

10 Health Care Careers

Requiring Less than 1 Year of Training

www.islandhealth.ca/careers/exploring-healthcare-careers



Job Title	Job Description	Starting Wages	Length of Training	Examples of Schools Offering the Program
Health Care Assistant (HCA)	Health Care Assistants assist in the delivery of client care following established care plans to provide personal care such as bathing, grooming, dressing, assisting with meals, positioning and lifts and transfers. They also help in the delivery of nursing care such as taking temperature, pulse and respiration, observing and monitoring patients in acute care and residential care (seniors) settings.	\$28.74 / hr HCA	<u>24 - 38 weeks FT</u> or <u>44 weeks PT</u> <i>*dependent on school program</i> <i>(Length of training is applicable to both the HCA and CHSW roles);</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camosun College** • North Island College (NIC)** • Vancouver Island University (VIU)** • Excel Career College • Sprott Shaw College • Discovery Community College <p><i>Tuition costs start at approx. \$4,000 in publicly funded schools</i></p> <p><i>Currently there is a fully funded government program (HCAP) to support students wanting to enter this field. Please reach out to one of our Indigenous Employment Advisors for more information.</i></p>
Community Home Support Worker (CHSW)	Community Home Support Workers require the HCA education but work in a variety of settings, such as Home Support, complex care and assisted living facilities, group homes, and adult day programs. They provide personal care assistance and support, promoting and maximizing independence in the home setting, for seniors and people with developmental disabilities, including support with activities of daily living. A rewarding career, offering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • flexible work schedules and varied work assignments • increased one-on-one time with clients • ability to work independently in the home environment 	\$28.74 / hr CHSW		

Your career is your future – It is the start of so much more...

** May have Indigenous Specific Seats and Indigenous Focused Programs

Job Title	Job Description	Starting Wages	Length of Training	Examples of Schools Offering the Program
Medical Device Reprocessing Technician (MDRT) (Sterile Supply Technician)	Medical Device Reprocessing Technicians perform a variety of duties in hospitals and surgical clinics such as cleaning, sorting, assembling, and picking of simple and complex types of instrument sets and equipment used in the Operating Room (O.R.) and other areas of the hospital. They wrap and sterilize instruments and equipment utilizing a variety of sterilization techniques.	\$28.07 / hr	<u>5.5 months</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vancouver Island University (VIU) Vancouver Community College (VCC) <p><i>Tuition costs start at approx. \$10,500 in publicly funded schools</i></p>
Mental Health & Addictions Worker (Community Mental Health Worker)	Mental Health & Addictions Workers provide support to clients with mental health and/or addictions issues in the facilities or the community. They help clients with the activities of daily living, observe and document client health conditions, progress and report significant and unsafe observations. <u>Program Prerequisites:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English 12 with minimum "C" grade, or equivalent English assessment/competency requirements FoodSafe, CPR <p><i>*Other prerequisites vary between schools</i></p>	\$30.64 - \$32.31 / hr	<u>6-10 months FT, or 20 months PT</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camosun College Vancouver Island University (VIU) <p><i>Tuition costs start at approx. \$9,000 in publicly funded schools</i></p>
Medical Laboratory Assistant	Medical Laboratory Assistants perform specimen collection and process laboratory samples for analysis and data entry. They perform basic lab procedures and Electrocardiograms (ECGs), and provide clerical and reception services. <u>Program Prerequisites:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 12 graduation (&/or specific courses such as Math 10 or Biology 10, Chemistry 10) English assessment/competency requirements 40 wpm typing speed 	\$28.42 / hr	<u>23 weeks, including 4-7 weeks of clinical laboratory experience</u> <i>*(Dependent on school program)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camosun College Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) Thompson River University (distance program) <p><i>Tuition Costs start at approx. \$4,800 - \$5,200 in publicly funded schools</i></p>

Your career is your future – It is the start of so much more...

