



GULF COAST STATE COLLEGE CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT PROGRAM INFORMATION





**NURSING DIVISION
CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT
PROGRAM**

Offered only at the Gulf / Franklin Campus (GFC) in Port St. Joe, FL

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the **Certified Nursing Assistant Program**. Upon successful completion of this eight (8) week Hybrid CNA Vocational Certificate Program, you will be eligible to take the state board examination to become a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA).

Enclosed you will find an application packet that you will need to read and complete to begin the application process. There is also a checklist that provides information on how to proceed.

The Certified Nursing Assistant Program is the first step to an exciting career as a nurse. This program prepares the student to perform safe nursing care under the direction of a licensed nurse or physician. Gulf Coast State College also offers other nursing programs that prepare you to advance further in the nursing profession. There is never a better time than **TODAY** to begin making choices for your future.

If you have any questions after reviewing the enclosed information, please contact us at:

Connie "Crickett" Pimentel, Academic Programs Specialist at 850.913.3311
or e-mail/ HealthSciencesGCSC@gulfcoast.edu.

Justin 'Ryan' Walding, Senior Administrative Assistant at 850.769.1551, ext. 5522
or e-mail/ jwalding@gulfcoast.edu

Nursing program information is also available on the program webpage at the address listed below
<https://www.gulfcoast.edu/academics/degrees-programs/program-by-pathway/health-sciences/certified-nursing-assistant-certificate/index.html>.

For information about our graduation rates, the median debt of students who completed the program, and other important information, please visit www.gulfcoast.edu/ge/phrs.

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Alexander Giles, DNP, APRN, FNP-C
Coordinator, Gulf Franklin Campus Nursing Programs
GFC Room 100D
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Email: agiles3@gulfcoast.edu

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GULF COAST STATE COLLEGE

Certified Nursing Assistant Program

Admission Requirements:

The *initial* application process to enter the Certified Nursing Assistant Program includes:

- _____ 1. **Apply for General College Admission:**
If you are a new student to GCSC or it has been more than a year since you have taken a credit course, complete a general college application online at <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/index.html>.
Students must pay the \$10 non-refundable college application fee; failure to pay the college application fee at the time of submission can result in your ineligibility for program consideration.

Note: While working on admission to this program, you may choose the HLSC – AA, Health Sciences, General Education as your major only if you intend to complete that separate degree either before or after this limited access program. To request a major change, visit <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/forms.html>, and click on Program Major Change Form.

Students declaring an unintended major for the sole purpose of receiving financial aid may be subject to penalties, including repayment of any financial aid received.
- _____ 2. **Submit a completed CNA Program application (including the Technical Standards form) online at <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/academics/degrees-programs/program-by-pathway/health-sciences/certified-nursing-assistant-certificate/index.html>.**
- _____ 3. **Provide official High School or GED, Vocational School, and College Transcripts: The applicant must request that official transcripts from high school or GED (scores required) *and* all colleges attended be sent to GCSC Enrollment Services for evaluation. The applicant is responsible for ensuring that all transcripts are received and evaluated by GCSC. To order your transcripts, go to <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/order-gcsc-transcript.html>.**
- _____ 4. **OPTIONAL: For non-exempt students, take the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT); scores must be active (within 1 year of admission). It is strongly recommended that applicants take the PERT if they do not meet an exemption. Active PERT scores are not required for program admission.**

Applicants are exempt if: they have completed a college degree (AAS, AA, AS, etc) **OR** have completed ENC1101 (College English) and a college level math course (Prefix MAC, MGF, STA). For more information contact the Program Coordinator (850-913-3317).
- _____ 5. **See Nursing Faculty Advisor:**
After meeting the above criteria (1-4), **it is necessary** that the applicant meet with the GFC Nursing Coordinator for advising. Contact the Gulf/Franklin Campus to schedule an appointment at 850.913.3317. ***All criteria must be completed before the deadline date (the last working day of June for Fall admission or the last working day of October for Spring admission or the last working day of April for Summer admission) in order to be considered for the program.***

Depending upon space availability, a student may be considered for acceptance after the deadline date, if all program requirements have been met.

NOTE TO ALL STUDENTS: Admission to the program is competitive in nature and is not guaranteed. A selection committee ranks all applications and admission is granted to the most qualified applicants. Applicants can improve their chances of admission by completing one or more of the recommended supplemental courses. **It should be understood that satisfactorily meeting minimum requirements does not automatically guarantee admission.** Applicants will be notified of the selection status.

