

# Nursing Assistant

## About my job:

As a nursing assistant, I help provide basic care for patients in hospitals and residents of long-term care facilities, such as nursing homes.



## What I do every day:

- Answer patient call signals and respond to patients' needs
- Turn bedridden patients
- Assist patients in performing daily living activities, such as getting out of bed, bathing, dressing, using the toilet, etc.
- Review patients' dietary restrictions and preferences and ensure patients receive appropriate diet
- Measure and record food and liquid intake or urinary and fecal output
- Take and record vital signs, such as temperature, blood pressure, pulse, or respiration rate
- Observe patients to detect symptoms that may require notifying the nurse
- Document and report observations of patient behavior, complaints, or physical symptoms

## What makes my job great?

### Job growth:

Employment of nursing assistants is projected to grow 21 percent from 2012 to 2022.

### Short-term training:

Nursing assistants need a high school diploma/GED, but can earn additional certification and degrees to help them advance in their career. State Tested Nursing Assistant (STNA) certification programs are often taught at vocational schools, community colleges, and nursing homes. STNA certification is required by some hospitals and all skilled nursing facilities.

### Good pay:

The average salary is \$26,000/year or per \$12.50/hour.

### Benefits:

Most nursing assistants work full time with benefits that may include:

- **Healthcare**
- **Paid vacation**

# How can you become a nursing assistant?



## Academic/training credentials:

A high school diploma/GED is required. Additional STNA certification will provide more job opportunities.

## Other credentials:

Nursing assistants are required to have Basic Life Support Certification but may be offered a probationary period in which to earn this after being hired. STNA certification is not required but may distinguish you from other candidates.

## Work experience/internships:

Experience is not required for entry-level positions, although some health care experience is preferred. Experience with customer service is also helpful.

## Skills and requirements:

- Criminal background check required
- Ability to work all shifts including evenings, nights, weekends and holidays
- May require passing a test for strong physical stamina prior to hiring
- Must enjoy working with people and have strong communication skills
- Must be able to provide compassion
- Should be comfortable coming in contact with communicable diseases and body fluids

## Where you can find jobs:

- Online job boards
- Temporary employment services
- Career fairs
- Networking
- Social media
- Hospital or healthcare provider websites

## Potential job titles:

- Certified medication aide (CMA)
- Certified nurse aide (CNA)
- Certified nurse's aide (CNA)
- Certified nursing assistant (CNA)
- Customer care partner (CPA)
- Geriatric nursing assistant (GNA)
- Nurses' aide
- Nursing aide
- Nursing assistant
- Patient care assistant (PCA)
- Patient care technician (PCT)
- Patient care nursing assistant (PCNA)
- State tested nursing assistant (STNA)

## Potential local employers:

- the Cleveland Clinic
- Lake Health
- MetroHealth System
- Skilled Nursing Facilities
- University Hospitals



# Local educational opportunities

## Practical nursing certification:

- Auburn Career Center
- Cuyahoga Community College
- Willoughby-Eastlake School of Practical Nursing

## Two-year institutions:

- Lakeland Community College: Associate of Applied Science in Nursing
  - Electrocardiography certificate
  - Medical assisting certificate
  - Phlebotomy certificate

Contact Lakeland Nursing Program Director at 440.525.7416.

- Cuyahoga Community College: Associate of Applied Science in Nursing
  - Laboratory phlebotomy
- Lorain County Community College: Associate of Applied Science in Nursing
  - Medical assisting certificate
  - Phlebotomy certificate

## Four-year institutions:

- Lakeland Community College/Holden University Center/University of Akron: Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Kent State University: Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Cleveland State University: Bachelor of Science in Nursing



**Ohio College Tech Prep**  
Building Quality Career Pathways

## High School Tech Prep:

- A-TECH: nurse assisting program
- Auburn Career Center: patient care technician program or allied health program
- Lake Shore Compact: allied health program or licensed practical nursing program
- Excel TECC: medical technologies program
- Contact your high school guidance office



## Coursework per educational entity:

### Secondary pathway:

Allied Health and Nursing

### Postsecondary program:

Nursing

An Example of Course with Secondary and Postsecondary Credits

Secondary	7 8	English I	Algebra I	Physical Science	Social Studies	Fine Arts	Health Science & Technology		
	9 10	English II	Geometry	Biology	World History	Health (.5) PE (.5)	World Languages		
	11	English III	Algebra II	Chemistry	U.S. History	World Languages	Principles of Allied Health	Patient Centered Care	
	12	English IV	Trigonometry/Calculus	Anatomy & Physiology	U.S. Government	Medical Terminology	Pharmacology		
Postsecondary	Year 1 1st Semester	English Composition	Anatomy and Physiology I	First Year Experience	Introduction to Nursing	Pharmacology Fundamentals	Nursing Care of Adults I		
	Year 1 2nd Semester	Anatomy and Physiology II	Nursing Care of Adults II	Introduction to Psychology	Nutrition and Diet Therapy	Statistics for the Health Sciences	Lifespan Development for Nursing		
	Year 2 1st Semester	Effective Public Speaking	Microbiology	Nursing Care of Chronic/vulnerable Populations	Nursing Care of Childbearing Families	Nursing Care of Children and Families			
	Year 2 2nd Semester	Principles of Sociology	Nursing Care of Adults III						
High School Career-Technical Education Program Courses									
High School Courses for Postsecondary Credit (including Apprenticeship Hours) and the Corresponding Postsecondary Courses									
Required Courses									
Recommended Electives									
11/2014									

