

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
SCHOOL OF NURSING

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AFFECTING THE
SCHOOL OF NURSING

TITLE OF POLICY: CLINICAL HOURS FOR PRELICENSURE COURSES

ORIGINAL DATE: MAY 2000

LAST REVIEWED/REVISED: September, 2017

POLICY: Faculty will schedule students for the number of clinical hours **required as determined by the number of clinical credits**. If students are absent on these days, refer to Policy #45, Attendance.

PROCEDURE: Faculty will schedule a maximum of one (1) clinical day for end-of-rotation evaluations.

Faculty will schedule a maximum of one (1) clinical day for orientation to the clinical unit unless there are circumstances that require a longer orientation period. When these circumstances exist, faculty will notify the Department Chair in writing of the total amount of time to be used for orientation and rationale for this need.

PROCEDURE: The total number of required clinical hours will be designated on the course syllabus. See below:

Traditional Prelicensure Program	Clinical Hours	Credits
NUR 0080C Foundations of Nursing Practice 1 Clinical	45	1.0
NUR0082C Nur Mgt Adult w/Acute/Chronic Illness Clin	157.5	3.5
NUR1050C Nur Care of Mothers, Newborns & Fam Clin	90	2.0
NUR1052C Nursing Care of Children & Families Clin	90	2.0
NUR1060C Nursing Care of Clients w/Psych MH Clin	90	2.0
NUR1120C Adv Nur Mgt Adult w/Acute Complex Clin	90	2.0
NUR 1121C Adv Clinical Problem Solving Clinical	90	2.0
NUR1128C Community Health Nursing Clinical	90	2.0
NUR 1134C Transitions into Prof Nursing Clinical	202.5	4.5
TOTAL	945	
Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program		
NUR 1282C Nur Mgt Adult w/Acute/Chronic Clinical	210	3.5
NUR1250C Nur Care of Mothers, Newborns & Fam Clin	60	1.0
NUR1252C Nur Care of Children & Families Clinical	60	1.0
NUR1260C Nur Care of Clients w/Psyc MH Clinical	90	1.5
NUR 1220C Adv Nur Mgt Adult w/Acute/Complex Clin	150	2.5
NUR 1221C Adv Clinical Problem Solving Clinical	60	1.0
NUR 1228C Community Health Nursing Clinical	30	0.5
NUR 1234C Transition into Prof Nursing Practice Clinical	180	3.0
TOTAL	840	

The number of required clinical hours is calculated as follows:

No. of clinical credits x ratio x 15 = total required hours. This number is then divided by the number of clinical weeks that will be scheduled during the term. The ratio is 1:3 for students in the Traditional Prelicensure Program and 1:4 for students in the Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program.

For example, the calculation for NUR 1050C in the Traditional Prelicensure Program, which has 2 clinical credits, would be:

$$(2 \text{ credits} \times 3 \text{ (ratio)} \times 15 \text{ weeks}) = 90 / 14 \text{ weeks} = 6.4 \text{ hrs/day over 14 weeks}$$

The number of weeks each term that are available for clinical will vary depending on the University calendar. Faculty will account for variability in term length by adjusting the number of hours assigned each day to achieve the total number of hours designated in the above table.

Simulation: Traditional clinical can be substituted by 10-20% of simulation.

Simulation experiences augment clinical learning. Simulation is a strategy to mirror, anticipate, or amplify real situations with guided experiences in a fully interactive way. Simulation is a teaching strategy. Some examples can include Screen-based/PC-based simulation, Virtual patients, Human patient simulator, Use of Standardized patients, Case studies, and Roleplaying.

The largest study examining student outcomes when simulation was substituted for up to and including 50% simulation was National Council of State Boards of Nursing's (NCSBN) National Simulation Study (Hayden, Smiley, Alexander, Kardong-Edgren & Jeffries, 2014). This longitudinal, randomized, controlled study replaced clinical hours with simulation in prelicensure nursing education. In ten nursing programs from across the country (5 BSN and 5 ADN), students were followed through all the clinical courses in their nursing programs as well as through their first six months of practice. The study provides evidence that when substituting clinical experiences with up to 50% simulation, there were no statistically significant differences between the groups using 10% or less of simulation (control), 25% simulation or 50% simulation with regard to knowledge acquisition and clinical performance.

The literature suggests that simulation is a technique that may be integrated across the prelicensure curriculum. Faculty need to be trained in simulation principles and standards utilizing debriefing. A dedicated simulation lab with appropriate resources is recommended.

Adapted From Hayden, J.K., Smiley, R.A., Alexander, M., Kardong-Edgren, S. & Jeffries, P.R. (2014). The NCSBN national simulation study: A longitudinal, randomized controlled study replacing clinical hours with simulation in prelicensure nursing education. *Journal of Nursing Regulation*, 5(2) Suppl., S1-S64.

Approved by Dean's Council 3/28/00

Revised: 04/05, 07/08, 09/17