

Twila Douglas

During my clinical, I was able to visit the emergency department. The emergency department is a different environment compared to the medical-surgical unit. The emergency department was a faster pace and had a wide range of client needs. All the nurses and techs were knowledgeable and allowed us plenty of opportunities to learn and utilize specific techniques.

I was able to start an IV on a patient successfully. I administered Toradol and Zofran. I attempted a straight catheter but was not successful. The nurse tried two additional times before becoming successful. I was able to use the sterile technique we learned from our lab when performing the straight catheter. It was essential to making sure everything was sterile, and the sterile field was not broken. This patient was 11 days postpartum and was admitted for chest pains with concerns of another pulmonary embolism.

Overall I enjoyed my time in the emergency department, and I can't wait to go back. The emergency department was a great experience. I feel I learned a lot and had a lot of hands-on experiences. Hoopston's emergency department is smaller than the one in Urbana. It was interesting to see how nurses and techs take on higher roles to accommodate staffing. The techs were able to assist with IV disconnects and other tasks. The nurses were very kind and made sure to make the client's needs were a priority.