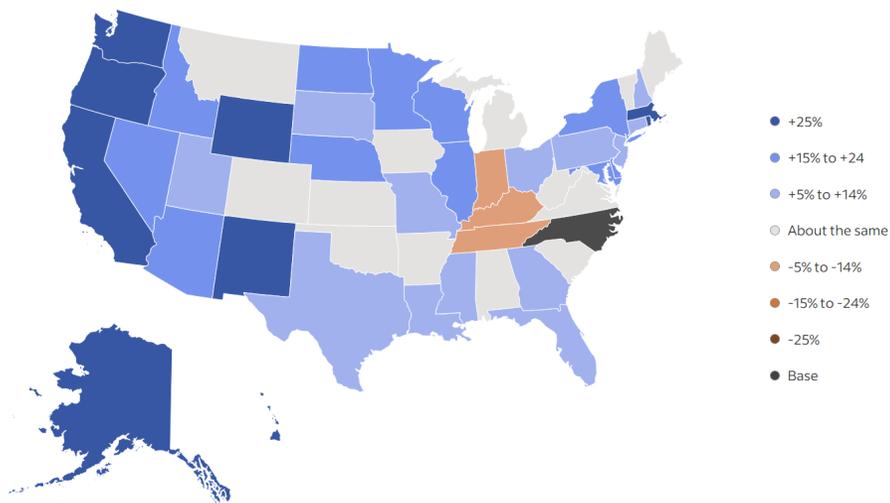
<b>Program</b>	<b>% National Growth</b>	<b>Average NC Salary (\$)</b>	<b>AVL Popularity - 25 mi radius (# jobs posted in last 2 wks)</b>	<b>Length of program</b>
<b>Computer-Aided Drafting Technology</b>	8%	56,710	6	Certificate (2 Sem) / AAS
<b>NA1</b>	5%	36,480	187	Con Ed- 160 hrs
<b>Computer-Integrated Machining – Basic Machining &amp; CNC</b>	1%	47,940	9	Certificate / Diploma / AAS
Welding Tech	2%	43,428	5	3 Sem (Diploma)
<b>Clinical Massage (licensed)</b>	20%	55,489	6	Con Ed - 520 hrs + Required exams for license
<b>Automotive Systems Technology</b>	1%	53,540	40	3 Sem (Diploma)
<b>HVAC</b>	6%	51,000	21	Certificate / Diploma / AAS
<b>Medical Office Administration Medical Coding</b>	7%	54,024	41	3 Sem (Certificate) / AAS

# CLOSER LOOK – EMS VS. PARAMEDIC

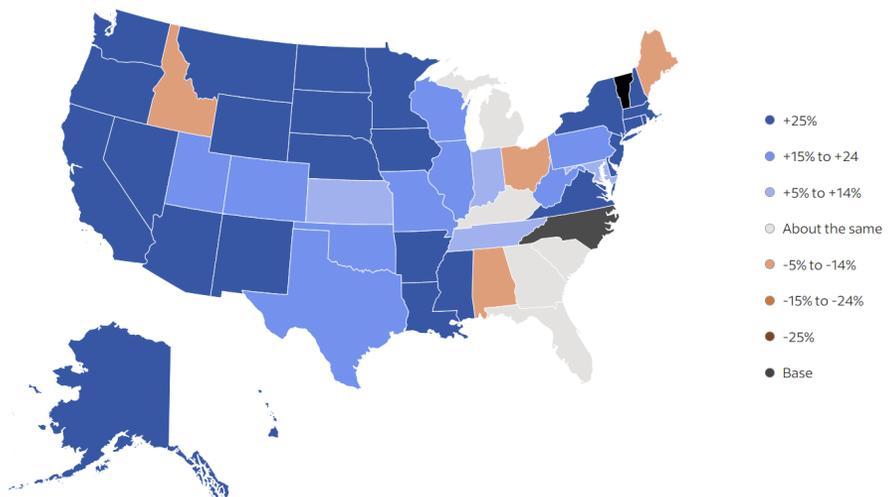
- Paramedics are more highly trained EMS' capable of more advanced medical procedures, such as providing oral and intravenous medication, monitoring EKGs, and performing tracheotomies.

