

Nursing Assistant Certified (NAC) Program

Application Instructions

Application Steps

☐-Step 1: Apply to Tacoma Community College

If you have never attended Tacoma Community College (TCC), or it has been more than one year since you attended, you must apply to TCC before applying to the NAC program.

You can apply:

- Online through the [TCC Admissions website](#), or
- In person at Enrollment Services in Building 7.

Need help with the application or your TCC account?

Contact the Student Helpline at **253-566-5176**.

☐-Step 2: Make Sure You Meet the Age Requirement

You must be at **least 18 years old** to apply to the NAC program.

Beginning Fall 2026 Application Cycle:

Do not submit health and immunization documents until you are accepted into the NAC program.

Mandatory Clinical Requirements Upon Acceptance

NAC students participate in clinical experiences with patients. Because of this, students must meet specific health and immunization requirements **before** participating in clinicals.

All required health and immunization requirements must be completed prior to clinical rotation.

Students who have not completed the requirements will not be allowed to attend clinicals. Clinical attendance is required to successfully complete the NAC course.

Health & Immunization Requirements

☐-Tuberculosis (TB) Screening

TB screening is required. Choose **ONE** of the following options:

Option 1: QuantiFERON Gold Blood Test

Have a TB QuantiFERON Gold blood test completed by your healthcare provider.

Your test result must be negative.

Option 2: Two-Step PPD Skin Test

A two-step PPD requires two separate TB skin tests:

1. Have the first PPD skin test placed.
2. Return 48–72 hours later to have it read.
3. If the first test is negative, have a second PPD skin test placed 1–3 weeks later.
4. Return 48–72 hours later to have the second test read.

This option requires a total of four visits to your healthcare provider.

If You Have a Positive TB Test

If you have a new positive TB test or have had a positive TB test in the past, you must submit:

- Your positive TB test result; **AND**
- Proof of a chest X-ray completed within the past five years.

If your chest X-ray was completed more than one year ago, you will also need an updated annual TB symptom-check letter.

☐-Hepatitis B Immunity

Do not submit your Hepatitis B vaccination records. Vaccination records alone do not meet this requirement.

You must submit **ONE** of the following:

- A positive/reactive Hepatitis B surface antibody (titer) result showing that you are immune to Hepatitis B; OR
- A completed Hepatitis B Declination Waiver.

☐ Influenza (Flu) Vaccination

When required, submit proof that you received the influenza vaccination for the current flu season. **Annual flu vaccines are typically available after August 15 of each year at local pharmacies.**

An exemption may be submitted for the influenza vaccination; however, vaccination is recommended

☐ COVID-19 Vaccination

Healthcare clinical partners may require students to meet COVID-19 vaccination requirements before participating in clinical experiences.

The vaccination documentation currently accepted includes:

- The original two-dose Moderna or Pfizer series;
- The original one-dose Janssen vaccine; **OR**
- The most recent COVID-19 vaccination recommended by the CDC.

An exemption may be submitted for the COVID-19 vaccination; however, vaccination is recommended.

Need Help Uploading Your Documents?

If you need access to a computer or assistance uploading your documents, you can visit the **TCC Information Commons in Building 16**.

Staff and computer resources are available to help students upload their required documents.

Hours and contact information are available on the TCC Information Commons website.

When submitting documents, make sure:

- Your name is visible on each document.
- The healthcare provider or clinic name is visible.
- Vaccination and lab documents include the appropriate dates.
- All exemption or declination forms have a handwritten signature.

Immunization Resources

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has a great webpage dedicated to vaccines ([Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov)). We encourage you to consult with your local health department to locate resources on where to go to get your immunizations taken care of.

Here are some local Puget Sound resources:

- [Washington State Department of Health](https://www.wa.gov/health)
- [Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department](https://www.tacomapiercecounty.org/health)
- [King County Health Department](https://www.kingcounty.gov/health)
- [Thurston County Immunization Program](https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/immunization)

Immunization Financial Help

We realize that the immunization process is burdensome for those without adequate health insurance coverage. As such, we've identified some resources (above) which may help you. If you live outside of the area, contact your local health department for additional resources. The Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD) may be offering immunizations for those uninsured or underinsured.

Medical Insurance Requirement

Students must provide proof of health insurance to do their clinical education courses. The students may use documentation from their health plan such as insurance cards, policy statements, etc.

If you don't have healthcare insurance, please see if you are eligible through the WA Health Plan finder at: <https://www.wahealthplanfinder.org>

If you are not eligible through WA Health Plan finder, you can get student injury only at: [Voluntary Programs Washington State Colleges](#) to be in compliance for clinical rotations.

Immunization Frequently Asked Questions:

What is a titer?

- Titers are blood draws that help determine immunity to disease, with the exception of the TB IGRA, which helps determine if previously infected.

What is an immunization/vaccine?

- A preparation that is used to stimulate the body's immune response against diseases (CDC, 2021).

Why is clinical compliance important?

