Certified Nursing Assistant/ Geriatric Nursing Assistant
Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is the difference between CNA and GNA?** The GNA has taken the state exam and can work in long-term care (nursing home). A CNA did not take the state exam and cannot work in long-term care.

2. **How long is the program?** The CNA program is generally 8 weeks long.

3. **How much is the program?** CNA Theory is $825 and CNA Clinical is $525. Books are not included in the cost. The cost for the book is approximately $85.
   
   a. Do I have to pay for both—theory and clinical—at the same time? No. If there is a concern about money, pay for Theory and the instructor will remind you when it is time to pay for clinical.
   b. Does financial aid cover program cost? No.
   c. Is there a Payment Plan? No. You can, however, register early and make payments on it before the class begins. The course should be paid off by the first day.
   d. Are there other costs? Yes. Book fee is $85; Criminal Background Check is $60; CPR is $80; CNA License is $20; GNA Exam is $95 and immunizations, if needed can range up to $200.
   e. This course is not refundable after course begins.

4. **What do I need to do to begin the CNA Theory?** First, take the reading placement test and get a score of 45 or better. To be exempt, bring an unofficial transcript of college credit record.

5. **What do I need to do to begin the CNA Clinical?** Before attending clinicals, all student need to have completed all required immunizations, cpr for health professionals, a criminal background check and be in good standing in the CNA Theory class.
   
   a. I had a criminal background check done for another job. Can I use that? No. The Maryland Board of Nursing requires a specific background check. It will cost approximately $60.
   b. I had a misdemeanor or felony in the past, can I take the program? Yes. The Maryland Board of Nursing will review each case individually but not until the end of the training program. The Board will request documentation at that time. The Board will not let you know prior to classes if they will or will not approve your case.

6. **Where do I go for CNA clinicals?** All students go to clinicals a PGCC CNA instructor. The clinicals are held in long term care facilities close to where the CNA Theory classes are held. The schedule for clinicals may vary from the CNA Theory class schedule.

7. **Do I have to wear a uniform?** The uniform is not needed for CNA Theory but required for clinicals. Students wear white scrub uniform and white shoes.

8. **I was a CNA but it has expired. Do I need to take the entire program again?** Yes, if it has been expired for more than 24 months, you need to retake the entire program. If not more than 24 months, you should contact the Maryland Board of Nursing.

9. **I am a CNA and want to become a GNA. Do I need to take the entire course?** No. PGCC offers a course titled, GNA Theory. It reviews CNA concepts only. After this review course, a CNA clinical is required.
10. *I have not attended school in many years, what do I need to do to be successful?* Many of our students are returning to the classroom after many years. All students must spend dedicated time studying and practicing outside the classroom.

11. *How many days per week will I have class?* Class schedules vary. Some meet 2 days a week; some meet 3 days.

12. *Do I have to take a state exam?* Yes/No. Students who want to work in long-term care must take state exam. Those who will work in other facilities do not. We recommend all students take exam because it provides more opportunities for new CNAs and is needed for reciprocity to the District of Columbia or Virginia.

13. *Where can I get more information?* E-Mail: wdcehealthcare@pgcc.edu or call (301) 583-5215.