



2024-2025

Health Science Academy School Profile

ABOUT THE HEALTH SCIENCE ACADEMY

The Health Science Academy is a full-time, 4-year program offered by the Mercer County Technical School District. The Health Science Academy offers self-motivated students comprehensive preparation for careers in the health, medical and biological sciences. Students work and study in a creative environment enhanced by contact with specialists in the healthcare field. Personal and career counseling coupled with field experiences prepares each student for college and careers. The Health Science Academy is affiliated with colleges, universities, private practitioners, and medical and research facilities in order to enhance the highly technical program we offer.

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Health Science Academy to provide a highly specialized learning environment that promotes the development of a confident, well-rounded healthcare professional through unique academic experiences specific to the field of healthcare.

This will be achieved by:

- implementing challenging cross-curricular experiences that promote critical thinking skills and foster opportunities for leadership
- embracing high professional standards in ethics and character development
- providing authentic clinical experiences and internships through professional and community partnerships
- utilizing state-of-the-art equipment technology that will enhance employment and academic opportunities in an ever-changing environment

ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Matthew Carey, Superintendent

Dr. Phillip L. Crisostomo, Principal

GUIDANCE

Gabriella Stinger, School Counselor

Marcia Calle, School Social Worker

Catherine Kloss, Psychologist

LOCATION

Health Science Academy

Assunpink Center

1085 Old Trenton Road

Trenton, NJ 08690

T: 609.586.5144



www.mcts.edu



ACCREDITATION

The Mercer County Technical School District is certified by the New Jersey State Department of Education and accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

CERTIFICATIONS

Students will work toward certifications in the American Red Cross, Heart Saver CPR/AED-(AHA), and bloodborne pathogens.

CLASS LENGTH

Classes are 80 minutes in length and are offered on a rotating A/B block schedule.

CLASS RANK

The Health Science Academy does not rank its students.

CURRICULUM

The Health Science Academy provides students with a focused program in the medical and biological sciences. Options are afforded for a Health Science Academy student to pursue goals of post-secondary education at the college or university level, or to enter the workforce directly upon high school graduation. Students receive a solid foundation in the core subjects and a rigorous health sciences program of study. A major learning component of the program is the opportunity for students to attain practical experience in the workplace as well as in academic settings. In 12th grade, all HSA students participate in dual enrollment classes at Mercer County Community College.

ENROLLMENT

More than 100 students are enrolled in grades 9-12 at the Health Science Academy.

LOCATION

The Health Science Academy is located at the Assunpink Center in Trenton, New Jersey.

COLLEGE CREDIT

MCTS has an articulation agreement with Mercer County Community College (MCCC) for students to obtain college credit for several classes offered on campus. College credit can also be obtained through the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) for two courses.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Every student may complete a minimum of forty (40) hours of community service at the end of Senior year.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Students have the opportunity to demonstrate what they've learned by participating in co-curricular student organizations such as HOSA: Future Health Professionals. In addition, students may elect to participate in the Debate Team, Student Council, Yearbook, Math League, MCTS Wizards Gaming Team, and Model UN.

OUR GRADUATES HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED TO THESE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Arcadia University	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Stern University
Boston University	Mercer County Community College	Stevens Institute of Technology
Bradley University	Monmouth University	Stockton University
Brown University	Montclair State University	Syracuse University
Capital Technology University	New England College	Temple University
Carnegie Mellon University	New Jersey Institute of Technology	The College of New Jersey
Case Western University	New York Institute of Technology	The George Washington University
Centenary College	New York University	University of Bridgeport
Cheney University of Pennsylvania	Northeastern University	University of Delaware
Coastal Carolina University	NOVA Southeastern University	University of Illinois
Coppin State University	Oxford University	University of Maryland College Park
Cornell University	Pace University	University of Massachusetts Amherst
Dixie State College	Pennsylvania State University	University of Pennsylvania
Drew University	Philadelphia University	University of Pittsburgh
Drexel University	Princeton University	University of Rochester
Duke University	Purdue University	University of the Sciences
Duquesne University	Quinnipiac University	University of Virginia
Emory University	Ramapo College	University of Washington
Fairleigh Dickinson University	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Ursinus College
Florida Southern College	Richard Stockton College of New Jersey	US Military Academy West Point
Georgian Court University	Rider University	Vanderbilt
Georgetown University	Roanoke College	Villanova University
Hollins University	Rowan University	Virginia Commonwealth University
Howard University	Rutgers University, New Brunswick	Washington College
Huntsman School of Business	Saint Bonaventure University	West Chester University
Johns Hopkins University	Saint Peter's University	West Virginia State University
Juniata College	Seton Hall University	Western Washington University
Kean University	Smith College	Westminster College
Keiser University		Widener University
Lehigh University		William Patterson University
Lemoyne College		York College of Pennsylvania
Louisiana State University		
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences		

AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

2023-2024

- Two have been named Commended Students in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program.

