Area of Interest: Health Sciences

Personal Support Worker

Ontario College Certificate
28 Weeks
Ottawa Campus

Our Program

Make a difference in the lives of others.

The Personal Support Worker Ontario College Certificate program prepares you for immediate work in healthcare. This two-semester program provides you with the knowledge and practical skills to work as a care provider in a range of healthcare settings.

Develop the ability to engage with persons and families of various ages and health-related needs to promote healthy living. Learn how to assist clients with their daily personal care needs, such as bathing, dressing, grooming, and toileting. In your career, you help those who need assistance to remain as independent as possible.

Through theory, lab practice and clinical/community experiences, learn how to deliver person-centred care, encourage independence and improve the quality of life for your clients.

Participate in two different clinical experiences, where you focus on the various skills needed to succeed in the field. In these clinical placements, you demonstrate your knowledge and expertise and learn about applying different concepts to real-world environments. These clinical experiences provide you with the opportunity to continue working as a member of a healthcare team.

After graduating, you may find employment as a Personal Support Worker. In this role, you work under the supervision of Registered Nurses and/or Registered Practical Nurses in:

- retirement homes
- long-term care facilities
- home care agencies, and
- hospitals

SUCCESS FACTORS

This program is well-suited for students who:

- Enjoy the challenges of working with individuals of all ages and cultural backgrounds.
- Possess good communication and interpersonal skills.
- Enjoy working with others as a member of a team.
- Are willing to meet the needs of an aging population.
- Possess the ability to handle physically and emotionally demanding situations.
- Possess basic computer skills (Microsoft Word, use of email, website navigation).
- Possess strong time management and organizational skills.

Employment

Graduates may find employment as personal support workers functioning under the supervision
of Registered Nurses and/or Registered Practical Nurses in retirement homes, long-term care facilities, community health agencies and acute-care settings.

**Learning Outcomes**

The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

- Work within the personal support worker role in community, retirement homes, long-term care homes and/or hospital-care settings in accordance with all applicable legislation and employer’s job description, policies, procedures and guidelines.

- Act responsibly and be accountable for own actions while recognizing the boundaries of knowledge and skills within the personal support worker role that require collaboration with the clients, families, supervisors and/or other members of the interprofessional care/service team.

- Participate as a member of the inter-professional care/service team and maintain collaborative working relationships in the provision of supportive care in community, retirement homes, long-term care homes and/or hospital-care settings.

- Provide client-centred and client-directed care that is based on ethical principles, sensitive to diverse client and family values, beliefs and needs, and which follows the direction of the plan of care/service plan.

- Establish and maintain helping relationships with clients and their families reflecting open communication, professional boundaries, employer’s policies and adhering to confidentiality and privacy legislation.

- Identify relevant client information using basic assessment and communication skills and report and document findings in accordance with the requirements of employer policies and procedures and all applicable legislation.

- Promote and maintain a safe and comfortable environment for clients, their families, self and others including the implementation of infection prevention and control measures and emergency first aid procedures that are in keeping with the plan of care/service plan, employer policies and procedures, and all applicable legislation.

- Assist clients across the lifespan with routine activities of daily living by applying basic knowledge of growth and development, common alterations in functioning, disease prevention, health promotion and maintenance, rehabilitation and restorative care.

- Assist clients with medication in keeping with the direction of the plan of care/service plan and under the direction and monitoring of a regulated health professional or most accountable person and in accordance with all applicable legislation and employer’s policies.

- Assist with household management tasks and instrumental activities of daily living in accordance with the plan of care/service plan* and considering the preferences, comfort and safety of clients, families and significant others.

- Assist clients who are caring for dependent individuals considering client and family choices, professional boundaries and the direction of the plan of care/service plan.

- Identify and report situations of neglect, and potential, alleged or witnessed/actual incidents of abuse, and respond in accordance with all applicable legislation and employer’s policies and procedures.

- Assist in the provision of culturally relevant palliative and end-of-life care to clients experiencing life threatening illness and to their families and significant others, from diagnosis through death and bereavement, and in accordance with clients’ choices and the plan of care/service plan.

- Use identified approaches and best practices to support positive and safe behaviour in clients experiencing cognitive impairment, mental health challenges and/or responsive behaviours.

