

Texas

H.O.T. JOBS

health opportunities in texas

Parent Guide



DREAM IT. PLAN IT. BE IT.

Your child is at a very exciting time in their life. A time when they are starting to think about their future and how to do all that they have dreamed about. Getting started on planning and preparing for their future can be intimidating. There is a lot that you can do to help them walk through the process.

This book offers some information about how you can help your child prepare for their future and share information about the career opportunities available in health care—not all careers are about hands-on patient care. There is a wide variety of options from business to information technology to direct patient care. And there are many options that require only a year–two of training, which is often available in your local community.

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The Texas HOT Jobs: Parent Guide has been developed by the West Texas Area Health Education Center.
For more information about health careers in Texas, go to WWW.TEXASHOTJOBS.ORG.

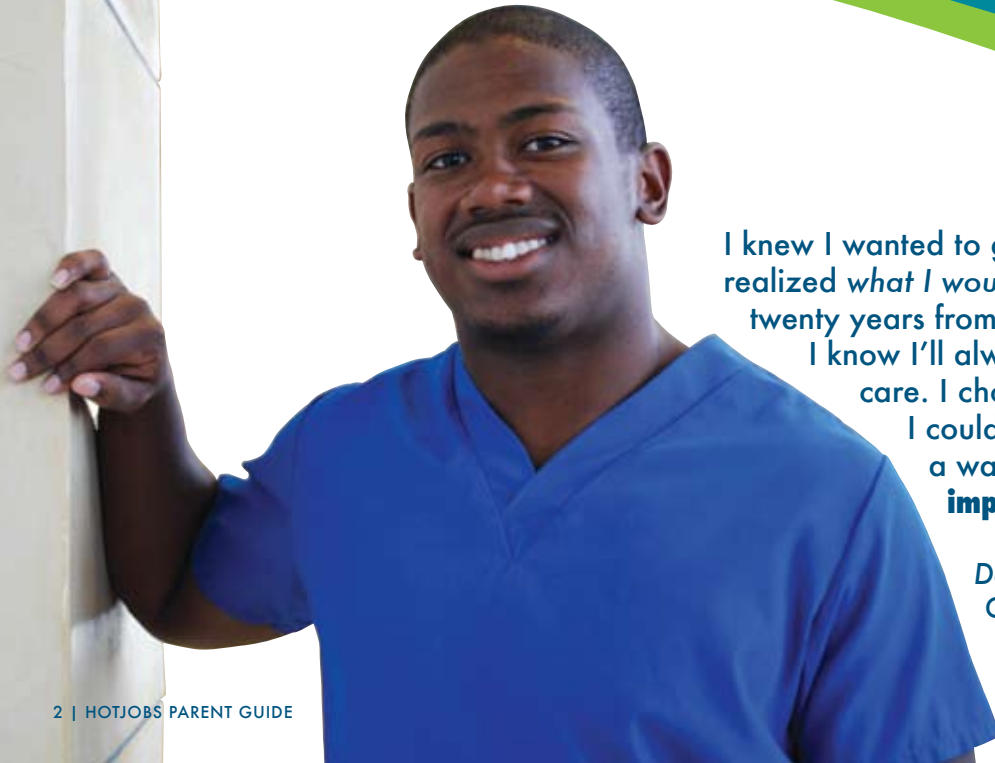
We believe in **supporting** our daughter in pursuing a health career, because it is a career that will always have job openings, and will also teach her good **human values**.

*Jesus D. Baca and
Marisela Garcia,
parents*

I recommend you do what your heart tells you to do. Once you know what you want to do, **follow your instincts** and don't let them be put aside. If you decide to go into health care you will be rewarded *instantly*. Once you help your first patient, all the hard work and efforts **will be well worth it**.

*Daniela Baca,
College Junior,
Nursing Student*

Why Health Careers?



I knew I wanted to go into health care when I realized *what I would really love to be doing twenty years from now for a **profession.***

I know I'll always have a job in health care. I chose nursing as a career so I could *help people in need in a way that can truly make an **impact in their lives.***

*Damon Sneed
College Freshman,
Pre-nursing Student*

WHY CHOOSE A CAREER IN A HEALTH CARE FIELD?

Did you know that the health care field is one of the fastest-growing industries in America? According to the U.S. government, there are more than 16 million people employed in health careers across the country. And over the next 10 years, there will be at least another 4 million people hired to keep up with the demand for healthcare services.

Health careers offer a wide range of options for career seekers—from widely varying job duties to many different work settings to long and short term education requirements. The sky is the limit in imagining the different options, whether it is

- working directly with patients in hands-on care; processing lab and other test results; working with medical equipment or computers; handling the medical information that has to be shared between health care providers, insurance companies, and patients; or working on the business side of health care.
- working in a hospital, clinic, office, or in people's homes.
- working 8-5 every day or flexible shifts that allow for setting one's own schedule.
- working as an employee for a health care organization or becoming an entrepreneur and starting a business.

There are almost **50 careers** in health care that do not require four years of college to get started. Many careers have from a few weeks to only a year or two of training. There are many careers that allow young people to work their way up through education and training at their own pace. If your son or daughter chooses to study in health care, they will have many options to choose a career that is a good fit for them.

