

Health Programs

Activity Assistant

- **4 Month Part-Time Certificate Program**
- **Tuition Fees: \$1995.00 plus Student and Activity Fees**
- **Apply for Admission: Application form**

The Program

This part-time program is designed to provide post-basic training for individuals with previous Home Support/Resident Care Attendant (HS/RCA) training and experience. Graduates will be prepared to work as Activity Assistants in a variety of settings.

Program Content

Building on the HS/RCA Program, students will explore the theory and skills necessary to work as an Activity Assistant. Students are introduced to activity as a part of life that influences, and is influenced by health, age, interests, values, and environment.

The program consists of classroom instruction and practicum experience. Topics include:

- A framework for the Activity Assistant role
- Activity for well-being
- Programming ideas for clients with cognitive impairment
- Practicum

Note: Some program revisions are anticipated, subject to Education Council approval. *Attend a free information session for current program information.*

Course Delivery

Courses are offered on a part-time basis. The classroom component is typically scheduled on a weeknight and Saturdays. The practicum component is scheduled on an individual basis, reflecting the requirements of the practicum site and student.

Career Opportunities

The Activity Assistant Program provides students with opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills and values necessary to plan and implement individual and group activities for older adults in intermediate and extended care facilities and community settings. The graduate is prepared to function under the direction of an appropriate health care professional and to work collaboratively with other team members, families and volunteers.

Admission Requirements

- Current Home Support/Resident Care Attendant (HS/RCA) Program Certificate from an approved post-secondary institution, or equivalent standing through prior learning assessment;

- Proof of employment as an HS/RCA within the last 4 years;
- Completed Immunization Requirements form.

Note: *This program is not eligible for student loans.*

Notes on Admission

- Attendance at the free information session is highly recommended.
- Prior to starting the practicum placements, students must submit documentation of the following:
 - A clear Criminal Record check;
 - Current CPR C Certificate;
 - 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).

Note: Many employers require a Class IV Driver's License and a minimum of 1 year related work experience.

Start Date and Application Deadline

The program starts in September. For further information regarding application dates, program contacts, and scheduled information sessions check the Program Availability List.

Program Outline

Courses
ACTA 100T - (Framework for Activity Assistant Role)
ACTA 101T - (Activity for Well-Being)
ACTA 102T - (Programming Ideas for Clients with Cognitive Impairment)
ACTA 103T - (Practicum)
ACTA 104T - (Observational Practicum)

For More Information

- Activity Assistant Program Guide
- Activity Assistant Information Sheet

For more information please call the Centre for Continuing Studies toll-free number: 1-866-734-6252.

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