

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Health Care Assistant Certificate (HA21)

Offered at Clarkesville, Blairsville, and Currahee Campuses

Entrance Dates Vary According to Campus
 Length of Program..... 3 Terms
 Credit Hours Required for Graduation30-35 depending on track

Purpose: The Health Care Assistant certificate program provides academic foundations at the diploma level in communications, mathematics, and human relations, as well as technical fundamentals. Program graduates are trained in the underlying fundamentals of health care delivery and are well prepared for employment and subsequent upward mobility.

Admission Requirements:

- Age 17 or older
- High school diploma or GED®
- Completion of application process including placement test; or provide SAT or ACT scores

Program Requirements:

- Must meet the technical competencies of the program (listed below) prior to entry
- Must carry professional liability insurance while enrolled in the program
- An acceptable (negative) criminal background check and drug test are required prior to clinical internship; student’s participation in clinical is dependent upon the results of these requirements
- Physical and dental exams and immunization records required before assignment to clinical sites for training
- Must maintain a GPA of 2.0 or better; a grade of “C” or better must be achieved in each course in order to progress to the next semester of the program
- No re-admission to the program after two withdrawals or two academic failures in any occupational course.
- Students must be 18 years of age before being placed in clinical practicum courses
- BLS and First Aid Certification required

Program Courses

Credits

ALHS	1011	Structure and Function of Human Body	5
ALHS	1040	Introduction to Health Care	3
ALHS	1090	Medical Terminology for Allied Health Sciences	2
COLL	1010	College and Career Success Skills	3
ENGL	1010	Fundamentals of English I	3
MATH	1012	Foundations of Mathematics	3
PSYC	1010	Basic Psychology	3

Select one of the following tracks:

Pre-Practical Nursing (8NS1)

ALHS	1060	Diet and Nutrition for Allied Health Sciences	2
NAST	1100	Nurse Aide Fundamentals	6

Phlebotomy (8PS1)

PHLT	1030	Introduction to Venipuncture	3
PHLT	1050	Clinical Practice	5

Pharmacy Tech (8PT1)

PHAR	1000	Pharmaceutical Calculations	4
PHAR	1040	Pharmacology	4
PHAR	1010	Pharmacy Technology	5

Estimated cost of books and supplies for full program is approximately \$2,200. Additional expenses may be incurred dependent upon the program track.

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Technical Competencies:

Working Environment – Works inside well-lighted, ventilated patient care areas; spends 89-90% of time in patient care areas. Potential risks may include possibly receive cuts and infections from sharp instruments and infections from contaminated equipment and personnel; possibly be exposed to communicable diseases; and possibly incur strains due to handling heavy equipment.

OSHA Risk Factor-Category I – A chance of exposure to blood and other body fluids is high dependent upon the chosen program track. The course exposes the student to noxious smells, either toxic or non-toxic; to toxic fumes, gases, vapors, mists, and liquids; or to latex which could, depending on the chemical, cause general or localized disabling conditions as a result of inhalation, ingestion, or action on the skin. HBV vaccination is recommended prior to clinical.

Essential Abilities – This position involves primarily medium work that requires frequent lifting, carrying, pushing and pulling of objects or equipment. Individuals enrolled in the program will need the physical ability to assist in lifting and carrying objects, such as patients or laboratory equipment, regardless of the weight of the patient or equipment. Stooping, kneeling, reaching, and dexterity are required. This career requires frequent sitting, standing, and/or walking without limitations. Ability to identify, assess, and comprehend conditions surrounding patient situations for the purpose of problem-solving around patient conditions and coming to appropriate conclusions and/or course of action. Ability to use the senses of seeing, hearing, touching, and smelling to make correct judgments regarding patient conditions for the purpose of demonstrating competence to safely engage in the practice of healthcare. Behaviors that demonstrate essential neurological functions include, but are not limited to, observation, listening, understanding relationships, writing, and psychomotor abilities. The ability to see and obtain impressions through the eyes of shape, size, distance, motions, or other characteristics of objects is required. This requires a visual acuity of 20/20 vision, with clarity of vision of 20 inches or less, depth perception, four-way field vision, sharp eye focus, and the ability to identify and distinguish color. The ability to hear is essential along with the ability to communicate effectively with fellow students, faculty, patients, and all members of the health care team. Skills include verbal, written, and nonverbal abilities consistent with effective communication. Expressing or exchanging ideas by the spoken word is required.