

Proposal for Associate in Arts (A.A.) in Health Care Studies

Proposed by:

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I. Abstract

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has shown health care to be a continually growing field. (<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/About/Projections-Overview.htm>). The proposed Health Care Studies (HCS) Program is specifically designed to meet this growing need by offering a pathway curriculum that focuses on preparing students for and directing them towards their chosen health care career. While enrolled in the Health Care Studies Program, students can prepare for application to other select health career programs at the College or for transfer to bachelor degree level health career programs. The courses that make up the degree were carefully chosen to provide the knowledge and skills needed by health care professionals. Students who choose to complete the Health Care Studies degree also have the option of earning a Clinical Assistant, Medical Insurance Billing or Patient Service Representative Proficiency Certificate, thus allowing the students to graduate with entry level skills that enable them to join the health care workforce upon graduation. The selection of Proficiency Certificates can be increased as new Proficiency Certificates are developed.

Health Care Studies will be a select program. Students must demonstrate readiness for college-level English (Level V) and college-level Math or higher in order to enter the Program.

II. Opportunities or Problems Addressed by the Proposed Program

The Culture, Science, and Technology (CST) Program does not provide a clear, directed academic pathway for students interested in health care. The CST Program is currently the designated Program for students who entered the College stating an interest in pursuing a career in health care. However, the 2011-12 audit documented the following weaknesses of the CST Program:

1. Lack of Student Progression
From 2005 to 2009, the program has had a very low graduation rate that is on average, approximately 3.3% lower than that of the College rate overall.
2. Program Identity Confusion and Lack of Connection
Most students in the CST curriculum do not choose the curriculum, but rather are placed into the curriculum because they are either academically unprepared to enter their curriculum of choice or they applied too late for select program consideration during their entering semester.
3. Difficulty in Identifying Students for Program Targeted Intervention
At the time of the audit it was difficult to identify students who were interested in a career in health care because interest codes no longer exist in the College's enterprise system, Banner, and all students receive a program code of CST.

4. Issues with Curricular Coherence

The current Culture, Science and Technology curriculum was originally designed to provide students with an integration of Science and Technology with Culture. However, the students who enter the Program have very different goals, usually to enter the health care field. This mismatch between students' goals and the design of the Program makes the curriculum difficult for students to understand. The CST Curriculum was designed for a more broad-based selection of courses rather than specific courses that focus the student on his/her career goal.

Without clear academic pathways, students are often unable to see how their academic preparation in the CST program can lead to a career in a health care field. The proposed Health Care Studies Program seeks to address these issues by providing students with a structured pathway to and a strong foundation in the field of health care. The Health Care Studies Program is a select program, requiring that students are at college level in both English and Math. This change will enable the focus to be placed on students who have a common career goal and increase the academic strength of those students to that which is more appropriate for health care professions. The new Health Care Studies degree will allow students multiple options, including internal or external transfer and completion of a health care proficiency certificate. The structure of the Program and the full array of communications generated by academic trigger points will result in a more informed, directed, satisfied and successful population of students who will graduate with an academic background that prepares them for a career in health care.

III. Expected Program Participants

The Health Care Studies Program is designed for students who are interested in entering a health care field after earning an associate degree. Because the Health Care Studies Program will be a select program, it is expected that many students will begin in Liberal Arts and will enter the Health Care Studies Program after reaching college level in English and Math. Students who are college level in both English and Math may enter directly into the Curriculum. The Health Care Studies Program is expected to attract a diverse student population that generally mirrors that of the College as a whole. Although some Health Care Studies students will have experience in the field of health care, most will probably not. Some students will be placed into the Health Care Studies curriculum because they have indicated a desire to enter one of the College's other health care programs, but have been admitted to the College prior to acceptance into one of these programs. As they were able to do in the CST curriculum, these students can begin to take some of the General Education and science courses required for their chosen health care program.

