Precepting is essential to promoting the competence and confidence of new and experienced nurses in new environments and is a vital role for all nurses in all settings. However, in the past, nurses have not been formally prepared to function effectively in this role. The line of thinking that a “good” nurse makes a “good” preceptor is not always well-founded. While an effective preceptor needs to be an experienced and competent staff nurse, he or she also needs to be properly prepared for the precepting role to appropriately assess, teach, evaluate, and acclimate new staff, and most importantly, to ensure safe patient care.

Written by AACN - The Preceptor Challenge online course, distributed by Elsevier | MC Strategies, provides essential information that preceptors need to provide constructive feedback, complete evaluations, and create learning plans based on the needs and goals of their newly-hired staff nurses, including new graduates and those transitioning to new specialties. This cutting-edge course uses virtual preceptors and preceptees to allow nurses to apply theory-based precepting practice to real-world situations through virtual hospital scenarios.

The Preceptor Challenge Online Course:
- Explores core essential concepts and lets learners apply them immediately in a virtual environment
- Covers the full scope of an educator’s responsibilities, including assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation
- Offers nurses the opportunity to earn 3.5 contact hours awarded by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN)*

Engaging Interactive Features - Throughout each lesson of AACN’s The Preceptor Challenge, interactive activities engage the learner and include:
- Clickable, on-screen Practice Pearls that offer advice for effective staff, patient, and preceptor-preceptee communication
- Virtual preceptees to illustrate various learning styles and virtual preceptors to guide learners through the course
- Virtual environments that simulate the experience and complexity of being a preceptor

AACN’s The Preceptor Challenge provides unmatched flexibility by allowing self-paced learning that teaches learners the roles and responsibilities of a preceptor, based on best practices in communications with preceptees, staff, and patients.
Anywhere/Anytime Learning
Like all of Elsevier | MC Strategies’ e-learning courses, AACN’s The Preceptor Challenge offers unmatched flexibility by enabling self-paced, anytime / anywhere learning. This flexibility helps eliminate scheduling conflicts. Staff educators and administrators can track the learner’s progress, view testing results, and customize the continuing education program to meet individual staff needs. Transcripts and other related documentation are produced and retained for administrative record-keeping through Elsevier | MC Strategies’ Learning Management System, which is specifically designed for healthcare settings and now offers education to more than 2.5 million users.

AACN: THE PRECEPTOR CHALLENGE | LESSON LISTING

▷ Course Introduction
  ▪ Program Overview

▷ Module 1
  ▪ Your New Precepting Role
    - Role 1: Role Model
    - Role 2: Socializer
    - Role 3: Educator
  ▪ Summary

▷ Module 2
  ▪ Dive In: Becoming an Educator
    - Job 1: Assessing
    - Job 2: Planning
    - Job 3: Implementing
  ▪ Summary

▷ Module 3
  ▪ Dive Deeper: Advancing as an Educator
    - Job 1: Evaluating Preceptees
    - Job 2: Identifying Skill Levels
    - Job 3: Negotiating Pitfalls
  ▪ Summary

▷ Program Conclusion
  ▪ Assessment

* The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.

AACN has been approved as a provider of continuing education in nursing by the State Boards of Nursing of Alabama [#ABNP0062], Louisiana [#12] and California [#01036]. AACN programming meets the standards for most other states requiring mandatory continuing education credit for relicensure.