



Here are 10 steps for nursing student assignments during low census

This is listed in order of importance:

1. Look for other opportunities on the unit- pair up with the charge nurse, care partner, child life specialist, specialist on the unit, etc.
2. Look to see if there is a nurse that is floating to another unit if she could take the student with him/her (be careful not to overload other units that might have clinical groups on them). Paging the On Call Patient Care Manager might give you some insight to which floor could accept students.
3. Look at other units that you might be able to float a student to that may not have a clinical group on them, NICU, HOT unit, EDTC (again be careful that they don't have too many precepted or orientees on the unit)
4. Look at other areas within the hospital that they could go an observation; poison control center, a specialized clinic, etc.
5. Have them work on unit audits; hand washing, safe sleep, etc.
6. Have them work on case studies. These can be found on the following website: <https://sites.google.com/site/mupediaticinfo/case-studies>
7. Have them go with other specialties like respiratory therapy, a resident, a specialized APN
8. Have them work with another student but have one be the nurse and the other be a care partner and work on delegation.
9. Make it a skills day for them and have them read over policies and procedures and then practice those skills
10. Have them work on NCLEX questions and then possibly send them home early.

When in doubt you can always contact Tracy (pager 907-2777)