

# Nursing Positions Explained

NA

**NURSE ASSISTANT**

Education  
On-The-Job Training 10 day

Certification  
None Required

CNA

**CERTIFIED NURSE ASSISTANT**

Education  
CNA Program 120 hours Idaho, 155 hours Oregon

Certification  
CNA Certification

LPN

**LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE**

Education  
ASN (1.5 yrs)

Certification  
LPN License (single/multi-state)

BSN

*Bachelor Science Nursing*

**REGISTERED NURSE**

Education  
BSN (4 yrs)

Certification  
RN License (single or multi-state)

AAS/ADN/ASN

*Associate Degree Nursing*

**REGISTERED NURSE**

Education  
AAS (2yrs)

Certification  
RN License (single/multi-state)

## **Nursing Assistant (NA) & Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA)**

CNA's and NA's plays a significant role in ensuring the best care plan is created and executed for patients. Under the guidance of a licensed team, they are essential in providing effective patient care and maintaining a clean, organized, and efficient environment. Tasks include monitoring, bathing, grooming, and feeding to ensure patient comfort.

Skills: Team and Service Oriented - Active Listening - Social Perceptiveness - Attention to Detail - Customer Service - Communication (verbal and written)

### **Q&A What's the different between Nurse Assistant and a Certified Nurse Assistant?**

A CNA and NA have similar scopes of practice. A CNA is licensed and has a slightly higher salary and may be more marketable in the job market though NA's are also in demand. A CNA often takes 12-16 weeks of schooling and must pass a state test. An NA is often trained through on-the-job training. Saint Alphonsus offers this training through our Trinity Nurse Assistant Program (TNAP)

## **Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)**

Responsible for providing technical patient care under the direction of a provider or RN. Will help coordinate and execute the plan to assess and meet patient needs. Daily tasks might include administering medication, assisting with emergency care or examinations, coordinating communication efforts, maintaining records, and enforcing proper protocol and procedures in a facility.

Skills: Clinical/Patient Care Duties - Teamwork and Collaboration - Communication (verbal and written) - Diligent - Knowledgeable- Assessment-Documentation

### **Q&A What is the difference between an LPN and an RN?**

Both positions are in high demand, play crucial roles and have bright futures. An LPN requires less schooling. Both degrees have very similar scopes of practice but there are some duties only performed by an RN. Leadership opportunities may be more available with an RN.

## **Registered Nurse: Associate/Bachelor**

Often leads and directs the care team to best support each patient. Most of the shift is spent on their feet assessing patients and administering care. May be responsible for performing patient care tasks or designating responsibilities to care team while maintaining records and communication with family and other staff.

Skills: Caring for Others - Empathy - Patient Assessment - Critical Thinking - Teamwork - Adaptability - Documentation - Communication (verbal and written)

### **Q&A What is the difference between an RN with an associate and that with a bachelor**

Both levels of schooling offer great career opportunities with many growth and advancement paths. The BSN is a longer program and can provide more hands-on experience to students and may better equip future nurses for career advancement into leadership roles.

### **Q&A What is the difference between ADN, ASN and AAS Degrees?**

ADN focuses on comprehensive nursing courses and clinical practice.

ASN focuses primarily on clinical practice while also providing nursing courses.

AAS is a career-focused program that provides basic nursing education.

All 3 degrees will allow you to be eligible to take the NCLEX and obtain your RN license.