PATIENT CARE TECHNICIAN

Certificates of Completion - Important information about the educational debt, earnings, and completion rates of students who attend these certificate programs can be found on the following https://dacc.nmsu.edu/gainfulemployment/.

- Patient Care Technician
- Nursing Assistant

Course-Completion Certificates

- Alzheimer’s/Dementia Care
- Disabilities Support Services
- Electrocardiogram Technician
- Phlebotomist Basic

The versatile Patient Care Technician certification program has been designed to allow graduates to take advantage of expanding career opportunities available throughout the healthcare system. The program consists of courses which can be taken separately for individual certifications, or together as part of a complete program, such as the Nursing Assistant or the Patient Care Technician program. Individual courses are

- Alzheimer’s/Dementia Care,
- Disabilities Support Services,
- Electrocardiogram Technician,
- Phlebotomist Basic.

Clinical course registration is contingent upon results from the N.M. Department of Health Caregiver Criminal History Screening Program (CCHSP) and drug screen.

Categories of Essential Functions

In order to participate in the Patient Care Technician certificate program, the student must be capable of performing the following:

Observation.

1. Visually discriminate incremental readings on various medical equipment;
2. Visually discriminate between different colored objects;
3. Discriminate between various auditory stimuli.

Communication.

1. Communicate effectively in English, using verbal, nonverbal, and written formats;
2. Read and interpret the English language without assistance.

Motor.

1. Stand for long periods of time;
2. Lift/carry 35 pounds;

Intellectual.

1. Collect, interpret, and integrate information.

Special Pre-Registration Requirements (“The Clinical Packet”)

Prior to registering for any courses that include a clinical practicum (NA 105 Nursing Assistant Clinicals, NA 109 Phlebotomist Basic, NA 110 Electrocardiogram Technician Basic, and NA 205 Patient Care Technicians Practicum), students must submit documentation of the following on-line to Castlebranch at https://www.castlebranch.com/online_submission/package_code.php:

- PHYSICAL to confirm can perform essential functions of the Program. (listed above)
- TETANUS, DIPHTHERIA, PERTUSSIS (Tdap)
  - Routine booster within 10 years
  - Adult Tdap required once
- MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
  - Proof of vaccination (2 doses) OR
  - Proof of immunity by titer (Rubeola, Mumps and Rubella). Must include copy of lab report
- VARICELLA (Chicken Pox)
  - Proof of vaccination (2 doses) OR
  - Proof of immunity by titer. Must include copy of lab report
  - History of Disease is NOT acceptable.
- HEPATITIS B
  - Proof of immunity by vaccination (3 doses) OR
  - Proof of immunity by titer. Must include copy of lab report
- TUBERCULIN STATUS
  - Annual Tuberculous (TB) status is required. Depending on your past status and testing there are different options.
  - Option 1: Initial Two-Step Skin Test
    - This entails (1) receive the test, (2) return 48-72 hours later for reading, (3) wait 1-3 weeks, (4) repeat steps 1 & 2.
    - If no history or more than 12 months since last Tb Skin Test # 2 step Tb Skin Test required
  - Option 2: Annual Skin Test
    - If negative TB Test within 12 months # one step Tb Skin Test (for a total of 2 within 12 months)
  - Option 3: QuantiFeron Gold (QFT) Blood Test
    - Annual QFT is acceptable in lieu of Tb Skin Test. Like Tb Test, must be within 12 months and be negative
  - Option 4: History of Positive Tb Skin Test or QuantiFeron Gold (QFT) Blood Test
    - If History of Positive Tb Skin Test, submit the following:
      • Date of Positive Tb with induration (mm)
      • Proof of chest x-ray
      • Complete Symptom Check Sheet (contact Health Services for form)
    - If new positive TB # Follow-up by healthcare provider. Must complete treatment as recommended
    - If history of BCG vaccine # TST Skin Testing or QFT as above.
      - If negative # OK; If positive # follow up as above.
American Heart Association Health Care Provider BLS-CPR card (cannot expire while taking courses);

7-10 panel Drug Screen done by a certified laboratory. A positive screening result may prevent the student from gaining employment, obtaining state and national certifications, and continuing in the following courses:

- NA 105  Nursing Assistant Clinicals  4
- NA 109  Phlebotomist Basic  4
- NA 110  Electrocardiogram Technician Basic  4
- NA 205  Patient Care Technicians Practicum  4
- NA 214  Medical Assistant Practicum  6

