

**Certificate in Healthcare Skills
Executive Summary**

Sponsoring Academic Unit:	College of Arts & Sciences
Sponsoring Department:	Biology
Credit Hours:	9 total credits required / 9 core credits
Degree-Level:	Undergraduate Certificate
Method of Instruction:	Face-to-Face on Belknap and HSC with 22% of courses Online (2 credits)

Description:

Most, if not all, health care professions require that successful job applicants have some clinical/laboratory/work experience. To attract new students and enhance student's success in the healthcare marketplace, we propose a 9-credit, two to three semester undergraduate level certificate program that will provide early exposure to real-world clinical/work experiences. The certificate will attract students who already have an Associate's degree, and it will also serve as a retention tool for students who decide that they will not pursue professional schools (e.g., medicine, dentistry) but are still interested in healthcare. Biology views this program as a "net" to "catch" students who might otherwise drop-out because they do not know more about potential careers in healthcare beyond medicine and dentistry.

The focus of the program is on exposure to relevant experience and lab skills that will prepare students for the healthcare workforce marketplace. Courses will focus on understanding the healthcare marketplace, practicing basic lab skills needed for many healthcare laboratory jobs and providing experience in healthcare arenas. We will capitalize on our resources across UofL, at the HSC and leverage connections with UofL Health, Norton Pediatrics, the School of Public Health, School of Medicine, and the School of Dentistry to identify relevant opportunities for these students.

Participating students can be from any major and may include non-degree-seeking students (as long as they meet pre-requisites) but the target audience includes students with associate degrees or those in their first two years of college and with an interest in healthcare professions.

The program will serve as an introduction to healthcare professions and provide students with skills and experience they need before they apply for jobs in this sector.

Student Audience:

The certificate program will be available to non-degree seeking students, but the primary audience are those students who are already enrolled in undergraduate degree programs that may lead to healthcare related professions.

Admissions Requirements:

Applicants must have completed 30 credits of college coursework. To stay in the certificate program, students must successfully complete pre-requisites and course requirements for all required courses and meet university requirements for staying enrolled. To complete the certificate, students must complete the nine credit hours as described in the curriculum; all courses must be passed with a grade of D or better with a cumulative GPA of 2.0.



Estimated Enrollment:

- 2025: 10 Headcount
- 2026: 15 Headcount
- 2027: 25 Headcount
- 2028: 20 Headcount
- 2029: 20 Headcount

Connection to Other Programs:

As evidenced by the letters of support from the deans of the School of Public Health and Information Sciences, School of Nursing, and School of Medicine, this is a collaborative program across disciplines. Furthermore, the Department of Biology has already established agreements with 19 organizations to provide workforce experiences for students.

Employment Demand:

Entry-level healthcare related positions are anticipated to grow by between 0.3% and 6% across the region. Professions include medical assistants, medical records specialists, and clinical laboratory technicians.

Budgetary Impact:

The development of this certificate program is supported by \$100,000 grant from the State of Kentucky to expand the healthcare workforce. The remaining revenue sources are generated by tuition and lab fees. Of note, these are not largely new dollars to UofL, as the target audience are already enrolled UofL students. However, no new expenditures are anticipated either as all the courses for the certificate program are already available and being taught by full-time Public Health or Biology faculty.

Anticipated Five-year Revenue Total:	\$387,750.00
Anticipated Five-year Expenditures Total:	\$244,480.00