Health Care Careers
Provided by the Kaiser Permanente Health Care Career Scholarship Program
2014-2015
Agenda

- Market for Health Care Workers
- Reasons to Consider a Career in Health Care
- Examples of Health Care Careers
- How to Explore Health Care Careers
- How to Prepare in High School
Global Health Care Worker Shortage

Consider a Career in Health Care – You Are Needed

- The World Health Organization projects the world will be short of 12.9 million health care workers by 2035.

- Health care jobs account for 10 of the top 20 fastest growing U.S. occupations for 2012-2022 (U.S. Dept. of Labor).

- Registered nursing is among the top occupations for largest projected number of job openings in the U.S. for 2012-2022 (U.S. Dept. of Labor).

- The Association of American Medical Colleges predicts a shortage of more than 130,600 physicians by 2025.
Oregon Health Care Employment Outlook

- In Oregon, 45,000 health care jobs are projected to be added by 2022 (Oregon Employment Department).

- Ambulatory care services are expected to lead the growth in Oregon health care occupations (Oregon Employment Department).
  - Ambulatory care services are outpatient care services – e.g. physicians’ offices, dentists, chiropractors, outpatient clinics, and home health services.

- Podiatrists, physician assistants, nurse midwives, and physical therapy aides are among the fastest growing occupations in Oregon (Dept. of Labor Career Info Net).

- Registered nurses and nursing assistants are among the jobs with the most projected openings in Oregon (Dept. of Labor Career Info Net).
Washington Health Care Employment Outlook

- According to the Washington State Employment Security Department:
  - For the period 2011-2021, above-average employment growth is projected for health services and social assistance occupations in Washington.
  - Health care providers and technical occupations are among the top 10 occupations with the most projected job openings for the period 2017-2022 in Washington.
  - Diagnostic medical sonography is projected to be the third fastest-growing occupation in Washington for the period 2017-2022.

- According to the University of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies, the demand for registered nurses in Washington is projected to outpace supply in the next 10 years.
Reasons for Shortage in Health Care Workers

- Increasing population
- Aging population
- Upsurge in retiring health care workers
- Increased demand for health care services
  - Health care reform has enabled more people to gain access to health insurance, and they are now seeking health care services.
Why Consider a Health Care Career?

- Job growth/security
- Good earning potential
- Flexibility & variety of opportunity
  - Wide range of clinical and non-clinical positions
- Ongoing learning and challenge
  - Knowledge and technology are ever-changing
- Fulfillment that comes from making a tangible, positive impact on others
Health Care Careers Are Wide & Varied
You’ve probably heard of these occupations

**Commonly Known Careers in Health Care**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physicians &amp; Surgeons</th>
<th>Diagnostic Medical Sonographers</th>
<th>Pharmacy Technicians</th>
<th>Chiropractors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physician Assistants</td>
<td>EMTs &amp; Paramedics</td>
<td>Nutritionists/Dieticians</td>
<td>Clinical Lab Scientists (Medical Technologists)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Nurses</td>
<td>Phlebotomists</td>
<td>Radiologic Techs/X-Ray Techs/MRI Techs</td>
<td>Naturopathic Physicians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Practitioners</td>
<td>Occupational Therapists</td>
<td>Speech Language Pathologists</td>
<td>Psychiatrists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified Nursing Assistants</td>
<td>Physical Therapists &amp; Physical Therapist Assistants/Aides</td>
<td>Dentists</td>
<td>Psychologists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Practical Nurses</td>
<td>Optometrists</td>
<td>Dental Hygienists</td>
<td>Mental Health Therapists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Assistants</td>
<td>Pharmacists</td>
<td>Dental Assistants</td>
<td>Medical Records/Health Information Technicians</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
But have you heard of these occupations?

