

# HEALTHCARE MAJORS IN THE 4-YEAR PUBLIC SECTOR

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- SOME UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS THAT PREPARE STUDENTS FOR A CAREER IN HEALTHCARE:
  - BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
  - MEDICAL SCIENCES
  - NURSING
  - PUBLIC HEALTH
  - NEUROSCIENCE
  - CHEMISTRY
  - PSYCHOLOGY
  - NUTRITION
  - HUMAN DEVELOPMENT/FAMILY STUDIES
  - SOCIAL WORK
  - INFORMATICS/DATA ANALYTICS
  - SOCIOLOGY
  - ENGINEERING (BIO, CHEMICAL, MECHANICAL)
  - ANTHROPOLOGY

- THESE MAJORS OFTEN ENCOURAGE, OR REQUIRE, EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING.
  - LABORATORY ASSIGNMENTS, COMMUNITY WORK, INTERNSHIPS, FIELD PLACEMENTS
- EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING HAS BEEN MOSTLY DISRUPTED BY SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS.
  - CLASS OF 2020 MAJORS WILL STILL GRADUATE, BUT MAY HAVE LESS HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE
- WE ALSO KNOW THAT EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IS CRITICAL FOR SOLIDIFYING INTEREST IN THESE MAJORS.
  - MANY JUNIORS (AND SOME SOPHOMORES) HAVE MISSED NEEDED OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCOVER HOW THE MAJOR PREPARES THEM TO HELP HUMANITY
- THUS THE COVID-19 CRISIS HAS IMPACTED EDUCATION OF THE CURRENT COHORT OF HEALTH-INTERESTED STUDENTS.

- BEYOND THE COVID CRISIS, RETAINING STUDENTS IN THESE MAJORS IS DIFFICULT
  - EXAMPLE: DROP-OUT RATE IN ENGINEERING IS 70%. DROP-IN RATE IS 0.5%
- FACTORS:
  - NEED FOR/COST OF POST-GRADUATE EDUCATION
  - ROTE NATURE OF LOWER-DIVISION COURSES
  - UNAWARE OF ALTERNATE ROUTES THAT THEIR DEGREE PROVIDES
  - LACK OF OPPORTUNITY FOR INTERPROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES
- POLICY POSSIBILITIES:
  - STATE OFFICE TO FACILITATE HIGHER ED/INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS