

# New this Fall: the AS and AAS in Health Studies

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This fall, SUNY Broome is unveiling two new Health Science degrees that will give students a range of options for careers or transfer.

The Associates in Science (AS) and Associates in Applied Science (AAS) in Health Studies are highly customizable, allowing students to select courses that apply most directly to their individual health career paths, said Erin O'Hara-Leslie, chair for Medical Assisting and Health Studies.

"Our health sciences programs are highly competitive and have long drawn top-notch students from around the state," said SUNY Broome President Kevin E. Drumm. "These two new degree programs add to our tradition of excellence and give students even more options in a field with real job opportunities."

"This program – which is now ready to accept students – is a major positive step in meeting the demands of the regional growing health industry," added SUNY Broome Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer Francis Battisti.

Students looking to transfer to a four-year institution may opt for the AS degree, while those seeking to enter the workforce directly may choose the AAS, although transfer and career opportunities exist for both programs. Articulation agreements are in place for Empire State College in Healthcare Administration and Studies in Mental Health, Binghamton University in Nursing and Daemen College for Healthcare Studies, which allows students to transfer every credit from their SUNY Broome courses toward their bachelor's degree.

Both programs offer students the option of simultaneously earning a health-related certificate, improving opportunities for employment. Available certificates include Medical Transcription, Phlebotomy and Medical Administrative Skills. Students can also enroll in a course to become a Basic Emergency Medical Technician. Two more certificate programs are currently under development, O'Hara-Leslie said.

The degrees offer a number of interesting course options:

- The Personal Success Strategies ([HST 109](#)) class, taught by specifically trained instructors who have taken a nationally recognized workshop, can transform students' academic and professional lives by providing skills to help them visualize and achieve their goals.
- Women's Health ([HST 161](#)) is three-credit course that introduces students to the developmental, physical, psychological and cultural issues related to women's healthcare issues.
- Community Health ([HST 162](#)) is a three-credit class that examines health issues and problems related to

individuals and communities, and includes an exploration of wellness and health promotion.

- Pharmacology (HST 210) is a three-credit class that introduces students to the field's clinical concepts and the classes of pharmaceutical medications, including terminology, drug category, use, side effects, contraindications and interactions.
- Basic Emergency Medical Technician (EMT 110) is an eight-credit class that allows students to become CPR-certified and learn basic life-support methods that do not require equipment. It includes both lectures and hands-on labs.
- Medical Terminology (HIT 106) is a three-credit class that teaches basic medical terms and definitions so that a student can competently understand medical language in conversation and in written documents.
- Medical Ethics, Law and Economics (MDA 208 W) is a three-credit class with a writing emphasis that discusses medical ethics, legal issues and regulation.
- Health for Haiti (HST 104) is four-credit class that takes place over winter term in the island nations. Students explore the dynamics between poverty and healthcare, address specific health-related needs of Haitian people, and learn the historical, cultural, economic, political and spiritual aspects of Haiti while engaging in service projects at orphanages, hospitals, health clinics and food distribution centers.

In a diverse field such as healthcare, students may not initially know what direction they would like to go, O'Hara-Leslie acknowledged.

"This allows them the ability to explore what field they would like to enter," she said of the degree programs.

Adding to the versatility, both degrees can be earned online, provided that students work closely with their academic advisor, she said.

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