

Plan B/Alternate Career Options

Many students who begin their college careers with the intent of pursuing a career in healthcare eventually come to realize that another career might be better for them. The reasons for these decisions vary greatly, but no matter the reason, we want to do everything we can to help students achieve their career goals.

Below we have compiled advice and resources to assist students who have decided to pursue an alternate career path.

Reasons students might decide to pursue an alternate career path

- Found another passion, such as conducting research or teaching
- Realized they are not, in fact, comfortable with various aspects of providing patient care
- Working conditions not suitable for desired quality of life
- Rigor of science and math course work.
 - o Note: If you have not performed well in your science and math courses, and you are still passionate about healthcare, then you should consider careers in healthcare that do not require extensive study in the areas of science and math. The healthcare field is large and varied, so consider researching alternative careers by visiting the Explore Health Careers website at www.explorehealthcareers.org.

You've decided a career in healthcare is not right for you, so what do you do now?

- Meet with a pre-health advisor to discuss why your interests have changed
- For those in their 1st or 2nd year, consider your current major and explore viable alternate majors. There may be a major that is better suited to your personal strengths and passion that you didn't consider when you were pursuing a career in healthcare.
- For those in their 3rd or 4th year, reach out to your major department advisors, faculty you've gotten to know, and also counselors in Career Services to explore careers in your field of study.

There are many alternate careers for students who no longer wish to pursue a career in healthcare, but you may be thinking, "What can I do with a degree in _____?" Listed below are additional resources students may consider reaching for help exploring alternate career options.

[Alumni Spotlights](#)

"Alumni Spotlights feature outstanding UC Santa Barbara alumni succeeding in their careers, proud of their Gaucho heritage." UCSB alumni are employed all over and in a wide variety of fields, so read their stories to gain inspiration!

[Career Services](#)

Career Services, located in Building 599 next to the Humanities and Social Sciences Building and across from Storke Tower, offers a variety of tools and resources to help students learn about careers outside of the health professions.

[Departmental Faculty and Advisors](#)

UCSB faculty and departmental staff are excellent resources for information on various career opportunities that are closely aligned to degrees offered through their departments. Click the link above for the *Academic Department Directory*.