

Guidelines for Connecticut Secondary School Nurse's Aide/Assistant Programs

Developed by the Connecticut Association of Health Occupation Educators (CAHOE) 2007

The Nursing Assistant Programs in Connecticut secondary schools are designed to be both a health career and a career pathway. Diverse populations of students are appropriately placed and given an introduction to the health care field. Although the emphasis of the programs is on direct nursing care, the students observe and gain hands-on knowledge of the extensive career paths open to them in the allied health fields.

The nursing assistant programs consist of classroom theory and clinical skill practice in classroom laboratory settings prior to placement at clinical sites. Students acquire their clinical experience in both acute care and chronic/long-term care facilities under the supervision of their teachers, licensed nurse-educator professionals. The nurse-educator's role is defined in The Nurse Practice Act for RN's, Title 20 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Chapter 38.

The Nurse Educator has a state license which confers a responsibility to society to assure that students are competent to provide safe care to patients. Students validate competence through a number of modes. They must demonstrate proficiency in learning theory and clinical skill practice prior to advancement to the clinical setting. In both classroom and clinical settings, students are expected to demonstrate accountability in attendance, conduct, work ethic, attitude and additional requirements set forth by local districts. While in clinical settings, students will abide by the policies set forth in the OBRA Act of 1987; the Nurse Practice Act, section 20-102; and HIPAA regulations.