

Developing an undergraduate preceptor model of  
practice education: Participatory action research

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Clinical teaching and learning strategies are ripe for reform as patients present with increasingly complex nursing care needs concurrent with an acute faculty shortage. A university BSN program has partnered with local hospitals throughout the practice curriculum to provide a unique clinical practice model. This model is based on level 1 preceptor assignments, which in the Nurse Practice Act of Florida require faculty to be present in the facility. The students will remain in the same practice facility for all available practice courses where they will partner with a preceptor and share their nursing care assignment. The preceptor/student assignments will permit the student to provide timely nursing care to a full assignment of patients starting at the beginning of the nursing program. Support from the preceptor that progresses in complexity at the individual student level is the basis for this program.

The preceptor will be empowered as an expert in nursing practice and recognized for their student teaching role. The nursing faculty will assume a supportive, facilitative, and resource role in this process. Participatory action research is ongoing to develop this model of nursing practice education within one specific facility and to identify what is the essential knowledge of nursing practice to be taught in the undergraduate practice curriculum.