



BSN COMPLETION PROGRAM: PRACTICE EXPERIENCES

DESCRIPTION:

As part of the BSN Completion (BSNC) program, students complete Practice Experiences (PEs). These activities are an opportunity to apply and evaluate new knowledge and skills in a real-world setting. PEs are experiential learning. In the course of PEs, students may interact with an array of community members, organizations, agencies, professionals, and elected officials. Experiences may involve colleagues as well as students or other individuals outside the field of nursing. The contexts for these experiences could be as narrow as a single client or as broad as the global population.

GOALS:

Practice Experiences are in place to help students meet *The Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice* (AACN, 2008). The BSNC PEs are designed to enhance preparation to “care for a variety of patients across the lifespan and across the continuum of care” (AACN, 2012).

BASIC REQUIREMENTS:

All PEs share these characteristics:

- BSNC Faculty approve, oversee, and evaluate all PEs.
- PEs have identified student learning outcomes.
- Practice experiences include activities that support health and/or provide care, interacting with a variety of providers and/or with patients (individuals, families, groups, communities, or populations) and cannot be completed solely by a student in isolation.
- Students complete written reflections for PEs that relate experiences to learning outcomes and show how a PE has better prepared the student for BSN level nursing practice.

EXAMPLES:

Practice Experiences are part of the following courses:

- NURS 4635, Community as Client: Based on a community assessment, students prepare an evidence-based, goal-directed action plan that includes interprofessional collaboration.
- NURS 4835, Leading Nursing Practice: Students propose an applied leadership project. With approval and faculty input, students collaborate with stakeholders to present or execute the project in a relevant setting.
- NURS 4845, Innovation in Nursing Practice: With faculty guidance, learners create a theory- and evidence-based plan for a healthcare policy or process change. Students experience the role of a change agent through advocacy for the proposed change in a practice setting.

REFERENCES:

American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2008). *The essentials of baccalaureate education for professional nursing practice*. Washington, DC: Author. <https://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/Publications/BaccEssentials08.pdf>

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