I want to start my career as a...

Certified Nursing Assistant

What will I do?
Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) provide basic care under direction of nursing staff. They assist the main floor nurses, which are the Licensed Vocational Nurses and Registered Nurses.

What are the important facts?

Job Growth
Silicon Valley is in constant need of CNAs. They are very important in ensuring patients are receiving necessary attention and care.

In California, CNAs are projected to have 4,180 annual job openings between 2012 and 2022. This means there is a 24% employment increase in the state--this level of employment increase means there will be lots of new jobs in the field.

Wage/Salary
Average hourly wage in San Jose is $15.49, with an annual salary of $35,713. In Silicon Valley, the living wage for a single person is $16.00 an hour.

Required Training
All CNAs are required to pass the CNA Certification exam in order to acquire the licensing to work in any hospital or clinical setting.

There are two routes to get the necessary training to receive a CNA license:
1. Community College
2. Career Technical Education

What are typical tasks?

• Answer patient call signals and intercoms.
• Assist patients that are bedridden to move positions.
• Help patients with physical activities, such as bathing, going to the bathroom, getting dressed, and eating.
• Measure and record food and liquid intake.
• Review patients’ dietary restrictions, such as allergies and insuring the patient is receiving the appropriate diet.

What would make this career a great fit for me?

• If you have a concern for others and improving their health.
• Able to handle high stress situations.
• You are reliable, responsible, and dependable.
• Able to be pleasant with others on the job and maintain patience.

Where can I get the training I need?

• American Red Cross
• Bay Area College of Nursing
• Mission College
• Evergreen College
• Gavilan College
• Generation

Study.com
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Certified Nursing Assistant

**Step 1**
Learn the skills employers say you need. Begin your education.

**Education & Training:** Certified Nursing Assistant

<table>
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**Step 2**
Find a job that fits your level of education and training.

**Career Pathways for Certified Nursing Assistant**

**Entry Level Positions:**  
Certified Nursing Assistant CNA License

**Employers:**
• San Jose Healthcare and Wellness Center  
• Home Care  
• Valley Health Center

**Labor Market Information:**  
Average hourly wage in San Jose is $15.49, with an annual salary of $35,713.

**Work Experience AND Education**

**Mid-Level Positions:**  
Licensed Vocational Nursing LVN License

**Employers:**
• Kaiser Permanente  
• Sutter Health  
• Valley Health Center

**Labor Market Information:**  
Average hourly wage in San Jose is $27.93 per hour, with an annual salary of $58,090.

**Higher Education**

**Four Year University**  
BSN: RN with a Bachelors in Nursing

• California State East Bay  
• San Francisco State  
• San Jose State

**Advanced Career**

**Advanced Skills:**  
Registered Nurse BSN: Bachelors in Nursing

**Employers:**
• Kaiser Permanente  
• O’Connor Hospital  
• Sutter Health

**Labor Market Information:**  
Average hourly wage in San Jose is $62.73, with an annual salary of $130,470.

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*In order to advance from Entry Level to Mid-Level positions, it takes 2-3 years of work experience, and higher education.*

*This is not the exact career path individuals have to take after acquiring their CNA. These are just the most common career paths individuals tend to follow.*
What are the Skills Employers look for in Certified Nurses Assistants?

Employers are looking for someone who:

- Has their CNA Certification.
- Is able to handle stressful situations in the workplace.
- Has a passion for working with people and helping them in their most vulnerable condition.
- Is able to keep the patient's room neat and clean.
- Can work on a team and coordinate with the LVNs and RNs.
- Knows how to stay organized and ensure patients are receiving the proper diet, have help using the restroom, changing, and moving around in their beds.
- Can collect data that has information regarding the patient. This data will be used by the Doctors to see what the next steps of treatment may be.
- Shows compassion towards patients. Sometimes this job can be tough and it is important the CNA understands how to handle situations that allows the patient to feel comfortable and well taken care of.

Employers may also refer to me as:

- Nurses Aid
- Nurses Assistant
- Caregiver

Moving up: Certified Nurses Assistant

Below are a few examples of how you can eventually move up in your career. These career advancements are options for when you are ready to advance from entry-level to mid-advanced level positions.

Example Career Ladder: