



BTEC Level 3 Health and Social Care

Frequently asked questions

1. What are BTEC level 3 Nationals?

- ✚ BTEC Level 3 Nationals are equivalent in standard to A levels.
- ✚ They're suitable for students aged 16 and over.
- ✚ BTEC National qualifications provide a more practical, real-world way of learning and their value is widely recognised by teaching professionals, employers, higher education and students.

2. What Level 3 Health and Social Care courses are available at Hereford Sixth Form College?

	Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care	Level 3 National Diploma in Health and Social Care
What is qualification equivalent to?	1 A level	2 A levels
Weekly classroom contact time	4 hours 20 mins	8 hours 20 mins
Recommended weekly self-study time	4 hours	8 hours
Internal assessment	50%	75%
External assessment	50%	25%
Is there a requirement for work experience	Advised	Strongly advised

3. What does the course involve?

The qualification typically makes up one third of a full time two year study programme and consists of a combination of assessment through written assignments and examinations.

✚ Year 1:

✚ Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs (Internal assignment)

- Learners focus on the principles and practicalities that underpin meeting individuals' care and support needs, which are the foundation of all the care disciplines.

✚ Human Lifespan Development (Examined unit)

- Learners cover physical, intellectual, emotional and social development across the human lifespan, and the factors affecting development and the effects of ageing.

✚ Year 2:

✚ Psychological Perspectives (Internal assignment)

- Learners explore key theoretical perspectives that have been put forward on psychological and physical development and how they are applied in different health and social care settings.

✚ Working in Health and Social Care (Examined unit)

- Learners explore what it is like to work in the health and social care sector, including the roles and responsibilities of workers and organisations.

4. Why should you choose Health and Social Care?

- ✚ Exciting and challenging course
- ✚ Offers flexibility and choice for students
- ✚ Complements other A-Level studies
- ✚ Equips students with skills needed for Higher Education and the world of work

5. Can anyone study Health and Social Care?

- ✚ Anyone who achieves the basic college entry requirements (5 GCSE's at grade C/4 and above including Maths and English) can study Health and Social Care at AS.
- ✚ The course is particularly suited to individuals who enjoy coursework and who are well organised, self-motivated and who can work independently.

6. How does the qualification provide transferable knowledge and skills for higher education?

- ✚ The course provides transferable knowledge and skills that prepare learners for progression to university. The transferable skills that universities value include:
 - the ability to learn independently
 - the ability to research actively and methodically
 - to be able to give presentations and be active group members.
- ✚ You will also benefit from opportunities for deep learning where you are able to make connections among units and select areas of interest for detailed study. The course will provide you with the opportunity to develop your understanding and skills in a vocational context in which learners can develop the knowledge and skills required for particular degree courses, including:
 - reading technical texts
 - effective writing
 - analytical skills
 - preparation

7. What careers can a qualification in Health and Social Care lead to?

- ✚ The Health and Social Care course can provide a useful stepping stone to many different careers including: Nursing; midwifery; primary school teaching; social work; occupational therapy; mental health nursing; counselling; physiotherapy; policing; probation work; nutrition; medicine; dentistry; SEN; youth work, and many, many more.
- ✚ Approximately half of our ex-students are now studying a course at university that has links with health and social care, for instance, nursing, midwifery, psychology and social welfare.

8. Are BTEC level 3 Nationals recognised by universities?

- ✚ With a track record built over 30 years of learner success, BTEC Nationals are widely recognised by industry and higher education as the signature vocational qualification at Level 3.
- ✚ They provide progression to the workplace either directly or via study at a higher level.