2022-2023

- Two juniors were elected to serve as the NJHOSA: Future Health Professionals 2023-2024 State Secretary and 2023-2024 State Southern Regional Vice President.
- One senior was named as a Commended Student in the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- One Junior had an article published in a research journal with a 2% acceptance rate.
- One Student was named a Commended Student in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program
- One student was a 2023 semifinalist for the National Merit Scholarship competition

2021-2022

- The New Jersey Governor's School in the Sciences at Drew University accepted one student.
- An HSA senior was named as a National Merit Scholarship finalist.
- Commended Student in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program.
- An HSA junior was elected to serve as the NJ HOSA: Future Health Professionals 2022-2023 Southern Regional Vice President.

2020-2021

- An HSA sophomore was selected by the New Jersey Department of Education as a student panelist for its 2021 Virtual Student Roundtables.
- An HSA sophomore was elected to serve as the NJ HOSA: Future Health Professionals 2021-2022 Member-At-Large.
- An HSA senior was named as a National Merit Scholarship finalist.

2019—2020

- One Health Science Academy senior qualified as a US Presidential Scholars semifinalist (one of 621 nationwide).
- Two Health Science Academy juniors qualified for the first round in the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- The New Jersey Governor's School in the Sciences at Drew University accepted one student.
- One student was elected to serve as the New Jersey HOSA: Future Health Professionals Southern Regional Vice President.

2018—2019

- One student was elected to serve as the NJ Future Health Professionals (HOSA) Southern Regional Vice President
- The NJ Governor's School in the Sciences at Drew University accepted one student
- A student was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout by the Boy Scouts of America. His community service project benefited the Assunpink Center.
- A Health Science Academy student was recognized as a 2019 US Presidential Scholar.
- A student was also named as a National Merit Scholarship Finalist.
- One student was awarded a joint Army ROTC/HOSA Future Health Professionals scholarship which will cover her tuition for four years at Brown University (valued at over \$200,000!).
- Three students were awarded three of only four total college scholarships by New Jersey HOSA, valued at nearly \$2000 total.
- Collectively the Class of 2019 earned 268 Rutgers credits through the School of Health Professions program, valued at over \$116,000 worth of college credit.

Health Science Academy

Course Sequence



Core	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English Language Arts	English I	English II	English III	English IV
Mathematics (*)	Algebra I or Geometry	Geometry or Algebra II	Algebra II, or AP Pre-Calculus	MAT125 Elementary Statistics I
Science	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	CHE107 General Chemistry
Social Studies	World History	US History I	US History II	PSY101 Intro to Psychology
				PSY207 Developmental Psychology
Financial, Economic Business, and Entrepreneurial Business Literacy			Foundations in Personal Finance	CSW100 College Success & Wellness
Health, Safety, and Physical Education	Physical Education & Health I	Physical Education, Health II and Drivers Education	Physical Education & Health III	Physical Education & Health IV
Visual and Performing Arts		Visual & Performing Arts Seminar		
World Languages	Spanish I/ Spanish II	Spanish II		
21st Century Life & Careers, OR Career Technical Education	Dynamics of Healthcare	Medical Terminology	Anatomy & Physiology I	BIO104 Anatomy & Physiology II*
				BIO201 Microbiology
Interdisciplinary Studies, Health Sciences Internship	Principles of Biomedical Engineering (PLTW)	Medical Interventions (PLTW)	Emergency & Clinical Care	HPE101 Nutrition
Technology	Integrated throughout all courses			

- Students have the opportunity to earn up to sixty (60) credits at Mercer County Community College, per the requirements in the articulation agreement.
- **Bolded courses** provide opportunity for students to earn dual enrollment credit on MCTS campus. See specific course descriptions details by visiting www.mcts.edu/admissions
- All post-secondary agreements are reviewed annually.
- All courses **may be subject to change***
- Board Approved 03/19/2024
- Created 03/22/2024

Admissions
mcts.edu/admissions



GRADING

Mercer County Technical School holds the door to student achievement wide open at all times. Students are invited to assess and reassess until each reaches the level of achievement in which he or she is willing to invest. Subjective factors are removed from the equation. When students are judged on academic achievement, they commit to academic excellence.