IV. Rationale for Changes

General education requirements including English 101 and 102, Math 118 and CIS 103 will enable students to strengthen reading, writing, math and computer skills. Social science courses including Sociology 101, Psychology 101 and Psychology 215 will allow students to develop an understanding of human behavior and social structures, knowledge that is essential for health care professionals.

Students are introduced to the study of health care and the language of medicine in a foundational Allied Health course, either AH 101 or AH 103. In AH 101, students will also receive a broader understanding of the diversity of health careers, allowing them to evaluate options they might not have previously considered. If they choose AH 103, students will be introduced to the language of medicine.

Two directed biology electives will provide students with a foundation in human biology. Students will continue to study mathematics with Math 150 or Math 251, gaining the skills they need to understand basic statistics. Each student will also take a nutrition course in which they will develop an appreciation of the influence of diet, and other factors, on health and disease. A course in communications is important for students since they will likely be required to communicate with patients, families and other health care professionals. Therefore, Allied Health 116, or an English course that focuses on communication (ENGL 115, 116, 117, or 118) will be required.

It is important to note that health/science electives and general electives may be used to complete a proficiency certificate in a health career, such as the Clinical Assistant Proficiency Certificate, the Medical Insurance Billing Proficiency Certificate or the Patient Service Representative Proficiency Certificate. The courses required for each of these certificates fits into the Health Care Studies curriculum when electives are chosen carefully. Many Health Care Studies students will apply to another select health care program. For those students who are not accepted into their intended program, completing the Health Care Studies Degree with a health care proficiency certificate will provide legitimate career opportunities.

The Health Care Studies curriculum has been designed with enough flexibility to transfer smoothly into four year programs in health care, particularly BSN/nursing programs. The Health Care Studies curriculum can incorporate the three biology courses, one or two chemistry courses, Introduction to Nutrition, and Statistics for Science that are generally required for BSN Programs.

V. Internal Program Coherence

This Program will provide students with a well-rounded education while also preparing them for careers in health care.

The following table lists the 20 courses in the Health Care Studies Program by category.

Health Care Studies Program	
2 ENGL	ENGL 101 and 102
2 MATH	MATH 118 (or higher) and 150 or 251
1 CIS	CIS 103
3 Soc Sci	SOC 101, PSYC 101, PSYC 215
1 Hum	Any Humanities Elective
1 Communications	Choose 1 from AH 116, ENGL 115, 116, 117, 118
1 Allied Health	AH 101 or 103
2 BIOL	Choose either BIOL 106 and 108 or BIOL 109 and 110. Choose according to academic goal. Required science courses vary per program or certificate.)
1 DIET	DIET 106 or 111
2 Health/Science electives	Choose 2 from AH, MA, BIOL, CHEM, PHYS, STS
4 General Electives	Any

Pathways

Students in the Health Care Studies Program may choose **one of four pathways** to follow. Students interested in internal or external transfer should follow the **Transfer Pathway** illustrated in the grid below. The **Transfer Pathway** is appropriate for students whose primary goal is moving into the College's nursing program, those who wish to move into one of the College's other health care programs, and those desiring to transfer to a health care program at a four year university. The Health Care Studies curriculum allows for completion of courses required for program application or transfer.

Health Care Studies Program-Transfer Pathway	
2 ENGL	ENGL 101 and 102
2 MATH	MATH 118 (or higher) and 150 or 251
1 CIS	CIS 103
3 Soc Sci	SOC 101, PSYC 101, PSYC 215
1 Hum	Any Humanities Elective

1 Communications	Choose 1 from AH 116, ENGL 115, 116, 117, 118
1 Allied Health	AH 101 or 103
2 BIOL	Choose either BIOL 106 and 108 or BIOL 109 and 110
1 DIET	DIET 106 or 111
2 Health/Science elec	Any two AH, MA, BIOL, CHEM, PHYS, or STS
4 General Electives	Any

If the student would like to graduate from the college with the Health Care Studies Degree and seek immediate employment in the health care sector, one of three pathways may be chosen: **Clinical Assistant, Medical Insurance Billing or Patient Service Representative**. In each case, elective and selective courses are chosen to complete a proficiency certificate that shows that the student has taken the coursework necessary to join the health care workforce upon graduation. In the grids below, courses in bold must be chosen to earn the proficiency certificate within the Health Care Studies curriculum.

