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Admissions and  
Finances

Administration,  
Faculty, and Staff

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## Patient Care Technician Certificate Program

**Work together with doctors, nurses, and other providers to offer vital patient care.**

Patient Care Technicians work with doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals to oversee and monitor patients. As vital members of the healthcare team, they provide direct patient care and comfort measures, take vital signs, collect specimens, and much more. Patient Care Technicians who are multi-skilled and cross-trained in venipuncture, electrocardiography, and home healthcare enjoy much broader responsibilities and advancement opportunities.

Graduates of the Patient Care Technician program are eligible to sit for a variety of certification examinations, including:

- 1 Certified Patient Care Technician (CPCT)
- 1 Certified Home Health Aide (CHHA)
- 1 Certified Electrocardiography (CET)
- 1 Certified Phlebotomy (CPT)
- 1 Certified Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

Students who wish to enhance their career opportunities can apply Patient Care Technician program credits toward the Berkeley College Health Sciences Associate in Applied Science degree program.

Benefit from:

- 1 A strong foundation in both the theory and techniques of patient care
- 1 Hands-on learning in on-site Patient Care Technician laboratories that simulate the clinical environment
- 1 Opportunities to practice communication and interpersonal skills needed for developing a rapport with colleagues and patients
- 1 Valuable, practical experience gained through the completion of a Patient Care Practicum at off-campus healthcare facilities, under the supervision of instructors and professional practitioners
- 1 Eligibility to sit for numerous healthcare certification examinations

### Course Requirements

#### MAJOR COURSES

##### PCT101 Fundamentals of Patient Care

**Qtr. hrs. credit**  
4

This course introduces students to the fundamental components of patient care and the application of techniques and procedures required to provide basic care to patients. This course consists of a didactic and laboratory portion. In the didactic portion, students learn about infection control, safety procedures, rest/sleep guidelines, and the application of proper body mechanics. The laboratory portion allows students hands-on demonstration, practice, and validation of skills.

##### PCT111 Patient Care Procedures

4

This course continues to build the foundational knowledge required to provide safe and effective patient care. Students learn about vital signs; nutrition and fluid intake; comfort, rest, and sleep; managing patients with injuries; and assisting in the nursing process of patient admission, discharge, and transfer. Within each system, students explore the relevant anatomy and physiology and common conditions and disorders. The laboratory portion of this course allows students hands-on demonstration, practice, and validation of skills.

Prerequisite: PCT101

## **PCT122 Introduction to Clinical**

2

This course introduces students to the different roles and responsibilities of healthcare providers who work in nursing care settings as well as the legal and ethical considerations associated with these positions. Topics include patient rights, the role of the Patient Care Technician, communications, legal and ethical aspects of healthcare, and end-of-life care. Students enrolled in this class will take the American Heart Association CPR for Healthcare Providers course.

## **PCT132 Advanced Patient Care Techniques**

4

This course continues to build the foundational knowledge required to provide safe and effective patient care. Topics include urinary and bowel elimination, the patient going to surgery, wound care, respiratory support and therapies, rehabilitation and restorative nursing, cancer, the nervous system, and cardiovascular systems. Within each system, students explore the relevant anatomy and physiology and common conditions and disorders. The laboratory portion of this course allows students hands-on demonstration, practice, and validation of skills.

Prerequisite: PCT111

## **PCT232 Patient Care Practicum**

3

This course consists of supervised clinical practice in an acute care setting under the supervision of a New Jersey licensed Registered Nurse. Learning experiences allow students to develop competence in providing patient-focused basic care skills, including vital signs, cold/heat application, dressing changes, caring for patients with an IV, caring for patients on oxygen, intake/output, bathing, toileting, dressing, feeding, positioning, and transfer techniques.

Prerequisites: CPR certification and completion of all departmental physical forms, including purchase of malpractice insurance.

Prerequisite or corequisite: PCT132

## **PCT256 Home Healthcare Techniques and Clinical**

4

This course introduces students to the proper application of patient care techniques and procedures within a home healthcare setting. In the didactic portion of this course, students learn about the role and responsibilities of the Homemaker-HHA and the associated legal and ethical considerations. Students learn about infant and child care and housekeeping. This course addresses patient safety, personal safety, standard precautions, death/dying, and emergencies as they apply to the safe and effective care of patients in a home healthcare environment. The laboratory portion of this course allows students hands-on demonstration, practice, and validation of skills. Clinical practice will be provided in either a laboratory or clinical setting under the direct supervision of a New Jersey licensed Registered Nurse.

