

Center of Emphasis

Health Sciences Continuing Education

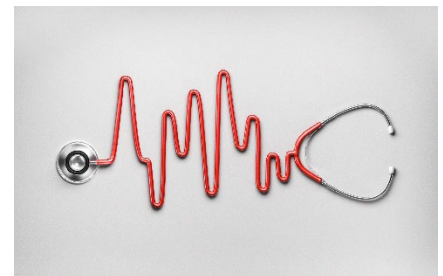
What is the Center of Emphasis?

The Center of Emphasis (COE) is a noncredit department within the Workforce and Economic Development division at Volunteer State Community College. It provides continuing education to health care providers and others, as well as conducts structured programs to those who desire to enter the health care field in an affordable fashion and short-term timeframe. We are an American Heart Association Training Center and routinely provide BLS, ACLS, and PALS courses. We also offer EMT/Paramedic refresher courses periodically.

Watch our video on [YouTube](#) to see how the COE can help you.

Certified Clinical Medical Assistant

We are very proud to announce that the department launched a Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) program on February 1, 2022. CCMA's are in high demand in our community and throughout middle Tennessee. The program consists of three courses—Patient Care Technician, Phlebotomy Technician and Electrocardiography (EKG) Technician. Each course is comprised of in-person classroom instruction, laboratory activities, online modules, and hands-on patient care experience with our clinical affiliates. In addition, the students sit for national certification examinations following the courses. The Center of Emphasis is a testing center for the National Health Career Association (NHA) and all examinations are conducted and proctored in our classroom. Several of our students recently sat for the CCMA examination and passed with high scores. This cohort of students is finishing up with Phlebotomy clinical rotation this month and will be taking the NHA exam to become certified in that field. Later this month, they will start the EKG course. This group will be very valuable to the health care workforce, being certified in three fields and able to work multiple areas within a provider practice, hospital, or outpatient center.



The Center of Emphasis recognizes that our students are working adults and depending on their shifts, some prefer daytime classes and others prefer evening classes. On May 31, we launched an evening Phlebotomy course that will be finishing in late August. This cohort is a stand-alone class and once they take their Phlebotomy certification examination, they will be eligible to work in hospital, physician office and outpatient center laboratories as a Phlebotomist.

Here are two of our recent students talking about taking the CCMA program:

Destiny Blackburn: “an interest in furthering my career in healthcare peaked my interest in the CCMA program at Vol State. I found out about the CCMA program initially by applying for the Phlebotomy program, but was then offered a spot for the CCMA program. So, I said why not! A little more education will not hurt anything!

My career plans as far as being a CCMA would be to work in a family practice. I like the set Monday-Friday schedule, so I can spend my weekends with my children. The most enjoyable thing about the program was how my classmates and I came together so quickly. We were always there to help each other out during the duration of the program. It felt more like a family than a college course. I would highly recommend this program to anyone who is a caring, kind, and compassionate person who has a want to help people.

My clinical experience was definitely a great learning platform. I was able to work on things I did not quite get the hang of right off the bat in class. So, it continued to further my education even more. The instruction was challenging at times, but thanks to our wonderful instructor, Kirsten, everything fell into place and made sense. She was really able to break things down to get the point across.

I am currently employed as a CCMA at a family practice. I am a float; therefore, I have multiple providers that I work under. My employer is super helpful and willing to work with my school schedule as well as my family schedule! I have felt so welcomed since day one!”



Kayla Swift started the CCMA program with the first course, Patient Care Technician, on February 1, 2022. Working at a pharmacy, Kayla’s initial interest was in Phlebotomy, but she contacted the Center of Emphasis via the VSCC website to learn more about CCMA. Kayla received the CCMA flyer and decided to do all three courses—Patient Care Technician, Phlebotomy Technician and EKG Technician. She felt learning all three specialties and becoming certified in each would benefit her career plan for the price.

She likes the program’s hands-on learning in the classroom and lab, especially phlebotomy was helpful to her. She encourages others to enroll in the program. All the instructors and their experience in the field helped her learn and understand concepts. She had a great experience at her clinical externship site. She loved the interaction with the patients and the health care team.

She passed her first certification exam (CCMA). She will be sitting for Phlebotomy and EKG certification exams next. Kayla just started full time employment as a medical assistant this month. Her new employer understands the value of completing the final course in the program and is supporting her work schedule around her class and clinical schedules.

Congratulations to Kayla and Destiny!

If you are interested in the next CCMA program planned for October or any of its courses, please contact Kathryn Miller at 615-230-3343 or kathryn.miller@volstate.edu

Did you know we are an American Heart Association (AHA) Training Center?

The Center of Emphasis has been a long-standing American Heart Association Training Center. This is a formal designation, and the training center not only has credentialed and certified instructors to conduct courses in our classroom, but also has over 100 instructors—including school nurses and first responders--that conduct courses in the field. An example of some of our courses include Basic Life Support,



(BLS), Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), Heart saver Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) with First Aid and many more. The center can design a program to meet the needs of a business (their location or ours); the center provides BLS training and certification for our students across our campus that require it for their studies.

Please [click here](#) to see our course list.

Contract Training

The Center of Emphasis provides contract training for various specialties such as Emergency Medical Services (EMS) refresher courses, Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT), including Prehospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) and others. An example of our contract training is our affiliation with Meharry Medical College in which we provide PHTLS and PALS to their medical students and interns. All our courses follow industry-recognized standards. If you are a business interested in contract training, please contact Kathryn Miller, COE Director, at 615-230-3343 or email at kathryn.miller@volstate.edu.

The Future

The Center of Emphasis is working on additional noncredit health care programs to not only offer at our main campus, but also across our VSCC locations. We will update you when new program offerings are available.

View all Healthcare Training Courses by [clicking here](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Kathryn Miller, COE Director, at 615-230-3343 or email at kathryn.miller@volstate.edu.

<https://www.volstate.edu/workforce/health-sciences>