

CNA and CPR FAQs—Fall 2025

When do I need to have the CNA?

The CNA is not required to apply to the nursing major. **If admitted, you will need the CNA at the end of the semester of application/admission.** The CNA may be taken during the semester of application IF certification is earned by the end of the semester (active on the registry).

Where can I get the CNA?

CNA training is offered through approved training sites, usually community/technical colleges or nursing homes. The Minnesota Nursing Assistant Registry website has a directory of approved training sites in Minnesota, which can be searched by city:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/providers/nursingassistant/index.html>

Nursing assistant registries in other states may have similar directories.

Your CNA must be active on a state Nursing Assistant Registry within the United States. You must submit verification from the Registry on which you are active. Students will document their active status in the student Clinician Nexus system.

Do I need to keep my CNA active after I begin the nursing major?

You are not required to keep your CNA active after beginning the nursing major, unless you plan to work as a CNA while you complete your BS in Nursing.

When do I need to have CPR?

CPR is not required to apply to the nursing major. **If admitted, you will need BLS (Basic Life Support) CPR at the end of the semester of application/admission.** You will submit verification through the Clinician Nexus system.

What version of CPR is required?

You must be certified in CPR for One & Two Person, Infant, Child and Adult. Only American Heart Association or American Red Cross **Basic Life Support (BLS)** can be used to meet this requirement.

How can I find a CPR class?

You can find a class and sign up online at www.redcross.org or www.heart.org. You can search for a class by zip code. You will need to look for classes for Healthcare or Healthcare Professionals to find BLS.

The American Red Cross regularly offers BLS at its chapters in Rochester and La Crosse, WI, as well as in other locations. The American Heart Association offers classes in the Twin Cities Metropolitan area.

Can I take BLS online?

If you sign up for BLS online, you must also complete the hands-on skills testing.

Do I need to keep my CPR current while I am in the nursing major?

Yes. You will need to maintain your CPR certification throughout the nursing program.