



Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences

Fast Facts

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1. What is Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences?

We are a small, early college high school located on the Gaston College campus in Dallas, NC. Our mission is to provide Gaston County students who may have an interest in pursuing a future career in healthcare and/or related fields the opportunity to complete high school graduation requirements while simultaneously working toward earning an associate's degree. ALL AT NO COSTS!

2. Can I apply to attend if I'm not sure if I want to have a career in healthcare?

Two of the four programs we offer, Human Services and Health Information Technology, are designed for students who are seriously considering careers in those fields. The other two program areas, Biotechnology and Nursing, are college transfer programs with more general education courses. Degrees in these programs will provide multiple career options in healthcare as well as related fields. In addition to pursuing their degrees, students will also participate in a variety of community service projects, career awareness activities, field trips, and work-based learning activities which will focus on healthcare and community issues.

3. What is it like attending GECMS?

Our school is housed in one end of the CET building at Gaston College, near the Security Tower. We have 8 classes in that part of the building and a science lab on the 2nd floor. We have 7 teachers who teach high school classes there. We have a cafeteria in the Myers Center where breakfast and lunch are served. School hours are 9:00-3:45. We operate on a different school calendar than the rest of the district, with the school year starting early August and ending the week before Memorial Day. We share buses with GECHS and Highland. Our students have full access to campus buildings and are well-supervised when out and about on campus.

4. What programs are offered at GECMS

[Nursing](#)

[Biotechnology](#)

[Human Services](#)

[Health Information Technology](#)

5. When do I take college classes?

Students begin taking college classes their first semester at GECMS. In the fall of the 9th grade year, students take an 8-week orientation class together on the 2nd floor of our building. The second semester, they take 1-2 college classes, and from 10th grade on, they will continue taking 2-3 college classes each semester until graduation. We work with students to create their class schedules and monitor their progress to ensure they can manage course loads and be successful.



6. How can I become a student at GECMS?

*We enroll 80 ninth graders each year. Students interested in attending must reside in Gaston County and meet all eligibility requirements prior to entering the choice lottery. Eligibility requirements include student grades, standardized assessment data, attendance, and discipline record. Special consideration will be given to 1st generation college students. Prior to being offered admission, students and parents will be required to participate in an interview with school staff in which they will be further questioned on their career goals, work ethic, and rationale for attending GECMS.. **Note: For the 2022-2023 school year only, we are also accepting applications for rising 10th graders to fill 19 open seats.***

7. Do you offer any extra-curricular activities?

Students have access to school sponsored clubs and activities, as well as special activities offered by Gaston College. We do NOT offer interscholastic sports, fine arts programs, JROTC, etc. We are a career and college prep high school, and host guest speakers with careers in the medical field, participate in college and career exploration field trips, and give back to the community through service projects. As our student body and partnership with Caromont and community organizations grows, we will offer job shadowing opportunities.