Hello and welcome to Chamberlain College of Nursing’s Master of Science in Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner practicum preparation orientation.
Agenda

• What is a FNP Practicum Course?
• Practicum Application & Preceptor Profile
• Practicum Site and Preceptor
• Time Management
• Practicum Coordination
To begin, I want to provide you with an overview of the MSN FNP curriculum. The first 5 courses you must complete are MSN core nursing courses. Once you have completed the core courses you will then complete 10 FNP specialty track courses, giving you a total of 15 required courses.

As you progress through the program the content will become more complex and will take more of your time. Although we do strongly encourage you to take just one class per 8 week session, you are able to take two at a time for select courses toward the beginning of your program. Once you start the clinical courses you will need to spend more time on each course as you will be completing coursework along with 125 practicum hours and will only be allowed to take one course at a time.
Problem-based learning (PBL) is at the core of the Family Nurse Practitioner curriculum. Faculty have replaced standard threaded discussion questions with case-based scenarios. The scenarios are created from real-life experiences of patients that faculty have treated through the years. The cases are applicable to your clinical experiences and help to bridge the classroom-clinical gap.

At the beginning of each online week, you are exposed to the first portion of the case study. Faculty facilitate the discussions to help you and your peers develop differential diagnoses based upon this initial information. This mimics what occurs in the examination room when the patient begins to give you history information - this is when the critical thinking and diagnostic reasoning begins. During the second half of that week, you are provided additional information - the results of a physical examination. Again, this is what occurs in the examination room after you have taken the patient's history. Based upon the results of the physical examination, your differential diagnoses start to change. The final portion of the week is the documentation of your clinical encounter.

You will find that learning through the use of case-based scenarios is much more time-consuming and requires deep, critical thinking. Your initial exposure to problem-based learning may be frustrating, and you may not have a clear sense of how learning is occurring. However, over time, as you continue to use this modality of learning, you will find increased retention of the material and a thorough application of the material to your clinical experience. It is important to continue to
work with your faculty as you become more familiar with this learning process.
Before we dive into preparing for your practicum courses we want to provide you with a high level explanation of our FNP practicum courses. You can view a practicum course as two separate pieces that work together: your online class and your onsite practicum experience. You will have a professor for each of your 5 practicums and you will be participating in online coursework similar to your previous classes.

In addition to this coursework you will be completing 125 practicum hours per practicum at a practicum site with a preceptor of your choice. You will be required to complete all 125 hours within each practicum course. You will not be able to complete any practicum hours outside of the 8 week course.
Before entering into Chamberlain’s MSN FNP program you are required to identify the practicum site(s) you wish to use. You are also highly encouraged to identify the preceptor(s) you wish to use at the same time, but this is not required before entering into the program; thought it may be easier to secure a site once you have identified a preceptor. Before we discuss what to consider in your search for a practicum site and preceptor lets talk about what your responsibility is prior to entering the program. Although you should consider all practicums when identifying a site, the most important to first consider are NR-511 and NR-601. You are required to identify a family practice or retail clinic as a practicum site for these first two practicums before you can be registered for your first course.

Once you identify the practicum site(s) and preceptor(s) that you wish to use you are required to provide your admission representative with a Practicum Application, which states the practicum site(s) you wish to use. The application will then be sent to the practicum approval team for initial approval before your admission representative can register you for your first class. Your admission representative will not register you for your first class if this application is not turned in and approved.
Your admissions representative will assist you through this process and act as your point of contact with Chamberlain.

After you have started the program the Practicum Coordination team will work with you to review and approve your intended practicum site(s) and preceptor(s), and to obtain an agreement between Chamberlain and your desired practicum site. We will discuss the role of the Practicum Coordination team in greater detail in a moment.
You are encouraged to submit a Preceptor Profile with your Practicum Application if you have a preceptor(s) in mind, but it is not a requirement to start your program. The Preceptor Profile identifies the preceptor you wish to use. When you submit the Preceptor Profile you must also submit the preceptor(s)’s current resume or curriculum vitae (CV), evidence of licensure and their national board certification. This too will be reviewed by the Practicum Coordination team for approval.
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

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.

Students who exceed and excel in the FNP program overall, have achieved this through early identification of their practicum site using the above methods.
You may already have a practicum site and preceptor in mind, or you may be looking and 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

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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.

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 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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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

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

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.
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.
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.
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 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

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.
We have mentioned the Practicum Coordination team a number of times throughout our conversation. That speaks to the nature of the role of this team. They are here to assist you from a practicum and preceptor perspective throughout your program. After you have started the program you will be assigned a practicum coordinator based on the state you plan to participate in your practicums in who will work to approve your previously identified practicum site and preceptor and help to secure a contract agreement with your practicum site.

If your previously identified practicum site and/or preceptor are not approved, or do not work for another reason, your practicum coordinator can guide you in your search for an alternative option. Again, it is wise to identify more than one possibility should a situation such as this occur.

Although the practicum coordination team is here to help, please take ownership of your practicum experience and be sure to remain in constant communication with your assigned practicum coordinator.
We have covered a lot of information so we wanted to provide you with a brief overview of the required practicum steps you will need to complete over the course of your program before completing the practicum courses themselves. The first two steps in red you do now, and the rest is what is due at least 120 days before the start of your first practicum.

Step 1 is to identify the practicum site – this will be done before starting the program.

Step 2 is to turn in Practicum Application and have approved by Practicum Coordination team – this has to be completed before registering for your first course.

Step 3 is to identify a preceptor and turn in preceptor documentation to your Practicum Coordinator for approval.

Step 4 is to work with your Practicum Coordinator to secure contract with desired practicum site.

And finally Step 5 is to register for and begin your practicums with approved practicum site and preceptor.
This concludes MSN FNP Practicum Preparation presentation. 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 admissions representative.

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

Thank you and good luck!