

**Cecil
College
Academic
Program
Review**



**Associate of Science in
Health Care Science
July 2014**

Program Review
Associate of Science in Health Care Science
Summer 2014



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Executive Summary

The Associate of Healthcare Sciences degree has been in existence since 2007. The degree was designed to complement Cecil College’s continuing education health care career programs and to provide an

opportunity for academic progression/career ladder for individuals employed in a health care field who may not hold a degree, but have a significant knowledge base and/or credentials in their field of practice. Although the numbers have been small, the degree has provided an academic avenue for several health care careers students over the past several years.

The degree was initially 62-64 credits with 50-52 credits of general education, science and elective coursework and 12 credits of credential assessment/portfolio review. With the Career and College Readiness Act of 2014, the degree was revised to meet state standards of 60 credits for an associate degree. The Associate of Science in Healthcare Sciences continues the Cecil College tradition of facilitating student growth, providing an educational avenue for stackable credentials, and supporting the development of a career ladder.

Program Description

The Associate of Science in Healthcare Sciences offers students, who currently hold a national certification in a field of Healthcare, a flexible degree program designed to provide a sound base of foundational credit coursework and additional career specific studies and/or competencies in a healthcare discipline. The credit coursework is primarily in general education credits, as the student who chooses this degree path already has demonstrated knowledge and expertise in their field of practice by credential review (a national certification) or a portfolio review (multiple documented years in field of practice).

Program History

The Associate of Healthcare Sciences degree has been in existence since 2007. The degree was designed to complement Cecil College's continuing education health care career programs and to provide opportunities for academic progression as well as facilitation of a career ladder for individuals employed in a health care field who may not hold a degree, but have a significant knowledge base and/or credentials in their field of practice.

Although the numbers have been small, the degree has provided an academic avenue for health care careers students over the past several years. The degree was initially 62-64 credits with 50-52 credits of math, English, social sciences, science and elective coursework and 12 credits of credential assessment/portfolio review. With the Career and College Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013, the credits associated with the degree were decreased to meet the state standard of 60 credits for an associate degree. This revision was accomplished by eliminating the 2 credits of activity credit and decreasing the number of 'free' electives, thus keeping the integrity of the degree intact (see program curriculum).

Relationship to the College's Mission Statement and Strategic Plan

Cecil College Mission Statement

“Cecil College is a comprehensive, open-admission, learner-centered institution. The College provides career, transfer, and continuing education coursework and programs that anticipate and meet the dynamic intellectual, cultural and economic development challenges of Cecil County and the surrounding region. Through support services and a technologically enriched learning environment, the College strives to empower each learner with skills, knowledge, and values needed for college preparation, transfer to four-year institutions, workforce entry or advancement, and personal enrichment. Further, Cecil College promotes an appreciation of cultural diversity, social responsibility, and academic excellence.” *CC Strategic Plan 2010-15*

Cecil College Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan focuses on four strategic initiatives:

1. Emphasis on student completion
2. Increasing opportunities for Bachelors and Higher Degree Programs in Cecil County
3. Creating workforce opportunities related to federal government expansion, and
4. Becoming a regional leader in incorporating innovative technology

Cecil College’s Associate of Healthcare Sciences degree is in direct alignment with the college’s strategic plan by providing an avenue for college preparation, transfer to a four-year institution, workforce advancement and/or personal enrichment. As stated earlier, the degree was designed to provide an avenue for degree attainment for the individual who possesses skills, knowledge and expertise in an area of health care, but does not hold a degree.

Faculty Profiles

The courses in the Associate of Healthcare Science are taught by Cecil College adjunct and full-time faculty in the math, English, Science and Social Sciences departments. Please see associated program reviews for these faculty profiles.

Additional electives in the Health or Health care discipline are also included in this degree. The courses in this discipline are taught by adjunct faculty who are content experts in their fields.

Faculty	status	Credentials	Courses taught	Other college activities (2013-2014)	Other
James Davis	Adjunct	BA, RN, NRP	HCD 150, PED 135	n/a	RN, paramedic, manages podcasts r/t nursing and paramedic (sponsored by RWJF)
Sally Green	Adjunct	BS	HEA 130	Healthful living faculty meeting	Physical education teacher, CCPS
Marta Hayden	Adjunct	MSN, RN, OCN, CNE	HCD 232, NUR 101, NUR 104, NUR 114, NUR 105, NUR	Nursing faculty meetings	Nursing program retention coordinator

