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# **Allied Health Professions**

**PRESENTED BY:**

**Harry E. Douglas, III, DPA  
Interim President**

**Charles R. Drew University of  
Medicine and Science**

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# HEALTH CAREERS

## THE ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS

### The Purpose:

The purpose of this seminar is to provide high school students with an overview of the health environment with an emphasis on the multiple allied health professions career options that are available.

### The Objective:

The objective of the session is to: 1) Provide students with information on the history and the evolution of the allied health professions; 2) Provide working definitions of the allied health field; 3) Provide an organizational framework of the health occupations; 4) Explain the role of education, accreditation, certification and licensure requirements, and finally; 5) Briefly discuss employment opportunities and salary ranges.



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# INTRODUCTION

## I. The History and Evolution of the Allied Health Professions

Since the dawn of human kind the allied health professions have played a significant role in the healing arts professions.

- Hippocrates, the father of medicine, is reported to have said to his students “let thy food be the medicine and thy medicine be thy food.”
  - Nutrition healers
  - Herbal medicine (pharmacist)
  - Priest, traditional healers
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- It wasn't until the middle of the 1800s that the formal education and training of the allied professions began.



# I. The History and Evolution of the Allied Health Professions – Cont'd.

- The training parallels the formal establishment of organized medical education in the U.S.:
  - 1) Shattuck Report 1850 established framework for defining health workers
    - a) occupational health
    - b) preventive health
    - c) public health
    - d) medical healers
  - 2) Flexner Report 1910
    - a) Defined formal education structure for medical schools.
    - b) This is the model for most health professionals:



# MEDICAL SCHOOL 2 + 2 MODEL

**Basic Science  
Courses**

**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Years**

**Clinical Science  
Curriculum**

**3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Years**

**Combined  
Four Years  
MD Degree**



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## II. Why The Need For These Workers?

The national health expenditure will more than double between now and 2011 to 2.8 trillion dollars - Re: 17% of our GDP. Currently, health expenditures account for 13% of GDP. In other words, we currently spend \$4,637 per year for every man, woman and child in our country for health care and this figure will increase to \$9,216 per person. We are spending a lot of money and we will need a lot of health workers to provide the services.



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### III. What Is An Allied Health Professional?

**Broadly defined** (U.S. Division of Allied Health Manpower, 1969) *“All those professional, technical, and supportive workers in the field of patient care, community health, public health, environmental health and related research who engage in activities that support, complement, or supplement the professional of administrators and practitioners.”*

**Vaguely defined** (American Medical Association [AMA], 1965) *“A large cluster of health-related personnel who fulfill necessary roles in the health care system, including assisting, facilitating, and complementing the work of physicians and other health care specialists.”*



### III. What Is An Allied Health Professional?- Cont'd.

***What it is not*** (Pew Advisory Panel for Allied Health, 1992)

*“Allied Health includes all health related disciplines with the exception of nursing and the MODDVOPP disciplines . . . Medicine, osteopathy, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, pharmacy and podiatry.”*

***Avoiding the issue*** (Institute of Medicine, 1989) *“The benefits of making the term Allied Health more precise are less clear than the benefits of continued evolution.”*

- There is no uniform definition. However, most people would agree it consists of those positions that support, complement, or supplement the professional administrators and practitioners. These are mid-level health workers.



## IV. Who Are These Workers?

- The number of workers on the health care team has increased significantly since 1900, i.e., from 1-3 members of the formal health care team, namely, the physician, the nurse, and the aide.
- Presently, there is a new majority in the health field. Some estimate that 60% of the work force is allied health personnel. The following are allied health categories defined by the U.S. Office of Education.

### Administration

- Hospital Assistant Administrator
- Medical/Dental Secretary
- Unit Clerk
- Unit Manager

### Dental Services

- Dental Assisting
- Dental Hygiene
- Dental Laboratory Technology
- Dental Services, Other



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## **Diagnostic and Treatment Services**

- Technology Cardiovascular Technology
- Dialysis Technology
- Electrocardiograph
- Electroencephalograph Technology
- Emergency Medical Technology – Ambulance
- Emergency Medical Technology – Paramedic
- Medical Radiation Dosimetry
- Nuclear Medical Technology
- Radiologic (Medical) Technology
- Respiratory Therapy Technology
- Surgical Technology
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Diagnostic and Treatment Services, Other



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# Medical Laboratory Technologies

- Blood Bank Technology
- Chemistry Technology
- Clinical Animal Technology
- Clinical Laboratory Aide
- Clinical Laboratory Assisting
- Cytotechnology
- Hematology Technology
- Histologic Technology
- Medical Laboratory Technology
- Medical Technology
- Microbiology Technology
- Medical Laboratory Technologies, Other



