



Nursing Assistant Admission Requirement

All students admitted to the Pre-Licensure Program must be certified as nursing assistants, and listed as active on a Nursing Assistant Registry in the United States.

What is a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)?

Certified Nursing Assistants work under a nurse's supervision and help patients of all ages perform basic daily tasks. They often work in nursing homes, assisted living, hospice, hospitals, community based long-term care, and other long-term care settings.

When do I need to be a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)?

The CNA is not required to apply to the program, but must be completed prior to the program start date.

How do I get on a Nursing Assistant Registry?

1. Successfully complete an approved nursing assistant training and competency test-out.
or
2. Successfully pass an approved competency test-out for nursing assistants.
 - Students may secure a Nursing Assistant in Training position at a long term care facility which will provide the necessary training for the test-out.
 - Students may utilize the free study materials provided by the Minnesota Department of Health and test-out without taking a course or obtaining a position.

Where can I find an approved training/testing site?

CNA training and testing is offered through approved sites, usually through community/technical colleges, hospitals and nursing homes. Students are encouraged to complete the training and/or test-out during the summer months. The Minnesota Department of Health's Nursing Assistant website has a directory of approved sites in Minnesota: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/regulation/directory/natraining/sites.html>

How do I stay on the Registry?

In Minnesota, nursing assistants must perform at least 8 hours of paid duties every 24 months to stay on the Registry. If you do not work as a paid nursing assistant, your certification is only valid for 24 months from date of issue. If certification was not earned in Minnesota, refer to that states guidelines.

I got my CNA in a different state. Do I need to transfer it to Minnesota?

No, however for admission, your CNA must be active on a state Nursing Assistant Registry within the United States. For program admission, you must submit verification from the Registry on which you are active. Only if you plan to work in MN as a CNA will you need to transfer your certification.

Do I need to keep my CNA active after I begin the nursing program?

No, you are not required to keep your CNA active after beginning the Pre-Licensure Program, unless you plan on working as a CNA while finishing the major.

Additional information can be found at the Minnesota Department of Health website or your states Department of Health website. <https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/providers/nursingassistant/index.html>