

Healthcare

Delaware County Workforce Investment Board

Overview

The healthcare industry offers so many possibilities for those who are looking to make a difference and help improve the quality of life for others. Join employees from Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital, Crozer-Chester Medical Center, Taylor Hospital and Martins Run as they explain why they love their jobs.

Discussion/Questions

1. Healthcare requires those who work in this field to share a compassion for all people and a desire to improve their lives. However, not all professions work directly with the patients. What characteristics would someone who works with the patient such as a nurse or physician have to possess as compared to someone who works in a laboratory diagnosing the patients' illnesses? Which type of profession do you think would interest you the most, one that works directly with the patient or one that works behind the scenes? Why?
2. Some of the careers within healthcare that were mentioned were physical therapist, paramedic, nurse, lab technician, and administrator. All of these different professions work together to provide the best possible care for the patients in their own way. In small groups, determine what types of responsibilities each of these professionals would carry out on a daily basis. Discuss what types of skills and personality traits each of these would require.
3. Teamwork is an essential component to providing outstanding healthcare. Everyone must work together efficiently to diagnose and determine how to treat a patient and then follow through to provide that care for the patient. List and explain some essential work skills and team building skills that would be necessary in order to accomplish this goal.

Activities

1. Volunteering is a fantastic way to determine if healthcare is the career for you while making a difference at the same time. Contact your local hospital or healthcare facility. What opportunities do they have for volunteering? Find out the responsibilities of these options and choose one that interests you the most. Remember, there are many different units within a hospital that work with a variety of patients. Make sure you choose the one that would fit your personality the best.
2. Because of the demand for healthcare professionals, many people are gaining access into this growing and exciting industry with only a two-year degree. What types of employment would you be eligible for with an associate's degree? What courses and training would you be required to take to become eligible? What are the starting salaries for someone in healthcare with an associate's degree? Are there tuition assistance programs available to those who enter into the workforce and want to continue their education? Find out the answers to these questions as well as where you can receive this type of education in your area. Determine if this is a possibility for you. If so, how can you get started on your way?
3. Although healthcare facilities and hospitals are in need of volunteers, they still want to make sure that they accept those with a true desire to learn and a compassion to help others. Without a large resume to speak of at this point, much of your enthusiasm must be demonstrated through your interview and letter of introduction. Write a letter of introduction expressing your desire to volunteer at one of the local hospitals or healthcare facilities. Be sure to emphasize your strengths in terms of skills and personality. Then, in small groups, determine what types of questions an interviewer might ask a candidate for volunteering. Determine how you would answer these questions and then practice being interviewed by one of your classmates. Give each other positive feedback to help improve one another's interviews.

Academic Standards

13.1.11.D. Evaluate school-based opportunities for career awareness/preparation, such as, but not limited to: Career days, Career portfolio, Community service, Cooperative education, Graduation/senior project, Internship, Job shadowing, Part-time employment, Registered apprenticeship, School-based enterprise

13.1.11.F. Analyze the relationship between career choices and career preparation opportunities, such as, but not limited to: Associate degree, Baccalaureate degree, Certificate/licensure, Entrepreneurship, Immediate part/full time employment, Industry training, Military training, Professional degree, Registered apprenticeship, Tech Prep, Vocational rehabilitation centers

13.2.11.E. Demonstrate, in the career acquisition process, the application of essential workplace skills/knowledge, such as, but not limited to: Commitment, Communication, Dependability, Health/safety, Laws and regulations (that is Americans With Disabilities Act, child labor laws, Fair Labor Standards Act, OSHA, Material Safety Data Sheets), Personal initiative, Self-advocacy, Scheduling/time management, Team building, Technical literacy

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