



# Explore a Career as a **NURSING ASSISTANT**

## **What do Nursing Assistants do?**

Wherever there is a need for personal care, nursing assistants are there. Nursing assistants help patients of all ages perform the most basic daily tasks. They work under a nurse's supervision. Nursing assistants have extensive daily contact with each patient, and therefore play a key role in their lives. They keep the nurse up to date on vital information about the patients' conditions. Some nursing assistants also may dispense medication, depending on their training level and the state in which they work. In nursing homes and residential care facilities, nursing assistants are often the principal caregivers. They have more contact with residents than other members of the staff.

## **Training & Educational Opportunities**

Nursing assistants must complete a state-approved education program in which they learn the basic principles of nursing and complete supervised clinical work to earn a certificate. Nursing assistants may be required to pass a background check.

## **As a Nursing Assistant you will:**

- Clean and bathe patients or residents
- Help patients use the toilet and dress
- Listen to and record patients' health concerns and report that information to nurses
- Measure patients' vital signs, such as blood pressure and temperature
- Serve meals and help patients eat
- Turn, reposition, and transfer patients between beds and wheelchairs

## **Nursing Assistants are in demand in Kankakee County!**

Kankakee County employment of nursing assistants is expected to increase through 2020. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics recognizes the job outlook for nursing assistants as growing much faster than average.

# Nursing Assistant

## Training Provider

The following certified training provider offers programs and certifications to train for a career as a nursing assistant:

- Kankakee Community College

Career scholarships may be available if you qualify.



## Types of Employers

There are many types of employers looking to hire nursing assistants in Kankakee County, including:

- Assisted living homes
- Community based long-term care facilities
- Correctional institutions
- Hospice providers
- Hospitals

## Wages & Openings

### Nursing Assistant Employment Data for Kankakee County

Average Starting Hourly Wage	\$11.55
Average Hourly Wage With Experience	\$19.90
Average Annual Job Openings Kankakee County	96
Average Annual Job Openings Chicago Metro	3,612

## Opportunities

After earning your nursing assistant certificate, you will have many opportunities for advancement. Some opportunities include:

- Home Health Aide
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Licensed Vocational Nurse
- Medical Assistant
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Registered Nurse



**Kankakee Workforce Services**

[www.kcc.edu/wioa](http://www.kcc.edu/wioa)

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