



Career Cards: Diverse Healthcare Paths

by Little Medical School®

Introduce students to the wide variety of healthcare professions in a way that connects directly to what they're learning in science, health, and STEM.

These cards are designed to:

- Reinforce real-world applications of classroom lessons.
- Encourage career curiosity and long-term interest in healthcare.
- Provide hands-on enrichment opportunities during school.

Enjoy these ready-to-print career cards on diverse healthcare paths, designed for your classroom use. Each card includes the career name, description, tools they use, education path, and a student prompt to connect back for discussions. You can print these individually for rotation stations or use them in different classroom activities.

How to Use These Cards

1. Rotation Stations: Print cards and place them at tables; students rotate every 3–5 minutes.
2. Career Wall: Post cards on a "Careers in Healthcare" board in your classroom or hallway.
3. Extension: Have students research one career further, draw a picture of the tools they use, or write a "day in the life" reflection.

Tips for Longevity & Organization

- Laminate the cards or use clear plastic sleeves to protect them from wear and fingerprints.
- Print on heavy cardstock (80 lb or higher) for durability.
- Store in a labeled accordion file or index box.
- If using in rotation stations, hole-punch and attach with binder rings for easy flipping.
- Add copies in your "Extra Copy" folder to keep reprints ready for new classes.

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Pediatrician

What they do:

Cares for children's health, growth, and development.

Tools they use:



Stethoscope



Otoscope



Thermometer

Education path:

4 year college + 4 years medical school + residency.

Student question:

“What’s one question you’d ask your pediatrician about how the body grows?”

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Veterinarian

What they do:

Treats animals, prevents illness, and performs surgeries on pets and livestock

Tools they use:



Stethoscope



X-Ray machine



Vaccines

Education path:

4 year college + Veterinary school (DVM).

Student question:

“How do veterinarians treat and advocate for patients that can’t speak?”

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Nurse Practitioner

What they do:

Diagnoses and treats patients, often in family or urgent care.

Tools they use:



Blood pressure cuff



Computer charting



Stethoscope

Education path:

RN + Master's/Doctorate in Nursing Practice.

Student question:

“Why do nurses spend more time with patients than doctors do?”

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Paramedic / EMT

What they do:

Responds to emergencies and provides life-saving first aid.

Tools they use:



Defibrillator



Oxygen tank



First aid kit

Education path:

EMT training + Paramedic certification.

Student question:

“What’s the first thing a paramedic checks at a scene?”

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Pharmacist

What they do:

Prepares medications and teaches patients how to take them safely.

Tools they use:



Pill counter



Reference database



Compounding tools

Education path:

4 years college + 4 years med school + residency.

Student question:

“Why is it important to understand how medicines interact?”

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Biomedical Engineer

What they do:

Designs medical devices and technology that improve patient care.

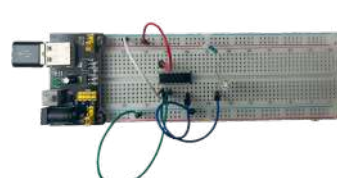
Tools they use:



3D printer



CAD software



Circuit tools

Education path:

Bachelor's + Engineering specialization.

Student question:

"What tool would you invent to help doctors do their jobs better?"

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Medical Illustrator

What they do:

Creates accurate visuals for textbooks, research, and surgeries.

Tools they use:



Digital tablet



Anatomy models



Photoshop or Illustrator

Education path:

Bachelor's + Biomedical Illustration program

Student question:

“How does art help people learn science?”

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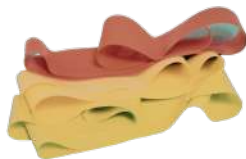


Physical Therapist

What they do:

Helps patients regain movement and manage pain after injuries.

Tools they use:



Exercise bands



Balance ball



Dumbbells

Education path:

4 year college + Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT).

Student question:

“Why do you think stretching is part of healing?”

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Public Health Specialist

What they do:

Studies disease trends and promotes community health.

Tools they use:



Data dashboards



Surveys



Public health field kit

Education path:

4 year college + MPH (Master of Public Health).

Student question:

“What’s one habit that helps a whole community stay healthy?”

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Surgeon

What they do:

Performs operations to repair injuries and illnesses.

Tools they use:



Gloves



Scalpel



Robotic surgery systems

Education path:

4 years college + 4 years med school + residency/fellowship.

Student question:

“What qualities do you think a surgeon needs besides clinical skill?”

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Occupational Therapist

What they do:

Helps people relearn everyday skills after injury or illness.

Tools they use:



Adaptive tools



Activity kit



Therapy putty

Education path:

4 year college + Master's in Occupational Therapy.

Student question:

“What everyday activity do you think would be hardest to relearn?”

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Clinical Lab Scientist

What they do:

Tests blood, tissue, and fluids to help diagnose disease.

Tools they use:



Centrifuge



Microscope



Lab reagents

Education path:

Bachelor's in Medical Laboratory Science.

Student question:

“What can we learn about someone’s health from a drop of blood?”

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Speech-Language Pathologist

What they do:

Tests blood, tissue, and fluids to help diagnose disease.

Tools they use:



Flash cards



Computer programs



Pronunciation tools

Education path:

4 year college + Master's in Speech-Language Pathology.

Student question:

“Why is communication so important to health?”

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Radiologic Technologist

What they do:

Takes X-rays and scans to help doctors diagnose illness.

Tools they use:



MRI



Lead aprons



X-Ray machines

Education path:

Associate's (2 years) or Bachelor's (4 years) in Radiologic Technology.

Student question:

"What can x-rays and MRIs see that we can't?"

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Epidemiologist

What they do:

Tracks and studies how diseases spread and can be prevented.

Tools they use:



Statistical software



Research studies



Lab data

Education path:

4 year college + Master's or PhD in Epidemiology.

Student question:

"How do epidemiologists find out where a new disease starts?"