



Information for Students Considering Dual Credit Health Care Aide Program From Northern Lakes College

Why take dual credit Health Care Aide (HCA)?

1. Students who successfully complete all courses will be eligible to earn up to 36 credits toward their high school diploma plus the Health Care Aide certificate from Northern Lakes College.
2. Taking the program while in high school may save you money. Check with your high school to see if they will cover any costs.
3. Having the Health Care Aide certificate improves your chances of getting employment, plus certified HCA's earn more money.

Options for completing the program.

There are three options for completing the HCA program by Dual Credit. The options are:

1. Regular Offering – Students start in September and complete the program over one academic year.
2. Extended Offering – Students start in September and take 2 academic years to complete the program.
3. E-Step Offering – Only available to students that are currently working as an uncertified HCA. Students have one year to complete the program however given they are working as an HCA they are not required to attend labs or practicum portions of the program.



Where is the program available?

The program has three parts: theory, labs and clinical practicums. Each of the three parts has different availability.

- The theory portion of the program is available at any school or location with a high-speed internet connection. Students are expected to attend the online lectures, which usually run Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:15 pm. Students not able to make the live class can listen to the recordings when they have time. E-Step students do not have live classes to attend.
- The lab portion of the program is only available in Peace River, High Prairie, Slave Lake and High Level, depending on student numbers at each location. The onsite lab portion is a total of four weeks, scheduled approximately once a month starting in November. Transportation to and from the labs is the responsibility of the student/parent. Students may need to travel to an alternate lab location depending on student numbers. e-Step students do not need to attend lab sessions.
- There are three clinical practicum portions which total eight weeks in a continuing care/home care setting under the supervision of a college instructor and a buddy (certified HCA). For six weeks, you will be attending clinical with a College instructor in one of the following sites

(High Prairie, Slave Lake, Peace River), and for two weeks, you will be with a buddy (certified HCA). We will do our best to place you in a site of your choice, but you may have to travel. e-Step students do not need to attend the clinical practicums as they are currently employed as an HCA.

What prerequisites are needed to get into the program?

1. Students currently enrolled or completed English 20-2. You must have English 20-2 (with 60% or better) to write the provincial licencing exam.
 - a. Recommend students have English 30-2, Math 30-3 and Science 30 or Biology 30.
2. e-Step students are also required to be employed as an uncertified HCA and have a minimum of 200 hours of work experience to be accepted into the program. Upon program completion the student must a minimum of 320 hours of employment. The employer will be expected to provide proof of employment to the College.

When is the program available?

- A. Regular and Extended Offerings
 - Term 1 - Sept 3, 2024 to Jan 24, 2025
 - Term 2 – Feb 3 to June 20, 2025
 - Live Online Classes will be on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 1 – 3 pm. Students not able to make the live class can listen to the recordings when they have time.
- B. e-Step Offering
 - There are four intakes per year; October 1, December 1st, February 1st and April 1st.
 - Students have one year from when they start to complete the program.



Students should apply at least six weeks prior to the start date.

How difficult is the program?

The government of Alberta's provincial curriculum sets program content and expectations, and you are required to meet the same expectations as the adult students you will be taking the classes with. Key expectations are:

1. If you miss three days without communication, you may be required to withdraw from the program.
2. You must participate in ALL the lab sessions.
3. Show up prepared and ready to work.
4. Students will be required to use PPE as necessary.

The Dual Credit Health Care Aide program requires a major commitment on behalf of the student, the parent, the high school, and the college. The program is intensive, be sure you are ready to commit before applying. To be successful, two hours of homework are expected each night. Given this expectation and the lab/clinical requirements, students should not plan to work or take other high school courses while in the program.

Other things you need to know:

1. Students will follow the schedule as laid out by the College while in the program, not the high school schedule. The schedule will be provided to the student during the program's orientation.
2. Before the clinical practicum placement, the student is responsible for the following:
 - a. Ensuring they have an up-to-date Immunization Record
 - b. Submitting a Police Information Check if you are 18 years of age or older. An unclear police information check may result in a delay or difficulty acquiring a practicum placement.
3. Students are required to write an HCA Provincial Exam to obtain a Government of Alberta Health Care Aide Certificate.
4. Students who do not complete the HCA in high school can attend College to complete the program and will be given advanced standing for what they have completed.
5. Application deadline is six weeks before the start date of the course, however, students are encouraged to apply early as the classes can fill up before the application deadline.
6. For more information about a career as a Health Care Aide, check out the alis.alberta.ca website. You will find information on Health Care Aide and other careers under the 'information on occupations' tab.

Courses in the HCA Program

Course	Regular Offering	Extended Offering		Notes
	Term	Year	Term	
HCAF1100 – HCA Role and Responsibility	1	1	1	Classes are available Live Online OR Anywhere, Anytime (Online)
HCAF1200 – Human Body, Health and Chronic Illness	1	1	1	Classes are available Live Online OR Anywhere, Anytime (Online). Attendance at a three-day Lab is also required.
HCAF1300 – Communication & Documentation in the Health-Care Environment	1	1	1	Classes are available Live Online OR Anywhere, Anytime (Online)
HCAF1400 – Providing Person Centered Care and Comfort	1	1	2	Classes are available Live Online OR Anywhere, Anytime (Online). Attendance at a three-day Lab is also required.
HCAP1100 – HCA Clinical Placement 1I	1	1	2	Students required to work a minimum of 80 hours (2 weeks) at a health care facility. Instructor-Led Practicum
HCAF1500 – Meeting Complex Care Needs	2	2	1	Classes are available Live Online OR Anywhere, Anytime (Online). Attendance at one-week Lab is also required.
HCAF1600 – Special Activities for Clients with Various Health Conditions.	2	2	1	Classes are available Live Online OR Anywhere, Anytime (Online). Attendance at one-week Lab is also required.
HCAP1200 – HCA Clinical Placement II	2	2	2	Students required to work a minimum of 160 hours (4 weeks) at a health care facility. Instructor-Led Practicum.
HCAP1300 – HCA Clinical Placement III	2	2	2	Students required to work a minimum of 80 hours (2 weeks) at a health care facility. Preceptor Led Practicum.