Additional information regarding specific requirements is available from the program office in DAHL Room 190 and on the program web-page. (https://dacc.nmsu.edu/hca)

**Criminal History Screening**

Prospective students are required to complete digital fingerprints and receive a clearance letter from the N.M. Department of Health Caregiver Criminal History Screening Program. Past criminal violations may prevent a student from obtaining state and national certification, or from gaining employment in the field, and enrolling in the following courses:

- NA 105  Nursing Assistant Clinicals  4
- NA 109  Phlebotomist Basic  4
- NA 110  Electrocardiogram Technician Basic  4
- NA 205  Patient Care Technicians Practicum  4
- NA 214  Medical Assistant Practicum  6

**Certificates of Completion**

**Patient Care Technician (33-37 credits)**

Graduates of the Patient Care Technician certificate program may work in a variety of settings, including long-term and acute-care facilities, private homes, clinics, and home care agencies. In most cases, the work involves providing personal care for patients and support services such as drawing blood, operating specialized equipment, and furnishing the results of diagnostic procedures.

Employment opportunities are numerous in Doña Ana County and the surrounding areas. Salaries for those who have completed diverse competencies within the program average well above minimum wage. Once employed, many graduates will find opportunities for on-the-job training and advancement.

Students may use the program as an introduction to other healthcare programs, such as nursing, respiratory therapy, diagnostic medical sonography, and radiologic technology. The program includes classroom theory, laboratory experience, and applied learning in hands-on situations. Because some of the learning takes place off campus, students will need to arrange for their own transportation.

State and/or national certifications are available in certain areas upon successful completion of the courses:

- New Mexico Department of Health—Division of Health Improvement state certification to become a certified nursing assistant
- National Healthcareer Association EKG technician certification
- National Healthcareer Association phlebotomy technician certification
- National Healthcareer Association Patient Care Technician certification

**Important Facts About This Certificate Program**

For information concerning the total cost, financing, time to completion, and job placement rates associated with this program, visit the following web page: https://dacc.nmsu.edu/vd/GEI/DA-OHCA-CT/Gedt.html

**Mandatory Attendance**

Students must attend all class meetings and lab sessions to be eligible for state or national certification testing.

**Nursing Assistant - Certificate of Completion**

**Nursing Assistant (16 credit hours)**

Nursing assistants perform basic nursing functions involving patient care, working under the supervision of a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or physician. In general, nursing assistants attend to matters related to personal hygiene, safety, nutrition, exercise, and elimination. Maintaining patient comfort is a priority. Upon successfully completing the course, the student is eligible to take the state nursing assistant exam to become certified as a nursing assistant. Course fee: $150.

**Important Facts About This Certificate Program**

For information concerning the total cost, financing, time to completion, and job placement rates associated with this program, visit the following web page: https://dacc.nmsu.edu/vd/GEI/DA-NA-CT/Gedt.html

**Mandatory Attendance**

Students must attend all class meetings and lab sessions to be eligible for state or national certification testing.

**Course Completion Certificates**

**Alzheimer’s/Dementia — (one semester — 3 credit hours)**

This course is for specialized nursing assistants that provide personal care for clients with Alzheimer’s or dementia in the home or in a long-term care facility. It helps to provide a basic understanding of the changes in memory, communication, function, and behavior that occur as a result of Alzheimer’s disease and the appropriate intervention strategies to enhance the client’s care.

**Disabilities Support Services (one semester — 4 credit hours)**

Disabilities Support Staff provide direct care and support for persons with a wide range of disabilities, including developmental and age-related disabilities. This course helps those already employed in the field of support services to develop skills for job enhancement. Upon completion of this course, graduates are prepared for employment in residential, day habilitation, or vocational program of a community based provider agency.

**Electrocardiogram Technician (one semester — 4 credit hours)**

ECG technician students are trained with 12 lead ECG’s, which are tracings of the electrical impulses transmitted by the heart. The technician attaches electrodes to the patient and then operates the ECG machine to obtain a reading. The ECG is printed out for interpretation by the physician. Upon successfully completing this course, students are eligible to take the NHA national exam to become certified electrocardiogram technicians.
Phlebotomist Basic (one semester — 4 credit hours)

A phlebotomist is a Healthcare Professional that specializes in extracting blood for analysis from patients. Phlebotomists work hand in hand with other Laboratory clinicians in assisting physicians in the diagnosing of diseases and/or disorders. Students are required to complete 30 clinical hours and 50 successful venipunctures. Clinical hours are scheduled individually and separately from class time at laboratory sites. Upon successfully completing the course, the student is eligible to take the NHA national exam to become certified as a phlebotomy technician.

