

## CAREER OUTLOOK

Job prospects for nursing assistants looks very good for the near future. There is an expected 21%-35% growth in the job market over the next decade. This exceptional growth is attributed to the rapidly growing older population that will demand more emphasis on rehabilitation and long term care. As a result, a major employer in this sector will be nursing homes and long term care facilities for people with chronic illnesses and disabling conditions. Replacing current employees will be the major source of openings for nursing assistants.

## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Hospital Association  
840 North Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, IL 60611  
Phone: (312) 422-3000  
Web: [www.aha.org](http://www.aha.org)

Mississippi Hospital Association  
Division of Nursing  
PO Box 16444  
Jackson, MS 39216-6444  
Phone: (601) 982-3251  
Web: [www.mhanet.org](http://www.mhanet.org)



## MHA HEALTH CAREERS CENTER

6425 LAKEOVER ROAD (39213)  
P.O. Box 16444  
JACKSON, MS 39236-6444  
PHONE (601) 982-3251  
FAX (601) 368-3200

[WWW.MSHEALTHCAREERS.COM](http://WWW.MSHEALTHCAREERS.COM)

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*Promoting Health  
Careers in Mississippi*

*A division of Mississippi Hospital Association*

**NURSING ASSISTANT**

## POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

Nursing assistants, sometimes called nurse aides, orderlies, and geriatric aides, assist in the care of patients. They work under the direction and supervision of registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and other medical staff. Nursing assistants have a great deal of contact with patients and provide personal care such as bathing, feeding, and dressing. They also perform support functions such as transporting patients, taking vital signs, making beds, helping patients become ambulatory, and answering patient calls. They might also be called upon to set up equipment such as X-ray machines and overhead irrigation bottles. Nursing assistants are often responsible for observing and reporting how patients respond to the care that is being given. Nursing assistants employed in nursing homes are called geriatric aides. These nurses have far more contact with residents than any of the other staff, and are therefore expected to develop ongoing relationships with the patients and treat them in a positive, caring way. To be a successful nursing assistant, an individual must be a team player who is able to take orders well. They must also be emotionally stable and have a great deal of patience.

## WORK ENVIRONMENT

Nursing assistants work in a variety of different health care settings. These include hospitals, physician's offices, home health agencies, nursing homes, private homes, and mental health institutions. They are on their feet most of the time and may be required to lift and move patients, so physical fitness is a plus.

## HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION

Students interested in becoming a nurse assistant should take courses in dental/medical assisting, algebra, computer skills, English, history, biology, nurse aide training, and health occupations/medical professions education.

## COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

Most employers require a high school diploma or the equivalent. Training is offered in a variety of settings, which may include high schools, vocational schools, community colleges, geriatric facilities, and employers. These courses usually last six to eight weeks at which time students can take an exam given by the Mississippi Department of Health to become a Certified Nurses Assistant (CNA).

Students interested in becoming a nursing assistant should contact schools for information on admission and course of study.

## EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Holmes Community College  
PO Box 216  
Goodman, MS 39079  
Phone: (601) 472-9028

Itawamba Community College  
602 W Hill Street  
Fulton, MS 38843  
Phone: (601) 862-8220

Meridian Community College  
Drawer #358  
Meridian, MS 39307  
Phone: (601) 484-8673

Mississippi Delta Community College  
Greenwood and Greenville Campuses  
PO Box 668  
Moorhead, MS 38761  
Phone: (662) 246-6322

Northwest Mississippi Community College  
Senatobia, Oxford, Bruce, and  
Water Valley Campuses  
4975 Hwy 51 North  
Senatobia, MS 38668  
Phone: (662) 562-3271

Pearl River Community College--Hattiesburg  
101 Hwy 11 North Box 5120  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401  
Phone: (601) 554-5523

Southwest Mississippi Community College  
College Drive  
Summit, MS 39666  
Phone: (601) 276-3707

## SALARY RANGE

Average Annual Salary--\$16,400  
Salary Range--\$14,200-\$21,700