

NUMBERED MEMO CC25-078  
REVISED

TO: Presidents  
Chief Academic Officers

FROM: Dr. Jeff A. Cox, NCCCS President

SUBJECT: New to the System – Health Sciences

DATE: October 20, 2025

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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](mailto: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 Rodriguez      Ms. Peyton Bell  
Dr. Hilmi Lahoud         Ms. Ariel O'Quinn         State Directors

Email

# CURRICULUM STANDARD

Effective  
Term  
Fall 2025  
[2025\*03]

Curriculum Program Title	Health Sciences	Program Code	A45230
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
<b>Total Semester Hours Credit (SHC)</b>	<b>64-76</b>	<b>36-48</b>	<b>12-18</b>

## **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
<b>Minimum Major Hours Required</b>	<b>49 SHC</b>	<b>30 SHC</b>	<b>12 SHC</b>
<b>A. Technical Core:</b>	<b>17-27 SHC</b>		
<b>Required Courses</b>			
<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			
<b>Anatomy and Physiology (Select one set)</b>			
BIO 163 Basic Anatomy & Physiology 5 SHC			
<i>or</i>			
BIO 165 Anatomy and Physiology I 4 SHC			
BIO 166 Anatomy and Physiology II 4 SHC			
<i>or</i>			
BIO 168 Anatomy and Physiology I 4 SHC			
BIO 169 Anatomy and Physiology II 4 SHC			
<b>Career Pathway (Select a minimum of one course)</b>			

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>B. CONCENTRATION</b> <i>(Not applicable)</i>						
<b>C. OTHER MAJOR HOURS</b> <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      Intro to Healthcare Careers**  
**(Introduction 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      Intro to Health Sys & Ethics**  
**(Introduction to Health Systems & Ethics)**

Class 3      Lab 0      Clinical 0      Work 0      Credit 3

State Prerequisite(s): None

State Corequisite(s): None

Course Description: This course introduces the structure of healthcare systems along with the ethical and legal principles guiding healthcare delivery. Topics include care organization, financing, regulation, and ethical responsibilities of providers. Upon completion, students will be able to describe key components of the U.S. healthcare system and apply basic ethical frameworks to healthcare situations.

**HSC-121      Healthcare Communication**  
**(Healthcare Communication)**

Class 3      Lab 2      Clinical 0      Work 0      Credit 4

State Prerequisite(s): None

State Corequisite(s): None

Course Description: This course provides a comprehensive introduction to interpersonal communication and conflict resolution skills essential in healthcare environments. Emphasis is placed on self-awareness, assertiveness, emotional intelligence, and conflict mediation. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate empathetic and effective communication with patients, families, and healthcare teams.

**HCT-111 Health Care Technology  
(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  
(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  
(Basic Respiratory Skills)**

Class 1 Lab 2 Clinical 3 Work 0 Credit 3

State Prerequisite(s): None

State Corequisite(s): None

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  
(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  
(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  
(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  
(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.