



Course Syllabus 2026-2027

Program Title

Health Science Technology & Nursing Assistant

Instructor

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Course Description

The Health Science Technology course is an excellent foundation for all students interested in entering the medical profession. Explore various medical careers and take an interest inventory to match your interests with a medical career. Easily learn 350 medical terms, enabling you to understand more than eleven thousand medical words. We will be following the MN Dept. of Health Nursing Assistant Curriculum, which will prepare you for a variety of medical careers and for the state nursing assistant test, which is required for most nursing programs. You will be studying the fascinating human body. Many activities will focus on developing and learning the importance of working together, thus promoting teamwork in the healthcare workforce. The class is one year in length, or depending on which block you attend, approximately 235 hours. A minimum 6th-grade reading and comprehension level is required to qualify for the State Nursing Assistant Registry Exam.

Textbooks, Online Access & Classroom Resources

American Heart Association. *Basic Life Support Providers Manual*. Dallas, Texas: First American Heart Association, (2020)

Carter, Pamela J. *Lippincott Textbook for Nursing Assistants: A Humanistic Approach to Caregiving*. 6th North American ed., Wolters Kluwer Health, (2023)

Carter, Pamela J. *Workbook for Lippincott Textbook for Nursing Assistants*. 6th ed., Wolters Kluwer Health, (2023)

Minnesota Department of Health - Nursing Assistant/Home Health Aide State Curriculum (2024)

Rice, Jane. *Medical Terminology for Healthcare Professionals*. Hoboken, New Jersey: Pearson Education, Inc., (2021)

Course Objectives

This program will enable a student to

1. Identify and investigate various medical/health careers.
2. Identify trends, systems, and policies related to the health field and facilities.
3. Demonstrate leadership and teamwork skills.
4. Define, spell, and pronounce medical terms and abbreviations. (See Medical Terminology Syllabus)
5. Learn strategies for combining medical suffixes, prefixes, and root words. (See Medical Terminology Syllabus)
6. Identify the personal qualities, commitments, and responsibilities of healthcare workers.
7. Demonstrate effective verbal and non-verbal communication.
8. Demonstrate documenting, reporting, and use of electronic communication devices.
9. Identify healthcare laws and policies.
10. Demonstrate principles and standards of infection control, standard precautions, and safety policies required in health care facilities.
11. Discuss the legal, ethical, and personal boundaries of healthcare workers.
12. Discuss diverse cultural beliefs and issues of clients and healthcare workers.
13. Demonstrate and complete all state-mandated nursing assistant curriculum. (See Nursing Assistant Syllabus)
14. Qualify to take the state boards to become a Nursing Assistant Registered. (See Nursing Assistant Syllabus)
15. Create a comprehensive Professional Portfolio, including research on a health career and schooling.
16. Demonstrate and complete American Heart Association BLS for Healthcare Providers & American Heart Association Heartsaver First Aid.

Skills Needed

To be successful in this program, you should have the following skills:

- Strong math, reading, and comprehension skills (absolute minimum 6th-grade level)
- People orientation to work with a variety of medical professionals and clients
- Organizational skills to manage multiple projects and scheduled appointments
- Detail orientation to notice small changes in patients' symptoms or data records
- Problem-solving skills to analyze situations or data and produce appropriate solutions
- Speaking and listening skills to make sure patients understand treatments and medical concepts
- Physical stamina to stand for long periods of time and lift equipment and or patients
- Computer and technical skills to use charting, office, lab, and medical equipment

Classroom Supplies & Shop/Lab Fees

There are *no class fees*. However, there are *optional charges* if the student may decide to participate. Optional activities with fees include:

- Clinical experience at a Long-Term Care facility needed to obtain college credits for nursing assistant: uniform, shoes, watch with 2nd hand, background study, and fingerprinting. Cost varies considerably BUT is reimbursed if the student works at a long-term facility for 90 days or greater. The typical cost is \$44.00 for criminal background check and \$10.50 for fingerprinting.
- Medical Careers Sweatshirt – To be determined and is Optional
- Purchase of clinical scrubs is a student's responsibility-cost varies on where they are purchased.
- HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) State & National Membership & Conferences

