

Health Sciences

The **Health Sciences** major provides students with a broad understanding of the healthcare field, focusing on the science behind health, wellness, and disease prevention. Students learn about human biology, health systems, medical terminology, and public health principles, preparing them for various roles in healthcare. Graduates typically work in sectors such as public health, healthcare administration, medical research, and health education. This major offers a flexible foundation for those interested in advancing to specialized healthcare careers or pursuing graduate-level education in healthcare or medical fields.

Job Title Examples:

- Health Educator
- Public Health Coordinator
- Healthcare Administrator Assistant
- Medical Research Assistant
- Medical Scribe
- Health Services Manager
- Patient Care Coordinator
- Wellness Coordinator
- Clinical Research Associate
- Health Policy Analyst

WKU Specific Examples (non-clinical positions)

- Medical Case Manager
- Patient Scheduler
- Medical Account Payment Specialist
- Health Promotion Consultant
- Physician Practice Consultant
- Medical Business Administrator
- Facility Admissions Coordinator
- Clinical Trial Manager
- Healthcare Recruiter
- Patient Care Coordinator
- Patient Advocate / Community Health Worker
- Patient Health Navigator
- Hospital/Medical Practice Customer Service

Health Educator Example Clinical Positions (requiring graduate school and/or specialized training beyond BS degree)

- Occupational Therapist
- Physical Therapist
- Physical Therapy Assistant
- Physician Assistant
- Physician
- Dentist
- Pharmacist
- Optometrist

Hard and Soft Skills Needed:

Hard Skills

1. Knowledge of healthcare systems and policies
2. Medical terminology
3. Data analysis and health data management
4. Health assessment techniques
5. Understanding of public health principles

Soft Skills

1. Communication skills
2. Problem-solving
3. Teamwork and collaboration
4. Time management
5. Critical thinking

Further Education/Training Required and/or Suggested:

A BS in Health Sciences provides a broad foundation for healthcare roles, but additional training or certifications are typically required for specific careers:

To Enter the Field:

1. Certifications (e.g., CPT, CHES):
 - Needed for roles like personal trainer (CPT) or health educator (CHES).
2. Specialized Training or Licensure:
 - Required for clinical roles like radiologic technologist or physical therapy assistant.

To Advance:

1. Graduate or Professional Degrees:
 - For advanced careers in healthcare (e.g., OT, PT, PA).
2. Specialty Certifications:
 - For leadership or niche roles in public health or administration.

Summary:

Specific certifications or advanced degrees are often needed to specialize or progress in health sciences careers.

Professional or Student Associations:

- Student Healthcare Association (SHA)
- National Association of Health Services Executives (NAHSE)
- American Medical Association (AMA)