

2021 Clinical Placement Capacity

Information Brief: December 2021

Brief Summary: In 2011, HSCN engaged with schools of nursing and clinical education sites to launch the Hawai'i Clinical Placement Collaborative (HCPC) which uses the Centralized Clinical Placement System (CCPS) as a response to decreased access to clinical placements for students. HCPC has increased transparency in clinical placement requests amongst schools, increased accuracy of clinical facilities securing preceptors for nursing students, and ensured nursing students clinical education sites since the initial implementation.

The HSCN utilizes the Clinical Placement Capacity Survey, [the Education Capacity Survey](#) and current Centralized Clinical Placement System Data (CCPS) to identify potential changes to clinical placement availability among participating and non-participating partners. In addition, HSCN used meeting Bi-weekly minutes, partner reports and survey results to identify constraints, gaps and needs.

2021 Clinical Placements Highlights

- ❖ Due to cohort size capitations and increases in per class rotations, the total number of cohort groups to students increased in 2021.
- ❖ There are some improvements in 2021 as compared to 2020, which experienced stark losses due to COVID-19.
- ❖ A decrease of 1,363, or 38.9 %, clinical education placements at compared to 2019, primarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ An increase of 89 total cohort type student

**Clinical Placement Totals
by Placement Type**

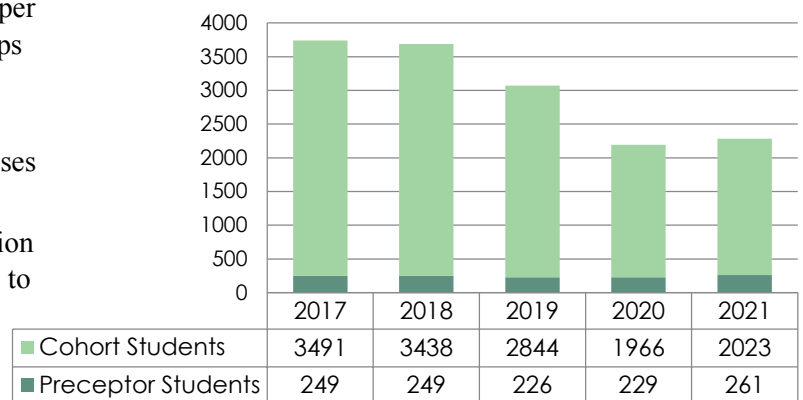


Figure 1 Clinical Placements by Type by Year

Clinical Placements Constraints: The HCPC continues to report deficits to clinical placements. Contributing factors to these deficits include COVID-19 pandemic impact on Hawai'i health systems and academic institutions. There is maldistribution between the current clinical placement availability and the unique needs of nursing student clinical education.

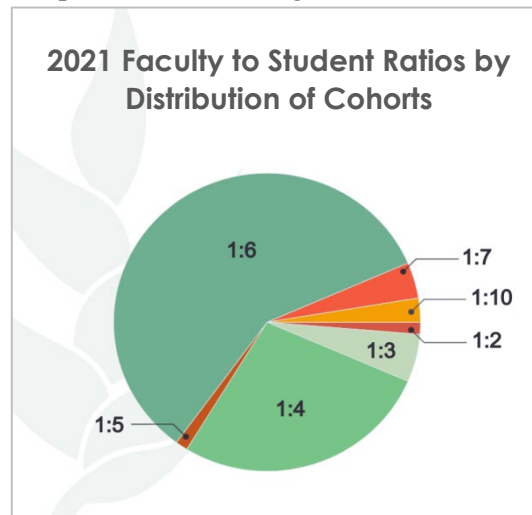


Figure 2 2021 Faculty to Student Ratio.

Most Reported Constraints by Schools

- ❖ Faculty to Student Ratio Reduction (from 1:8 to 1:6 or 1:4)
- ❖ Clinical Faculty and Instructor Shortage
- ❖ Reduced Availability of Pediatrics, OB, Mental Health, Post-Acute/Long-term care and Community Placements
- ❖ Limited Preceptor Availability

Most Reported Constraints by Facilities

- ❖ COVID-19 Student/Visitor Moratoriums
- ❖ Unit Closures Due to COVID-19 or Low Census
- ❖ Staffing Shortages and Turnover
- ❖ Lack of Preceptor Preparation
- ❖ Limited Preceptor Availability

