

HEALTH SCIENCES (HPS)

Program Purpose

The primary intent of short-term certificate Health program Science is to fulfill basic occupational objectives, prepare the graduate or to provide specialty training/competencies for students who wish to enter a health field. The prescribed program of study is included in the College catalog. All health sciences clinical are supervised practicums within the clinical setting that provides laboratory practice, medication administration assistance and basic nursing care in health sciences. Emphasis is placed on collection techniques, specimen processing, workflow practices, referrals, utilizing information systems, medication administration providing activities of daily living care and basic nursing care. Math, English, asepsis, and are also included courses.

In addition to CPR Certification, the graduate will be eligible to sit for the Phlebotomist Certification Examination, Medication Aide Certification Examination and Certified Nurse Aide Certification upon completion of the program. This course satisfies the requirements necessary to sit for the Phlebotomist Certification Examination and is certified by the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Registry (BOR), Nurse Aide Certification Examination (certified by Alabama Department of Public Health) and Medication Aide Certification Exam (Certified by Alabama Board of Nursing and National Council State Board of Nursing).

The Health Sciences Short Certificate (Phlebotomy) is designed to prepare the graduate to recognize situations that require Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) first aid, and effectively implement emergency procedures when needed. Graduates will be able to apply medical terminology in verbal and written communication. It is also designed to train individuals to properly collect and process blood and other clinical specimens for laboratory testing and to interact with health care personnel, patients, and the general public.

NAS-100 Long Term Care Nursing Assistant course fulfills the seventy-five hour Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) requirements for training of long-term care nursing assistants in preparation for certification through competency evaluation. Emphasis is placed on the development of knowledge, attitudes, and skills required of the long-term care nursing assistant. Upon completion of this course, the student should demonstrate satisfactory performance on written examinations and clinical skills.

NAS-102 Medication Assistant course fulfills the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) one hundred (100) hour Medication Assistant Certified (MA-C) Curriculum requirements for training of nursing assistants in preparation for medication assistant certification (MA-C) through competency evaluation. Emphasis is placed on the development of the knowledge, attitudes, and skills required of the medication assistant. Upon completion of this course, the student should demonstrate satisfactory performance on written examinations, practical lab, and clinical skills. Completion of this course is satisfactory for candidacy for the Medication Assistant Certification Exam (MACE) through NCSBN and The Alabama Board of Nursing.

Occupational Data

Graduates of the Health Sciences program work in the healthcare industry where they use their skills which are grouped under the classification of phlebotomist's personnel. According to Economic Modeling, the national median wage for phlebotomist's personnel was \$17.07/hr. in 2019.

Graduates of the Certified Nursing Assistant program work in the healthcare industry where they use their skills which are grouped under the classification of nursing assistant personnel. According to Economic Modeling, the national median wage for nursing assistant personnel was \$14.26/hr. in 2019.

According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS), nursing assistants with a Medication Aide certification should have even better prospects. According to United States Bureau of Statistics, the hourly pay for medication aides \$14.25. The median annual wage for nursing assistants was \$29,660 in May 2019

Admission Requirements

Applicants to this course must possess a GED or high school diploma, complete all general application requirements, and pass the admissions exam. Applicants applying for Medication Aide Course must acquire an Active Certification as a Certified Nurse Assistant or Certified.

Prior to clinical placement the student must show proof of liability insurance (purchased through the school), completion of a health form, a drug and alcohol screen and background check required by the participating clinical agency, all of which will be purchased at the student's own expense. In addition, random drug screens will be conducted if there is reasonable cause to believe a student is in violation of the institutional conduct code of the federal Drug-Free Workplace Act Regulations. If the student has a positive drug screen, then the student will be dismissed from the program immediately.

Criminal Background Checks: Eligibility for Clinical Rotations

Reid State Technical College is contractually obligated to comply with requirements set forth by agencies used for clinical rotations. Students will be subject to criminal background checks at their own expense prior to attending the clinical rotation. A "Consent for Release of Information" form must be signed to authorize the criminal history record check and the release of information to the clinical agencies. The Human Resource Director (or designee) of the clinical agency will make the determination whether a student can attend clinical or not, depending on the results of the background check.

The background screening is good for only one year. The cost of the background check is the responsibility of the student. Results are confidential and submitted directly to the health career's department and the clinical agencies. Any student denied clinical access by a clinical affiliate will be withdrawn from the program. (See Policy on Background Screening)

Drug Screening

Students are required to abide by the policies, procedures and rules of behavior of the institutions from which the student obtains a clinical rotation. Students will be required to undergo drug and alcohol testing prior to the clinical experience. Students will also be subject to random drug testing and drug or alcohol testing for “cause”. Students will be responsible for the cost of such testing. Students who test positive for drugs (that cannot be confirmed by a MRO) or alcohol will be withdrawn from the program. Substance abuse (drug and alcohol) screening is good for only one year. (See Policy on Substance Abuse)

Grading Policy/Scale

No rounding of test scores (daily, weekly or final exam) will be done (example: 78.6 is 78.6). Only the final course grade average will be rounded: 0.5 or higher will be raised to the next whole number (Example: 79.5 or higher will be rounded to 80). A student must have a “75” or better average (C) in all health sciences (HPS) courses or a “70” or better in general education courses (English and math) to pass and be allowed to progress in the program.