- Identify and apply discipline-specific practices that contribute to the local and global community through social responsibility, economic commitment and environmental stewardship.
Program of Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level: 01</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENL1813S</td>
<td>Communications I</td>
<td>42.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLT0301</td>
<td>The Human Body I</td>
<td>27.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLT0302</td>
<td>Lab Skills for the Personal Support Worker</td>
<td>85.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLT0303</td>
<td>Clinical Placement I</td>
<td>70.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLT0304</td>
<td>The Brain and the Mind</td>
<td>46.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLT0338</td>
<td>Introduction to Health Care Provision</td>
<td>33.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level: 02</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLT0305</td>
<td>Advanced Theory for the Personal Support Worker</td>
<td>45.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLT0306</td>
<td>End of Life Care</td>
<td>27.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLT0307</td>
<td>The Human Body II</td>
<td>27.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLT0308</td>
<td>Advanced Lab Skills for the Personal Support Worker</td>
<td>54.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLT0309</td>
<td>Clinical Placement II</td>
<td>70.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLT0310</td>
<td>Consolidation Placement for the Personal Support Worker</td>
<td>70.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY5609</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology</td>
<td>42.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Fees for the 2019/2020 Academic Year

Tuition and related ancillary fees for this program can be viewed by using the Tuition and Fees Estimator tool at [https://www.algonquincollege.com/fee-estimator](https://www.algonquincollege.com/fee-estimator).

Further information on fees can be found by visiting the Registrar’s Office site at [https://www.algonquincollege.com/ro](https://www.algonquincollege.com/ro).

Fees are subject to change.

Additional program related expenses include:

Books and supplies cost approximately $600 for the program duration and can be purchased in the campus bookstore. Uniforms and shoes cost approximately $200.

Admission Requirements for the 2020/2021 Academic Year

College Eligibility

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent. Applicants with an OSSD showing senior English and/or mathematics courses at the Basic Level, or with Workplace or Open courses, will be tested to determine their eligibility for admission; OR
- Academic and Career Entrance (ACE) certificate; OR
- General Educational Development (GED) certificate; OR
- Mature Student status (19 years of age or older and without a high school diploma at the start of the program). Eligibility may be determined by academic achievement testing for which a fee of $50 (subject to change).

Program Eligibility

- English, Grade 12 (ENG4C or equivalent).
- Mathematics Grade 11 or 12 (MAP4C or equivalent) is recommended.
- Biology Grade 11 or 12 is recommended.
- International applicants must provide proof of the subject specific requirements noted above.
• International applicants must provide proof of the subject specific requirements noted above along with proof of either: (IELTS / TOEFL) IELTS-International English Language Testing Service (Academic) Overall band of 6.0 with a minimum of 5.5 in each band; OR TOEFL-Internet-based (iBT) Overall 80, with a minimum of 20 in each component: Reading 20; Listening 20; Speaking 20; Writing 20.

• Applicants with international transcripts must provide proof of the subject specific requirements noted above and may be required to provide proof of language proficiency.

Should the number of qualified applicants exceed the number of available places; applicants will be selected on the basis of their proficiency in English.

• **International Applicants**
  International applicants who meet the program eligibility requirements are required to complete preparatory courses (4-months in duration): Introduction to Canadian Health Studies (ICHS). Students who successfully complete the introduction will then proceed to their original health program of choice. The ICHS requires applicants to submit an academic IELTS score.

Please click this link for more information https://www.algonquincollege.com/healthandcommunity/ICHS  

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Please click this link for more information http://www.algonquincollege.com/healthandcommunity/introduction-to-canadian-health-studies/.
Application Information

PERSONAL SUPPORT WORKER
Program Code 6307X01FWO

Applications to full-time day programs must be submitted with official transcripts showing completion of the academic admission requirements through:

ontariocolleges.ca
60 Corporate Court
Guelph, Ontario N1G 5J3
1-888-892-2228

Students currently enrolled in an Ontario secondary school should notify their Guidance Office prior to their online application at http://www.ontariocolleges.ca/.

Applications for Fall Term and Winter Term admission received by February 1 will be given equal consideration. Applications received after February 1 will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis as long as places are available.

International applicants please visit this link for application process information: https://algonquincollege.force.com/myACint/.

For further information on the admissions process, contact:

Registrar`s Office
Algonquin College
1385 Woodroffe Ave
Ottawa, ON K2G 1V8
Telephone: 613-727-0002
Toll-free: 1-800-565-4723
TTY: 613-727-7766
Fax: 613-727-7632
Email: mailto:AskUs@algonquincollege.com

Additional Information

Programs at Algonquin College are Bring Your Own Device (BYOD). To see the BYOD requirements for your program, please visit: https://www7.algonquincollege.com/university-life/.

This full-time program is also offered on the Pembroke and Perth Campuses. While the learning outcomes at the Pembroke, Perth and Woodroffe Campuses are the same, the curriculum order and subject delivery are reflective of the local circumstances which can affect program delivery.

A current Standard First Aid and CPR Level C certificate is required prior to clinical placement.

Police Records Check Documentation:
Successful completion of clinical placement is a requirement for graduation from the Personal Support Worker program. Agencies that provide placement opportunities require you to have a clear Police Records Check for Service with the Vulnerable Sector (PRCSVS). Your acceptance for placement is at the discretion of the agency. If you register in the program without a clear PRCSVS and as a result are unable to participate in placement, you will not be eligible to graduate.