Program Safety Objectives

The Health Science program has embedded learning activities in regard to safety instruction based on federal, state, and local health and safety laws, regulations, and policies. The following are examples of the program's learning objectives: *Students will be able to...*

- Describe how the federal and state regulations are related to the Nursing Assistant
- Discuss productive work habits for the Nursing Assistant, incorporate personal values with ethics, and etiquette
- Discuss legal implications for the Nursing Assistant
- Describe the nursing home Resident Bill of Rights, Vulnerable Adult Law, and Patient Self-Determination Act
- Describe and demonstrate the safety of the resident
- Identify actions relating to resident safety
- Identify situations that require emergency action
- Describe principles of body mechanics to avoid on-the-job injuries
- Describe and demonstrate the principles of infection control
- Describe standard precautions for infection control practices
- Describe transmission-based precautions
- Identify common pathogens and resulting diseases or conditions
- Demonstrate skills for a safe and clean environment
- Demonstrate behaviors that comply with the Nursing Assistant Handbook and Standards for Nursing Assistant Students.

Student Organizations

Health Occupations Students of America, HOSA, is a student-run organization to enhance the delivery of compassionate, quality health care by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill, and leadership development of all health science education students, therefore helping the student meet the needs of the health care community. Students will have the opportunity to compete in state conferences and advance to national competitions. They may participate in several student-organized activities for the community.

Attendance

Attendance is extremely important in all healthcare settings. Therefore, 35% of the student's grade is based on their daily professionalism, which includes attendance. The State Department of Health regulates the Nursing Assistant curriculum, and attendance on skill demonstrations and skill testing days is **Mandatory**. If the student is absent on these days, please understand the student will **not** qualify to go on clinical, take the state registry test for nursing assistant, or receive the college credits for nursing assistant. We understand family vacations are important and encourage you to take them during school breaks.

If you are absent from school, you are responsible for all missed work and communicating with the instructor promptly, preferably in advance. Students will receive two days to complete and submit work without penalty if they have been absent due to an excused absence. Students need to communicate with their instructor prior to or when they return to school in order to complete and submit all missing work. This includes quizzes, exams, projects, performance tests, and professional points. Students will have an opportunity to make up missed professional points for an excused absence by showing completed notes on the corresponding topic of the day absent. Students will be allowed 2 days to complete and submit notes (See instructor for more details). Unexcused absences result in a zero for the corresponding day's professional points, quizzes, exams, projects, or performance tests.

Every effort should be made to schedule appointments and vacations outside class time and communicate with the instructor in advance. Absences due to vacations are not excusable. Students must communicate ahead of time before missing class in order to be allowed to submit school work without penalty. If a student fails to communicate absence due to a vacation, teachers are not required to accept missing work when a student returns from vacation.

Evaluation of Learning

Student performance will be evaluated using multiple assessments involving assigned program activities. Students are expected to monitor their grades in Wright Technical Center's Skyward grading system, as the grading system used by their school district only shows midterm and end-of-term grades. Student course grades will be based on the following:

Evaluation Criteria	Method of Evaluation	Percentages
Professionalism	• Attendance & Preparedness • Participation & Effort • Teamwork • Attitude, Behavior, Clothing • Follow Directions	35%
Projects	• Portfolio • Written assignments • Oral presentations • Performance checklists	30%
Quizzes	• Medical Terminology & Abb. • Nursing Assistant • Anatomy	5%
Knowledge of Course Content	• Medical Terminology Exams • Nursing Assistant Exams • Midterms & Finals	30%

Late Assignments

You may earn half credit for late assignments that have been turned in within 2 days of the due date. A score of zero will be assigned after that time.

