

Practice Experience Guide

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

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Contents

PRACTICE EXPERIENCES IN THE RN-BSN PROGRAM.....	3
PRACTICE EXPERIENCE RELATED TASKS	4
NUR 402 COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSING	5
NUR 492 CAPSTONE I: NURSING PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT INQUIRY	6
NUR 494 CAPSTONE II: NURSING PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT AND EVALUATION	8

PRACTICE EXPERIENCES IN THE RN-BSN PROGRAM

The requirement of a practice experience is mandated in all Universities offering a Bachelor of Science (BSN) in nursing degree and is closely monitored in RN to BSN programs by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), our accrediting body.

- Practice Experiences include “activities that support health and/or provide care interacting with a variety of providers and/or with patients and cannot be completed solely by a student in isolation” (American Association of Colleges of Nursing, p. 2, 2012).
- Practice Experiences involve a “variety of activities that include direct and indirect care experiences” (American Association of Colleges of Nursing, p. 3, 2012).
- “The recipients of care or services may be individuals, families, groups, communities, or populations” and may “receive nursing interventions related to disease prevention, health promotion, health maintenance, as well as illness” (American Association of Colleges of Nursing, p. 4, 2012).

American Association of Colleges of Nursing [AACN]. (2012). *White paper: Expectations for practice experiences in the RN to baccalaureate curriculum*. <https://www.aacnursing.org/Portals/42/News/White-Papers/RN-BSN-Expectations-White-Paper.pdf>

Key areas of the RN-BSN program’s learning outcomes (PLOs) are highlighted below to further reflect alignment with the recommended PE content areas noted above:

PLO 1-**Apply nursing leadership concepts and skills** to promote quality care and patient safety across a variety of healthcare settings.

PLO 2-**Apply (a) current evidence** and (b) critical thinking and (c) **assessment skills** to professional nursing practice.

PLO 3-**Use technological and informatics systems related to health care** to promote quality patient care.

PLO 5-**Use inter-professional communication and collaborative skills** to communicate with and educate peers, health care professionals, patients and their families, and the community.

PLO 6-**Assess health and wellness beliefs and practices** to promote health and disease prevention among individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations.

The RN-BSN program requires 60 hours of Practice Experience activities. These activities are integrated into the following courses:

- NUR 402 Community Health Nursing (30 hours)
- NUR 492 Capstone I: Nursing Practice Improvement Inquiry (10 hours)
- NUR 494: Capstone II: Nursing Practice Improvement and Evaluation (20 hours)

A simulated practice laboratory experience using Shadow Health is also a substantive learning component of NUR 304 Health Assessment.

Shadow Health. (2022). *Digital Clinical Experience* [Software]. Elsevier.
<https://evolve.elsevier.com/education/simulations/shadow-health/>

Students must successfully complete the Practice Experience activities in each course before they can complete the course and earn a passing grade.

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE RELATED TASKS

- Students are required to submit a written request for prior approval to engage in PE activities to the nursing faculty member who is the course instructor. This request contains the name and location of the practice setting, the type of setting (e.g., acute, ambulatory, long-term care, public/community health), the name and credentials of health care professional interacting with the student, and date, time, and nature of the interaction(s).
- The faculty member must review, approve the written request, and notify students that they may proceed with the PE.
- Students are required to keep a log of the amount of time they engaged in PE activities and submit it to the instructor for review and approval at the conclusion of the PE.
- Students are required to maintain a reflective journal in which reflections are recorded. Nursing faculty will review and provide feedback on the journal entries as a means of promoting development of reflective practice skills.

NUR 402 COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSING

Overview:

The Practice Experience (PE) in this course consists of 30 hours of practice-related activities designed to provide you an opportunity to address a public health issue in your community. This includes an assessment of the community (Windshield Survey) and identification of a community organization that provides services to a vulnerable population. A project aimed at improving health for the identified vulnerable (at-risk) population is designed and implemented.

Practice Experience Competencies

Upon the completion of the Practice Experience, learners will be able to:

1. Conduct a community assessment applying a Windshield Survey.
2. Analyze data to identify trends showing strengths, weaknesses, and conditions within the community.
3. Identify community health problems specific to vulnerable populations, that addresses a Healthy People 2030 objective.
4. Select a community agency that provides services to a vulnerable population in the community.
5. Consult with the community manager to develop a community health education project aimed at improving health for the identified vulnerable population.
6. Implement the community health project via handouts, video, or at the community agency.
7. Propose evaluation strategies to determine efficacy of the project.

NUR 402 Practice Experience Requirements:

To achieve a passing grade for the practice experience in this course, students must complete each of the following assignments with passing grades as evaluated by course faculty.

Week 1: Windshield Survey and Identification and Authorization of a Community Agency

- The content and activities of Week 1 focus on the assessment of the community and identification of a vulnerable population. A windshield survey is completed and a community agency that serves the vulnerable population is selected and submitted for faculty approval.

Week 2: Community Health Project Plan

- In Week 2, the community health project plan is designed and submitted.

Weeks 3-4: Community Health Project Implementation Progress Report and Summary

- In Weeks 3-4, students collaborate with their approved community agency manager and course faculty and implement the community health project plan. The implementation phase of the community health project is wrapped up in Week 4.

Week 5: Community Health Project Presentation, Time Log, Reflective Journal

- In Week 5 students submit their practice experience time log and reflect on their community health practice experience. In addition, they share a PowerPoint Presentation summarizing their community health project to their peers.

