

Hello and welcome to Chamberlain College of Nursing's 'Finding a Practicum Site & Preceptor' presentation for your Master of Science in Nursing degree program and the Family Nurse Practitioner specialty track. We understand that finding the right practicum site and preceptor for your FNP practicums can be a challenge and we want to help. This presentation will guide you in this process by providing helpful tips for where to begin your search to identifying the most appropriate practicum site and preceptor.

Tips for Finding a Preceptor & Practicum Site

- Ask those you have professional relationships with if they have recommendations for you
 - A physician or FNP you know
 - Your current place of work, or an affiliate facility
 - Your own family physician
- Also consider
 - A retail clinic
 - <http://npfinder.aanp.org/>

Tip: Even if the potential preceptor you approach can't precept you, chances are they may know someone who can.



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In general, your best option is to begin with a preceptor or site currently in your network. Even if the potential preceptor you approach can't precept you, chances are they may know someone who does. I encourage you to do some research into the resources of your network as you begin the early stages of identifying a potential practicum site and preceptor.

- A physician or FNP you know
- Your current place of work, or an affiliate facility
- Your own family physician
- Asking professional relationships you have if they have recommendations for you

Additionally, some students consider using a retail clinic that offers immediate care services by a Nurse Practitioner or searching a not for profit site that might assist you in identifying a preceptor is <http://npfinder.aanp.org/>.

Students who exceed and excel in the FNP program overall, have achieved this through early identification of their practicum site using the above methods.

Practicum Site Considerations

The practicum site and what patient population it serves

- Each practicum experience focuses on different patient populations.

Consider preceptor requirements

- Even if a site offers the correct patient exposure there still needs to be a preceptor who is willing to precept you and meets the requirements

Scheduling and time management

- You will be completing many practicum hours in addition to your typical coursework expectations and other life responsibilities



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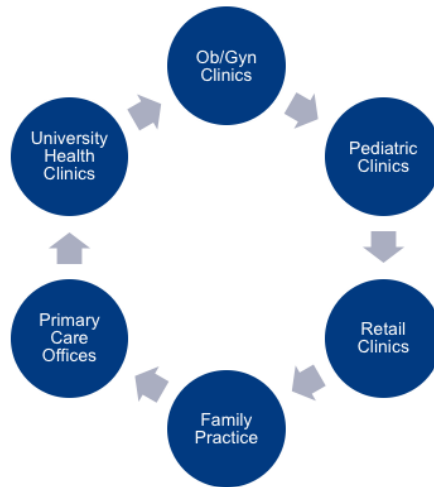
You may already have a practicum site and preceptor in mind, or you may be looking at the previous slide for inspiration. No matter which of these scenarios you are in, you need to know what to consider when making your choice. Most importantly, you should begin your search now if you do not already have a few options in mind. Even if you have one or two options that you think may work, you will notice as we cover each item to consider that they may not be the most effective option for all practicums and you may need alternative options.

As you search for your practicum site(s) and preceptor(s) you should consider:

- The practicum site and what patient population it serves – each practicum experience focuses on different patient populations. We will walk through each practicum to give you examples of typical experiences and what you need to be looking for in a site
- You should also consider Preceptor Requirements – even if a site offers the correct patient exposure there still needs to be a preceptor who is not only willing to precept you, but they must also meet certain requirements
- And equally as important is Scheduling and Time Management – you will be completing many practicum hours in addition to your typical coursework expectations and other life responsibilities, therefore proper scheduling and time

management will be crucial when selecting a practicum site and preceptor to schedule your hours with

Practicum Site Selection: Focus Should be on Primary Care



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First we will take a look into practicum site selection and what to consider.

When selecting a practicum site it is very important to consider the type of care provided and the patient population. The care and patient exposure should be focused on primary care over the lifespan and reflect your practicum course curriculum.

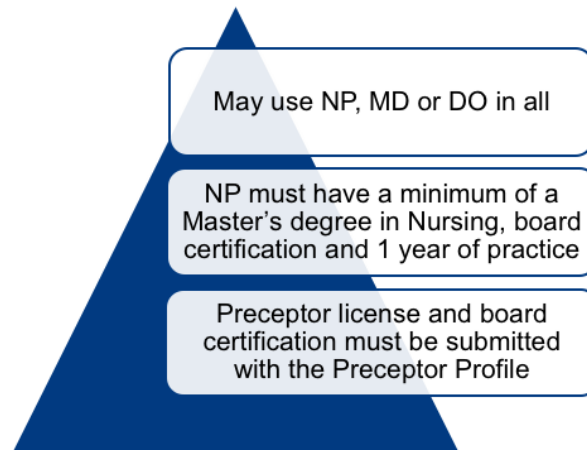
The types of facilities that would allow students to engage in primary care experiences are Ob/gyn Clinics, Pediatric Clinics, Retail Clinics, Family Practices, Primary Care Offices and University Health Clinics. The site(s) that you select must be a healthcare or nursing institution consistent with the learning needs of your advanced practice specialty.

