



Northern Ontario
School of Medicine
École de médecine
du Nord de l'Ontario
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Summer Studentship Testimonials	
Academic Category	As a testimonial to other learners, what would you say was the single most important learning experience you had?
Dietitian	Being able to observe and closely work with individuals that are working in the field.
Dietitian	I got to learn not only about what professionals in my field of study do, but what other health care professionals do as well.
Dietitian	It is too hard to pick just one. Just the overall experience of working in the hospital setting where you learnt valuable lessons no matter what task you were doing. I think the single most important learning experience would be seeing what a clinical dietitian does on a day-to-day basis since this will help students see if that is the direction they would like to take after schooling. It also helps you put what you learnt at school into everyday practice at the hospital. The experience finally makes the schooling feel real.
Dietitian	My biggest piece of advice is to talk to the healthcare professionals around you. Healthcare truly is a team approach, and EVERYONE has something to teach you. Take every opportunity given to you, and actively search for others that may be available to you. Working in the field is where everything you have learned in class will start to stick, and you can learn more in a week of placement than in a semester in school. Submerge yourself; what you give to this experience you will get back tenfold.
Dietitian	Never be nervous to ask questions and have confidence in your abilities.
Dietitian	Patient satisfaction surveys. Nothing beats learning how to talk to patients. Numbers and processes can be learned anytime/anywhere, but being able to speak to patients, especially when shadowing a dietitian—which I only had the opportunity to do on one occasion—is invaluable.
Dietitian	Sitting in on patient consultations.
Dietitian	The experience of hands on learning in a health care setting was so valuable. I felt I learned so much in the 8 weeks from having patient exposure, interaction with other health care professional, and sitting in on seminars and patient's appointments.
Dietitian	The most important experience I had during my summer studentship was learning how to work with other health professionals to achieve the ultimate goal: excellent patient care. This experience provided me with many opportunities to learn, and I believe that it has been very beneficial. I was able to take on more responsibility than I had in any job previously, which helped me develop skills that can be used in my future career.
Dietitian	The most important learning experience I encountered occurred when testing out new thickening agents and ensuring the proper measurements and/or consistencies with each type of beverage. I wish that there were more opportunities such as this that I had encountered. This experience helped me to understand the important of inter-professional collaboration as well since we had to work with speech pathologists to develop a particular viscosity. It also made me more aware of some of the difficulties associated with dysphagia that patients often experience.
Dietitian	The single most important learning experience I had during this internship was the ability and opportunity it gave me to collaborate, learn, and be mentored by professionals who are in the field of work that I one day hope to be in. It was a fantastic opportunity to learn not only more about this field of work but also expand my knowledge on the various aspects that a professional career in dietetics entails. From this experience I feel as though I am now more able to understand the theories being taught to me in my university classes, because of the hands on opportunities I had in this internship, which directly relate to the concepts now being taught in class.
Dietitian	The single most important learning experience I had is how to teach and transmit nutritional information to clients in a way they will clearly understand.
Dietitian	The single most important learning experience I had was time management and seeing how a healthcare professional managed to accomplish paper work and clerical duties such as charting and at the same time provide excellent quality face to face patient care.
Kinesiologist	Ask as many questions as possible. Best way to learn! Having the chance to be very hands on with patients was great and really helps you understand in a more practical way, compared to reading a textbook.



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Kinesiologist	Observing all the different roles in the health care system, in addition to participating in the daily roles of the selected occupation you have chosen.
Lab Technician	As a second year MLT student entering third year, I would have to say the best learning experience I had was working in chemistry. I had the opportunity to learn how to operate the vitros 5600 chemical analyzer, read all the manuals for it and learned how to trouble shoot common problems. I was also able to help perform QC on the analyzer which was neat to see how what you have learned in class is applied to the hospital lab environment. In general, just being able to observe how a core lab is run and what the exact job role of each MLT is in the hospital was very beneficial. I was surprised to find out how many samples were shipped out for testing at other facilities and this is common practice in many Northern Ontario hospitals. Overall, I had a great experience and I would definitely recommend this program to all medical laboratory students.
Lab Technician	Hands-on application of skills on real patients i.e. phlebotomy.
Lab Technician	The most important learning experience that I had was that I was able to build my confidence with my skills and work closely with Health Professionals. Plus, I received an employment opportunity!
Lab Technician	Working in a hospital environment.
Laboratory Technologist	Exposure to the real world. The learning experience beyond the text book.
