

# Nursing Assistants and Orderlies

SOC: 31-1131 • Career Profile Report

## ■ Key Facts

**\$39,430**

Median Salary

**1,495,400**

Employment

**+2.0%**

Growth Rate

## ■ Requirements & Salary Range

**Education:** See Requirements (BLS)

## ■ Automation Risk Assessment

**Medium Risk** - 48.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job has some routine elements but still requires human judgment and interaction.

## ■■ Work-Life Balance

**6.0/10** - Good work-life balance

## ■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.8/10	Investigative	6.0/10
Artistic	4.4/10	Social	8.4/10
Enterprising	4.6/10	Conventional	7.4/10

## ■ Top Skills Required

Communication skills, Compassion, Patience, Physical stamina

### ✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

### ■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

## ■ What They Do

Nursing Assistants and Orderlies provide **basic patient care and support to nurses and healthcare staff**. They assist patients with daily activities, monitor vital signs, and ensure comfort and safety. Their work is critical in hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other healthcare settings.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy healthcare, patient interaction, and providing hands-on care.

## What Do Nursing Assistants and Orderlies Do?

These professionals help patients with daily living activities, observe health conditions, and support nursing staff in delivering care.

Common responsibilities include:

- Assisting patients with bathing, dressing, grooming, and mobility
- Taking and recording vital signs, weight, and other health indicators
- Helping patients eat, drink, and take medications as directed
- Turning, positioning, and transporting patients safely
- Maintaining cleanliness and sanitary conditions in patient rooms
- Reporting changes in patients' conditions to nurses or healthcare providers
- Supporting medical procedures and providing comfort to patients

## Key Areas of Nursing Assistance

Nursing assistants and orderlies may focus on specific patient populations or care settings:

- Long-Term Care: Assisting elderly or disabled patients in nursing homes or assisted living
- Hospital Support: Providing care to inpatients, post-surgical patients, or critical care
- Patient Mobility and Daily Activities: Helping with movement, hygiene, and basic needs
- Monitoring and Observation: Tracking patient health and reporting concerns
- Sanitation and Safety: Ensuring clean, safe, and comfortable patient environments

## Skills and Abilities Needed

Nursing assistants and orderlies combine caregiving, observation, and interpersonal skills.

### **Core Professional Skills**

### **Personal Qualities That Matter**

## Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires formal training and certification:

- Postsecondary Certificate or Training Program: Nursing assistant or patient care programs
- State Certification: Required to practice as a certified nursing assistant (CNA) in most states
- On-the-Job Training: Learning patient care routines, safety procedures, and healthcare protocols
- Continuing Education: Staying current with healthcare standards, patient safety, and clinical procedures
- Specialty Training (optional): Geriatric care, critical care support, or rehabilitation assistance

## Where Do Nursing Assistants and Orderlies Work?

They are employed in organizations that provide healthcare and patient support:

- Hospitals and Acute Care Facilities
- Long-Term Care and Nursing Homes
- Rehabilitation and Assisted Living Centers
- Home Healthcare Services

- Hospice and Community Health Programs

Work environments include patient rooms, hospital wards, rehabilitation facilities, and patient homes.

## Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires physical stamina, emotional resilience, and interpersonal skills. Nursing assistants and orderlies must handle patient needs, support healthcare staff, and maintain safety standards.

## Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy helping patients with daily activities and healthcare needs
- Are patient, empathetic, and caring
- Can work in fast-paced and physically demanding environments
- Have strong communication and observation skills
- Want a career supporting patient care and improving quality of life

## How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in health sciences, biology, and anatomy
- Volunteer or intern in hospitals, clinics, or long-term care facilities
- Develop communication, empathy, and patient care skills
- Explore accredited nursing assistant training programs
- Gain hands-on experience through clinical practice or supervised internships

**Nursing assistants and orderlies provide essential support to patients and healthcare staff, promoting comfort, safety, and quality care in various healthcare settings.**

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Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/nursing-assistants.htm>