



Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) and the George Washington University (GW) School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) are forging new ground through a strategic public-private collaboration that provides innovative education for high-demand health care professional careers.

The Governor's Health Sciences Academy at T.C. Williams High School allows students to start a career pathway in health care and earn college credits while addressing a health care workforce shortage in the region.

Seven Pathways to High-Demand, Health Care Careers

Academy students can earn up to 18 college credits from GW SMHS. This approach will significantly reduce the amount of time and money needed to graduate from college. It also provides students with various high-skill and high-demand career options in health care upon high school graduation.

Students can choose between seven career pathways:

- Biomedical informatics
- Emergency Medical Services
- Medical Laboratory Sciences
- Nursing
- Pharmacy
- Sports Medicine
- Surgical Technology

Governor's Recognition

In June 2018, the Academy was designated a Governor's Health Sciences Academy by the Commonwealth of Virginia (through the Virginia Department of Education) in recognition of its goals to:

- Maximize opportunities in preparing students for targeted careers
- Raise career aspirations
- Attract more students to postsecondary education
- Meet workforce needs

Providing Students with Options

Academy students can pursue the following options after graduation:

- Attain employment immediately into entry-level health care careers
- Matriculate into a community college to attain an associate's degree
- Transfer into GW SMHS through a guaranteed admissions agreement with college credits toward earning a bachelor's degree. Students who choose to complete their health sciences degree or enroll in professional programs at GW SMHS will be eligible for scholarships, summer training stipends, and special academic enrichments programs.
- Enter a bachelor-completion program at GW in partnership with select community colleges in Virginia and Maryland.

U.S. Health Services and Resource Administration Grant

The Academy is a key component of a \$3.2 million grant awarded to Health Sciences faculty in September 2018 by the U.S. Health Services and Resource Administration. The grant funds facilitate development of a Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) at GW, which is designed to help individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds make their way through the educational pipeline and enter a health profession. HCOP includes financial support for stipends and scholarships for HCOP ambassador students, who participate with structured enrichment programs. The five-year grant supports students in high school grades 11-12, undergraduate, graduate and military-affiliated programs.

Alexandria City Public Schools serves more than 15,000 students who hail from more than 118 countries and speak 120 languages. The school system has 16 schools, including 12 elementary schools, two middle schools, one preK-8 school, and the internationally recognized T.C. Williams High School. With more than 4,000 students, T.C. Williams is one of the largest high schools in Virginia. The school draws from a population that is economically, educationally, racially, and ethnically diverse. The Governor's Academy inaugural class of 100 ninth graders is representative of T.C. Williams' diverse population.

ACPS is committed to ensuring that each and every student succeeds, which is articulated in the system's mission: "Every student succeeds: Educating lifelong learners and inspiring civic responsibility."

Founded in 1824, the GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) was the first medical school established in Washington, D.C., and is the 11th oldest in the country. Working together in our nation's capital, with integrity and resolve, GW SMHS is committed to improving the health and well-being of our local, national, and global communities.

Health Sciences is an innovative and dynamic educational and research division within SMHS, where the nation's next generation of leaders are being trained in physical therapy, rehabilitation sciences, physician assistant studies, medical laboratory sciences, health care quality, regulatory affairs, clinical and disaster relief operations, clinical and translational research, and numerous other health-related disciplines. There are more than 45 programs and degrees at the associate's, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels offered in the Health Sciences. Graduate certificate, dual degree, joint, and military-affiliated programs as well as fellowships, residencies, and post-baccalaureate certificates are offered.



Health care jobs are projected to grow 18 percent through 2026, adding about 2.3 million new positions nationwide – more than any other occupational group

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

"My grandfather suffered from lung cancer, so I'd already thought about doing something connected to lung cancer. In taking a program like this, I think I can help people in the long run ...I want to be a pulmonologist because I can see how this work can dramatically change someone's life for the better."

ACADEMY STUDENT MYA LOPEZ

"I really like the program because it maps out potential career paths for you. My sister, who is 21, is roughly in the same place as me as I head into ninth grade. The program is really cool because you're already ahead."

**ACADEMY STUDENT
ERIN HOWARD**