Prerequisites: PCT111, PCT122, CPR certification, and completion of all departmental physical forms, including purchase of malpractice insurance

Prerequisite or corequisite: PCT132

## **PCT270 Patient Care Capstone**

4

Students apply the knowledge, skills, and techniques attained throughout the program. Critical thinking and teamwork skills are assessed through case studies reflecting the Patient Care Technician's workplace.

Prerequisites: BUS226, PCT101, PCT111, PCT122,

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**MEDICAL COURSES**

**MED230 Electrocardiography** 2

Introduction to the anatomy and physiology of the cardiac system. Students learn lead placement and perform EKGs on patients, troubleshoot EKG machine problems, and recognize basic cardiac arrhythmias. Spirometry testing is performed.

Prerequisites or Corequisites: HEA201, SCI224

**MED232 Phlebotomy/Hematology** 2

Students learn the proper venipuncture and finger-stick techniques of obtaining human blood specimens in accordance with OSHA standards. Basic blood chemistry tests, including glucose, are performed and results are properly recorded. Students also become familiar with the anatomy and physiology of the blood body system and cover topics such as blood formation, testing and grouping, and individual blood type identification.

Prerequisite or Corequisite: SCI224

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**HEALTHCARE COURSES**

**HEA200 Medical Terminology I** 4

Provides a solid foundation and understanding of the medical language used by healthcare professionals. This is accomplished through the introduction, reinforcement, and combining of medical word parts including prefixes, suffixes, and combining forms. Emphases are on word building, analysis of parts of the word, abbreviations, spelling, and correct pronunciation of various body systems including the musculoskeletal, digestive, nervous, and integumentary, as well as the senses.

**HEA201 Medical Terminology II** 4

Students continue to develop their understanding of the medical terms that are used regarding various body systems. There is an emphasis on combining word parts (prefixes, suffixes, and combining forms) to create full medical terms including the cardiovascular, respiratory, urinary, endocrine, lymphatic, and reproductive systems.

Prerequisite: HEA200

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**BUSINESS COURSES**

**BUS226 Career Management Seminar** 2

Explores career development opportunities and strategies. Stresses entry-level job requirements and upward career paths. Covers resume writing skills, interviewing techniques, and the importance of professionalism. Continues the student's orientation to Berkeley College's computer framework, which includes content collection and compiling a professional ePortfolio.

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**LIBERAL ARTS COURSES**

**SCI 223 Anatomy and Physiology I** 4

Study of the structure, function, and pathology (disease) of the human body. Students are introduced to various body systems, including the musculoskeletal, digestive, nervous, and integumentary, as well as the senses.

Students continue to develop their understanding of the anatomy, physiology, and pathology (diseases) of the human body. Topics covered include the cardiovascular, respiratory, urinary, endocrine, lymphatic, and reproductive systems.

Prerequisite: SCI223

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#### 47 QUARTER CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION

Governing regulations may disqualify individuals from obtaining professional certification in this field based upon health or criminal records. Therefore, in addition to meeting the **immunization requirements** of Berkeley College and the State of New Jersey, students applying to the Patient Care Technician program must provide authorization for a criminal background check prior to registration and submit a physical assessment by a licensed physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant prior to participating in clinical rotations. Hepatitis B vaccination and a tetanus shot are also recommended for all students enrolled in the Patient Care Technician program.

Extensive criminal background checks may be repeated after admission at the request of clinical facilities, and positive findings may prevent students from completing the clinical portion of the program and graduating. Health requirements required for clinical courses include 12 panel urine drug screen, flu vaccine, skin testing for tuberculosis, and various serum laboratory tests. The costs of these health requirements are borne by the student and may total several hundred dollars.

There are strict attendance requirements for completion of this program. Nonattendance in either the didactic or clinical portions of the program may result in course failure.

Effective July 6, 2015, the minimum passing grade required for a Patient Care Technician (PCT) course is a C (70%). Any grade below a C (70%) is a failing grade. In order to pass a PCT course that consists of both didactic and clinical/laboratory portions, students must receive at least a C (70%) for the didactic portion of the course and a P for the clinical/laboratory portion. A failure in either the didactic or clinical/laboratory portion of a PCT course will result in a failing grade for the entire course. Therefore, only a PCT course in which students receive at least a C (70%) will satisfy the course requirements for the Patient Care Technician program.

To qualify for graduation, students must participate in the Patient Care Technician certification examination.

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#### I **SAMPLE PROGRAM SEQUENCE**

#### I **Patient Care Technician Certificate Program Statistics**