

PMHNP Placement Guidelines and Rotation Description

Students are required to complete a minimum of 720 hours over the course of 3 semesters (180/Spring, 180/Summer, 360/Fall). Details per semester are listed below.

It is ideal for students to work with a preceptor for the entire year, to allow the preceptor the ability to monitor and report the student's progress. Students may need an additional site and/or preceptor to meet the required amount of hours, each semester.

Who would be an appropriate preceptor? An appropriate preceptor would be a Psychiatrist or Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, who have been licensed at least one year and without any license restrictions. You can verify the license by going to the States Board of Nursing License Look-up page. It would be ideal to have a PMHNP as a preceptor throughout the duration of their clinical practicum rotations. However, due to the challenges in finding a preceptor, it is required to work at least 50% of the rotations with a PMHNP. Students will work with the preceptor to establish a schedule and inform the College.

What is an appropriate setting? It is recommended to work in an outpatient setting during the first rotation. An inpatient rotation may be approved, pending approval from the Specialty Coordinator. If an inpatient rotation is requested first semester, students will submit their resume and information on the desired site and preceptor to the OSSCE Graduate Coordinator to process the request.

Are there any specific requirements? Rotations will be coordinated to ensure they will cover the lifespan. Students are required to complete 100 hours with pediatric patients ranging from 5 years-21 years of age. The 100 hours is included within the 720 total and can be worked anytime during the 3 semesters. Pediatric rotations are hard to find. Make this rotation a priority.

What do I do when I find a preceptor?

1. It is best to check in with your Graduate Coordinator to verify if the preceptor is already in our database and if there is an existing contract with the site.
2. When you find a preceptor that meets all of the requirements mentioned above, the next step is send your preceptor the preceptor information link. You can find this link on the College of Nursing (CON) website under Student Resources/DNP& Certificates/Clinical Placements. Let your preceptor know that the form only takes 1-2 minutes to complete and will ask for them to upload their CV. An office manager or assistant can complete this form for them.

<http://www.jotformpro.com/form/51595309474968>

Contracts

1. If your Graduate Coordinator tells you that a contract is required, students must submit a Students Request for Contract form to the Graduate Coordinator.
2. This form is also located on the Clinical Placement page of the CON website. The student needs to complete this form, not the site.
3. Do not leave any items on this form blank and be sure to provide accurate contact information. The contracts office will return this form if it is not complete.
4. The contract request will be processed once the Preceptor Form and the Student Request for Contract form is received by your OSSCE Graduate Coordinator.

Tips for a Successful Clinical Placement Experience...

Track Your Placement Status

1. It is the student's responsibility to ensure all onboarding forms have been submitted to your OSSCE Graduate Coordinator for processing and submitted to the clinical site.
2. Students must check in with their OSSCE Graduate Coordinator on the status any business, related to clinical placement, frequently.
3. It is preferred to check in with your Graduate Coordinator on a monthly basis from the start of the program and weekly after mid-summer semester.

Be Proactive

1. Keep Castle Branch updated.
2. Enter the dates your immunizations/certifications will expire in your calendar, so that this will not stop you from beginning or remaining in your clinical site anytime during the year. This happens more often than you think.

Keep Communication Efficient - The more information given, the less back and forth for everyone!

1. If you plan on working at multiple sites and have multiple preceptors, please include the information below when emailing me 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. Below is an example of a plan for the year.

Items to include in your email:

Site Name & Specific locations (if there are multiple locations within the organization)

Preceptor Name & Credentials

Provider Group (if applies)

Number of hours you plan to work

Define which semester

Monitor your 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 OSSCE Graduate Coordinator know when you are concerned about your hours as soon as possible. An average of 12-15 hours per week should allow you to meet your goal.
3. Extra hours will not roll over to the next semester. Please do not let this stop you from working more hours. The time you spend with your preceptor is precious time!

Psychiatric Mental Health Clinical Course Descriptions

NURS 629a: Advanced Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing I

Spring-HOUR REQUIREMENTS: 180 hours over an average of 12 weeks

This is the first clinical rotation. The clinical practicum portion of the course requires the student to be supervised in assessing individuals across the lifespan for their short-term and long term mental and emotional functioning, and in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of pharmacological and non-pharmacological management.

NURS 629c: Advanced Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing III: Focus on Child and Adolescent

Spring-HOUR REQUIREMENTS: To be determined in consultation with the clinical preceptor and site.

This second rotation is designed to provide individualized advanced instruction and clinical practice working with clients and families in urban and/or rural primary health care settings. Focus on reinforcement, application, and extension of theory, knowledge, and skills from previous courses within the nurse practitioner scope of practice.

NURS 629b: Advanced Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing II

Summer- HOUR REQUIREMENTS: 180 hours over 12 weeks

In this third rotation, emphasis will be placed on expanding the student's knowledge of bio-psycho-social and cultural mental health assessment and management using appropriate research findings, while emphasizing health promotion, health protection, disease prevention, and pharmacologic as well as non-pharmacologic treatment. The clinical practicum portion of this course requires the student to function with minimal supervision while working towards autonomous practice as a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner.

NURS 693a: Nurse Practitioner Internship

Fall-HOUR REQUIREMENTS: 360 hours over 15 weeks

A five-credit course designed to provide individualized advanced instruction and clinical practice working with clients and families in urban and/or rural primary health care settings. Focus on reinforcement, application, and extension of theory, knowledge, and skills from previous courses within the nurse practitioner scope of practice.

Course Objectives for Psychiatric Mental Health Clinical Practicum Experiences*

- Perform psychiatric mental health examinations, develop a comprehensive problem list (including a differential diagnosis for the chief complaint) on all patients experiencing a psychiatric disorder or mental health condition, and utilizing Axis I-V Codes (if site uses these) and ICD-10.
- Write comprehensive psychiatric interviews and progress notes.
- Develop a comprehensive treatment plan and relapse prevention plan for health maintenance.
- Write prescriptions for psychiatric mental health medications (for preceptor signature).
- Engage in non-pharmacological therapeutic modalities/ interventions, as appropriate.
- Develop therapeutic relationships with patients, including family as appropriate with children and adolescents, maintaining appropriate professional boundaries.
- Present patients to preceptor verbally and propose appropriate diagnostic studies and treatment options.
- Provide ongoing daily management (under preceptor supervision) for stable and acutely ill patients.

*Overtime, the student should be gaining in knowledge, skills and confidence. During the first weeks of clinical experiences, the student may "shadow" the preceptor. As soon as possible, the student should begin to perform psychiatric evaluations and treatment plans independently, initially with preceptor observation, and then always in consultation with the preceptor.