

Colorado CNA Exam Success Resources

A preparation guide for students and nurse aide training programs

This guide brings together the current official resources, preparation tools, laboratory supplies, and readiness standards students need to prepare for the Colorado Nurse Aide competency examination. Students should use the official Colorado Credentia materials as their primary source because examination procedures and scored skill steps may be updated.

Last reviewed: September 2026. Always confirm fees, eligibility rules, and testing procedures on the official Colorado pages before registering.

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Official Colorado CNA Exam Resources

- [Colorado CNA testing and registration page](#) - Main Colorado exam information, registration steps, test sites, preparation resources, and support.
- [Colorado NNAAP Candidate Handbook](#) - Official examination policies, eligibility routes, fees, skills, testing procedures, and results.
- [Colorado examination overview](#) - Written, oral, and skills examination structure.
- [Official list of all 23 CNA skills](#) - Current scored steps and critical elements for skills testing.
- [Official skills evaluation instructions](#) - Timing, corrections, measurements, volunteer expectations, and passing requirements.
- [Colorado exam registration portal](#) - Create an account, submit an application, schedule testing, and view results.
- [Colorado regional test site search](#) - Locate available regional testing sites.
- [Colorado Nurse Aide Registry search](#) - Verify a Colorado nurse aide certificate.
- [Colorado Board of Nursing CNA applications](#) - Certification, endorsement, and reinstatement information.

Understanding the Colorado Examination

Colorado uses the National Nurse Aide Assessment Program, administered by Credentia. Candidates generally must pass both the knowledge examination and the skills evaluation to be placed on the Colorado Nurse Aide Registry. Eligibility varies, so candidates should confirm their route in the official handbook before applying.

Component	Current structure
Written examination	70 multiple-choice questions in English. Sixty questions are scored and 10 are unscored pretest questions.
Oral examination	60 multiple-choice questions plus 10 reading-comprehension or word-recognition questions. Request the oral option during registration.
Skills evaluation	Five skills completed within 30 minutes. Hand hygiene is always included; four additional skills are randomly selected.
Measurement skill	One of the four randomly selected skills includes a measurement.
Passing requirement	The candidate must successfully complete all five assigned skills.

The 23 Skills Students Must Practice

1. Hand Hygiene	2. Applies One Knee High Elastic Stocking
3. Assists to Ambulate Using a Transfer Belt	4. Assists With Use of Bedpan
5. Cleans Upper or Lower Denture	6. Counts and Records Radial Pulse
7. Counts and Records Respirations	8. Dons and Removes PPE Gown and Gloves
9. Dresses Client With Affected Right Arm	10. Feeds Client Who Cannot Feed Self
11. Gives Modified Bed Bath	12. Measures and Records Electronic Blood Pressure
13. Measures and Records Urinary Output	14. Measures and Records Weight of Ambulatory Client
15. Performs PROM for One Knee and One Ankle	16. Performs PROM for One Shoulder
17. Positions Client on Side	18. Provides Catheter Care for Female Client
19. Provides Foot Care on One Foot	20. Provides Mouth Care
21. Provides Perineal Care for Female Client	22. Transfers From Bed to Wheelchair Using Transfer Belt
23. Measures and Records Manual Blood Pressure	

Important: The skill names above are provided only as a study index. Use the official 23-skill page for the current authorized steps and critical-element designations. This guide does not reproduce the official scoring checklist. [Open the official skills list.](#)

Skills Laboratory Equipment and Supplies

- Hospital bed with working side rails, wheels, call device, linens, pillows, gowns, and laundry containers
- Wheelchair with working brakes and footrests; transfer belts; non-skid footwear
- Bedpan, bedside commode, catheter-care supplies, measuring containers, and disposable underpads
- Basins, washcloths, towels, soap, paper towels, wipes, gloves, gowns, and other PPE
- Dentures, denture cups, toothbrushes, toothpaste, emesis basins, and mouth-care supplies
- Elastic stockings, practice clothing, feeding trays, utensils, cups, and food substitutes
- Electronic blood pressure monitor, manual cuffs, stethoscopes, alcohol wipes, and analog clocks or watches
- Standing and non-digital bathroom scales; pulse, respiration, urine-output, and blood-pressure recording forms
- Foot-care supplies, lotion, barriers, waste containers, and clean and soiled supply areas

Knowledge Areas for Written or Oral Exam Preparation

- Activities of daily living, hygiene, dressing, grooming, nutrition, hydration, elimination, and mobility
- Basic nursing skills, vital signs, observation, documentation, and reporting changes to the nurse
- Infection prevention, standard precautions, PPE, hand hygiene, and safe handling of equipment and linens
- Safety, fall prevention, emergencies, choking, fire response, and resident identification
- Communication, cultural sensitivity, person-centered care, mental health, and psychosocial needs
- Resident rights, privacy, confidentiality, dignity, choice, abuse and neglect prevention, and mandatory reporting
- Dementia and cognitive impairment, restorative care, independence, skin care, pressure-injury prevention, and end-of-life care
- The nurse aide scope of practice, delegation, legal and ethical conduct, and when to seek help from the nurse

Practice questions should teach students to choose the safest, most respectful, and most client-centered response and to recognize when a finding or event must be reported to the nurse.

