



## **PRACTICE AND ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP NURSING STUDENT WORKERS**

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Nursing students can earn and learn under a model of practice and academic partnership. Students who participate in a practice and academic partnership program are exposed to the realities of the clinical environment and can master learned skills. Additionally, clinical agencies benefit by the student nurse's skills and could attract new graduate nurses to their facility.

### Background:

The Nursing Practice Act allows nursing services to be rendered by a student when these services are incidental to a course of study of a student enrolled in a board-approved prelicensure program or school of nursing (Business and Professions Code section 2729 (a)).

Although, academia is not required to award academic credit for these clinical experiences, healthcare facilities and nursing programs should collaborate to identify a communication plan for faculty, the employer, and the student that addresses the student's current validation of competencies including theoretical knowledge, technical skillset and supervision of the nursing student as needed.

Nursing academia is encouraged to allow for these learning experiences to be counted toward earning of clinical credits. Although a nursing program is not required to award credit for these earned experiences, a preceptorship model or a work-study course offered by a nursing program would comply with this section of law and provides clinical experiences and credit for student nurses admitted to and enrolled in its own nursing program.

### Practice and Academic Partnership – For Academic Credit

- 1) **Nursing program develops a pathway to allow credit for clinical hours completed during employment** ensuring the following:
  - A student must have acquired clinical competence in these skills. A list of skill competencies is provided to the healthcare facility.
  - No new skills may be taught at the healthcare facility.
  - A course faculty of record is available and is responsible for ongoing communication with students and agency monitoring the student.
- 2) Nursing program develops an agreement with a clinical agency with which it has a contract, to provide a process for a student to receive academic credit.
- 3) The clinical agency agrees to the objectives of the course and provides mentors or preceptors for direct supervision of students.
- 4) The instructor and clinical agency mentors meet at regular intervals to discuss student progress and jointly share in the evaluation of the student.
- 5) The course instructor has the final responsibility to evaluate and grade students and their mastery of the course objectives.

### Resources

The Practice-Academic partnership is endorsed by ten major nursing organizations. To learn more, read the article: [A New Framework for Practice-Academic Partnership During the Pandemic - and Into the Future](#)