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WKU to offer three healthcare career training programs

By AARON MUDD amudd@bgdailynews.com May 31, 2018

Western Kentucky University is hoping to attract more students looking to come back to school by offering three new job training programs in the health care industry at its Glasgow campus.

Starting this fall, students can get training as dental assistants, phlebotomy technicians and medical assistants.

“We’re targeting those adult learners who would like some health care training at the noncredit level,” said Beth Laves, associate vice president of WKU’s Division of Extended Learning and Outreach.

DELO recently took over management of the university’s regional campuses after budget cuts.

The division manages WKU’s online courses and other outreach programs, including the Society for Lifelong Learning.

Laves said the division explored offering new program opportunities and opted to start with the health care industry.

The programs are noncredit and are offered in a face-to-face format with classes on evenings and Saturdays, she said.

The programs for clinical medical assistants and phlebotomy technicians are designed to prepare students for industry credential exams, while the dental assistant program is best suited for students interested in pursuing a formal dental hygienist program, according to DELO.



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Each program offers a clinical externship, and more information about each program is available online at www.wku.edu/cpd/career-training.php.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, phlebotomists are expected to have an employment growth rate of 25 percent between 2016 and 2026. That rate is even higher for medical assistants at 29 percent, and the rate for dental assistants is 19 percent. All of

those rates are much faster than the average growth rate for all occupations, which is 7 percent.

Students needing financial assistance can also apply for a Sallie Mae loan through the website, and courses are also eligible to receive Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funds. Applicants should check with the Kentucky Career Center on whether funding is available for them.

Laves described the programs as perfect for adults looking for fresh career opportunities.

“This is a great opportunity for adults to find a new career,” she said.

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