Title	Job Description	Starting Wages	Length of Training	Examples of Schools Offering the Program
Unit Clerk (Nursing Unit Assistant, HUA)	<p>Unit Clerks perform a variety of clerical and administrative duties that support the delivery of a patient care on a nursing unit. Primary duties include processing doctors' orders, coordinating client tests and receiving results, arranging admissions and discharges, production and distribution of reports, and providing reception for the department.</p> <p><u>Program Prerequisites:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English assessment/competency requirements Grade 12 courses (vary between schools) Medical Terminology Course 50 wpm keyboarding speed <p><i>*Other prerequisites vary between schools</i></p>	\$27.48 / hr	<p><u>Camosun:</u> 225 hour part-time certificate program (over 9 months - includes 110 hour practicum)</p> <p><u>NIC:</u> 35 weeks (mostly evenings)</p> <p><u>VIU:</u> 4 months full-time combined online, and in-class.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camosun College Vancouver Community College (VCC) North Island College (NIC) Vancouver Island University (VIU) <p><i>Tuition costs start at approx. \$3,500 in publicly funded schools</i></p>
Medical Office Assistant (MOA)	<p>Medical Office Assistants perform day to day administrative tasks, office reception and some clinical tasks in hospitals, medical clinics and doctors' offices. Areas of work in hospitals include Admitting and Radiology departments.</p> <p><u>Program Prerequisites:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English 12 with minimum "C" grade, or equivalent; or English assessment/competency 30 - 40 wpm keyboarding speed (varies between schools) <p><i>*Other prerequisites vary between schools</i></p>	\$24.80 - \$26.43 / hr	<p>35-36 weeks;</p> <p><u>VIU:</u> 4 months FT</p> <p><u>Camosun:</u> 8 months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camosun College Vancouver Island University (VIU) North Island College (NIC) Insignia College Excel Career College <p><i>Tuition costs start at approx. \$5,700 in publicly funded schools</i></p>
Pharmacy Technician	<p>Pharmacy Technician assists with drug dispensing by measuring, compounding, packaging and distributing medications in hospitals and community pharmacies. They maintain stock levels, porter medications to patient units and perform clerical functions.</p> <p><u>Program Prerequisites:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 12 graduation or GED equivalent 40 wpm keyboarding speed Proof of English language proficiency Criminal Records Check <p><i>*Other prerequisites vary between schools</i></p>	\$33.18 / hr	<p>30-45 weeks</p> <p>*Pharmacy Technician programs must be accredited by the Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDI College, Burnaby MTI Community College, Surrey Stenberg College, Kamloops Vancouver Community College <p><i>Tuition costs start at approx \$4,500 in publicly funded schools</i></p>

Your career is your future – It is the start of so much more...

Title	Job Description	Starting Wages	Length of Training	Examples of Schools Offering the Program
<p>Activity Assistants</p> <p>(Builds on the Health Care Assistant role (see page 1))</p>	<p>Activity Assistants assist with the provision of activation and socialization programs and develop and lead leisure and recreational activities for seniors with cognitive and physical challenges. They work mainly with residential care (seniors) in hospitals and community facilities.</p> <p><u>Program Prerequisites:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Care Assistant (HCA) certificate or Home Support/Resident Care Attendant (HCA (RCA) certificate or equivalent credential 	<p>\$28.74 / hr</p>	<p><u>Camosun:</u> 6 weekends followed by 120 hours of practicum</p> <p><u>VIU:</u> 4 months PT program (evenings/weekends)</p> <p><u>NIC:</u> 4 months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camosun College Vancouver Island University (VIU) North Island College (NIC) <p><i>Tuition costs start at approx. \$3,000 in publicly funded schools</i></p>
<p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Dental Assistants perform all necessary tasks before and after the dentist meets with patients. They prepare patient for procedures, answers questions, and record information, and assist dentists with dental procedures working mainly in the community.</p> <p><u>Program Prerequisites:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 12 completion; minimum Biology 12 & English 12 minimum "C" grade Other prerequisites vary between schools <p>For further information: www.cdabc.org/</p>	<p>\$26.00 - \$34.07 / hr *(wage scale according to WorkBC)</p>	<p><u>9 - 10 months</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camosun College Vancouver Island University (VIU) Discovery Community College <p><i>Tuition costs start at approx \$7,000 in publicly funded schools</i></p>

Connect with an Indigenous Employment Advisor for more information on career opportunities:

indigenousemployment@islandhealth.ca

[Island Health Indigenous Recruitment & Retention | Facebook](#)

[Indigenous Recruitment & Retention | LinkedIn](#)

Your career is your future – It is the start of so much more...



About our Cultural Safety Logo

Island Health's cultural safety logo was designed by Ray MacGuire and Dale Letourneau in 2011 and depicts the elements that create a culturally safe environment for our clients and families.

For more information on our logo, please visit: [Cultural Safety \(islandhealth.ca\)](https://islandhealth.ca/Cultural-Safety)

Island Health acknowledges with respect and humility the Coast Salish, Nuu-chah-nulth and Kwakwaka'wakw People on whose traditional territories we offer our services and program.

Island Health is committed to identifying and addressing the historical and ongoing health impacts of colonization and Indigenous specific racism to promote culturalls safe workplaces, programs and services.



Excellent health and care for everyone, everywhere, everytime.

Your career is your future – It is the start of so much more...