



NEWS RELEASE

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Palo Alto College offers new degree program to support healthcare industry in San Antonio

Alamo Colleges District-Palo Alto College will begin offering a new degree program designed to support the high demand for occupations in Bexar County's growing healthcare industry. The new program will offer students the opportunity to earn a 60-credit-hour Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Healthcare Administration or a 36-credit-hour Level 2 Certificate for Healthcare Unit Coordinator.

"Providing accessible education and training to promote the economic life of our community is central to Palo Alto College's mission," said Dr. Mike Flores, president of Palo Alto College. "We know our students are the future workforce of San Antonio, and we want to ensure they're prepared to continue the work to develop south San Antonio."

Students completing the Healthcare Administration program will gain extensive knowledge in areas such as current health care trends; management of financial and personnel operations; and regulatory/legal processes in health care management for entry-level positions in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, mental health centers, nursing homes, home health providers, clinics, and more. A required practicum field experience will provide students with general workplace training at local healthcare agencies.

The Healthcare Administration program is expected to expand certifications in its second year to include Billing and Coding, Electronic Health Records, and more.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, healthcare is one of the fastest growing career fields for individuals with associate degrees. Employment is expected to increase 28.8 percent by 2024 in the Bexar County region, with an average entry-level hourly wage of \$30.72 in healthcare services in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, mental health centers, nursing homes, home health providers, clinics, and more.

This is the fourth new program introduced at Palo Alto College in the last five years. Previous programs include Energy Technology (Fall 2013), Cosmetology (Spring 2015), and Industrial Technology (Fall 2016). Applications for the Fall 2018 semester can be submitted until Monday, Aug. 6, 2018. Classes begin on Monday, Aug. 27, 2018.

Palo Alto College, part of the Alamo Colleges District, is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and a recipient of the 2015 Texas Award for Performance Excellence and a finalist for the 2016 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. With over 10,000 students, Palo Alto College is accredited to offer associate degrees and short-term certificates. The College is located on the south side of San Antonio at 1400 W. Villaret Blvd. at I-410 and Texas Hwy 16 and online at alamo.edu/pac.

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