

Background

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, federal and state statutes were waived, allowing nursing assistants (in training, or who have completed their training) to work without completing a certification examination. Approximately 5,000 nursing assistants are now working, but still need to complete their examinations. Under normal circumstances, federal statutes require nursing assistants who work in nursing homes to be certified within 120 days of being hired.

On June 5, 2022, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the end of the waiver, and all nursing assistants currently working in nursing homes without their certification, must be certified by October 5, 2022.

Washington State nursing homes are experiencing **unprecedented nursing staffing shortages** and unable to admit residents due to these shortages. Hospitals cannot discharge residents to the nursing homes due to the staffing shortages. To lose more nursing staffing, including nursing assistants, exacerbates an already intolerable shortage.

The Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) developed a proposal for a **mass certification** examination to address this crisis and is launching in August 2022. The goal is to test all nursing assistants working in nursing homes by the end of September 2022.

Questions? Email: nac.exam@doh.wa.gov

Nursing Assistant Mass Testing

August 2022 - October 2022

Approximately 5,000 nursing assistants must complete their examinations by October 5, 2022 or they will no longer be able to work. The nursing commission developed a proposal for a mass certification examination to address this crisis.

Testing Sites

15 academic institutions have volunteered as test sites and **70 faculty** are participating as RN Evaluators. **Overall, there are 1,600 testing slots available.**

- **Bates Technical College**
- **Big Bend CC**
- **Clark College**
- **Edmonds CC**
- **Everett CC**
- **Grays Harbor College**
- **Green River College**
- **Olympic College**
- **Peninsula College**
- **SPSCC**
- **Tacoma CC**
- **Wenatchee Valley College**
- **Whatcom CC**
- **Washington State University**
- **Shoreline CC**

Skills Exam Dates – Nursing Assistants



Test Dates Available through August 31, 2022

- **Bates Technical College (INF# 48463)**
 - August 30 and 31 Tacoma, WA
- **Big Bend Community College (INF#48461)**
 - August 30 Moses Lake, WA
- **Edmonds Community College (INF#48460)**
 - August 26 and 31 Edmonds, WA
- **Grays Harbor College (INF# 48464)**
 - August 29 Aberdeen, WA
- **Peninsula College (INF# 48465)**
 - August 31 Port Angeles, WA
- **Shoreline Community College (INF#48466)**
 - August 26, 27, 29, 30, and 31 Shoreline, WA
- **South Puget Sound Community College (INF# 48467)**
 - August 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31 Olympia, WA
- **Tacoma Community College -- Tacoma (INF# 48462)**
 - August 30 and 31 Tacoma, WA
- **Tacoma Community College - Gig Harbor (INF# 48468)**
 - August 30 Gig Harbor, WA
- **Wenatchee Valley College (INF# 48457)**
 - August 29 and 30 Wenatchee, WA

To register for one of these Skills Exam dates on the [Credentia website](#), be sure to enter:

The test's **unique 5-digit INF code** into the "Test Center ID" box

AND

The word **skills** in the "Test Center Name" box using all lower-case letters.



Test Dates Available in September 2022

- **Bates Technical College (INF# 48463)**
 - September 1, 13, 15, and 16 Tacoma, WA
- **Big Bend Community College (INF#48461)**
 - September 6 and 13 Moses Lake, WA
- **Clark College (INF# 48458)**
 - September 3 Vancouver, WA
- **Edmonds Community College (INF#48460)**
 - September 7, 8, 14, and 15 Edmonds, WA
- **Peninsula College (INF# 48465)**
 - September 7 Port Angeles, WA
- **Shoreline Community College (INF#48466)**
 - September 6 and 13 Shoreline, WA
- **South Puget Sound Community College (INF# 48467)**
 - September 6 and 10 Olympia, WA
- **Tacoma Community College - Tacoma (INF# 48462)**
 - September 7, 8, 14, 15, and 23 Tacoma, WA
- **Tacoma Community College Gig Harbor (INF# 48468)**
 - September 7, 8, 14, and 15 Gig Harbor, WA
- **Walla Walla College (INF# 48456)**
 - September 25 Walla Walla, WA
- **Whatcom Community College (INF #48470)**
 - September 10 and 17 Bellingham, WA