



UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA SCHOOL OF NURSING

ALTERNATE LEARNING EXPERIENCES GUIDELINES FOR NEGOTIATING LEARNING ACTIVITIES IN YEAR 3 AND 4 BSN PRACTICE COURSES

Purposefully observing the work of healthcare professionals and participating in conferences and workshops can provide valuable learning experiences for students. Alternate Learning Experiences (ALE) are undertaken in diverse settings to create opportunities for dialogue, critical thinking, and skill and knowledge development in relation to specific practices and areas of focus (e.g., interprofessional or other team practice). ALEs are supplemental but complimentary to everyday activities of an RN in your (student) assigned placement *and* to Required Learning Assignments and Activities. To contribute to successful course completion ALEs are closely linked with course learning outcomes and an integral element of the student's evolving learning plan toward developing autonomous nursing practice.

Examples of Alternate Learning Experiences:

- Active participate in in-service education sessions offsite and open to agency staff
- Active participation in workshops or conferences sessions
- Active participate in interprofessional rounds and educational opportunities
- Purposeful observation of healthcare team members' activities outside student's assigned setting (e.g. counsellor, physician, specialty or advanced practice nurse)
- Purposeful observation of procedures and diagnostics

Requirements:

ALEs require specific preparation. The following requirements must be met:

- The activity is relevant to course learning outcomes and individual foci of learning;
- Your progress toward developing autonomous nursing practice will be enhanced by the ALE;
- Will not interfere with your ability to meet course requirements;
- Follow up analysis is integrated into your practice appraisal; and
- A legal affiliation exists with the relevant agency (confirmed by Practica Coordinator)

Discuss your proposed ALE with the School of Nursing course educator. The ALE may qualify toward fulfilling required course hours; this will be determined by the course educator, who consults with site and/or agency leaders as necessary to arrange details of the experience.

Island Health Policy:

You may be invited by Island Health employee to purposely observe various procedures and/or advance your competence in a specific nursing activity. In such cases, arrange the observational opportunity in consultation with the UVic course educators and relevant agency leader(s) and UVic. To discuss an opportunity for which a pre-existing invitation does not exist, contact a Practica Coordinator (Heather Ulmer hulmer@uvic.ca) and cc UVic course educator).

Students may use this form to prepare their proposal.

Student Name:

Student Number:

Current Year in Program:

Clinical Course Number:

Proposed Experience:

Date(s) and Hours:

Hours:

In courses with required hours, the recommended maximum hours for ALEs are approximately 7% of the total number of required practice hours per course.

1. Describe the nature of the proposed ALE (include length of time commitment).
2. State your learning goals or desired outcome(s) from the proposed ALE. Specify the relevance of the ALE to meeting course and personal learning goals and developing your autonomous nursing practice. Describe your strategies for engaging actively during the ALE. *Remember to share your learning goals with the relevant agency staff.*
3. Describe how you will follow up, e.g., update ELP and integrate into PAF, contribute to peer learning, contribute to a staff learning opportunity.