



ANDERSON  
College of NURSING *and*  
HEALTH PROFESSIONS  

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University of NORTH ALABAMA

## Master of Science in Nursing and Post-Master's Certificate Student Practicum Guidebook

## **Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and Post-Master's Certificate (PMC) Student Practicum Guidebook**

Welcome to your Master of Science (MSN) and Post-Master's Certificate (PMC) practicum guidebook. This is a great time for you to network with your peers and learn more about your medical community. Students, who are familiar with their geographic location, may recommend a practicum location and preceptor to faculty. Your practicum experience could serve as a job interview for a potential position in your chosen practicum location. It is very important for the practicum placement process to begin early! In the two practicum courses for the teaching-learning track and the leadership track and the five-practicum courses for the family nurse practitioner track, you, your faculty, and your preceptor will collaborate. It is critical that clinical experiences be planned in advance of your practicum courses. This handbook will help you prepare for the best possible practicum experience. Make sure that you read this handbook carefully and follow the guidelines.

The practicum experiences and course/program learning outcomes will provide evidence of your progress toward achievement of your program outcomes and help build your professional portfolio. Make sure to review each practicum course syllabi carefully and share the syllabi with your preceptor. This will help you reach your milestones and avoid missing deadlines and learning opportunities. Your preceptor should receive a copy of this handbook, as well, to ensure that you both know and understand the course requirements.

Enjoy your practicum experiences and take advantage of every opportunity to apply your new knowledge and skills.

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## **Practicum Guidelines & Procedures**

### **General Guidelines**

The practicum courses provide MSN and PMC students the opportunity to apply newly developed skills and relate theoretical content to advanced practice settings with multiple populations. The experiential learning prepares students for the highest level of practice. It allows students to enhance skills in the areas of communication, teamwork, professionalism, and critical thinking. For the nurse practitioner student, it allows them to differentiate primary care needs for patients across the lifespan.

Students may assist in identification of an appropriate location and preceptor for each practicum course, as you, the student, are most familiar with providers and facilities in your location. This site should be selected at minimum 8 weeks prior to the practicum course, but preferably at least 16 weeks prior to the practicum course for the teaching/learning and leadership students. For the FNP track and PMC student, the site should be identified a minimum of 16 weeks prior to the practicum course.

During each practicum, you will discuss the course requirements and your personal learning goals with your preceptor. Faculty members may also periodically meet with you and your preceptor to ensure progress toward set goals is being achieved, either virtually or face-to-face. Email communication remains one of the main forms of communication. You are also responsible for maintaining a log of your practicum experience that includes accurate reflections on activities and attainment of course outcomes and competencies. Your course faculty member is responsible for evaluating your performance and all associated assignments completed during the practicum experience. You are responsible for making travel arrangements and paying for all related practicum experiences.

For teaching-learning and leadership students, you are responsible for ensuring you complete 90 hours of practical experience per each practicum course. Teaching-learning students are considered direct care roles and will have hands on experiences. Leadership students do not have direct care roles. For family nurse practitioner students (MSN and PMC), you are responsible for completing 120 hours of practicum experience per each practicum course. For psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner students, you are responsible for completing 100 hours of practicum experience per each practicum course. The scheduled hours will be arranged in conjunction with your approved practicum site and preceptor. Hours may not be carried over between courses and may not be completed prior to the start of courses. You may schedule full days, partial days, or consecutive days as agreed upon by you and your preceptor. If you cannot complete your practicum hours within the time frame of the practicum course, but you have completed a minimum of 75% of the clinical course requirements and are up-to-date on all other course work (i.e. assignments, exams, etc.), you will receive a grade of Incomplete. Incompletes must be resolved by the end of the next course, or within 8 weeks. Failure to complete the course requirements in the subsequent 8 weeks will result in a course grade of F. As a professional, you are required to schedule practicum hours so that patient safety is assured. Sufficient time should be allocated to

complete practicum hours and ensure patient safety. For example, students should not work 7pm - 7am and then schedule practicum hours beginning at 9 am that morning.

