

Health Care Aide (HCA) Mapping

The HCA pathway prepares learners for certification as unregulated care providers to work in a variety of care settings including, but not restricted to, continuing care (i.e., home, facility, and supportive), community living, stable acute care, and mental health programs. This pathway can only be offered through a partnership (i.e., a memorandum of understanding) with a post-secondary institution that has received licensing from Alberta Health for use of the Government of Alberta HCA Provincial Curriculum.

Instruction of these courses must come from an individual with a minimum qualification of a licensed practical nurse (LPN).

The Government of Alberta HCA competency profile can be accessed at [Alberta Health Care Aide competency profile](#).

English Requirements

High school students enrolled in HCA must complete, prior to writing the provincial HCA examination, the following:

- English Language Arts 20-1 or 20-2, with a minimum mark of 60%, or Canadian jurisdiction equivalent or
- English Language Arts 30-1 or 30-2, with a minimum mark of 55%, or Canadian jurisdiction equivalent

Length of Delivery

The Government of Alberta HCA Provincial Curriculum is designed to be offered as an eight (8)-month program run over two (2) terms. Many post-secondary institutions also offer other programs tailored to student choice, such as part-time and distance delivery. A dual credit HCA program may be offered with an alternate delivery schedule.

HCA Graduation Requirements

HCA students must achieve a minimum final grade of 70% in each course and pass the provincial HCA examination to graduate from the HCA program and receive the Government of Alberta HCA Provincial Curriculum Certificate.

Delivery Method

The primary delivery method for the following courses must be off-campus.

- HCA3421: Clinical Placement 1
- HCA3436: Clinical Placement 2
- HCA3441: Consolidated Clinical Placement

Alberta Health Provincial Curriculum	Alberta Education High School Dual Credit Course	Assessment
HEALTH CARE AIDE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES		
Prerequisites: None		
Module 1: Role of the Health Care Aide (Theory)	HCA3401: Role and Responsibilities (3 credits)	
Module 2: Legislation		
Module 3: Functioning Effectively as a Team Member		
Module 4: Environmental Safety (Theory)		
Module 4: Environmental Safety (Lab)		
Module 5: Client Safety (Theory)		
Module 5: Client Safety (Lab)		
Module 6: Self-care and Safety (Theory)		
Module 6: Self-care and Safety (Lab)		
THE HUMAN BODY, HEALTH, AND CHRONIC ILLNESS		
Prerequisites: None		
Module 1: Body Systems and Function	HCA3406: The Human Body, Health, and Chronic Illness (3 credits)	
Module 2: Human Growth and Development and Death (Theory)		
Module 3: Healthy Aging and Independence (Theory)		
Module 4: Chronic Conditions (Theory)		
COMMUNICATION AND DOCUMENTATION IN THE HEALTH-CARE ENVIRONMENT		
Prerequisites: None		
Module 1: Communication in a Collaborative Team (Theory)	HCA3411: Communication and Documentation (4 credits)	
Module 1: Communication in a Collaborative Team (Lab)		
Module 2: Dealing with Problems and Conflict (Theory)		
Module 2: Dealing with Problems and Conflict (Lab)		
Module 3: Cultural Competency and Diversity (Theory)		
Module 3: Cultural Competency and Diversity (Lab)		
Module 4: Documentation (Theory)		
Module 4: Documentation (Lab)		
Module 5: Communication Impairments and Related Strategies (Theory)		
Module 5: Communication Impairments and Related Strategies (Lab)		
PROVIDING PERSON-CENTRED CARE AND COMFORT		
Prerequisites: None		
Module 1: Assist with Client Mobility (Theory)	HCA3416: Providing Person-centred Care and Comfort (4 credits)	
Module 1: Assist with Client Mobility (Lab)		
Module 2: Positioning, Transfers, and Lifts (Theory)		
Module 2: Positioning, Transfers, and Lifts (Lab)		
Module 3: Client Grooming and Hygiene (Theory)		
Module 3: Client Grooming and Hygiene (Lab)		
Module 4: Bathing the Client and Bed Making (Theory)		
Module 4: Bathing the Client (Lab)		
Module 5: Assist with Elimination (Theory)		
Module 5: Assist with Elimination (Lab)		
Module 6: Assist with Nutrition and Mealtimes (Theory)		
Module 6: Assist with Nutrition and Mealtimes (Lab)		
Module 7: Food Safety (Theory)		
High Impact Consolidation Lab 1		

