

# Supportive Care Assistant Program Overview

Okanagan College (OC) is pleased to introduce a new, fully subsidized [Supportive Care Assistant](#) training program developed to address the labour shortages in the health care sector. The six-week online program allows learners to discover a new career, gain work experience, and make a difference in our community. Graduates of the program can access a \$5,000 laddering stipend if they choose to pursue further studies and enter a health care assistant (HCA) certificate program.

## Features

- The program is fully subsidized (no tuition fee).
- The online training means learners don't have to travel daily for classes.
- The paid work placement will provide learners with the opportunity to build new skills and get practical experience while earning a wage.
- The program is funded by Employment and Social Development Canada and is part of [Colleges and Institutes Canada's \(CICan\)](#) Building Capacity in Long-term Care project.

## Curriculum

OC's Supportive Care Assistant program includes six weeks of online training and a paid work placement (280 hours). Each online module takes about 20 hours to complete, and students will complete one module a week.

*The 'Supportive Care Assistant program' is not equivalent to or recognized as a B.C. health care assistant program. Graduates are not eligible for registration with the BC Care Aide & Community Health Worker Registry.*

6 Modules: Professionalism, Supportive client-centred care, Communication, Supportive Assistance, Infection control and safety and Preparing for the work placement.

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These six online training modules are designed to be self-paced and they are available online 24/7. Students also attend tutorial sessions twice a week through Zoom during the six-week training period.

Learners will receive support and assistance with the completion of program requirements (assessment surveys, final tests, learning plans, and work experience reports). An instructor will meet with the class and provide academic advising throughout the online course.

OC is also adding guest lectures and three extra industry certificate training sessions to enhance their knowledge and employment readiness workshops.

1. First Aid and CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation)
2. FOODSAFE Level One
3. Provincial Violence Prevention Curriculum

## **Paid work experience**

After completing the required modules, learners will be connected to an employer who will provide 280 hours of paid employment (full-time) where they will assist certified personal care providers and health care teams to support clients. The role involves performing non-clinical activities such as:

- Assisting with meals
- Assisting with cleaning and disinfecting
- Stocking materials required by clients and health care staff
- Making clients' beds, cleaning their rooms and other areas
- Providing companionship, comfort and support
- Assisting with moving about and accompanying clients as they move about
- Participating in activities with clients

## Laddering Stipend (\$5,000)

After successfully completing all the requirements, learners will be granted a digital badge and statement of completion. Graduates can access \$5,000 to pursue an HCA certificate program at OC. The stipend can be used for tuition, books, dependant care, transportation, etc.

Please note that admission requirements must be met for that program. HCA starts October 16, 2023 in Vernon and Penticton Campuses and completion of the HCA certificate needs to happen before March 31, 2024.

## Participant Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in OC's no-cost Supportive Care Assistant training, learners must:

- be at least 19 years of age,
- be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or person who has been granted refugee status in Canada,
- be legally entitled to work in Canada according to the relevant provincial legislation and regulations,
- (for learners for whom English is not their first language) provide proof of English language skills (IELTS 6.0; CLB 6; CEFR B2) or equivalency.

Note: Work placement requirements may also include clean criminal record checks and proof of certain immunizations as learners may be exposed to communicable diseases.

Additionally, learners should:

- have an interest in a career in long-term care
- have regular access to a PC or MAC computer with an internet connection and recent versions of Google Chrome or Internet Explorer installed
- have basic computer skills
- have access to transportation for work placement(s)

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- be available to work shifts (evenings/nights/weekends)
- be physically able to stand/walk with some bending, twisting, and lifting

## Cost

There is no cost for tuition or to register for OC's Supportive Care Assistant program. The program is subsidized by the Government of Canada and is being offered at no cost to participants. Bursaries are available for dependent care. Uniforms will be provided.

Students are expected to cover certain costs associated with the placement including criminal record checks or other employment requirements (e.g. transportation to the work experience site, and footwear).

## Career Outlook

In the next 30 years, the number of Canadians over the age of 85 is expected to triple and the demand for health care workers will increase. Completing OC's Supportive Care Assistant Program is a stepping stone towards a career in a growing sector.

A career in health care can be challenging and rewarding. Care providers make a difference in the lives of others and create meaningful connections with older adults, people with disabilities, and their families. It's a good career fit for people who are compassionate and like working with others.

## Program Dates

June 19 – September 29, 2023

## Questions?

Contact **Leanne**, program coordinator at [lclare@okanagan.bc.ca](mailto:lclare@okanagan.bc.ca)

<https://www.okanagan.bc.ca/cs/supportive-care-assistant-program>

For further information: <https://www.careerlauncher.ca/job-seekers/care/>