

## Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Practicum/Internship Clinical Planning Guide

---

Welcome to your Clinical experience! This document serves as a guideline for planning your practicum/internship experiences in the Adult Gerontology Primary Care (AGPC) Nurse Practitioner and the Post Masters Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner programs. Please read this document carefully and email Dr. Mullins ([mullinkk@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:mullinkk@ucmail.uc.edu)) with any questions or concerns.

- A minimum of 504 clinical hours is required for successful completion of the AGPC-NP practicum/internship hours and of the 504 hours, a minimum of 252 hours must be spent in primary care.
- Should a student's evaluation of clinical performance demonstrate that the necessary foundational skills for advanced practice are not routinely performed, additional clinical hours can be assigned.
- A preceptor application must be submitted for each preceptor
- A minimum of 80 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
- Acceptable preceptors and clinical sites cannot be perceived to have a conflict of interest as this relates to evaluation of the student. For example, preceptors cannot be related to the student in any manner or work in the same department with a supervisory role as the student. Students may not use their site of employment as a clinical site. The program coordinator is ultimately responsible for determining appropriateness of preceptors or clinical sites; if you are unsure if your proposed preceptor/site meets these criteria, please confirm with Dr. Mullins.
- A Physician Assistant (PA) may be permitted to serve as a preceptor on a case-by-case basis and for a limited number of hours at the discretion of the program director.
- 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—this includes “rounding” in the hospital
- All clinical experiences must be “hands-on” in which the student is actively providing patient care and independently developing an assessment and plan; this is not an observational experience
- No time may be spent in an operating room
- 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/internship 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 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. However, specialty hours are not required. If the student desires, the total number of clinical hours may be completed in different primary care settings each semester.

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 health conditions such as common colds, sinus infections, back pain, nausea, or abdominal pain. Primary care providers also manage chronic illness such as asthma, HTN, DM, HLD, 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 (students 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 the 252 hours of required 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 (long term care and urgent care) 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:**

Sites		
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	Rheumatology	

**Any other specialty not listed above must be discussed with Dr. Mullins for consideration for approval.**

For example:

- Pre-op testing (*this site is typically only approved during the first semester when students are focused on mastering history and physicals*)
- Surgeons (*clinical opportunities with a surgeon are rarely granted and must be discussed with faculty for approval*)
- Pain management/physical medicine and rehabilitation
- Palliative care
- Hospice (*clinical opportunities in hospice are rarely granted and must be discussed with faculty*)

## Sample Practicum Planning

---

<b>Practicum I</b> <i>112 hours</i>	<b>Practicum II</b> <i>168 hours</i>	<b>Practicum III</b> <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)