Health Career Job Descriptions

**Art Therapist:** Utilizes art media, images, and the creative art process to foster self-awareness, develop social skills, encourage problem solving, reduce anxiety, and increase self-esteem.

**Athletic Trainer:** Assists the physically active to avoid injuries associated with sports by managing, recognizing, treating, rehabilitating, and minimizing injuries.

**Audiologist:** Studies normal and impaired hearing. Prevents hearing loss when possible; identifies and assesses hearing problems; and rehabsilites persons with hearing impairment.

**Biomedical Engineer:** Applies engineering techniques to solve medical problems. Designs patient care equipment such as artificial kidneys, cardiac pacemakers, laser surgery devices.

**Biomedical Equipment Technician:** Adapts, operates maintains medical instruments/equipment used in patient monitoring, clinical laboratories, radiology, and other high-tech hospital departments.

**Biostatistician:** Applies mathematics and statistics to the collection, analysis, and reporting of health-related information to solve health problems.

**Cardiographic Technician:** Completes rhythm and 12 lead EKG, Holter monitoring, stress testing and telemetry surveillance to assist physicians in the diagnosis and monitoring of heart disease.

**Cardiovascular Technologist:** Performs diagnostic and therapeutic exams of the blood vessels and heart. Assists with cardiac catheterization, ultrasound, electrocardiogram, and other examinations.

**Clinical Laboratory Technician:** Implements less complex tests and laboratory procedures that provide data for use in the detection, diagnosis and treatment of diseases.

**Clinical Laboratory Scientist:** Deals with the analysis of specimens that are critical to the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

**Dental Assistant:** Prepares patients for dental exams, takes and develops x-rays, sterilizes equipment, maintains patient records, and work directly with dentist during dental procedures.

**Dental Hygienist:** Provides oral health care to patients under a dentist’s supervision, including cleaning teeth, oral assessments, taking x-rays, and providing patient education.

**Dental Laboratory Technician:** Makes and repairs orthodontic devices, dentures, inlays, crown, and other dental restoration devices using plastic, wax, and metal.

**Dentist:** Treats ailments and abnormalities affecting teeth, gums, tongue, lips, and jaws. Fills cavities, straightens teeth, repairs dental damage, extracts teeth, and prescribes dentures for patients.

**Dietician/Nutritionist:** Teaches/counsels about basic nutrition and diet modifications that can prevent or correct health problems. May plan/supervise meal preparations for health care facilities.

**Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic:** Responds to medical emergencies in the field and provides immediate care to the critically ill or injured.

**Environmental Health Specialist:** Detects, identifies, and develops systems to control or eliminate accident-producing or hazardous conditions. Monitors effectiveness on workers’ health.

**Epidemiologist:** Uses statistics, field investigations, and laboratory techniques to identify patterns of disease in a group of people and reports the results to prevent or control the spread of disease.
Equine Assisted Psychotherapist: Utilizes an effective therapeutic approach in which horses are used as a tool for emotional growth and learning.

Exercise Physiologist: Delivers treatment services concerned with improvement and maintenance of health and fitness, rehabilitation of heart disease, other chronic diseases, and disabilities.

Gerontologist: Studies the physical, mental, and social changes in people as they age. Examines the changes in society and applies this knowledge to policies/programs.

Health Care Administrator: Can be specialist managing a department such as finances, human resources, medical staff relations or can be generalist managing an entire facility or health system.

Health Educator: Plans, implements, and evaluates the effects of educational programs for the public designed to promote good health and prevent disease.

Health Information Administrator: Develops and manages information systems for recording, storage, and retrieval of large amounts of medical data in both paper and electronic forms.

Health Information Technician: Prepares, analyzes, stores and retrieves medical information needed by the patient, hospital, physician, insurance, registries, or other health agencies.

Health Sciences Librarian: Assists health professionals, medical researchers, students, and patients by finding the information for patient care, education, research and administration.

Horticultural Therapist: Conducts assessments and develops treatment plans utilizing gardening skills as therapy to improve patient disability, injury, and illness.

Human Services Worker: Provides general health and assistive services to clients in a variety of social, education, community and health care settings.

Massage Therapist: Administers therapeutic massage to reduce stress, complement athletic performance, lower blood pressure, improve circulation, emotional, and mental well-being.

