

INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Baccalaureate Nursing Completion

The Delivery of Clinical Education in the LPN-BS Distance Education Track
FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

1. Do all courses have a clinical?

No, the program of study for LPN-BS requires students to complete clinicals in six of the nursing courses (NURS 304, NURS 226, NURS 324, NURS 424, NURS 450, NURS 484).

2. What type of uniform do I wear?

When participating in a clinical experience, it is important that you function and dress in the role of a student. Staff and patients should be aware that you are acting in a student role and not in the capacity of an agency employee. Please consult the department uniform policy for specific details at:

<http://www.indstate.edu/nursing/pdfs/handbook-docs/uniform-policy.pdf>

3. How many hours are expected per clinical?

The clinical hours vary per course. NURS 304 and NURS 226 require 45 hours. NURS 324, NURS 424, and NURS 450 require 90 hours. NURS 484, the capstone course, requires 135 clinical hours which are to be completed in a medical-surgical setting. However, certain states have specific requirements for a portion of these 135 hours which need to be accommodated.

Curricular changes do occur periodically. Therefore, the course catalog should be considered as the ultimate source of clinical hours for any given course and should be consulted for verification. The course catalog is available at:

<http://www.indstate.edu/academics/catalogs.htm>

4. When do I have clinicals?

You will schedule the dates and times in conjunction with your Clinical Preceptor. Preceptors participate in this program as a professional courtesy. Therefore, clinical hours should be scheduled at the convenience of the Clinical Preceptor and work within the student's responsibilities and lifestyle. Weekends, holidays, and night shifts are acceptable as long as the learning outcomes can be met. Community Health Nursing has a maximum of 8 hours per week. In all other clinical courses the maximum time per clinical shift shall not exceed 12 hours.

5. Where do I go to do my clinicals?

You attend clinicals at an accredited healthcare facility in your local area. Facilities and the assigned medical floor/unit must be approved. As such, a clinical contract must be in place prior to starting the clinical experience. In the case of community health nursing, contact with the faculty instructor must be made prior to setting up a contract with an agency.

6. How does a student arrange for a Clinical Preceptor?

Clinical placement and the approval process may take three to six months. During your first semester at ISU you will be asked to identify the healthcare

agencies you plan to use. This does not guarantee that these clinical agencies will accept student placement. Agencies reserve the right to limit the number of students at their facility which can create a very competitive process.

Students are expected to work cooperatively with staff to facilitate clinical placement. Facilities without established contracts will need approval from the ISU Legal Counsel or other governing bodies depending on the state in which you are conducting your clinical experience.

After a clinical contract has been established, a Clinical Preceptor will need to be identified. This individual will need to submit a Clinical Preceptor Agreement which lists qualifications and willingness to act in this capacity. In rare instances it may be sufficient for a Clinical Preceptor to submit a current curriculum vitae. Once a clinical contract and Preceptor Agreement is in place, additional reporting of this information to the Indiana State Board of Nursing and the State Board of Nursing of the home state may be required.

7. What are the qualifications to be a Clinical Preceptor?

Some states have specific educational requirements for Clinical Preceptors. If a state has not addressed the qualifications of a Clinical Preceptor, then the minimum requirements for a nurse educator typically apply. In most states, the minimum requirements include a baccalaureate degree in nursing and a minimum of three years of experience in a specialty area.

8. Will a student be assigned to the same Clinical Preceptor throughout the various clinicals?

It is very unlikely. Specialty areas will require clinical expertise by the Clinical Preceptor. However, it may be possible to have the same Clinical Preceptor for selected clinical courses within the program.

9. How many students will be assigned to a Clinical Preceptor?

The design of the clinical experience is one student to one Clinical Preceptor. The Clinical Preceptor may have more than one student from different programs at different times during the semester.

10. How are the clinical skills and course content taught to the student?

The primary responsibility of teaching course material and clinical skills rests with the Faculty Instructor and may be presented through a variety of teaching modalities. The Clinical Preceptor may provide guidance and demonstrate such specific clinical skills.

11. How does the Clinical Preceptor know what we are doing in the course?

The student is responsible for providing the Clinical Preceptor with a course specific preceptor packet prior to the start of the clinical experience. Course outcomes and clinical expectations are thoroughly outlined in this packet.

12. How does the course faculty member communicate with my Clinical Preceptor?

The Clinical Preceptor will be given contact information via the preceptor packet and/or informational letters sent by the Faculty Instructor. Continual contact is encouraged and will be no less than twice during the clinical experience.

13. How is clinical graded?

Clinical at Indiana State University is pass/fail. You must pass the clinical portion of the course to progress. Each clinical course syllabus will delineate what constitutes a clinical course failure.

14. Who determines if I “pass” the clinical?

Both your Clinical Preceptor and the course Faculty Instructor will determine if you pass your clinical using an evaluation tool that corresponds to the course learning outcomes.

15. What do I do if I have a problem with my Clinical Preceptor?

You are encouraged to communicate through the chain of command. First, meet with your Clinical Preceptor. If unable to reach a mutually agreeable solution with your Clinical Preceptor, communicate your concerns to the course Faculty Instructor. If a resolution is not reached at this level, the student should email the Chairperson of the Department of Baccalaureate Nursing Completion.

16. Will I be able to evaluate the experience and my Clinical Preceptor?

Yes. At the completion of the semester, an evaluation process will be available to rate your perception of the Clinical Preceptor and the clinical experience.