

Nursing Student FAQs

1. Will I be issued a Piedmont Hospital badge?

No. Piedmont Hospital does not issue student badges. Please wear your school identification at all times. If you are a Piedmont Employee, please do not wear your employee badge during student clinical experiences.

- 2. Background Check/Drug Screen Piedmont Hospital requires a background check and drug screen for all students. See your clinical faculty for procedures and cost.
- 3. Where do I park?
 Please park in one of the visitor decks North or South. Please do not enter the employee garage this requires a hospital badge. A campus map can be found on www.Piedmont.org
- 4. How much will parking cost me?

 Parking is free of charge for students. On the back of the parking ticket, write your name, school, and student. Upon exit from the parking garage, present the ticket. If after hours, press the red button at the exit security will answer simply state you are a student and they will lift the gate.
- 5. What are the uniform requirements?

Your school of nursing sets the requirements for uniforms.

Piedmont Hospital nurses wear navy blue and/or white. Clinical Partners (nursing assistants) wear hunter green.

6. When will I attend orientation?

Student orientations are arranged with your clinical instructor. If you have attended student orientation within the last year, you do not have to attend again.

7. What will I learn in orientation?

1 hour - Blood Glucose Monitoring using our Precision PXP system

3 hours – Computerized Physician Order Entry and Knowledge Base charting (allows you access to patient records and documentation on the patient chart)

8. What if I am a Piedmont employee?

First, contact your clinical faculty. Depending upon your employee role, you may not need to attend student orientation. Please let your faculty know that you are a current employee.

Second, wait to hear back from your clinical faculty.

You cannot use your employee login number for any system during your clinical rotation hours at Piedmont. Any system access for your role as a student must be accessed with your assigned student logins.

9. Can I give medications?

Piedmont Hospital's policy is that unlicensed personnel are not permitted to administer medications. Nursing students working with clinical faculty or Piedmont Hospital Nurses during a preceptorship may administer medications under the direction of a licensed Registered Nurse. Only clinical faculty and hospital staff have logins to the Admin-RX Medication Administration System. All patient medications are noted in the electronic medical record.

10. What paperwork do I have to submit?

Your clinical instructor has all the information needed to complete the required paperwork.

11. Can I observe in various patient areas?

All observations are coordinated through your clinical faculty.

Additional FAQs for Senior Practicum Nursing Students

1. What am I able to do?

Nothing without the guidance of your preceptor or clinical faculty overseeing your clinical rotation! All preceptors have been given a copy of your curriculum and have met with your faculty. Preceptors are instructed to follow the curriculum to guide them for your learning experience.

2. Medication Administration

Piedmont Hospital's policy is that unlicensed personnel are not permitted to administer medications. Nursing students working with clinical faculty or Piedmont Hospital Nurses during a preceptorship may administer medications under the direction of a licensed Registered Nurse. Only clinical faculty and hospital staff have logins to the Admin-RX Medication Administration System. All patient medications are noted in the electronic medical record.

3. Charting

All nursing students have access to patient's electronic medical records. Please use caution when documenting! Only document the truth! Make sure your logoff every time you leave the workstation; someone can come behind you and document under your name. Do not access patient charts for family members, friends or yourself. Only access those patients that you will be or are caring for. If you do chart on the wrong patient or make a mistake, please let your faculty member or preceptor know immediately- we'll make it right!

4. Patient Load

Nurses usually take care of 5 to 7 patients per shift. Your faculty determines the number of patients you will care for during your clinical rotation.

5. How do I request a particular specialty area?

First, contact your clinical instructor. Second, wait to hear from your clinical instructor. Piedmont Hospital does not take practicum requests from undergraduate students. The Nursing Development team works directly with Master degree seeking students and faculty for a graduate level experience.

6. How are preceptor assignments made?

First, contact your clinical instructor. Second, wait to hear from your clinical instructor. Piedmont Hospital does not match students with preceptors. Your clinical instructor or school representative has been provided a list of preceptor names, shifts and specialty areas. Clinical instructors match you with a preceptor.

7. Can I switch preceptors?

First, contact your clinical instructor. Second, wait to hear back from your clinical instructor.

8. I'm having issues with my preceptor (scheduling, teaching, personality, etc.)

Try to resolve the issue! Accountability is a huge part of nursing. Presentation is key especially when addressing nursing staff and faculty. Piedmont expects you and your preceptor and/or clinical faculty to have open lines of communication and empowers you to address issues directly. Remember, once you start as a professional nurse you don't have an opportunity to select your team; you must work to develop relationships and use tools you have developed through team projects at school.

9. Patient Load

Your senior semester is an opportunity to learn time management skills. Your curriculum from the School of Nursing provides guidelines on the number of patients you are expected to manage.

Tips and Tricks

- 1. Don't be nervous! Piedmont Hospital patients are in contact with students throughout the organization in nursing, respiratory, physical therapy, and even work with medical students and physician assistant students.
- 2. If you don't know, say you don't know. All clinical rotations are meant to be a learning experience. We are here to help you learn and apply new knowledge to practice.
- 3. Be proactive.
- 4. Be as helpful as you can.
- 5. Don't be offended if the nurse or physician is unable to discuss with you a particular question or situation. There are times when patient care must come first especially in life-threatening situations and those involved in trying to save a life are focusing on the patient. Ask for a debriefing session when the time is right after the crisis has resolved.
- 6. Please be on time and arrive for all scheduled shifts. If you are unable to attend a clinical day, please contact your clinical instructor and/or your preceptor.

- 7. Cell Phone Policy Our staff should not be using any non-work related portable electronic devices on the nursing units. Cell phones can be used during breaks in non-patient areas like the snack bar or cafeteria. Please do not go to the waiting areas or hallways.
- 8. Facebook/Twitter/MySpace do not post any patient information, hospital information or basically anything else about your clinical experience at Piedmont Hospital. Social networks whether online or in person are not appropriate venues to discuss patient care. Would you want those taking care of you or your family to discuss your care on the internet or at a restaurant?
- 9. Be resourceful and mindful of expenses. Patient supplies and tests are expensive! We understand you will have those oops moments where you need a second round of supplies, but please be careful!
- 10. Listen to your patients. They may not always be right, but in most cases can tell you what that little blue pill is they are supposed to take!
- 11. Talk to your patients. Research and understand a test, procedure or medication before discussing with the patient. If they ask you a question you don't know the answer to tell them you don't know and find out the answer.
- 12. Be safe! Use good body mechanics and safety measures. Piedmont Hospital wants to ensure safe patient and employee care. If you do get hurt, tell someone when it happens don't wait!
- 13. Know your environment find the code button, the bathroom and the staff break area. Familiarize yourself with the surroundings.
- 14. Do your own work. Our staff is here to help, but not do the work for you. If you don't know how to find something ask! Write down the answer if you have to.
- 15. You will get lost! Remember where you parked your car and don't be afraid to ask for directions!
- 16. Live the Piedmont Promise!