

Phlebotomy – NHA Certified Phlebotomy Technician (CPT) YAG

Practicum in Health Science TEKS | Double-Blocked | One Semester | 18 Weeks | NHA CPT Certification Preparation

Course Framework: PHS = §127.553 Practicum in Health Science. This one-semester double-block implementation uses phlebotomy as the occupational context for the Practicum TEKS and prepares eligible students for the National Healthcareer Association Certified Phlebotomy Technician (CPT) exam. The current NHA CPT exam has 100 scored items plus 20 pretest items and a two-hour testing time. Its five domains are Safety and Compliance (26%), Patient Preparation (20%), Routine Blood Collections (28%), Special Collections (12%), and Processing (14%). NHA certification eligibility additionally requires evidence of at least 30 successful venipunctures and 10 capillary or finger sticks performed on live individuals. Those live-stick requirements must be completed only through district-approved, appropriately supervised experiences consistent with law, policy, consent, safety requirements, instructor qualifications, and NHA documentation requirements. §127.15(d)(2) CTE Employability Skills are integrated throughout. ACCESS supports career, credential, postsecondary, and employment planning.

GP	Wks	Unit & Focus	Major Learning Tasks & Assessments	Practicum TEKS	NHA CPT Alignment	Extension Activities
1	1–2	Unit 1 – Phlebotomy Profession, Communication, Ethics & Patient Rights	- Define phlebotomy roles, responsibilities, scope, professionalism and care-team relationships - Apply therapeutic verbal/nonverbal communication and strategies for communication barriers - Use medical terminology and accurate facility-style reporting - Analyze ethical/legal expectations, privacy, consent and professional boundaries - Launch phlebotomy skills, career and certification portfolio	- PHS2(A–C) - PHS3(A–C) - PHS4(A–B) - PHS6(A–B) §127.15(d)(2)	- Domain 1: Safety & Compliance - Domain 2: Patient Preparation	- ACCESS: phlebotomy careers - Communication/consent scenarios - Portfolio launch
1	3–4	Unit 2 – Infection Control, Exposure Prevention & Phlebotomy Safety	- Apply hand hygiene, standard/transmission-based precautions, PPE and aseptic technique - Explain bloodborne-pathogen, needlestick and exposure-control procedures - Use sharps/biohazard disposal and environmental safety practices - Interpret hazardous-material/SDS information & apply body mechanics - Practice first-response/reporting procedures for simulated exposure or adverse events	- PHS3(A–C) - PHS5(A–C)	Domain 1: Safety & Compliance	- PPE competency - Exposure-control simulation - Safety audit
1	5	Unit 3 – Anatomy, Physiology, Circulation & Collection Sites	- Relate cardiovascular anatomy/physiology to blood collection - Identify appropriate veins/capillary sites and structures to avoid - Distinguish atypical anatomy/physiology and factors affecting collection - Apply terminology, data interpretation and problem solving to site-selection cases	- PHS1(A,D–F) - PHS3(A–B)	- Core Knowledge - Domain 3: Routine Blood Collections - Domain 4: Special Collections	- Anatomy/site-identification lab - Case analysis - Terminology review
1	6–7	Unit 4 – Patient Preparation, Identification, Requisitions & Preanalytical Variables	- Introduce self, verify patient identity and apply privacy requirements - Explain implied/informed/expressed consent within appropriate context - Review/clarify requisitions and test priorities - Verify fasting, medication, basal-state and timing requirements - Identify preanalytical variables and adapt communication for diverse patient needs	- PHS2(A–C) - PHS3(A–C) - PHS7(A–B)	Domain 2: Patient Preparation	- Patient-ID simulation - Requisition review - Preanalytical-error cases
1	8	Unit 5 – Equipment, Additives, Order of Draw & Collection Planning	- Identify evacuated-tube, syringe, butterfly and capillary equipment - Match tube additives/specimen requirements to common testing categories - Apply order-of-draw principles and select equipment based on patient/collection needs - Check equipment integrity/expiration and prepare an organized collection environment - Use NHA-aligned practice questions to identify misconceptions	- PHS1(A) - PHS3(A–C) - PHS5(A–C)	- Domain 3: Routine Blood Collections - Domain 4: Special Collections	- Tube/additive lab - Order-of-draw practice - Equipment selection scenarios
1	9–11	Unit 6 – Routine Venipuncture: Procedure, Complications & Skill Development	- Sequence venipuncture from patient preparation through post-procedure care - Practice tourniquet placement, site cleansing, equipment handling, collection & hemostasis using instructional trainers before live procedures - Recognize complications such as hematoma, syncope, failed draws and other reportable conditions - Apply infection control, patient communication, labeling and documentation throughout - Begin/continue district-approved live venipuncture documentation when readiness and authorization requirements are met	- PHS2(A–C) - PHS3(A–C) - PHS5(A–C) - PHS7(A–B)	- Domain 3: Routine Blood Collections - Domain 1: Safety & Compliance - Domain 2: Patient Preparation	- Venipuncture skill validation - Complication scenarios - Live-stick log where authorized

