Background

Clinical practice refers to hours in which direct clinical care is provided to individuals, families, and populations in population-focused areas of advanced practice. Clinical practice may include skill and simulation lab hours or a community project if it includes provision of direct care. Clinical practice does not include physical assessment practice sessions, conference time or projects that do not include provision of direct care.

Policy

Clinical practice experiences should be varied and distributed in a way that prepares the graduate student to provide care to the population(s) served. Clinical experiences must be approved by advanced practice program faculty. Graduate students may not participate in clinical practice experiences in the unit/area/facility in which they are employed. A minimum of 675 clinical practice hours shall be completed by APRN graduate students in the advanced practice program.

Clinical practice requires supervision by faculty either directly or indirectly. Direct supervision occurs when advanced practice program faculty function as on-site clinical preceptors. Indirect supervision includes supplementing the clinical preceptor's teaching, acting as liaison to a community agency, and evaluating the student’s progress. Indirect supervision requires a minimum of one site visit (direct supervision) per semester by an advanced practice faculty member. Direct observation can be supplemented by telephone, videotaped sessions, online communication, and/or clinical simulations. Supervision of students may be shared with other clinicians serving as clinical preceptors; however, the advanced practice faculty are responsible for all advanced practice students in the clinical area. The faculty-student ratio in the advanced practice program should not exceed 1:6.

Faculty teaching clinical components in the advanced practice program will maintain appropriate professional credentialing and current clinical practice. Faculty teaching in the advanced practice program with less than two years recent clinical experience in the advanced practice role will be mentored in clinical and teaching opportunities by senior APRN faculty.

The advanced practice student should have a majority of clinical experiences with preceptors from the same population-focused area of practice such as child, adult, older adult or across the lifespan. The student must have clinical experiences with an advanced practice preceptor and preferably one with role and clinical expertise in the population-focused area of practice. An interdisciplinary mix of preceptors may provide student experiences to meet program objectives. However, each preceptor, both advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) and non-nurse clinicians, must be credentialed and licensed to practice in the population-focused or specialty area of practice.

Clinical sites must be evaluated by advanced practice faculty. Clinical site visits provide information about the quality of student learning experiences and forms the basis for faculty to make changes in student assignments.

Approved by SON Faculty Council, 8/21/15

Approved by Dean Kathryn Tart: Kathryn Tart Date: 10/23/15