

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING
3.8.1.a. EDUCATION GUIDELINES
Selection of Clinical Affiliating Agencies

Revised: 01/02/2013

Rule 214.10 sets forth the requirements for selecting clinical affiliating agencies in vocational nursing education programs. Rule 215.10 sets forth the requirements for selecting clinical affiliating agencies in pre-licensure professional nursing education programs.

<p>Rule 214.10(b) related to <i>Clinical Learning Experiences</i> requires that "Faculty shall develop criteria for the selection of affiliating agencies/clinical facilities or clinical practice settings which address safety and the need for students to achieve the program outcomes (goals) and course objectives through the practice of nursing care or observation experiences. Consideration of selection of a clinical site shall include: (1) client census in sufficient numbers to meet the clinical objectives/outcomes of the program/courses; and (2) evidence of collaborative arrangements for scheduling clinical rotations with those facilities that support multiple nursing programs."</p>	<p>Rule 215.10(b) related to <i>Clinical Learning Experiences</i> requires that "Faculty shall develop criteria for the selection of affiliating agencies/clinical facilities or clinical practice settings which address safety and the need for students to achieve the program outcomes (goals) and course objectives through the practice of nursing care or observational experiences. Consideration of selection of a clinical site shall include: (1) client census in sufficient numbers to meet the clinical objectives/outcomes of the program/courses; and (2) evidence of collaborative arrangements for scheduling clinical rotations with those facilities that support multiple nursing programs."</p>
<p>Rule 214.10(c) related to <i>Clinical Learning Experiences</i> requires that "Faculty shall select and evaluate affiliating agencies/clinical facilities or clinical practice settings which provide students with opportunities to achieve the goals of the program."</p>	<p>Rule 215.10(c) related to <i>Clinical Learning Experiences</i> requires that "Faculty shall select and evaluate affiliating agencies/clinical facilities or clinical practice settings which provide students with opportunities to achieve the goals of the program."</p>

Faculty are encouraged to be creative in selecting clinical sites and experiences for their students. Selection of clinical sites should be based on established program, course, or clinical objectives/outcomes and ongoing evaluation of students' learning needs. Many sites beyond the traditional use of hospital units and nursing homes should be considered, i.e., child and adult day care centers, senior citizens groups, homeless shelters, clinics, schools, correctional facilities.

The following questions are **EXAMPLES** of criteria to be considered in the selection of a clinical site.

1. Does the facility offer an appropriate client variation to allow students to achieve course, weekly, daily objectives?
2. Does the facility's average daily patient/client census provide adequate numbers of patients/clients to provide a quality clinical experience for the numbers of students assigned to the facility? (A general number for the selection of the clinical assignment is availability of three patients/clients per student assigned to the facility.)
3. What is the facility's accreditation status?
4. Are clearly written, easily accessible facility policies and procedures readily available?
5. Does the facility nursing staff model appropriate nursing behaviors?
6. Does the facility's staffing pattern provide adequate staff to ensure patient/client safety for the hours of clinical assignment?
7. If the facility is shared with other education programs, is there a clearly understood, written collaborative arrangement plan being utilized?
8. Will the facility staff and resources accommodate multiple education programs?

Important: Please be aware that references to Rule 214 and Rule 215 are not all inclusive.