

IN FIGURESSources : www.insee.fr - www.entreprises.gouv.fr

- **1.4 million** practitioners
- **33,100** approved personal service organizations (2016)

INTERNATIONAL

Health-related professionals enjoy a great deal of professional flexibility and international mobility.

Doctors Without Borders, the Red Cross, Handicap International, and Doctors of the World are but a few of the many French NGOs and associations that employ allied health professionals on all continents.

REMEMBER:

Individuals who hold a degree from a government-accredited program but who lack European Union citizenship may not practice in France.

RELATED FIELDS

- Anesthesiology • Oncology • Surgery • Ethics • Gerontology
- Infectious Diseases • Medical Engineering • Medicine • Medical Social Work • Dentistry • Ophthalmology • Pediatrics • Pharmacology
- Psychiatry • Psychology • Critical Care Medicine • Mental Health
- Public Health

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Audioprosthology • Dentures • Electrophysiology technician
- Electroradiology • Laboratory technology • Massage therapy-kinesiotherapy • Medical devices • Midwifery • Nursing • Nutrition sciences • Occupational therapy • Optician • Orthoptics • Orthotics and prosthetics • Osteopathy • Podiatrist • Psychomotor therapy
- Pediatric nursing • Rehabilitation • Speech pathology

USEFUL LINKS

- ◆ Center for training and skills development, Paris hospital system: <http://formation.aphp.fr>
- ◆ French association of dietitians-nutritionists: www.afdn.org
- ◆ French occupational therapy association: www.anfe.fr
- ◆ French National Podiatry Association: <http://onpp.fr>
- ◆ French national midwifery association: www.ordre-sages-femmes.fr
- ◆ French federation of massage therapy-kinesiotherapy: www.ffmkr.org
- ◆ French federation of psychomotor therapists: www.psychomotricite.com/ffp
- ◆ Hospitals of France: www.hopital.fr
- ◆ National union of orthoptists: www.orthoptiste.pro
- ◆ Labor union of osteopaths: www.osteopathe-syndicat.fr
- ◆ Labor union of opticians: www.uniondesopticiens.org
- ◆ Labor union of denture professionals: www.unppd.org
- ◆ National federation of kinesiotherapy students: www.fnek.fr
- ◆ National federation of speech/language pathology students: www.fneo.fr
- ◆ National federation of podiatrists: www.fnp-online.org
- ◆ National speech/language pathology observatory: www.orthophonie.fr
- ◆ Regional information and guidance office for allied health professionals: www.cioparamedical.com

ALLIED HEALTH AND HEALTH-RELATED PROFESSIONS

Over 1.4 million people work in approximately 20 health-related professions. Examples include medical device technicians, massage therapists-kinesiotherapists, midwives, rehabilitation specialists, nurses and pediatric nurses, speech-language pathologists, opticians, radiographers, podiatrists, audioprosthologists, psychomotor therapists, dietitians, osteopaths, occupational therapists, orthoptists, lab technicians, etc.

Some allied health professions, for which practitioners must hold degrees from government-accredited programs are regulated by professional organizations (massage-therapy and kinesiotherapy, speech-language pathology, podiatry, midwifery). These organizations are private administrative and adjudicative bodies that promote and regulate health-related professions serving the public.

Health-related professions are divided into three broad groups: care (nutrition sciences, podiatry, nursing, pediatric nursing, midwifery, osteopathy), rehabilitation (massage therapy-kinesiotherapy, speech pathology, orthoptics, psychomotor therapist), and medical technology (biomedical analyses, electrophysiology and electroradiology, optics and glasses, audioprosthology, and prosthetics).

The French government determines the annual number of students admitted into some programs (audiology, speech pathology, and orthoptics). Program cost is variable and can reach €7,000 per year in private schools.

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>PROGRAMS

ALLIED HEALTH AND HEALTH-RELATED PROFESSIONS

BACHELORS

LEVEL

BREVET DE TECHNICIEN SUPÉRIEUR (BTS) (BACCALAURÉAT + 2 YEARS OF POSTSECONDARY STUDY) – L2

- **BTS in Medical Biology:** Prepares students for collecting biological and blood samples and conducting tests.
- **BTS in Dietetics:** Trains students in the fields of biochemistry and biology, physiology, nutrition and food, dieting, cooking techniques, and basic physiopathology. Requires a 20-week internship in the food service industry during the 1st year and in a hospital or treatment center during the 2nd year.
- **BTS Optician-Glasses Technician:** Trains students in geometric and physical optics, optical systems, and vision analysis, with a four to 6-week internship.
- **BTS Dentures:** Teaches students techniques for making materials and products and computer-assisted design, with a 22-week internship.
- **BTS Prosthetics-Orthotics:** Teaches students about orthotic devices, prosthetics (limb replacement), and orthoses (correction and rehabilitation), and how to make these.

DIPLÔME UNIVERSITAIRE DE TECHNOLOGIE (DUT) (BACCALAURÉAT + 2 YEARS OF POSTSECONDARY STUDY) – L2

DUT in Biological Engineering: Dietetics begins in the second year with courses in general nutrition and therapeutic diets. A 15-week internship, with at least 8 weeks in a therapeutic setting, is required.

www.cioparamedical.com >Professions>Dietician

LICENCE PROFESSIONNELLE (LP) (L2 + 1 YEAR OF POSTSECONDARY STUDY) – L3

The **LP in Food and Health** teaches students about food and prepares them to be nutrition educators.

