

NAME _____

DATE _____

PERIOD _____

Three careers, one evidence basis

All pay figures below are **May 2024 U.S. median annual wages**, not starting pay and not DFW-local wages. Outlook figures are national projections for **2024-2034**. Use the source and date when you cite a number.

CAREER	WHAT THE WORKER DOES	TYPICAL ENTRY EDUCATION	2024 U.S. MEDIAN	2024-34 OUTLOOK	OPENINGS EACH YEAR
Bioengineer or Biomedical Engineer	Combines engineering and science to design devices, equipment, computer systems, or software	Bachelor's degree; some jobs require graduate study	\$106,950	5% growth	About 1,300
Epidemiologist	Investigates patterns and causes of disease and injury in groups of people	Master's degree	\$83,980	16% growth	About 800
Medical Scientist	Conducts research aimed at improving human health	Doctoral or professional degree	\$100,590	9% growth	About 9,600

READ THE EVIDENCE CAREFULLY

- **Median** means half of workers earn more and half earn less. It does not mean a new worker starts at that amount.
- **Percent growth** tells how fast the occupation is expected to change.
- **Openings each year** includes growth and replacement openings. A high growth rate can still describe a small occupation.
- A career assessment, favorite, or salary number is information to investigate. It is not a promise or a verdict.

QUICK COMPARISON

1. Which career has the highest median? _____
2. Which has the fastest projected growth? _____
3. Which has the most projected openings each year? _____

Local pathway and source record

Irving ISD's current public CTE site lists **Biomedical Science at Irving High School**. That high-school program can build experience with science and biomedical problem-solving. It does not replace the college or graduate education listed for these three occupations.

Labor-market source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics occupation pages for Bioengineers and Biomedical Engineers, Epidemiologists, and Medical Scientists. Pay is May 2024; outlook and openings are 2024-34.

Local-program source: Irving ISD, Irving High School CTE page, checked August 2026. It supports only the current public program name and campus.

EXPLAIN THE COMPARISON

Why are the highest median, fastest growth, and most openings not the same career?

Make an evidence-based choice

Choose one career from the table for a fictional student who wants to help improve health.

My choice: _____

One daily-work reason: _____

One education trade-off: _____

One labor-market fact with source and date: _____

This career fits the student's goal because _____
