



The Married State Preceptorship Model

The term “married state” stems from the concept of two individuals attached “at the hip” as a single unit working toward a common goal.

This philosophy follows the premise that teachable moments are missed if the preceptor is not present while the student provides patient care.

In nursing practice this translates to the preceptor and student staying in proximity throughout the shift. This differs greatly from the “divide and conquer” style in which the two distribute duties and check in with each other periodically. The student will see the whole assignment through the experience, beginning with very little responsibility and gradually increasing that responsibility. The preceptor gradually steps back and allows independence while still being present to observe and act as resource.

The married state includes:

- One-to-one relationship with continual guidance
- Demonstration and support of organizational skills as unexpected changes occur
- Preceptor provision of continuous feedback
- Focus on positive steps toward competence
- Supportive of a safe environment in which new knowledge and skillsets are honed

This preceptorship model must be introduced to each student at the beginning of their clinical rotation. Students need to understand why Legacy uses this model and the reasons why it is beneficial, so they do not misinterpret the preceptor’s constant presence.

The pace of the gradual shift in level of independence will vary based on the students’ progress, but the constant presence of the preceptor must remain.