Benefits of Collaborative Practice Partnership: 
A Capstone Experience in Perioperative Setting 
Deborah Ambrosio Mawhirter EdD, RN, & Theresa Criscitelli, EdD, RN, CNOR

Overview

Based on a shortage of perioperative nurses, an academic practice partnership was established between Adelphi University College of Nursing and Public Health and Winthrop University Hospital to collaboratively develop a Perioperative Capstone experience in which students explore the social, economic and political context in which professional nurses provide care.

Purpose

The purpose of the educational experience is to immerse the novice nurse into the culture and the role of the perioperative nurse. Preparing students to practice/function in this setting prior to graduation.

Benefits

- Development of practice partnership to advance the future of nursing practice
- Provides experiential learning in a unique setting for capstone students
- Institutional cost saving related to recruitment, retention and orientation
- Marketability for student after graduation
- Development of mentoring relationship between student and preceptor
- Students are qualified for the Perioperative Fellowship Program

“Learning is the process whereby knowledge is created through the transformation of experience” — Kolb (1984)

Design

- 176 clinical hours
- Preceptor education, Expert Clinician Preceptors
- Faculty Support from Academic Partner
- Institutional commitment to students learning experiences
- Student interviews, GPA requirements
- Development of:
  - Perioperative Specific learning objectives
  - Competences

Evaluation

- Student Daily Logs
- Student Weekly goals
- Self-Reflection
- Capstone grading rubric
- Student Survey results

Model Development

- Needs assessment
- Brainstorm
- Practice partnership
- Development of competencies
- Experiential learning
- Student learning goals
- Eligibility for entry into employment

Discussion

The program allows students to work in a complex and technologically advanced area, gain familiarity in the OR, acquire knowledge and gaining confidence to transition into the role of the Perioperative nurse and develops critical thinking skills.

The internship program provides student growth opportunity to determine if the student is a good-fit for the Perioperative environment yielding institutional cost saving related to orientation.

References