UPON CONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE into the Certified Nursing Assistant Program, the following will be required:

- _____ 1. **Satisfactory Fingerprint / Criminal Background Check.** Must be processed through GCSC at the student's expense. No other results will be accepted. Information will be provided in the conditional acceptance packet.
- _____ 2. **10-Panel Drug Screening – With Satisfactory Results.** Must be completed through PreCheck at the student's expense. No other results will be accepted. Information will be provided in the conditional acceptance packet.
- _____ 3. **Medical Examination – With Satisfactory Results:**
An applicant must submit a **complete** physical exam report signed OR stamped by a Physician (MD), Physician Assistant (PA), or an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP). A form will be provided and the applicant will be given a deadline date for submission.
- _____ 4. **Current PPD or TB Test (within 1 year)**
- _____ 5. **Current Immunization Record:**
An applicant **must** submit a complete and current immunization record **signed** by a primary care Physician or Health Department Staff. Immunizations include **Polio** (3 doses), **Hepatitis B Series** (2 doses or 3 doses) (within 10 years), **Tetanus** (within 10 years), **Measles, Mumps, Rubella** (2 doses), **Chicken Pox Vaccination, Flu Vaccine, COVID-19 Vaccine or Declination.** A form will be provided in the conditional acceptance packet with a deadline date for submission.
- _____ 6. **CPR Requirement:**
It is **mandatory** that each student be certified in adult, infant, and child CPR to attend clinical rotations in hospitals, nursing homes, etc. The requirement for our program is to be certified by the **American Heart Association (BCLS-C) as a Healthcare Provider.** Students are expected to present a current CPR card on the FIRST DAY OF CLASS.

Upon completion of all admission requirements, and acceptance into the Certified Nursing Assistant Program, **the student must maintain a 2.0 GPA to continue in the program.**

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO MAINTAIN COMMUNICATION WITH HIS/HER ADVISOR TO ENSURE THAT THE APPLICATION PACKET IS COMPLETE AND UP-TO-DATE WITH CURRENT ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS.

Financial Aid Help at TRiO:

“If one-on-one assistance is needed to complete financial aid applications, please visit [TRiO](#) Student Support Services located on the 1st Floor of Student Union West.”

**VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE IN CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT PROGRAM COURSE
REQUIREMENTS & CURRICULUM PLAN**

Recommended Supplemental Courses: The Certified Nursing Assistant Program does NOT require any prerequisite courses for admission, however, applicants who have completed any of the following courses will be given additional admission points.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|---|
| BSC 2085 | Human Anatomy & Physiology | 3 Credits | All of these courses are prerequisite courses for the LPN-ADN Program. |
| BSC 2085L | Human Anatomy & Physiology I Lab | 1 Credit | |
| BSC 2086 | Human Anatomy & Physiology II | 3 Credits | |
| BSC 2086L | Human Anatomy & Physiology II Lab | 1 Credit | |
| DEP 2004 | Developmental Psychology | 3 Credits | |
| ENC 1101 | English Composition I | 3 Credits | |
| Prefix of: MAC, STA, or MGF | College-level math course | 3 Credits | |

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT COURSES

After acceptance into the CNA Program, the following required nursing courses are taken in sequence over 8 weeks.

| Course | Course Number | Course Name | Credits |
|--------|---------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| | HSC 0003 | Basic Healthcare Worker | 3 |
| | HSC 0725C | Nurse Aide & Orderly (Articulated) | 2.5 |

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT (C.N.A.) Program
Cost Sheet 2025 - 2026

| COURSE TITLE | | Credit Hours | Tuition | Lab Fee | Textbooks | E-Source | Total |
|--------------|--|--------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|------------------|
| HSC 0003 | Basic Healthcare Worker | 3 | \$ 263.61 | \$ 18.00 | \$ 66.39 | | \$ 348.00 |
| HSC 0725C | Nurse Aid & Orderly (articulated) | 2.5 | \$ 219.68 | | \$ 32.79 | | \$ 252.47 |
| | Approximate Total for CNA Courses | 5.5 | \$ 483.29 | \$ 18.00 | \$ 99.18 | | \$ 600.47 |

TUITION - \$87.87 per vocational hour (in-state rate); Tuition rates are subject to change.

| REQUIRED BOOKS / RESOURCES: | |
|---|--|
| Mosby's Textbook for Nursing Assistants by Sorrentino, 10th Edition | |
| Workbook and Competency Evaluation Review by Sorrentino, 10 Edition | |

| UNIFORM | | |
|--------------------|--|----------|
| Clinical Uniforms | | Cost |
| Male | Two Uniforms (<i>Black Top and Black Pants and Black Lab Jacket</i>) | \$ 75.00 |
| Female | Two Uniforms (<i>Black Top and Black Pants and Black Lab Jacket</i>) | \$ 70.00 |
| Classroom Uniforms | | Cost |
| Male | Two Uniforms (<i>Solid Color Top and Black Pants</i>) | \$ 45.00 |
| Female | Two Uniforms (<i>Solid Color Top and Black Pants</i>) | \$ 40.00 |

