

Observations of Off Unit Clinical Experiences for Students

This reference has been assembled to assist school of nursing instructors in pursuing appropriate patient experiences and observations for their nursing students.

Off unit experiences should be appropriate to the course objectives of the current clinical rotation

It is preferred that 1-2 students be off the unit at any given time.

It is imperative that the clinical instructor be in house when this experience is scheduled.

Please contact the individual listed for the observation experience requested.

Community Outreach Clinic

- Patient Populations served:**
- Uninsured/Underinsured
 - Experience learning in community resources and financial assistance program for people living in poverty.
- Average length of stay:** Single office visit
- Observation:**
- Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.
 - Observation of the nursing process.
 - Observation of the application of critical thinking
- Skills Performed:**
- RN/Office duties
 - Patient interview/exam and whatever else is needed
 - Medication dispensing
 - Patient Education
 - Any skills they may have completed in school such as VS, nebulizer treatments, dressing changes, etc.
- Best Days/Hours:**
- Tuesday and Thursday
 - 3:00 PM until 10:00 PM
- Specific Requirements/Skills:**
- Prefer last semester students for Precept.
 - Other students can come for Observation only.
- Observation Only:***
Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences only:
- Linda Smith
 - Linda.smith@froedterthealth.org
- This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:
- Follow volunteer nurse/NP/MD
 - Place patients in rooms
 - Complete interviews/exam
 - Patient Education as needed
 - Dispense medications as needed

Emergency Department

Patient Populations served:	Newborn to geriatric
Average length of stay:	2 ½ hours
Observation/Off Unit Clinical Experience Available:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.• Observation of the nursing process.• Observation of the application of critical thinking• Care of many different patients with multiple, different health issues/concerns
Clinical Experience Skills Performed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessments• IV Starts• Medication Administration• Discharge teaching• Foley catheters• NG• Dressings
Best Days/Hours:	Monday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the PMs are when the department has the largest patient load
Specific Requirements/Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not the students 1st clinical rotation• Self-motivated to learn during down-time• Instructor must be in the building and available
<i>Observation Only:</i>	
Contact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lanna Zobel• Lnzobel@froedterthealth.org
This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start IV's when appropriate• Come prepared to perform patient assessment (peds through adults)• Administer medications, ie PO, IM• Obtain vital signs• Place patients on cardiac monitors• Assist with performing 12 Lead EKGs• Provide discharge teaching instructions/follow-up care• Insert Foley catheters• Assist with NG insertions• Perform wound preps• Apply dressings• Observe/assist with triage process

- Prepare patients for MD evals. and diagnostic procedures
- Assist/perform CPR/bag ventilations
- Observe/participate in family centered care
- Document interventions on nurses note
- Self-motivated to seek out learning opportunities.

GI Lab

Patient Populations served:

- All ages and types
- In-Patients age 16-100 years
- Out-Patients age 16-100 years
- All types and population

Average length of stay:

3 hours depending on procedure

Observations available:

- Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.
- Observation of the nursing process.
- Observation of the application of critical thinking
- Conscious Sedation
- Colonoscopy
- EGD, ERCP, Capsule Endoscopy
- BRAVO, Hydrogen Breath

Best Days/Hours:

Variable

**Clinical Experience Skills:
Needed:**

- Attaching monitor equipment to patient
- Observing procedures

Observation Only:

Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences
only:

- Nancy McKinnon
- nancy.mckinnon@froedterthealth.org

This unit will expect the student to perform
the following during their observation/off-unit
experience:

- Dress professionally
- Come prepared with questions and objectives for the
experience.

Home Today Surgery

Patient Populations served:	Children to Elderly
Average length of stay:	3-4 hours
Observations available:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.• Observation of the nursing process.• Observation of the application of critical thinking• Admission and discharge of patients• Surgical procedures – cataracts, lithotripsy
Clinical Experience Skills Performed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessment of patients• Teaching – Pre-op & post-op• Starting IVs• Organizational skills and critical thinking
Best Days/Hours:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday• Anytime from 5:00 AM to 1:30 PM
Specific Requirements/Skills:	3 rd or 4 th semester A.D.N. students 3 rd or 4 th year BSN students Only 1 student at a time
<i>Observation Only:</i> Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences only:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Merle Hackwell• mhackwel@froedterthealth.org
This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dress professionally• Come prepared with questions and objectives for the experience.

