

What can you do with a CNA Certificate?

Campus(s) program is offered: Marietta and North Metro

What are the most likely job titles one can expect to qualify for once completely this program?

Patient Care Assistant (PCA)

Certified Nursing Assistant or CNA

A certified nursing assistant, or CNA, helps patients or clients with healthcare needs under the supervision of a Registered Nurse (RN) or a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). Also known as a Nursing Assistant (NA) a Patient Care Assistant (PCA) the individual who carries this title needs strong work ethic and ability, but issues of liability and legality prevent CNAs from performing certain procedures.

What do students express as the thing they enjoy the most about this program? What is the least?

The students enjoy the hands-on skills most in this program. Each student is given an opportunity to put their learned skills in practice while completing the 3-day clinical rotation.

Because this is a class, the students must also have lectures and exams. This is what they like the least.

What are some typical misconceptions about this program of study?

One of the major misconceptions is the term "just a CNA". Until a person has the experience of a loved-one confined to a healthcare facility, they do not appreciate the knowledge, dedication, and hard work that encompasses the position of CNA.

Another misconception is that CNAs spend all day just cleaning up patients and doing all of the menial tasks. CNAs are the first contacts with the patient in situations that can be very frightening. They are the ones who are first to bond and show empathy for the patient. This is an important aspect of the healing process. Our instructors in this program are all experienced in this concept and pass this along to our students.

What are some essential skills a student needs to have in order to be successful in program of study?

1. Being able to stay focused and anticipates the needs of the patients.
2. Good multi-tasking skills.
3. Prioritize activities when there are many to consider.
4. Use time wisely and anticipates problems.
5. Assesses own abilities.
6. Demonstrate flexibility.
7. Analyzes the result and accept feedback from others as part of the learning experience.

Typical work activities/occupational functions:

They typically do the following:

- Clean and bathe patients or residents
- Help patients use the toilet and dress
- Turn, reposition, and transfer patients between beds and wheelchairs
- Listen to and record patients' health concerns and report that information to nurses

- Measure patients' vital signs, such as blood pressure and temperature
- Serve meals and help patients eat

What additional training would you recommend for a student who wants to go to the next level in this field?

Medical Assistant, Practical Nurse, or Surgical Technician are next steps.

Some students take degree-level pre-requisites to go to the Radiology Technician or ADN programs.

What are some common limitations, if any, in this program that students face?

1. Standing on hard surface approximately 8 hrs. a day.
2. Lifting trays of instruments or equipment up to 30#.
3. Lifting and/or moving heavy patients who may be unconscious.
4. Moving stretchers or heavy surgical beds.
5. Hearing must be within normal range with corrective devices.
6. Hand eye coordination, excellent motor skills and critical thinking skills.
7. Exposure to blood and/or body fluids.

Are there any exams/certifications that a student needs to take after completing the courses? Are these exams/certifications offered on campus?

Certified Nursing Aide/Assistants (CNA's) are certified by the State of Georgia through a private contractor, the Georgia Medical Care Foundation (GMCF). The GMCF is responsible for the management process of all State-approved Nurse Aide/Assistant Training Programs (NATP), the administering of certification testing, and the maintenance of the Nurse Aide/Assistant Registry (NAR).

Once certified, all CNA's must renew their certification every two (2) years or twenty-four (24) months using the appropriate Re-Certification Form. For re-certification, Federal Regulations require that the CNA must have worked as a CNA for pay, a minimum of eight (8) hours within the last twenty-four (24) consecutive months under the supervision of a Registered Nurse.

Possible employment settings:

Nursing and residential care facilities
Hospitals
Home health care services
Hospice

Names of employers:

AG Rhodes Nursing Home
Amedisys
Angel Companions
Cartersville Heights Care & Rehabilitation Center
Halcyon Hospice
Presbyterian Village of Austell
Winnwood Retirement Community

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