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Nursing Assistant Certified Program Summary

The Nursing Assistant Program prepares students for a career as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). Nursing assistants must complete a state-approved education program that includes both instruction on the principles of nursing and supervised clinical work. Upon completion of training, students are eligible to take their state examination to become a Nursing Assistant, Certified. The Nursing Assistant Program at Tacoma Community College (TCC) is approved by the State of Washington, Department of Health, and Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission.

Nursing Assistants work under the direction and supervision of licensed nursing staff, have a great deal of contact with patients, and provide personal care such as bathing, feeding, and dressing. They also perform support functions such as taking vital signs, making beds, helping patients become ambulatory, and answering patient calls. Nursing Assistants are responsible for documenting care given, observing, and reporting how patients respond to the care that is being given. Nursing Assistants have far more contact with residents than any other staff and are expected to develop ongoing relationships with the patients/residents and treat them in a positive, caring way. To be a successful Nursing Assistant, they will work in a multidisciplinary team, be able to follow directions, and have a great deal of patience.

The knowledge and skills gained in the Nursing Assistant program are highly valued by healthcare industry employers such as hospitals, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, and home health agencies. The training can also serve to meet requirements for patient care when applying to other health care education programs, such as nursing, sonography, respiratory care, and radiology.

The Nursing Assistant Program (HT 198, 110, 120) is 10 credits, is 5 weeks, and includes CPR certification. Prerequisite: None.

The nursing assistant student must be able to meet the Technical Standards independently, with or without reasonable accommodation. Information can be found here: https://www.tacomacc.edu/academics-programs/programs/nursing/nac/

Students who successfully complete the classroom, skills lab, and clinical requirements will be eligible to take the NNAAP Nurse Aide Exam.

Nursing Assistant Certified Program Additional Information

Career Coach
Job prospects for Nursing Assistants look very good for the near future. There is an expected growth in the jobmarket over the next decade. This exceptional growth is attributed to the rapidly growing older population that will demand more emphasis on rehabilitation and long-term care. As a result, a major employer in this sector will be nursinghomes and long-term care facilities for people with chronic illnesses and disabling conditions. The average yearly wage for Nursing Assistants in Washington State is $37,657. Please see Career Coach for updated career information.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
TCC complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 as amended in 2008. Information regarding student accommodations may be obtained by emailing access@tacomacc.edu or call or text 360.504.6357.

Equal Opportunity Statement
Tacoma Community College values diversity and is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Educator. Tacoma Community College provides equal opportunity in education and employment and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, creed, religion, or status as a veteran of war. Prohibited sex discrimination includes sexual harassment (unwelcome sexual conduct of various types). Provides reasonable accommodations for qualified students, employees, and applicants with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Federal Rehabilitation Act. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Stephen Smith, Title II and Title IX, Building 14, 253.566.5055; Dr. Davi Kallman, Section 504 Officer, Building 7, 253.566.5157.

Reasonable Accommodations for Religion/Conscience
Students who will be absent from course activities due to reasons of faith or conscience may seek reasonable accommodations so that grades are not impacted. Such requests must be made within the first two weeks of the quarter and should follow the procedures listed in the Leave for Faith & Conscience policy webpage.

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Statement
At TCC, we celebrate our diverse community, and we believe our people are our greatest asset. We stand for social justice, implement best practices to advance equity, diversity and inclusion and collaborate to dismantle systemic racism.

Application Information
The program is on a first come, first serve basis, each quarter. You sign up for this course through the registration in your student ctclink account after submission and approval of immunizations and TCC criminal history disclosure statement. Please apply to be a student at TCC one month prior to the registration opening to help eliminate registration issues.

Nursing Assistant Certified Program Application Summary

Step 1: Apply to Tacoma Community College
If you have never attended Tacoma Community College, you must first apply to Tacoma Community College. You can apply on our website at https://www.tacomacc.edu/costs-admission/admission-process/or apply in person at the Enrollment in building 7. You must complete this step at least 48 hours before proceeding to Step 2.

Step 2: Activate your ctclink account
Instruction can be found here:
https://www.tacomacc.edu/academicsprograms/continuingeducation/activate-ctclink-account.

Note: If at any time, you need technical help you can call the student helpline at 253.566.5176.

