

## Facts to Remember About Health Science Courses

**\*PLEASE NOTE: This guidance was prepared for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Please contact your board/school attorney for specific legal guidance.**

### Nursing Education

If a course is taught for students to obtain Certified Nurse Aide (CNA), the following guidelines must be followed:

- The course must be taught by a Registered Nurse (RN) or a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) with at least two years of [experience](#).
- If the teacher does not have one year of nursing home care experience, the district/school must contract with a local nursing home facility coordinator.
- If the instructor is an LPN, the Program Coordinator must be an RN.
- The high school program must register and receive approval from the Health Facilities Commission, Nurse Aide Training division for its training program, 30 days BEFORE the first day of class.
- Program packets may be obtained from [Lisa Harris](#).
- Examples of how to complete the paperwork may be found in the Resources section of the website [here](#).
- Teachers WHO HAVE NEVER taught the Nursing Education course in a high school setting must attend/complete the following prior to teaching:
  - Occupationally Licensed New Teacher Training (OLNTT)
  - Online [Nursing Education Self-Paced Training Course](#)
- The attendance requirement for students to qualify for the state CNA test is 100 hours minimum, including 40 hours didactic, 20 hours classroom lab, and 40 hours clinical with at least 24 hours in a nursing home. The other 16 hours can be in any healthcare facility that employs CNAs.
- Student-to-teacher ratio must be no more than 25:1 in classroom and 15:1 in clinical.
- Any changes in the district/school program should be reported within 30 days of a change to the Health Facilities Commission, Nurse Aide Training division at 615-837-5229 or by email at [Nurseaid.Health@tn.gov](mailto:Nurseaid.Health@tn.gov).
- Each program shall have a pass rate of 70 percent for the state competency evaluation on the written and performance exams. **Failure to meet this benchmark may result in sanctions by the Health Facilities Commission. Follow [this link \(pgs. 56-59\)](#) for Health Facilities Commission regulations.**

### Medical Terminology

- If this course is taught as a dual enrollment or dual credit course, the district/school must have a dual enrollment/dual credit agreement in place with a postsecondary institution prior to offering the course. The teacher must adhere to and meet all standards as prescribed by the postsecondary institution.
- The postsecondary institution's approved textbook can be used when teaching either as a dual enrollment or dual credit course.
- If the district/school has an arrangement for challenge exams with a postsecondary institution, teachers should have a plan in place for preparing students for success on the challenge exam.
- The course can easily be taught on an alternative schedule, before school, or in an online format.

## **Anatomy and Physiology**

- The Anatomy and Physiology (C14H09) course satisfies one (1) of three (3) credits required for an elective focus when taken in conjunction with other Health Science courses. It can also count as a science [credit](#) and is accepted by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) as a science course.
- Teacher endorsements for Anatomy and Physiology (C14H09) include 577 and 720.

## **Clinical Internship and Work-Based Learning**

- It is strongly recommended all students progress through the program of study aligned to a clinical internship.
- Students are to be placed in occupations directly related to a pre-requisite course. For example, an appropriate placement for Medical Therapeutics could be dentistry, respiratory therapy, physician's office, or pharmacy while an inappropriate placement would be physical therapy, any Emergency Medical Services (EMS) situation, medical laboratory, or radiology.
- Clinical Internships (C14H11) are provided for students to work in clinical settings to apply content and practice skills learned in years one through three in a program of study. In situations where students will work **only** in the classroom to apply content and skills, students should be placed in Work-Based Learning (C14H46).
- Teachers WHO HAVE NEVER taught the Clinical Internship course must attend/complete the following prior to teaching:
  - Online [Clinical Internship Self-Paced Training Course](#)
  - Work-based learning training

## **Emergency Medical Services**

If a course is taught for the Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) certification, the following guidelines must be followed:

- The course must be taught by a teacher who has experience in either pre-hospital or hospital emergency situations.
- The course can also be team-taught with a state-approved instructor for Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) who is in the classroom a minimum of **60 hours** per course. An emergency medical technician (EMT) or Paramedic who does not have instructor status will not qualify to teach this course.
- The state-approved EMR instructor must file a required written request with an EMS Regional Consultant at least 30 days prior to the first day of class for approval to become a training program.
- Equipment for the course must be on-site when the EMR instructor teaches the skills. Work with a local EMR instructor for a list of required equipment.
- The teacher or school designee must always be in the classroom with the EMR instructor.
- Student-to-teacher ratio must be no more than [25:1](#).
- Teachers who are Registered Nurses and hold an active Tennessee EMT or Paramedic license can petition their local EMS to sponsor them as an EMR instructor.
- Students who sit for [EMR certification](#) MUST:
  - Be at least 17 years of age on the last day of class;
  - Be able to read, write, and speak English; and
  - Have no documented history in the past three (3) years of habitual intoxication or personal misuse of any drugs or intoxicating liquors.

## Industry Credential

To improve student success, it is strongly recommended that any student who plans to sit for an industry credential exam complete the foundational course AND a clinical internship in the content area prior to attempting the exam.

Examples:

- Certified Pharmacy Technician: Pharmacological Science (C14H20) AND Clinical Internship (C14H11)
- Certified EKG Technician: Cardiovascular Services (C14H18) AND Clinical Internship (C14H11)
- Certified Medical Assistant: Medical Assisting (C14H10) AND Clinical Internship (C14H11)
- Certified Personal Trainer: Exercise Science (C14H22) AND Clinical Internship (C14H11)
- Certified Patient Care Technician: Nursing Education (C14H16) AND Clinical Internship (C14H11)
- Physical Therapist Aide: Rehabilitation Careers (C14H08) AND Clinical Internship (C14H11)
- Certified Dental Assistant: Dental Science (C14H21) AND Clinical Internship (C14H11)

Note: *Certified Nurse Aide* and *Emergency Medical Responder* have specific regulations unique to each certification.

## Phlebotomy

The Tennessee Department of Health, the Tennessee Medical Laboratory Board, and the Tennessee Department of Education recommend at **NO TIME** should blood be drawn via venipuncture or skin puncture from live subjects in a high school or clinical setting by a student or an instructor.

- Students who plan to sit for the Certified Clinical Medical Assistant exam must have content knowledge about phlebotomy and capillary blood sampling and may practice venipuncture and skin puncture on practice mannequins. Students will not be required to perform those skills as part of their certification test.
- Students in dual enrollment phlebotomy courses will practice venipuncture and skin puncture on practice mannequins until after high school graduation. Following graduation from high school, students will work with their postsecondary institution to arrange skill practice on live subjects to prepare for the skills portion of the Certified Phlebotomy Technician test.
- Following these guidelines should be used in conjunction with district policies to promote safety and avoid the danger of transmission of blood-borne pathogens to students and patients and inadvertent patient injury during venipuncture practice.

## **Recommendations for Administration and Storage of HIPAA, Infection Control, and Safety Tests**

- Comply with all federal, state, and local requirements related to records retention, privacy, and safety.
- Students who participate in any workplace activity including job shadowing, clinical internship, and/or Nursing Education courses should take and pass a test covering Universal Precautions and OSHA with 100 percent accuracy prior to entering the clinical area.
- It is recommended students re-test each year, regardless of having passed the previous year's Universal Precautions and OSHA test at 100 percent accuracy.
- Other required training that must be completed before entering a healthcare facility include:
  - Certification in Basic Life Support (BLS) Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
  - Basic competency in the following:
    - Basic First Aid
    - Body Mechanics
    - Standard Precaution Guidelines
    - Confidentiality/HIPAA