CNA Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

There are other CNA programs. Why NVCC?
Are they all the same?
NVCC is proud to offer one of Connecticut’s largest, oldest and most respected CNA programs. All of our instructors are experienced Registered Nurses. We more than meet the minimum standards set by the State. You will get more hours of practice in our health lab and more supervised time working with residents in the clinical setting. Our program includes one opportunity to sit for the on-site Connecticut Nurse Aide Competency Exam and is included in the cost of the course. Students will attend classes in a college setting and have access to college support resources, including the library and Job Placement Center. A graduation ceremony is held for all successful participants and graduates are awarded completion certificates and a custom-designed NVCC CNA pin to wear proudly on their uniform. We hope that you decide to join us. You will be happy that you did.

Can I pay for tuition in smaller payments?
Yes, we offer a tuition installment plan which allows you to pay in two or three payments. The specific payment amounts and dates are listed in the plan. Call 203-575-8029 to have one mailed to you or print one online at nv.edu/cna.

Can I get financial aid for the CNA course?
Sorry, federal financial aid is not available for any of our non-credit courses. You may qualify for educational funding through the Department of Labor’s One Stop Center if you meet income and employment criteria. Please contact them in Waterbury at 203-574-6971 or Danbury at 203-730-0451. Some area employers offer tuition reimbursement; please check directly with your employer. As noted above, we also offer a convenient NVCC tuition installment plan that allows you to pay for the course in installments.

I have a criminal record. May I register for the CNA course?
Those with a criminal record may have difficulty finding employment in the health care field at any level. A criminal background check is done for all students registered in the program during the first week of class. Students that do not pass the background check will not be admitted to the clinical facility and will be withdrawn from the program at their own expense. No refunds are awarded for withdrawal because of failure to pass the background check. Please consider this carefully before registering.

My certification has lapsed. What should I do?
Call the Department of Public Health, Nurse Aide Registry, at 860-509-7596. You may be required to either take the CNA course again or to retake the State certification exam.

I am certified in another state. How can I work in Connecticut?
Call the Department of Public Health, Nurse Aide Registration at 860-509-7596 for information about obtaining Connecticut credentials.

FAQ’s continued on page 25.
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I want to be a nurse. Do you have a nursing program?
Yes. Many students pursuing a career in health care begin with the CNA program while earning money to continue their education. NVCC has an associate degree program preparing you as a registered nurse. Call the Admissions Office at 203-575-8040 or go to nv.edu/nursing for more information.

How can I get information about CNA courses at NVCC?
1. Visit us online at nv.edu/cna to view or download detailed course calendars, tuition installment plan and health form (CNA information packet).
2. Call 203-575-8029 or email continuinged@nv.edu to request a CNA information packet to be mailed to you.
3. Visit Kinney Hall, Room K407, on the Waterbury Campus or NVCC Danbury Campus, 183 Main Street, to pick up a CNA information packet.
4. Attend one of our free information sessions. See page 4.

I am ready to sign up! How can I register for NVCC CNA or PCT Courses?
1. Call 203-575-8029 (Waterbury) or 203-797-9361 (Danbury) for information on how to register over the phone, by mail, fax or walk-in.
2. Email continuinged@nv.edu for any questions about registration.

Career Spotlight
Certified Nurse Aide
The Connecticut Department of Labor (CTDOL) reports the average annual income for Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants is $32,188 with a mean hourly rate of $15.48. The CTDOL lists Certified Nurse Aide as a Hot Job and states employment in this occupation is expected to grow about as fast as average, and the number of annual opening will offer excellent job opportunities.

It is mandated that for employment, all nurse aides must be listed on the Connecticut Nurse Aide Registry. Successful completion of the Connecticut Nurse Aide Competency Exam is required for registry. The exam is given on site and included in the cost of the course.