A grade of “D” or “F” is not acceptable for any course in the health sciences curriculum (including English & math). A student must pass both components of a theory/clinical class to pass the course. A passing grade in one component will not bring up a failing grade in the other.

Grading Scale for Health Sciences Courses:

A = 90 – 100	
B = 80 – 89	
C = 75 – 79	AU = Audit
D = 60 – 74	I = Incomplete
F = 59 and below	W

= Withdrawn Grading Scale for

General Education Courses:

A = 90 – 100
B = 80 – 89
C = 70 – 79
D = 60 – 69
F = 59 and below

HEALTH SCIENCES (HPS)-SHORT CERTIFICATE

MINIMUM CREDITS REQUIRED:

29 Semester Credit Hours Length of

Program: 2 semesters of full-time

attendance

Health Sciences Program	Credit Hours	Contact Hours
General Education	7	
Technical Concentration	22	
Total	29	
1st Semester		
Orientation (ORT 100)	1	1
English Composition (ENG101)	3	3
Long Term Nursing Care (NAS100)	4	6
Medication Assistant (NAS102)	6	135
Asepsis (HPS109)	1	3
Semester Total	15	148
2nd Semester		
Mathematical Applications (MTH116) OR Intermediate College Algebra (MTH100)	3	3
Fundamental of Phlebotomy	7	19
Phlebotomy Clinical	4	12
Semester Total	14	34
TOTAL HOURS	29	

Medication Aide Certification Training

The MAC (Medication Assistant Certification) course fulfills the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) one hundred (100) hour Medication Assistant Certified (MA-C) curriculum requirements for training of nursing assistants in preparation for medication assistant certification (MA-C) through competency evaluation. Emphasis is placed on the development of the knowledge, attitudes, and skills required of the medication assistant. Upon completion of this course, the student should demonstrate satisfactory performance on written examinations, practical lab, and clinical skills.

Occupational Data

According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS), jobs for nursing assistants and orderlies are expected to grow at relatively fast rate of 20 percent between through 2020, leading to an estimated 302,000 new jobs by the end of the decade. Due to a high turnover rate in the industry, many additional positions are expected to become available as current workers retire or leave the profession. Nursing assistants with a Medication Aide certification should have even better prospects. According to United States Bureau of Statistics, the hourly pay for medication aides \$14.25. The median annual wage for nursing assistants was \$29,660 in May 2019.

Prerequisite

Active Certification as a Certified Nurse Assistant

Admissions Requirement

Applicants to this program must complete the Medication Assistant Program application and provide a valid photo id. The criminal/consumer background check and drug screen will done prior to clinical rotation. The applicant must be at least 17 years of age by the program/course completion

Certification Requirements

Completion of this medication assistant examination through the Alabama Board of Nursing will qualify a nursing assistant-certified with a medication assistant for consideration of employment to administer medications and nursing commission-approved treatments to residents in nursing homes, under the direct supervision of a designated registered nurse.

The Alabama Board of Nursing has contracted with Pearson VUE®, a nationally recognized leading provider of assessment services to regulatory agencies and national associations, to administer the examination. Pearson VUE along with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) will develop, score, and report the results of the Medication Assistant Examination to the Alabama Board of Nursing.

Eligibility to Test

Applicants for an initial medication assistant must meet the following requirements:

- Be at least 17 years of age
- Has successfully completed a Medication Assistant Certification MAC training program approved by the ABN and administered by ACCS (Alabama Community College System). All candidates applying to take the Medication Assistant Certification Examination (MACE) in Alabama MUST submit the following:
 - A completed Medication Assistant Certification Application (available on the ABN website).
 - Proof of program completion must be submitted to the ABN by the primary source (ACCS). Once approved, your examination approval record will be transmitted to Pearson VUE. You will receive a candidate identification number and an Authorization to Test (ATT) letter from Pearson VUE via email (on behalf of the Alabama Board of Nursing). This information will allow you to register for the certification examination through the Pearson VUE AL MACE website at: www.pearson.com/mace/AL.

<https://home.pearsonvue.com/getattachment/ea2da003-343c-467a-8253-da016cd74684/Alabama%20Medication%20Assistant%20Certification%20Examination%20Candidate%20Handbook.aspx>