

ALLIED HEALTH CAREER FACTS

<p>What do allied health professionals do?</p>	<p>Allied health professionals assist other health care professionals in preventing, diagnosing, treating, and providing rehabilitation to patients with a variety of medical conditions and diseases. They also support health administration and management.</p>
<p>What are some allied health career options?</p>	<p>Medical assistants handle administrative and clinical tasks such as recording patient medical histories and taking vital signs, such as blood pressure.</p>
	<p>Pharmacy technicians are supervised by pharmacists and handle prescriptions, refill requests, and manage inventory.</p>
	<p>Phlebotomists draw blood and prepare blood samples for testing.</p>
	<p>Respiratory therapists work under the direction of doctors to treat patients who are having trouble breathing.</p>
	<p>Sterile processing technicians sterilize, clean, and assemble medical and surgical equipment.</p>
	<p>Surgical technologists prepare operating rooms and patients for surgery. They also help during surgery, passing surgical instruments and sterile supplies.</p>
<p>What education is needed?</p> <p>You may begin working in some roles shortly after high school.</p>	<p>With a high school diploma, you can pursue a certificate program and then start working as a medical assistant, sterile processing technician, and more.</p>
	<p>With an associate's degree (an approximately 2-year program, often available at community colleges) you can become a respiratory therapist, medical sonographer, and more.</p>
	<p>With a bachelor's degree you may more easily pursue a leadership role in your field, such as becoming a manager or supervisor. Some allied health roles require or encourage a bachelor's degree or higher as well.</p>
<p><i>Helpful facts</i></p>	
<p>Additional examples of allied health roles include physician assistants, ultrasound technicians, clinical laboratory technicians, dietitians, and nutritionists.</p>	
<p>Learn more at Kaiser Permanente's Allied Health Scholar's Academy.</p>	