Pursuing an education to get a health-related degree, license, or certificate is one of the best things your child can do. Here are just a few reasons why:

- Because the health care industry is generally not affected by the economy since people who are sick or elderly will always require care.
- Because many of these professions have lots of jobs available.
- Because there is a need for people who speak more than one language.
- Because a four-year degree is not the only option to start working as a medical professional. Many careers require only a year or two of training.
- Because it is possible to get a good position and work while going to college or raising a family.
- Because several health careers, like nursing, offer education options that allow your child to complete their training in small steps.
- Because there are lots of ways to get financial assistance to pay for college and training for your child.

Most colleges and universities have education programs in a wide range of health careers, which means your child can stay close to home while they receive training.

THE TOP 5 REASONS TO WORK IN HEALTH CARE

More jobs available than most other fields.

There are more than 16 million jobs in the health care industry. The number of jobs continues to grow because of the large number of aging Americans. The increasing demand for health care means there are many career options for students of all backgrounds, education levels, and skills. Health care is a very stable industry, which means fewer layoffs, more job stability, and more security for your family.

Potential to earn a lot of money.

Many of the highest-paying careers in the United States are in the medical field. If your son or daughter stays in college to pursue advanced healthcare degrees, they can increase their earnings by many millions over their lifetime. There are even high-paying jobs for students who want to complete only a year or two of training after high school. The more education and work experience they get, the more money they can make.

According to a 2008 Texas Workforce Commission report, the top-paying majors in Texas one year after students graduate with either a bachelor's or associate's degree, are:

College Major	Degree Earned	Average Annual Pay
1. Health Professions/ Clinical Sciences	Bachelor's (4 years)	\$47,306
2. Engineering	Bachelor's (4 years)	\$45,278
3. Health Professions/ Clinical Sciences	Associate's (2-3 years)	\$44,230

More Openings than Graduates

1. Registered Nurses
2. Elementary Teachers
3. Computer systems analysts
4. Software engineers
5. Clergy
6. Health services managers
7. Pharmacists
8. Clinical lab technicians
9. Training and development

More Graduates than Openings

1. Historians and archivists
2. Accountants & auditors
3. Graphic designers
4. Clinical psychologists
5. Journalists
6. Art directors
7. Advertising executives
8. Film & video editors
9. Archaeologists

More flexible shifts available.

There are very few careers like health care that give people the flexibility to take care of their families while building their career. In some health careers, with each training certificate or degree completed, there are opportunities to promote into a higher level position. The health care field is also great for working parents. Many jobs allow a person to set their own schedule and work evening or night shifts. Individuals may also be able to work longer shifts to have more days off each week.

Opportunity to give back.

Whatever healthcare career your child chooses, they will be helping others and making an impact in their community. Being a healthcare professional can be personally rewarding in more ways than just making money. This is a career field that offers the opportunity to save lives, discover solutions to problems facing the community—and even the nation, and to serve families and communities everyday.

Fun and exciting career path.

Because healthcare jobs are in such high demand, the training and work experience gained are very valuable assets to have. Many professionals become top experts in their field, are sought out by hospitals and companies, and travel around the nation teaching others. Whether your child wants to become an expert in their career field and work on a national or international level or would rather focus their work in their local community, it never gets boring working in this industry with each day bringing different things to do. They also have an opportunity to meet new people and work in a variety of settings. Every day can provide a different experience.



I had always known I wanted to be a nurse. However, it took me fourteen years before I made the decision to return to school to start preparing for my career. I would suggest to anyone that if they have a dream to go for it. At times it is tough but it is all worth the hard work in the end.

*Carmen Vela
Registered Nurse, MSN, RN,
Academic Instructor*



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A JOB AND A CAREER?

Often the words “job” and “career” are used so interchangeably that the differences between them are confused. There are significant differences and meaning behind the two terms. It is all in the view that a person has about their work. Any job can be a career—if that is work that a person wants to do many years of their life.

Often, a **job** is a means to an end. A job usually has a short-term goal: typically people get a job to pay the bills, to help pay for college tuition, to buy a car, or to have extra spending money. A job is a task-oriented position that assists with reaching the goals and outcomes of a business; but a job may not be part of a person’s long-term life goals.

A **career** is something that a person must plan and prepare for—including getting the training and education needed. It takes a lot of dedication and drive. To build a career, a person must be able to look ahead to the different available options and set goals for what they want to accomplish. They must be able to understand the steps needed to reach their goals. The road to building a career can have both successes and sometimes even failures or setbacks—but a person with a “career” mindset seeks out ways to overcome challenges to reach the goals they have set for themselves.

More importantly, a career is something that is exciting and draws on a person’s strengths. Your job—whatever work you do—can be your career if it is the work that is the best fit for you and is what you want to do each day.



To build a career,
a person must be able to *look ahead*
to the different available options
AND SET GOALS
for what they *want to accomplish.*



OPPORTUNITIES IN HEALTH CAREERS

Healthcare careers offer many diverse opportunities for people with different career goals and ideas about the work they want to do every day. Not all health careers require working directly with patients. While most health care careers are science-oriented (meaning that your child needs to have strong skills in math and the sciences), there are some careers that are not. Some health careers focus on the business aspects of health care; some focus on computers and technology development.

Personality type, skill set, and interests help define the careers that are the best fit for your child. High school and college is the time to explore several different options to find the career that is the right fit. The table to the right shows some personality characteristics and sample health careers that might be good options. Many times your child will be strong in more than one area. Think about which career opportunities might be good options for you and your child to explore together.