2	12	Unit 7 – Capillary/Finger Sticks & Special Populations	• Select appropriate capillary/finger-stick sites and equipment • Sequence capillary collection & minimize contamination/preanalytical error • Adapt preparation and communication for pediatric, geriatric and other special populations • Recognize complications & situations requiring modification or referral • Begin/continue authorized live capillary/finger-stick documentation	• PHS2(A–C) • PHS3(A–C) • PHS5(A–C) • PHS7(A–B)	• Domain 4: Special Collections • Domain 2: Patient Preparation	• Capillary skill validation • Special-population scenarios • Live-stick log where authorized
2	13	Unit 8 – Special Collections & Advanced Collection Situations	• Explain requirements for blood cultures, timed specimens and other special collections represented in the NHA test plan • Apply collection priorities, patient preparation and specimen-quality requirements • Identify situations requiring modified procedures or additional assistance • Integrate safety, communication, documentation and scope-of-practice decisions	• PHS2(A–C) • PHS3(A–C) • PHS5(A–C) • PHS7(A–B)	• Domain 4: Special Collections • Domain 1: Safety & Compliance	• Special-collection cases • Procedure sequencing • NHA domain review
2	14	Unit 9 – Specimen Labeling, Processing, Transport & Quality Assurance	• Label specimens using required identifiers and timing principles • Explain centrifugation, aliquoting, storage, transport and chain-of-custody concepts as applicable • Identify causes of hemolysis, clotting, contamination and other specimen-quality problems • Determine when specimens should be rejected/recollected according to simulated policy • Document and report processing errors using quality-improvement reasoning	• PHS1(A–C) • PHS3(B–C) • PHS5(A–C) • PHS7(A–B)	• Domain 5: Processing	• Specimen-processing simulation • Quality-error analysis • Chain-of-custody case
2	15	Unit 10 – Integrated Phlebotomy Clinical Practice & Live-Collection Completion	• Complete full collection workflows from requisition through processing in simulation • Demonstrate consistent patient identification, communication, infection control and safety • Perform authorized live collections under qualified supervision when all requirements are met • Maintain accurate NHA/district evidence of successful venipunctures and capillary/finger sticks • Evaluate individual performance and remediate skill deficits	• PHS1(A–C) • PHS2(A–C) • PHS3(A–C) • PHS5(A–C) • PHS7(A–B)	• Domains 1–5 integrated • NHA eligibility skill documentation	• Clinical/lab experience • Individual remediation • Skills log audit
2	16	Unit 11 – NHA CPT Exam Preparation by Domain	• Analyze baseline/practice-test performance and identify priority gaps • Review Routine Blood Collections with greatest emphasis, followed by Safety/Compliance and Patient Preparation • Review Processing and Special Collections • Use NHA-aligned practice & focused remediation to improve weak areas • Complete certification-readiness skills review	• PHS1(A–C) • PHS3(A–C) • PHS5(A–C) • PHS7(A–B)	• Domain 1: 26% • Domain 2: 20% • Domain 3: 28% • Domain 4: 12% • Domain 5: 14%	• NHA study guide/practice test if district-provided • Small-group remediation • Skills review
2	17	Unit 12 – Certification, Extended Learning, Service & Career Transition	• Verify NHA eligibility documentation and certification testing logistics • Sit for the NHA CPT exam when scheduled and eligible • Research transferable skills, employment procedures and postsecondary pathways • Complete an extended-learning/community-service or CTSO action-plan component • Compile technical evidence and present a professional phlebotomy/career portfolio	• PHS1(B–C) • PHS4(A) • PHS6(A–B) • PHS8(A–B) • §127.15(d)(2)	• NHA CPT certification • Professional/career readiness	• ACCESS: employment/postsecondary planning • HOSA/CTSO service • Portfolio presentation
2	18	Semester Exam & Phlebotomy Skills Showcase	• Cumulative written and performance-based Practicum assessment • Integrated safety/compliance, patient preparation, routine/special collection and processing applications • Final skills-log/portfolio review and certification reflection • Document remediation/next steps for students who still need eligibility requirements or certification retesting	• Cumulative PHS1–8 • §127.15(d)(2)	• NHA Domains 1–5	• Skills showcase • Targeted remediation • Final pathway review

