

Personal Care Aides Help Nevada's Senior & Disabled Population Live Independently

As America's population ages, the demand for caregivers is expected to rise. Whether seniors or the disabled live at home or in an assisted living facility, personal care aides (PCA) become essential participants in the health care team.

PCAs assist with basic tasks such as grooming, ambulation, post-operative care, and household management. In some cases a personal care aide is the primary person providing assistance to a client; at other times a personal care aide provides a respite for family members or other members of the health care team. Client wellbeing and safety are of utmost importance in any home care setting.

Personal Care Aide Apprenticeship Certificate

UNLV Continuing Education is launching its Personal Care Aide Apprenticeship Certificate Program, the first health care apprenticeship program in the southern part of the state under Nevada's Apprenticeship Project. The apprenticeship has been approved through the Department of Labor and is designed to meet the needs of Southern Nevada for a prepared and educated workforce in health care.

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. Students complete the Personal Care Aide curriculum then transition into a paid apprenticeship with an area employer where they gain on-the-job experience. **Liz Colosimo, RN** is the instructor and curriculum developer.



Because personal care aides often work with vulnerable populations, professional ethics are emphasized throughout training. Students will be able to keep accurate records, spot and report concerns, and provide value-added service.



Earn While You Learn

Personal Care Aide apprentice applicants are screened and hired through area employers before they begin their training. PCA apprentices may be eligible for tuition assistance through Workforce Connection partner agencies or through Nevada's Apprenticeship Project.

Employer-selected applicants are enrolled in UNLV's program, which consists of personal care aide theory and skills plus effective communication and report writing. After successful completion of the initial education requirements, new personal care aides transition into their paid apprenticeship with a partnering employer, where they hone their professional skills under a mentor.

Apprentices will apply their new knowledge in a practical on-the-job training experience with their employer. On-the-job apprenticeship training follows a competency-based model where students must demonstrate mastery of required skills as they progress through the program.



Students who successfully pass the initial education component receive a UNLV Personal Care Aide Certificate; students receive a national credential from the Department of Labor after fulfilling their on-the-job training experience. For more information visit continuingeducation.unlv.edu/personal-care-aide.

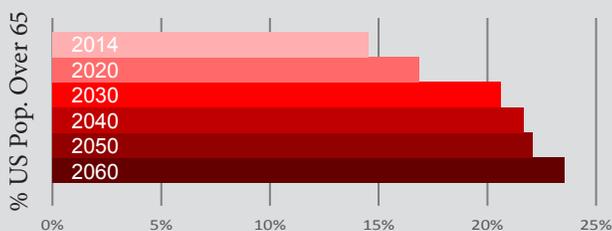
Enroll In an Upcoming Session

View course descriptions, partnering employers, and instructor profiles online at continuingeducation.unlv.edu/personal-care-aide.

Contact Us

We are happy to answer your questions about the Personal Care Aide program and provide contact information for our employer partners. Reach UNLV Continuing Education by phone at **702-895-5099** or via email at continuing.education@unlv.edu.

Growing Senior Population + Rising Costs = More Demand for Personal Care Aides



America's population over 65 is projected to grow by 52 million people by 2060. That's a jump from 15 percent to 24 percent of all U.S. residents.¹

¹ www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2015/demo/p25-1143.pdf

² www.reviewjournal.com/news/las-vegas/1400-waiting-list-nevadas-independent-living-program

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