

Becoming a Healthcare Worker



Course Syllabus

COURSE SYLLABUS

2 Credits (30 hours)

What You Will Learn

Healthcare is one of the most essential and fastest-growing career fields in the world. This course introduces students to three major healthcare pathways: physicians, nurses, and dentists, while helping them understand what each role truly requires.

Course Length

This course can be completed during a relaxed 7 week period.

COURSE SYLLABUS

Becoming a Healthcare Worker

Number of Credits: 2 Credits (30 hours)

Objectives

LEARN CONCEPT 1: Healthcare is a calling built on service, science, and human connection. At its core, healthcare is about showing up for people in their most vulnerable moments. Whether it is a doctor diagnosing illness, a nurse providing care, or a dentist restoring confidence, every role exists to improve lives in real, measurable ways.

LEARN CONCEPT 2: There are multiple pathways into healthcare, each requiring dedication and preparation. Becoming a physician, nurse, or dentist follows different educational paths, but all require discipline, long-term commitment, and early preparation. This course helps students understand those pathways clearly.

LEARN CONCEPT 3: Skill, training, and responsibility directly impact human lives. Healthcare professionals make decisions that can save or endanger lives. Proper training, attention to detail, and communication are not optional—they are essential to safe and effective care.

LEARN CONCEPT 4: Preparation starts now, not later. The habits, coursework, and experiences students build in high school shape their future opportunities. Early exposure, volunteering, and academic focus create a strong foundation for success in healthcare careers.

Course Overview

Healthcare is one of the most essential and fastest-growing career fields in the world. This course introduces students to three major healthcare pathways: physicians, nurses, and dentists, while helping them understand what each role truly requires.

From Student to Healthcare Professional

Most students experience healthcare as patients. This course shifts that perspective by helping them understand what it means to provide care, make decisions, and take responsibility for others.

Students will explore real expectations, including the length of education, daily responsibilities, emotional demands, and rewards of each career. The goal is not just awareness, but clarity—so students can decide if this path is right for them.

The 5 Traits of Successful Healthcare Professionals

- **Empathy:** Understanding patient experiences and responding with care
- **Discipline:** Managing rigorous academic and professional demands
- **Attention to Detail:** Preventing errors that could impact patient safety
- **Communication:** Explaining complex information clearly and effectively
- **Resilience:** Staying focused and composed in high-pressure environments

Course Outline

Welcome, Introduction to Healthcare Careers, A Letter to Students

Chapter 1: The World That Heals, Introduction to Healthcare Careers

Chapter 2: The Doctor in the Room, Medical Pathways and Specialties

Chapter 3: The Heart of the Hospital, Nursing Roles and Impact

Chapter 4: The Smile Makers, Dentistry Careers and Opportunities

Chapter 5: Your Roadmap, Education, Certifications, and Preparation

Chapter 6: Resume, Reality, and Reward, Careers, Salaries, and Expectations

Final Project: Your Healthcare Career Reflection

Description of Activities

- Read course chapters and analyze real-world healthcare scenarios
- Watch curated video resources on healthcare careers
- Complete quizzes to reinforce understanding of key concepts
- Participate in class discussions and reflections
- Conduct independent research on healthcare careers
- Complete a final reflective essay and optional presentation

Rubric for Final Assignment

Essay Prompt, Healthcare Career Reflection Essay

After completing all six chapters and both quizzes, students will write a reflective personal essay of 500 to 700 words. The essay prompt is as follows:

"Of the three healthcare careers explored in this course (physician, nurse, and dentist), which one resonates most with you and why? Describe a specific quality, skill, or responsibility from that career that you see in yourself. What would you need to do between now and the end of high school to begin moving in that direction? Be specific, honest, and personal in your response."

Final Project: Healthcare Career Reflection Essay

"My Future in Healthcare"

Write a complete essay addressing ALL FOUR parts below:

Part 1: Career Choice & Personal Connection (150–200 words) Which career—physician, nurse, or dentist—interests you most and why? What personal qualities or experiences connect you to this path?

Part 2: Understanding the Career (150–200 words) Describe the daily responsibilities, required skills, and work environment of your chosen profession. What challenges does this role involve?

Part 3: Preparation and Actions Taken (200–250 words) What steps have you already taken to explore this career? This may include coursework, research, volunteering, or conversations with professionals.

Part 4: Your High School Roadmap (200–250 words) What will you do between now and graduation to prepare? Include specific classes, certifications, extracurriculars, or experiences you plan to pursue.

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Description	Points
Career Choice & Connection	Clear, thoughtful explanation of career interest	20
Understanding the Career	Accurate and detailed description of role and expectations	25
Preparation & Action	Evidence of initiative and real exploration steps	25
Future Roadmap	Specific, realistic, and actionable plan	20
Writing Quality	Organized, clear, and meets length requirements	10
TOTAL		100

Resources

- "Becoming A Healthcare Worker"; Education4Equity Team.
- ChatGPT.org; Claude: <https://chat.ai-pro.org/>; <https://chat.ai-pro.org/>;
- Career Pathway Series: Becoming a Healthcare Worker (Course Text)
- Med School Insiders YouTube Channel (Career Exploration Videos)
- RegisteredNurseRN YouTube Channel (Nursing Education & Careers)
- American Dental Association Career Resources
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (Healthcare Career Data)

- HOSA Future Health Professionals
- American Red Cross (CPR & First Aid Certification)

Instructor: Daniel Hage (Email: Daniel.ed4equity@gmail.com)

How much time does it take to finish this course: This course can be completed during a relaxed 7 week period.