



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

### Why take dual credit Health Care Aide (HCA)?

1. Students that are successful in completing all courses will be eligible to earn up to 36 CTS credits toward their high school diploma plus the Health Care Aide certificate from Northern Lakes College.
2. Taking the program while in high school will save you money. The cost to take the program after high school would be approximately \$5200.
3. Having the HCA certificate before leaving high school also allows you to enter the work force earlier than someone that takes the program after high school.
4. Having the Health Care Aide certificate improves your chances of getting employment plus certified HCA's earn more money.

### Where is the program available?

There are three parts to the program; theory, labs and a clinical practicum. Each of the three parts to the program has different availability.

- The theory portion of the program is available at any school or location with a high speed internet connection. Student are expected to attend the online lectures which run Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:15 pm.
- The lab portion of the program is only available in Peace River, High Prairie, Slave Lake or Grande Prairie depending on student numbers and location. The onsite lab portion is a total of four weeks which are scheduled approximately once a month starting in November. Transportation to and from the labs is the responsibility of the student/parent.
- The clinical practicum portion of the program is an eight week placement in a continuing care/home care setting under the supervision of a college instructor and a buddy (certified HCA). The first six weeks you will be attending clinical with an instructor from the college in one of the following sites (High Prairie, Grande Prairie, Slave Lake) The last two weeks you will be with a buddy (certified HCA) during these last two weeks we will do our best to place you in a site of your choice but you may have to travel.



### When is the program available?

The program runs from Sept 1, 2020 till June 25, 2021.

- Term 1 - Sept 1, 2020 to Jan 29, 2021
- Term 2 - Feb 8 to June 25, 2021
- Classes will be on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 1 - 3 pm.

## What prerequisites are needed to get into the program?

1. Students currently enrolled or completed English 20-2. Note 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. Students along with parents are expected to attend an orientation/information session.

## How difficult is the program?

Program content and expectations are set by Government of Alberta provincial curriculum 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 will 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 in the orientation of the program.
2. Prior to the clinical practicum placement the student is responsible for:
  - a. Ensuring they have an up-to-date Immunization Record
  - b. Ensuring they have a Health Care Provider level C CPR certification ( Canadian Heart & Stroke BLS recommended)
  - c. Submitting a Police Information Check. An unclear police information check may result in a delay or difficulty acquiring a practicum placement.
3. Students that do not complete the HCA in high school are able to attend the College to complete the program and will be given advanced standing for what they have completed.
4. Application deadline is six weeks prior to the start date of the course, however, students are encouraged to apply early as the classes can fill up before the application deadline.
5. For more information about a career as a Health Care Aide, check out the [alis.alberta.ca](http://alis.alberta.ca) website. You will find information on Health Care Aide and other careers under the 'information on occupations' tab.