

Practicum in Health Science – NHA Patient Care Technician/Assistant YAG

Two Credits | Double-Blocked | Full Year | 36 Weeks | Grades 11–12 | CPCT/A Certification Preparation

Course Information: PHS = §127.553 Practicum in Health Science. Prerequisites: Health Science Theory and Biology. The practicum provides practical application of previously studied Health Science knowledge and skills and may include experiences in locations appropriate to the nature and level of the experience. §127.15(d)(2) CTE Employability Skills are integrated throughout. This YAG organizes the practicum around preparation for the National Healthcareer Association Certified Patient Care Technician/Assistant (CPCT/A) credential. The NHA 2025 CPCT/A test plan contains five domains: Patient Care (43%), Compliance, Safety, and Professional Responsibility (19%), Infection Control (16%), Phlebotomy and Nonblood Specimen Collection (12%), and EKG (10%). NHA has announced updated CPCT/A study materials for October 2026 and an updated exam beginning January 13, 2027; teachers should use the NHA test plan corresponding to the students' scheduled exam date. ACCESS supports career, credential, postsecondary, and employment planning.

GP	Wks	Unit & Focus	Major Learning Tasks & Assessments	Practicum TEKS	NHA CPCT/A Alignment	Extension Activities
1	1–2	Unit 1 – PCT Role, Professionalism, Communication & Career Readiness	- Define the PCT/assistant role, care-team relationships, scope and professional boundaries - Demonstrate clear verbal/nonverbal and therapeutic communication - Practice accurate reporting according to facility procedures and minimize communication barriers - Establish employability expectations and launch a clinical skills/certification portfolio - Research PCT employment settings, advancement and transferable skills	- PHS2(A–C) - PHS3(A–C) - PHS6(A–B) §127.15(d)(2)	- Domain 2: Compliance, Safety & Professional Responsibility - Domain 1: Patient Care	- ACCESS: PCT careers - Professional communication simulations - Portfolio launch
1	3–4	Unit 2 – Ethics, Law, Patient Rights, Privacy & Documentation	- Apply ethical/legal standards and professional regulatory expectations - Analyze health-care ethics cases and consequences of unethical behavior - Practice privacy/confidentiality and appropriate boundaries in simulated settings - Compile information into technical documentation and present findings - Reinforce medical terminology and accurate clinical reporting	- PHS1(A–C) - PHS3(A) - PHS4(A–B)	Domain 2: Compliance, Safety & Professional Responsibility	- Ethics case conference - Documentation practice - Professional standards scenarios
1	5–7	Unit 3 – Infection Control, PPE, Exposure Prevention & Environmental Safety	- Apply standard precautions, hand hygiene, PPE and transmission-based concepts - Use infection-control principles during all skills practice - Evaluate hazardous materials/SDS information and exposure-response procedures - Apply body mechanics and safe-patient-handling principles - Demonstrate environmental safety and prevention of hazardous situations	- PHS5(A–C) - PHS3(B–C)	- Domain 3: Infection Control - Domain 2: Compliance, Safety & Professional Responsibility	- PPE competency lab - Exposure/safety scenarios - Environmental safety audit
1	8–9	Unit 4 – Anatomy, Physiology, Homeostasis & PCT Clinical Reasoning	- Relate anatomical structures to physiological functions - Distinguish atypical anatomy/physiology in major body systems - Examine environmental factors affecting homeostasis - Interpret health data and formulate evidence-based conclusions within PCT scope - Apply medical terminology and problem-solving strategies to patient-care cases	- PHS1(A,D–F) - PHS3(A–B)	Domain 1: Patient Care	- Body-system case studies - Data interpretation - Medical terminology review
2	10–12	Unit 5 – Patient Care Foundations: ADLs, Hygiene, Comfort & Mobility	- Provide simulated assistance with hygiene, grooming, toileting, nutrition and elimination needs - Apply positioning, transfer, ambulation, range-of-motion and body-mechanics principles - Support comfort, dignity, privacy and independence - Identify/report changes in health status during care - Use therapeutic communication and accurate documentation throughout	- PHS2(A–C) - PHS3(A–C) - PHS5(A,C) - PHS7(A–B)	- Domain 1: Patient Care - Domain 2: Compliance, Safety & Professional Responsibility - Domain 3: Infection Control	- ADL/mobility skill stations - Safe-transfer simulation - Care documentation

