

# NURSING ASSISTANT

## Patient Care Assisting / Nursing Assistant

This program is a three year course that after successfully completing the course the student will be certified as Patient Care Assistant, an unlicensed assistive personnel paraprofessional who assist individuals with physical disabilities, mental impairments, and other health care needs with activities daily living and provide bedside care, including basic nursing procedures, all under the supervision of an RN, LPN, and other designated health care professionals.

The first level course is Medical Terminology. The second year course is Patient Care I. At this level the student is introduced to healthcare delivery systems the role of a patient care assisting, communication skills, and infection control practices, patient safety and more. The third level, Patient Assisting II continues on with theoretical practices but now focuses on skills such as bed-making, positioning patients, taking vital signs, phlebotomy skills, basic EKG, collecting specimens and more. Also during this level the student go to St. Joseph's Hospital twice a month to integrate practical applications learned in the classroom as well job-shadowing opportunities. During PCA I and II, students become members of Health Occupations Students of America (H.O.S.A.) where they have the opportunity to compete against other high school students in Health related competitions on a regional, state, and national level. If the students successfully complete all three levels they must then take and successfully pass the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute competency exam to receive certification.

### Program Profile

<b>School:</b>	HARP Academy
<b>Industry Certifications/Credentials Available:</b>	PCA certification, Basic EKG certification
<b>Applicable Career Paths:</b>	Healthcare
<b>Career and Technical Student Organization:</b>	Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)
<b>Advisory Board Members:</b>	Rutgers University, William Paterson University, Berkeley College, Ramapo University, St. Joseph's Hospital, Paterson Division of Health, Paterson Community Health Center
<b>Program Highlights:</b>	Bi-weekly clinical rotation to St. Joseph's Hospital senior year Participation in the annual Teen Health Fair Participation in the city wide disaster drill Participation in H.O.S.A regional, state, and national health care competition

### What Students Are Saying

"This course helped me prepare for my career choice in Nursing. When I started college I was better prepared for certain Nursing classes than some of my classmates"

"Being able to job shadow various health care professionals opened my eyes to health careers that I did not know existed"

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“I loved the experience that H.O.S.A. provided. It was great to meet and participate in activities related to health care with other students from the state of N.J. and especially with students from across the nation when I qualified to compete at H.O.S. A. National Conference in Orlando, Florida.”