



Your path to a career in

Health-Care Professions



Majors that can lead to a career in...

health-care professions

Health-care professionals have successful careers in a variety of areas. They may work in health-care administration, provide patient care, or sell medical equipment and supplies. This brochure is designed to help you understand that medical school is not the only path to a career in health care. In the following pages, you will find that there are many paths at Ohio State that can lead to a successful career in the health field.

Regardless of the path you choose, here are five suggestions to keep in mind as you set goals toward a career in health care.

1. Consider your interests. What aspects of health care appeal to you? Do you enjoy working with people? Are you interested in caring for the sick or disabled? Do you prefer research and discovery? From management to medical equipment sales, from clinics to chronic care centers, health professionals have many options of what they do and where they work. Remember to consider your specific interests and abilities as you set career goals.

2. Understand the skills health-care professionals need. Do you have an aptitude for math and science? Do you have the desire and ability to continually learn new procedures and technologies? Begin now to develop skills needed to be successful in health care. For example, consider what courses and experiences beyond the classroom will help you gain excellent communication skills and the ability to work with diverse populations.

3. Consider a wide range of majors. Once you have assessed your personal interests and considered the skills required for success in health care, look into the variety of majors Ohio State offers and determine which one is right for you and your goals. This brochure introduces you to some of the majors that have health-related career opportunities.

4. Take advantage of co-curricular opportunities. Practical experiences are vital when preparing for a health-related career. Many health-related programs of study include internships or clinical experience. Additionally, Ohio State is home to over 1,000 student organizations, some specifically for those pursuing degrees in the health professions. There are many volunteer programs on campus and within the community that also provide hands-on opportunities.

5. Consider graduate or professional school. Health professionals may find that an undergraduate degree isn't enough to be competitive in the expanding health field. Postgraduate work may be in your future; keep that in mind when making decisions regarding your major, courses, and co-curricular activities.





Exploring health care

For incoming freshmen who are interested in health care but undecided on a major, University Exploration is a valuable resource. The University Exploration program offers four sub-groups from which students can begin investigating various majors. Health Professions Exploration (one of those sub-groups) channels the search for a major by focusing on health-related degrees offered at Ohio State. By participating in the Health Professions Exploration program, students hear about health-related majors they've never even considered.

For more information about University Exploration, visit exploration.osu.edu.

Pursuing pre-health at Ohio State

You may already have goals for a career in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, optometry, veterinary medicine, or physical therapy—all of which require education beyond the four-year degree. Undergraduates who plan to pursue advanced health-related degrees follow a pre-health academic program while completing an undergraduate degree. The pre-health program includes necessary courses required for admission to medical school or other professional programs. Ohio State offers many health-related graduate degrees, including (but not limited to) the ones listed below:

- Master of Occupational Therapy (amp.osu.edu/ot)
- Clinical Doctorate in Physical Therapy (amp.osu.edu/pt)
- PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (amp.osu.edu/hrs)
- Doctor of Dental Surgery (dent.osu.edu)
- MA and PhD in Health and Exercise Physiology (ehe.osu.edu/paes/exercisescience)
- Integrated Biomedical Science Graduate Program (ibgp.org)
- MS and PhD in Vision Science, Doctor of Optometry (optometry.osu.edu)
- MS in Pharmacology, Doctor of Pharmacy (pharmacy.osu.edu)

In addition to prerequisite courses, medical and professional schools will also consider relevant co-curricular activities, so it is important for students to take advantage of the many opportunities Ohio State offers: volunteer programs at the University Medical Center, research activities, and pre-health student organizations.

Ohio State offers a wide variety of undergraduate majors (some are described in this brochure) that can prepare students for medical school at Ohio State or elsewhere.

Students who are interested in the pre-health program should contact a pre-health advisor as early as possible for help choosing an appropriate undergraduate major. Pre-health advisors can also assist throughout the undergraduate program as students prepare for the rigorous exams and competitive courses of post-baccalaureate study.

Select majors at Ohio State that can lead to a career in health-care professions

Career categories

- = Teaching within health-care fields or preparation for further study in graduate/professional school
- = Manufacturing/designing medical equipment or selling medical supplies
- ★ = Health-care administration or other managerial roles
- ▲ = Providing care for patients or clients through home care or at health-care facilities
- ◆ = Research or laboratory work

Allied Medical Professions

For more information: amp.osu.edu

Majors

Career possibilities

Athletic Training ■ ▲ ◆

The athletic training program prepares students to provide sports medicine care to physically active persons, including competitive athletes in professional, college, and high school sports. Students experience classroom and clinical instruction, have access to research opportunities, and complete many clinical rotations on campus.

- Certified athletic trainer
- Health-care administration
- Pharmacology
- Risk management and injury prevention
- Sports medicine clinics
- Sports programs in secondary schools, colleges, universities, and professional sports

Health Information

Management and Systems (HIMS) ■ ★

The HIMS curriculum blends course work in health services management, medicine, clinical documentation, finance, reimbursement, and health-care law. This program prepares students to manage staff and systems used to collect, store, retrieve, interpret, and communicate health-care data.

