



Whatcom County Health Care Services Program

Enrollment Fact Sheet

Revised 2/2010

Program Description: The goal of the Health Care Services program is to provide students with exposure to a wide variety of health care occupations. The course will introduce students to a variety of health care professions, placing an emphasis on a set of core skills and knowledge applicable to many health care disciplines. The program integrates the necessary academic and technical skills needed for the health care professions through an innovative “hands-on” educational experience. Development of desirable employee attributes and successful job-seeking skills are also addressed. Students will investigate career choices by job shadowing in their area of career interest and other targeted demand areas for future job growth. The program works in cooperation with the student’s family, participating school, health care providers, community and service organizations, as well as institutions of higher learning.

Learning Objectives: Students will be able to

1. Demonstrate basic knowledge of anatomy and physiology and medical terminology required for a variety of health occupations.
2. Demonstrate basic level core skills required for a variety of health occupations (i.e., safety, asepsis, vital signs, first aid, CPR).
3. Demonstrate basic communication, computation and problem-solving skills necessary for health care.
4. Demonstrate competence in leadership and teamwork skills.
5. Demonstrate personal management skills.
6. Demonstrate professional conduct in the health career goals.
7. Implement a career search and develop career goals.

Unique Features: Health Care Services is an *interdistrict* program supported by the Bellingham, Blaine, Ferndale, Lynden, Lynden Christian, Meridian, Mount Baker, and Nooksack Valley School Districts. Students will attend class at the Health Education Center on the St. Joseph Hospital campus in Bellingham. The curricular program is divided into two semesters:

- ◆ **HCS I:** *Academic Core/Foundation Course* -- focus on student development of necessary academic and technical foundation skills needed to be successful in *any* health care related occupation and further postsecondary education. *Offered first semester only*

Program Structure: Students have 2 section options to choose from: 7:30a.m.-9:30a.m. or 1:00p.m.-3:00p.m. The instructional day is a 2 hour block, Monday through Friday. The class is integrated, interdisciplinary and competency-based. In class students will learn anatomy and physiology, math, biology, and chemistry in relationship to health care professions. Students work in cooperative learning groups/teams as well as individually. The class enables students to pursue their unique interests, while also attaining the common academic foundation necessary for health care professions.

- ◆ **HCS II:** *Externship Program* -- focus on student exploration of professions related to the field of Health Care. Students are given an opportunity to job shadow & complete short-term externships with adult mentors working in health care-related occupations. *Offered second semester only; afternoon section only (1:00-3:00p.m.).*

Program Structure: Students apply their academic and technical skills in a health care setting under the direct supervision of mentors. *The prerequisite for HCS II is successful completion of HCS I. To enroll in the externship, students must have earned a minimum “B” grade in Health Care Services I, and have displayed maturity and solid work ethics throughout the course. Teacher recommendation for HCS II is required.* The Nursing Assistant Certification class is also available as an Externship option. Student must have “flexibility” in their afternoon schedule to accommodate externships. Students who have commitments to sports, drama, or other afternoon school activities, or students whose work schedule includes shifts that begin before 4:00 PM lack the time and flexibility necessary to complete the Externship requirements. Students are advised to consult with their parents, school counselors, and HCS instructor before registering for HCS II. See complete course description for HCS II posted on website.

Prerequisites/Eligibility: The HCS Program is open to Whatcom County high school juniors and seniors currently enrolled at one of the participating Consortium high schools. At a minimum student's must have

- 1 year of a lab science (Biology) with at least a "C" grade average in the course work.
- 1 year of mathematics (recommend Algebra or above) with at least a "C" grade average.

Enrollment: Because this is an *interdistrict* curricular program there needs to be one school district that serves as the "enrolling" district. Bellingham School District will serve in that capacity for this program. Students will be "enrolled" in the Bellingham School District for .4 FTE (full-time equivalency) for the 2 hour block class period. All school holidays, vacation days, late arrival days, semester breaks, etc. are based on the Bellingham School District calendar. Students and parents need to be aware that not all of these days will coincide with their "home school" calendar (similar to Running Start considerations).

Application Process: Students may obtain program information & application materials in the counselors office or career center of their home high school. The completed application should be returned to the counselors office & include copies of all student information items listed on the application checklist. Application packets will be screened & reviewed at the high school, then forwarded to the HCS Advisory Board for final candidate selection. Each high school is allocated 4-5 slots for student enrollment.

Credit:

Semester I students will receive

- .5 credit/90 hours Health Care Services (Occupational Ed) or .5 credit/90 hours Health
- .5 credit/90 hours Anatomy and Physiology/Lab Science

Semester II students will receive

- 1 credit/180 hours Health Care Services/Occupational Education credit

Inoculations: State law requires that students involved in health care related programs have a current Tuberculin skin test (PPD). Students are required to provide verification of testing negative for TB. Hepatitis B vaccine series is strongly encouraged for HCS I and required for HCS II. Flu vaccine is also strongly encouraged.

Drug Free Workplace: St. Joseph Hospital & other health care providers, have Drug Free Workplace policies for all its employees. All students accepted into the HCS program will be required to pass a urine test (UA) for prohibited substances prior to being allowed to participate in the HCS campus training program. The cost for HCS student testing is paid by the hospital. Students will be scheduled for the test during the first week of fall semester.

Background Authorization: All allied health personnel in WA State are required to complete a criminal background check. For this reason, students who have contact with patients must also complete the same process.

Transportation: Transportation to the Health Care Services program is the student's responsibility. Before applying for this program, it is recommended students and parents discuss transportation issues and develop a plan to ensure that regular transportation is available to the student. Students are required to provide verification of transportation and automobile insurance (as appropriate to the situation).

Student Orientation Program: An information and orientation session will be held prior to the beginning of each semester. Check with the counseling center for the scheduled date, time and location.

Progress Reports: During the semester progress reports, grades & credit standing will be sent to the student's home school. The reporting schedule/timeline will be the same as for all other Bellingham School District programs.

Attendance: Attendance reports/verification records will be maintained by the Bellingham School District.

Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policies: The Health Care Services Program complies with the Bellingham School District's policies regarding possession and use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.