COLTON REDLANDS YUCAIPA
REGIONAL OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAM
Inspiring Possibilities

2026-2027

Nurse Assistant-Acute Care

COURSE OUTLINE

DESCRIPTION:

Nurse Assistant-Acute Care is designed to prepare students who are Certified Nursing Assistants for employment in the acute care setting. Students will learn reinforcement of CNA skills, with special emphasis on specialized acute care areas such as medical, surgical, orthopedic, pediatric, and obstetrical units. Integrated throughout are career preparation standards that include basic academic skills, interpersonal skills, problem solving, safety, and technology. Clinical hours are a required component of this program.

INFORMATION:

Pre-requisites:

- Graduated and successfully completed an accredited Nurse Assistant program with a B or better or possesses at least six months full-time experience working as a Certified Nursing Assistant and submit a letter of recommendation verifying work experience.
- Successful passing of the state's (CA) exam Nursing Assistant Exam (CNA).
- Ability to clear required fingerprinting (As per CDPH verification information)
- Must possess the ability and resources to attend theory & clinical hours as scheduled. Clinical times/days may vary depending on the scheduling of the hospital. A clinical calendar is available prior to the start of the program.
- Dress requirement and grooming as required by industry standards and the clinical site. Refer to the class rules and guidelines. Must wear scrub pants and top. Pants color black and top color Ciew or Ciel.
- All students must show verification of BLS CPR training and current events throughout the class period.
- Fees: Registration and material fees for adult students varies (see current program flier)
- Length: 110 hours (46 hours classroom (theory)/64 hours clinical).
- Tattoos must be covered. Hair off the shoulders must be placed in a bun or ponytail and facial hair has to be neat and well maintained.
- Drug testing is required and covered by the training costs.
- Students must provide proof of the following health screenings by the posted date (refer to program flier): physical, Tdap, Titers (Rubella, Rubeola, Mumps, Hep B & Varicella), seasonal flu immunization and COVID/booster. Possess negative or non-active TB screening within the past year. The clinical site does allow declination of the COVID vaccination.

O*NET SOC CODES:

Acute Care Nurses	29-1141
Cardiovascular Technicians	29-2031
Hospital Personal Care Aides	31-1122

1. Orientation

A. Introduce the program & facilities.
B. Discuss the syllabus and major objectives.
C. Explain applicable classroom management procedures, the ROP Student Rules of Conduct, and any operational guidelines.
D. Review instructor/student expectations.
E. Explain enrollment and attendance requirements and procedures.
F. Review grading and student evaluation procedures.
G. Discuss the required community classroom aspect of the program.
H. Discuss the "next steps" related to additional education, training and employment.
I. Review classroom safety, emergency and disaster procedures.

2. Communication Skills

A. Demonstrate positive verbal communication skills using appropriate vocabulary, demeanor and vocal tone in the classroom and/or worksite.
B. Read and interpret written information and directions.
C. Practice various forms of written communication appropriate to the occupation including an incident form and charting.
D. Practice positive body language skills.
E. Model professional verbal skills for resolving conflict.
F. Demonstrate active listening skills including techniques for checking for understanding and for obtaining clarification of directions.
G. Role play workplace scenarios demonstrating appropriate and inappropriate communication and behavior.
H. Students will complete mandated reporting training and earn an industry certification through Target Solutions.

3. Interpersonal Skills

A. Demonstrate positive teamwork skills by contributing to a group effort.
B. Practice the importance of diversity awareness and sensitivity in the workplace.
C. Define sexual and anti-harassment in the workplace and identify the employee's role and responsibility.
D. Demonstrate participation skills.
E. Identify personality types and strategies for working effectively with each type.
F. Practice business and social etiquette skills appropriate to the occupation.
G. Discuss the role of business and personal ethics in the decision-making process.
H. Evaluate various job-related scenarios and justify decisions based on ethics.
I. Demonstrate flexibility and adaptability in working with others.
J. Demonstrate the use of time management skills.

- Includes updates from 25/26 Advisory meeting – Certified Nursing Assistant

K. Students will identify, compare and contrast character traits associated with their cultural backgrounds.

4. Employability Skills

A. Demonstrate appropriate attendance and punctuality practices for the classroom and clinical site.
B. Prepare a resume, cover letter and job application.
C. Demonstrate interviewing techniques using appropriate tone and body language. Participate in a mock interview.
D. Demonstrate appropriate dress and grooming standards in seeking employment and for the workplace.
E. Identify strategies for employment retention.
F. Analyze the impact of social networking on employability.
G. Identify the need for continuing education, professional development and professional growth in chosen field.
H. Identify appropriate procedures for leaving a job.
I. Students will complete a job application correctly, legibly and error-free using standard abbreviations and language.
J. Students will collect information for appropriate job openings from multiple sources (internet, networking, industry sources, cold calls, etc.)
K. Students will demonstrate appropriate attire and grooming for an interview.
L. Students will participate in mock interviews with peers and/or industry representatives.

5. Personal & Occupational Safety

A. Demonstrate procedures to be followed in the case of emergencies.
B. Successfully pass with a C or better the program safety test.
C. Discuss ways to report potential safety hazards to a supervisor.
D. Identify and discuss cyber ethics, safety and security.
E. Describe the methods of Universal Precautions that prevent the spread of microorganisms.
F. Explain importance of CAL-OSHA.
G. Demonstrate proper body mechanics in order to prevent injury to patient, students and employees.
H. Discuss the method to use to report a potential safety hazard or injury.
I. Recognize the effects of substance abuse in the workplace.
J. Identify basic emergency codes used in the workplace.
K. Discuss fire & disaster plans as they relate to the Acute Care setting.
L. Students will independently complete the Target Solutions online courses and gain certification in the following areas: Anti-Harassment, Mandated Reporting, COVID 101, Confidentiality and Personal Identifiable Information.