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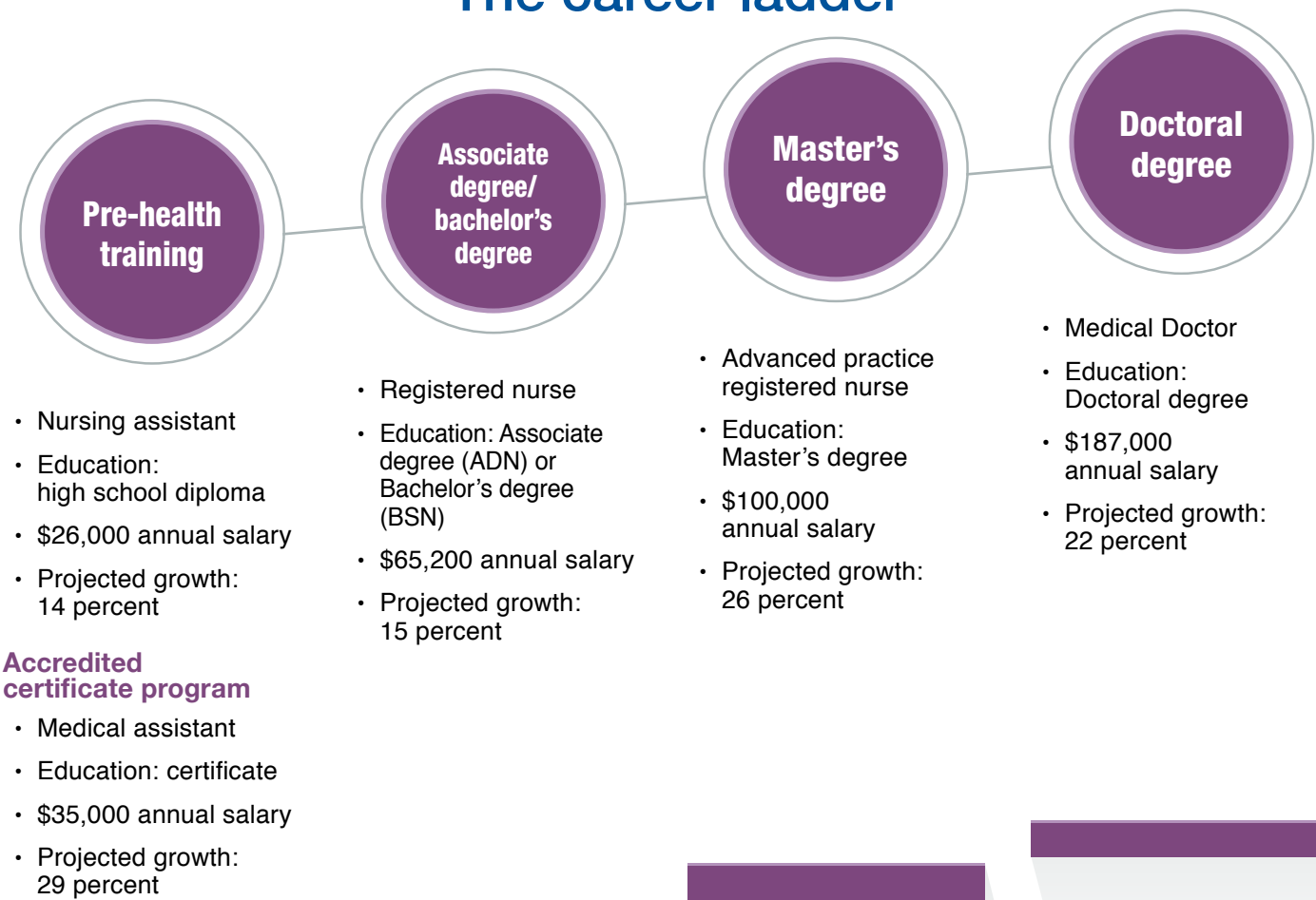
# How can I grow my career?



## Where could I focus or specialize in my career?

- Nursing assistant
- STNA
- Registered nurse
- Advanced practice registered nurse
- Medical doctor

## The career ladder



### Sources/References:

Ohio Means Jobs, Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Outlook Handbook  
O\*Net Online-Summary Report, Ohio Labor Market Information