



FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES (FHS)

Pre-Health Sciences Pathway to Certificates and Diplomas

Program Guide | 2025-2026



Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Welcome from Vice President, Academic and Students

Welcome from the Executive Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences

Welcome from the Associate Deans, Faculty of Health Sciences

Contact Information

Administrative Staff

Office Staff

Student Advisor / Field Placement Officer

Program Coordinators

Quick Links | Student Services & Resources

Important Information

DC 2030 – Strategic Vision

Academic Advising | Student Advisors

Academic Integrity

Student Supports

Access and Support Centre (ASC)

Wellness Coaching

Important Dates

Academic Grading and Progression

Student Conduct Policy and Procedures

Student Academic Learning Services (SALS)

Program Specific Information

Program of Study

Program Guide

Please note the following important information:

Durham College (DC) strives to ensure the accuracy of the information in this publication. Please note that the academic curriculum is continually reviewed and revised to ensure program quality and relevancy. As such, the college reserves the right to modify or cancel any course, program, fee, procedure, and timetable or campus location at any time. Please consult the DC website for the most current information. Publish date: July 2025.

Welcome from Vice President,
Academic and Students



Dear Students,

Welcome to Durham College (DC)! You've made an excellent choice with DC. We offer an extensive range of industry-informed and community-orientated academic programs and extraordinary student services. Our students develop the professional and durable skills needed to build meaningful careers and make a positive impact in the world.

DC continues to lead the way by supporting students, delivering exceptional teaching and learning that is enhanced with opportunities for experiential learning and technology-enabled education. Our goal is to inspire students to create success for themselves and their communities through innovative and transformative education.

As this new semester begins, it's essential to recognize that our world is evolving rapidly. By choosing to study at DC this year, you've demonstrated a commitment to growth and adaptability, which will serve you well in your chosen field. Embrace new ways of learning and connect with your fellow students, faculty members, program coordinators, student advisor, and associate deans. They are all valuable resources to support your academic journey and career planning.

We eagerly anticipate supporting your success and believe you'll soon discover why DC ranks among Canada's top colleges.

Have a successful academic year!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Choi'.

Dr. Jean Choi

Vice President, Academic

Welcome from the Executive Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences

Dear Students,

Welcome to the Faculty of Health Sciences at Durham College! I am thrilled to have you join our vibrant and supportive community, where your journey toward a meaningful and rewarding career in health care begins.

A career in health sciences is more than a profession, it's a calling to make a difference in the lives of others. At Durham College, we are committed to providing you with an education that is immersive, hands-on, and grounded in real-world experience. From our state-of-the-art simulation labs to clinical placements and on-campus facilities like the DC Dental Clinic, DC Kids Speech and Language Clinic, and DC Spa, you will gain the skills and confidence needed to thrive in today's dynamic health care environment.

Our programs are designed to empower you with the knowledge, competencies, and compassion required to succeed. But beyond academics, you'll find opportunities to connect, grow, and discover your passion. Whether you're just beginning your journey or continuing your studies, know that you are supported every step of the way by dedicated faculty and staff who care deeply about your success.

I encourage you to take full advantage of everything our Faculty and College has to offer. Ask questions, get involved, and never stop learning. You are now part of a community that believes in your potential and is here to help you achieve your goals.

I look forward to seeing all that you accomplish.



Dr. Rebecca Milburn
Executive Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences

Welcome from the Associate Deans, Faculty of Health Sciences

Welcome to the Faculty of Health Sciences at Durham College!

Whether you are beginning a one-year certificate, two-year diploma, or graduate certificate program, you are now part of a vibrant and inclusive learning community committed to excellence in healthcare education, practice, and research.

As you begin this exciting chapter, know that your program has been designed to support your growth both personally and professionally. Through a combination of classroom learning, hands-on experience, and field placement opportunities, you will develop the knowledge and practical skills needed to succeed in your chosen field.

