

## HealthCenter21: The Perfect Supplement for Time-Challenged Classrooms



### Orlando Tech

#### SCHOOL TYPE:

Vocational Technical School

#### COURSE TITLE:

• Patient Care Technician Program

#### CONTACT:

Nancy Welch, RN

Orlando Tech

301 W Amelia St.

Orlando, FL 32801

<http://www.ocpstechcenters.net/orlandotech>

Nancy Welch, RN, teaches the Patient Care Technician Program at Orlando Tech to 40 dually-enrolled juniors and seniors from 13 public high schools in Orange County.

### Time-Saving Solution

Welch is supposed to have her students for 3 hours every day. But with transportation to and from the site, in reality that actual class time can be reduced to as little as 1 ½ hours. With students arriving at staggered intervals, Welch makes sure she has productive bell work for early arrivals to work on until everyone gets there.

Welch explains how she and her students survive the time-crunch: “How HealthCenter21 REALLY helps me is as a supplement to what I do in class. Because my time is whittled down, I get to use that as homework. So students are learning the theory at home, and I reinforce the theory in class and test it as well.” She has students take the quizzes on line as often as they want. Then she tests them while in class.

In something of a flipped classroom method, Welch explains that “because students get the theory online, HealthCenter21 frees me up to do more hands on in the classroom. It has been such a great answer for me!”

During the first 9 weeks of the course, Welch assigns students 5 modules that supplement and augment her basic health care worker portion of the class. Those modules include Legal and Ethical Responsibilities, Communications, Wellness and Nutrition, Infection Control, and Bloodborne Pathogens. She assigns this work mainly as homework and occasionally as computer class time.

Welch points out that her course could never be fully online because of the nature of the class. There will always be the

necessary hands on portion. But for the rest, “HealthCenter21 has been such a wonderful blessing,” she says.

### Easy Online Management

When asked, “What do you like best about HealthCenter21,” Welch shares that although she’s “not terribly computer savvy, it’s extremely easy for me to manage as an instructor that didn’t grow up using a computer.” She adds, “It has been SO easy for me. You can’t even imagine how wonderful that is because it takes a lot of the stress off.”

### More than Just Online Content

Welch is quick to explain that HealthCenter21 is more than just the online modules. “The other thing I like are the activities related to the modules. I LOVE that the modules have lesson plans, PowerPoint presentations, activities, and ideas on how to make it hands on. It’s not just about assigning the students to go get online and work through it and do the quiz. It’s about supplementing what I do in the classroom as well,” she says.

“I especially love the communications module and those hands on activities. They are very, very helpful to the students in helping them understand how important communication is and how to communicate clearly,” she adds.

And that’s not even all! Welch takes full advantage of some newer additions to the HealthCenter21 program including Essential Questions, Study Guides, and Glossaries. “I look at all the features and resources and use or tweak the ones that fit for me,” she explains.

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## Meeting Florida Requirements

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Welch’s program is approved by both the Florida Board of Nursing and the Florida Board of Health. With that comes requirements that Welch’s program has to meet, specifically that the course contain a certain number of hours. With juniors and seniors participating in state testing, prom, homecoming, and other activities, those absences add up. To meet requirements, even excused absences must be made up. “I use some of the modules to assign students to make up hours for class. It’s not just busy work. I feel that by giving them HealthCenter21, it is making up for lost time with me with something that is very productive. For example, I assigned the Emergency Care module for 6 students that were absent. It supplemented what they had learned in class. I felt like I was able to fulfill a need in a very positive, productive way,” Welch shares.



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