

Certified Medicine Aide



What is the Certified Medicine Aide (CMA) Program?

The Certified Medicine Aide (CMA) Program is a specific career ladder course for geriatric nursing assistants currently working in long-term care. Students who complete the CMA Program work with the nursing staff in the long-term care facility to administer medications and topical treatments to nursing home residents. Becoming a CMA is an intermediate career step between being a geriatric nursing assistant (GNA) and a licensed practical nurse (LPN), or a registered nurse (RN).

How is the curriculum designed?

The curriculum is divided into theory, lab, and clinical components. Emphasis is on the safe administration of medication to geriatric residents in compliance with current Maryland standards. Minimal prerequisites are required prior to entering the program. Learn more about these requirements at www.hagerstowncc.edu/academics/divisions/nursing.

What skills are needed to excel in this program?

Individuals who excel in this program have excellent critical thinking skills, great attention to detail, and display both compassion and confidence in their work.

What is the employment outlook for this career?

Job opportunities for certified medicine aides are specific to Maryland long-term care facilities. As the American population ages, the need for geriatric care increases, and thus the need for qualified certified medicine aides. In Washington and Frederick County, there are more than 30 nursing homes, which far exceed the number of hospitals.

Nationally, employment of personal care aides is projected to grow 40 percent from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations (source: www.bls.gov/ooh).

What do CMAs earn?

Locally, the hourly salary for certified medicine aides is between \$12 and \$16 per hour. Estimated hourly earnings are based on the mean average of employees currently working in area nursing homes and will vary depending on location and experience.

The median annual wage for personal care aides was \$22,170 in May 2016. The median wage is the wage at which half the workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$17,310, and the top 10 percent earned more than \$29,760 (source: www.bls.gov/ooh).

Why should I come to HCC?

- HCC nursing faculty are dedicated to student success
- HCC's lab is one of the most advanced in the state
- The program uses state-of-the-art equipment to enhance learning
- Completion of the program prepares students for the challenge of working in today's long-term care environment
- The program allows students to work closely with the local community to provide meaningful experiences for students both on and off campus

What are the admission requirements?

College placement tests in English and math (Students must contact the Testing Center to complete. Go to www.hagerstowncc.edu/testing-center for more information.)

- Completion of ENG 099
- Completion of MAT 099
- Students wishing to register for the NUR 122 Certified Medicine Aide course are required to show proof of the following as required by the Maryland Board of Nursing:
 1. Applicants must be a GNA in good standing with the Maryland Board of Nursing, with one-year GNA experience totaling 2,000 hours in a Maryland comprehensive care facility, or a Maryland extended care facility within the last three years.
 2. Proof of current GNA certification that is in good standing with the Maryland Board of Nursing
 3. Letter of recommendation from the applicant's current director of Nursing that includes verification of hours worked. The letter of recommendation is to be printed on facility letterhead and must have the director's signature.

What are the program requirements?

Students practice skills and procedures in the college laboratory. All students must receive a minimum grade of 80 percent in the theory portion of the course. Students must also receive a mark of satisfactory in the skills laboratory to advance to clinical experience. Students are required to successfully pass the clinical experience in order to pass the course. Students who receive a final mark of unsatisfactory in the clinical laboratory or clinical experience, despite a passing theory grade, will not be permitted to complete the program and will receive a final grade of "F" for the course.

Students who do not meet program or course standards that result in termination from the CMA Program by the director of Nursing are not eligible for readmission. This includes students who cannot meet safety standards, and students who violate the college's Honor Code and Standards of Conduct.



Letter of Recognition Certified Medicine Aide

Program Requirements		10 Credits
NUR 121	Certified Nursing/Geriatric Assistant.....	7
NUR 122	Medicine Aide.....	3

Letter of Recognition Requirement..... 10

Additional Program Requirements

To be accepted into the program, students must adhere to the following:

- Students must successfully pass a drug screen and criminal background check
- Students must be able to meet the program's technical standards
- Satisfactory completion of health examination record and all required tests, examinations, and immunizations
- Current American Heart Association Healthcare Provider or Basic Life Support CPR certification
- Completed hepatitis waiver and medical expense form

Course requirements will be reviewed at the first class. Students will need to withdraw if requirements not met. Any questions should be directed to the Program Coordinator at 240-500-2218.

Technical Standards

There are technical standards and skill requirements which students are expected to possess and demonstrate in order to be successful in this program. More information on these standards can be found at www.hagerstowncc.edu/nursing.

Criminal Background Checks

All students in the CMA Program will be required to submit to a complete criminal background check. A separate criminal background check may also be required by a clinical site prior to beginning a clinical experience. Criminal background check results are disclosed to clinical facilities as required. If a student is denied access by a clinical site because of the background check, and as a result, cannot meet program requirements, the student will be dismissed from the program.

Successful completion of the CMA Program at HCC does not guarantee certification, the opportunity to sit for certification examination or employment in a related health care occupation.

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Recommended Professional Organizations:

National Association of

Health Care Assistants:

www.nahcares.org

National Council of

State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN):

www.ncsbn.org

National Network of

Career Nursing Assistants:

www.cna-network.org