Finding a Practicum Site & Preceptor

CHAMBERLAIN
College of Nursing
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.
## Practicum Site Considerations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The practicum site and what patient population it serves</th>
<th>• Each practicum experience focuses on different patient populations.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consider preceptor requirements</td>
<td>• 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</td>
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<td>Scheduling and time management</td>
<td>• You will be completing many practicum hours in addition to your typical coursework expectations and other life responsibilities</td>
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Practicum Site Selection: Focus Should be on Primary Care

- University Health Clinics
- Primary Care Offices
- Family Practice
- Retail Clinics
- Pediatric Clinics
- Ob/Gyn Clinics
Preceptor Requirements

- May use NP, MD or DO in all

- NP must have a minimum of a Master’s degree in Nursing, board certification and 1 year of practice

- Preceptor license and board certification must be submitted with the Preceptor Profile
Patient Population Exposure
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
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
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
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
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
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
Scheduling and Time Management

625 Hours
- Total practicum hours

125 Hours
- Per 7* week practicum

18 Hours
- Average hours per week

*Week 8 is not a full week – you must complete practicums during the first 7 weeks
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
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
Thank you!

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