Welcome to the Nurse Extern Program

Program Timeframe: This is a paid nine (9) week summer program that begins at the end of May and ends at the end of July. You will receive a general overview Orientation on Day 1, then you will meet your Manager and report to your unit for the remainder of the program.

Extern Role: Under the direction of a Registered Professional Nurse Preceptor, the Nurse Extern is responsible for providing age-appropriate, culturally and ethnically sensitive care, maintaining a safe environment, educating patients and their families about healthy practices and treatment modalities, assuring continuity of care, coordinating the care across settings and among caregivers, managing information, communicating effectively, and utilizing technology. The Nurse Extern utilizes the nursing process to assist the professional nurse in performing direct and indirect nursing activities to patients of various age groups (neonatal to geriatric). This includes the components of assessment, nursing diagnosis, outcomes identification, planning and coordination, implementation, and evaluation. The role of the nurse extern also includes: patient advocacy, teaching, performance improvement, quality and safety, leadership and professional development.

The Georgia Board of Nursing does not permit Nurse Externs to give medications. You may observe the RN preceptor preparing and giving medications. The preceptor may have you learn about why the patient are receiving the medications. The Nurse Externship program provides tremendous opportunity for upper level nursing students to successfully transfer from educational to the clinical setting. The extern experience can help you to identify the best opportunity for you, one that will lead you to a successful career in nursing. Attached is a list of expectations for the program.

Purpose: The Nurse Extern Program at Augusta University Medical Center offers an exciting and challenging opportunity for senior-level nursing students to apply knowledge and skills gained in the classroom to the real-world practice of nursing. The program seeks to promote nursing at Augusta University Medical Center and positively impact the recruitment of graduate nurses.

The program supports nursing students in their efforts to:

- Strengthen their assessment and clinical skills
- Develop their communication and critical thinking skills
- Focus on patient safety, quality, and satisfaction as part of the nursing role
• Expand their knowledge of the professional nurse’s role as a member of an interdisciplinary team
• Build confidence in applying the skills they have learned in the academic environment

The externship is a full time summer job where our future RN’s are introduced to essential policies and procedures including documentation requirements, safety guidelines, and emergency measures. During the 9-week program Externs will have the opportunity to enhance their learning skills by seeing what they have been learning in class while working with a full patient assignment.

**Schedule:** The Extern is to be assigned a preceptor and is to follow the preceptor’s schedule, working the same hours as the preceptor. The maximum working time is 36 hours a week. A week is from Sunday, 12:00 am to Saturday, 11:59 pm. Work schedules may include days, nights, weekends, and holidays. It is important for the student to follow the scheduled work hours and not to miss any work time. Missed time or tardiness will be considered an unsuccessful completion of the program. Nurse Externs **may not** work over their 36 hour commitment. Please remember, the LAST day of the program is Friday, July 28- do not schedule any time after this day.

**Expectations of the Extern**
• Externs are employed by Augusta University Medical Center and will be expected to be at work when assigned. This is not only a student experience; it is full time, paid employment for 9 weeks.
• Externs are expected to follow the established performance standards and standards of conduct required of any employee of AUMC following all rules and regulations of the hospital.
• Externs are provided a Nurse Extern polo shirt that they will wear with navy scrub pants. Some units will require you to where hospital designated scrubs depending on the department.
• Enhancing skill proficiency through ongoing training and validation.
• The extern will be a vital part of the healthcare team and is expected to perform as a partner with the nurse to give primary nursing care to their assigned caseload.
• Arrive at your unit at the scheduled time and work through the entire shift. When you are scheduled-you are expected to be there.
• Build on your experiences so that you continue to learn and advance your skills.
• Although Externs cannot give medications, they will be responsible to become familiar with all medications for assigned patients.
• Ask Questions!
• Externs will be expected to attend all offered in-services and seek out opportunities to learn.
• All Externs will have an exit interview with Human Resources and will complete an evaluation of the experience and will be encouraged to share their experiences to help us enhance future extern programs.
• Should an Extern find it necessary to end employment at AUMC prior to the end of the 9 weeks, they will be expected to give a two-week notice to their manager.

Expectations of the Preceptor
• While not a requirement, it is preferable the RN preceptor be BSN prepared.
• The preceptor will act as an instructor and mentor to the Extern.
• The Professional Nurse Preceptor will identify learning opportunities to assist the Nurse Extern in completing their Competency Skill List.
• While the Extern cannot give medications, they should be instructed on safe medication handling and administration, route, dosage and precautions.
• The preceptor will ensure that Extern have learning opportunities that will enhance the educational experience.
• The preceptor should look for hands on experiences outside of their caseload that might enhance the Extern’s experience while on the unit.
• The Professional Nurse Preceptor and the Extern should meet with the Nurse Manager every two to three weeks to discuss the Extern’s progress and experience.
• The preceptor should look for hands on experiences outside of their caseload that might enhance the Extern’s experience while on the unit.
• The Nurse Extern will also meet with the program coordinator every three weeks throughout the nine week period of time to assess the progress of the Extern.

Expectations of the Manager
• When possible, the Extern should be assigned to one RN preceptor for the duration of the externship.
• The Professional Nurse Preceptor and the student should be assigned a normal patient load.
• The preceptor should not do charge when working with the Extern.
• The unit PCTs should not be assigned to patients assigned to the Professional Nurse Preceptor and the Extern. The nurse/extern team will assume total care of their assigned caseload. This will help teach the Extern and the nurse primary care of the patient. The nurse extern should be able to handle more and more of the patient assignment each week. The Nurse Extern is not to be used as a PCT for the floor.
• The Nurse Manager will be expected to do an exit interview with the extern.