

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING
3.8.2.a. EDUCATION GUIDELINE
Ratio of Faculty to Students in Clinical Learning Experiences

Revised: 01/02/13

Rule 214.10 sets forth the requirements for the ratio of faculty to students in clinical learning experiences for vocational nursing education programs. Rule 215.10 sets forth the requirements for the ratio of faculty to students in clinical learning experiences for pre-licensure professional nursing education programs (diploma, associate degree, baccalaureate degree, or entry-level master's degree).

<p>Rule 214.10(g) related to <i>Clinical Learning Experiences</i> requires that, "The following ratios only apply to clinical learning experiences involving direct patient care: (1) When a faculty member is the only person officially responsible for a clinical group, the group shall total no more than ten (10) students. (2) Patient safety shall be a priority and may mandate lower ratios, as appropriate. (3) The faculty member shall supervise that group in only one facility at a time, unless some portion or all of the clinical group are assigned to observation experiences in additional settings. (4) Direct faculty supervision is not required for an observation experience."</p>	<p>Rule 215.10(g) related to <i>Clinical Learning Experiences</i> requires that "The following ratios only apply to clinical learning experiences involving direct patient care: (1) When a faculty member is the only person officially responsible for a clinical group, the group shall total no more than ten (10) students. (2) Patient safety shall be a priority and may mandate lower ratios, as appropriate. (3) The faculty member shall supervise that group in only one facility at a time, unless some portion or all of the clinical group are assigned to observation experiences in additional settings. (4) Direct faculty supervision is not required for an observation experience."</p>
<p>Rule 214.10(h)(1) related to <i>Clinical Learning Experiences</i> requires that "In courses which use clinical preceptors for a portion of clinical learning experiences, faculty shall have no more than twelve (12) students in a clinical group."</p>	<p>Rule 215.10(h)(1) related to <i>Clinical Learning Experiences</i> requires that "In courses which use clinical preceptors for a portion of clinical learning experiences, faculty shall have no more than twelve (12) students in a clinical group."</p>
<p>Rule 214.10(h)(2) related to <i>Clinical Learning Experiences</i> requires that "In a course which uses clinical preceptors as the sole method of student instruction and supervision in clinical settings, faculty shall coordinate the preceptorship for no more than twenty-four (24) students."</p>	<p>Rule 215.10(h)(2) related to <i>Clinical Learning Experiences</i> requires that "In a course which uses clinical preceptors as the sole method of student instruction and supervision in clinical settings, faculty shall coordinate the preceptorship for no more than twenty-four (24) students."</p>
<p>Rule 214.10(h)(3) related to <i>Clinical Learning Experiences</i> requires that "The preceptor may supervise student clinical learning experiences without the physical presence of the faculty member in the affiliating agency or clinical practice setting."</p>	<p>Rule 215.10(h)(3) related to <i>Clinical Learning Experiences</i> requires that "The preceptor may supervise student clinical learning experiences without the physical presence of the faculty member in the affiliating agency or clinical practice setting."</p>
<p>Rule 214.10(h)(4) related to <i>Clinical Learning Experiences</i> requires that "The preceptor shall be responsible for the clinical learning experiences of no more than two (2) students at a time per clinical group."</p>	<p>Rule 215.10(h)(4) related to <i>Clinical Learning Experiences</i> requires that "The preceptor shall be responsible for the clinical learning experiences of no more than two (2) students at a time per clinical group."</p>
<p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>Rule 215.10(i)(1) related to <i>Clinical Learning Experiences</i> requires that "In clinical learning experiences where a faculty member is supported by a clinical teaching assistant, the ratio of faculty to students shall not exceed two (2) to fifteen (15) (one faculty plus one clinical teaching assistant to fifteen students)."</p>

The ratio of faculty to students in clinical learning experiences should be determined by the dean, director, or coordinator in consultation with faculty and affiliating agencies. However, the ratio shall not exceed the limits imposed by

Rule 214.10 and Rule 215.10. These limits apply to both unlicensed and licensed students enrolled in the program.

