

Policy Regarding Nursing Student Certification as a CNA 1 and/or CNA 2

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a mechanism for nursing assistant certification (CNA 1 and/or CNA 2) of students enrolled in an Oregon nursing education program (practical or registered nursing).

Background Information

The Oregon Nurse Practice Act allows for the practice of nursing by unlicensed persons when it is "incidental to the planned program of study for students enrolled in nursing education programs accredited by the Oregon State Board of Nursing or accredited by another state...." This exception to licensure/ certification requirements does not extend to working in a nursing role outside of the educational program. Nursing students frequently want to work in a healthcare setting during their educational program. Nurse educators often endorse this practice as a way for the student to improve communications, relationship, and psychomotor skills.

The Board of Nursing prescribes standards for the training and certification of nursing assistive personnel, including the Certified Nursing Assistant 1 (CNA 1) and the Certified Nursing Assistant 2 (CNA 2). CNA 1 programs include at least 150 hours of instruction, equally divided between classroom and supervised clinical practice. On conclusion of the program, the candidate must complete a written and skills competency exam to become certified. Standardized CNA 2 curricula require varied numbers of instructional hours, but also require completion of a competency examination on their conclusion. Practical and registered nursing education programs vary in length, organization, and structure, but generally include foundational nursing care theory and concepts as well as nursing theory and supervised clinical practice in caring for clients across healthcare settings and client populations. These programs, however, are not organized in such a manner that all required nursing assistant competencies are covered in a defined segment.

A process to facilitate nursing assistant certification for currently enrolled nursing students while maintaining the Board's mission of protecting the health and welfare of Oregonians is desirable.

Eligibility

This process/policy is limited to students enrolled in an Oregon State Board of Nursing approved practical or registered nursing education program. This is a voluntary process; it should not be construed or used as a requirement for continued enrollment in any nursing education program.

Eligibility for the CNA-2 registry is limited to persons who hold a current unencumbered CNA1 certificate.

Process

CNA1

- The nursing student applicant shall submit to the OSBN:
 - Verification of enrollment in an approved nursing education program in the United States by either:
 - An official transcript of the approved nursing program, *or*
 - A letter from the nursing program dean or director.
 - A completed application accompanied by the required fee (\$40 as of July 2007).
- The nursing program provides documentation of completed course work equivalent to a Board-approved nursing assistant training program.

CNA2

- *Approval Process:* The nursing program director submits a knowledge post-test and skills competency exam appropriate to the desired category of CNA2 certification (Restorative Care, Acute Care, or Dementia Care) for approval.
- *Registration Process*
 - The nursing program shall maintain the following records for each student seeking CNA 2 registration:
 - Verification of current unencumbered CNA1.
 - Proof of program enrollment (e.g., transcripts).
 - Documentation of the completed competency examination.
 - The nursing program director shall submit to the OSBN:
 - A Nursing Assistant & Medication Aide Training Program Course Summary listing each student who successfully completes the competency examination.
 - The required registration fee (\$5) for each student.

To maintain CNA certification, the student must meet all current requirements for certification renewal.

The Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) is authorized by Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 678 to exercise general supervision over the practice of nursing in Oregon to include regulation of nursing licensure, education and practice in order to assure that the citizens of Oregon receive safe and effective care.

The OSBN further interprets statute and rule and issues opinions in the form of Board Policies, Policy Guidelines and Position Statements. Although they do not have the force and effect of law, these opinions are advisory in nature and issued as guidelines for safe nursing practice.