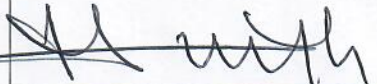
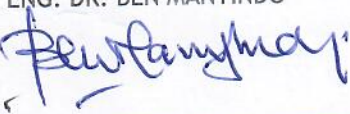
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MOUNTAINS OF THE MOON UNIVERSITY



GUIDELINES FOR CLINICAL PLACEMENT OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

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APPROVAL

Approved by the Mountains of the Moon University Council

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CHAIRPERSON, UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

Date 27-03-2025

PREFACE

Clinical placement is pivotal to nursing education, serving as a crucible where theoretical knowledge is transformed into practical skills, and students evolve into competent, compassionate, and accountable healthcare professionals. The placement is conducted every semester as stipulated in the program documents of Bachelor of Nursing Science and Bachelor of Midwifery Science.

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1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Mountains of the Moon University Philosophy

Transforming minds to enhance community engagement

1.2 Mountains of the Moon University Vision

To be a centre of excellence in teaching, research, and community engagement for sustainable development .

1.3 Mountains of the Moon University Mission

To provide innovative and transformative education, research and community engagement for socio-economic transformation

1.4 Mountains of the Moon University core values

- i. Professionalism
- ii. Innovativeness
- iii. Integrity
- iv. Teamwork
- v. Social responsibility

1.5 Mountains of the Moon University Mandate

To teach, research, facilitate learning and undertake engagement with local communities for socio-economic transformation.

1.6 Purpose

The purpose of these guidelines is to prepare students for nursing and midwifery practice through the transfer of theory into practice and to build critical hands-on skills.

1.7 Objectives

The objectives of Clinical placement at Mountains of the Moon University is to produce practically oriented graduates that meet the required job-related competences required by their future employers. Additionally, it serves as a link between the University, the

healthcare facilities, and the community. The specific objectives of the clinical placement program are to:

- **Integration of Theory and Practice:** Nursing education encompasses a vast array of theoretical knowledge ranging from anatomy and physiology to pharmacology and patient care techniques. Clinical placements offer students the opportunity to integrate theoretical knowledge with practical, real-life scenarios. It bridges the gap between classroom learning and clinical application, fostering a deeper understanding of concepts.
- **Development of Clinical Skills:** Nursing is a profession that demands a diverse skill set, including assessment, critical thinking, communication, and technical procedures. Clinical placements serve as laboratories for students to hone these skills under the guidance of experienced clinical instructors. Through direct patient care, students learn to perform assessments, administer medications, and execute nursing interventions, thereby building competence and confidence.
- **Exposure to Diverse Patient Populations:** Healthcare settings serve a wide spectrum of patients with varying medical conditions, cultural backgrounds, and socio-economic statuses. Clinical placements expose nursing students to this diversity, enabling them to develop cultural competence and sensitivity towards patients' needs. They learn to deliver patient-centered care that respects individual values, beliefs, and preferences.
- **Application of Evidence-Based Practice:** Evidence-based practice (EBP) forms the foundation of modern nursing care, emphasizing the integration of best available evidence with clinical expertise and patient preferences. Clinical placements provide opportunities for students to observe and participate in EBP processes, such as reviewing research literature, implementing evidence-based protocols, and

evaluating patient outcomes. This cultivates a mindset of inquiry and continuous improvement in nursing practice.

- **Professional Socialization and Role Development:** Clinical placements play a vital role in the socialization of nursing students into the profession. They observe and emulate the behaviors and attitudes of registered nurses, learning professional ethics, communication skills, and teamwork dynamics. By immersing themselves in the clinical environment, students gradually transition from novices to competent professionals, assimilating the values and norms of the nursing profession.
- **Assessment and Feedback:** Clinical placements offer opportunities for ongoing assessment and feedback, facilitating student growth and development. Clinical instructors evaluate students' performance, provide constructive feedback, and identify areas for improvement. This formative assessment process allows students to reflect on their practice, identify learning needs, and set goals for self-improvement, thereby enhancing their overall learning experience.

2.0 EXPECTED BENEFITS FROM THE CLINICAL PLACEMENT

Implementation of clinical placement is through partnership between the University, students, and training hospitals. Commitment to this partnership rests on mutual benefits for all the key partners. The expected benefits of the program for the different parties include:

2.1 Benefits to the training hospital

- Opportunity to get involved in the training and review of programs at Mountains of the Moon University.
- Exposure to a pool of potential employees from which to select. In this case, it would also reduce costs of induction/orientation of new employees.
- Additional human resources for effective and efficient service delivery.