NUR 492 CAPSTONE I: NURSING PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT INQUIRY

Overview:

NUR 492 includes a sequence of weekly assignments that build toward the Final Project for the course, a proposal for an Evidence-Based Practice (EBP)/Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) project that is to be continued in NUR 494 Capstone II. Six of these assignments (i.e., two interview-related written assignments, and four related form submissions) comprise the practice experience (PE) for this course. These assignments are due on Weeks 1, 2, 4, and 5, and their assignment names begin with the words “Capstone I PE.” A summary of PE requirements, PE assignments, and other assignments that constitute the Final Project is provided below.

NUR 492 Practice Experience Requirements:

To achieve a passing grade for this course, students must complete each of the following Practice Experience assignments with passing grades:

Week 1

- Capstone I PE: Identification and Authorization Form
- Capstone I PE: Introduction to the Problem and PICO Question
 - This week you will identify and obtain authorization to work with your PE Manager, and submit your first paper, which identifies a problem of interest within your workplace that needs an EBP/CQI response. Download the [Identification and Authorization Form](#) which must be completed and delivered as separate assignments on or before Day 7 of this week. See the PE assignments in the Week 1 folder for details.

Week 2

- Capstone I PE: Verification of Practice Experience Interview Form
- Literature Search and Critique
 - This week you will conduct an interview or conference with your manager and submit your first review and critique of the literature that you select to help address your PICO question. Download the [Verification of Practice Experience Interview Form](#) which must be completed and delivered as separate assignments on or before Day 7 of this week.

Week 3

- Selection of Conceptual Model for the Theoretical Framework
 - Your Week 3 written assignment requires that you identify and discuss the model that will underlie your proposal and develop a diagram of the model specific to your project.

Week 4

- Capstone I PE: Identification and Authorization Form
- Capstone I PE: Verification of Practice Experience Interview Form
- Capstone I PE: Developing the Methodology for Your QI Project
 - Your written assignment for Week 4 requires that you schedule, authorize, conduct, and verify an interview with a nurse in the QI department. Then, based on this interview, you will write the design, setting, subject, sample, instruments, variables, and statistics portion of the project, otherwise known as the methodology. Download the [Identification and Authorization Form](#) and the NUR 492 PE [Verification of Practice Experience Interview Form](#), both of which must be completed and delivered as separate assignments on or before Day 7 of Week 4. See the Week 4 assignments for details.

Week 5

- Proposal for an EBP/CQI Project
 - In Week 5, you will blend all these sections together into your Final Project.
- Capstone I PE: Time Log Download the [Practice Experience Time Log](#).
 - Throughout the course, you will complete an entry for each qualified PE-related activity and log the number of hours. The total hours spent on PE activities in this course must be in conformity with the qualifying hours specifications listed in the Hours Log and Week 5 Capstone I: Time Log assignment and must total at least **10 hours**. You will deliver the completed and signed log to the instructor by the end of Week 5. Read the Capstone I: Time Log assignment in the Week 5 tab this week for details.

NUR 494 CAPSTONE II: NURSING PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT AND EVALUATION

Overview:

NUR 494 includes a sequence of weekly assignments that build toward the Final Presentation for the course, an oral presentation of your Quality Improvement project is the continuation of NUR 492 Capstone I. Six of these assignments (i.e., two interview-related written assignments, and four related form submissions) comprise the practice experience (PE) for this course. These assignments are due on Weeks 1, 2, 3, and 4, and their assignment names begin with the words “Capstone II PE.” A summary of PE requirements, PE assignments, and other assignments that constitute the Final Presentation is provided below.

NUR 494 Practice Experience Requirements:

To achieve a passing grade for this course, students must complete each of the following PE assignments with passing grades:

Week 1

- Capstone II PE: Identification and Authorization Form.
- Capstone II PE Project Part 1: Implementation Plan.
 - This week if you have not changed manager, upload the same PDF form you submitted in Capstone I in the appropriate Capstone II Week 1 Assignment area. If you have changed your manager, download and submit a new [NUR 406, 492, 494: Identification and Authorization form](#) to submit in the Week 1 Assignment area on or before Day 7 of this week. See the PE assignments in the Week 1 folder for details.
 - Prepare your implementation plan proposal and get manager feedback during your interview.

Week 2

- Capstone II PE: Verification of Practice Experience Interview Form.
- Capstone II PE Project Part 2: Evaluation Plan.
 - This week you will select and download the [Verification of Practice Experience Interview](#) form. Print this form before your interview, and at the conclusion of the interview, obtain your manager’s signature in the designated field. This must be completed and delivered as separate assignments on or before Day 7 of this week.
 - You will also prepare your own evaluation plan, support it with a critical appraisal of the literature, and get feedback from your manager.

Week 3

- Capstone II PE Project Part 3: Evidence Dissemination.
 - In this final section of your capstone project, you will summarize your plans for disseminating evidence.

Week 4

- Capstone II PE Time Log. Due Week 4.
 - Download the [Practice Experience Time Log](#). Throughout the course, you will complete an entry for each qualified PE-related activity and log the number of hours. The total hours spent on PE activities in this course must be in conformity with the qualifying hours specifications and must total at least **20 hours**. You will deliver the completed and signed log to the instructor by the end of Week 4. Read the Capstone I: Time Log assignment in the Week 4 tab this week for details.