

A photograph of a Health Care Aide (HCA) in teal scrubs and white gloves, smiling and assisting an elderly Black man. The HCA is holding the man's hand. The background shows a medical setting with a plant and a glass of water.

EAL PATHWAYS TO HCA

Do you want to help people in a medical setting? Are you interested in a career vs. a job? Do you want a certificate recognized across Alberta? A career as a Health Care Aide may be for you.

Who Are You?

This program is designed for non native speakers of English who wish to pursue a career as a Health Care Aide but require further education to meet the requirements. The EAL portion of this program will assist students to prepare for the Health Care Aide Certificate Program by focusing on the skills students need to be able to complete their course requirements.

Entry Requirements

- Students will need to enter the EAL component at a minimum of CLB 7.
- Students may be evaluated by C-LARC or the Columbia College Assessment.

Discover the Columbia Difference.

Contact us or visit our website for detailed program and admission information.

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Program Description

In the first semester, students will go through an intensive language training course which prepares them to build the foundations to be successful in their HCA training component and be able to work in the healthcare environment with its specific requirements.

The EAL component of this program will also focus on certain academic skills to equip students with specific medical terminology, and certain essential skills such as critical thinking as well as problem solving skills to enhance students' ability to understand and apply the knowledge provided by the HCA component. These skills are transferable to many areas of work and can be applied while practicing in the field.

Program Schedule

- Full-time EAL classes—4.5 hours per day, Monday—Friday (total of 22.5 hours per week)
- Full time HCA classes—classroom and lab instruction for approx. 15 hours/week; supported tutorials and online learning activities on Fridays; 40 hours of practicum (primarily Monday—Friday but may include evenings and weekends)
- 16 week EAL component and 32 week HCA component

Program Benefits

- Small class sizes (average size of 20 students)
- Tutoring support available
- Government approved Health Care Aide program
- Childcare Centre on site