

NUMBERED MEMO CC25-078

TO: Presidents
Chief Academic Officers

FROM: Dr. Jeff A. Cox, NCCCS President

SUBJECT: New to the System – Health Sciences

DATE: October 20, 2025

On July 18, 2025, the State Board of Community Colleges approved the following new Curriculum Standard:

Health Sciences (A45230)
Effective Term: Fall 2025

A new curriculum standard is attached for your convenience. You may view all curriculum standards by visiting the Academic Programs website at:

<https://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/academic-programs/curriculum-standards>

If you have any questions concerning the July State Board action item listed above, please contact Ms. Melissa Smith at smithm@nccommunitycolleges.edu.

JAC/le/ao
Attachments

Cc:

Dr. Brian S. Merritt	Ms. Melissa Smith	Ms. Jonnell Carpenter, General Counsel
Dr. Lisa Eads	Ms. Reyna Rodriquez	Ms. Peyton Bell
Dr. Hilmi Lahoud	Ms. Ariel O’Quinn	State Directors

Email

CURRICULUM STANDARD

*Effective
Term
Fall 2025
[2025*03]*

Curriculum Program	Health Sciences	Program Code	A45230
Title			
Concentration	(not applicable)	CIP Code	51.0000

Curriculum Description

This curriculum is designed to prepare students for success in healthcare by providing a strong foundation in courses essential for health practice while offering opportunities to earn stackable credentials in relevant healthcare roles.

Coursework includes the use of current healthcare technologies, specialized health science competencies, and training within interdisciplinary teams while offering opportunities to earn stackable credentials that support career advancement in a healthcare setting.

Graduates will demonstrate professional standards, apply both discipline-specific and general education skills, and possess the academic preparation needed for career growth or further study in advanced health science programs.

Curriculum Requirements*

[for associate degree, diploma, and certificate programs in accordance with 1D SBCC 400.10]

- I. General Education.** Degree programs must contain a minimum of 15 semester hours with a minimum of 6 semester hours of communications (3 SHC of which must be ENG-110 or ENG-111) and the remaining hours from each of the following areas: humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and natural sciences/mathematics. Diploma programs must contain a minimum of 6 semester hours of general education, including at least 3 semester hours in communications and the remaining hours from one of the following areas: humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and natural sciences/mathematics. General education is optional in certificate programs.
- II. Major Hours.** AAS, diploma, and certificate programs must include courses which offer specific job knowledge and skills. Work-based learning may be included in associate in applied science degrees up to a maximum of 8 semester hours of credit; in diploma programs up to a maximum of 4 semester hours of credit; and in certificate programs up to a maximum of 2 semester hours of credit. *(See second page for additional information.)*
- III. Other Required Hours.** A college may include courses to meet graduation or local employer requirements in a certificate, diploma, or associate in applied science program. These curriculum courses shall be selected from the *Combined Course Library* and must be approved by the System Office prior to implementation. Restricted, unique, or free elective courses may not be included as other required hours.

*Within the degree program, the institution shall include opportunities for the achievement of competence in reading, writing, oral communication, fundamental mathematical skills, and basic use of computers.

	AAS	Diploma	Certificate
Minimum General Education Hours	15	6	0
Minimum Major Hours	49	30	12
Other Required Hours	0-7	0-4	0-1
Total Semester Hours Credit (SHC)	64-76	36-48	12-18

Major Hours

- A. Core.** The subject/course core is comprised of subject areas and/or specific courses which are required for each curriculum program. A diploma program offered under an approved AAS program standard or a certificate which is the highest credential level awarded under an approved AAS program standard must include a minimum of 12 semester hours credit derived from the subject/course core of the AAS program.
- B. Concentration** (*if applicable*). A concentration of study must include a minimum of 12 semester hours credit from required subjects and/or courses. The majority of the course credit hours are unique to the concentration. The required subjects and/or courses that make up the concentration of study are in addition to the required subject/course core.
- C. Other Major Hours.** Other major hours must be selected from prefixes listed on the curriculum standard. A maximum of 9 semester hours of credit may be selected from any prefix listed, with the exception of prefixes listed in the core or concentration. Work-based learning may be included in associate in applied science degrees up to a maximum of 8 semester hours of credit; in diploma programs up to a maximum of 4 semester hours of credit; and in certificate programs up to a maximum of 2 semester hours of credit.

