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HEALTH CAREER EXPLORATION

Health Careers Exploration is a survey course designed to introduce students to a broad spectrum of health careers. The course covers careers from the five pathways: diagnostic services, therapeutic services, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research and development. For each career they study, students examine the main tasks and challenges of professionals in that career, the treatments they administer, and the interaction those professionals have with other professionals. Students learn about the educational requirements and the employment and salary outlook for each career, and they evaluate how their own skills, abilities, and interests align with different careers. Where possible, students do authentic hands-on work that a professional would do, such as reviewing scans and MRIs, taking vital signs, treating a wound, and completing dental charts.

KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR THE COURSE

List the 16 key objectives

1. Identify general health care career terms with which to build a taxonomy.
2. Characterize the most common health care practices during various eras of history and explain the reasoning behind these practices.
3. Identify the five main career pathways within the health care field.
4. Identify major public health issues and explain why they are important.
5. Develop an informational profile of a disease or condition.
6. Explain how a registered dietitian would make use of nutrition-based terminology such as that in MyPlate.
7. Demonstrate the ability to interact professionally with medical practitioners.
8. Demonstrate the knowledge of basic medical diagnostic tests.
9. Describe the nursing process that registered nurses (RNS) follow when working with patients.
10. Describe the importance of nurse charting and explain how it is used.
11. Describe the relationship between mental health and stress.
12. Demonstrate the knowledge of basic terminology in the mental health field.
13. Identify the range of careers found within a dental office.
14. Explain the objectives of HIPAA and its major provisions.
15. Develop a personal educational and career path for health science.
16. Demonstrate the ability to produce a pamphlet for patient audience.

CULUMINATING PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Students create an in-depth pamphlet that informs patients who have a particular disease or disorder about the interdisciplinary team that is likely to contribute to their care. Students stage a public health fair at the end of the project, where they present their pamphlets to an invited audience of health care professionals, school administrators, as well as other students, friends, and family members. The driving question for the project is, “How can we, as a team of consultants, best inform patients with a particular disease or disorder about the interdisciplinary team that is likely to contribute to their care?”

CULUMINATING PROJECT COMPONENTS

Possible topics for pamphlets:

Heart Disease, HIV, Diabetes, Chronic Kidney Disease, Breast Cancer, Depression, Autism, Parkinson Disease, Asthma, Melanoma, Cerebral Palsy, Multiple Sclerosis.

Over the course of this project, students work independently and in groups to complete the following components:

1. An informational profile of a disease or disorder that outlines the symptoms, daily life, treatment, and prognosis for patients with their condition. Students will create their disease or disorder profile in Lesson 5 and then add to it as they learn more about their topic during the course.
2. Professional profile sheets used to collect extensive notes about six to eight different professionals who people with the condition are likely to encounter. (Students will be given a note-taking tool for this.) They will gather information from informal interviews, from guest speakers, and from their own research. Students will create these note sheets as they work through the lessons of the course. There will be checkpoints to make sure all groups are making progress in collecting the information they need.
3. Notes from interviews with health care professionals who work with patients who have the disease or disorder.
4. The final product will be an in-depth pamphlet targeted to an audience of patients who have the disease or disorder, explaining the interdisciplinary team that they are likely to interface with during their treatment, and how each of the professionals on the team will contribute to the well-being of the patient. The pamphlet will explain the role of each professional in the treatment of the disease or disorder, the setting where the patient is likely to meet the professional (e.g., hospital, clinic, office), the types of diagnosis or treatment the professional will provide, and questions the patient might want to ask the professional.
5. Groups will pitch their pamphlet to an invited audience that includes health care professionals and NAF advisory board members. The pitch explains how the pamphlet can be used and encourages health care professionals to offer the pamphlet to their patients.

CULUMINATING PROJECT ASSESSMENT

There are four graded elements for this project:

1. The informational profile of a disease or disorder is assessed using assessment criteria.
2. Two sets of interview notes are assessed during the course using assessment criteria.
3. Two professional profile sheets are assessed during the course using assessment criteria.
4. The pitch to a professional audience is assessed using assessment criteria.