

ALLIED HEALTH

Definition: Allied health professionals are health care practitioners with formal education and clinical training who are credentialed through certification, registration and/or licensure. They collaborate with physicians and other members of the health care team to deliver high quality patient care services for the identification, prevention, and treatment of diseases, disabilities and disorders.

Allied Health Professionals...

1. Decrease cost and improve quality of patient care
2. Comprise the majority of the health care work force
3. Include more than 85 distinct occupations, exclusive of physicians and nurses
4. Include over 6 million providers of the 11 million health care workforce
5. Typically attend 2 or 4 year educational programs in community and senior colleges
6. Are educated in over 1,000 programs in the US, which are staffed by 3,000 allied health faculty, and enroll over 30,000 students annually.
7. Are experiencing a workforce shortage greater than that currently seen in nursing.

Allied health professionals are expert in a multitude of therapeutic, diagnostic, and preventive health interventions and function in several diverse settings including disease prevention and control, dietary and nutritional services, mental and physical health promotion, rehabilitation, and health systems management.

Health Professions Network

The Health Professions Network (HPN) is a voluntary, national group representing over 75 organizations of allied health care providers, educators and accreditors interested in interdisciplinary discussion and collaboration. HPN focuses on communication, consensus and advocacy on behalf of allied health professionals.

Professional member groups participating in Health Professions Network include:

- Association of Schools of Allied Health Professionals
- National Network of Health Career Programs in Two-Year Colleges
- Over 50 professional organizations of allied health providers

Supporters and speakers of the Health Professions Network include:

- Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services
- American Hospital Association
- American Medical Association

Health Professions Network

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