2.2 Benefits to the University

- Opportunity to understand teaching and learning gaps for students and revise the content and mode of delivery of nursing and midwifery programs.
- Potential for enhanced research and development cooperation with the training hospitals.
- Opportunity to access training facilities and resources at the training hospitals that may not be available at the University.

2.3 Benefits to Students

- Acquisition of new knowledge and practical experiences.
- Improved confidence in the execution of clinical procedures.
- Opportunity to relate to different categories of people likely to be met in the real work environment.
- Exposure to the demands and challenges of the real-world of workplace.
- Opportunity to meet and work with potential employers.
- Improved appreciation of the profession and therefore better work ethics.

2.4 Benefits to the Country

- Exposure to the technical skills of the students which adds to a pool of quality workforce in the country.
- Awareness and identification of the country's healthcare challenges and solutions.
- Influencing change in attitude regarding clinical care.
- Community's access to University services.

3.0 DURATION

All students are expected to undertake clinical placement every academic semester for a duration specified in the academic program .

4.0 CLINICAL PLACEMENT FACILITIES

The university shall establish partnerships and memoranda of understanding between relevant healthcare facilities within the region to place students appropriately according to their training needs. These sites shall have the departments/units and specialists to provide the necessary training experience to the students.

5.0 SELECTION OF CLINICAL PLACEMENT FACILITIES

It is the responsibility of the university, through the department of Nursing and Midwifery, to identify a teaching hospital and establish a memorandum of understanding before clinical placement.

6.0 PRE-PLACEMENT

Before each clinical placement, the head of department for Nursing and Midwifery writes to the hospital director about the impending placement, specifying the category and number of students, period of the placement, and departments/units for the clinical rotations. This should be followed by a pre-visit by the head of department for Nursing and Midwifery or assigned clinical placement coordinator to meet the clinical mentors and make plans for the placement. The students shall be informed of the placement schedule at least one week before the placement commences.

7.0 JOINT STAFF SUPERVISION

Clinical placement shall be supervised jointly by both the academic staff in the department of Nursing and Midwifery as well as the hospital mentors in the training hospital.

7.1 HOSPITAL MENTORS

Specifically, the hospital mentors will:

- Ensure day today guidance and supervision of the trainees.

- Provide on-site technical and professional guidance to the students on clinical placement throughout the attachment period.
- Engage in a mutual learning exercise together with the students and staff of the University.
- Provide the students on clinical placement a wide range of experiences that go beyond technical skills.

7.2 The academic supervisors

Supervision will be by teaching staff members from the department of Nursing and Midwifery as assigned by the Head of the Department. Each student will be supervised by the academic supervisors as many times as will be deemed necessary.

Academic supervisors shall;

- Ensure that students report for clinical placement for all the scheduled days of the placement period and keep a record of attendance.
- Check students' logbooks and provide feedback to students during the placement period.
- Organize and attend post conferences with students
- participate in practical assessments of students at the end of the placement period.

8.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS

Students shall;

- Take clinical placement as part and parcel of their Nursing and Midwifery training at the University & have positive attitude towards learning by practice.
- Respect all academic supervisors, mentors, and any other persons they interact with throughout their clinical placement period regardless of their background training and social differentiation.

- Be willing to work in the different departments as planned by the academic supervisors and hospital mentors.
- Develop the day-to-day placement plans with their clinical mentors.
- Adhere to the clinical placement code of conduct and code of conduct of the placement hospital/healthcare facility.
- Keep a logbook with a daily record of activities done.
- Attend post placement conferences as maybe organized during the placement period
- Undertake practical examinations at the end of the placement period.

9.0 ROLE OF CLINICAL PLACEMENT COORDINATOR

The coordinator is responsible for;

- Approving each placement in advance, in consultation with the Head of Department and the Hospital director
- Assigning academic supervisors,
- Writing placement reports and submit to the Head of Department at the end of the placement,
- Securing relevant logistics such as transport, and materials necessary for use by staff and or students during the placement,
- Ascertaining attendance of students and academic supervisors,
- Informing students of the necessity to comply with pertinent department and hospital policies and procedures.
- Organizing briefing for staff and students before the commencement of the placement.

10.0 STUDENTS' RECORDS

Students on clinical placement are required to keep a logbook where they enter their daily record of the placement activities. The academic supervisor and mentor examine and discusses entries in the logbook with the student. In addition, the logbook shall be signed by the academic supervisors during the supervision.

11.0 EVALUATION

Clinical placement, being part and parcel of the academic program, must be assessed and graded. The assessment occurs at the end of the placement in a practical examination. The assessment is conducted by the academic staff and the external examiner that are identified and allocated by the department.

