HCA – Health Care Assistant

Health and Human Services

Effective Term & Year: Fall 2023
Program Outline Review Date: 2028-03-01

Program Area: Health

Description:

The Health Care Assistant Program is designed to provide students with opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to function effectively as front-line care providers and be a respected member of the health care team in both community and facility settings.

Under the direction and supervision of a health professional, graduates provide person-centered care aimed at promoting and maintaining the physical, emotional, cognitive and social well-being of clients/residents.

Upon completion of the program, graduates receive a Health Care Assistant certificate. The graduates are prepared to work in many settings including home support, assisted living, long term care, complex care, special care units, other home and community care settings and acute care.

Program Information:

The Health Care Assistant program follows the 2015 HCA Provincial curriculum.

The HCA Provincial curriculum (2015) is an updated document building on the 2008 provincial curriculum. Since 2008, the working environments of HCAs have continued to evolve as the complexity of client populations has continued to increase. More HCAs are being employed in acute care settings and they are providing care for more acute clients than in the past. The curriculum incorporates the basic competencies and practice standards required by the HCA as identified in the BC Health Care Assistants Core Competency Profile, March 2014.

Credentials Granted:

Health Care Assistant Certificate

Minimum Course Grade: A minimum grade of B-

Program Average: A minimum program grade point average of 2.0/10 (C- average)

Delivery Methods: Blended (Hybrid)

Credits: 35

Instructional Activity and Hours:

Activity	Hours
Classroom, Directed Studies or Online Instruction	355
Seminar/Tutorials	
Laboratory/Studio	120
Practicum/Field Experience	60
Co-op/Work Experience	
Other	270
Total	805

Admission Requirements:

- Complete all of the following
  - Grade 10 or Adult Basic Education Intermediate Level Certificate or equivalent.
  - Earned a minimum grade of C (60%) in at least 1 of the following:
    - CMPS 10 – Composition 10
    - LTST 10 – Literary Studies 10
    - SPLG 10 – Spoken Language 10
    - EFLS 10 – EFP Literary Studies 10
    - EFWR 10 – EFP Writing 10
    - EFSL 10 – EFP Spoken Language 10
    - ENGL070 – English Intermediate Level
  - Earned a minimum grade of C (60%) in at least 1 of the following:
    - FMP 10 – Foundations of Mathematics and Pre-Calculus 10
    - MATH070 – Mathematics Intermediate Level (Algebraic)

Recommended Admission Requirements:

English Language Proficiency Requirements

- Applicants whose first language is not English will be required to take a standardized proficiency assessment per BC Health Care Assistant (HCA) Programs English Language Competency Requirements – http://www.cachwr.bc.ca/storage/2023/11/English-Language-Competency_HCA-Pro.pdf
- It is the applicant's responsibility to arrange this assessment through Student Services or an Education Advisor at the College

Non-Academic Admission Requirements:

- Core Competency Profile Declaration
- Criminal Record Check (CRC) through the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
- English Competency Self-Declaration
- Notice of Collection, Use and Disclosure Agreement

Practicum Requirements

- CPR Level C certification, current for the duration of the program. Acceptable CPR courses must include a face-to-face component and may be combined with a first aid course
- One of the following first aid certifications:

St. John Ambulance Standard First Aid	Workplace Emergency First Aid
St. John Ambulance Emergency First Aid	Red Cross Standard First Aid
Lifesaving Society Emergency First Aid	Emergency Medical Responder
Lifesaving Standard First Aid	Primary Care Paramedic
Occupational First Aid Level 1, 2 or 3	Advanced Care Paramedic
Red Cross Emergency First Aid BC	Critical Care Paramedic

- Foodsafe Level 1 certificate
- BCCDC Immunizations for BC Health Care Workers
- COVID-19 Vaccination
- Negative TB testing results. Must be completed no earlier than 8 months before beginning of the HCA Program
- Computer literacy is recommended

Program Completion Requirements:

Health Care Assistant Program
35 Total Credits

- Complete all of the following
  Term 1
  - Completed the following:
    - HCA101 – Health and Healing: Concepts for Practice (4)
    - HCA102 – Health Care Assistance: Introduction to Practice (3)
    - HCA103 – Health 1: Interpersonal Communications (3)
    - HCA104 – Health 2: Lifestyle and Choices (3)

- HCA105 – Healing 1: Caring for Individuals Experiencing Common Health Challenges (4)
- HCA106 – Healing 2: Caring for Individuals Experiencing Cognitive Or Mental Challenges (4)
- HCA107 – Healing 3: Personal Care and Assistance (4)

Term 2

- Completed the following:
  - HCA108 – Practice Education Experience in Home Support, Assisted Living and/or Group Homes (4)
  - HCA109 – Practice Education Experience in Multi- Level/Complex Care (6)

Grand Total Credits: 35

Program Completion Requirements Notes:

A grade of "D" grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

Flexible Assessment: No

Program Transfer Credit:

For information about block transfer agreements between programs in British Columbia, Alberta, and elsewhere, please visit http://www.cotr.bc.ca/transfer.

To minimize transfer issues, check with an academic advisor at the institution that will receive the transfer credits.

Academic Policies:

College of the Rockies policies related to courses can be found at https://cotr.bc.ca/about-us/college-policies/ and include the following:

- Policy 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
- Policy 2.4.4 Student Conduct (plagiarism, other cheating, behavioral misconduct)
- Policy 2.4.8 Academic Performance

- Policy 2.5.3 Grade Appeal
- Policy 2.4.9 Student Concerns Re Faculty

Program Changes:

Information contained in this program outline is correct at the time of publication. Courses and course content may be revised from time to time based on changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The timetable may also be revised.

Course Descriptions: Refer to Course Outlines – https://outlines.cotr.bc.ca/course/