

## **Community Health Worker, Certificate – (Noncredit)**

*Healthcare Education - Office of Academic Affairs & Workforce Development  
CIP Code: 519999*

A Community Health Worker (CHW) is a trusted individual who contributes to improved health outcomes in the community. CHWs serve the communities in which they reside or communities with which they may share ethnicity, language, socioeconomic status, or life experiences. The term “community health worker,” includes but is not limited to other titles such as outreach worker, patient navigator and promotores de salud.

This course provides lecture and clinical practice in the role of a community health worker. It includes a study of six major areas: healthcare, social services, communication skills, health education, and individual and community advocacy. This course content meets the educational requirements by the Pennsylvania Certification Board to apply for professional certification as a community health worker.

This training can be completed through asynchronous instruction. This curricular content is presented via zoom, spending approximately 54 hours of online lecture, 46 hours of online content learning and 20 hours of Internship (on own).

### *Career Opportunities*

As a community health worker, you may work in an office setting meeting patients or be making clinic, home or health facility visits. CHWs have the opportunity to exercise good judgment and problem solve in the application of professional service. Often acting as a patient advocate or liaison. CHWs provide oral, written and hands-on instruction to patients, to assist in meeting their needs. Proficient in the use of Microsoft Word and data entry.

### *Competency Profile*

This curriculum is designed to prepare students to:

- Obtain an introduction to the role and life of a Community Health Worker
- Build individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy
- Identify health promotion, disease prevention, and behavioral strategies as a part of primary health care
- Examine career paths and options for continuing education and career development.
- Serve as a liaison between communities and health care agencies
- Enhance community residents’ ability to effectively communicate with healthcare providers
- Discuss the fundamental background about biological function of the human body
- Assess basic vital signs
- Demonstrate knowledge of barriers to primary health care and the importance of health equity/equality
- Provide guidance and social assistance to community residents
- Demonstrate knowledge of the relationship of culture and individuals’ health practices, beliefs.
- Discuss basic effective communication techniques and barriers to effective communication.
- Introduce the guiding principles (CHWs) use in their practice.
- Provide referral and follow-up services or otherwise coordinate care
- Identify and help enroll eligible individuals in federal, state, and local private or nonprofit health and human services programs.

## **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

N/A

## **RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE**

Students must complete the 120 Hour course in its entirety to receive a certificate of completion: