

**MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF NURSING**

**POLICY C-9**

**TITLE: PRECEPTORSHIP FOR REQUIRED UNDERGRADUATE NURSING COURSES**

**POLICY:** The faculty is responsible for appropriately utilizing preceptors for educational experiences, selection and training of preceptors, and organizing and evaluating the preceptorship experience. A preceptor is a Registered Nurse or other experienced professional with population-specific knowledge who meets the minimum requirements, and who supervises and facilitates student learning, in a mentoring relationship. The preceptor-student nurse relationship is for periods longer than one day, and when clinical faculty are not on-site. Courses which utilize preceptor experiences include NRS 477, NRS 487, and NRS 498.

Preceptor guidelines are provided in the *State Board of Nursing Rules and Regulations Section 24.159.665, effective 5/29/15:*

- (1) Clinical preceptors may be used to enhance, but not replace, faculty-directed clinical learning experiences.
- (2) When utilizing preceptors, faculty members are responsible for:
  - (a) Ensuring safe, accessible and appropriate supervision based on client health status, care setting, course objectives, and student level of preparation;
  - (b) Ensuring appropriate preceptor qualifications and scope of responsibility;
  - (c) Ensuring that the preceptor demonstrated competencies related to the area of assigned clinical teaching responsibilities and will serve as a role model and educator to the student; and
  - (d) Providing the lecture and laboratory portions of a course.

The preceptor is responsible for providing a supportive learning environment for the student and for providing formative evaluation of student performance. The student is responsible for knowing and functioning within the Scope of Practice, and for responsible regular communication with both faculty and preceptor. The faculty retains responsibility for overall evaluation of student academic and clinical performance.

**Selection of Preceptors**

Preceptors for MSU College of Nursing clinical courses are carefully selected, screened, and approved in a systematic manner in order to assure meeting the criteria established by the College of Nursing faculty and to be consistent with the Montana Board of Nursing Rules and Regulations Section 24.159.665 Preceptors in Nursing Education Programs. In order to serve in the role, potential preceptors must:

1. Be considered an expert in the role and a good role model by peers and supervisor
2. Be willing to provide experiences deemed appropriate for the course level
3. Agree to act in this role

4. Agree to engage in orientation
5. Agree to be involved in evaluation of student performance and the course in general
6. Possess organizational knowledge (i.e. agency policy and procedure)
7. Identify an interest in teaching
8. Demonstrate effective communication skills

**RATIONALE:** Use of clinical preceptors with students may be an appropriate option for courses within the College of Nursing curriculum. Use of clinical preceptors provides a consistent one-to-one relationship which presents an effective environment for learning. The preceptorship experience needs to reflect a collaborative process involving the faculty, the preceptor and the student.

*This C-9 policy and procedure enumerates responsibilities of faculty, preceptors, and student when previously learned clinical nursing skills are practiced by the student. This policy is not intended to address the acquisition and learning of new skills.*

**Reviewed/Approved:**

Level I: UAAC (2013; May, 2018)

Level II: Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs (2013; May, 2018)