



RURAL CALIFORNIA NURSING PRECEPTORSHIPS

A Unique Clinical Nursing Experience That Builds Confidence & Competency

www.csuchico.edu/rcnp
Chico State Enterprises
Chico, California 95929-0301

Program Overview

DESCRIPTION

The Rural California Nursing Preceptorship Program (RCNP) is supported and administered through Chico State Enterprises. The program, which was initiated in 1975, provides a unique opportunity for senior level nursing students and licensed nurses (RNs) to gain clinical experience while exploring career options in rural and semi-rural areas of Northern California. As the program has grown, sites in urban areas of Northern California have also become available to allow participants to gain experience in more highly specialized areas of practice. The program is available during summer and winter and is designed to last approximately four weeks. Placements are available in a number of different health care facilities. The program provides a valuable opportunity to explore career options in rural areas while granting a first-hand look at the quality of life that Northern California offers.

As a participant, you will be encouraged to take an active role in designing an experience that will best meet your particular needs. Whenever possible we try to place you in your geographic and specialty area of choice. Students have found that they have benefited from the program in several ways. For most students, a focus on self-directed, independent learning makes the experience an important transitional step as they move from student nurse to graduate nurse. Other students have used this opportunity as a means of spending concentrated clinical time in a specialty area.

Rural Nursing

There are a variety of settings available to the student or graduate nurse who wishes to explore career options in a rural area. While educational requirements are the same for urban and rural nurses, there are distinct differences in style of practice. The rural nurse is more of a “generalist” and must be flexible in his/her role. Rural nursing emphasizes autonomy and independence. Medical personnel, particularly specialists, are less available and emergency services may be scarce.

In rural areas, social interaction is extremely important and the rural nurse must be willing to become involved with the community. The majority of patients seen by the nurse in a rural area are known personally as well as professionally. This allows for a more enriching nurse-patient relationship. A high level of community involvement and awareness promotes an integrated social system providing emotional and sometimes physical support to the members of a rural community.

For the nurse who is looking for an opportunity to utilize a variety of clinical skills, experience close personal contact with patients, families, and co-workers, and live in a beautiful scenic part of the country, rural nursing may be the right career choice.

OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM

Program Fees

We have updated our pricing model to allow us to continue to cover our program expenses while offering more affordable options for participants experiencing financial barriers. We understand that choosing a rural site may come with additional travel or room/board expenses. For this reason, and because encouraging the exploration of rural nursing is one of our primary missions, we are offering this as our most affordable option. We have expanded our placement options and reduced participation fees in all three hospital location classifications. We are also not currently requiring application fees. If selected for participation in the program, required fees will be collected at a later date and more details will be provided in an acceptance letter.

Hospital Location Classification	Fee for Licensed RNs	Reduced Fee for Students & New Grad RNs*
Rural Hospitals	\$1000	\$500
Semi-Rural Hospitals	\$1500	\$1000
Suburban/Urban Hospitals	\$2300	\$1800

*New graduates as defined as having graduated no more than one year prior at the *time of application*. For example, a May 2022 graduate, would still be classified as a new graduate for the Summer 2023 session because applications are due before the month of May. Please see our website for more eligibility details.

Orientation

Participants will attend an orientation prior to beginning their preceptorship that will further prepare them for this sort of independent learning experience. RCNP orientations are normally held approximately 4 weeks before participants begin their preceptorships. The Program Manager will make every effort to arrange these orientations at a time and place convenient for participants.

Priority Placements

50% of placement slots are reserved for current Chico State, Butte, Yuba, and Shasta College students. The remaining slots are filled with students from other colleges and universities, RN Refresher students, and licensed RNs.

Selected Applicants

Selected applicants are those who: 1) submit complete applications that are in accordance with given instructions, and 2) receive strong assessments. Please keep in mind that the program is popular and has a limited number of clinical placements.

Additional Requirements

Depending on the site where the student is placed, there may be additional requirements asked of participants—some may involve additional fees. For example, students may be asked to obtain: a background check and/or drug screen, a recent work place physical, additional TB tests, current mask-fitting, and submit additional onboarding fees to meet a specific hospital's HR requirements. In addition, some sites have specific hospital orientations and/or trainings that must be attended before participants can commence their preceptorships.

Placement Period

Preceptorships generally last 4 weeks and comprise a total of 150 hours of clinical practice. Winter preceptorships begin a few days after Christmas. In summer, there is more flexibility with start dates.

GEOGRAPHIC AREAS AVAILABLE

Our placement areas offer a wide variety of clinical experiences extending as far north as the Oregon border and as far south as Bishop near Mammoth Lakes. Please see *Locations* on our website for more details. We encourage the students to select sites that are of most interest to them. We try to accommodate our students whenever possible. Students are responsible for making their own housing arrangements.

Rural Hospitals	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishop – Northern Inyo Hospital • Chester – Seneca District Hospital • Clearlake – St Helena Clearlake Hospital • Crescent City – Sutter Coast Hospital • Gridley – Orchard Hospital • Healdsburg – Healdsburg District Hospital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount Shasta – Mercy Medical Center Mt. Shasta • Quincy – Plumas District Hospital • San Andreas – Mark Twain Medical Center • South Lake Tahoe – Barton Memorial Hospital • Willows – Glenn Medical Center • Yreka – Fairchild Medical Center

Semi-Rural Hospitals

- Auburn – Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital
- Grass Valley – Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital
- Hollister – Hazel Hawkin’s Memorial Hospital
- Jackson – Sutter Amador Hospital
- Lakeport – Sutter Lakeside Hospital
- Oroville – Oroville Hospital
- Placerville – Marshall Medical Center
- Red Bluff – St. Elizabeth’s Community Hospital
- Sonoma – Sonoma Valley Hospital
- Sonora – Sonora Regional Medical Center
- Truckee – Tahoe Forest Hospital
- Ukiah – Adventist Health Ukiah Valley

Suburban/Urban Hospitals

- Carmichael – Mercy San Juan Medical Center
- Chico – Enloe Medical Center
- Davis – Sutter Davis Hospital
- Folsom – Mercy Folsom Hospital
- Lodi – Adventist Health Lodi
- Marysville – Adventist Health Rideout
- Redding – Shasta Regional Medical Center & Mercy Medical Center Redding
- Roseville – Sutter Roseville Medical Center
- Sacramento – Mercy General Hospital & Methodist Hospital of Sacramento
- Woodland – Woodland Memorial Hospital

CLINICAL OPTIONS

RCNP offers placements in the areas of acute care, including Med/Surg, ICU, NICU, Peds, OB, ED, and OR. While not every clinical option will be available in every geographic location, we will do our best to place students where they can best meet their own individual clinical objectives.

THE PRECEPTOR STUDENT RELATIONSHIP

Preceptors are chosen by the placement facility. Preceptors are not financially reimbursed for their services -- they usually participate because they are enthusiastic about their job, enjoy teaching and sharing ideas, and are committed to the nursing profession. Students will be working closely with their preceptor during their placement period. The preceptor will help the student to identify the kinds of activities that will best fulfill learning objectives, assist with new procedures, and in general, help acquaint the student with the role and responsibilities of the working RN. The preceptor will complete, and review with the student, a written performance evaluation at the end of the preceptorship.