

Access to HE Diploma (Health Professions) January start

Course Overview

This is a challenging and intensive course of study that prepares you to apply for Nursing, Midwifery, and other allied healthcare-related degree courses at university, including ODP, paramedic science, Occupational Therapy and physiotherapy. You will need to demonstrate experience in work roles, responsibilities, and skills, and/or unpaid work including volunteering in healthcare. You will study alongside adults who have similar progression aims to you, and you will benefit from the support of a personal tutor to guide you through the UCAS process. This course is particularly relevant for those wishing to apply for March intakes for Nursing degree courses. If you are 16-19 years old these activities will be timetabled as will work experience and placement. You can also choose to take part in other activities. For other age groups, activities will be tailored to your needs.

What you will learn

You will study a range of topics designed to provide a base of skills and knowledge which will enable progression to an interview for university degree courses in nursing and midwifery as well as a range of other health-related professions. The subjects include biology, health and care planning, psychology, sociology, maths in a healthcare context, and study skills to equip you with the academic skills required for university study. You will be expected to study at home at least 15 hours per week in addition to your timetabled hours in College.

Entry Requirements

Applicants should be 19+ by no later than the 31st of August prior to starting the course. For the majority of Nursing and Midwifery degree courses, you will need 5 or 6 GCSEs at grade C or above (4/5) including English and maths, depending on the degree course that you are applying for, it would be preferable if one of the GCSEs is biology. The GCSEs must be achieved before embarking on the Access to Health Professions course. For other health-related degree courses, the GCSE profile may be different. We strongly advise you to check the entry requirements of the degree you wish to progress to, to ensure that you meet their specific GCSE profile. We do offer a full-time adult GCSE course where you can study up to 5 GCSEs in one year (subject to passing a pre-entry assessment) if you do not already have these, and part-time GCSE evening courses for adults.

How you will be assessed

You will be assessed by examinations and coursework and the format could include: presentations, essays or reports. You may also participate in dissections in our well-equipped laboratories. The portfolio of evidence of your coursework will be externally moderated three times a year.

Course Fees

Please be aware that there is a charge for your UCAS application. If you are 19-23 and don't already have a full level 3 qualification, (2 A levels or equivalent) there will be no fees for this course. If you are 24+ (or 19-23 with a full level 3 qualification) you will need to apply for an advanced learner loan although this will not need to be repaid if you progress to university and complete your degree. However, please be aware that if you take an advanced learner loan out and then leave the Access course, you will have to repay the loan. If you are unsure about fees, please contact our student services department for further guidance. Simply apply by clicking 'Apply Now' at the top of the page.

Course Progression

The main progression aim of this course is to enable learners to study Nursing or Midwifery at university level, although some learners choose other health-related courses such as ODP, Occupational Health, Physiotherapy or Paramedic Science courses. Many students prefer to apply to local (regional) universities, but are accepted for courses across the country; universities do encourage mature students to apply for nursing and related courses.

What Happens Next

Apply online via the College website. You will need details of your qualifications and employment history. Once your application has been successfully processed, you will be invited to an interview in order to learn more about your prospective course. You will then be offered a place on the programme, subject to the verification of your qualifications and references. You will need to confirm your acceptance of the place offered to you. You will be invited to enrol prior to joining the course.

Course Details

Course Code	P00377
Start Date	07/01/2026
Study Hours	Full Time
Duration	2 years
Campus	Abbey Park Campus
Level	3

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