

FAQ

Scope of Practice Practical or Professional Nursing Students Work Experience

Minnesota Statutes, sections 148.171 through 148.285, commonly referred to as the Nurse Practice Act, governs the practice of nursing in Minnesota. The law provides that any individual who practices professional or practical nursing in Minnesota must be licensed by the Minnesota Board of Nursing. However, the law does provide for certain exemptions from the licensure requirement.

Minnesota Statutes, section 148.271, provides that an individual may practice nursing in Minnesota, without a Minnesota nursing license, in specific situations. Paragraph (7) states that the Nurse Practice Act does not prohibit “professional or practical nursing practice **by a student practicing under the supervision of an instructor while the student is enrolled in a nursing program** approved by the board under section 148.251” (emphasis added).

In Minnesota Statutes section 148.171, subdivision 24, the scope of practice for the unlicensed assistive person “means any unlicensed person to whom nursing tasks or activities may be delegated or assigned, as approved by the board”. The Board interprets this to mean that an individual who happens to be a nursing student may be employed as an unlicensed assistive personnel, and must function within the scope of practice of this category as provided in the law.

Please visit the Minnesota Board of Nursing web site at www.nursingboard.state.mn.us for additional information about the statutes and rules governing the practice, credentialing, and education of nurses in Minnesota.

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