**Introduction to Health Careers Module**

(Note: All speaking parts are italicized)

**Slide 1**

🗌 Administer **Pre-Test: Introduction to Health Careers**

**Introduction& Discussion (40 Minutes)**

**Instructor:** *Today we are going to discuss Health Careers. Each student should think of a health career. Name a health career when you are called upon. No duplications are allowed.*

**[STOP Video –** Restart when students are unable to name additional health careers**]**

**Instructor:** *We were able to name several health careers, but there are over 200 different careers in health. No matter your interest, there is a health career that fits your personality and the things that you like.*

**Slide 2**

🗌 Review slide

**Instructor:** *Healthcare is always changing to meet the needs of a population:*

* *Technology is being used to increase the quality and availability of healthcare resources to residents of the more rural areas of the state.*
* Question: *What is considered a “rural” area?*

Answer: *An area that is not developed, often called “the country”, and consists largely of farms and undevelopedland.*

* *Does anyone have living grandparents or great-grandparents? How old are they? This is evidence that people are living longer lives. Not long ago, people could only expect to live to just over 50. Now, due to advances in medicine, nutrition, and fitness, people can expect to live to over 70 years old.*

**Slide 3**

🗌 Review slide to demonstrate how Americans are living longer lives.

**Instructor:** *What is Gerontology? Gerontology is defined as the study of older individuals and the process of aging itself. There will be more job opportunities in this field because of an increasing number of older patients. What jobs could be affected?*

**Slide 4**🗌 Review slide
**Instructor:** *What are some possible challenges that could affect healthcare in the future?*

**Slide 5**

🗌 Discuss the pros and cons of shorter trainings for careers.

Instructor: *When people live longer, you have an increase in the population, and possibly the emergence of new illnesses. This will result in:*

1. *A need for more healthcare professionals*
2. *A need for the development of new health specialty areas and training programs*
3. *A need to expand the way healthcare is delivered*

*Instructor: What are the pros and cons of the shortening of health profession training programs? Will professionals be trained as well if the training program is shortened? Could the cost of training be less expensive?*

**Slide 6**

🗌 Review slide

🗌 Distribute **HANDOUT 2 – Colleges & Universities**

🗌 Allow time for reading and discussion

**Instructor:**

* *Improved technology will result in the development of new professions that will require employees with computer skills. Even current health careers are increasing the use of technology and the need for computer skills.*
* *The education required will vary in length from 2years to 4 or more years.*
* *The key is to be academically prepared. Understand the relevance between what you are learning in your classes today and the requirements of the workforce. Your high school classes ranging from English and communications to history, math and science are providing a foundation for future undergraduate classes in college.*

**Slide 7**

🗌 Review slide

**Instructor:**

* *There is little in life that is easy. As you prepare for any career, you will find that some aspects of the required education and training may not be too hard, and you may even find it a lot of it fun – it all lies in your areas of interest. However, becoming a health professional takes a great deal of commitment and requires a great deal of preparation.*
* *As a healthcare professional, you make an on-going impact in the lives of the people with whom you work by providing a necessary service with quality and care.*
* *The healthcare field is one of the fastest growing fields in the nation. Job security is very strong because, unfortunately, people will always get sick.*

**Slide 8**

🗌 Read slide

**Instructor:**

* *There are careers that meet every personality and interest. Within one of the five health career majors (therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health informatics, support services, biotech research and development) charted on* ***Handout 2****, there are many careers that are also considered a part of one of the other 15 career clusters – business, culinary, art, engineering, education, and more.*
* *As discussed earlier, the aging population is an increasing portion of the population, and we have more older adults than ever before. This is also true with the current health professions workforce. Many health professionals are reaching retirement age and leaving the workforce. More people needing healthcare combined with more people retiring from the healthcare workforce means that shortages exist within the workforce and more people are needed to become trained healthcare providers.*
* *South Carolina has a lot of rural areas where there are not enough practicing healthcare professionals. These areas are considered “medically underserved areas” or “MUA’s”. New healthcare professionals are especially needed in these areas.*
* *15 of the 30 fastest growing occupations are health-related.*

**Slide 9**

🗌 Review slide

**Instructor:**

* *The multi-skilled worker is in high demand in every profession and has a higher earning potential. For example: The nurse who is also a nutritionist is able to provide more services for a patient.*
* *Because of the increased diversity in the American population, there is a greater need to have providers who are able to communicate in a variety of languages, including sign language.*
* *The use of computerized health records, patient charting, medication dispensing and even e-health through electronic platforms is requiring healthcare providers to gain a proficiency in the use of technology.*
* *The delivery of healthcare is changing. With an increase in home healthcare, professionals are working more independently than ever before and must be able to make good decisions.*

**Slide 10**

🗌 Review slide

**Instructor:** *(refer to* ***Handout 1: Health Career Cluster Majors & Sample Careers***)

* *The Health Career Cluster is 1of the 16 South Carolina Personal Pathways career clusters.*
* *There are 5 majors within the Health Career Cluster:*
1. ***Biotechnology Research and Development*** *– Pursues advances in science and technology to support and improve the diagnosis and treatment of disease.*
2. ***Health Informatics*** *– Manages and documents healthcare system information to support patient care.*
3. ***Therapeutic Services*** *– Counters the effects of disease and injury to maintain or improve the health of patients. Includes physicians, dentists, psychologists and others who assist in the delivery of care.*
4. ***Support Services*** *– Creates and maintains a healthcare delivery environment that supports diagnosis and therapy to ensure the safe and efficient delivery of care.*
5. ***Diagnostic Services*** *– Analyzes and records the state of a patient’s health at the time of the examination. Includes the technicians who conduct procedures to provide the physician with the necessary information.*

**Slide 11**

🗌 Review slide

**Instructor:** *(reference* ***Handout 2: South Carolina Inventory of Health Care Training Programs****)*

* *Educational requirements can last anywhere from a few months to receive special certifications like a CNA (certified nursing assistant) to a 2-year degree in a dental hygiene or physical therapy assisting to a 4-year degree like health promotion or medical technology or more like dental medicine or medicine.*
* *An internship, practicum or residency that varies in length may be required to successfully complete a health professions training program or prior to be able to fully practice within a profession of health.*
* *Having a basic foundation in math, biology, anatomy and communications helps students at each level of education. Understand the importance and relevance of what you are learning in the classroom now as the foundation for what you will learn in college, which will serve as the foundation to what you will need once you enter the profession.*
* *Learning good study habits is a vital element to success!*

**Slide 12**

🗌 Review slide

**Instructor:**

* *With the wide array of health careers, you should be able to identify a profession that will allow you to do some of the things that you enjoy doing as a part of your job responsibilities.*
* *Talking with practicing healthcare professionals about what they do and the education and training required will be useful in helping you to explore careers.*
* *Participating in service learning projects and volunteering at a hospital, clinic or other health-related facility will give you the opportunity to have an inside view to health careers while making an impact within the community in which you live.*
* *Becoming involved in programs like the South Carolina AHEC Health Careers Program and Health Occupations Student Association (HOSA) can assist you in exploring health careers and developing a plan. The career specialist and/or guidance counselor in your school is also a great resource.*

**Slide 13**

Wrap Up

🗌 Ask for questions

🗌 Disseminate and administer **Post-Test: Introduction to Health Careers**

**Activity 1 –*Optional* (20 Minutes)**

🗌 Facilitate Health Career Jeopardy *(optional)*