

Health Care Aide (HCA) Pathway 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 (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 to provide the Health Care Aide credential.

Alberta Health Provincial Curriculum	Alberta Education High School Dual Credit Course	Assessment
Topic	HCA Course Number and Name Courses Are One Credit Unless Specified	
SECTION ONE – WORKING AS A HEALTH CARE AIDE		
Role of the Health Care Aide	HCA3400: Role & Responsibilities	
Legislation		
Functioning Effectively as a Team Member		
Environmental Safety	HCA3405: Safety Systems	
Client Safety		
Self-care and Safety		
SECTION TWO – COMMUNICATION IN THE HEALTH-CARE ENVIRONMENT		
Person-to-person Communication	HCA3410: Communication Level 1	
Communication Impairments and Related Strategies		
Dealing with Problems and Conflict	HCA3415: Communication Level 2	
Documentation		
SECTION THREE – STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF THE HUMAN BODY & HEALTH AND CHRONIC ILLNESS		
Body Systems and Function	HCA3420: The Human Body	
Human Growth and Development		
Healthy Aging and Independence	HCA3425: Aging & Illness	
Chronic Health Conditions		

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SECTION FOUR – CLIENT CARE AND COMFORT		
Client Grooming and Personal Hygiene	HCA3430: Client Hygiene	
Bathing the Client	HCA3435: Bathing & Elimination	
Assisting with Elimination		
Bed Making	HCA3440: Bed Making & Mobility	
Assisting with Client Mobility		
Positioning, Transfers and Lifts	HCA3445: Positioning & Meals	
Assisting at Mealtime		
*INTEGRATED CLINICAL PRACTICUM 1 – OPTION A		
Clinical Practice 1A (1–2)	HCA3450: Clinical Practice 1A	
Clinical Practice 1B (3–4)	HCA3455: Clinical Practice 1B	
*INTEGRATED CLINICAL PRACTICUM 1 – OPTION B		
Clinical Practice 1 (1–4) - 2 credits	HCA3460: Clinical Practice 1	
SECTION FIVE – COMPLEX CARE NEEDS		
Range of Motion	HCA3465: Complex Care Needs 1	
Assisting with Wound Care		
Assisting with Nasogastric Tubes, Gastrostomy Care and Tube Feeds		
Assisting with Urinary Catheters and Drainage Systems		
Assisting with Ostomy Care		
Measuring Vital Signs, Height and Weight and Observing Pain	HCA3470: Complex Care Needs 2	
Assisting with Specimen Collection		
Assisting with Respiratory Care and Oral Suctioning		



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SECTION SIX – MEDICATION DELIVERY		
Assisting with Medication Delivery	HCA3475: Medication Delivery	
SECTION SEVEN – SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR DIVERSE CLIENTS		
Assisting with the Care of Infants	HCA3480: Diverse Client Groups	
Assisting with the Child		
Caring for Clients Presenting with a Mental Health Diagnosis		
Caring for Clients with a Diagnosis of Dementia	HCA3485: Clients with Dementia	
Assisting Clients with Physical Disabilities and Developmental Delays	HCA3490: Disability & Mortality	
End-of-life Care		
Meeting Care Needs at the Time of Death		
*INTEGRATED CLINICAL PRACTICUM 2 – OPTION A		
Clinical Practice 2A (1–5)	HCA3495: Clinical Practice 2A	
Clinical Practice 2B (1–5)	HCA3500: Clinical Practice 2B	
Clinical Practice 2C (1–5)	HCA3505: Clinical Practice 2C	
Clinical Practice 2D (1–6)	HCA3510: Clinical Practice 2D	
Clinical Practice 2E (1–6)	HCA3515: Clinical Practice 2E	
Clinical Practice 2F (1–7)	HCA3520: Clinical Practice 2F	
Clinical Practice 2G (1–7)	HCA3525: Clinical Practice 2G	
*INTEGRATED CLINICAL PRACTICUM 2 – OPTION B		
Clinical Practice 2 (1–7) - 7 credits	HCA3530: Clinical Practice 2	

***Note:** Integrated Clinical Practicum courses may be recorded utilizing **either** option A or option B, but **not both**. For example, students can receive credit for HCA3450 *and* HCA3455 (1 credit each) *or* HCA3460 (2 credits) for practicum 1. Students can receive credit for HCA3495, HCA3500, HCA3505, HCA3510, HCA3515, HCA3520 *and* HCA3525 (1 credit each) *or* HCA3530 (7 credits) for practicum 2.