What is the Wisconsin “nurse practice act?” The Wisconsin nurse practice act is a collection of Wisconsin laws and administrative codes that define and regulate the training, licensing, examination, and practice of registered nurses in Wisconsin.

Where do I find the laws and administrative codes that govern the practice of nursing in Wisconsin? The laws\(^1\) are housed in the Wisconsin Statutes and the codes\(^2\) will be found in the Wisconsin Administrative Code, however, the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services has compiled the nursing laws and codes into a document referred to as a codebook. Follow these steps to find the nursing codebook: Go to http://dsps.wi.gov/Home > Licenses/Permits/Registrations > Health Professions > Registered Nurse > Related Statutes and Administrative Code or use this link: http://dsps.wi.gov/Boards-Councils/Administrative-Rules-and-Statutes/Nursing-Administrative-Rules-and-Statutes

The Wisconsin Administrative Code, Chapters N1 thru N9 define practical nursing and professional nursing; describe delegated nursing acts and prescription privileges; outline rules of conduct, misconduct, and negligence; and list responsibilities related to supervision, delegation, and procedures.

Scroll down the page to read Chapter 441 of the Wisconsin Statutes which defines the responsibilities of the Wisconsin State Board of Nursing.

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\(^1\) Laws are also known as statutes. They are created by the Wisconsin state legislators. Wisconsin laws currently in effect are available at: https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/prefaces/toc

\(^2\) Codes are administrative rules that govern people's rights or conduct and have the force of law. Agencies promulgate administrative rules in order to administer and enforce specific state laws and to implement general agency objectives. Each rule must be authorized by statute. A rule can also be referred to as a chapter of the Wisconsin Administrative Code (http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code).

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Citing Wisconsin Codes and Statutes Using APA

1. **Citing an Administrative Code in APA format:**
   Confirm that you are viewing a page from the Wisconsin Administrative Code by looking for the WISCONSIN ADMINISTRATIVE CODE statement at the top of the page:

   ![Wisconsin Administrative Code](image)

   For the Reference Page: Wis. Admin. Code agency abbreviation § section number (year).
   Example: Wis. Admin. Code Bd. of Nursing § N 6.01 (2012)
   [if citing only one section of the statute]
   [if citing more than one section]

   For the In-Text Citation: (Wis. Admin Code Bd. of Nursing § N 6.01 (2012))
   [if citing only one section of the statute]
   (Wis. Admin Code Bd. of Nursing §§ N 6.01–N 6.07 (2012))
   [if citing more than one section]

2. **Citing a State Statute in APA format:**
   Confim that you are viewing a Wisconsin state statute by looking at the top of the page for the notice that will identify the document as Wis. Stats.:

   ![Board of Nursing](image)

   For the Reference Page: Wis. Stat. § section number (year)
   Example: Wis. Stat. § 441.001 (2012)
   [if citing only one section of the statute]
   Wis. Stat. §§ 441.001–441.50 (2012)
   [if citing more than one section]

   For the In-Text Citation: (Wis. Stat. § 441.001 (2012))
   [if citing only one section of the statute]
   (Wis. Stat. §§ 441.001–441.50 (2012))
   [if citing more than one section]

**What is this symbol: § ?**
The § symbol is a legal character used to refer to a section of a statute or regulation. Two §§ symbols are used to refer to more than one section.

**How do I insert the § symbol into my paper?**
To find the § symbol in Word, click on the Insert tab > Symbols > More Symbols > Special Characters

Questions? Call or email any of the Gateway Technical College Libraries for assistance.

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