

Health Programs

Health Care Assistant

Note: The Health Care Assistant program was formerly called the Home Support Resident Care program.

Offered at the Nanaimo, Cowichan and Powell River campuses.

24-week Certificate Program

Fee Category: VII

The Program

This program is designed to provide students with the theory and skills required to become a caregiver. The major focus is in providing care for people experiencing changes in their functional abilities. This program is offered full-time.

A free information session for prospective students is usually held in April. Check with the Advising Centre for more details, 250-740-6410, or visit viu.ca/infosessions.

Career Opportunities

The program prepares students for employment in complex care facilities, extended care units, home support agencies and residential settings. Graduates will work primarily with the elderly..

Start Date and Application Deadline

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. Usual start dates for Nanaimo are September and February. Start dates may vary at the Cowichan and Powell River campuses.

Admission Requirements

- General admission requirements apply.
- English 12 or equivalent, or English placement test at the Grade 12 level.
- Completion of a Home Support/Resident Care Personal Profile form.
- Interview with program faculty.
- Foodsafe Level I certificate (Contact the Centre for Continuing Studies at 250- 740-6160 or email: ccs@viu.ca for information on Foodsafe course offerings).

Apply for Admission Online or Print Application Form

Recommendation for Admission

- All prospective applicants are strongly advised to attend the scheduled **information session**.

Notes on Admission

- A criminal record check will be required for some agencies/facilities.
- All admission requirements must be completed and submitted to the Registration Centre before an application will be processed.
- CPR Level "C". A completed Immunization Requirements Form is required for the **first day** of classes.
- Proof of W.H.M.I.S. training is required for the **first day** of classes (see Note below).
- Students with back problems or an inability to work freely in confined spaces may have difficulty meeting the physical demands of this profession.

Note: W.H.M.I.S. training is offered through VIU's Centre for Continuing Studies:

- Nanaimo/Parksville Campus
- Cowichan Campus
- Powell River Campus

Recommended Personal Characteristics

Before applying for this program, students should learn as much as possible about this career. We encourage students to volunteer in a health care facility to familiarize themselves with the role of the HS/RCA. The following traits are critical for student success:

- sensitivity to the needs of others;
- ability to move freely in confined spaces;
- ability to speak confidently with people of all ages;
- ability to pay close attention to detail;
- ability to work quickly with accuracy and efficiency;
- ability to manage time effectively and handle responsibility;
- ability to problem-solve effectively in a limited time span;
- excellent oral and personal hygiene;
- willingness to show commitment to program by regular attendance;
- ability to be punctual on a consistent basis;
- ability to participate in own learning by displaying preparedness for class and clinical settings;
- ability to perform basic home management and cooking skills.

Special Expenses

Students should be aware of the following additional expenses:

- Printed materials: \$100;
- Transfer belt: \$55;
- Uniforms, Shoes: cost varies;
- Travel expenses to clinical agencies.

Note: Expenses shown are approximate costs and subject to change.

Program Outline

Phase 1*
HCAS 101T - (Health: Interpersonal Communications)
HCAS 102T - (Health: Lifestyle and Choices)
HCAS 103T - (Health Care Assistant: Introduction to Practice)
HCAS 104T - (Health and Healing: Concepts of Growth and Development)
HCAS 105T - (Healing: Common Health Challenges)
HCAS 106T - (Healing: Cognitive or Mental Challenges)
HCAS 107T - (Healing: Personal Care and Assistance)
HCAS 111T - (Practice Experience I)
Phase 2**
HCAS 121T - (Practice Experience II)
Phase 3
HCAS 131T - (Practice Experience III)

* Phase I courses must be successfully completed prior to starting Phase II.

** Phase II course must be successfully completed prior to starting Phase III.

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