

Health-Related Opportunities after Wheaton

Often students are interested in participating in an opportunity right after graduation from college that serves as a bridge to a future endeavor or further education. It is important to first evaluate your motivation for the experience and ask appropriate questions. Think about your goals, are you interested in expanding your experiences with another culture, strengthening your ability to demonstrate academic competency to handle a graduate professional program or defining your interests? This packet will help your research your options. Remember to plan ahead and give yourself plenty of time for this process.

The term “post-bacc” essentially refers to experiences one pursues after a bachelor’s degree. In the pre-health professions environment, post-bacc may refer to a specific program designed to assist in gaining admission to a professional school program (medical, dental, physical therapy school, etc.). These programs are often academically based and provide a curriculum that aims to prepare or enhance one’s readiness for graduate health programs. There are essentially two types of programs in this category: career-changer and academic-enhancing programs. The AAMC (American Association of Medical Colleges) provides a [searchable database](#) of such programs. Some programs specifically provide resources and courses for students from underrepresented backgrounds in the health professions as well. Aside from a formal post-bacc program that typically focuses on providing pre-requisite or advanced coursework in the basic sciences, one may also decide to pursue a formal master’s program. For students interested in health and healthcare there are many one year masters programs (public health, biomedical sciences, bioethics, etc.) that can be pursued after graduation and/or while applying to a professional school program.

It is also likely; one may want to engage in an experience that provides training that is more practical or experiential knowledge to give a stronger foundation for future study in the health professions. Another post-bacc opportunity available to students is participating in a formal program or pursuing an internship (clinical, research) or an international service trip through an organization. Many yearlong research internships provide a stipend or funding to the student. International service trips can vary in the length of time of the commitment. When traveling abroad, remember to consider the application timeline and whether or not interviews could occur during the time of the experience abroad. Many students are also considering spending a year or more as a medical scribe. Scribes are being used in various healthcare settings to assist physicians with documentation during consultations. Common responsibilities can include recording a patient’s history, transcribing physical exams, recording diagnostic test results, and preparing plans for follow-up care under direction of a physician.

Specific examples of the programs and opportunities listed above are contained in the following pages. When considering an experience after graduation, students are encouraged to talk with faculty and staff at Wheaton College for guidance about career and vocational goals and aspirations. When choosing an experience, it is wise to consider past experiences and if there are new experiences that one can build upon or if there would be other areas helpful to explore for the first time.

The opportunities presented within this document are shared as possible suggestions however each experience should be properly and thoroughly researched by the student. The list is provided as a resource by the Health Professions office. Please feel free to make an appointment to discuss any questions regarding planning for life after graduation.



Post-Graduation Opportunities for Students interested in Health Related-Endeavors

Listed in alphabetical order

[American Red Cross](#)

Red Cross volunteers provide relief to victims of disasters and help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. A variety of different volunteer opportunities are available as are internships.

DEADLINE: None, rolling basis

LENGTH: Dependent on relief area, but very flexible

ELIGIBILITY: Dependent on location and volunteer type

[Center for Disease Control Internships](#)

The CDC offers a variety of different internships and opportunities to students in the fields of public health, infectious diseases and maternal and child health.

[Center for Disease Control Public Health Associate Program](#)

The Public Health Associate Program (PHAP) is a competitive, two-year, paid training program with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. PHAP associates are assigned to public health agencies and nongovernmental organizations in the United States and US territories, and work alongside other professionals across a variety of public health settings. Throughout the two-year training program, associates gain hands-on experience that will serve as a foundation for their public health careers. After completing the program, PHAP graduates are qualified to apply for jobs with public health agencies and organizations. The next application cycle opens in January.

[Federal Diversity Internship Initiative: US Government Internships thru the Washington Center](#)

Internships in a variety of departments including US Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA Medical Center)

[Global Volunteers](#)

Volunteers spend one to three weeks in a developing nation or in the U.S, supporting locals by building schoolhouses, teaching English, digging latrines, or providing health care to women.

