

Full Time 2025 - 2026

PROGRAM LENGTH: 10 months

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: Do you want to make a difference in your community? Do you genuinely care about helping others? Do you want a rewarding career that is in high demand? As a graduate of the Health Care Aide program, you can work as a vital member of the health care team, assisting regulated members in providing care to clients of all ages. Health Care Aides may work in acute care, continuing care, long-term care, home care, and assisted living settings. Our Health Care Aide Program follows the 2019 Government of Alberta provincial curriculum and includes both theory and practical experiences. This program is accessible, flexible, and delivered in a manner to support each student's individual success.

PROGRAM OF STUDY:

Term 1:

HCAC1000	Health Care Aide Comprehensive Provincial Exam
HCAF1100	Foundations One: HCA Roles & Responsibility (3)
HCAF1200	Foundations Two: Human Body, Health & Chronic Illness (3)
HCAF1300	Foundations Three: Communication & Documentation in the Health-Care Environment (4)
HCAF1400	Foundations Four: Providing Client Care and Comfort (5)
HCAP1100	HCA Clinical Placement 1 (3)

Term 2:

HCAF1500	Foundations Five: Meeting Complex Care Needs (5)
HCAF1600	Foundations Six: Special Activities for Clients with Various Health Conditions (5)
HCAP1200	HCA Clinical Placement 2 (5)
HCAP1300	HCA Clinical Placement 3 (3)

PROGRAM DELIVERY: This program is offered using a blended, distance delivery model. The courses are online, supported by computer-based lectures through D2L. Students have access to recorded lectures, course materials, discussion forums, learning activities on Brightspace. There are also practical components in the program which include face-to-face lab sessions, and clinical practicums. Costs associated with travel to attend onsite lab sessions and the practicums are the student's responsibility. Participation and attendance to the lab sessions and completion of the practicums are mandatory for successful program completion. The dates for the onsite sessions and the clinical practicums are TBD and will be updated on the Northern Lakes College website when available. To learn more about Brightspace and to experience using it, check out this guide:

<https://www.northernlakescollege.ca/public/download/files/101449>

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS:

Credit in English 20-2 (60%) or equivalent.

Credit in Math 20 or equivalent is strongly recommended.

If academic requirements are not met it will be necessary for students to complete an ACCUPLACER assessment.

English Language Proficiency (ELP):

Candidates where English is a Second Language (ESL) must meet the English Language Proficiency requirement in addition to the Academic English requirement.

Tests benchmarked at a CLB 7 for all 4 language skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing) and official results must be submitted directly to Admissions.

Approved tests include:

1. International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic: 6 (no section score below 5.5);
2. Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet Based Testing (TOEFL iBT): 71;
3. Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program (CELPIP) General: 7 (with no section score below 6); and
4. Canadian Language Benchmarks/Milestones Test (7 in each strand, not an average of 7).

NOTE: Results must have been obtained within 2 years of the start date of program. IELTS(Academic) and TOEFL results are valid for 2 years from the day of testing. Results that expire prior to the Start Date will not be accepted.

NOTE: While NLC accepts other English Language Proficiency Tests for other programming, the tests listed above are the ONLY approved tests for this program.

NOTE: A clear Criminal Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Check must be submitted upon acceptance to the program. The Criminal Record and Vulnerable Sector Check must have been obtained within the 90 days of presenting proof to the Program. Presence of an unclear Criminal Record or Vulnerable Sector Check may impede your ability to complete the practicum required for successful completion of the program and may be a barrier in securing employment as a HCA after graduation. Applicants are required to be fit for practice in the various capacities of the role. The applicant must be in good physical, emotional and psychological health. An up-to-date Immunization Record must be submitted prior to the practicum placement. Proof of current Canadian Heart and Stroke CPR certification for Health Care Providers must be submitted prior to the practicum.

COST ESTIMATES: **Note: All fees are subject to change.**

Tuition	LRF	Student Association	Technology	est. TOTAL
\$5220.00	\$280.00	\$486.00	\$432.00	\$6,418.00

Textbooks are not payable to Northern Lakes College. Please view our website for a list of applicable textbooks that must be purchased for the program.

Additional costs:

- Students are required to attend two 1-week (5 days each) lab sessions. Students are responsible for transportation, food and accommodation for these (approx. \$2500.00).
- Miscellaneous supplies & clothing \$300.00 (approximately)
- Students may be required to relocate for Practicum portion of the program (5 weeks)

PROGRAM OFFERINGS: Any Northern Lakes College location

Program Offering Dates:

Term 1: September 2, 2025 - January 23, 2026

Term 2: February 2, 2026 - June 19, 2026

DEADLINES:

For full-time students starting in September, the application deadline is June 30th. Apply early!

APPLICATION PROCESS:

- **APPLICATION:** Complete and submit a Northern Lakes College application on the college website at www.northernlakescollege.ca (follow: <https://www.northernlakescollege.ca/apply-now/program-applications>) or through Apply Alberta (APAS)
- **TRANSCRIPTS:** Provide an official high school and/or post-secondary transcript. This must be forwarded directly to Northern Lakes College, Admissions Services, from the granting institution (there may be a charge for this). When transcripts are received at NLC, they are reviewed to determine if the academic requirements for admission to the program are met.
- **ACADEMIC SKILLS APPRAISAL:** If transcripts are not available or do not show the academic requirements, applicants may complete a skills appraisal test. If testing is required, the applicant will be informed and arrangements must be made for writing the test.
- **FORMS:** A Police Information Check (completed within last 3 months) and an up-to-date Immunization Record will be required prior to attending practicum classes. Note: The existence of a criminal record may affect practicum placement, program completion and employment prospects. Health status form will be provided by the program area.
- **ACCEPTANCE:** Applicants who meet the academic requirements will be accepted and offered a space in the next available offering of the program. Applicants will receive a letter informing them of their acceptance status.
- **REGISTRATION & COMMITMENT FEE:** Accepted applicants in all career programs will be required to complete registration forms within one month of receiving their acceptance letter. This registration includes a \$100.00 (domestic student) or \$300.00 (international student) Commitment fee deposit. This fee is **non-refundable & non-deferrable** and will be applied

towards the terms' tuition. Applicants who do not pay their Commitment deposit within 4 weeks of acceptance may forfeit their seat in the program.

- **FUNDING:** Applicants are encouraged to check on funding options early (minimum of 2 months prior to program start date). All applicants meeting the academic requirements should contact an education counsellor to discuss funding. Specific awards related to this program include: CCEC partnership Bursary, Roland Gladue Memorial Scholarship, TransCanada Partnership Award. Please visit the NLC website scholarships and awards page to learn more.
- **ORIENTATION:** Before the start date of the program, accepted applicants will receive information about registration dates, times, locations and other information to assist them.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

For any assistance, questions or concerns, the following college staff are available:

Program Coordinator:

Jennifer Boxshall 1-780-751-3209

email: boxshallj@northernlakescollege.ca

Questions about program content, employment opportunities for the program.

Other Inquiries:

Admissions Services 1-866-652-3456

email: admissions@northernlakescollege.ca

Including general inquiries about College services & programs; student housing, library, facilities