



HEALTH CAREERS

GENERAL INFORMATION

CCCC offers a variety of health career course and programs that suit individual student needs. Students have the option of choosing courses that are one, two, or three semesters in length that can provide a path for long-term career goals.

Short-term courses such as the Certified Nurses Aide and Home Health Aide or Medical Assisting present the student with the knowledge needed for immediate employment.

Individual, transferable courses such as Medical Terminology, Pharmacology, Nutrition and Diet Therapy, Ethics for the Health Professional, and Cultural Diversity are courses that would be of great benefit for any health career professional.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Employment opportunities in healthcare have consistently remained among the top five in trends of future industry needs. Many future healthcare workers start their education at the basic levels of CNA or medical assistant.

- Prerequisites for the Vocational Nursing Program
 - Reading level 1, Writing level 2, Math level 2 (advisories)
 - CNA or equivalent
 - Psychology C101 or equivalent
 - BIOL C121 or equivalent
 - Completion of prerequisites with a grade of "C" or better

Courses That Can Help You Succeed

These courses are designed to support you in your academic and occupational goals.

- How to Become a Master Student PDEV C101
- Becoming a Successful Online Student INST C051
- Medical Terminology for the Health Professional HCRS C150****

Medical Terminology for the Health Professional (HCRS C150) is strongly recommended for every student interested in a health career program.

Are you an LVN?

Do you want to become an RN?

A Career Ladder LVN to RN/ADN program may be available. Offered in collaboration with Bakerfield Community College via interactive TV (ITV) the career ladder program is broadcast from the Indian Wells Valley (Ridgecrest) campus. You must be an LVN and have completed your general education courses for the ADN. For further information, go to <http://academic.cerrocosos.edu/healthcareers/> or to http://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/academic/occupational/registered_nursing.asp

Cerro Coso Community College Website

www.cerrocosos.edu

CCCC Health Career Website

<http://academic.cerrocosos.edu/health-careers/>

CERRO COSO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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 Ridgecrest CA 93555-9571
 (760) 384-6100
 Revised: April 1, 2006

* Special Notations: Health Career Courses

- Drug Screening, fingerprinting, and background checks may be required for some of the health career courses. After admission into some of the courses, additional requirements may include, but are not limited to, immunizations, physical exam, and screening for tuberculosis.

- Not all courses or programs are available on each campus. Some courses or programs may be taught in the classroom and online. Other courses may be available only online. For more information, see the Cerro Coso Community College semester schedule and/or the college website at www.cerrocosos.edu.

** Special Notations: CNA and HHA Courses

- Preregistration with the Department of Health Services is required
- Appointment with a CCCC Counselor is needed to enroll
- Completion of a preregistration packet is required PRIOR to enrollment
- The DHS requires fingerprinting and that the specific DHS application be sent to the DHS. The costs for these are paid for by the student applicant.

***Special Notations: Vocational Nursing Program

- Detailed information about the CCCC Vocational Nursing Program is available at <http://academic.cerrocosos.edu/healthcareers/>.
- If you are interested in applying to the VN Program, make an appointment with a counselor at 760 384-6219.
- Complete the required application within the required timeframe: APPLICATION TIMEFRAMES and DEADLINES are listed on the college website.

A large percentage of students who begin health careers choose to continue their education in healthcare. A common career path begins with a student becoming a CNA. Then the student often progresses to become a Licensed Vocational Nurse. Many of the LVNs continue their education to become Registered Nurses.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

❑ **What is the difference between a CNA, a HHA, a Medical Assistant, and a LVN or RN?**

Good Question! Let's talk about nursing first. There are two types of recognized nurses: Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) and Registered Nurses (RNs). Both categories of nurses must pass rigorous state curriculum requirements and pass a standardized national exam (NCLEX) after completion of their college program to obtain their nursing license.

LVNs must work under the supervision of an RN or a physician. Generally, LVNs work in long-term care facilities, physician's offices, and acute-care facilities. As basic healthcare has moved from acute care hospitalization to home-based and community-based organizations, many opportunities have opened up in recent years for LVNs. LVNs often continue their education part-time to become RNs while being employed full-time.

The Cerro Coso LVN program is three semesters of combined theory background and clinical experience. The clinical experiences are located in a long-term care facility, an acute-care facility and various satellite clinics.

❑ **How does a CNA/HHA fit into the healthcare picture?**

A Certified Nurses Aide and a Home Health Aide also complete a curriculum that has been accredited by the State of California and then the CNA's must pass both a written and practical exam given by a State agency. At Cerro Coso, we generally offer the CNA course over a 9-week period. The HHA component is offered over two weeks after successful completion of the CNA program.

CNAs have excellent employment opportunities in long-term care facilities. Some CNAs are also employed by acute-care facilities. A large majority of CNAs continue working while going to school for their LVN license.

❑ **Where do Medical Assistants work?**

Generally medical assistants work in physician's offices. At Cerro Coso, we offer both Administrative Medical Assisting over one semester and Clinical Medical Assisting over an additional semester.

❑ **What is the difference between an administrative medical assistant and a clinical medical assistant?**

Administrative medical assistants receive initial training to work as the front office receptionist. They can also receive training in aspects of the financial and insurance environment of a physician's office.

Clinical medical assistants are trained to work with a physician as he/she works with clients in the back office. The assistant obtains vital signs, a brief medical history, and helps the physician with minor medical procedures that are performed in the office.

Cerro Coso also offers an Externship Program for medical assistants. Once a student has successfully completed all components of Administrative and Clinical Medical Assisting, the student can petition to be placed in a physician's office for 160 hours of on-site (non paid) work experience.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Basic reading, writing, and math levels are advised and established for each program. Some courses require completion of a screening process and/or completion of required forms PRIOR to enrollment in the class. For detailed requirements please see a counseling staff member. For an appointment call (760) 384-6219.

HEALTH CAREER COURSES*

- Certified Nurse Aide**
- Complementary and Alternative Therapies (pending)
- Cultural Diversity in Healthcare (pending)
- Emergency Medical Technician I
- Ethics for the Healthcare Professional (pending)
- Home Health Aide**
- Medical Assisting: Receptionist
- Medical Assisting: Financial Management and Insurance
- Medical Assisting: Clinical
- Medical Assisting: Externship
- Medical Terminology for the Healthcare Professional
- Nutrition and Diet Therapy for the Health Professional (pending)
- Pharmacology for the Healthcare Professional
- Rehabilitative Career Choices (pending)
- Vocational Nursing***

ONLINE HEALTH CAREER COURSES

- Complementary and Alternative Therapies (pending)
- Cultural Diversity and Health Care (pending)
- Ethics for the Healthcare Professional (pending)
- Medical Assisting: Receptionist
- Medical Assisting: Financial Management and Insurance
- Medical Terminology for the Healthcare Professional (pending)
- Nutrition and Diet Therapy for Health Professionals
- Rehabilitative Career Choices (pending)
- Pharmacology for the Healthcare Professional