

Health Science Programs and Policies

Health Science Education Programs

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Health Science Program Policies

Health Science Education

Health Science Education has two major academic divisions: Programs for Initial Professional Preparation and Programs for Post-Professional Development. Programs that prepare students for initial professional preparation into specific health professions include: Dental Assisting, Dental Hygiene, Diagnostic Medical Sonography (Ultrasound), Emergency Medical Technician, Health Information Management, Health Services Management, Massage Therapy, Medical Assisting, Nuclear Medicine, Nursing RN Program, Paramedic, Physical Therapist Assistant Technology, Radiation Therapy Technology, Radiography (X-ray), Respiratory Care, and Vision Care Technology Programs.

The Continuing Education and Workforce Development Department offers post-professional development courses/programs for credentialed health professionals whose goals are to increase their knowledge and skills in various health-related topics and courses. The Department also offers Advanced Technical Certificates in the following areas: Basic Perioperative Nursing, Coronary Care Nursing, Critical Care Nursing, Graduate Nurse Intern, Home Health Nursing, Manual Techniques, Multi-skilled Healthcare Professional, and Vascular Sonography.

Health Science Admission Requirements

To apply for admission into a Health Science Program, students must do the following.

1. Complete the admission requirements to the College (see page 22).
2. Complete all college preparatory requirements if seeking a Health Science degree and the pre-requisite requirements for the specific Health Science program they wish to enter. Science courses completed more than 10 years ago must be evaluated to determine if the courses will need to be repeated. Students should seek approval from the appropriate Associate Dean or Program Manager..
3. Complete a Health Science Admissions Application for the desired Health Science program(s). A separate application must be made for each program. Applications may be obtained on line at www.broward.edu/locations/chse/PDF/forms/index.jsp or by calling (954) 201-7350. Each application for admission to a particular program must be accompanied by a \$20.00, non-refundable Health Science application fee. Checks are to be made payable to Broward Community College.
4. Submit electronic copies of transcripts for all previous college work (excluding Broward Community College) with the Health Science application to the Office of the Associate Vice President/District Registrar, 225 E. Las Olas Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301. Students should see an Academic Advisor to

determine transferability of credits and additional coursework needed. Each program has defined a specific minimum grade point average as an admissions requirement. Refer to the specific programs.

5. Activate their free BCC e-mail address. Information about setting up the e-mail account can be found at www.broward.edu.

Most Health Science programs require completion of Pre-Health Science Core requirements (HCP 0130, CAE 0299, CAE 0382, CAE 0474, CAE 0258 and CAE 0476) **after submitting the Health Science application and prior to entering the program.** These courses, as prescribed by the Florida Department of Education, Division of Applied Technology and Adult Education, introduce students to basic health care knowledge and skills.

Selection Criteria

Students are selected into programs based on established criteria for each program in accordance with Equal Access/Equal Opportunity standards. The Admissions Office admits all students based on established criteria. Contact the admissions office at 954-201-6782, 954-201-6735, or 954-201-2892 for the specific criteria. No exceptions are made.

Number of Students Admitted

Most health science programs admit students once each year. The number of students selected is limited and varies with the availability of clinical facilities, state licensing regulations, and other related criteria.

Notification of Admission

Students are notified via their BCC email of acceptance into the respective programs. In certain instances, a student may postpone entry into the program only once. A student who fails to begin the program, when notified, may petition for a time-limited deferral through Academic Standards.

It is strongly recommended that students enroll in College Success Skills, SLS 1501 prior to entering a Health Science Program.

Performance Standards for the Health Sciences

Students must meet certain standards of performance in order to progress in their course work and ultimately graduate from any of the respective health science programs. These standards include meeting certain physical demands associated with the profession. Please review the requirements for the program of interest at www.broward.edu/programs, and search for the program of interest.

Health Science Program Policies

Criminal Background and Drug Screening

Students applying to a health science program are subject to criminal background and drug screening which is required as a prerequisite to attending any

clinical practicum. A student needs to be aware that they may be denied participation and placement at a clinical agency based on the background or drug screening findings and the clinical agency's pre-employment screening policy. The health science program cannot guarantee an alternative facility placement. Withdrawal from the program will be necessary if a student cannot be placed in a clinical agency to meet program practicum requirements. A history of past arrest and conviction may prohibit students from being licensed in Florida. Students are urged to contact the licensing boards that govern the profession that they are interested in prior to submitting an application to the program.

Substance Abuse Policy Statement

A student who is unable to perform clinical activities with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness, or use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or any other type material, or as a result of any mental or physical condition, shall be required to submit to a mental or physical examination. The physician or health care practitioner must possess expertise to diagnose the impairment and be approved by the program. Cost of the examination will be borne by the student. Failure to submit to such an examination may result in dismissal from the program.

Students may be asked to leave a clinic with an unexcused absence if they arrive smelling of alcohol. Repeated offenses may result in dismissal from the program.

Registration/Audit

A student must be admitted to a program and registered in the course to attend class. No student may audit a Health Science course without the permission of the appropriate Health Science Associate Dean or Program Manager.

Withdrawal/Failure

Any Health Science student who fails or withdraws from a Health Science program during his/her first semester shall re-apply to the program. Re-admission will be based on the criteria and procedures in effect at the time of re-admission. Additional requirements may be applied to students who have previously failed. If a student fails a Health Science course or fails to maintain the appropriate GPA after the first semester, he/she shall meet the re-admission policy and procedures of the program. The student may have to wait for the availability of space.

Transfer

Students who wish to transfer Health Science credits from another college should contact the appropriate program for a copy of the procedures and policies. No student can obtain a Health Science degree unless she/he has completed 25% of the coursework at Broward Community College.

