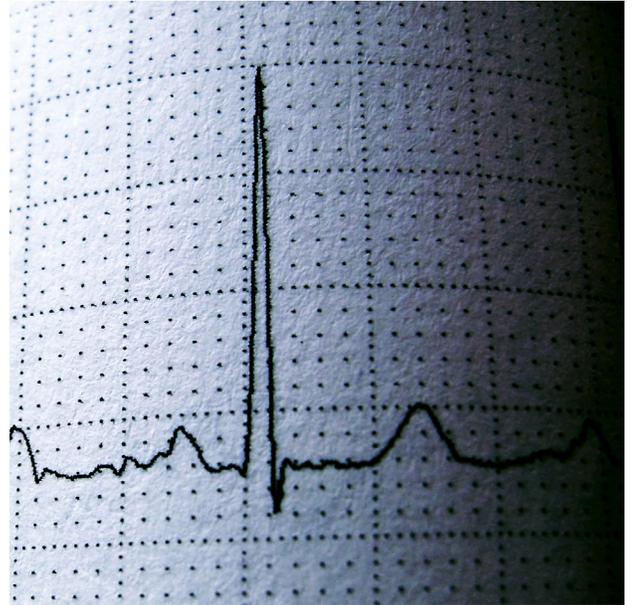


Learning About Careers: Health Sciences

Top Things to Know

Think you want to work in health sciences? Here are some important facts:

- Many people in health sciences take care of people. Others work in offices or laboratories.
- The need for workers in health sciences is greater than for any other career area.
- People working in many health sciences fields earn more money on average than people working across all fields.
- Some health sciences workers earn less than the average income, but their jobs have other rewards.
- The amount of education needed for a health sciences career depends on the job. Workers in some jobs need only a certificate following high school. Others, such as doctors, must go to school for many years.



What You Can Be

Many kinds of workers make up the health sciences industry. Here are some examples:

- **Certified medical assistants** do administrative tasks, like filing paperwork and handling health insurance forms. They also might ask patients about their medical histories, prepare patients for treatment, and help doctors during medical examinations.
- **Nurses** treat sick and injured patients, help patients and families deal with their feelings about what is happening, help doctors determine what is wrong with patients, and provide advice and follow-up care.
- **Paramedics** respond to medical emergency calls, provide on-site care to patients, and transport patients safely to medical facilities such as hospitals.
- **Physical therapists** work with people who cannot move well because of a sickness or an injury. They help these people move better and have less pain.
- **Surgical technologists** prepare operating rooms and equipment for operations and assist other health care workers during operations.

Where You Can Work

Here are some places near you that are part of the health sciences industry:

- **CompuNet Clinical Laboratories** performs medical laboratory tests. This service is needed when a doctor wants to use test results to decide how to treat a patient. CompuNet's staff helps patients feel comfortable with the testing process. The company uses up-to-date technology to get the answers patients and their doctors need.
- **Dayton Children's** is a hospital for babies, children, and teens. The hospital's doctors, nurses, and other health sciences workers provide general care and specialized care. They help young people get better when they are sick or hurt. They help them stay well too.
- **Kettering Transportation Services** transports people who need medical care. The company's emergency medical technicians and paramedics treat people while they are moved to and from hospitals, emergency rooms, and other places where medical care is given. They use different kinds of ambulances for different kinds of patients, including patients who are so ill that they need intensive care while being moved.

A Day in the Life: Paramedic

Learn more about a typical day for one kind of health sciences worker:

Ahmed is a paramedic. He works at a fire station, but he spends a lot of time away from the station responding to emergency medical calls. Today Ahmed's shift began at 6 a.m. His first task was making sure his ambulance had all the supplies he and his partner would need for the day. These supplies include medical tool kits, oxygen tanks, and equipment for restarting a person's heart. By 8 a.m., Ahmed was at an emergency scene. He revived a man who was unconscious in his home. Ahmed and his partner kept the man stable while taking him to the hospital. The next trip was to an emergency room. A woman there needed to go to a hospital where a certain kind of doctor works. Ahmed and his partner gave the woman treatments she needed while transporting her between hospitals. Ahmed went on two more calls during his 12-hour shift. He helped a child who was having a severe allergy attack and an older woman who was having leg pain. He made both patients feel better about what was happening to them. When Ahmed was not on calls, he filled out paperwork about the patients he had seen. At the end of his shift, Ahmed thought about his day. Some parts were stressful, but he felt good about the ways he had helped people.



Learn More

What else do you want to know?

Now that you have read this fact sheet, what are some questions you have about working in health sciences?

What did you learn?

Do research online or talk to someone who works in health sciences to answer your questions. Then write two new things you learned from your research.
