

MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
DIVISION OF SCIENCE AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
NURSING PROGRAM  
NRS240: TRANSITION TO PRACTICE

**GUIDELINES for PRECEPTED CLINICAL**

**DEFINITION OF PRECEPTED CLINICAL:**

A precepted clinical involves a one-to-one relationship between a senior nursing student and an experienced nurse during the last semester of the Nursing Program. The preceptor provides an opportunity for students to live the life of a nurse for five weeks making the learned theory become more of a reality.

**GOALS OF PRECEPTED CLINICAL:**

1. Prepare students for the demands and realities of nursing practice
2. Ease the transition of graduate to RN role
3. Increase confidence and competence

**QUALITIES AND CRITERIA FOR PRECEPTOR:**

1. **CREDENTIALS:** current licensure as a registered nurse for a minimum of one year
2. **EXPERIENCE** as a health care provider
3. **PHILOSOPHY** of nursing in agreement with that of the Mercer County Community College Nursing Program
4. **CRITERIA:**
  - a. Has excellent clinical skills
  - b. Has excellent time management skills
  - c. Has the ability to teach
  - d. Has positive communication skills
  - e. Is a professional role model
  - f. Demonstrates previous and current ability to work effectively with students
  - g. Willing to guide, facilitate, and supervise the student in achieving the clinical objectives
  - h. Willing to supervise the student's performance of skills to maintain safe practice
  - i. Willing to collaborate with faculty to review student progress based on learning objectives
  - j. Willing to provide feedback to the student regarding clinical performance
  - k. Willing to contact faculty if there is a problem with student performance
  - l. Willing to collaborate with faculty to develop written evaluation of student

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**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PRECEPTOR, STUDENT, CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR AND COURSE COORDINATOR:**

This relationship will have positive student learning when all of the following exist:

1. Mutual trust
2. Mutual respect
3. Defined expectations
4. Excellent communication
5. Committed collaboration

**PRECEPTORS RESPONSIBILITY:**

1. Review the following:
  - A. **NRS 240 Transition To Practice Course Outline** (found on Nursing Program website: [www.mccc.edu/~martinl](http://www.mccc.edu/~martinl))
    - 1) Description of Clinical Laboratory
    - 2) Objectives for Precepted Clinical Experience
    - 3) Description of Student-Preceptor-Faculty Meetings
    - 4) Evaluation Guidelines
  - B. **Dos and Don'ts for Preceptor Guide**
  - C. **Student Skills Checklist Form**
  - D. **Evaluation Forms**
    - 1) **Daily Preceptor Evaluation of Student Clinical Performance Form**
    - 2) **NRS 240 Clinical Laboratory Performance Evaluation Form (long and short form)**
  - E. Work with Course Coordinator/Clinical Faculty to plan, implement, and evaluate student learning experience
  - F. Meet with student to set up clinical hours, review student skills checklist, and set goals based on increasing level of responsibility
  - G. Provide ongoing clinical experiences allowing for appropriate and increasing levels of independence based on assessment of student readiness and safety
  - H. Provide student with a daily summary on **Daily Preceptors Evaluation of Students Clinical Performance Form** (found on the web site)
  - I. Communicate weekly with Clinical Instructor about student performance
  - J. Serve as a role model to the student demonstrating best clinical nursing practice
  - K. Provide positive learning experiences
  - L. Maintain ongoing open communication with student, Clinical Faculty, Course Coordinator
  - M. Preceptors are **responsible to their clients first, students second**

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**N. CALL CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR IMMEDIATELY FOR ANY UNSAFE PRACTICE**

**STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY:**

1. Students are responsible for their own learning and actions
2. Utilize legal, ethical, and nurse practice standards to determine own practice taking responsibility for own actions
3. Complete *Skills Checklist* at course orientation
4. Contact preceptor and set up clinical schedule, a copy of this is to be sent via email to Clinical Faculty and Course Coordinator
5. During Orientation and throughout the experience identify and communicate learning needs to Course Coordinator/Clinical Faculty/preceptor
6. Complete hospital required orientation expectations (JACO mandatory expectations and computer orientation)
7. Work collaboratively with Course Coordinator/Clinical Faculty/preceptor
8. Utilize Clinical Laboratory Performance Evaluation form to self evaluate meeting of learning objectives
9. Document a weekly journal entry for Clinical Faculty input on Angel course website
10. Meet daily with preceptor to review progress as outlined on the *Daily Preceptor Evaluation of Student Clinical Performance*; complete the *Daily Student Self Evaluation of Clinical Performance Form* prior to this meeting
11. Attend a weekly post conference led by Clinical Faculty on campus
12. Attend two hour clinical orientation meeting and two hour summative meeting on campus led by Course Coordinator
13. Complete an evaluation of preceptor at course end (*Student Evaluation of Preceptor Form*)
14. Complete a clinical site evaluation at course end
15. Complete a course evaluation at course end
16. Complete faculty evaluations at course end

**CLINICAL FACULTY RESPONSIBILITY:**

1. Set up a meeting/communication schedule with the preceptor weekly to monitor student progress and assist with resolving issues
2. Provide contact information to preceptor of how to reach instructor via phone and email
3. Plan weekly debriefing meeting with assigned clinical students
4. Review weekly journal submissions on line by student based on rubric

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5. Utilizing input from preceptor, complete week three and week five clinical evaluation of the student
6. Report any problems to Course Coordinator and document an action plan

**COURSE COORDINATOR**

1. Plan clinical experiences with Director of Clinical Education
2. Provide orientation to preceptors of preceptor concept, role and expectations on line
3. Provide forms for daily student evaluation on line and all other information needed to guide precepted clinical
4. Provide ***Guidelines for Precepted Clinical*** on line
5. Provide information to students about connecting with preceptor
6. Assist in planning of weekly student meetings on campus
7. Facilitate successful clinical experiences designed to achieve clinical outcomes
8. Maintain communication between college and clinical agencies
9. Provide support to preceptor/student/clinical instructor
10. Finalizes all grades

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