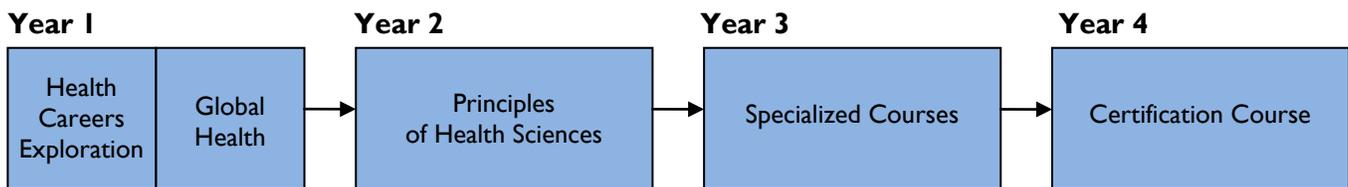


## National Academy Foundation Academy of Health Sciences Curriculum

The National Academy Foundation will work with ConnectEd: The California Center for College & Career, curriculum experts from the Pearson Charitable Foundation, and the initial group of NAF Academies of Health Science to create the curriculum for NAF's newest theme, Health Sciences. This pathway will address science and mathematics in a career context and to prepare students for college and career opportunities in the health care field.

The curriculum will be designed to be delivered in career academies implementing NAF's proven model which includes students cohorted in small learning communities, Advisory Boards and business involvement, and a series of work-based learning experiences. Aligned with NAF's curriculum philosophy, it will be industry vetted, emphasize project-based assignments, and be structured to strengthen students' literacy skills. As with all of NAF's curricula, the Health Sciences will include assessments, teacher professional development and support, units that are designed to be taught across subject areas (integrated units), teacher and student materials (including all readings).

The proposed core Health Sciences curriculum will resemble the following, but may be adjusted in consultation with the new Academies of Health Science and State Departments of Education. NAF has already received a grant from the Aetna Foundation to develop the Year 1 courses below. That work has been initiated. Note that Health Ethics content will be integrated in all of the courses developed by NAF:



### *Year 1: Health Careers Exploration and Global Health*

These two semester-long courses have been developed by ConnectEd for the work with Linked Learning District Initiative. Some slight modifications will be made to align the courses to the NAF model and curriculum philosophy.

### *Year 2: Principles of Health Sciences*

This year-long course has also been developed by ConnectEd, and will form the basis for the following years' more specialized courses. *Principles of Health Sciences* contains thirteen units, and the content covers a spectrum scientific knowledge linked to careers in the field. The units include public health, medical insurance and each of the major human body systems. Several multidisciplinary projects are embedded in the course.

### *Year 3: Specialized Course*

NAF will offer Academies a choice of three specialized courses. NAF has identified six possible options for these courses and will select the three topics with input from Academy of Health Sciences lead funders and pilot academies. The six course options were chosen based on the States' Career Clusters Standards.

*Course Options:*

- Biotechnology: Involves bioscience research and development as it applies to human health. Biotechnologists study diseases to discover new treatments or invent medical devices used to directly assist patients or to improve the accuracy of diagnostic tests.
- Therapeutics: Focused primarily on changing the health status of the patient over time. Health professionals in this field work directly with patients; they provide care, treatment, counseling and health education information.
- Environmental Health Technology and Management: This field provides a therapeutic environment for the delivery of health care. Support Services offers a full range of career opportunities from entry level to management, including technical and professional careers.
- Diagnostics: Diagnosticians use tests and evaluations that aid in the detection, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, injuries or other physical conditions.
- Informatics: This field includes health care administrators who manage health care agencies as well as those individuals who are responsible for managing all of the patient data and information, financial information, and computer applications related to health care processes and procedures.

#### *Year 4: Certification Course*

The Academy of Health Science curriculum will culminate in a course leading to a certification. There are many certificates that students might work towards through the Academy of Health Sciences curriculum. The certification requirements are established in each State, so the plan for NAF is to have local academies select the certificates and develop the curriculum that meet their State requirements. Many of the local community colleges provide certification course that high school students may be able to take as part of early college agreements.