DIPLÔMES D'ÉTAT (DE) (BACCALAURÉAT + 3 YEARS OF POSTSECONDARY STUDY) – L3

- **DE in Audioprosthology:** Students learn about anatomy, physiology, audiometry, hearing pathologies, and hearing devices.
- **DE in Occupational Therapy:** Students learn about anatomy, physiology, psychology, pathology, and occupational rehabilitation. Students complete a 10-month internship in a hospital setting.

- **DE in Nursing (L3) • Surgical Nursing (M1) • Pediatric Nursing (M1)**
- **Nursing Anesthetist (M2)** - See: www.campusfrance.org >Espace documentaire>Offre de formation>Fiches domaines>Santé
- **DE in Electroradiology:** Offered in training centers affiliated with university hospitals. www.orthoptiste.pro >Métiers>Manipulateur en électrophysiologie
- **DE in Orthoptics:** Around a dozen orthoptics schools affiliated with medical schools offer training in eye care and ocular pathologies (retinal detachment, cataracts, diabetic retinopathy), with a 12-month internship in a hospital ophthalmology unit. www.orthoptiste.pro >Espace lycéen-étudiant>Les lieux de formation
- **DE Podiatry:** Offered by podiatry institutes to selected students. Covers theory (biology, human physiology, lower-body anatomy, specific pathologies) and includes supervised projects (treatments, orthotics design, and production) and an 8- to 24-week internship in a hospital setting. www.fnp-online.org >Espace étudiants>Les Instituts
- **DE in Prosthetics and Orthotics:** Training covers production techniques (in plastic, metal, etc.) and allied-health dimension (ethics, legislation, psychology) and includes internships where students learn to make devices.
- **DE in Psychomotor Therapy:** offered to selected students at psychomotor therapy institutes. Training covers anatomy, physiology, psychology-psychiatry, psychomotor development, and corporeal techniques. www.psychomotricite.com/ffp >Comment devenir psychomotricien>Liste des écoles
- **DE Medical Laboratory Technician:** Teaches students about analyses (blood, urine, and other biological specimens) used for diagnoses or processing in laboratories, health centers, or R&D labs under the supervision of a pharmacist or medical biologist. <http://antab.com> >Devenir technicien de laboratoire

DIPLÔME DE TECHNICIEN SUPÉRIEUR (DTS) (BACCALAURÉAT + 3 YEARS OF POSTSECONDARY STUDY) – L3

The DTS in medical imaging and therapeutic radiology is offered by training institutes and leads to the Bachelors degree in medical imaging, radiotherapy, electroradiology, etc. It includes clinical internships totaling at least 2,000 hours.

www.remede.org/documents/liste-des-etablissements-preparant.html

MASTERS

LEVEL

DIPLÔME D'ÉTAT (BACCALAURÉAT + 5 YEARS OF STUDY) – M2

- **DE in Massage Therapy-Kinesiotherapy:** Offered by specific training institutes to students having completed 1 year of higher education (PACES, STAPS, or health sciences track). The first 2 years are devoted to theory, practical work, and 70 hours of observation in hospital settings. The second 2 years are devoted to various pathologies, rehabilitation methods, and internships (1,400 hours). To earn the DE, students must submit a formal case presentation and undergo 2 simulations in a hospital setting. www.fnek.fr/ifmk
- **DE in Speech-Language Pathology:** Offered to selected students in training institutes and includes 2 blocks of training, one over 2 semesters (Bachelors level), the second over 4 semesters (Masters level). The program includes modules, the study of specific disorders, rehabilitation techniques, and internships in specialized educational centers, daycares, etc. The program leads to the **Speech-Language Pathologist Certificate**, which is a license to practice. www.fno.fr >L'orthophonie>Formation initiale
- **DE in Midwifery:** Midwifery studies may be undertaken **after successfully completing PACES** in an accredited midwifery school. Two years are devoted to physiology and obstetrics, with internships at obstetric clinics and attending a delivery. The first portion of the program culminates in the **Degree in General Midwifery Sciences** (Bachelors level). The fourth and fifth years are devoted to studying pathologies and high-risk pregnancies, diagnoses, working with teams, and emergency response. A 6-month internship in a maternity ward or pediatric clinic and a dissertation are required in order to earn the DE (validation of the **Certificate in Clinical and Therapeutic Synthesis** and the **Masters in Midwifery Sciences** (DFASMA). www.ordre-sages-femmes.fr/etre-sage-femme/formation

OSTEOPATHY DEGREE (BACCALAURÉAT + 5 YEARS OF STUDY) – M2

Offered by state-sanctioned facilities over 5 years, or 3 years for students having already completed studies in a health-related field (physiotherapy, occupational therapy, nursing, etc.), or in 2 years for students with a DE in medicine. The program offers theoretical training in the sciences, biology (osteoarticular, cardiovascular, and respiratory function), and practical training.

www.osteopathe-syndicat.fr/agrement-ecole-osteopathie