

Health and Social Care

Study covers both theory and practice and includes work placements. Students can progress through the different course levels and many carry on into Higher Education.



"I like Dunstable College because it feels safe and it has a warm and friendly atmosphere. Everyone gets treated with the same respect. Being here is helping me be more confident. The tutors make the way you learn fun and I am looking forward to getting my dream job in the future. I would recommend Dunstable College to anyone, any age and I would recommend all the wonderful tutors."

Rebecca Fensome
BTEC Foundation Level 1
Health and Social Care Student

23201 07 BTEC Introductory Diploma in Health & Social Care

Level 1

This course offers students a broad introduction to the health and social care sector. The course is also designed to develop a range of employment skills, understanding, personal qualities and attitudes essential for success in working life.

Course Duration

One year

Course Content

Core Units:

- Starting Work in Health and Social Care
- Working in Health and Social Care
- Developing Skills in Health and Social Care

Personal Units:

- Personal Effectiveness
 - Social Responsibility at Work
- 3 Optional Units from:
- Looking after Children
 - Images of People
 - Health and the Environment
 - Mapping Local Services.

Students also attend work placements in the care sector for one day a week.

Key Skills

All students aged 16-18 are required to complete the three Key Skills Units in Communication, Application of Number and Information Technology.

There is also an opportunity to study other qualifications such as the Basic Food Hygiene Certificate and First Aid Certificate.

Qualifications/experience needed to join the course

GCSE English Grade C. Applicants will also need an interest in caring and a willingness to put other people first.

Study Centre

Main site, Kingsway, Dunstable

After the course is finished

BTEC First Diploma in Caring or appropriate employment within the Health and Social Care Sector.

23202 07 BTEC First Diploma in Caring

Level 2

This is a practical, work-related course. Students learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. It provides opportunities for learners to develop a range of skills and personal qualities essential for success in working life.

Course Duration

One year

Course Content

Core Units:

- Values and Interpersonal Skills
- Lifespan Development and Care Needs
- Care Practice Foundations

Specialist Units:

(3 are taken from the 5 listed)

- Values of Communication in Care Settings
- Physical Care
- Service User Support
- The Caring Environment
- Promoting Activity.

Students will be expected to undertake work experience in the care sector.

Key Skills

All students aged 16-18 are required to complete the three Key Skills Units in Communication, Application of Number and Information Technology.

There is also an opportunity to study other qualifications such as a GCSE in English and Maths, the Basic Food Hygiene Certificate and First Aid.

Qualifications/experience needed to join the course

GCSE English Grade C is desirable. Students will need an interest in caring and a willingness to put other people first. All applicants will be invited to attend an interview.

Study Centre

Main Site, Kingsway, Dunstable.

After the course is finished

This care qualification could lead to a BTEC National Diploma course, Cache Diploma in Childcare and Education, Vocational A level and employment as health care assistants, dental nurses or mother's help.



This course is a practical course where work placements can be across a range of care settings including hospitals, schools and residential homes.

The study areas cover a variety of subjects that help learners develop a range of skills to be able to work in a care setting.

Course Duration

Two years

Course Content

Students will study the following:

Core Units:

- Equality and Rights
- Communication and Supportive Skills
- Research for Care
- Applying Sociology
- Vocational Practice
- Protecting Self and Others
- Applying Psychology
- Personal and Professional Development

Specialist Units will be selected from the following list:

- Care Services
- Planning for Care
- Health Promotion
- Practical Caring Skills
- Coping with Change
- Care Organisations
- Project in Care
- Care Environments
- Developing Individual Interests
- Complementary Therapies
- Lifespan Development
- Issues for People who use Care Services
- Working with Groups
- Welfare Rights
- Ethics and Values
- Technology in Health and Care Services.

Students also attend work placements in a range of care settings including local hospitals, schools and residential homes.

Key Skills

All students aged 16-18 are required to complete the three Key Skills Units in Communication, Application of Number and Information Technology.

Qualifications/experience needed to join the course

Four GCSEs at Grade C and above or equivalent. One GCSE should be in English. Applicants must also have an interest in working in the Health and Social Care sector.

Study Centre

Main Site, Kingsway, Dunstable

After the course is finished

On successful completion, students can progress on to higher education or employment in the Health and Social Care sector.

