



Student Information For HEALTH SERVICES ASSISTANCE

What do I need to know?

Health services assistance work involves providing assistance to health professionals caring for patients. Depending on the job role, work may include providing operating theatre support and assisting with preparation of clients, assisting nurses in an acute care setting, assisting with client movement and transport and other care support activities.

Work roles include orderly, porter, ward assistant or patient care assistant.

Certificate III in Health Services Assistance can be delivered as a VET in School pathway, requiring 105 hours work placement over 2 years.

To achieve Certificate III in Health Services 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 Health Services 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 independent of the competency-based assessment undertaken during the course and has no impact on student eligibility for the Certificate III in Health Services Assistance.

It is also possible to study for the Certificate III in Health Services 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.

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
- Recognise healthy body systems in a health care context
- Comply with infection control policies and procedures
- Participate in WHS processes.

Where might work placement be?

Workplaces appropriate for health services assistance are Medicare Locals, 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 Health Services 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).

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.

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.

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

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

- Society and Culture
- Community and Family Studies
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

Are there fees and costs?

If you are at a government high school the course cost is covered via the schools staffing allocation, this means that there is no direct cost to students. If you are at a non-government high school your school VET coordinator will explain about the different costs involved.