

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT

Is being a Nursing Assistant for me?

The field is for you if you ...

- Like people and communicate well with them.
- Have a calm, reassuring manner.
- Have the ability to maintain composure in stressful situations.
- Want to provide personal service to those incapable of caring for themselves.
- Desire to assist individuals to regain and maintain lost functions to ensure the quality of daily living.
- Have good judgment and common sense.
- Have stamina, good physical condition, good health and personal hygiene.
- Are energetic, spontaneous, and have a good sense of humor.

What skills will I need for this field?

You will need to have ...

- Basic knowledge of anatomy and physiology.
- Medical terminology knowledge.
- Various disease processes.
- Communication skills.
- Observation skills.
- Medical asepsis/Infection control.
- Knowledge of safety regulations.
- Knowledge of resident rights and various procedures.
- Competency in 21 skills specified in federal and state guidelines.

What is the work atmosphere like?

Indoor environment with full-or part-time hours. Three shifts are usually available. You will be standing or walking most of the time. Substantial lifting of people and equipment are required on an everyday basis. In the past, the prime area of employment was in long-term care. Due to changes in our health care delivery system, Certified Nursing Assistants are now employed in a greater variety of settings, such as hospitals, home health, hospice, clinics, private duty and physician offices.

What are my degree options?

Certificate

Certified Nursing Assistant

Professional Certification

Upon successful completion of the Certified Nursing Assistant program, the candidate is eligible to sit for the state written competency exam. The Health Care Worker Background Check Act of 1995 requires a criminal background check for all applicants. Refer to the program coordinator for further information.

What are my career opportunities?

Upon successful completion of the Basic Nursing Assistant program, College of DuPage offers the opportunity for the student to participate in:

Basic Physical Rehabilitation Aide Program
(Health Sciences 1106)

Health Sciences 1105: Nursing Assistant is a prerequisite for those entering the Associate Degree Nursing program.

What can I do with these degrees?

If you have completed ...

High School Diploma

Candy Striper, Patient Care Assistant, Resident Support Assistant, or Volunteer

How can I prepare now?

Recommended courses ...

Math

Basic, General or Business Math

Science

Biology

Communications

General English (Applied Communications preferred), Composition, Speech, Writing

Recommended Supporting Electives

Business, Keyboarding, Spanish

What about my articulated credit?

Check with your high school coordinator to see if you are eligible for articulated credit at College of DuPage.

Certificate

Certified Nursing Assistant

What should I take in my first semester at C.O.D.?

The Certified Nursing Assistant Certificate is awarded upon successful completion of the 11 weeks Health Sciences course number 1105, which consists of a state approved Basic Nursing Assistant Training program designed to prepare qualified health care assistants (nurses' aides) to administer patient care under the supervision of a registered nurse. Upon completion, you then are qualified to take the State of Illinois Nursing Assistant Competency Test.

Whom can I talk to for more information?

Health, Social, and Behavioral Sciences Division
(630) 942-2495

For more information on the Certified Nursing Assistant Certificate curriculum, see your program coordinator or go to www.cod.edu.