**NUR-740: NURSING EDUCATION: SEMINAR AND ROLE PRACTICUM**

740 & 750 PRACTICUM PROJECT

**OVERVIEW**

The Practicum Project is a scholarly project that extends over two courses: NUR 740 and NUR 750. **The project provides an opportunity for students to develop and implement an educational project that** **demonstrates their achievement of the MSN program outcomes.**

The Practicum Project involves the independent development of an educational project by the student. Projects should focus on a target audience with a specific learning need(s). Examples of possible audiences include registered nurses, nursing students, ancillary health care providers (e.g., LPNs, nursing assistants), patients/families, and other community members (e.g., people with diabetes). Teaching strategies should be appropriate to the audience and the identified learning need(s).

These needs may have been identified through a formal assessment, organizational outcomes, safety rounds or quality improvement indicators. Other sources of educational opportunities include new technologies, updates in practice guidelines, emerging clinical evidence or other changes within the environment. Consider the following examples.

**Academic Setting**

Consider, for example, prelicensure nursing students developing their skills in taking vital signs and the implications of those findings. The faculty note students need reinforcement in this skill and the associated clinical reasoning. This gap noted by the faculty is the basis for the practicum project.

An example of an educational program for this practicum project would be to:

1. Identify current strategies related to teaching vital signs and the related clinical reasoning
2. Examine the nursing education literature for best practices in teaching psychomotor skills
3. Examine the nursing education literature for best practices in teaching clinical reasoning
4. Develop and administer the educational program
5. Measure program outcomes

**Clinical Practice Environment**

Consider, for example, a gap in documentation of assessing the patient’s ability to get out of bed is noted. The impact of this lack of documentation is that patients are not being mobilized as soon as they may be able, resulting in potential complications of immobility.

An example of an educational program for this practicum project would be to:

1. Assess gaps in staff knowledge
2. Determine if there are gaps in system structures such as policies, procedures, protocols, electronic health record, etc.
3. Examine the nursing education literature for best educational approach
4. Develop and administer the educational program
5. Measure program outcomes

Teaching strategies should be appropriate to the audience and the identified learning need(s). Students propose, design, and possibly, implement the project in NUR-740 and complete and evaluate the project in NUR 750.

**Three** assignments related to the Practicum Project are required in NUR 740:

* **Practicum Project - Initial Proposal**: The purpose of the proposal is for students to submit an overview of their idea for final approval by the mentor and the preceptor. The Practicum Project Proposal Form is to be completed and submitted for this assignment. See the Course Calendar for the due date.
* **Practicum Project Paper - Theoretical Support and Overview of the Practicum Project**: The purposes of this paper are for students to identify the theoretical background, review the research and related literature, and propose a detailed plan for the implementation and evaluation of the capstone project. Depending on the nature and timing of the project, it is possible that the project may be initiated and even completed during NUR 740. See the Course Calendar for the due date.
* **Practicum Project Paper - Educational Plan:** The purposes of the Educational Plan paper are for the students to clearly state a minimum of 3 objectives for the educational plan, develop an outline of the course content, develop pre and post educational program assessment tools and provide planned educational materials for the Practicum project.

**One** assignment related to the Practicum Project is required in NUR 750:

* **Practicum Project Paper - Implementation Evaluation**: The purposes of this paper are to summarize the project and to present and critically review the implementation of and the evaluation data from the project. Further requirements for the paper are provided in NUR 750. NOTE: Depending on the nature and timing of the project, it is possible that the project may be implemented during NUR 740.