Your first two practicums will require you to utilize either a family practice or retail clinic site specifically. We will discuss your first two practicums in more detail in a moment.

It is of great importance to note that not all potential practicum sites will offer all the exposure types you will need for all 5 practicum courses. If you can find one family

practice practicum site and preceptor that provide you with the necessary patient exposure and are willing to precept you through all 5 practicums that would be great. The likelihood of that happening may not be great, so please be open to the idea of using more than one site and/or preceptor. Other than your first two practicums, you can complete your practicum outside of your course focus. For instance, you can complete your practicum hours at an Ob/Gyn clinic while taking your FNP capstone. The most important thing is for you to gain exposure to all types of populations you will encounter as a family nurse practitioner vs. making sure you receive that exposure during the specified course.

Preceptor Requirements



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As you search for an appropriate practicum site your choice of preceptor will likely play a significant role. Just like the practicum site there are a number of things to look for in a preceptor.

To start, you are advised to seek out a nurse practitioner (NP) preceptor. All NP preceptors must have a minimum of a Master's degree in nursing, have state licensure as an advanced practice nurse in their state, be nationally certified as a nurse practitioner and have been in practice for at least 1 year.

In some cases a nurse practitioner may not be a possibility for you. Therefore, medical doctors (MD) and doctors of osteopathy (DO) may also be used. MDs and DOs are required to have a current medical license.

To receive approval to work with your requested preceptor you must submit the preceptor profile, preceptor license, preceptor CV and in the case of the nurse practitioner, a copy of their board certification is required.

All preceptors must have applicable expertise and the ability to help you achieve your learning goals. Preceptors must be willing and available to work with you in a setting

where advanced practice nursing is allowed to contribute to the improvement of clinical care. You may only complete your practicum hours with your approved preceptor – hours completed with an individual that is not approved as your preceptor will not be considered part of your required practicum hours.

Patient Population Exposure



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We now know that primary care is the basis for your practicum site selection. However, primary care can be broad, and as a FNP student at Chamberlain and a future Family Nurse Practitioner you will be exposed to different patient populations, varied diseases, care for families and health promotion across the lifespan. To illustrate the type of patient exposure you need to target in your practicum site(s) we will talk through each practicum and cover what you might typically expect during your practicum hours.

NR-511: Differential Diagnosis and Primary Care Practicum

- Must take place at a family practice or retail clinic
- Core Focus
 - Formulating differential diagnoses of individuals within the primary care setting
- Practicum experiences may include:
 - Processing client information
 - Interpreting lab studies
 - Cardiovascular risk assessment/management



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As we talk through each practicum and the experiences you should be expecting please keep in mind that this is to help you identify a site and preceptor that can provide this exposure.

The first practicum is NR-511: Differential Diagnosis and Primary Care. As you consider a potential practicum site for your Practicum Application form, it is required that you identify either a family practice or retail clinic as a site for this course. The Practicum Coordination team will advise you whether the site you choose works for the other practicums as well.

This course will provide you with content regarding formulating differential diagnoses of individuals within the primary care setting, along with an introduction to critical diagnostic skills to cultivate evidence based behaviors. An emphasis is placed on processing client information in a logical, progressive manner and formulating differential diagnoses for individuals across the lifespan. The course includes 125 hours of supervised clinical practicum in primary care.

Practicum experiences may include, but are not limited to, the management of the most common and uncomplicated health issues occurring in all body systems.

Examples include hypertension and diabetes diagnosis and management. Preceptors will determine which skills that you are able to perform during the practicum. Typical skills learned in a primary care setting includes: interpreting lab studies, cardiovascular risk assessment/management, and suturing.

NR-601: Primary Care of the Maturing and Aged Family Practicum

- Must take place at a family practice or retail clinic
- Core Focus
 - Common health problems and healthcare needs of the middle-aged and older adult
 - Further develop your skills related to patient education, protocol development, follow-up and referral
- Practicum experiences may include:
 - Older adult cognitive/functional ability assessment
 - Older adult nutritional assessment
 - Performance of primary care-related skills within scope of preceptor



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The second practicum is NR-601: Primary Care of the Maturing and Aged Family Practicum. You must also identify either a family practice or retail clinic site for this practicum course. This course continues to expand the knowledge of health assessment principles specific to the role of the FNP, with a focus on the common health problems and healthcare needs of the middle-aged and older adult. You will explore, analyze, apply, and evaluate chronic health conditions frequently encountered in the primary care of older adults. You will also further develop your skills related to patient education, protocol development, follow-up, and referral through a clinical practicum experience in a precepted primary care setting.

