NORTHERN LIGHTS COLLEGE
REGISTRAR’S OFFICE
PROGRAM INFORMATION AND COMPLETION GUIDE

Program Name: Health Care Assistant
Credential/Certification: Certificate in Health Care Assistant
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Program Description:
The Health Care Assistant (HCA) program is designed to provide students with opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to function effectively as front-line care-givers and respected members of the healthcare team. Under the direction and supervision of a health professional, graduates provide person-centred care aimed at promoting and maintaining the physical, emotional, cognitive, and social well-being of clients. Upon completion of the program, graduates are prepared to work in a variety of practice settings including home support, assisted living, residential/complex care, special care units, other home and community care settings, and acute care.

Admission Requirements:
Applications for the Health Care Assistant program will open October 1st each year to begin the program in the following September. Applications will also open March 1st each year to begin the program the following February. The selection of qualified applicants will be made on a first-come, first-qualified basis until the designated number of seats are full.

Prospective learners will need to complete a College “Application for Admission” Form. Admission forms can be obtained from the Northern Lights College (NLC) Student Services or downloaded in PDF format from nlc.bc.ca/application.pdf.

The following admission requirements reflect provincial standards mandated by the BC Care Aide and Community Health Worker Registry:

1. Applicants who have been educated in an English-speaking environment (a country with English language systems/institutions) for a minimum of seven years or applicants
who have been educated in an English-speaking environment for four consecutive years at the secondary or post-secondary level must submit secondary and/or post-secondary transcripts indicating successful completion of Grade 10 (or equivalent) including:

A. Grade 10 English or Career and College Preparation ENGL030 with a C or higher. Alternatively, if course requirements are over 10 years old or absent, Grade 10 English equivalency may be demonstrated by completion of all language sections on the Canadian Adult Achievement Test (Vocabulary, Spelling, Reading Comprehension, Language) with a minimum score of 10.9 on each section; or by completion of the Language Proficiency Index (LPI) with a total score of at least 20 and an essay level of 4 (24/40).

AND

B. Grade 10 Math or Career and College Preparation MATH030 with a C or higher. Alternatively, if course requirements are over 10 years old or absent, Grade 10 Math equivalency may be demonstrated by completion of numeracy sections on the Canadian Adult Achievement Test (Number Operations and Problem Solving) with a minimum score of 10.9 on each section.

AND

C. Grade 10 Science or Career and College Preparation SCIE030 with a C or higher. Alternatively, if course requirements are over 10 years old or absent, Grade 10 Science equivalency may be demonstrated by completion of the Science section of the Canadian Adult Achievement Test with a score of 10.9.

2. Applicants who have not been educated in an English-speaking environment (a country with English language systems/institutions) for a minimum of seven years or applicants who have not completed four consecutive years of education at the secondary or post-secondary levels must satisfy the following criteria:

A. English Proficiency may be demonstrated by any one of the following:

Canadian Language Benchmark Placement Test (CLB PT) within the previous six months with minimum scores of Listening 7, Speaking 7, Reading 6, and Writing 6.

OR

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) within the last two years. IBT only. Overall score of 76 with no score lower than 20 in Speaking and Listening and no score lower than 18 in Reading and Writing.

OR
International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic or General within the last two years. Overall score of 6 with a minimum of 6 in Speaking and Listening, and no score lower than 5.5 in Reading and Writing.

OR

Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program (CELPIP) General within the last two years. 7 or better in Speaking and Listening, and 6 or better in Reading and Writing.

OR

Canadian Academic English Language Assessment (CAEL) within the last two years. Overall Score of 60 with no section less than 50.

AND

B. Career and College Preparation MATH030 with a C or higher. Alternatively, completion of numeracy sections of the Canadian Adult Achievement Test (Number Operations and Problem Solving) with a minimum score of 10.9 on each section.

AND

C. Career and College Preparation SCIE030 with a C or higher. Alternatively, completion of Science section of the Canadian Adult Achievement Test with a minimum score of 10.9 on each section.

POST-ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. After acceptance, students will be required to complete all of the following by the first day of class:

A. Current CPR (Basic Life Support) Level C with a Standard First Aid program (two days).

AND

B. Medical form completed by a physician, indicating applicant has a satisfactory level of physical and emotional health to enable success in the program.

AND

C. Tuberculosis test indicating the absence of active tuberculosis.

AND
D. Submission of a completed NLC immunization form including: Hep B series; Diptheria/Tetanus; Polio; Measles, Mumps, Rubella; Varicella, seasonal influenza, and Pertussis.

