

ACCESS: Careers in Health Care

A CAREER IN HEALTH CARE

A career in health care is not just about personal success and financial gain. It's about making a difference in people's lives and contributing to the well-being of society. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS: www.bls.gov) reports a 15.4% growth in healthcare and related occupations between 2022 and 2032, indicating the increasing need for health care professionals.

Did you know the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (uthsc.edu) is the largest educator of health care professionals in Tennessee, and the state of Tennessee's only public, statewide academic health science system, offering you the opportunity to be part of this impactful field?



Since 1911, UT Health Science Center has educated nearly 57,000 health care professionals, and UT Health Science Center is the largest educator of health care professionals in Tennessee. More specifically, UT Health Science Center has educated:

- 75 percent of the state's dentists
- 34 percent of its pharmacists
- UT Health Science Center is the largest producer of doctorally prepared nurses in Tennessee.

The UT Health Science Center campus has six colleges -Dentistry, Graduate Health Sciences, Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy. UT Health Science Center offers various health care and research degree programs at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels. UT Health Science Center also offers several dual degree programs. uthsc.edu/admissions/programs.php

As the statewide, public, academic health system, the UT Health Science Center trains the next generation of health care providers for Tennessee, cares for the people from one end of the state to the other, and researches the cures for the diseases that most affect all who call Tennessee home.

YOUR PATH TO COLLEGE (College Planning Timeline)

8th Grade

Meet with your middle school guidance counselor, teachers, and family to talk about college and college life, start thinking about high school courses that are part of the prep courses for college admission, learn about academic enrichment programs offered during the summer or weekends through schools, local organizations, and colleges, and get involved with extracurricular activities like sports, performing arts, volunteer activities, or other activities that interest you.

9th and 10th Grade

Speak with your high school's college counselor about the right courses (AP, Honors, and Dual Enrollment Courses) to take, practice and develop your study skills, get involved outside the classroom like clubs, activities, and community service opportunities, explore career and college majors by taking the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) or other questionnaires/ tests, inquire about shadowing opportunities, and take the PSAT and learn about standardized tests, like the SAT and ACT.

11th Grade

Meet with your high school's college counselor to discuss two and four-year colleges, technical colleges, and the military, prep for and take the ACT or SAT (more than once), visit colleges in-person or virtually, research and apply for scholarships, attend student and family college and financial aid programs, and begin working on your essay.

12th Grade

Meet with your high school's college counselor, narrow down your choices and complete college applications, submit high school transcripts, fill out financial aid applications like the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), check your email for communications from colleges, review your acceptance letter and compare financial aid offers, attend admitted student events, and keep your grades up and celebrate your hard work.

Prep Courses for College Admission

- English (four years)
- Math (four to six classes)
 1. Pre-Algebra
 2. Algebra
 3. Geometry
 4. Algebra II and/or Trigonometry
 5. Precalculus
 6. Calculus
- Science (three to four years)
 1. Biology
 2. Chemistry
 3. Physics
- Social Studies (two years)
 1. Government
 2. Sociology
 3. Geography
 4. Psychology
- Foreign Language (two to four years)
- Arts (one year of visual or performing arts)

Considerations for Identifying the Right College

- Admissions Selectivity
(GPA/Test Scores/Holistic)
- Majors Available
- Location
- School Size
- School Reputation
- Scholarships
- Tuition and Other Costs

One System, Five Campuses:

tennessee.edu/campus-guide

- UT Martin
- UT Health Science Center
- UT Southern
- UT Knoxville
- UT Chattanooga

GOING TO COLLEGE PAYS OFF

Choosing to pursue a college education opens a world of career opportunities. The possibilities are endless if you plan to pursue a career in health care by earning a degree in one of the UT Health Science Center's six colleges, such as Dentistry, Graduate Health Sciences, Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy. The diverse healthcare jobs market requires a high school diploma, college degree, or professional/graduate degree in addition to medical STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) careers, including all types of healthcare workers. These jobs offer financial stability and provide more personal choices, making your investment in higher education a wise decision.

Average Salary for Careers in Health Care

Vocational Diploma/Certification

• Ultrasound Technologist	\$84,500.00
• Medical Transcriptionist	\$39,000.00
• Medical Office Secretary	\$32,500.00
• Phlebotomy Technician/Phlebotomist	\$35,000.00
• Pharmacy Technician	\$36,000.00
• Surgical Technologist	\$52,000.00
• Paramedic	\$58,246.00

Two Years of College

• Occupational Therapy Assistant	\$66,194.00
• Physical Therapy Assistant	\$53,000.00
• Radiation Therapist	\$85,000.00
• Respiratory Therapist	\$58,697.00
• Registered Nurse	\$77,600.00
• Surgical Technologist	\$52,000.00
• Veterinarian Technician	\$37,253.00

Four Years of College

• Registered Nurse	\$77,600.00
• Surgical Technologist	\$52,000.00
• Respiratory Therapist	\$61,830.00
• Imaging Specialist/Sonographer	\$49,769.00
• Health Educator	\$49,612.00
• Dietitian	\$64,713.00
• Medical and Health Services Manager	\$75,984.00
• Cytotechnology	\$66,775.00
• Dental Hygienist	\$83,295.00
• Biomedical Engineering	\$86,755.00

Four-plus Years of College

• Dentist	\$281,886.00
• Physician	\$187,065.00
• Surgeon	\$296,985.00
• Anesthesiologist	\$373,603.00
• Nurse Anesthetists	\$195,610.00
• Medical Researcher	\$97,660.00
• Dermatologist	\$327,650.00
• Pharmacist	\$152,308.00
• Health Informatics Director	\$150,000.00
• Health Informatics Nurse	\$115,000.00
• Nurse Practitioner	\$120,621.00
• Physical Therapist	\$95,620.00
• Occupational Therapist	\$82,227.00
• Speech-Language Pathologist	\$74,303.00
• Physician Assistant	\$117,562.00

For more information, contact:

Office of Access and Compliance
920 Madison, Suite 825, Memphis, TN 38163
oac-hsc@uthsc.edu | uthsc.edu/oac



ACCESS AND COMPLIANCE