

## Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Program

Healthcare & Wellness Careers - Continuing Education & Workforce Development

Today's expanding health care industry is creating an ever-increasing demand for highly-qualified personnel. Now is the best time to prepare for your future at FCC. Our proven and trusted health care & wellness career training programs feature a wide range of opportunities, from initial industry introduction to advanced hands-on clinical experience.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **What is a Certified Nursing Assistant?**

A Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) is a member of a health care team and works under the supervision of a Registered Nurse (RN) or Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). CNAs assist patients and clients by providing physical and emotional care. Work includes taking patient vital signs while also bathing, feeding, transferring or repositioning a patient. CNAs provide supplemental patient services to RNs, LPNs and nursing staff.

With a strong desire to help others, CNAs are compassionate, sensitive and dependable team players. This highly rewarding position requires the ability to maintain a positive attitude while mostly working with elderly patients.

#### **Where do CNAs work?**

CNAs work in a variety of settings including hospitals, long term care facility/nursing centers, assisted living centers, adult day care centers, home health agencies, hospice agencies and residential group settings. Each setting often requires CNAs to adapt to a fast-paced, demanding and challenging environment.

#### **What is the difference between a CNA and a Geriatric Nursing Assistant (GNA)?**

A Geriatric Nursing Assistant (GNA) is a CNA with additional certification, required by the state of Maryland, to work in a long-term care facility (nursing home.) GNA certification is earned by completing both written and verbal portions of the GNA exam administered by the American Red Cross.

#### **What is the average salary of a CNA?**

In Frederick County, MD, the average income of a CNA ranges from \$12 to \$16 per hour.

#### **Does Frederick Community College offer job placement services?**

While FCC does not offer job placement, employers often contact program managers and instructors to communicate employment opportunities. When this occurs, the information is provided to students. Additionally, free "Resume Writing and Interviewing" workshops is also offered each semester as part of the health care and wellness program.

## CNA Program - Getting Started

Begin your health care career training at Frederick Community College. FCC's Certified Nursing Assistant program, approved by the Maryland Board of Nursing (MBON), includes basic study in anatomy and physiology, medical ethics and law, infection control, medical terminology, care of the older person, body mechanics and transferring, common health issues, disease processes, confusion/dementia care, patient care skills and more.

Upon successful completion of FCC's CNA program, students have the opportunity to also earn their Geriatric Nursing Assistant (GNA) license by passing an exam administered by the American Red Cross. A GNA license provides students with additional employment opportunities in nursing centers and long-term care facilities in the state of Maryland.

## CNA Program Requirements

### **Academic Requirements**

Students 18 years of age or older at the time of registration, with the ability to speak, understand and write English, may apply for the CNA program. A free placement test may be required to enroll.

### **Health Requirements**

Students are required to provide the results of a physical examination indicating the student does not have physical limitations to perform work as a CNA. A copy of a negative TB test or chest X-ray along with a copy of immunization records are required. Students must also undergo a criminal background investigation and fingerprinting process (costs for both the background check and fingerprinting are included in course fees.) A prerequisite is successful completion of an AHA Healthcare Provider CPR course. Details for the above requirements are provided online and at the time of registration.

### **Pre-Requisite and Program Courses**

#### Pre-Requisite Courses:

- CAH 143 - Introduction to Allied Health Skills
- CAH 144 - Introduction to Health Care Careers

#### CNA Program Courses:

- CAH 132 – Certified Nursing Assistant Part 1: Theoretical Application (90 hours)
- CAH 133 – Certified Nursing Assistant Part 2: Practical Application (90 hours)
- CAH 114 – Certified Nursing Assistant: Clinical Practicum (45 hours)

### **Program Duration**

FCC's Certified Nursing Assistant evening program takes approximately 15 weeks to complete. The daytime "boot camp" version of the program takes approximately 7 weeks to complete.

### **Program Attendance**

Students are expected to attend and participate in every session. Unexcused and excused absences/tardiness in excess of 10 hours may result in a student's termination from the course. Clinical days are mandatory. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor(s) in case of illness or personal emergency, and/or to make up any missed instruction and assignments.

## CNA Program Requirements Continued

### **Program Preparation and Testing**

The program necessitates study time outside the classroom in addition to written and practical exams. Students must effectively demonstrate theoretical knowledge and hands-on competency throughout each course in order to be accepted into clinical practicum section of the program.

### **Classroom Location(s)**

Classroom lectures and skills training are provided at the Frederick Community College Monroe Center located at 200 Monroe Avenue in Frederick, MD. Clinical practicum is conducted at various clinical sites in Frederick County.

### **Classroom Set Up**

FCC classroom labs represent a hospital and nursing center with an electric bed, bedside table, privacy curtain and essential supplies. Simulating an actual work environment, this set up provides further insight and experience as students practice personal care skills on manikins and classmates.

### **Uniforms, Supplies and Textbooks**

Frederick Community College provides each student with one set of scrubs, a stethoscope, a blood pressure cuff and a name tag. (Items are included in program fees.) Instructors inform students when scrubs are required during the course. Students are responsible for purchasing textbooks. Textbooks are available at the Frederick Community College bookstore along with additional scrubs, stethoscopes and blood pressure cuffs.

### **CNA Clinical Practicum**

Following the successful completion of written and practical CNA exams, students participate in clinical practicum, a 45-hour supervised clinical rotation at a local nursing facility. During this time, students are supervised and evaluated by experienced RN instructors while performing nursing assistant tasks and interacting with residents and staff. This opportunity to utilize skills acquired in the classroom and the lab must be successfully completed in order to finish the CNA program and apply for certification with the Maryland Board of Nursing.

## CNA Program Costs

### **Program Fees**

The cost to attend FCC's Certified Nursing Assistant program, including all testing fees, a uniform and supplies, is approximately \$3,000. Textbooks and a CPR for Healthcare Provider course are additional.

### **Payment Plan**

Students enrolled in the CNA program are eligible to participate in the FCC payment plan whereby the total cost of the program is divided into automatic monthly payments. This interest-free payment plan does require a non-refundable \$25 enrollment fee. For additional information, please contact the FCC Cashier Office at 301-846-2456.

## CNA Program Costs Continued

### **FCC Financial Aid**

While continuing education programs, including the CNA program, are not eligible for Federal financial aid at this time, FCC offers a number of scholarships for which students may be eligible. For additional information, please contact the FCC Financial Aid Office at 301-846-2480.

### **Financial Assistance**

Program funding for individual students may be available through Frederick County Workforce Services. For additional information, please contact Frederick County Workforce Services prior to enrolling at 301-600-2255.

## CNA Program Information

To begin your journey in the CNA program at Frederick Community College, please contact us.

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## Frederick Community College Contact Information

**Welcome & Registration Center:** 301-846-2431

**Testing Center:** 301-846-2522

**Advising:** 301-846-2652

**Bookstore:** 301-846-2463

**Cashier's Office:** 301-846-2456

**Financial Aid Office:** 301-846-2480

**Online:** [www.Frederick.edu/HealthcareCareers](http://www.Frederick.edu/HealthcareCareers)