State-Approved (Chapter 74)
Program Overview

Health Assisting

Trained Health Assistants offer support to individuals with disabilities, elderly people, and patients requiring care in a range of home and healthcare settings.

What Students Learn & Do

Health Assisting programs teach students to provide direct care in settings such as school nursing, physical therapy, assisted living, hospitals and emergency medical services (EMS). The goal is to prepare students for higher education or enter entry-level positions in the health field.

Training covers foundational nursing skills including First Aid/CPR, human development and life stages, body systems and functions, infection control, vital signs, and patient safety including body positioning. As students progress through the curriculum they learn to perform essential medical functions including heart monitoring and drawing blood. Workplace health and safety is emphasized throughout the curriculum. Students also explore the range of careers available, learning about specific educational requirements for various levels of nursing and medicine.

Graduates of Health Assisting programs are required to meet the same high academic standards as their peers in other high school programs. These standards are set by the State of Massachusetts. This program also reinforces aspects of science and mathematics, among other areas.

Licenses & Certifications

Programs will prepare students to earn industry-recognized credentials, and typically students will be able to complete one or more before they graduate from high school. Examples:

- First Aid/CPR/AED
- OSHA 10 hour - General
- Home Health Aide Certificate
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- Exams: EKG, Phlebotomist, EMT, Medication Administration

Options After High School

Here are some career options that may be available for graduates of Health Assisting programs.

High School Diploma

- Home Health Aide
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Phlebotomist
- Emergency Medical Technician

Additional Training or Associate Degree

- Physical Therapy Assistant
- Surgical Technician
- Paramedic
- Licensed Practical Nurse

Bachelor's Degree (4 Years of College)

- Registered Nurse
- Nutritionist
- Pre-Medicine

Advanced Degree

- Physician's Assistant
- Midwife
- Physical/Occupational Therapist
- Doctor

Questions to ask a program you are considering

1. **What workplace experiences do you offer to students?**
2. **What are some common next steps for graduates of this program and how do you support them to get there?**

Learn about the differences between State-Approved and Local programs
http://www.doe.mass.edu/ccte/cvte/cte-families/state-vs-local.html

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Federation for Children with Special Needs