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		Approval Date:	05/09/2024
		Effective Date:	08/18/2020
		Review Date:	2027

POLICY TITLE: GRADUATE STUDENT CLINICAL

Background

Clinical practice refers to hours in which direct clinical care is provided to individuals, families, and populations in population-focused areas of advanced practice. Clinical practice may include skill and simulation lab hours or a community project if it includes provision of direct care. Clinical practice does not include physical assessment practice sessions, conference time or projects that do not include provision of direct care.

Policy

Clinical practice experiences should be varied and distributed in a way that prepares the graduate student to provide care to the population(s) served. Graduate students will collaborate with the Clinical Facilitator to secure clinical sites for practice prior to the term in which the clinical practice shall occur. Clinical experiences must be approved by advanced practice program faculty prior to starting clinical. Graduate students may not participate in clinical practice experiences in the unit/area/facility in which they are employed. A minimum of 135 clinical practice hours shall be completed in a clinical setting by MSN Education and MSN Administration students. A minimum of 675 clinical practice hours shall be completed by APRN MSN students in the advanced practice program. A minimum of 1000 clinical practice hours shall be completed by DNP students.

Clinical practice requires supervision by faculty either directly or indirectly. Direct supervision occurs when advanced practice program faculty function as on-site clinical preceptors. Indirect supervision includes supplementing the clinical preceptor's teaching, acting as liaison to a community agency, and evaluating the student's progress. Direct supervision requires a minimum of one visit per semester by the midterm and one prior to the end of the semester by an advanced practice faculty member, and may take place face-to-face, virtually by synchronous video conferencing, telephone, videotaped sessions, online communication, and/or clinical simulations. One of the faculty visits must be face-to-face. It is the faculty's responsibility to evaluate the student's performance with input from the preceptor.

Students must submit their clinical logs within 72 hours of their clinical shift to Nurse Practitioner Tracing System (NPST) on each patient seen. Faculty are responsible for providing continuous, ongoing constructive feedback to students they oversee in the clinical setting. One of the ways that faculty will evaluate students is by evaluating their NPST entries within 10 business days of submission. Supervision of students may be shared with other clinicians serving as clinical preceptors; however, the advanced practice faculty are responsible for all advanced practice students in the clinical area. The faculty-student ratio in the advanced practice program should not exceed 1:6.

Faculty teaching clinical components in the advanced practice program will maintain appropriate professional credentialing and current clinical practice. Faculty teaching in the advanced practice

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program with less than two years recent clinical experience in the advanced practice role will be mentored in clinical and teaching opportunities by senior APRN faculty.

The advanced practice student should have a majority of clinical experiences with preceptors from the same population-focused area of practice such as child, adult, older adult or across the lifespan. The student must have clinical experiences with an advanced practice preceptor and preferably one with role and clinical expertise in the population-focused area of practice. An interdisciplinary mix of preceptors may provide student experiences to meet program objectives. However, each preceptor, both advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) and non-nurse clinicians, must be credentialed and licensed to practice in the population-focused or specialty area of practice.

Clinical sites must be evaluated by advanced practice faculty. Clinical site visits provide information about the quality of student learning experiences and serve as the basis for faculty to make changes in student assignments. All evaluation forms should be submitted in NPST.

Approved by Gessner College of Nursing Faculty Council: 04/05/2024

Approved by Dean Kathryn Tart: 05/09/2024

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
COLLEGE OF NURSING
Selection Criteria for Clinical Sites**

Name of Agency: _____ **Phone:** _____ **Fax:** _____

Address: _____ **Email:** _____

Criteria	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Preceptor Qualifications				
The preceptor is recognized by the Texas Board of Nursing as an APRN or has licensure appropriate to other disciplines recognized by the University of Houston as appropriate preceptors.				
The clinical site has mechanisms in place that provide medical authority for advanced nursing practice, as appropriate.				
The organization has written or has demonstrated a philosophy of nursing that is compatible with the philosophy of nursing at the University Houston College of Nursing				
There are policies, procedures, and/or advanced practice protocols specific to the setting and role.				
There are adequate resources for diagnostic services and appropriate resources for referral.				
Student Opportunities at Site				
There are adequate resources for educational instruction, communication, and documentation.				
There are opportunities to practice primary, secondary, and/or tertiary care.				
The graduate student is allowed to perform all the required activities appropriate to their clinical specialty and role.				
The student is afforded the opportunity to formulate differential diagnoses and management plans.				
The clinical site has an appropriate number of patients for the educational level of the student.				
Site Qualifications				
There is a variety of learning experiences in relation to age, clinical complexity, and diagnoses.				
The clinical setting is able to provide experiences appropriate to the graduate student's educational needs.				
The student has the opportunity to implement and evaluate management plans.				
There is appropriate access to space in which to practice; i.e., exam room, office workspace, conference room.				
The clinical site allows for a reasonable time for learning for the student and is compatible with the complexity of the clinical site.				
The preceptor demonstrates excellent communication skills and the ability to teach graduate students effectively.				

Student  _____ **Date:** _____

Faculty: _____ **Date:** _____