

# PRACTICE EXPERIENCES

at AMERICAN SENTINEL UNIVERSITY

## A MORE ACTIVE WAY TO LEARN

### EXAMPLES OF PEs:

**IDENTIFY** a trouble area in your healthcare organization and assemble a plan to address it (example: plan to reduce the number of patient falls on a unit)

**EXPLORE** "Sentinel City" by riding a virtual bus and cataloging social and environmental issues in the community

**USE** your skills to assess a virtual patient and create a discharge plan for that patient from your observations

**SHADOW** a nurse leader in your specialization, paying special attention to how they apply nursing theory in their daily work

**DEVELOP** an educational session that focuses on evidence-based practice in the nursing field

**INTERVIEW** someone in upper management about the stewardship activities of the organization

**REVIEW** the structure at your organization and note both the formal and informal power structures and alliances that influence decision-making

"Practice experiences (PEs) are **educational opportunities** built into the nursing programs to accommodate programmatic accreditor (CCNE and ACEN) requirements. Though it is a new type of assignment, **PEs are not extra work**, instead they replace more traditional schoolwork, such as reading and writing assignments. As interactive learning assignments, **PEs encourage students to put what they learned in the classroom to work immediately.**"

ELAINE FOSTER Ph.D., MSN, RN, Associate Dean, Graduate Nursing Programs



**NURSING IS A PRACTICE DISCIPLINE** THAT INCLUDES BOTH DIRECT AND INDIRECT CARE ACTIVITIES THAT **IMPACT HEALTH OUTCOMES**. BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS PROVIDE RICH AND VARIED OPPORTUNITIES FOR **PRACTICE EXPERIENCES** DESIGNED TO ASSIST GRADUATES TO **ACHIEVE** THE ESSENTIALS OF BACCALAUREATE EDUCATION FOR **PROFESSIONAL NURSING PRACTICE**.

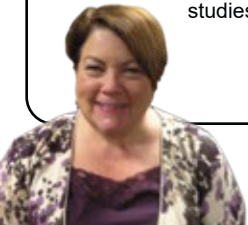
American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 2008



### SO WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

"Nursing is a practice profession. It involves doing, not just talking about doing – which is where practice experience assignments are great. My favorite **PE involved bringing new technology to the nursing unit**. I identified a list of smart phone apps (many of which were free) that nurses could use as resources in their daily practices. I created a hand-out that broke down costs, where to download the app, and what use it provided. The PE not only helped me in my studies, it helped me help others."

ANITA HERRING MSN, Nursing Informatics Specialization



**ESCAPE** AND GET **REAL**  
THE TRADITIONAL CLASSROOM AND THE WORLD  
**EXPERIENCE!**

"The practice experiences in the DNP program provide the students with great flexibility and the opportunity to **personalize each experience**. I also appreciate the layout; having hours designated in each course and having suggested activities provided but not required. This allows autonomy for the students and lets each student streamline the experience to best meet their needs."

TAMMY STEFEK DNP, Educational Leadership Specialization



### TYPES OF PRACTICE EXPERIENCES (PEs):

**PRACTICE LEARNING EXPERIENCES (PLE):** Course assignments that allow you to use what you learned in the online classroom out in the real world

**SIMULATIONS (S):** Assignments that involve participation in virtual settings

**PRECEPTED PRACTICE EXPERIENCES (PPE):** Course assignments that take place in the workplace or other healthcare settings

**CAPSTONE HOURS (CH):** Practice experience hours in the DNP program that are earned during scholarly work on your capstone project

#### PRACTICE EXPERIENCES BY DEGREE PROGRAM

PROGRAM	PRACTICE LEARNING EXPERIENCES (PLE)	PRECEPTED PRACTICE EXPERIENCES (PPE)	SIMULATIONS (S)	CAPSTONE HOURS (CH)
RN TO BSN	✓		✓	
RN TO BSN/MSN	✓	✓	✓	
MSN	✓	✓	✓	
DNP	✓	✓		✓

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