



# ACHIEVE TEXAS

ALIEF ISD COUNSELORS: PROMOTING COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

Healthcare is the largest and fastest-growing industry in the United States. In the Health Science Career Cluster you can prepare for a career that promotes health, wellness and diagnosis, and treats injuries and diseases.

### Sample Occupations:

- ◆ Physician
- ◆ Surgeon
- ◆ Nurse
- ◆ Dentist
- ◆ Medical or public health researcher
- ◆ Medical lab technician
- ◆ Physician's or medical assistant
- ◆ Nursing assistant
- ◆ Dental assistant
- ◆ Transcriptionist
- ◆ Physical therapist
- ◆ Hospital administrator
- ◆ Health unit coordinator
- ◆ Nutritionist or dietician

### 5 Career Pathways within the cluster:

1. Biotechnology research and development
2. Diagnostic services
3. Health informatics
4. Support services
5. Therapeutic services

## Fast-Growing Careers

Occupation	% Growth (2006-2016)	New Jobs (2006-2016)
Personal and Home Care Aides	51.0%	5,190
Home Health Aides	48.0%	4,540
Medical Assistant	35.0%	1,990
Substance Abuse & Behavior Disorder Counselors	34.0%	4,500
Physical Therapist Assistant	32.0%	2,700
Pharmacy Technician	32.0%	1,780
Dental Hygienists	30.0%	8,200
Physical Therapist	27.0%	2,700
Registered Nurse	23.0%	10,010
Pharmacists	22.0%	9,500

*This is a projection of 10 fast-growing careers in health science in Texas from the year 2006 to 2016 and then number of new jobs created in each occupation. Note that while the percentage of growth in jobs may be high, the actual number of jobs created may be low. Source: Texas Workforce Commission.*





### Top-Paying Careers

Occupation	Average Hourly Wages
Physician	\$111.49
Dentist	\$73.82
Chiropractors	\$36.20
Medical and Health Services Manager	\$32.24
Sales Engineers	\$45.24
Pharmacists	\$52.23
Medical Scientist	\$25.97
Physical Therapist	\$37.56
Dental Hygienists	\$32.02
Nurse	\$29.70

This is a chart of hourly wages for 10 of the top-paying careers in the Health Science cluster in Texas. *Source: Texas Workforce Commission.*

#### Health Science— Q & A

1. Which job in the Health Science cluster has the highest projected growth?
2. Which Houston area cancer center treats more than 26,000 patients/year?

#### Health Science —Courses in Alief

HEALTH SCIENCE

- Principles of Health Science
- Health Science Clinical Rotation
- Medical Terminology
- Practicum in Health Science -  
CNA—Certified Nurse Aide  
Pharmacy Technician
- Pathophysiology
- Medical Microbiology
- Anatomy & Physiology



## Required Knowledge and Skills

High schools introduce students to the healthcare field through a coherent sequence of courses.

Career and technical education (CTE) courses can give students a head start, whether they're jumping right into the workplace after graduation or going on to college or medical school.

In some of the CTE Health Science courses, students learn the knowledge and skills necessary for clinical rotations. They then apply these skills in advanced level classes where they spend a few hours each week at medical facilities. They acquire hands-on experience in various areas of the medical facility as well as have the opportunity to interact with professionals and patients.

Many high schools offer related science courses such as anatomy and physiology and pathophysiology/medical microbiology, which can fulfill the fourth-year science graduation requirement.

Even with all of the choices in health science courses, rigorous academic courses still provide the foundation for students' careers. Math and science are going to be the most important classes to take. English is also important for good communication skills. Advanced Placement (AP) math and science classes are also recommended.

Source: Achieve Texas In Action Magazine ([www.achievetexas.org](http://www.achievetexas.org))

For more information on courses in the Health Science cluster in Alief, go to the Achieve Texas Student Career Planner under Students on the Alief homepage ([www.aliefisd.net](http://www.aliefisd.net)).

## Alief Health Science