Clinical Placement Eligibility:
To be eligible for placement, you must submit proof of a clear PRCSVS, which will be retained on your departmental file and used only for purposes related to your placement. You will be required to disclose the contents of the PRCSVS, including all notations, to the placement agencies.

It is your responsibility to obtain the PRCSVS from your local Police Department prior to the deadline identified by your Department and to pay any associated costs. It may take a long time to obtain this documentation; submit your application as early as possible. Should you require further information, contact the Program Coordinator or Academic Chair.

Prior to clinical experience you are required to submit a completed Health Assessment Form and/ or an Immunization Form, including flu vaccine, in order to comply with the legislation and regulations of the institutions which offer field placements or clinical experiences.
Clinical placements receive large numbers of health science students and there may be times during your program of study that require you to attend weekend, evening and night clinical experiences.

The following courses must be successfully completed before proceeding to Clinical Placement I (HLT0303): ENL1813S, HLT0338, HLT0301, HLT0302 and HLT0304.

The following courses must be successfully completed before proceeding to Clinical Placement II (HLT0309): ENL1813S, HLT0338, HLT0301, HLT0302, HLT0303, HLT0304, HLT0305, HLT0306, HLT0307, HLT0308 and PSY5609.

The following courses must be successfully completed before proceeding to Consolidation Placement (HLT0310): ENL1813S, HLT0338, HLT0301, HLT0302, HLT0303, HLT0304, HLT0305, HLT0306, HLT0307, HLT0308, HLT0309 and PSY5609.

For more information contact Kerri-Ann Joice, Program Coordinator, at 613-727-4723 ext. 5362 or email joicek@algonquincollege.com.

Course Descriptions

**ENL1813S Communications I**

Communication remains an essential skill sought by employers, regardless of discipline or field of study. Using a practical, vocation-oriented approach, students focus on meeting the requirements of effective communication. Students practise writing, speaking, reading, listening, locating and documenting information, and using technology to communicate professionally. Students develop and strengthen communication skills that contribute to success in both educational and workplace environments.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s): none

**HLT0301 The Human Body I**

Familiarity with human biology is essential to health care providers. Learners focus on body structures and functions identifying the normal stages of growth and development as it pertains to persons of diverse ages and abilities. Integration of all body systems in maintaining normal human functioning, medical and anatomical terminology are explored through in-class and/or online learning activities, such as lectures, discussions, quizzes and assignments.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s): ENL1813S and HLT0302 and HLT0304 and HLT0338

**HLT0302 Lab Skills for the Personal Support Worker**

Personal support workers enable persons and/or families to meet their physical needs in relation to activities of daily living. Theory related to practical skills is provided via in-class and mobile learning technologies. Practical lab learning experiences support the integration of theory into practice by developing the psychomotor skills and professional expectations required to support persons, families and communities in living healthy. Learners engage in hands-on activities through case studies and skill acquisition activities.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s): ENL1813S and HLT0301 and HLT0303 and HLT0304 and HLT0338

**HLT0303 Clinical Placement I**

Personal support workers interact with persons across the lifespan to promote health and provide person centered care. Learners apply basic therapeutic communication, safety principles, client observations and basic care interventions during this course. Learners gain experience working and collaborating with the inter-professional health-care team to implement a client plan of care. Through a supervised practical experience this course provides the student with an opportunity to apply the principles of personal care and documentation with the emphasis on the needs of individual clients.
Prerequisite(s): ENL1813S and HLT0301 and HLT0302 and HLT0304 and HLT0338
Corerequisite(s): none

**HLT0304 The Brain and the Mind**

Personal support workers care for persons and/or families living with a variety of brain-related challenges. The learner explores best practices to promote safe ways of interacting with persons experiencing cognitive impairment, mental health challenges and/or responsive behaviours. Learners explore changes in client perception including memory, judgment, organization, language and motor skills and best practices to support healthy living. A variety of online and/or in-class learning-teaching methods, such as lectures, case studies, group work, workshops and presentations enable the learner to gain the knowledge to promote healthy living for persons and/or families affected by brain-related challenges.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s): ENL1813S and HLT0301 and HLT0302 and HLT0303 and HLT0338

**HLT0305 Advanced Theory for the Personal Support Worker**

Personal support workers assist people across the lifespan with routine activities of daily living, including assisting persons and/or families with medication in accordance with the plan of care. Knowledge of pathophysiology, math and pharmacology enables the learner to recognize the needs of persons living with differing health challenges to promote healthy living, rehabilitation and restorative care. Learners are exposed to a variety of learning-teaching methods, such as lecture, case studies, online and interactive activities.

