



Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants

Course Overview: Focuses on careers in planning, managing, and providing therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research and development.

Career Goal (O*NET Code): (31-1012) - Nursing aides assist patients with activities of daily living like eating and bathing. Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants help provide basic care for patients in hospitals and residents of long-term care facilities, such as nursing homes.

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

School: _____

SUGGESTED COURSEWORK

EXTENDED LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Middle School	8th	HS Courses:	(Local districts may list high school credit courses here)		<p>Curricular Experiences: *** Health Occupations Students of America</p> <p>Career Learning Experiences: Career Preparation Internship Job Shadowing Clinical Rotations Certifications Clinical Volunteer Work (local hospitals & medical facilities)</p> <p>Extracurricular Experiences:*** Language Immersion Programs National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine School Newspaper Student Council UIL Academic Competitions Yearbook</p> <p>Service Learning Experiences: Boy/Girl Scouts Campus Service Organizations Community Service Volunteer Medical Mission Trips Peer Mentoring / Peer Tutoring Special Olympics</p>		
	High School	9th	Courses*:	English I Algebra I or Geometry Biology		World Geography Foreign Language I Physical Education or Athletics	<p align="center">COLLEGE CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES -- High School</p> <p>Students should take Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), dual credit, Advanced Technical Credit (ATC), or locally articulated courses (Tech Prep), if possible. List those courses that count for college credit on your campus.</p>
Career-Related Electives:			Principles of Health Science				
10th		Courses:	English II Geometry or Algebra II Chemistry	World History Foreign Language II Elective			
		Career-Related Electives:	Medical Terminology and Pathophysiology				
11th		Core Courses:	English III Algebra II or Pre-Calculus Physics	United States History Foreign Language III ** Professional Communications or Speech			
		Career-Related Electives:	Health Science				
12th	Core Courses:	English IV Pre-Calculus or Calculus 4th Science	Government/Economics Elective Elective				
	Career-Related Electives:	Practicum in Health Science					
Postsecondary	How to Become a Nursing Aide, Orderly, or Attendant Nursing aides should be personable and enjoy helping people. Nursing aides and attendants typically need a postsecondary certificate or award. Orderlies generally have at least a high school diploma. Nursing aides must pass their state's competency exam.			Carrer Options (Sample of reported job titles)		Professional Associations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Association of Health Care Assistants National Network of Career Nursing Assistants 	
		Texas Southmost College	South Texas College	Texas State Technical College			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient Care Technician Patient Care Assistant Phlebotomist EKG Technician Monitor Technician Nurse Aide
		Patient Care Assistant (CERT)	Nurse Assistant (CERT)				
		The University of Texas at Brownsville	The University of Texas - Pan American				

* Students must meet local & state high school graduation requirements. ** Required course for the Distinguished Graduation Plan (in addition to other measures). *** Based on campus availability. Students may select other elective courses for personal enrichment purposes.

This plan of study serves as a guide, along with other career planning materials, for pursuing a career path and is based on the most recent information as of 2009. All plans meet high school graduation requirements as well as college entrance requirements.



Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants

TEA Industry Cluster	Health Science
SOC Code	31-1012
Identified by	TWC LMCI
Projected Growth (2018)	27%
BISD Magnet School Available	Yes

Source: Demand Occupations by Cluster, updated June 27, 2012

Description

What Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants Do

Nursing aides assist patients with activities of daily living like eating and bathing. Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants help provide basic care for patients in hospitals and residents of long-term care facilities, such as nursing homes.

Duties

Nursing aides, sometimes called nursing attendants or nursing assistants, provide basic care and help with basic living activities. They typically do the following:

- Clean and bathe patients or residents
- Help patients use the toilet and dress
- Turn, reposition, and transfer patients between beds and wheelchairs
- 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

Some nursing aides and attendants may also dispense medication, depending on their training level and the state in which they work.

In nursing homes, aides and attendants are often the principal caregivers. They have more contact with residents than other members of the staff. Because some residents stay in a nursing home for months or years, aides and attendants may develop close, caring relationships with their patients.

