

# UConn

<b>Title</b>	Pre-Licensure Programs Clinical Assignment Policy 1.29
<b>Policy Owner</b>	SON Pre-Licensure Program Leadership
<b>Applies to</b>	All students in the SON Pre-Licensure program eligible to receive clinical assignments
<b>Campus Applicability</b>	Storrs, Stamford, Waterbury and Avery Point
<b>Approval Date</b>	11-04-2024
<b>Effective Date</b>	11-04-2024
<b>For More Information Contact</b>	Associate Dean Academic Affairs – Undergraduate Program
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<b>Official Website</b>	Nursing.uconn.edu

## BACKGROUND

Nursing education includes extensive hands-on experience in the on-campus lab and simulation setting as well as direct patient care in the off-campus healthcare agencies. The University of Connecticut School of Nursing Pre-Licensure programs provide clinical experiences in both on and off campus settings. These settings are both equally important to the process of learning clinical skills and judgement. Onsite lab and simulation experiences will occur at the assigned campus simulation center. Offsite experiences are assigned in settings where healthcare is provided, within a 75-mile travel distance from the home campus. Clinical assignments can take place days/evenings/weekends depending on clinical agency preference and accessibility of clinical sites. Additionally, there are rare occasions when an unanticipated, unexpected event may happen that will necessitate late notification of clinical site changes. Clinical coordinators will keep students informed, as reasonable, of any unexpected changes.

## PURPOSE

To ensure clarity in student understanding of the clinical assignment process and the fluid nature of clinical placements.

## APPLIES TO

This policy applies to all nursing students in the pre-licensure program who are eligible to participate in clinical learning in **On and Off CAMPUS CLINICAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES**.

## DEFINITIONS

**Clinical Experience:** Per the Ct Board of Examiners of Nursing (BOEN); *supervised direct client care experiences, observational experiences and simulated experiences appropriate to the program's educational outcomes, and laboratory experiences for the acquisition and practice of clinical nursing skills*

**On campus clinical experiences:** Clinical experiences in an on-campus lab and/or simulation space.

**Off campus clinical experiences:** Clinical experiences offered in settings where healthcare is provided. These experiences are negotiated with clinical agencies and are subject to change based on the patient/staff needs at the agency. The SON does not have a guarantee for these

placements. Students are guests in the agency and the placements are subject to change based on agency discretion.

**Clinical Placements:** Negotiated use of clinical locations in regional healthcare agencies. Clinical sites are negotiated with the agency based on their staffing and patient census. While all clinical placements are contracted with the agency, these assignments are subject to changes based on agency discretion. Clinical placements may also be modified or changed if there are any unexpected changes to faculty availability. Additionally, depending upon the clinical agency, onboarding requirements may vary at each clinical site. Student to Faculty ratios in the agencies are guided by The Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing. However, healthcare agencies may further decrease that ratio at their discretion.

**Clinical Placement Assignments:** Assignments given to individual students for a specific clinical course. These can be at any healthcare agency contracted with the SON on any day at any time, including evenings and weekends, based on the agency and faculty availability. Changes in clinical assignments could occur right up to the assigned clinical day as well as during the semester due to unanticipated reasons such as agency changes, life events for faculty, etc. The School of Nursing reserves the right to make final decision regarding clinical assignments and to modify such clinical assignments to facilitate the student's completion of the course objectives.

**Declaration of Schedule Survey:** A survey that is sent to students to submit conflicts with potential university recognized schedules (military obligations, religious observances, UConn endorsed extracurricular activities)\_Documentation must accompany these requests as noted in the survey.

**Smart Match Process** Students are given the opportunity to enter clinical preferences in the CORE Elms system. The Smart Match process in CORE ELMS takes their submitted preferences into account when assigning schedules.

**Smart Match Attestation:** *"I acknowledge that there is no guarantee that I will be placed at one of my selected, preferred clinical sites. I understand that I may be placed at a clinical site that is not on my preferred list."*

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

Students in the prelicensure programs are given **clinical assignments** at the start of each semester in which the student is learning in the clinical environment. Students have an opportunity to enter requests for specific clinical settings, days or times in CORE Elms. However, with the fluid nature of clinical placements, no request is guaranteed. Once clinical assignments are arranged there is no switching. Students are expected to honor the clinical placement process and at no time will they individually reach out to any health care facility to ask for a placement. This could be in violation of our contract with a clinical agency and will be considered a PRAXIS violation.

## **ENFORCEMENT**

Violations of this policy may result in appropriate disciplinary measures in accordance with University By-Laws, General Rules of Conduct for All University Employees, applicable collective bargaining agreements, and the University of Connecticut Student Code.

## **PROCEDURES/FORMS**

/Faculty/By-Laws Policies and Procedures for SON/Academic-Policies/Academic Policies

## REFERENCES

## POLICY HISTORY

**Policy created:** 07-31-2024 *Approved by the FFM 11-4-2024*

**Revisions:**