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## **Mental Health/Human Services**

- Alcohol/Drug Abuse Specialty
- Community Health Work
- Home Health Aide
- Mental Health/Human Services Assisting
- Mental Health/Human Services Technology
- Rehabilitation Counseling
- Therapeutic Child Care Work
- Sign Language Interpreting
- Mental Health/Human Services, Other



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## **Miscellaneous Allied Health Services**

- Central Supply Technology
- Medical Assisting
- Medical Illustrating
- Medical Office Management
- Medical Records Technology
- Pharmacy Assisting
- Physician Assisting
- Podiatric Assisting
- Veterinarian Assisting
- Health Unit Coordinating
- Chiropractic Assisting
- Miscellaneous Allied Health Services, Other



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## **Nursing-Related Services**

- Geriatric Aide
- Nursing Assisting
- Practical Nursing
- Health Unit Management
- Nursing-Related Services, Other

## **Rehabilitation and Related Services**

- Art Therapy
- Corrective Therapy
- Dance Therapy
- Exercise Physiology
- Music Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Occupational Therapy Assisting



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## Rehabilitation and Related Services – Cont'd.

- Occupational Therapy Aide
- Orthotics/Prosthetics
- Orthopedic Assisting
- Physical Therapy
- Physical Therapy Aide
- Physical Therapy Assisting
- Recreational Therapy
- Recreation Therapy Assisting
- Respiratory Therapy
- Respiratory Therapy Assisting
- Speech/Hearing Therapy Aide
- Recreational Therapy Aide
- Rehabilitation Services, Other



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## Allied Health, New Emerging Fields

- Telemedicine
- Laser Technicians



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There are hundreds of allied health professions and over six million people in allied health jobs. That means most people in health care are not doctors or nurses, but rather allied health professionals.

The following chart is the Bureau of Labor Statistics projections for the future needs in allied health.



<b>Selected Occupations</b>	<b>1998-2008 Projected Percent Change</b>
■ Social Workers	47.4
■ Physical Therapists	34.5
■ Respiratory Therapists	43.0
■ Physician Assistants	52.0
■ Occupational Therapists	30.3
■ Computer Systems Analysts, Engineers, and Scientists	62.3
■ Speech-Language Pathologists	37.3
■ Dietitians and Nutritionists	20.1
■ Medical Assistants	58.8
■ Dental Assistants	43.4
■ Physical Therapy Assistants and Aides	44.7
■ Pharmacy Assistants	11.6
■ Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians	17.4



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<b><u>Selected Occupations</u></b>	<b>1998-2008 Projected Percent Change</b>
■ Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	19.8
■ Dental Hygienists	41.3
■ Medical Records and Health Information Technicians	48.2
■ Emergency Medical Technicians	37.6
■ Health Services Managers	36.1



# V. Education, Accreditation, Certification and Licensure

- **Education**

- Technician = 2 years AA Degree/Certificate

- Medical Lab Technician

- Medical Records Technician

- Dietetic Technician

- Orthotic/Prosthetic Technician

- Technologist = 2 + 2 BS Degree

- Medical Technologist

- Medical Administrator

- Dietitian/Nutritionist

- Orthotist/Prosthetist



# V. Education, Accreditation, Certification and Licensure – Cont'd.

- **Education**

Leadership = Graduate Degrees, Masters,  
Doctoral

Directors of Programs

Researchers

Instructors

Advanced Clinical Practice

- **Accreditation**
- **Certification**
- **Licensure**



## VI. Responsibilities and Salary for Selected Fields (Salary Range for Entry Level \$30,000 to \$70,000)

**Radiologic Technologists** take x-rays with radiation of a person's body to figure out if anything is wrong. Education requirements are at different levels – certificate associates or bachelors degrees – and the salary is approximately \$35,000.

**Athletic Trainers** prevent and rehabilitate athletic injuries. Education is at least a bachelors degree and the salary is around \$30,000.

**Clinical Laboratory Technicians** perform lab tests to collect information that helps pathologists diagnose and treat diseases. Education is a 12-month associate degree and the salary is about \$30,000.



## VI. Responsibilities and Salary for Selected Fields (Salary Range for Entry Level \$30,000 to \$70,000) – Cont'd.

**Music Therapists** use music to help with people's physical, psychological, learning and social needs. Education is at least a bachelors degree and salary is around \$38,000.

**Perfusionists** keep patients alive with artificial heart and lung machines during major surgeries such as heart bypass surgery. Educational programs are 1-4 years and the salary is up to \$90,000 with experience.

**Anesthesiologist Assistants** give anesthesia to patients to keep them asleep and comfortable during surgery under the direction of an Anesthesiologist. Education is a masters degree and the starting salary is around \$75,000.