HCA CLINICAL PLACEMENT EXPERIENCE I		
Prerequisites: HCA3401: Role and Responsibilities HCA3406: The Human Body, Health, and Chronic Illness HCA3411: Communication and Documentation HCA3416: Providing Person-Centred Care and Comfort		
HCA Clinical Placement Experience I	HCA3421: Clinical Placement 1 (3 credits)	
MEETING COMPLEX CARE NEEDS		
Prerequisites: HCA3401: Role and Responsibilities HCA3406: The Human Body, Health, and Chronic Illness HCA3411: Communication and Documentation HCA3416: Providing Person-Centred Care and Comfort		
Module 1: Range of Motion (Theory)	HCA3426: Meeting Complex Care Needs (5 credits)	
Module 1: Range of Motion (Lab)		
Module 2: Assisting with Wound Care (Theory)		
Module 2: Assisting with Wound Care (Lab)		
Module 3: Assisting with Nasogastric and Gastrostomy Care and Tube Feeds (Theory)		
Module 3: Assisting with Nasogastric and Gastrostomy Care and Tube Feeds (Lab)		
Module 4: Assisting with Urinary Catheter and Drainage Systems (Theory)		
Module 4: Assisting with Urinary Catheter and Drainage Systems (Lab)		
Module 5: Assisting with Ostomy Care (Theory)		
Module 5: Assisting with Ostomy Care (Lab)		
Module 6: Measuring Vital Signs, Pain, Height, and Weight (Theory)		
Module 6: Measuring Vital Signs, Pain, Height, and Weight (Lab)		
Module 7: Assisting with Specimen Collection (Theory)		
Module 7: Assisting with Specimen Collection (Lab)		
Module 8: Assisting with Respiratory Care and Oral Suctioning (Theory)		
Module 8: Assisting with Respiratory Care and Oral Suctioning (Lab)		
Module 9: Medication Assistance (Theory)		
Module 9: Medication Assistance (Lab)		
High Impact Consolidation Lab 2		
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR CLIENTS WITH VARIOUS HEALTH CONDITIONS		
Prerequisites: HCA3421: Clinical Placement 1		
Module 1: Assisting with the Care of Infants (Theory)	HCA3431: Special Activities for Clients (5 credits)	
Module 2: Assisting with the Child (Theory)		
Module 3: Care for Clients with a Diagnosis of Dementia (Theory)		
Module 3: Care for Clients with a Diagnosis of Dementia (Lab)		
Module 4: Caring for Clients with a Mental Health Diagnosis (Theory)		
Module 4: Caring for Clients with a Mental Health Diagnosis (Lab)		
Module 5: Assisting Clients with Physical Disabilities and Developmental Delays (Theory)		
Module 6: Palliative and End-of-Life Care (Theory)		
Module 6: Palliative and End-of-Life Care (Lab)		
Module 7: Meeting Care Preceding and Following Death (Theory)		
High Impact Consolidation Lab 3		
HCA CLINICAL PLACEMENT EXPERIENCE II		
Prerequisites: HCA3426: Meeting Complex Care Needs HCA3431: Special Activities for Clients		
Clinical Placement Experience II	HCA3436: Clinical Placement 2 (6 credits)	
HCA CONSOLIDATED CLINICAL PLACEMENT EXPERIENCE		
Prerequisites: HCA3436: Clinical Placement 2		
HCA Consolidated Clinical Placement Experience	HCA3441: Consolidated Clinical Placement (3 credits)	