

APPENDIX E

Clinical Experiences Assumption of Risk

Clinical experiences (practicum, clinical rotations, supervised practice, or observations) are a required component of academic programs in the Henry Predolin College of Health Sciences. These experiences allow students to practice skills and techniques learned in didactic and lab courses as well as develop critical thinking skills that are important for health care providers. Clinical experiences occur in hospitals, clinics, schools, community organizations and other appropriate settings where students can interact with patients, clients and families.

Sites selected for students' clinical experiences are required to take reasonable and appropriate measures to protect students' health and safety in the clinical setting. Use of PPE in the clinical setting is based on CDC guidelines as well as the clinical setting-specific policy. Students will have access to appropriate PPE during their clinical experiences. Students have the responsibility to report any potential exposures to their clinical instructor.

However, even with such measures in place, there are risks inherent to clinical experiences. Potential risks associated with working in healthcare include, but are not limited to:

- Exposure to infectious diseases through blood or other bodily fluids via skin, mucus membranes or parenteral contact
- Exposure to infectious diseases through droplet or air-borne transmission • Hazardous chemical exposure
- Environmental hazards, including slippery floors and electrical hazards
- Physical injuries including back injuries
- Psychosocial hazards
- Offensive, inappropriate, or dangerous conduct by patients or clients, including violence, harassment, and sexual harassment These risks have potential complications including trauma or bodily injury.

SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING COVID-19

COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, is a contagious disease that causes symptoms that can range from mild (or no) symptoms to severe illness. In some cases,

COVID- 19 can lead to death. Anyone is at risk of COVID-19 and currently, there is no immediate cure available.

Although anyone who contracts COVID-19 may experience complications, the CDC has found that individuals with certain underlying health conditions are at higher risk of developing more severe complications from COVID-19. These underlying medical conditions include: chronic lung disease, asthma, conditions that cause a person to be immunocompromised, obesity, diabetes, chronic kidney disease and liver disease.

Participating in clinical experiences, even when wearing recommended PPE, may not eliminate the risk of contracting COVID-19. However, students will not be assigned patients or clients with known COVID-19 or individuals experiencing respiratory symptoms that could later be diagnosed as COVID-19.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK

I certify that I have carefully read and understand this document. I acknowledge and understand that, as explained in this document, my degree program requires the participation in clinical experiences, and that such participation carries risks that cannot be eliminated. I fully understand these risks.

I understand that it is my responsibility to follow all instructor and supervisor instructions and take all available precautions so that the risk of exposure is minimized. I will follow all program specific information as well as clinical site recommendations relating to prevention of diseases.

Knowing these risks, I certify that I desire to pursue my chosen degree program, including the participation in clinical experiences. I expressly agree and promise to accept and assume all risks associated with doing so. I am voluntarily agreeing to be bound by this document's terms by signing the Henry Predolin College of Health Sciences Code of Conduct Form.