



Gaston County Schools Health Sciences Academy

Health Sciences Academy at East Gaston High School

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the purpose of the Health Sciences Academy?

The purpose of the Academy is to allow students to explore interest in the Health Science field while in high school and gain unique experiences to prepare them for the workforce, community college or four year university.

2. Will my child have to attend East Gaston for longer than four years?

Students in all Health Sciences Academy Pathways will meet the NC High School Graduation requirements in four years.

3. What are the requirements for admissions to the Academy?

○ **For Students Currently Attending Gaston County Schools**

- **To apply:** Students currently attending a Gaston County School must have earned an overall “C” average in 7th grade and have maintained a 94% attendance rate and have been in good standing regarding conduct. Students must also have a Level III, IV, or V on their 7th grade Reading EOG and Math EOG **OR** be proficient at an “Early Grade Level” on iReady Diagnostic Assessments.
- **For final acceptance:** Students must complete their 8th grade year with an overall “C” average in 8th grade and have maintained a 94% attendance rate and have been in good standing regarding conduct. Students must also have a Level III, IV, or V on their 8th grade Reading EOG and Math EOG.

○ **Gaston County residence who did not attend a Gaston County School**

- **To Apply:** Applicants must provide (if applicable) 7th grade State Test Scores, attendance records and discipline records if available. Final 7th grade report card and first semester 8th grade report card and attendance records.
- **For final acceptance:**
 - For acceptance into the academy, applicants must also complete an 8th grade iReady Diagnostic Assessment (Middle-of-Year Tests) in Reading and Math and be proficient at a “Early Grade Level” or higher score (*this assessment will be given at the Gaston County Schools Office of Student Assignment*).



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4. Who can apply to the Health Sciences Academy and how are students selected?

Incoming ninth grade students may apply. Rising tenth grade students may apply with limited seats available.

5. What are the requirements for continued enrollment?

Parent/Legal Guardian must maintain residency in Gaston County. Students must be in good standing including appropriate attendance, behavior, and academics. Throughout the program, students must maintain admission requirements for the College Now Program (formerly Career & College Promise) as outlined by Gaston College.

6. Do I have to want to be a nurse or doctor to be in the Health Sciences Academy?

NO! In addition to our Nurse Aid classes, the Health Sciences Academy will offer courses that include Pharmacy Technician, Foundation of Animal Medicine, Foundations of Health & Fitness Science, and Medical Assisting.

7. Will students in the Health Science classes be in classes with students outside of the Academy?

Students will be grouped together for specific courses in their pathways. East Gaston is a comprehensive high school, so courses are scheduled based on students' individual needs. All students will have access to a variety of courses including College Now, AP, Honors, and Fine Arts courses, as their schedule permits.

8. What opportunities will be available because of my enrollment in the Health Sciences Academy?

Students in the Health Sciences Academy will have unique field trip opportunities such as SciVisit at Gaston College, internships following their junior year, and volunteer opportunities with Caromont. In addition, students in the Academy will be members of HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America)/Future Health Professionals. Students in this club compete with HOSA/Future Health Professionals Organizations from other schools at regional, state, and national levels. Students will also have the opportunity to further explore health science careers.

9. What credentials could I earn as a part of the Health Sciences Academy?

Certified Nursing Assistant, CPR, First Aid, Pharmacy Technician, and OSHA Healthcare



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10. What is the earliest I can drop my child off and the latest I can pick up my child?

Students may be dropped off 30 minutes prior to the start of school and must be picked up by 4:00 p.m. if not involved in an after school program.

11. Will transportation to and from school be provided?

Transportation to and from school will be the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian. See Question 10 for drop off and pick up times.

12. Does my student have to attend face to face instruction on East Gaston campus if they are enrolled in the Health Sciences Academy?

Due to the nature of classes and the special opportunities that are offered to students in the Health Sciences Academy (HSA), students who are in the HSA must attend classes in the face to face format.

13. Will my student be allowed to participate in school activities such as sports, etc.?

Students will be exposed to a full high school experience.