



NORTH ISLAND
COLLEGE

Student Practice Experiences – Year 4

Students in the fourth year of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at North Island College are focusing on the increasing complexity of nursing practice. Students further develop their understanding of health and healing, focusing their attention on community and societal health, with emphasis on the leadership role in nursing and the socio-political and economic context of nursing. Students learn more complex assessment skills, including community assessment, develop their competence as leaders, and engage in more advanced explorations of the discipline of nursing and nursing inquiry. The emphasis is on the growth of the student as a professional nurse who is critically reflective and actively involved in exploring change processes and leadership roles within nursing, health care, and society at large. In the fall semester students may also take a nursing elective that supports their area of focus as a graduate nurse.

Fall – September to December (Nursing 404)

The purpose of this nursing practice experience is for students to further develop their competencies in the areas of leadership, influencing and managing change, and the utilization of research for the purpose of promoting the health of individuals, families, communities and society, within the context of the Canadian health care system. They have opportunities to explore inter-professional practice and nursing leadership in the context of emerging Canadian and global health issues and trends. This course is currently under development and will be offered for the first time in the Fall of 2010.

Winter – January to April (Nursing 414)

In the final practice placement students are focusing on nursing practice and moving from the student role to that of graduate professional nurse. Students are encouraged to take this placement in their chosen area of focus or an area where they think they can best develop their nursing competence. NUR 414 is a 16 week placement that attends to the importance of the transition to the workplace and taking on the role of professional nurse. Students will have an opportunity to refine and consolidate their relational practice, their professional practice, and their leadership abilities in preparation for meeting entry level competencies as defined by CRNBC.

There are two practice education models that students might be assigned to in NUR 414. One of them is the Collaborative Learning Unit (CLU) where the student begins the experience with an assigned preceptor and then transitions to be a member of the unit where they will self-

schedule and work under the direction of a variety of Registered Nurses on the Unit. Some students will continue in a preceptorship for the entire 16 weeks. More information on these models is available from the nursing instructor. Instructors will contact the preceptors and offer preceptor workshops as needed.

Teaching and Learning in the Nursing Program

Student Learning

- ◆ Students are self-directed and take an active role in their learning in the classroom and practice agency in all levels of the program.
- ◆ Students are required to meet minimal semester requirements and practice according to agency policies, the Canadian Nurses Association Code of Ethics, and the College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia Standards of Practice.
- ◆ Students in discussion with the instructor, and in some cases agency personnel, identify learning goals that they would like to achieve during their practice experience. These goals vary based on the experience of the student, the learning focus of the semester and the practice opportunities.
- ◆ Following the experience students are required to reflect on their own learning from the experience as well as some of their own professional and personal strengths and challenges.

Instructor Role

Nursing instructors provide indirect supervision for students. Instructors will:

- ◆ Be in touch with you about specific learning opportunities while students are in your practice area.
- ◆ Provide Minimal Semester Requirement documents if you would like to see them.
- ◆ Be available to community contacts, agencies and individuals to assist in facilitating the effectiveness of the students' practice and learning experiences and to address concerns when required.
- ◆ Help students develop their understanding of concepts and ideas discussed in class.
- ◆ Pose questions for students to consider while they are in the agency/community.
- ◆ Help students meet their learning goals and objectives.
- ◆ Work with students to develop their critical thinking and decision-making, relational practice, communication, psychomotor, assessment, advocating and leadership skills.

Assessing Student Learning

Assessing student learning is the responsibility of the instructor and students. However, feedback from the agency is encouraged at anytime. To meet course objectives student learning is assessed in several ways. The following are a few examples of how students are assessed:

- ◆ In regular discussions and interactions between instructor and student.

- ◆ Small group discussion with the instructor to share meaningful stories from their experiences and talk about what they have learned that will help them in their future practice.
- ◆ Written assignments.
- ◆ Written self-evaluation their experiences.

The Nursing Faculty appreciates the consideration your agency is giving to providing this valuable learning opportunity to our students. Thank You!

