

HPOG Program Summary

Gateway Technical College

Health Profession Opportunity Program (HPOP)



Location:

Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth Counties, Wisconsin

Program Goals:

- Enroll 300 of those assessed into HPOP training and education programs
- Ensure that 270 of those enrolled complete training
- Enable 257 of those who complete training to find employment in healthcare

Health Professions Taught:

Successful participants earn certifications or degrees qualifying them to be pharmacy technicians, dental assistants, health unit coordinators, medical assistants, medical billing clerks, nurses, nurse assistants, or physical therapist assistants or to work in the fields of health information technology, medical transcription, radiography, or surgical technology.

Approach:

The program serves state or tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients and other low-income individuals in a three-county area of southeastern Wisconsin. High school dropouts, noncustodial and single parents, individuals with disabilities, veterans, victims of domestic violence, youth transitioning out of foster care, individuals with a family history of multigenerational dependency, and individuals with limited English are all potential participants of the program. Gateway Technical College's partners in the effort include the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards, and the Department of Children and Families. The college is using employees to facilitate recruitment as well as the tri-county area departments of human services and faith- or community-based organizations that provide supportive services.

In preparing eligible persons to secure well-paying healthcare positions in demand, the program combines supportive services with education and training. This assistance includes college shadowing, professional development planning, and an introduction to college life, study skills, time management, and problem solving. Placement tests determine participant skill levels. An adult basic education instructor/coordinator focuses exclusively on HPOP students and links them with additional resources as needed. Case managers and participants work together to develop contingency plans that address issues that may affect attendance or performance. As needed, enrollees receive reimbursement for tuition, dependent care, case management, transportation, and temporary housing. Students are CPR certified, and local providers or health departments supply immunizations and/or medical records. Students completing short-term programs receive job search advice as well as advice and support to move them into advanced health occupations. Participant support is planned to continue for 1 year after employment.