

Allied Health: Nursing Assistant NA 101

With skill and compassion, Nursing Assistants play a vital role in healthcare.

Enrolling in NMSU-A's Nursing Assistant education program can set you on the course for an entry-level position in a hospital or nursing facility, with the opportunity to enhance the lives of patients every day.

If you're interested in joining the expanding Allied Health field, becoming a Nursing Assistant can get you started in healthcare.

For more information make an appointment with a NMSU-A's Advisor.

575.439.3600

advisingnmsua@nmsu.edu

Requirements for Course:

Immunizations:

- Hep B (Series of 3); the first must be completed by the first day of class.
- PPD (TB Skin Test)
- Flu Immunization

Drug Screening Test

Background Check

CPR Card – Current and remain current throughout the semester (Offered through NMSU-A, OEEM 101)

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New Mexico State University Alamogordo

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New Mexico State University Alamogordo



Nurse Aide Theory & Lab (Nursing Assistant)

NA 101



What is the Role of a Nursing Assistant?



While many people are familiar with the role nurses play in patient care, some may ask, “What is a Nursing Assistant?”

Nursing Assistants can be found

wherever there is a need for personal patient care. Also known as Nursing Aides, these professionals perform basic day-to-day tasks to support the entire medical team in properly caring for ill, injured or disabled people.

At most facilities, Nursing Assistants work under the supervision of a registered nurse (RN), licensed practical nurse (LPN) or other medical staff. Qualified Nursing Assistants are relied upon to provide basic care, which frees up RNs and LPNs to perform

more complex tasks and procedures that may require advanced training.



Nursing Assistant Duties:

Duties of the Nursing Assistant vary, but typically involve a great deal of hands-on contact. These healthcare workers are often responsible for helping patients with basic functions such as dressing, bathing, and eating. Nursing Assistants may also help patients in and out of bed, take them for walks, help them into wheelchairs, and assist them with exercises. Other Nursing Assistant duties might include taking and recording vital signs, monitoring nutrition and hydration, and reporting changes in patients’ mental or physical condition to other members of the medical team.

Within some nursing facilities, Nursing Assistants may serve as patients’ primary caregivers. In this role, they are often expected to provide social and emotional support to their patients. Whereas, Nursing Assistants in hospitals may work with different patients every day, a long-term care environment often fosters closer relationships between Nursing Assistants and their patients.

Nursing Assistant Training and Job Outlook:

While Nursing Assistant positions may require a minimum of a high school diploma, Nursing Assistant education and certification can help candidates distinguish themselves from other applicants.

Nursing Assistant programs help students acquire the skills and knowledge needed for entry-level positions.



NMSU-A’s program is designed to help students prepare for the Certified Nursing Assistant exam.

Certified Nursing Assistants have demonstrated a level of proficiency that is sought by many prospective healthcare employers.

According to the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics employment of Nursing Assistants is projected to grow 21% from 2012 to 2022, faster than the average of all occupations.

The report suggests that Nursing Assistant employment will grow predominantly in response to the increasing long-term care need of a growing elderly population.

Based on this anticipated employment growth, the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics believes the Nursing Assistant job outlook should be excellent for individuals with an interest in and aptitude for this type of work.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014-15 Edition*

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