

Student Objectives Form

Discussion Question #1 – Strengths and Opportunities for Improvement

Students at the practicum level are expected to assume an active role in the planning of his/her clinical experiences. Though students are expected to participate in ALL activities that would be reasonably accepted as nursing practice during their practicum experience, he/she is asked to identify perceived strengths and weaknesses or areas of limited opportunity to assist with activity planning. Complete the following worksheet as part of Discussion Question #1. Copy and paste the information into the discussion question and print this document to take with you when you meet your faculty AND your preceptor. You will use this information at the end of the practicum experience to evaluate your growth and continued need for practice.

Complete the Basic Nursing Care Self-Efficacy Scale (BNC-SES) by clicking the link in the week 1 discussion question and answer the following questions.

Based on the answers you selected in the BNC-SES, please **list and discuss five strengths** that you feel you have as you progress to your practicum experience. Include WHAT the strength is, WHY you perceive it as a strength (how many times you completed it, praise or accolades that you received etc.), and HOW the nursing program prepared you for success related to each identified strength. For instance, you may perceive IV initiation as a strength because you have completed it more than 10 times on patients and have been able to initiate the IV on the first stick the last three. You may consider assessment a strength because you identified variances from normal on two occasions and alerted your clinical instructor which resulted in a change in the plan of care (provide specifics about each instance).

Strengths	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

Based on the answers you selected in the BNC-SES, please **list and discuss five perceived weaknesses**. Include WHAT the weakness is, WHY you perceive it as a weakness, and HOW we may prevent this from being a weakness for other students. It may be a lack of opportunities or a result of previous mistakes you have made (we all make mistakes and have room for learning).

Weaknesses	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

For each area of weakness that you identified, formulate a specific and measurable goal that you would like to set for the practicum experience. Each goal should be specific (by what time would you like to achieve the goal) and measurable (how many times would you like to achieve the goal). For example, if you feel you need to work on communication skills a goal might be to "I will document at least three situations in which I was able to successfully communicate with a patient that required altered communication strategies by the end of the semester (i.e. a patient with dysphagia, loss of hearing, etc.). If you feel particularly weak in the performance of a given skill, a goal may be "I will document at least three successful IV starts by midterm." A goal for assessment may be "I will recognize changes from normal in at least three assessments and request changes to the plan of care accordingly."

Goals	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

Now, copy and paste the tables into discussion question 1 and follow the instructions regarding peer response. Print a copy of this document to take with you to discuss with your preceptor on your first clinical day. You may update some information based on feedback from your assigned faculty mentor.