

CHAMBERLAIN UNIVERSITY

RN to BSN Degree Completion Option Clinical Practicum Handbook NR-436: Community Health Nursing (for Tennessee students)



WELCOME TO THE NR-436: COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSE CLINICAL PRACTICUM EXPERIENCE.

As you begin preparing for your clinical practicum experience, I want you to be aware that the required assignments have been developed to facilitate learning and the expansion of your knowledge base, providing evidence of development toward your professional goal. Review your syllabus very carefully and discuss the assignments with your clinical practicum mentor and instructor to avoid missing a deadline.

Enjoy your clinical practicum experience and take advantage of every opportunity to apply your new knowledge and skills.

Sincerely,

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CHAMBERLAIN
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE of NURSING

CLINICAL PRACTICUM GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES

I. GENERAL GUIDELINES

The NR-436: Community Health Nursing course offers you an opportunity to apply and to relate theoretical content to real practice situations. Prior to this unique clinical practicum course, you have mastered an understanding of theoretical foundations of community health nursing. This concentrated professional experience will help to further prepare you for a role in community health nursing. On a larger scale, it allows you to enhance your skills in communication, teamwork, critical thinking and professionalism.

You are responsible for identifying a mentor 30 days prior to the beginning of the course. Students are assisted in this effort by a experiential learning specialist. You must select a mentor with recent expertise in community health nursing to provide guidance and direction for attainment of your learning outcomes and goals. Additionally, the mentor must have an active and unrestricted license in the state of Tennessee. In the event you are completing the clinical practicum in a non-resident state, proof of current RN licensure will be required.

During the clinical practicum, you must advise your mentor of course requirements and personal learning objectives. Each assigned faculty member is responsible for evaluating your performance and all associated assignments completed during the clinical practicum experience.

You are responsible for completing a minimum of 48 hours of clinical practical experience. NR-436 uses experiential learning assignments as the foundation for these hours. Hours spent researching, completing the assignments, as well as time spent with your mentor, discussing, collaborating and learning can also be counted in the 48 hours. Students will document time spent on their clinical practicum log which will be submitted in the course. Documentation must demonstrate activities related to course outcomes.

You will also participate in an online class that will include discussions in addition to the clinical practicum hours.

II. ELIGIBILITY FOR CLINICAL PRACTICUM

1. Prerequisite Requirements

- Completion of:
 - Prerequisites: NR-305 and NR-351
 - Co-Requisites: NR-361

2. Mentor Requirements

All mentors must be approved prior to course registration. In the event a mentor is not completed, a delay in starting the clinical practicum will occur.

3. Completed Clinical Practicum Application

Once the site has been selected and the mentor identified:

- Complete the Clinical Practicum Application at least 30 days prior to the beginning of the clinical practicum course
- Send a case with the mentor information and resume to your experiential learning specialist
 - Do this by logging on to [My Chamberlain](#), navigating to the Practicum tab and select **Contact your Experiential Learning Specialist**.

4. Ethical Behavior

You are expected to demonstrate professional demeanor, behavior and communication at all times. You are bound by the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics and must agree to abide by all the rules and regulations of the state in which you are practicing.

III. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Faculty Role

During the course, the instructor should be available via email or telephone to provide support to you and the mentor. Given the nature of the clinical practicum, the role of the instructor becomes a combination of facilitator, organizer, professional relations specialist, role model, coach and counselor. The instructor's role is to maintain ongoing and effective communication throughout the clinical practicum experience. The instructor is responsible for the final evaluation of your learning. Upon completion of the clinical practicum, the course instructor will complete a mentor evaluation.

2. Responsibilities of Chamberlain University

- Define competencies to be addressed during clinical practicum assignment
- Ensure you have met all eligibility requirements prior to beginning the clinical practicum
- Suggest activities to enhance the educational experience
- Provide a faculty member to act as instructor and facilitator
- Consider promptly any complaints by you, your mentor or representatives of the facility
- Maintain communication with you and your mentor during the course
- Agree not to discriminate by race, creed, color, religion, sex or national origin
- Evaluate your academic performance in the course

3. Responsibilities of the Experiential Learning Specialist

- Assist in student efforts to secure a practicum and mentor
- Review mentor credentials
- Be a conduit if mentor changes are requested by you

