Washington will soon be home to a Health Science Academy of Innovation for the juniors and seniors attending Washington High School, thanks to a partnership between Mercy Hospital Washington and the Washington School District. The program’s intent is to prepare students for success in college or a career in health care.

The school will offer two elective courses during the 2018-2019 school year: Medical Intervention and Biomedical Innovation. The classes will be held on the hospital campus and medical professionals will collaborate with the instructors to enhance the curriculum, which is designed by Summit Technology Academy. Students will be required to wear scrubs as they will be exposed to high-demand areas replicating the work environment.

In Medical Interventions (during the fall semester), students investigate the variety of interventions involved in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease as they follow the lives of a fictitious family. Students conduct experiments while exploring how to prevent and fight infection, how to screen and evaluate the code in human DNA, how to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer and how to prevail when the organs of the body begin to fail. Students are exposed to a wide range of interventions related to immunology, surgery, genetics, pharmacology, medical devices and diagnostics.

Biomedical Innovation (during the spring semester) is a capstone course where students design and conduct experiments related to the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease or illness. They apply their prior knowledge and skills to solve problems related to biomedical science. Students may work with a mentor or advisor from a university, hospital or physician’s office as they complete an independent research project. Other course topics include: problems in emergency medicine, forensic autopsy, human anatomy and physiology, molecular biology, epidemiology and water quality.

Mercy Hospital is hopeful these classes will steer more students into health care careers as well as provide an understanding of current health needs in their own community.