ICU

Patient Populations served:	All types of higher acuity patients
Average length of stay:	Varies—depends on diagnosis
Observations available:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.• Observation of the nursing process.• Observation of the application of critical thinking• Daily routines, tests/procedures
Precept Experience Skills Performed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vitals• Medication administration• Patient education• Normal cares• Documentation• Collaboration with other team members
Best Days/Hours:	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
Specific Requirements/Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of CMH IV pumps (for precepted students only)• Vital signs• Intake and Output• Charting• Roles of other healthcare team members
<i>Observation Only:</i> Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences only:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laurie Johnson• ljohnson@froedterthealth.org
This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be attentive and observant.• Ask questions• Review Medical Record• The student will not be giving meds/treatments, etc. due to nature of experience unless they are in a 1:1 precept.• Dress professionally• Come prepared with questions and objectives for the experience.

Inpatient Rehabilitation

Patient Populations served:

- Older adults
- Orthopedic rehab experience
- CVA recovery - rehab
- Spinal stenosis – rehab
- Multiple trauma – rehab post-injury

Average length of stay:

16 days

Observations available:

- Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.
- Observation of the nursing process.
- Observation of the application of critical thinking
- Various therapies, interdisciplinary team interaction

Clinical Experience Skills
Needed/Performed:

- Medication administration
- Skin treatment
- Stump wrapping
- Wound care
- Tube feeding
- Supervised feeding of compromised swallowing
- Bowel programs
- Bladder scanning
- IV experience
- Transfer training

Best Days/Hours:

Observation: Tuesday
 Thursday
Experience: Wednesday
 Thursday
 Friday

Observation Only:

Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences
only:

- Dee Kaker
- dkaker@froedterthealth.org

This unit will expect the student to perform the
following during their observation/off-unit
experience:

- Dress professionally
- Come prepared with questions and objectives for the
experience.

Mental Health Center

Patient Populations served:

- Varies
- Psychiatric
- Substance abuse

Average length of stay:

5 days

Observations available:

- Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.
- Observation of the nursing process.
- Observation of the application of critical thinking
- All aspects of therapeutic community.
- Process group
- Activity group
- Occupational therapy
- Electroconvulsive therapy

Clinical Experience/ Skills
Performed:

Patient teaching 1:1
Possible assessment/intervention of patients in alcohol withdrawal

Best Days/Hours:

Monday – Friday

Prerequisites:

Senior BSN student
Completed all Med/Surg Clinical
Background in abdominal psych, interpersonal communication

Observation Only:

Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences
only:

- Judy Lark
- jlark@froedterthealth.org

This unit will expect the student to perform the
following during their observation/off-unit
experience:

- Dress professionally
- Come prepared with questions and objectives for the experience.

Occupational Health

Patient Populations served:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Employees and Corporate clients
Average length of stay:	5 minutes to 1 hour
Observations available:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.• Observation of the nursing process.• Observation of the application of critical thinking• Fitness center orientation• Physicals, health evaluation, immunization administration, weight lifting class, safety survey• Ergonomic evaluations, hearing tests, wellness committee activities• Health Fair, Point of Care cholesterol testing
Clinical Experience Skills Performed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ergonomic evaluations• Injections/Immunizations• Physical assessment• Injury treatment• Health promotion• Teaching proper lifting/body mechanics• TB skin testing• Use of critical thinking in an independent practice environment• On site Health Fairs
Best Days/Hours:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday 7:00 – 5:00• Friday 7:30 – 4:30
Specific Requirements/Skills Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical assessments• Injections• TB skin test competency
Prerequisites:	Basic theory & clinical experience
<i>Observation Only:</i> Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences only:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Karen Keyes• karen.keyes@froedterthealth.org
This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An understanding of confidentiality.• Most observations are available, however, not all on any given day.

Cancer Care Center (Outpatient)

Patient Populations served:	All ages 18 and over : no pediatric population
Average length of stay:	15 minutes to 2 hours
Observations available:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.• Observation of the nursing process.• Observation of the application of critical thinking• RN Patient Contact
Clinical Experience Skills Performed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patient exams• Patient Education• Treatments specific to medical oncology and radiation oncology.• Histories• Vitals• Oncology experience videos
Best Days/Hours:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday• 8:00 to 4:30
Perquisites:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interest in oncology
Skills needed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maturity – advanced in nursing education
<i>Observation Only:</i> Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences only:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carol Barczak• cbarczak@froedterthealth.org
This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dress professionally• Come prepared with questions and objectives for the experience.

