Brandi Haycraft, a Clinical Assistant student at Spencerian College, had the opportunity to put her classroom learning to work in a real world life and death situation.

Brandi recently had her CPR check offs in her health and safety class. She was a little nervous, but she passed. Little did she know how soon she would need those skills.

While at work that same evening, Brandi was called upon to assist an elderly lady who had collapsed. Using her newly acquired skills, Brandi determined that the lady had a pulse, but wasn’t breathing. Brandi began rescue breathing, but after one cycle, the woman’s pulse also was gone.

Brandi initiated CPR, which she continued until EMS arrived on the scene. Even then, however, her work was still not done. She was asked to ride along in the ambulance and continue administering CPR en route to the hospital.

“This is the first time I’ve been in an emergency situation like this,” Brandi said. Was she nervous about the incident? “I was more nervous about riding in the ambulance than doing the CPR,” she calmly stated afterwards.

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A Real Life Saver

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Thanks to Brandi's quick thinking and use of her newly learned skills, the patient survived.

The lesson in all of this? Take your class work seriously. You never know when you might be called upon to assist in a crisis.

At right, Clinical Assistant student Brandi Haycraft demonstrates the CPR techniques she used while assisting a woman who had collapsed (this photo was taken later in one of Spencerian College's medical and nursing laboratories).