

Certified Trained Feeding Assistant

Aligned Program of Study: Dietetics & Nutrition

Description

A [Trained Feeding Assistant](#) is an individual who has successfully completed a State Approved Feeding Assistant Training Course, as outlined by the Tennessee Department of Health's Division of Health Care Facilities (§483.160). This individual is anyone, other than a licensed nurse or other health care professional, who feeds nursing home residents at mealtimes and/or provides snacks and beverages to appropriate residents. To become a Training Feeding Assistant, students must complete 8 hours of training as required by both federal and State of Tennessee regulations. In addition, the training curriculum must address the following content areas:

- Feeding techniques
- Assistance with feeding & hydration
- Communication & interpersonal skills
- Appropriate responses to resident behavior
- Safety & emergency procedures
- Infection control
- Resident rights
- Diets
- Recognizing changes in residents & the importance of reporting those changes to the supervisory/charge nurse

Students must complete either a written or performance-based evaluation prior to assisting residents. Upon completion of training, feeding assistants must be supervised by a licensed nurse.

Certification Information

Test Owner

As outlined by the Department of Health's Division of Health Care Facilities (§483.160), "the instructor or supervisory/charge nurse must verify in writing the successful completion of the course, including competency evaluation of the individual's feeding skills. The process for evaluation of successful completion of the course must be included in the materials submitted to the department for review and approval."

Testing Sites/Centers

The primary instructor of a feeding assistant training course may be a Registered Nurse or a Licensed Practical/Licensed Vocational Nurse, a Registered Dietitian, Licensed Physical Therapist, Licensed Speech and Occupational Therapist may be utilized when available to provide specialized support to the training instructor. Instructor or instructors must maintain a current valid license/registration to practice in the State of Tennessee and have previous work experience in a long-term care facility.

Preparing to offer the certification

Exam Details

The instructor or instructors must provide written verification that the student successfully completed the course, including a competency evaluation of the student's feeding skills. All materials must be submitted to the Tennessee Department of Health for review and approval.