Our faculty and staff are dedicated to your success. You will be supported by instructors who are passionate about their work and by student advisors, placement teams, and college-wide services that are here to help you navigate your academic journey. We encourage you to make the most of these resources and to actively engage with your peers and learning environment.

This guide contains key information to help you get started, including academic expectations, placement details, and support services for health, wellness, and academic success. We encourage you to review it carefully and reach out with any questions.

We are proud to welcome you to the Faculty of Health Sciences and look forward to supporting you in the year ahead.

Warm regards,



Gillian Dunn
Associate Dean



Dr. Aimee Karagiorgakis
Associate Dean



Lindsey MacIntosh
Associate Dean

Contact Information

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Student Advisor / Field Placement Officer

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TBD	Clinical Bioinformatics Email: Office: Extension:
TBD	Personal Support Worker & Personal Support Worker - Flex Email: Office: Extension:

[Quick Links | Student Services & Resources](#)

[International Centre](#)

[Access and Support Centre | ASC](#)

[Counseling Services](#)

[Financial Aid](#)

[Academic Support](#)

[Campus Health and Wellness Centre](#)

[Career Development](#)

[First Peoples Indigenous Centre | FPIC](#)

[Test Centre](#)

[Student Academic Learning Services | SALS](#)

[Get Involved](#)

[Library](#)

[Campus Safety](#)

[Student Conduct](#)

[Academic Policies](#)

[Academic Integrity](#)

[Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#)

[Course Outlines](#)

[IT Services](#)

[Hired Portal](#)

Important Information

DC 2030 – Strategic Vision

Durham College's role as an educator, research hub, and partner has never been more critical. Graduates must be career-ready, equipped with skills and experience that align with industry demands and contribute to our local and global communities.

At this pivotal moment, our forward-thinking Strategic Vision will guide our growth, deepen our impact, and empower our students, employees, and communities to thrive.

This Strategic Vision sets out our four Goals: Future-Focused, Sustainable, People Centred, and Community Connected.

These goals provide a framework to guide decisions, align priorities, and drive meaningful outcomes, ensuring our resources and efforts are directed toward areas of greatest impact.

Read more about DC 2030 | Strategic Vision [here](#).

Academic Advising | Student Advisors

Student Advisors are committed to your success and are available year-round to support, encourage, plan, and advocate for students needing academic assistance in the following areas:

Academic Planning & Support

- Develop individual academic plans, including support for:
 - Failed courses or low GPA
 - Re-entry into a program
 - Off-stream course mapping
 - Reduced course loads (in collaboration with the Access and Support Centre – ASC)
- Assist with decisions around full-time or part-time studies
- Map out courses and upcoming semesters
- Help with timetable changes
- Review graduation requirements

Pathways & Program Decisions

- Identify future career goals and align academic decisions accordingly
- Discuss short- and long-term academic goals
- Explore program transfers or additional course options (e.g., Professional and Part-Time Learning)
- Support pathway planning to university or postgraduate programs
- Help find equivalent credits

Connection to Services

- Refer and provide access to key student supports such as:
 - Student Academic Learning Services (SALS)
 - Access and Support Centre (ASC)
 - Campus Health Centre
 - Other college resources to promote student success

Contact your Student Advisor

Visit the [Student Advisor website](#) to find contact information and connect with your advisor.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity in teaching, learning and research is fundamental to our mission and is an expectation of the DC community. Acts that undermine academic integrity contradict our core values, erode educational inquiry and diminish the quality of our scholarship and reputation.

To ensure the highest academic standards, students are accountable for the work they produce, and student work must be the product of their efforts. The [Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure](#) provides a comprehensive explanation of DC's expectations regarding academic integrity.

Student Supports

DC offers students a variety of services to help you achieve academic success. From accessibility accommodations, financial aid, health services and wellness coaching to student life, recreation and career development, our knowledgeable staff provide holistic support to help students reach their greatest potential.

