Preceptor Evaluation of Graduate Nursing Students' Clinical Learning in Ghana

Nancy Innocentia Ebu Enyan, PhD, MN, BSN, SRN, FWACN, FGCNM
Andrews Adjei Druye, PhD
Jerry Paul Ninnoni, PhD, MBA, RMN
Christiana Okantey, MPhil, SRN, BA, FWACN, FGCNM
Evelyn Asamoah Ampofo, PhD, MPhil, BA, RM, SRN
Anna Hayfron-Benjamin, MN, BSc, RN, PaedN
Patience Fakornam Doe, SRN, BA, PGDE, MPH
Richard Sarfo-Walters, MN, BSc, RN

(1)School of Nursing and Midwifery in the Department of Adult Health Nursing, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana
(2)School of Nursing and Midwifery, Department of Adult Health Nursing, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana
(3)School of Nursing and Midwifery, Department of Mental Health Nursing, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana
(4)School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana
(5)School of Nursing and Midwifery, Department of Maternal and Child Health, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana
(6)School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana
(7)School of Nursing and Midwifery, Adult Health Nursing, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana

Purpose:
Preceptor evaluation is embedded in nursing education (Allen, & Molloy, 2017; Nielsen, Lasater, & Stock, 2016). It constitutes a critical component of nursing students learning both in the classroom and clinical placement (Helminen, Coco, Johnson, Turunen, & Tossavainen, 2016; McQueen, Poole, Raynak, & McQueen, 2018). This type of evaluation of nursing students may inform faculty of the additional learning needs students may require. The study intended to describe preceptor’s evaluation of graduate nursing students’ ability to translate knowledge, communicate and demonstrate professionalism during clinical placements in varied health facilities in Ghana.

Methods:
A total population sampling was conducted with all the preceptors involved in the training of Master of Science in Advance Nursing practice students in Ghana. An adapted preceptor evaluation tool was used to gather relevant data for the study (Berbarie, nd). Data were analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (version 22.0; IBM Corporation, Armonk, NY, USA) and summarized using frequencies and percentages.

Results:
Out of 83 preceptors across the country, 73(87.9%) correctly submitted evaluation forms for their students. The findings show that the student’s ability to translate knowledge was adequate (97.3%); they communicated effectively (90.4%) and demonstrated high degree of
professionalism (93.2%) during clinical placement. The preceptors were satisfied with working with the graduate students.

**Conclusion:**
Ultimately, our study has revealed that preceptors are satisfied with the performance of graduate students’ clinical placement. The ability of the graduate nurse to demonstrate professionalism, effectively communicate and translate theoretical knowledge to practice was high which will eventually impact positively on patient care outcomes. Our findings highlight the prospects for our programme and its products, with overall impact of better healthcare outcomes. Given the role of preceptors as demonstrated, there is the need for faculty to continue to strengthen the faculty-preceptor relationship and build on current approaches used in clinical training of students.

---

**Title:**
Preceptor Evaluation of Graduate Nursing Students' Clinical Learning in Ghana

**Keywords:**
Ghana, Preceptor evaluation and nursing students

**Abstract Summary:**
Preceptors play a critical role in enhancing the learning experiences of nursing students. This study intends to describe faculty engagement with preceptors in knowledge translation and enhancing professionalism in graduate nursing students to improve clinical outcomes.

**References:**

**First Primary Presenting Author**
Nancy Innocentia Ebu Enyan, PhD, MN, BSN, SRN, FWACN, FGCNM
University of Cape Coast
School of Nursing and Midwifery in the Department of Adult Health Nursing
Lecturer, Clinical Faculty
Cape Coast
Ghana

Author Summary: This author has been a nurse for many years and a lecturer and clinical faculty member at University of Cape Coast as well. She has played an active role in development of the international program with Grand Valley State University, planning clinical activities and lectures.

Second Author
Andrews Adjei Druye, PhD
University of Cape Coast
School of Nursing and Midwifery, Department of Adult Health Nursing
Lecturer
Cape Coast
Ghana

Author Summary: A PhD scholar and lecturer at the university of cape coast School of nursing and Midwifery. Research interests include home management of Sickle Cell disease and other chronic disease. A Victoria University of Wellington Scholar.

Third Author
Jerry Paul Ninnoni, PhD, MBA, RMN
University of Cape Coast
School of Nursing and Midwifery, Department of Mental Health Nursing
Lecturer
Cape Coast
Ghana

Author Summary: Jerry is a registered Mental Health Nurse and a faculty member at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Cape Coast. He is actively involved in Mental Health Advocacy in Ghana.

Fourth Author
Christiana Okantey, MPhil, SRN, BA, FWACN, FGCNM
University of Cape Coast
School of Nursing and Midwifery
Lecturer
Cape Coast
Ghana

Author Summary: She is a lecturer who has taught adult nursing in both the Nursing Training College and the University. As an adult health nurse, she believes that the health of adults is inextricably linked to that of children. This accounts for her interest in seeking the welfare of children as well.

Fifth Author
Evelyn Asamoah Ampofo, PhD, MPhil, BA, RM, SRN  
University of Cape Coast  
School of Nursing and Midwifery, Department of Maternal and Child Health  
Lecturer  
Ghana  

**Author Summary:** Evelyn is a Registered Nurse and Midwife. She is also a faculty member of the University of Cape Coast Maternal and Child Health Department. Evelyn is a PhD scholar from the University of Alberta, Canada.

Sixth Author  
Anna Hayfron-Benjamin, MN, BSc, RN, PaedN  
University of Cape Coast  
School of Nursing and Midwifery,  
Lecturer  
Department of Maternal and Child Health  
Cape Coast  
Ghana  

**Author Summary:** Anna is a Registered nurse and a nurse faculty at the University of Cape Coast, School of Nursing and Midwifery. She is also a paediatric nurse specialist and a prescriber for the HIV/STI management. She is a national trainer for HTC and PMTCT.

Seventh Author  
Patience Fakornam Doe, SRN, BA, PGDE, MPH  
University of Cape Coast  
School of Nursing and Midwifery, Department of Adult Health Nursing  
Lecturer, Clinical Faculty  
Cape Coast  
Ghana  

**Author Summary:** Faculty member at University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast Ghana working with undergraduate students. A professional nurse and public health practitioner with twenty-three years of work experience in the Ghana Health Service, nursing education and jobs related to maternal and child health promotion. Has been involved actively in planning and leading activities with Grand Valley State University students for a number of years. Currently an PhD student at University of Cape Coast.

Eighth Author  
Richard Sarfo-Walters, MN, BSc, RN  
University of Cape Coast  
School of Nursing and Midwifery, Adult Health Nursing  
Lecturer  
Cape Coast  
Ghana
Author Summary: Richard is a Registered Nurse and a Nurse Anaesthetist. He is also a faculty member at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Department of Adult Health Nursing at the University of Cape Coast.