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 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 practice). These experiences may contribute to new learning as well as consolidation of practice. They contribute to successful course completion by being closely linked with course ends in view/learning outcomes and by being an integral element of the student’s evolving learning plan. Alternate Learning Experiences are supplemental to everyday activities of an RN in the student’s assigned placement and in addition to Required Learning Activities and Assignments.

Hours: Practice courses have different requirements in terms of number of hours, purposes, and ends in view/learning outcomes. The recommended maximum hours for Alternate Learning Activities are approximately 7% of the total number of required practice hours for each course. This amounts to a maximum of 12 hours in each of NURS 370, NURS 470, NURS 475, & NURS 491. This amounts to approximately 6 hours in NURS 456.

Requirements: The final decision to replace scheduled practice hours with an Alternate Learning Experience is made at the discretion of the course instructor, in consultation with site leaders. Therefore, a student thoughtfully negotiates an Alternate Learning Experience with their instructor. The following requirements must be met:
- A Legal Affiliation Agreement is in place with the agency;
- The Alternate Learning Activity is relevant to course ends in view/learning outcomes and student’s learning plan/map;
- The student’s progress will be enhanced by the Alternate Learning Activity; and
- The required course hours will be met (see Hours).

The Student:
- Discusses the rationale for the Alternate Learning Experience, including how the Experience contributes to meeting a specific learning goal(s) that is consistent with course ends-in-view/learning outcomes;
- Prepares for purposefully observing. Decisions about the nature and extent of engagement are in accordance with the usual BSN scope of practice decision-making guidelines (See UVIC BSN Student Scope of Practice Decision-Making Part 1 and Part 2);
- Applies to undertake the Alternate Learning Experience in accordance with agency and placement site requirements;
- Seeks and receives performance feedback from healthcare professionals; and
-Undertakes with their instructor a post-session description, discussion, or other demonstration of learning in relation to goals met.

**Alternate Learning Experiences in Island Health:** Island Health Leaders keep records of staff activities and must be able to locate all staff and students on site. Thus, requests to undertake an Alternate Learning Experience outside of a student’s assigned placement must be submitted by the student (complete the Alternate Learning Experiences in Island Health application form; cc course instructor) to the Undergraduate Practica Assistant (nursprac@uvic.ca), who registers the request in HSPnet. There may be a time lag in processing some requests. Occasionally, alternate learning opportunities arise unexpectedly or the CPE Coordinator/Co-Coordinator will direct the instructor and student to contact an Island Health leader directly to register the request in HSPnet and finalize their arrangements. If so, the instructor and student attend to the requirements listed in this guideline.

*(Revision: December 2017)*