



# Certified Nursing Assistant

## Facts about CNAs & Job Opportunities

According to the California Employment Development Department, the need for Nursing Aides, Attendants and Orderlies in the health care industry is expected to increase by 21.7% from the years 2006–2016 with 3,080 average job openings per year in California. If you plan to become a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) you must be at least 16 years old and meet the prescreening requirements. Certification requires a minimum of 150 hours of training and successful completion of a State competency exam and certification by the State.

The C.N.A. training program can be taken at a community college, vocational school or adult school; as well as through an approved skilled nursing facility. Continuing education units are required to maintain certification.



## What Does a CNA Do?

This is the only entry-level position in nursing care in which certification is available. Most CNAs work in hospitals, nursing homes or residential care facilities. They provide basic care for patients who are acutely ill, convalescent or elderly. CNAs check and record patients' temperature, blood pressure, weight, pulse and respiration. They report changes in patients' conditions to the professional nursing staff. They assist patients in eating, bathing and dressing. C.N.A.s help patients walk or take them in wheelchairs to treatments, examinations, activities and social programs. Other duties may include directing visitors, answering the phone or cleaning equipment.

## Personal Characteristics & Working Conditions

- Desire to help others
- Desire to perform personal care tasks which may include bathing and feeding
- Ability to work with individuals from different cultures who may have beliefs that differ from your own
- Good communication & listening skills
- Ability to work independently as well as with a team
- Ability to follow directions.
- Caring, patient and sympathetic nature
- In good physical health and ability to stand for long periods of time
- Assertiveness to ask for help when unprepared to complete a requested task



## How Much Can I Earn?

The earnings of Certified Nursing Assistants, Nursing Aides, Orderlies and Attendants vary according to their education, skill level, years of experience and geographic location. Salaries vary widely throughout California. In 2009, according to the California E.D.D. Labor Market Division, the median (mid point) hourly wage was \$12.53 in California with a median annual salary of \$26,069. The median Bay Area salaries ranged from \$29,817 in the East Bay Area to \$33,953 in the San Francisco Bay Area. In Central California (Kern, Fresno), the median salary was \$22,201 in Kern County compared to \$24,335 in Fresno County. In LA County the median salary was \$24,542 and \$29,334 in Santa Barbara County. Salaries can be notably lower in other states in the U.S. For more information on salaries go to:

<http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov>

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NURSING ACADEMY**

355 Gellert Blvd. Ste 279 Daly City, CA 94015

Ph: (650) 992-6262 & (650) 296-5448 Fax: (650) 992-6263