



HEALTH CAREERS: YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Presented By:

USF Area Health Education Center Program Office

a member of the Florida AHEC Network



USF AREA HEALTH
EDUCATION CENTER
PROGRAM

Making Life Better™

What is AHEC?

Area Health Education Centers were established to address the needs of the medically underserved populations in our nation.

Note: A medically underserved community is a community in which a majority of the population is either uninsured or underinsured (without access or very limited access to quality health care).

What is AHEC?

AHECs address the needs of the medically underserved by enhancing access to quality health care, improving the supply and distribution of health care professionals.

- Connects students to careers, professionals to communities and communities to better health.
- We inspire, train, recruit and sustain a diverse and broad range of health professionals to practice in communities where the need is greatest.

USF AHEC Mission

The mission of USF AHEC is to establish community-academic partnerships for the health of the underserved.

47 million Americans are medically underserved:

- Economic issues
- Geographic barriers
- Cultural or language barriers

We Need You!



- We are faced with a crisis – not enough nurses, physicians, dentists and more. Have you thought about who will care for you when you have health problems?
- The AHEC Program inspires youth, just like you, to choose a career in the health professions. As our population becomes more diverse, we need an equally diverse health care workforce.
- We need you to be the next generation of health care professionals!

What is a Health Career?



- Jobs that maintain the health and condition of the human body (mentally and physically)
 - There are over **250** different health careers
- Health careers give you the opportunity to save lives and improve the health of all people

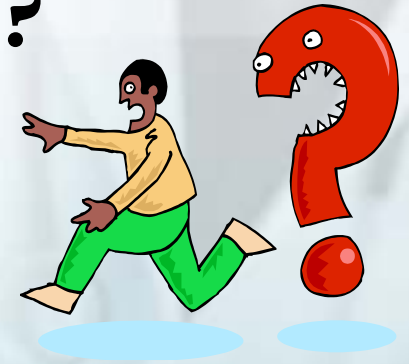
Why a Career in Health?



Make a difference:

- **Help improve lives. Help save lives!**
- Provide better access to health care in your community
- Help improve the standard of health care in medically underserved, rural, and inner-city communities and underrepresented populations

Why a Career in Health?



Job security:

- Attain skills that are in high demand
- Opportunities for advancement
- Multiple places of employment
- Earn a good living to support yourself and your family

Why a Career in Health?



Educational options:

- **Certification** – (Vocational Training) CNA, LPN, EMT, Paramedic
- **Associate's Degree** – (2 years at a Community College) RN, radiologic tech, respiratory therapist, dental hygienist, surgical technologist, medical assistant
- **Bachelor's/Master's Degree** – (4 - 6 years at a University) BSN, occupational therapist, physical therapist, nurse practitioner, physician assistant
- **Doctorate Degree** – (6 - 8+ years at a University) physicians, dentists, pharmacists

Careers in Health



Medicine

Physician Assistant

Nursing

Radiology

Pharmacy

**Occupational &
Physical Therapy**

Respiratory Therapy

Public Health

Dentistry

Dental Hygiene

Mental Health

EMT/Paramedics

Surgical Tech

Medicine

Description:

- Physicians perform physical examinations and diagnose, prevent and treat illnesses, injuries, and other disorders of the human body.

Training:

- 11+ years
- Licensure required

Starting Salary:

- \$150,000 - \$180,000



Physician Assistant

Description:

- Perform physical examinations, diagnose illness, recommend treatment, and order laboratory tests under the supervision of a physician.

Training:

- 6+ years (usually a Master's degree)
- Licensure required

Starting Salary:

- \$47,000 - \$85,000



Nursing

Description:

- Nurses have the most patient contact. They care for the physical and emotional needs of patients. They do examinations, provide health maintenance duties, and diagnose depending on their level of training, under the supervision of a physician.

Training:

- CNA - 120 hours and certification
- LPN - 1 year and licensure
- RN/BSN - 2 or 4 years and licensure
- ARNP - RN + Master's degree and certification



Nursing (continued)

Starting Salary:

- CNA - \$17,000 - \$31,000
- LPN - \$31,000 - \$42,000
- RN/BSN - \$42,000 - \$63,000
- ARNP - \$63,000 - \$83,000



Radiology

Description:

- Radiologic Technologists specialize in the use of X-Ray equipment and advanced computer-aided imaging equipment such as ultrasound, Computer Tomography (CT) Scan, and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) to create images of the internal structures of the body for medical diagnostic purposes.

Training:

- 2+ years
- Licensure required

Starting Salary:

- \$42,000 - \$63,000



Pharmacy

Description:

- Retain specific knowledge about the use, composition, therapeutic and adverse effects of medications, as well as the laws that regulate the making and selling of drugs. Dispense medications prescribed by physicians, dentists, and other authorized medical practitioners.