→ TAKE A QUIZ ON
WWW.TEXASHOTJOBS.ORG
TO SEE WHICH CAREERS MIGHT BE
A GOOD FIT FOR YOUR CHILD.

Realistic

likes to work with animals, tools or machines; sees self as practical, mechanical, and realistic.

Career Choices

- Dental assistant
- Nurse
- Biomedical equipment technician
- Veterinary assistant/ technician
- Veterinarian

Investigative

likes to study and solve math or science problems; sees self as precise, scientific, and intellectual.

Career Choices

- Physician
- Biomedical engineer
- Forensic scientist
- Research scientist
- Biostatistician
- Clinical laboratory scientist or technician

Artistic

likes to do creative activities and generally avoids highly ordered or repetitive activities; sees self as expressive, original and independent.

Career Choices

- Dental laboratory technician
- Medical Illustrator
- Recreational therapist
- Child life specialist

Social

likes to do things to help people and is good at teaching, counseling or giving information; sees self as helpful, friendly and trustworthy.

Career Choices

- Nurse
- Athletic trainer
- Physical or occupational therapist
- Rehabilitation counselor
- Licensed professional counselor
- Substance abuse counselor
- Marriage and family therapist
- Dietitian
- Social worker

Enterprising

likes to lead and persuade people; sees self as energetic, ambitious and sociable.

Career Choices

- Health care administrator
- Community health worker
- Funeral director
- Health educator/promoter

Conventional

likes to work with numbers, records or machines in a set, orderly way; sees self as orderly and good at following a set plan.

Career Choices

- Certified medical transcriptionist
- Biomedical equipment technician
- Health information manager or technician

A HEALTH CAREER MIGHT BE A GOOD FIT FOR YOU, TOO.

Just as people change jobs, sometimes people choose to change careers. Many health careers offer excellent opportunities for people who may want to change their career path. Because many health careers require only a few weeks to a year or two of education, they are a great option for people who are seeking a change in their work. Some health careers, like nursing, even have educational programs that build on training that you already have so that it takes even less time to complete a nursing degree.

Myths about Health Care Careers

These common ideas about health careers are not true

- You have to have a 4.0 GPA (grade point average) to be accepted into medical school.
- If you work in a rural area, you will not make as much money as someone who works in a big city.
- Nursing is only for women.
- Doctors work over 80 hours a week.
- You have to deal with patients.
- You have to go to school for a very long time.
- You never have time to spend with family and friends.

JOB STABILITY, SALARY, AND TRAINING

Every parent wants the opportunity to be able to provide the resources necessary to help enhance their child's future. Wouldn't it be nice if your child never had to worry about being out of work? For your son or daughter who chooses a healthcare career, this is how their life could be. Jobs in the healthcare field generally are not affected by the economy and there are rarely layoffs or downsizings.

According to studies by the United States government, many of the country's fastest-growing and highest-paying careers are in the healthcare industry. Two things are happening in the United States that are increasing the demand for healthcare professionals.

1. The United States' population is getting older, and older people generally require more health care services.
2. Many of the current medical workers are reaching retirement, and this is creating a shortage of healthcare professionals.

With communities in Texas becoming more diverse, it is beneficial for your child to be fluent in more than one language and be able to communicate effectively across different cultures. For those students who are bilingual and work in Texas, there are even greater opportunities to further advance in their careers.

What does all this mean? It means that your child can have a stable job, be a good family provider, and have the tools to build a good life.

EXPLORE THE 90 HEALTH CAREERS IN TEXAS

Salary, job outlook and length of training information for 90 health careers in Texas is provided on page 26. For more detailed information about each career, including which colleges and universities in Texas offer training, go to WWW.TEXASHOTJOBS.ORG.



EXPLORE
90 health careers,
information about financial aid and universities
and much more at
WWW.TEXASHOTJOBS.ORG!

Help your child



My parents have made a huge impact on my journey to reach my goals by always **encouraging** me to keep my grades up. They never stopped **being there** for me, **supporting** me and **teaching** me the lessons I needed to learn in order to succeed.

*Melissa Dodson
College Sophomore,
Pre-nursing Student*

YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD PREPARE FOR THEIR FUTURE CAREER

Parents, it doesn't matter how much education you have—you can influence your child in a positive way. There are simple things you can do today that will make it easier for your child to have a fun and rewarding career in the future. This section will guide you on how to communicate better with teachers and school administrators to become more involved in your child's education. It will also show you some steps you can take to prepare your kids for college and a career. For more information and other tips for helping to prepare your child for a health career, visit WWW.TEXASHOTJOBS.ORG.

FIND A ROLE MODEL

It has been proven that teenagers who have positive mentors and role models perform better in school and in college than those who do not. A mentor or role model can be anyone with an inspirational story to share or who can have a positive influence on your teen. Mentors are able to provide insight from their own experiences. Finding a role model or mentor in the career field that your child is interested in can be a tremendous benefit to helping your child reach their career goal. Your child could have the opportunity to talk to someone who is in the field and see if this is a career they would like to pursue. To the right is a list of ideas for how to find mentors and role models:

- First, sit down with your child and ask them what they want in a mentor. Do they want someone who can help them learn a new skill? What kinds of things would they like to learn about the career they are interested in?
- Ask people you know and trust to talk with your son or daughter and share advice.
- Invite other parents you know who can visit your home and share their work experiences and advice about college.
- Call youth organizations in the community who have mentor programs and ask about their opportunities.
- Ask your child's teacher to take some extra time after-school to talk about how to prepare for college.
- Ask the counselor at your child's high school to give you a list of phone numbers for organizations or people who have similar interests as your teen. Call them to find out if they have mentor programs for young people.
- Call your local college or university admissions office or careers center to find out if they have volunteers who can mentor your teenager.

