**La Crosse Region Dedicated Education Unit Expectations**

A Dedicated Education Unit (DEU) is one unit of a health care facility devoted entirely to nursing students from a single nursing program and staffed by a consistent group of nurses who are provided professional development as educators.

**History of La Crosse Region DEUs**

* Discussion of developing the area’s first DEU began in 2012.
* Three schools of nursing were involved in these discussions: Viterbo University (Viterbo), Western Technical College (Western) and Winona State University (WSU).
* Fall 2013, WSU began the first DEU pilot with 8 students on 7th Medical unit at Mayo Clinic Health System – Franciscan Healthcare (MCHS).
* Over the next four semesters, all three schools shared the DEU on 7th Medical at MCHS. Western and Viterbo continued with the traditional clinical model, while WSU utilized the DEU clinical model.
* Beginning fall 2015, 7th Medical at MCHS transitioned to use of the DEU model only, and all three schools shared the unit in a hybrid DEU format.
* Summer of 2017, Gundersen Health System (GHS) started a DEU on Cardio-Pulmonary. Western students piloted the DEU during summer and Viterbo and WSU joined in fall 2017, creating another hybrid DEU unit.
* Beginning spring 2018, WSU began a DEU unit on GHS’s Surgical-Digestive unit. This led to the transition of each DEU being assigned to one individual school vs. three schools sharing a DEU in the hybrid format.
* With three DEUs now available in La Crosse, it was decided that each school would have their own DEU unit vs. sharing the units.
  + GHS Cardio-Pulm – Western
  + GHS Surg-Dig – WSU
  + Mayo 7th Medical – Viterbo
* In fall 2020, GHS will implement a DEU on their Neuro unit for Viterbo.
* In spring 2021, Mayo will implement a DEU on 9th Medical for Western.
* In fall 2021, GHS will implement a DEU on a unit yet to be determined for WSU.

**Parameters for DEU unit**

* All students should have had at least one semester of acute care, prior to being on the DEU.
* Capstone is allowed for all schools after the initial first semester of a DEU opening.
* Important to have a full time faculty person to be the contact for the unit to strengthen relationships with staff RNs and have a consistent contact for the unit.
* Any new faculty teaching in DEU model will participate in a staff DEU training as soon as available. In the interim, other trained DEU faculty will provide mentorship.
* Schools assist students to self-schedule for shifts and sends the schedule to the scheduler/unit the week before.
* Units make best effort to schedule students with staff RNs that have completed DEU training. However it is not always possible in the initial stages until everyone is trained.
* 1:1 ratio needed for student/DEU trained RN (no other orientees or students with them)
* Units determine capacity for students per shift – (example 3 day, 3 PM, 1 night)
* Staff RNs complete DEU training
* Leadership team on each unit will be responsible for identifying a contact person for the DEU schools.
* Leadership team on each until will be responsible for providing transition mentorship to DEU unit leadership to ensure the DEU is sustainable and has positive buy in from unit staff moving forward.

**The DEU Student will:**

* Complete facility’s orientation, including introduction to EHR and medication administration, prior to starting clinical.
* Complete orientation to unit as determined by clinical faculty.
* Arrive on unit at least 30 minutes prior to start of shift, and is expected to complete the entire assigned shift with assigned preceptor. No overtime past shift end is allowed.
* Contact unit and assigned faculty if they are going to be late or if they are unable to attend clinical as assigned, prior to shift.
* Review preceptor assignment and prepare accordingly.
* Share their goal(s) with assigned preceptor at beginning of shift.
* Participate in designated clinical hours with preceptor(s) supervision and mentoring as a novice professional including good work habits, professional communication, safe and evidence-based nursing practice.
* Prepare for medication administration and implementation of nursing interventions/procedures prior to completion of task.
* Initiate Shift Summary form and is responsible to have form completed by shift end, in collaboration with assigned preceptor.
* Document appropriate assessments, medication, interventions, and nursing cares in congruence with unit expectations in EHR.
* Prior to leaving shift:
  + Have all charting reviewed and signed by DEU Preceptor
  + Provide SBAR report to staff nurse at end of shift
* Complete an anonymous online survey, after the last day of the DEU clinical rotation.

**The DEU Preceptor will:**

* Collaborate with student to determine appropriate assignment of patient(s).
* Facilitate student’s achievement of shift goal(s).
* Model professional nursing role by demonstrating clinical competency and best practices in care, therapeutic communication and leadership skills.
* Assist in providing opportunities for skill development including technical, assessment and communication skills with members of the health care team.
* Supervise student’s patient care.
* Review and co-sign student documentation as necessary.
* Directly supervise **all** medication administration, IVs (including IV pump operation) and technical skills.
* Mentor the student in critical thinking skills and decision making abilities by questioning their priorities, concerns and thinking about what may be going on with their patient.
* Collaborate with the student throughout the shift and through the clinical experience, making use of teachable moments.
* Provide feedback to the student throughout the shift and through completion of Shift Summary form (in collaboration with student).
* Contact assigned clinical faculty regarding any concerns/questions about student performance.
* Collaborate with clinical faculty regarding students’ performance and progression.
* Provide SBAR to student who may start shift later than nurse (12 hour shift and student 8 hour shift)

**The DEU Clinical Faculty Coordinator:**

Engage in DEU collaboration:

* Faculty, who are teaching in the DEU model, are active participants/members of the DEU subcommittee coordinated through the Consortium.
* Collaboratively provide DEU preceptor training for preceptors prior to start of clinical experience (currently held in August).
  + New faculty will attend the joint DEU preceptor training.
  + Experienced faculty will participate in the DEU preceptor training.
* Annually review model’s effectiveness. (Formal – surveys, informal - discussion)

Student orientation:

* Provide DEU clinical model orientation for students prior to start of clinical rotation.
* Guide student in completing appropriate onboarding/orientation materials, including EHR and medication administration, prior to start of clinical.
* In collaboration with unit staff, provide orientation to unit, including unit routine, review common medical diagnoses, medications, general equipment and any specialty equipment associated with units.

During DEU clinical rotation:

* Meet the student(s) on the unit for the first clinical day of the student(s). Does not need to stay the entire shift, however, it is at the discretion of the faculty.
* Collaborate with student(s) to develop clear student goal(s) using the shift summary tool to guide the experience.
* Perform site/DEU preceptor visits on the majority of student shifts.
* If appropriate while on site visit, assist student with patient care, assessments, medication administration, etc., in collaboration with the DEU preceptor.
* If not physically present, remain available via technology (via pager, phone or e-mail) at times when students are present on the patient care unit.
* Evaluate student’s performance in collaboration with preceptor and student using respective academic school’s student performance form.

After DEU clinical rotation is completed:

* Provide students with online link to DEU Satisfaction Survey
* Provide recognition to preceptors.



*Developed by the La Crosse Medical Health Science Consortium’s Dedicated Education Unit (DEU) Committee. Partners include: Gundersen Health System, Mayo Clinic Health System – Franciscan Healthcare, Viterbo University, Western Technical College and Winona State University 7-23-2020*