

# Certified Nursing Assistant



## What do they do?

Certified Nursing Assistants help provide basic care for patients in hospitals and residents of nursing homes. Their work may include cleaning, bathing, dressing and positioning patients. CNAs record and report health information, measure vital signs and serve meals. CNAs work on their feet and may work nights, weekends and holidays.

## Where do they work?

The majority of CNAs work in nursing homes, hospitals or in the homes of their patients.

## Pay:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly income for CNAs is \$24,400.



## Education:

CNAs are required to complete a certification program where they learn by practicing supervised clinical work.

### CNA training in Madison:

MATC: [www.madisoncollege.edu](http://www.madisoncollege.edu)

Neway Directions: [www.newaydirections.com](http://www.newaydirections.com)

High School students interested in becoming a CNA should consider taking classes in algebra, biology, health and fitness, English and chemistry.

## Program Regulation:

Education programs for CNA training in Wisconsin are approved by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Follow the link below to learn more, including a FAQ sheet:

[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/caregiver](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/caregiver)



## Professional Associations:

Certified Nursing Assistants can join the National Association of Health Care Assistants:

[www.nahcacares.org/](http://www.nahcacares.org/)



Certified Nursing Assistants can also join the National Network of Career Nursing Assistants:

[www.cna-network.org/](http://www.cna-network.org/)



## Certification/Registry:

After CNAs complete their certification course, they must pass an exam before they can provide care. They are then listed in their state registry as qualified to work. In Wisconsin, this exam is managed by Pearson Vue. Learn more at:

[www.pearsonvue.com](http://www.pearsonvue.com)

CNAs can also become nationally certified through the National Council of State boards of Nursing:

[www.ncsbn.org](http://www.ncsbn.org)



CNA Certification is also a common requirement before beginning various other health care training programs.

## Home Health and Personal Care Aide:

CNAs can also work in the home of patients who need direct care and assistance. This could include assistance with daily personal tasks, light housekeeping, assistance with scheduling and planning appointments, arranging transportation, shopping for groceries or simply providing companionship.

The National Association for Home Care & Hospice certifies home health aides. Learn more here:

[www.nahc.org](http://www.nahc.org)



## Job Outlook:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for CNAs is expected to grow 21 percent between 2012-2022, which is faster than the average across all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014-15 Edition, Nursing Assistants and Orderlies*: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/nursing-assistants.htm>

