Health Professions Academy

Health Professions Overview

According to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, nearly all healthcare occupations are expected to experience “faster than average” or “much faster than average” growth through year 2020. In Nebraska, the Departments of Labor, Economic Development and Education include four health careers in their Top 10 Hottest jobs. Not only are these the some of the hottest jobs in Nebraska, they are also High Wage, High Demand and High Skill careers.

When most people consider careers in the health sciences, doctors and nurses are the top of the list. However, there are many allied health careers that offer livable-sustainable wages and are going unfilled; local employers are desperately looking for health care technicians and health informatics professionals. The Health Professions Career Academy provides students with foundation coursework then offers the student three options. One option is the Nebraska Medicine Health Alliance. Another is the coursework currently available at the Career Center for C.N.A. and EMT certification. The third option will be available at Benson High School and is a survey of allied health careers. Students may have the option to earn up to 22.5 quarter credit hours (5 courses) through Metropolitan Community College which could be applied to the Health Professionals¹ or Health Informatics² programs of study.

Academy Structure

The Health Professions Academy will be one of three optional academies at Benson High School Magnet. Students can choose the Health Professions Academy at any grade level including their 9th grade year. Eligible students will be encouraged to take Medical Biology in the 9th grade, allowing them to take Anatomy & Physiology in the sophomore year. Students who do not take Physical Science in the 8th grade will take Anatomy & Physiology in the junior year.

Work-based Learning Opportunities

Students will have an opportunity to participate in some work-based learning opportunities through the Nebraska Medical Center, Catholic Health Initiatives: Immanuel Hospital (formerly Alegent: Immanuel), local veterinarian offices, and other Benson-based health care providers.