Factors to be considered when establishing the ratio of faculty to students should include:

1. Students' level of knowledge/skill;
2. Course objectives;
3. Acuity level of clients;
4. Affiliating agency's:
 - a. Goals and priorities;
 - b. Client census;
 - c. Staffing ratio;
 - d. Qualifications and longevity of nursing personnel;
 - e. Percentage of temporary personnel staffing;
 - f. Physical layout of facility, etc.; and
 - g. Current usage by other affiliating students.

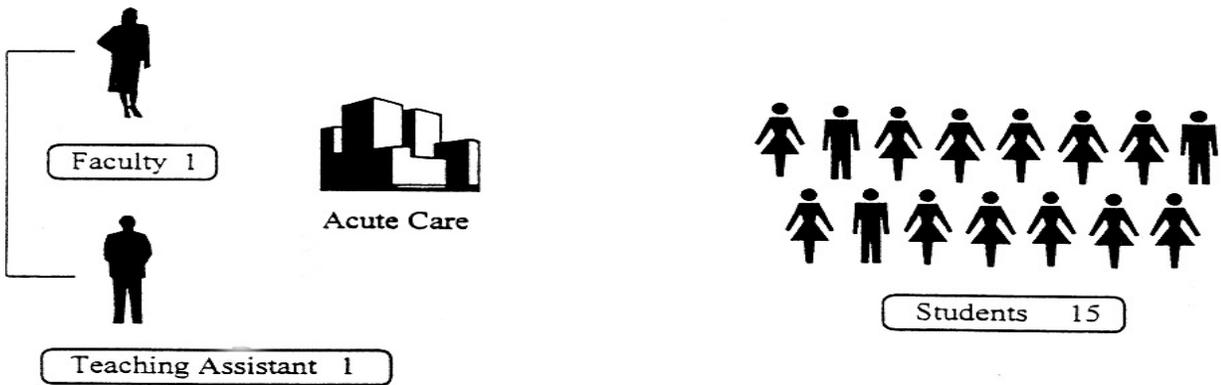
Important Note: Please be aware that references in Rule 214 and Rule 215 are not all inclusive.

Faculty/Student Ratio In Clinical Settings

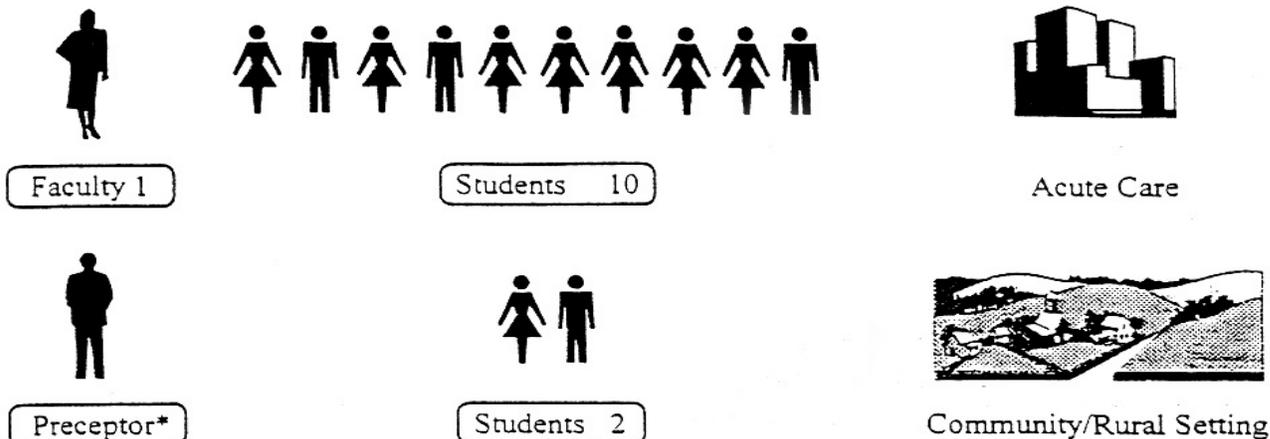
1. When a faculty member is the only person officially responsible for a clinical group, then the group may total no more than 10 students.



2. The ratio of faculty supervising students with a teaching assistant is no more than 2:15



3. The ratio of faculty supervising students when at least two students are supervised by preceptors is no more than 1:12.



*Preceptors may be responsible for no more than 2 students at any time

4. Faculty may coordinate the clinical preceptorships of no more than 24 students when preceptors are used as the sole method of student supervision.