## **Student & Preceptor Eligibility for Practicum Requirements for Students**

Course requirements:

- Complete all core MSN courses: NU 502, NU 508, NU 509, NU 607, NU 614
  - For teaching-learning students, complete: NU 605, NU 606, NU 616
  - For leadership students, complete: NU 608, NU 617, NU 618
  - For nurse practitioner students, complete: NU 615, NU 640
  - For psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner students, complete: NU 615, NU 650
- Submit all necessary practicum and compliance documents
  - Physical Examination
    - Proof of Immunization (Hepatitis B, MMR, Varicella, Tdap, COVID-19)
    - Tuberculosis screening
    - Current Influenza Vaccination
    - Current Basic Life Support Certification
    - Current Student Liability Insurance (Coverage as an RN and Student)
    - Criminal Background Check
    - Drug Screen
    - Proof of Health Insurance
    - Completed Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines
    - Completed Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) guidelines
    - Additional requirements specific to chosen practicum site
- Have an active, unencumbered nursing license in the state in which practicum hours will be completed

## **Preceptor Qualifications**

### **Teaching-Learning Track**

The MSN preceptor must possess a master's degree or higher nursing degree and hold an active, unencumbered nursing license in the state in which they practice. All preceptors must have applicable experiences and the ability to help you achieve your learning goals. Preceptors must be willing and available to work with you in the appropriate setting. For NU 680, you should seek out a preceptor that is a nurse educator in the academic setting. For NU 681, you should seek out a preceptor that is an advanced practice nurse in the clinical setting (acute care outpatient clinic, community health clinic, private practice, rural clinic, etc.). Chosen preceptor must be in the population or focus area that the student has selected (i.e. adult, pediatric, women's health, etc.). A preceptor can precept more than one student at a time as long as the

student's practicum hours are on different days. Preceptors may not be a family member or immediate supervisor. Additionally, the student may not count work hours in their usual position as practicum hours.

### **Leadership Track**

The MSN preceptor must possess a master's degree or higher nursing degree and hold an active, unencumbered nursing license in the state in which they practice. Leadership preceptors may hold a nursing degree and have a MBA degree. All preceptors must have applicable experiences and the ability to help you achieve your learning goals. Preceptors must be willing and available to work with you in the appropriate setting. For NU 682, you should seek out a preceptor that is mid-level nurse manager or nurse leader. For NU 683, you should seek out a preceptor that is in upper level nursing management or is an upper level nurse leader. A preceptor can precept more than one student at a time as long as the student's practicum hours are on different days. Preceptors may not be a family member or immediate supervisor. Additionally, the student may not count work hours in their usual position as practicum hours.

### **Family Nurse Practitioner Track/Post-Master's Certificate**

The MSN preceptor must possess a master's degree in nursing at minimum, be nationally, board certified as a family nurse practitioner, and hold an active, unencumbered nursing license in the state in which they practice and where you will complete your practicum hours. The preceptor must have a minimum of one year of practice as a nurse practitioner and be actively practicing in a direct patient care role. A MD, DO, or PA may serve as a preceptor for nurse practitioner students. The MD, DO, or PA must hold an active medical license in the state that they practice and where you will complete your practicum hours. Preceptors must be willing and able to work with you in a non-acute care setting. The setting must allow advanced practice nurses to contribute to the improvement of clinical care for populations across the lifespan. Students may precept with more than one preceptor throughout the program. A preceptor can only precept one FNP student at a time. He/she may supervise more than one student during a semester if the student's hours are scheduled on different days. Preceptors cannot be a family member or relative.

### **Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner**

The preceptor may be a masters prepared and licensed therapist, a Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialists, a PMHNP (no FNP or Pas), Psychiatrist, and/or Psychologist. The preceptor must have a minimum of one year of practice experience and licensed, if applicable, in the state of practice. Students may precept with more than one preceptor throughout the program. A preceptor can only precept one student at a time. He/she may supervise more than one student during a semester if the student's hours are scheduled on different days. Preceptors cannot be a family member or relative.

### **General Guidelines**

*Revised 01\_2020, Approved FOC 1\_15\_2020, 06\_2020; updated 6/2021, 8/2021, 8/2022*

For all MSN and PMC students, practicum sites must have an active clinical affiliation agreement on file. You may not partner with a site or preceptor without the required approvals and documents on file prior to the practicum experience.

Once a clinical site and preceptor has been identified, you and the Coordinator of Clinical Placement will work together to obtain approval of the site and to ensure that all proper documentation is in place. Each practicum site requires its own set of paperwork. You may not partner with a site or preceptor without the required approvals and documents on file prior to the practicum experience. When you fill out the practicum application you will be required to provide the following about your preceptor:

1. Preceptor Name (as it is on their license)
2. Preceptor contact information (email address, practice site name, practice site address, phone number)
3. Preceptor title and credentials
4. Preceptor degrees, licensure, and certification #
5. Preceptor years of experience (must be a practicing FNP for at least one year to serve as a FNP preceptor)
6. Name, Title, and email address of the individual authorized to sign clinical affiliation agreements

### **Practicum Site Selection**

Students may recommend a preceptor and practicum site. The selection process should begin early on in your program, as the entire process can take several months. Students are most familiar with providers and facilities that are in their geographic location and are able to network with peers for identification of desired practicum experiences. Students also have access to a continually updated list of current practicum sites. Faculty will work with students to assist in selection, verification, and approval of practicum sites and preceptors. The preceptor application and preceptor resume/CV or professional profile form must be submitted a minimum of 16 weeks prior to the start of the practicum.