Prerequisite(s): ENL1813S and HLT0300 and HLT0301 and HLT0302 and HLT0303 and HLT0304
Corerequisite(s): HLT0306 and HLT0307 and HLT0308 and PSY5609

**HLT0306 End of Life Care**

The promotion of comfort and relief from suffering (symptom management) are important aspects when caring for terminally ill persons and/or families. Students examine principles of pain, physical and psychological comfort measures, promotion of independence, theories of grief, implications for home care and the final physical aspects of dying including grieving processes. Religious and cultural aspects are also explored. Activities implementing a variety of therapeutic activities to enhance quality of life, implications of stress on the patient and family, and support systems are also addressed through lectures, case studies, online and interactive learning methods.

Prerequisite(s): ENL1813S and HLT0301 and HLT0302 and HLT0303 and HLT0304 and HLT0338
Corerequisite(s): HLT0305 and HLT0307 and HLT0308 and PSY5609

**HLT0307 The Human Body II**

Familiarity with human biology is essential to health-care providers. Learners focus on differing body structures and functions identifying the normal stages of growth and development as it pertains to persons of diverse ages and abilities. Integration of all body systems in maintaining normal human functioning, chemistry, medical and anatomical terminology are explored through in-class and/or online learning activities, such as lectures, discussions, quizzes and assignments.

Prerequisite(s): ENL1813S and HLT0301 and HLT0302 and HLT0303 and HLT0304 and HLT0338
Corerequisite(s): HLT0305 and HLT0306 and HLT0308 and PSY5609

**HLT0308 Advanced Lab Skills for the Personal Support Worker**

Practical experience working directly with simulated environments allows students to broaden and deepen their integration of theory with professional practice in providing client service and care. Learners practice essential skills, such as documenting vital signs, measurement of height and weight, elimination care, assisting with medications, and care of a client with enteral feeds, infusion therapy, wound care and/or oxygen therapy. Learners also practice the care of children including bathing, diapering and supporting nutrition. Within a simulated environment, learners practice administering care within a variety of scenarios, such as maternal newborn and palliative care.
Prerequisite(s): ENL1813S and HLT0301 and HLT0302 and HLT0303 and HLT0304 and HLT0338
Corerequisite(s): HLT0305 and HLT0306 and HLT0307 and PSY5609

**HLT0309 Clinical Placement II**

Personal support workers continue to demonstrate their knowledge and skills caring for medically complex persons across the lifespan to promote quality of life. Learners focus on health promotion, health maintenance, prevention and rehabilitation and restorative care demonstrating increased independence. Learners recognize and apply concepts of the disease process and the impact on quality of life, report and document relevant changes in health. A supervised practical experience provides learners with an opportunity to continue working as a member of the inter-professional health-care team.

Prerequisite(s): ENL1813S and HLT0301 and HLT0302 and HLT0303 and HLT0304 and HLT0305 and HLT0306 and HLT0307 and HLT0308 and HLT0338 and PSY5609
Corerequisite(s): none

**HLT0310 Consolidation Placement for the Personal Support Worker**

The personal support worker is responsible for promoting and maintaining a safe and comfortable environment for persons and/or families. The learner is able to consistently and reliably demonstrate utilization of knowledge and skills gained throughout the program to care for persons and/or family's in community, retirement homes, long-term care homes and/or hospital-care settings in accordance with all applicable legislation and agency job description, policies, procedures and guidelines. Under the supervision of members of the inter-professional health-care team personal support workers care for persons with differing health-care needs to promote healthy living.

Prerequisite(s): ENL1813S and HLT0301 and HLT0302 and HLT0303 and HLT0304 and HLT0305 and HLT0306 and HLT0307 and HLT0308 and HLT0338 and PSY5609
Corerequisite(s): none

**HLT0338 Introduction to Health Care Provision**

The personal support worker’s role is to assist in the care and physical well-being of their clients in collaboration with the health-care team. The role and practice of the personal support worker (PSW) in relation to the inter-professional health-care team is introduced. Learners examine the impact of policies, legislation, and regulations across all levels of government on the role of the health-care provider. Students also examine the impact of cultural and family systems on the delivery of services and care. In-class and/or online learning activities, such as lectures, case studies, discussions and assignments focus on exploring the roles and relationships between health-care providers.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s): ENL1813S or HLT0301 or HLT0302 or HLT0304

**PSY5609 Introduction to Psychology**

With its applications to behaviour and personality, psychology extends its reach into many aspects of our personal lives. The broad applications of this social science in both an applied and theoretical context are premised on a number of fundamental principles. Students explore research that defines the current boundaries of the discipline and interact with a number of the foundational concepts that resonate throughout daily life and popular culture. Focus is on differing schools of thought in psychology.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s): none