

HCA Program Information BulletinApplicant's Name: _____ NIC Student # _____

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide information to help you decide if the HCA program is the right fit for you at this time. Please consider the following information very carefully.

The HCA program is a demanding program. The HCA program addresses content that can be distressing to most of us (including elder abuse, spousal abuse, divorce, drug and alcohol abuse, communicable diseases, and death and dying).

Students attend class approximately 15-30 hours a week depending on the model of program delivery.

- Students state that they find the pace of the HCA program and content academically demanding.
- The HCA program engages students in active learning. It is an expectation that all students take part in role plays, experiential learning, skill demonstrations, and group work.
- It is an expectation that students come to class prepared, with their pre-readings completed. Past students estimate that there is an additional 2-3 hours per night of homework, as well as several hours on weekends.
- Written assignments, both individual and group, require work outside of class time.
- Students may be required to travel between campuses for course activities.
- There may be scheduled evening and/or weekend classes.

Familiarity with computers, access to a computer, and the ability to use software such as word programs, is an expectation for students entering the program.

Practice Experience placements take place in various communities in the region and students must commute and be responsible for their own transportation.

- Students may be scheduled to work **evening and/or weekend shifts**.

INTAKE PACKAGE - HEALTH CARE ASSISTANT

Constructive feedback and evaluation is part of the learning experience in the HCA program. Please consider your experiences with feedback and evaluation, and your willingness to receive constructive feedback to improve your skills and performance.

Examples of activities that students engage in and commonly encounter during their educational program and/or when providing care to clients in the health care environment are listed below:

- Frequent hand washing
- Physical actions that require:
 - strength: for actions such as supporting standing clients, pushing wheelchairs, etc.
 - endurance: for working 8 – 12 hour shifts
 - manual dexterity and the ability to function in limited spaces,
 - the ability to perform repetitive movements, and
 - mobility and coordination: for carrying objects, bending and reaching, assisting clients to dress/mobilize, etc.
- Psychologically stressful situations
- Activities that require sensory perception – sight, hearing and touch
- Exposure to potentially distressing environmental smells and noise
- Situations with multiple environmental distractors
- Unpredictable and unexpected situations

NIC has resources available to support you in your efforts to achieve your educational goals.

If you have a history of health, personal, and/or educational challenges, we strongly suggest that you make an appointment with the campus counselor or the “Department of Accessible Learning Services” prior to starting the program.

Having read the above with care and attention, your signature will reflect your understanding of the above information and its implication.

Signature: _____

Date: _____