- Consulting
- Data quality management
- HIMS department administration
- HIMS education
- HIMS management
- Research

Health Sciences ■ ★ ▲

Health sciences prepares students for career opportunities in health care and services or for entry into graduate and professional programs. The program provides students with a strong science background and includes research and service.

- Acute-care centers
- Education
- Graduate school
- Health-care corporations
- Non-profit organizations
- Public health
- Work-site health promotion

Medical Technology ● ▲ ◆

The medical technology program educates students in clinical laboratory science and prepares graduates to become certified medical technologists and/or pursue post-baccalaureate studies in graduate, medical, dental, optometry, pharmacy, or veterinary school. The program has two BS majors to choose from based on a student's future academic and professional career goals.

- Clinical laboratories
- Fertility clinics
- Forensic labs
- Laboratory information systems (computers)
- Physician offices
- Public health
- Research labs
- Sales

Medical Dietetics ★ ▲ ◆

The medical dietetics program integrates course work with supervised practice so that graduating students are eligible to sit for the Registration Examination for Dietitians. The program also prepares students for medical school, physical therapy, occupational therapy, or other graduate programs.

- Community, health, and government agencies
- Food service and retail centers
- Nutrition management in hospitals, long-term care centers, and rehabilitation centers
- Private practice and consulting
- Research and development
- Sports nutrition

Radiologic Sciences and Therapy

The radiologic sciences and therapy program prepares graduates for professional-level careers in radiologic science, advanced clinical practice, research, and life-long scholarly activity. The curriculum includes extensive theory and clinical education in one of three specialty areas: radiography, radiation therapy, or sonography.

- Hospitals, clinics, physician offices
- Imaging centers
- Industrial firms
- Manufacturers of imaging/therapeutic equipment and supplies
- Radiologic science educational programs
- Women's health centers

Respiratory Therapy

The respiratory therapy curriculum includes two years of general studies emphasizing science followed by two years of respiratory therapy courses. The program provides opportunities for hands-on experience and prepares students to treat patients with cardiopulmonary disorders such as asthma, emphysema, infant prematurity, and trauma.

- Home health care
- Hospitals, clinics, out-patient offices
- National and regional lung associations
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Respiratory equipment manufacturers
- Respiratory therapy education at universities

Dental Hygiene

For more information: dent.osu.edu/dhy

Majors

Dental Hygiene

The dental hygiene program prepares graduates for licensure as dental hygienists who provide educational, clinical, and therapeutic services supporting total health through the promotion of oral health. The curriculum includes comprehensive and clinical instruction and courses in an area of specialization.

Career possibilities

- Administration
- Advocacy
- Dental clinics
- Education
- Research

Education and Human Ecology

For more information: ehe.osu.edu

Majors

Dietetics track in the Human Nutrition major

This program prepares students to apply for and complete a dietetic internship and to take the ADA exam to become a registered dietician.

Career possibilities

- Nutrition education
- Nutrition counseling and therapy
- Sports nutrition

Exercise Science track in the Exercise Science Education major

This track prepares students for work in hospitals, fitness centers, and cardiac/respiratory programs. The exercise science program prepares students to prescribe exercise, test and evaluate general fitness, evaluate sport performance, and assess body composition.

- Cardiac rehabilitation
- Employee fitness
- Exercise physiology
- Personal training
- Physical therapy (requires graduate school)
- Sports medicine (requires graduate school)
- Strength and conditioning coaching

Health Promotion track in the Exercise Science Education major

This track provides training in health counseling, behavioral change, and health programming and prepares students to work in health and wellness programs in settings offering health programs.

- Community agency health programming
- Corporate health
- Health education
- Public health agencies
- University wellness centers

Nutrition

The nutrition major provides a foundation in the chemical and biological sciences, focusing on the absorption, metabolism, and function of nutrients in relation to health and disease.

- Graduate study in biomedical sciences
- Medical school

Nutrition and Community Health track in the Human Nutrition major

This track combines the core courses of the nutrition curriculum with the fundamental concepts and practices of one of three specializations: exercise science, health education, or communication.

- Community development programs
- Corporate wellness programs
- Public health agencies

Nutrition in Industry track in the Human Nutrition major

This track combines the conceptual understanding of business functions and culture with the principles and applications of nutrition and food sciences.

- Business organizations that focus on foods, nutrition, and nutraceuticals
- Government agencies
- Nutritional product sales and marketing

Engineering

For more information: engineering.osu.edu

Majors

Pre-health specializations within engineering majors

With expanding technology and scientific breakthroughs creating a relationship between engineering and medicine, engineering continues to be involved in all branches of health care. Several engineering majors combine engineering principles and methodology with other sciences to solve problems in biology, medicine, behavior, and health care.

Career possibilities

- Government agencies
- Medical center labs
- Medical device companies
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Research universities

Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

For more information: cfaes.osu.edu

Majors

Food Science and Nutrition

The food science and nutrition program includes nutrition and medical dietetic classes along with courses in microbiology and chemistry.