			115		
Melissa Lewis	Adjunct	MSN, RN	HCD 120, NUR 114, NUR 115	Nursing faculty meetings	Nursing faculty
Metty Mesnick	Adjunct	MDiv, MAPC, BCC	HCD 270/ PHI 270	n/a	Senior Staff Chaplain, and Coordinator of Pastoral Services, Wilmington Hospital; Member/Screeners, Christiana Care Health System Ethics Committee; Member Human Subject Review Board, State of Delaware, DHSS
Michelle Ness	Adjunct	MS, RN	HEA 130, HEA 173, HEA 174	Healthful living faculty meeting	RN, School nurse CCPS, Master's degree in Health Education
Kimberly Robell	Adjunct	M.Ed	HCD 120, HEA 130, PED 180	Healthful living faculty meeting	Physical education and health teacher, public schools

**Program Curriculum
Associate of Healthcare Sciences**

BIO 101	General Biology	S	3
BIO 111	General Biology Lab		1
BIO 208	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	S	3
BIO 218	Human Anatomy and Physiology I Lab		1
BIO 209	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	S	3
BIO 219	Human Anatomy and Physiology II Lab		1
EGL 101	Freshman Composition	E	3
EGL 102	Composition and Literature	H	3
SOC 101	Introduction to Sociology	SS	3
SPH 121 or SPH 141	Interpersonal Communications or Public Speaking	H	3
PSY 101	Introduction to Psychology	SS	3
PSY 201	Human Growth and Development	SS	3
MAT ¹	MAT ELECT	M	3
ELECT ²	Math, Science, Healthcare, or Business Elective		3
	Program Requirements		
CIS 101	Introduction to Computer Concepts	I	3
HEA 130	Healthful Living	I	3
HCD 120	Medical Terminology		3
HCD 150 or HCD 270	Health care and Social Media or Ethical Issues in Healthcare		3
ELECT	Healthcare Science Portfolio Review and/or Credential		12

	Assessment		

Total Credits Required in Program: 60

¹Any general education Mathematics, level 121 or higher, will be accepted

²Suggested Math, Science, Healthcare, or Business electives- HCD 270, MAT 127, ACC 101, ACC, BUS 108, ACC 104, ENV 106/116, BIO 200/210, BIO 203, BIO 206, CHM 102, CHM 103 & CHM 113, PHY103, PHY 181, PHY 207.

A key component of the Associate of Science in Healthcare Sciences is the credential assessment/portfolio review. Enrolled students are encouraged to submit any documentation to the Dean of Nursing and Health Professions for credential assessment/portfolio review (Appendix A). Verification of credentials and/or portfolio is conducted by the Dean, in consultation with the college registrar.

Educational Outcomes

Students who are enrolled in this degree program are already practicing in their healthcare field. The degree is designed to provide students with stackable credentials and /or career ladder options. Educational outcomes for the Associate of Science in Healthcare Sciences correspond to the educational outcomes in the math, English, Social Sciences and Science programs. Please see the program reviews of those disciplines. Outcomes associated with the field of specialty in health care have already met by verification of attainment of national certification or portfolio review for each student applying for this degree.

Statistical Data

Associate of Healthcare Sciences Student Demographics

Table 1: Gender

	Total Enrollment	Female Student	% of Total	Male Students	% of Total
FY 2009/2010	25	18	72%	7	28%
FY 2010/2011	36	29	81%	7	19%
FY 2011/2012	40	33	83%	7	18%
FY2012/2013	34	31	91%	3	9%
FY2013/2014	39	36	92%	3	8%

Table 2: Ethnicity

Academic Year	Ethnicity

	Total Enroll	African- American	%	American Indian	%	Asian	%	Hispanic	%	White	%	Two or more races	%	Unknown	%
FY 2009/2010	25	5	20%	0	0%	0	0%	1	4%	18	72%	0	0%	1	4%
FY 2010/2011	36	4	11%	0	0%	0	0%	2	6%	26	72%	0	0%	4	11%
FY 2011/2012	40	4	10%	0	0%	0	0%	3	8%	31	78%	1	3%	1	3%
FY2012/2013	34	7	21%	0	0%	0	0%	1	3%	23	68%	2	6%	1	3%
FY2013/2014	39	5	13%	1	3%	0	0%	3	8%	29	74%	1	3%	0	0%