Health Care Studies Program-Clinical Assistant Pathway	
2 ENGL	ENGL 101 and 102
2 MATH	MATH 118 (or higher) and 150 or 251
1 CIS	CIS 103
3 Soc Sci	SOC 101, PSYC 101, PSYC 215
1 Hum	Any Humanities Elective
1 Communications	AH 116
1 Allied Health	AH 103
2 BIOL	Choose either BIOL 106 AND 108 , or BIOL 109 AND 110
1 DIET	DIET 106 or 111
2 Health/Science elec	MA 110 and MA 115
4 General Electives	Any

Health Care Studies Program-Medical Insurance Billing Pathway	
2 ENGL	ENGL 101 and 102
2 MATH	MATH 118 (or higher) and 150 or 251
1 CIS	CIS 103
3 Soc Sci	SOC 101, PSYC 101, PSYC 215
1 Hum	Any Humanities Elective
1 Communications	Choose 1 from AH 116, ENGL 115, 116, 117, 118
1 Allied Health	AH 103

2 BIOL	Choose either BIOL 106 AND 108 , or BIOL 109 AND 110
1 DIET	DIET 106 or 111
2 Health/Science elec	AH 120 and AH 190
4 General Electives	Any- Must include AH 201

Health Care Studies Program-Patient Service Representative Pathway	
2 ENGL	ENGL 101 and 102
2 MATH	MATH 118 (or higher) and 150 or 251
1 CIS	CIS 103
3 Soc Sci	SOC 101, PSYC 101, PSYC 215
1 Hum	Any Humanities Elective
1 Communications	Choose 1 from AH 116, ENGL 115, 116, 117, 118
1 Allied Health	AH 101
2 BIOL	Choose 2 from BIOL 106, 108, or 109, 110
1 DIET	DIET 106 or 111
2 Health/Science elec	AH 103 and AH 112
4 General Electives	Must include AH 116, AH 204 and AH 220

VI. Program's Institutional Congruence

Upon admission to the College, students with an expressed interest in health career programs at the College or in transfer to bachelor degree level health career programs will be placed in the Program if they are at the level of English 101 and Math 118. If they do not meet entry requirements, they will be placed in the Liberal Arts Program. Upon reaching the level of English 101 and Math 118, those students may enter the Health Care Studies Program.

The Health Care Studies Program will be housed within the Department of Allied Health and the Division of Math, Science and Health Careers.

VII. Proposed New Courses

There are no new courses being proposed for the Health Care Studies degree.

VIII. Fiscal Implications

None

IX. Catalog Page

Health Care Studies

The Health Care Studies Program is designed for students interested in entering the health care profession. The Program provides students with the foundational courses necessary to either enter one of the College's other health care programs, or, for interested students, transfer to bachelor's or master's degree programs in the health sciences fields such as nursing, health information management, occupational therapy and speech therapy. The program also enables students to graduate with an A.A. degree in Health Care Studies. While in the Program students may also opt to obtain a proficiency certificate to enhance their knowledge and skills of a particular area in Health Care and to increase their employment opportunities upon graduation from the College.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Communicate effectively with others orally and in writing.
- Demonstrate quantitative reasoning skills, particularly as they apply to scientific and societal problems.
- Demonstrate an understanding of key concepts of human biology.
- Explain the factors that influence health and disease.
- Explain social and psychological factors that influence human behavior.