Practicum experiences may include, but are not limited to, older adult cognitive/functional ability assessment and older adult nutritional assessment. Also, you may perform any primary care-related skill that is within the scope of practice of your approved preceptor under their direct supervision.

NR-602: Primary Care of the Childbearing and Childrearing Family Practicum

- Core Focus
 - Healthcare needs of women and families throughout reproductive and childrearing years
- Practicum experiences may include:
 - Performing well-woman and well-child exams
 - STD diagnosis and treatment
 - Performing full pelvic exams



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The third practicum is NR-602: Primary Care of the Childbearing and Childrearing Family Practicum. This course continues to expand the knowledge of health assessment principles specific to the role of the FNP, with a focus on the healthcare needs of women and families throughout reproductive and childrearing years. You will further develop your skills related to health promotion, prevention of illness, diagnosis and management of health problems commonly experienced in childbearing and childrearing families. Care strategies include patient education, protocol development, follow-up, and referral through a clinical practicum experience in a precepted primary care setting.

Practicum experiences may include, but are not limited to, performing well-woman and well-child exams, STD diagnosis and treatment, performing full pelvic exams as well as performing any primary care-related skill that is within the scope of practice of your approved preceptor under their direct supervision.

NR-603: Advanced Clinical Diagnosis and Practice across the Lifespan Practicum

- Core Focus
 - Expand the theoretical and practical knowledge of health assessment principles specific to the role of the FNP
- Practicum experiences may include:
 - Health promotion and prevention of illness
 - Diagnosis and management of health problems across lifespan
 - Performance of primary care-related skills within scope of preceptor



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The fourth practicum is NR-603: Advanced Clinical Diagnosis and Practice across the Lifespan Practicum. This course continues to expand the theoretical and practical knowledge of health assessment principles specific to the role of the FNP, for the healthcare needs of individuals of all ages. You will further develop your skills related to health promotion, prevention of illness, diagnosis and management of health problems commonly experienced throughout the life span. Care strategies include patient education, protocol development, follow-up, and referral through a clinical practicum experience in a precepted advanced practice setting.

Practicum experiences may include the performance of any primary care-related skill that is within the scope of practice of your approved preceptor under their direct supervision.

NR-661: APN Capstone Practicum

- Core Focus
 - Clinical management skills, case studies, chart reviews, and practice critique, with a capstone product evidencing increasing complex clinical management skills
- Practicum experiences may include:
 - Performance of primary care-related skills within scope of preceptor
- Imbedded national certification exam review program
 - Developed by APEA, Advanced Practice Education Associates



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The final practicum is NR-661: APN Capstone Practicum. You will synthesize all elements of clinical management skills and knowledge and continue to analyze, apply, and evaluate diverse aspects of patient assessment and care. This precepted clinical practicum is with an approved provider in an advanced practice setting. Focus topics include clinical management skills, case studies, chart reviews, and practice critique, with a capstone product evidencing increasing complex clinical management skills.

Practicum experiences may include the performance of any primary care-related skill that is within the scope of practice of your approved preceptor under their direct supervision.

Once you have completed the MSN FNP program, you are eligible to sit for the national certification examination as a Family Nurse Practitioner from either ANCC or AANP. After successfully passing the exam, you are eligible for licensure in your state.

To help prepare you to be successful on the national certifying examination, we have imbedded a complete family nurse practitioner review course in your capstone course, NR-661. The review program was developed by APEA, Advanced Practice Education Associates. You will begin the course by taking a predictor examination that allows you to understand the areas that require further understanding on your part. Over the seven weeks of the course you will have the opportunity to listen to embedded lecture in the course so that you will become familiar with the content and questions of the national certifying examination. The course will culminate in a final examination—passing the final examination is a requirement for successful completion of NR-661. Students will have the opportunity to retake the examination one time and must pass the final examination.

You may complete your practicums with your current employer as long as ...

- ✓Preceptor is not your direct supervisor
- ✓Site provides necessary patient exposure
- ✓Practicum experiences are outside of your typical work area



