

PRACTICE EXPERIENCES

A MORE ACTIVE WAY TO LEARN

EXAMPLES OF PRACTICE EXPERIENCES:

The online nursing doctoral program in professional leadership at American Sentinel College contains practice experiences. These practice experiences have specific objectives, expected outcomes and competencies. Practice experiences are an opportunity to get away from traditional reading and writing assignments; instead these assignments are replaced with more active assignments.

Practice experiences are not like the clinical experiences you completed to obtain your degree as a registered nurse. Practice experiences do not involve hands-on patient care but require students to go into a facility at times. They are designed to provide you with the opportunity to apply the concepts and knowledge you learn in the nursing courses.

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 “SentinelCity” 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.

Escape the Traditional Classroom and Get Real-World Experience

TYPES OF PRACTICE EXPERIENCES (PE):

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

Applicable Programs: RN to BSN, RN to BSN/MSN, MSN, DNP

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

Applicable Programs: RN to BSN/MSN, MSN, DNP

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

Applicable Programs: RN to BSN, RN to BSN/MSN, MSN

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

Applicable Programs: DNP



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.

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