Health Sciences

Health Sciences in general:

Health science is an applied, interdisciplinary science dealing with health, and it utilizes research in the fields of biology, chemistry, and physics. Some of the other primarily research-oriented fields that make exceptionally significant contributions to health science are alternative health, biochemistry, epidemiology, and genetics, natural health.

There are two approaches to health science: the study and research of the human body and health-related issues to understand how humans (and animals) function, and the application of that knowledge to improve health and to prevent and cure diseases.

Applied health sciences also endeavor to better understand health, but in addition they try to directly improve the health of individuals and of people in general. Some of these are: alternative health, biomedical engineering, biotechnology, nursing, nutrition, pharmacology, pharmacy, public health, psychology, physical therapy, and medicine.

The health sciences industry, a multi-billion dollar business sector, is a cross-section of the life sciences and the health care and medical diagnostics industries.

Description of Major:

The healthcare job market is one of the fastest growing segments of the economy today in the United States. The need for additional health care providers and allied health personnel is rapidly expanding. Graduates from the BS in Health Sciences will have the necessary preparation in science, psychology, and the liberal arts to successfully gain admission into and complete a graduate program for many allied health professions. They will also gain the skills in information literacy needed to answer relevant professional questions through database searching and critical analysis of original research, as well as become proficient in written, verbal, and electronic communication.

The curriculum includes a strong foundation of natural science courses combined with human sciences, psychology, and unique practical and clinical experiences. Each student is required to complete an extensive volunteer and shadowing experience as part of their coursework. Students are encouraged to explore a variety of health care opportunities by shadowing and gaining patient contact at a variety of area hospitals and clinics.

Philadelphia University provides exceptional facilities for the Health Science program. In addition to the fully equipped genetics, microbiology, histology labs, there is a physical diagnosis lab and gross anatomy (cadaver dissection) lab which students will have the opportunity to explore. The small class size fosters peer interaction and a close-knit community of students and faculty.

Specializations:

Students pursuing a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Health Science will be prepared to enter into professional and graduate schools in a variety of allied health fields. Students can pursue a career or graduate study in diverse disciplines such as physician assistant studies, occupational therapy, physical therapy, exercise physiology, community health, social work, community counseling, education, research, rehabilitation, crisis intervention, healthcare administration, public health, and human resource management. The opportunities are boundless. 1
Health Sciences
College of Science, Health, & Liberal Arts

Careers/Job titles:

| Cancer Outreach Worker                      | Health Club Manager               | Physician Assistant               |
| Community Counselor                         | Health Educator                   | Research Study Assistant          |
| Community Health Specialist                | Health Promotion Coordinator      | Social Worker                     |
| Community Volunteer Coordinator            | Hospital Wellness Coordinator      | Speech & Language Pathologist     |
| Crisis Intervention Counselor              | Human Resource Generalist         | Substance Abuse Educator          |
| Exercise Physiologist                      | Occupational Therapist            | Wellness Coordinator              |
| Fitness Program Coordinator                | Orthotics Technician              | Youth Volunteer Initiative Coordinator |
| Geriatric Residential Counselor            | Outreach Coordinator              |                                  |
| Health Advocate                             | Patient Representative            |                                  |
| Healthcare Administrator                   | Physical Therapist                |                                  |

Who employs PhilaU graduates?

Many of the students in this major move on to the Physician Assistant Studies program graduate program here at Philadelphia University. Others have the option to pursue other health care related graduate-level programs. Those who do not move on to graduate school find themselves working in research, education or non-profits, using their health sciences background to work in some capacity with the health care field. Organizations where health sciences majors find themselves working includes Memorial Sloan Kettering.

Helpful websites:

- ExploreHealthCareers.org: Physician Assistant -- [http://explorehallcareers.org/en/Career/19/Physician_Assistant](http://explorehallcareers.org/en/Career/19/Physician_Assistant)

---

1 Industry and major information taken from the Philadelphia University website at several locations: Undergraduate Degree Programs ([http://www.philau.edu/academics/undergrad.html](http://www.philau.edu/academics/undergrad.html)), the Undergraduate Catalog ([www.philau.edu/catalog/Cat200708](http://www.philau.edu/catalog/Cat200708)), and WetFeet.com, a company and career research database.