APRN Faculty/Student Ratio in Clinical Areas

PURPOSE: The purpose of the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Faculty/Student Ratio in Clinical Areas policy is to determine requirements and specific faculty-to-student ratios for supervision of students in the clinical setting by APRN faculty. In accordance with the 2016 National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty (NONPF) Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs, Criterion IV.B(1), APRN faculty have ultimate responsibility for supervision and evaluation of students and oversight of the clinical learning environment. The faculty/student ratio is sufficient to ensure adequate supervision. The intent of the faculty/student ratio designation is based on the premise that preparing competent health care providers is a faculty intense process that requires considerable faculty role modeling and direct student evaluation to determine competence.

REVIEW: All policies in the Graduate Program Manual shall be reviewed by the Graduate Program Associate Dean/Department Chairs by December 1 of even numbered years in collaboration with the Graduate Program Council. Final approval of the Graduate Program Manual is by the Dean.

POLICY/PROCEDURE

1.0 Policy

Faculty supervision of students in clinical areas takes into account an established recommended ratio determined by type of supervision as follows: direct (1:2) or indirect (1:6) per course as deemed appropriate based on program needs. The recommended ratio for indirect faculty supervision encompasses coordinating the clinical experience, interacting with the preceptor, and evaluating the student. The ratio may vary according to the clinical practice area and needs, the individual faculty member’s experience, use of technology, and overall curriculum design. Thus, ratios may vary relative to clinical course objectives, faculty workload, travel to clinical sites, and use of various strategies for evaluating student clinical competency.

2.0 Procedure

The APRN faculty/student ratio for teaching will take into account the cumulative teaching/administrative duties of the faculty member, as well as clinical practice responsibilities. In addition, travel to distance sites associated with clinical student supervision and the amount and type of contact with preceptors and clinical agency administrators will also be considered when making faculty/student assignments.