Strategies Employed to Address Clinical Placement Constraints: Decreases in cohort size and preceptor availability impacts the number of placements needed to educate the same number of students, adds faculty demands on the schools, increases the demand for alternative cohort placements, and creates a need for alternative cohort compositions. The Hawai'i schools of nursing implemented new strategies and operational changes to ensure Hawai'i's nursing students were provided adequate clinical exposure. These include, but are not limited to:

- ▼ Prioritization of clinical placements for students in the final year of their education during 2021 to preserve the immediate nursing workforce pipeline;
- ▼ Increase in the utilization of in-person and virtual high-fidelity simulation;
- ▼ Participation in COVID-19 vaccination clinics;
- ▼ Utilization of pop-up and temporary clinical sites;
- ▼ Implementation of new rotation models, which include multiple, shorter duration, rotations; and
- ▼ Increase of preceptor to student ratio from 1:1 to 1:2.

Clinical Placement Environment: Overall clinical placements for pre-license nursing programs increased from 2020. There remains a shortfall of 821 (29 %) student placements as compared to 2019 placements. The most significant losses were for Critical Care, Post-Acute and Psychiatry/Mental Health settings.

Table 1. Total HCPC Cohort Placement Types by Department.

| Cohort Placements By Department Type | 2018 | | | 2019 | | | 2020 | | | 2021 | | | Change % Prior Yr. |
|--|-------------|------------|-----------|-------------|------------|-----------|-------------|------------|-----------|-------------|------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| | Students | Cohorts | Avg. Size | Students | Cohorts | Avg. Size | Students | Cohorts | Avg. Size | Students | Cohorts | Avg. Size | |
| Clinic | 313 | 73 | 4 | 187 | 49 | 4 | 12 | 11 | 1 | 30 | 26 | 1 | 150% |
| Critical Care | 73 | 29 | 3 | 88 | 39 | 2 | 42 | 21 | 2 | 23 | 14 | 2 | -45% |
| Emergency Dept. | 24 | 23 | 1 | 43 | 31 | 1 | 19 | 16 | 1 | 22 | 20 | 1 | 16% |
| Medical/Surgical | 990 | 161 | 6 | 895 | 181 | 5 | 647 | 137 | 5 | 648 | 163 | 4 | 0% |
| Obstetrics | 593 | 107 | 6 | 557 | 107 | 5 | 436 | 82 | 5 | 609 | 121 | 5 | 40% |
| Pediatrics | 529 | 93 | 6 | 394 | 65 | 6 | 309 | 48 | 6 | 434 | 68 | 6 | 40% |
| Peri-Operative | 43 | 26 | 0 | 22 | 16 | 1 | 17 | 13 | 1 | 27 | 21 | 1 | 59% |
| Post-Acute | 365 | 66 | 6 | 265 | 36 | 7 | 136 | 20 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 1 | -99% |
| Psychiatry | 339 | 57 | 6 | 278 | 53 | 5 | 156 | 31 | 5 | 120 | 27 | 4 | -23% |
| Specialty | 2 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 11 | 4 | 3 | 83% |
| Telemetry | 167 | 38 | 4 | 112 | 34 | 3 | 86 | 25 | 3 | 97 | 31 | 3 | 13% |
| TOTAL | 3438 | 675 | 5 | 2844 | 613 | 5 | 1866 | 408 | 5 | 2023 | 499 | 4 | 8% |

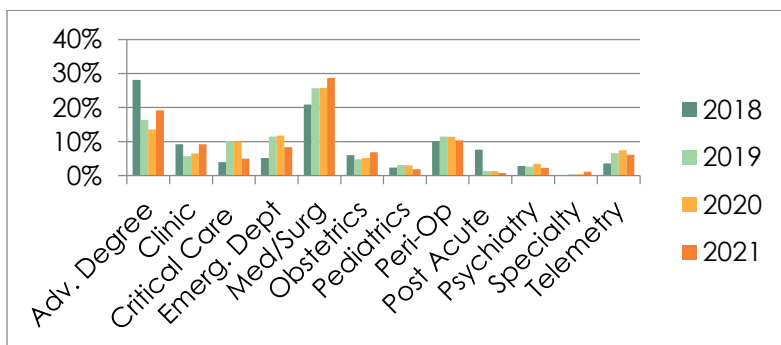


Figure 3. Preceptor Placements by Department

Key Findings

- ▼ Med/surg preceptor placements increased in 2021.
- ▼ Placements in all settings remain well below pre-pandemic levels.

2022 Calendar Year: Clinical placements in post-acute/LTC and community-based are expected to increase by 21% in early 2022.