

OKLAHOMA BOARD OF NURSING
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Determining Appropriate Faculty to Student Ratios in the Clinical Area
in Board-Approved Nursing Education Programs
Guidelines

- I. The *Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act and Rules* established the requirements for faculty to student ratios in clinical areas involving direct care of clients, stating that the ratio “shall be defensible in light of safety, learning objectives, students’ level, patient acuity and program outcomes.” [485:10-5-4.1 (f)]
- II. The faculty member in the clinical area has multiple responsibilities which include, but are not limited to:
 - A. Assigning care appropriate to the level and competency of the student and supervising care that is given to ensure that care is implemented safely
 - B. Providing instruction and assistance to students with their client care skills
 - C. Evaluating students’ level of nursing care knowledge and skills
- III. Determination of a safe and effective ratio of faculty to students in the specific clinical area should be determined by the nurse administrator of the program in consultation with faculty and clinical agencies. Factors to be considered include:
 - A. Students’ level of knowledge/skills
 - B. Objectives to be achieved
 - C. Acuity level of clients
 - D. Type of setting
 - E. Number of clients assigned
 - F. Number, type and location of nursing care units on which students are placed per faculty member
 - G. Staffing ratio and skill mix
 - H. Preparation, experience, and expertise of the faculty member
 - I. Familiarity of the faculty member with the clinical setting(s)