Once the practicum site has been approved, students will be instructed to move ahead with additional documentation and paperwork. A clinical affiliation agreement, a legal contract, must be on file with all clinical facilities prior to the start of the practicum experience. This can take several weeks to months to fully execute. Faculty will be in communication with the facility and the appropriate individuals to secure the clinical affiliation agreement.

Once all the required contracts and paperwork are completed and on file, you may still have additional facility requirements that must be completed. This could include training, orientations, and/or additional documentation.

### **Location for Practicum Experiences**

- It is important to remember that the practicum gives personnel in the practicum facilities the opportunity to observe you as a potential employee. You might consider future employment goals when practicum sites are selected.
- The site may be at the facility/institution in which you are a current employee. You

must function outside of your RN role and work as a MSN student with your preceptor.

- For FNP/PMC students, your practicum site cannot be in a hospital or inpatient setting.

If your preceptor sees patients in a clinic, but also does rounds in a hospital, you may accompany him/her for a limited amount of time. Please work with your course instructor to determine specific guidelines. Without prior approval, hours spent on hospital rounds cannot be counted toward your practicum experience.

### Criteria for Site Selection

Practicum Site Requirements per Practicum Course (See Appendix A: Practicum Course Overviews)	
Course Name	Practicum Site Facilities
NU 680 EBP and Teaching/Learning Practicum I	Community College, University, Nurse Educator in the academic setting
NU 681 EBP and Teaching/Learning Practicum II	Nurse Practitioner in clinical setting
NU 682 EBP and Leadership Practicum I	Mid-level manager in a healthcare setting
NU 683 EBP and Leadership Practicum II	Upper-level manager in a healthcare setting
NU 641 FNP I	Rural setting is preferred, Family Practice preferred; Internal Medicine and urgent care acceptable
NU 642 FNP II	Rural setting is preferred, Family Practice preferred; Internal Medicine and urgent care acceptable
NU 643 FNP III	Rural setting is preferred, Family Practice preferred; Internal Medicine and urgent care acceptable
NU 644 FNP IV	Must do a minimum of 60/120 practicum hours in Women's Health. The remaining 60 hours can be completed in Women's Health or in another practicum area of your choice (family practice, primary care, retail health, acute/urgent care)
NU 645 FNP V	Must do a minimum of 60/120 practicum hours in Pediatric Primary Care. The remaining 60 hours can be completed in family practice, primary care, retail health, acute/urgent care)

NU 651 – NU 655 PMNHP	<p>Must have a total of 500 hours; 100 hours per course. Those hours must include a minimum of 200 hours with patients age 21-64; 75 hours with patients age 0-20; 25 hours with patients age 65 and older.</p> <p>Approved preceptors include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Masters prepared and licensed therapists</li><li>• Psychiatric CNS</li><li>• PMHNP (no FNPs or PAs)</li><li>• Psychiatrist</li><li>• Psychologist</li></ul> <p>Examples of clinical locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outpatient mental health clinics</li><li>• Inpatient mental health facilities</li><li>• Telemedicine behavioral health</li><li>• Residential Treatment Facilities</li><li>• Mental health private practice clinics</li><li>• Geriatric psychiatric inpatient units</li><li>• Substance Abuse Clinics</li><li>• Community Mental Health Clinics</li><li>• Substance Abuse Treatment Centers</li></ul>
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FNP Practicum Site Types	
Practicum Site and Description	When is this appropriate practicum site
<b>Family Practice:</b> continuing and comprehensive healthcare for the individual and family—care for all ages, sexes, each organ system and every disease	Preferred practicum site type for all FNP practicum courses
<b>Retail Clinic:</b> Primary care clinics located in a retail store that care for common illnesses and injuries	May only be used for one practicum site (NU 644 and NU 645)
<b>Internal Medicine:</b> Specialty dealing with the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of adult disease	May be used in FNP I, FNP II, FNP III, and to supplement FNP IV or FNP V
<b>Pediatrics:</b> Specialty dealing with the health and medical care of infants, children, and adolescents from birth up to the age of 18	Used for FNP V in combination with Family Practice or Internal Medicine
<b>Women's Health:</b> Specialty that focuses on the treatment and diagnosis of diseases and conditions that affect a woman's physical and emotional well-being	Used for FNP IV in combination with Family Practice or Internal Medicine
<b>Urgent/Acute Care:</b> Specialty that focuses on the immediate care and treatment of illnesses and injuries that do not appear to be life threatening; may not be in a hospital	May be used in combination with NU 644 or NU 645; May be used for FNP 641, 642, 643

## Practicum Application

A practicum application will be needed for each practicum location/preceptor. The application will need to be filled out completely prior to submitting to the clinical documentation manager.