Students are required to wear a standard black top and black bottom uniform.

| ACCESSORY ITEMS | Cost |
|--|------------------|
| Black hose or socks, duty shoes | \$ 60.00 |
| Student patch | \$ 6.25 |
| Stethoscope (<i>style must have bell & diaphragm</i>) | \$ 25.00 |
| Clipboard (<i>optional</i>) | \$ 5.00 |
| Black Ballpoint Pen | \$ 1.50 |
| Watch with second hand | \$ 20.00 |
| Protective Eye Goggles (<i>optional</i>) (OSHA approved) | \$ 6.00 |
| MISCELLANEOUS | |
| GCSC Background Check / Fingerprinting | \$ 85.00 |
| Drug Screen and Clinical Compliance Package (<i>PreCheck / SentryMD</i>) | \$ 75.00 |
| Hepatitis B Vaccination Series | \$ 170.80 |
| Physical Exam (GCSC Pancare Clinic) | \$ 25.00 |
| Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT) | \$ 9.00 |
| Certified Nursing Assistant Certification Exam | \$ 155.00 |
| Total: | \$ 643.55 |

NOTE: ALL fees/costs are approximate and subject to change.

Revised 6/17/2025

Criminal Background Checks

Gulf Coast State College (GCSC) students who are granted conditional acceptance into a Health Sciences program must receive a satisfactory criminal background check prior to final acceptance into the program. The background check will be scheduled and performed at the discretion of the Division to which the student has applied. Information and instructions on how to complete the background check will be sent by the applicable program coordinator.

Please Note: Criminal background checks performed through other agencies will not be accepted. Also, be aware that clinical agencies may require an additional background check prior to clinical access. Although background checks are required before program entry, it is possible to graduate from a program at GCSC and be denied the opportunity for licensure because of an unfavorable background check. Even if the student has been accepted into and completed a program at GCSC, this does not guarantee authorization for licensure or eligibility to take the licensure exam. Those authorizations are granted by the Health Sciences governing professional licensure boards. This is a notification to the applicant that Gulf Coast State College has no authority over any state-level medical licensure board and cannot be held responsible if the student is accepted into or completes a Health Sciences program and subsequently is denied authorization to take the program-specific licensure exam due to criminal background information.

An applicant must consider how his/her personal history may affect the ability to meet clinical requirements, sit for various licensure exams, and ultimately gain employment. Most healthcare boards in the State of Florida make decisions about licensure on an individual basis. You may visit the Florida Department of Health website at <https://www.floridahealth.gov/> for more information regarding licensure. We offer this information so that you can make an informed decision regarding your future.

Please read the following information carefully: Any student who has been found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere, or guilty to, any offense under the provision of 456.0635 (see below) may be disqualified from admission to any Health Sciences program. In addition to these specific convictions, there are other crimes which may disqualify applicants from entering the Health Sciences programs and/or clinical rotations. The statute listed below can also be found online: http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0456/Sections/0456.0635.html.

456.0635 Health care fraud; disqualification for license, certificate, or registration.

(1) Healthcare fraud in the practice of a healthcare profession is prohibited.

(2) Each board within the jurisdiction of the department, or the department if there is no board, shall refuse to admit a candidate to any examination and refuse to issue a license, certificate, or registration to any applicant if the candidate or applicant or any principal, officer, agent, managing employee, or affiliated person of the candidate or applicant:

(a) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under chapter 409, chapter 817, or chapter 893, or a similar felony offense committed in another state or jurisdiction, unless the candidate or applicant has successfully completed a pretrial diversion or drug court program for that felony and provides proof that the plea has been withdrawn or the charges have been dismissed. Any such conviction or plea shall exclude the applicant or candidate from licensure, examination, certification, or registration unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended:

1. For felonies of the first or second degree, more than 15 years before the date of application.

2. For felonies of the third degree, more than 10 years before the date of application, except for felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a).

