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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 (NAC 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/your-tcc-path/healthcare/nursing/>

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 Outlook

Job prospects for Nursing Assistants look very good for the near future. There is an expected growth in the job market 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 nursing homes and long-term care facilities for people with chronic illnesses and disabling conditions. The current average annual salary for a Nursing Assistant, as of April 17, 2024, is \$47,268.00.

### 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 recognizes its responsibility for investigation, resolution, implementation of corrective measures, and monitoring the educational environment and workplace to stop, remediate, and prevent discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, perceived or actual physical or mental disability, pregnancy, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, creed, religion, veteran or military status, or use of a trained guide dog or service animal. To this end, Tacoma Community College has enacted policies prohibiting discrimination against and harassment of members of these protected classes. Any individual found to be in violation of these policies will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the college or from employment. Prohibited sex discrimination includes sexual harassment (unwelcome sexual conduct of various types). Tacoma Community College 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; Kathryn Held, Section 504 Officer, Building 7, [kheld@tacomacc.edu](mailto:kheld@tacomacc.edu).

### 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.

## Nursing Assistant Certified Program Application Instructions

### 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.

### Step 2: Activate your ctclink account

Instructions will be in your college acceptance welcome letter.

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

**Step 3: You will need to submit proof of all required vaccinations in the application (see pages 4-5)**

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.

**Step 4: After you become a TCC student, you can locate and complete the NAC application on the [NAC webpage](#)**

- A. Complete the application, which requires the uploading of immunization documentation.
- B. Click Submit

## Nursing Assistant Certified Program Registration

Upon receipt of an application, the program reviews the application to ensure all items are complete. All complete applications will be put into a randomizer selection software program. To avoid mistakes, please read the application instructions carefully so that you aren't disqualified. All applicants will be notified of their status. All communication will be sent to the applicants TCC student e-mail account. Be sure to check your TCC e-mail frequently after you have applied. Once you are accepted, you will be given registration information.

## Nursing Assistant Certified Program Vaccination Summary

You will need to make electronic copies of your immunizations and upload them to your application. Here are immunization document requirements:

- 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.
- If you're uploading a titer, the results must be reactive or positive with the exception of the TB QuantiFERON titer, which should be negative.

Immunizations may be obtained from your doctor or at a variety of pharmacies in your local area. If you're having trouble finding your immunization records, you may be able to access them here:

<https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/immunization/access-your-familys-immunization-information>

**Tuberculosis (TB) - Screening****First option - 2 Step PPD**

- To complete a 2-step PPD, you must **first** complete a 1-step PPD. If it is negative, then you obtain a **second** PPD within 1-3 weeks.

**Second option – Blood Titer**

- Complete the tuberculosis (TB) blood QuantiFERON Gold test, also called an Interferon Gamma Release Assay or IGRA. This test is a way to find out if you have TB, or have had a TB infection in the past.

NOTE: If you complete TB testing and have a new positive result or have a history of "positive" TB results, you must provide the following:

- positive TB test and;
- proof of chest x-ray within the past five years

If your chest x-ray was over one year ago you will need an updated annual symptom check letter

**Hepatitis B Immunity**

To meet this requirement, we **do not** need Hepatitis B vaccine records. You must upload a positive Hepatitis B Surface Antibody Titer to show **immunity to Hepatitis B**, or submit a Hepatitis B Declination Waiver. The Hepatitis B Declination Waiver can be found on this webpage: : <https://www.tacomacc.edu/academics-programs/your-tcc-path/healthcare/nursing/nac-application>

NOTE: If you are not immune to Hepatitis B and submit a waiver, the NAC program recommends that you still talk to your provider about becoming immune.

**Influenza Vaccination**

To meet this requirement, applicants must upload proof of vaccination for the current flu season. If you would like to submit an Influenza vaccine exemption, the form can be found here: <https://www.tacomacc.edu/academics-programs/your-tcc-path/healthcare/nursing/nac-application>

Note: the clinical site may not accept you, if you have not had the influenza vaccination. The college is under no obligation to identify alternative sites that will accept a student's vaccination exemption request.

If you submit an influenza declination, you will be required to wear a mask at all times during all clinical rotations. Also, by declining this vaccine, you would continue to be at risk of acquiring influenza, a serious disease, or of transmitting this disease to others. You may be restricted from clinical practice during an influenza outbreak and may need to follow additional clinical requirements.

**COVID-19 Vaccination**

Healthcare partners are requiring students to be fully vaccinated prior to participation in a clinical placement at their sites.

**The most common are as follows:**

- 2 dose series of Moderna or Pfizer vaccination or;
- 1 dose of Janssen.
- 1 dose of bivalent

If you would like to submit a COVID-19 vaccine exemption, the form can be found here:

<https://www.tacomacc.edu/academics-programs/your-tcc-path/healthcare/nursing/nac-application>

*Note: healthcare partners may require a student to request an exemption following their own procedures or using their own form, 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.*

*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](https://www.tacomacc.edu/academics-programs/academic-support/elearning/information_commons)*