

**UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
SCHOOL OF NURSING
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AFFECTING THE
SCHOOL OF NURSING**

TITLE OF POLICY: Dedicated Education Units

ORIGINAL DATE: February 2019

LAST REVIEWED/REVISED: February 2019

POLICY: A Dedicated Education Unit (DEU) is one floor or unit of a health facility devoted entirely to nursing students from a single nursing program (Pitt Nursing) on specific days and staffed by a consistent group of nurses who receive professional development about the educator role. In the DEU, students provide patient care alongside an experienced staff nurse who has a Bachelor's degree in nursing and has been oriented to the role of the Clinical Staff Instructor (CSI). The CSI must be in a graduate program leading to a degree within five years or have a graduate degree. A DEU can provide clinical experiences for Pitt Nursing students in the traditional pre-licensure BSN in Med/Surg, Pediatrics, Obstetrics, Psychiatric Mental Health and Senior Transitions clinical courses. In addition, the DEU can offer practicum and scholarly projects for Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students. DEU CSIs with a BSN must apply to a Pitt Nursing Graduate Program, the Online Master's Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL)(42 credits) or Nursing Informatics(37.5 credits). For those interested in advanced practice programs ultimately, the CNL provides 32 credits that transfer to all Pitt MSN-DNP programs. DEU CSIs with a master's degree may apply to any qualified DNP or PhD program or relevant certificate programs. A DEU CSI with a DNP may apply to the PhD program or relevant certificate programs.

PROCEDURE:

1. DEU CSIs must have a minimum of a BSN, 2 years clinical experience, excellent performance evaluation, and approval of unit manager.
2. Pitt will provide a scholarship to partially match scholarship provided by UPMC. UPMC specifies their scholarship amount and conditions to receive it.
3. Scholarship is contingent on teaching clinical both fall and spring term during the year that they tap scholarship funds.
4. DEU CSIs will supervise four Pitt students per week, 2 students per day for 2 clinical days (specific days TBD) for a total of 4 students per term on the DEU. The DEU CSI may supervise transition students during the summer term upon request.
5. DEU CSIs complete a Volunteer Faculty Appointment Form, and submit it to Pitt School of Nursing Personnel Manager.
6. DEU CSIs are required to complete the self-directed Pitt School of Nursing Online Preceptor Training Modules and DEU instructor orientation/training sessions prior to starting teaching activities. DEU Instructors will be awarded free CEUs for these activities. Contact the Office Coordinator for the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing's Office of Professional Development and Continuing Nursing Education.
7. DEU CSIs will participate with their students off-site at WISER for simulation. DEU CSI will evaluate written student assignments and contribute to performance evaluations of students.
8. Pitt Nursing will assign a faculty member to provide training, support and clinical supervision to DEU CSIs and students. Faculty will act as a resource to staff; consult with QI-outcome projects determined by DEU unit, and offer ongoing case consultation regarding clinical issues.
9. Pitt Faculty provide orientation to the course and meet with the DEU Clinical Staff Instructor (CSI) minimum of four times during a term.
10. BSN-prepared DEU Clinical Staff Instructors (CSIs) must be continuously enrolled in the Pitt graduate program and obtain a graduate degree in 5 years in order to serve as a Clinical Staff Instructor.
11. DEU CSIs should initially apply to Pitt School of Nursing as a Non-Degree Seeking student. The application is online (<http://www.nursing.pitt.edu/admissions/apply-now>). The application fee will be **waived**. To apply, select NDS (non-degree student) and Graduate Program.

12. The Pitt Nursing Office of the Dean will oversee compliance. An advisor in Student Affairs and Alumni Relations (SAAR) will be assigned and will maintain a database of DEU Instructors.

Information:

The State Board of nursing requires that all instructors must have a minimum of a BSN and complete a graduate degree within five years. From the state board of nursing: *Faculty members without a graduate degree in nursing shall be designated faculty assistants. Faculty assistants shall be currently licensed as professional nurses in this Commonwealth. Faculty assistants may teach required nursing education courses only when fully qualified faculty are not available and shall teach under the direct guidance of a faculty member qualified as set forth in paragraph (1). Faculty assistants shall have a baccalaureate degree in nursing and shall give evidence of a plan for obtaining a graduate degree in nursing. A person may teach as a faculty assistant in a nursing education program in this Commonwealth for a maximum cumulative period of 5 years.*

Approved by Dean's Council: 2/19