

## **Frequently Asked Questions about the Nursing Assistant Refresher Course at Mid-State Technical College (MSTC)**

**Q: I was certified as a nursing assistant, but my certification has lapsed. What do I have to do to get reinstated on the Wisconsin state registry?**

Your first step is to look up on the registry to see if you were ever on it. Depending on the year that you were a nursing assistant you may not be. Look on this web site to see if you are listed:

[https://www.asisvcs.com/services/registry/search\\_generic.asp?CPCat=0750NURSE](https://www.asisvcs.com/services/registry/search_generic.asp?CPCat=0750NURSE)

If you are NOT listed, then you have to retake the entire Nursing Assistant course again. Please follow this link to apply to the MSTC Nursing Assistant program.

<http://www.mstc.edu/nursingassistant/apply.htm>

If you are listed on this web page but are “expired,” you then have to retake the state competency test to become current again. You can either do this yourself by following the directions on this web page:

<http://www.asisvcs.com/indhome.asp?CPCAT=0750NURSE>

OR

You can register for the “Review for Nursing Assistant Testing” independent study continuing education course at MSTC to help you prepare for the exam.

**Q: I was certified as a nursing assistant in another state and now want to work in Wisconsin. What do I do?**

If you were a nurse aide in a different state, you must complete the application from this link: <http://www.asisvcs.com/publications/pdf/075001.pdf> and mail it to the state where you hold current certification. The information on that application will be completed by that state’s Department of Health Services and forwarded on to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) for consideration. You will be notified by the Wisconsin DHS as to whether or not you will be allowed on the Wisconsin nurse aide registry. If you are not allowed on the registry, DHS will notify you if you need to either retake the Wisconsin certification exam or the entire Nursing Assistant course.

**Q: I am/was a personal care worker at an assisted living facility and completed all my CBRF training; can I take the nursing assistant state exam to become a certified nursing assistant?**

No, the Wisconsin DHS strictly controls the curriculum of nurse aide training programs as specified by DHS 129. You must complete and pass the entire Nursing Assistant program to be allowed to take the state certification exam to become a certified nursing assistant.

**Q: What does the “Review for Nursing Assistant Testing” course entail?**

This is a goal-centered course. Once you register for the “Review for Nursing Assistant Testing” course, you should purchase a Nursing Assistant Refresher handbook from an MSTC campus bookstore. Next, you need to contact the lead instructor, Carrie Engelbright, at [carrie.engelbright@mstc.edu](mailto:carrie.engelbright@mstc.edu) to schedule an appointment. At that appointment, the lead instructor will discuss your employment history and update you on current trends of nursing assistant career employment. You will complete the application to test for the state certification exam and talk about ways to successfully pass the state certification exam. You will practice your skills for the state exam with a nursing assistant instructor for a total of 12 hours. If you wish to meet more often with the lead instructor, you may continue to schedule appointments throughout the semester. To successfully pass this course, you must meet with an instructor and practice skills for the scheduled 12 hours.

**Q: How much does the “Review for Nursing Assistant Testing” course cost?**

The cost is minimal, approximately \$20.00 for the course and \$1.00 for the handbook from the bookstore.

**Q: If I am not registered for the “Review for Nursing Assistant Testing” course, can I still attend open skills lab?**

Yes, open skills lab is for any MSTC student or anyone who plans on taking the state certification test on the MSTC campus. This is a free service offered to students and those preparing for certification testing.

**Q: What is open skills lab?**

Open skills lab is unstructured lab time staffed by a nursing assistant instructor. You may come and go as you please; you do not have to be there for a specific amount of time. This is an environment to practice skills to prepare you for your state certification exam. The room will be set up as it will be on testing day so that you can get comfortable with your surroundings. Go through all skills or just the ones you have questions about. The instructor will help answer your questions or critique your performance if you so wish. If you are planning on attending, you will want to bring a “buddy” with to practice the skills on. This person does not have to be a nursing assistant or have any health care background. The buddy can be anyone who is willing to help you out.

**Q: When is open skills lab offered?**

Open skills lab is typically offered on Thursday afternoons from 12-3 in room A120 on the Wisconsin Rapids campus. There is a posting of specific dates on the door of A120, on the Nursing Assistant accepted student web page, and on the Nursing Assistant Program page at <http://www.mstc.edu/nursingassistant/index.htm>. You can email the lead instructor, Carrie Engelbright, at [carrie.engelbright@mstc.edu](mailto:carrie.engelbright@mstc.edu) to verify specific times and dates. Skills lab is not available over winter and spring breaks.

**Q: What should I bring to open skills lab?**

Bring a buddy. Also, bring your Wisconsin Nurse Aide Candidate Handbook, and a pen and paper to write notes on.

Here is the link to the most current Candidate Handbook:

<http://www.asisvcs.com/publications/pdf/075000.pdf>

**Q: Do I have to schedule an appointment with the lead instructor to be able to come in to open skills lab?**

No, you may come and go during open skills lab hours without an appointment. Always check the schedule posted on the outside of the door of room A120 on the Wisconsin Rapids campus, online at the <http://www.mstc.edu/nursingassistant/index.htm> web site, or call Deb DeWilde, support staff for the Nursing Assistant program, at 715-422-5303 to verify dates and times of available open skills labs.