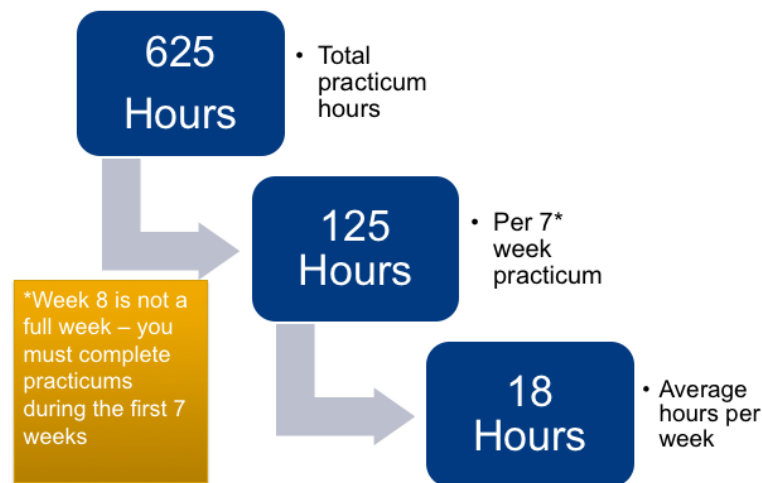
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Many students want to know if they can complete their practicum where they work. The answer is yes, as long as you work in a primary care setting like those we mentioned earlier in this presentation. Even if you are able to do one practicum at your work you may not be able to do all of them. It really depends on the types of patient populations you will be exposed to.

Although you may choose to use your employer for your practicum site, your preceptor may not be your direct supervisor and your practicum experience must be outside of your area of work.

Scheduling and Time Management



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It's very important to realize what the clinical-hour component will mean in terms of scheduling your time for work and family. Most students will not be able to maintain their full work schedule unless other aspects of their life are maintained by others; for example children, meals, cleaning or other life responsibilities. The 125 clinical hours per 7 week practicum equates to about 18 hours per week and is worked out according to your and your preceptor's schedules, so the actual hours per week may vary depending upon specific circumstances. The 125 hours must be completed within each 8 week practicum. Completing practicum hours outside of the 8 week practicum will not be permitted.

Please keep in mind these clinical hours will be in addition to typical classroom expectations. It is imperative to understand that time management will be a crucial aspect in the program, especially when completing your practicums.

Why Start So Early?

- Unplanned situations can occur
 - Scheduling conflicts with preceptors
 - Practicum sites not delivering as planned
 - Trouble finding appropriate patient exposure
- Clinical Affiliation Agreement
 - Can take several weeks to months to obtain
- Practicum Site Requirements



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As you can see there are many things to consider when choosing the appropriate practicum site and preceptor. We want to make sure you have the time necessary to plan a great practicum experience. Due to the amount of variables in the process, factors outside of your control can happen such as practicum sites not delivering as planned, preceptor's plans changing or scheduling conflicts that occur. The hope is that beginning the process early, if situations such as these do occur, we will have time to find an alternative solution.

In addition to the variables, once a site and preceptor are approved there will be steps necessary to solidify that relationship.

First, a Clinical Affiliation Agreement is required for all clinical sites. The practicum coordinator will initiate the contract. The process of completing site contracts can take several weeks to months. Along with the assistance of your practicum coordinator, you will need to take an active role in identifying any contractual requirements and assist in securing the contract information immediately after submitting the Practicum Application.

Second, the practicum site may have various requirements for you to meet. It is the your responsibility as the student to ensure all site requirements are understood and completed prior to registering for the first practicum course. This may include, but is not limited to: liability insurance, background check, drug or urine screening, immunizations, proof of health insurance, evidence of HIPAA training, current CPR certification or other requirements.

Please remember, you will have plenty of assistance from your practicum coordinator throughout this

process but these are the reasons for starting this process early. Your success means a great deal to us and we feel that this will create the best environment for that success.

Contacting Sites & Preceptors

- Be Professional
 - Sites may evaluate you for future employment
- Be Prepared
 - Have your goals, preceptor requirements, practicum requirements, timeframe and expectations clearly outlined
 - These can be found in your FNP Practicum Handbook and Toolkit
- Be Appreciative



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It is your responsibility to contact prospective practicum sites and preceptors yourself. With that being said, if you need assistance our practicum coordination team would be happy to help.

When contacting a possible practicum site be sure to be professional. Introduce yourself, indicate that you are a Chamberlain College of Nursing student and the reason for your call or visit. Remember these sites might look at you like a future employee—you want to put your best foot forward.

Be prepared when contacting a proposed practicum site. You may be asked questions about Chamberlain, the practicums or what a site or preceptors responsibilities are. Ensure you have your goals, preceptor requirements, practicum requirements, timeframe and expectations clearly outlined when speaking with a representative of the site (these are all located in your practicum handbook and FNP toolkit).

Ensure that you are appreciative. Thank the person you have spoken with for their time even if no positive response was gained.

Thank you!

- Your assigned practicum coordinator or FNPpracticum@chamberlain.edu
- Your Admission Representative
- Student Services Team:
888-556-8226 (option 3)



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This concludes Finding a Practicum Site & Preceptor presentation. We hope these tips will be helpful in your search and we wish you the best of luck. If you have specific questions regarding your practicums please reach out to your assigned practicum coordinator or FNPpracticum@chamberlain.edu.

If you have not started classes please reach out to your admission representative.

If you have started classes please contact your Student Services team at 888-556-8226 (option 3).

Thank you and good luck!