MCTS has adopted the following grading calculation guidelines:

- 50% Measurements of Achievement
- 40% Measurements of Process
- 10% Measurements of Practice

All teachers will use the following Grading System in determining student grades.

Letter Grade	Numerical Grade Range	Explanation
A	93-100	Mastery Demonstrates excellence in skills and course expectations.
A-	90-92	
B+	87-89	Proficiency Demonstrates competence in skills and course expectations.
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	Emerging Demonstrates progress in skills and course expectations.
C	70-76	
D	60-69	Difficulty Demonstrates limited progress in skills and course expectations.
F	0-59	Failing: Does not demonstrate necessary skills and does not meet the requirements to earn course credit.

Students who fail to earn at least a 60 final average in a non-elective course as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1 and attend and receive a passing grade in an approved summer school make-up program will receive the grade they earn. Both grades will appear on the student's transcript. Both grades will be used to calculate the student's grade point average.

A grade point average (GPA) is a standard scale used by many schools to calculate student academic achievement. Each range of number grades assigned to students will correspond to a scale number. Calculation of the GPA will take into consideration the number of credits associated with each course, the weight of the course, and the grade received by the student. The grading scale can be seen below:

Grade Scale Chart

Numerical Grade Range	Letter Grade	Non-Weight scale number	Half-Weight scale number	Full-Weight scale number
93-100	A	4.00	4.50	5.00
90-92	A-	3.75	4.25	4.75
87-89	B+	3.25	3.75	4.25
83-86	B	3.00	3.50	4.00
80-82	B-	2.75	3.25	3.75
77-79	C+	2.25	2.75	3.25
70-76	C	2.00	2.50	3.00
67-69	D+	1.25	1.75	2.25
60-66	D	1.00	1.50	2.00
0-59	F	0.00	0.00	0.00

The GPA can be calculated as weighted or unweighted. For the final GPA, MCTS will utilize the weighted GPA.

CALCULATING GPA

Weighted GPA

Determine which types of weighting each of your classes are categorized as (non-weighted, half-weighted, or full-weighted). Match the numerical grade to the corresponding scale number in the Grade Scale Chart. Determine the number of course credits allotted for each course. Multiply the course credits by the scale number for each class to get a final score number for each class. Add all the final score numbers together and divide that number by the total number of credits. This will give you your weighted GPA.

*The current 2023-2024 senior class is weighted out of a 4.0 grading scale. The grading scale above was implemented during the 2023-2024 school year.

Unweighted GPA

Match the numerical grades received in each class to the non-weighted scale number. Determine the number of course credits allotted for each course. Multiply the course credits by the non-weighted scale number for each course to get a final score number per class. Add all of the final score numbers together and divide that number by the total number of credits. This will provide you with your unweighted GPA.

Courses in the various subject areas will be categorized into one of the following levels.

Weighted Levels:	Full-Weighted (AP)	Half-Weighted (Honors)	Non-Weighted
Weight:	5.0	4.5	4.0
Courses:	→ AP Precalculus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → English I, II, III, IV → Algebra I, II → Geometry → Biology → Chemistry → Physics → Spanish II → World History → US History I → US History II → Visual & Performing Arts Seminar → All CTE-related courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Spanish I → Health and PE → Foundations in Personal Finance

GUIDANCE & COUNSELING

Mercer County Technical High School has guidance counselors who are “specialists” in career planning and college admissions requirements. By working with them, students can be assured that the courses they are placed in each year will prepare them for the career goals they have set.

The process for course placement encourages open discussion between students, parents/guardians, counselors, and teachers. Hence, the student is comfortable with his or her schedule, and parents/guardians are assured that their child is prepared for a successful future.

This Program of Studies guide includes the academic and career technical education courses offered for the next school year within each program.

NAVIANCE

Naviance is a comprehensive student-centered life planning service available to all Mercer County Technical High School students. Family Connection empowers the student, family, and counselor to work together in planning for success during and beyond high school. All students can use Family Connection for college searches, career searches, and portfolio building for senior year. All college common applications will be sent electronically through Naviance: Parent Connection. Any student who is not familiar with the program should contact his/her school counselor.