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 as 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 for admission to the program for the following September. 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. A one-time application fee is required.

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 who have been educated in an English-speaking environment for four consecutive years at the secondary or post-secondary level, must submit evidence of the following:

Secondary and/or post-secondary transcripts indicating successful completion of Grade 10 (or equivalent), including:

Grade 10 English or Career and College Preparation ENGL 030 with a C or higher. If course requirements are over 10 years old or absent, Grade 10 English equivalency may be demonstrated by completing all language sections of the Canadian Adult Achievement Test (CAAT) (vocabulary, spelling, reading comprehension, language) with a minimum score of 10.9 on each section. Alternatively, if course requirements are over 10 years old or absent, Grade 10 English equivalency may be demonstrated by completing the Language Proficiency Index (LPI) with a total score of at least 20 and an essay level of 4 (24/40).

Grade 10 Math or Career and College Preparation MATH 030 with a C or higher. If course requirements are over 10 years old or absent, Grade 10 math proficiency may be demonstrated by completing numeracy sections (Number Operations and Problem Solving) of the Canadian Adult Achievement Test with a minimum score of 10.9 on each section.

Grade 10 Science or Career and College Preparation SCIE030 with a C or higher. If course requirements are over 10 years old or absent, Grade 10 science proficiency may be demonstrated by completing 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 who have not completed four consecutive years of education at the secondary or post-secondary levels, must submit evidence of English proficiency by completing one of the following:

Canadian Language Benchmark Placement Test (CLB PT) -- test must be within the last six months: Listening 7, Speaking 7, Reading 6 and Writing 6.

OR Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) -- test must be 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 -- test must be 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) Academic or General. Academic: Aggregate score of 4L or better, with 4L or better in Speaking and Listening and 3H or better in Reading and Writing. General: 7 or better in Speaking and Listening, and 6 in Reading and Writing.

OR Canadian Academic English Language Assessment (CAEL) -- Overall Score of 60, with no section less than 50.

Applicants who have not been educated in an English-speaking environment must also demonstrate the equivalent of Grade 10 competency in math and science by meeting the math and science criteria identified above.

After acceptance, students will be required to complete the following approximately one month prior to the first day of classes:

Submission of a medical form completed by a physician, indicating a satisfactory level of physical and emotional health to enable success in the program.

A tuberculosis test indicating the absence of active tuberculosis. The completion date of this test, in particular, should not significantly exceed one month prior to the start of classes.

Up to date immunizations including:
- Hep B series
- Diptheria/Tetanus
- Polio
- Measles, Mumps, Rubella
- Varicella
- Seasonal influenza
- Pertussis

Note that a copy of immunization records must be submitted. Students who do not have the required immunizations may not be able to complete the practice-education components of the program. MOST clinical learning sites require all workers, including students, to have up-to-date immunizations.

BC Food Safe Level I

A Current CPR (Basic Life Support) Level C with a Standard First Aid Program (2 Days)

A Schedule B Criminal Record Check for working with children or vulnerable adults:
Under no circumstances will a student be permitted to begin clinical or preceptorship components of the program until a Schedule B CRC clearance letter has been received and reviewed by NLC. Convictions for certain offences may disqualify students from participating in practice education and, therefore, from program completion. Criminal Record searches can take from 3 to 6 weeks to complete, so students are urged to attend to this matter well before the program start date. Further, students are obligated to report any Schedule B criminal convictions that occur after they authorize an CRC but
are still enrolled in the Health Care Assistant 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 through April for regular scheduled intakes.

**Available Seats:** 26

**Application Deadline:** August 1

**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/own homes.

**Affiliations/Partnerships:** Northern Health and related facilities; Dawson Creek Society 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)

- A substantial amount of course and program resource materials is provided solely in electronic form. Accordingly, students must have access to a computer with internet capabilities in order to review and/or retrieve these resources. A personal laptop is recommended for each learner, operating with Windows 2010 or a later version and a current web browser. 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.

- 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)