

York School of Nursing Clinical Placement Accommodation Guideline

The School of Nursing's (SoN) Nursing Practicum Coordination Office (NPCO) has the responsibility for identifying quality clinical placements that promote students' ability to meet program and course learning objectives and College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) (2020) entry to practice requirements.

In light of the current pandemic, all clinical placements are evaluated to ensure placement safety requirements required by public health regulations are met. Now that COVID-19 has changed the way health care services are provided and the ways in which learners are integrated, the university has much less room for discretionary flexibility, and individual preferences cannot normally be considered. There are greater restrictions on the types of placements available at all health care setting. For the foreseeable future, there will be a reduced number of clinical placements available thus students will be expected to accept the placement that the University has deemed appropriate to facilitate the course learning outcomes.

Students are still permitted to request specialty placements in line with the usual practices found in the SoN handbook, but even where the proposed special placements meet the academic criteria, such requests will be considered *only if* the clinical placements are available. If not available, students will be provided with a placement that facilitates the course learning outcomes based on the resources and opportunities available to SoN at the time.

If you require accommodation, please contact York Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible. Delays in initiating this process may mean a deferral of the semester.

Process for Requesting an Accommodation

Step 1

According to university policy (<https://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-accommodation-for-students-with-disabilities-policy/>), if accommodation is required, the student must contact the course director well in advance of the beginning of the course. The student is **not** required to describe the disability but a description of the type of accommodation requested will be required.

Step 2

Requests for accommodation must also to be submitted to the York University Student Accessibility Services (S.A.S. office <https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/>). In order to complete your assessment in a timely manner, you will need to complete a registration form and provide any additional documentation as soon as possible to SAS office.

If SAS approves the need for accommodation, a letter addressed to both the NPCO and Course Director, is issued to the student. The student must then submit it promptly to the NPCO and the Course Director.

Step 3

Once a letter of accommodation issued by SAS is received, the NPCO will identify an appropriate placement when one is available. There may be a delay in light of the limited placements currently available. Placements can only begin during a limited phase of the semester, so that the learning outcomes can be achieved within duration of the placement. Two attempts will be made after which, if no suitable clinical placement has been found, the student may be required to defer placement until an appropriate placement that can accommodate their needs is found or until such time as accommodations are no longer required.

Refusal of Clinical Practice Placement (s)

In a regulated profession, clinical practice is a mandatory requirement to meet registration requirements upon graduation to become a registered nurse. Clinical placements are selected for their ability to provide students with the opportunity to meet course and program objectives. Refusal of a clinical placement related to personal preferences and fear of working in a particular health setting are not valid grounds for accommodation.

If students decline their assigned placements for reasons unrelated to an accommodation approved by Student Accessibility Services, a new placement will be assigned no earlier than the **following semester, or potentially later depending on availability**. Program completion cannot extend beyond a 6-year duration. In light of the pandemic and the uncertainty it creates, priority will be given to students progressing through the program in the normal four-year time frame unless accommodation has been approved.

If you require additional information about your individual clinical placements, contact your CD in advance. Undergraduate program directors will provide additional assistance for accommodated placements.