Please visit the [Student Services](#) page for more information on each of the student service areas.

Access and Support Centre (ASC)

The Access and Support Centre (ASC) provides services to students who are temporarily at-risk or identified with an exceptionality, to ensure equal access to all aspects of the academic environment. The ASC provides accommodations to meet students' individual needs through assistive technology, counseling and coaching.

The ASC team works in collaboration with faculty and other service areas to provide full opportunities for academic success for all students.

For more information on services available, please visit the [ASC website](#).

Wellness Coaching

Wellness coaches will meet with you individually to assist with developing a success plan, explore ways to reduce your stress and support your overall mental health and wellness while at college. Wellness coaches provide a safe, confidential space to explore what is blocking you from being your best possible self. During times when you are feeling overwhelmed or need someone to talk to, the wellness coaches will be there for you. For more information on coaching, please visit the [Coaching webpage](#).

Important Dates

DC strives to keep you informed of important dates throughout the academic year. Please review the 2025-2026 important dates that include fee payment deadlines, web registration, add/drop and grade release dates etc. You can find this information on the [Durham College website](#) and on [MyDC](#). Please review [MyDC](#) regularly for updates and reminders on important dates.

Academic Grading and Progression

Please refer to the ACAD 112 – [Academic Grading Policy and Procedure](#) documents for a complete overview of grading practices and ACAD 127 – [Academic Progression Policy and Procedure](#) to clearly understand the requirements necessary for a student to progress through an academic program.

Student Conduct Policy and Procedures

Durham College is dedicated to contributing to an academic community that is safe, inclusive, and respectful, where students develop individually and in concert with their peers. All members of the college community have the right to study or work without undue interference.

Students have the responsibility to respect the well-being, personal worth and dignity of all members of the campus community, which includes being mindful of individual accountability and self-regulation. Students must not adversely affect the rights of others or disrupt the constructive atmosphere of the College's learning environments.

Please refer to the [Student Conduct Policy and Procedures](#) for a complete overview of student rights and responsibilities, well-being and to ensure the campus community reflects the values of the college.

Student Academic Learning Services (SALS)

SALS helps DC students to achieve their academic goals through free services and resources, including subject specific support (math, accounting, biology, chemistry, physics and statistics), academic reading and writing, learning strategies, and assistance with English language proficiency. Students also have access to peer tutoring, online resources located through the MyDC landing page (under "Learning Resources"), and SALS ONLINE academic resources, videos, and quizzes in DC Connect.

Please email [SALS](#), or visit the [SALS website](#), for information on accessing resources and services, scheduling an appointment, registering for workshops, or signing- up to request or be a peer tutor.

Course Name	Mod	Code	Prerequisites	Corequisites	Lec Hrs	Lab Hrs	FP/Alt Hrs
PHSC-SEM1							
Pre-Health Biology I		BIOL 1700			0	2	2
Pre-Health Chemistry I		CHEM 1701			0	1	3
ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION ESSENTIALS		COMM 1715			3	0	
Computers for Health Care Professionals		COMP 1703			0	2	1
Pre-Health Math I		MATH 1702			4	0	
PREPARING FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS		PREP 1300			2	0	1
					9	5	7
PHSC-SEM2							
Pre-Health Biology II		BIOL 2700	BIOL 1700		0	2	2
Pre-Health Chemistry II		CHEM 2701	CHEM 1701		0	1	2
Academic Writing for Success Strategies		COMM 2715	COMM 1100		2	0	1
PRE-HEALTH MATH II		MATH 2702	MATH 1702		2	0	2
Critical Thinking in Health Care	OPT1	CTHC 1200			3	0	
PRE-HEALTH PHYSICS	OPT2	PHYS 1700			2	0	1
					9	3	8

