

Allied Health Foundations

2026-2027

Instructor	Mari Schramm	Phone	360-848-0706 (main campus)
Email	mschramm@nwtech.k12.wa.us	Course Hours	Session 1 - 8:00am-10:30am - Weekdays Session 3 - 3:00pm-5:30pm - Weekdays
Location	Session 1 - Whatcom Campus (Meridian Learning Center) Session 3 - NCTA Mount Vernon	Website	https://www.nwtech.k12.wa.us
CIP Code / Framework	511199		

NCTA COURSE DESCRIPTION

This program introduces students to skills and knowledge necessary in a wide range of healthcare careers beyond traditional nursing pathways. In Allied Health we focus on technician, technologist, assistant, and therapy roles that support patient care in a wide variety of settings. You will earn industry-recognized certifications, build skills in anatomy & physiology, medical terminology, patient assessment, communication, and documentation, as well as practice professional techniques common in healthcare. The course also prepares you for future certification exams using industry-standard skill sheets and test formats.

SVC COURSE DESCRIPTION(S) & LEARNING OUTCOMES

The following are also introduced or assessed in this course:

College Course Title	Course Number	Credits
Healthcare Interactions	AHE 101	3

Course Description

Self-awareness training. Receiving, organizing, prioritizing and transmitting effective and therapeutic communications with patients who have a variety of diagnoses. Development of team member and leadership skills. Discussion of death, dying and the grieving process of a variety of different cultures.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Discuss the importance of self-awareness and its effect on interpersonal communication.
- Identify communication skills related to interpersonal communication.
- Apply the appropriate basic principles of psychology.
- Identify the developmental stages of the life cycle.
- Explain hereditary, cultural and environmental influences on behavior.
- Enumerate diagnoses of mental health and professional responses to them.
- Appropriately apply the principles of effective verbal and nonverbal communication in patient and team interactions.
- Adapt communication for individualized needs of patients.
- Display awareness of own and other team members' responsibilities, i.e. working as a team member.
- Utilize various therapeutic communication and conflict resolution strategies when working with patients and coworkers.

BOOKS, MATERIALS & COURSE RESOURCES

Resource / Material	Required?	Provided by	Notes / Link
Black Scrubs (top & bottom) - <i>to be worn every day</i>	<i>Required</i>	<i>Student</i>	<i>Discounted, branded shirts available from NCTA</i>
Close-toed shoes	<i>Required</i>	<i>Student</i>	<i>For student protection</i>
ParentSquare – <i>to send messages to NCTA & receive messages from NCTA</i>	<i>Highly Recommended</i>	NCTA	https://mountvernonschools.org/parent-square
Canvas - <i>used for feedback on student work & grade reporting</i>	<i>Highly Recommended</i>	NCTA	mvsd.instructure.com/login
Textbook: <i>Introduction to Allied Health</i> - R. Ramsey & A. Bruns	<i>Required</i>	NCTA	<i>Online, free</i>
Textbook: <i>Anatomy and Physiology 2e</i> - by J. G. Betts et al.	<i>Required</i>	NCTA	<i>Online, free</i>
<i>Additional PPE: gloves, gowns, masks, face shields, etc</i>	<i>Required at times</i>	NCTA	<i>Provided in class</i>

CTE DUAL CREDIT / ARTICULATION INFORMATION

This class is a CTE Dual Credit class. Students seeking to earn college credit must follow the CTE Dual Credit application and enrollment processes using this site for guidance: [Apply for Dual Credit](https://www.skagit.edu/academics/high-school-programs/cte-dual-credit/apply.html) (<https://www.skagit.edu/academics/high-school-programs/cte-dual-credit/apply.html>). Students must apply and enroll at SVC within the specified deadlines to earn dual credit (below). Students cannot obtain credit retroactively.

Earning dual credit is free and there is no cost for the student or family.

The following steps will be done in class with assistance from NCTA instructors:

YEARLONG COURSE CTE DUAL CREDIT TASKS & DEADLINES

On or before October 30, 2026	Apply to SVC via CTCLink
On or before January 7, 2027	Enroll in Dual Credit Class(es)

Dual-credit eligibility: Students must earn a final grade of B (3.0) or higher in all courses required by the articulation agreement and complete all required skills/competencies identified on the applicable competency profile.