6. Introduction to Acute Care

- Includes updates from 25/26 Advisory meeting – Certified Nursing Assistant

A. Review basic clinical skills and procedures performed by a Certified Nursing Assistant in an acute setting.
B. Explain the legal responsibilities of certification and re-certification of the Certified Nursing Assistant.
C. Identify where one can earn continuing education units and submit to the state for approval.
D. Discuss the difference and similarities between an elder care facility and a hospital setting.

7. Medical & Surgical Asepsis

A. Name four infectious agents (microbes) and discuss the diseases they cause.
B. Discuss two antibiotic resistant bacteria.
C. State five conditions necessary for infectious agents to grow.
D. Identify the six parts of the chain of infection.
E. List four lines of defense against infection in the body.
F. Describe the signs and symptoms of infection.
G. Differentiate between medical and surgical asepsis.
H. Identify the roles of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in the prevention of infections.
I. Explain standard precaution procedures.
J. Describe personal protective equipment (PPE) and proper use.
K. Define transmission-based precautions.
L. Identify the psychological effects of standard precaution and transmission-based precautions on patient/patients

8. Care of Orthopedic Patient

A. Demonstrate care of the orthopedic patient with special devices including casts, traction, trapeze, crutches, splints, and the CPM (Continuous Passive Motion machine).
B. Define the scope of nursing care involved when interacting with orthopedic patients.
C. List the common orthopedic diseases, disorders and conditions.
D. Describe basic specialized equipment used in the care of the orthopedic patient.
E. Demonstrate active and passive range of motion exercises.
F. Demonstrate the correct application of an abductor pillow.
G. Demonstrate proper positioning of the orthopedic patient with various conditions.

9. Nutrition and Fluid Balance

A. Identify special diets that may be ordered for the hospitalized patient.
B. Discuss the importance of following guidelines for a patient on a fluid restriction.
C. Explain how to performs a calorie count.
D. Demonstrate how to pass dietary trays properly.

- Includes updates from 25/26 Advisory meeting – Certified Nursing Assistant

E. Accurately demonstrate measuring and recording patient intake and output.
F. Identify the signs and symptoms of hypo and hyperglycemia in the diabetic patient.
G. Discuss the special needs of the diabetic patient.

10. Care of Surgical Patient

A. Demonstrate basic pre-operative patient care.
B. Describe the procedure used for filling out a pre-op checklist.
C. Discuss potential post-op complications and Certified Nursing Assistant's reporting responsibilities.
D. Perform basic post-operative care, including turning, coughing, deep breathing, use of the incentive spirometer and measurements of vital signs.
E. Demonstrate care of the surgical patient with various drains and the procedure for measuring the output.
F. Demonstrate application of TED hose and pneumatic leg coverings.
G. Discuss the concerns and anxieties of a patient having surgery.
H. Identify the three phases of a surgical patient's care (Pre-operative, Operative and Post-Operative).
I. Demonstrate knowledge of the procedures for performing surgical shave prep.
J. Demonstrate the ability to make a surgical bed.
K. Identify level of activity and diet progression of the post-operative patient.
L. Discuss application of post-op binders.
M. Identify special precautions to be observed when caring for a patient with various tubes in place.

11. Maternal Child Care

A. Describe the care of the neonate, including feeding, burping, holding, dressing and the performance of vital signs.
B. Perform basic post-partum nursing care according to the Certified Nursing Assistant Scope of Practice.
C. Discuss fetal development from conception to birth.
D. Define presumptive, probable and positive signs of pregnancy.
E. Discuss the three trimesters of pregnancy and the maternal changes that occur.
F. Discuss the stages of labor and delivery and possible complications.
G. Identify treatments used to relive postpartum discomfort.
H. Identify common problems and congenital abnormalities in the Neonate.

12. Pediatric Care

A. Describe how to maintain a safe environment for the pediatric patient.
B. Discuss the proper procedure for measuring vital signs of the pediatric patient.
C. Discuss the development of a newborn child through their adolescence.
D. Discuss the role of parents and siblings of the hospitalized pediatric patient.

- Includes updates from 25/26 Advisory meeting – Certified Nursing Assistant

E. Describe and demonstrate the proper procedure for weighing the pediatric patient.
F. Describe the proper procedure for feeding and burping an infant.

13. Care of the Medical Patient

A. Demonstrate bathing and moving a patient with a variety of tubes and/or electrodes in place.
B. Measure and record vital signs using electronic equipment.
C. Demonstrate ability to accurately take and record an EKG or ECG (Electrocardiogram).
D. Discuss the Certified Nursing Assistant's (CNA) responsibilities in preparing the acutely ill patient for diagnostic tests.
E. List patient admission, transfer and discharge procedures.
F. Demonstrate the procedure for collecting and handling specimens, including clean catch urine specimen.
G. Demonstrate the placement of electrodes for monitoring patients on telemetry.
H. Assist patient in the re-application of the pulse oximeter.
I. Identify the safety measures for the use of oxygen therapy including proper placement of a nasal cannula and oxygen mask.
J. Demonstrate the use and safety needs of heat and cold applications.