Training:

- 6 years
- Licensure required

Starting Salary:

- \$64,000 - \$100,000



Occupational & Physical Therapy

Description:

- PTs work with people who have been disabled by illness or accident to restore motor skills (walking, lifting, moving) to as normal function as possible. OTs work with fine motor function (opening jars, brushing your teeth, typing).

Training:

- 6+ years
- Licensure required

Starting Salary:

- \$52,000 - \$73,000



Respiratory Therapy

Description:

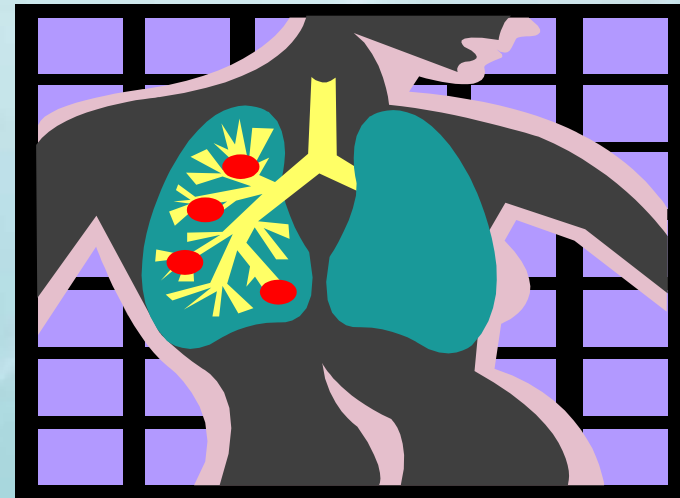
- Specializes in the evaluation, treatment, and care of patients with breathing problems such as Asthma or Emphysema. Respiratory Therapists work under the care of a physician to administer such therapy.

Training:

- 2+ years
- Licensure required

Starting Salary:

- \$38,000 - \$48,000



Public Health

Description:

- Public health is concerned with improving access to health care, health promotion, preventing/controlling infectious disease, and reducing environmental hazards, violence, substance abuse, and injury.

Training:

- 2 - 8+ years

Starting Salary:

- \$32,000 - \$100,000



Dentistry

Description:

- Dentists examine, prevent, diagnose, and treat diseases, injuries, and abnormalities of the teeth, gums, and adjacent tissues and structures of the mouth. There are many specialty areas.

Training:

- 8+ years
- Licensure required

Starting Salary:

- \$136,000 - \$187,000



Dental Hygiene

Description:

- Dental Hygienists educate individuals about their oral health. They evaluate the patient's oral health, expose, process and interpret dental x-ray films, and remove deposits, stains, and plaque above and below the gum line.

Training:

- 2+ years
- Licensure required

Starting Salary:

- \$42,000 - \$63,000



Mental Health

Description:

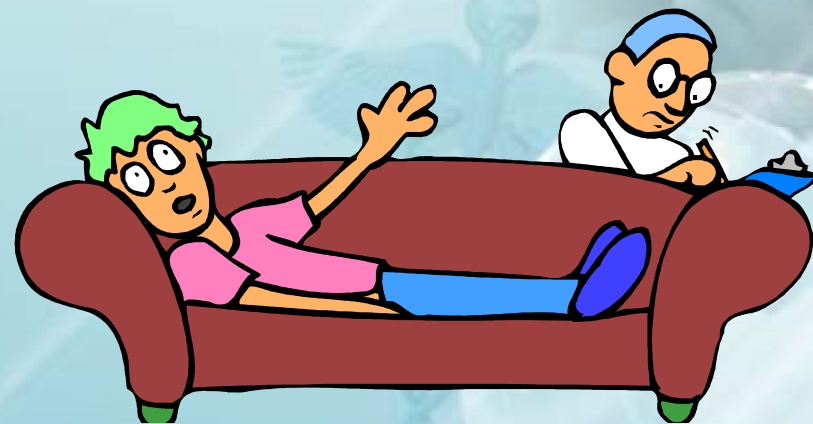
- Mental health professionals help people with psychological, emotional, and social needs. Psychiatrists, psychologists, mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, social workers, substance abuse counselors, and psychiatric technicians/aides are considered mental health professionals.

Training:

- 2 - 11+ years

Starting Salary:

- \$25,000 - \$200,000



EMT/Paramedic

Description:

- Provide immediate care for sick or injured people and transport them to medical facilities. Perform basic life support skills such as restoring breathing, controlling blood loss, and treating shock victims.

Training:

- EMT: 200-330 hours
- Paramedic: 1100-1500 hours
- Certification required

Starting Salary:

- \$25,000 - \$38,000



Surgical Technologist

Description:

- Work closely with surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, and other personnel to deliver appropriate patient care before, during and after surgery.

