

Point #2: Do health care providers in your agency have any experience with developing the student's practice?

The role of the preceptor is to:

- provide the student with an orientation to the clinical setting;
- help the student formulate his/her learning plan in relation to the learning opportunities available in the clinical setting;
- facilitate the student's acquisition of knowledge and new skills related to his/her personal objectives, the objectives for the field work experience, and overall role development;
- provide constructive feedback to the student about his/her performance in the clinical setting;
- encourage and facilitate the student's exposure to other clinical experiences and personnel as resources for his/her learning;
- discuss with the clinical tutor any difficulties/concerns with respect to the student's clinical performance.

In addition, a preceptor also:

- orientates and socializes the student to the role;
- serves as a role model;
- facilitates theory application/integration of academic knowledge;
- engages students in the guided experience of applying knowledge to practice;
- disseminates evidence-based research findings for use in practice;
- helps students develop clinical competence, independence and autonomy;
- helps students develop the collaborative aspect of the role as well as the discipline specific competencies;
- acts as a team member and collaborator;
- provides critical job knowledge and shares clinical experience;
- accelerates the professional growth of students and promotes confidence and competence (Balmer et al., 2008; Barrington & Murrie, 1999; Licqurish & Seibold, 2008; Mulholland & Derdall, 2007).

