



# DIPLOMA IN OPERATING DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE

## CORE PURPOSE OF LIFE COLLEGE OF LEARNING

- The purpose of the Life College of Learning is to provide education for service. Life Healthcare's purpose of making life better and its group values of passion for people, performance pride, personal care, lifetime partnerships and quality excellence forms the foundation on which the College has built its own philosophy and world view of education and training of healthcare professionals.
- We believe learning is interactive and dynamic, builds on prior knowledge and that students are active participants in their own learning process and not merely passive recipients of knowledge. Therefore a progressive view of education and training is adopted at Life College of Learning.
- In empowering students to function as critical thinking independent operating department assistance in a dynamic healthcare environment and to assume a constructive participant role in the wider society, the constructivism education philosophy is adopted by the College.
- The College is registered with the Department of Education as a private higher education institution and accredited as a private higher education institution Council on Higher Education.

## CORE PURPOSE OF PROGRAMME

The purpose of the programme is to provide the student with the necessary knowledge and skills required to function as a safe Operating Department Assistant in both private and public health care units. The Operating Department Assistant will be able to function in either the sterile or non-sterile areas and will have the necessary knowledge and skills to create a safe therapeutic environment for both patient and personnel by assisting the registered professional in the physical aspects of preparing the theatre environment for unaesthetic, diagnostic and surgical interventions.

The qualification will enable students to utilise their knowledge of anatomy and physiology to prepare the operating theatre for relevant procedures. The theory and application of sterile and aseptic procedures combined with

knowledge of theatre procedures will assist the student to prepare the environment for unaesthetic, diagnostic and surgical procedures.

The programme will allow the student to assist the registered health professional within the peri-operative environment to perform peri-operative procedures, ensuring that the operating room environment is safe, sterile conditions are maintained, that equipment functions optimally and that the operative procedure is conducted under conditions that maximise patient safety. The student will be competent to deliver a service in accordance with the required health and safety regulations, ethics and health codes of practice.

## COURSE INFORMATION

### Target Group:

Access to the programme is open, conditional to the admission requirements and the students' access to the facilities that will enable both theoretical and clinical learning to take place under recognized supervision. The following demographic profile is envisaged:

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- **Age:** 18-30 years old
- **Gender:** male or female
- **Interest:** healthcare
- **Abilities:**
  - Demonstrate common sense and the ability to solve problems
  - Show a genuine desire to work with people especially those who are ill and need assistance
  - A pleasant well-mannered disposition, well groomed and emotionally mature with a positive attitude towards life
  - Good health and high stamina level that meets the physical, emotional, social and spiritual demands of the occupation in healthcare
  - Good communication and interpersonal skills
  - Hands on and practical with an ability to conceptualise and resolve health and emergency related problems or challenges
  - Good ability to build rapport and operate as part of a team
  - High levels of customer care orientation

**COURSE INFORMATION** *Continued*

**Duration:**

Three (3) years of full time study

**Commencement date:**

January of each year

**Cost:**

As per annual fee structure

**Admission requirements:**

- Minimum statutory NSC requirements for entrance into higher education, diploma entry level must be met
- A recognised qualification deemed to be equivalent by the college senate and professional body
- Language English at NSC achievement rating of 4 (50-59%)
- Mathematical literacy at NSC achievement rating of 4 (50-59%) or mathematics at 3 (40-49%)
- Computer literacy at NSC achievement rating of 3 (40-49%)
- Life Sciences at NSC achievement rating of 4 (50-59%)

**Programme Curriculum Components:**

- HEQSF criteria: Diploma NQF level 6
- Total credits for programme: 360

**Programme Curriculum Components:**

The components of the curriculum are as follows

**Programme Outcomes:**

On completion of the diploma you will be an

Operating Department Assistant in healthcare. This will enable you to practice in this capacity in the South African healthcare system.

- Your scope of practice will allow you:
- to provide effective preparation of the pre-operative theatre environment according to organisational standards
- to effectively manage the non-sterile operating theatre environment for optimum patient care
- to support the registered professional in the sterile field during the operative phase using the aseptic technique
- to ensure that the technical and environmental conditions are consistent with organisational standards in the anaesthetic environment and in the recovery room

**Exit Level Outcomes**

- Assist in the provision of an optimum environment for care and treatment of the peri-operative patient
- Prepare and assist in the operating department for anaesthetic diagnostic or surgical interventions
- Apply knowledge of fundamental biomedical, biotechnological and psychosocial sciences within the operating department context
- Function as part of the multidisciplinary team and maintain effective relationships with patients and members of the healthcare team
- Apply ethical and legal principles throughout
- Implement and maintain an effective document management system within the operating department

**APPLICATIONS**

- Applications must be submitted by 31 August.
- Online application on the Life Healthcare website ([www.lifehealthcare.co.za](http://www.lifehealthcare.co.za)).
- Proof of non-refundable administration fee, together with the required supporting documentation to be submitted online.
- All applicants will follow the college selection process.

SUBJECT	CREDIT
Ethics and Law	45
Operating Department Science	90
Anatomy and Physiology	60
Pharmacology	30
Infection Prevention	50
Management	30
Anaesthetic Practice	30
Experiential Learning	25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>360</b>

# CONTACT DETAILS

## NATIONAL OFFICE

Oxford Manor, 21 Chaplin Road, Illovo, 2196

## Learning Centres

### Learning Centres

Cape Town Learning Centre  
First Floor, The Park, Park Lane, Pinelands,  
Cape Town, 7405  
Po Box 23905 Claremont, 7735  
Tel (021) 506-5340  
Fax (021) 506-5351

### East London Learning Centre

East London Learning Centre  
The Hub, Bonza Bay Road, Beacon Bay, East  
London. 5202  
Tel (043) 704 3200  
Fax (043) 704 3201

### East Rand Learning Centre

15 Middlesex Street, Springs, 1559  
Tel (011) 812 3960  
Fax (011) 744-8649

### KwaZulu-Natal Learning Centre

36 Essex Terrace, Westville, 3629  
Tel (031) 204 1445

### Port Elizabeth Learning Centre

Ground Floor, Oasim North, Havelock St.  
Central, Port Elizabeth, 6001  
PO Box 12051, Centralhil, Port Elizabeth,  
6006  
Tel (041) 501-1851  
Fax (041) 501-1872

### Pretoria Learning Centre

8 Denneboom Office Park, Lynwood Rd,  
The Willows, Pretoria, 0041  
PO Box 73928, Lynwood Ridge, Pretoria,  
0040  
Tel (012) 816-8900

### West Rand Learning Centre

91 Leader Rd, Robertville, Roodepoort  
PO Box 2181, Florida, 1710  
Tel (011) 474-0400/1-6  
Fax (011) 474-0643