ONCE YOU HAVE IDENTIFIED MENTORS OR ROLE MODELS, FIRST GET TO KNOW THESE PEOPLE YOURSELF BEFORE TRUSTING THEM WITH YOUR CHILD.

EXPLORE CAREER OPTIONS

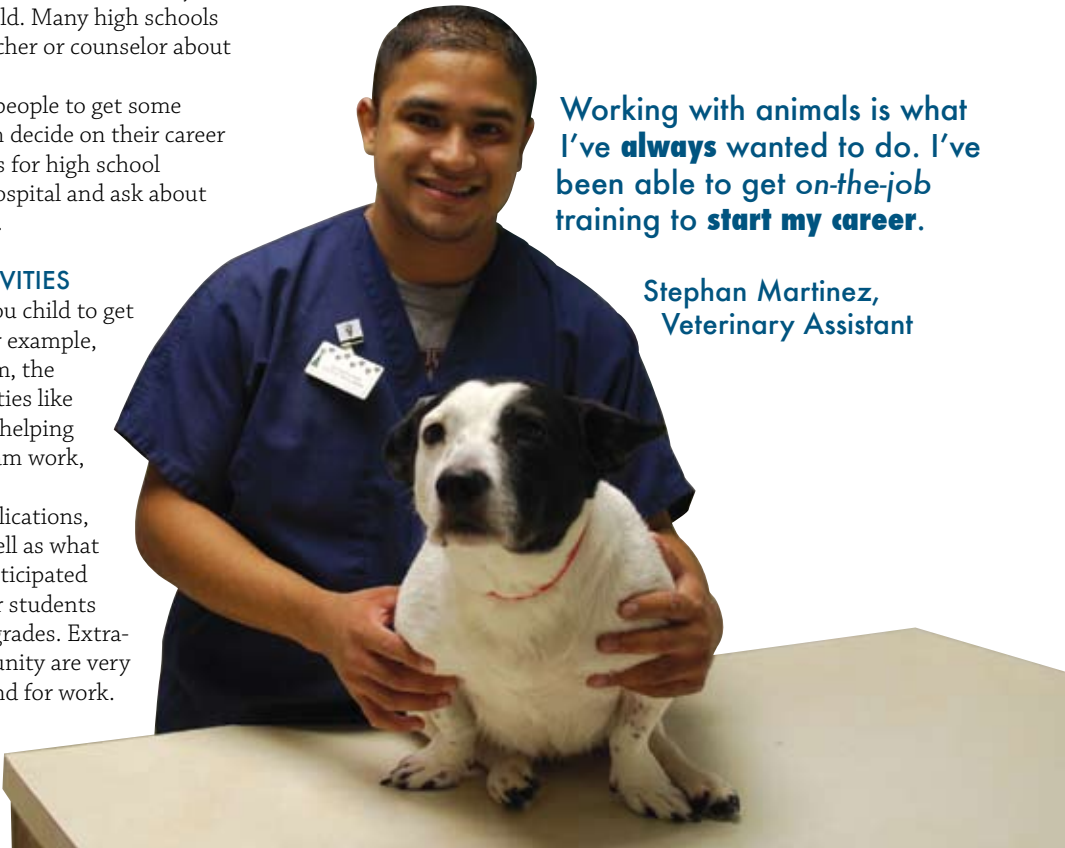
It is important for your child to explore different career options that they think they may be interested in—whether it is a health career or any other career. High school is a great time for students to do job shadowing with a professional in that career field. Many high schools have job shadow days, so be sure to ask the teacher or counselor about those types of events.

Volunteering is another great way for young people to get some experience in a work environment to help them decide on their career goals. Many hospitals have volunteer programs for high school students, but if not, don't hesitate to call the hospital and ask about options to set up an opportunity for your child.

PARTICIPATE IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES


Extracurricular activities are important for you child to get involved with while they are in high school. For example, they can be a part of the band, the football team, the drama club, National Honor Society, etc. Activities like these add to how well-rounded your child is by helping them further develop their communication, team work, leadership, and time management skills.

When your child begins to fill out college applications, the application will ask about their grades as well as what kinds of extracurricular activities they have participated in. College admissions programs are looking for students who can manage their time and still make the grades. Extracurricular activities at school and in the community are very beneficial for preparing your child for college and for work.

A young man with short dark hair, wearing blue scrubs and a name tag, is smiling and holding a black and white dog. The dog is sitting on a white table. The background is plain white.

Working with animals is what I've **always** wanted to do. I've been able to get *on-the-job* training to **start my career**.

Stephan Martinez,
Veterinary Assistant



*Learning something new
can be hard at first, BUT WITH PRACTICE,
it gets easier and
CAN BE WORTH THE EFFORT*

FOCUS ON MATH AND SCIENCE

Many health careers use advanced skills in math and science. It is important for your child to start—even as early as middle school—taking as many math and science classes as possible to prepare them for the health career of their choice. If your child thinks that he or she wants to be a health care professional but may be nervous about math or science, encourage them that learning something new can be hard at first, but with practice, it gets easier and can be worth the effort. It is important to note that science and math are not just subjects that boys are good at, but girls can excel just as much in these subjects. Encourage your child to push themselves to be able to understand and apply the math and science skills that they are learning.

