



The Clinical Scholars Model: Bridging the Education-Practice Gap

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Objectives

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.

Background

Purpose: To integrate recommendations from both Institute of Medicine Report and Carnegie Report in redefining the future of nursing education in the College's BSN program.

Nursing education at all levels needs to impart a better understanding of:

1. *Ways to work in the context of and lead change within health care delivery systems;*
2. *Methods for quality improvement & system redesign;*
3. *Methods for designing effective care delivery models and reducing patient risk;*
4. *Care management.*

Students in this model are integrated members of the healthcare community throughout their clinical education. We anticipate students will be prepared to address these issues at graduation.



Development Process

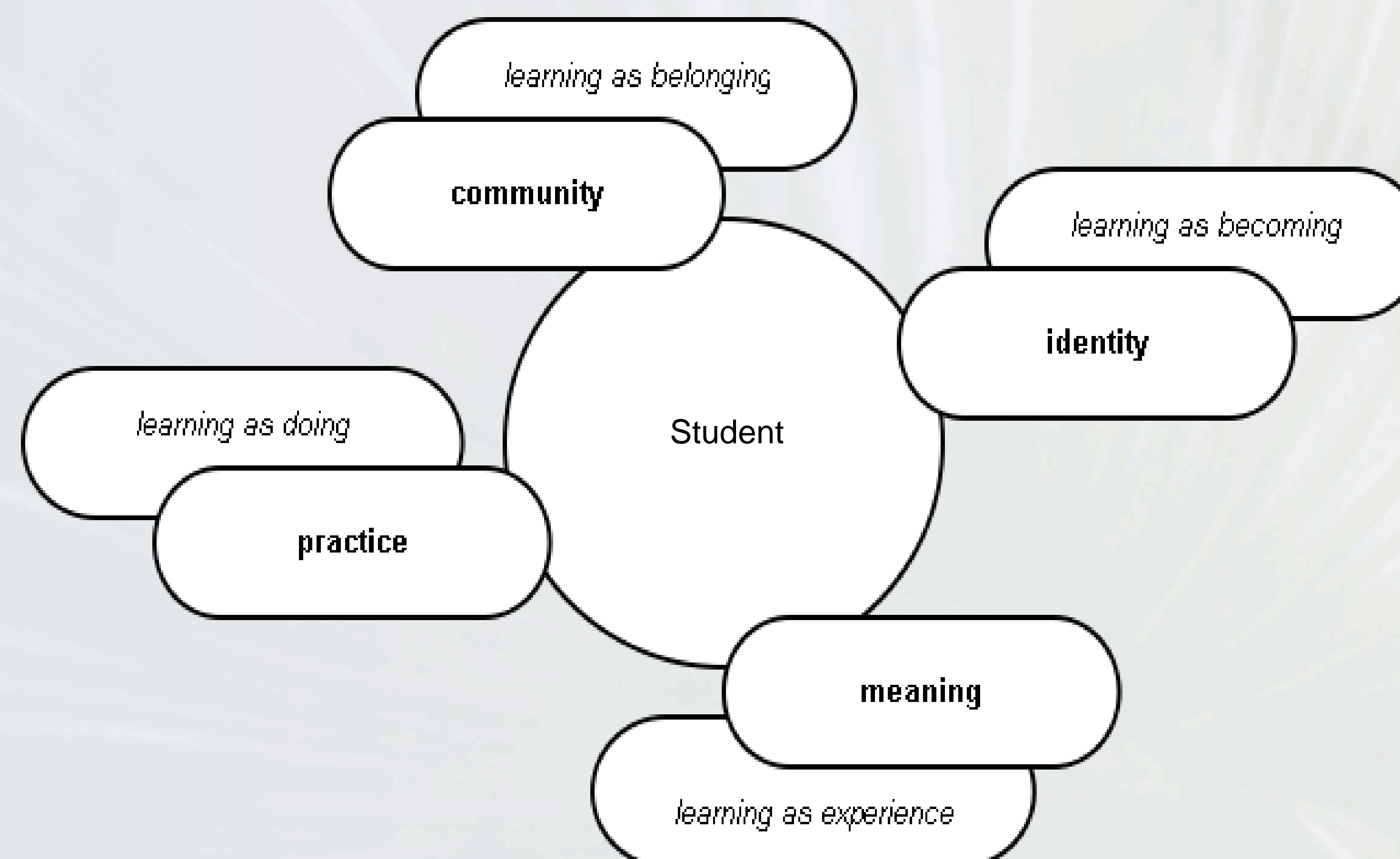
Development team from the College and the clinical facility met during 7 months to define a mutually significant model. The Clinical Scholars Model was determined to best meet the objectives of improving educational outcomes by bridging the educational and practice settings.

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.

Conceptual Model

Clinical Scholars Model integrates professional socialization and Bandura's social learning theory as the basis of the program.



Analysis Plan

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

Summary: Benefits and Challenges

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.