

INTRODUCTION TO
**HEALTH
SCIENCE
TECHNOLOGY**

Second Edition



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Chapter 3

Careers in Health Care

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3:1 Introduction to Health Careers

- Education
 - Requirements vary by program and state
 - High school preparation
 - Health science technology education (HSTE)
 - Post-secondary education
 - Types of degrees
 - National Consortium on Health Science and Technology Education (NCHSTE)

Certification, Registration, and Licensure

- Purpose
- Certification process and examples
- Registration process and examples
- Licensure process and examples

Accrediting Agencies

- Purpose
- Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)
- Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES)

Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

- Purpose
- Requirements vary between careers
- Student must know requirements in their state

Training Levels

- Professional
- Technologist or therapist
- Technician
- Aide or assistant

Multicompetent or Multiskilled Workers

- New trend in health occupations
- Workers perform a variety of occupations
- Eliminates need for employing specialist for every aspect of care
- Examples
- Education done on the job or through educational programs

Entrepreneur

- Definition
- Work conditions
- Advantages and disadvantages
- Examples

National Health Care Skill Standards (NHCSS)

- Purpose
- Health Care Core Standards
- Therapeutic/Diagnostic Core Standards
- Therapeutic Cluster Standards
(Therapeutic Services)
- Diagnostic Cluster Standards
(Diagnostic Services)

(continues)

NHCSS

(continued)

- Health Informatics Services Cluster Standards
- Support Environmental Services Cluster Standards
- Biotechnology Research and Development Standards

Introduction to Health Careers

- Various levels in health care require different educational requirements
 - On-the-job training
 - HSTE program
 - Associate's degree
 - Bachelor's degree
 - Master's degree
 - Doctoral degree (Doctor's)

Summary

- Different health occupations require different levels of education
- Some careers require certification, registration, or licensure
- Requirements vary from state to state
- Student must obtain information pertinent to an individual state

3:2 Therapeutic Services Careers

- Basic job description
 - Use variety of treatments to help patients who are injured, physically or mentally disabled, or emotionally disturbed
 - Direct treatment toward allowing the patient to function at maximum capacity
- Places of employment

3:2A Dental Careers

- Basic job duties
 - Health of teeth and soft tissues of mouth
 - Preventing dental disease
 - Repairing or replacing diseased or damaged teeth
 - Treating gingiva (gums) and other supporting structures of the teeth
- Places of employment

(continues)

Dental Careers

(continued)

- Specialty areas
- See Table 3-3 in text
- Dentist
- Dental hygienist
- Dental laboratory technician (CLDT)
- Dental assistant

3:2B Emergency Medical Services Careers

- Basic job duties
 - Provide emergency prehospital care
 - Provide care to victims of accidents, injuries, and sudden illness
- Places of employment

(continues)

Emergency Medical Services Careers

(continued)

- See Table 3-4 in text
- Emergency medical technician paramedic
(EMT-P, EMT-4)
- Emergency medical technician intermediate
(EMT-1, EMT-2, EMT-3)

(continues)

Emergency Medical Services Careers

(continued)

- Emergency medical technician basic (EMT-B, EMT-1)
- First responder (e.g., police, security, individual)

3:2C Medical Careers

- Basic description
 - Includes physicians and those who work under their supervision
 - Involved with diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of diseases and disorders of the human body
- Places of employment

(continues)

Medical Careers

(continued)

- See Table 3-5 in text
- Physician (doctor): MD, DO, DPM, DC
- Physician assistant
- Medical assistant

3:2D Mental and Social Services

- Basic job duties
 - Mental or emotional disorders or mental retardation
 - Social workers assist others to deal with illness, employment, or community problems
 - Focus: help individuals function to their maximum capacity
- Places of employment

(continues)

Mental and Social Services Careers

(continued)

- See Table 3-7 in text
- Psychiatrist
- Psychologist
- Psychiatric/mental health technician
- Social worker (sociologist)
- Genetic counselor

3:2E Mortuary Careers

- Basic job duties
 - Preparation of the body
 - Perform ceremony that honors the deceased and meets the spiritual needs of the living
 - Cremation or burial of the remains
 - Practices and rites vary due to cultural and religious preferences
- Places of employment

3:2F Nursing Careers

- Basic job duties
 - Provide care under direction of a physician
 - Direct care given to meet mental, emotional, and physical needs of the patient
- Places of employment

(continues)

Nursing Careers

(continued)

- See Table 3-9 in text
- Registered nurse (RN)
- Licensed practical/vocational nurse (LPN/
LVN)
- Nurse assistant
- Geriatric aide

(continues)

Nursing Careers

(continued)

- Home health care assistant
- Medication aide
- Certified nurse technician
- Patient care technician

Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

- Purpose
- Requirements vary between careers
- Student must know requirements in their state

3:2G Nutrition and Dietary Services Careers

- Basic job duties
 - Recognize importance good nutrition has for health
 - Promote wellness and optimum health through good nutrition
 - Provide dietary guidelines used to treat various diseases
 - Teach proper nutrition
 - Prepare food for health care facilities
- Places of employment

(continues)

Nutrition and Dietary Careers

(continued)

- See Table 3-10 in text
- Dietitian or nutritionist
- Dietetic technician
- Dietetic assistant or food service worker

3:2H Veterinary Careers

- Basic description
 - Work with all types of animals
 - Range from house pets to livestock to wildlife
- Places of employment

(continues)

Veterinary Careers

(continued)

- See Table 3-11 in text
- Veterinarian (DVM or VDM)
- Veterinary (animal health) technologist (VTR, registered)
- Veterinarian assistant (animal caretaker)

3:2I Vision Services Careers

- Basic job duties
 - Provide care to prevent vision disorders
 - Treat vision disorders
- Places of employment

(continues)

Vision Services Careers

(continued)

- See Table 3-12 in text
- Ophthalmologist (MD)
- Optometrist (OD)
- Ophthalmic medical technologist (COMT)
- Ophthalmic technician (COT)
- Ophthalmic assistant (COA)
- Optician
- Ophthalmic laboratory technician

3:2J Other Therapeutic Services Careers

- See Table 3-13 in text
- Occupational therapist (OT)
- Occupational therapy assistant
- Pharmacist
- Pharmacy technician
- Physical therapist (PT)
- Physical therapist assistant

(continues)

Other Therapeutic Services Careers

(continued)

- Massage therapist
- Recreational therapist (TR)
- Certified therapeutic recreation specialist
- Recreational therapy assistant or activity director
- Respiratory therapist (RT)
- Respiratory therapy technician

(continues)

Other Therapeutic Services Careers

(continued)

- Speech-language therapist/pathologist and/or audiologist
- Surgical technician/technologist
- Art, music, dance therapist
- Athletic trainer
- Dialysis technician
- Perfusionist, certified clinical perfusionist, or extracorporeal circulation technologist

3:3 Diagnostic Services Careers

- See Table 3-14 in text
- Cardiovascular technologist
- Registered diagnostic vascular technologist (RDTV)
- Electrocardiograph (ECG) technician
- Electroencephalographic technologist

(continues)

Diagnostic Careers

(continued)

- Electroneurodiagnostic technologist
- Medical (clinical) laboratory technologist
- Medical (clinical) laboratory technician
- Medical (clinical) laboratory assistant
- Phlebotomist
- Radiologic technologist

3:4 Health Informatics Careers

- Basic job duties
 - Documentation of patient records
 - Health information
 - Health education
- Places of employment

(continues)

Health Informatics Careers

(continued)

- See Table 3-15 in text
- Health information (medical records) administrator registered (RRA)
- Health information (medical records) technician registered (RHIT)
- Medical transcriptionist
- Admitting officers/clerks

(continues)

Health Informatics Careers

(continued)

- Unit secretary/ward clerk/health unit coordinator/medical records clerk
- Epidemiologist
- Medical interpreter/translator
- Medical illustrator
- Medical librarian

3:5 Support Services Careers

- Basic description
 - Create therapeutic environment
 - Operate support departments
 - Each department has workers at all levels with varying amounts of education
- Places of employment

(continues)

Support Services Careers

(continued)

- See Table 3-16 in text
- Health care administrator, health services manager, or health care executive
- Biomedical (clinical) engineer
- Admitting officer/clerk
- Central/sterile supply worker
- Housekeeping worker/sanitary manager

3:6 Biotechnology Research and Development Careers

- Basic description
 - Use living cells to create products
 - Research and development
 - Disease prevention
- Unlimited potential for biotechnology
- Places of employment

(continues)

Biotechnology Careers

(continued)

- Refer to Table 3-17 in text
- Biological or medical scientists
- Biotechnological engineers (bioengineers)
- Biological technicians
- Process technicians
- Forensic science technicians

Summary

- Health care careers are as exciting as they are diverse with over 250 different opportunities available
- Each career has specific education requirements, job descriptions, and annual salaries earned
- There are many occupational opportunities for a successful career in health care