Training:

- 8 months - 2 years
- Certification required

Starting Salary:

- \$31,000 - \$40,000



What Can I do Now to Prepare for a Health Career?

- Take as many math and science classes as possible
- Maintain a high GPA (3.0 or better)
- Take your SAT/ACT tests early
- Research Health Careers –
www.flahec.org/hlthcareers/
- Research community service opportunities and/or work as a volunteer
- Talk with your guidance counselors, teachers, parents, health professionals, and AHEC about a career in health





What Can I do Now to Prepare for a Health Career?

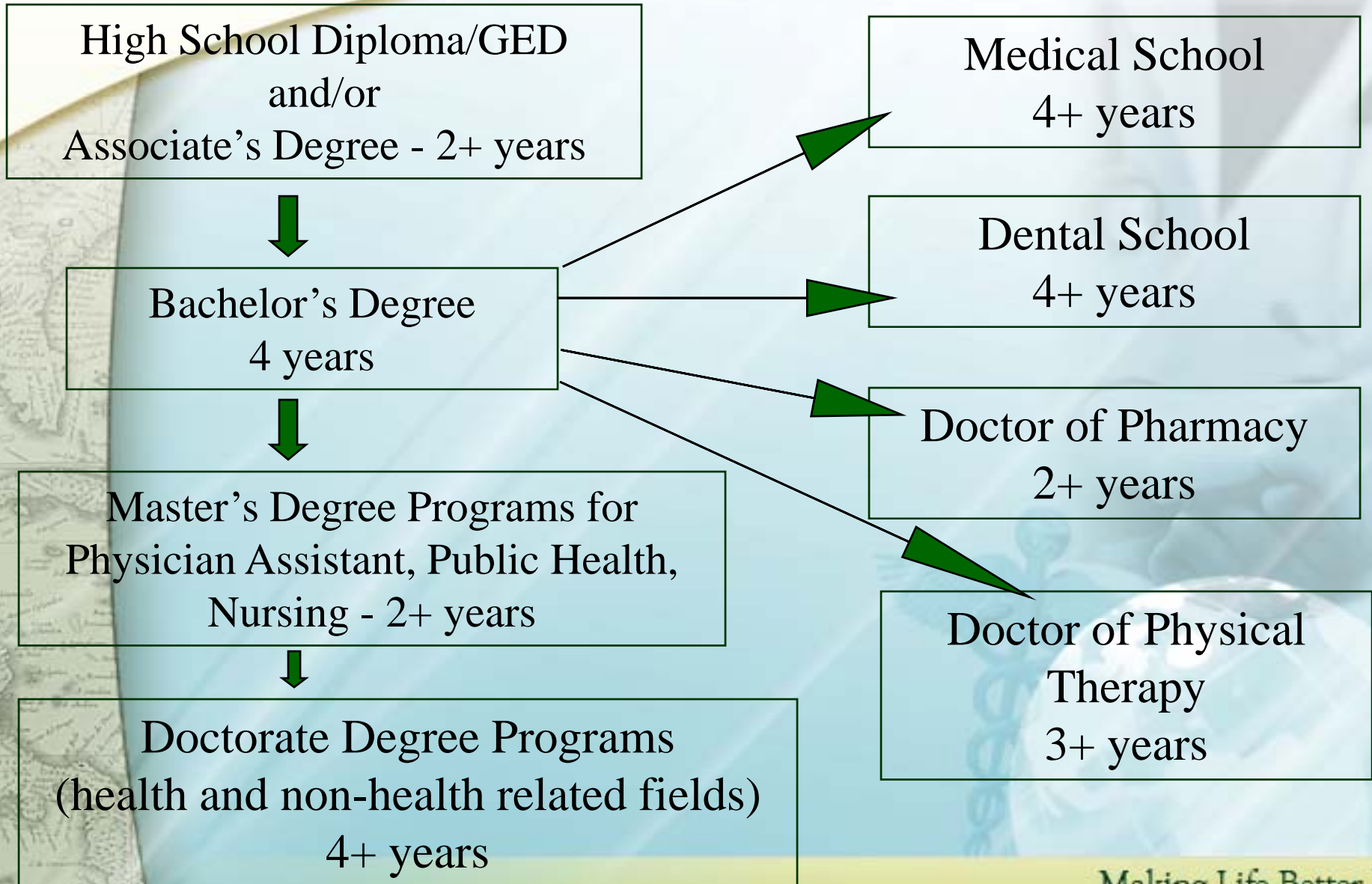
Participate in USF AHEC Youth Programs:

- Health Careers Presentations
- USF AHEC Access Day
- Health Professions Summer Academy

AHEC Youth Programs are designed to recruit, inspire and expose students to the possibilities available in the health professions, provide information on college admissions and financial aid requirements, and equip students with the tools, information and resources needed to pursue a health career.



From High School to a Health Career





For More Information Please Contact:

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