

PRE-HEALTH SCIENCES CERTIFICATE
SCHOOL OF COMMUNITY, WELLNESS AND HEALTH

UPDATED: APRIL 2022

You are responsible for ensuring that your registration is complete and appropriate and that your course choices comply with the program to which you have been admitted at Red Deer Polytechnic and/or to the university to which you wish to transfer (if applicable). You are cautioned that any changes to your courses, your major or your transfer destination may adversely affect your transferable credit (if applicable), admission requirements for future programs, or eligibility to graduate from Red Deer Polytechnic. Please consult with an Advisor if you have any questions.

Please note that this program is designed for entry into Red Deer Polytechnic programs only. Other institutions may not recognize the credential for admission purposes.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- See the [Academic Calendar](#) for admission requirements.
- Graduation from the Certificate can be used in lieu of the Math and Biology admission requirements for the Medical Laboratory Assistant, Occupational and Physical Therapist Assistant, Pharmacy Technician and Practical Nurse programs. *Additional admission requirements will still need to be met through high school or upgrading classes.*
- At least 10% of seats (20 main campus seats for Practical Nurse) are reserved for Pre-Health graduates. See [Graduation Requirements](#) for qualifying requirements.
- Graduates from this program are well set up to succeed in their future programs and on average tend to perform better academically later on.
- This program is offered in a Hyflex format, which means that you can take your courses online, in person or a combination of the two, as it suits your schedule, abilities and preferences.

WHAT IS THIS GUIDE?

- This is an Academic Planning Guide, prepared by the Student Connect Centre to help you register for courses towards your desired program.
- If you are transferring to another institution to complete your degree, we strongly advise that you read the Academic Calendar of your destination institution for full information.
- Note that this program is not designed to meet the entry requirements for any other institution.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Students must complete all certificate courses with a minimum grade of ‘**D**’ and a minimum grade point average (GPA) of **2.00** in order to receive their Certificate and to use the Certificate to meet the Math and Biology requirements for their approved goal program.
- Students must complete all certificate courses with a minimum grade of ‘**C**’ and a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.3 (and meet all additional admission requirements) in order to qualify for the reserved seats.

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION TO GOAL PROGRAM(S)

- Pre-Health graduates will have two chances to gain admission to their goal program:
 1. They will be considered for the regular admission seats, based on either date of application or GPA, according to the program admission rules. Admission may be conditional based on successful completion of the certificate and/or other courses, if the student will be meeting the admission requirements through the Pre-Health Sciences program.
 2. Students who are *not* admitted to the regular admission seats will get a second chance. At least 10% of seats in the designated programs (20 main campus seats for Practical Nurse) are reserved for students who graduate from the Pre-Health Sciences Certificate with a minimum GPA of 3.3 and no individual course grade below a "C". If there are more Pre-Health Graduates who meet this criteria than there are reserved seats, the reserved seats will be awarded to the students with the highest GPAs. **Upgrading/Electives will not count towards the reserved seat GPA calculation. Only HSCI courses and INTP 102 will be included.**
- All admission requirements must still be met, including additional English and Chemistry courses and English Language Proficiency, prior to the program start.
- Applications open on Oct 1st. Students interested in the Occupational and Physical Therapist Assistant or the Medical Laboratory Assistant program are strongly encouraged to submit their change of program application on the opening day.
- The application deadline for competitive programs (Practical Nurse, Pharmacy Technician and - while out of the scope of Pre-Health Sciences - it is worth noting Bachelor of Science Nursing also falls into this category) is March 1st. GPAs for the regular admission seats will be based on Fall term plus previous coursework up to 18 credits. See the [Academic Calendar](#) for specifics by program.

WHAT IS A TERM? TERMS ARE THE PERIOD IN WHICH YOUR STUDIES TAKE PLACE. AT RDP, WE OFFER FOUR TERMS.

