

KASKASKIA COLLEGE
Frequently Asked Questions about becoming a C N A

Q. How do I register for a CNA class?

There are three options for registering for Nurse Assistant (CNA) classes at Kaskaskia College (KC) by phone, in-person and online. Registration cannot be completed unless course prerequisites have been met. Phone registration may be completed by calling the Admissions department or an Education Center. Online registration is not available for new students. Current or previous students may register online if prerequisites have been met.

Q. What are the prerequisites for a CNA class?

If you want to become a CNA, you must be at least sixteen years old. You must have completed at least eight years of grade school or provide proof of equivalent knowledge and demonstrate the ability to read at the 8th grade level. To be eligible to take the CNA course (NAST 160) you will need an ACT score of 14, or ASSET Score of 30 or a COMPASS Score of 61.

Q. Can I register for the CNA class online?

Yes, you will be able to register for the fall 2011 classes online starting March 21, 2011.

Q. I was a CNA in another state. Do I have to take another class in Illinois?

If you have been certified as a nurse aide in another state, you may apply for a certificate to practice as a CNA in Illinois. A form for this can be found on the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) website at: www.idph.state.il.us/nar/home.htm. This form along with your certifications and verifications from the previous state should be submitted to the IDPH.

Q. I was a CNA several years ago. Do I have to take another class to begin working as a CNA now?

If a nurse aide is in good standing with no findings of abuse, neglect or theft and has not worked for pay in the nursing-related services for 24 consecutive months or more, he/she may be able to re-certify by either retraining and testing or testing only. Contact the IDPH at 217-785-5133 for re-certification information.

Q. Do I have to have a license to work as a CNA?

In Illinois, to work in a long term care setting and most other health care settings you have to have a "certification". This means you have to have participated in an IDPH approved training program and passed a state exam. NAST 160 at KC is an IDPH approved training program.

Q. What do I have to do to be able to work as a CNA?

- a. To become a CNA you have to complete an IDPH approved training program.
- b. To become a CNA you have to pass a state certification exam.

To become a CNA you have to be successful when you are tested on manual skills you would need to provide care to residents/patients. These skills are:

- i. Washing hands
- ii. Performing oral hygiene
- iii. Performing nail care
- iv. Shaving a client's face
- v. Performing perineal care
- vi. Giving a partial bath
- vii. Giving a shower or tub bath
- viii. Making an occupied bed
- ix. Dressing a resident
- x. Transferring a resident to wheelchair using a transfer belt
- xi. Transferring a resident using a mechanical lift
- xii. Ambulating a resident with a transfer belt
- xiii. Feeding a resident
- xiv. Calculating a resident's intake and output
- xv. Placing a resident in side-lying position
- xvi. Performing passive range of motion on a resident
- xvii. Apply and remove personal protective equipment
- xviii. Measure and record temperature, pulse and respiration
- xix. Measure and record blood pressure
- xx. Measure and record weight
- xxi. Measure and record height

Q. Why are there prerequisites for a CNA class?

During the class you will be required to read and learn about the human body and it's response to illness. You will be required to take and pass exams to determine that you have learned the material and you will be required to pass a state exam to obtain your certification. It is important to have prerequisites that prepare you to be successful in learning the material required to be an excellent CNA.

Q. My placement score is over 5 years old; do I have to take the COMPASS test?

Yes, you will need to take the COMPASS test to determine placement. You can register for the COMPASS test by calling the KC Success center at 618-545-3155 or any education center to make an appointment.

Q. How much do I have to pay to take the COMPASS test?

There is no charge for the COMPASS test.

Q. How much does the CNA class cost?

When you register for the CNA class (NAST 160) you are taking 7 hours of college credit. The total cost of the class that you should expect to pay including tuition, books, uniforms and supplies is approximately \$1200.

Q. What are other things that are required of me to attend the CNA class?

- ✓ Physical exam by physician, nurse practitioner or physician's assistant. The physical form can be obtained from the Nursing department at KC.
- ✓ TB testing during physical exam, at Health Department or proof from employer submitted with physical. The TB test must have been performed within the past 6 months. This test is a two step TB test.
- ✓ Purchase of insurance through KC for coverage during clinical: \$23.00.
- ✓ Fingerprint background check completed by an IDPH approved vendor. This will be started on your first day of class. At this time the approximate cost for this is \$45.00.
- ✓ Purchase of uniform (White top, Navy or white pants), shoes, appropriate underwear, pantyhose or socks, watch with second hand, gait belt and black ink pen.
- ✓ Urine drug screen completed and results submitted to nursing department at KC by first day of clinical.

Q. Why is a fingerprint background check required and what does it mean?

- This is a livescan fingerprint-based criminal history records check submitted as a fee applicant inquiry, with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) as the requestor.
- IDPH will receive notifications of any crimes associated to that fingerprint that happen in the future and the student will not have to get another background check to work for a health care provider (in Illinois) as long as they stay active on the registry.
- Must be started on first day of class.
- Your finger-print background check must be performed by one of four state approved vendors.
- The fee for this is the student's responsibility – approximately \$45.00.
- The finger-print background check must be completed within 10 days of the first day of class.
- An email will be sent to the CNA program to alert us the background check has processed with one of these results: no disqualifying convictions, disqualifying convictions-waiver granted, or disqualifying convictions.
- If there are disqualifying convictions and no waiver has been granted the student may:
 - Continue with class while working on obtaining a waiver.
 - Withdrawing from class.

Q. What is a disqualifying conviction?

This is a criminal conviction that would prevent you from being able to work as a CNA. A health care employer shall not knowingly hire, employ or retain an individual who has been convicted of committing or attempting to commit disqualifying offenses. A list of these can be found at www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode under Section 955.160 Disqualifying offenses.

Q. What do I do if I am not currently a Kaskaskia College student?

If you are not currently a KC student you must submit a student data form to the Admissions department to complete the enrollment process.

Q. Where can I find additional information about becoming a CNA in Illinois?

<http://www.nurseaidetesting.com>

<http://www.idph.state.il.us/nar/home.htm>