

CAREERS & FUTURE PATHWAYS — with Carolyn & Jade



MEDICAL CAREERS

MEDICAL NOTICEBOARD

DOCTOR: If you're passionate about health and helping others, becoming a doctor is an incredible and rewarding career choice. But what if you don't get in on your first try? Or perhaps, you discover along the way that being a doctor isn't quite the path for you after all? The good news is that the world of medicine and health is full of exciting career opportunities beyond the traditional doctor role. There are countless ways to get involved in healthcare and make a meaningful difference. In this blog, we'll highlight just a few of the alternative career pathways in medicine that you might want to consider.

<https://studyworkgrow.com/how-to-become-a-medical-doctor/>

NURSING: Nurses are at the heart of healthcare, providing direct care to patients, assisting with treatments, and being advocates for health and well-being. Whether you're interested in working in hospitals, clinics, or in the community, there are various specialties within nursing, **including midwifery, paediatric, emergency, mental health, NICU, oncology, and surgical nursing** – just to name a few. With the flexibility of nursing, you can work in diverse settings and have plenty of career development opportunities, such as becoming a nurse practitioner or a clinical nurse specialist.

<https://studyworkgrow.com/how-to-become-a-registered-nurse/> <https://studyworkgrow.com/how-to-become-a-midwife/>

PHYSICAL THERAPY: If you're interested in helping people recover from injuries, manage pain, or improve mobility, physiotherapy or occupational therapy could be the path for you. **Physiotherapists** work with patients to restore movement and function, often through exercise, massage, or other treatments. **Occupational therapists** focus on helping people develop or regain the skills needed for daily activities, using adaptive techniques, exercises, and assistive devices. Both careers offer the opportunity to work directly with people and make a meaningful impact on their quality of life without pursuing a full medical degree.

<https://studyworkgrow.com/how-to-become-a-physiotherapist/>

<https://studyworkgrow.com/occupational-therapist/>

PHARMACY: Pharmacists play a vital role in healthcare by ensuring patients receive the correct medications and advising them on how to use them safely. This is an excellent choice if you have an interest in drugs, their effects on the body, and providing personalised health advice. Pharmacists work in hospitals, retail pharmacies, and even research settings, contributing to public health in many ways. <https://studyworkgrow.com/how-to-become-a-pharmacist/>

PARAMEDICINE (Emergency Medical Services): For those who thrive in fast-paced environments and enjoy helping people in urgent situations, paramedicine can be a fulfilling career. Paramedics respond to emergencies, provide medical care on the spot, and transport patients to healthcare facilities when needed. This is a hands-on role with a significant impact on saving lives and providing immediate support. <https://studyworkgrow.com/how-to-become-a-paramedic/>

MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE: Medical laboratory technicians and scientists are essential in diagnosing and treating illnesses by analysing laboratory samples. If you enjoy working behind the scenes but still want to play a crucial role in patient care, this could be an ideal career. You'll work with cutting-edge technology to analyse blood, urine, and tissue samples, helping doctors diagnose conditions and track patients' progress. Find out more about what it could be like working in a laboratory here. <https://studyworkgrow.com/what-is-it-like-to-work-in-a-laboratory/>

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT: Health administrators manage hospitals, clinics, or public health organisations, ensuring that everything runs smoothly. This role might appeal to you if you're interested in healthcare but are more drawn to organisational, leadership, and business tasks rather than direct patient care. Health administrators help streamline healthcare systems and improve patient outcomes by managing resources, budgets, and staff.

<https://studyworkgrow.com/how-to-become-an-administrator/>

SPEECH THERAPY: Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) work with patients who have speech, language, or swallowing disorders. If you have an interest in communication and enjoy working closely with individuals to make a significant difference in their lives, this could be a great option. You'll help people regain their ability to speak or swallow, often after an illness or injury. <https://studyworkgrow.com/how-to-become-a-speech-pathologist/>



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PUBLIC HEALTH AND EPIDEMIOLOGY: Public health professionals focus on improving health on a larger scale. If you're passionate about preventing illness and improving health outcomes for entire populations, a career in public health might be right for you. This could involve roles in epidemiology, health policy, environmental health, or health education. Epidemiologists, for example, study disease patterns and help control outbreaks.

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE AND RESEARCH: Biomedical scientists and researchers work in labs to understand diseases, develop new treatments, and advance medical knowledge. If you're more interested in discovering the science behind health conditions and exploring new ways to treat them, biomedical research is an exciting field with plenty of opportunities to make a real difference in medicine. Examples of careers in this field include Computational Biology and Data Science. <https://studyworkgrow.com/how-to-become-a-computational-biologist/>
<https://studyworkgrow.com/how-to-become-a-data-scientist/>

RADIOGRAPHY AND MEDICAL IMAGING: Radiographers or medical imaging technologists use imaging technology, like X-rays, MRIs, and CT scans, to help doctors diagnose and monitor illnesses. If you have an interest in technology & enjoy working in a healthcare environment, this can be an exciting role that combines technical skills with patient care. <https://studyworkgrow.com/how-to-become-a-radiographer/> <https://studyworkgrow.com/how-to-become-a-sonographer/>

DIETETICS AND NUTRITION: Dietitians and nutritionists work with patients to develop healthy eating plans, manage diet-related health conditions, and promote overall well-being. If you have a passion for food and health and want to help others improve their lives through nutrition, this could be a career for you. There are plenty of specialties within dietetics, including sports nutrition, paediatric nutrition, and clinical nutrition. <https://studyworkgrow.com/how-to-become-a-dietitian/>

ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES AND COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE: While traditional medicine plays a big role in healthcare, many people also look to alternative therapies, like acupuncture, massage therapy, or naturopathy, to support their well-being. If you're interested in holistic health practices, this could be a pathway for you to explore. Many practitioners work in private settings or as part of integrated healthcare teams. <https://studyworkgrow.com/what-is-it-like-to-work-in-a-wellness-centre/>

WHERE TO EXPLORE MORE: The healthcare field is vast, and these are just a few options. There are many pathways into medicine, some requiring university degrees, others requiring vocational training or certifications. Here's where to start exploring:

New Zealand: Look into Careers.govt.nz and Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora for information on various health professions and study options. <https://careers.tewhatuora.govt.nz/careers-in-health/>

Australia: Visit the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), Australian Medical Association, Primary Health Care Australia, and Health Workforce Australia for career insights and training information. <https://www.health.gov.au/topics/health-workforce>

UK: Check out the NHS Careers website for a comprehensive look at health professions and pathways into medicine. <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles>

Canada: Visit More than Medicine Nova Scotia, and Health Canada for information about careers and training requirements. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/corporate/about-health-canada/activities-responsibilities/careers-health-canada.html>

USA: US Dept of State Medical and Health, Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), Nurse.org, and the US Bureau of Labor Statistics are great places to start exploring. <https://careers.state.gov/career-paths/foreign-service/specialist/medical-and-health/#>

Other countries: Many countries have government health websites or national healthcare organisations that can provide information on training and career paths in healthcare.