

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING
3.8.1.a. EDUCATION GUIDELINE
Selection of Clinical Affiliating Agencies

Revised: 7/10/20

Criteria for Clinical Settings:

Rules 214.10(b) and 215.10(b) place the responsibility on the faculty for developing criteria for the selection of affiliating agencies/clinical facilities or clinical practice settings that address safety and the opportunity for students to achieve the program outcomes and course objectives through the practice of nursing care and observation experiences. Criteria for clinical sites include:

- Client census in sufficient numbers for students to meet clinical objectives, and
- Evidence of collaborative arrangements for scheduling clinical rotations with those facilities that support multiple nursing programs.

Faculty are also responsible for evaluating whether the affiliating agencies/clinical facilities or clinical practice settings provide students with opportunities to achieve the goals of the program.

Faculty are encouraged to be creative in selecting clinical sites and experiences for their students, and to plan alternate sites when other scheduling is prohibited. Selection of clinical sites should be based on established program, course, or clinical objectives/outcomes and ongoing evaluation of students' learning needs. Many sites beyond the traditional use of hospital units and nursing homes should be considered, i.e., child and adult day care centers, senior citizens groups, homeless shelters, clinics, schools, correctional facilities.

The following questions are EXAMPLES of questions that should be considered in the selection and evaluation of clinical sites:

1. Does the facility offer an appropriate client variation to allow students to achieve course objectives on a daily and weekly basis?
2. Does the facility's average daily patient/client census provide adequate numbers of patients/clients to provide a quality clinical experience for each student assigned to the facility?
3. What is the facility's accreditation status?
4. Are clearly written facility policies and procedures readily available?
5. Does the facility nursing staff model appropriate nursing behaviors?
6. Does the facility's staffing pattern provide adequate staff to ensure patient/client safety?
7. If the facility is shared with other education programs, is there a clearly understood collaborative arrangement between entities?
8. Will the facility staff and resources accommodate multiple education programs?
9. Is there a positive attitude among staff toward nursing students on the unit?

Important: Please be aware that references to Rules 214 and 215 are not all inclusive.