- Dietitian
- Graduate study in medicine or nutrition
- Nutrition research or education

Nursing

For more information: nursing.osu.edu

Majors

Nursing

The nursing program provides students access to advanced resources, study abroad and service opportunities, and faculty who are specialists in their fields. Course work in theory and clinical areas prepares students for entry-level professional practice positions and provides the basis for graduate study.

Career possibilities

- Clinics for special populations
- Community health centers and hospitals
- Home health care
- Hospice
- Long-term care centers and outpatient clinics
- Public and private health promotion centers
- Sub-acute and rehabilitation centers

Pharmacy

For more information: pharmacy.osu.edu

Majors

Pharmaceutical Sciences

The curriculum for pharmaceutical sciences builds a strong science foundation, develops laboratory skills, and provides training and experience for graduate school or a health-related career. Students study drug discovery, drug delivery, drug action, drug distribution, and pharmacoeconomics.

Career possibilities

- Drug discovery and development
- Graduate study in fields such as dentistry, law, medicine, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, and veterinary medicine
- Insurance companies
- Pharmaceutical administration
- Pharmaceutics
- Pharmacognosy
- Public health
- Sales and marketing

Social and Behavioral Sciences

For more information: artsandsciences.osu.edu

Majors

Speech and Hearing Science

The speech and hearing science major offers concentrations in speech-language pathology, audiology, speech science, and hearing science. The curriculum includes basic studies in areas such as linguistics, hearing and speech science, and communication disorders for both audiology and speech language pathology.

Career possibilities

- Centers for the developmentally disabled
- Community and university clinics
- Health departments
- Hospitals
- Nursing care and private practice facilities
- Public and private schools
- Rehabilitation centers
- Research laboratories

Psychology

The psychology major offers liberal arts students considerable exposure to disciplined inquiry into human and animal behavior. A major in psychology can provide a strong foundation for the professional training or graduate study that is necessary to pursue a career in psychology.

- Administration and management
- Business and industry
- Casework
- Child care
- Health services
- Marketing and public relations
- Psychiatric assistant
- Research or laboratory assistant

Social Work

For more information: csw.osu.edu

Majors

Social Work

The social work major focuses on human behavior in the social environment; diversity; social work values and ethics; social policy and program analysis; social work research; and generalist practice with individuals, families, groups, and communities. Students apply classroom learning in a professional agency during a year long internship. The social work degree prepares students for entry-level professional practice or for graduate study.

Career possibilities

- Chemical dependency counseling
- Community health clinics
- Health care advocacy
- HIV/AIDS counseling and education
- Hospice and palliative care
- Hospital social work
- Nursing care facilities
- Prevention and wellness education
- Rehabilitation centers

About the medical facilities at Ohio State

Medical and health science students at Ohio State have unparalleled opportunities as they study at one of the largest and most diverse academic medical centers in the country. Ranked 12th among the nation's public medical schools (*U.S. News & World Report*, 2009), Ohio State maintains its reputation as a top medical institution offering practical opportunities—internships, fellowships, clinicals, and residencies—at state-of-the-art facilities. Students studying at The Ohio State University Medical Center not only have access to these opportunities and facilities, but also learn from the expertise of research scientists, faculty, and practicing physicians within a variety of fields. Ohio State's advanced resources combine with a multidisciplinary team of experts to provide students hands-on experiences, thus preparing a new generation of physicians, scientists, and health-care professionals.

Health-care degrees on regional campuses

Lima, Mansfield, Marion, and Newark

Courses are offered at regional campuses to meet the needs of both nontraditional and traditional students. Students receive the same comprehensive education that they would receive on the Columbus campus at four convenient Ohio State locations around the state. Students may begin any degree at a regional campus and can complete a select few. The following are health-related degrees that can be completed at a regional campus:

- **Dental Hygiene** (BA completion program): Lima
- **Health Science**: Lima
- **Nursing** (RN to BSN program): Lima, Mansfield, Marion, and Newark
- **Psychology**: Lima, Mansfield, Marion, and Newark

Learning communities and Scholars programs

Students pursuing a health-related degree at Ohio State have many learning and social opportunities beyond the classroom. **Learning communities** are residential experiences in which students of the same academic program or interest reside in the same residence hall. These communities feature faculty interaction, special programming, and community service. Ohio State offers three health-related learning communities: Allied Medical Professions Learning Community, Nursing Learning Community, and Pharmacy House Learning Community.

For more information: housing.osu.edu/lc.asp.

The Ohio State **Scholars Program** brings together high ability students interested in joining academically stimulating, close-knit communities. Each of the 14 programs emphasizes its own specific academic program, career, or special interest. There are two Scholars programs designed for students interested in health-care professions: Health Sciences Scholars and Sports and Wellness Scholars. **For more information:** honors-scholars.osu.edu.

For more information

1. Learn about the more than 175 undergraduate majors at Ohio State: majors.osu.edu
2. Find a link to every Ohio State college and school: osu.edu/academics/a-z.php
3. E-mail Undergraduate Admissions with your questions: askabuckeye@osu.edu



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