4. Responsibilities of the Clinical Practicum Mentor

- Cooperate with Chamberlain faculty to promote your success in the clinical practicum
- Complete signature for receipt of the Mentor Resource Manual
- Serve as mentor for your professional development
- Participate in initial communication via conference call/video chat/Skype with you and clinical practicum course instructor by Week 2 of the course
- Complete a student evaluation in Weeks 4 and 8
- Refuse to pay students for clinical practicum or use students to replace paid staff
- Provide constructive feedback about your performance in the clinical practicum setting
- Not disclose any personal, student-identifying information or records of your participation except as set forth by an agreement or required by law
- Agree to not discriminate by race, creed, color, religion, sex or national origin
- Respond to clinical practicum course faculty requests for updates
- Provide feedback to Chamberlain as requested

5. Your Responsibilities as a Student

- Meet eligibility and course requirements
- Meet deadline dates for all clinical practicum coursework and activities

- Assist in the facilitation of an initial meeting between you, the clinical practicum course faculty and mentor during the first week of your clinical practicum
- Demonstrate competence in clinical practicum assignments
- Maintain communication with course faculty
- Evaluate the clinical practicum experience
- Fund all travel arrangements and any associated expenses
- Provide proof of active and unrestricted licensure if requested
- Complete evaluation of mentor

6. Mentor Receipt of Handbook

You should email a copy of this handbook to your mentor to ensure that they understand course requirements. Your mentor will also be receiving a copy of the Mentor Resource Manual.

You may direct all questions about the mentor practicum to the experiential learning specialist at elc@chamberlain.edu.

IV. COURSE OUTCOMES

1. Apply principles of nursing to the public health system (PO1)
2. Assess the health of populations, aggregates and communities (PO4)
3. Apply the nursing process to vulnerable populations with professional clinical judgment and evidence-based practice (PO4 & 8)
4. Analyze the professional nursing roles in a variety of community settings (PO7)
5. Utilize a collaborative approach to address factors that influence population health (PO2)
6. Examine collaborative trends in community health nursing (PO2)

V. PROGRAM OUTCOMES

1. Provides individualized comprehensive care based on theories and principles of nursing and related disciplines to individuals, families, aggregates and communities, from entry to the healthcare system through long-term planning.
2. Demonstrates leadership and collaboration with consumers and other healthcare providers in providing care and/or delegating responsibilities for health promotion, illness prevention, health restoration, health maintenance and rehabilitative activities.
3. Communicates effectively with patient populations and other healthcare providers in managing the healthcare of individuals, families, aggregates and communities.
4. Integrates clinical judgment in professional decision making and implementation of the nursing process.

5. Demonstrates responsibility for continued personal and professional development through enrollment in graduate education, continuing education degree programs, professional reading and participation in professional organizations and community service.
6. Implements professional nursing standards by practicing within the legal definitions of nursing practice and acts in accordance with the nursing code of ethics and American Nurses Association (ANA) standards of practice.
7. Practices in established professional roles consistent with entry-level BSN graduates to provide cost-effective, quality healthcare to consumers in structured and unstructured settings.
8. Incorporates evidence-based practice in the provision of professional nursing care to individuals, families, aggregates and communities.

MENTOR INFORMATION

As the student, you have the responsibility to identify a qualified mentor. Chamberlain University defines a mentor is an experienced and qualified nurse who supports students in various clinical practicum settings pertaining to the attainment of the course outcomes. Mentors are qualified individuals who work one-on-one with students through experiential learning during the course. Ongoing collaboration occurs with clinical practicum faculty to evaluate student learning through mastery of course outcomes. Mentors are not nursing program faculty, do not need to meet State Board of Nursing minimum qualifications for faculty and are not considered when determining faculty/student ratios. In addition, a mentor does not receive financial compensation from Chamberlain. If the preceptor, mentor and/or field instructor you are submitting for Chamberlain University's review and approval was found using a student-arranged third-party preceptor matching service, please be advised that Chamberlain University will not reimburse any fees you may have incurred.

I. CRITERIA FOR MENTOR SELECTION

- Must have recent experience and expertise in the area of Community Health Nursing. Some of the roles considered are home health nursing, parish nursing, working in various areas of the health department and school nursing
- Have an active RN license in the state of Tennessee
- Have reliable access to the internet and the willingness and ability to communicate electronically and via telephone with the course faculty
- Possess strong communication skills
- RN to BSN students may have working relationships in the field and may use their networks to determine an appropriate mentor

- Students may identify a learning need that is outside of their network and may need assistance in learning about a potential clinical practicum site. The experiential learning specialist will assist students in exploring opportunities in their area. The experiential learning specialist can be reached at elc@chamberlain.edu.

