

South Carolina Health Science Education Program Overview

The South Carolina Health Science Education program prepares high school students with the foundational knowledge and skills essential for success in the healthcare industry. Grounded in the National Health Science Standards, the curriculum integrates academic instruction with technical training, work-based learning, and leadership development to ensure students are college- and career-ready.

Students engage in a comprehensive program of study that includes classroom instruction, hands-on technical skills, and real-world experiences such as job shadowing, internships, and clinical rotations. Through participation in HOSA–Future Health Professionals, students also develop leadership, teamwork, and community service skills while exploring diverse healthcare careers.

Each program is supported by a local advisory committee composed of educators, industry professionals, parents, and community stakeholders who help align instruction with workforce needs and ensure relevance to current healthcare practices. Teachers are certified healthcare professionals who bring real-world experience into the classroom and tailor instruction to meet both state standards and local opportunities.

The curriculum emphasizes eleven core foundation standards, including academic foundations, communications, systems, employability skills, legal responsibilities, ethics, safety practices, teamwork, health maintenance practices, technical skills and information technology in health care. These standards are designed to be broad and adaptable, ensuring students are exposed to a wide range of healthcare pathways rather than a single career track.

With more than 400 health science educators across the state representing a variety of healthcare professions—from nursing and emergency medicine to dental hygiene and sports medicine—South Carolina’s Health Science Education programs offer students a unique and valuable opportunity to explore the healthcare field, gain practical experience, and prepare for post-secondary education or immediate entry into the workforce.