



Why Choose the Nursing Resource Center?

The Nursing Resource Center is a suite of Internet-based services that helps you tackle the obstacles that limit nursing education capacity in your region. Your custom NRC website can include regional announcements, student orientation information, and more. The NRC includes two tools: the Centralized Clinical Placement System (CCPS) and the Centralized Faculty Resource Center (CFRC). The NRC is a useful tool for schools of nursing, clinical agencies, and hospitals.

NRCs are developed, hosted and fully supported by the Foundation for California Community Colleges. CCPS and CFRC were designed by the Foundation and the California Institutes for Nursing & Health Care with funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

Features and Benefits

The NRC's tools have helped schools of nursing and clinical agencies across the country increase their educational capacity. CCPS and CFRC can benefit you in the following ways:

Centralized Clinical Placement System

- ✓ CCPS is Internet-based and accessible from any computer with an Internet connection.
- ✓ CCPS is the most progressive placement tool, matching educator-defined requests with available placement options.
- ✓ CCPS content and placements are controlled by users.
- ✓ CCPS reduces the time needed to complete the clinical placement process.
- ✓ CCPS provides visibility to regional clinical availability.
- ✓ CCPS offers informational reports that are exportable to facilitate communication with faculty and managers.
- ✓ Like nursing, CCPS is continuously improving based on user feedback.
- ✓ CCPS has introduced a product enhancement to facilitate the Preceptor placement process.
- ✓ CCPS has proven results, based on independent analysis and review.

Centralized Faculty Resource Center

- ✓ CFRC includes a job board where schools of nursing can post open positions.
- ✓ CFRC gives schools access to profiles of experienced nurses who are interested in becoming clinical faculty.
- ✓ CFRC provides access to profiles of experienced nursing faculty looking for new opportunities.
- ✓ CFRC makes creating a profile easy for faculty and potential faculty.
- ✓ CFRC is a no-cost, low-stress way for interested faculty to signal interest in posted positions.

FAQ's about CCPS and CFRC

Q: How does CCPS streamline placements for both schools and hospitals?

A: CCPS brings together school and clinical agency information in a centralized, constantly-accessible, online format. This enables schools and clinical agencies to decrease administrative time spent placing students, while allowing them to maintain complete control over placement decisions. Schools are able to view all agency units and shifts that match their placement criteria, and request the placement directly within the system. Agencies, in turn, review request details, view in CCPS if the shift is available, and click a button to accept or decline the request. Auto-generated e-mails are sent to the school and clinical agency coordinators as notification there has been activity related to their school or facility. Several types of reports are available in real-time to allow all users to effectively manage a single schedule from a single location.

Q: How does CCPS differ from other systems?

A: While there are other services to manage clinical placements, CCPS is custom-designed and is unique in several ways. A few differentiating benefits of CCPS include:

- Designed to be available real-time, automated and self-contained – there is no need for an intermediary to “match” school requests to clinical agency availability and no defined need for e-mails or conversations outside the system to finalize placements
- Data is stored in a safe location on a secure server, where it can be viewed by multiple users, accessed and updated easily from one term to the next
- Online reports can be generated at the click of a button, can be created anytime, and are a fast and useful way to document and communicate placement requests or decisions to staff, floor managers, faculty and students
- Clinical agencies can easily see schedule overlaps, using a color-coded grid to identify potential overlap
- Schools and agencies can “advertise” availability – CCPS is a single location with visibility to information entered by all participants, which offers the ability to more easily identify new placements and initiate new relationships
- Master calendar for requesting placements creates an organized, predictable, and controlled process
- Service includes customer support and assistance with identifying placements if a scheduling conflict occurs
- Recently introduced a Preceptor Placement process within the CCPS tool

Q: Schools of nursing continue to cite insufficient clinical sites as a barrier to increasing enrollments. Has CCPS actually made a difference in expanding educational capacity?

