

Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences

Frequently Asked Questions



1. What is Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences?

We are a small, healthcare-focused high school located on the Gaston College campus designed to address the critical shortage of trained healthcare workers in our area. GEMCS students have the opportunity to complete high school graduation requirements while simultaneously working toward earning an associate degree in preparation for a career in healthcare or similar field.

2. Where is GECMS located?

As mentioned above, GECMS is located at Gaston College. Our high school classrooms and administrative offices are located on the ground floor of the CET building facing the Clock Tower. Our students take high school classes in the CET building and travel to other nearby buildings to take their college classes. Because our students are dually enrolled, they have access to a variety of campus amenities and activities, such as the Morris Library, Academic Support Center, Fitness Center, Student Center, and the Rhino Bookstore. The school cafeteria and vending areas are also located nearby.

3. How much does it cost to attend your school?

We are a Gaston County Schools public high school, so students attend GECMS and are able to take college classes for FREE. They do not even have to pay for college textbooks or fees. Students are responsible for their meals; however, free/reduced meals are available if eligible.

4. Do you provide transportation?

We share buses with Gaston Early College High School and Highland School of Technology. Students needing transportation can expect longer than average bus routes since our schools serve students throughout the entire county.

5. When do classes start?

GECMS students follow an Early College school calendar. Not only do classes begin and finish approximately two (2) weeks earlier than traditional Gaston County high schools, a large percentage of teacher workdays and holiday breaks do not align. So, families with students in multiple schools are encouraged to pay close attention to the differences in the calendars.

6. What's your bell schedule?

Classes begin at 9:00AM and end at 3:40PM. High school classes are 80 minutes five days a week and college classes are 50 - 75 minutes two days a week taught on either Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday. Students enrolled in college science lab classes are required to attend lab one day a week from 1 - 3:40 PM. College classes do not meet on Friday.

7. Do you offer any sports programs or extra curricular activities?

We do not offer high school sports, band, chorus, etc., and students are NOT permitted to play at their home high school.

8. How can I become a student at GECMS?

We are a school of choice and students interested in attending must submit an application during the School Choice Window in January/February. When the application window closes, the GECMS Selection Committee will conduct a holistic review of each applicant, evaluating them for their academic potential and developmental readiness to enroll next school year. A variety of academic and non-academic data will be utilized during the review.

All applicants will be notified of their application status and if they are eligible to enter the lottery. Students will be offered “seats” based on their selected program of study. When a program has reached its capacity, students will be placed on a waitlist. Priority will be given to students who will be the first in their family to attend college. Students must accept their lottery “seats” prior to the deadline in order to be considered for enrollment. Note: The acceptance of a “seat” does not automatically guarantee enrollment. Students must successfully complete 8th grade to be approved for enrollment and transfer to GECMS.

9. What healthcare programs and/or college degrees do you offer?

Our healthcare programs are grouped into three pathways: nursing, biotechnology, and human services. Students should select the program that best aligns with their career goals. If students are uncertain of which program best matches with their interests, they should contact GECMS school counselor or principal for assistance.

Human Services

This program is designed for students considering a career in social work, counseling, community health, etc.

Students entering this program have the opportunity to earn the Human Services Diploma (41 hours) within 4 years or the Associate of Applied Science in Human Services (57 hours) within 5 years.

Along with core courses, students take courses which prepare them for specialization in specific human service areas, such as substance abuse, gerontology, at-risk youth, and mental health. Students may transfer their coursework to a partnering four-year university to pursue a Bachelor Degree.

Associate of Applied Science in Human Services

HS Courses	College Courses
English 9 English 10 English 11 English 12	ENG 111 ENG 112
Math 1 Math 2 Math 3 Math 4	
Earth/Environ Biology Chemistry	BIO 110
World History Civics Amer. History Financial Literacy	PSY 150, 241, 281 SOC 220 PHI 240
Health and PE	ACA 122 HSE 110, 112, 123, 125 HSE 225, 210, 227, 212, 220 SAB 135, DDT 110 GRO 120, OST 137 WBL 111, 115, 121, 125
Spanish I Spanish II	

Nursing

Students enrolling in this program will work toward earning an Associate in General Education in Nursing. This program is also a good option for students interested in other clinical/healthcare careers and/or the Biotechnology program is not a good fit for them.

Students planning to apply to the nursing program at Gaston College or another institution will earn their Nurse Aide 1 certification in the summer of their senior year.

Students will have 4 years to complete the requirements for both high school graduation and the AGE in Nursing. Upon graduation, students may pursue earning their nursing credentials, transfer to a university, or enter the workforce.

AGE in Nursing Degree

HS Courses	College Courses
English 9 English 10 English 12	ENG 111 ENG 112 ENG 231
Math 1 Math 2 Math 3	MAT 152 MAT 171
Earth/Environ Biology Chemistry	BIO 168, 169 BIO 275 BIO 155 CHM 151
World History Civics Amer. History Financial Literacy	PSY 150, 241 SOC 210, 220 ART 111 MUS 110 HIS 111
Health and PE	HEA 110 ACA 122
Spanish I Spanish II	

Biotechnology

Students selecting this program may complete the Biotechnology Diploma (41 hours) or the Associate of Applied Science in Biotechnology (67 hours). This program is perfect for students considering a career in research, medicine, biology, animal science, etc.

Coursework is rigorous, and students must be prepared for multiple courses in advanced math and the sciences, particularly in biology and chemistry.

Students will have four years to complete their high school diploma and the Biotech diploma or AAS. Upon graduation, students are prepared to transfer to a 4-year university to pursue an advanced degree or enter the workforce.

AAS in Biotechnology

English 9, 10, 11, 12	ENG 111,112
Math 1, 2, 3	MAT 152 MAT 171, 172
Earth/Environ Biology Chemistry	BIO 111, 112 BIO 168, 169 BIO 250, 275 CHM 151, 152 BTC 181
World History Civics Amer. History Financial Literacy	PSY 150 SOC 210 PHI 240 ACA 122
Health and PE	HEA 110
Spanish I, II	SPA 111