What are the job duties of a Nurse Aide?
The Nurse Aide Certificate Program is intended for the individual desiring to work as a CNA in long term or acute care. Skills obtained in the Nurse Aide Program include:

- Obtain vital signs
- Perform non-invasive monitoring as directed by the RN or LPN
- Observe for and report to the RN or LPN unexpected situations
- Express needs and changes in the resident’s condition
- Monitor and document the resident’s intake and output
- Document care and observations thoroughly and accurately
- Feed and assist residents with nutritional intake and follow dietary restrictions
- Assist residents with hygiene and grooming needs

- Transfer and assist residents with ambulation and mobility needs
- Assist residents with active and passive range of motion exercises
- Apply anti-embolism and pneumatic stockings
- Reapply cannula and oxygen masks for residents already receiving oxygen therapy
- Collect specimens as directed by the RN or LPN
- Utilize assistive devices, transfer aides, and other equipment safely

Career Opportunities
What can you look forward to doing once you successfully complete the Nurse Aide Certificate Program at Aims Community College and take the Colorado State Board of Nursing exam (SBON)?

Employment opportunities exist for the state-certified nursing assistant in long-term care, home-health care, nursing home and residential care. Local opportunities also exist for employment in hospitals.

The Nurse Aide Program is also useful for people wanting to have employable skills while preparing for nursing or other health careers.

Employment opportunities require a current State of Colorado Nurse Aide Certification.

Program Curriculum
The Nurse Aide Certificate Program at Aims Community College is a 110 clock-hour program approximately four weeks in length. Day and Evening cohorts are offered throughout the academic year as well as a hybrid class, in which students complete assignments online as well as in lab.

NUA 101, Nurse Aide Health Care Skills and Lab (4 credits)
NUA 170, Nurse Aide Clinical Experience (1 credit)

All students are required to attend a mandatory orientation and have an advisor's signature on the course registration form prior to being scheduled into the program. Certification is awarded by the Colorado State Board of Nursing (SBON). Aims Community College provides the approved coursework to prepare a student to take the certification exam, but does not guarantee that the graduate of the program will meet eligibility requirements established by the SBON. Aims Community College tuition and fees do not apply to the state certification exam.
Admissions Requirements

What does it take to be a student in the Nurse Aide Certification Program at Aims? These are the requirements that students must meet prior to the first day of class:

- Be registered as a student of Aims Community College
- Attend a Nurse Aide Orientation
- The student must bring reading scores to the NA orientation. These may be ACT or SAT scores, proof of an English Composition class grade of “C” or better, or completion of the Accuplacer reading test with a score of 62 or better
- A background check completed within 1 year of entry into the program with no disqualifying offenses
- Two negative TB skin tests within the last 9 months, or evidence of a negative chest x-ray
- Documentation of immunity to Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)
- Documentation of immunity to Hepatitis B
- A current flu shot

For additional information visit www.aims.edu/academics/health/nurse-aide.

Background Checks

Colorado State Law, coupled with requirements set by the Joint Commission, indicates that all students who “work in the same capacity as staff who provide care, treatment, and services” are required to go through a background check prior to entry into a healthcare program. Some items, if found on a background check, will disqualify a student from the Nurse Aide Program. These disqualifying offenses include, but are not limited to:

- Convictions for violent crimes such as murder, assault, arson or kidnapping
- Convictions for crimes of unlawful sexual behavior within the last 10 years
- Convictions for crimes of theft within 5-7 years prior to admission into the program
- Any drug-related crimes within the last 7 years
- A positive drug screen

The above list is not all-inclusive and may be subject to change. For further information on disqualifying offenses, please contact the Allied Health Program Coordinator at (970) 339-6218.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average wage for a CNA in Colorado is $27,370 annually.