**VOCATIONAL SCHOOL 102 LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR A NON TRADITIONAL CAREER**

**FROM THE DESK OF THE DEAN**

**VOCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**TOPIC 1**

Most of the Vocational Educational opportunities occur within 9- 18 months.

As a **Dental Hygienist**, you’re an integral part of the dental team working directly with **patients, helping them with their oral care. Hygienists clean teeth, examine patients for oral diseases, take and develop x-rays, and provide other preventive dental care.** Most Dental Hygienists work in dental offices, but some work in a physician’s office or with the government. The position offers practical skills and knowledge in extraoral and intraoral exams, periodontal and dental exams, patient history reviews, and risk assessments.

The **Medical Assistant** integrates skills such as **scheduling and receiving patients, preparing and maintaining medical records, infection control and much more.**

Being a **Medical Office Administrator (MOA**) means you get a chance to be the “jack of all trades” or the “fixer” that keeps the office going with day-to-day duties. The day of a MOA can be fast-paced, highly diverse and often chaotic dealing with billing, greeting patients, processing claims and maintaining records.

As a **Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA**), you can work with a Physical Therapist (PT) to **help patients recover from injuries and illnesses, regain mobility, and manage pain. Being involved in the direct care of patients**, PTAs get to observe patients before, during, and after therapy. Physical Therapy Assistants report observations to the PT, help with specific exercises, treat patients using a variety of techniques, including using devices and equipment and help educate patients and their families.

As **a Dental Assistant**, the dental team counts on you to help assist in a variety of day-to-day duties such as **preparing patients for exams, taking X-rays, sterilizing equipment, and educating patients in proper oral care**. Other duties often vary by state or dentist offices worked at.

An **HVAC technician** **installs, maintains, and repairs heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration systems**. HVAC is an abbreviation for "heating, ventilation, and air conditioning." An alternative but less common abbreviation is HVACR. Someone who works in this occupation might specialize in installation, or in maintenance and repair.

As a licensed **Vocational Nurse (LVN**), you will **work under the supervision and direction of registered nurses and doctors while administering basic patient care. LVNs may work in hospitals, long-term care facilities, hospice, or home/residential care facilities**. Some LVN duties in these facilities can include wound care, helping bathe or dress patients, help deliver, care for, and feed infants, collect samples for testing, and much more.

**Cosmetologists** are also responsible for cleaning and maintaining hair and skin care tools, keeping inventory of hair and skin products, scheduling appointments, processing client payments, and demonstrating the use of products. Cosmetologists often work for beauty salons and resorts, but many are self-employed. The career possibilities is what can make cosmetology so exciting! **Potential future careers can include: Hairstylist, Makeup Artist, Salon Owner, Beauty Marketer, Beauty Influencer.**

A **Massage Therapist** is someone who treats clients by using touch to manipulate the soft-tissue muscles of the body. With their touch, massage therapists relieve pain, rehabilitate injuries, reduce stress, increase relaxation, and aid in the general wellness of their clients. Massage therapists typically do the following: **Talk with clients about symptoms, medical history, and desired results, Evaluate clients to locate painful or tense areas of the body, Manipulate muscles or other soft tissues of the body, Provide clients with guidance on how to improve posture, stretching, strengthening, and overall relaxation.**

A **Welder** is a skilled tradesman who joins metal together, or fills and repairs holes on metal constructions through the use of intense heat and gas. **Welders work on all types of industrial, manufacturing, and construction applications; some even work underwater to repair oil rig foundations, ship hulls and other types of sub aquatic structures. Due to the almost universal need for their skills, welders are in high demand worldwide. Welders work on assembly lines, performing repetitive welding tasks. They may employ robots in order to join body panels from a car or truck or perform spot welds during the construction of specialized equipment.** They may have little or no knowledge of

**Electricians** are tradesmen whose **responsibilities are to design, install, maintain and troubleshoot electrical wiring systems.**These systems can be located in homes, commercial or industrial buildings, and even machines and large pieces of equipment. **Electricians work either inside or outside to make possible the use of lights, televisions, industrial equipment, appliances and many other items essential to life.** Electricians are either inside wire men or outside linemen. These are the main concentrations of a practicing electrical professional, but there are various areas of specialization within each category. Duties also vary widely with each type of position or specialization.

