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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/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 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 \$39,655.00.

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. Kathryn Held, Section 504 Officer, Building 7, 6501 S. 19th St., Tacoma, Wash. 98466, kheld@tacomacc.edu

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 person(s) have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Title II and Title IX, Stephen Smith, Executive Director, Human Resources, building 14, 6501 S. 19th St., Tacoma, Wash. 98466, 253-566-5055.

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. You must complete this step at least 48 hours before proceeding to Step 2.

Step 2: Activate your ctLink 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

Step 3.1 You will need to 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. Please see page 5 for vaccination requirements.

Step 4: Where to locate the NAC application

- 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 the NAC program that you are applying for.
- F. Complete the application. All requested documents must be uploaded or your application will not be successfully submitted.
- G. Click Submit

Note: Please check your TCC student email for a confirmation e-mail notifying you that your application was submitted successfully. If you do not receive this email, you must try again. If you are having trouble with the application, please email Theresa James at tjames@tacomacc.edu

Nursing Assistant Certified Program Registration

Upon receipt of an application, the program reviews the application to ensure all items are complete. If an incomplete application is received, the applicant will be notified of what is needed to complete the application. 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. Once the cohort is full, students will be given registration information.

Nursing Assistant Certified Program Vaccination Summary

Tuberculosis (TB) - Screening

This test is done annually. There are two options to fulfill the TB requirement.

First option 2 Step PPD

To complete a 2-step, you must first complete a 1-step PPD. If it is negative, then you obtain a second PPD within 1-3 weeks. Yearly annual PPDs are required after your 2-step PPD. If you already completed a 2-step within the last year, please submit that.

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:

- positive TB test and;
- 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 declination. The declination can be found here:

<https://www.tacomacc.edu/academics-programs/programs/nursing/nac>

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 blood draw. (There is a new 2 dose product available, please discuss details with your provider if interested in this option).

Influenza Vaccination

The influenza season is from 8/31 to 6/30 each year. If you are entering the program between 6/30 – 8/31 this vaccination is not required. Applicants need to show proof of immunity by vaccination or submit a declination. The declination can be found here: <https://www.tacomacc.edu/academics-programs/programs/nursing/nac>

Note: the clinical site might 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

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/programs/nursing/nac>

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.

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 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>

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