

Healthcare Professions Support for England HTQ Higher National Diploma

Course Overview

Step into a course that brings healthcare to life and prepares you for a truly rewarding future. This dynamic programme gives you the opportunity to train in our state-of-the-art simulation wards and care rooms, where you'll practise real-world scenarios in a safe, supportive environment. Here, you won't just learn theory — you'll actively develop the essential hands-on skills, confidence, and professional judgement that are crucial when working in any care setting. You'll study just two days a week in college, with the rest of your time spent gaining valuable experience on work placement. Already working in health or social care? Even better — your current role can count towards your required placement hours, allowing you to build your qualification around your real-life experience. This course is designed to help you grow into an independent-thinking, adaptable professional. It equips you to meet employer expectations, respond to the evolving demands of the healthcare sector, and thrive in a constantly changing world. At the same time, it expands your access to higher education and significantly enhances your long-term career prospects. You'll gain essential healthcare knowledge and practical skills that prepare you for success in modern health and social care settings. Career pathways include roles such as Healthcare Assistant Practitioner, with opportunities in nursing support, care navigation, care planning, and assessment. Throughout the course, you'll explore the wide range of roles within healthcare and understand the vital importance of teamwork and collaboration at every level. The programme also explores culturally diverse organisations, cross-cultural issues, and professional values — ensuring you are ready to provide inclusive, compassionate, and person-centred care. You'll examine current health and social care challenges and learn how integrated approaches improve outcomes for individuals and communities. Work experience is a central part of your development: - Level 4 includes a minimum of 225 hours in a healthcare setting - Level 5 includes a minimum of 450 hours in a minimum of two healthcare settings By the time you complete the course, you will have developed the skills, techniques, resilience, and personal attributes that employers are looking for — and you'll be fully prepared to step into employment, progress in your current role, or move on to higher education such as a pre-registration degree in nursing or allied health. If you're passionate about making a difference, this course is your opportunity to turn that passion into a powerful and purposeful career.

What you will learn

The Pearson BTEC level 4 Higher National Certificate in Healthcare Professions' Support for England offers you a broad introduction to the subject area through a mandatory core of learning. This effectively builds your underpinning core skills while preparing you for subject specialisation at Level 5. You will gain a wide range of sector knowledge, supported by practical skills developed through evidence-based practice, personal research, self-study, directed study, and workplace learning and experience. At level 4, you will develop a broad knowledge and awareness of key aspects of the healthcare sector through seven core units, including one unit assessed by a Pearson-set assignment.

The level 5 Higher National Diploma in Healthcare Professions' Support for England is designed to support your progression into relevant occupational areas or onto pre-registration study. The level 5 Higher National Diploma offers one optional unit if you wish to concentrate on a particular aspect of healthcare practice, alongside core units. By completing the level 5 Higher National Diploma, you will develop a sound understanding of the principles in your field of study and learn to apply those principles more widely. You will also learn to evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems. You will be able to perform effectively in your chosen field and develop the qualities necessary for employment in situations requiring personal responsibility and decision-making.

Entry Requirements

Applicants should hold a BTEC level 3 qualification in Health and Social Care or a related subject, five GCSEs including Maths and English at grade 4 (C) or above, another relevant level 3 qualification, or an Access to Higher Education Diploma from an approved institution; relevant work experience or an international equivalent will also be considered. An up-to-date DBS check is required.

Course Progression

The Level 4 Higher National Certificate provides a solid grounding, which students can build on if they decide to continue their studies. The Level 5 Higher National Diploma allows students to specialise by committing to specific career paths and progression routes to degree-level study. Once students have achieved the Level 5 Higher National Diploma, they can develop their careers in healthcare by entering employment, continuing existing employment, becoming a member of the appropriate professional body, committing to continuing professional development or going to university. The level 5 Higher National Diploma is recognised by higher education providers as meeting admission requirements to many relevant health and social care-related courses, for example: - BA/BSc (Hons) in Health and Social Care - BA/BSc (Hons) in Health Studies - BSc (Hons) in Adult Nursing

What Happens Next

Course Details

Course Code	P00717
Start Date	20/09/2027
Study Hours	Full Time
Duration	2 years
Campus	Abbey Park Campus
Level	5

Apply Here

Apply online via the College website application system. You will need to submit details of your qualifications. Once your application has been successfully processed, you will be sent a conditional offer and be invited to interview.