Health Sciences A45230

	AAS	Diploma	Certificate
Minimum Major Hours Required	49 SHC	30 SHC	12 SHC
A. Technical Core: Required Courses <i>Select a minimum of two courses from the following:</i> HSC 112 Health Sciences Pharmacology 3 SHC HSC 115 Intro to Health Sys & Ethics 3 SHC HSC 121 Healthcare Communication 4 SHC HSC 140 Transcultural Healthcare 3 SHC <i>Select one course from the following:</i> HSC 111 Intro to Healthcare Careers 3 SHC PTE 121 Pathway to Employ-Health 3 SHC Anatomy and Physiology (<i>Select one set</i>) BIO 163 Basic Anatomy & Physiology 5 SHC or BIO 165 Anatomy and Physiology I 4 SHC BIO 166 Anatomy and Physiology II 4 SHC or BIO 168 Anatomy and Physiology I 4 SHC BIO 169 Anatomy and Physiology II 4 SHC Career Pathway (<i>Select a minimum of one course</i>)	17-27 SHC		

HCT	111	Health Care Technology	9 SHC			
HCT	112	Basic Phlebotomy and EKG	3 SHC			
HCT	115	Basic Respiratory Skills	3 SHC			
NAS	111	Nurse Aide I	6 SHC			
NAS	112	Nurse Aide II	6 SHC			
PBT	110	Phlebotomy Technology	6 SHC			
PBT	111	Phlebotomy Practicum	3 SHC			
B. CONCENTRATION <i>(Not applicable)</i>						
C. OTHER MAJOR HOURS <i>To be selected from the following prefixes:</i> AAI, ACM, AMC, ANS, ATC, BIO, BUS, CHM, CIM, CIS, CIT, CSC, CTR, CYT, DDT, DEN, DIA, DOS, ENG, GRO, HBI, HCI, HCT, HEA, HFS, HIT, HMT, HSC, HSE, HTO, HUC, ICT, ICV, IMG, LBT, MAT, MED, MHA, MLT, MRI, MSK, MTH, NAS, NCT, NDE, NMT, NUR, NUT, OPH, OSA, OST, OTA, OTC, PBT, PED, PET, PHM, PHY, PSF, PSG, PSY, PTA, PTC, PTE, RAD, RCP, RTT, SAB, SFA, SLP, SOC, SON, STP, SUR, SWK, VET, and WBL <i>Up to two semester hour credits may be selected from ACA.</i> <i>Up to three semester hour credits may be selected from the following prefixes: ARA, ASL, CHI, FRE, GER, IRI, ITA, JPN, LAT, POR, RUS, and SPA.</i>						

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Proposed New Courses AAS in Health Sciences
(New to the System)

HSC-111 Introduction to Healthcare Careers

Intro to Healthcare Careers

Class 3 Lab 0 Clinical 0 Work 0 Credit 3

State Prerequisite(s): None

State Corequisite(s): None

Course Description: This course is designed to provide exposure to pathways and health sciences careers through a case-based approach. Topics include healthcare roles, scopes of practice, career opportunities, and educational requirements for a variety of health science professions. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the health care professions and interprofessional practice for patient care.

HSC-112 Health Sciences Pharmacology

Health Sciences Pharmacology

Class 3 Lab 0 Clinical 0 Work 0 Credit 3

State Prerequisite(s): None

State Corequisite(s): None

Course Description: This course introduces principles of pharmacotherapeutic, pharmacodynamic, and pharmacokinetic properties of commonly prescribed drugs in each of the major drug classifications. Emphasis is placed on the national standards for safety in pharmacologic therapy and presents dosage calculations. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of pharmacology and safe lab practices.

HSC-115 Health Career Concepts

Health Career Concepts

Class 3 Lab 2 Clinical 0 Work 0 Credit 4

State Prerequisite(s): None

State Corequisite(s): None

Course Description: This course covers the fundamental aspects of health and medical care. Emphasis is placed on addressing the mental, social, and physical needs of diverse populations, first aid in emergency situations, and medical/legal ethics. Upon completion, students will be able to identify various health and medical situations and understand the medical and legal implications of healthcare.