Overview of Nursing Practice Experiences

North Island College: Collaboration for Academic Education in Nursing (CAEN)

An example of nursing practice following one nurse, Jane, through the Revised Curriculum:

Semester One

- Jane did community resource visits to the Comox Valley Nursing Center and the Comox Recreation Center and brought a report back to her classmates.
- She taught “Do Bugs Need Drugs” with 2 other students at a local school to grade 2 students.
- She developed a relationship with a resource family and explored with them their experiences of health.
- She attended two Nurses Work Experiences – one to Eagleview Extended Care observing the RN in her practice and to Public Health to observe the PHN.
- She had an online conversation with an RN in Australia about her practice.
- She attended in the learning center to focus on initial physical assessment processes.

Semester Two

- Jane spent 6 hours per week at the Women’s Transition House for 3 weeks (Adult); 6 hours per week at Berwick House for 3 week (Older Adult); 6 hours at LINC Youth Centre for 3 weeks (Youth) and 6 hours per week at a child care centre (Children) where she developed relationship with healthy people across the lifespan and explored community resources.
- Jane spent 3 hours per week in the learning center focusing on assessment skills.

Consolidated Practice Experience I (CPEI)

- In CPE I Jane spent one week in the learning center developing basic skill such as lifts, body mechanics, and consolidating physical assessment skills.
- She then spent 24 hours in an acute care setting with instructors, and in the learning center completing assessments with healthy community members, across the lifespan.
- She participated in a group health promotion project.

Semester Three

- Jane’s focus this semester was with adults experiencing health challenges. Jane started in medicine in Campbell River where she spent 8 weeks (10 hours per week) on acute

medicine. She also spent time in the community at home care, North Island Liver Services, chemotherapy and hospice care.

- Jane spent 3 hours per week in the learning center focusing on relevant psychomotor skills and assessment.

Semester Four

- Jane's focus this semester was adults experiencing health challenges requiring surgery. She moved to Surgery at SJGH where she spent 8 weeks on the acute surgical unit. She also went to the OR, PAC, endoscopy, dialysis unit and spent time with the community liaison home visit nurse from SJGH.
- Jane spent 3 hours per week in the learning center focusing on more advanced psychomotor skills and assessment.

Consolidated Practice Experience II (CPEII a and b)

CPEII a

- Jane focused on older adults experiencing health challenges. Jane Spent 4 full time weeks in the Older Adult Setting. She was on the acute dementia unit at GlacierView as well spent time with the dietician, the activity aide, and the pharmacist at SJGH.

CPEII b

- Jane's focus was on adults experiencing mental health challenges. Jane moved to Mental Health during this 4 weeks and worked on the acute care unit at SJGH as well rotated through Aids Vancouver Island, Community Mental Health and spent time with the Crisis Nurse.

Semester Five

- Jane's focus was on family centered care, and children experiencing health challenges. Jane moved into the Maternal Child placement and worked on the Mat/Peds unit at SJGH as well spent time in the Child Development Center, with lactation consultants, in Public Health and with local midwives.
- Jane spent 3 hours per week in the learning center focusing on more complex psychomotor skills and assessment of clients experiencing multi-system failure.

Semester Six

- Jane's placement this term was with the World Community Development Education Society to explore global health issues and continue to build links between the community and North Island College. This focus on community development provided opportunities to work with groups, develop projects and see the significance of networking in building community capacity.

Consolidated Practice Experience III (CPEIII)

- Jane spent 8 weeks consolidating her acute care skills on the surgical unit at Campbell River. She worked with a preceptor in this placement.

Semester Seven

- For her leadership project, Jane worked with the infection control nurse at SJGH to develop understanding and build relationships to improve the percentage of staff members receiving the flu vaccine. She assisted in educating staff, organizing clinics and providing vaccines. She compiled the data and related that to provincial figures in other hospitals. She then prepared a report of her recommendations for the infection control nurse.

Semester Eight

- Jane chose to spend her final 16 week practicum working towards independent RN practice with Mental Health and Addictions as a focus, dividing her time between Acute Psychiatry at St. Joseph's Hospital, Comox, and Mental Health and Addictions Services, Comox Valley. During her time at MHAS, she observed and participated in triage, intake, (ACSS and ASTAT), self-help groups, evening group sessions, counseling, street outreach connections, and other areas encouraged by her mentors.