Getting Started

I fell in love with clinical laboratory science after taking an **introductory course** to learn about the career.

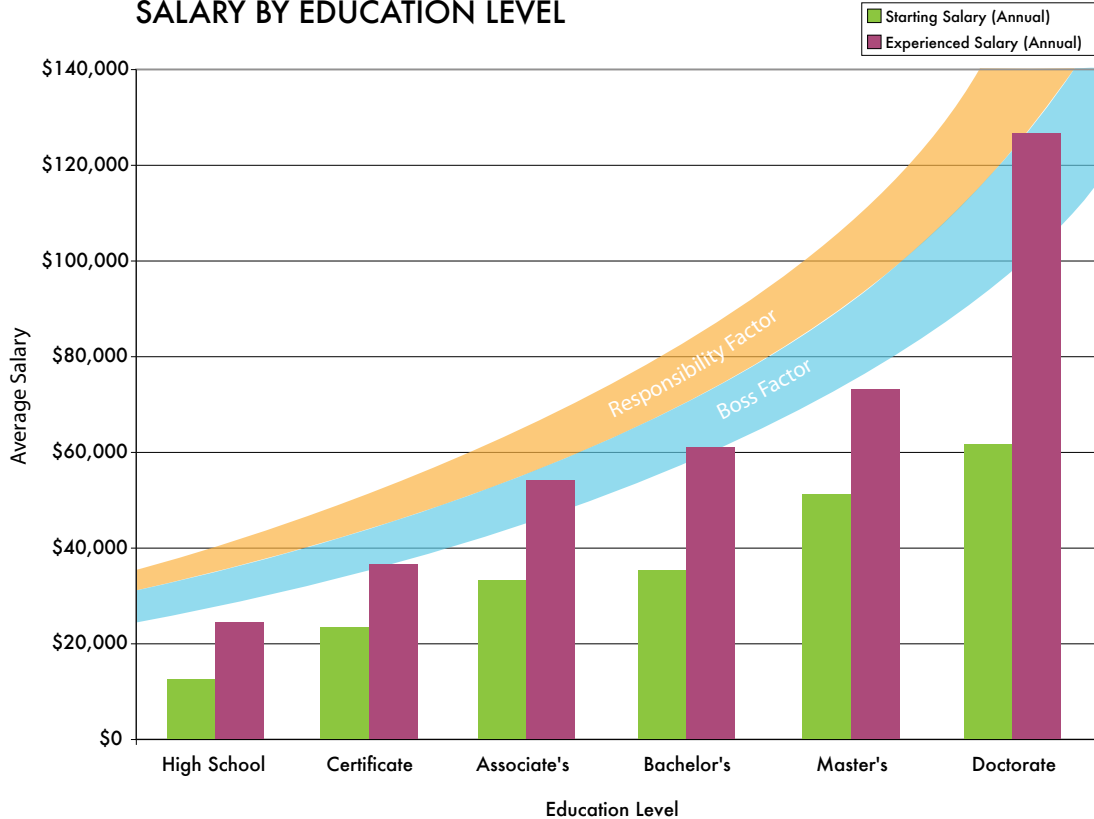
*Victor Hernandez, MT(AMT)
Hospital Lab Manager,
Medical Technologist*

GETTING STARTED ON THE PATH TO COLLEGE

Attending college is an opportunity for your child to increase their skills and abilities to better prepare them for their future career. Any training completed after high school increases the amount of money your child could make. Having a bachelor's degree (approximately four years of college) can double the amount of money your child can earn in their lifetime.



SALARY BY EDUCATION LEVEL



These are the average salaries for health careers that require these education levels.



Sometimes, even as a senior in high school, it is hard for your child to decide what they'd like to study in college, but you can help them begin by looking at the things that they are good at. Ask them some self-examination questions: Do you like to analyze things in great detail? Do you like to work with people or by yourself? What subjects do you like in school? What are you passionate about? The high school counselor may have an aptitude and skills test that your child can take to help them figure out what it is they would enjoy doing as well as highlight the skills that are helpful for specific careers.

Here are some tips to help your child prepare for college while he or she is in high school.

JUNIOR YEAR – FALL

- ❑ Talk to your child about what they'd like to major in (a major is the topic or primary focus of study in college).
- ❑ Attend college fairs with your child. Meet with college staff.
- ❑ Make a list of colleges that you and your child are interested in. Request their admissions and financial aid information.
- ❑ Be sure that your child takes the PSAT to prepare for college admissions tests and to establish eligibility for the National Merit Scholarship.
- ❑ Talk to the high school guidance counselor about your child's PSAT scores and the classes they are taking.

JUNIOR YEAR – SPRING

- ❑ Be sure that your child takes the SAT or ACT test.
- ❑ Talk with your child to narrow the list of college choices and make plans to visit the campuses.
- ❑ Encourage your child to participate in job shadowing with a professional in their selected career field.

SENIOR YEAR – FALL

- ❑ Request and complete admissions and financial aid applications from colleges. (*Applications are often available on the college website*)
- ❑ Begin watching for scholarship opportunities. Be aware of application deadlines.
- ❑ If your child's high school offers college prep courses, check to be sure that they meet your college's requirements.
- ❑ Have your child take the SAT or ACT again, if they want to try to improve their score. Remember that most colleges only consider the highest score.
- ❑ Work with your child to ask their teachers and mentors to write letters of recommendation, which may be needed for scholarship applications.

