

Health Science Career Cluster

The Health Science Career Cluster focuses on planning, managing, and providing therapeutic services, diagnostics services, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research and development. This career cluster includes occupations ranging from medical assistant, registered nurse, and physical therapist to forensic science technician and athletic trainer.

Dental Assistant



Students in the Dental Assistant program learn about the dental assisting profession, ethics, communication skills, infection control and hazard management, clinical procedures, clerical functions, concepts in radiological and digital imaging. Students will gain in-depth experience through lab-based practical experiences and the opportunity to intern at a cooperating dental office. This program prepares students for the Registered Dental Assistant X-Ray Certification exam.

Secondary Courses for High School Credit

Level 1

- Principles of Health Science

Level 2

- Medical Terminology

Level 3

- Anatomy and Physiology (H)
- Health Science Theory

Level 4

- Practicum in Health Science I – Dental Assistant (H)
- Practicum in Health Science II – Dental Assistant (H) ¹



Work-Based Learning and Expanded Learning Opportunities

Exploration Activities

- Participate in Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA)

Work-Based Learning Activities

- Intern at a local dentist's office

Industry-Based Certifications

- Registered Dental Assistant X-Ray Certification ¹

Aligned Advanced Academic Courses

- AP Biology
- AP Chemistry



Postsecondary Opportunities

Associates Degrees

- Dental Assistant
- Medical/Clinical Assistant

Bachelor's Degrees

- Dental Hygienist

Master's, Doctoral, and Professional Degrees

- Dentist

Aligned Occupations

Occupations	Median Wage	Annual Openings	% Growth
Dental Assistant	\$39,100	5,000	32%
Dentist	\$162,900	570	26%
Dental Hygienists	\$79,700	1,300	32%

Successful completion of the Dental Assistant program of study will fulfill requirements of a Public Service endorsement. Revised – May 2024

Dental Assistant Course Information

Level 1

COURSE NAME	SERVICE ID	PREREQUISITES	GRADE LEVEL(S)
Principles of Health Science	13020200 (1 credit)	None	9

Level 2

COURSE NAME	SERVICE ID	PREREQUISITES	GRADE LEVEL(S)
Medical Terminology	13020300 (1 credit)	None	10

Level 3

COURSE NAME	SERVICE ID	PREREQUISITES	GRADE LEVEL(S)
Health Science Theory	13020400 (1 credit)	Biology & Principles of Health Science	10
Anatomy and Physiology (H)	13020600 (1 credit)	Biology & Chemistry	11 - 12

Level 4

COURSE NAME	SERVICE ID	PREREQUISITES	GRADE LEVEL(S)
Practicum in Health Science I – Dental Assistant (H)	13020500 (2 credits)	Health Science Theory	11
Practicum in Health Science II – Dental Assistant (H)	13020510 (2 credits)	Practicum in Health Science I – Dental Assistant (H)	12

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE HEALTH SCIENCE CAREER CLUSTER,
PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CAMPUS CTE COUNSELOR
<https://tea.texas.gov/cte>

Mesquite ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Title IX Coordinators – Chassordee Willie and Emilio Duran, and/or Section 504 Coordinator Amanda Carroll at 3819 Town Crossing Blvd., Mesquite, TX 75150 / 972-288-6411.

Further nondiscrimination information can be found at
[Notification of Nondiscrimination in Career and Technical Education Programs.](#)