



## Wichita West High School, Wichita, Kansas

By Allyson Fowler, Kansas HOSA Secretary  
Miesha Brison, Kansas HOSA Vice-President  
Skyla Jordan, Kansas HOSA Historian

# THE HEALTH EDUCATION PROCESS

**A**t Wichita West High School in Wichita, Kansas, there are many different opportunities to become part of HOSA and other health science related activities.

Our school has five different academies, of which Health Science and Early Childhood Education is the largest. In addition, there are academies for Fine Arts and Communications, Engineering and Manufacturing, Business and Hospitality, and the Freshman Success Academy. These programs all have special classes associated with them.

Starting as freshmen, we are part of the Freshman Success Academy, during which we go through some basic classes that get us ready to start high school and help us to succeed in school and in life. Beginning with the second semester of our freshman year, we choose the academy and strand in which we want to participate.

Our Health Academy is the largest and probably one of the best programs offered in any high school. You must be a part of the Health Academy to be a part of HOSA. There might be exceptions if someone is in two academies; but most of Wichita West's HOSA Chapter members are in the Health Technology Academy.

The choices of strands in the Health Academy include Early Childhood Education, Mental Health, and Health

Technology, and there are specialty classes that must be completed in order to graduate from each particular strand of the academy.

I choose the Health Technology strand; and as a sophomore, I took Health Tech 1, which is designed to expose students to the opportunities in the therapeutic, diagnostic, environmental, information, and biotechnology areas of the healthcare industry. The class focuses on exploration of careers, ethical and legal responsibilities, effective communication, and medical terminology and disease processes as they relate to the body systems. Students also learn skills for taking vital signs and for becoming certified in CPR/First Aid.

As a junior, we focus a lot more on medical terminology and preparing to shadow at Wesley Hospital in Wichita. At Wesley, we are allowed to shadow in almost any department; however, for some departments, students must seek special permission. In senior year, our last class of each day is set aside for either a CNA/HHA (Certified Nursing Assistant/Home Health Aide) class, taught by Wichita Area Technical College for college credit, or an EMT- B (Emergency Medical Technician – Basic) class, taught by Hutchison Community College. Both of these classes provide an excellent experience and great way to get your foot in the door for a career in healthcare.



Allyson Fowler



Miesha Brison



Skyla Jordan