

College of the Desert
Health Sciences/ECE Division
NURSE ASSISTANT PROGRAM



We are pleased that you are interested in the Nursing Assistant Program at College of the Desert (COD). The Program is approved by the California Department of Health Services. The following includes questions students most frequently ask and information that we hope will provide answers for you.

Please call 760-773-2578 for more information.

What certificates and opportunities are provided to me upon successful completion of the program?

- Graduates are awarded a course completion certificate in Nursing Assisting by the College.
- Graduates are eligible to take the state certification examination administered by the California State Department of Health Services. Passing the examination certifies the person as a nursing assistant in the state of California.
- Under the direction of a licensed vocational nurse, registered nurse, or physician, nursing assistants are prepared to provide care to residents in long-term care facilities. Care includes dressing, feeding, bathing, ambulating, transferring and positioning residents.
- Certified nursing assistants are responsible for maintaining currency in knowledge and skills. They are required to take continuing education for classes every two years and renew their certificate

What courses must I take?

- Students must register for the Health Sciences 64 course (Nurse Assistant) which is held two days per week from 7:00 a.m. to 3:40 p.m. Please refer to the College of the Desert Schedule of Classes for class days and locations.
- If assessment scores indicate placement in ENG 50, that course is to be completed prior to enrolling in HS 064. Speak to the Counseling department on campus (760-773-2520) if you feel you can complete the course without the English 50 requirement.



What other requirements must be met for course completion?

Students must provide a valid social security number as required by the Department of Health Services, Licensing and Certification, Aide and Technician Certification Section (ATCS) under Health and Safety Code, Sections 1337 through 133.85 and 1736.1—1736.6 in order to process requests for nurse assistant and home health aide certification. Providing this information is mandatory for purposes of identification only in order to fulfill the State's responsibilities under federal regulations (42 CFR 483.151— 483.156 and 484.36).

For more information, contact ATCS at Department of Health Services Licensing and Certification Program Aide and Technician Certification Section (ATCS), 1615 Capitol Avenue, MS 3301, P.O. Box 997416, Sacramento CA 95899-7416, (916) 327-2445 or visit their website at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov.lnc/cert>.

When can I register?

- First, apply for admission to College of the Desert or be a continuing student.
- Students may register for the Nursing Assistant Program each semester using the automated telephone registration system ((760) 776-7322 from a touch-tone phone) or the online registration at COD's homepage. Registration dates are listed in the class schedule and online.
- Registration is on a first come/first served basis until classes are filled. If all classes are full, you may attend the first class meeting to request instructor's permission to enroll.

What else do I need to do after completing registration for the class?

If you have never been fingerprinted and cleared through the Aide and Technician Certification Section of the California Department of Health Services for CNA or HHA certification, or ICF-DD, DDH, or DDN employment, fingerprinting is **MANDATORY**.

You will be required to complete a Live Scan Service within one week of start of class. Individuals should obtain a *Request for Live Scan Service* form (BCII 8016) from the Health Sciences/ECE Division office before having their fingerprints scanned; we encourage completion of this service prior to first day of class. LiveScan services **will be provided on campus in the classroom during the first week of class.**



What else do I need to do after completing registration for the class? (continued)

- Once form is obtained, follow the “sample instructions” that you are given along with the actual BCII 8016 form. The certified live scan operator will complete the transaction section of the form.

To locate a live scan site in your area and to schedule an appointment for a California ONLY background check contact the DOJ's internet site at: www.ag.ca.gov/fingerprints/publications/contact.pdf or pick up a list from the HS/ECE division office.

- You must bring the following to the live scan site:
 - a completed live scan form (BCII 8016)
 - a current photo identification
- Request your copy of the completed BCII 8016 form, signed by the technician. This copy must be submitted to ATCS along with the application for certification. The application will be completed in the classroom and mailed directly to ATCS by the nursing division staff.

Additional preparatory information:

- A physical examination within the past six (6) months is required, including a test for Tuberculosis, prior to the second week after the course begins. You may go to your physician or health care professional, or schedule an appointment through the COD Health Services office for the examination and/or the TB test ((760) 346-8041, ext. 211).
- A basic CPR course must be completed. This course will be offered during the class in which you are enrolled if you do not have a current card.