Course Name	Mod	Code	Prerequisites	Corequisites	Lec Hrs	Lab Hrs	FP/Alt Hrs
PHSU-SEM1							
Pre-Health Biology I		BIOL 1700			0	2	2
Pre-Health Chemistry I		CHEM 1701			0	1	3
ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION ESSENTIALS		COMM 1715			3	0	
Computers for Health Care Professionals		COMP 1703			0	2	1
Pre-Health Math I		MATH 1702			4	0	
PREPARING FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS		PREP 1300			2	0	1
					9	5	7
PHSU-SEM2							
PRE-HEALTH BIOLOGY II ADVANCED		BIOL 2703	BIOL 1700		0	2	2
PRE-HEALTH CHEM II ADVANCED		CHEM 2703	CHEM 1701		0	1	3
Academic Writing for Success Strategies		COMM 2715	COMM 1100		2	0	1
PRE-HEALTH STATISTICS		MATH 2705	MATH 1702		4	0	
Critical Thinking in Health Care	OPT1	CTHC 1200			3	0	
PRE-HEALTH PHYSICS	OPT2	PHYS 1700			2	0	1
					11	3	7

Pre-Health Sciences Pathway to Certificates and Diplomas

Program Information

Program Description

The Pre-Health Sciences Pathway to Certificates and Diplomas (PHSC) program is designed for individuals interested in pursuing a health sciences career. This two-semester program provides the foundation necessary for success in a college health sciences program such as Paramedic, Practical Nursing, Dental Assistant, Dental Hygiene, Occupational Therapist Assistant and Physiotherapist Assistant. It is also designed for individuals who would like to strengthen their communication, mathematics, biology, chemistry and critical thinking or physics skills as well as familiarize themselves with college life and college workload.

Program Learning Outcomes (Synopsis of the Vocational Learning Outcomes)

The Pre-Health Sciences Pathway to Certificates and Diplomas provides the student with the opportunity to:

1. Examine fundamental biological concepts, processes and systems of the human body, including the structure, function and properties of the molecules of life, cells, tissues and organ systems in relation to homeostasis and health.
2. Examine fundamental concepts, processes and systems of chemistry, including matter and chemical bonding; quantities in chemical reactions; solutions and solubility; acids and bases; as well as nomenclature, structure and properties of organic compounds in relation to health and the human body.
3. Solve basic numeric problems and interpret data related to health sciences and other science-related fields using mathematical concepts, including algebra, basic probability and descriptive statistics.
4. Use health sciences and other science-related language and terminology appropriately to communicate clearly, concisely, and correctly in written,

spoken, and visual forms.

5. Prepare a personal strategy and plan for academic, career and professional development in the health sciences or other science-related fields.
6. Investigate health sciences and science-related questions, problems and evidence using the scientific method.

Note: The learning outcomes have been numbered as a point of reference; numbering does not imply prioritization, sequencing, nor weighting of significance.

Employment Opportunities

The program provides students with the opportunity to learn about potential careers in the health sciences while earning postsecondary credits that could be transferred to other health sciences or science-related programs.

Courses

[Click Here for Course Outline Access Manual](#)

Semester 1

- [Pre-Health Biology I \(BIOL 1700\)](#)
- [Pre-Health Chemistry I \(CHEM 1701\)](#)
- [Academic Communication Essentials \(COMM 1715\)](#)
- [Computers For Health Care Professionals \(COMP 1703\)](#)
- [Pre-Health Math I \(MATH 1702\)](#)
- [Preparing For Academic Success \(PREP 1300\)](#)

Semester 2

- [Pre-Health Biology II \(BIOL 2700\)](#)
- [Pre-Health Chemistry II \(CHEM 2701\)](#)
- [Academic Writing For Success Strategies \(COMM 2715\)](#)
- [Pre-Health Math II \(MATH 2702\)](#)
- [Option 1: Critical Thinking Skills \(CRIT 1700\)](#)
- [Option 2: Pre-Health Physics \(PHYS 1700\)](#)