

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the College?

The College is part of the Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney, a not-for-profit body that for over a century has been helping NSW clients to maximise their abilities after an injury or illness. Nationally registered through the NSW Vocational Education and Training Accreditation Board, the College offers both accredited health education courses and a yearly seminar program on topics of interest to allied health professionals and others.

How does the College differ from other health training institutions?

We are one of the few organisations in NSW training people in the national priority area of allied health assistance through Certificate III and Certificate IV courses under the Australian Government's Health Training Package. In presenting both courses we take a flexible and supportive approach, taking account of both student and workplace needs.

The calibre of our staff also sets us apart from other institutions. All staff members combine extensive expertise in health care provision with tertiary qualifications in health education and training.

What are the accredited courses the College offers?

We offer two courses that qualify graduates to assist allied health professionals such as physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech pathologists, dieticians and podiatrists.

These are:

the Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance — graduates are qualified to work under the direct supervision of allied health professionals. They conduct therapeutic programs themselves only when an allied health professional is present

the Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance — graduates are qualified to conduct therapeutic programs under the guidance of allied health professionals but without their on-the spot supervision.

What does accreditation mean?

Accreditation by the NSW Vocational Education and Training Board is official recognition that a course is educationally sound and properly delivered according to national standards.

For graduates of our certificate courses, accreditation means that they gain a qualification recognised by employers, educational institutions and relevant industry associations throughout Australia as indicating specific skills and learning relevant to the workplace. For example, two of the compulsory units for the Certificate III are 'Assist with client movement' and 'Use basic medical terminology'.

Completion of the nationally accredited Certificate III and Certificate IV courses will open opportunities to complete higher level qualifications at many vocational educational and training institutions across Australia.



How is an accredited course structured?

There are usually four components to an accredited course:

- self-paced learning in the student's own time using prescribed reading material and involving non-marked written assignments which prepare the student for later assessments
- face-to-face sessions or tutorials
- on-the-job training by a workplace supervisor
- student assessment at both the workplace and the College, including observations and work projects.

How are student placements arranged?

Usually students in a Certificate III or IV Allied Health Assistance course will be receiving on-the-job training in their workplace. Where workplace training does not support some of the required course learning, the Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney may organise a placement that will allow the student to learn new skills on the job.

The timing and nature of the placement will depend on the student's needs. There will be some form of assessment, such as observation, as part of the placement.

Can I complete part of an accredited course rather than the whole?

Yes. A student can take one or more of the compulsory or elective (student's choice) units in the Certificate III or Certificate IV courses. This will not lead to a qualification but may count later towards completion of a qualification in the same or a related course.

What do the different numbers in certificate titles mean?

Certificate numbers (roman numerals 1 to 4) indicate different academic levels as set by the Australian Qualifications Framework, which covers all qualifications in post-compulsory education and training. The higher the certificate number, the more complex the course. There are two further levels after Certificate IV, Diploma and Advanced Diploma.

The courses build from one to the next so a student who completes a Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance could go on to study for a Diploma in a key specialist area.

What is a non-accredited course?

Our professional development courses on topics relating to rehabilitation are not accredited through the NSW Vocational Education and Training Board. That means course participants do not gain a recognised qualification.

The courses, which range in length from half a day to several days, are advertised in a yearly professional development calendar. They are open to anyone who may be interested.

What are the College's plans for the future?

We know that the Australian Government sees vocational education and training for allied health assistants as a national priority due to the ageing of the population and the rise in chronic and complex diseases. In responding to identified needs we will continue to improve our existing courses and consider offering more specialised accredited courses within the health area, possibly at Diploma level. We will also look at expanding our range of non-accredited professional development courses.