

“Many Hearts” in Thailand Nurses of the World

Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program, 2019

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Course: N579

Location: Bangkok, Thailand

- Thailand: Population 65.9 million¹
- Capitol: Bangkok
- Bangkok Population: 8.3 million
- Faculty of Nursing, Mahidol University – 1st Nursing school in Thailand
- Siriraj Hospital – Founded by King Chulalongkorn in 1888

Travelers

- Michigan Population: 9.9 million²
- 4 MSN & 2 DNP AGACNP students
- Faculty: Dr. Ray Blush, DNP



Experience

Purpose

A clinical immersion in the Siriraj Hospital surgical emergency room, intensive care unit, and step-down unit aimed at providing opportunities to assess and diagnose common ailments experience by Bangkok residents and compare U.S. and Thai healthcare delivery.

Outcomes

As Doctor of Nursing Practice students we went in to the experience hoping to gain knowledge about Thailand’s healthcare system and practices. We are pleased to say that we gained much more than that. Working with the Faculty of Nursing, Mahidol University was a honor and insightful. The pride in nursing that the professors and students embody is admirable and reflected in the care they give and patient outcomes. With their assistance we further developed our cultural and assessment skills while also learning about change management and quality improvement. We were also fortunate enough to spend time meeting with some of the key nurse leaders and learn about what drives their advocacy for nursing.

Skills Utilized/Developed

- Cultural competencies expanded – We worked with patients who did not speak English and a variety of healthcare workers from Thailand and surrounding countries such as Myanmar, Malaysia, and Indonesia. This allowed us to strengthen our non-verbal actions and learn about different care modalities.
- Expert assessment skills – Diagnostic testing tools are not as readily available at Siriraj as compared to private hospitals and those in the U.S. The providers at Siriraj rely on their assessment skills and we were given opportunities to practice and develop ours as well.
- Healthcare utilization – In Thailand we were surprised and impressed by the utilization techniques and waste reduction techniques implemented in the units as compared to our expectations.

Career Connections

Our goals as professional nurse leaders are to be experts in clinical practice and effective change agents. The nurses and Advanced Practice Nurses in Thailand work hard to integrate research into their practice and apply best practices just as we aim to do in our careers as DNPs. We were also inspired by their resource management and aim to integrate similar techniques into our future leadership plans.



Advice

- Be prepared to be engaged and motivated to learn as much as possible about the healthcare system
- Spend as much time as possible talking to hosts and international students to gain new insights on healthcare delivery
- Keep an open mind and remember there is no on “best” way to care for patients

Classroom Connections

N503 Advanced Assessment
N523 Role Transition to APRN
N573 Theory I and N575 Theory II
N579 Clinical II and N611 Clinical III

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- We would like to thank the Office of Global Affairs for their support and assistance preparing for our trip. As well as our program professors who supported our study abroad goals while continuing to participate in additional classes.

