

North Carolina Board of Nursing Focused Client Care Experience Guidelines

The North Carolina Board of Nursing (NCBON) mandates that students participate in a focused client care experience (FCCE) prior to graduation as described in the following Rule:

21 NCAC 36 .0321 CURRICULUM

- (e) A focused client care experience with a minimum of 120 hours shall be provided in the final year of curriculum implementation for programs preparing registered nurses.
- (f) A focused client care experience with a minimum of 90 hours shall be provided in the final semester of the curriculum for programs preparing practical nurses.

The NCBON defines the focused client care experience (FCCE) as a “clinical experience that simulates an entry-level work experience. The intent is to assist the student to transition to an entry-level practice. There is no specific setting requirement. Supervision may be by faculty/preceptor dyad or direct faculty supervision. (21 NCAC 36 .0120 DEFINITIONS (21))

Nursing faculty are expected to develop clinical outcomes and student learning activities that reflect entry-level practice within an appropriate setting. The NCBON consultants have developed this guide to assist programs in articulating how this experience is developed and implemented. Expectations for the FCCE are listed below:

1. A brief description of the FCCE stating clearly the outcomes of transition to practice should be included in the nursing course syllabus.
2. The description and instructions to students should specify how this experience is different from a typical clinical experience, particularly when the experience uses faculty led clinical groups.
3. Students should be able to articulate how the program is meeting the FCCE requirement.
4. Student learning outcomes can be specific to the experience or general for the entire course.
5. In the syllabus, clearly state student learning activities specific for this experience along with the number of hours each student will spend in each activity.
6. Student learning outcomes and clinical activities should reflect behaviors reflective of entry-level practice.
7. If the FCCE hours are divided over two nursing courses (RN programs only), a clear description including the above items (1-6) should be developed for each course.
8. **Learning activities for the FCCE hours must involve direct patient care.** Simulation experiences may be used in accordance with NCAC rules 21 NCAC 36 .0321 CURRICULUM (m)(n)(o).
9. Clinical observation experiences, seminars, conferences, service learning projects, or written assignments are not part of the FCCE hours.

10. Programs can have faculty led clinical groups; however, the clinical experience should reflect transition to practice and should have outcomes and learning activities unique to the FCCE.
11. Faculty are required to direct the precepted experience by providing guidance to preceptors and students. Faculty must retain responsibility for student evaluations and this must be reflected on the written evaluation tool.

FAQ's

Does the direct client care need to be concentrated on one nursing unit for the FCCE?

A focused experience on one nursing unit is consistent with the intent of the NCBON Rule; however, it is not mandatory to use only one nursing unit.

Can a LPN serve as a preceptor for LPN students?

No. The preceptor must be a Registered Nurse (RN) and the RN cannot assign the student to a LPN.

For Further Questions, Contact your NCBON Education & Practice Consultant.