

Clinical Specialty

Clinical Specialty is a NEW event that is earning rave reviews from student participants and praise from the health care community. This event will be a Pilot Event at the 2004 National Leadership Conference in Orlando. Check with your state advisor to see how you can take part in the Clinical Specialty event in 2004.

What is Clinical Specialty?

Clinical Specialty is a skill event for all health professions that are not addressed with other HOSA skill events. Skill events help HOSA members “experience” a potential career field. The purpose of Clinical Specialty is to provide outstanding learning experiences for students to help in the career decision-making process.

Three Aspects of the Event

The Clinical Specialty event gives HOSA members the opportunity to investigate a career, have a work-based learning experience, and learn two skills. All three aspects of the event are evaluated and play an important part in helping the student fully understand the career.

The work-based learning experience and career understanding are evaluated in the portfolio phase of the event. Competitors compile their research and experiences in a portfolio, then sit with judges to talk about their learning experiences. This “show-and-tell” interview provides the judges with an opportunity to evaluate the competitor’s learning experiences and depth of understanding.

The skill portion is evaluated using a video. The reason for the video is because many competitors wish to learn and perform skills with equipment that could not possibly be replicated at a HOSA conference due to size and expense. For example, a Recreation Therapy student teaches paraplegic children to ride horses. While that skill cannot be demonstrated at a HOSA conference, it can be videotaped.

How Are the Event Skills Developed?

After a competitor chooses and researches a potential career, he or she evaluates the skills that a person in that profession would perform, then selects two skills to learn and videotape.

The skills for Clinical Specialty follow the same format as the skill checklists in other Category II events, except that the competitor creates his or her own skill checklist. Each competitor must find a text resource with the chosen skill and record the steps on the “Skill Checklist Template” found in the event guidelines.

Once the competitor develops the checklist, the next step is “practice.” Lots of practice until the competitor can

perform the skill with a high degree of competence. Then comes the videotaping session.

HOSA members who participate in this event must be sure to get a “good” video recording of the performance of both skills. Remember, the judges can only evaluate what they can see and hear. Sure it’s a lot of work, but it’s worth it!

What About the Portfolio?

The portfolio provides the evidence of what a competitor has experienced and learned about the chosen career. During the interview at the conference, the competitor shares the content of the portfolio in a “show-and-tell” type of format.

The portfolio rating form should help the competitor understanding exactly what is to be included in the portfolio, and how that part of the portfolio will be evaluated.

Competitors should remember that the judges are not only checking to see if something is in the portfolio, but also how well the assignment was done.

This Event Has it All

Clinical Specialty requires hard work and commitment on behalf of the competitor, while at the same time, provides an outstanding learning experience for the potential health-care professional. Read what the 2003 Clinical Specialty competitors in Atlanta had to say.

“I think it was a great learning experience for me. It gave me opportunities to see and experience things that I never would have had the chance otherwise.”

“This is a wonderful and outstanding event. It was fun as well.”

“ This event was cool! ”

“ I have learned very much in preparing for this event. I think that it is a great opportunity. ”

“ I truly enjoyed participating in this event. It was a great epiphany in making me realize my career goals. I believe that this event should be implemented further in the future. ”