

OKLAHOMA BOARD OF NURSING
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Refresher Course Policy

- I. Introduction/Purpose: In accordance with the *Rules of the Oklahoma Board of Nursing*, the Board has developed the *Refresher Course Policy* for use by nurses seeking to demonstrate evidence of continued qualifications for practice or evidence of eligibility for initial licensure through completion of a refresher course.
- II. Definitions:
- A. “Refresher course” means a structured program approved by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing, offered by an educational institution approved to offer a nursing education program leading to licensure, for the purpose of providing an update of nursing theoretical content and clinical practice for individuals who have previously completed a Board-approved nursing education program.
 - B. “Clinical learning experiences” means faculty-planned and guided activities designed to assist students to meet stated program and course outcomes and to safely apply knowledge and skills when providing nursing care to clients across the lifespan as appropriate to the role expectations of the graduates. These experiences occur in a variety of affiliating agencies or clinical practice settings including, but not limited to: acute care facilities, extended care facilities, long-term care facilities, clients’ residences, and community agencies; and in associated clinical pre- and post-conferences [485:10-1-2].
- III. Policy/Guideline:
- A. In order to offer a refresher course that meets the Board’s requirements for evidence of continued qualifications for practice, the institution must be approved to offer a nursing education program leading to licensure. Approval of the refresher course by the Board is required and may be delegated to Board staff.
 - B. Faculty teaching in the refresher course will hold a minimum of a baccalaureate degree in nursing.
 - C. The refresher course will be based on achievement of competencies, as validated by written examinations and skills check-offs. Students may proceed through the competencies at their own pace, provided that a minimum of 80 hours are provided in classroom and skills lab review and a minimum of 80 hours are spent

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participating in clinical learning experiences. Additional clinical hours may be required based upon the faculty's evaluation of competency in the clinical setting and readiness to return to the work setting.

D. Clinical learning experiences

1. The refresher course will provide students an opportunity to provide patient care in the clinical area under the supervision of a faculty member.
2. In order for the student to successfully complete the refresher course, the student must have received a summative satisfactory evaluation on their performance in the clinical area, as determined by the faculty member.

IV. The basic curriculum to be covered in the refresher course for registered nurses and practical nurses will be appropriate for the level of licensure. Areas to be covered must include, but are not limited to, the following:

A. Roles and responsibilities of the RN and of the LPN in current health care settings

1. Scopes of practice, as established in the *Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act*
2. Practice guidelines established by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing
3. Collaborating and communicating with other health care team members
4. Utilization of current clinical references and resources
5. Responsibilities for delegation and supervision
6. Using nursing judgment, decision-making and critical thinking skills
7. Roles of the RN and of the LPN in use of the nursing process
 - a. Patient assessment
 - b. Analysis of data
 - c. Development, implementation, and evaluation of the plan of care

B. Review and update on fundamental concepts of patient care

1. Pain management
2. Nursing implications related to commonly-used medications in current health care settings
3. Dosage calculation skills
4. Current technology used in clinical care
5. Documentation
6. Diagnostic testing
7. Infection control
8. Common health problems throughout the lifespan
9. Concepts related to maternal-newborn care
10. Concepts related to psychiatric-mental health

C. Psychomotor skills

1. Physical assessment skills
2. Medication administration (oral, topical, intradermal, subcutaneous, intramuscular, and IV)

3. Ostomy and wound care
4. Urinary catheterization
5. Nasogastric intubation and feeding tubes
6. Chest tubes
7. Tracheostomy care, pulse oximetry, and suctioning
8. IV therapy and administration of blood products (Note: LPNS who have been certified in IV therapy or who have had IV therapy included in their practical nursing curriculum should also receive this refresher information. LPNs who are not certified in IV therapy and did not obtain IV therapy training in their practical nursing curriculum should complete a formal training course in IV therapy in addition to the refresher course, prior to participating in IV therapy in the clinical area.)
9. Use of restraints and restraint alternatives