



Bismarck State College • Dakota College at Bottineau • Lake Region State College • Williston State College

Preceptor FAQs

1. *What are the expectations of preceptors in the Dakota Nursing Program (DNP)?*

Preceptors are asked to be role models and assist the student to learn time management, critical reasoning and prioritization of care.

2. *What qualifications do I have to have to be a preceptor?*

We require that you:

- Have an active and unencumbered RN license
- Have worked in the same area of clinical practice for a minimum of one year
- Have a willingness to participate in the preceptorship program
- Can provide validation of quality performance (positive referral from nurse manager if requested)

3. *Are there any legalities to being a preceptor?*

The student is accountable for his or her own actions. Students have malpractice insurance and the college has a contract with all agencies participating in the preceptorship that addresses student activity during the clinical experiences. However, the preceptor is bound by their own professional decisions in terms of nursing care delegated to the student nurse. Even after competency is verified, delegation requires supervision. The preceptor must confirm that the outcome of any delegated task meets required standards. The nurse delegating an aspect of care has a continuing responsibility to reassess the student's competency in providing safe and effective care, monitor the patient's response, and evaluate the situation for further action. Should your delegation fall outside the scope of prudent decision making you should share in the liability of the consequences of such a decision as you would in delegating to any other team member.

By the time a student begins a preceptorship he/she should be prepared to take on any nursing care responsibilities that may be delegated to a graduate nursing student. Questions regarding what a student may or may not do during a preceptorship should be immediately directed to the instructor. Safety and communication are vital for a successful clinical experience. If the preceptor has concerns about the safety of a student's practice, please contact the instructor immediately. The instructor is on call for you and for the student nurse, via phone or email visits.

4. *What is the student required to do on a daily basis?*

The student will follow your daily routine and perform as a nurse under your supervision.

5. *Can I correct the student if a skill is performed incorrectly?*

Yes, the preceptor role is to guide the student in both knowledge and skill development.

6. *What do I do if the student is not safely performing skills?*

If the student cannot safely perform nursing skills under your direction, please contact the college faculty you have been working with ASAP.

7. *Is there a faculty contact and if so who is it?*

You will be contacted by a member of the nursing faculty from the college before the start of the preceptorship and given contact information. Your faculty contact will also check in with you during the preceptor week.

8. *Will I be evaluating the student at the end of the preceptorship?*

Yes, you will be given an evaluation to complete and return to the nursing faculty.

9. *What if I want to give more information than the evaluation asks for?*

We are happy to accept all information you can provide. Please add additional comments to the end of the evaluation.

10. *Will my evaluation affect the student's graduation?*

The Dakota Nursing Program wants all students to be safe in their performance as a nurse. The preceptors input is another tool in evaluating the readiness of the student to independently perform as a nurse.