

Quick Tip Sheet

Alternative Clinical Career Paths

If you are finding that you are not meeting the requirements for your major and are re-evaluating your possibilities, let's take a look at other career paths that may surprise you! You may find that this experience has actually turned into the best thing that could have happened for your career!

Comparing Careers

Maybe your skillset lies in a different role, but within the same setting. For example, the following roles in each category both are:

1. Helping-professions in a clinical or community setting
2. Patient-care centered
3. Customer service focused

**** Please note, not all career changes will require a change of major. Please consult with your Career Education Specialist and Academic Advisor to help you make an informed decision.**

Nursing

I thought I was going to be a:
Registered Nurse

Possible Majors:
Psychology
Human Development & Family Sciences
Kinesiology
Communication Studies
Health Studies
Medical Lab Science

Potential Career Options:

Licensed Counselor
Occupational Therapist
Social Worker
Patient Education Coordinator
Cancer Information Specialist
Lab Technician

Communicative Disorders

I thought I was going to be a:
Speech Pathologist

Possible Majors:
Kinesiology
Psychology
Human Development & Family Sciences
Elementary Education
Secondary Education
Communicative Disorders

Rehabilitation Counselor
Behavioral Therapist
Special Education Teacher
Disability Services Coordinator
Early Intervention Specialist
Child Life Specialist

Nutrition & Dietetics

I thought I was going to be a:
Registered Dietician

Possible Majors:
Communication Studies
Kinesiology
Psychology
Nutrition
Health Studies
Medical Lab Science

Employee Wellness Coordinator
Head Start Health Specialist
Wellness Consultant
Prevention Specialist
Nutrition and Dietetic Technician
Health Counselor

Kinesiology

I thought I was going to be a:
Physical Therapist

Possible Majors:
Psychology
Biology
Communication Studies
Health Studies
Human Development & Family Sciences

Athletic Trainer
Health Coach
Health & Wellness Coordinator
Health Promotion Programmer
Occupational Therapist
Program Resource Coordinator

What do I do next?

Time to explore! Research the job titles to learn more about pay, skills required, graduate education needed, and more:

- Occupational Outlook Handbook (www.bls.gov/ooh)
- O*NET (www.onetonline.org)
- Glassdoor (www.glassdoor.com)

INTERNSHIPS/EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

Experience working with patients or clients is vital for any role in healthcare. We encourage you to consider multiple internship opportunities to make yourself competitive and marketable. Common roles or experiences might include:

- Direct Care Professional
- Home Health/Physical Therapy Aide
- Milieu Associate
- Behavior Therapist
- School Speech Pathology Internship
- Early Intervention Internship
- Health & Wellness Internship
- RI Department of Health Public Scholar
- RI State Government Internship Program
- Hospital Volunteer
- Youth Services Professional
- Coaching Internship
- Teaching and/or Research Assistant
- Center for Disease Control & Prevention

GRADUATE PROGRAMS TO CONSIDER

Most roles within the healthcare industry require additional education beyond a Bachelor's level degree. Graduate school requirements vary based on each program and commonly accept all undergraduate majors. Some common programs to consider are:

- Master's in Speech-Language Pathology
- Master's Occupational Therapy (MOT)
- Master's in Social Work (MSW)
- Master's in School Psychology
- Master's in Higher Education
- Master of Business Administration – Healthcare Focus
- Master's in Public Health (MPH)
- Master's in Mental Health Counseling
- Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling
- Master's of Science in Nutrition and Health Promotion

*** Please note that Career Education Specialists and Academic Advisors do not advise on specific graduate programs. If you are interested in learning more about a specific program, contact that school's graduate admissions office directly.*

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The following programs provide additional experiences related to health care and social service.

- [Peace Corp](#)
- [Teach for America](#)
- [Jump Start](#)
- [AmeriCorp VISTA](#)
- [City Year](#)