Prerequisite(s): English COMPASS score of 35 or greater or CCDE 110N, and reading COMPASS score of 55 or greater or CCDR 104N with C or better in CCDR 103N with C or better OR appropriate placement score.

NA 104. Nursing Assistant Fundamentals
3 Credits
This course prepares students for employment as a Nursing Assistant in a Long Term Care Facility. Theory and basic nursing care skills will be taught with an emphasis being placed on the psychosocial-cultural approach to client care. Students will learn communication skills, basic anatomy and physiology, growth and development, infection control, body mechanics, basic nutrition, client/resident elimination needs, the client/resident unit, vital signs, range of motion exercises, bed making, rehabilitation and restorative care, client admission and discharge, common health problems, dealing with death and dying, and basic medical terminology. NA 104 and NA 104L (laboratory) must be successfully completed with a C- or better in order to continue to NA 105 Nursing Assistant Clinical. NA 105 must also be successfully completed with a C- or better to be eligible to take the state certification competency examination. Attendance is required to meet the federal requirements for training hours and content prior to direct contact with a patient/resident and the state competency examination. Restricted to Community Colleges campuses only.

Prerequisite(s): Test out of all CCDE and CCDR courses and eligible to take ENGL 111G.

Corequisite(s): NA 104 L.

NA 104 L. Nursing Assistant Fundamentals Lab
1 Credit
This course prepares students for employment as a Nursing Assistant in a Long Term Care Facility. Students will learn and demonstrate personal care skills including bathing, grooming, dressing, toileting, assisting with eating and hydration, skin care, transfers and positioning. Students will also learn and demonstrate the use of assistive devices, and how to maintain resident safety, dignity and privacy. NA 104 & NA 104L must be successfully completed with a C- or greater in order to continue to NA 105 Clinical. NA 105 must be successfully completed with a C- or greater to be eligible to take the state certification competency examination.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): NA 104. Prerequisite(s): English COMPASS score of 35 or greater or CCDE 110N, and reading COMPASS score of 55 or greater or CCDR 105N. Restricted to Community Colleges campuses only.

NA 105. Nursing Assistant Clinicals
4 Credits (3+3P)
Extension of basic fundamentals of personal care, including theory, skills and clinical experience leading to the certified Nursing Assistant Examination at the conclusion of the semester. Continuation of NA 104. Requires a C or better to pass. Restricted to: Community Colleges only.

Prerequisite(s): C or better in NA 104 or consent of instructor.

NA 108. Disabilities Support Services
4 Credits (3+2P)
Beginning level preservice preparation for providing in-home care for individuals with disabilities. Crosslisted with: AHS 108. Restricted to: Community Colleges only.

Prerequisite(s): NA 101 or NA 104 or Consent of Instructor.
NA 109. Phlebotomist Basic
4 Credits (2+4P)
This course provides the latest information, techniques, skills, and equipment for blood and specimen collection based on the standards of the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute, Needlestick Prevention Act, Joint Commission 2008 National Patient Safety Goals, OSHA and CDC. An advanced skills lab is included in the course to provide a "hands-on" practice experience and a 30 hour practicum in a supervised work environment collecting blood and specimens on actual patients for laboratory tests. Attendance is mandatory. Prepares students for employment as a phlebotomist in health care settings. Requires a "C" or better to pass. Upon successful completion of the course, student has the opportunity to test for National Healthcareer Certification. Consent of Instructor required.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): BIOL 154 or BIOL 226. Restricted to Community Colleges campuses only.

NA 110. Electrocardiogram Technician Basic
4 Credits (3+3P)
Prepares students for employment as an Electrocardiogram Technician. Includes basic theory of the cardiovascular system, cardiac rhythm interpretation, 12 lead ECG lead placement, and ECG equipment trouble shooting. The course includes an advanced skills laboratory for "hands-on" practice and 16 hours of supervised clinical in the work environment assisting with ECG testing. Attendance is mandatory. Course requires a grade of "C" or better to pass. Upon successful completion of course, student will have the opportunity to test for National Healthcareer Certification. Restricted to Community Colleges campuses only.

