

Policy Number: 20-05.10

Policy Title: Conflict of Interest and Student Clinical Experiences¹

Effective Date: May 23, 2022 (Reviewed)

Page 1 of 2

1. Policy Statement

Public trust demands that students receive adequate and impartial supervision and evaluation in order to produce safe practitioners. A conflict of interest exists when a student is placed in an environment in which clinical supervision is provided by anyone who may not be able to provide objective feedback and evaluation due to a financial or emotional investment in the student's success or failure. Examples include family members, friends, classmates or individuals who currently employ the student. The mere appearance of a conflict may be as serious and potentially damaging to the public trust as an actual conflict; therefore, potential conflicts must be disclosed, evaluated, and managed with the same thoroughness as actual conflicts.

This policy establishes that in determining clinical placements for students, every effort will be made not to place students in clinical health care settings where there is a potential or actual conflict of interest (e.g., student currently employed in setting or individuals in setting have financial or personal stake in student success).

It is recognized that in some situations, notably rural areas or small towns, such conflicts can be difficult to avoid. If placement must be in an agency in which the student has a potential or actual conflict of interest, neither the work supervisor, nor any individual with financial or personal stake in the student's success, may be the student's clinical teaching associate/preceptor.

For students in advanced practice registered nurse programs, students may not complete more than 50 percent of their student clinical experience in a setting in which there is an actual or potential conflict of interest. Requests for exceptions to this standard are reviewed and determined by the Senior Associate Dean for Practice and Graduate Clinical Programs.

2. Responsibilities

Campus Associate Deans and academic Program Directors are responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy.

¹ Policy previously titled Clinical Experience in Place of Employment

Implementation Date: 05/28/2010

Revision History: 01/26/2009, 11/21/2011, 7/12/2012

Related Policies and Procedures: N/A

Responsible Office: Dean of the School of Nursing

Supersedes: N/A

Key Words: Conflict of interest, nursing student, clinical experiences