

## THINKING ABOUT A CAREER IN HEALTH CARE?

What do you need to know to enter the health profession of your choice?

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## The demand for health care workers is growing

- The field of health care is a good choice because there will be jobs now and in the future
  - Example: It is projected that we will be short 85,000 doctors in the next decade
- Not only will we be short of doctors, all positions in the health care field will be in demand
- Reasons for the shortage:
  - Growing demand because of a growing population
  - Population is aging requiring more health care services
  - Education institutions do not have the ability to expand their class to add additional workers

## What kind of jobs are available in the medical field?

- Doctors
- Nurses
- Allied Health Professionals:
  - Examples:
    - Dental Hygienist
    - Radiology/Sonography Professionals
    - There are many other opportunities that you have never thought about.

It is important to learn about as many types of jobs as you can so you can make a more informed decision!

## How do you find out about opportunities?

- There are many web sites that have information about careers and list of jobs in specific areas
- Advisors and career service departments at your local college
- Occupational hand book has lists and descriptions
- Visit local clinics and interview persons in those positions that interest you
- Check your local university for classes offered

## Where can I get information about health care jobs?

- American Association of Medical Colleges  
[www.aamc.org](http://www.aamc.org)
- American Association of Dental Schools  
[www.adea.org](http://www.adea.org)
- American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
[www.aacom.org](http://www.aacom.org)
- Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry  
[www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org)
- American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
[www.aacp.org](http://www.aacp.org)
- Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
[www.aavmc.org](http://www.aavmc.org)

## How do I find what kind of qualifications are needed?

- The web sites for professional organizations and specific schools and colleges are a great place to start
- Every school's requirements can be a little bit different, so it is important to fully research the programs you are interested in



### What do you need to do to prepare for the career in which you are interested?

- Knowing what qualifications and or classes or degrees are necessary is the first step
- Volunteering is very important- either in the community or in the medical field
- Some careers require observation or shadowing
- Interview a person that works in the field or position in which you are interested
- Find out what schools offer your program

### What training or certification is needed for your chosen profession?

- Do you need to attend a special program or school to be licensed or certified?
- Does your training require specific classes?
- Does your training require a certain grade point average in prerequisite courses or Bachelors degree in order to apply and even be competitive?
- Do you need Shadowing or work experience in the medical area ?

### How competitive is the program in which you are interested?

- Do you have to apply and be admitted?
- Are admissions tests required?
- Are there deadlines for application and when do they accept applications?
- Do you need letters of recommendation?
- Where do you find out about the application process for each of your chosen schools?

### How do I apply to a professional school?

- Most professional schools require an admissions test. For example: MCAT- Medical College Application Test.
- The test needs to be scheduled in advance check the AMCAS website for MCAT dates
- Application process usually takes about a year. Start the application process in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of your junior year- but need to have required science and math classes completed before taking the admissions test

### Step 2

- You need to have volunteering and shadowing experience underway
- Start planning your personal statement
- Begin asking for letters of recommendation
- Check websites of schools you are going to apply to and make sure your grades and MCAT scores are in the range of their candidates from the past years
- Prepare for interviews. If possible do a mock interview for practice

### What costs are involved to pursue your chosen profession?

- In-state tuition vs. out of state tuition
- Cost of living while attending the institution to receive your training
- Length of program
- Are scholarships and/or financial aid available for your program?
- Can you work while going to school?
- Is the salary worth the cost of the program?



### Careers in the Medical Profession (Looking at the major areas)

- Chiropractic
- Dentistry
- Optometrist
- Pharmacist
- Physical therapy
- Physician- Allopathic or Osteopathic
- Podiatrist
- Veterinary medicine
- Nursing



### Allied Health Professions

- The term Allied Health is used to identify a cluster of health professions, encompassing as many as 200 health careers. There are 5 million allied health care providers in the U.S.
- Allied Health workers represent 60% of the health care providers
- They fall in 2 categories – technicians (assistants) and therapists/ technologists

### Careers in Allied Health

- This is a very large area with many opportunities. Education can be weeks in length to years
  - Medical Technology
  - Occupational Therapy Assistant
  - Physician Assistant
  - Radiology
  - Respiratory therapy
  - Dietitian/nutritionist
  - Vet Tech
  - Phlebotomy




### Allied Health Web sites

[www.explorehealthcareers.org](http://www.explorehealthcareers.org)



### Allied Health Web sites

- [www.ama-assn.org/alliedhealth](http://www.ama-assn.org/alliedhealth)



### Important information to remember

- Grades, experience and preparation are crucial
- Personal characteristics can make the difference
  - Maturity
  - Compassion and empathy
  - Motivation and persistence
  - Intellectual ability
  - Adaptability
  - Honesty and integrity