Table 3: Age

Academic Year	Age										
	Total Enrollment	Less Than 25	% of Total	26-30	% of Total	31-40	% of Total	41-50	% of Total	51 and over	% of Total
FY 2009/2010	25	13	52%	5	20%	6	24%	1	4%	0	0%
FY 2010/2011	36	24	67%	2	6%	7	19%	2	6%	1	3%
FY 2011/2012	40	27	68%	2	5%	7	18%	3	8%	1	3%
FY2012/2013	34	22	65%	2	6%	7	21%	3	9%	0	0%
FY2013/2014	39	24	62%	4	10%	5	13%	6	15%	0	0%

Table 4: Enrollment and Degrees Awarded

Academic Year	Total Enrollment	Degrees Awarded
FY 2009/2010	25	0
FY 2010/2011	36	2
FY 2011/2012	40	2
FY2012/2013	34	0
FY2013/2014	39	2
Total		6

General Education Objectives

Please see program reviews in math, English, Social Sciences and science disciplines.

Program Evaluation Program Strengths and Weaknesses

A significant challenge for this program is the lack of dedicated full-time faculty. Students rely on college advisors, the Director of Health Care Careers and the Dean of Nursing and Health Professions for advice and guidance when completing this degree. This can be difficult. Additionally, the lack of full-time dedicated faculty also limits the growth potential for this degree.

An obvious program strength is the option for credential stacking, providing the bridge between continuing education and credit education for students. This bridge, with 12 credits awarded in response to a credential assessment or portfolio review, recognizes the expertise that a student may already have and provides an avenue towards a degree. This flexible option, where students can attend full-time or part-time, can facilitate opportunities regarding career growth and/or future education.

Adequacy of Available Technology/Facilities

The Associate of Science in Healthcare Sciences program has the same facilities and technology as the other courses at Cecil College. This includes access to Blackboard ® as well as college computer labs, Math lab, Reading and Writing lab, and tutoring in subject matter. There are no specific technology or facility requirements for this degree.

Articulation Agreements

There are no specific articulation agreements for the Associate of Science in Healthcare program. Students are often already employed in their field of practice as Medical Assistants, or Medical Biller/Coders. Anecdotally, students who have completed this degree state it has increased their job security or provided opportunities for increased salary or promotion.

Program Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives have been established for the upcoming five years.

<i>Goal(s)</i>	<i>Timetable for Completion</i>	<i>Required Resources</i>	<i>Obstacles to Completion</i>
Continue the option for an Associate of Healthcare Sciences for students.	ongoing	none	Student interest; employment opportunities in region
Assist in the exploration and development of an articulation with a four-year institution for a Bachelor's degree	ongoing	none	Willing four-year institution partner

Recommendations

There are no recommendations specific to the Associate of Science in Healthcare Sciences degree.

Appendix A

Cecil College Evaluation of Credit through Credential Assessment

Credits for prior learning may be awarded for national and/or state certification or licensure. To earn credit through this option, students must submit documentation validating national and/or state certification or licensure to the department chair or administrator of the program for evaluation of credentials. Credentials must be current and demonstrate that the student is in good standing with the certification and/or licensing agency. Credits awarded through this process will be recorded on the student's academic record (transcript) with a grade designation of TR.

Demographic Information

_____	_____	_____	
(Last name)	(First Name)	(Middle Name)	
_____	_____	_____	_____
(Street)	(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)
_____	_____	_____	
Home Telephone Number)	(Work Telephone Number)	(Email Address)	
_____	_____	_____	
(College ID Number)	(SS Number - optional)	(Birth Date)	

I am applying for evaluation of credentials to the following degree program at Cecil College:

- ☐ EMT-Paramedic Degree -
EMT 101 (5 credits), EMT 110 (3 credits), EMT 210 (5 credits), EMT 220 (5 credits), EMT 230 (4 credits), EMT 240 (3 credits), and EMT 290 (3 credits)
- ☐ LPN to RN Degree -
NUR 101 (2 credits), NUR 104 (5 credits), NUR 105 (4 credits), NUR 114 (2 credits), and NUR 115 (4 credits)
- ☐ Medical Assistant to Healthcare Sciences Degree – Healthcare Sciences Electives (12 credits)
- ☐ Sonography to Healthcare Sciences Degree – Healthcare Sciences Electives (12 credits)

Review of License or Certification by Authorized Cecil College Evaluator

___ Yes ___ No	Current unencumbered license/certification: list documents reviewed, with current license number if applicable. LPN – must hold a Maryland practical nurse license. Documents Reviewed: _____ _____
	License Number: _____
___ Yes ___ No	Admitted to the program of study at Cecil College _____

_____	_____	_____
Signature of Evaluator	Title of Evaluator	Date

Approved by Registrar: _____ Date: _____