



## UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA SCHOOL OF NURSING

### ALTERNATE LEARNING EXPERIENCES GUIDELINES FOR NEGOTIATING HOURS FOR 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 to everyday activities of an RN in the student's assigned placement *and* to engagement in Required Learning Assignments and Activities. They contribute to successful course completion by being closely linked with course learning outcomes and by being an integral element of the student's evolving learning plan.

#### ***Examples of Alternate Learning Experiences (as permitted by site leaders):***

- In-service education sessions open to placement site staff
- Workshops or conferences sessions
- Team or unit meetings
- Interprofessional rounds and educational opportunities
- Observing procedures and diagnostics

#### ***Hours:***

The recommended maximum hours for ALEs are approximately 7% of the total number of required practice hours for each course. This is a maximum of 12 hours in each of NURS 370, NURS 470, NURS 475, & NURS 491. This is approximately 6 hours in NURS 456.

#### ***Requirements:***

The final decision to replace scheduled practice hours with an ALE is made at the discretion of the course instructor, in consultation with site leaders. Therefore, a student thoughtfully negotiates an ALE with their instructor. ALEs may require specific preparation. The following requirements must be met:

- The activity is relevant to course learning outcomes and student's learning plan/map;
- The student's progress will be enhanced by the ALE;
- The required course hours will be met; and
- Follow up analysis is appropriately incorporated into the PAF.

#### ***Island Health Policy:***

A student may be invited by Island Health employee to purposely observe various procedures and/or advance their competence in a specific nursing activity. In such cases, the observational opportunity is arranged in consultation with the unit leader(s) and UVIC faculty. To arrange an

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opportunity for which a pre-existing invitation does not exist, contact the Practica Coordinator ([dmacleod@uvic.ca](mailto:dmacleod@uvic.ca); cc instructor), who will make a formal request via HSPnet.