

Module 8: A Drive Through the Community

Topic 1 Content: Healthcare Careers

Education



Many individuals with a career pertaining to health and medicine work in the field of education. These individuals work to provide citizens with health information, and instruct others who work in the field. These educators often work to construct and implement public-awareness plans to promote overall health and well-being.

Health-related careers and professions pertaining to education can be found across a variety of settings, including higher-education institutions; public and private elementary, middle, and high schools; non-profit organizations; community organizations; organizations that work to protect consumer rights; and local, state, and federal health agencies.

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Education II



At a postsecondary or higher-education level, there are several opportunities for individuals who have a master's degree or a doctorate. Candidates with this background can work as professors, and provide instruction in courses pertinent to health, such as biology, anatomy, women's health, children's health, and reproductive health, to name a few. There are also several job opportunities in both public and private elementary, middle, and high schools. Employment at these schools often requires a bachelor's degree, and in some cases a master's degree. Schools offer many teaching positions related to health, and individuals can instruct in subjects such as sexual education, physical education, health, biology, and psychology. In addition to teachers, such schools also need nurses to help students who fall ill or are injured while at school, and to help educate students and teachers about health-related topics.

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Education III



Examples of health-education careers with organizations and government agencies include director, field educator, outreach specialist, and outreach educator. These jobs are specific to the organization or agency through which they operate, but all work to provide the public with information that promotes healthy lifestyles and decisions.

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Community Practice



The health of your community is important, and there are many careers you can explore that would allow you to promote the health and well-being of your community's members while making a living. You can find such career opportunities through employers like local, state, and federal health agencies; substance abuse centers; rehabilitation centers; centers for the aging and elderly; non-profit organizations; hospitals; doctors' offices; and fitness facilities.

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Community Practice II



You may visit your local doctor's office and see physicians, nurses, and other employees working in the office. Many health agencies -- whether local, state, or federal; non-profit organizations and hospitals -- also need doctors and nurses, as well as scientists, directors, and trained specialists to execute plans and meet goals related to health and wellness.

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Community Practice III



Substance abuse and rehabilitation centers employ psychiatrists, psychologists, doctors, nurses, physical therapists, and other employees to assist patients on their routes to recovery.

Personal trainers often work out of fitness facilities, but some actually meet their clients in other places or in their homes. These personal trainers use their knowledge of the body, exercise, and sometimes nutrition to help people meet their fitness goals. Those goals can be weight loss, gains in muscle strength, endurance, and/or speed, or improved general health.

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Administration and Management



Healthcare management, or healthcare administration, is a field relating to the leadership, supervision, and administration of hospitals, hospital networks, and healthcare systems. Healthcare administrators are trained healthcare professionals who work to raise and maintain the quality of healthcare provided to patients. They also present timely information about public health threats in their communities.

With changes in government legislation and mandates, research, and technology, the healthcare field is changing in terms of how and where individuals obtain healthcare, how it is financed, and even delivered. Healthcare administrators manage how their organizations accommodate these changes and new demands. They also make decisions to improve the health of communities and the individuals their organizations serve and employ.

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Administration and Management II



Healthcare management careers are found in many settings, such as:

- clinics;
- consulting firms;
- health-insurance organizations;
- healthcare associations;
- hospitals;
- nursing homes;
- physician practices;
- mental-health organizations;
- public-health departments;
- rehabilitation centers;
- skilled-nursing facilities; and
- universities and research institutions.

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Administration and Management III



Healthcare management may not require education specific to healthcare. For instance, a person with a background in finance, science, business, human relations, or marketing may find a management position in a healthcare setting. Specific examples of healthcare management jobs include department leadership and chief executive of a hospital.

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Policy



Healthcare policies refer to the numerous rules, regulations, and guidelines that exist to operate, finance, and manage the distribution of healthcare. These rules and regulations affect how various agencies provide and manage healthcare. Some healthcare policies focus on the distribution of healthcare among all citizens. These policies vary from nation to nation. In the United States, healthcare currently is paid through private insurance companies and government-sponsored programs such as Medicare and Medicaid.

People who hold occupations in healthcare policy make decisions and actions critical to influencing health policy. Policy issues range from medical and legal to economic and social. Policy advocates and planners try to protect health rights of the specific people whom they serve, such as the homeless, under-insured, elderly, children, disabled, and military veterans. Corporations and unions also need policy makers and people to advocate for policies that benefit their organizations as they face rising health costs for their employees.

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Policy II



Health policy falls in a variety of job settings, such as:

- advocacy groups;
- government agencies;
- public and private foundations;
- corporations;
- unions;
- consulting firms; and
- professional associations.

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Research



Individuals who seek careers in research may have a background in a number of different fields, such as biology, life science, psychology, anatomy, or physiology; however, they may be able to find a career in a health-related research field. Careers that are research oriented are for individuals who seek answers and who wish to obtain information regarding problematic health-related issues, and/or make health discoveries. Through research and scientific findings, medical breakthroughs can be made, and certain illnesses or diseases can be remedied or alleviated. You can find careers related to health research in academic institutions; non-profit and for-profit organizations; research firms and agencies; and local, state, and federal government agencies. Many times, the same organization or individual who conducts the research also educates the public about the research findings.