

Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Health and Social Care (Extended Certificate)

Aims of the course

The qualification has been developed in consultation with higher education representatives to ensure students have the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to progress to, and thrive in higher education.

The qualification has three mandatory units covering the following topics:

- Human Lifespan and Development – PIES and factors affecting growth and development, interventions and the different professionals providing care and treatment.
- Human Biology and Health – Human body structure and systems, normal physiological functioning and the impact of common disorders.
- Health and Social Care Practice – Core principles, values and legislation that underpin and influence health and social care, and the effect of social determinants on an individual's health status.

Students have a choice from four optional units covering the following topics (to be decided):

- Health, Social Policy and Wellbeing – Public health policy and its influences, including health-related organisations/groups and a range of strategic factors.
- Promoting Health Education – Health education, its purpose and use of different approaches and models to achieve positive health outcomes.
- Safe Environments in Health and Social Care – Appropriate provisions in services relevant to different needs; governance relating to safe environments.
- Health Science – Types of infections and their potential impact on a local, national and international scale.

What knowledge and skills will I develop as part of this qualification?

Students will develop the following knowledge and skills from the mandatory units:

- Professional values and skills expected of professionals, including communication and listening skills.
- Organisational and critical thinking skills
- Cultural and social intelligence when working with individuals across the lifespan with different needs, alongside methods of managing challenging situations.

Students will develop the following knowledge and skills from the optional units:

- Interpersonal skills required when working with others, including compassion and empathy.
- Responsibilities of professionals to be adaptable and innovative in delivering care.
- Management of own time and learning.
- Academic skills such as research.

Careers/Higher Education

This course is suitable for careers in the health and social care sector such as: nursing, midwifery, occupational health, physiotherapy, social care, psychology. This is also suitable for careers in teaching, educational studies and sports science. Many universities accept Level 3 BTECs as part of the application criteria and this translates into UCAS points.

Further information

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-aaqs/health-and-social-care/2025/specification-and-sample-assessments/btec-l3-health-and-social-care-aaq-spec.pdf>

What are the entry requirements?

Grade 5 in GCSE English and Maths

Want more information?

Please contact Miss Smythe- Head of Vocational Studies

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