

Answer your calling— get certified today.

If you believe caring for others is your calling, consider becoming a Certified Nurse Aide (CNA). Under the supervision of nursing staff, CNAs provide vital, hands-on care to residents or patients in nursing homes, rehabilitation centers and hospitals. To achieve CNA certification in New York state, all you need is a built-in desire to care for others, and the ability to complete the following:

CNA Clinical and Classroom Instruction

To become a CNA in New York state, you must complete 100 hours of clinical and classroom instruction in an approved setting, and pass an exam. Training programs can vary in length, with some taking as little as four weeks to complete. They are offered in many community colleges, vocational schools, proprietary schools, medical facilities, nursing homes and rehabilitation centers.

Some certification classes are available online, but you must still perform the required 30 hours of hands-on clinical instruction at a state-approved facility. Here is a link to New York state's approved training curriculum.

[New York state's approved training programs](#)

You can also find a list of nursing home-based approved training programs in a PDF file on the CNA page on caringgene.org.

The Office of Professions at the New York State Education Department oversees [programs at community colleges, university nursing schools, Educational Opportunity Centers and development centers](#).

The Bureau of Proprietary School Supervision and Workforce Preparation at the New York State Education Department oversees [programs at vocational training centers, career centers, institutes, and technical schools](#).

Training Programs and Costs

CNA training program costs vary from school to school. In some cases, employers offer free or paid CNA training. They may also cover CNA exam fees.

Prior nursing education can substitute for CNA training. New York state will allow licensed nurses (both U.S. and international) to forego the usual CNA training course. LPNs and RNs are also excused from exam requirements, while international nurses are required to take the test.

You must pass the [New York State Competency Examination](#). This exam is scheduled through Prometric. Candidates must submit fees with their Prometric applications. This fee is often paid by the employer if you are completing training through an approved provider training program in New York state.

[Get more details](#) about the exam and certification process.



**If you care, your
career starts here.**

**To become a Certified Nurse Aide
in New York state, you must:**

Be at least 18 years of age

Have a high school diploma or
GED (training programs may have
other standards)

Undergo a criminal background
check

Have an up-to-date
immunization test

Show a negative TB skin test

Be in good physical health

Be willing to undergo drug testing

Start your new career!



Out-of-State CNAs

If you are already a CNA who is active on another state registry, you can apply for reciprocity in New York state via the [Prometric site](#). You will need to include copies of your current certification.

Former CNAs

CNAs with lapsed certification can apply for examination without retraining provided you completed NYS-approved programs no earlier than July 1, 1989. If you completed training prior to this date, or were placed on the registry without completing a New York program, you will need to complete approved programs before you can again have active status.

Additional Requirements to Get Certified in NYS

There are some additional requirements to earn CNA certification in New York state. To work in a nursing home or for a home care agency, you must pass a fingerprint-based criminal history record check (CHRC). The process for CNA certification is as follows:

- Employer submits fingerprints and fees to the New York Department of Health (NYSDOH).
- NYSDOH submits fingerprints to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (NYSDCJS) and the FBI.
- NYSDOH gets the results and sends letter to your employer and you indicating if you are eligible for continued employment.

Criminal Convictions

There are certain criminal convictions that may disqualify you from getting certified, like a Class A felony and a Class B or C felony that occurred within the preceding 10 years. A full list is available in the Department of Health Regulations Title 10, NYCRR Part 402.

Once you complete training and pass exams, you will receive certification and your name will be added to the [Nurse Aide Registry](#).

