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**FACULTY OF HEALTH STUDIES**

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<b>Subject:</b>	Practicum Placements	<b>Date:</b>	October 23, 2018
<b>Department:</b>	Psychiatric Nursing	<b>Revised:</b>	Dec. 2018, Oct. 2021
<b>Program:</b>	Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing	<b>Approved at Faculty Council:</b>	Nov. 29, 2021

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**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of a Practicum Placement is to provide students with an experience that integrates knowledge, skills, clinical judgment, and the professional nursing role in an area of Psychiatric Nursing. The goal is for students to strengthen entry level competencies; therefore, placements in highly specialized areas requiring additional training will not be considered.

**POLICY:**

1. Students will not be permitted to take personal leave (vacation, family events, etc.) during practicum placements.
2. Students will be required to notify the Clinical Placement Coordinator of:
  - 2.1. areas/units where they are currently or have been employed in the last 3 years
  - 2.2. areas/units where family members are employed
  - 2.3. areas/units where self or family members are receiving care

The Clinical Placement Coordinators, in consultation with the Course Faculty will determine an appropriate placement with this information in mind.

3. Missed clinical hours will need to be made up in order for students to achieve the required number of hours for the course.
4. With courses designed for students to be in the clinical area full time, students are expected to take a Leave of Absence from regular employment to maintain health, keep stress at manageable levels, and to ensure that they can meet clinical expectations of the practicum.

**PROCEDURE:**

The following process is followed for practicum placements:

1. For Integrated Practice I, Medical Nursing for Psychiatric Nurses, and Integrated Practice II, the Course Faculty will assign students to a group at a designated clinical site.
2. In preparation for Integrated Practice III and the Integrative Clinical Practicum, a meeting will be held well in advance with all eligible students. The meeting will be arranged by the Clinical Placement Coordinators at a suitable time and will be used to provide an overview of the planning process.
3. Students will complete the Practicum Placement Form for Integrated Practice III and Integrative Clinical Practicum to identify areas of interest and provide rationale for their choices.
4. Once the Practicum Placement Elective Forms for Integrated Practice III and Integrative Clinical Practicum are submitted, the Clinical Placement Coordinator initiates formal placement requests to the agencies/sites.
5. For Integrated Practice III and Integrative Clinical Practicum, the Clinical Placement Coordinator will discuss student requests with Course Faculty. Field Instructors/Faculty Advisors will be assigned once the majority of placements have been confirmed. Additional placement details will be provided to course faculty and students once the placement is confirmed.
6. The Clinical Placement Coordinator will make all arrangements for clinical placements. Students will not be responsible for making these arrangements themselves.