

## Health Care Assistant (HCA) Education Program

### Prerequisites for HCA Practice Education

If not required by the PSI at the time of admission to the program, evidence of completion of all of the following listed prerequisites for practice education must be in student files prior to the first practice education experience.

- First Aid Certification
- CPR Level “C” Certification or “Basic Life Support (BLS)” Certification
- [Foodsafe Level I](#) Certification (or a [certificate course deemed equivalent](#))
- Completion of the [Student Practice Education Core Orientation \(SPECO\)](#) (available on the LearningHub), which must include the following:
  - A signed checklist [SPECO Checklist.pdf \(phsa.ca\)](#)<sup>1</sup>
  - Proof of meeting current immunizations / vaccinations as per health care organization policies / guidelines (or signed vaccination exemption form, except TB)<sup>2</sup>
  - Criminal record check (CRC) from the [Criminal Records Review Program \(CRRP\)](#)<sup>3</sup>
  - [Provincial Violence Prevention Curriculum E-Learning Modules](#)
  - [WHMIS – Provincial Course](#)
- Completion of the [Health Care Assistant Practice in BC E-Learning Modules](#) (LearningHub)
- Completion of the [Recognizing and Responding to Adult Abuse](#) course (LearningHub)

Educational institutions need to provide information to prospective applicants about additional practice education and workplace specific health and safety requirements. Practice education partner sites, such as those that fall under the [Residential Care Regulation](#), may also have additional training / certification standards that must be met prior to placement.

The knowledge and skills offered in the First Aid, CPR Level “C” or “BLS” and Foodsafe Level I courses are not included in the HCA Program Provincial Curriculum. If the PSI includes any of these external certifications in their HCA program, any time spent on this training must be added to the program (above and beyond the minimum course / program hours outlined in the HCA Program Provincial Curriculum). External certifications must be valid from the start of the first placement and remain valid for the remaining duration of the program.

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<sup>1</sup> The Registry recognizes that there may be items on the SPECO checklist that are not required for HCA student placements.

<sup>2</sup> For placements at BC Health Authority sites, educational institutions should carefully consult the [Practice Education Guidelines of BC \(PEGs\)](#) to ensure they comply with practice guideline standards.

<sup>3</sup> Schedule B Form including clearance to work with both children and vulnerable adults. No other types of criminal record checks are acceptable. Educational institutions applying for new program recognition will need to confirm they have successfully registered as a post-secondary institution with the [Criminal Records Review Program](#).

The following prerequisites are strongly recommended:

- A health declaration (or equivalent) completed by the applicant confirming they understand the role of the HCA and are prepared to learn and practice HCA skills and competencies. The declaration may also be used to identify any learning needs of the applicant (completed by the applicant prior to acceptance).
- [Mental Health First Aid](#) (available through the Mental Health Commission of Canada)
- Dementia Care Training Certificate<sup>4</sup>
- Provincial Violence Prevention Curriculum In Person Workshop - available through [SafeCare BC](#); may be required for placement, confirm with placement site and view further information here: [Violence Prevention Training for Students.pdf \(healthcarebc.ca\)](#)
- In addition to HCA Program Provincial Curriculum coverage and the HCA Practice in BC E-Learning module (Module 3), completion of further coursework in Indigenous cultural safety and humility. See list of courses on the [Continuing Education page](#) of the Registry website: [Indigenous Cultural Safety and Humility Courses for Health Care Assistants](#)

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<sup>4</sup> Dementia care training is available through SafeCareBC and the Alzheimer Society of BC. Recognized HCA programs may require that students complete further certification to meet specific requirements of the health authority / employers in their region.