### Additional Careers to Explore

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dental Therapists</th>
<th>Perfusionists</th>
<th>Health Care Administrators</th>
<th>Medical Dosimetrists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Radiation Therapists</td>
<td>Nuclear Medicine Technologists</td>
<td>Community Health Workers</td>
<td>Audiologists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathologist Assistants</td>
<td>Medical Scribes &amp; Transcriptionists</td>
<td>Public Health Educators</td>
<td>Cardiovascular Technicians (Echocardiogram Techs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteopathic Physicians</td>
<td>Cytotechnologists</td>
<td>Polysomnographic Technologists</td>
<td>Medical Researchers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podiatrists</td>
<td>Surgical Technologists</td>
<td>Epidemiologists</td>
<td>Electroneurodiagnostic Technologists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified Nurse Midwives</td>
<td>Medical Social Workers</td>
<td>Orientation &amp; Mobility Specialists</td>
<td>Anesthesiologist Assistants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthotists and Prosthetists</td>
<td>Medical Informatics Specialists</td>
<td>Surgical Technologists</td>
<td>Certified Ophthalmic Assistants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Health Care Careers & Education

- Most health care careers that pay at least a “family wage” require some form of postsecondary education.
  - Some careers require as little as a year of postsecondary education and others require twelve or more.

- Don’t be intimidated by careers that require a lot of education.
  - The years pass by no matter what; you might as well spend them pursuing the career that fits you best!
  - Health care professionals who had to spend a long time in school to achieve their goals typically describe loan payments as manageable.

- Carefully research educational options.
  - Is the college you’re considering a for-profit or a non-profit institution? What kind of accreditation does it have? Are the credits academic or vocational?
    - Non-profit institutions are often more likely to be affordable and to offer academic courses (credits) that transfer to four-year institutions.
How to Explore Health Care Careers

- Get to know yourself. What interests you? What are you good at?
- Look for health care careers that will allow you to utilize your interests and innate abilities.
- Get involved in activities that will help you learn more about the field of health care.
  - Clubs and committees related to health and health professions.
  - Volunteering and shadowing.
  - Informational interviewing.
  - Career fairs.
  - Visits to colleges with pre-health and health professions programs.
  - Community learning opportunities (e.g. babysitting or CPR class at Red Cross, presentations on health & medical topics at local hospitals, etc.).
How to Prepare in High School

- Take challenging course work.
  - Hone your math, science, writing, and critical thinking skills.
  - Master another language (not required, but certainly a benefit in the field).

- Get advice and information.
  - Talk to high school teachers and counselors.
  - Meet with academic advisors at colleges and universities of interest.

- Engage in activities.
  - Demonstrate your interests through action.
  - Develop leadership and collaboration skills.

- Balance activities with academics
  - Don’t sacrifice one for the other!

- Seek assistance with skill-building (studying, test-taking, stress relief).
How to Prepare in High School

Apply for the Kaiser Permanente Health Care Career Scholarship!

kp.org/communitybenefit/scholarship/nw
Appendix

Links to sources for data cited on slides 3 – 5

### Slide 3 – Global/National Data
- [http://www.bls.gov/ooh/fastest-growing.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/fastest-growing.htm) (The 10 health care occupations listed as part of the top 20 fastest growing occupations list are home health aides, diagnostic medical sonographers, occupational therapy assistants, genetic counselors, physical therapy assistants, physical therapist aides, physician assistants, occupational therapy aides, medical secretaries, and physical therapists.)
- [http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecopro.t08.htm](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecopro.t08.htm)
- [https://www.aamc.org/advocacy/campaigns_and_coalitions/fixdocshortage/](https://www.aamc.org/advocacy/campaigns_and_coalitions/fixdocshortage/)

### Slide 4 – State of Oregon Data
- [http://www.careerinfonet.org/select_state.asp?id=11&nodeid=12&next=state1](http://www.careerinfonet.org/select_state.asp?id=11&nodeid=12&next=state1) (select “Oregon” from state profile drop-down and conduct searches for “fastest growing” and “most openings”)

### Slide 5 – State of Washington Data