What are the expenses?

Listed below are the approximate costs of the Nursing Assistant Program. Students enrolled in the nurse assistant course must also provide their own transportation to and from the clinical location.

Enrollment Fee @ \$20.25/unit*	\$ 121.50
Student Health Fee	\$ 14.00
Textbooks (bought in COD bookstore)	\$ 65.00
Uniform (including shoes/name pin).....	\$ 85.00 ⁽¹⁾
Patch (bought in COD bookstore).....	\$ 3.00
Watch (with sweep-second hand)	\$ 22.00
Insurance (Malpractice)	\$ 10.00
Stethoscope (optional)	\$ 13.00
Parking Fee.....	\$ 20.00
CPR Class (offered during the nursing assistant class) .	\$ 40.00
State Certification Exam.....	\$ 90.00
Student Representation Fee.....	\$ 1.00
State Application Fee	<u>\$ 15.00</u>
Approximate Total	\$ 500.00

⁽¹⁾ White uniform-style top; white pants/skirt (no tights or shorts) available at local uniform and apparel stores (ask for COD student discount), or all-white clothing; white closed-toe/heel shoes.

* A tuition fee for out-of-state residents is charged to all students who have not been legal residents of California for one full year. Contact the Admissions and Records Office for complete information (760-773-2516).

Financial Aid:

You may obtain information about or make application for financial aid from the Office of Financial Aid, Administration Building, College of the Desert. (760) 773-2332.

Please note that periodically the nursing programs receive funding for scholarships; please check with our office at the start of course to obtain information for any existing scholarship monies available.



Additional Course Information:

Students in all Health Sciences programs must follow the policy of the health agency to which they are assigned regarding clinical practice restrictions due to illness, injury or pregnancy. If modification in assignment is required due to illness, injury or pregnancy, it is the responsibility of the student to notify the course instructor and the Dean of the Health Sciences/ECE Division by means of a written note from a physician stating the exact restrictions in activity. Students are expected to follow the directions of their physician involving limitations in clinical activities.

Students enrolled in the Health Sciences/ECE Division courses who participate in a clinical program are subject to special guidelines developed to protect patient safety. A student may be asked to withdraw from the Nursing Assistant Program for academic reasons or for other reasons such as drug/alcohol abuse, inappropriate social or emotional behavior or documented acts of dishonesty. The faculty reserves the right to remove from the clinical area any student who, in the faculty member's professional judgment, places the patient in physical or emotional jeopardy. Should this occur, the student will have a conference with the member of the Health Sciences faculty and the Dean of the Division.

In compliance with the *Americans with Disabilities Act*, students must be, with reasonable accommodation, physically and mentally capable of performing the essential functions of the program. The Core Performance Standards adopted by the Health Sciences/ECE Division include the following:

Physical Demands - Must be able to:

- be on your feet 6-12 hours at a time, performing activities that include reaching, balancing, carrying, pushing, pulling, stooping, bending and crouching;
- lift and transfer adults from a stooped to an upright position to accomplish bed-to-chair and chair-to-bed transfers;
- lift and adjust positions of bedridden patients, including pulling as much as 12 inches toward the head of the bed;
- physically apply up to ten pounds pressure to the chest in the performance of CPR using hands, wrists and arms;
- maneuver in small spaces quickly and with ease;
- perform fine motor skills that require hand/eye coordination in the use of small instruments and equipment;

Senses - Must be able to:

- read a glass thermometer (oral and rectal);

- perform close and distinct visual activities involving persons and paperwork;
- visually discriminate depth and color perception;
- identify and distinguish odors that are pungent, such as the products of infection or metabolic imbalance (e.g., ketones);
- respond and react immediately to auditory instruction, requests, signals, and monitoring equipment;
- perform auditory assessments requiring the distinguishing of variances in sounds (e.g., tones and pitches).

Other - Must be able to:

- learn to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, using appropriate grammar, vocabulary, and word usage as well as medical terminology;
- comprehend verbal and written directions, making correct notations and responding as directed;
- make proper and timely decisions under stressful and emergency situations.