



جامعة كالغاري في قطر  
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY IN QATAR

## UCQ GRADUATE PROGRAM

### GUIDELINES FOR PRACTICE PARTNERS, FACULTY & STUDENTS

The University of Calgary in Qatar (UCQ) offers both a thesis and a course-based masters of nursing (MN) program. The course based program will consist of either a capstone project or practicum component depending on which pathway the student is enrolled. The program is a two-year full time or three year part time program. It is anticipated that MN graduates from the course based program will be prepared for leadership and or advanced practice nursing roles, while the thesis based students will be expected to advance their knowledge and expertise in a research subject area. The goals of the MN program are to prepare nurses that can: integrate theoretical, conceptual, critical clinical thinking and best evidence to attend to the complex needs of the population. MN graduates are expected to communicate and collaborate effectively with individuals, families, communities and members of the interprofessional and intersectoral teams and coordinate and provide comprehensive, holistic, culturally appropriate, safe and fiscally responsible care in diverse settings and unpredictable contexts. As change enablers MN graduates lead innovation and quality improvement, influence policy and lead and apply research.

To complement the theoretical, classroom-based component of the program, students in the course based (project) program are required to complete a capstone project. Whilst students enrolled in the (practicum) stream will be required to complete a clinical practicum component. Students who complete a thesis will be responsible in completing a research project in concert with their assigned supervisor.

According to the University of Calgary in Qatar Academic calendar, practicum hours will be based on hours specific to the courses which coincide with the clinical practicum pathway. Assigned hours will include working in a health care organization alongside a practice partner in order to assist in building clinical competencies.

## Definitions

*Practice Partner:* is a person who works in a Qatar healthcare setting who will facilitate the student's learning experience in order that the student meets his/her learning objectives. Students will be placed in the settings they currently work in order to strengthen their skills as advance practice nurses

*Project Partner:* is a person in practice who is closely linked to the student's capstone project. The project partner is the primary consultant for the student's project which will be the focus of the student's final comprehensive exam. Practice partners and project partners can overlap.

*Faculty Supervisor:* is a UCQ faculty member who oversees the students' project.

*Clinical Placement Coordinator:* is a UCQ faculty member who facilitates clinical placements. The clinical placement coordinator oversees the practicalities of the students' practicums (contact information, attendance and so forth). Although the instructor of record assigns scholarly learning activities in order to ensure students meet course objectives.

*The Research and Graduate Coordinator:* is a UCQ graduate faculty member

## Principles

- 1) There will be designated Practice Partners for those in the course based *practicum* pathway throughout the program
- 2) The Research and Graduate Coordinator will identify the Primary Practice Partner in consultation with UCQ Faculty and Clinical Placement Coordinator and designated leaders in the health care organization(s).
- 3) The course instructor will be available to support the student in practice.
- 4) The course Instructor, the practice partner and the student will co- develop learning objectives.
- 5) The student will assume initiative in identifying his/her learning objectives.
- 6) The course Instructor will evaluate the student's performance according to pre-established criteria with input from the Practice Partner.
- 7) The student will accommodate the Practice Partners' availability and schedule and will attend scheduled appointments or meetings. The student should be aware that meeting times may vary from their assigned clinical practice day. The student may need flexibility in their schedule in order to attend relevant meetings; this could be arranged with the Practice Partner(s), the Faculty Supervisor and the student in order to maximize the learning opportunities for the student.
- 8) The student will comply with the confidentiality and privacy rules of the health care setting.

## **Pragmatics**

The identified Practice Partner will help to guide the student experience so that the student develops leadership and clinical competencies.

There is an expectation that the student and the course Instructor will meet with the Practice Partner(s) once (at minimum) weekly during the practicum, this could be either by email or in person.

This practicum guideline was developed in alignment with the mission, vision, and values of the University of Calgary in Qatar (UCQ), and in consultation and collaboration with the members of UCQ's Graduate Program Committee.

### **The overarching goals of the practicum are to provide students with the opportunity to:**

- 1) Develop a broad view of nursing in Qatar.
- 2) Demonstrate advance practice skills in nursing.
- 3) Increase skills and expertise in areas consistent with their career goals and mastery of clinical competences.
- 4) Apply knowledge to practice.
- 5) Participate in projects or initiatives in collaboration with their Practice Partner in their respective health care organizations.
- 6) Observe and experience communication, collaboration and leadership styles between and among individuals within and among healthcare teams.
- 7) Prepare for a transition into an advance practice clinical role in their sponsored institution.

### **Coordinator Roles and Responsibilities**

- 1) To liaise with senior leaders in each health care setting.
- 2) To monitor the framework for each student's practicum.
- 3) To collaborate and consult with all members of the Practice/Project team when needed.

## **Course Instructor's Roles and Responsibilities**

- 1) To facilitate weekly seminars that advance theoretical knowledge and integrate practical applications and "lessons learned" (praxis).
- 2) To monitor student attendance in seminars and practicums.
- 3) To amass evaluation materials and enter students' grades.
- 4) To communicate as necessary (via email or in-person) with the Practice Partner about the practicum experience of the student and to liaise with the course teacher,
- 5) To provide Practice Partners with orientation to the MN program, student's academic course completion and competency self-assessment,
- 6) To review the respective roles and responsibilities of each team member,
- 7) To collaborate with the student and Practice Partner to prepare learning objectives in accordance with the student's primary areas of interests and career goals,
- 8) To meet with the student and the student's Practice Partners at least once each semester.
- 9) To participate in the evaluation of the student's practicum experience involving the student and Practice Partners.

## **Practice Partner Roles & Responsibilities**

- 1) To guide the student's practicum to maximize his/her learning and exposure to initiatives in alignment with the student's learning objectives.
- 2) To identify and pair the student with other clinical leaders in the organization as appropriate
- 3) To assure that the student's exposure addresses his/her learning objectives.
- 4) To provide the student with facility orientation as deemed necessary.
- 5) To provide regular constructive feedback to the student (and course Instructor where appropriate) using a standard form.
- 6) To liaise with the course Instructor weekly as necessary to review student progress and address any issues.
- 7) To actively support the student's practicum experience and transition into a leadership/clinical role.
- 8) Maximizing students' learning and exposure to initiatives in alignment with the students' learning objectives.
- 9) To identify suitable experiences for the assigned student(s) in accordance with their learning objective.

## **Student Roles & Responsibilities**

- 1) To identify learning objectives.
- 2) To conduct herself/himself in an ethical and professional manner.
- 3) To comply with and abide by confidentiality and privacy rules of the health care organization.
- 4) To accommodate Practice Partner(s)' schedule and attend all scheduled meetings.

- 5) To communicate weekly with the Faculty Supervisor/Course Instructor to keep him/her abreast of the practicum experience and to bring to his/her attention any issues that need to be addressed.
- 6) To achieve course objectives and assignments and actively seek feedback as needed.
- 7) To take initiative in identifying and monitoring their learning objectives and achievements.
- 8) To keep a portfolio of his/her practicum experience.