



# **National Healthcare Foundation Skills Certificate Program**

Not a Useless Certificate



# Purpose

- Established by the **National Consortium for Health Science Education (NCHSE)**, the National Healthcare Foundation Skills Certificate program provides a way to identify, demonstrate, measure and ultimately recognize student achievement in health science education programs.



# Criteria

- The National Healthcare Foundation Skills and Accountability Criteria are the heart of the certificate program. These standards identify the basic knowledge and skills that all entry-level healthcare workers need to be successful, regardless of the pathway or occupation they select.



# Measure

- The National Healthcare Foundation Skills Assessment is available in two parts. The **Pre-test** provides an indication of what students know upon entry into a health science plan of study, while the **Post-test** measures the student mastery of the basic knowledge and skills needed by all healthcare workers.



# Pre-testing

- Pre-testing is not a prerequisite for taking the National Healthcare Foundation Skills Assessment (post-test). However, verification of knowledge gained by using both the pre- and post-tests likely provides a more meaningful measure of instructional effectiveness than the post-test alone.
- The pre-test if used must be administered close to the start of the course or in the fall. *You will be asked if you are doing that.* It is not a study guide for the post-test.



# Post-Test

- Students scoring **70% or higher** on the Post-test receive a certificate recognizing their accomplishment. Although the program is not a certification that allows a student to work in a specified healthcare setting, it has been used as screening criteria for **scholarships**, to improve standing for **admission** into nursing and other occupational training programs and as a selection tool for choosing candidates to employer-provided, paid training programs (**OJT**) and certifications.



# When???

- The ideal time to administer this test to your students may vary. However, it would appear that students at the end of their **Principles** course should attempt the test. They will have covered most of the ten standards on which the questions are based. Depending on whether the teacher addresses any skills in Principles will determine if they are ready for the skills portion.
- However, out of 100 multiple choice questions only 5 are on technical skills.



# When???

- Another time to present the testing might be at the end of the Health Science second year course. The students should have added onto prior knowledge and be ready for any skills questions.
- This is also an excellent assessment to use to determine their readiness for a Practicum course.



## When???

- Students not passing after their Principles course should be offered the opportunity again the next year.
- I have found that senior students do not tend to fair as well because the specified training they are receiving in practicum may not address all the issues as thoroughly as Principles.



# Practice Test

- There is an online practice test to determine whether or not a student is ready to take the assessment.
- Remember though that the practice test does not guarantee success on the actual assessment.
- As a teacher you will give your students a username and password for the practice test when it is close to the testing time.



# What is Tested?

- There are 100 multiple choice test items that align with National Health Foundation Skills and Accountability Criteria.

<u>Standard</u>	<u>Questions</u>
1. Academic Foundation	19
2. Communications	13
3. Systems	2
4. Employability Skills	16
5. Legal Responsibilities	8



# What is Tested?

6. Ethics	9
7. Safety	18
8. Teamwork	6
9. Health Maintenance Practices	4
10. Technical Skills	5



# Actual Test

- Students may not use a calculator—they may have scratch paper and pencil.
- Students may not use another web site or any reference material.
- Many of the questions are scenario based.
- No cellular devices or other electronics are allowed.
- If caught cheating the student must end immediately and may not retest.
- You must select a proctor other than yourself to administer and monitor the test.



# Actual Test

- You will need to select someone to be the administrator—teachers cannot be. Their name will go on your application and they will receive the password and instructions on how to start the students on their testing.
- You must select a proctor other than yourself to administer and monitor the test. Their name also must be on the application. It is good to have two people who could administer the test.



# Actual Test

- At the end of the test, the student will see immediately their score and they should copy and print this for you.
- However, you will receive a report at a later date.
- And the certificates are generally mailed to the teacher for distribution.
- You will want to schedule this post-test for at least 4 weeks ahead of the end of school.



# Ins and Outs of Managing This Test

- You have a handout that gives you the web site and how to maneuver through it based on this year's set up.
- You can call to the Oklahoma Career Tech center however and they will talk you through it if you have questions.
- They are friendly and want you to use this certification.
- Each test currently cost \$12.00 and is a bargain in the certification world.



# Ins and Outs of Managing this Test

- You can fax your order for the tests and put the cost on a credit card or use the PO system. It's faster and easier to use the credit card and get reimbursed if your district is agreeable.
- You can fax or call and add on additional students once you are registered to test.
- Always open at least a week for the test window—students miss school days!



Q and A