Attendance

Each instructor determines the attendance policy for each class, and communicates this policy in the course syllabus at the beginning of each semester. It is the student's responsibility to know the attendance policy. Clinical attendance is mandatory. The student must

contact the instructor or clinical area in case of an emergency or illness.

Academic Integrity, Cheating, Plagiarism, etc.

In addition to the College's Student Code of Conduct, the Health Science programs have adopted a Code of Professional Behaviors. Students are expected to comply with all professional behaviors. Any infraction of the Code may result in disciplinary action including dismissal from the program.

The course syllabus outlines the instructor's policy on cheating. If a student is discovered cheating, the student also may be expelled or suspended from the program. In submitting written work during any course, the student should be aware of the policy on plagiarism adopted by the Health Science faculty found in the program's handbook.

Transportation

Students must have reliable transportation to and from Broward Community College and to and from an assigned clinical facility. The College or clinical facility provides no transportation. The student assumes all risks and responsibilities for travel to and from clinical sites and field trips.

Uniforms

Students must furnish uniforms that meet the approval of the appropriate Health Science program. Information regarding uniform guidelines and purchase is given to each applicant following admission to a program.

Liability Insurance

All health science students are required to carry professional liability insurance each term that they are in a clinical setting. The fee for liability insurance coverage is non-refundable and charged when the student registers for the first clinical course during an academic year.

Required Disclosures

An applicant who has been convicted of a felony or the subject of an arrest pertaining to a controlled substance should confer with an authorized representative of the regulatory/licensing agency to determine eligibility for future credentialing and practice. All Health Science Education graduates are subject to the laws, policies, and procedures of their respective regulatory/licensing boards. The College cannot assure licensure/certification.

Health Examination

A Medical History and Physical Health Form must be completed at the time specified by the program. Final acceptance/continuation to the program will be contingent upon the results of the medical form. No student may enroll in a clinical course unless the health form has been submitted and reviewed. Health forms are accessible online at www.broward.edu/locations/chse/PDF/forms/index.jsp and can also be found on the College Registrar's home page.

Each program has specific Technical Performance Standards, which must be reviewed by the student to determine individual ability to comply with the standards.

Broward Community College also requires that all Health Science students obtain the Hepatitis B vaccine prior to their admission to a Health Science program.

Accident Insurance

Any student who is assigned to a clinical facility may be exposed to environmental hazards and infectious diseases. Limited medical insurance is provided for health science students at the time they register for clinical courses each academic year.

Continuation in a Health Science Program

Continuation in a Health Science program is dependent upon maintaining the course grades and GPA as specified by each program. The programs also reserve the right to discontinue a student's enrollment at any time during the program, if in its judgment, the student does not possess the qualifications necessary for the selected Health Science career or demonstrates behavior deemed to be potentially detrimental to a patient's safety and well being.

Readmission

Each Health Science program has established specific readmission policies. The student who wishes re-admission consideration should check with the appropriate program for specific criteria and procedures.

Graduation Requirements

Students must complete all courses in the degree or certificate program with a grade of "C" or higher and have an overall degree GPA of 2.0 or higher.

Changing Requirements for Graduation

The Health Sciences reserve the right to change any of the rules and regulations of the Health Science programs at any time, including those related to admission, instruction, and graduation. All such changes are effective at such time as the proper authorities determine, and may apply not only to prospective students, but also to those who already are enrolled in a Health Science Program. All enrolled students will be notified in writing of such changes as they occur.

Catalog Requirement

It is important that students know the Catalog requirements under which they will graduate. Health Science students have three options.

1. If attendance has been continuous (Term I and II each year), the student may graduate under the Catalog in effect at the time of entry into the College or the one in effect at the time of graduation.
2. If attendance has been interrupted by one or more terms (not including Term III), the student must meet the requirement of either the Catalog in effect at the time of re-enrollment or the one in effect at the time of graduation.
3. Health Science students may also graduate under the catalog year in which they entered the Health Science program.

Students should see an Academic Advisor or Counselor every term.

Curriculum and Policy Changes

The Health Science policies and curricula contained in this catalog and program handbooks are not to be regarded as an irrevocable contract between the student and the College. Health Sciences reserves the right to make and designate the effective date of changes in policies curriculum and/or other regulations at any time such changes are considered desirable or necessary.

Health Science Core Requirement and Waivers

Most health science certificate and degree students must enroll in the health science career core courses. The courses are HCP 0130, CAE 0382, CAE 0474, CAE 0299, CAE 0258 and CAE 0476. A waiver and/or substitution can be attained from the Health Science Continuing Education and Workforce Development Department located on Central Campus, building 8.

These courses are substituted or waived only if:

1. The 75 hour Health Care Career Course (HCP 0130) or equivalent course was successfully completed at a SACS accredited college or university, or Florida Department of Education health occupation program. Successful completion must be documented with a transcript showing a grade of pass or "C" or higher. A student with a current Florida license in a health care profession may have the course waived or substituted. A student must submit an official (preferably electronic) transcript, state or national license/certification and letter verifying recent in-field employment.
2. Required core courses equivalent to HIV/AIDS (CAE 0382), Domestic Violence (CAE 0474), Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers (CAE 0299), Prevention of Medical Errors (CAE 0258) and TB/OSHA/Hepatitis (CAE 0476), can also be considered for a course waiver and/or substitution. These courses will only be considered if
 - a. The course was taken at an area hospital, or State of Florida/federal government health care facility as a condition of employment,
 - b. The course was approved for continuing education by a Florida health care licensing board and the hospital/government agency provider is on the certificate of attendance,
 - c. The course was the same number of hours as BCC, was completed within 2 years and will still be current at the time of admission into the health science program, and
 - d. Verification of hospital/government agency employment at the time of requesting waiver/substitution.