Clinical Scholars Model of clinical education objectives include:
1. Enhance development of clinical competence and facilitate transition of graduate nurses into professional practice – i.e., close the education to practice gap;
2. Share expertise and resources during a time of nursing and faculty shortage;
3. Expand enrollment of qualified students and nursing program’s capacity for high-quality clinical experiences;
4. Integrate nursing students into the clinical facility, providing a smooth transition to employment.

Development team from the College and the clinical facility met during 7 months to define a mutually significant model. The Clinical Scholars Model was determined to best meet the objectives of improving educational outcomes by bridging the educational and practice settings.

A master’s prepared clinical expert from the clinical facility partner was hired to serve in the faculty role as a Clinical Scholar. One group of students was assigned to the Clinical Scholar for all the medical-surgical oriented classes and as many specialty courses as are appropriate to the Clinical Scholar’s background.

All students admitted to the College’s Accelerated Program (2nd degree) were invited to apply. Development team selected a cohort of students to participate in this pilot study.

Data will be collected from all students in each admission class. Outcomes will compare students in traditional clinical supervision model with students in the pilot Clinical Scholars Model. Instruments used:

- **Identity**
  - Lawler-Corwin Nursing Role Conception Scale
  - Lawler-Stone Health Care Professional Attitude Inventory

- **Meaning**
  - Caring Efficacy Scale
  - Nursing Students Perceptions of Instructor Caring

- **Practice**
  - ATI exam scores
  - Practicum preceptor evaluation

- **Community**
  - Professional Socialization Staging Scale
  - Student Evaluation of Clinical Education Environment

Benefits to the Student:
- Competency development;
- Socialization into the role of professional nurse.

Benefits to the Clinical Facility:
1. Dedicated cohort of BSN nursing students;
2. Improved receptivity and integration of into unit patient care activities;
3. Consistency of clinical with facility’s policies and procedures;
4. Recruitment potential of new graduate nurses.

Benefits for College of Nursing:
1. Coordination of learning experiences to meet all levels of student learning needs and expected course outcome competencies;
2. Consistent communication of course expectations to facility staff development educators and preceptors;
3. Course faculty are clinical experts.

Challenges:
1. Clinical Scholar accountable to both facility and college;
2. Balancing student learning needs with facility patient care needs in the face of the nursing shortage.