



South Carolina Nurse Aide

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How do I become a certified nurse aide in South Carolina?

A. There are four (4) ways to become certified in South Carolina. You can successfully complete a 100 hour State Approved Program, and pass the certification test (both parts) within two years, Military Education (Case by Case), or if you have successfully completed the Fundamentals of Nursing in an R.N. or L.P.N. program within two years or you qualify for transfer from another state (reciprocity).

Testing:

You must successfully complete a 100 hour state-approved nurse aide training program (clinical included) and pass both the written and skills portions of the certification test within a two year period of time. A list of state-approved nurse aide training programs is available on this website. For more information about the test, print and read the candidate handbook. Testing applications are available from this site, or you may call 1-800-273-3517.

Military Education:

Submit a copy of your military transcript to scnar@scdhhs.gov with your full name and contact information (address, phone) for review.

R.N. or L.P.N. Program:

If you have successfully completed the Fundamentals of Nursing (C or better) within two years send a copy of your unofficial transcript or a letter from your nursing advisor to scnar@scdhhs.gov with your full name and contact information (address, phone) for review.

Reciprocity:

If you have been a nurse aide in another state and your certification there has not expired, you can request reciprocity. You also have to show **proof** of having completed a 100 hour State Approved Program (clinical included) to be eligible for reciprocity. Reciprocity is similar to a transfer of your certification from any state to South Carolina, except you may also stay on the registry in the other state. Applications for reciprocity or other questions related to reciprocity are available on this site, or you may call 1-800-475-8290.

Q. When is the next date for the nurse aide certification test?

A. Typical regional test site testing dates can be found on this website, or you may call 1-800-273-3517.

Q. How can Medicaid-certified nursing homes and other health care employers in South Carolina get information on the recent changes made to the South Carolina nurse aide program?

A. The information is available by going to:
<http://www.pearsonvue.com/sc/nurseaides/>

Q. How can I get information about the state law regarding the requirement of criminal background checks for direct-care staff?

A. This information is available at the website for the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. Go to www.scdhec.net.

Q. How do I obtain a state-approved training program code or a sponsor code?

A. With the migration to an online registration and scheduling system, sponsor codes are no longer used. The state approved training program which you attended will provide you with the training program/provider code.

Q. I went to a state-approved training program in another state. Do I need to re-train in South Carolina?

A. No, if you successfully completed a 100 hour or greater State Approved Nurse Aide Training Program in the last two (2) years you would be eligible to test in South Carolina if you have not done so or apply for reciprocity if you are already certified, current and in good standing in another state. Each candidate will be required to submit a certificate/diploma.

Q. How do I know if I am a certified nurse aide?

A. Search the South Carolina Nurse Aide Registry on this site, or call 1-800-475-8290.

Q. I found out that I am on the Abuse Registry. How do I become certified again?

A. Please call the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control at 803-545-4205.

Q. How do I keep my certification current?

A. To keep your certification current, you must work in nursing-related services for pay for at least 8 hours in the 24 months before your certification expires. It is very important to keep your name and address up to date, because the Registry contractor will email a reminder to submit your renewal form to the address you indicated. You must complete the form and return it with the recertification fee if you do not work for a Medicaid-certified nursing home in South Carolina. If you do work for a Medicaid-certified nursing home in South Carolina, then the nursing home must pay the recertification fee. It is your responsibility to keep your certification current.

Q. My certification expired. What do I need to do to become certified again?

A. This is a case-by-case determination; please e-mail scnar@scdhhs.gov regarding your situation.

Q. I am certified in another state. Does that mean I can work in South Carolina?

A. No, you have to be current and in good standing on the South Carolina Nurse Aide Registry to work in South Carolina.

Q. I want to operate a nurse aide training program. What do I need to do?

A. The information and application to become a state-approved training program are available on this website, or you may e-mail scnar@scdhhs.gov

Q. Do all of the instructors and students in my nurse aide training program need to have criminal background checks?

A. The instructors and program coordinators are required to have criminal background checks. The students are not required by SC DHHS to have criminal background checks but it is strongly advised. This may be required by the Facility in which the Program contracts for their clinical training. For more information, go to the website for the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control at www.scdhec.net.

Q. I am moving to another state. How do I transfer my certification to that state?

A. Please contact Pearson VUE at 1-800-475-8290.

Q. Is the test available in other languages?

A. Yes. The test is available in Spanish for the Written and Oral Examinations only. There is a listing of the Skills in Spanish on this website.

SOUTH CAROLINA NURSE AIDE PROGRAM WEB LINKS

State-approved NA Training Programs (by City)

<https://home.pearsonvue.com/Publications/074107.pdf>

Medicaid-Certified Nursing Facilities (by County)

<http://home.pearsonvue.com/Publications/074109.pdf>

Frequently Asked Questions

<http://www.asisvcs.com/publications/pdf/074110.pdf>

Other Nurse Aide Registries

<https://home.pearsonvue.com/Publications/079960.pdf>

NA Training Program Packet

<http://home.pearsonvue.com/Publications/074118.pdf>