



Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP) Clinical Placement Guidelines

Preceptor Requirements:

AGACNP students are highly recommended to have at least one clinical rotation with an NP preceptor during their program of study. While this is not required and students can complete the entirety of their clinical hours with MDs or DOs, this is strongly recommended to give you experience and familiarity with the role of an NP in the acute care setting. Additionally, an active clinical agreement with the preceptors' employer, a minimum of one year of clinical practice, and a license without restrictions, are required for preceptors to be approved.

The following providers can serve as a preceptor for the AGACNP specialty:

- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioners (AGACNPs)
- Acute Care Nurse Practitioners (ACNPs)
- Medical Doctors (MDs)
- Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DOs)

The following providers are **not** approved as preceptors for the AGACNP specialty:

- FNP's, PAs, CRNAs, Surgeons, or Chiropractors
- Traditional Chinese Medicine Doctors
- Naturopathic Physicians

Preferred clinical sites:

- Acute care hospitals, subacute hospitals, and outpatient specialty specific offices.
- Hospitalist, intensive care, or emergency medicine services within these sites are highly recommended.
- Urgent care sites are not acceptable as they do not meet the requirements for a true emergency medicine setting.

Clinical Hours:

Clinical rotations can be completed in a multitude of settings. A total of 720 hours are required for the entirety of the program. Please see below for a breakdown of specifics by semester.

- Spring Semester - 180 hours
 - Students must complete their Spring Semester clinical rotation with a hospitalist to develop a strong foundation and understanding of hospital medicine.
- Summer Semester - 180 hours
 - Students can begin to branch out into more acute settings, such as the Intensive Care Unit and Emergency Department, as well as specific specialty care, such as Cardiology, Pulmonology, Nephrology, etc. Approval of specialty rotations is considered on an individual basis and is approved by the Specialty Coordinator and Clinical Placement Coordinator.
- Fall Semester - 360 hours
 - This semester is designed to be the student's clinical residency, so students should focus their rotations on their goals for employment post-graduation.

AGACNP Specialty Specific Clinical Requirements:

- **Patient Age Requirement**
 - Students may only provide care to adult patients 18 years of age and above.
- **Completing Procedures**
 - Students can only assist or perform procedures learned during the Clinical Preparation Intensives (CPIs).
- **Rotations Where a Student is Employed**
 - Students are not permitted to care for patients on a hospital unit which they currently work.

Additional Clinical Placement Information:

- **Searching for a preceptor:**
 - Professional Networking
Join your local Nurse Practitioner organization to network with potential preceptors.
 - Ask physicians and coworkers you work with
Recommendations from providers and colleagues are a great way to not only find a preceptor, but to also network.
 - Ask family and friends who work in healthcare
Family and friends may often times be able to assist with names and contact information of potential preceptors if they work or have a background in healthcare.
- **One clinical site for all of your clinical hours:**
 - Students may stay at the same clinical site for all 720 clinical hours.
 - We strongly recommend being with multiple preceptors if you go this route as it will provide you more experiences and approaches from different thought processes.
- **Clinical sites per semester:**
 - Students are eligible to have a maximum of 3 clinical sites each semester.
 - The number of preceptors at each clinical site is mostly up to the student, however, an exorbitant number of preceptors will not be allowed to ensure students complete enough hours with each provider so a meaningful clinical evaluation can be submitted.

Collaborating with the Clinical Placement Coordinator:

- **Preceptor Information Form**
Collaborate with the Clinical Placement Coordinator (CPC) to identify a preceptor that meets all the preceptor requirements. The CPC may ask you to send a potential preceptor the [Preceptor Information Form](#). You can also find this link on the College of Nursing (CON) website under Resources\Student Resources\DNP Program\DNP Clinical Placements. Let the potential preceptor know that the form should take less than 5 minutes to complete, and that it will require a resume or CV to upload.

Contracts:

1. If your Clinical Placement Coordinator states that a contract will be required in order for you to complete a clinical rotation, students must submit a [Contract Request Form](#), or work directly with their Clinical Placement Coordinator to provide the necessary information.
2. Once your Clinical Placement Coordinator has received a Contract Request Form, or has all the necessary information about the site, and has a completed Preceptor Information Form, they will work directly with the clinical site in an attempt to execute an agreement for your rotation.
 - a. This is a confidential process between the clinical site, Clinical Placement Coordinator, and University of Arizona Health Sciences Contracting Department.
 - b. This process takes on average 60 – 90 days, however, it can take longer for larger healthcare organizations.
 - c. Unfortunately, just because the university and clinical site engage in discussions surrounding an agreement for student rotations, this does not in any way guarantee that a rotation will be possible.
 - d. If an agreement in your general geographic area cannot be established for your rotations, you may be required to travel for your rotations if you would like to stay on track with your proposed graduation date.

Tips for a Successful Clinical Placement Experience

CastleBranch

1. Keep CastleBranch updated.
2. You will be removed from your clinical rotation(s) if you do not maintain compliance with CastleBranch.
3. Enter the dates your immunizations/certifications will expire in your calendar so that this will not stop you from beginning or remaining at your clinical site throughout the year.
4. The Clinical Compliance Coordinators and Clinical Placement Coordinators will send frequent communication about your upcoming and currently expired items; however, it is the student's responsibility to ensure these requirements are compliant throughout their clinical year.

Track Your Placement Status

1. It is the student's responsibility to ensure all onboarding items have been completed and submitted to the clinical site.
2. Students must check in with their Clinical Placement Coordinator on the status of any business related to clinical placement in a timely matter.
3. It is preferred that students check in with their Clinical Placement Coordinator on a monthly basis from the start of the program.

Keep Communication Efficient

1. If you plan on working at multiple sites and having multiple preceptors, please include the information below when emailing your coordinator an update.
2. Try to keep the same thread for tracking purposes. Subject line should be the semester (Spring Placement, Summer Placement, Fall Placement).
3. Items to include in your email:
 - a. Site Name & Specific locations (if there are multiple locations)
 - b. Preceptor Name & Credentials
 - c. Number of hours you plan to work
 - d. Which semester these hours will be completed in

Monitor your clinical hours

1. You will have the ability to monitor your hours in EXXAT. Schedule bi-Monthly reminders to review your hours to ensure that you are on track to meet your goal.
2. Be proactive; let your Clinical Supervising Faculty (CSF) and your Clinical Placement Coordinator know when you are concerned about your hours as soon as possible.
3. An average of 11 hours per week during the Spring semester, 14 hours per week during the Summer semester, and 22 hours per week during the Fall semester, should keep you on track with completing program clinical hour requirements.
4. Extra hours each semester are strongly encouraged, however, these extra hours will not roll over to the next semester.