Careers IN AGING —Month—

Exploring an Aging-Related Career in… Healthcare

Overview of Career Path: As the U.S. population ages, greater numbers of healthcare professionals with expertise in aging will be needed. Healthcare professionals work in a variety of settings, from small practices to hospitals and long-term care facilities. People with different kinds of education and interests can work towards helping older adults with their healthcare needs.

Passion: Many people who choose careers in healthcare want to help others, and value direct contact with those they are helping. Healthcare may be a good fit for you if you have a strong desire to help others and can effectively communicate with a variety of people.

Purpose: People collaborating across a wide variety of occupations are needed to make our healthcare systems work, from hands-on occupations like home health aides and physical therapists to those who manage billing and human resources.

Possibilities: The outlook for healthcare workers focusing on older adults is very positive. The Bureau of Labor Statistics says that overall employment in healthcare occupations is projected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations from 2022 to 2032 (https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/home.htm).

Examples of Careers/Job Positions:

- A **geriatrician** is a doctor (M.D. or D.O.) who specializes in the care of older adults.
- A **geriatric occupational therapist** helps older adults adapt to physical changes by providing tools and strategies to make it possible to engage in meaningful activities.
- A **social worker** specializing in geriatrics might offer counseling to older adults and caregivers, or work with older adults being discharged from the hospital.

For more information:

A variety of resources exist with additional information. Below are a few to explore.
American Geriatrics Society – Careers in Geriatrics
Colorado Physical Therapy Network – Geriatric Physical Therapy
Exploring Careers in Aging: Healthcare and Therapeutic Services