

# **MSN Students, NCNA, and Weekly Presence at the NC General Assembly**

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## **Purpose of Session**

- ▶ **Describe strategies to enable MSN students to meet the objectives of Essential VI: Health Policy and Advocacy.**

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## **MSN Essential VI Health Policy and Advocacy**

- ▶ **Graduates have knowledge and skills to:**
  - ▶ **Promote health**
  - ▶ **Help shape the health delivery system**
  - ▶ **Advance values like social justice through policy processes and advocacy**
- ▶ **Master's prepared nurses will use their political efficacy and competence to improve the health outcomes of populations and improve the healthcare delivery system**

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## **MSN Program Prepares the Graduate to:**

- ▶ **Analyze how policies influence the structure and financing of health care, practice, and health outcomes.**
- ▶ **Participate in the development and implementation of institutional, local, and state and federal policy.**
- ▶ **Examine the effect of legal and regulatory processes on nursing practice, healthcare delivery, and outcomes.**
- ▶ **Interpret research, bringing the nursing perspective, for policy makers and stakeholders.**
- ▶ **Advocate for policies that improve the health of the public and the profession of nursing.**

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## **NCNA Role in Weekly Legislative Presence**

- ▶ **RNs interested in volunteering time at the N.C. General Assembly**
- ▶ **Support of the effort to promote the Modernize Nursing Practice Act. This legislation includes many important components that would increase access to care in our state through more efficient and effective utilization of APRNs.**

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## **Process**

- ▶ **Volunteers will be provided background information and instructions in advance of your visit to help you prepare, as well as on-site info and coaching at the beginning of your volunteer time slot. Assignments vary week to week but past years, many assignments involved distributing informational material to legislator offices in teams of 2 or more.**

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## Other Opportunities

- ▶ **Attending Health Committee meetings**
- ▶ **Many legislators have taken notice of the efforts**

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## Purpose of Experience

- ▶ **Provide the MSN student the opportunity to experience an in-depth exploration of the operations of the state legislative processes and how knowledge of the law-making process is critical to public policy management and advocacy.**
- ▶ **The MSN student will analyze this process and discuss the implications for nurse leaders.**

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## Procedure

- ▶ **Click on Sign up now for the Tuesday Weekly Legislator Presence in the North Carolina General Assembly.**
- ▶ **Click Sign Up on selected day.**
- ▶ **Click submit and sign up.**

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## Day of Experience

- ▶ **Jason Kessler, Manager of Political Engagement or his designee meets with students in the lobby of the General Assembly.**
- ▶ **Students are briefed regarding the legislative issues and will other nurses, nurse practitioners, or members of NCNA accompany students to the legislative offices.**
- ▶ **The time period is approximately from 10 am to 2 pm. Wear professional business attire, comfortable shoes, and a white lab coat.**
- ▶ **Arrive early to find paid public parking and walk to the General Assembly on Jones Street in Raleigh.**

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## **Pre-session with Jason Kessler, Manager of Political Engagement and other Nurses**



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## **MSN Students Visiting Offices in NCGA**



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## Student Comments

- ▶ **“My first thoughts of attending the legislative rounding was intimidation”.**
- ▶ **“The most significant aspect of the event was recognizing the impact that voters can have on their legislative senators and representatives. The ability of the APRN to share true life examples appeared to impact those we talked with significantly”.**
- ▶ **“All Senators and Representatives listened to our viewpoints intently. If they do not hear from the people, they vote for what they think the people want”.**

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## Student Comments

- ▶ **“This experience has provided me to with the opportunity to look closer at my current roles within my nursing associations and formulate a plan to play a more active role”.**
- ▶ **“This was an experience that I was very hesitant about going into, but every individual encountered, from the NCNA staff to the legislature staff, was very informative and willing to assist and provide information that made this a positive learning experience”.**

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## Student Comments

- ▶ **“My experience at the North Carolina legislature was immensely. With nurses representing the largest segment of all health professionals, it is logical that nurses should have a political role in shaping the healthcare priorities of the nation, our professional practice, and legislation. Often the impact of our advocacy does not extend beyond the bedside or unit. Nurses need to understand that they can influence health policy. However, because of our inaction others are not benefitted by our unique experiences or do not adequately represent our interests, make decisions that impact our practice or the issues central to nursing. While at the Legislature I had the opportunity to meet several lawmakers. I was surprised by the diverse backgrounds of the legislators. One lawmaker worked as a physician, another a teacher, and one even a mortician. I failed to acknowledge that legislators cannot be experts on all topics, so often they depend upon trusted confidantes or groups familiar with an issue to provide insight”.**

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## A Nurses Place is in the House



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