

Program Description

The Health Care Assistant (HCA) Certificate teaches students the skills they need to care for older adults in residential care facilities, assisted living facilities and in clients' private homes. The program focuses on learning to assist older adults in meeting their basic physical, emotional, environmental and social needs. Students learn to provide practical assistance to help clients maintain maximum independence within the limits of their ability.

Students also learn to practice ethically in a responsible and accountable manner, using caring and respectful communication skills. Students learn critical thinking and creativity to meet the varying needs of clients and learn how to work effectively as a team member.

The HCA program offers the BC provincial HCA curriculum and consists of courses in the basic concepts of health, client centered care, personal care and assistance, common health challenges, and cognitive challenges as they are applied to the care of older individuals and their families.

Graduates of the program will be prepared to function as healthcare assistance and team members in residential care, and assisted living, home-care agencies, or hospital settings.

Next Intake Date(s)

February 2022

Learning Options

- **Full-time study.** The program is offered on a full-time basis over 27 weeks. Part-time study is not available.
- **The Health Care Assistant Certificate is available online through TRU Open Learning.** Find out more here: www.tru.ca/distance/programs/nursing/health-care-assistant-certificate

Application Deadline

Applications are accepted until the program has reached capacity; there is no set application deadline.

After the program is full, completed applications will continue to be accepted and placed on a waitlist until the start of the program. Waitlisted applicants will be offered a seat on a first-applied, first-qualified basis should a seat in the program become available before the start of the program.

Admission Requirements

Admission is limited. Admission is offered on a first-applied, first-qualified (completed application and all requirements met) basis. It is important to complete your application as soon as possible to ensure the best chance of securing a seat.

Educational Requirements

1. Grade 11 (or equivalent), grade 12 is preferred, or mature student status
2. English 11 with a minimum 73% (or equivalent), or successful completion of the ACCUPLACER assessment (see below)

What if I don't meet the program requirements?

If you don't meet the minimum requirement in English 11, you can write the ACCUPLACER English assessment in place of upgrading your English course. The ACCUPLACER costs \$39.90 to write. You can schedule your ACCUPLACER by calling 250-392-8000 and you can find more details online: www.tru.ca/assessment/accuplacer

Laddering Between Health Care Programs: Health Care Assistant to Practical Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing

All levels of health care professionals are vital to the dedicated care of clients, as well as the overall function of our health care system. While it may seem like the best idea to start with the Health Care Assistant Certificate (HCA) and then "ladder"

into the Practical Nursing Diploma (LPN) and then possibly “ladder” into the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN), that is not the case. In fact, the different levels of nursing education do not build upon each other, and by starting with the HCA or LPN program, it will potentially take longer for you to be successful in your application to the BScN. Some applicants may receive advanced placement, such as when Licensed Practical Nurses apply for a second-year seat in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, but that is a very limited number of students. If you’re wondering where you should start, we encourage you to meet with our Academic Advisor on campus to create the best course and program plan for you.

International Students

The Health Care Assistant Certificate at TRU Williams Lake is not open to international students.

Permanent Resident Students

If you are a Canadian Permanent Resident, and/or you did not graduate from a BC or Canadian high school, you may be required to meet and/or obtain the minimum English Language Proficiency requirement through additional coursework or approved English placement assessment. In general: If your high school and/or post-secondary was completed in a country where English is not the official language, you will likely have to complete one of the following:

- Assessment: TOEFL (iBT: 88+ with no sections below 2.0), IELTS (6.5+ with no bands below 6.0) or Pearson Test of English. Please note: English placement assessment likely needs to be completed in either Vancouver, Kamloops, Prince George, or another city.
- Additional Coursework: English as a Second Language (ESAL) course. Please note: TRU Williams Lake does not offer any ESAL courses.

