HCA – Health Care Assistant

Health and Human Services

Effective Term & Year: Fall 2025
Program Outline Review Date: 2030-03-01

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 caregivers and be a respected member of the health care team. Under the direction and supervision of a regulated health professional, graduates provide person-centered care aimed at promoting and maintaining the physical, psychological, cognitive, social and spiritual health and well-being of clients and families.

Upon completion of the program, graduates are prepared to work in a variety of practice settings, including home support, assisted living, group homes, complex care, special care units, other home and community care settings and acute care.

Program Information:

The Health Care Assistant program follows the 2023 HCA Provincial curriculum. The HCA Provincial curriculum (2023) is an updated document building on the 2008 and 2015 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 includes information about the values, beliefs, and principles fundamental to the practice of the HCA, as well as foundational principles and concepts required for practice.

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
  - Proof of Grade 10 completion (or equivalent) or mature student status
  - 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:
    - WPM 10 – Workplace Mathematics 10
    - FMP 10 – Foundations of Mathematics and Pre-Calculus 10
    - MATH070 – Mathematics Intermediate Level (Algebraic)
    - MATH072 – Mathematics Intermediate Level (Developmental)

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 Refer to the BC Care Aide and Community Health Worker Registry site for details – https://www.cachwr.bc.ca/resources/pdf/English-Language-Proficiency-Tests_RegistryApplicants.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
    - HCA students provide care to vulnerable clients in the practice education portion of the program and a clear police certificate from the country of origin is required prior to acceptance into the HCA Program. This applies to all international HCA program applicants, including those currently residing in Canada.
- English Competency Self-Declaration
- Notice of Collection, Use and Disclosure Agreement
- Computer Literacy Recommended.

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
- Annual influenza immunization
- COVID-19 Vaccination
- Negative TB testing results. Must be completed no earlier than 8 months before beginning of the HCA Program
- Completion of the Student Practice Education Core Orientation (SPECO) -available on Learning Hub
- Completion of Health Care Assistant Practice in BC -E Learning Module (Learning Hub)
- Completion of Recognizing and Responding to Adult Abuse (Learning Hub)

Program Completion Requirements:

Health Care Assistant Program

35 Total Credits

- Complete all of the following

  Term 1
  - Completed the following:
    - HCA101 – Concepts for Practice (4)
    - HCA102 – Introduction to Practice (3)
    - HCA103 – Interpersonal Communications (3)
    - HCA104 – Lifestyle and Choices (3)
    - HCA105 – Common Health Challenges (4)
    - HCA106 – Cognitive and/or Mental Health Challenges (4)
    - HCA107 – 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

Prior Learning and Recognition: 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 2.1.4 Course Audit
- Policy 2.4.1 Credential Framework

- Policy 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
- Policy 2.4.4 Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct
- Policy 2.4.8 Academic Performance
- Policy 2.4.9 Student Feedback and Concerns
- Policy 2.4.11 Storage of Academic Works
- Policy 2.5.3 Student Appeal
- Policy 2.5.5 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

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/