EVALUATION & GRADING

NCTA course grades are based on the work students complete, the skills they demonstrate, and the program's professional expectations. Note that all NCTA Occupational Education courses are scored 50% based on skills demonstrated and 50% employability habits from the NCTA Professional Expectations Rubric. Science and English grades reflect completed work and demonstrated proficiencies.

In this course, the goal is for all students to achieve proficiency in every skill or competency covered in class. To measure this, I will be using a competency-based grading system. Each assignment, project, or assessment will be graded as follows:

Assignment Grades		Conversion *
5	Mastery / Exceeds expectations	100%
4	Proficient	86%
3	Progressing	72%
2	Beginning	58%
0	No Evidence	0%
*Note: for these competency-based grades to translate to a traditional grading system, these are the percentages students will be assigned in skyward.		

A score of “Proficient” represents solid, workplace-ready achievement. A score of “Mastery” is reserved for exceptional performance that goes above and beyond standard expectations. Achieving “proficients” across all assignments and competencies results in a B grade in the course.

Larger projects, assignments, and assessments such as unit tests will be worth more points and have a greater impact on student grades. For example, a project that takes 2 weeks of class time to complete will be worth twice as much as a project that is done in 1 week.

Students can revise, make-up, or re-test assignments at any time during the semester to show their growth and revise their grades to a

“proficient” grade with no penalty. This revised work must be submitted before January 8th (fall semester) and June 2nd (spring semester) to give time for grading. Students also have an opportunity to show additional “Mastery” in assignments and skill areas during their final project at the end of each semester.

Grade Scale & Dual Credit Minimum Grade / GPA Conversion

NCTA Course Grade Scale			
A	93% or above	C	73-77.9%
A-	90-92.9%	C-	70-72.9%
B+	88-89.9%	D+	68-69.9%
B	83-87.9%	D	60-67.9%
B-	80-82.9%	NC	59.9% and below
C+	78-79.9%		

Students must earn a B or higher to earn CTE Dual Credit. The partner-college templates use the following percentage-to-GPA conversion:

SVC Dual Credit					
Letter Grade	% of Points	GPA	Letter Grade	% of Points	GPA
A	94-100	4.0	C	73-76	2.0
A-	90-93	3.7	C-	70-72	1.7
B+	87-89	3.3	D+	67-69	1.3
B	83-86	3.0	D	65-66	1.0
B-	80-82	2.7	F	0-64	0.0
C+	77-79	2.3		73-76	

MAJOR UNITS, ASSIGNMENTS & ASSESSMENTS

Students will learn a variety of skills, information, and practice decision-making in healthcare settings. Units will all include elements of medical terminology, pharmacology, infection control, communication, cultural awareness, allied health professions exploration, and medical documentation.

Unit	Assessment	Leadership	Other Information
Foundations in Healthcare & Healthcare Systems	- Microbes Experiment - Career Research & Reflection	Student-organized speakers (throughout year)	
Health Science Core Skills: Patient Assessments	- Patient Assessment Skillsheet - Vitals Signs Written Test		
Human Anatomy & Physiology Part 1	Critical Systems Test	Student-led Conferences	
Human Anatomy & Physiology Part 2	- Other A&P Systems Test - Patient Diagnosis Project		
Career Lab 1	Assessment Skillsheets	Leadership & Teamwork in Simulated Medical Scenarios	BLS CPR & First Aid Certification
END OF SEMESTER 1	Performance Review		

Unit	Assessment	Leadership	Other Information
<i>Clinical & Specialized Skills</i>	Group skill & knowledge projects/tests based on individual interest areas	<i>Student Peer-to-Peer Teaching</i> <i>Student-led projects</i>	
<i>Workplace Readiness & Technology</i>	- Career Portfolio: Resume, Cover Letter, References, 4 Year Plans, etc - Medical Technology Project Proposal		
<i>Medical Genetics</i>	Genetics or Cancer Posters & Presentation		
<i>Clinical Community Experience</i>	Experience Reflections	<i>Leadership & Teamwork in Simulated Medical Scenarios</i>	<i>NIMS ICS Certification</i>
<i>Provider Wellbeing</i>	Experience Reflections		<i>Mental Health First Aid</i>
<i>END OF SEMESTER 2</i>	Performance Review		

ATTENDANCE & PROFESSIONAL EXPECTATIONS

Attendance Policy

The Northwest Career & Technical Academy (NCTA) views attendance much like business and industry: students are considered professionals-in-training and are expected to attend each day fully to maximize learning and productivity. While occasional absences are inevitable, please prioritize regular attendance. Please see the student handbook. If a problem arises with health, food, transportation, housing, or any other barrier, please contact the school or district so that support can be provided.

