

Career Possibilities for BB H Graduates and Suggestions for Preparation

The following are some career possibilities for BB H majors. The list is by no means complete but might give you some ideas and stimulate your thinking. Many careers require additional post-baccalaureate training in professional or graduate school and for many post-baccalaureate programs there are pre-requisite courses that need to be taken as an undergraduate. It is essential that you discuss your ideas with your academic advisors early in order to prepare for your career goals. It is equally essential that you learn more about your career aspirations through the Career Services Center at PSU.

Clinical laboratory technician e.g., Implement research laboratory procedures with consistency and accuracy. Take science courses with labs; sign up for BB H 494 or 496 to get lab experience with a BB H faculty researcher.

Clinical research associate e.g., Monitor clinical trials of drugs/devices/procedures to determine safety, efficacy and adherence to FDA regulations; assist in writing protocols and in processing of clinical data. Obtain lab experience via science courses and BB H 494/496 over several semesters.

Non-profit or government agency health specialist e.g., Plan, present and evaluate health promotion activities for an agency such as the American Diabetes Association. Become a HealthWorks educator for the experience. Volunteer with the health agency of your choice.

Women's health/sexual health educator e.g., Educate and counsel on reproductive health issues with agencies such as Planned Parenthood. Get experience with HealthWorks sexual health content area; take WMNST courses.

Health promotion and wellness program coordinator e.g., Implement and evaluate worksite health promotion/disease prevention programs. Take extra health promotion courses. Get experience with HealthWorks at UHS. Develop your communication skills.

International health promotion specialist e.g., Promote health through prevention/intervention programs around the world. Obtain cross-cultural experience with education abroad; study a foreign language. Serve with the Peace Corps as a first job after graduation.

Health communication specialist e.g., Create and evaluate health promotion programs for a public relations agency that has health-related clients. Develop excellent writing skills with communications courses and writing experience for the Collegian. Learn web page design.

Sales representative e.g., Make sales calls on physicians as a product rep for pharmaceutical or biomedical device corporation. Join the Collegian business staff and sell ads to get sales experience. Take business courses. MKTG 220 (personal selling) is good if you can get it.

Home health care equipment retail store e.g., Own or manage store to sell /lease equipment for home health care needs. Get work experience in a store that sells/leases home health care equipment. Take business courses.

Health systems software specialist e.g., Represent health professional needs on a software design team; enlarge & verify data bases. Develop computer skills through classes for credit, non-credit workshops and practice.

Health care plan evaluator e.g., Analyze data for Medicare, Medicaid or Health Care Financing Administration. Earn the HPA minor and become proficient with spreadsheet software.

Development officer e.g., Plan and implement fund raising activities for non-profit health-related agencies. Volunteer with Dance Marathon or other event to raise money for a non-profit health agency. Recruit for Red Cross blood drives. Develop leadership skills for work with volunteers.

Genetic counselor e.g., Provide emotional support and information to individuals and families concerned about genetic conditions. Take organic and biochem, and extra genetics classes. Get counseling experience via volunteer position. Earn MS in genetic counseling.

Registered nurse e.g., Work as a home health care nurse or certified educator. Take the pre-clinical courses to apply for an accelerated post-baccalaureate BSN “bridge” program.

Nurse practitioner e.g., Diagnose and treat basic health problems; become a specialist such as a pediatric NP, nurse anesthetist, nurse midwife, etc. After earning BSN/RN, earn the MS in nursing.

Physician assistant e.g., Diagnose and treat basic health problems under a physician’s supervision. Courses required for admission to PA schools vary widely; check out what you need. High (3.6) GPA and related experience are important. Earn a 2nd BS or a certificate or a MS in PA. Need volunteer experience (e.g., Health Works, Alpha EMS) that may require training. Join Pre-PA group.

Public health professional e.g., Plan, Implement, evaluate public health programs. Take supporting courses that focus on your interest in public health and health promotion. Get experience with health agencies. Many career areas are open to those who earn a Master of Public Health.

Medical social worker e.g., Help families obtain services and adjust to the serious illness of a loved one. HD FS courses and volunteer experience with a community agency will be helpful. After graduation, earn the Master of Social Work degree.

Health informatics specialist e.g., Assist doctors and other health care providers to find current medical information in high technology libraries. Develop proficiency in computer skills especially in databases and HTML for web work. Earn a masters degree in library science or health informatics. Training programs available through CDC.

Health law attorney e.g., Practice law for a private HMO or serve the public in a legal aid office. Develop critical thinking and communication skills through courses and student organization leadership. Attend law school after graduation.

Physical therapist e.g., Provide therapy to clients who experienced health difficulties. Take chemistry, anatomy and physics while gaining volunteer experience with a PT. Aim for a GPA of at least 3.5. Consider the gerontology minor. Apply for an entry-level masters program in PT.

Physician e.g., Work as a primary care physician in family practice. Strive for a 3.6 GPA while taking the full year each of chemistry, organic, biology and physics. Get experiences related to medicine. Attend a 4-year medical school to earn the MD or DO degree.

Chiropractic or Naturopathic physician e.g., Serve your patients as a primary care practitioner trained in chiropractic or natural therapeutics; you will do limited surgery. Take the same pre-med science courses as above. Attend chiropractic or naturopathic school to earn the DC or ND degree.

Psychologist e.g., Work in a private practice as a clinical or counseling psychologist. Consider a minor in PSYCH or HD FS, get high grades and GRE score. A year or two of related work experience may be required for admission to a PhD program in psychology.

Epidemiologist/Biostatistician e.g., Analyze disease and environmental data related to health of specific populations. Take additional statistics courses. Earn MPH or PhD. Explore Training programs offered by CDC.

Basic research scientist in biobehavioral health e.g., Study interactions between the central nervous system and children’s immune systems. Complete the neuroscience minor. Gain research experience in the lab of a BB H professor. Attend graduate school to earn a PhD.