

# Where is the Women's Health in Undergraduate OB Clinical!?

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**Topic:** Leading & Advancing Improvements in Health, Health Care, & Higher Education

**Category:** Quality Improvement/Evidence-Based Practice Project

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## Abstract

### Background/Introduction

Pre-licensure OB clinical most commonly only exposes students to Labor & Delivery and Postpartum units. Last spring, students were able to spend a clinical day in the emergency department (ED) of a Women's Hospital where they were able to see patients with gynecologic complaints. The ED sees a wide variety of women's health complaints that students otherwise would not see in clinical.

### Purpose

The purpose was to transform OB clinical for pre-licensure students to expose them to patients with gynecology complaints in an ED setting within a women's hospital as well as spark discussion on social determinants of health in the ED patient population.

### Methods or Processes/Procedures

Students were placed in various ED roles with a preceptor including bedside nurse, charge nurse, triage nurse, float nurse, forensic nurse, and advanced practice provider. Every 1.5 hours, their roles were shifted so they were able to experience multiple roles and see different kinds of patients. Students were asked to provide qualitative feedback on their day in the ED with a written reflection.

### Results

Responses from students were overwhelmingly positive. They were able to see an area of Women's Health nursing outside of the traditional OB clinical rotation. Student comments included that they had a better understanding of socioeconomic factors contributing to ED visits as well as being more interested in women's health and forensic nursing overall.

### Limitations

Through the summer of 2023, student responses were voluntary, thus the sample size was low. Verbal feedback at the end of each clinical day was positive. In the fall of 2023, written reflections will be mandatory.

### Conclusions/Implications for Practice

Students may find they enjoy nursing specialties they are less familiar with if they are shown a wider variety of clinical settings and patients. They also gain a better understanding of gynecologic pathophysiology and nursing care when exposed to it directly.

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## Biography

Amanda Ringold is an Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Nursing. She teaches in undergraduate OB clinical and the DNP Family Nurse Practitioner program. She also practices clinically as a nurse practitioner in emergency medicine and functions as the Forensics Coordinator for UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital.

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