

ACCESS TO HE

INFORMATION PACK 2024-25



Welcome to the Access Department at Craven College.

We look forward to teaching you and helping you to achieve your qualification!

It is always daunting starting a new course so we have put together this information pack to enable you to have all the information about the course you are looking to undertake. The information will give you a detailed insight into your course and the rules that you need to follow in order to complete the qualification. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM STUDYING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION?

We, as tutors, will try to make your time studying Access to HE as enjoyable as possible and pass on our own enthusiasm for the subject, however returning to learning can be incredibly challenging so it is important to be patient with yourself.

The study of Access to HE leads to some incredibly important career pathways and therefore it involves hard work, dedication and lots of independent research. Those of you who wish to reach the distinction grades at the end of your course will need to work extra hard. The distinction grades require you to be able to think independently, and to analyse and evaluate complex and often scientific information and this is by no means easy. Gaining a distinction takes a huge amount of time and effort.

WHAT ARE ACCESS DIPLOMAS AND HOW DO THEY WORK?

For those who have studied GCSEs, A Levels or BTECs in the past, Access to HE will be very different. The main difference is that the Access Diplomas are assessed through both 'coursework' and examinations, and the 'coursework' requires you to conduct much independent research and stick within a specific word limit.

Basically, Access to HE Diplomas are a high-end Level 3 qualification that fast-track adults to a university within one academic year. By the end of the year, you will be expected to be HE ready!

EXAMPLES OF OFFERS

These are now given in UCAS points and are harder to calculate/make sense of as the same points can be achieved in numerous different ways.

Several Higher Education courses, such as Midwifery and Paramedic Science will require that you achieve a full distinction profile. This means that every graded assignment needs to be achieved at a distinction standard and this can be incredibly demanding.

ACCESS COURSES WE OFFER

- Access to HE - Creative Arts
- Access to HE - Health Professions (19+)
- Access to HE - Science (19+)
- Access to HE - Social Science (19+)

These courses are not easy and will require hard work both in class and away from College, this is especially true for those who are aiming for merits and distinctions. You should not expect to finish the course with distinctions if you do not put in the effort throughout the year. It is very important that you are organised and keep on top of your assignment work. If you get behind you will find it very difficult to catch up.

ASSESSMENTS

Each unit within the Access to Higher Education Diploma will have an assignment or examination attached to it. The size of the assignment will depend upon the size of the unit, but it will be roughly either 1500 or 3000 words. You will always have at least two assignments to complete simultaneously, so good time management is essential.

ADVANCED LEARNER LOAN

If you are required to pay for your course* you will be able to apply for the Advanced Learner Loan from the Student Loans Company. Craven College will send you a learning and funding information letter ready for when applications open.

It is essential that you apply for your loan as soon as possible to ensure that it is in place for enrolment which takes place at the end of August. The application process is completed online and can take only a couple of days to be processed if you have a valid passport. If you are required to send any documentation to the Student Loans Company it can take up to 12 weeks to be processed.

If your loan is not approved you will be unable to finalise your enrolment, however, as long as a loan is in process we will allow you to attend as a visitor for a short period.

To find out more about the Advanced Learner Loan please visit www.gov.uk/advanced-learner-loan

*Please check if required at the point of application.

WITHDRAWING FROM THE ACCESS TO HE DIPLOMA

You must email withdrawals@craven-college.ac.uk if you wish to withdraw from the course following enrolment. Prior to enrolment, you can call Customer Services on 01756 791 411 to reject your offer.

If you choose to withdraw from the course after enrolment, then you will be liable for course fees. You will be required to pay course fees for each month that you have attended. For example, if you withdraw in September you will be required to pay the fees for September, if you withdraw in December you will be required to pay the fees for September, October, November and December.

ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOUR

The academic year begins on:
09 September 2024

IMPORTANT

Holidays in term time are not authorised.

Attendance

In order to do well on your course, it is important that you attend all lessons. Due to the nature of the course, absences can cause more issues than on courses that are solely theory-based. If you miss a session that involves an experiment or a practical-based session then you will need to arrange a set time for you to carry this out in your own spare time.

It is also scientifically proven that students with higher attendance will be more likely to succeed! The College expects students to attend at least 95% of their timetabled lessons. However, there will be cases where you are unable to attend due to illness or other valid reasons.

In order to prevent these types of absences as being recorded as an 'absence without reason,' you should inform the College and your tutor at the earliest opportunity. In the case of persistent absence through illness, a doctor's note will be requested.

Persistent absences may result in disciplinary action.

If you are absent from lessons it is expected that you will attend the next session having already caught up.



Enriching lives through learning

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