



Name: _____

ID#: _____

PROGRAM PLANNING GUIDE - FALL 2026

Health Care Aide Certificate

The purpose of this program planning guide is to help students track their progress within their chosen program. The information in this planning guide is accurate at the time of printing and is subject to change without notice. It is the students' responsibility to ensure the accuracy of their program and course choice. Students should use the program planning guide dated the year in which they began the program. This guide should be used in conjunction with the official (print) version of the Medicine Hat College Calendar, and calendars of appropriate transfer institutions, which are the final authorities regarding program requirements.

TERM 1: September 1, 2026 (New Student Orientation) – December 18, 2026		
COURSE	DATE	GRADE
HCAP 140: Health Care Aide Role & Responsibility - 3 credits: Lecture and Lab Co-requisites: HCAP 141, HCAP 142, and HCAP 143		
HCAP 141: The Human Body, Health, & Chronic Illness - 3 credits: Lecture Co-requisites: HCAP 140, HCAP142, and HCAP 143		
HCAP 142: Communication & Documentation in the Health Care Environment - 3 credits: Lecture and Lab Co-requisites: HCAP 140, HCAP 141, and HCAP 143		
HCAP 143: Providing Person-Centered Care & Comfort - 4 credits: Lecture and Lab Co-requisites: HCAP 140, HCAP 141, and HCAP 142		
HCAP 144: Clinical Placement 1 (November 18 – December 18, 2026) (80 hours) - 4 credits: Clinical Pre-requisites: HCAP 140, HCAP 141, HCAP 142, and HCAP 143		
TERM 2: January 5, 2027– April 23, 2027		
COURSE	DATE	GRADE
HCAP 145: Meeting Complex Care Needs - 4 credits: Lecture and Lab Pre-requisites: HCAP 140, HCAP 141, HCAP 142, HCAP 143, HCAP 144 Co-requisite: HCAP 146		
HCAP 146: Special Activities for Clients with Various Health Conditions - 4 credits: Lecture and Lab Pre-requisite: HCAP 140, HCAP 141, HCAP 142, HCAP 143, and HCAP 144 Co-requisite: HCAP 145		
HCAP 147: Clinical Experience 2 (Feb 22, 2027 – April 3, 2027) (160 hours) - 6 credits: Clinical Pre-requisites: HCAP 145 and HCAP 146		
HCAP 148: Consolidated Clinical Placement (April 5 – April 23, 2027) (80 hours) - 4 credits: Clinical Pre-requisite: HCAP 147		

Program Notes:

Program Progression

Students are required to adhere to program policies regarding punctuality, attendance, professional appearance, and responsiveness to supervision and feedback. They must demonstrate the ability to provide safe and competent care at all times.

If a student's performance raises concerns about the safety of client care or failure to meet program standards, they may be removed from the laboratory or clinical setting. Ongoing inability to meet expectations for safe and professional practice may result in dismissal from the program. Successful completion of all required theory courses within a given term is mandatory prior to entering the corresponding clinical placement. This ensures that learners are adequately prepared to meet the expectations and responsibilities of the clinical environment.

In the event that a student is not successful in one or more theory courses during a term, they are encouraged to continue with any remaining term courses for which they are eligible. Credit will be retained for successfully completed courses, and students may re-enter the program at a later date to complete outstanding requirements, subject to program availability and re-entry guidelines.

Graduation Requirements

To successfully graduate from the program and receive an Alberta Health Care Aide certificate, students must:

- Achieve passing grades in all theory, lab, and clinical assessments (70% minimum passing grade for all course exams) Courses are graded as complete or incomplete on your transcripts
- Meet the attendance requirements outlined in the Health Care Aide Program Handbook

Failure to meet any of these requirements will result in withdrawal from the program

NOTE: Students who do not achieve a passing grade in a course will be required to repeat it, and must meet with the Department Chair, or designate, or Academic Advisor to determine a progression plan.

Industry Credentials

Medicine Hat College will award a HCA certificate to all learners who successfully complete the Government of Alberta Provincial Curriculum Health Care Aide (HCA) program.

To be eligible to work as a Health Care Aide in Alberta, students are required to:

- Successfully pass the Alberta Health Care Aide Registration Exam (AHRE) and,
- Maintain active membership with their governing body, the College of Licensed Practical Nurses and Health Care Aides of Alberta (CLHA)