Clinical Preceptorship Purpose

The education of nursing students requires a balance of nursing theory and practice. The clinical preceptorship is one way to foster the integration of theory and practice. This clinical experience is designed to provide the pre-licensure student with the opportunity to continue socialization as a new professional baccalaureate-prepared nurse. Socialization is accomplished through working closely with an experienced nurse preceptor. The clinically experienced Registered Nurse preceptor serves as a role model, teacher and consultant to enable a student to be a competent and confident new nurse. The preceptor assists the student in the role transition by sharing valuable insights and wisdom from experience. The clinical faculty provides guidance to students and preceptors in facilitating the achievement of educational objectives through this synthesis practice experience.

Goals of Practicum

1. Gain confidence and experience in role performance in a supportive environment (i.e. with preceptor and experienced health care professionals available for consultation, collaboration, and assistance).

2. Demonstrate proficiency in use of the nursing process and in managing primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention for patients with complex health care needs in a variety of settings.

3. Demonstrate ability to collaborate and communicate with other health care professionals in managing high quality, safe, cost-effective care for patients with complex health care needs.

4. Work effectively within complex systems and develop leadership abilities appropriate for role.

5. Demonstrate synthesis and application of Benner’s model, including the domains of the helping role, teaching-coaching function, diagnostic and monitoring function, effective management of rapidly changing situations, administering and monitoring therapeutic interventions, monitoring and ensuring the quality of healthcare practices, organizational and work-role competencies, research and clinical practice, and career development while functioning in a professional nursing role.

Guidelines for Implementation of Practicum

A. Each student will be assigned to a baccalaureate-prepared RN preceptor. Based on available clinical sites, the student will be placed in a professional setting integrating the student’s interest and need for experience in a particular area, as indicated by past clinical performance, external exam scores, and academic performance. No student is guaranteed a particular clinical site, agency, or role. The preceptor’s role must be appropriate practice for a baccalaureate prepared registered nurse and must not require an advanced practice nursing license or additional educational preparation beyond that of a baccalaureate prepared nurse.
B. Prior to beginning the clinical practicum, the student will:
   a. develop specific individualized learning objectives for the preceptorship
   b. seek approval of these objectives by the clinical faculty,
   c. review the personal and course objectives with the preceptor.

C. The student is responsible for having a copy of the Student/Preceptor/Faculty Agreement
   form signed by the preceptor and faculty coordinator before beginning the clinical
   experience. Each student should provide a copy for the preceptor and submit the original
   to the clinical faculty.

D. Each student will spend a total of 110 hours with the preceptor in the clinical practicum
   experience over a 3 week period.

E. Students function under the supervision of their preceptor and guidance of their Clinical
   Site Visitors. They should assume increasing responsibility as negotiated with the
   preceptor. The student is expected to move from a dependent to a more independent role
   as the clinical experience progresses.

F. Students are expected to collaborate with their preceptor and Clinical Site Visitor in
   planning learning experiences.

G. The student is expected to be an active learner, pursuing learning opportunities and taking
   initiative to achieve educational goals.

H. Students are responsible and accountable for judging their competence in a given
   situation and seeking preceptor supervision/assistance when situations are encountered
   which are new and in which the student does not feel competent to perform.

I. Students are to follow agency medication administration policy. Students are
   expected to inform themselves of agency policies and procedures and to uphold the
   policies within the guidelines of the Wegmans School of Nursing at St. John Fisher
   College.
   a. Students are not allowed to administer IV Push Meds.
   b. Students are not allowed to administer blood, blood products or chemotherapy.
   c. They may observe these interventions only and assist in recording vital signs and
      monitoring for adverse reactions.
   d. All other medication to be administered must be with the direct supervision of
      the assigned preceptor.
   e. Students are to be well informed about any medication given and to report
      adverse reactions promptly.

J. Students are expected to complete documentation appropriate for the role and the setting.
K. Students are expected to communicate clearly and collaborate appropriately with their preceptor, Clinical Site Visitor, patients, families, staff nurse, managers, physicians, and other health team members.

L. The student is expected to know, refer to and function within the scope of practice for RNs in the New York State Practice Act.

M. The student is expected to know, refer to and practice nursing according with the standards of care pertaining to their preceptor site.

N. The student is expected to discuss clinical activities, insights, nursing process, and problems with Clinical Site Visitors who will be on-site at prescheduled and random times, as well as available by phone for consultation.

O. It is expected that the student will demonstrate respect for the helping relationship by honoring professional codes of conduct in relation to confidentiality.

P. Students are expected to inform themselves of relevant agency policies and procedures and to uphold the policies.

Q. Students are accountable for their actions, are expected to promptly report and take prompt, appropriate actions if errors, mistakes, or variances occur. Any agency incident report involving the student’s actions will require a WSON Clinical Incident Report [pdf] be completed and submitted to the Clinical Site Visitor immediately.

R. Students must take an active role in pursuing appropriate learning experiences, in collaboration with their Clinical Site Visitors, preceptor, and other staff.