

University of Portland School of Nursing & Health Innovations

NRS 408: Senior Practicum

Course Description

Students in this course will synthesize theories and concepts for professional nursing practice with multiple clients or a population appropriate to the beginning professional nurse. Students demonstrate the School of Nursing & Health Innovations BSN program outcomes according to their level in the program. This course includes approx. 180 hours of on-campus and/or off-campus clinical experiences.

Precepted Clinical Experience

This precepted clinical experience offers senior nursing students the opportunity to have an immersive experience for about 120 hours in an off-campus clinical environment. Students work in a one-to-one relationship with a registered nurse preceptor in a selected clinical setting. Students work with their preceptor and follow their preceptor's work schedule. Students are expected to provide safe, competent nursing care to multiple clients or for a client caseload that would be expected of a new graduate RN being oriented to that specific unit.

Role Expectations in the Precepted Clinical Experience

Each participant has expected roles during the precepted clinical experience. Students are expected to be self-directed and take full initiative to successfully complete the course requirements within the described time frame. Preceptors are registered nurses identified by their facility as qualified to teach, support, and work with students. Clinical faculty collaborates with the preceptor nurse to guide the student's learning experiences. The following list outlines each participant's specific roles.

Preceptor Role

- Negotiates the learning agreement with the student.
- Negotiates a work schedule with the student.
- Supports student orientation to the site and/or unit.
- Reviews student's goals and assists in learning through the selection of increasingly complex clients or situations.
- Gives the student feedback during and after each shift.
- Supervises and teaches the student in the clinical area.
- Collaborates with the clinical faculty in guiding the student's learning experience.
- Communicates regularly with clinical faculty.
- Notifies clinical faculty as soon as possible of any unusual occurrences and if concerns arise

- Evaluates the student at the end of the clinical experience in collaboration with the clinical faculty
- Participates in the evaluation of the preceptorship experience.

Student Role

- Prepares a learning agreement that meets the course requirements and gives a signed copy to the preceptor, clinical faculty and, if needed, the facility or head nurse/manager.
- Works under the supervision of the assigned preceptor nurse.
- Consults/collaborates with preceptor and interdisciplinary health team members to achieve learning goals.
- Seeks on-going and timely feedback from the preceptor.
- Arranges for a final evaluation session with preceptor and clinical faculty.
- Communicates all schedule changes with clinical faculty and preceptor. Clinical faculty must be aware of any changes before a student participates in the clinical experience. Students may not be on site unless clinical faculty are aware.
- Completes approximately 120 hours of precepted clinical experience.
- Communicates concerns with preceptor and clinical faculty in a timely manner.
- Completes course outcomes and demonstrates clinical competency at a satisfactory level.
- Evaluates the preceptor, the precepted experience, clinical faculty, and the course.

Clinical Faculty Role

With Each Student:

- Provide guidance to the student during the writing of their Learning Agreement. This must be filled out and signed by the student, preceptor, and practicum Clinical Faculty before the student can start clinical hours.
- Be available to students and preceptors (by Teams or phone) during their on-site clinical hours or arrange for another Practicum Clinical Faculty member to cover in case of absence.
- Visit with each student and preceptor in person at the start of clinical hours (within the first two shifts) and at or near the last shift to review the final evaluation. An in-person or telephone/video meeting with student and preceptor should also be completed near the mid-point of the clinical experience.

- Provide guidance, grading and feedback to students on Direct Patient Care (DPC) Assignments and Focused Learning Activities (FLA).
- Provide students guidance regarding clinical issues that may arise with the preceptor and/or clinical site.
- Support students in problem-solving clinical practice concerns and challenges.

With Each Preceptor:

- Visit the preceptor before or during the first two shifts of clinical to clarify the preceptor and faculty roles and answer questions as needed. Provide the preceptor with a copy of the SONHI evaluation form.
- Explain the evaluation process to the preceptor. Preceptor will evaluate student performance by completing an evaluation form provided by Clinical Faculty. This can be done electronically.
- Contact the preceptor regularly (depending on schedule it may be weekly or after every 24 hours of clinical experience) via telephone, email, or visit to assess student progress through their Practicum rotation.
- Keep track of visits, phone contact or e-mail contact on form provided and submit to UP SONHI (via Canvas) at the end of the rotation. This is an OSBN requirement.
- Visit with each student and preceptor in person at the start of clinical hours (within the first two shifts) and at or near the last shift to review the final evaluation. An in-person or telephone/video meeting with student and preceptor should also be completed near the mid-point of the clinical experience.
- Be available to the preceptor via email, phone and/or Teams and provide guidance and suggestions as needed to help the preceptor attain personal and School of Nursing outcomes.