Prerequisite(s): BIOL 154 OR BIOL 225 & BIOL 226.

NA 111. Alzheimer/Dementia Care Focus
3 Credits
Students will learn respectful care of Alzheimer/Dementia persons while ensuring their dignity, maximizing safe independence focusing on strengths and abilities. Pre/Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): NA 104 or NA 101. Restricted to: Community Colleges only.

NA 112. Patient Care Assistant
4 Credits (2+4P)
This course prepares students to become patient care assistants (certified nursing assistant [CNA]). The course prepares students in the areas of critical thinking, collaboration with healthcare team members and performance of Certified Nursing Assistant skills within acute care units including: out-patient care unit (pre-operative), medical-surgical unit, orthopedic unit, mother-baby (obstetrics) and the mental health inpatient unit. Lab and clinical time will include learning skills in a practice setting with mannequins and in a hospital for acute care skill learning and application. Must pass course with a C- or better.

Prerequisite(s): NA-101 or current State of New Mexico Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certificate (CNA certification must remain current through end of course).

Corequisite(s): Current Basic Life Support (BLS) for the Health Care Provider (American Heart Association) (BLS certification must remain current through end of course).

NA 115. Phlebotomist Technician
6 Credits (3+6P)
Basic theory and skills of phlebotomy following OSHA and Center for Disease Control guidelines. Prepares students for the requirements of testing for the ASCP certification exam and employment in a healthcare organization as a phlebotomist in licensed settings. Laboratory hours include infection control skills & practice, patient assessment & teaching, and practice in venipuncture. Clinical time includes clinical laboratory processes and operations, patient assessment, venipuncture, and exposure to clinical policies and procedures. Upon successful completion students are workforce ready.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): OEEM 101. Restricted to Community Colleges campuses only.

NA 204. Patient Care Technician
4 Credits (3+3P)
This course will prepare Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) to work in the acute care setting through an expansion of their existing basic skill set. Students will acquire expanded acute care skills, critical thinking skills, and knowledge in caring for patients of all ages. Currently CNA certified. Restricted to Community Colleges campuses only.

Prerequisite(s): (NA 104, NA 105, NA 109, NA 110, AHS 120, and (BIOL 154 or (BIOL 225 & BIOL 226)).

Corequisite(s): NA 205.

NA 205. Patient Care Technicians Practicum
4 Credits (1+9P)
This course will prepare Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) to work in the acute care setting through an expansion of their existing basic skill set. Students will acquire expanded acute care skills, critical thinking skills, and knowledge in caring for patients of all ages. Students will go to acute care settings to practice newly acquired skills. Must have a "C" or better to pass. Restricted to Community Colleges campuses only.

Prerequisite(s): (NA 104, NA 105, NA 109, NA 110, AHS 120, and (BIOL 154 or (BIOL 225 & BIOL 226)))) Currently CNA Certified.

Corequisite(s): NA 204.

NA 212. Medical Assistant Capstone Course
5 Credits (4+3P)
This course provides the student with entry-level theory and limited "hands-on" training in basic and routine clinical office tasks. The course will equip the Medical Assistant (MA) student with the competencies required to perform in a medical office under the direct supervision of a physician. The graduate will be able to assist the physician with physical exams, ECGs, phlebotomy, and minor surgical procedures. May be repeated up to 5 credits. CNA Certification within the last 5 years.

Prerequisite(s): NA 105, NA 110, NA 109, AHS 120, BIOL 154, HIT 110, BOT 208, HIT 228, HIT 248, HIT 258.
NA 214. Medical Assistant Practicum
6 Credits (1+6P)
This course is the practicum for NA 212 Medical Assistant Fundamentals Capstone Course. Students will prepare for a career as a medical assistant in medical offices and clinics. During practicum students will observe and participate in 180 hours in a supervised work environment using knowledge and skills learned in NA 212. This course includes weekly post-practicum conferences with the instructor. The student will be evaluated by both the employer and the instructor. Requires a "C" or better to pass. Upon successful completion the student may be eligible to test for National Certification. May be repeated up to 6 credits. Consent of Instructor required.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): NA 212. Prerequisite(s): NA 105, NA 110, NA 109, AHS 120, BIOL 154, HIT 110, BOT 208, HIT 228, HIT 248, HIT 258. CNA Certified within the last 5 years. Restricted to Community Colleges campuses only.

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