

Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Practicum Planning Guide

Welcome to your practicum experience! This document serves as a guideline for planning your practicum experiences in the adult gerontology primary care (AGPC) nurse practitioner program. Please read this document carefully and email Dr. Davis with any questions or concerns.

- A total of 504 clinical hours is required for successful completion of the AGPC-NP practicum hours
- Of the 504 hours, a minimum of 252 hours must be spent in primary care
- A minimum of 60 hours must be spent with each preceptor
- Students must have a minimum of three preceptors and practice locations during their clinical experience rotations
- Students should not be with the same preceptor for two semesters unless approved by faculty
- A minimum of 100 hours must be spent with a nurse practitioner
- Students may not have more than two preceptors per semester
- Practicum I students may only have one preceptor unless a second preceptor is approved by faculty due to an extenuating circumstance
- A minimum of 4 hours each day must be spent with your preceptor
- In-services, staff meetings, or continuing education are not approved to count toward your clinical time
- Students may only complete clinical hours in an outpatient setting. No time in an inpatient (acute care) setting will be approved
- All clinical experiences must be “hands-on” in which the student is actively providing patient care and independently develop an assessment and plan; this is not an observational experience
- If a site does not see a sufficient number of patients per day on a routine basis, it may not be appropriate; please consider this when seeking potential opportunities

The practicum experience is an integral part of your adult gerontological primary care nurse practitioner program. Majority of clinical experiences should be with preceptors in the population-focused area of the program to assist you in your knowledge base for your future practice. AGPC students are required to have a minimum 252 clinical hours in primary care. The remaining 252 hours may be completed in a variety of specialty settings.

A primary care provider is defined a physician or nurse practitioner who delivers comprehensive health care. They will provide care for a wide variety of problems such as

common colds, sinus infections, back pain, nausea, or abdominal pain. Primary care providers also manage chronic illness such as asthma, hypertension, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, and depression.

To be enrolled in Practicum and Internship courses, a clinical site must be secured by the end of the second week of the term. If students have not secured a clinical site by this time, they are unlikely to be successful in completing the course requirements. To avoid financial penalty, and receive the 100% tuition refund, students must withdraw from the Internship or co-requisite Practicum and Seminar courses by the drop date for that specific term. Otherwise students could be subject to administrative withdrawal and/or subject to failure of the courses for inability to meet course requirements.

Clinical Opportunities: Primary Care

Potential primary care settings include:

- Internal Medicine Offices
- Primary Care Health Clinics or Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Family Practice Offices (you may only see patients 13 and older)

Please note: 100 hours spent in long-term care, extended care, assisted living, or home-based care settings can be counted 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, 112 clinical hours are required in Practicum I. You may spend all of these 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 required for the program.* As an alternative to this opportunity, 100 hours of urgent care experience may count as primary care. However, you may not use both options to gain 200 hours of primary care experience. Only 100 hours spent in either the long-term care or urgent care setting will count toward your primary care requirement.

Clinical Opportunities: Specialty Settings

Potential specialty sites include:

Cardiology	Gastroenterology	Pulmonology
Dermatology	Gerontology (only 100 hours count as primary care)	Occupational medicine

Endocrinology	Neurology	Oncology/Hematology
Women’s Health (no fertility specialists or pelvic floor disorder clinics)	Nephrology	Orthopedics
Otolaryngology		

Any other specialty not listed above should be discussed with Dr. Davis for consideration for approval.

Site limitations:

- Pre-op testing (*this site is only approved during the first semester when you are focused on H&Ps*)
- Surgeons (*clinical opportunities with a surgeon must be discussed with Dr. Davis for approval*)

Sample Practicum Planning

Practicum I <i>112 hours</i>	Practicum II <i>168 hours</i>	Practicum III <i>224 hours</i>
112 hours long-term care (NP preceptor)	100 hours in internal medicine office (MD preceptor)	152 hours in family practice (NP preceptor)
	68 hours in cardiology (NP preceptor)	72 hours in dermatology (MD preceptor)