



Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)

About the profession...

A certified nursing assistant (also called a CNA) is someone who assists patients and/or residents with healthcare needs, and cares for a patient/resident who is ill or recovering from surgery or disease. The CNA's duties are assigned and supervised by a registered nurse (RN) and/or a licensed practical nurse (LPN). Some of these duties may include bathing, undressing, dressing, ambulation, draping, changing linens, bed preparation, feeding assistance, recording intake and output, taking vital signs, stocking supplies, and emptying catheter bags. The CNA must be able to understand and follow orders given by the nurse.

About the work environment...

CNAs typically work in hospitals or extended care facilities (nursing homes). Hospital settings require the CNA to assist patients who need help with bathing, dressing, and other activities of daily living (ADL's). Extended care facility settings require the CNA to provide care for geriatric patients or those who need around the clock care.

About the career outlook...

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median wage for CNAs is \$11.54 per hour. Employment opportunities are expected to grow faster than average through 2020. This is due, in part, to the long-term care needs of an increasing elderly population.

About career and educational advancement...

Successful completion of the CNA Preparation course leads to eligibility to test for certification in the state of Indiana. Certification gives the title of "certified" nursing assistant as well as enables one to legally practice within the state in which they work. Most facilities require that nursing assistants be state certified. This certification also qualifies as one of two certifications required for the Associate of Applied Science degree in Health Care Support. Please see www.ivytech.edu/academics for the full curriculum.

About duties and responsibilities of the CNA...

- Assist patients/residents with activities of daily living, including feeding, bathing, dressing and grooming
- Assist with mobility, including moving, repositioning, transferring and ambulating
- Take vital sign
- Change linens
- Maintain patient confidentiality
- Collect and transport specimens
- Promote good relations with patients/residents and staff
- Maintain safe working condition
- Participate in continuing education

About additional references...

Visit the Bureau of Labor Statistics at <http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes311012.htm>

Visit the Indiana State Department of Health at <http://www.in.gov/isdh/20510.htm>

Visit eHow at http://www.ehow.com/about_5485210_certified-nursing-assistant-definition.html

Visit Job Outlook at <http://www.indiana-nursing-schools.com/cna-jobs.php>

Frequently Asked Questions...

- *What are the requirements to become a certified nursing assistant (CNA)?*

Once the student successfully completes class and clinical requirements, and receives a certificate of completion, they are eligible to apply for the state exam. Ivy Tech Community College administers the Nurse Aide Competency Evaluation Examination for qualified candidates in compliance with the Indiana State Department of Health regulations.

- *Is there any specific uniform, dress code or supplies that are required?*

A black scrub top and khaki scrub pants are required for participation in both class and clinical. Although the uniform typically consists of a short-sleeve scrub top and scrub pants, a dress is acceptable. A white long or short-sleeved undershirt may be worn but must be tucked in under the top. Impermeable, closed-toed, closed-back, predominately white shoes with nonskid soles in good condition must be worn. Crocs, clogs, flip-flops and sandals are NOT permitted.

Hair must be off the collar and out of the face. Facial hair must be maintained, short, and neat. Fingernails must be short and clean. Intact clear nail polish is permitted. Acrylic nails are NOT permitted. One set of post earrings and a watch may be worn. All tattoos must be covered and other piercings must be removed or clear posts inserted.

- *When is the clinical training?*

Clinical is scheduled only during the day shift and can start as early as 6 am. There are no evening clinicals; however, an occasional Saturday may be required. You will need to attend 48 hours of clinical training, which is generally scheduled the last two weeks of the 8-week course, three (3) days per week, 8 hours per day. Clinical placement is contingent upon clinical site availability. You may be required to travel as far as Gary, Portage, or Valparaiso for the six day clinical experience.

- *Am I required to have a criminal background check, drug screen, or physical exam with immunizations?*

Criminal background checks and drug screenings will be required for clinical placement of all students in the School of Health Sciences programs, including CNA Preparation. Current criminal background check and drug screening documentation obtained through the provider of the College's choice must be submitted two weeks prior to the start of any course in which clinical or externship assignment is required. Students who refuse to comply with the background check and drug screening will not be eligible to enroll in clinical courses or courses including a clinical component. Completion of background checks and/or drug screenings from other vendors, such as those required by current employers of the students, may not be used in lieu of the College requirements. Completion of a criminal background check and drug screening does not ensure clinical placement. Policies at clinical sites may vary on whether or not students with particular positive findings on the background check will be allowed to attend clinical. Completion of a criminal background check and drug screening does not ensure eligibility for licensure, credentialing, or future employment. Additional criminal background checks and/or drug screenings may be required for licensure, credentialing, or employment.

A physical examination, documentation of immunity to communicable diseases and screening for tuberculosis will be required for all health science students enrolled in courses where clinical procedures are performed, including CNA preparation. Documentation must be submitted two weeks prior to the start of any course in which clinical or externship assignment is required. The student's health care provider must complete a physical assessment. Records of current immunization status and tuberculosis screening are required by affiliating clinical institutions and the Indiana State Department of health. Required immunizations include, but may not be limited to: Hepatitis B, Influenza, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella, Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis. Individual clinical affiliating agencies may have additional, more stringent requirements.

For students who register less than two weeks prior to the start of class, please see the program handbook for specific due dates.

Steps required for completion of the CNA certificate sequence...

- Apply to the College.
- Complete Compass testing or waiver.
- **You must email Darlene Dulin at ddulin@ivytech.edu requesting a permission to enroll in the CNA course.** You must email from your Ivy Tech email account. You must provide the campus, day and time of the CNA course that you are requesting.
- Once the permission has been applied, you will be able to self-enroll in the course through Campus Connect. It generally takes less than 48 hours for the permission to be applied so please check your Ivy Tech email daily.
- Submit documentation of current criminal background check and drug screening obtained from a provider of the College's choice, physical examination, TB testing and immunizations, as required, two weeks prior to the start of HLHS 107, CNA Preparation. Contact information for the provider can be obtained from the Secretary for the School of Health Sciences.

References...

Bureau of Labor Statistics, on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes311012.htm>

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Indiana State Department of Health, on the Internet at <http://www.in.gov/isdh/20510.htm>

Contact Information...

Please see the full list of program faculty and advisors at <http://www.ivytech.edu/academics> for more information.