

## CAREER CORNER

## Health Careers

### Health Teacher

Health teachers help students understand how to maintain good health. These teachers provide information on nutrition, fitness, and social issues. They can also give basic information on how the human body functions. Health teachers may need to spend time organizing lesson plans, as well as group and individual activities.

A health teacher must have a four-year teaching degree. Public school health teachers must be licensed, but this is not a requirement for private school health teachers. High school classes that can help prepare a student to become a health teacher include biology, science, fitness, and communications.



### Medical Writer

If you like to write and are interested in health care, becoming a medical or health writer might be a good career for you. These professionals organize and write complex medical information for the public in lay-person's terms. Medical writers may work for publishing companies, hospitals, radio and TV stations, universities, government agencies, and pharmaceutical companies.

Medical writers need a bachelor's degree, with courses in science and English or journalism. To prepare for this career, high school students should take classes in biology, chemistry, math, and English.

### Health Information Technician

If you think of yourself as well organized and detail oriented, you might enjoy a career as a health information technician. These technicians assemble patients' health information and assign codes to medical diagnoses and procedures. Some use computer programs to tabulate and analyze data for research.

Health information technicians are employed at hospitals, clinics, doctors' offices, and insurance companies. You need a two-year degree in health informatics to become a health information technician. To get into a qualified program, take biology, chemistry, health, and computer science courses in high school.



## CAREER SPOTLIGHT

### Health Promoter

**Elizabeth Pedroza** became a health promoter with the Hispanic Health Projects before she knew anything about diabetes or women's health. Today, she spends her days teaching community members about diabetes and other health issues, developing diabetes education materials, and translating medical information for Spanish-speakers.



**Q. How can you teach others when you are not a health expert?**

**A.** I work with experts who teach me what I need to know. The experts know the content and I know the culture. You don't need a college degree for my job. It's more about asking questions, listening, and sharing important information.

**Q. What specific training have you received?**

**A.** I'm a skilled interviewer with good communications skills, and I am comfortable talking to people with different backgrounds.

*I've also been trained on how to get better information out of people, how to present myself in a respectful way, and how to foster trust. These are important talents to have when you are trying to improve someone's health.*

**Q. What attracted you to this job?**

**A.** It provides the opportunity to go into the community and help people. It isn't about what I would gain from it, but what I could give.

### Activity

## Beyond the Classroom

**Writing** Health Education Careers.

Identify organizations in your community where health educators work. Don't forget to include your school! Interview three or four health educators to find out more about what they do and what they find challenging about their jobs.

Based on what you learn, write a newspaper recruitment ad for a health educator's job.



For more information, use this code to access the Career Corner link at [glencoe.com](http://glencoe.com).