

What is allied health?
What's in it for me?



HEALTH PROFESSIONS NETWORK

The Health Professions Network

The HPN is a group of volunteers representing health professional associations interested in interdisciplinary communication, discussion, and collaboration, working to positively influence the delivery of quality health care.

HPN History

The initial meeting to form the HPN was held in August 1995 in Norfolk, VA.

Ten years later, the HPN continues to be a leading voice on behalf of all allied health professions as they come together and address the many challenges facing the US health care system.

What do you want to be when you grow up?



Little kids often say . . .

Fireman

Policeman

Teacher

Pro Athlete

Doctor (pediatrician)

Nurse

But you're not a kid any more . . . And it's time to weigh your options for the future



How do I get there? (And where is “there” for me?)

Do I need to go to college?

Which college offers what I need?

How long will I have to go to school?

How will I pay for my education?

Will it be easy to find a job?

How much will I get paid?

What will I be doing each day as a [blank]?

What about medicine or nursing?

Want to become a doctor?

Very rewarding and honorable career

Lengthy and challenging education and training (4 yrs college, 4 yrs med school,
3 or more yrs residency)

Selective process (two applicants for every one medical school spot)

50% of med students are now women

Lifetime learning and maintenance of licensure and certification is expected

Want to be a nurse?

With nationwide shortage of nurses, many hospitals have openings and offer educational assistance/hiring bonuses

More men are becoming nurses

Three major paths to becoming an RN (associate degree, diploma, bachelors)

Advanced opportunities include nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, nurse anesthetist, and nurse-midwife

“Okay, so what other choices do I have for careers in the health care field?”

How about allied health?

There are approximately 200 recognized allied health professions

Allied health professionals make up an estimated 60% of the US health care workforce

Almost all allied health professions are experiencing shortages—many greater than those in nursing

Allied health: Growing like a weed

Seven of the top 10 fastest growing occupations, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics:

Medical assistant

Physician assistant

Social and human service assistant

Home health aide

Medical records & health information technician

Physical therapist aide

Physical therapist assistant

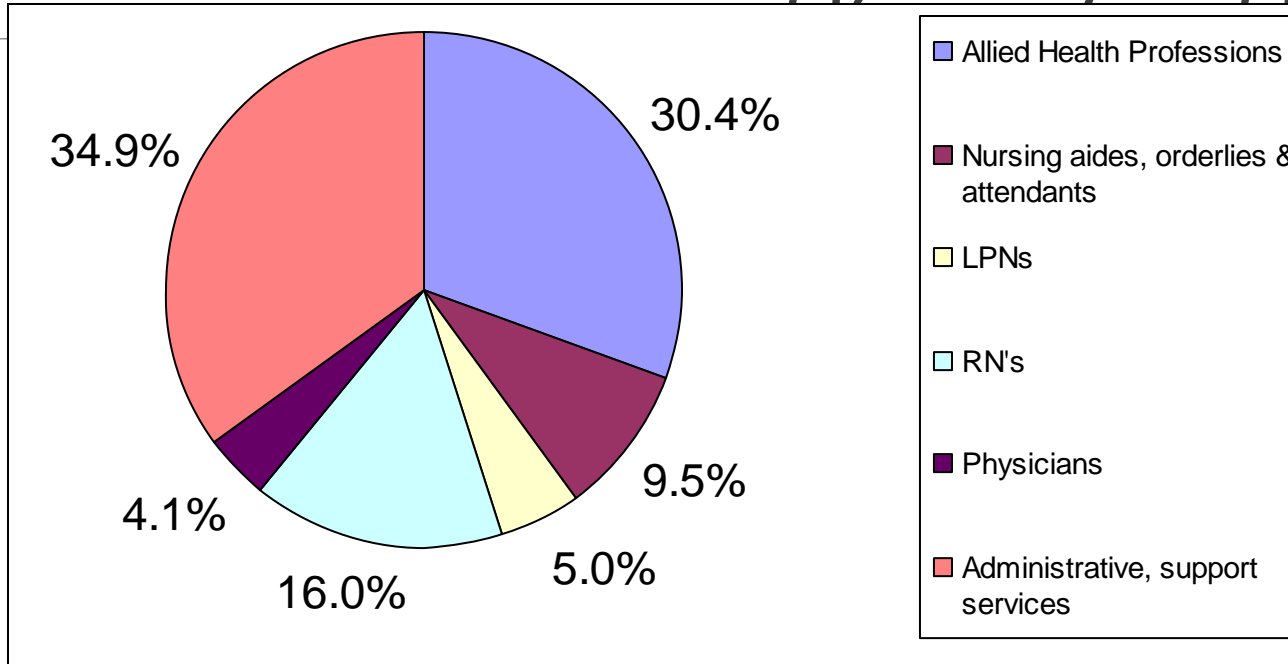
But what is allied health?

Allied health professionals are health care practitioners with formal education and clinical training who are credentialed through certification, registration, and/or licensure.

Allied health practitioners work with physicians and other members of the health care team to deliver high-quality patient care services for identifying, preventing, and treating disease and disabilities.

They are essentially everyone
working in health care other than
doctors and nurses!

Allied health is big, very big



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Some allied health professions may be familiar to you . . .

Laboratory technician

Radiologic technologist

Physical therapist

Physician assistant

Dental hygienist

Dietitian

And some may not . . .

Art therapist

Nuclear medicine technologist

Cytopathology technologist

Dosimetrist

Cardiovascular technologist

Health information administrator

Recreational therapist

Okay, how do I choose which career is right for me?

Consider length of education, salary, job duties, current/future staffing needs
And think about your interests and your personality type. For example . . .

Are you a “doer?”

Athletic trainer

Dental laboratory technician

Ophthalmic laboratory technician

Orthotist/prosthetist

Recreational therapist

Are you an artist?

Art therapist

Dance therapist

Medical illustrator or photographer

Music therapist

Are you “touchy-feely?”

Kinesiotherapist

Massage therapist

Occupational therapist

Occupational therapy assistant

Physical therapist

Physical therapist assistant

Are you an investigator?

Medical laboratory technologist

Diagnostic molecular scientist

Histologic technician/technologist

Pathologists' assistant

Clinical assistant

Cytogenetic technologist

Are you a people person?

Community counselor

Genetic counselor

Marriage and family counselor/therapist

Mental health counselor

Rehabilitation counselor

School counselor

Are you into computers and technology?

Health information administrator

Health information technician

These are just some examples, there are many, many more!

Audiologist/speech language pathologist

Dental assistant

Diagnostic medical sonographer

Emergency medical technician-paramedic

Medical assistant

Phlebotomist

Physician assistant

Polysomnographic technologist

Radiation therapist/radiographer

Respiratory therapist

Surgical assistant

Health Professions Network (HPN)

Is a loose collaboration of organizations involved in allied health

Is working to positively influence the delivery of quality health care

Brings individuals from a diverse group together to address common issues

Promotes allied health professions to the government and the public

Health Professions Network (HPN)

Offers helpful information through its “Allied Health Profession of the Month” feature

Professions recently profiled include cytotechnology, magnetic resonance technology, surgical neurophysiology, and athletic training

Visit our Web site:

www.healthpronet.org

Other allied health info sources to check out . . .

National Network of Health Careers Programs in Two-Year Colleges (NN2)

www.NN2.org

Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP)

www.asahp.org

Official Allied Health Organizations Site

www.alliedhealth.org

Other allied health info sources to check out (continued). . .

Careers in Allied Health:

American Medical Association (AMA)

www.ama-assn.org/go/alliedhealth

Also from the AMA: *Health Professions Career and Education Directory*, with information on 71 allied health professions and 6,900 educational programs, from 2-year degrees to PhD-level programs

Show me the money . . .

The AMA has a site that shows salary information for the majority of allied health professions:

www.ama-assn.org/go/hpsalary

Keep track of allied health trends . . .

Subscribe to a free monthly e-mail newsletter on all things allied health. For more information and archive issues, see:

www.ama-assn.org/go/hpe-letter

100 health careers for your exploration at “LifeWorks”

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), Office of Science Education offers information on more than 100 careers in the health and medical sciences:

<http://science.education.nih.gov/LifeWorks>

State-level sources of info

New York Health Careers:
www.healthcareersinfo.net

My First Day (Minnesota and Virginia):
<http://www.myfirstday.org/>



My tongue is tired -- any questions?