SENIOR YEAR – SPRING

- ❑ Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as soon as possible after January.
- ❑ After receiving letters of acceptance and financial aid awards, help your child decide which college they will attend.
- ❑ Follow your chosen college's instructions to confirm admission and to enroll in classes
- ❑ Review the financial aid package with your child. Be sure you understand each type of aid offered.
- ❑ Accept scholarships and other financial aid as instructed by the donor. Generally, this must be done in writing.

FINANCIAL AID BASICS

Do you want your child to go to college, but don't think you or your family can afford it? There are several different kinds of financial assistance available to help. Some are need-based, some are based on academic or athletic performance, and others are available based on a student's or family's ability to borrow money. There are four main types of financial aid for education:

scholarships—“gift aid” (which means the student is not required to pay back the amount). Scholarships are offered by colleges and other organizations, and students must generally meet certain criteria to apply. Some scholarships may have responsibilities attached.

grants—gift aid that is based on financial need. There are several different types of grants including the Pell Grant and the Texas Grant.

loans—a form of “self-help aid.” Students who receive loans must pay back those loans with interest at a specified time, generally after they have completed their education.

work-study—a form of self-help aid where students work part-time, generally at the college.

For need-based financial aid, including loans and many scholarships, students must fill out the “Free Application for Federal Student Aid,” or FAFSA for short. No matter how many schools you are applying to, you only need to fill out one FAFSA application. The FAFSA should be completed as soon as possible after January during your child's Senior Year of high school, if they are planning to enroll in college the following Fall. Keep in mind that your child will have to fill out and submit the FAFSA application every year while they are in school. If you think your child does not qualify for aid, you should still fill out the application just in case they may. Once you've completed the FAFSA, you will receive information about grants and student loans that your child qualifies for. Education loans have a reduced interest rate than other types of loans or credit; there are both student loan and parent loan options with payment options after your child completes their education. Keep in mind that loans for education purposes are investments in your child's future and increasing the amount of money they can make in their lifetime.

Once you've completed the required FAFSA form, there may be additional scholarship application forms specific to each college or university that can be used for scholarship opportunities available at that college. Each college's website will have a link to their financial aid office, where you can get more information about specific scholarship opportunities available at that college.

Check out these websites for more information about financial aid opportunities.

www.fafsa.ed.gov

www.college.gov

www.collegefortexans.com

www.ed.gov/students/landing.jhtml

www.students.gov

www.studentaid.ed.gov

Other places to look for scholarships include local charitable organizations, civic groups, and area foundations. Communities often have several different organizations that provide scholarships to local students. Check with the high school guidance counselor or college financial aid office for details on how to apply for these kinds of scholarships that are available from the community.

Another form of financial assistance that is available for some health care careers is called loan repayment. This is a form of assistance where the student, after completing his or her college degree, will agree to work in an underserved community for a certain period of time, generally 2-3 years, in exchange for the sponsoring organization repaying part or all of the loan. This opportunity is available particularly for primary care health professionals (primary care physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, etc) who will practice in a rural or urban area that has a medically underserved. For more information about these opportunities, visit the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's websites at www.thecb.state.us.gov and www.hhloans.com.



WRITING THE ESSAY FOR COLLEGE AND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Most scholarship applications and colleges require your child to submit an essay or personal statement along with the other required materials (ACT or SAT scores, high school transcripts, letters of recommendation, etc.) as one way to decide between students with similar scores. Most students do not enjoy this part of the application process; but this is a way for your child to set himself or herself apart from the rest of the applicants.

The college or scholarship application may ask your child to reflect on different questions or scenarios. This essay is not about being smarter than the other applicants, but allows your child to reflect on what they have experienced, what they have learned, and what they are passionate about. Keep in mind the admissions staff have read numerous essays; so encourage your child to keep their essay simple and remain true to who they are. Below are some points to keep in mind as you help your child prepare to write their personal statement.

- Start working on the essays early. Don't wait until the last minute to write one, because this essay is your child's best opportunity to share who they are with the people who are making decisions for admissions and scholarships. You do not want to submit an essay that has grammatical errors or misspellings.
- Encourage your child to have several people review their essay. Suggest that they get someone who has experience reviewing essays. (i.e. guidance counselor, teacher, mentor, etc.)
- Be sure to encourage them to fully answer the question asked on the application, but to keep to their key points and not to ramble on.

- Work with your child to keep in mind who the target audience is. Make sure the choice of language is appropriate for the audience.
- Encourage your child to share about what makes them special and sets them apart from the other applicants.
- Be sure to submit the college application and essay before the deadline date. There is nothing worse than putting a lot of time and effort into an application that will not be considered because it was submitted after the deadline.

Check out these websites for more information about writing the college essay/personal statement.

www.princetonreview.com

www.collegeboard.com

www.essayedge.com



THE MILITARY AS AN OPTION FOR YOUR CHILD

There is also a demand for skilled health care professionals in the armed forces for students who are considering the military as a career. But to pursue these health careers within the military, specific training is still required.

For many students, the military offers an opportunity to gain experiences and prepare for their future career directly after high school, and provides them with the opportunity to pursue college training after military service. There are also options for young people to go to college before they join the military. Both options—military service *before or after* completing college—have different benefits for young people. You and your child should talk about the benefits of military service and how best to meet your child’s long-term career goals.