2	13-14	Unit 6 – Vital Signs, Measurements & Health Status Monitoring	• Measure and document temperature, pulse, respirations, blood pressure and oxygen saturation in simulation • Identify care indicators and recognize findings requiring reporting • Apply measurement/math concepts and interpret trends from multiple data sources • Report changes according to facility protocol using clear communication • Evaluate personal skill performance and plan improvement	• PHS1(A) • PHS2(A) • PHS3(B-C) • PHS7(A-B)	• Domain 1: Patient Care	• Vital-sign competency • Trend-analysis cases • Clinical reporting simulation
2	15-17	Unit 7 – Patient Safety, Emergency Response & Integrated Bedside Care	• Apply fall prevention, safe environment, body mechanics and patient-identification practices • Respond appropriately to simulated urgent changes in condition within PCT role • Integrate communication, vital signs, ADLs, mobility, infection control and documentation • Use systematic problem solving and evaluate performance for improvement • Complete cumulative NHA-style review of Patient Care and Safety concepts	• PHS2(A-C) • PHS3(A-C) • PHS5(A-C) • PHS7(A-B)	• Domain 1: Patient Care • Domain 2: Compliance, Safety & Professional Responsibility • Domain 3: Infection Control	• Integrated bedside simulation • Emergency scenarios • NHA domain review
2	18	Semester 1 Exam – PCT Foundations	• Cumulative written and performance-based assessment • Professionalism, communication, ethics/law, infection control, anatomy/physiology, ADLs/mobility, vital signs and patient safety • Semester skills portfolio review	• Cumulative PHS1-7 as addressed • §127.15(d)(2)	• NHA Domains 1-3	• Targeted remediation • Skills validation
3	19-21	Unit 8 – Phlebotomy Foundations & Specimen Collection	• Apply patient identification, communication, infection-control and safety procedures to simulated specimen collection • Identify phlebotomy equipment, venipuncture/capillary collection concepts and order-of-draw principles as appropriate to training resources • Recognize complications and appropriate response/reporting within student scope • Practice labeling, handling, transport and quality concepts • Apply anatomy/physiology and medical terminology to specimen collection	• PHS1(A,E-F) • PHS2(A-C) • PHS3(A-C) • PHS5(A-C) • PHS7(A-B)	• Domain 4: Phlebotomy & Nonblood Specimen Collection • Domain 3: Infection Control	• Phlebotomy simulation • Specimen-labeling exercises • NHA practice questions
3	22-23	Unit 9 – Nonblood Specimens, Point-of-Care Concepts & Quality	• Apply collection, labeling, transport and documentation principles to nonblood specimens • Explain contamination prevention and specimen-quality factors • Interpret simulated point-of-care results and identify reportable findings • Apply privacy, safety, infection-control and communication expectations • Evaluate errors and develop corrective strategies	• PHS1(A-B) • PHS2(A) • PHS3(B-C) • PHS5(A-C) • PHS7(A-B)	• Domain 4: Phlebotomy & Nonblood Specimen Collection • Domain 2: Compliance/Safety • Domain 3: Infection Control	• Specimen workflow simulation • Quality-error analysis • Documentation practice
3	24-26	Unit 10 – EKG Foundations & Cardiovascular Monitoring	• Review cardiovascular anatomy/physiology and relate it to EKG monitoring • Identify EKG equipment/components and prepare a simulated patient/environment • Practice lead-placement concepts, artifact recognition and quality troubleshooting using instructional equipment • Recognize findings/situations requiring prompt reporting within PCT scope • Document and communicate procedure information accurately	• PHS1(A,D-F) • PHS2(A-C) • PHS3(A-C) • PHS5(A,C) • PHS7(A-B)	• Domain 5: EKG • Domain 1: Patient Care • Domain 2: Compliance/Safety	• EKG simulation • Artifact troubleshooting • NHA EKG review
3	27	Unit 11 – PCT Career Applications, Extended Learning & Service	• Research PCT career pathways, postsecondary options and advancement opportunities • Identify transferable skills across nursing/allied-health occupations • Participate in an extended-learning/community-service experience • Develop or implement a CTSO/community-service action plan • Update résumé, credential plan and professional portfolio	• PHS6(A-B) • PHS8(A-B) • PHS1(B-C)	• Domain 2: Professional Responsibility • Certification/career readiness	• ACCESS: employment/postsecondary planning • HOSA/CTSO service • Employer/clinical partner connection