Professional Expectations (Behavioral)

Students are expected to follow applicable laws and the behavior expectations of the school district, NCTA, and the specific program. NCTA students are professionals-in-training and are expected to demonstrate habits that prepare them for success in school and industry.

Communicative	Stay in touch, ask for help, and use professional language.
Motivated	Put in your best effort, participate, and meet deadlines.
Reliable	Attend regularly, be on time, and engage in all class activities.
Responsible	Keep spaces tidy, stay focused, and dress appropriately for the program.
Team Member	Work well with others, show a positive attitude, and follow procedures.
Trustworthy	Care for equipment, use technology appropriately, and act with integrity.
Feedback / Coachable	Receive feedback professionally and use it to improve performance.

Industry/Course Specific Items

Safety / PPE Requirements	<i>Students are expected to wear black scrub and close-toed shoes to class every day unless otherwise stated by the teacher.</i> <i>Students are expected to wear gloves, mask, eye protection, gowns and other PPE as required during medical lab & training scenarios. (Provided by NCTA.)</i>
Field Trips / Clinical / Worksite Learning Expectations	<i>To participate in off-campus activities, students must have a signed permission slip for each trip from parents/guardians. They are also required to be in uniform, on time, and abiding by all professionalism expectations during these field trips at all times.</i>
Technology / Device Expectations	<i>Students are NOT allowed to be on cell phones during class. This is a healthcare industry standard as well as a school standard. Air-pods / headphones are also not allowed unless under very specific, pre-approved circumstances. Chromebooks (provided by NCTA) and other personal computers may be used during class time – students are expected to be on-task and using technology to professional standards.</i>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & GENERATIVE AI

Students are expected to submit only their own work and avoid cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or other academic dishonesty. This includes submitting answers that are not your own on quizzes or exams, using unauthorized devices or materials, unauthorized communication during testing, or helping another person engage in academic dishonesty. Accidental or intentional use of another person's work, ideas, research, or writing without attribution may result in a failing grade on the assignment or, depending on the nature and extent of the violation, a failing grade in the course.

Generative AI tools (for example, ChatGPT, DALL-E, Gemini, or Claude) may be used to generate ideas and organize thoughts when permitted by the instructor, but they should not replace student work. Students are responsible for analyzing and fact-checking AI-generated results. AI use should be minimal, appropriate to the assignment, and cited when used. Using AI to replace student work, using it for the majority of an assignment without permission, or failing to cite AI use when required will be treated as plagiarism.

ACCESSIBILITY, SYLLABUS CHANGES & NONDISCRIMINATION

Accessibility

*NCTA is committed to making our courses accessible to all students. Allied Health is a broad career field with great options for all interests and abilities, so the coursework and grading for this class is specifically designed to be easily adapted to meet student needs while maintaining a high standard of excellence. While this applies to all students, **we follow all IEP and 504 Plan accommodations** as determined by sending high schools and state/federal law.*

Students with an IEP or 504 Plan who wish to earn college credit in this class through SVC should note that approved high school accommodations and modifications may not always apply to a class that also offers college credit. While both high schools and colleges must ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to educational opportunities, they are governed by different disability laws. **Students using a modified curriculum are not eligible to receive college credit.** Please reach out to the SVC Disability Access Services for more info.

[SVC Disability Access Services](#)

Changes to the Syllabus

I have attempted to make this syllabus as comprehensive and accurate as possible, and I may occasionally need to make small adjustments during the term. I will announce any changes in class or notify students in writing with an updated syllabus posted to the NCTA website.

Equal Opportunity and Title IX Nondiscrimination - SVC

Skagit Valley College does not discriminate based on, but not limited to, race, color, national origin, citizenship, ethnicity, language, culture, age, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, pregnancy or parental status, marital status, actual or perceived disability, use of service animal, economic status, military or veteran status, spirituality or religion, or genetic information in its programs, activities, or employment.