



# Health Careers In Alaska

[www.HealthCareersInAlaska.Info](http://www.HealthCareersInAlaska.Info)

## Certified Nursing Assistant

**N**ursing assistants help nurses in nearly every aspect of nursing care in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, assisted living, and home health. In hospitals, nursing assistants also provide daily care to patients, such as helping with meals, baths, exercises, and treatments. Nursing assistants are responsible for recording vital signs (pulse, respiration, blood pressure, and temperature), recording fluid intake and outputs, weights, and recording other observations. They must be familiar with normal values for vital sign measurements and observations and report normal and

abnormal findings to a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse.

In outpatient clinics, nursing assistants are primarily responsible for preparing patients for the examination by a physician or nurse. They are also responsible for making sure the patients, nurses, and physicians receive the help they need during examinations or treatments. Other duties involve monitoring and stocking medical supplies, and clinic scheduling. In rural Alaska, Native speaking nursing assistants are often called upon to provide crucial translation skills.

## Certified Nursing Assistant Facts:

### Where do certified nursing assistants work in Alaska?

Nursing assistants work wherever nurses are employed. Rural Alaska employers include regional hospitals, specialty clinics operated by regional health corporations or state and federal agencies, and community-based health care programs.

### Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school is not required, but if students do not have a high school diploma, they need to have a GED or take a prerequisite test such as the ABLE test or Accuplacer. The test required depends on the academic program.
- Completion of an approved Nursing Assistant training program. All Alaska programs are required to provide a minimum of 60 hours of classroom instruction and 80 clinician hours of supervised clinical practice.
- Successful completion of a certification examination is increasingly being required. Certification is required to work as a nursing assistant in long term care and home health settings.

### Hourly Wage Range:

\$12.60-\$24.42 (Mean \$18.15)

### Years in School:

2 years or less (after high school graduation).

## Academic Programs in Alaska

The University of Alaska has programs on many of its branch campuses. Visit the websites below to learn more about these programs:

UAF branch campuses: <http://www.ctc.uaf.edu/programs/health/nurs-aid.html>

UAS branch campuses: [http://www.uas.alaska.edu/career\\_ed/healthscience/courses/cna.html](http://www.uas.alaska.edu/career_ed/healthscience/courses/cna.html)

UAA branch campuses: See contact list at the [www.healthcareersinalaska.info](http://www.healthcareersinalaska.info) website.

Training programs are also available at vocational schools, some high schools, and at many facilities that employ Nursing Assistants, such as Providence Extended Care.

## National Contacts:

There does not appear to be a state or national association for Nursing Assistants. For information on licensing, programs, and program requirements, contact:

### Alaska Board of Nursing

Contact: Marie Dagon, Licensing Examiner

Phone: (907) 269-8169

Fax: (907) 269-8196

Email: [marie.dagon@alaska.gov](mailto:marie.dagon@alaska.gov)

Website: <http://www.dced.state.ak.us/occ/pnur.htm>

Nurse Aide Registry: <http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/occ/pnua.htm>

