



First Nations Health Authority

Health through wellness

NORTHERN REGIONAL HEALTH CARE ASSISTANT PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

In response to the high demand and priorities identified by the Northern Region communities, the First Nations Health Authority Northern Regional Office is pleased to announce their partnership with Thompson Rivers University for the delivery of a combined online/in-person accredited Health Care Assistant Program that is scheduled to start on January 30th, 2017.

Through this project, it is our goal that this Health Care Assistant Program will create an opportunity to further develop community level health services capacity in our Northern First Nations communities.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Health Care Assistant (HCA) Certificate program prepares individuals to work in both residential care and community settings. It is based on core values and beliefs that are foundational to Health Care Assistant practice: the respect and value of all human beings; appreciation for independence within complex health challenges; holistic definition of health; the right to comprehensive health care; provision of care as a genuine concern for another person; and family as the foundation of society.

The curriculum is organized around the concepts of caring, safety, critical thinking and a professional approach to practice. The courses build from the individual's self-reflection on interpersonal communication skills and lifestyle influences on health and wellness. Subsequent courses incorporate anatomy, physiology and common health challenges (including cognitive challenges). Students demonstrate their understanding of course content initially in laboratory practice and later in both residential care and community-based settings.

Theory courses in this program are delivered in a self-paced format online.

The HCA certificate program meets the requirements for registration with the BC Care Aid Registry.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Prior to being admitted to the program, applicants must meet the following admission requirements:

- Grade 10 required; Grade 11 strongly recommended
- Grade 10 English or equivalent required; Grade 11 English or equivalent strongly recommended
- Ability to use a computer and the Internet at a basic skill level

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Following formal program admission and prior to enrolment in any lab or practicum courses, the following requirements must be met:

- A Criminal Record Check (attached)
- A signed Health Status Declaration (attached)
- Standard First Aid
- CPR Level C (or equivalent) or CPR-HCP Certificate within the last two years
- An up-to-date immunization record (required for practice course)
- Food Safe Certificate Level 1
- WHMIS Certificate

The prospective HCA student should be in good health with no back problems. It is important that the prospective HCA demonstrate a caring and interested attitude toward older adults and physically challenged persons and be willing to work with these clients and their families to encourage independence. Flexibility and maturity are desirable characteristics of an HCA.

CORE COURSES AND SCHEDULE (Tentative)

Course	Name	Timeline	Delivery
HLTH 1051	Health 1: Interpersonal Communications	Jan 30 – Feb 25	Online
HLTH 1001	Health 2: Lifestyles and Choices	Feb 27 – Mar 24	Online
HLTH 1011	Health & Healing: Concepts for Practice	Mar 27 – Apr 21	Online
HLTH 1101	Health Care Assistant: Introduction to Practice	Apr 24 – May 19	Online
HLTH 1201	Healing 1: Caring for Individuals Experiencing Common Health Challenges	May 22 – June 16	Online
HLTH 1351	Healing 2: Caring for individuals Experiencing Cognitive or Mental Challenges	June 19 – July 14	Online
HLTH 1153	Personal Care and Assistance (Lab Theory) – 5 days	TBD	In Person Prince George
HLTH 1155	Personal Care and Assistance (Lab Practice) – 5 days	TBD	In Person Prince George
HLTH 1301	Practice Experience in Multi-level or Complex Care – 210 hours	TBD	In your community
HLTH 1251	Practice Experience in Home Support and/or Assisted Living – 60 hours	TBD	In your community

Students accepted into the program will be required to travel to Prince George for an orientation prior to the start of the online modules. The orientation will provide an opportunity for participants to meet with each other and to connect with the program support coach. In addition, participants will be provided an opportunity to complete the following training: Standard First Aid with CPR Level C, Food Safe Certificate Level 1 and WHMIS Certificate.

The time commitment to complete each training module will be four (4) weeks per course of online work. Students can expect to put in at least 5 hours per day to successfully complete the program. The total duration of the program will be eight (8) months.

A grade of 70% or higher in each of the following course is required for successful completion. Students are responsible for arranging their own transportation and traveling to and from the lab and clinical placement locations, the lab theory and practice will be in Prince George, dates are to be determined.

Clinical placements will be scheduled depending on availability of staff and may require that students work a variety of shifts i.e. morning, evening or overnight. It may also be necessary to work on weekends and holidays while completing your clinical experiences and final practicum placement.

SELECTION PROCESS

The **FNHA selection process for this program is on a first come first serve basis for those applicants that meet the requirements and submit completed packages** and meet the requirements.

A total of up to sixteen (16) students will be selected to participate in this program and will receive financial support from FNHA for tuition, books and supplies. In addition, FNHA will provide supports to participants to complete their lab, lab practice and practical experience portions of the program.

Interested applicants are to submit their complete package to the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), Northern Regional Office. **(DO NOT submit this application to Thompson Rivers University)**

Applicants can submit their complete packages by:

MAIL: First Nations Health Authority
Attn.: Keith Henry – Project Developer
Suite 200 – 177 Victoria Street
Prince George, BC V2L 5R8

- Ensure to keep a photocopy of your complete application for your records

EMAIL: Attn: Keith Henry – Project Developer
Email: keith.henry@fnha.ca

- Ensure that your complete package is sent in PDF format

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Official High School Transcripts which identify a minimum of Grade 10 requirement and Grade 10 English or equivalent requirement **OR** Grade 11 is strongly recommended and Grade 11 English or equivalent strongly recommended.
- Letter of Support from your First Nation and signed by one of the following: Elected Chief, Education Coordinator, Executive Director or Health Director.
- TRU – Program Admission Form
- TRU – Health Care Assistant Program Self-Declaration of Health
- TRU – Health Care Assistant Consent to a Criminal Record Check
- TRU – English Language Competency, Self-Declaration Form

Please ensure that all of the above documents are submitted to the First Nations Health Authority as listed above. FNHA will review your package to determine if you meet the requirements for participation in the FNHA program. Once approved, FNHA will forward your full package to Thompson Rivers University for registration in our program.

Support Letter Template

(Please ensure to have your band put their letter of support on their band letterhead)

Date:

First Nations Health Authority
Attn: Keith Henry – Project Developer
Suite 200 – 177 Victoria Street
Prince George, BC
V2L 5R8

Dear Sir:

**First Nations Health Authority/ Thompson Rivers University
Health Care Assistant Program Application – Online/In Person Regional Program**

Please accept this correspondence as a letter of support for _____,
who is a registered band member with the _____ Band.

We are pleased to provide this letter of support for his/her application to the First Nations Health Authority to receive consideration for entrance into the First Nations Health Authority/ Thompson Rivers University Online/In-person Accredited Health Care Assistant Program that is scheduled to start in February of 2017.

We understand that by providing this letter of support, that there is no financial commitment required by the Band for financial support to the student should he/she be accepted to the program.

We wish our registered band member the very best in his/her goal of gaining a seat in the Health Care Assistant Program.

Signed,

Name:

Position:

Address:

Email:

Phone: