For more information about UTA College of Nursing and Health Innovation Cooperative Education Courses Contact:

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www.uta.edu/nursing/Co-op
Nursing Cooperative Education Program
(On Campus Students)

“Integrating work experience into your education”
Student Comments

“The confidence I have gained, the knowledge I have attained, and the connections I have made will no doubt stay with me for life.”

“Co-op Nursing Program was a great opportunity to test my skills and knowledge. It provided a vehicle for which my education could be put to use. I thoroughly enjoyed my experiences and feel fortunate to be a part of a wonderful profession.”

“More important than techniques and procedures I have learned, was the feeling I got every day whenever I helped a patient feel better.”

“I have learned that nurses can really make a difference in patients physically but more importantly ‘emotionally.’ The therapeutic communication tool learned in class has proved to be very valuable.”

“Thanks to this wonderful Co-op experience, I have gained a true sense of the everyday ‘real world’ experiences of nursing. I have also gained insight knowing I have really chosen the right career for my future.”

“I enjoyed the time spent with patients. I learned that even a student nurse has a tremendous amount of knowledge about health compared to the average patient.”
The College of Nursing and Health Innovation at UT Arlington has been a part of the community since 1971 when the nursing school at John Peter Smith Hospital became a part of the UT System-wide Schools of Nursing. In 1976 the school became an academic unit of The University of Texas at Arlington.

Do you know…?

The UT Arlington College of Nursing and Health Innovation

- Provides educational opportunities from BSN – to MSN – to Post-Masters – to PhD and DNP
- Is one of the 5 largest schools of nursing in the nation
- Has an enrollment of over 7,600….
- Has a BSN – PhD option
- Opened a 13,000 sq ft Smart Hospital™ where nursing students interact with and provide care to a full array of simulated patients
- Offers coursework online for BSN, RN-BSN, MSN Nursing Administration, MSN Nurse Educator, MSN Family Nurse Practitioner

The College of Nursing and Health Innovation is fortunate to have developed over 800 community partnerships offering a variety of clinical experiences that enhance the education of our undergraduate and graduate students.
Student Evaluation

The student and the immediate supervisor will complete the evaluation prior to the end of each cooperative semester and submit to Co-op Coordinator.

Name__________________ Student ID number___________
Employer______________________ Department__________
Supervisor’s Name______________Title_________________
Hourly wage______________ Hours worked per week_______
Job title____________________________________
Dates of Co-op Employment________________________
Co-op Coordinator________________________________

Description of job responsibilities
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

Evaluation of Co-op Work Experiences with Above Employer
*positive aspects  *negative aspects
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

How did this Co-op assignment contribute to your professional development:
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

Additional Comments
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

Student’s signature    Date
PURPOSE & GOALS

The purpose of the Cooperative Education Program at The University of Texas at Arlington College of Nursing and Health Innovation is to provide students the opportunity to integrate classroom study with career related practical experience in the world beyond the classroom.

The goals for this program are as follows:

(1) to expand classroom walls beyond campus boundaries;
(2) to improve opportunities for students to practice skills and use theory learned in the classroom;
(3) to help students integrate work experience into their total education.
(4) to assist students in the financing of post-secondary education; and
(5) to serve the health care community by graduating a highly qualified and experienced practitioner.

Course Objectives (N3100, N3200, N4100, N4200)

The Co-op student is expected …

(1) to practice skills and use theory learned in the classroom.
(2) to integrate work experience into their total education.
(3) to function as a member of the employer's health care team.
(4) to participate in personal and professional learning.
(5) to adhere to the cooperative education program guidelines.
NURSING CO-OP JOB DESCRIPTION

The Employer determines the job description for nursing Co-op students within the guidelines of the state’s regulations regarding nursing practice. Although the undergraduate student is educationally prepared to perform selected nursing tasks, the job description must be consistent with Board of Nursing Rules and Regulations.

A student in the pre-licensing nursing program, who begins the Co-op experience, is not prepared to work in a position of direct patient care without on-the-job training. However students who begins Co-op after completing Junior I, has already completed the first clinical nursing courses and is prepared to work as a nursing assistant.
STUDENT/EMPLOYER EVALUATION

Dear Supervisor:

Please complete this evaluation on the Co-op student identified on the reverse side. We urge that each supervisor evaluate the student’s performance together with the student. Please be candid and evaluate the student objectively according to criteria listed below. If additional space is necessary, please feel free to attach a separate sheet to this form. Please return this form in the pre-addressed envelope as soon as possible.

Describe the position and responsibilities assigned to the student.

Describe the student’s strengths and weaknesses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unsatisfactory</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality of work</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attitude</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judgment</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpersonal</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationships</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependability</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motivation</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The student’s overall performance was: (select one) __Excellent__ Very good __Average__ Below Average __Unsatisfactory__

Based on the above evaluation, this student ___is or ___is not invited to return for additional Co-op experiences.

Supervisor’s Signature     Student’s Signature     Date

I confirm that the student mentioned above has worked _____ hours this semester.
Employers who have previously participated in the Co-op Program:

All Saint’s Health System
Arlington Memorial Hospital
Baylor Medical Centers
Children’s Medical Center of Dallas
Cook Children’s Medical Center – Fort Worth
Harris Methodist Hospitals
Hillcrest Health System – Waco
JPS Health Network
Medical Center of Arlington
Medical Center of Plano
Medical City Dallas Hospital
Methodist Hospitals
Osteopathic Medical Center of Fort Worth
Parkland Health & Hospital System
Presbyterian Hospitals
Texas Health Resources Hospitals

There is a method in place to assist the employer in evaluating the student’s progress in the working environment. The following page is a sample of the form that will be completed for each student.
RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS

Academic Standards
Students must maintain an overall Grade Point Average of 2.0 or higher in Nursing at all times to participate in the Co-op Program. Continuation in the nursing Co-op program is dependent upon the student’s satisfactory performance in the workplace during each cooperative work experience.

Co-op Credit & Recognition
Course credit will be given for cooperative education experiences at the rate of 1 credit per 50 paid work hours. Students usually enroll in no more than 3 credits in Fall or Spring and from 1-6 credits during the summer. The Co-op Coordinator approves all experiences.

Grade
All Co-op credit is Pass/Fail. Each student is responsible for providing the Co-op Coordinator a completed application including; 2-3 measurable goals for the experience, resume, and a copy of the official agency job description. At the end of the semester the student completes a self-evaluation and the supervisor completes an evaluation of the student and verifies their work hours. The student writes a 5-7 page APA formatted and referenced paper on the achievement of their goals and the value of the experience to their nursing career. To pass the course, all papers must be submitted to the Co-op Coordinator by the due date in order to pass the course. The student must receive and submit a satisfactory evaluation/verification form by the due date given them.

Disciplinary Actions
The Nursing Co-op Coordinator for the College of Nursing and Health Innovation is prepared to advise students who are doing unsatisfactory Co-op work. An employer may discharge a student in their employment at their discretion. A student whose performance is unsatisfactory or who receives a “warranted” unsatisfactory Student/Employer Evaluation, will fail the course and not be able to participate in the Co-op program.

Co-op Uniform
Students will wear the uniform and identification required by the employing agency.
ADVANTAGES FOR STUDENTS

• Explore and clarify career goals.
• Interact with health care professionals.
• Improve cognitive, interpersonal and technical skills.
• Build self-confidence.
• Develop realistic attitudes about work and its expectations.
• Use the latest technologies in the field.
• Explore various specialties before making a career choice.
• Test academic theories in the workplace.
• Earn as you learn and reduce financial obligations.
• Receive 1-6 hours credit toward nursing electives.
• Receive recognition on school transcripts.

ADVANTAGES FOR EMPLOYERS

• Mentor and recruit quality students.
• Evaluate students while on Co-op before making long term commitments.
• Reduce orientation, training and recruitment costs.
• Meet both immediate and long-term human resource needs.
• Create a network to recruit other students.
Reacting in a Situation: “It is amazing how when things happen you just react without thinking. I guess I owe that to all those hours of lectures.”

A Special Patient: - “His name will fade from my mind but never his smile, his courage, his heart, or his gratitude to this student nurse for my small part in his care.”

Death and Dying: “It was hard for me to accept that many patients were not going to live. I kept asking myself ‘Why can’t we do something?’ It dawned on me we were helping this person to die. With our support and comfort, we could not always prevent an early death, but we could make the journey a lot less traumatic, painful & frightening.”

Lessons Learned: “I learned how physically demanding nursing is. I learned very quickly to raise the bed before making, to ask for help when turning or moving someone, and how to make the fewest possible trips to the linen supply closet.”

Experiences: “Opportunities to teach are everywhere. I taught patients about basic nutrition, taking vitamins, eating healthier, and about low salt diets. I taught about breathing exercises, relaxation techniques and how to move up in bed and to use a pillow to splint the incision after surgery.”

“I learned and accomplished many technical skills that I had not been able to do in clinical. However, the most important thing I learned being in this hospital was -- how to care.”

“Nursing truly is team work.”