Grading Scale

Grade	Percentage
A+	100% – 98%
A	97% – 92%
A-	91% – 90%
B+	89% – 88%
B	87% – 82%
B-	81% – 80%

Grade	Percentage
C+	79% – 78%
C	77% – 72%
C-	71% – 70%
D+	69% – 68%
D	67% - 62%
D-	61% - 60%
F	59% - Below

Career Information

MN Program of Study	
Career Field	Health Science Technology
Career Cluster	Health Science
Career Pathway	• Therapeutic Services • Diagnostic Services • Support Services • Health Informatics • Biotechnology Research and Development
Occupations Requiring Less than Baccalaureate Degree • Nursing Assistants • Health Unit Coordinators • EMT • Sonographers • Licensed Practical Nurse • Dental Assistant • Optometric Technician • Occupational Therapy Assistant • Physical Therapy Assistant • Medical Assistant • Veterinary Technician • Massage Therapist	Occupations Requiring Baccalaureate Degree or Advanced Degrees • Registered Nurse • Chiropractor • Dental Hygienist • Medical Technologist • Radiologic Technologist • Optometrist • Dietitian • Occupational Therapist • Physical Therapist • Pharmacist • Audiologist • Medical Doctor
Career Outlook	<i>information available @ careerwise.minnstate.edu</i>

College Credit & Certification Opportunities

College credits can be earned if you maintain a “B” or above grade. Students can earn up to nine college credits and are available through, but not limited to, the following schools:

- Anoka Technical College
- Anoka-Ramsey Community College
- Central Lakes College
- Hennepin Technical College
- Minnesota State College Southeast
- Normandale Community College
- St. Cloud Technical & Community College
- South Central College

Visit the following website for specific articulated college course information - www.ctecreditmn.com

Students will qualify to take the state examination to become a licensed nursing assistant registered (NA/R).

Table 5A: Health Care Core Course Crosswalk

CO: Course Objectives	NHSS	K-12	FKS	CRP
1. Discuss how healthcare workers can be aware and sensitive to their clients' needs/ behaviors.	9	*See Below	10, 11, 6, 7	CRP.04
2. Describe behaviors for success in healthcare.	4	*See Below	1, 4, 8, 10, 5, 6, 7	CRP.01
3. Explore healthcare fields, credentials, and career pathways	3	*See Below	1, 5, 3	CRP.08 CRP.10
4. Describe how healthcare workers can effectively communicate with their clients and team members.	2,8	*See below	10, 4	CRP.04 CRP.12
5. Using an ethical decision making model describe how ethics influence the care of clients.	6	*See below	2, 4, 9	CRP.08 CRP.09
6. Discuss legal issues in health care.	5	*See below	2, 9, 4, 6, 7, 10	CRP.08 CRP.09
7. Using a problem solving process, describe the critical principles and standards needed to ensure healthcare safety including teamwork.	7	*See below	6, 7, 11, 10, 4	CRP.04 CRP.12
8. Discuss the problem-solving process as applied to the issue of diverse cultures and their belief systems and practices in healthcare.	6	*See below	6, 7, 4, 2, 10, 11, 9	CRP.08 CRP.12

* K-12 Academic Standards: This course aligns with the Minnesota Academic Standards in English Language Arts depending on the type of assignments/pedagogy followed. For example, 9.14.4.4 in Strand – Writing, Sub

Table 4A: Introduction to Health Careers Crosswalk

CO: Course Objectives	NHSS	K-12	FKS	CRP
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the Therapeutic Services Career Pathway,	4.1; 4.2; 4.3	* See below	10, 15, 1, 4, 8, 6, 7	CRP. 07 CRP.10
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the Diagnostic Services Career Pathway.	4.1; 4.2; 4.3	* See below	10, 15, 1, 4, 8, 6, 7	CRP. 07 CRP.10
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the Health Informatics Career Pathway.	4.1; 4.2; 4.3	* See below	10, 15, 1, 4, 8, 6, 7	CRP. 07 CRP.10
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the Support Services Career Pathways.	4.1; 4.2; 4.3	* See below	10, 15, 1, 4, 8, 6, 7	CRP. 07 CRP.10
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the Biotechnology Research and Development Career Pathway	4.1; 4.2; 4.3	* See below	10, 15, 1, 4, 8, 6, 7	CRP. 07 CRP.10
6. Explore Career and Technical Student Organizations	N/A	* See below	1, 5, 4, 6, 7	CRP. 07 CRP.10

* K-12 Academic Standards: This course aligns with the Minnesota Academic Standards in English Language Arts depending on the type of assignments/pedagogy followed. For example, 9.14.4.4 in Strand – Writing, Sub strand 14, states: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to discipline, task, purpose, and audience.