A: A recent 3rd party evaluation of CCPS was conducted in the Bay Area. The study indicated that there was a 29.6% increase in enrollment in the 5-county Bay Area from 2004 to 2007. The evaluators did not attribute all of this increase to CCPS, but they stated that CCPS has helped facilitate up to 10.2% of this growth. They noted an increase in the % of hospitals that placed students during non-traditional times (off shifts and weekend) and they also noted that all clinical departments had an increase in placements. A recent survey of CCPS users in the South Florida market found that 29% of respondents noted an increase in the number of students scheduled and that CCPS enabled them to schedule more units to meet increased demand for training opportunities including evening, night and weekend shifts.

Q: Are historical placements honored in the CCPS system?

A: From the first day of CCPS development, schools and clinical agencies made it clear they wanted the system to allow expansion of clinical placements, and not “undo” existing, functional, long-term relationships between partners in service and education. Therefore, CCPS Operating Guidelines have been developed that specifically state that all historical placements are given priority, and should be honored by clinical agencies. The system has functionality to make it easy for schools to request historical placements and also for clinical agencies to identify if a request is a historical placement.

Q: Why should schools and clinical agencies invest in CCPS?

A: There are many reasons to invest in CCPS. First, it allows the ability to more easily identify untapped clinical capacity, and allow for building educational capacity in nursing schools. In addition, it minimizes administrative burden and provides a centralized, standard process for managing clinical placements. Cost savings can also be expected over time. Hospitals and nursing school staff spend approximately 80 hours twice/year coordinating clinical placements. Given this estimate:

- Current fragmented process costs hospitals and schools each 80 hours 2x/year @ \$25/hr (estimate) = \$4,000/year
- If CCPS can cut this effort in half (conservative estimate): 40 hours 2x/year @ \$25/hr = \$2,000 or \$2,000 savings/year

Q. How long does it take to get up and running?

A. It takes the Nursing Resource Center approximately two weeks to establish a custom version of CCPS for a new market, working with the market to identify requirements. It then takes minimal time to establish a new school or clinical agency on CCPS. Once a user has access to the system, initial data entry is often done in its entirety in 1.5 – 2 hours. Training is often scheduled for a day, based on class size and number of questions asked, and our team is flexible in terms of scheduling the date and time for in-person training.

Q. What resources are needed to maintain the program?

A. Most of the resources are part of the license, including access to the software, server, initial training, and online help tools. A resource is needed to manage invoicing of school and clinical agency participants for the annual licensing fee, and to offer first level customer support for your users.

Cost

The NRC offers access to both the CCPS and CFRC. Price includes an initial set-up fee, then an annual user fee. Price varies, based on customer requirements, but typically includes:

- A portal page with entry to CCPS and CFRC
- CCPS and CFRC services and all system upgrades
- Technical support
- Access to manuals and on-line help tools
- Initial training for users and administrators
- Consulting and access to tools for marketing and outreach

In most NRC markets the annual user fee has been established at \$975.00.

Markets using the Nursing Resource Center

- San Francisco Bay Area, Ca
- South Florida
- Houston-Galveston, Tx
- Bakersfield, Ca
- Los Angeles, Ca
- Corpus Christie, Tx
- Cincinnati, Ohio

Testimonials:

“This system is absolutely fabulous. Once we all get it down, it will save us so much time and effort. Coordinating clinical placements can sometimes feel like you’re trying to herd cats and it’s only one part of my job. The new program was easy to learn and I look forward to the ease of using a computerized system.” -Lora Maloof-Miller, MPH, Clinical Educator, Sequoia Hospital

"The CCPS is very user-friendly and has enabled SJSU to view alternative shifts and days that we wouldn't have known about in the past. Because of CCPS, we are more comfortable expanding enrollment because we have a system in place that allows us to view all potential clinical placement opportunities." –Jayne Cohen, PhD, Director and Professor at San Jose State University

“The Clinical Placement System was very user friendly.” — Rhoda Bates, The Jewish Hospital- Cincinnati

“Increased communication, greater transparency, and standardization of the placement process were the community benefits most selected by respondents.” – Noted as a major finding by the 3rd party that conducted the 2008 South Florida CCPS survey

“I have to let you know that I have just entered and scheduled the fall semester for 2007 and all it took was about 30 minutes of my time!! I cannot thank Palm Healthcare Foundation and you enough for spearheading this system. It’s great!! Thanks again.” - Susan Burgos, Good Samaritan Hospital-West Palm Beach, Fla