Orderlies may do some of the same tasks as nursing aides and attendants, although they do not usually provide healthcare services. They typically do the following:

- Transport patients, such as taking a hospital patient to an operating room
- Clean equipment and facilities

Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants work as part of a healthcare team under the supervision of licensed practical or vocational nurses or registered nurses.

Training Opportunities Linked to Those Jobs (Degree Types and Colleges/Universities)

How to Become a Nursing Aide, Orderly, or Attendant

Nursing aides should be personable and enjoy helping people.

Nursing aides and attendants typically need a postsecondary certificate or award. Orderlies generally have at least a high school diploma. Nursing aides must pass their state's competency exam.

Education and Training

Nursing aides and attendants must earn a postsecondary certificate or award, in which they learn the basic principles of nursing and complete supervised clinical work. These programs are found in community colleges, vocational and technical schools, and in hospitals and nursing homes. Some high schools offer nursing aide programs.

Orderlies typically have at least a high school diploma. Orderlies who are not involved in patient care may be trained on the job.

Certification

When they finish their state-required education, nursing aides and attendants take a competency exam. Passing this exam allows them to use state-specific titles. In some states, a nursing aide or attendant is called a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), but titles vary from state to state.

Nursing aides and attendants who have passed the exam are placed on a state registry. In many states, nursing aides and attendants must be on the state registry to work in a nursing home.

Some states have other requirements as well, such as continuing education and a criminal background check. Check with your state's board of nursing or health, for more information.

In some states, nursing aides and attendants can get additional credentials beyond a CNA, such as becoming a Certified Medication Assistant (CMA). As a CMA, they can give medications.

Important Qualities

Compassion. Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants provide care for the sick, injured, and elderly. Doing so requires a compassionate and empathetic attitude.

Patience. The routine tasks of cleaning, feeding, and bathing patients or residents can be stressful. Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants must be patient to provide quality care.

Speaking skills. Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants must be able to communicate effectively to address patients' or residents' concerns. They also need to relay patients' statuses to other healthcare workers.

Texas Southmost College	South Texas College	Texas State Technical College	The University of Texas at Brownsville	The University of Texas - Pan American
	Patient Care Assistant (CERT)	Nurse Assistant (CERT)		

Local Employers

Employer	City		Employer	City
A Better Choice Home Health	Brownsville		All Home Care Inc	Harlingen
A One Health Svc Agency	Brownsville		All Texas Healthcare	Harlingen
A Touch Home Health Care Inc	Brownsville		Amigos Del Valle Inc	Harlingen
Aarp/Scsep	Brownsville		Angelcare Haven	Harlingen

Career Options (Specific Job Types)

Sample of reported job titles:

- Patient Care Technician
- Patient Care Assistant
- Phlebotomist
- EKG Technician
- Monitor Technician
- Nurse Aide

Salary Ranges

The wage occupation **Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants** aggregates data for these 2 occupations:
Nursing Assistants ----- Orderlies

Location	Pay Period	2011				
		10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
United States	Hourly	\$8.68	\$9.98	\$11.63	\$14.07	\$16.91
	Yearly	\$18,100	\$20,800	\$24,200	\$29,300	\$35,200
Texas	Hourly	\$7.99	\$8.95	\$10.44	\$12.21	\$14.39
	Yearly	\$16,600	\$18,600	\$21,700	\$25,400	\$29,900
Brownsville-Harlingen, TX MSA	Hourly	\$7.60	\$8.01	\$8.70	\$9.43	\$11.08
	Yearly	\$15,800	\$16,700	\$18,100	\$19,600	\$23,000
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX MSA	Hourly	\$7.72	\$8.30	\$9.26	\$10.82	\$11.94
	Yearly	\$16,100	\$17,300	\$19,300	\$22,500	\$24,800

Professional Associations Linked to the Careers

For more information on nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants, visit

[National Association of Health Care Assistants](#)

[National Network of Career Nursing Assistants](#)

Sources

The information provided in this document was collected from the following sources:

- Occupational Outlook Handbook (<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>)
- O*NET OnLine (<http://www.onetonline.org/>)
- Texas CARES (<http://www.texascaresonline.com/>)
- CareerOneStop (<http://www.careeronestop.org/>)