

CAREER CORNER

Medical Support Careers

Dental Hygienist

Dental hygienists work in a dentist's office. They record your dental history, examine your mouth and teeth for obvious problems, take X-rays, and clean your teeth. A dental hygienist also teaches you how to take care of your teeth and mouth.

To learn more about becoming a dental hygienist, take science and communications classes in high school. After high school, a dental hygienist must complete a two-year course of study to earn an associate's degree.



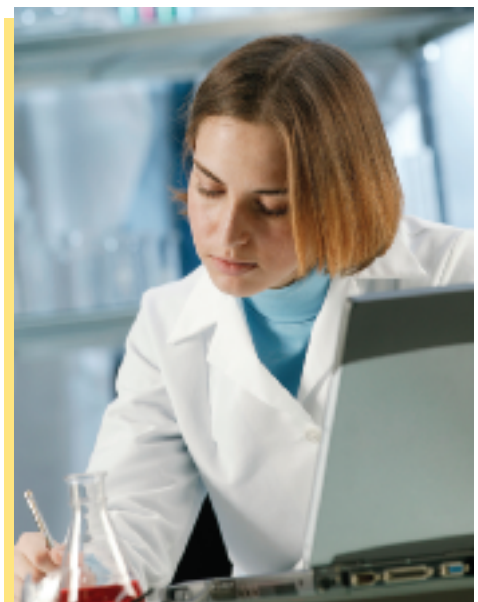
Physical Therapy Assistant

Physical therapy assistants work under the supervision of a physical therapist. They help patients practice movements, perform exercises, and learn to use mobility tools such as walkers. Physical therapy assistants must have patience and good communication skills. To learn more about becoming a physical therapy assistant, take human physiology and health classes in high school. Physical therapy assistants may need specialized training through an accredited program, and may need to pass a licensing exam.

Medical Laboratory Technician

A Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) analyzes blood samples and often specializes in certain areas. In order to be a successful MLT, you must be precise, well organized, and attentive to detail.

To gain a greater understanding of the role of an MLT, take biology, chemistry, physics, and computer classes in high school. Most MLTs need a degree from a one- or two-year accredited program. After completing the required course work, you will need to pass a national certification test to qualify for employment.



CAREER SPOTLIGHT

Prosthetist

Paul Morton always knew what he wanted to do with his life. “I loved art, I liked to work with my hands, and I wanted to help people. And I grew up watching my dad.” It’s no wonder that Paul became a prosthetist, just like his dad.

Q. What do you do as a certified prosthetist?

A. I design, fabricate, and fit artificial limbs for patients. It might be for someone who lost a limb due to diabetes, someone who was born with a missing foot, or someone who was in a car accident.

Q. Do you need a college degree to do your job?

A. At my level, yes, you do. But you also can go for special training right after high school and be trained as a prosthetic technician, who focuses



on building artificial limbs to precise specifications.

Q. How is your field changing?

A. Bionic technology has expanded. There are more opportunities for a person who wants to design and fabricate computer-controlled prosthetic devices.

Activity

Beyond the Classroom

Writing Exploring Internet Resources.

People often think that all medical professionals are doctors or nurses. On the contrary, many other kinds of medical careers exist. Use the Internet to research other careers in the medical or health field. What kinds of medical specialists are there? For example, who takes care of foot problems? Who operates scanning equipment, such as CAT, MRI, and ultrasound machines?

Create a brochure providing information on four careers you identified from your research. Include information on the type of education needed and how each profession helps promote physical health in the community.



For more information, use this code to access the Career Corner link at glencoe.com.