

Health Care Career Exploration for High School Students

UPMC is proud to work with local schools to meet the demand for student experiences in health care. Health Care Career Exploration is a program intended to create a more comprehensive understanding of health care careers for high school students and provide opportunities for employment.

Why would a student want to join this program?

- Explore health care career choices
- Get help with college decisions
- Experience employment opportunities in their future career field
- Establish work experience with UPMC
- Benefit from financial assistance

Health Care Career Exploration

Health Care Career Exploration is open to high school juniors and seniors. From the beginning of the spring semester through the end of the summer, students will have the opportunity to shadow in multiple hospital departments and participate in the paid UPMC Care Attendant training program. A student must be a junior in high school to enter the program and 17 years old for employment.

• Spring Semester

- > Career Exploration program: students have opportunities to observe and shadow a variety of health care professionals in multiple hospital departments.
- > Volunteer program: following the completion of their shadowing experiences, students have additional time in the hospital setting to explore health care career choices.

• Summer Break

- > UPMC Care Attendant training program: Students who successfully complete the Career Exploration and Volunteer programs and meet UPMC employment criteria may be eligible for employment at UPMC that will continue during their senior year of high school.
- > A student not employed as a UPMC Care Attendant may be eligible to continue volunteering during their senior year of high school.

Student Experiences

Nursing Units

Students will have the opportunity to interact with patients and health care team members as they observe care from the point of entry into the hospital through discharge. Individual units manage care for different patient populations, including urgent and emergency, post-operative, new moms and babies, orthopaedics, acute and chronic illness, and critical illness. Witness collaboration between health care workers and departments to provide high quality health care and an exceptional patient experience. See how health care workers respect individual cultures, beliefs, and privacy of patients, family, and members of the health care team.

Ancillary and Hospital Services

Observe how each service contributes to the well-being of the patient. From teaching patients how to use a new inhaler, to helping to restore independent function, to supporting patient care through equipment, safe environments, and record keeping, these team members play a vital role in the diagnosis and recovery of patients at UPMC — whether through direct care or by ensuring the resources required to care for patients are readily available.

Students will have the opportunity to learn about the specialty training needed to work in fields such as laboratory, imaging, acute care therapy, cardiopulmonary services, care view/telemetry monitoring, food and nutrition services, and environmental services.

Join the Program

The Health Care Career Exploration program provides education, training, and a potential opportunity for part time employment in a stable, safe work environment with hours that fit around school schedules.

- All students must complete volunteer orientation, take a health questionnaire, get a tuberculosis test, and be up to date on flu and COVID-19 vaccines. Students are also required to obtain background checks and FBI fingerprinting.
- Students who become employees of UPMC through the UPMC Care Attendant program may be eligible for tuition assistance.
- This program will not provide licensure; the UPMC Care Attendant training program is considered an entry-level health care position.
- UPMC will consider requests for individual disciplines as a work/study on a case-by-case basis. Students are encouraged to speak with the career or co-op coordinator at their school about the areas that most interest them. These requests will be reviewed and approved based on the availability of appropriate training and supervision at each campus, UPMC policy, and the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Interested applicants should talk to the career or co-op coordinator at their school.