Practicum Planning

Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Preceptor Information

Students must have a minimum of 3 preceptors and practice locations during their clinical experience rotations. Students should not be with the same preceptor for two semesters, because you need a variety of experiences. You also must have a minimum of 100 hours with a nurse practitioner.

We do not want you with more than two preceptors during any semester. All hours with a preceptor must be completed during that semester. In other words, you cannot complete 30 hours one semester and return the next semester to complete 30 hours. You should only be with 1 preceptor during Practicum 1. However, if you are with 2 preceptors during Practicum 1, you will need to accomplish a total of 120 hours to accommodate completion of 60 hours with each preceptor. Hours are not carried over from one semester to another.

The course coordinators are responsible for obtaining VCF contract approval, not for specifying that the site is appropriate.

Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Practicum Site Information

The practicum experience is an integral part of your adult gerontological primary care nurse practitioner program. The majority of clinical experiences should be with preceptors in the population-focused area of your program to assist you in your knowledge base for your future practice and to enable you to pass your certification exam. For that purpose, you should have 252 hours in primary care. The remaining 252 hours may be completed in a variety of settings. A primary care provider is defined a physician or nurse practitioner who delivers comprehensive health care. They will take care of a wide variety of problems such as common colds, sinus infections, sore throats, a cough, back pain, nausea or abdominal pain. It is also the place a patient goes for

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care and follow-up of chronic conditions such as asthma, hypertension, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, and depression. So basically, it is an internal medicine or family practice setting where the patient sees a care provider for all of their health care needs. The primary care provider also works closely with specialists and makes referrals and coordinates care regardless of where the care is delivered or who provides the care. It can be considered the medical home for the patient.

Primary Care Settings
- Internal Medicine
- Office Primary Care Health Clinic
- Family Practice Office or Clinic (you may only see patients 13 and older)

It is expected that the primary care experience will be across the lifespan rather than focusing on one age group. Since this is an adult gerontological primary care program, it would be advantageous to spend some time with the gerontological population. For this reason 100 hours may be spent in long-term care, extended care, assisted living, or home based care setting and count toward primary care time. If you spend time seeing home care patients performing primary care you must see on average a minimum of 5-6 patients each day. You may spend additional time to fulfill the semester requirements but only 100 hours can be applied toward the primary care requirement. For example, practicum I requires 112 hours. You may spend all of the hours with one preceptor in long-term care but only 100 hours will count toward primary care. The remaining 12 hours will accrue towards the total number of hours though. This is actually an excellent place to obtain experience doing history and physical exams.

Alternately, we will allow 100 hours of urgent care experience to count as primary care. This will also provide an excellent learning opportunity. The urgent care does not include ER because that would be an acute care focus. You may NOT use 100 hours of long-term care and 100 hours of urgent care as primary care. You could use both but the additional hours would be part of the additional hours allowed outside of the primary care focus.

In any site, you must spend a minimum of 4 hours each day with the preceptor. No time spent for in-service, continuing education, or lecture count as part of practicum time.

Excellent Sites for your Additional Practicum Hours

These sites would also be beneficial for your knowledge. However, you need to do a minimum of 60 hours in a site and it would be advantageous to spend additional time in one setting to immerse yourself in the practice. All clinical settings must be hands-on. This is not an observational experience. If a site does not see a sufficient number of patients in a day, on a routine basis it would not be appropriate. The hours must be completed within one semester. These sites are not considered primary care even though they may take care of the primary care needs for their specific population. Remember that it is in your best interest to spend sufficient time with a preceptor rather than going from site to site. These sites must be office-based practice. They cannot be
within the acute care setting. You may not spend time in the same specialty area during two separate semesters. This would also include gerontology, long term care, skilled nursing units, and assisted living.

Sites include:
- Cardiology
- Dermatology
- Endocrinology
- Women’s Health (not gynecologic oncologist, fertility specialist, or pelvic floor disorder clinic)
- Gastroenterology (General)
- Gerontology (only 100 hours count as primary care)
- Neurology
- Nephrology (not a dialysis clinic)
- Pulmonology
- Occupational Medicine
- Oncology/Hematology (not Bone Marrow transplant)
- Orthopedics (General)
- Otolaryngology

Site Limitations

Pre-op testing: this site is only allowed during the first semester when you are focused on H&Ps. You may do the entire 112 hours during Practicum I.

There are some sites that should be limited to 100 hours throughout the program. These are limited not because the sites are not beneficial for the provision of care but they will not enhance your knowledge base for the certification exam as much as other areas. Again, these settings must be office-based practices.

Examples of these include:
- Allergist
- Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology
- Hepatologist
- Infectious Disease (not inpatient)
- Interventional Cardiology
- Any specialty orthopedics (hand surgeon, knee surgeon)
- Pain management
- Palliative Care/Hospice (not inpatient without special permission)
- Physiatry
- Psychiatry
- Radiation Oncologist
- Rheumatologist
- Sleep Disorders Specialist
- Urology
- Wound Care/Burn Treatment

Cardiovascular Surgery/Plastic Surgery/Vascular Surgery/Neurosurgery: office practice only and consideration of any type surgical practice is on a case by case basis with permission of lead faculty dependent upon appropriateness to primary
**care practice.** Student may accompany preceptor to surgery once or twice but contracts will need to be in place with the hospital and it may take additional time so VCF must be submitted early. You are not allowed to spend time with a Hospitalist, Surgeon, or an Intensivist. If you are working with an orthopedist or other provider and go into surgery for a day or two that is permissible.

If you have questions, contact Donna Cook or course lead faculty.

**FOR EXAMPLE:** Please remember that there is no requirement for any specialty hours. Only primary care hours are specified. Therefore, all 504 hours may be in the primary care setting!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester and required semester hours</th>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Total Hours</th>
<th>Classified as Primary Care</th>
<th>Classified as Additional Specialty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Semester (112)</td>
<td>Long Term Care NP</td>
<td>112 hours</td>
<td>100 hrs</td>
<td>12 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Semester (168)</td>
<td>Cardiology NP</td>
<td>100 hours</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pulmonology NP</td>
<td>68 hours</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>68 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; Semester (224)</td>
<td>Internal Medicine Clinic NP</td>
<td>164 hours</td>
<td>164 hrs</td>
<td>0 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Urgent Care NP</td>
<td>60 hours</td>
<td>0 hrs</td>
<td>60 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td></td>
<td>504 hours</td>
<td>264 hrs</td>
<td>240 hrs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 3<sup>rd</sup> semester urgent care time could not count as primary care because the LTC hours counted in the 1<sup>st</sup> semester. However, they did count toward the total.