



NURSING STUDENT WORKERS

A student nurse worker may not perform nursing functions beyond the level of a nursing assistant unless enrolled in a BRN approved Work Study Course in a California approved prelicensure nursing program.

Background:

The Nursing Practice Act permits students enrolled in a Board approved prelicensure nursing program to render registered nursing services when these services are incidental to a course of study in the program (Business and Professions Code 2729 (a)). A work-study course offered by a nursing program complies with this section of law and provides additional clinical experiences for student nurses admitted to and enrolled in its own nursing program. With a work-study program, nursing students are exposed to the realities of the clinical environment and have the opportunity to master learned skills. Additionally, clinical agencies benefit by the student nurse's skills and have the opportunity to attract new graduate nurses to their facility.

Work-Study Program

The nursing programs in California are responsible for following the Board's guidelines in developing a work-study course as follows:

- 1) Nursing program develops a course in which previously learned nursing theory and clinical skills are applied
 - A student must have acquired clinical competence in these skills. A list of skills competencies are provided to the clinical agency (work-study site).
 - No new skills may be taught during this course
 - Hours of instruction for the course follow the formula per CCR 1426(g)(2)
 - A course faculty of record is available and is responsible for ongoing communication with students and agency and monitoring the student.
- 2) Nursing program develops an agreement with a clinical agency with which it has a contract, to provide a work-study course for which a student receives academic credit. Compensation of the student by the practice site is encouraged.
- 3) The clinical agency agrees to the objectives of the course and provides mentors or preceptors for direct supervision of students.
- 4) The instructor and agency mentors meet at regular intervals to discuss student progress and jointly share in the evaluation of the student.
- 5) The course instructor has the final responsibility to evaluate and grade students and their mastery of the course objectives.

Approval of work-study program

- All work-study courses require Board approval prior to course implementation.
- Nursing program submits a minor curriculum revision request to the assigned nursing education consultant following the curriculum revision guidelines.