

Top 10 Tips for Clinical Instructors

Students are assessing you. Be a positive and professional role model!



CLINICAL SITE: Introduce yourself to the nurse and nursing assistants, communicate expectations of what the students can and cannot do, and what skills students will focus on.



PRE-CONFERENCE: Know what students are learning in theory and identify residents who have those conditions or disease processes at the clinical site. Discuss expectations and goals with students.



DON'T FAKE IT: If you don't know the answer, look up answers with students or find out from staff leaders.



CLINICAL HOURS: Do not cut the clinical day short! Students need to remain on the unit working with residents to be prepared to work independently.



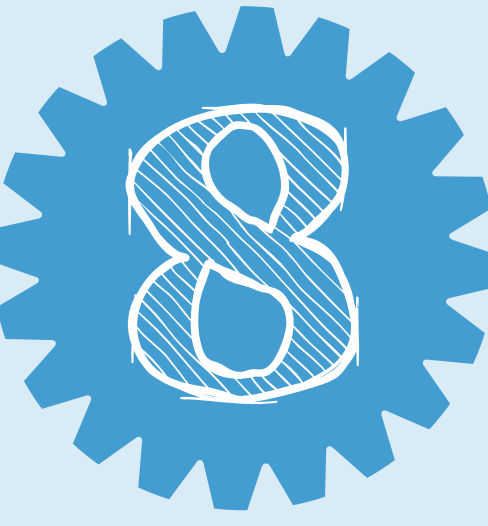
TIME MANAGEMENT: Let the students know when they will take a break or lunch. This will allow them to manage their time.



APPLICATION DIALOGUE: Ask open-ended questions, such as "Tell me about your resident," or "Tell me how this care would be different if they had..." "Which steps will you do first?" and discuss the rationale related to theory.



TEACHING: Take advantage of teachable moments to teach a concept or expose them to skills, even if they have not yet been taught in the classroom.



ASSESSMENT: Evaluate student's learning every day. Students will never be "perfect" so please do not set this as an expectation for them. Remember that all students are unique, so your approach must change, based on the student you are teaching. Provide opportunities for practice, remediation, and immediate constructive feedback.



DOCUMENTATION: Keep notes on students of skills performed; documenting discussions or specific areas of improvement that are addressed. Follow up with students privately to discuss your notes.



POST-CONFERENCE: Post conference can be a mix of asking students about their day, what they learned, what they did well or don't understand. Refer back to pre-conference and goals accomplished, areas of strength and areas of future improvement.

Reference

American Nurse Today (2018). *From expert rn to novice clinical instructor: tips for success*. Vol. 13 No. 4. Retrieved from <https://www.americannursetoday.com/expert-rn-novice-clinical-instructor/>