What is the Certified Nursing Assistant/Geriatric Nursing Assistant (CNA/GNA) Program?

The Certified Nursing Assistant/Geriatric Nursing Assistant (CNA/GNA) Program is ideal for the person who desires a career in the healthcare field. This program can also be the first step on the career ladder leading to higher levels of nursing care and is perfect for the student who plans to complete the LPN or RN Program, but desires to enter the workforce prior to doing so. By completing their CNA/GNA certification prior to attaining their RN or LPN degrees, students can gain health care experiences while still attending school.

CNA – Certified Nursing Assistant

Students who successfully complete the course but are unable to pass the National Nurse Aide Assessment Program (NNAAP) Exam for GNA, will be eligible to obtain employment in a hospital; assisted living, home health or hospice facility in Maryland as a CNA.

GNA – Geriatric Nursing Assistant

Students who successfully complete the program will take the National Nurse Aide Assessment Program (NNAAP) Exam, commonly referred to as the GNA test. Upon passing the NNAAP exam, GNA's are eligible to obtain employment in long-term care facilities, rehabilitation cents, and sub-acute facilities in Maryland.

How is the curriculum designed?

The curriculum is divided into theory, lab and clinical components. Emphasis is on providing effective and compassionate basic nursing care and the specialty of geriatrics. Minimal prerequisites are required prior to entering the program. Learn more about these requirements at *www.hagerstowncc.edu/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 a nursing assistant are expected to be excellent. The field is projected to grow by 11 percent from 2016 to 2026. There are several areas of employment available to nursing assistants, from hospitals to home health care (source: *www.bls.gov/ooh*).

What do CNA/GNAs earn?

Earnings will vary according to location, education, and experience. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual wage for nursing assistants was $26,590 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 $19,590, and the top 10 percent earned more than $37,900 (source: *www.bls.gov/ooh*).

Why should I choose HCC?

- HCC nursing faculty are dedicated to student success
- Students who complete HCC's CNA/GNA Program have high success rates on the NNAAP examination
- 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 healthcare fields
- 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)
- Completion of ENG 099
- Completion of MAT 098

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 CNA/GNA 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 Nursing Assistant/ Geriatric Nursing Assistant

Additional Program Requirements

Students are required to submit the following documentation:

- Students must be able to meet the program's technical standards
- Satisfactory completion of a health examination record and all required tests and immunizations

- Current American Heart Association Healthcare Provider CPR certification
- Completed Hepatitis Waiver (if applicable) and Medical Expense Form
- Students must successfully pass a criminal background check
- Students are required to have a Social Security Number (SSN) or Federal Tax Identification Number for certification per Maryland Board of Nursing requirements.

Students are also required to attend a mandatory orientation, prior to the start of the semester. Completed paperwork is due at orientation prior to the start of the program each semester. Required program paperwork and orientation information can be found at *www.hagerstowncc.edu/nursing*.

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 CNA/GNA Program will be required to complete a criminal background check. A separate criminal background check may also be required by a clinical site prior to beginning 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.

The Maryland Board of Nursing also requires a state and federal background check to be completed prior to granting certification. The background check fees are separate from the course required background check and are not included in the course fee. The Maryland Board of Nursing may deny an individual the opportunity to sit for an examination, or grant certification, even if the individual has completed all course work and graduated from the program, if the individual has a criminal history, has been convicted, or pleads *nolo contendere* to a felony or other serious crime.

Additional Information

The Maryland Board of Nursing requires an application fee that is not included in the cost of the course fee, to be certified as a CNA.

Successful students must take the National Nurse Aide Assessment Program (NNAAP) examination. This examination includes a competency test, including a written and skills test. The application fee for the NNAAP exam is covered in the course.

Successful completion of the CNA/GNA 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

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