- MUST PASS 2 NATIONAL REGISTRY EMT EXAMS and register as an EMT

See how your salary in North Carolina compares



See how your salary in North Carolina compares



## Highest paying cities for Emergency Medical Technicians near North Carolina

<b>Asheville, NC</b> \$21.96 per hour 28 salaries reported	>	<b>Charlotte, NC</b> \$19.52 per hour 31 salaries reported	>	<b>Raleigh, NC</b> \$19.24 per hour 12 salaries reported
<b>Durham, NC</b> \$18.97 per hour 6 salaries reported	>	<b>Fayetteville, NC</b> \$18.85 per hour 5 salaries reported	>	<b>Shelby, NC</b> \$16.73 per hour 19 salaries reported
<b>Graham, NC</b> \$16.08 per hour 8 salaries reported	>	<b>Winston-Salem, NC</b> \$15.88 per hour 10 salaries reported	>	<b>Greenville, NC</b> \$15.47 per hour 5 salaries reported

## Highest paying cities for Paramedics near North Carolina

<b>Asheville, NC</b> \$32.26 per hour 35 salaries reported	>	<b>Raleigh, NC</b> \$27.64 per hour 33 salaries reported	>	<b>Charlotte, NC</b> \$25.44 per hour 21 salaries reported
<b>Lincolnton, NC</b> \$25.13 per hour 8 salaries reported	>	<b>Clinton, NC</b> \$24.03 per hour 13 salaries reported	>	<b>Halifax, NC</b> \$23.19 per hour 8 salaries reported
<b>Shelby, NC</b> \$20.61 per hour 18 salaries reported	>	<b>Rocky Mount, NC</b> \$20.48 per hour 23 salaries reported	>	<b>Hendersonville, NC</b> \$19.38 per hour 12 salaries reported

# CLOSER LOOK -

## ELECTRICAL PATH

### NC Electrical Contracting Licenses:

- 1. **Limited:** Min. 4 years experience and licensees can work only on projects under 600 volts or \$50,000.
- 2. **Intermediate:** Min. 6 years experience and has no voltage limitations. The licensee can work on electrical contracting projects under \$130,000.
- 3. **Unlimited:** Min 5 years experience, along with two electrician experience vouchers. Unlimited electrical contractors do not have project value or voltage limitations.

- After any school, graduates start as helpers / apprentices to licensed electricians.
- Electrical work performed in NC requires a license. The NCBEEC issues electrical contractor licenses. However, local municipalities are responsible for issuing lower-level electrician licenses, such as journeyman licenses.
- High growth potential and in-demand

Years of experience	Per hour
Less than 1 year	\$22.76
1 to 2 years	\$22.71
3 to 5 years	-
6 to 9 years	\$26.42
More than 10 years	\$28.10

## CLOSER LOOK - PRACTICAL NURSE

- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) practice involves a directed scope of nursing practice under the supervision of an RN, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) physician or other healthcare practitioner authorized by the state, and as such is sometimes identified as a “**dependent**” practice.
- AB Tech offers bridge pathway from LPN to RN. LPN has lower barrier of entry and is two semesters shorter.