Surgery Services

Patient Populations served:	All
Average length of stay:	20 minutes to several hours
Observations available:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.• Observation of the nursing process.• Observation of the application of critical thinking• OR: Total joints• Vascular procedures• Urology procedures• General Surgery• Ophthalmology• Some Plastic/reconstructive surgery
Clinical Experience Skills Performed:	Observation only in OR
Best Days/Hours:	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday Days
Specific Requirements/Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic infection control• Personal Protective Equipment use• Basic understanding of asepsis helpful• Orientation to department
<i>Observation Only:</i> Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences only:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kathy Palzewicz• kpalzew@froedterthealth.org
This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dress professionally• Come prepared with questions and objectives for the experience.

Nursing Administration Supervisor

Patient Populations served:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical/Surgical• Young Adult to Elderly
Average length of stay:	N/A
Observations available:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.• Observation of the nursing process.• Observation of the application of critical thinking• Patient Placement• Charge/Supervisor Role Observation
Clinical Experience Skills Performed:	N/A
Best Days/Hours:	Varies
Specific Requirements/Skills:	Students should be close to graduation
<i>Observation Only:</i> Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences only:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mary Benson• mbenson@froedterthealth.org
This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appropriately dressed• Must come with a list of objectives to meet.

Float RN

- Patient Populations served:**
- All populations
 - Work on all units – ICU, MCU, OB, 3/4/5 and ED
- Average length of stay:** Varies
- Observations available:**
- Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.
 - Observation of the nursing process.
 - Observation of the application of critical thinking
 - From day to day assignments change. The student would get exposed to many different units.
 - The nurse would also learn a lot about policy/procedure. (Since a resource nurse goes to specialized units, they need to know exactly what they can or cannot do based on hospital policy.
- Clinical Experience Skills Performed (if applicable):**
- IV
 - NG
 - Foley
 - Lab draws from lines
 - Clinical assessments
 - Doppler use
 - Bladder scans
 - Medication administration
 - Neuro assessments
- Best Days/Hours:** 0700-1930, 3 days a week
- Observation Only:***
Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences only:
- Mary Benson
 - mbenson@froedterthealth.org
- This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:
- Appropriately dressed
 - Must come with a list of objectives to meet.

Stat RN

Patient Populations served:	Young adult to Elderly
Average length of stay:	Varies
Observations available:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.• Observation of the nursing process.• Observation of the application of critical thinking• Bedside Nursing• Assisting in Procedures• Admissions• Flexing hospital to do a variety of tasks
Clinical Experience Skills Performed:	Observation only
Best Days/Hours:	Weekend only
Specific Requirements/Skills:	N/A

Observation Only:

Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences only:

- Mary Benson
- mbenson@froedterthealth.org

This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:

- Appropriately dressed
- Must come with a list of objectives to meet.

Wound/Ostomy RN

Patient Populations served:	Skin, wound, ostomy patients, in-patients and out-patients
Average length of stay:	Varies
Observations available:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.• Observation of the nursing process.• Observation of the application of critical thinking• 2 hour blocks of time are available to individual students to accompany CWOCN on patient consultants and follow-up assessment visits.
Clinical Experience Skills Performed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The nursing process and documentation of.• Assessment, diagnosis, intervention/treatment plan and evaluation
Best Days/Hours:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday• 1000-1200 or 1300-1500
Specific Requirements/Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Braden Scale Use• Wound assessment/Documentation• Knowledge of Nursing Process as it relates to the area of WOC Nursing
<i>Observation Only:</i> Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences only:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jeanne Stadler• jstadler@froedterthealth.org
This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participate in the assessment and physical care of the patient.• Appropriately dressed• Must come with a list of objectives to meet.

Diabetic Educator

Patient Populations served:	Any patient with high blood pressure
Average length of stay:	Varies
Observations available:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.• Observation of the nursing process.• Observation of the application of critical thinking• Clinical Consulting• Staff Education• Meetings• Patient Education (Minimal)• Support Group attendance
Clinical Experience Skills Performed:	N/A
Best Days/Hours:	Monday-Friday (Days)
Specific Requirements/Skills:	N/A

Observation Only:

Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences only:

- Tamara Teetzen
- tteezen@froedterthealth.org

This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:

- Appropriately dressed
- Must come with a list of objectives to meet.