Student Learning Materials

- Candidate handbook orientation sheet
- Printed or digital copies of all 23 official skills checklists
- Critical Element study cards
- Medical terminology and common abbreviation lists
- Normal vital signs and measurement reference sheet
- Infection-control and PPE guide
- Resident rights and abuse-reporting guide
- Written practice examinations with rationales
- Skills laboratory practice log
- Individual remediation plan
- Registration and exam-day checklist
- Weekly study calendar and final readiness assessment

Four Week Final Review Plan

Week	Primary focus	Required evidence
1	Baseline knowledge assessment and review of all 23 skills	Written diagnostic and instructor-scored skill check

2	Critical elements, infection control, safety, resident rights, and reporting	Targeted remediation and skills repetition
3	Timed skills stations and measurement accuracy	Accurate measurements and two timed mock stations
4	Full 30-minute skills simulations and comprehensive knowledge review	Randomized mock examinations and final readiness decision

Suggested Readiness Standards

Before recommending that a student schedule the examination, the training program should verify that the student can:

- Score at least 80 to 85 percent on two different comprehensive knowledge mock examinations
- Complete each of the 23 official skills correctly at least twice
- Pass at least three randomized five-skill mock examinations
- Complete five assigned skills within the 30-minute limit
- Accurately measure pulse, respirations, blood pressure, weight, and urinary output
- Identify and correctly perform every critical element
- Explain registration, identification, clothing, arrival-time, and exam-day requirements without assistance

Skills Evaluation Success Habits

- Read the instruction card carefully and perform skills in the listed order.
- Communicate with the client, explain care, provide privacy, and protect safety throughout the examination.
- Keep the call signal within reach and return the bed to the low position whenever the official checklist requires it.
- Use gloves at the required time and remove them without contamination.
- Perform the steps rather than merely describing them, except where the official evaluation instructions expressly allow verbalization.
- If a mistake is recognized, immediately tell the evaluator which step is being corrected and when it should have occurred. A student cannot return to a completed skill after beginning the next one.
- Practice all measurement skills until results consistently fall within the official tolerance range.

Exam Day Checklist

- Arrive at least 30 minutes before the scheduled written and skills examination times.
- Bring two current, unexpired, official, signature-bearing forms of identification. At least one must be a government-issued photo ID.
- Make sure the name on both identification documents matches the name used on the testing application.
- Bring three sharpened No. 2 pencils and an eraser.
- Bring an analog watch with a sweeping second hand. Digital watches and smartwatches are not accepted for this purpose.
- Wear flat, slip-on, non-skid shoes, a loose short-sleeved top, and loose-fitting pants suitable for serving as another candidate's volunteer client.
- Do not bring personal clinical equipment into the testing area.
- Tell the evaluator before testing about relevant allergies, skin sensitivities, range-of-motion limitations, or other conditions identified in the official instructions.

Identification warning: A candidate who arrives without the required identification may not be allowed to test, may lose the examination fee, and may have the event count as an examination attempt. Review the official [identification requirements](#) and [test-center instructions](#) before exam day.

Current Examination Fees

Examination	Fee listed by Credentia
Written and skills	\$145
Oral and skills	\$145
Written only	\$50
Oral only	\$50
Skills only	\$95

Fees are subject to change and are generally nonrefundable. Training programs may purchase electronic vouchers. Confirm the current amount on the [official Colorado examination fee page](#) before payment.

Registration and Support

Students can create an account, submit an application, schedule testing, locate available appointments, and view score reports through the [Credentia CNA365 portal](#).

- Credentia candidate support: 888-204-6249
- Colorado Board of Nursing: 303-894-2458
- Colorado Board of Nursing website: dpo.colorado.gov/Nursing

Final Guidance for Students

Consistent practice using the current official Credentia steps is the strongest preparation. Students should practice the complete skill, not just memorize a critical element. Every practice session should reinforce hand hygiene, privacy, communication, infection control, resident safety, accurate measurement, call-light placement, and bed position. Training programs and students should not solicit, retain, reproduce, distribute, or use leaked, recalled, or secure examination content. Such conduct can violate examination policies and compromise certification eligibility.

Official Sources

- [Credentia Colorado Nurse Aide Test Taker Page](#)
- [Colorado NNAAP Candidate Handbook](#)
- [Colorado NNAAP Exam Overview](#)
- [Colorado NNAAP Skills Evaluation](#)
- [Colorado NNAAP Skills List](#)
- [Colorado NNAAP Exam Fees](#)
- [Colorado NNAAP Proper Identification](#)
- [Colorado Board of Nursing](#)