

Health Programs

Activity Assistant

- **4 Month Part-Time Certificate Program**
- **Offered at the Nanaimo, Parksville and Cowichan campuses**
- **Program 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

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

- Prior to starting the practicum placements, students must submit documentation of the following:
 - Fieldwork and/or practicums will require a satisfactory criminal record check prior to placement. Criminal Record Checks are requested through VIU. The Registration Centre at VIU will contact prospective students by mail regarding the requirements for a Criminal Record Check. Criminal Record Checks are processed through the Ministry according to the Criminal Records Review Act. A check completed through the RCMP is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the Act.
 - Current CPR C Certificate;
 - Foodsafe Level I Certificate (Contact Continuing Education at (250) 740-6322).

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 and program contacts check the Program Availability List for Nanaimo, Parksville and Cowichan campuses.

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)

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