



Exploratory Tasks:

Where will your journey take you?

HEALTH SCIENCE

Do you find health and wellness topics interesting? Are you intrigued by how the body works or what causes diseases? If so, you may find that a career in health sciences is for you. These professionals work in hospitals, clinics, labs and homes to provide a variety of services to maintain and improve the health of their clients.

THERAPEUTIC PATHWAY

Professionals in this pathway treat injuries and illnesses. They work directly with individuals to provide care, treatment, counseling and health education information to improve the quality of life for their patients.

EXPLORATORY TASK: What do **vital signs** measure? What does it reveal about your health? Create a health information pamphlet for patients that explains each of the vital signs. Be sure to include:

- How and why each vital sign is measured
- Normal range of each
- Variations by age group, e.g., children, adults, elderly

EXTENSION: Work with an adult to learn and practice taking one or more of the vital signs.

DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES PATHWAY

Diagnostic services is an umbrella term for careers that use a variety of tools and equipment to perform tests to help detect, diagnose and treat disease and injury.

EXPLORATORY TASK: What structures do doctors see when looking at an X-ray? Find and print both a **labeled skeleton** and an **X-ray image** from the internet. Use the labeled skeleton to identify and label bones on the X-ray.

EXTENSION: What do doctors see when looking at an MRI? Google and print both an **MRI midsagittal brain** and a **labeled midsagittal brain**. Use the labeled brain image to identify structures on the MRI image of the brain.

HEALTH INFORMATICS PATHWAY

This pathway includes professionals who manage health care agencies as well as specialists who are responsible for managing patient data, financial information and computer applications related to health care.



What Is a Career Cluster?

Career Clusters are a way to organize career options. There are **16 Career Clusters** in the National Career Cluster Framework. They are further divided into specific pathways that can lead you to a successful future.

What Are Career Pathways?

Each of the 16 Career Clusters are divided into approximately 80 Career Pathways. The pathways are further divided into specific careers that share similar skills.

A Career Pathway offers a range of entry options, from entry-level positions that require a high school diploma or industry certificate to those that require a professional degree.

EXPLORATORY TASK: Where is the plantar region or the buccal region? To read medical records, one must understand the terminology. Create a poster using medical terms to label body regions. Use a large sheet of paper to draw the outline of a body. Do a Google search to find **medical terms for body regions**. Label the image with the correct medical term.

EXTENSION: Medical terminology uses Greek and Latin word roots, prefixes and suffixes to create precise language. Research the **word roots for body regions** listed on your poster. Notice similarities between the medical term and word root as you add them to the poster.

SUPPORT SERVICES PATHWAY

Support service specialists work to maintain health care facilities, provide services for patients and manage supplies and equipment. This pathway offers career opportunities from the entry level to management positions.

EXPLORATORY TASK: Where do germs live? How are they spread? Create an infographic to show how **germs are spread**. Share with your class.

EXTENSION: Preventing the spread of infection requires a link to be broken in the **Chain of Infection**. Research this term to learn how to slow the spread of infection. Create a presentation to share with your class to help them understand how to stay safe.

BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

Professionals in this pathway conduct bioscience (any of the life sciences) research as it applies to human health. They study diseases to discover new treatments, invent medical devices to use directly with patients or to improve the accuracy of diagnostic tests.

EXPLORATORY TASK: Health care is constantly changing as more is discovered about diseases. Search the **history of medicine timeline**. Create a top 10 list that you consider the most significant discoveries. Include a one or two sentence description of each. Example:

- 1955 – Approval of Jonas Salk’s Polio Vaccine: Polio is a disease that caused paralysis and death in large numbers of people throughout history.

EXTENSION: Why are vaccines used today? Research **recommended vaccines**. Choose one to explore deeper. Write an **investigative report** that describes the disease, including:

- Signs and symptoms
- How it is transmitted
- Rate of infection or how many people were infected
- Prognosis or outcome after infection

How Can I use Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are planning tools to help you prepare for your future career goal. They provide a map of required courses at both the high school and college level.

A pathway also lists opportunities to earn college credit, industry certificates or gain real-world experience while in high school.

What Is an Industry Certificate?

Industry certifications are credentials recognized by business and industry that demonstrate mastery of necessary knowledge and/or skills.

Discover More

Choose a career in one of the pathways to discover:

- Demand for this career
- Location of jobs
- Starting wage
- Education requirements
- High school pathway
 - Classes
 - Dual/articulated credit
 - Industry certificates
 - Work-based learning
- Related careers