Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills

The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) were adopted in July 2009 for implementation in the fall of 2010. The TEKS are made up of National Career Cluster Standards and Texas Standards.

There are three components that make up the national standards. First, there are the essential knowledge and skills. These are essential knowledge and skills that are common to all careers. It is suggested that these knowledge and skills be learned in the context of a career cluster to provide more meaningful application. Next are the cluster knowledge and skills. These are the skills that pertain to the whole cluster. Finally, there are the pathway knowledge and skills. These are specific to a program of study within the cluster.

The new courses were also aligned with the Texas Standards. First academic foundation standards from English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies/economics were included. Next College and Career Readiness Standards were integrated. Finally, the English Language Proficiency (ELPS) were included.

The CTE Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills were developed with input from postsecondary and business and industry partners.

Within the TEKS document, is a broad knowledge and skills statement. It is identified by a number. The student expectations are identified by a capital letter. These are the measurable expectations that are used when planning instruction.

There are eight health science courses at the high school level. The cluster courses begin with a foundation course known as a principles course. This course lays the foundation for the remaining cluster courses. The principles course contains both essential and cluster knowledge and skills. The remaining courses contain essential, cluster, and pathway knowledge and skills. The pathway knowledge and skills are specific to a pathway or a program of study. Courses in the Health Science Career Cluster for Texas:

- Principles of Health Science (1/2 – 1 credit)
- Health Science (1-2 credits)
- Practicum in Health Science (2-3 credits)
- Medical Terminology (1/2 credit)
- World Health Research (1 credit)
- Anatomy and Physiology (1 credit)
- Medical Microbiology (1/2 – 1 credit)
- Pathophysiology (1/2 – 1 credit)

Additional courses that can be used in a health science program of study:

- Problems and Solutions (1/2 – 1 credit)
- Entrepreneurship (1/2 – 1 credit)
- Professional Communications (1/2 – 1 credit)
- Scientific Research and Design (1 credit)
- Forensic Science (1 credit)
- Advanced Biotechnology (1 credit)
- Lifetime Nutrition and Wellness (1/2 – 1 credit)
- Counseling and Mental Health (1 – 2 credits)

As well as the following innovative course opportunities:

- Principles of Biomedical Sciences (PLTW) (1 credit)
- Human Body Systems (PLTW) (1 credit)
- Medical Biotechnology (1/2 – 1 credit)