

# Helping with Healing



Ashley Street is proof that careers can truly begin in high school.

While still a senior at Chantilly Academy, Ashley began working at a doctor's office (thanks to a lead from her medical health technologies teacher). "The skills I acquired from those courses greatly helped me to perform my duties on the job," Ashley recalls.

After graduation, she continued her healthcare studies with a four-year degree program in exercise science—but she still appreciates her high school courses for laying the groundwork for her career.

"The medical health technologies classes I took in high school gave me the skills and the knowledge I needed to begin working in the medical field. These classes also helped me to make an informed choice as to what I wanted to study after high school."

## **ASHLEY STREET** **Receptionist & Medical Assistant/Student**

**High School:** Chantilly Academy/Herndon High School

**CTE Programs Studied:** Medical Health Technologies I & II

**Additional Studies/Training:** George Mason University (Exercise Science), University of Alabama (Nutrition)

## Medical Assistant

A medical assistant's duties could be either clerical or clinical in nature – or some combination of both. Tasks may range from helping with scheduling, billing and records, to drawing blood, changing bandages, and performing routine patient tests.

## Electives to take in high school

- Accounting
- Biology
- Medical Health Technologies I & II
- Office Administration

## What to study after high school

Medical practices typically prefer to hire graduates of recognized medical assistant programs (offered at many colleges/universities, and at some technical centers/high schools). Some programs are one-year studies, while others cover two years and result in a degree. While medical assistants are not licensed, some employers may require applicants to pass a national certification exam from the American Association of Medical Assistants or some other certifying organization.