

OKLAHOMA BOARD OF NURSING
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Employment of Nursing Students or Non-Licensed
Graduates Guidelines

When a nursing student or a recent graduate of a nursing education program is employed by a health care institution, the following guidelines shall be utilized:

I. A nursing student or a recent graduate of a nursing education program may be employed as a Nurse Technician or a Practical Nurse Technician as follows:

- A. After evaluation of competency and as defined in the employing facility's job description, the Nurse Technician and the Practical Nurse Technician are allowed to perform all duties of a nursing assistant, as well as other technical skills which have been learned in a nursing education program and for which competency has been previously demonstrated under the supervision of a faculty member. Delegation of nursing functions must fall within the Oklahoma Board of Nursing Policy, #P-02, *Delegation of Nursing Functions to Unlicensed Persons*.
- B. Exceptions include but are not limited to the following: The Nurse Technician or Practical Nurse Technician may not administer medication (including but not limited to blood products and intravenous fluids), perform assessments, act in a supervisory position, take verbal orders from any person authorized by state law to so prescribe [59 O.S. §567.3a(2)], or develop the plan of care.
- C. A Registered Nurse is directly responsible at all times for the Nurse Technician/Practical Nurse Technician, who is functioning as an unlicensed person with a defined job description. The RN must be physically present in the institution, not, however, providing direct supervision for every activity.

II. Definitions:

- A. The Nurse Technician
 - 1. is currently enrolled in a program of registered nursing or between terms/semesters; or
 - 2. has completed a program of registered nursing and has applied to write the licensure examination. The graduate may continue to be employed in a Nurse Technician role until licensed in any state, territory, or country, provided that the first licensure examination is taken within 90 days after graduation and the examination is passed within 6 months of graduation, on either the first or the second attempt.

- B. The Practical Nurse Technician:
 - 1. is currently enrolled in a program of practical nursing; or
 - 2. has completed a program of practical nursing and has applied to write the licensure examination. The graduate may continue to be employed in a Practical Nurse Technician role until licensed in any state, territory, or country, provided that the first licensure examination is taken within 90 days after graduation and the examination is passed within 6 months of graduation, on either the first or the second attempt.

III. Job Description and Identification:

- A. A written job description for the Nurse Technician/Practical Nurse Technician must be developed by the employing facility and provided to the Nurse Technician/Practical Nurse Technician. The job description may be more restrictive than the Board policy but may not be less restrictive.
- B. The Nurse Technician/Practical Nurse Technician shall not wear a patch, uniform, or nametag that identifies him/her as a student of the nursing education program.