

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, if you notice from the program of study the LPN-BS student only has to complete clinicals in six courses (NURS 304 {previously N200}, NURS 226, NURS 324, NURS 424, NURS 450, NURS 484). NURS 484 is a clinical capstone course. In this course you will have 45 hours in pediatric nursing, 45 hours in mother/infant nursing, and 45 hours that the student selects.

2. What type of uniform do I wear?

It is important that you function in the role as a student. We do not want staff or patients confused that you are working in the capacity of an agency employee. The ISU school colors are royal blue and white. We suggest that you wear royal blue scrubs. If ancillary employees have this uniform, discuss with your Clinical Preceptor what uniform would be best. Suggestions are white scrub top and blue scrub pants, or blue scrub top and white scrub pants. The Students will also purchase an ISU name tag to identify themselves as students.

During clinical in psychiatric mental health nursing, students should wear the same attire as the staff. Street clothes are often the dress code of this type of therapeutic milieu.

3. How many hours are expected per clinical?

The clinical hours vary per course. NURS 304 {previously N200} and NURS 226 require 45 hours. NURS 324, NURS 424 and NURS 450 require 90 hours. NURS 484's requirement is 135 total hours. All nursing course are semester based.

4. When do I have clinicals?

You will schedule the dates and times with your Clinical Preceptor. This time should be convenient for the Clinical Preceptor and work within the student's responsibilities and lifestyle. We encourage you to go during time that the agency does not have nursing students from local programs. Weekends, holidays, and night shifts are acceptable as long as the learning outcomes can be meet. The maximum time for one clinical session is 16 hours. The minimum time for a clinical session is 3 hours.

5. Where do I go to do my clinicals?

You attend clinicals at an accredited healthcare facility in your local area. However, the approval process is lengthy and may take three to six months for final approval. During your first semester at ISU it is best to identify the healthcare agencies you plan to use. ISU will contact the Nurse Executive to start the process. Contracts will need to be approved by the ISU Board of Trustees,

and notification sent to the Indiana State Board of Nursing, as well as approval from your home State Board of Nursing.

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

During the initial contact with the healthcare agency, the ISU faculty member will request a list of names and work email addresses of qualified nurses who would be willing to volunteer as Clinical Preceptors. The student receives a copy of the list and makes the initial contact. If the nurse agrees to serve as a mentor, he or she will submit his or her qualifications either on an official state form or a curriculum vitae to Indiana State University.

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

Some states have listed in their rules and regulations 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 apply. In most states this is a minimum of a master's degree in nursing. The Clinical Preceptor must also have three years of experience in the 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 in psychiatric mental health nursing, pediatrics, and maternal/infant nursing. However, you may have the same Clinical Preceptor for assessment and medical surgical nursing II and III, as well as the clinical capstone course.

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. Is the Clinical Preceptor responsible for teaching me new skills?

No, the course Faculty Member is responsible for teaching and demonstrating the skill. Clinical Modules are designed in the online courses.

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

The Clinical Preceptor is enrolled in the online course site. He or she is encouraged to view lectures. A desk copy of the textbook is provided if possible.

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

The course Faculty Member talks on the telephone with the Clinical Preceptor at least twice during the clinical experience. There is also a special discussion board for clinical educators that students cannot access. This allows new Clinical Preceptors to ask questions and be given consultation.

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 Member will determine if you pass your clinical using a tool developed to correspond to the course learning outcomes.

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

As developing professionals, we encourage you to communicate through the chain of command. First, meet with your Clinical Preceptor. Inform the person if you are not satisfied with the results of the meeting and that you are going to communicate your concerns to the course Faculty Member. 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, electronic surveys will be available to rate your perception of the Clinical Preceptor and the clinical experience. An online course evaluation is also provided. This information is anonymous and is received by the Office of the Associate Dean for Academics – Executive Director of Nursing Programs. The data is used to improve the content and methods of teaching the course.