Go to the high school counselor’s office to get brochures and ask questions about the steps and process for joining the military. You and your child may be able to talk to a local recruiter about military options.

MILITARY BENEFITS FOR THOSE ENROLLED IN COLLEGE

If your teenager goes to college and enrolls in a military preparatory program while in college, such as ROTC, he or she can receive:

- Financial assistance from the military for college tuition, books, or tutors while going to college.
- Money from the military to help with monthly living expenses while going to college.
- Officer training and the opportunity to learn about military programs through ROTC.

GRADUATING FROM COLLEGE AND ENTERING THE MILITARY

Once your student graduates from college, he or she can get these benefits if he enters the military afterwards:

- Several thousands of dollars towards the repayment of any student loans taken out for college.
- A military ranking as a commissioned officer with more privileges and better pay than as an enlisted soldier.
- A cash bonus to join the military after completing college.

As a parent, you need to learn about the military sponsored programs that are available to assist with paying for your child’s college and to prepare them for the military. For example, visit www.gibill.va.gov/ to learn more about the GI Bill, which provides money for college.

ROTC programs are offered in both high school and college. These programs show students what a life in the military is like and teach them leadership skills, but they do NOT require a student to join the military after completing the program.*

** There is not a commitment for enrolling in the ROTC Basic Course, unless your child has received an ROTC scholarship. Receiving an ROTC scholarship or entering the ROTC advanced course does carry a commitment of service in the military. Be sure to check with your local recruiting office to find out the specific responsibilities and requirements for each branch of the military.*



BRINGING IT ALL BACK TOGETHER

With 90 different career choices available, and the wide range of educational options, health careers offer your child job security and flexibility and an opportunity for your child to be a valued contributor to their community.

If a health career sounds like a good fit for your child, check out the Texas HOT Jobs website at WWW.TEXASHOTJOBS.ORG for more resources and information. Both you and your child can discover the health career choices and education paths that are best for your family.

Career	Length of Training	Outlook*	Starting Salary	Experienced Salary	Category
Acupuncturist	6 years	4	\$62,400	\$104,000	Allied Health
Athletic Trainer	4-6 years	4	\$26,458	\$48,479	Allied Health
Audiologist	4-8 years	2.5	\$37,961	\$63,091	Allied Health
Gerontologist	4-8 years	3	\$23,000	\$55,000	Allied Health
Massage Therapist	6 weeks-4 months	3	\$17,268	\$34,551	Allied Health
Medical Assistant	up to 1 year	2	\$19,212	\$26,591	Allied Health
Occupational Therapist	6 years	3	\$47,179	\$74,583	Allied Health
Occupational Therapy Assistant	2 years	3	\$31,290	\$52,456	Allied Health
Physical Therapist	6-8 years	4	\$53,863	\$83,220	Allied Health
Physical Therapy Assistant	2 years	3	\$33,856	\$51,267	Allied Health
Physician Assistant	6 years	3	\$61,331	\$91,332	Allied Health
Prosthetics/Orthotics	4 years	1	\$40,000	\$75,000	Allied Health
Recreational Therapist	4-6 years	4	\$21,273	\$42,946	Allied Health
Rehabilitation Counselor	4-6 years	3	\$19,260	\$53,170	Allied Health
Respiratory Therapist	2-4 years	2.5	\$38,202	\$48,477	Allied Health
Speech Language Pathologist	4-6 years	3	\$39,496	\$63,047	Allied Health
Veterinarian	6-8 years	3	\$50,723	\$104,245	Animal Health Care
Veterinary Assistant	up to 1 year	3	\$15,434	\$27,651	Animal Health Care
Veterinary Technician/Technologist	2 years	3	\$15,434	\$27,651	Animal Health Care
Chiropractic Technician/Assistant	1-3 months	3	\$16,469	\$26,610	Chiropractic Care
Chiropractor	6-8 years	3	\$34,225	\$87,240	Chiropractic Care
Blood Bank Technology Specialist	4 years	3	\$35,127	\$49,280	Clinical Lab Science
Clinical Laboratory Scientist	4 years	2	\$36,831	\$51,678	Clinical Lab Science

Career	Length of Training	Outlook*	Starting Salary	Experienced Salary	Category
Clinical Laboratory Technician	1-2 years	4.5	\$22,701	\$34,205	Clinical Lab Science
Cytotechnologist	4 years	4.5	\$41,454	\$54,600	Clinical Lab Science
Histologic Technician	1-2 years	1.5	\$21,116	\$31,676	Clinical Lab Science
Histotechnologist	4 years	2.5	\$34,200	\$50,740	Clinical Lab Science
Phlebotomist	up to 1 year	3.5	\$21,994	\$28,080	Clinical Lab Science
Dental Assistant	up to 1 year	2.5	\$19,928	\$31,744	Dentistry
Dental Hygienist	2-4 years	2.5	\$44,258	\$72,907	Dentistry
Dental Laboratory Technician	2-4 years	4	\$20,203	\$35,627	Dentistry
Dentist	6-8 years	3	\$75,027	\$186,923	Dentistry
Dietetic Technician	up to 1 year	3	\$15,900	\$27,294	Dietetics and Nutrition
Dietitian	4-6 years	2.75	\$35,533	\$54,843	Dietetics and Nutrition
EMS Personnel	up to 2 years	3.5	\$19,229	\$32,055	Emergency Services
Health Care Services Administrator	4-6 years	4	\$38,258	\$75,111	Services Administration
Certified Coding Specialist	3 months-1 year	2	\$19,955	\$36,638	Information Management
Certified Medical Transcriptionist	up to 1 year	4.5	\$22,884	\$33,659	Information Management
Health Information Manager/Administrator	4 years	2.75	\$47,340	\$85,460	Information Management
Health Information Technician	up to 2 years	2.5	\$18,877	\$31,619	Information Management
Medical Illustrator	4-6 years	3	\$41,933	\$79,547	Information Management
Medical Interpreter	4 years	4	\$25,000	\$43,000	Information Management
Medical Librarian	6 years	3	\$37,302	\$54,695	Information Management
Diagnostic Medical Sonographer	2 years	3	\$47,128	\$70,112	Medical Imaging
Dosimetrist	2-5 years	3	\$63,580	\$73,810	Medical Imaging
Nuclear Medical Technologist	2-4 years	3	\$54,841	\$61,553	Medical Imaging