DEADLINE: Dependent on [service date](#)

LENGTH: One to three weeks

ELIGIBILITY: All Ages

[HealthCorps](#)

HealthCorps, a ground breaking health education program, founded and developed by heart surgeon and bestselling author Mehmet Oz, is seeking dynamic, proactive, and engaging individuals to teach its school curriculum and coordinate community health education events. Coordinators will be a part of a national initiative launched in response to a drastic decline in the health of our nation. Based upon a "Peace Corps" model of employment, Coordinators serve a maximum of two years in a designated school. The mission of HealthCorps is to increase individual awareness and to create a generation of self-empowered individuals today, for a healthier America tomorrow.

DEADLINE: None, rolling basis

LENGTH: Project-based or long-term

ELIGIBILITY: 3.0 GPA and eligible to work in the U.S.

FUNDING: Salary, health insurance, benefits

[International Partnership for Service Learning \(Also a South/Central America & Asia Opportunity\)](#)

IPSL volunteers go to Latin America, Asia, or Africa for three months to one-year term. The fee covers room and board. Projects can be in many fields including education, health, and childcare. Study component included.

DEADLINE: Dependent on program

LENGTH: One year

ELIGIBILITY: Dependent on program

FUNDING: Fees apply

[Jill's House Fellowship](#)

Gap Year Opportunity – Jill's House specializes in short-term overnight stays for children with intellectual disabilities in order to provide respite care for them and their families. It's a great opportunity to participate in meaningful, service-oriented work while also learning how to care for children with complex medical needs. Fellows work with the children and also have the opportunity to shadow an office department throughout the year. Each fellow is provided with housing and hourly pay as well as fully funded group outings that foster community and chances to see the DC area.

DEADLINE: Typically April

LENGTH: One year

ELIGIBILITY: Recent college graduate

FUNDING: Hourly pay and housing

[Lawndale Christian Health Center](#)

LCHC seeks intern candidates who want to gain a year of full-time work experience in healthcare prior to continuing their education in health-related fields. Applicants should understand the population we serve and be passionate about promoting health in under-resourced communities, and should be teachable and desire to learn from colleagues in every level of the organization. We seek individuals who can show empathy and compassion to patients and peers, will be hard-working in contributing their time and skills to the work of LCHC, and can be flexible in responding to varying needs that arise in pursuance of LCHC's mission. Candidates must have a Bachelor's degree from an accredited 4-year program by the time of their employment and must commit to full-time employment for at least 12 months, with a start date beginning May through July and an end date ranging from June through August.

DEADLINE: January-March, unless positions fill up quickly

LENGTH: At least 12 months commitment

ELIGIBILITY: Recent college graduate

[Manna Project International](#)

MPI directs its efforts towards communities in need: communities with inadequate access to basic education, healthcare, and recreational resources. MPI aims for a holistic approach to community development, working with people of all ages in various aspects of their lives. This broad approach enables those with diverse passions and skills to work together towards providing a targeted community with the resources to serve its specific needs. For example, to better serve the healthcare needs of a targeted community, a holistic approach involves teaching health classes in the schools, providing access to clinics, and offering recreational activities that increase physical and mental health.

DEADLINE: Dependent on short or long term

LENGTH: Program Directors serve for 7 or 13 months; short-term volunteers serve during spring break for one week or during summer for 4-8 weeks.

ELIGIBILITY:

- U.S. citizen/permanent resident.
- College student or recent graduate

FUNDING: Fundraise to cover cost of trip

[Medical Scribing – Scribe America](#)

A scribe is often seen as a "personal assistant" to the physician. The scribe serves as the documenter of the patient's visit. The hope is to deliver efficient care to the patient and utilize resources in the best way possible.

[National Institute of Health Intramural Research Training Award](#)

"The NIH Postbac IRTA program (CRTA, Cancer Research Training Award, in the National Cancer Institute) provides recent college graduates who are planning to apply to graduate or professional (medical/dental/pharmacy/nursing/veterinary, etc.) school an opportunity to spend one or two years performing full-time research at the NIH. Postbac IRTAs/CRTAs work side-by-side with some of the leading scientists in the world, in an environment devoted exclusively to **biomedical research.**"

STIPEND INFORMATION: The stipends for trainees are adjusted yearly and depends upon experience. For more information, see the [Trainee Stipends](#) page.

