

## IS A CAREER IN HEALTH CARE IN YOUR FUTURE?

It can be, according to Homestead Schools.

Today our focus on preventing and treating disease, illness, and injury is causing an explosive growth in the healthcare arena. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that we not only need to retain those workers already in the field, but also add a substantial number of new ones. Some 28% of all the new jobs in the U.S. from 2010 to 2020 will be created in the healthcare and social assistance industry as extended longevity and an aging population push up demand for all kinds of healthcare professionals. Of course, there are many categories of careers in this vast industry. What if you're just starting out, perhaps having graduated from high school, or switching careers due to economic conditions? Where should you start?

Homestead Schools in Torrance may have a solution for you. You see, Homestead has created a program that combines three of the hottest entry-level careers for a new comer to the industry. Under this program, now you can become a nurse assistant, a home health aide and a medical assistant – all for an out-of-pocket expense of only \$435 which covers the cost of registration, background check, CPR, books and uniforms.

Medical assisting program is approved for federal student aid (for those who qualify) and the school will accept whatever PELL grant the student is eligible to receive as the full payment. If the student for some reason is ineligible to receive PELL grant or receives only a reduced amount the student will not be responsible to the school beyond the \$435 mentioned above.

The idea behind combining three credentials into one program is to maximize a student's employability in the field at better than average starting wages. A graduate of this program will have a competitive edge over someone who's only a medical assistant or a nurse assistant or a caregiver to an elderly patient.

Here's a brief synopsis of what each credential does for you.

Working as a nursing assistant can be a rewarding career in itself or it can be a launch pad to a better paid and more involved patient care career. Many graduates of the nurse assisting program at Homestead have gone on to become licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) and then registered nurses (RNs). If you like to work with people and possess good communication skills, this may be the field for you as a nurse assistant is the link between the patient and the LPN or RN.

Home health aides (HHAs) provide routine individualized health care such as changing bandages and dressing wounds and applying topical medications to the elderly, convalescents, or persons with disabilities at the patient's home or in a care facility. They may also provide personal care such as bathing, dressing, and grooming of patient. The placement director at Homestead Schools, Ron Rosales, reports that he has more openings for HHAs than he can fill.

The crown jewel of the unique program created by Homestead is medical assisting. Medical assistants are likely the first and last faces you see during any medical appointment, either in a doctor's office or a large medical organization. The job is a mix of traditional office work – like manning the front desk, answering phones, and filling insurance forms - as well as hands-on tasks including checking vital signs, drawing blood, sterilizing surgical equipment, and making sure medical histories are accurately recorded.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects medical assistant employment growth of 30.9 percent between 2010 and 2020. The BLS also reports that the median annual wage for a medical assistant was \$29,100 in 2011, up slightly from the prior year.

These are heady prospects for someone who has just graduated from high school; the person is standing on the cusp of a truly rewarding lifelong career. Armed with triple credentials, Homestead graduate stands apart and ahead of the crowd wanting to enter through the gates of the healthcare industry. Employers are looking to enhance the efficiency of their workforce and the Homestead graduate with versatile training in three closely related patient-care fields in just the candidate they want to hire.

Homestead Schools is located at 23800 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance and holds open house on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. for prospective students who want to make a difference in their lives. Call (310) 791-9975 and speak to a student counselor.



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