NOTE: Mentor cannot be family member, relative or personal friend. Preceptors/mentors cannot be responsible for supervision of the student as an employee; the student cannot be responsible for supervising the preceptor/mentor in the work place.

II. PRACTICUM HOURS REQUIREMENT

You are responsible for completing a minimum of 48 hours of clinical practical experience. NR-436 uses experiential learning assignments as the foundation for these hours. Hours spent researching, completing the assignments, as well as time spent with your mentor, discussing, collaborating and learning can also be counted in the 48 hours. Students will document time spent on their clinical practicum log which will be submitted in the course.

The clinical practicum log will be submitted in the course. Documentation must demonstrate activities related to course outcomes, specialty competencies and your learning agreement. You will also participate in an online practicum class that will include discussion threads in addition to the clinical practicum hours.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CLINICAL PRACTICUM MENTOR

The mentor has the following responsibilities:

- Provides proof of licensure and completes and submits any other Chamberlain or state-specific forms required two weeks prior to the start of the NR-436 course
- Thoroughly reviews the Mentor Resource Manual for orientation to the role and responsibilities
- Complete signature for receipt of the Mentor Resource Manual
- Demonstrates collaboration with Chamberlain University practicum faculty to promote RN to BSN student success by participating in correspondence with the course faculty via phone or Skype/WebEx/ videoconferencing by Sunday in Week 2 every session to discuss expectations for the clinical practicum course
- Complete a mentor evaluation in Weeks 4 and 8
- Serves as a nursing role model and educator
- Provides suggestions that will assist and improve student performance to achieve course and clinical practicum outcomes
- Contacts course faculty member concerning any issues that may arise
- Remains available to the student throughout the course
- Provides feedback to the College regarding practicum learning activities and makes suggestions for improvement

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The course instructor will be available via email or telephone to provide support to the student and the mentor. During the first two weeks of the course, the instructor will phone the mentor to answer any initial questions and set up a communication process. Please direct any further questions during the course to the instructor.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

CONTACT INFORMATION

You may direct all questions about the clinical practicum experience to the experiential learning specialist at elc@chamberlain.edu.

ELIGIBILITY FOR CLINICAL PRACTICUM

1. When can I take the clinical practicum?

- Completion of:
 - Prerequisites: NR-305 and NR-351
 - Co-Requisites: NR-361

APPLYING FOR THE CLINICAL

2. When do I apply for the clinical practicum?

The deadline for applying for the clinical is 30 days before the clinical practicum start date.

3. Why do I have to apply so far ahead of the clinical practicum start date?

This allows time for Chamberlain to communicate all expectations for the clinical practicum to you and your mentor. This also allows for time to review the mentor's qualifications and licensure.

4. Where do I find the Practicum Application?

The Practicum Application can be completed online by following the instructions below.

1. Log on to [My Chamberlain](#)
2. Click on the **Practicum** tab
3. Click on **CREATE APPLICATION**
4. Attach mentor credentials at the end of the application (CV and licensure)
5. Submit the application for review
6. Experiential learning specialist will be in touch for next steps.

You may also follow the directions listed in the [RN-BSN Practicum Application Guide](#) on the My Chamberlain portal experience.

5. How do I know if the mentor I have selected will be appropriate for my clinical practicum experience?

The experiential learning specialist will answer any questions you have about the practicum and will help guide you in mentor selection as needed. Contact the experiential learning specialist at elc@chamberlain.edu.

NOTE: You must have an active and unrestricted nursing license in the state where you wish to complete the practicum. If you are completing their practicum in a different state from where you reside, proof of proper nurse licensure will be required prior to practicum registration.

6. Can my mentor be my supervisor?

No, preceptors/mentors cannot be responsible for supervision of the student as an employee.

MENTOR QUESTIONS

7. Does my mentor have to have a Master's degree?

No, the minimum requirement for a mentor is having an unrestricted RN license in Tennessee and also has recent experience and expertise in the area of community health nursing. Some of the roles considered are home health nursing, parish nursing, working in various areas of the health department and school nursing.



Our Mission:

To educate, empower and embolden diverse healthcare professionals who advance the health of people, families, communities and nations.



THE RN TO BSN CLINICAL PRACTICUM TOOLKIT

LITERATURE

 [Catalog](#)

 [Viewbook](#)

FORMS & WORKSHEETS

 [RN to BSN Curriculum Grid](#)

 [Academic Calendar](#)

 [RN to BSN Practicum Application Guide](#)

For more information, email elc@chamberlain.edu



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