[Peace Corps](#)

Volunteers receive a living allowance, housing, full medical benefits, and deferment of student loans while they live in another country for two years, working at the grass-roots level to help solve some of the most important challenges facing the developing world. They serve in the Caribbean, Central and South America, Europe, and the Middle East. Collaborating with local community members, volunteers work in areas like education, youth outreach, health, community development, agriculture, business, the environment, and information technology.

DEADLINE: Application cycle opens in October, deadline in January every OTHER year

LENGTH: 27 months

ELIGIBILITY:

- Most opportunities require a four-year degree, students do not need to speak foreign language
- At least 18 years of age

FUNDING: Living stipend and readjustment allowance

[Post Baccalaureate Research Education Program \(PREP\)](#)

The Post Baccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP) associated with Case Western Reserve University provides an outstanding environment for students who feel additional preparation in research is needed. PREP Scholars enjoy mentored research experience, graduate courses, GRE workshops, and a variety of venues to interact with and learn from some of the best researchers in the world.

DEADLINE: Typically mid-March

LENGTH: A year long, beginning in July

[Project Horseshoe Farm \(HSF\)](#)

HSF offers unique education and leadership development opportunities for recent college graduates. HSF was founded in 2007, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization based in Greensboro, Alabama that offers service and support programs to improve the health and quality of life of adults and children in our community. The 13-month Gap Year Fellowship for recent graduates begins in June and ends in July of the following year. Program details and application instructions can be found on their website.

DEADLINE: Typically February

LENGTH: 13 month programs

ELIGIBILITY: Recent college graduates

FUNDING: First year Fellows receive an educational grant of \$800-\$1050/month and free housing

[Public Health Associate Program](#)

The Public Health Associate Program (PHAP) is a competitive, two-year, paid training program with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. PHAP associates are assigned to public health agencies and nongovernmental organizations in the United States and US territories, and work alongside other professionals across a variety of public health settings. Throughout the two-year training program, associates gain hands-on experience that will serve as a foundation for their public health careers. After completing the program, PHAP graduates are qualified to apply for jobs with public health agencies and organizations. The next application cycle opens in January.

[Visions in Action Volunteers](#)

Visions in Action is an international non-profit organization committed to alleviating poverty in the developing world through the participation of self-reliant volunteers.

DEADLINE: Varied

LENGTH: 6 or 12 month programs

ELIGIBILITY: Recent college graduates

FUNDING: Some programs have limited support others are self-supported

[William J. Clinton Fellowship for Service in India](#)

The fellowship gives a select group of young American professionals the opportunity to serve with Indian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for ten months. Fellows work in the three pillar areas of AIF: Public Health, Education, & Livelihoods. Some projects also occur in other innovative areas. Applicants must be willing to engage in the full-time service of a non-governmental organization that is working to accelerate social and economic development in India.

DEADLINE: Application will open in January.

LENGTH: 10 months

ELIGIBILITY: 21+ years of age, US Citizen or Permanent Resident, must have BA prior to starting program

FUNDING: Funded

[World Relief](#)

Interns and volunteers comprise 95% of the World Relief workforce. With offices in 15 countries and 24 U.S. locations, interning or volunteering with World Relief is a great way to add an internationally recognized organization to your resume, to gain a deeper understanding of relief and development work, and to explore the possibility of future employment. For over 60 years, our calling has been to equip churches around the world to Stand for the Vulnerable. We invite you to join us. Expenses are not always covered. In some cases volunteers are responsible for travel and part of their living expenses.

DEADLINE: Varied

LENGTH: One to two years

ELIGIBILITY:

- College degree
- Language skills
- Do not have to be U.S. citizen unless applying to work in U.S.
- Dependents are sometimes accepted

Scholarships & Awards

[Samuel Huntington Public Service Award](#)

The Samuel Huntington Public Service Award provides a \$20,000 stipend for a graduating college senior to pursue one year of public service anywhere in the world. The award allows recipients to engage in a meaningful public service activity for one year before proceeding on to graduate school or a career. The application is typically due in mid-January.

This document was created to assist students with the exploratory process of experiences for life after their Wheaton education.

Although attempts are made to ensure the accuracy of the information, the programs are individual entities and may change deadlines, requirements and information at any time. Students are encouraged to review the web sites of the particular programs.

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