

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT

Q: Where in San Francisco can you learn:

- What's happening on welfare cutbacks, immigrant rights and managed care;
- How to build a wider network of personal contacts in many community agencies--know your referrals personally;
- New directions for your career and education. Gain confidence about going back to college and on to San Francisco State University;
- How to build your confidence about speaking in meetings;
- How to prepare an impressive resume; and
- Grow by building deep ties with an amazingly diverse group of health workers from around the Bay Area?

A: The Community Health Worker Certificate Program at City College of San Francisco.

GENERAL INFORMATION-WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER CERTIFICATE?

The 17-unit Community Health Worker Certificate is the first college-credit CHW certificate program in the US. This is an official certificate issued by City College of San Francisco.

The program is geared towards current Community Health Worker (CHWs) who want to sharpen and validate their skills in order to serve the community better, to develop their leadership skills and their careers; and people committed to working to solve the health crisis facing our communities. The courses provide a foundation in "real world" competencies identified by veteran CHWs and supervisors:

- client interviewing, intake and data-gathering
- basic health education and outreach
- facilitating support groups
- cross-cultural communication
- documentation and reporting
- orientation to rapid changes in health care--helping clients navigate through managed care
- care coordination
- communication and conflict resolution skills
- working successfully as a member of a team

The courses also give an introduction to topics such as:

- community nutrition
- HIV/STD
- harm reduction/substance use and recovery
- violence prevention
- public health

WHEN DO CLASSES MEET AND HOW MUCH IS TUITION?

This certificate program is set up to be convenient for people who are working. City College has an open admissions policy and our program is very supportive of people who are entering college for the first time, who are re-entering, or speak English as a second language.

Tuition is \$26 per unit plus a \$11 health fee per semester plus other unit/s you may take. Most students complete the certificate in one to two years. The program tuition costs range from \$511 to \$551. Financial aid is available. Contact Financial Aid Office at (415) 239-3576, Cloud Hall, Room 324. Fees subject to change.

Core courses meet from 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm at City College of San Francisco every Wednesday for two semesters— August to late May. There is also Spring semester field placement of eight hours a week (for working CHWs, this placement can be your job).

ADMISSION INFORMATION

We accept applications for the fall semester once a year in May. Classes start in mid August. Admissions are based on:

- Submission of a complete written application, **and**
- The completion of prerequisite course Health 59, Introduction to Community Health Work with a grade of “C” or better **OR** documented successful experience as a Community Health Worker (to document experience, please have your supervisor complete a “Request to Waive Health 59” form).

The application form is short and easy to fill out. There are limited seats available for the Fall Semester and complete applications will be accepted in the order received. Incomplete and faxed applications will not be accepted.

DO THESE CREDITS COUNT TOWARDS MY AA DEGREE AND DO THEY TRANSFER?

Credits completed in the CHW Certificate can be used towards as Associates degree at City College.

Nine units from the CHW program are applicable to elective requirements for a Bachelor degree in Health Education at San Francisco State University. Several Certificate graduates now direct programs in health and human services.