What is the Role of a Nursing Assistant?

While many people are familiar with the role nurses play in patient care, some may ask, “What is a Nursing Assistant?”

Nursing Assistants can be found wherever there is a need for personal patient care. Also known as Nursing Aides, these professionals perform basic day-to-day tasks to support the entire medical team in properly caring for ill, injured or disabled people.

At most facilities, Nursing Assistants work under the supervision of a registered nurse (RN), licensed practical nurse (LPN) or other medical staff. Qualified Nursing Assistants are relied upon to provide basic care, which frees up RNs and LPNs to perform more complex tasks and procedures that may require advanced training.

Nursing Assistant programs help students acquire the skills and knowledge needed for entry-level positions.

NMSU-A’s program is designed to help students prepare for the Certified Nursing Assistant exam.

Certified Nursing Assistants have demonstrated a level of proficiency that is sought by many prospective healthcare employers.

According to the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics employment of Nursing Assistants is projected to grow 21% from 2012 to 2022, faster than the average of all occupations.

The report suggests that Nursing Assistants employment will grow predominantly as a response to the increasing long-term care need of a growing elderly population.

Based on this anticipated employment growth, the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics believes the Nursing Assistant job outlook should be excellent for individuals with an interest in and aptitude for this type of work.