



SCHOOL to career

focus on jobs in Nurse Aide

Future job opportunities

Employment of nurse aides is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations in response to an emphasis on rehabilitation and the long-term care needs of the rapidly growing elderly population. Employment of nurse aides will increase as a result of the expansion of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities for people with chronic illnesses and disabling conditions.

Where/how to get training

EDUCATION

Nurse Aides, also known as nursing assistants, can be trained at many of North Carolina's community colleges or in programs on the job. Nurse Aide I programs require a minimum of 75 hours of training. With additional training, an individual may be listed as a Nurse Aide II.

FINANCIAL AID

A variety of grants, scholarships, loans and work/study programs are available for students. Applications for these programs are available through the community college.

Nurse aides assist in the care of patients under the direct supervision of licensed health professionals. Typical nurse aide tasks may include bathing, dressing, or assisting with hygienic needs; serving meals and feeding patients; moving patients to and from treatment rooms or assisting them to walk; and observing patients' physical, mental and emotional conditions and reporting changes to the nursing or medical staff.



Nursing assistants work as members of the nursing team in hospitals, nursing homes, private homes and a variety of other settings.

Nurse Aides employed in nursing homes are often the principal caregivers, having more contact with residents than other members of the staff. Since some residents may stay in a nursing home for months or even years, the nurse aide may develop ongoing relationships with them and interact with them on a regular basis.

An individual who desires to work as a nurse aide in a North Carolina nursing home must first be listed on the Nurse Aide I Registry. To be listed on the Nurse Aide I Registry, an individual must complete a state-approved nurse aide training and competency evaluation program. Nurse Aide I

training and competency evaluation programs are offered through community colleges, nursing homes, hospitals, home care agencies and private companies. Nurse Aides I maintain their listing on the North Carolina Nurse Aide I Registry through the NC Division of Facility Services (DFS).

The Nurse Aide II, in addition to Nurse Aide I activities, performs more complex patient care skills in elimination, oxygenation and nutrition with emphasis on sterile technique. After successful completion of an approved Nurse Aide II training and competency evaluation program, the nurse aide is listed on the Nurse Aide II Registry through the North Carolina Board of Nursing.

Nurse Aides are fundamental to quality care and preserving the dignity of persons who must rely on them for assistance with daily activities. While their work can be demanding, many nurse aides gain satisfaction from helping those in need.

What you wear



Nursing aides may wear uniforms or street clothes, depending on the practice setting.



Want to know more?

Visit the following websites:

NC Board of Nursing
www.ncbon.org

NC Division of Facility Services
<http://facility-services.state.nc.us>

NC Community College System
www.ncccs.cc.nc.us

NC Center for Nursing
www.nursenc.org

Recommended Classes A high school diploma with classes in math and science.

For more information on federal financial aid programs, call (800) 4-FEDAID

Jobs in this field

Average Salaries of Nurse Aides Working in North Carolina:

\$15,965	1 year of experience
\$18,432	5 years of experience.
\$20,776	10 years of experience.

*ERI Economic Research Institute (2000).

Activity

1. Find at least five advertisements for nurse aides in your local newspaper. What kind of skills are required?
2. Find someone (a parent, family member, neighbor, etc.) who has been assisted by a nurse aide. Ask them what kind of assistance the nurse aide provided?

Profile

Lisa Carter Ford, CNA I
Fayetteville, NC



As long as she can remember, Lisa Ford always wanted to help people who needed assistance in any way. This led Ms. Ford to become a volunteer emergency medical technician (EMT). Ms. Ford's desire to help others continued as she enrolled in a nurse aide program at Fayetteville Technical Community College and began working at Bethesda Health Care, a long-term care facility.

As a Nurse Aide I at Bethesda Health Care for the past nine years, Ms. Ford has had the opportunity to help many long-term care residents. Some of her duties include: assisting with exercise, walking, feeding and trying to make their days feel as normal as possible as she helps them regain their independent functions.

Ms. Ford enjoys working with her patients and being a friend they can look up to and confide in, but most of all she enjoys putting smiles on their faces.

Skills required

Sound reasoning, strong communication and interpersonal skills, flexibility, an eye for detail and the ability to follow instructions.

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The North Carolina
Center for Nursing



Coming soon, "School to Career" pages will be archived online on the Biz Ed Network.

Quote:

"There's no greater reward than to help someone in need, and see the tears in their eyes turn into a bright shiny glow."