

# Nursing – Nurse Aide

## ***Nature of the Profession***

*Nurse aides, also called nursing assistants, perform a variety of duties to care for sick and injured people under the direction of nurses. They answer patients' bell calls, deliver messages, serve meals, and make beds. They also feed, bathe, and dress patients; take temperatures; and help patients get around. Some store or move supplies and clean patients' rooms. Those who work in patients' homes may also clean, do laundry, shop for food, plan and prepare meals.*

## **APTITUDES**

- Ability to learn the methods and procedures of patient care
- Average verbal and numerical skills
- Ability to move often from one task to another and to use several different skills
- Good space and form perception and manual dexterity
- Ability to work with people who are ill
- Ability to respond quickly in emergencies and keep accurate records

## **EDUCATION**

Most employers prefer to hire high school graduates. On-the-job training is given through both supervised work and classroom instruction, and may last several days or weeks. The Nebraska Health Care Association offers a course for nursing assistants, and a few schools offer short training programs. First-aid and home nursing classes and hospital volunteer work are helpful.

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- Bryan LGH College of Health Sciences – Lincoln (C)
- Central Community College – Columbus, Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney (C)
- Clarkson College (C)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (C)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (C)
- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (C)
- Southeast Community College – Beatrice, Lincoln (C)
- Western Nebraska Community College – Scottsbluff, Alliance, Sidney (C)

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

The Nebraska Health Care Association provides an approved book for nurse aides. To work in nursing homes or home health, an individual must be on the Nebraska Nurse Aide Registry. To be eligible to be on the Registry, the individual must pass a State approved course and a written and clinical exam.