### Highest paying cities for Licensed Practical Nurses near North Carolina

Asheville, NC  
\$44.18 per hour  
601 salaries reported



Hendersonville, NC  
\$37.14 per hour  
57 salaries reported



Greensboro, NC  
\$32.39 per hour  
235 salaries reported



Charlotte, NC  
\$32.11 per hour  
785 salaries reported



Fayetteville, NC  
\$31.16 per hour  
158 salaries reported



Winston-Salem, NC  
\$30.68 per hour  
313 salaries reported

Greenville, NC  
\$30.17 per hour  
115 salaries reported



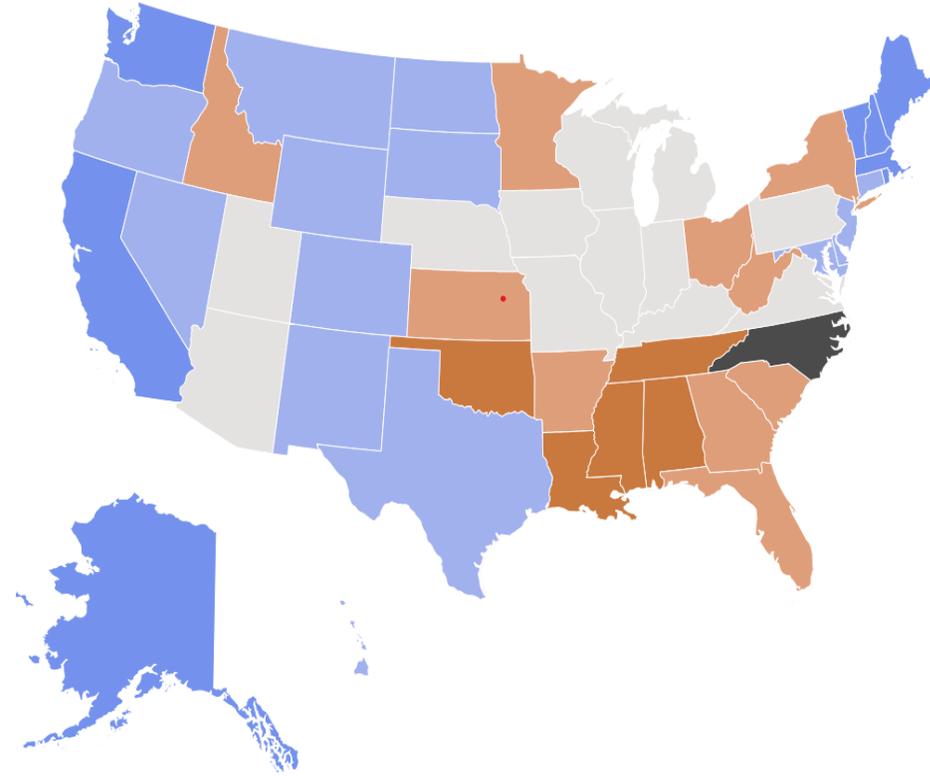
Raleigh, NC  
\$29.43 per hour  
696 salaries reported



Wilmington, NC  
\$28.50 per hour  
187 salaries reported

### See how your salary in North Carolina compares

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- +25%
- +15% to +24%
- +5% to +14%
- About the same
- 5% to -14%
- 15% to -24%
- 25%
- Base

Years of experience	Per hour
Less than 1 year	\$29.64
1 to 2 years	-
3 to 5 years	\$32.55
6 to 9 years	\$32.63
More than 10 years	\$33.85

# CLOSER LOOK- COMPUTER-AIDED DRAFTING (CAD)

- CAD drafters collect all drawings, data, and notes involved in a project, and draft building plans. Their responsibility is to flesh out a final version of the construction or manufacturing project — specifying dimensions, codes, production methods, and materials.
- AB Tech Program - architectural drafting, computer-assisted drafting and design, creating and managing two and three-dimensional models, linking CAD documents to other software applications, and operating systems.
- Graduates should qualify for CAD jobs in architectural and engineering firms and industrial design businesses.

<b>Raleigh, NC</b> \$31.77 per hour 12 salaries reported	>	<b>Chapel Hill, NC</b> \$29.31 per hour 11 salaries reported	>	<b>Durham, NC</b> \$27.54 per hour 12 salaries reported	>
<b>Greensboro, NC</b> \$26.00 per hour 6 salaries reported	>	<b>Raleigh-Durham, NC</b> \$23.97 per hour 6 salaries reported	>	<b>Wilmington, NC</b> \$23.15 per hour 12 salaries reported	>
<b>Concord, NC</b> \$22.36 per hour 6 salaries reported	>	<b>Charlotte, NC</b> \$20.82 per hour 27 salaries reported	>	<b>Asheville, NC</b> \$20.48 per hour 12 salaries reported	>



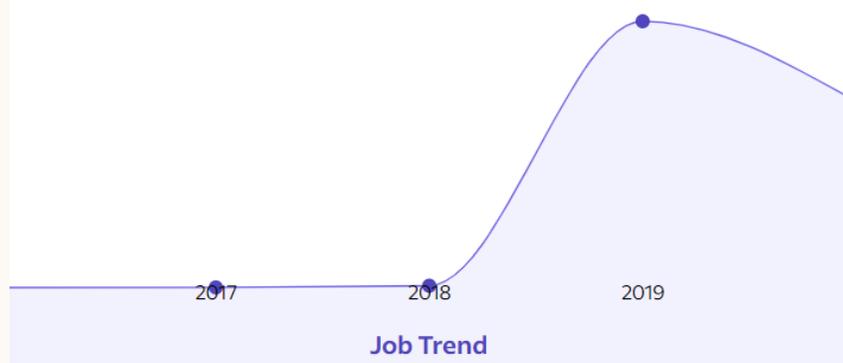
## CLOSER LOOK - NA1

- High-demand, physically/mentally demanding, low barrier to entry, and a helpful stepping stone toward more credentials.