Laboratory Technologist	I felt very well prepared for my clinical as the technologists showed me things I may not have seen during my clinical. I recommend this program to all my fellow students in my year and behind me as well.
Laboratory Technologist	The most important learning experience I had was realizing my potential. Once I figured out that I was competent in helping people and i was a valuable member of the team, I was able to better my learning and progress in the field. My advice to others is to be confident in your training and education. Confidence is the key.
Midwife	Being in the environment in general. Where you will be working towards a career.
Midwife	Getting a real understanding of what it's actually like working day-to-day as a midwife was probably the most important experience I had. I think I have a good idea of how midwifery practices function and I will be much more prepared when I begin placements.
Physician	Be prepared and ready to step outside of your comfort zone! However, the experience you will gain is invaluable!
Physician	Hands-on experience.
Physician	Having an opportunity to learn in a hands-on environment is the best way to supplement your education. It will improve your confidence in clinical skills and reinforce what you've learned in the classroom.
Physician	I really appreciated the opportunity to observe physicians in various specialties as well as the opportunity to interact with patients in a clinical setting.
Physician	Learning the art of medicine.
Physician	The most important experience would be my time in the ICU. When you're not observing the management of these really intense cases, you're learning about the complexity of the systems involved. All the physicians there love to teach and I got to practice modern diagnostic techniques such as point of care ultrasounds.
Physician	The opportunity to gain patient care experience in a variety of fields. Delivered babies, assisted in surgeries, performed CPR.
Physician	The physicians participating in this unique learning experience were constantly trying to integrate us into the healthcare team. I was able to learn many invaluable and practical things through this program which I otherwise likely wouldn't have seen until my third or fourth year. I would highly recommend this program and the [hospital name deleted] to future learners!
Physician	The summer studentship gave me an amazing opportunity to shadow physicians in the specialties that interest me and learn about patient care and physician life in Northern Ontario. I had many chances to practice my interview and physical exam skills, and started learning to assess patients and document their care independently.
Physician	There is probably not just one specialty I would be happy doing. Many are great and most medical students, I think, could be happy doing one of several options. Plus where you work really influences the kind of practice you can create for
Practical Nurse	Caring for the resident, safety, teamwork.



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Practical Nurse	Learning from experience.
RN	As a nursing student who had only just finished her first year I would say the most important learning experience I had was getting to watch a catheter being put in and staples being taken out. In first year we did not get to do any of those things hands on and it is different to see it happen in person. It was nice because I was working in rehab but all of the nurses knew that I was in nursing so when they were doing certain nursing skills they would come and get me to see if I wanted to watch.
RN	Being able to care for patients on a day-to-day basis and build upon clinical skills and experiences.
RN	Being able to practice skills and see things in action.
RN	During my time at the [name of hospital deleted], I learned about the importance of prioritizing and delegating care, the duties of a charge nurse, and understanding the importance of following standards of practice set out by College of nurses. All the things I've learned over the summer will help me be more successful when writing the NCLEX exam to obtain my license to practice nursing.
RN	Everything was great; I was placed in the ICU, and everyday was a valuable learning experience!
RN	Gaining confidence in a hospital setting and being treated as a peer not just a student .
RN	Getting to observe and participate in patient care. School involves a lot of textbook-based theories and written exams, whereas the physical experience is a million times more valuable. Seeing how other nurses and health care professionals interact with patients and clients in areas such as ALC, ICU, the OR and telemedicine was more valuable than I could ever express.
RN	Great experience doing hands on, patient care.
RN	I believe that each day of this employment experience contributed to substantial learning in one way or another. I was able to put what I have learned into real life, hands on practice. In this way, I was able to develop further understanding and enhance skills that I will continue to practice throughout my future career. Interactions with knowledgeable clinicians and
RN	I had numerous important learning experiences during my summer. I would say the single most important learning experience I had was learning how to interact with everyone from the patient, to co-workers, to visitors, and more. Communication is a very important skill to display caring, professionalism, and confidentiality, to name a few. This work placement was a very good opportunity to practice and refine my communication skills.
RN	Learning to work with other health care professionals and learning how to work as team.
RN	My most important learning experience was about confidentiality and how you may see lots in the hospital, but you cannot share that information outside of work.
RN	My rotation in the emergency department was a great, diverse learning experience that I believe I benefited most from.
RN	Patient interacting, learning skills.
RN	Taking a neonatal resuscitation course and then participating in a real experience.
