What is Primary Care? MI-AHEC’s goal is to increase the number of primary care professionals in our state. What is a primary care professional? Primary care professionals are doctors and other health professionals who help families and individuals to maintain good health. Primary care professionals keep patients informed about their progress and provide advice to help them develop healthy habits and stay well. They might also monitor symptoms or health problems and share information to address or correct issues.

Primary care providers also diagnose and help people fight illnesses. Primary care professionals work in a variety of places. Some work in hospitals and clinics. Others might work in private doctor’s offices.

Health Careers Rock!

Vital Signs

Facts About Healthcare

Healthcare Professionals

- Dentists
- Family Practice Physicians
- Internal Medicine Physicians
- Pediatricians
- Physician Assistants
- Nurse Practitioners
- Public Health Practitioners (Nutritionists, Health Administrators)

In some instances, Obstetricians and Gynecologists (OB/GYN) and doctors in Emergency Medicine are considered primary care providers.

- Pressure: Michigan, like most of the nation, is confronting a growing shortage of physicians. We will have a shortage of 4,400 primary care physicians and 4,000 specialists by 2020.

- Temperature: Healthcare is HOT! More than 5.7 million new jobs are expected to be added between 2010 and 2020.

- Largest Employer: 40% of all healthcare workers are employed by hospitals.

- Rapid Pulse: The 2 professions in high demand are NURSES (771,900 new jobs) and HOME HEALTH AIDES (706,300 new jobs).

### Health Careers Rock!

**Explore these primary care careers and other positions within the health care industry!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>DENTAL ASSISTANT</th>
<th>DENTAL HYGIENIST</th>
<th>DENTIST</th>
<th>PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT</th>
<th>PHYSICIAN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose</strong></td>
<td>For students interested in supporting dentists in all areas of dental care, clinical and administrative settings.</td>
<td>For students interested in providing dental hygiene services under the direct supervision of a dentist.</td>
<td>For students interested in providing comprehensive care to individuals in all areas of dentistry.</td>
<td>For students interested in providing comprehensive care to individuals in all areas of dentistry.</td>
<td>For students interested in providing comprehensive care to individuals in all areas of dentistry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Licensure/Certification</strong></td>
<td>Licensed Dental Assistant (LDA)</td>
<td>Certified Dental Hygienist (CDH)</td>
<td>Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) or Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS)</td>
<td>Master of Science in Dental Science (MSDS)</td>
<td>Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) or Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Practice Areas</strong></td>
<td>Dental assisting, patient care management, and environmental health and safety.</td>
<td>Dental hygiene and patient care management.</td>
<td>Oral health care, including diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of oral diseases and conditions.</td>
<td>Medical and surgical procedures, patient care management, and environmental health and safety.</td>
<td>Oral health care, including diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of oral diseases and conditions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### High School Preparation

- **Subjects:** Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, English, and Social Studies.
- **Skills:** Critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication.

### Program Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Name</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker College</td>
<td>Dental Programs</td>
<td>1-866-374-5731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Hills Tech</td>
<td>Dental Ass't</td>
<td>1-800-343-6100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton South</td>
<td>Dental Ass't</td>
<td>1-800-225-9416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Tech</td>
<td>Dental Ass't</td>
<td>1-800-225-9416</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capitol Tech</td>
<td>Dental Ass't</td>
<td>1-800-225-9416</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connecticut Valley Tech</td>
<td>Dental Ass't</td>
<td>1-800-225-9416</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dracut Tech</td>
<td>Dental Ass't</td>
<td>1-800-225-9416</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essex Tech</td>
<td>Dental Ass't</td>
<td>1-800-225-9416</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greenfield Tech</td>
<td>Dental Ass't</td>
<td>1-800-225-9416</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holyoke Tech</td>
<td>Dental Ass't</td>
<td>1-800-225-9416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Hills Tech</td>
<td>Dental Ass't</td>
<td>1-800-225-9416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Shore Community College</td>
<td>Dental Ass't</td>
<td>1-800-225-9416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springfield Tech</td>
<td>Dental Ass't</td>
<td>1-800-225-9416</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Additional Programs

- **Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN):** Nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, nurse midwives, nurse anesthetists, and nurse educators.
- **Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP):** Advanced preparation for nurses who wish to practice as independent practitioners.
- **Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD):** Research and educational roles.

### Pay

- **Median Annual Salary:** $97,620.74
- **Projected Growth:** 2023-2024 is 8.2%.

### Premediation

- **Subjects:** Science courses including Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.
- **Skills:** Critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication.

### Explore

If you are interested in learning more about any of the fields in this brochure, please let us know so we can help you find a camp or program in which you can participate, a mentor who can show you what it takes, scholarships to help you pay for college, or other resources that will help you achieve your goals.

Median salary for Medical Social Worker obtained from the National Association of Social Workers at [http://workforce.socialworkers.org/studies/profiles/Hospitals.pdf]

Doctoral Degree
- Family & General Practitioner ($177,330)
- Doctorate in Nursing Practice
- Nursing Professor ($80,000-$150,000)
- Pediatrician ($169,650)
- Dentist ($146,920)
- Pharmacist ($111,570)
- Physical Therapist ($76,310)

Master’s Degree
- Physician Assistant ($86,410)
- Advanced Practice Nurse ($58,210-$880,000)
- Epidemiologist ($63,010)
- Medical Social Worker ($50,000)

Bachelor’s Degree
- Medical and Health Services Manager ($84,270)
- Registered Nurse ($64,690)
- Social & Community Services Manager ($37,950)
- Dietitian/Nutritionist ($33,250)
- Health Educator ($45,830)
- Social Worker ($42,480)

Associates Degree
- Dental Hygienist ($68,250)
- Respiratory Therapist ($54,280)
- Occupational Therapy Assistant ($47,490)

Certificate
- Licensed Practical Nurse ($40,380)
- Medical Records & Health Information Technician ($22,350)
- Emergency Medical Technician & Paramedic ($30,350)
- Nursing Aide ($24,010)

High School Diploma
- Dental Laboratory Technician ($35,140)
- Dental Assistant ($33,470)
- Medical Assistant ($28,860)
- Pharmacy Technician ($28,400)
- Social and Human Service Assistant ($28,200)


Median salary for Medical Social Worker obtained from the National Association of Social Workers at [http://workforce.socialworkers.org/studies/profiles/Hospitals.pdf]