- **Fall** term (September through December)
- **Winter** term (January through April)
- **Spring** term (May through June): Spring term is an optional, condensed term. Course offerings are limited. No Pre-Health courses are offered in Spring but upgrading/English/electives may be offered.
- **Summer** term (July through August): Summer term is an optional, condensed term. Course offerings are limited and may not apply to Pre-Health students.

HOW MANY COURSES SHOULD I TAKE A TERM?

- The maximum number of courses you can take in the Fall or Winter terms is 5 courses and 2 courses in the Spring or Summer.
- The Certificate consists of 4 courses in the Fall term and 3 courses in the Winter term. You will have the option to add additional courses, up to the maximum, if required/preferred.
- You will be registered in your core Pre-Health courses by the Office of the Registrar. Once this is complete, you can add additional courses through your Loop account.

REGISTRATION AND PROGRAM AUDIT

- Refer to the **Registration** tab on your Loop account to view **Registration Tips and Tricks** for information on:
 - Registering in classes
 - Waitlisting
 - Checking Prerequisites and Corequisites
 - Courses listed as **prerequisites** must be completed before you start the course in question.
 - Courses listed as **co-requisites** must be taken at the same time as the course in question.
 - Viewing Your Schedule
 - And much more!
- You can also see for yourself exactly which criteria each course will meet, by using Grad Tracker. To access this, log in to the Loop and select Online Services→Student Services→Grad Tracker.

SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCE

FALL TERM	WINTER TERM
HSCI 100 – Introduction to Health Sciences I	HSCI 101 – Introduction to Health Sciences II
HSCI 110 – Mathematics for Health Professions I	HSCI 111 – Mathematics for Health Professions II
HSCI 115 – Biology for Health Professions	INTP 102 – Healthcare Anatomy and Physiology
HSCI 105 – Personal Health and Wellness	*Optional Elective or Upgrading course
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IMPORTANT NOTES

- Upgrading and Elective courses are additional to the program and will not be included in the Certificate GPA calculation, nor are they included in the program cost estimates.
- Upgrading and Elective courses *may* be available in the Spring term.
- These programs have specific English Language Proficiency Requirements. If your first language was not English, please refer to the [Health Sciences](#) section on the Website.
- INTP 102 is a required course for Occupational and Physical Therapist Assistant and Pharmacy Technician. Credit will be given for Pre-Health graduates who proceed into one of these programs.

ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES AND UPGRADING COURSES

While successful completion of the Pre-Health Sciences Certificate will meet the Math and Biology admission requirements for the designated programs, **all of these programs also require specific English or Chemistry courses.** For students who have not already completed these requirements, you can add them to your Pre-Health Schedule.

Some programs also have a selection of courses that can be completed prior to acceptance. Taking these in advance is fully optional and will *not* increase your chances of being admitted. However, completing courses in advance can help lighten your course load later.

Program	Upgrading (if not already completed)	Possible Electives/courses for advanced credit (optional)
Practical Nurse (PN)	ENGL 095 (ELA 30-1 equivalent) Note: minimum grade of 60% or C- is required	ENGL 219 (Pre-requisite is ELA 30-1) KNSS 200 (Credit for NURS 215 IF taken within 2 years of starting PN program.) 3-credit Elective
Occupational and Physical Therapist Assistant (OPTA)	ENGL 095 (ELA 30-1 equivalent) Note: minimum grade of 60% or C- is required	KNSS 307 (Winter term recommended) COMM 250 (Pre-requisite is ELA 30-1 with a 60%)
Pharmacy Technician (PHTD)	CHEM 085 (CHEM 20 equivalent) High School Diploma or GED	N/A
Medical Laboratory Assistant (MLA)	CHEM 085 (CHEM 20 equivalent)	N/A

CONTACT INFORMATION AND HELPFUL RESOURCES

Red Deer Polytechnic Student Connect Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • studentconnect@rdpolytech.ca • www.rdpolytech.ca/SCC • 403.342.3254
Red Deer Polytechnic website	rdpolytech.ca