Program Entry Requirements:

Health Care Studies is a select program. In order to be accepted into this select program, students must:

- Be at the ENGL 101 (ready) level
- Be at the college level in Math (either through placement or by completing FNMT 017 with a C or better)

Program of Study and Graduation Requirements:

To qualify for the A.A. Degree in Health Care Studies, students must complete a minimum of 60 credit hours as prescribed and attain a 2.0 cumulative grade point average and complete all course and credit requirements with no grade below a "C" in any course

Health Care Studies Course Sequence

Course Number and Name	Prerequisites and Corequisites	Credits	Gen Ed Req.
FIRST SEMESTER			
ENGL 101 - English Composition I		3	ENGL 101
Math 118 - Intermediate Algebra or higher		3	Mathematics
CIS 103 - Applied Computer Technology		3	Tech Comp
Choose one: AH 101 - Introduction to the Health Care Professions or AH 103 - Medical Terminology		3	
Choose one: BIOL 106 - General Biology I or BIOL 109 - Anatomy and Physiology I*		4	Natural Science
SECOND SEMESTER			
ENGL 102 - The Research Paper	ENGL 101 with a C or better	3	Info Lit and ENGL 102
Choose one: MATH 150 - Introductory Data Analysis or MATH 251 - Statistics for Science	MATH 118 with a grade of "C" or better or MATH 161 (or higher) placement.	3/4	
SOC 101 - Introduction to Sociology		3	Social Science. Writing Intensive, Interpretive Studies, American/Global Diversity
Choose from BIOL 108 - Essentials of Human Anatomy and Physiology, BIOL 109 - Anatomy and Physiology I, or BIOL 110 - Anatomy and Physiology II*	BIOL 110 requires BIOL 109 as a prerequisite	4	
Choose one: AH 116 - Interpersonal and Professional Skills in the Health Care Setting or ENGL 115 - Public Speaking or ENGL 116 - Interpersonal Communication or ENGL 117 - Group and Team Communication or ENGL 118 - Intercultural Communication	For AH 116: no prerequisite For ENGL 115 and ENGL 117: ENGL 101 , which may be taken concurrently For ENGL 116: ENGL 101 or ENGL 114	3	

	For ENGL 118: No prerequisite		
THIRD SEMESTER			
Humanities Elective		3	Humanities
PSYC 101 - Introduction to Psychology		3	
Health or Science Elective-choose any AH, MA, BIOL, CHEM, PHYS or STS course		3/4	
Choose one: DIET 106 - Nutrition for a Healthy Lifestyle or DIET 111 - Introduction to Nutrition	For DIET 111: ENGL 101 and BIOL 109	3	
General Elective**		3/4	
FOURTH SEMESTER			
PSYC 215 - Developmental Psychology		3	
Health or Science elective-choose any AH, MA, BIOL, CHEM, PHYS or STS course		3/4	
General Elective**		3/4	
General Elective**		3/4	
General Elective**		3/4	
MINIMUM CREDITS NEEDED TO GRADUATE		60	

* Students should select Biology courses according to academic goal. Required science courses vary per program or certificate.

** All students must have a minimum of 60 credits in order to graduate. Depending on courses selected above, the number of general electives required will vary. Students must earn at least a 2.0 cumulative grade point average and complete all course and credit requirements with no grade below a "C" in any course

General Education Requirements

All General Education requirements are met through required courses as indicated above. A more detailed explanation of the College's general education requirements can be found on the Web page at ccp.edu/degree_requirements.php.

X. Curriculum Map

Health Care Studies Curriculum

The following table demonstrates how learning activities in specific courses map to these program learning outcomes.

Key: I – Introduced R—Reinforced and opportunity to practice M—Mastery at exit level A—Assessment evidence collected

Required Courses	Programmatic Student Learning Outcomes				
	Communicate effectively with others orally and in writing.	Demonstrate quantitative reasoning skills, particularly as they apply to scientific and societal problems.	Demonstrate understanding of key concepts of human biology.	Explain the factors that influence health and disease.	Explain social and psychological factors that influence human behavior.
AH 101 or AH 103	I,R,A		I	I	
MATH 150 or Math 251		I,R,A			
Two Human Biology directed electives with labs			I,R,A	I,R	
DIET 106 or Diet 111	R	I,R	R	I,R,A	I,R,A
Other Courses					
SOC 101		I, R			I, R
PSYC 101		I, R			I, R
ENGL 101	I, R				
ENGL 102	I, R				
Communication course	I, R				