AND

E. B.C. FOODSAFE Level 1 Certificate.

AND

F. Schedule B Criminal Record Check for working with "children and vulnerable adults." No student will be permitted to begin workplace practicum with children or vulnerable adults until the Criminal Record Check has been received and reviewed by NLC. Students are obligated to report any Schedule B criminal convictions that occur after they authorize a Criminal Record Check but are still enrolled in the program. Failure to do so may result in immediate dismissal from the program.

**Length of Program:** (weeks and total hours) Approximately 31--34 weeks/745 hours

**Program Intake:** (start/finish dates) September intakes: September through May. February intakes: February through October.

**Available Seats:** 24 per intake.

**Application Deadline:** September intake: August 1. February intake: January 7.

**Career Prospects:** Health Care Assistants in resident care facilities and/or home support - institutional settings and/or assisting in personal care of residents within community or personal homes.

**Affiliations/Partnerships:** Northern Health and related facilities: e.g., Dawson Creek Society for Community Living, Fort St. John Association for Community Living.

**Location:** Regular intakes are based on the Dawson Creek Campus. Some distance delivery is typically available to students on the Fort St. John Campus, but travel to Dawson Creek on designated days is a requirement.

**Additional Requirements/Supplies:** (fees, supplies, materials) In NLC’s Health Care Assistant program, the Provincial Violence Prevention Curriculum E-Learning modules are completed prior to practice education.
A substantial amount of course and program resource materials is provided solely in electronic form. Minimum computer requirements are published on NLC’s website. See https://www.nlc.bc.ca/Services/Information-Technology/minPC

Printing of resource materials is a student responsibility. Please contact your campus library for printing costs if you plan to use campus facilities. Basic computer literacy skills are strongly recommended. Applicants needing assistance with basic computer skills are asked to discuss their computer skills with an Admissions Officer at the time of application.

Students are required to purchase texts for the program.

While an effort will be made to minimize travel during the practice-education components of the program (clinical and preceptorship courses), practice-education placements may be held at various regional locations beyond a student’s home community. Accordingly, students should be prepared to travel for practice-education placements. Transportation and meal costs during practice-education experiences are the responsibility of the student.

Appropriate attire and shoes are necessary for lab courses and for clinical and preceptorship experiences. Students must purchase standardized program uniforms from the NLC Bookstore.

Long shifts may be required for some components of the program.

Keys to success:

- Completion of high-school Biology and Chemistry courses is recommended. Please speak with an Admissions Officer for further advice.
- Openness to new ideas
- An ability to self-evaluate, be self-reflective, and hold oneself accountable
- Maturity
- High standard of personal hygiene and grooming
- Ability to concentrate
- Consistent attendance
- Personal integrity and ability to exercise discretionary judgement
- Physical stamina
- Timely completion of all homework and readings for all courses/classes
- Continuously evolving intuitive and creative skills
- A caring philosophy and ability to work well within a team environment (understand, respect, and appreciate roles within a team)

Eligibility for Canada Student Loans:  (Yes or No)
Yes
**Required Minimum Grade:** (overall and/or minimum within a course)
75% for all theory courses; the lab component of HCAT 124 is graded Pass/Fail with a mastery level of B+ (80%) required for a pass; practice-education courses (HCAT 126 and HCAT 127) are graded PASS or FAIL.

**Residency Requirement:** (percentage of courses which must be taken at NLC)
Approximately 25%. Typically, students will complete the entire program at NLC; however, given the existence of a provincial curriculum, transfer credit may be considered from recognized institutions. Students should consult an Admissions Officer for more information.

**Required Courses:** (list courses required to complete credential and total hours for each course)
- HCAT110 Healing 1: Caring for Individuals Experiencing Common Health Challenges (115 hours)
- HCAT111 Health 2: Lifestyle and Choices (30 hours)
- HCAT112 Health 1: Interpersonal Communications (50 hours)
- HCAT113 Health Care Assistant: Introduction to Practice (30 hours)
- HCAT123 Health and Healing: Concepts for Practice (70 hours)
- HCAT124 Healing 3: Personal Care and Assistance (120 hours)
- HCAT125 Healing 2: Caring for Individuals Experiencing Cognitive or Mental Challenges (60 hours)
- HCAT126 Practice Experience in Home Support and/or Assisted Living (60 hours)
- HCAT127 Practice Experience in Multi-Level and/or Complex Care (210 hours)