



Glossary of Terms

Competency:	The demonstrated ability to apply the knowledge, skills and attitudes and to exercise the professional judgement which can reasonably be expected of a nurse in a practice context, commensurate with their qualifications and experience.
CTA:	Clinical Teaching Associate; A Registered Nurse who is employed by Massey University to assist students during their practicum experience.
Evidence-based	Clinical decision-making based on a systematic review of the Nursing: risks, benefits and costs of the nursing interventions.
Individualised Objective:	Highly refined statement that clearly and concisely describes Learning what the student would like to achieve within a set period of time. Learning objectives need to be appropriate for the practicum placement, and formulated in such a way that the outcome is measurable.
Learning Outcomes:	A set of statements in every Paper Outline that indicates what the student needs to achieve at the completion of a particular paper or practicum.
Practicum:	Any setting where nurses work and are engaged in a range of different activities for the benefit of clients and the community. Practicum is also referred to as 'clinical' or 'practice placement'.
Practice Suite:	Specially designed learning environment that simulates real practice situations without the stresses and distracters that are found in the real settings. The Practice Suite (also referred to as clinical or nursing laboratory) allows students to practise a range of nursing skills, interpersonal and communication skills.
Praxis:	Refers to the process of putting theoretical knowledge into practise, as well as using clinical experience to generate personal understanding and generate theories where there was none before.
Preceptor:	Generally a Registered Nurse who works closely with the student(s) and who may delegate patient care or specific tasks. The Preceptor will directly or indirectly supervise student's activities and provide regular feedback. Any cares provided by the student for the first time outside the Practice Suite will need to be supervised by either the Preceptor or the CTA. Preceptors are also referred to as 'buddy'.
Professional Portfolio:	A selection of up-to-date documents that provide evidence that the nurse in question is a competent practitioner. For students of nursing, fully completed Individualised Learning Outcomes, written feedback and Competency-based Assessments forms, attestations from agency staff and clients, and written Case Studies are all examples of evidence that can be included in the portfolio.