

Careers In Health Physics

A Look Into Opportunities Available to Health Physicists

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Primary Employers of Health Physicists

- Government
 - NRC, DOE, DHS, CDC, EPA, states, military
- Medical
 - Hospitals, academic medical centers
- University
 - University reactors, ES&H
- National Laboratory
 - LLNL, LANL, INL, PNNL
- Private Industry
 - Biotech, instrument, waste management, consulting companies



Academic Based Career in Health Physics



- Potential Positions:
 - Radiation Safety Officer (RSO)- typically requires a master's degree
 - Professor- requires PhD
 - Technician- requires at least high school diploma
 - At LLNL, most technicians have at least a Bachelor of Science
- Locations: Universities across the country

Environmental Based Career in Health Physics

- Potential Positions:
 - Health Physicist- typically requires master's degree
 - Technician- requires at least high school diploma
 - At LLNL, most technicians have at least a Bachelor of Science
- Locations: every state, most cities, and many rural locations



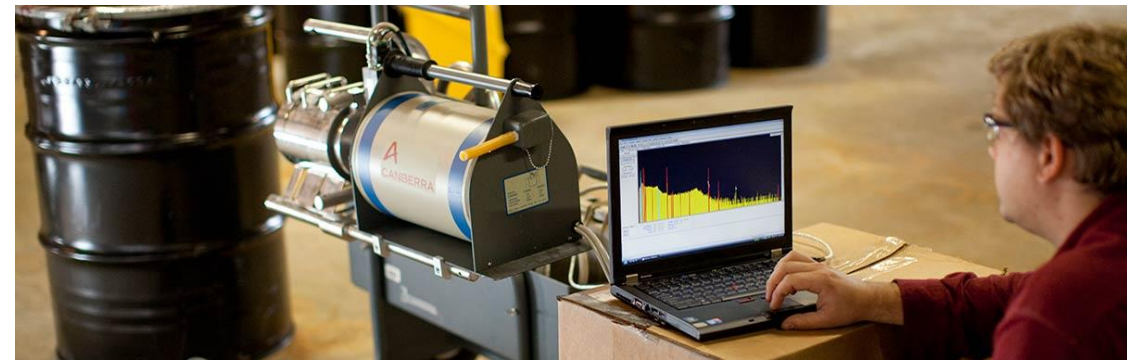
Government Based Career in Health Physics



- Potential Positions:
 - Regulator- typically requires at least a master's degree
 - Regulatory developer- typically requires at least a master's degree
 - Expert- Requires extensive experience and an advance degree
- Location: National laboratories, Washington D.C., and many government agency sites

Industry Based Career in Health Physics

- Potential Positions:
 - Radiation Safety Officer- typically need a master's degree
 - Health Physicists – usually requires master's degree
 - Technician- requires at least a high school diploma
 - At LLNL, most technicians have at least a Bachelor of Science
- Potential Locations: Defense-related companies, biotech companies, instrument and research companies, commercial nuclear power plants, waste management, consulting companies, NASA, etc.



Medical Based Career in Health Physics



- Potential Positions:
 - Radiation Safety Officer- typically requires a Master's degree
 - Medical or Health Physicist - typically requires a Master's degree
 - Technologist- requires at least an associate's degree
- Locations: Academic medical centers, hospitals, etc.

Military Based Career in Health Physics

- Potential Positions:
 - Military Officer- requires a bachelor's degree
 - Civilian contractor- preferably needs a master's degree
- Locations: military bases, ships, and submarines



Average Salary of a Health Physicist in 2018



- Overall: \$116,278*
- Professional Staff:
 - Bachelor’s degree in HP ~\$95,619*
 - Master’s degree in HP ~\$106,230*
- Less than 6 years of experience: \$80,833*
- 6-15 years of experience: \$107,620*
- More than 15 years experience: \$136,456*
- LLNL salary ranges may be higher
 - A combination of factors are considered:
 - Education
 - Experience
 - External labor market
 - Internal Equity

*Salary Information provided by “THE 2018 HPS SALARY SURVEY”

Opportunities for High Achievement

- Lisa Gordon-Hagerty- Current Under Secretary for Nuclear Security of the U.S. Department of Energy began her career as a health physicist at LLNL.
- Linda R. Bauer- LLNL deputy director has a Ph.D. in environmental health physics.
- There are many other opportunities available to health physicists.



Multifaceted Possibilities at LLNL



- LLNL health physicist job characteristics:
 - Regulatory
 - Policy development
 - Academic
 - Industry affiliated
 - Medical
 - Environmental



References & Contact Information

- Data from the Health Physics Society (hps.org) and local Chapters (e.g., ncchps.org)
- Quang Le – Radiological Control Manager, LLNL. (le22@llnl.gov)
- Sophia Uchiyama – Health Physicist, LLNL. (uchiyama1@llnl.gov)
- Logan Anspach – Health Physicist, LLNL. (anspach1@llnl.gov)



The screenshot shows the 'Students' page of the Health Physics Society (HPS) website. The page features a dark blue header with the HPS logo and the text 'Specialists in Radiation Protection'. A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for 'Quick Links', 'Organization', 'Publications', 'Public Information', 'Resources', and 'Ask Experts'. The main content area is titled 'Welcome Students!' and contains a welcome message from the Student Support Committee. A photograph of three women is shown on the right side of the page. Below the welcome message, there are links for 'Student Support Committee', 'Student Branches', and 'Local Chapters'. At the bottom of the page, there is a link for 'Information About Health Physics, Educational Programs, and Careers'.

Welcome Students!

Are you a student interested in a career in health physics? Well, you've come to the right place. The students of the national Health Physics Society (HPS) would like to welcome you to our section of the HPS website.

As a student member in the HPS, there are many opportunities available to you. Each link below will provide information about various programs, grants, and career opportunities available through your student membership. If you have not done so already, you are strongly encouraged to get involved with your local chapters and student branches. If there is anything that you are unable to find, please feel free to reach out by visiting our members forum or contacting us directly at studentsupport@hps.org.

Thanks so much for visiting the students page of the HPS website and continue to check back as we expand our services.

Student Support Committee

Branches, Local Chapters, and HPS Student Committees

- [Student Support Committee](#)
- [Student Branches](#)
- [Local Chapters](#)

Information About Health Physics, Educational Programs, and Careers



**Lawrence Livermore
National Laboratory**