The Health Careers Academy at Lake Nona High School is a small learning community with selected students who engage in classes and activities that will prepare them for a career in the health care industry.

Students will have a mix of career and academic classes. The classes meet entrance requirements for four-year colleges and universities. They are linked to academic and industry standards and encourage high achievement.

The career classes develop knowledge in a given field. Special projects require students to bring together academic skills across their subjects and apply these to community and work settings outside the school.

Students will also be provided with college and career counseling, forming a post-graduate plan which may include college, a mixture of work and college, or full-time work.

Contact:
Shari Bowers, RN
Health Careers Academy Instructor
shari.bowers@ocps.net
407-956-8300 x6172528

Mr. Patrick Durbin
Career Specialist
patrick.durbin@ocps.net
407-956-8300 x6178807
The Lake Nona High School Health Careers Academy is designed to prepare motivated students for a future in the expanding fields of health care related careers. This program provides students with the education and hands-on training skills that can lead to certifications and college credit in three career pathways: Certification, Technical, and Research.

Potential students must complete an application by the required deadline and pass Medical Skills and Services in 8th or 9th grade. Academy students must have and maintain a 2.5 unweighted GPA and an FCAT R/M Level 2 or higher.

**Certification Pathway**

Our certification pathway is designed for students who are interested in earning industry certification in a health care field. Our facilities include a 3,755 sf health lab furnished by Florida Hospital East. Within this lab, there are five simulated hospital rooms, a collaborative work space area, and a 30 station computer lab for research and online coursework. This is a four year career track that allows students the opportunity to earn industry certification.

**Research Pathway**

Our research track will provide opportunities for those students interested in earning both undergraduate and graduate degrees in medicine. Through our partnership with Valencia College, we have developed a sequence of study that combines honors, advanced placement and Dual Enrollment courses allowing students to earn credit towards an AA degree while still enrolled in high school.

**Technical Pathway**

Our Technical Health Career Pathway has been developed through a partnership with OCPS’s Technical Schools. This is a career track that allows students the opportunity to focus on health related careers and earn industry certification as a Patient Care Technician, Pharmacy Technician, Emergency Medical Responder and many others by the time they finish high school.

**Course Sequence**

Grade 9: Medical Skills and Services or Health Science 1
Grade 10: Health Science 1 or Health Science 2
   After completing HS2, choose specific pathway:
   Certification: Sign up for Allied Health Assisting
   Technical: Apply to programs at OCPS Technical Schools
   Research: Apply to Valencia dual enrollment and sign up for VCC courses
Grade 11: Courses based on pathway
Grade 12: Courses based on pathway