

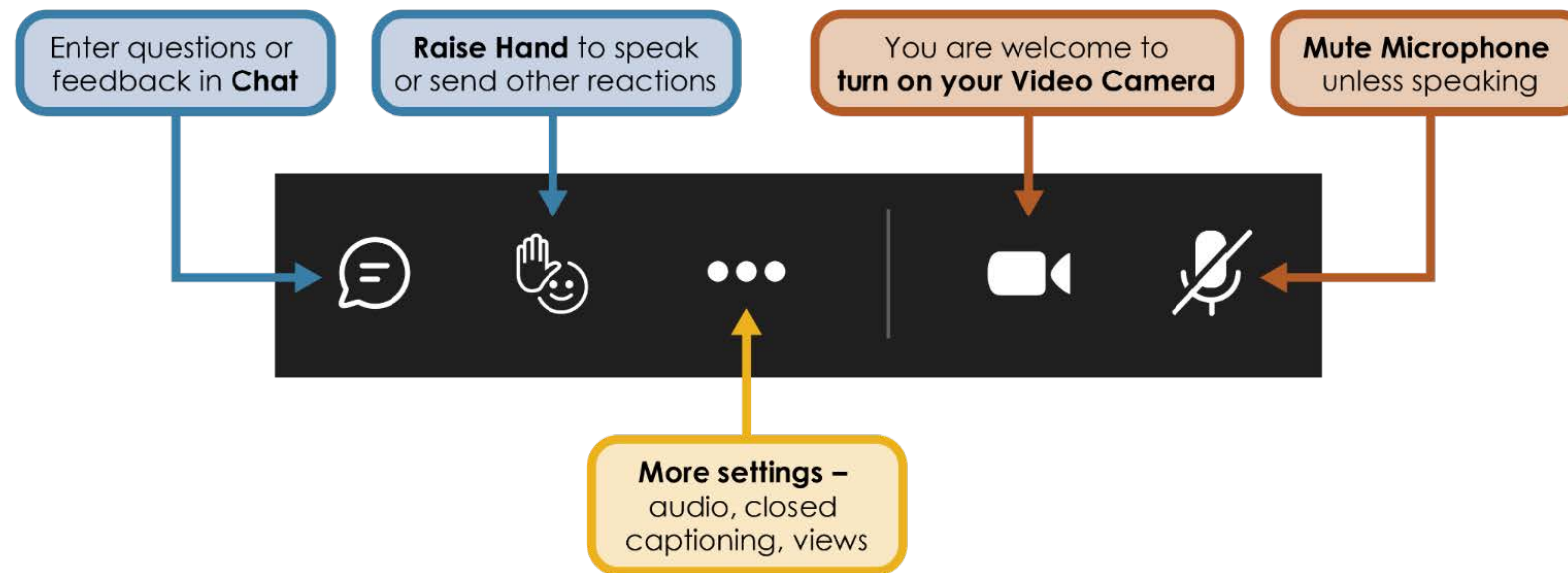


Nursing Assistant Rules

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Director of Nursing Assistant Education

Zoom Features We Will Use Today



Meeting Reminders

- Be mindful and respectful of all those in attendance.
- Please raise your hand to speak and staff will call on you to share.
 - State your name before speaking.
 - Speak clearly and audibly.
 - Keep your mic muted unless asked to share.
- Please be mindful of the time and allow others the opportunity to speak.
- Please stay on topic.

Purpose

- Implement **skills testing** in training programs
- Make changes to the **specialty curricula rule requirements**
- Implement changes resulting from the passage of SB 5051
 - [SB 5051](#) - Transfers credentialing and disciplinary authority for nursing assistants from the Secretary of Health to the Board.

Amends: Sections in Chapter 246-841A (Nursing Assistants)

Today's Workshop

Agenda

- Review options for specialty curriculum
- Make recommendations on direction for specialty curriculum

Historical Background: Specialty Curricula

- **ESHB 1109** provided funding for the long-term care committee
- Specialty training was added to WAC 246-841A as a result of the recommendations of the long-term care committee. Their report: [Long-term Care Workforce Development Final Report](#)

- **WAC 246-841A-440**

Common curriculum in approved nursing assistant training programs.

(c) Approved programs must implement the specialty curricula as units 10, 11, and 12 of the common curriculum for all students graduating on or after September 1, 2025 (Deferred to September 1, 2026).

Historical Background: Specialty Curricula

Current Specialty Training Requirements: WAC 388-112A-0490 and 0495

- Assisted Living: 90-120 days from date of hire
 - Currently paid by the assisted living facility, may be subsidized by Medicaid
- Adult Family Homes (up to 8 residents): 120 days from date of hire
 - Currently paid by the Long-Term Care Foundation via CBA with State of Washington
- Enhanced Services Facilities (community-based residential facilities serving up to 16 individuals with complex behavioral, personal care needs): before hire or 120 days if new residents need

Implementation of Specialty Curriculum

Mandatory Implementation Date:

- Programs must implement specialty curriculum has been delayed till September 2026

Specialty Topics:

- Developmental Disabilities
- Mental Health
- Dementia

Current issues:

1. Lack of course availability for specialty topic courses offered to program instructors.
2. NA program will need to increase program costs which will be partially passed on to students.
3. Only Adult Family Homes and Assisted Living Facilities require specialty curricula for employment.