HSC-121 Healthcare Interpersonal Skills**Healthcare Interpersonal Skills**

Class 3 Lab 0 Clinical 0 Work 0 Credit 3

State Prerequisite(s): None

State Corequisite(s): None

Course Description: This course introduces the interpersonal and communication skills essential for professionals in helping fields, focusing on effective interactions with patients and their support networks. Topics covered include self-awareness, personal development strategies, assertive, passive, and aggressive behavior patterns, as well as principles of effective communication. Upon completion, students will demonstrate effective communication skills in patient care, fostering self-awareness, understanding of others, and facilitating personal growth.

HSC-127 Conflict Resolution in Healthcare**Conflict Resolution in Healthcare**

Class 2 Lab 2 Clinical 0 Work 0 Credit 3

State Prerequisite(s): None

State Corequisite(s): None

Course Description: This course introduces the theory and practice of conflict resolution and mediation within healthcare settings. Emphasis is placed on fostering compromise and promoting a positive perception among all parties involved. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate proficiency in recognizing differing perspectives and facilitating mutual agreement.

HCT-111 Health Care Technology

Class 6 Lab 2 Clinical 6 Work 0 Credit 9

State Prerequisite(s): None

State Corequisite(s): None

Course Description: This course covers the basic skills necessary for employment as a multi-skilled health care worker. Topics include skills necessary to perform general patient care, pharmacology basics, infection control and foundational healthcare knowledge. Upon completion, students should be able to perform a variety of skills and assist licensed health care providers.

HCT-112 Basic Phlebotomy and EKG

Class 1 Lab 2 Clinical 3 Work 0 Credit 3

State Prerequisite(s): None

State Corequisite(s): None

Course Description: This course covers the basic skills necessary for performing venipuncture, drawing blood specimens, and performing basic 12-lead electrocardiograms. Topics include venipuncture and finger stick techniques, requirements for common specimen collection, and obtaining a 12-lead EKG. Upon completion, students should be able to perform phlebotomy and EKG skills.

HCT-115 Basic Respiratory Skills

Class 1 Lab 2 Clinical 3 Work 0 Credit 3

State Prerequisite(s): None

State Corequisite(s): None

Course Description: This course covers the basics of oxygenation and ventilation and principles of common therapy to improve oxygenation and ventilation. Topics include common diagnostic procedures and therapeutic modalities used in respiratory care. Upon completion, students should be able to set up and maintain oxygen, perform peak flow diagnostic tests and collect sputum specimens.

NAS-111 Nurse Aide I

Class 3 Lab 4 Clinical 3 Work 0 Credit 6

State Prerequisite(s): None

State Corequisite(s): None

Course Description: This course includes basic nursing skills required to provide safe, competent personal care for individuals. Emphasis is placed on person-centered care, the aging process, communication, safety/emergencies, infection prevention, legal and ethical issues, vital signs, height and weight measurements, elimination, nutrition, basic restorative care/rehabilitation, dementia, mental health and end-of-life care. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate knowledge and skills and be eligible to test for listing on the North Carolina Nurse Aide I Registry.

NAS-112 Nurse Aide II

State Prerequisite(s): None

State Corequisite(s): Take NAS-111

Class 3 Lab 2 Clinical 6 Work 0 Credit 6

Course Description: This course provides training in Nurse Aide II tasks. Emphasis is placed on the role of the Nurse Aide II, sterile technique and specific tasks such as urinary catheterization, wound care, respiratory procedures, ostomy care, peripheral IV assistive activities, and alternative feeding methods. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate knowledge and skills and safe performance of skills necessary to be eligible for listing on the North Carolina Nurse Aide II

PBT-110 Phlebotomy Technology

State Prerequisite(s): None

State Corequisite(s): None

Class 5 Lab 2 Clinical 0 Work 0 Credit 6

Course Description: This course provides instruction in the skills needed for the proper collection of blood and other specimens used for diagnostic testing. Emphasis is placed on ethics, legalities, medical terminology, safety and universal precautions, health care delivery systems, patient relations, anatomy and physiology, and specimen collection. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate competence in the theoretical comprehension of phlebotomy techniques.

PBT-111 Phlebotomy Practicum

Class 0 Lab 0 Clinical 9 Work 0 Credit 3

State Prerequisite(s): None

State Corequisite(s): None

This course provides supervised experience in the performance of venipuncture and microcollection techniques in a clinical facility. Emphasis is placed on patient interaction and application of universal precautions, proper collection techniques, special procedures, specimen handling, and data management. Upon completion, students should be able to safely perform procedures necessary for specimen collections on patients in various health care settings.