3. For felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a), more than 5 years before the date of application;

(b) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970, or 42 U.S.C. ss. 1395-1396, unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended more than 15 years before the date of the application;

(c) Has been terminated for cause from the Florida Medicaid program pursuant to s. 409.913, unless the candidate or applicant has been in good standing with the Florida Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years;

(d) Has been terminated for cause, pursuant to the appeals procedures established by the state, from any other state Medicaid program, unless the candidate or applicant has been in good standing with a state Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years and the termination occurred at least 20 years before the date of the application; or

(e) Is currently listed on the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General's List of Excluded Individuals and Entities, except when such applicant is listed solely based on a default or delinquency on a student

loan as provided in s. 120.82.

This subsection does not apply to an applicant for initial licensure, certification, or registration who was arrested or charged with a felony specified in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) before July 1, 2009.

(3) The department shall refuse to renew a license, certificate, or registration of any applicant if the applicant or any principal, officer, agent, managing employee, or affiliated person of the applicant:

(a) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under chapter 409, chapter 817, or chapter 893, or a similar felony offense committed in another state or jurisdiction, unless the applicant is currently enrolled in a pretrial diversion or drug court program that allows the withdrawal of the plea for that felony upon successful completion of that program. Any such conviction or plea excludes the applicant from licensure renewal unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended:

1. For felonies of the first or second degree, more than 15 years before the date of application.
2. For felonies of the third degree, more than 10 years before the date of application, except for felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a).
3. For felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a), more than 5 years before the date of application.

(b) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970, or 42 U.S.C. ss. 1395-1396 since July 1, 2009, unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended more than 15 years before the date of the application.

(c) Has been terminated for cause from the Florida Medicaid program pursuant to s. 409.913, unless the applicant has been in good standing with the Florida Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years.

(d) Has been terminated for cause, pursuant to the appeals procedures established by the state, from any other state Medicaid program, unless the applicant has been in good standing with a state Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years and the termination occurred at least 20 years before the date of the application.

(e) Is currently listed on the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General's List of Excluded Individuals and Entities, except when such applicant is listed solely based on a default or delinquency on a student loan as provided in s. 120.82.

This subsection does not apply to an applicant for renewal of licensure, certification, or registration who was arrested or charged with a felony specified in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) before July 1, 2009.

(4) Licensed health care practitioners shall report allegations of health care fraud to the department, regardless of the practice setting in which the alleged health care fraud occurred.

(5) The acceptance by a licensing authority of a licensee's relinquishment of a license which is offered in response to or anticipation of the filing of administrative charges alleging health care fraud or similar charges constitutes the permanent revocation of the license.

The following disqualifying offenses under current Florida law for healthcare licensure. The individual must not be awaiting final disposition of charges related to disqualifying offenses. The individual must not have been found guilty, regardless of whether adjudication was withheld, nor have entered a plea of nolo contendere (no contest) or guilty to any disqualifying offense. If the individual was adjudicated delinquent for a disqualifying offense, the record must have been sealed or expunged; otherwise, it remains a disqualifying factor. The disqualifications apply to applicable offenses under: Relevant provisions of Florida State law or Similar laws in other jurisdictions (laws from other states or countries the applicant originates from). Specifically, the following pending charges or convictions per statutes: 393.135, 394.4593, 794.011, 825.1025, 826.04, 916.1075, 985.701, 415.111, 825.102, 827.03, 825.103, 827.05, 827.04, 782.04, 782.07, 787.01, 787.02, 784.011, 784.03, 827.071, ch. 796, ch. 800, 798.02, 825.103, 787.025, 874.05, ch. 812, 817.563, ch. 893, 944.47, 985.711, 806.01, 810.02, 810.14, 796, 843.01, 843.025, 847, 944.35(3), 775.21, 775.261 and 943.0435.

Important Note: After acceptance and during enrollment in this program, the student is responsible for notifying the Program Coordinator of any arrest, regardless of adjudication, that occurs after acceptance through graduation. Failure to promptly notify the Program Coordinator shall be grounds for dismissal from the program.

****A physical examination, criminal background check (Level II), and drug screening WILL be required prior to the official program acceptance.***

July 1, 2012

Individuals who are considering entering the nursing profession and who have a criminal history often ask about potential barriers to licensure following successful completion of an approved nursing program. While it would be nice to know this prior to making a decision to enter the program, obtaining that information is not possible under current Florida law.

The Board of Nursing makes decisions about licensure based upon a number of questions on the application and on an individual basis. The application (or the background screening) that indicates a criminal history is considered a non-routine application and must be reviewed by the board staff and possibly referred to the Board of Nursing for action.

Each application is reviewed on its own merit. The Board of Nursing has created guidelines for specific offenses to be cleared in the board office; however, the staff cannot make determinations in advance as laws and rules change over time. Applications that involve violent crimes and repeat offenses are required to be presented to the Board of Nursing for review. Evidence of rehabilitation is important to the Board Members when making licensure decisions.

