

Nursing Assistant Admission Requirement

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 prior to program start date.

What is a Nursing Assistant?

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.

What does it mean to be certified?

An individual has passed the competency test (skills & knowledge) for nursing assistants.

How do I become certified and get on a Nursing Assistant Registry?

1. Complete an approved nursing assistant training & competency evaluation program.
or
2. Successfully pass an approved competency test for nursing assistants.

How can I find an approved training to pass the competency test?

Training/testing are offered through community colleges, nursing homes or healthcare training programs. Students are encouraged to complete the training and/or test-out during the summertime.

- [Minnesota Department of Health Training/Testing Directory](#)
- [MNSU Workforce Professional Education](#) (Limited offerings In-Person & Online)
- [ZANDU HEALTH INITIATIVE](#) (Blended/Online/Hybrid)
- [HeartCert](#) (Nursing Assistant-Hybrid Program)
- [Monarch Healthcare Management](#) (Nurse Assistant in Training Positions)

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

Certification is not required to apply but must be completed prior to program start date.

Cost of a training/testing?

Costs will vary and are not covered by financial aid. Students who work as a nursing assistant at a certified nursing/boarding home for at least 90 days are eligible for full reimbursement for the costs.

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 state's guidelines.

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

No, only if you plan to work in Minnesota as a CNA will you need to transfer your certification.

Do I need to keep my CNA active after beginning the Pre-Licensure Program?

No, you are not required to keep your CNA active after beginning the program.

Additional information can be found on any states Department of Health website.