RN	Teamwork is a vital part of the nursing profession and it showed while I was in emerge.
RN	The best learning experience was being able to learn and work alongside the other nurses. Being able to observe (and help with patient care when appropriate) taught me a great deal about nursing, things that I have not yet learned at school. I believe having this opportunity will allow me to feel more confident going into the practical components of the school curriculum.
RN	The most important learning experience I had during my placement was being in a rural setting you get to experience a taste of everything. Taking on as many tasks you can participate in, jumping in to new cases that come into emerge, participating in a birth, or just giving care to chronic patients really allowed me to exert all of the skills I have developed thus far throughout my education.
RN	The most important learning experience I had with the NOSM summer studentship was being a contributing member of a health care team. Specifically, working with and gaining perspective from mostly RN's, but also MRT's, MD's, RD's, social workers, PSW's, RPN's, and administration roles.
RN	The most important learning experience that I've had is not only the knowledge I have gained skill wise but also the values I've learned. Teamwork was one of the key values I've learned, I was part of a team and my role was important.



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RN	The NOSM Summer Studentship Program provided me with the opportunity to work in a small, rural hospital in my hometown and gain invaluable hands on clinical experience, while also learning the dynamics of how an inter-professional team functions to provide holistic care to patients.
RN	The opportunity to work in a hospital setting and observe/participate in patient care is all a beneficial learning experience. I was most excited for working in the emerge department but I found each area I worked in required different skills and allowed for many different learning opportunities. An open mind is key!
RN	The single most important experience I had during the summer internship was working in a new environment (ICU) and being able to learn from all of the nurses and health care professionals as a team and not just one (Like in placements). Every day was a learning experience, and I feel 100x more prepared to enter into my final year of nursing after the internship.
RN	The single most important learning experience I had during this summer studentship program was to actively become involved in any and all learning opportunities possible. The nurses I worked alongside in all departments of the hospital were welcoming and strongly encouraged me to observe and participate in a variety of patient care. This learning experience allowed me to truly understand the nursing theory and how it applies in the clinical setting. It also provided moments to further research the nursing considerations related to the care being provided. This experience has certainly increased my knowledge, understanding, and confidence as a nursing student.
RN	This job has boosted my confidence tremendously & also gave me the opportunity to practice skills I wasn't familiar with. I was able to observe other nurses and experience things I have not yet experienced in the clinical setting. It was also nice to participate and see how everyone works together when providing care to patients.
RN	This placement over the summer was a great opportunity to really see how a hospital works and all of the individual roles that come together to create a system, a team, of professionals working together for the greater good.
RN	Throughout the summer I provided basic care to patients, observed higher-level skills being performed and participated in interprofessional collaboration. The most valuable learning experience I had was in observing skills being performed, particularly IV insertions, catheter care, blood transfusions, blood draws for testing, staple removal and wound care.
RN	Working at the hospital in my hometown was so great, I knew the staff and the patients and they were all open to participating in my learning experience. I felt very supported to learn and challenge myself. On the first day I was able to participate and assist other RN's as a palliative cancer patient was in his last hours, I observed all the comfort care measures, medications and excellent care this patient and his family received right until the end. The care of the deceased was something I won't soon forget, how with the utmost respect and care the nurses treated him like he was a family member. It was a very powerful learning experience.
RN	Working in a small community allowed me to experience many different opportunities that I had not encountered during clinical placement in school. More specifically, the emergency department offered many learning experiences and the doctors and nurses allowed me to observe and participate in. I learned how to adapt my skills in a variety of situations rather than just focusing on one single aspect of nursing (i.e., cardiac care).
RN	Working in emerge!
RN	You might not get it on the first try, and you might not get it on the second try. But, there will be a time maybe after doing it five times that it will finally click ... This is a wonderful moment and one worth waiting for. So if you're able to have this opportunity, take it, because I learned so much. :)
Respiratory Therapist	Getting to interact with real patients.
Speech Language Pathology	As a part of the rehabilitation team, I was fortunate enough to not only learn more about my career path (Speech-Language Pathology), but the other professionals that work closely with Speech Language Pathologists; PT, OT, nurses, doctors, dieticians, social workers, etc. The knowledge that I have gained from this experience has been life changing. I am not only a better Speech Language Pathology student, I am more well rounded and knowledgeable in hospital settings. I know this will help me in my future placements and employment opportunities. I would, without a doubt, recommend this program.