

Raleigh County Health Sciences & Technology Academy (HSTA)

MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. WHAT IS HSTA?

HSTA, the Health Sciences & Technology Academy, is a health, science, technology, math program headquartered in the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center of West Virginia University with regional offices across the state to provide academic enrichment and orientation to careers in the health sciences for students in grades 9 - 12.

2. WHY DOES HSTA EXIST?

West Virginia, like many other states, has a severe shortage of health professionals such as doctors, nurses, forensic pathologists, x-ray technicians, and physical therapists, as well as scientists and science educators. HSTA offers educational activities designed to improve academic skills and increase students' chances of success in college. HSTA's goal is to increase the number of high school students from rural communities who pursue health and science related careers and return to provide services in their communities.

3. WHAT TYPE OF ACTIVITIES DO THE STUDENTS DO?

- Students attend weekly, after-school meetings, which usually last 1 1/2 - 2 hours per week during their four years of high school.
- Students complete and present a yearly science project at the HSTA Science Symposium in the spring.
- Students have the opportunity of attending a free, 1 - 3 weeks Summer Institute, at a state college or university, each summer.
- Students take sciences, technology and health-related field trips.
- All HSTA students must complete 75 hours of community service work by late winter of their senior year in high school. The final acceptable date will be determined by the HSTA Local Governing Board.

4. HOW MUCH DOES THIS COST?

All activities including summer camps on college campuses are free to all HSTA students.

5. WHAT IS EXPECTED OF A STUDENT WHO JOINS HSTA?

- Attendance of at least 70% of the HSTA meetings and activities.
- Keep good grades (at least a 2.5 GPA your 9th grade year and at least 3.0 for grades 10-12).
- Stay out of trouble in school (HSTA students are required to be above average in behavior as well as grades).
- Preparation and presentation of a yearly science project.
- Within the four years, attend at least two of the summer camps held each July.
- 75 hours of volunteer work in the community (a local hospital, church, school, etc.).

6. WHAT IF A STUDENT DECIDES THEY DON'T WANT TO STAY IN HSTA?

If a student decides they no longer want to participate in the program, they may resign, and forfeit any chance of gaining a HSTA Tuition Waiver to WV sponsored colleges and universities.