

Career Focus on...

Nursing Assistant

Introduction

- Are you interested in assisting patients with the activities of daily living?
- Do you like to interact with people?
- Are you interested in caring for patients in hospitals and long-term care facilities?
- Do you have strong sense of compassion and empathy?

If you answered “yes” to these questions, you may want to consider the Nursing Assistant Certificate at QCC.

Did You Know... ?

- Employment of nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants is expected to grow by 20 percent from 2010 to 2020, faster than the average for all occupations. Because of the growing elderly population, many nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants will be needed in long-term care facilities, such as nursing homes.
- QCC’s program provides a great opportunity for students to gain entry-level employment in healthcare, while providing additional foundational skills for today’s healthcare field.
- If students complete QCC’s Nursing Assistant Certificate, maintain a GPA of 3.0 and meet the admission requirements of a healthcare program, they will be guaranteed admission on a space available basis.

Nursing Assistant @ QCC

The Nursing Assistant program prepares a student for a career as a nursing assistant. Nursing Assistants are important members of the healthcare team as they provide basic care to patients in long-term care facilities, acute care, homecare, and residential facilities.

Upon completion of the program, graduates will be able to:

- Understand medical terminology, nutrition, communication skills, basic anatomy, basic motion, infection control, and safety.
- Perform basic patient care, patient care procedures, transferring patients, vital signs, and range of motion exercises.
- Gain knowledge to provide care to those who choose to live in their own homes, long term care facilities, acute care, or in residential facilities.

Career Options

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT

Median Annual Salary: \$24,010

Recommended Education: Postsecondary certificate and must pass state competency exam
www.bls.gov/oooh/healthcare/nursing-assistants.htm

HOME HEALTH AIDE

Median Annual Salary: \$20,820

Recommended Education: Some High School education, formal training, and must pass standardized test
www.bls.gov/oooh/healthcare/home-health-aides.htm

Worcester Area Employers

- Community Healthlink
- American Red Cross
- Loving Care Agency, Inc.
- Sandalwood Nursing Home

Professional Associations

- National Network of Career Nursing Assistants:
cna-network.org/
- National Association of Healthcare Assistants:
www.nahcacares.org
- Nursing Assistant Resources on the Web:
www.nursingassistants.net

Next Steps

Wondering if the Nursing Assistant Certificate is right for you?

- Take a Career Assessment to match your interests with potential careers:
www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerassess
- Research the web links on this *Career Focus* page, as well as links suggested online under Career Information:
www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerinfo
- Conduct an Informational Interview with someone employed in the field. For more information on how to do this, review the Informational Interview links online:
www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#infointerview
- Attend a Career Planning Session. For more information, and the current schedule, visit Career Academic Personal Success (CAPS) online:
www.QCC.edu/services/academic-advising/career-academic-personal-success
- Speak with an Advisor:
www2.qcc.mass.edu/advising/
- Speak with QCC Faculty who teach Nursing Assistant courses.

Sources Used

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014-2015 Edition*:

- Nursing Assistants and Orderlies:
www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/nursing-assistants.htm#tab-5

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Employment Statistics, 2012 Edition*:

- 31-1014 Nursing Assistants:
www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes311014.htm

Quinsigamond Community College, Online Course Catalog:

- Nursing Assistant Certificate:
www.qcc.edu/academics/health-care/nursing-assistant

Employment, Co-op, Internship, or Service Learning Opportunities

Contact the Career Placement Services Office:
www.QCC.edu/services/career-placement-services

Specific Transfer Information

- Start at the QCC Transfer web site:
www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer
- Make an appointment online with the Transfer Advisor:
www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer/calendar
- Email questions to:
transfer@qcc.mass.edu

Quinsigamond Community College is part of the Massachusetts Community Colleges and Workforce Development Transformation Agenda, which brings together Massachusetts' 15 community colleges, the Commonwealth's adult basic education and workforce development systems, career centers and industry stakeholders to change the way education and skills training are delivered and to prepare dislocated and under-skilled workers for the emerging, knowledge-based economy. As part of the initiative, Quinsigamond Community College supports students along efficient career pathways by helping them attain degrees, certificates and industry recognized credentials through accelerated programs linked closely to industry need. The statewide initiative is supported by a \$20 million, three-year grant from the United States Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration TAACCCT. Grant Agreement #TC-22505-11-60-A-25.