### 🏆 Most recommended skill

#### Nuclear Medicine (earn +90.18% more)

The jobs requiring this skill have increase by 13200.00% since 2018. Nursing Assistants with this skill earn +90.18% more than the average base salary, which is \$17.30 per hour.



### Highest paying cities for Nursing Assistants near North Carolina

<b>Asheville, NC</b> \$19.75 per hour 341 salaries reported	>	<b>Morganton, NC</b> \$19.44 per hour 118 salaries reported	>	<b>Winston-Salem, NC</b> \$17.60 per hour 355 salaries reported
<b>Charlotte, NC</b> \$17.19 per hour 889 salaries reported	>	<b>Wilmington, NC</b> \$16.43 per hour 430 salaries reported	>	<b>Greensboro, NC</b> \$16.31 per hour 402 salaries reported
<b>Raleigh, NC</b> \$16.25 per hour 798 salaries reported	>	<b>Shelby, NC</b> \$15.58 per hour 57 salaries reported	>	<b>Lumberton, NC</b> \$13.94 per hour 25 salaries reported

### Years of experience

### Per hour

Less than 1 year

**\$16.61**

1 to 2 years

**\$16.78**

3 to 5 years

**\$17.67**

6 to 9 years

**\$18.11**

More than 10 years

**\$19.96**

## CLOSER LOOK – MACHINING & CNC

A Machinist, or CNC Machinist, produces precisely engineered parts used to build instruments, machines and tools. Their duties include setting up equipment, operating equipment and inspecting finished parts.

### Skills and Qualifications:

- Familiarity with Computer Numerical Control (CNC) software and machinery used for computer-aided manufacturing
- Knowledge of how to operate grinders, lathes and milling machines
- Math skills to take precise measurements and make calculations
- Analytical and Problem-solving skills
- Ability to move roughly 50 to 75 pounds and remain stationary throughout a shift
- Understanding of health and safety regulations to reduce the risk of workplace accidents

Years of experience	Per hour
Less than 1 year	\$20.97
1 to 2 years	\$20.43
3 to 5 years	-
6 to 9 years	\$26.67
More than 10 years	\$28.16

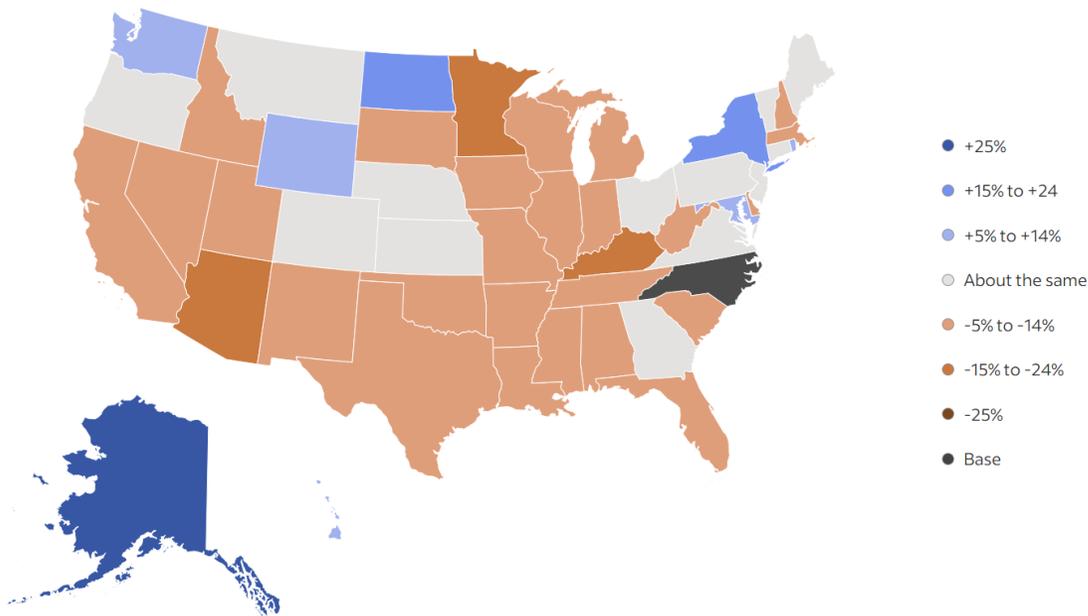
Educational opportunities include apprenticeships and certificate and associate degree programs. Employers may also want to prioritize candidates who hold one or more Machining certifications from the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS)