Current actions:

1. Specialty Curriculum Advisory Group was created with representation from DSHS, DDA, CTE programs, private NA programs, high school programs, and original specialty curriculum group members.
2. Zoom meetings were held on 02/20/25 and 03/27/25.
3. Advisory group provided recommendations. The board is holding public rule workshops to solicit input from interested parties.

Summary of Specialty Curriculum Feedback

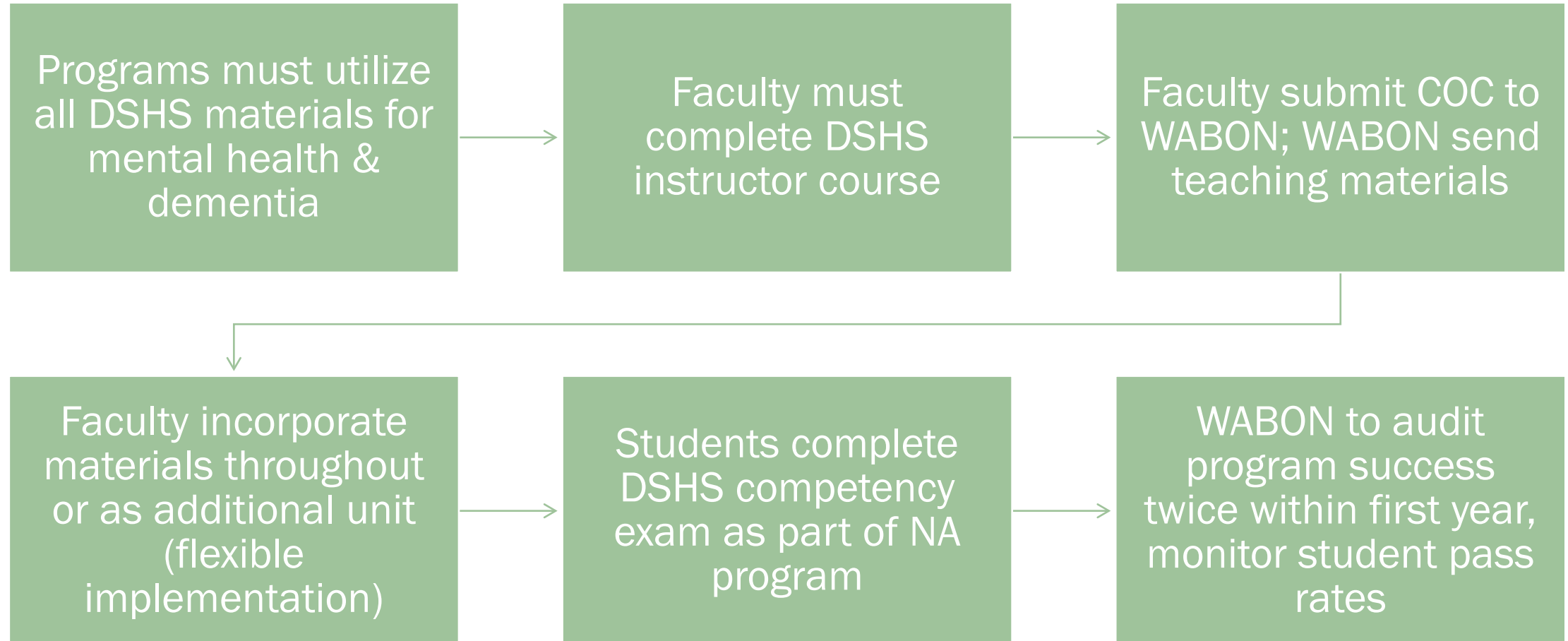
- Support for flexible, modular frameworks rather than prescriptive curricula
- Desire to maintain academic autonomy and better align content delivery with community needs
- Discussion about equity between community college and private program requirements
- Recommendation for the train-the-trainer sessions tailored to NA instructors and directors.
- Suggestion for the state to develop a few approved curricula models that programs could select and adapt from.
- Request to allow currently approved instructors to teach the specialties without additional approval steps.
- Interest in “grandfathering” for programs already incorporating the specialty topics.



Proposed Options

1. Implement specialty curriculum as originally planned
 - 32 hours, DSHS content, mental health/dementia/DDA
2. Implement modified specialty curriculum
 - No defined hour requirement, DSHS content, mental health/dementia only
3. No addition of specialty curriculum
 - Employer provides specialty curriculum with hire (current state)

Modified Specialty Curriculum Details



Discussion Questions

Question #1

What are the potential barriers to applying the modified specialty curriculum (Option #2)?

Question #2

What are drawbacks of the modified specialty curriculum (Option #2)?

Question #3

Which option best meets the needs of the students, employers, and educational programs?

Next Steps

Next rule workshop: TBD

For more information, visit the board's website: www.nursing.gov

Questions? Contact us at WABONRules@doh.wa.gov