***\*Discuss traits of the ideal preceptor and mentor.***

So many qualities, attributes and characteristics come to mind when I think of an ideal preceptor. The following discussion will highlight some of those that I consider important and are also supported by literature from our text.

Competent – First of all I want my preceptor to be competent within their practice. Often, multiple clinical issues must be addressed during a patient encounter and the APN must be able to prioritize, diagnosis, treat and then also manage the patient’s issues. They must be fully aware of disease processes and proper treatment but also humble enough to know when to collaborate, use resources and find help in difficult or unsure scenarios. Am important form of knowledge that must be brought to bear on clinical decision making for individuals and for populations, is the every increasing volume of research findings and used in evidence based practice. Wise clinicians are aware of the limits of their knowledge and experience and consult with other health care providers depending on their specialties.

Professional- A preceptor must be professional in all areas of their career. They must follow policies and procedures as well as establish professional boundaries in all relationships with both patients and co-workers. Standards such as true collaboration, skilled communication, developing authentic leaders and professionalism in nursing are keys to establishing healthy work environments.

Compassion/Passion- I want my preceptors to have compassion with their patients and passion for the field of nursing. I want to learn from their time spent talking and listening with patients. I also was to learn from their passionate insights of visions within the practice.

Communication – Not only must the preceptor be able to communicate clearly and educate me but also the patients. Emphasizing early communication among the patient, significant others and the providers about values helps to resolve ethical issues. This also instills trust and understanding among providers and patients as well as their families. Teaching and coaching are recognized as core competencies of APNs.

It is hard to sum up the roles, expectations and qualities we want our preceptors to display and then also desire to portray ourselves