# CLOSER LOOK – CLINICAL MASSAGE

- AB Tech's program provides classroom, laboratory, and clinical experiences consistent with the standards of practice established by the North Carolina Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy (NCBMBT). **Students are evaluated in all the areas and must maintain 80% at all times during the three modules.**
- *Approximate Program Total Cost: \$1,800.00*

<b>Charlotte, NC</b> \$43.26 per hour <small>292 salaries reported</small>	>	<b>Wilmington, NC</b> \$41.07 per hour <small>20 salaries reported</small>	>	<b>Durham, NC</b> \$40.78 per hour <small>60 salaries reported</small>
<b>Greensboro, NC</b> \$40.09 per hour <small>26 salaries reported</small>	>	<b>Asheville, NC</b> \$39.01 per hour <small>74 salaries reported</small>	>	<b>Raleigh, NC</b> \$37.05 per hour <small>107 salaries reported</small>
<b>Mooresville, NC</b> \$35.31 per hour <small>14 salaries reported</small>	>	<b>Apex, NC</b> \$34.72 per hour <small>17 salaries reported</small>	>	<b>Fayetteville, NC</b> \$32.10 per hour <small>29 salaries reported</small>

See how your salary in North Carolina compares

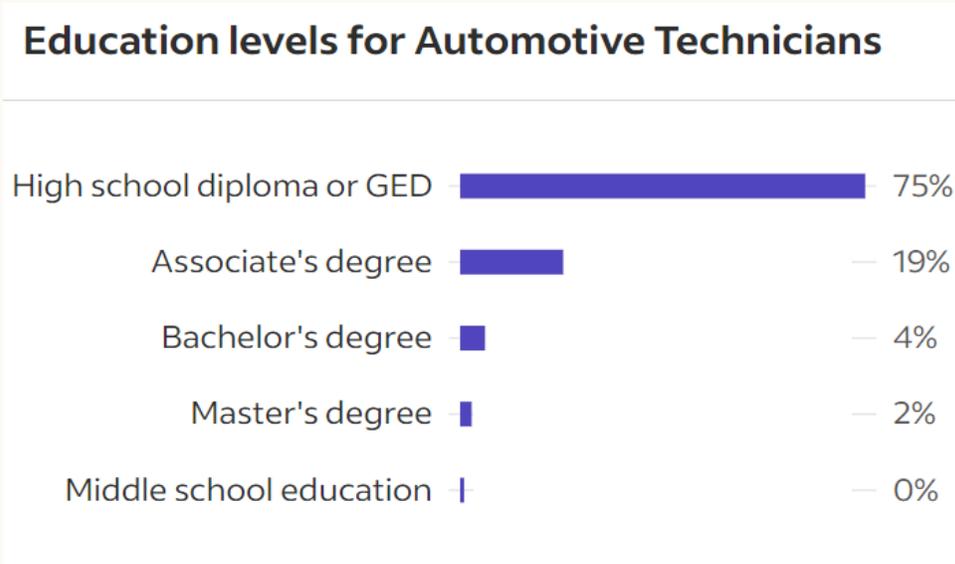


Years of experience	Per hour
Less than 1 year	<b>\$29.49</b>
1 to 2 years	<b>\$32.92</b>
3 to 5 years	<b>\$42.82</b>
6 to 9 years	-
More than 10 years	<b>\$51.61</b>

# CLOSER LOOK - AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN

Top Certifications	Salary	Job openings	Companies
<b>Ford Certification</b>	<b>+40.38%</b>	<a href="#">248 jobs</a>	442
<b><u>ASE Master Automotive Technician Certification</u></b>	<b>+32.55%</b>	<a href="#">146 jobs</a>	234
Popular schools offering certification <a href="#">Meridian Technology Center</a> , <a href="#">Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College - Rice Lake</a> , <a href="#">Tennessee College of Applied Technology</a>			
<b><u>Diesel Mechanic Certification</u></b>	<b>+66.51%</b>	<a href="#">24 jobs</a>	31
Popular schools offering certification <a href="#">Chippewa Valley Technical College</a> , <a href="#">Tennessee College of Applied Technology - TCAT</a> , <a href="#">Gateway Technical College</a>			
<b>GM Certification</b>	<b>+30.33%</b>	<a href="#">123 jobs</a>	171
<b><u>ASE Advanced Engine Performance Specialist Certification</u></b>	<b>+29.62%</b>	<a href="#">24 jobs</a>	33