Medical Admissions Clerk: Arranges the registration, admission, and discharge of patients at medical facilities, thus ensuring proper documentation of patient activities.

Medical Assistant: Assists physicians by performing a variety of clinical and administrative duties. The range of their duties depends on the size of the physician’s practice.

Medical Coder: Assigns codes to each symptom, diagnosis, disease and procedure that appears on a patient’s record for federal regulations, insurance reimbursement, and health-planning analysis.

Medical Secretary: Performs a variety of administrative duties to keep a medical office operating efficiently for patient and physician.

Medical Transcriptionist: Transcribes dictation by physicians and other health care professionals. The approved dictated reports become a part of the patient’s permanent file.

Music Therapist: Uses music to address physical, emotional, cognitive, and social needs of individuals of all ages.

Nuclear Medical Technologist: Administers small amounts of radiopharmaceuticals to patients under a physician’s supervision, to monitor structure and function of a specific organ.
**Nurse Anesthetist:** Dispenses anesthesia in all types of surgical cases, applying all the accepted anesthetic techniques – general, regional, local or sedation.

**Nurse, Clinical Specialist:** Provides direct care to patients, teaches in a variety of health care settings, or works as a researcher, consultant, case manager or nurse leader/administrator.

**Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse:** Gives basic bedside care and performs a variety of other nursing duties under supervision of physician or registered nurse.

**Nurse-Midwife:** Provides pre-conception, maternity, and post-partum care for women at low risk for complications. May also provide “well-woman” care, which includes gynecological services. **Nurse Practitioner:** Takes medical histories, performs physical examinations, orders appropriate tests, diagnoses, and prescribes medications and treatment for health problems.

**Nurse, Registered:** Provides care, treatment, counseling, and health education to ill or injured people. Educates individuals and families to promote health, and prevent injury and illness.

**Nursing Assistant:** Gives personal care to people of all ages under nursing supervision in various types of health care settings.

**Occupational Therapist:** Evaluates disabled patients and develops appropriate adaptive equipment/devices to develop, recover, or maintain activities of daily living and work skills.

**Occupational Therapy Assistant:** Assists the occupational therapist with treatment programs to help patients develop, recover or maintain activities of daily living.

**Pharmacist:** Measures, inspects, prepares and distributes medications used to treat patients. Maintains records and reports required in the preparing, dispensing and storing of medications.

**Pharmacy Technician:** Assists pharmacists with technical tasks such as filling prescriptions and other dispensing duties.

**Phlebotomist:** Draws blood samples from patients using accurate, efficient, and minimally painful techniques.

**Physical Therapist:** Treats patients by administering procedures such as exercise, heat, electrical stimulation, massage to relieve pain and help regain as much use of their muscles as possible.

**Physical Therapist Assistant:** Teaches patients recovery exercises and implements treatment programs designed by the physical therapist.

**Physician Assistant:** Works directly with physicians to obtain medical histories and physicals. The scope of practice corresponds to the supervising physician’s practice.

**Physician, DO and MD:** Performs medical examinations, diagnoses illnesses, prescribes medications, and completes various procedures designed to help people maintain or regain health.

**Psychologist:** Focuses on learning how humans think, act, and feel; and works to improve how human react with their environment.

**Radiologic Technologist:** Takes x-ray images for the physician to use in the diagnosis of disease or injury.
Recreation Therapist: Evaluates, establishes and coordinates therapeutic recreation for inpatients and outpatients to meet their physical, social and emotional needs.

Respiratory Therapist: Works under the supervision of a physician and plays a key role in the evaluation, treatment, and monitoring of patients with respiratory and cardiovascular disorders.

Social Worker: Helps patients and their families deal with problems related to physical, mental, or emotional illness and disability.

Sonographer: Uses high-frequency sound waves to create body images that show the shape/ composition of body tissues to assist doctors in diagnosing disease or injury or checking a fetus.

Speech-Language Pathologist: Specializes in the assessment, treatment and prevention of various communication disorders as well as problems that make eating and swallowing difficult.

Speech-Language Pathologist Assistant: Conducts language screenings in the public schools following established protocols under the supervision of a speech-language pathologist.

Surgical Technologist: Works as a member of the surgical team to prepare the operating room for surgery, assists during surgery, and performs the proper post-operative procedures.

For additional information, see Health Careers Resource Guide at [www.wku.edu/scahec](http://www.wku.edu/scahec)

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