Middle Tennessee State University
MSN Program

2 – Clinical Courses – Preceptors and Clinical Settings – Recommendations

Read this entire document! Important: It is never too soon to start looking for a clinical preceptor/site. Generally, students should begin the process several semesters (minimum of 4 – 6 months) before planning to take the clinical course.

Appropriate settings for clinical rotations include outpatient primary care sites. Hospital settings and specialty areas will not be considered for clinical rotations (except 40 hours during your final practicum – see the last page of this document for more information regarding practicum). If unsure if a site is appropriate, please consult with the Academic Advisor, Mrs. Grace James or your faculty advisor, before approaching the clinical site or potential preceptor.

Note: The only two FNP Population Focused courses that can be taken during the same semester are FNP I – Women’s Health (NURS 6601 & NURS 6602) and FNP III – Pediatrics (NURS 6605 & NURS 6606); Prior to considering this, you must have approval from the clinical coordinators (Dr. Angela Morehead or Dr. Leigh Ann McInnis) and the academic advisor (Mrs. Grace James).

General Guidelines – Preceptor Selection

Preceptors are providers who agree to facilitate student learning in the application of theory. Clinical preceptor selections and approvals are made based on qualifications, interest and demonstrated commitment to the program.

Graduate preceptors should possess the following qualifications and experiences:
- A preceptor must be an MD, DO, Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Midwife, or a Master’s prepared Physician’s Assistant. A Nurse Practitioner must be used as a preceptor during at least one clinical experience
- Current unencumbered license in Tennessee
- Certification in an appropriate area of specialty
- Practice in a setting that provides experiences appropriate for the development of advanced practice skills
- A minimum of one-year experience in a practice role
- Individuals not meeting the above criteria, but with specialized expertise will be considered on an individual basis
- Students may not use relatives as preceptors *
- A place of employment or ownership may not be used for a clinical or practicum experience*

*Considered a violation of academic integrity

➢ A preceptor or clinical site may only be used twice during the program of study.
Clinical Courses – Clinical Sites and Preceptor Recommendations

FNP I – Women’s Health Clinical (NURS 6602)
The preferred practice setting in this clinical course is one where students will see women’s health and obstetrics patients. Students are expected to have a clinical practice experience with an approved preceptor in a community setting for a minimum of 120 clinical hours and students must log at least 120 women's health patient encounters. These hours/encounters must include a minimum of 20 clinical hours and a minimum of 10 patient encounters performing obstetrical care of patients in an outpatient setting (these hours should include visits throughout the pregnancy and may not include confirmation of pregnancy alone). This experience must be spread out over the course of the semester rather than condensed into a shorter period. The GOAL of the Women's Health Clinical is to maximize the student’s opportunity to see women’s health issues across the lifespan.

There are two ways students can accomplish this goal.
- Completion of 120 clinical hours in an obstetrical/gynecological practice.
- Completion of 120 clinical hours divided between a women’s health setting and an OB/GYN (see OB requirements above).

FNP II – Adult/Geriatric Health Clinical (NURS 6604)
The preferred practice setting for this clinical course is an internal medicine practice that sees patients from young adult to fragile elderly. The clinical practice experience will be with an approved preceptor in a community/outpatient setting for a minimum of 240 clinical hours and a minimum of 240 patient encounters over the course of the semester. Upon approval of the FNP coordinator and faculty of record, urgent care clinics can be used for up to 80 hours of the required 240 clinical hours. The decision to grant this approval is multifactorial and is not guaranteed. To satisfy geriatric requirements, students are required to have a minimum of 90 patient encounters with individuals 60 years of age or older. Failure to complete these hours will result in failure of the clinical course. Please plan your clinical preceptorships accordingly. A family/primary care practice or internal medicine practice where providers care for a high volume of adults (including geriatric care) is the preferred clinical setting. This experience must be spread out over the course of the semester rather than condensed into a shorter period.
- Upon approval of the clinical coordinator, students may be permitted to spend 80 hours of the 240 required clinical hours in an outpatient urgent or episodic care setting. The decision to grant this approval is multifactorial and is not guaranteed.
FNP III – Pediatric Clinical (NURS 6606)
The preferred practice setting for this clinical course is a pediatric practice. **All other settings (including a family practice setting) must be presented to the clinical coordinator approval and once the course begins, the course instructor must also approve the setting/preceptor.** Practices must provide a setting where students will care for a high volume of pediatric patients (17 & <). Specialty practices (e.g., a practice that focuses on ear, nose, and throat) do not allow students to meet course objectives and will not be considered. The clinical practice experience will be with an approved preceptor in a community setting for **a minimum of 120 clinical hours and students must log at least 120 pediatric patient encounters over the course of the semester.** This experience must be spread out over the course of the semester rather than condensed into a shorter period. It is unusual for students to be allowed more than **one preceptor** for the pediatric clinical.

FNP Practicum – (NURS 6609)
The preferred practice setting for this clinical course is a primary care **family practice** where students can see patients across the lifespan. This clinical practice experience will be with an approved preceptor in a community setting for **a minimum of 240 clinical hours and students must log at least 260 patient encounters over the course of the semester.** This experience must be spread out over the course of the semester rather than condensed into a shorter period. Upon approval of the clinical coordinator and course instructor, an FNP practicum student may choose one of the following options to supplement this clinical rotation (the decision to grant this approval is multifactorial and is not guaranteed):

- Option 1: Spend 40 hours of the 240 required clinical hours in a specialty area of choice and the remainder in an outpatient primary care setting.
- Option 2: Spend 80 hours of the 240 required clinical hours in an outpatient urgent or episodic care setting and the remainder in an outpatient primary care setting.