



2019

Vocational Education

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## Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance

The allied health assistance program will train you to assist patients with their rehabilitation exercises including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, foot hygiene, dysphagia and nutrition.

You'll work alongside health professionals such as physiotherapists, occupational therapists, podiatrists, speech pathologists and nutritionists to facilitate rehabilitation and to encourage optimal health.

As part of the program, you'll specialise in physiotherapy and occupational therapy and will have basic knowledge in dysphagia, foot hygiene and nutrition.

Allied health workers assist patients carrying out routine physiotherapy exercises in groups or individually.

Other roles include helping to implement general care and assisting with ongoing therapy, as well as working with patients in recreational and leisure activities.

Allied health assistants also support the training of people with disabilities to care for themselves and develop independent living skills.

Work is not limited to hospitals. Allied health assistants can also find employment in community health, rehabilitation centres or via home and special needs school visits.

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### Industry connections

RMIT University is committed to providing you with an education that strongly links formal learning with professional or vocational practice.

You will gain industry experience through your workplace training and assessment.

### Learning and teaching

RMIT offers a variety of learning and teaching approaches including lectures, seminars, studios, workshops, presentations, group discussions and syndicate work.

You'll have access to online resources through the myRMIT student portal.

Ongoing assessment throughout the semester includes examinations, essays, reports, oral classes, presentations, group projects, research projects, laboratory projects and practical assignments.

### Career outlook

According to the Australian Government's Job Outlook, the job prospects for allied health assistants are good, with employment expected to grow strongly in the next five years.

Graduates work in:

- acute care (hospitals)
- rehabilitation centres
- aged care facilities
- community and primary healthcare
- schools that are involved with delivering programs to children with special needs

### Program snapshot

Program code: C4367  
National code: HLT43015

#### Duration

1 year

Full-time (Semester 1 intake): 10 months duration. 3 days a week on-campus and 120 hours of clinical placement

(Semester 2 intake): 1 year duration. 3 days a week on-campus and 120 hours of clinical placement

#### Location

City campus

#### Selection mode

Direct application

VTAC  
[vtac.edu.au](http://vtac.edu.au)

#### How to apply

Direct to RMIT  
[rmit.edu.au/programs/apply/direct](http://rmit.edu.au/programs/apply/direct)

#### Fees

For local fee information:  
[rmit.edu.au/programs/fees](http://rmit.edu.au/programs/fees)

#### Contact

Info Corner  
330 Swanston Street

[rmit.edu.au/programs/c4367](http://rmit.edu.au/programs/c4367)



## Program structure

You'll learn how to provide assistance to allied health professionals in various settings and be introduced to:

- basic anatomy and physiology for the recognition of body systems
- medical terminology
- the skills to work effectively with clients and other staff
- Work Health and Safety (WHS) and infection control

You'll also take complete clinical placements. Placements are generally conducted on a full-time basis.

As part of your physiotherapy studies, you'll learn the practical skills to support treatments, including:

- the delivery and monitoring of therapeutic exercise programs developed by a physiotherapist
- how to support individuals taking part in group physiotherapy programs
- delivery of therapeutic practices for clients and assist clients with specific mobility requirements

You'll gain occupational therapy skills through rehabilitation studies, allowing you to:

- assist in the development of active support strategies
- assist in daily living skill development outcomes
- support the fitting of assistive equipment

Choose from elective studies in foot hygiene, dysphagia and nutrition.

You'll also gain skills in cultural diversity, sensitivity and how to cope with challenging behaviour.

| Core Units  | Group A – Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy electives                             | Group B – Other electives   |
|---|--|---|
| Communicate and work in health or community services (CHCCOM005)  | Deliver and monitor a client-specific physiotherapy program (HLTAHA003)                | Assist with basic foot hygiene (HLTAHA006)  |
| Work with diverse people (CHCDIV001)                              | Support the delivery and monitoring of physiotherapy programs for mobility (HLTAHA005) | Assist with podiatric procedures (HLTAHA007)  |
| Manage legal and ethical compliance (CHCLEG003)                   | Assist with the development and maintenance of client functional status (HLTAHA010)    | Support the provision of basic nutrition advice and education (HLTAHA023)   |
| Recognise healthy body systems (HLTAAP001)                        | Support the fitting of assistive devices (HLTAHA011)                                   | <p><b>Core units</b><br/>(Mandatory)</p> <p><b>Elective units</b><br/>(complete one group consisting of four courses)</p> |
| Confirm physical health status (HLTAAP002)                        |  |   |
| Follow safe work practices for direct client care (HLTWHS002)     |  |   |
| Interpret and apply medical terminology appropriately (BSBMED301) |  |   |
| Assist with an allied health program (HLTAHA001)                  |  |   |

Please note: This is an example of the program structure. Courses may change and may not be available each semester.