

Archived: September 9, 2021

Health Programs

Health Care Assistant

Location Offered:

Cowichan, Nanaimo, Powell River

Credential:

Certificate

Program Length:

24 Weeks

The Program

Note: The Health Care Assistant program was formerly called the Home Support/Resident Care Attendant 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. Enriched with aboriginal ways of knowing and being, this program will enhance the students' ability to provide cultural safety and person-centered care to all.

The Health Care Assistant (HCA) program delivered by Vancouver Island University (VIU) has been granted a full, five-year recognition status by the BC Care Aide and Community Health Worker Registry.

The BC Care Aide and Community Health Worker Registry reviews and recognizes HCA programs in BC to ensure that they are: following the provincial curriculum, implementing a common set of training standards, and graduating competent front-line health care providers.

Program Outline

Phase I*	Credits
HCAS 101T - (Health: Interpersonal Communications)	1.2
HCAS 102T - (Health: Lifestyle and Choices)	0.7
HCAS 103T - (Health Care Assistant: Introduction to Practice)	0.7
HCAS 104T - (Health and Healing: Concepts for Practice)	1.7
HCAS 105T - (Healing 1: Common Health Challenges)	2.8
HCAS 106T - (Healing 2: Cognitive or Mental Challenges)	1.5
HCAS 107T - (Healing: Personal Care and Assistance)	2.8
Phase II**	
HCAS 121T - (Practice Experience in Multi-Level and/or Complex Care)	5.1
Phase III	
HCAS 131T - (Practice Experience in Home Support and/or Assisted Living)	1.4
Total Credits	18.0

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

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

Admission Requirements

- General Trades admission requirements apply.
- Successful completion of English 12 or equivalent.
- Meet the BC Care Aide & Community Health Worker Registry's minimum English language competency requirements.
- Completion of the VIU Health Care Assistant Program's English Competency Self-Declaration form.
- Completion of a Personal Profile form.
- Interview with program faculty.
- Students who meet or exceed the minimum admission requirements may not necessarily be admitted to the program.

Notes on Admission

- Indigenous students can apply for reserve seats by submitting the Access Initiative for Indigenous students form.
- Fieldwork, practicums, or clinical practice will require a satisfactory criminal record check prior to placement. The Registration Centre at VIU will contact prospective students regarding the 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.
- *The following documents are required by the **first day** of classes.*
 - A completed Immunization Requirements Form.
 - Proof of W.H.M.I.S. training.
 - Foodsafe Level I certificate.
 - Standard First Aid certificate is required (that includes CPR Level "C").
 - Students will be required to complete physically demanding tasks within a variety of work spaces.
 - Not currently open to international students.

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 Health Care Assistant. Preference may be given to those with 30 hours or more volunteer service in a long term care setting. The following traits are critical for student success:

- sensitivity to the needs of others;
- trustworthiness, integrity, flexibility;
- ability to move freely in confined spaces; physical stamina
- 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.

Career Opportunities

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

Start Date and Application Deadline

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

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