

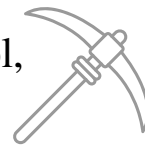
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Durych Applies CNA License

As a child, Lily Durych dreamed of helping people, but she wasn't sure what she wanted to be when she grew up. She often considered being a hairdresser, a real estate agent, or a Veterinarian. "Usually a Veterinarian," Durych laughs.

During her sophomore year of high school, Durych was introduced to career ideas in different healthcare fields through a health class with Grant Union Jr/Sr High School teacher Sylvia Ross. That summer, she attended a MedQuest Camp at Crane High School, receiving the opportunity to job shadow many different careers in healthcare, including surgery, post-op, and nursing. She decided to pursue a career in radiology, specifically as an ultrasound technician.

In her junior year, Durych began taking college classes through Grant Union and Eastern Oregon University. To gain more experience in the medical field and better prepare for nursing school, Durych enrolled in a CNA course through Treasure Valley Community College, completing her 72 hours of coursework online and her 40 clinical hours at Harney District Hospital. After completing the three-month course, Durych and her mother travelled to Gresham so she could complete her online knowledge test and hands-on skills test—both of which she passed on the first try. "Which was exciting," she exclaims, "because I was really nervous." She received her certification, accepting a job at the Blue Mountain Care Center in Prairie City.

She worked full-time throughout the summer with three 12-hour shifts per week. Although the work can be tiring and takes a toll on her, she loves working with the residents and finds the work rewarding. While most of

her day includes caring for a resident's basic needs; she also enjoys the relationships. Durych shared that her favorite time this summer was taking the residents to the Grant County Fair, where they met up with various family members, toured the fairgrounds and pavilion, and ate lunch together. "I really like spending time with the residents."

Now that school has started, Durych has found her schedule a little fuller. She attends Grant Union full-time, with her coursework including a dual-enrollment Medical Terminology class with Blue Mountain Community College and additional college-level classes through EOU. Busy with school and the soccer team, Durych continues to work a sixteen-hour shift on Sundays.

After graduation, Durych plans to complete her prerequisite classes and apply to nursing school. Although radiology is not out of the question, she now hopes to gain experience in different areas of nursing, including the Emergency Room, Intensive Care Unit, and Labor and Delivery. "I really enjoy the patient interaction," she said. She adds that every student would benefit from taking CNA classes because "they give you perspective and help you see people's everyday lives and what they have going on." She feels incredibly thankful for each daily task she can complete for herself, and that drives her to help others. Whatever career Lily Durych decides on, she will be a cheerful blessing to everyone around her.

Two programs are currently available for CNA certification: the TVCC program outlined above and a program offered locally through Blue Mountain Hospital District with clinicals at the Blue Mountain Care Home. Both of these programs are available throughout the year and have been beneficial to Grant Union students. Several of Lily's classmates have also become board-certified CNAs. In fact, over the past two years, Grant Union has helped eight students complete their CNA courses and become board certified during high school. One graduate is currently in nursing school, while the others are working as CNA's while completing their high school or college coursework. The CNA program is one of many paths students are taking to unlock their future. It's a great day to be a Prospector!



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