Hello and welcome to Chamberlain College of Nursing’s Master of Science in Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner practicum preparation orientation.
All of the courses in the FNP curriculum are based upon adult learning and experiential learning theories. There are four key concepts that apply to adult learners are:

1. Adults learn best when there is immediate value to the material
2. Learning is based upon problem solving
3. Experientially
4. How material learned is applicable to the advanced practice role.

The FNP curriculum builds on these concepts through problem-based learning, including extensive use of case studies which we will cover in a moment.
The MSN FNP program is designed to develop advanced practice nurses who think critically and creatively and are able to apply practice standards through information seeking. Our courses are designed to help bridge the gap between coursework and your clinical experience. Our experienced faculty work as facilitators in the courses and help guide you as you work toward developing creative solutions to the case studies that are presented.
Traditional methods of instruction have dominated nursing education for many years, which have been considered faculty-centered learning strategies. Student-centered learning experiences foster independence of learning, which encourage critical thinking and the use of creativity and problem solving, while embracing a commitment to lifelong learning: All of these student-learning benefits are features of adult learning theory. As an advanced practice nurse, you need to become skilled in higher-level thinking and reasoning abilities, as you will be treating patients independently from a physician, developing complex treatment plans, prescribing medications, and ordering diagnostic testing. As you progress through the program, you will notice that the program incorporates only student-centered learning experiences, including problem-based learning.

Student-Centered Learning

- Independence of learning
- Critical thinking
- Creativity and problem solving
- Lifelong learning
Problem-based learning (PBL) is at the core of the Family Nurse Practitioner curriculum. Faculty have replaced standard 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. It is essential that you manage your time accordingly, based upon your responsibilities to your family and your current job. 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.
A question that is routinely asked is that of resources that may be required to assist students in completion of the case based scenarios. There are assigned readings from the required textbooks each week. Information from these textbooks will help you begin processing and understanding the patient's chief complaint. Interaction with fellow students and faculty is of particular importance for this type of learning. Discussing the cases with your preceptor at your clinical site is also another important resource. Students may also research the components of the case study from a variety of reliable sources via the Internet and the Chamberlain library.
Thank you!

- Contact your professor: your number #1 resource while in class
- Admissions (if you have not started classes): your assigned representative or 888-556-8226
- Student Services Team (if in class): 888-556-8226 (option 3)

This concludes MSN FNP Problem-Based Learning presentation. If you have questions and you have not started classes please call our admissions team at 888-556-8226 if you’ve not already spoken with an admissions representative or your assigned admissions representative if you have spoken with them.

If you have started into the program please contact your professor if you have problem-based learning questions. Your professor will be your number one resource throughout your program. If you have questions outside of what your professor can assist with please call your Student Services team at 888-556-8226 (option 3).

Thank you and good luck!