



# Student Preparation

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The preceptorship is a partnership between adults; one is an expert (the preceptor) and one is a novice (the student or preceptee). All interactions and experiences should be characterized by mutual trust and respect. The purpose of the preceptorship is to help you, the student, transition to professional practice.

### **To enhance your success:**

#### **Be self directed:**

- Seek out the learning experiences you need.
- Seek out feedback, both positive and constructive.
- Pursue the information you require from multiple sources.
- Identify areas of strength and weakness in your performance, and find strategies to improve.
- Engage regularly and openly in discussion with your preceptor about your clinical performance.
- Integrate preceptor feedback into your actions.
- Keep the lines of communication open between you and your preceptor at all times.
- Jump fearlessly into learning.
- Take the initiative, especially when it comes to seeking feedback and improving your practice.
- Remember that your preceptor expects you to be an independent learner who seeks her/his own information and identifies appropriate solutions.

#### **Be accountable:**

- Know that the knowledge you bring is not as important as your accountability in finding the answers.
- Prepare for patient assignments by reading the NISS binder. Ask for help if you don't understand the care required or what is written.
- Accept responsibility for your own actions. Do not make excuses for your actions. Accept feedback and find ways to improve.
- Contribute to learning experiences through pursuing skill proficiency and increasing your knowledge base.
- Demonstrate accountability to the academic program by adhering to practice expectations.
- Be proactive in your interactions with the preceptor, staff, and other health team members.

#### **Be assertive:**

- Articulate your learning needs to your preceptor each time you are with her/him.
- If you are working with a new preceptor remind the preceptor what it is you want from the experience.
- Assertiveness in combination with a learning plan in place is a powerful tool to help approach your preceptor with specific needs.



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### Be **professional:**

- Demonstrate a strong sense of commitment to your role in the preceptorship experience.
- Adhere to ethical and sound practice.
- Follow dress code requirements as required for the practicum, and manage your behaviour, speech and attitudes to reflect the highest of professional standards.
- Interact respectfully with the preceptor, faculty, patients, families, colleagues, fellow students, and other members of the health care team.
- Be knowledgeable about what you can and cannot do as a student.
- Reflect careful judgment in clinical decision making.
- Receive unpleasant feedback calmly, without excuses, and with gratitude. Someone has taken the time to tell you something they were probably afraid to tell you. This takes courage. Reward their concern with a kind, *“Thank you for your feedback. I’ll consider it and see what I can do to improve.”*

### Be **reliable:**

- Follow through on the various roles and patient assignments for which you are responsible.
- Act in a consistent manner.
- Maintain organization in your care.
- Be safe.
- Be competent in your actions.
- Always ask for clarification if you do not understand.

### **Areas that often require work:**

- Time management
- Clinical decision making
- Prioritization

### **Why some students fail:**

- They are rigid in their thinking.
- They lack a certain amount of psychological insight.
- They find it hard to understand feedback that is given to them.
- They keep making the same mistakes, reflecting an inability to cognitively switch approaches.
- They externalize responsibility for mistakes and deficit areas, blaming the clinical supervisor, the preceptor, the patient(s) or the academic institution.

Sources: Hrobsky & Kersbergen, 2002; O’Mara, 1997; Trevitt, Grealish & Reaby, 2001; Tilaro & Rossett, 1993; Myrick & Yonge, 2005; Gates & Cutts, 1995.