



## Arizona State Board of Nursing

1740 W Adams Street, Suite 2000, Phoenix, AZ 85007  
Phone (602) 771-7800 | Website: [www.azbn.gov](http://www.azbn.gov) |

*An advisory opinion adopted by AZBN is an interpretation of what the law requires. While an advisory opinion is not law, it is more than a recommendation. In other words, an advisory opinion is an official opinion of AZBN regarding the practice of nursing as it relates to the functions of nursing. Facility policies may restrict practice further in their setting and/or require additional expectations related to competency, validation, training, and supervision to assure the safety of their patient population and or decrease risk.*

OPINION: PRECEPTORSHIP FOR STUDENTS  
IN PRE-LICENSURE PROGRAMS  
APPROVED DATE: 5/2018  
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ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

### ADVISORY OPINION PRECEPTORSHIP FOR STUDENTS IN PRE- LICENSURE PROGRAMS

#### STATEMENT OF SCOPE

It is within the scope of practice for an experienced professional nurse to assume the role of preceptor, once they have undergone specific education/training, to facilitate and guide the individualized clinical learning of the professional nursing student from an approved nursing program. The preceptor functions under the direction of the program faculty and provides experiential clinical learning at the clinical agency where the preceptor is employed and the student is placed for the clinical experience. The preceptorship experience is guided by a written agreement with the approved nursing program and the clinical agency, which includes specific responsibilities of the Arizona State Board of Nursing (AZBN) approved professional nursing program, clinical agency, faculty, preceptor and nursing student. It is consistent with the Nurse Practice Act for programs to offer preceptorships as part of student clinical learning.

**Definition of Preceptor:** As defined in Arizona Administrative Code (“A.A.C.”) rule 4-19-101

**Definition of Preceptorship:** As defined in Arizona Administrative Code (“A.A.C.”) rule 4-19-101

#### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- I. Preceptorships have become an accepted standard of practice with many stakeholders involved; including the AZBN approved professional nursing programs, clinical agencies, faculty, preceptor, and nursing student. Clear delineation of roles and responsibilities is necessary to ensure safe patient care outcomes.
- II. Approved Professional Nursing Program
  - a. Operate within the written agreement between the program and each clinical agency as described per rules of the AZBN described within; and R4-19-206 (E).
  - b. A nursing program may provide precepted clinical instruction. Programs offering precepted clinical experiences shall:
    1. Develop and enforce policies that require preceptors to:
      - A. Be licensed nurses at or above the level of the program either by holding an Arizona license in good standing, holding multi-state privileges to practice in Arizona under A.R.S. Title 32, Chapter 15, or if practicing in a federal facility
      - B. For LPN preceptors, practice under the supervision required by A.R.S. Title 32, Chapter 15
    2. Develop and implement policies that require a faculty member of the program to:

- A. Together with faculty personnel, select preceptors that possess clinical expertise sufficient to accomplish the goals of the preceptorship; to practice in Arizona under A.R.S. Title 32, Chapter 15, or if practicing in a federal facility
  - B. Supervise the clinical instruction consistent with requirements of the Article
  - C. Maintain accountability for student education and evaluation
3. Provide direction for the preceptor and maintain written documentation of such, The orientation by faculty to a preceptorship includes, but is not limited to:
- A. Student objectives, course objectives and course outline;
  - B. Performance expectations of the student;
  - C. Assessment of student learning
  - D. Avenues of communication between the program, faculty, preceptor, clinical agency, and student;
  - E. Provide feedback to the preceptor on the effectiveness of the learning experience and their performance as a preceptor.
- c. Student Responsibilities
- 1. While learning with the preceptor, the student role expectations must not exceed the level of practice for which the student is prepared;
  - 2. Continue to follow your programs policy and procedures related to the preceptor experience
  - 3. Adhere to Arizona NPA and professional standards
  - 4. Integrate theory, knowledge, and practice in the clinical setting.
- d. Clinical Agency
- 1. Select preceptors who:
    - A. The nurse adheres to scope and standards of practice for professional nursing (Benner, 1984)
    - B. is a current employee of the clinical agency and complies with all requirements of the agency policy and procedures
  - 2. Provide relief preceptors who are similarly qualified in the absence of the primary preceptor;
  - 3. Recommend evidenced based preceptor training
- e. Preceptor
- 1. Collaborate with faculty and student at least once before the student learning experience, at the mid-point of the experience, and at the end of the learning experience to evaluate student clinical competence; and communicate concerns to faculty in a timely manner
  - 2. Provide an orientation for the student to the practice area and expectations of nursing care standards, and agency policies and procedures
  - 3. Be present and available the entire time the student is rendering patient care;
  - 4. If more than one preceptor works with the student during the preceptorship, the preceptor team collaborates to provide the faculty and student timely and appropriate feedback;

## REFERENCES

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