The Board may issue a license under conditions such as placing the license on probation with supervision, requiring additional education, or the Board may deny your application. If drugs or alcohol are a concern, the board may require the applicant to undergo an evaluation and possibly to sign a contract with the Intervention Project for Nurses (800-840-2720).

Each nursing program makes independent decisions about admissions into the program and may require a criminal background screening as part of that process. Clinical facilities may limit or prohibit students with criminal histories from participating in clinical experiences. Other options may not exist for students to complete the required clinical hours in order to obtain a nursing degree; therefore making such a student ineligible for licensure in Florida.

The licensure application requires disclosure of any criminal history and the disposition of all cases prior to board review. Entry into the nursing education program is the prospective student's decision based upon the knowledge that he/she may, or may not, be granted a nursing license. All of the above factors should be taken into consideration prior to making a decision about a nursing career.

Important Notice for Initial Licensure Applicants and Renewals:

Pursuant to [Section 456.0635](#), Florida Statutes, you are being notified that effective July 1, 2012, health care boards or the department shall refuse to renew a license, certificate or registration, issue a license, certificate or registration and shall refuse to admit a candidate for examination if the applicant has been:

1. Convicted or plead guilty or nolo contendere, regardless of adjudication, to a felony violation of: chapters [409](#), [817](#), or [893](#), Florida Statutes; or [21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970](#) or [42 U.S.C. ss 1395-1396](#), or similar offenses in other state. unless the sentence and any probation or pleas ended more than 15 years prior to the application for 1st and 2nd degree felony; 10 years prior to the application for 3rd degree felony; and 5 years prior to the application for 3rd degree felony under Section [893.13\(6\)\(a\)](#).
2. Terminated for cause from Florida Medicaid Program (unless the applicant has been in good standing for the most recent 5 years).
3. Terminated for cause by any other State Medicaid Program or the Medicare Program (unless the termination was at least 20 years prior to the date of the application and the applicant has been in good standing with the program for the most recent 5 years).

The Florida Board of Nursing receives numerous questions from applicants regarding prior criminal offenses. The following are the most frequently asked questions:

- Question:** What types of crimes must be reported on the application?
Answer: All convictions, guilty pleas and nolo contendere pleas must be reported, except for minor traffic violations not related to the use of drugs or alcohol. This includes misdemeanors, felonies, "driving while intoxicated (DWI)" and "driving under the influence "(DUI)." Crimes must be reported even if they are a suspended sentence.
- Question:** Can a person obtain a license as a nurse if they have a misdemeanor or felony crime on their record?
Answer: Each application is evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The Board of Nursing considers the nature, severity, and recency of offenses, rehabilitation and other factors. The Board cannot make a determination for approval or denial of licensure without evaluating the entire application and supporting documentation.
- Question:** Do I have to report charges if I completed a period of probation and the charges were dismissed or closed?
Answer: Yes. Offenses must be reported to the Board even if you received a suspended sentence and the record is now considered closed.
- Question:** What types of documentation do I need to submit in support of my application if I have a prior criminal record or license discipline?
Answer:
- Official court document(s) regarding each of your criminal offenses, showing the date(s) and circumstance(s) surrounding your arrest(s), sections of the law violated, and disposition of the case. This includes the complaint or indictment, the judgment, order of probation, docket sheet or other documents showing the disposition of your case(s). You may obtain these documents at the clerk of court where the offense(s) occurred.
 - Copies of documents regarding disciplinary action taken against any healthcare license. The documents must come from the agency that took the disciplinary action.
 - A detailed description in your own words of the circumstances surrounding your criminal record or disciplinary action. Include a description of the changes in your lifestyle since the time of the offense(s) which would enable you to avoid future incidents. List factors in your life, which you feel, may have contributed to your crime or disciplinary action and what you have learned.

Note: The burden of proof lies with the applicant to demonstrate evidence of positive lifestyle changes. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Documented evidence of professional treatment and counseling you have completed. Provide a discharge summary, if available.
- Letters of professional recommendation on official letterhead from employers, nursing program administrators, nursing instructors, health professionals, professional counselors, support group sponsors, parole or probation officers, or other individuals in positions of authority.
- Proof of community service, education and self-improvement.
- Court-issued certificate(s) of expungement, proof of compliance with criminal probation or parole.

Applicants with previous arrest(s) or disciplinary action on a license will not be authorized to practice nursing until all documentation is cleared by staff or reviewed by the Board.