As America’s population ages, the demand for in-home assistance with daily tasks is expected to rise. Sometimes just a little help can make living at home possible for an elderly or disabled person. When family members, friends, or neighbors are not available to provide needed support for independent living, a Personal Care Aide (PCA) becomes an essential part of a home care team.

Assistance with basic tasks such as grooming, ambulation, post operative care, and household management can mean the difference between an elderly or disabled person staying in his or her own home or moving to a care facility. In some cases a personal care aid is the primary person providing assistance to a client; at other times a personal care aid provides a respite for family members.

**Earning a Personal Care Aide Certificate**

UNLV’s Personal Care Aide Certificate is designed to meet the needs of Southern Nevada for a prepared and educated workforce in health care. To earn the UNLV PCA Certificate candidates must successfully complete Patient Care Aide as well as CPR/AED/First Aid training.

Client wellbeing and safety are of utmost importance in a home care setting. UNLV’s curriculum emphasizes disease and injury prevention, nutrition strategies, care team coordination, communication, and ethical responsibility. Care giving can be physically and emotionally taxing, so personal care aide training also teaches caregivers about healthy ways to recharge their own emotional and physical reserves.
Career Benefits
Personal care aides cite flexibility as a major career perk; care arrangements might be full time or just a few visits per week. They also enjoy knowing they can make a significant difference in quality of life for their clients. While certification is not a requirement to work as a personal care aide in Nevada, prospective employers will appreciate candidates with training in safety, emergency procedures, and ethics.

Further, working as a personal care aide can be a pathway to other careers in health care. PCA training and employment provides real-life client care experiences to help determine whether you want to pursue further training as a medical assistant, nurse, or other health professional.

According to a study published in the Nevada Journal of Public Health by UNLV researchers, “The 65+ age group [in Nevada] is projected to increase as a percentage of the total population... The region will need culturally competent health care providers and public health programs and an increase in geriatric care availability, chronic disease prevention, and caregiver support.”

Enroll in an upcoming session
View course descriptions and schedules online at continuingeducation.unlv.edu/personal-care-aide. Free information sessions cover curriculum, job responsibilities, employment potential, and financial assistance to help you decide if this program is right for you.

Contact Us
We are happy to answer your questions about any of our programs. Reach UNLV Continuing Education by phone at 702-895-3394 or via email at continuing.education@unlv.edu.

3 www.reviewjournal.com/news/las-vegas/l400-waiting-list-nevadas-independent-living-program