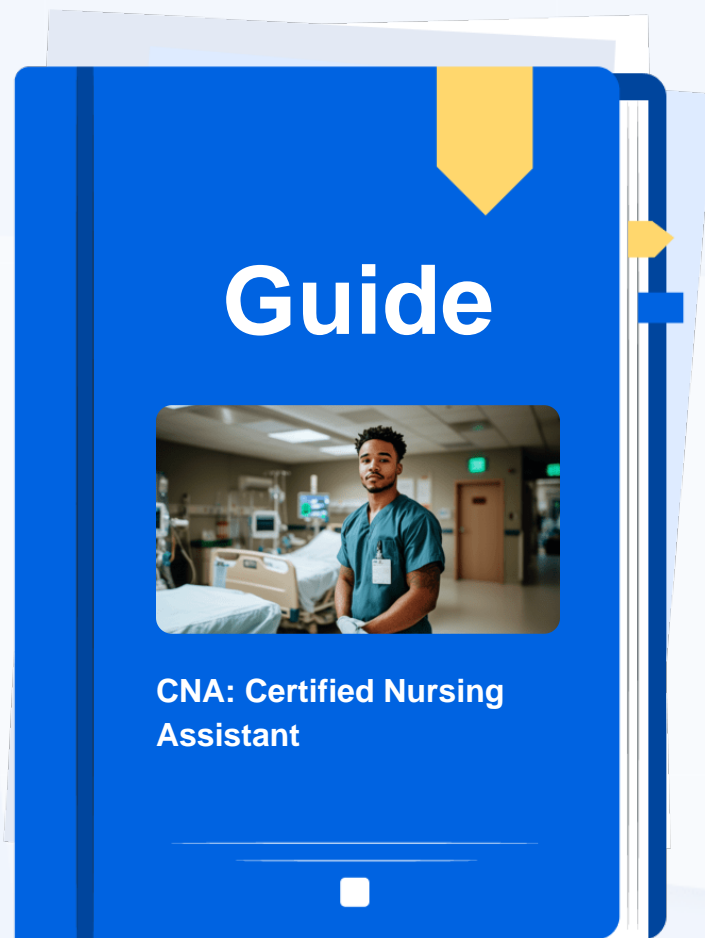


Free Guide

CNA: Certified Nursing Assistant



Skills management software
for frontline workers

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What is a Certified Nursing Assistant?

A Certified Nursing Assistant assists with basic patient care in healthcare or healthcare-adjacent environments. Their duties are typically more routine than those completed by RNs. CNAs are often involved with:

- **Patient care.** Assisting patients with tasks like bathing, dressing, grooming, and eating
- **Mobility assistance.** Helping patients move, transfer from bed to wheelchair, or repositioning them to prevent bedsores
- **Monitoring.** Measuring and recording vital signs such as temperature, pulse, blood pressure, and respiration rates
- **Cleaning and hygiene.** Maintaining a clean environment for patients, including making beds and sanitizing equipment.

Communication. Reporting changes in a patient's condition to nurses or doctors and documenting provided care

Who needs a CNA certification?

A CNA certification is a mandatory certification in the United States. It is commonly used in hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and rehabilitation centers. Any individual seeking a nursing assistant role must have a CNA certification.

How to earn a CNA certification

To earn a CNA certification, an individual must possess at least a high school diploma or GED. They must then complete a state-approved CNA training program and pass their state's certification exam.

Renewal requirements for CNA certifications

In most US states, CNA certifications are valid for two years. To maintain active certification, CNAs must meet renewal requirements, such as completing work hours or continuing education, before their certification expires. It is best to check with your state's guidelines, as there may be slight differences between them.

The benefits of CNA certification

CNA certifications offer several benefits to employees and their organizations. Some key advantages include the following.



Enhanced employability

CNA certification qualifies individuals for various healthcare roles, increasing job opportunities in hospitals, nursing homes, and home care. As such, certified CNAs are often preferred by employers.



Skill development

CNA certification programs provide essential training in patient care, communication, and medical techniques. This can build confidence and lay the foundation for advancing into higher healthcare roles like LPNs or RNs.



Improved patient outcomes

Certified CNAs deliver consistent, quality care, ensuring patient safety and comfort. This expertise can benefit healthcare organizations by promoting better patient experiences and fostering trust among patients and families.

Challenges in earning a CNA

Earning a CNA may pose several challenges to employees and organizations. They include the following.



Time commitment

CNA training programs require weeks or months of study, including clinical hours, which can be challenging for those balancing work, family, or other responsibilities.



Financial costs

The cost of CNA programs, including tuition, textbooks, uniforms, and exam fees, can be a barrier. Such upfront expenses can deter or entirely prevent individuals from pursuing certification.



Stressful certification process

Passing the CNA exam requires mastering both written knowledge and practical skills. The certification process can be both long and difficult, posing a challenge to those pursuing it.

Tips and strategies for earning a CNA certification

Here are a few tips for preparing for a CNA certification:

- Ensure your training program is state-approved for valid certification
- Focus on mastering clinical skills during training for exam success
- Use your state's CNA practice exams, guides, and other resources to effectively prepare
- Create a study schedule to balance coursework, practice, and personal commitments

Resources for CNA certification

For more information and guidance on CNA certification, you can refer to the following resources:

National Council of State Boards of Nursing. The [NCSBN's resource center](#) provides a host of resources for those seeking a CNA certification, including online courses, brochures, newsletters, and videos. It should prove valuable to anyone interested in earning or renewing a CNA.

RegisteredNursing.org. RegisteredNursing.org offers [valuable resources](#) for aspiring CNAs, including detailed career guides, training program directories, and state-specific certification requirements. It helps users explore career pathways, compare programs, and stay informed about healthcare certifications and nursing opportunities.

Skills management for CNA certifications

AG5 stores all certifications in the cloud, providing all authorized personnel with access to the right version of approved certifications. This helps you easily keep track of all data and documentation related to CNA certifications across your organization.

Using AG5's skills management software, you can monitor the status of any type of certification that is relevant to your workforce, leveraging intuitive dashboards that provide you with a clear understanding of exactly what is needed to keep your employees skilled and safe.

[Book a demo](#)

Frequently asked questions about CNA certifications

What is the scope of a CNA certification?

CNA certifications prove proficiency in basic patient care duties in medical or healthcare environments.

Is a CNA certification mandatory?

Yes, CNA certifications are mandatory by law in healthcare environments.

How long does it take to obtain a CNA certification?

CNA certification typically takes four to 12 weeks, depending on the program's structure and clinical hours.

What are the cost considerations for CNA certification?

Costs include tuition, textbooks, uniforms, and exam fees. They can range from \$500–\$2,500 – and potentially more. However, financial aid may be available to those who need it.

What is the validity period of a CNA certification?

CNA certifications are typically valid for two years.

Can a CNA certification be integrated with any management systems?

Yes, CNA certifications can be tracked in Learning Management Systems (LMS) or with skills management software for compliance and renewal management.

How can you learn more about ISO 5001 certification?

Visit the [NCSBN](#)'s website or [RegisteredNursing.org](#).

Sources

- [National Council of State Boards of Nursing](#)
- [RegisteredNursing.org](#)

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