Practicum in Health Science TEKS + NHA CPT Coverage Checklist

TEKS coverage verification: All eight Practicum in Health Science strands and all 23 student expectations in §127.553 are intentionally addressed in the 18-week double-block sequence. §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 3, 5, 9–12	100%
PHS2	A–C	Facility reporting; therapeutic communication; minimizing communication barriers	Units 1, 4, 6–8, 10	100%
PHS3	A–C	Medical terminology/health-care skills; problem solving; continuous improvement	Units 1–11	100%
PHS4	A–B	Ethical/legal standards and unethical-behavior case studies	Units 1, 12	100%
PHS5	A–C	Regulatory/safety standards, hazardous materials/SDS, infection control/body mechanics	Units 2, 5–11	100%
PHS6	A–B	Transferable health science skills and career pathways	Units 1, 12	100%
PHS7	A–B	Identify care indicators and record health status according to facility protocol	Units 4, 6–11	100%
PHS8	A–B	Extended learning participation and CTSO community-service action plan	Unit 12	100%
Employability	§127.15(d)(2)	Level 3/4 CTE employability skills	Integrated throughout	100%

NHA CPT Certification Alignment: Instructional emphasis follows the current NHA CPT test plan.

Domain	NHA CPT Domain	Exam Weight	Primary YAG Placement
1	Safety and Compliance	26%	Units 1–2, 6–11
2	Patient Preparation	20%	Units 1, 4, 6–8, 10–11
3	Routine Blood Collections	28%	Units 3, 5–6, 10–11
4	Special Collections	12%	Units 3, 5, 7–8, 10–11
5	Processing	14%	Units 9–11

Implementation Notes

- This is an 18-week double-block Practicum in Health Science implementation. Phlebotomy provides the occupational context through which all Practicum TEKS are taught and assessed.
- The current NHA CPT exam contains 100 scored items plus 20 pretest items with a two-hour testing time. Domain weighting is Safety and Compliance 26%, Patient Preparation 20%, Routine Blood Collections 28%, Special Collections 12%, and Processing 14%.
- NHA requires CPT candidates using the training-program pathway to document at least 30 successful venipunctures and 10 capillary or finger sticks on live individuals. Simulation is essential for initial instruction and competency development but does not replace NHA's live-individual eligibility requirement.
- Live procedures must occur only when permitted by applicable law, district policy, program/facility policy, consent requirements, instructor qualifications, supervision requirements, student readiness, and NHA rules. Maintain auditable documentation of successful procedures.
- Students should use the current NHA CPT preparation materials and test plan. NHA released updated CPT study materials on October 8, 2025 and the corresponding updated exam on January 7, 2026.
- ACCESS should support career/credential research, postsecondary planning and employment preparation. Extended learning and HOSA/CTSO community service should be intentionally documented to address PHS8.
- Week 18 is reserved for the cumulative semester exam and performance-based skills showcase. Certification testing may occur in Week 17 or at another district-selected time once eligibility requirements are satisfied.