Career	Length of Training	Outlook*	Starting Salary	Experienced Salary	Category
Radiation Therapy Technologist	1-4 years	4	\$53,218	\$79,634	Medical Imaging
Radiologic Technologist	1-4 years	3.5	\$37,507	\$58,920	Medical Imaging
Child Life Specialist	4-6 years	3	\$22,069	\$34,369	Mental Health
Licensed Professional Counselor	4-8 years	4.5	\$35,268	\$56,150	Mental Health
Marriage and Family Therapist	6-8 years	3	\$47,559	\$60,387	Mental Health
Psychiatric Aide	up to 2 years	5	\$16,359	\$22,462	Mental Health
Psychologist	4-8 years	1	\$50,582	\$93,314	Mental Health
Social Worker	4-8 years	4	\$29,986	\$53,024	Mental Health
Substance Abuse Counselor	2-8 years	1.5	\$21,931	\$36,833	Mental Health
Embalmer	2 years	3	\$23,872	\$37,212	Mental Health
Funeral Director/Embalmer	3 years	3.5	\$29,620	\$51,217	Mortuary Science
Certified Nurse Midwife	6+ years	3.75	\$55,000	\$80,000	Nursing
Certified Nurse's Aide	2 weeks - 4 months	4	\$15,676	\$22,154	Nursing
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	6+ years	2.25	\$85,000	\$111,000	Nursing
Clinical Nurse Specialist	6+ years	2.5	\$48,000	\$68,000	Nursing
Home Health Aide	2-4 weeks	2.5	\$12,667	\$17,795	Nursing
Licensed Vocational Nurse	1 year	2.5	\$41,494	\$44,694	Nursing
Nurse Practitioner	6+ years	2	\$57,000	\$75,000	Nursing
Registered Nurse	2-4 years	3.5	\$42,302	\$64,613	Nursing
Pharmacist	6-8 years	4.5	\$78,983	\$104,945	Pharmacy
Pharmacy Technician	up to 2 years	3	\$20,639	\$29,900	Pharmacy
Physician	8+ years	4	\$75,189	\$199,494	Physician
Podiatrist	8+ years	4.5	\$78,298	\$138,901	Podiatry

Career	Length of Training	Outlook*	Starting Salary	Experienced Salary	Category
Biostatistician	6+ years	3	\$44,400	\$81,976	Public Health
Community Health Worker	4+ weeks	4	\$18,720	\$31,200	Public Health
Demographer	6+ years	2.5	\$40,000	\$54,000	Public Health
Environmental Health Specialist	2-6 years	3	\$43,665	\$79,039	Public Health
Epidemiologist	6-8 years	2.5	\$40,790	\$54,092	Public Health
Health Educator/Promoter	4-8 years	4	\$26,919	\$40,361	Public Health
Biomedical Engineer	4-6 years	3	\$42,767	\$84,704	Science & Engineering
Biomedical Equipment Technician	2 years	4	\$19,701	\$43,024	Science & Engineering
Biotechnologist	2-6 years	3	\$23,973	\$42,110	Science & Engineering
Forensic Scientist	2-6 years	1	\$28,313	\$45,539	Science & Engineering
Research Scientist	4-8+ years	3.75	\$44,267	\$86,956	Science & Engineering
Cardiovascular Technologist	1-2 years	4	\$25,604	\$50,216	Special Technologies
Electrocardiographic Technician	8-16 weeks	3	\$21,868	\$43,229	Special Technologies
Electroneurodiagnostic Technologist	2 years	3.75	\$29,203	\$73,495	Special Technologies
Perfusionist	5+ years	3.5	\$45,000	\$60,000	Special Technologies
Polysomnographic Technologist	2 years	2.5	\$41,600	\$73,000	Special Technologies
Surgical Technologist	2 years	5	\$26,993	\$39,618	Special Technologies
Ophthalmic Assistant/Technician	up to 2 years	4	\$19,297	\$31,168	Vision Care
Optician	up to 2 years	5	\$16,438	\$34,633	Vision Care
Optometric Assistant/Technician	up to 2 years	5	\$17,143	\$32,842	Vision Care
Optometrist	6-8 years	5	\$47,564	\$107,403	Vision Care

***Outlook:** All health careers are experiencing job growth. Some are anticipated to have faster rates of growth than others. The growth is presented here on a 1-5 scale, with 5 being the most growth. This information is taken from the 2008-2009 U.S. Occupational Outlook Handbook (www.bls.gov/oco/).

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