SON OP 30.005 – Undergraduate Clinical Preceptors

PURPOSE The purpose of the policy is to provide the Undergraduate student an excellent opportunity to develop and participate in learning activities in a one-to-one relationship with an expert in his/her professional role. Individuals chosen to provide the experience should depict excellent skills in their professional roles.

REVIEW The OP will be reviewed biennially by September 1 of each even numbered year (ENY) by the applicable Associate Dean/Department Chair, with recommendations for revisions forwarded to the Dean of the School of Nursing.

POLICY/PROCEDURE

The Texas Board of Nursing (BON) Rule 215.2 (10) defines a clinical preceptor as “a registered nurse who meets the requirements in 215.10(j)(6) of this chapter (related to Clinical Learning Experiences), who is not employed as a faculty member by the governing entity, and who directly supervises clinical learning experiences for no more than two (2) students. A clinical preceptor assists in the evaluation of the student performance. The clinical settings for faculty supervised, hands-on patient care include a variety of affiliating agencies or clinical practice settings, including, but not limited to: acute care facilities, extended care facilities, clients’ residences, and community agencies.”

Individuals who serve as clinical preceptors must be qualified by formal education and/or experience to demonstrate a professional role and to aid a student in development of functions in the aspects of that role. Texas BON Rule 215.10 (j)(6) outlines the qualifications for precepting including: “competence in designated are of practice, philosophy of health care compatible with the nursing program, current licensure or privilege to practice as a registered nursing the State of Texas, or, if not a registered nurse, a current license in Texas as a health care professional with a minimum of a bachelor’s degree in that field.”

Individuals designated as preceptors agree to serve as a clinical preceptor for a specified period of time. When a student is assigned to a preceptor, the faculty member is accountable for the learning experience but the preceptor collaborates in the supervision and evaluation of the student’s clinical performance. A specific agreement is developed to indicate the preceptor’s responsibilities for a particular course/student.

Procedure for obtaining clinical preceptor:

1. The faculty is responsible for identifying potential preceptors.
2. The student is responsible for having the preceptor complete the Preceptor Letter of Agreement (Attachment 30.005.01).
3. The student is responsible for returning the Preceptor Letter of Agreement to the course facilitator prior to beginning precepted clinical experience.
4. The course facilitator signs the Preceptor Letter of Agreement and sends it to the Program Director for approval.
5. The Program Director verifies that a current affiliation agreement is on file for the agency.
6. The Program Director verifies RN licensure via BON website https://www.bne.state.tx.us/olv/rnin.html. If the preceptor is not a registered nurse, the Program Director verifies a current license in Texas as a health care professional with a minimum of a bachelor’s degree in that field. Verification is attached to the Preceptor Letter of Agreement.
6. The Program Director signs the Preceptor Letter of Agreement and sends a copy to the responsible faculty.

In congruence with the BON rules, preceptors will also follow the Texas BON Education guideline 3.8.3.a Precepted Clinical Learning Experiences.