Transitioning into acute care can be challenging for registered nurses who do not have the required experience needed for open job opportunities. Currently in Nevada there are hundreds of open RN positions. However, many nurses who want to enter into the hospital setting find themselves unable to meet the experience requirement.

Gap Training for RNs: Transition into Practice Program
Gap Training for RNs (Gap-RN) is a transition into acute care practice program for nurses who require experience to enter an acute care setting. The program is open to newly graduated nurses still looking for their first RN position, RNs currently working in a non-acute care setting who seek current skills and experiences to qualify for a job in acute care, or returning-to-practice RNs who need precepted hours to complete a refresher program.

Over the eight week program, nurses will gain additional education, mentoring/coaching, and clinical experiences to improve competence, professional skills, and employability. Nurse participants are assigned to a Las Vegas area acute care facility where they will work as an RN under supervision from an experienced preceptor two shifts per week for a total of 120 hours. Scheduling is flexible and offers both day and evening shifts. Participants will be able to select between working with adults or children and will identify their preferred unit or interest.

For recent nursing graduates, structured transitional training programs have been shown to enhance skills, decrease medication errors, increase retention rates, and decrease stress. Experienced nurses employed outside of acute care who seek to return to a hospital setting can use Gap-RN to refresh acute care skills and make professional connections. RNs who allowed their license to lapse and have to complete a refresher program and 120 hours of precepted clinical experience to have their license reinstated are also encouraged to apply.

Nurses will also practice skills in a high-tech medical simulation lab and participate in online learning opportunities focused on quality and safety in professional practice.

Participants will build their resume, make professional connections, and be guaranteed an interview with the hospital for a full time position upon successful completion of the program. Participants are not employees of the hospital and are therefore not compensated for their clinical hours. The program also is approved for CEUs through the Nevada State Board of Nursing.
A Win-Win for Hospitals & Nurses
Hospital partners who have participated in the Gap-RN program reported participants either significantly improved or showed outstanding improvement in the following areas: increased competence, technical skill competency, medication calculation and administration accuracy, managing stress levels, professional self-confidence, and inter-professional communication skills. Hospitals also reported that as a result of the participation in the program they anticipate increase in retention rates, decrease in recruitment costs, decrease in length of residency programs, and a decrease in transition costs.

This program is supported by Workforce Connections, Nevada State Board of Nursing, Nevada Nurses Association, Nevada Alliance for Nursing Excellence, and Nevada Organization for Nurse Leaders.

Eligibility & Registration
Gap Training for RNs is appropriate for newly graduated nurses seeking their first RN position, RNs currently working in non-acute or community settings who wish to refresh their technical skills to qualify for a job in acute care, or a returning-to-practice RN who needs to complete clinical hours in order to be relicensed.

For More Information
Learn more about program requirements and registration at a free information session. Upcoming dates, program details, and testimonials can be viewed online at ced.unlv.edu/rn-training.

For information on tuition grants or program eligibility, contact Jodi Gilliland, Program Coordinator, via email at Jodi.Gilliland@unlv.edu or by phone at 702-895-5099. Hospitals wishing to participate by providing preceptorships should also contact Jodi Gilliland.

Reach Continuing Education at 702-895-5099 or continuing.education@unlv.edu.