



# Using the Clinical Learning Environment Inventory (CLEI) to Compare Nursing Student Satisfaction with Clinical Settings

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## METHODS & INSTRUMENT

## DISCUSSION

### BACKGROUND:

Clinical learning environment (CLE) includes the physical space, psychosocial and interaction factors, organizational culture, and teaching and learning components (Flott & Linden, 2016).

Student satisfaction in the working and learning environment is important in performance, desire to continue in the profession, and retention of new graduate nurses (Lovecchio, Dimattio, & Hudacek, 2015).

Dedicated Education Unit (DEU) is a nursing unit with a mission to assist in the development of nursing students.

### PURPOSE

Compare how experiences in hospital clinical sites affect prelicensure nursing student satisfaction with the CLE using the Clinical Learning Environment Inventory (CLEI).

Prelicensure BSN nursing students in medical-surgical inpatient units. 8 students per 1 on-site clinical instructor. Students worked with staff nurses for one clinical day a week for about 13 weeks. Fall 2017 to Spring 2019

CLEI is 42-item questionnaire with positive and negative worded questions with Likert scale options: *Strongly disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly agree* scored 1 to 4. Higher score = higher satisfaction  
Subscales include Individualization, Innovation, Involvement, Personalization, Task Orientation and an overall outcome of student Satisfaction (Chan, 2002).

### RESULTS (SPSS® statistics software version 25.0)

N = 329; 7 clinical sites, 2 dedicated education units (DEUs)  
CLEI Cronbach's alpha: good reliability .809

One-way ANOVA to explore the impact of clinical site on student satisfaction with the clinical experience measured by the CLEI.

- A statistically significant difference at the  $p < .05$  level was found between 2 clinical sites.
- Eta squared calculated at .0589

Lowest scores were in the areas of:  
Innovation

- Students do the same tasks every shift
  - Preceptor talks rather than listens
- Individualization

- Preceptor decides student activities on unit
- Students don't have a say in how the shift is spent

Highest scores were in the areas of:  
Involvement

- Students put effort into their work
- Students pay attention to what others are saying

Personalization

- The instructor talks individually with students
- The instructor is friendly and considerate towards students

## CONCLUSIONS

- Student satisfaction scores varied by only 8.5 points
- Effect size was slightly less than medium (Cohen's classification)
- Lower mean satisfaction score for DEU versus non-DEU was an unexpected finding

### RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

Is there a difference in nursing students' satisfaction with learning experiences between clinical sites?

Do DEU clinical sites differ from other clinical sites in students' satisfaction with learning experiences?

What are the most important areas of students' clinical learning experiences that impacted satisfaction with a clinical site?

Clinical site	Mean score	Std Deviation	Min	Max
Site 0	126.5	12.6	84	156
Site 1	131.4	10.3	108	154
Site 2	130.5	11.4	103	163
Site 3	127.3	15.6	93	145
Site 4	134.0	8.4	112	149
Site 5	135.1	15.9	95	154
Site 6	133.8	15.9	109	154
Total sites	129.6	12.5	84	163

Subscale	Mean	Cronbach's alpha
Individualization	2.9	.59
Innovation	2.8	.64
Satisfaction	3.2	.40
Involvement	3.3	.16*
Personalization	3.3	.14
Task Orientation	3.1	.70

\*only 3 items in subscale

### References:

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- Lovecchio, C. P., DiMattio, M, J, K., & Hudacek, S. (2015). Predictors of undergraduate nursing student satisfaction with clinical learning environment: A secondary analysis. *Nursing Education Perspectives*, 36(4), 252-254. Doi: 10.5480/13-1266.