



Health Career Directory

Rehabilitation Assistant

Overview

Rehabilitation assistants are members of the interdisciplinary health care team. They help Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Recreational Therapists and Speech and Language Pathologists to promote, restore, maintain and/or enhance a client's level of functioning in the areas of mobility, self-care, productivity, leisure and day to day activities.

Rehabilitation assistants work under a designated therapist and as a member of the complex rehabilitation team.

Some of the main duties of a rehabilitation assistant are to:

- carry out rehabilitative therapeutic interventions
- help in the modification of care plans
- facilitate programs in order to assist clients with complex disabilities in daily living to attain their goals to maximize potential for independence
- report relevant observations of a client's condition either verbally, in writing or by using a basic computer to document changes
- help manage equipment safety and inventory.

Who is suited for this type of occupation?

Rehabilitation Assistant is most effective when they have the following skills and characteristics:

- ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing
- ability to deal with others effectively
- ability to observe and recognize changes in clients
- ability to analyze and solve problems
- ability to create and maintain a relationship with clients
- patient and empathy
- a genuine interest in promoting the independence of others
- ability to provide self-care instruction and education
- ability to use variety of computer software applications
- ability to organize work
- good health and physical stamina
- ability to adapt to the pace of the work environment
- a clean record, no prior criminal background.

They should enjoy:

- working in a health care environment

- caring for people
- working collaboratively with others in a team environment
- using standard and specialized equipment to gather assessments to provide proper care, and the performance of components, assemblies, and systems.

Who employs rehabilitation assistant?

Rehabilitation assistants work in the following settings:

- hospital/acute care settings
- nursing home or residential care
- primary care clinics
- privately run physiotherapy clinics
- doctor's offices
- home and community care.

The primary employers for rehabilitation assistant are the health authorities in BC in both in rural and urban centers. Their hours of work are rotating shift hours, which includes weekends, evenings, and night shift work. They may be exposed to diseases and must wear protective clothing, such as rubber gloves and masks in some work environments.

Salary

Salary Range - \$20.11 – \$22.96

Required Training and Education to Become a Rehabilitation Assistant

The education and training required to become a rehabilitation assistant requires completion of a two year Diploma level Rehabilitation Assistant Program with Occupational and Physical therapy components.

Some of the program admission requirements include:

- Grade 12 graduation, GED or equivalent
- Human biology 12
- Math 11
- English proficiency

Resources

Education Programs

Capilano University

<http://www2.capilanou.ca/programs/radp/diploma.html>

Vancouver Community College

http://www.vcc.ca/programs-courses/detail.cfm?div_id=6&prog_id=175

Thompson Community College

<http://www.thompsoncc.ca/>

Vancouver Community College

http://www.vcc.ca/programs-courses/college-programs-area.cfm?DIV_ID=6

Universal Learning Institute
<http://www.trainingforjobs.com/>

Financial assistance and bursaries:

For information about Canada student loans and grants, please visit:
http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/learning/canada_student_loan/index.shtml

Associations

Rehabilitation Assistant Association of British Columbia
<http://raaofbc.ca/>

BC Rehabilitation Therapist Assistant Network
<http://members.shaw.ca/rehabtherapistassistantnetwork/>