

# Medical Assistant HOSA Members Enjoy Unique Clinical Opportunities

*By Maggie Blackwood, WV HOSA State Reporter*

The post secondary Medical Office Assistant students of Ben Franklin Career Center's HOSA chapter participate in a unique clinical experience. Each year, the students participate in a clinical rotation at the West Virginia Police Academy which is located in Dunbar, West Virginia. Ben Franklin Career Center is fortunate to be located in the same community.

At the Academy, the new state police cadets receive their initial physical by the Academy physician, Dr. Marsha Bailey. They are then required to receive a biannual physical until the age of forty. When they reach the age of forty, the state police troopers are required to have annual physicals with an EKG.

Beginning in February of each year, the students go to the West Virginia Police Academy located ten minutes from the Ben Franklin Career Center campus. They assist the physician and the registered nurse, Margie Bolyard, with the state troopers' physical examinations. Tina Nolen, Medical Office Assistant instructor, says her students receive an experience that many other schools are not able to offer. The students are able to complete 60 of their 180 required clinical hours in this unique medical setting.

The students perform a variety of procedures with the troopers including spirometry, body fat, audiometry, vital signs, and EKG. This is one way our students are able to give back to the community as well as enhance their clinical experience.



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