

# Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)

## Certificate Program

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## Career Definition

Certified nursing assistants are members of the healthcare team and work under the supervision of nurses to provide basic bedside care such as eating, dressing and bathing.

## Program Overview

The Certified Nursing Assistant Program is six-credit hour program that includes theory, lab and clinical experiences. This program can be completed in one semester.

Upon completion of this program, graduates are eligible to sit for the Illinois Department of Public Health Nurse Aide Competency examination. Consistent with the passing of this exam, the candidate's name is entered on the State of Illinois Health Care Worker Registry. The Basic Nursing Assistant Training Program is approved by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

In 2009, graduates of the Harper College CNA Program had a 99 percent pass rate on this exam.

## Program Outcomes

At the conclusion of the program the student should be able to:

- identify the organization of the healthcare institution and its function.
- communicate effectively with patients, family and staff.
- give simple emotional and psychological support to the patient and family members.
- establish and maintain a safe and pleasant environment.
- follow the nursing care plan in providing care.
- demonstrate basic nursing skills while caring for patients.
- report observations related to the patient's condition to an immediate supervisor.
- record observations and maintain records specific to the long-term facility and/or hospital or home health agency.

## Helpful Academic Skills or Experiences

High school sciences, English and communication courses

## Professional Organization Web Sites

- Illinois Department of Public Health: [www.idph.state.il.us](http://www.idph.state.il.us)
- U.S. Department of Labor: [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)



## Program Requirements

- **Students must have a valid social security number.**
- All theory classes, laboratory, and clinical experiences must be attended and skills competence demonstrated to complete the program. Attendance and material covered are federal and State of Illinois mandated requirements.
- Students must achieve a satisfactory theory grade of 75 percent in order to pass the course. Clinical evaluation is pass/fail. A "passing" evaluation is required for the theory, laboratory and clinical components of the class. Unsafe or unethical performance can result in immediate dismissal from the class.
- You are responsible for transportation to clinical agencies. You will be given the place, dates and times of clinicals on the first day of class.
- A fingerprinted criminal background check, by a state approved vendor, is required by Illinois law. You will receive the paperwork for this process during class orientation.
- The textbook, workbook, transfer belt, stethoscope, uniform and patch can be purchased at the Harper Bookstore.

## Opportunities for Employment

Employment of nursing assistants is expected to grow in response to increasing emphasis on rehabilitation and the long-term care needs of a rapidly growing elderly population. CNAs work in long-term care facilities, hospitals and home health agencies. Starting salaries range from \$9 to \$12 per hour. Benefit compensations may include insurance and tuition reimbursement.

## Opportunities for Advancement

Graduates use their CNA certification to advance their career in healthcare, such as home health aide certification, phlebotomy or nursing.

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### Certified Nursing Assistant Certificate

This six credit-hour certificate program provides theory and training in the basic skills essential to the practice of health care workers who will assist the nurse in the care of patients in a variety of health care settings. Includes simulated practice and opportunity for clinical application. The course is approved by the Illinois Department of Public Health, Office of Health Regulations. Successful completion is required for application for the Nurse Aide Competency Exam. NOTE: All students must have a valid Social Security number, pass a criminal background check and meet health requirements. Special fees apply.

Opportunities for employment are found in settings such as long-term care facilities, home health agencies, hospitals and private duty.

This program is part of Harper's Dual Credit Career Partnership. Applicants from this high school Dual Credit Career Partnership must have completed the 11th grade prior to entering and must also meet the program's special admission requirements. Special admission requirement options include ENG 100 or 101 with a grade of C or better, or ESL 073 with a grade of B or better, RDG 090 or RDG 099 with a grade of C or better, an ACT Reading score of 20 or higher, or required placement test scores.

#### Required: <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A grade of C or better in all coursework is required for all students.