

## Nurses Building a Healthy Community

### The Clinical Experience

The clinical component for this course is 60 hours of clinical experience that involves community assessment, health promotion & disease prevention, program planning and implementation of the project as well as collaboration with others in the community to support the success of your project. It should also include a formative evaluation of the project and a summative evaluation process if possible. It is also expected that the student will have opportunities to look at community resources, talk with community partners and if possible experience community outreach.

Some sites lend themselves to teaching and follow up and others are more of a 'hands on' community experience. The site experience will differ depending upon the clients and the organizations.

The clinical time will vary and be done at the times & dates that reflect the needs of the 'clinical site'. For example, if there is a health clinic on Saturday or in the evening...then this would be your 'clinical time'. The time spent 'hands on' depends on the agency chosen.

You will be functioning as an independent nurse 'under the guidance of a preceptor' and the school (Drexel) covers you. You are not likely to be doing things like giving meds or injections...that is more an 'individual' focus rather than a 'population' or 'aggregate' focus. Sometimes, like when we are doing immunizations for flu etc. you might be called upon to give injections. There might be other situations where you may use your clinical skills, but it is not the norm. You must also remember that you are guided by the Standards of Nursing Practice and the Code for Nursing.... so you must always remember that you practice nursing as your states defines!

There are a number of other sites that are possible...such as working with an occupational health nurse, camp nurse, school nurse, community outreach nurse, hospice/home care nurse, or nurses working for non governmental organizations such as the American Heart Assoc., American Lung Assoc, etc. The local Health Department is also a good possibility. There may be others as well so it would be helpful if we could talk to each other in the near future.

### The Preceptor

You will need to identify a site and a preceptor (a nurse with a BSN degree) who will provide you guidance and oversee your clinical experience.

The role of the preceptor is to guide you in your clinical experience and to support your ability to do outreach in the community. The role of the preceptor will depend upon what you choose for your clinical experience. *For example*, the role of a school nurse who is precepting a community health nursing student would most likely:

- Involve a discussion on the role of the school nurse within the school district and the state as well as how this role may or may not differ when compared to other schools or states.
- Include a basic introduction to the policies and practices that determine the legal role and responsibilities of a school nurse.

- Assist or guide the student in the community assessment process. This would involve helping the student to become more familiar with the 'community' where they are practicing (both school and the larger community), identification of some of the health issues that are known to the nurse within the school as well as the opportunity to identify areas that emerge as a concern.
- Support the student to interface with other key persons in the school and the community that influence health outcomes as a way of better understanding some of the other issues that can interfere or support improved health outcomes.

If it were to be someone from the county/city health department, the preceptor would:

- be a nurse or nursing supervisor who the student would spend time with initially
- Identify, with the student, a project that the preceptor/department/and the student would feel could make a difference within the clinical/community site. This would depend on what issues and opportunities were present at that time.
- The preceptor would oversee and support the student project by offering information, support and direction as needed.

Preceptors would be required to do an evaluation of the student's time and performance within the clinical setting. This would be completed by the student and the preceptor in conjunction with the Drexel course faculty assigned to the student. .

In general, preceptors are there to help guide a student in better understanding the factors that shape the 'health' of a community, resources utilized within the circle of responsibility for the organization and to do an evaluation of the student performance and attainment of the objectives. The student does not have to spend all of their time with a preceptor, but rather use them as a "consultant/guide". Often times the student will begin the work on a project that will continue after they leave or the student will work to expand a community project already in place.

I think that this has the potential to be a very valuable experience for the student and the preceptor.

### *Making arrangements*

**Before making any arrangements, please be certain to contact Angela Hawes ([ach36@drexel.edu](mailto:ach36@drexel.edu)) to discuss your clinical site selection to determine if it meets the course requirements.**

After your site has been approved a contract must be established.

**After you receive written confirmation via e-mail from Professor Hawes approving your site, please forward the e-mail to Tara Barone, Clinical Contract Coordinator at [tab48@drexel.edu](mailto:tab48@drexel.edu)**

Tara will provide you with the complete information needed to speed up the placement process and to facilitate the signing of the necessary contracts.

**Please review the following information from**

Kelly Myrick  
Clinical Compliance Coordinator  
College of Nursing and Health Professions  
Drexel University  
Office: 215-762-6479  
[kem48@drexel.edu](mailto:kem48@drexel.edu)

**All students are required to submit the following information**

The following Information regarding the clinical compliance requirements can be found on the Drexel Compliance website: [www.drexelcompliance.com](http://www.drexelcompliance.com).

In order to comply with the regulations of our clinical hospital sites, all nursing students must complete the following requirements to be fully compliant with our clinical placement policies.

1. Child Abuse Clearance Check for the state you reside in. (\*Please note that reports will be sent to the address listed as your present home address. When this is received please submit a copy.)
2. Criminal Background Check
3. FBI Electronic Fingerprint Record Search
4. Drug Screening – Required Form will be sent from American Data Bank
5. Current BLS Certification
6. Immunization Records
7. Two-Step PPD (Updated annually with a 1-Step)
8. Clinical FERPA Form (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)
9. Current Nursing License
10. HIPPA Certification –Located on [drexel.blackboard.com](http://drexel.blackboard.com) website
11. Emergency Contact Form