- Patient and provider protection
- Immunity is protection from an infectious disease. If you are immune to a disease, you can be exposed to it without becoming infected (CDC, 2021).

I have my shot records from when I was a child. Can I use this for my immunization records?

- Yes, so long as it meets the following criteria:
 - o It is legible,
 - o It states your name and date of birth
 - o The vaccination series is completed (ex. 3 Hep B immunizations)

If I have completed Hep B, MMR, and Varicella immunizations in the past, do I need to obtain titers to prove immunity?

- Hep B – yes you need to show a completed series AND titer showing immunity.
- MMR/Varicella - It is recommended that you have titers drawn to ensure immunity. MMR titers are required if your MMR Vaccines occurred after the age of twelve.

Why do I need to maintain current immunization records for the TCC Healthcare programs

- Maintaining current immunization records ensures that you and your patients are protected from preventable diseases. It also complies with healthcare facility requirements and ensures the safety of the clinical environment.

What is a 2-step TB test?

- A 2-step TB test involves two separate tuberculin skin tests. The first test is administered and read within 48-72 hours. If the first test is negative, a second test is administered 1-3 weeks later to confirm the result.
- A 2-step test requires you to visit your provider four times.

What is the TB-IGRA (QuantiFERON) test?

- The TB-IGRA (QuantiFERON) test is a blood test that measures the immune response to TB bacteria. It is an alternative to the traditional skin test and only requires one visit for the blood draw.

How many doses are in the Hepatitis B series, and what is a titer?

- The Hepatitis B series can consist of either 2 or 3 doses, depending on the vaccine used. A titer is a blood test that measures the level of antibodies in your blood to determine if you are immune to Hepatitis B.

What are titers for MMR and Varicella?

- Titers for MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella) and Varicella (Chickenpox) are blood tests that measure immunity to these diseases. If your titer results show immunity, you do not need additional doses of these vaccines IF your vaccines were prior to your twelfth birthday.

Why do I need a Tdap vaccine if I received one before 2016?

- The Tdap vaccine protects against Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (whooping cough). To ensure maximum protection, it is recommended to receive a Tdap vaccine within the past 10 years. If your last Tdap was before 2016, you need a booster.

What information do I need to provide for COVID-19 immunizations?

- You need to provide the dates and manufacturers of all COVID-19 vaccine doses and boosters. This information is usually found on your COVID-19 immunization card.

What should I do if I can't find my immunization records?

- Contact your previous healthcare providers, schools, or state immunization registry to obtain your records. If they are not available, you may need to receive the vaccines again or have titers drawn to check for immunity.

Can my healthcare provider administer all these vaccines and perform the necessary titers?

- Yes, most healthcare providers can administer the required vaccines and perform the necessary titers. If they are unable to, they can refer you to a facility that can provide these services.

Estimated Fees and Costs for Nursing Assistant Program

This does not include tuition which can be found at [Tacoma Community College Tuition Costs](#)

Uniform and Supply Kit (NAC 110 and 120)		Estimated Cost
Scrub Tops	Color: Royal Blue	\$25.00-\$50.00
Scrub Bottoms	Color: Royal Blue	\$15.00-\$30.00
Undershirt	Color: Black/white	\$5.00 – \$15.00
Stethoscope	Required	\$20 - \$200
TCC NAC Patch	Purchased online or in person with the bookstore	\$5.85
Manual BP Cuff (Adult Regular)	Required	\$20-\$40
Transfer Belt (Plastic no cloth)	Plastic preferred	\$15-\$30
Watch w/Second Hand	Required	\$15 - \$20
Medical Name Badge	From TCC Security (bld. 14)	\$5.25
Work Shoes	Color: White, Gray or Black	\$15-\$80
TOTAL à		\$135.25 - \$475.50
Immunizations (NAC 120)		Estimated Cost
Tuberculosis 2-step PPD or Quantiferon		\$80 - \$150
Hepatitis B Series and <i>titer (or declination)</i>		0-\$160
Influenza vaccine		Varies
COVID vaccines		Varies
TOTAL à		\$300.00-\$500.00
Course Fees		Cost
NAC 198 – Intro to Health Careers		\$5.00
NAC 110 – Fundamentals of Pt. Care		\$75.00
NAC 120 – Patient Care Clinical		\$5.00
Verified Credentials		\$20.00
TOTAL à		\$105.00
Books for NAC 110/120/198		Estimated Cost
CoursePoint for Carter/Lippincott Textbook for Nursing Assistants	TCC Book Store Or Online (the NAC program will provide the link for this)	\$108.00 + tax \$80.99 + tax
TOTAL à		\$72.00-\$95.00
Written Test		\$55.00
Skills Test		\$100.00
TOTAL à		\$155.00
Certification Fees		Estimated Cost
NAC Application (<i>done at end of clinicals</i>)		\$85
CNA (<i>done after passing the written and skills tests</i>)		\$85
TOTAL à		\$170.00