

Health Care Assistant Program Review

Faculty of Health Sciences

Dean's Summary

Submitted by:

Dr. Joanne MacLean, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences

Accepted by:

Senate in June 2018

Academic Planning and Priorities Committee in May 2018

Dean's Summary Report

The Health Care Assistant (HCA) certificate program resides within the School of Health Studies, in the Faculty of Health Sciences. Two 100% full-time and one 60% full-time members of faculty and two sessional instructors deliver courses culminating in the 24 week HCA Certificate. A total of 50 students are admitted into the cohort program each year. The job market for graduates is excellent, however applications to the program have experienced recent instability resulting in an ongoing targeted recruitment strategy.

Graduates of the UFV HCA program are eligible for registration with the recognizing body, the BC Care Aide & Community Health Worker Registry (BCCACHWR) in the Ministry of Health. Requirements for educational program reviews involve an extensive review of program resources, instructional staff, entry requirements, learning outcomes, practice education experiences, the Program Advisory Committee (PAC), stakeholder consultation, and timely program improvements based on stakeholder feedback. Detailed documentation and self-study outlining evidence addressing the recognition requirements is submitted and followed by onsite visitation by Registry Evaluators from the BCCACHWR. The program provides students with the opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to function as a front-line caregiver and respected member of the health care team, in community and facility settings. The curriculum includes lecture and laboratory instruction, extensive clinical experiences, and a practicum to gain work experience and make connections in the industry.

Members of faculty engaged a rigorous self-study review initiated in Fall 2016 and submitted their report to the BCCACHWR in accordance with the recognition requirements in January 2017. On March 15, 2017 a Registry Evaluator conducted a one-day site visit at UFV. The evaluator met with program administrators, faculty, staff, current students, PAC members, and the Dean while on campus. The evaluator also toured all facilities and support services on the CEP campus and compiled a report of site information that was then forwarded to the BCCACHWR for review to determine the eligibility of the program for recognition.

The report of the site evaluator affirmed the academic excellence of the HCA program highlighting the inter-professional collaboration among programs in the School of Health Studies, the 100% hiring rate of UFV HCA program graduates, and the excellent relationships with community partners. Recognition was provided to the UFV HCA program for the maximum period of five years.

The evaluation of the HCA program against BCCACHWR recognition standards identified the following recommendations:

1. *That the program incorporate/utilize the BC Campus Elder Abuse Curricular resources as they are excellent and up to date resources to support teaching/learning about elder abuse.*
ACTION: HCA Faculty to incorporate/utilize the resources.
TIME FRAME: June 2018 review, September 2018 implementation.
2. *That the program explore the use of the “Simulation Scenarios” now available on Evolve for the updated Sorrentino (2017) Mosby’s Canadian Textbook for the Support Worker, 4th Edition textbook.*
ACTION: HCA Faculty to explore the use of the resources.
TIME FRAME: June 2018.
3. *That the Program Assistant should update the “Applicant Profile Page” for the Health Care Assistant program to clearly indicate that Non Native English Speaking Applicants will require a Standardized English Language Proficiency Test/Test Score.*
ACTION: Coordinator/Departmental Assistant to update.
TIME FRAME: June 2018.
4. *That the language used in HCA 113 Healing II: Cognitive and Mental Health Challenges be updated taking into further consideration person-centred language guidelines, that the course packs be updated to reflect terminology to ‘client’ instead of ‘resident’, and that written detail be provided in program and/or course materials that the Provincial Violence Prevention Curriculum is being covered within the program.*
ACTION: HCA Faculty to update.
TIME FRAME: Course manual update in June 2018, September 2018 implementation.
5. *That if the HCA 114 Health & Healing: Concepts for Practice course continues to be scheduled for delivery after HCA 120 Personal Care & Assistance, material related to caring, providing person-centred care, meeting basic human needs care planning and caring for older adults be added to the HCA 120 course manual.*
ACTION: HCA Faculty.
TIME FRAME: Revision of timetable to teach earlier, Fall 2018 implementation.

6. *That additional strategies to support student orientation and success in working with older adults with cognitive and mental health challenges be offered during the student's first clinical placement.*

ACTION: HCA Faculty to offer additional strategies.

TIME FRAME: Fall 2018.

The HCA program recognition review involved a detailed analysis of specific curriculum opportunities that address performance indicators for the profession of Health Care Assistant. These competencies reflect the UFV Institutional Learning Outcomes via both theoretical and practice components of the program. The program is responsive to emerging trends in health care and health care education. The HCA program has participated in the 5 Corners Community Outreach program which provides HCA students with the opportunity to work with students from other disciplines and vulnerable populations.

Program strategic goals have been identified to include, for example, the establishment of new clinical placements in the Fraser Valley, the expansion of inter-disciplinary learning using simulation, and the development of new courses focusing on the needs of health care practitioners.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne MacLean, PhD
Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences