

Northwest Arkansas Community College

Health Professions Division

Patient Care Assistant

Discipline Code

AHSC

Course Number

1223

Course Title

Patient Care Assistant + (PCA+)

Catalog Description

The PCA+ Certificate Program is designed to meet the industry driven demand for Certified Nursing Assistants trained in advanced patient care techniques and that possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities to excel as a vital member of the healthcare team. This course expands on the student's knowledge of healthcare and introduces advanced patient care skills through hands on lab and clinical training at area hospitals. The PCA+ Program's goal is to meet the individual needs of healthcare providers while ensuring program participants receive training in marketable, competitive and life enhancing skills. The demand for Patient Care Assistants is great. PCA's have employment opportunities in hospitals, physician offices, assisted living organizations, long-term care facilities, long-term acute care facilities, home health care, and hospice care. Prerequisites: Students seeking admission to the PCA+ Program must provide proof of Certification as a Nursing Assistant or have completed, within the past year, a Certified Nursing Assistant Training Program approved by the Arkansas Office of Long Term Care. For more information, contact the Division of Health Professions. Certificate of Proficiency Nurse's Aide Certificate of Proficiency Nursing Assistant Note: Admissions to the CNA classes is by application which includes a criminal background check, urine drug screen, and verification of specific immunizations. This program does not result in an Arkansas Department of Higher Education approved certificate from NWACC.

Prerequisites/Co-Requisites

Successful completion of a CNA class (AHSC 1213) within the last 2 years or have a CNA certificate and has worked as a CNA within the last 2 years.

Credit Hours

3 credit hours

Contact hours

76 lecture contact hours; 24 hours of clinical time

Load hours

7 load hours

Semesters Offered

Fall, Spring & Summer

ACTS Equivalent

None

Grade Mode

A-F

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Do 12 lead EKG's, check blood sugars, don sterile gloves and work with sterile fields, work with and remove urinary catheters, remove IV's, assist with wound care,
2. Communicate with nursing staff; accurately document vital signs, intake and output on acute care patients
3. Use correct medical terminology to describe patient status

General Education Outcomes Supported

- Students will begin to develop critical thinking skills.
- Students develop information literacy.
- Students gain greater awareness of cultural perspectives.
- Students can document clearly and accurately.
- Students develop effective oral communication skills.