

Course Proposal: Nursing Assistant Program

Department: Health Sciences / CTE

Proposed for: Cambridge Isanti High School, MN

Course Rationale & Alignment with MN CTE Health Science

- This course lines up with our district's Strategic Plan 1.5: Develop & expand the CIHS Work Based Learning Program with local businesses and industries to increase student career readiness and 1.6: Expand the Articulated College Credit options at CIHS.
- The Minnesota Department of Education defines Health Science Technology Education as a branch of CTE that “prepares students for a diverse and adaptable career in the expansive interdisciplinary healthcare sector,” emphasizing critical thinking, decision-making, human relations, teamwork, ethics, and technical skills. [Minnesota Department of Education](#)
- While Minnesota does not mandate uniform state-level CTE standards (districts adopt locally) [MNCTE+1](#), the health science programs are encouraged to align with the National Health Science Standards as a foundation, which MDE references in its Health Science frameworks. [Minnesota Department of Education](#)
- The program will also adopt the Minnesota State Nurse Aide Curriculum (2024 Edition), an MDH-/MinnState-approved curriculum for nurse aide training programs in Minnesota. This ensures the course meets state certification requirements and is recognized for placement on the Nurse Aide Registry. [Minnesota State University](#)
- The curriculum includes 11 units, skill checklists, instructor handouts, quizzes, and performance records, ensuring a comprehensive and compliant training structure. [Minnesota State University+2Minnesota Department of Health+2](#)
- The Minnesota Nurse Aide training must include at least 75 clock hours, including 16 hours of supervised practical training (lab or live person). [Minnesota State University](#)

Thus, this high school course will be fully aligned both to Minnesota's regulatory requirements for nurse aide training and to the broader goals of Health Science CTE in the state.

Partnerships

- We will partner with Anoka Ramsey Community College and GracePointe to offer labs and student practicum experiences.
- We will partner with local long term care facilities to place students into paid work experiences after they are certified.
- We hope to partner with Cambridge Medical Center to offer scrubs camps or similar experiences.

- We hope to partner with the MN Department of Labor & Industries.

Benefits to Students, School, and Community

- Students graduate with state-level nurse aide certification, enabling entry-level employment in healthcare
- Strengthens the Health Science CTE pathway and supports district goals around college & career readiness
- Builds community partnerships with local long-term care and healthcare providers
- Helps address healthcare workforce shortages, especially in rural or underserved Minnesota regions
- Gives students hands-on experience, confidence in clinical settings, and a stronger foundation for further healthcare education

Course Overview & Objectives

Course Description:

The Nursing Assistant Certification Program is a CTE-level course that prepares students for employment in long-term care and acute care settings and positions them to pursue further education in nursing or allied health. It features a blended model of classroom theory, skills lab, and clinical experience using the Minnesota State Nurse Aide Curriculum.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Master the essential competencies in the 11 units of the Minnesota nurse aide curriculum (e.g., infection control, safety, communication, basic nursing skills, psychosocial care, anatomy & physiology) [Minnesota State University+1](#)
- Demonstrate proficiency in patient care procedures (vital signs, hygiene, mobility, feeding, documentation, etc.) via skill checklists
- Exhibit professional behaviors, ethical decision-making, and patient-centered care consistent with health science CTE values
- Communicate effectively with patients, families, and health care teams
- Apply cultural competence, respect for patient dignity, and confidentiality
- Complete supervised clinical hours and receive satisfactory clinical evaluations
- Successfully pass the state certification (CNA / nurse aide) exam and be eligible for the Minnesota Nurse Aide Registry

Course Structure & Timeline

Component	Description
Classroom Theory	Cover the didactic units of the nurse aide curriculum
Skills Lab / Supervised Practical Training	Hands-on practice of procedures using mannequins, simulated patients, peers
Clinical Experience	In partner long-term care / LTC facility, under supervision
Assessment & Certification	Skills check-offs, written exams, final evaluation

Credits: 2 CTE Elective Credits (aligned with Health Science / CTE pathway)

Grade Levels: 11-12 (with prerequisites)

Prerequisites: Introduction to Health Careers, Medical Terminology AND students must get teacher approval, be in good academic standing 3.0 or higher, and have no regular attendance issues

Alignment to MN CTE / Health Science Aspirations

- Students will develop **employability skills** (communication, teamwork, critical thinking, ethics) which are core to Minnesota's vision for CTE in health science.
- The program supports **continuity** in Health Science pathways (e.g. therapeutic services) in Minnesota's health science CTE planning. [Minnesota Department of Education+1](#)
- Offering **industry-recognized credentialing** (state nurse aide certification) strengthens the career readiness goal of CTE.

Funding Options / Grants: Use CTE / Perkins funds, local healthcare partner contributions, community health grants.

[See attached syllabus.](#)