

# How to decide

Questions to ask yourself:

- Do you want or not want to have direct patient contact?
  - If no – medical laboratory technician, medical insurance billing
- Do you want to assist patients with activities of daily living (ADL), provide therapy, and perform diagnostics?
- Are you willing to work shifts / nights / weekends / holidays?
- Are you willing and able to be on call 24/7? Live close enough to hospital to do call?
- Do you enjoy working with the elderly?
- How do you feel about phlebotomy (drawing blood)? Administering injections?
  - If no – not radiologic technician, medical assistant, respiratory therapist, nuclear medicine technologists, nursing
- How do you feel about handling and/or exposure to bodily fluids / bloodborne pathogens/ potentially hazardous materials?
  - If no – medical insurance billing
- Do you want to get to know your and develop a relationship with your patients? (vs. short-term)
  - If yes – nurse aide, LPN, RN
- Are you computer literate? Do you have carpal tunnel? (Computers are used in all medical fields on a regular daily basis)
- Do you think you could handle stressful situations including life and death decisions and situations?
- Would you be able to work in the operating room? Emergency room?
  - If no – EMT, paramedic, radiologic technologist, diagnostic medical sonographer, respiratory therapist, surgical technologist
- Do you need to stay in this geographic area?
- Is full-time work with benefits necessary?
- Is a career ladder or opportunity for advancement important?
- Are you physically able to perform CPR, lift and move 50 pounds, see colors, hear heart and Korotkoff's sounds, be on your feet for prolonged periods? (refer to program technical standards for specifics)
- How long are you willing to go to school to achieve your goal? 6 months, 1 year, 2 years, 3 years, more? Are you able to attend clinicals full-time weekdays?
  - If no – massage therapist, medical insurance billing technician, nursing (part-time program available), EMT / Paramedic
- Are you strong in science / do you enjoy science? math? physics?
- Are you quick on your feet and a good problem solver?
  - If yes – EMT / Paramedic