Years of experience	Per hour
Less than 1 year	<b>\$20.37</b>
1 to 2 years	<b>\$21.12</b>
3 to 5 years	<b>\$23.90</b>
6 to 9 years	<b>\$25.26</b>
More than 10 years	<b>\$28.49</b>



<b>Cary, NC</b> \$28.11 per hour 65 salaries reported	>	<b>Raleigh, NC</b> \$27.53 per hour 176 salaries reported	>	<b>Hickory, NC</b> \$26.98 per hour 32 salaries reported
<b>Winston-Salem, NC</b> \$25.27 per hour 79 salaries reported	>	<b>Greensboro, NC</b> \$24.08 per hour 99 salaries reported	>	<b>Charlotte, NC</b> \$22.76 per hour 278 salaries reported
<b>Gastonia, NC</b> \$22.69 per hour 34 salaries reported	>	<b>Fayetteville, NC</b> \$22.03 per hour 72 salaries reported	>	<b>Asheville, NC</b> \$21.13 per hour 32 salaries reported

# CLOSER LOOK – MEDICAL OFFICE ADMIN / CODING

- A medical coding specialist works in the billing department of a healthcare organization.
- These codes are imperative for insurance billing purposes and one of the primary roles is to give a unique code to each kind of treatment and use these codes for billing, research and recordkeeping.

## Highest paying cities for Coding Specialists near North Carolina

<b>Charleston, NC</b> \$29.00 per hour 8 salaries reported	>	<b>Charlotte, NC</b> \$28.52 per hour 5 salaries reported	>	<b>Winston-Salem, NC</b> \$26.73 per hour 7 salaries reported
<b>Cary, NC</b> \$24.33 per hour 9 salaries reported	>	<b>Raleigh, NC</b> \$22.94 per hour 24 salaries reported	>	<b>Durham, NC</b> \$22.20 per hour 6 salaries reported
<b>Chapel Hill, NC</b> \$20.67 per hour 6 salaries reported	>	<b>Asheville, NC</b> \$19.36 per hour 5 salaries reported	>	<b>Greenville, NC</b> \$18.78 per hour 5 salaries reported

- AB Tech certificate covers topics like medical coding, medical terminology, anatomy and physiology, computer data entry and privacy and ethics. Apart from this academic qualification, data analysis is a very important aspect that a coder should be capable of handling.

# CLOSER LOOK – AC, HEATING, AND REFRIGERATION TECHNOLOGY

Years of experience	Per hour
Less than 1 year	\$23.02
1 to 2 years	-
3 to 5 years	\$22.79
6 to 9 years	\$28.33
More than 10 years	\$33.65

## Highest paying cities for HVAC Technicians near North Carolina

<b>Winston-Salem, NC</b> \$26.92 per hour 80 salaries reported	>	<b>Sanford, NC</b> \$26.92 per hour 32 salaries reported	>	<b>Greensboro, NC</b> \$26.55 per hour 153 salaries reported	>
<b>Charlotte, NC</b> \$26.26 per hour 572 salaries reported	>	<b>Fayetteville, NC</b> \$26.02 per hour 133 salaries reported	>	<b>Raleigh, NC</b> \$25.27 per hour 375 salaries reported	>
<b>Greenville, NC</b> \$22.94 per hour 87 salaries reported	>	<b>Gastonia, NC</b> \$21.94 per hour 39 salaries reported	>	<b>Wilmington, NC</b> \$21.38 per hour 115 salaries reported	>

- The Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Technology Program curriculum offered at A-B Tech provides the basic knowledge needed to develop skills required to work with residential and light commercial systems and cooling theory, electricity, controls, and safety.
- Asheville, however, does not make the top 9 highest-paying cities in NC list for this profession.

Title	Credential	Credit Hours
<a href="#">Air Conditioning, Heating &amp; Refrigeration Technology A.A.S.</a>	Degree	68
<a href="#">Air Conditioning, Heating &amp; Refrigeration Technology Diploma</a>	Diploma	40
<a href="#">Air Conditioning Cooling Certificate</a>	Certificate	16
<a href="#">Heating Certificate</a>	Certificate	15

# NARROW DOWN THE CHOICES

- Emergency Medical Science (EMS)
- Electrical Systems Tech- Electrical Wiring
- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)
- Computer-Aided Drafting Technology
- NA1
- Basic Machining & CNC
- Clinical Massage
- Medical Office Administration / Medical Coding
- HVAC