

Health Care Companion
Career Studies Certificate

Purpose: This program prepares students for work in home health and/or personal care. Specific studies deal with nursing terminology and documentation, first aid, nutrition and diet therapy, and clinical practice. There is an optional component to the program for students to replace the Coordinated Internship class with NUR 27: Nurse Aide I. This class prepares students for the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) exam. This can only be done with the program coordinator’s approval after the student has completed the first three semesters.

Occupational Objectives: Students may seek employment as companions, personal assistants, or nursing assistants in home care, nursing homes, or assisted living centers; as instructional aides in the public school setting; or an activities assistant in nursing homes or assisted living centers.

Admission Requirements: General college curricular admission

Program Notes: Criteria for admission to P.A.V.E: students must have completed a high school program with a diploma, certificate or a GED; be active or pending clients of the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services; and possess the social skills necessary to function as independent persons among their peers in the college environment. Reading and math skills on at least the sixth grade level are required. It is required that students have good communication skills, are able to follow directions, are responsible, and display a high level of maturity. Credits earned in this program are nontransferable.

Curriculum

Course	Title	Lec. Hrs.	Lab Hrs.	Crs. Cre.
STD 100	College Success Skills	1	0	1
STD 80	Integrated Basic Academic/Life Skills	5	0	5
SOC 85	Social Skills Development	3	0	3
HLT 95	Introduction to Health Related Occupations	2	0	2
NUR 95	Medical Terminology and Documentation	2	0	2
NUR 95	Nutrition, Diet Therapy, and Food Preparation for Home Health Care Assistants	3	0	3
HLT 85	First Aid and CPR for Child Care Assistants	3	0	3
NUR 95	Personal Care Companion	4	0	4
NUR 90 ¹	Coordinated Internship for Health Care Companions	0	25	5
	Total	23	25	28

¹ NUR 27, Nurse Aide I, can be substituted for this course with permission of the program coordinator.