

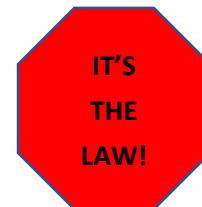
EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES



Educational Requirements for PHNs in North Carolina:

- (1) The minimum educational requirement for public health nurses is specified in North Carolina Administrative Code, 10A NCAC 46, Section .0300 – Local Health Department Staff, Rule .0301 identifies “**Minimum Standard Health Department Staffing.**” Item (2) under that rule states:
- (2) All local health department nurses shall either:
 - (a) Have a nursing degree from a baccalaureate school accredited by the National League for Nursing or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education; or
 - (b) Complete within one year of employment with the health department an introductory course in principles and practices of public health and public health nursing sponsored by the Department. The curriculum for the course shall be developed by the Department with input from local health departments and schools of nursing. [10A NCAC 46 .0301](#)

NOTE-several key phrases from this rule:



- “All local health department nurses”
The rule does not make exceptions for nurses who work only in clinics or in a specific program (such as Home Health) within the health department
- “a nursing degree from a baccalaureate school...”
A baccalaureate degree in another field does **not** meet this requirement

Principles and Practices of Public Health Nursing Course

This course, *Introduction to Principles and Practices of Public Health Nursing*, is offered in collaboration with the North Carolina Institute for Public Health’s Office of Continuing Education. Although required for all non-baccalaureate prepared registered nurses hired by local health departments, it is open to any baccalaureate-prepared nurse who wishes to participate and is encouraged for any LHD nurse who is new to public health.

Course dates and enrollment information are available at www.sph.unc.edu/nciph/training .

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- “Complete” – PHN must successfully complete the Introduction to Principles and Practices of Public Health Nursing Course. Completion of the course requires a passing grade on the end of course exam.
- “within one year of employment” – due to timing of these courses, this has been interpreted to mean that the PHN must at least be in the process of taking the course when the **first anniversary** of his/her employment date in public health nursing arrives.

For more information, please contact:

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