4	28-30	Unit 12 – Integrated PCT Clinical Simulations	• Complete multi-step patient-care simulations incorporating ADLs, mobility, vital signs and health-status monitoring • Apply infection control, safety, therapeutic communication, documentation and professional boundaries • Integrate simulated specimen collection and EKG tasks when appropriate • Interpret data, formulate conclusions and communicate/report findings • Evaluate performance and implement improvement plans	• PHS1(A-F) • PHS2(A-C) • PHS3(A-C) • PHS4(A) • PHS5(A-C) • PHS7(A-B)	• NHA Domains 1–5 integrated	• Scenario-based clinical lab • Peer/teacher skill validation • Remediation by domain
4	31-32	Unit 13 – NHA CPCT/A Exam Preparation by Domain	• Analyze individual performance data from NHA-aligned assessments • Review Patient Care with emphasis proportional to the certification test plan • Conduct focused review of Compliance/Safety/Professional Responsibility and Infection Control • Review Phlebotomy/Nonblood Specimen Collection and EKG • Develop individualized remediation plans and demonstrate improvement	• PHS1(A-C) • PHS3(B-C) • PHS5(A,C) • PHS7(A-B)	• Domain 1: 43% • Domain 2: 19% • Domain 3: 16% • Domain 4: 12% • Domain 5: 10%	• NHA study guide/practice tests if district-provided • Small-group remediation • Skills review
4	33	Unit 14 – CPCT/A Certification Readiness & Exam	• Complete final certification-readiness review • Verify candidate/exam logistics and professional testing expectations • Complete final skills refreshers based on individual data • Sit for the NHA CPCT/A exam when scheduled/eligible • Document certification outcome or next-step remediation plan	• PHS3(B-C) • PHS6(A-B) • §127.15(d)(2)	• NHA CPCT/A certification	• Certification testing • ACCESS: next-step planning
4	34-35	Unit 15 – Practicum Capstone, Technical Report & Career Transition	• Compile practicum evidence and clinical-simulation data into a technical report • Plan, prepare and deliver a professional capstone presentation • Demonstrate advanced integration of PCT skills, communication, safety and ethical/legal responsibilities • Evaluate growth and identify continued skill-development needs • Finalize career/postsecondary/credential plan and professional portfolio	• PHS1(A-C) • PHS3(A-C) • PHS4(A-B) • PHS6(A-B) • PHS8(A-B)	• All NHA domains reinforced • Professional/career readiness	• Capstone presentation • Portfolio defense • Employer/partner feedback
4	36	Semester 2 Exam & PCT Skills Showcase	• Cumulative practicum written/performance assessment • Integrated patient care, compliance/safety, infection control, specimen collection and EKG applications • Final portfolio, certification reflection and pathway transition	• Cumulative PHS1–8 • §127.15(d)(2)	• NHA Domains 1–5	• PCT skills showcase • Final pathway review

Practicum in Health Science TEKS + NHA CPCT/A Coverage Checklist

TEKS coverage verification: All eight Practicum in Health Science strands and all 23 student expectations in §127.553 are intentionally addressed. §127.15(d)(2) CTE Employability Skills are integrated throughout.

Strand	SEs	Knowledge & Skills Focus	YAG Placement	Coverage
PHS1	A–F	Data interpretation; technical report; presentation; homeostasis; anatomy/physiology; atypical A&P	Units 2, 4, 6, 8–10, 12–15	100%
PHS2	A–C	Facility reporting; therapeutic communication; minimizing communication barriers	Units 1, 5–10, 12	100%
PHS3	A–C	Medical terminology/health-care skills; problem solving; continuous improvement	Units 1–16	100%
PHS4	A–B	Ethical/legal standards and unethical-behavior case studies	Units 2, 12, 15	100%
PHS5	A–C	Regulatory standards/safe handling; hazardous materials/SDS; infection control/body mechanics	Units 3, 5, 7–10, 12–13	100%
PHS6	A–B	Transferable health science skills and career pathways	Units 1, 11, 14–15	100%
PHS7	A–B	Identify care indicators and record health status according to facility protocol	Units 5–10, 12–13	100%
PHS8	A–B	Extended learning participation and CTSO community-service action plan	Units 11, 15	100%
Employability	§127.15(d)(2)	Level 3/4 CTE employability skills	Integrated throughout	100%

NHA CPCT/A Certification Alignment: Instructional emphasis follows the NHA 2025 CPCT/A test plan while still maintaining full Practicum TEKS coverage.

Domain	NHA CPCT/A Domain	Exam Weight	Primary YAG Placement
1	Patient Care	43%	Units 1, 4–7, 10, 12–13; integrated simulations
2	Compliance, Safety & Professional Responsibility	19%	Units 1–3, 5, 7, 9–13
3	Infection Control	16%	Units 3, 5, 7–9, 12–13
4	Phlebotomy & Nonblood Specimen Collection	12%	Units 8–9, 12–13
5	EKG	10%	Units 10, 12–13

Implementation Notes

- This is a Practicum in Health Science course first and a CPCT/A certification-preparation program second; certification content is used as the occupational context through which the TEKS are taught, practiced, and assessed.
- NHA's 2025 CPCT/A test plan is weighted 43% Patient Care, 19% Compliance/Safety/Professional Responsibility, 16% Infection Control, 12% Phlebotomy and Nonblood Specimen Collection, and 10% EKG. Instruction and review time should broadly reflect that distribution while allowing additional time for hands-on skill acquisition.
- NHA announced updated CPCT/A preparation materials for October 7, 2026 and an updated certification exam beginning January 13, 2027. Teachers should use the test plan and NHA materials that correspond to the date students will actually test.
- All phlebotomy, specimen-collection, EKG, patient-care, and clinical procedures must remain within teacher qualifications, district policy, applicable law/regulation, facility requirements, available equipment, and student scope. Use simulation before any authorized clinical application.
- Practicum experiences may occur in appropriate school laboratory, simulation, community, clinical, or work-based learning settings. Protect patient privacy and follow all district/facility consent, safety, supervision, and documentation requirements.
- ACCESS should support career/credential research, postsecondary planning, employment preparation, and transition to nursing and allied-health pathways. HOSA/CTSO and community service satisfy important extended-learning components when aligned to PHS8.
- Weeks 18 and 36 are reserved for cumulative semester exams. The certification-readiness sequence is placed in Weeks 31–33 so schools can adjust the exact NHA exam date without breaking the yearlong instructional sequence.