

CAREERS IN

# Health Professions

The Amherst College Loeb Center for Career Exploration and Planning's **Careers In Health Professions** program provides pre-health advising and mentoring throughout a student's Amherst College years and beyond. The advising philosophy is interdisciplinary and holistic in nature, with the goal of promoting a collaborative culture that builds community among pre-health students and helping students understand that there are multiple paths to a health professions career, including paths other than medicine. We emphasize the development of qualities of empathy, kindness, respect, active listening, and humanism. The program is dedicated to the overall College mission of supporting underrepresented groups and driving educational equity.

Many students choose to pursue a variety of jobs after graduation. A sampling of where Amherst College graduates pursue careers in health include positions at *community health centers*, *clinical health care practices*, *public health*, and *healthcare in underserved communities*.

In addition to traditional medical school programs, Amherst college graduates attend graduate and professional schools to pursue degrees in both *allopathic and osteopathic medicine*, *nursing*, *physician assistant studies*, *veterinary medicine*, *public health*, *research science*, and more.

## MEET THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS TEAM

“Ever since my time here at Amherst as a student, I have had a passion to explore and act upon the meaning of health and the nature of healing. What does it mean to be a healthy person, a healthy family, a healthy community, a healthy society? For those who ponder pursuing a health profession of any kind, and for those who have already made that decision, what pathways are available to fit and feed your skills, curiosity, ideals, and dreams? I am here to stimulate such conversation and help students along in their journeys.” - **Richard Aronson**, MD, MPH Health Professions Advisor & Assistant Dean of Students

“As the Health Professions Specialist, I work closely with Dean Aronson to support students and young alumni in all aspects of their journeys towards various health-related career paths. This includes, amongst other things, working with them on the application process for medical and other health professions schools. I am especially interested in delving more deeply into global issues that impact health, the sociocultural aspects of health, health disparities, patient

advocacy, narrative medicine, and healthcare communications.” - **Rebecca Counter**, M.S.ED. Health Professions Specialist

## EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Loeb Center Careers In programs encourage you to develop a deep and sustained exploration of a particular field. Some of the highest-impact ways to do that include:

## INTERNSHIPS AND RESEARCH

Internships allow you to apply what you have learned in the classroom to the world of work, help you build your professional network, and are an important step in clarifying your interests, skills, and career goals. Log in to Handshake to see opportunities or make an appointment with an advisor to strategize and explore internship options.

Research is a very common and valuable way to build experience and prepare for graduate school. The best place to start gathering information about gaining research experience as an undergraduate is by connecting with faculty members who teach or work in areas of interest to you.

“I have never felt so supported and cared for by an administrator, who I genuinely believe would do anything he could to help me succeed in my pre-health journey. Through the Loeb Center, I learned how to approach alumni for summer internships, how to build my resume, and more importantly how to believe in myself.”

Louis Briones '19, Biology

## TIP! INTERNSHIP SEARCH

Do what you really want to do; don't choose something just to build your resume.

“The Careers In Health Professions team does an incredible job fostering an inclusive and supportive community for students. From my very first meeting with Dean Aronson, I felt encouraged to pursue my unique academic and career interests. I quickly learned that there are multiple paths toward a career in healthcare, and I felt completely supported in the decisions I made. The Careers in Health Professions team also did a great job helping me connect with alumni and pursue incredible summer experiences. I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to participate in this program.”

Sarah Nessen '18, Biology and French

## RESOURCES AND NEXT STEPS

- **Handshake** ([amherst.joinhandshake.com](http://amherst.joinhandshake.com)) is your one-stop shop for Loeb Center events, appointments, and resources, as well as a wide variety of internship and job opportunities. Complete your Handshake profile! The more complete your profile is, the more effective and customized the platform becomes.
- Sign up for the Careers In Health Professions newsletter to stay up to date on events, programs, and deadlines. Sign up by visiting [listserv.amherst.edu](mailto:listserv.amherst.edu) and subscribing to the PREHEALTH-L list.
- Research occupations. Comprehensive overviews of medicine, nursing, veterinary medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and a host of other health-related careers are available as a resource on our website and at [explorehealthcareers.org](http://explorehealthcareers.org).
- Graduate School. Advisors can meet with you to discuss graduate school in the following ways: deciding the best timing for applying, exploring graduate school options, reviewing statements of interest, essays, and personal statements, and guiding decisions for requesting letters of recommendation.
- Make an appointment to meet with Dean Aronson using Handshake to talk more in depth about your own questions and get advice. You can also make an appointment with Rebecca Counter to talk about your preliminary questions about applying to graduate and professional schools, to review a resume/cover letter for health professions opportunities, or for a mock interview.

## CAREERS IN

The Loeb Center provides all students with opportunities to dive deeply into specific career areas of interest.

Our Careers In programs provide:

- expert advising from industry specialists
- tailored exploratory programs and skills workshops
- insight into recruiting processes, internship and job search strategies, and interview preparation
- access to alumni in the field

You may participate in any Careers In program at any time as your interests develop, deepen, change, or multiply.

There are seven different Careers In programs:

- Arts and Communication
- Business and Finance
- Education Professions
- Government and Nonprofit
- Health Professions
- Law
- Science and Technology

The Loeb Center also offers general advising and exploration opportunities for students who are curious about a broad range of career options or who are just beginning to reflect on their interests, values, and skills.