An **Auto Mechanic** goes by several different names, including car mechanic, automotive technician, and service technician, and is **primarily responsible for evaluating, fixing, and maintaining cars and trucks.** Some of these mechanics may specialize in a particular area or system of the vehicle, such as a brake technician, transmission rebuilder, or automotive air-conditioning technician. These professionals are usually trained to use a wide range of tools on various kinds of vehicle models. Other job duties may include: **Evaluating vehicles to identify any issues, Creating a work plan for each vehicle, Following procedures and examination lists, Conducting routine maintenance on vehicles, Performing any necessary repairs, Replacing old or broken parts, Discussing repairs and options with customers**

**Commercial Truck Driver is** A truck driver is someone who earns a living driving a truck, transporting goods and materials over land. They typically **go to and from retail and distributions centers or manufacturing plants, working any hours of the day or night.** They provide an essential service to industrialized societies. While trucking isn’t a great career choice for everyone, for some it can be a fantastic way to work and live. In order to really enjoy the job, however, you have to enjoy the 'lifestyle' of living on the road, as trucking is really more of a lifestyle than it is a typical job. Truck drivers move commerce by way of tractor trailers, traveling either locally or across country. Almost all truckers begin as over the road drivers (OTR), which basically means driving for long distances and being gone two to three weeks at a time.

On the table below, we summarize the length of the most common trade school programs:

[Program](https://careerschoolnow.org/colleges/programs)s

Length

[HVAC Technician](https://hvaccareernow.com)

as few as 6 months

[Dental Assistant](https://dentalcareernow.com)

as few as 10 months

[Cosmetologist](https://cosmetologycareernow.com)

1,500 - 2,100 training hours

[Massage Therapist](https://massagecareernow.com)

as few as 10 months

[Welder](https://weldingcareernow.com)

as few as 10 months

[Electrician](https://electricalcareernow.com)

as few as 10 months

[Mechanic](https://mechaniccareernow.com)

as few as 9 months

[Commercial Truck Driver](https://www.cdlcareernow.com)

3-6 weeks

**Skilled Trained Salaries**

Career

Starting Salary

Median Pay

Top 10%

[Construction Mgmt](https://toptrade.school/programs/construction/)

$56,140

$95,260

$164,790

[HVAC Technician](https://toptrade.school/programs/skilled-trades/hvac/)

$30,610

$48,730

$77,920

[Welder](https://toptrade.school/programs/skilled-trades/welding/)

$29,470

$42,490

$64,240

[Aircraft Mechanic](https://toptrade.school/programs/mechanic/aircraft-mechanic/)

$37,890

$64,090

$101,070

[Auto Mechanic](https://toptrade.school/programs/mechanic/auto-mechanic/)

$24,400

$42,090

$68,880

[Electrician](https://toptrade.school/programs/skilled-trades/electrician/)

$33,410

$56,180

$96,580

[Truck Driver](https://toptrade.school/programs/cdl/)

$29,130

$45,260

$66,840

[Sheet Metal Worker](https://toptrade.school/programs/skilled-trades/welding/)

$29,260

$50,400

$88,070

**TOPIC 1**

**DISCUSSION QUESTION 1**

Based on your responses from Vocational School 101 what are your first 2-3 choices for Vocational careers and why?

**DISCUSSION QUESTION 2**

If you took your strengths and your top choice for a Vocational Career what are your weaknesses that need to be developed throughout training and your externship?

**DISCUSSION QUESTION 3 with the Dean**

**PLEASE SET UP A PHONE CALL OR ZOOM CALL WITH THE DEAN FOR 15-30 MINUTES.**