Step 3: Complete the NAC application via the portal
The NAC application is found on the TCC NAC website. In the application you will complete steps 4.1 and 4.2. A link to the application portal can be found here: https://my.tacomacc.edu/tccapps/nursingapp/login.aspx

> **Step 3.1: Submit proof of all required vaccinations**
> Due to your contact with vulnerable patients and/or infectious material from patients, you are at risk for exposing patients and being exposed to vaccine-preventable diseases. Maintenance of immunity is therefore an essential part of prevention for health care workers. It is important to recognize that most infectious diseases are contagious before a person is symptomatic.
>
> You will need to make electronic copies of your immunizations and upload them to your application. Here are the immunization records that will be required.
>
> *Note: You can utilize the Information Commons at TCC which has staff and computer resources to help you upload or complete documents. Information can be found here: https://www.tacomacc.edu/academics-programs/academic-support/elearning/information_commons*
>
> - Your name must be visible on your medical document.
> - All uploads must be official documents with your provider's name/clinic name on it.
> - Uploads must show relevant vaccination dates or titer collection dates.
>
> Immunizations may be obtained from your doctor or at a variety of pharmacies in your local area. If you're having trouble finding records, you may be able to access them here:
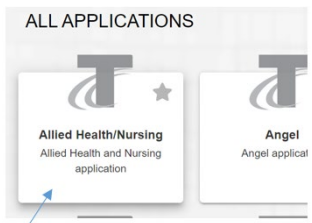> https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/immunization/access-your-familys-immunization-information
>
> *Note: See Nursing Assistant Certified Vaccination Summary on page 5. There is a detailed list of required vaccinations. This can also be found on the website here:https://www.tacomacc.edu/academics-programs/programs/nursing/nac/.*

Step 4: Apply to the Program
A. Sign into the TCC student portal.
B. Click on the square waffle icon in the upper right corner to expand options.

C. Select "All Applications"
D. Select Allied Health/Nursing Link

E. Select NAC gig Harbor Program
    a. Fill out the application. Requested documents must be uploaded or your application will not be successfully submitted.
F. Click Submit

Note: Please check your TCC student email for a confirmation e-mail notifying you that your application was submitted successfully.

Nursing Assistant Certified Vaccination Summary

All of the exemption forms mentioned in the immunization section below are located on the NAC webpage:
https://www.tacomacc.edu/academics-programs/programs/nursing/nac/

Tuberculosis (TB) - Screening
First option 1 Step PPD
The PPD test is completed by administration of a small amount of Tuberculin units (PPD) into the top layers of the skin of the forearm. The skin test is read in 48-72 hours after the injection to make sure it's negative.

If you complete a PPD test and have a new positive result or have a history of "positive" TB results from the BCG vaccine. You must provide the following:
- proof of chest x-ray within the past five years and;
- If your chest x-ray was over one year ago you will need an updated annual symptom check letter from your provider.

Second option – Blood Titer
The tuberculosis (TB) blood Quantiferon Gold test, also called an Interferon Gamma Release Assay or IGRA, is a way

to find out if you have TB infection in your body. The TB blood test can be done instead of a PPD skin test. The IGRA needs to have been completed in the last 12 months. If results are a new positive, then it would require follow up with your provider.

Hepatitis B Immunity
To meet this requirement, you must upload a positive Hepatitis B Surface Antibody Titer or be willing to sign and submit a Hepatitis B waiver. Hepatitis B vaccinations protect you so this is not required but we feel it is important for you to become immune to Hepatitis B. Please talk to your doctor about this. It is a 3 step series and then a titer blood draw to check for immunity. (There is a new 2 dose product available, please discuss details with your provider if interested in this option). NOTE: If your Hepatitis B titer is negative or you decline to get this titer, you will be asked to upload a Hepatitis B waiver to the NAC application.

Influenza Vaccination
To meet this requirement, you must upload proof of a seasonal influenza vaccination. The influenza season is from 8/31 to 6/30 each year. If you want to request an influenza exemption, you will need to upload a Hepatitis Vaccine Declination. If you are entering the program between 6/30 – 8/31 this vaccination is not required. You can upload a document that states that it is not influenza season.

COVID-19
Healthcare partners are requiring students to be fully vaccinated prior to participation in a clinical placement at their sites.
> **The most common vaccines are as follows:**
> - 2 dose series of Moderna or Pfizer vaccination or;
> - 1 dose of Janssen.

NOTE: If you would like to ask for a COVID-19 vaccine exemption, please upload a medical or religious exemption form.

__Note: Healthcare partners may require students to complete separate procedures for exemptions, and their decision of acceptance or denial of the exemption for clinical placement at their facility will be final. The college is under no obligation to identify alternative sites that will accept a student's vaccination exemption request.__

Step 5: Register for classes
When the nursing program has all immunization records, TCC criminal history disclaimer statement, and TCC clinical release form.

Each cohort is filled on a first come first serve basis, with the applicants that have submitted a complete application. Upon receipt of an application, the program reviews the application to ensure all items are complete. If incomplete application received, the applicant will be notified of what is needed to complete the application. If complete, the applicant will be given permission to register. Note that only complete applications will be placed into the queue for permission to register. All communication from the program occurs using only the TCC student e-mail. Be sure to check your TCC e-mail frequently after you have applied.