

CAREER CORNER

Medical Specialists

Respiratory Therapist

Respiratory therapists help people who have trouble breathing due to a number of lung conditions, such as emphysema or asthma. They usually work as part of a team with physicians, nurses, and other medical professionals.

If a career as a respiratory therapist interests you, take communications, biology, and other science classes in high school. Educational requirements for respiratory therapists vary from state to state. Some states require a two-year college degree, and others require a four-year college degree.



Substance Abuse Counselor

Substance abuse counselors assess and treat people who have substance abuse problems. They often work closely with doctors, social workers, psychologists, and other health professionals to address the physical, social, and psychological needs of the user and the user's friends and family. If you're interested in a career as a substance abuse counselor, take communications, psychology, and sociology classes in high school. Substance abuse counselors need an undergraduate degree and a master's degree in psychology or counseling. Most states also require certification and licensing.

Medical Records Technician

Medical records technicians maintain patients' health information. Medical records management is a rapidly changing field. Until recently, medical information was recorded on paper and then filed. Medical records are now often kept on computers.

Medical records technicians need to be detail oriented and well organized. Taking computer classes in high school can help you decide if a career as a medical records technician is right for you. After high school, you may need an associate's degree in information management from a community college or vocational school.



CAREER SPOTLIGHT

HIV/AIDS Educator

Livia Phillips was a freshman in college when she became an HIV/AIDS educator for Students Teaching AIDS to Youth (STAY). She volunteered thousands of hours of her time and received scholarships that paid for her undergraduate studies. Livia is now pursuing a nursing degree.

Q. Why did you want to become a health educator?

A. I wanted to be a resource person for health information. In school, I was the girl that anyone could talk to about their health problems and I loved helping my friends.

Q. What is the highlight of your career?

A. The last two years I worked as an educator in the HIV division of a substance abuse treatment facility. I educated residents about HIV/AIDS and offered testing and counseling



services. It was very satisfying work and I hope to do it again.

Q. What makes you successful at your career?

A. I don't judge. I help people realize the risks they take with certain behaviors. I try to empower them to make good choices.

Activity

Beyond the Classroom

Writing Drug Prevention Careers. Use print and online resources to learn more about substance prevention organizations. Many of these groups are nonprofit organizations that obtain funding from government and other sources. What types of careers might be available through one of these organizations? Research one nonprofit organization that aims to prevent substance abuse.

Make a list of at least five different careers within this organization that teens might consider. Develop a one-page informational flyer for two of the careers. Provide facts on the job responsibilities and education needed for these careers.



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