How to Apply

1. **Submit your application after October 1.** There are two ways to submit a TRU application form: by printing and filling in the paper [TRU Application Form](#), then submitting it to the TRU WL admissions office in-person or by email to wladmissions@tru.ca; or you may apply online via [Education Planner BC website](#) (the latter method requires payment with credit card).
2. **Pay the application fee of \$31.02.** Your application will not be processed until the application fee is paid.
3. **Submit official high school transcripts and any post-secondary transcript(s),** before the application deadline, to:

Thompson Rivers University – Williams Lake Campus
Admissions Office
1250 Western Avenue
Williams Lake, BC V2G 1H7

BC high school applicants and graduates can submit their official transcripts through the [Student Transcripts Service \(STS\)](#).

Current high school applicants are required to submit their official transcripts before the application deadline and at the time of graduation. Please also ensure submission of interim grade 12 grades before the application deadline to increase your competitive consideration. Past high school applicants are required to submit their official transcript before the application deadline. To order your official high school transcript, please visit your provincial or territorial Ministry of Education website for further information.

Applicants are required to submit official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended. If you are currently attending another post-secondary institution, you must submit an official transcript at the time of your application. Should you have courses in progress, you will be required to submit a final official transcript at completion of these courses.

Need help with transcripts? Find our step-by-step guide at tru.ca/future/admissions/undergrad/submit-transcript

You will be contacted by admissions via email within 2-3 weeks of submission of your online application regarding next steps.

Applicants are responsible to ensure all transcripts and required documents are submitted by the application deadline.

If you have previously applied to the BScN program, but were not accepted or did not attend, you must submit a new application.

Funding and Support Services

TRU Grit Awards are awarded annually to TRU Williams Lake students. The financial awards range from \$500 to \$2,000 and all students are encouraged to apply as all applications will be considered. Students who demonstrate a financial need will be given a higher priority. Applications open in late spring every year: tru.ca/williamslake/student-services/financialaid

TRU Student Awards & Financial Support offers a comprehensive range of programs to both assist students in financing their educational and living costs, and to recognize academic excellence. Financial support can be a combination of bursaries, scholarships, awards, work-study, loans and grants. More information can be found online: tru.ca/awards

Student loan funding is designed to supplement the resources of those who could not otherwise afford post-secondary studies. **BC Student Loan applications can be found online at studentaidbc.ca**. If you are a resident of another Canadian province or territory, you apply for government student assistance through your home province/territory.

Indigenous students are encouraged to contact TRU Williams Lake's Gathering Place (indigenous student services) at 250-392-8179. The Gathering Place is a friendly and inviting Indigenous centre that provides information on all aspects of university life and doubles as a space to socialize, study or just take a break from your day. It is truly a home away from home.

Accessibility Services provides academic accommodations and service to all eligible TRU students, both on campus and Open Learning. They facilitate equal access to educational opportunities by reducing physical, attitudinal and systematic barriers. Find out more online: tru.ca/as

Visit the TRU Williams Lake website, tru.ca/williamslake/student-services for more information regarding additional support services, including counselling, sponsorship and student housing options.

Program Costs Estimate

Tuition	\$2,835
Student Fees	\$709
Books	\$500
Additional fees - Year 1 (immunizations, scrubs and shoes, lab kits, criminal record checks, etc.)	\$955
Total Approximate Cost – Year 1	\$4999

Commitment Fee: If you are offered a seat in the HCA program, to accept and hold your seat you are required to pay a \$500 tuition deposit within two weeks of receiving your official seat offer. The commitment fee will count as payment towards your tuition.

Payment deadlines: Tuition and student fees are due the last Friday in August for the Fall semester and the first Friday in January for the Winter semester.

Need Help? Contact Us.

Questions about the Health Care Assistant Certificate? We're here to help you with every step of the way.

TRU Williams Lake Reception (General inquiries and to book an advising appointment):
Phone: 250-392-8000
Email: wmain@tru.ca

TRU Williams Lake Admissions:
Phone: 250-392-8020
Email: wladmissions@tru.ca