These are the best U.S. colleges to study health professions

By Megan Cahill, College Factual March 24, 2015 10:55 am

A degree in health professions offers students the opportunity to find jobs in numerous medical positions. Graduates have the opportunity to work closely with other medical professionals to help improve patients’ quality of life. The health profession is a large field and offers students the flexibility to find the specialization that suits them best.

Some of the major included in this field include veterinary services, nursing, dental support services, and public health just to name a few.

The list below ranks the 10 best colleges to study health professions in the U.S. The list comes from College Factual and is a ranking of overall programs based on the quality of the college and the strength of the individual majors offered within the field of health professions. Information on salaries are estimates provided with data from Payscale.


Founded in 1787, the University of Pittsburgh is one of the oldest schools in the United States. The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences along with the School of Nursing offer nationally ranked programs in areas such as physical therapy, audiology and speech pathology. Students also have the opportunity to explore athletic training and sports medicine, nutrition and wellness, prosthetics and orthotics and more. Health professions students receive hands-on training, while working alongside professors in classroom and clinical settings. Students also take the lead in cutting-edge research projects and studies.

Research at Pitt has led to medical breakthroughs, including the first polio vaccine in 1955 and many successful organ transplants. Not only does Pitt provide an excellent education in numerous health professions, the school is affordable and the best value for your money. Pitt graduates have found positions in an array of health-related positions earning average early career salaries of $46,000 and mid-career salary of $69,000.

2. University of Delaware: Newark, Del.

The University of Delaware is the largest in the state, providing an education to approximately 18,000 students. The College of Health Sciences offers courses in nursing, behavioral health and nutrition, kinesiology and applied physiology, medical laboratory sciences and health studies and occupational therapy. Each of these specialized programs gives students the knowledge and skills to assist with patient diagnosis and treatment. Students gain real world experience under the supervision of a highly trained faculty. Undergraduate health professions majors learn to take
what they’ve learned in the classroom and apply it to clinical situations as they prepare to become leaders in the medical field. Students leave UD with confidence and ambition, leading to jobs with an average mid-career salary of $79,000.

3. Molloy College: Rockville Centre, N.Y.

Molloy College is a private liberal arts school with excellent health profession degree programs. Some of their well-known and well-ranked programs include nursing, respiratory care, speech-language pathology, and health service leadership. No matter what program, students can rest assured they will receive nothing but the best at Molloy. Graduates have gone on to become leaders in the medical field, earning an average salary of $68,000.


George Washington University is a prestigious institution with many highly esteemed academic programs. This highly selective school pushes students to challenge themselves and reach their highest potential. The School of Medical and Health Sciences is at the forefront of medical academia and research. The GW Hospital is not only a teaching hospital for students, but also a renowned medical center. Undergraduate students have the ability to major in a wide range of medical specializations, athletic training, clinical management and leadership, exercise science, human services, pharmaceutical sciences, public health and more.

These degree programs prepare students for immediate careers in hospitals, clinics or private health services or an advanced degree. Graduates of the health professions degree programs at GW enter the workforce earning early career salaries of $52,000, jumping up to $84,000 at the mid-career level.

5. University of Southern California: Los Angeles

USC offers many programs within the medical field, including those in dentistry, occupational therapy, pharmacy or physical therapy. Each of these schools introduces undergraduate students to the medical field, while thoroughly preparing them with the necessary knowledge and skills to be competent practitioners. With a 9:1 student to faculty ratio, students are sure to work closely with their professors both in classroom and clinical settings. USC grads tend to become leaders in the field and earn the highest mid-career salary of $87,000.


Michigan State is a public research university that offers one of the best educations in the health professions. Some of their health majors include Nursing, Natural Science, and Veterinary Technology. Courses in biology, chemistry and physiology help lead students to various positions in medicine, while clinical laboratory sciences, veterinary technology and nursing push students towards more specialized fields. Graduates from this school enter the workforce earning an average early career salary of $49,000.

UVM is a small liberal arts college that offers students the same top tier education as large universities. The modest size allows for small class sizes and collaborative learning with professors. The health profession majors at UV are centered on research and patient care. Students split their time between classrooms and education centers that allow them to apply their knowledge in a hands-on setting. The College of Nursing and Health Science offers undergraduate programs in communication sciences and disorders, medical laboratory and radiation sciences, nursing, rehabilitation and movement science and rural emergency medical services training. As one of the oldest medical schools in the country, the UV College of Medicine has established programs and comprehensive curriculums that students may begin pursuing at the graduate level. UV graduates enter the field earning an average early career salary of $48,000, jumping to $67,000 at the mid-career level.

8. Johns Hopkins University: Baltimore, Md.

Johns Hopkins University is notorious for being a world-renowned medical university. The Kriegar School of Arts and Sciences offers degree programs in areas, such as biology, public health and neuroscience, along with a pre-med professional track. Students in the Kriegar School receive a comprehensive education that helps steer them towards a career in the medical profession. The School of Nursing offers a more specialized health profession, offering undergraduate students their degree in nursing. Whichever path health professions students take at Johns Hopkins, they will receive an outstanding education that more than prepares them for a career in the medical field. In addition to undergraduate programs, Johns Hopkins offers an array of master’s and doctoral programs that are among some of the most prestigious in the country. Graduates of this school earn an average mid-career salary of $71,000.

9. Mount Mary University: Milwaukee, Wis.

Mount Mary University is a Catholic women’s school that focuses on educating students in the liberal arts tradition. The School of Natural and Health Sciences offers numerous majors that lead to successful careers in the health professions. Students have their choice of biology, chemistry, health sciences, which include pre-medicine, pre-dentistry, pre-nursing and pre-optometry, occupational therapy and radiologic technology. Each of these degree programs focus on introducing students to core principles and assisting them in putting those principles into practice in a hands-on setting. Students that choose to pursue a career after graduation earn an average early career salary of $54,000.


New York University tops many lists due to the strength of numerous academic programs. The College of Arts and Science, the College of Dentistry and the College of Nursing all offer degree programs that help lead students towards a health profession. Along with learning the basic principles of each specialized medical profession, students learn how to care for patients with respect and compassion. The well-rounded education ensures students are fully prepared for a medical career. Graduates typically earn the highest average early career salary of $70,000.