



Student Information For ALLIED HEALTH ASSISTANCE

What do I need to know?

Allied Health Assistance work involves providing support to allied health professionals caring for clients. There are 23 allied health professions who work alongside doctors and nurses some of these include audiologists, dieticians, exercise physiologists, occupational therapists, orthotists, podiatrists, psychologists, social workers and speech pathologists. An allied health assistant does have direct contact with clients however always under the supervision of an allied health professional. Allied health assistants work in hospitals, rehabilitation centres and private practice settings to provide support in client care. Allied Health Assistance work is also found in smaller and rural/remote settings. There are a wide variety work opportunities in government and non-government organisations that provide health services. Depending on the organisation and the work role, health service assistants may also be employed with other titles, such as, therapy assistant or specific to a profession such as physiotherapy assistant.

Allied health assistants do a range of activities from working directly with patients to working in roles that support health provider services. Depending on the job role, work may include providing support and assisting with preparation of patients, assisting with client movement and transport and other care support activities. Administrative duties also such as supply ordering and cleaning and maintaining therapy equipment.

A qualification in Allied Health Assistance will enable you to be part of the dynamic health industry. The skills and knowledge in an Allied Health Assistance qualification are a sound foundation to career progression and transferable to other roles in direct client and community services work.

What will I learn?

- Be a good communicator and listener
- Solve problems
- Be organised with good time management skills
- Have an interest in people with non-judgemental and positive attitude
- Use initiative and be flexible
- Work as part of a team as well as independently
- Contribute to effective workplace relationships
- Organise workplace information
- Interpret and apply medical terminology appropriately
- Assist with an allied health program
- Recognise healthy body systems in a health care context
- Maintain high standard of client service
- Assist with client movement
- Comply with infection control policies and procedures
- Participate in WHS processes
- Administrative responsibilities

What study options are there?

To achieve Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance as a part of the HSC students will generally complete the Human Services (360 indicative hours) HSC VET course from the Human Services Curriculum Framework. Students undertaking Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance through the Human Services (360 indicative hours) course will be eligible for 6 HSC credit units towards the 22 HSC credit units required for the award of their HSC.

This course will contribute to an ATAR if you choose to sit the HSC Human Services examination. The HSC examination in Human Services is optional. Students who have completed the Human Services (360 indicative hours) course are eligible to sit for the HSC examination. The HSC examination is a written exam separate to competency-based assessment undertaken during the course and has no impact on student eligibility for the Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance.

You may choose to study for the Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance as a school based trainee while completing the HSC. You will work part-time in paid employment at a health facility such as Medicare Local, local health district, disability service, aged care facility, private or community based hospitals, for a minimum of 100 days to gain on the job training. The off the job component of the qualification is provided by a Registered Training Organisation.

Where might work placement be?

Workplaces appropriate for allied health assistance are Medicare Locals, local health district, disability services, aged care facilities, public, private and community based health providers.

Work placement may be scheduled during school holidays depending on the employer requirements.

Are there other requirements for Allied Health Assistance work?

There are strict uniform and personal grooming policies for working in a health service. They include closed toe shoes (must be flat heeled, leather and waterproof), no long sleeves or tank tops, no jewellery, short clean nails (no acrylic nails or coloured polish), one pair of stud earrings (all other pierced jewellery must be removed), trousers (preferred, no shorts).

Patient confidentiality must be maintained at all times, both on and off the job (no Facebook or Twitter comments of job or patients) and phones, including iPad cannot be carried in the workplace.

As a protection for yourself, patients and other staff you must have current immunisations for Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Chickenpox, Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis, Hepatitis B, TB, Influenza (recommended). If you choose to continue in this profession you will be compliant to work in health. If not immunised, you may not be able to do work placement and therefore not complete the qualification.

Are there other subjects that may help me while studying for the Allied Health Assistance qualification?

When selecting your HSC subjects you may wish to consider how they may complement your vocational studies and contribute to achieving best results. English is essential for an Allied Health Assistance career pathway and the following subjects may also be beneficial:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Mathematics
- Society and Culture
- Community and Family Studies
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
- Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation Studies