## Site Agreements

A Clinical Affiliation Agreement is required for all practicum sites. Your instructor and graduate faculty will work with your site to secure the necessary contracts. The clinical affiliation agreement must be signed by the authorized person from the facility being used and returned to the University of North Alabama Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions for completion. The process of completing site contracts can take several weeks to months. The practicum application must be submitted at least 16

weeks prior to the start of the practicum course. All subsequent practicum applications must be submitted at least 16 weeks prior to the start of that practicum course.

## **Practicum Log**

The Practicum Log is maintained through a clinical log software program. Practicum log documentation must demonstrate activities related to course outcomes and specialty competencies. All hours must be documented in the practicum log. Practicum hours must be signed by the preceptor. Periodic audits will be conducted to assure accuracy of the practicum log documentation and to validate clinical hours.

Travel time to and from the practicum site should not be included in the practicum hours. ONLY time spent with the patient may be counted; time logs and time spent with patients should match. Instructions on how to access the clinical log software will be provided to you and your preceptor.

## **Ethical Behavior**

You are expected to present professional demeanor, behavior, appearance, and communication at all times. You must comply with the policies in the Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions Student handbook which can be found [here](#). You should practice within the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics. You must also agree to abide by all requirements, policies, and procedures of the practicum site.

When at a clinical site, you are required to dress appropriately, wear your lab coat, and UNA name tag at all times. You should introduce yourself to each patient as an UNA MSN student. A positive, open, professional communication style, willingness and eagerness to learn, and the ability to accept and act on constructive feedback in clinical sites are paramount to a successful practicum learning experience.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

A successful practicum experience requires collaboration among course faculty, students, preceptors, practicum coordinators and the University. Students, faculty, and preceptors must assure that practicum hours are not misappropriated or falsely represented during the practicum experience. Practicum hours are intended to facilitate learning and must be focused on helping the student achieve learning goals.

## **Responsibilities of the Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions Faculty**

- Available via email or phone to provide support to you and your preceptor during each practicum course
- Verification of appropriate practicum site and preceptor

- Serves as a combination of facilitator, organizer, professional relations, coordinator, role model, coach, and mentor
- Maintains ongoing and effective communication throughout each practicum course
- Conducts meetings (virtual or face-to-face) as needed with you and your preceptor
- Responsible for the final clinical evaluation of your performance in each individual course
- Review, verify, and approve practicum site and preceptor for appropriateness to meeting student learning goals
- Evaluation of preceptor/practicum site for congruency with student outcomes
- Define student outcomes for learning in each practicum course
- Provide a faculty member to serve as instructor and facilitator
- Instruct students to abide by practicum site policies, procedures, and requirements
- Maintain open communication with student and preceptors during practicum courses
- Contact the practicum site as needed regarding site specific requirements
- Confirm student compliance with site requirements to the start of each practicum course
- At the completion of each course, send a survey to preceptors and students regarding their overall practicum experience

### **Responsibilities of the Practicum Preceptor**

- Communicate with ACONHP faculty to promote student success in the practicum courses
- Orient the MSN/PMC student to his/her practicum site, including policies and procedures for the facility
- Identify suitable experiential learning opportunities that align with course outcomes and student outcomes
- Communicate preceptor expectations in an ongoing manner
- Serve as a mentor and role model for students in a professional development setting (teaching, leadership, practice)
- Provide supervision of the student's clinical practice and constructive feedback regarding performance in the practicum setting; complete post-practicum survey
- Provide feedback to ACONHP faculty regarding positive and negative student performance; feedback should be immediate when satisfactory performance is questioned
- Keep appropriate documentation of student attendance, hours, activities, etc.

## Responsibilities of the Student

- May recommend practicum location and preceptor for clinical course(s)
- Assist with identification of individual (individual contact information) responsible for obtaining appropriate legal and contractual documentation at practicum location
- Communicate with and obtain appropriate practicum preceptor documentation
- Provide preceptor with course and program student outcomes
- Establish a mutually agreeable practicum schedule and attend practicum experiences promptly as scheduled
- Present self in a professional manner through professional dress; wear UNA ACONHP name badge
- Actively seek learning opportunities
- Follow policy and procedures of the practicum site, including rules of patient confidentiality
- Comply with all requirements of the practicum location (immunizations, background checks, drug screening, additional training, etc.)
- Communicate openly and effectively with preceptor, keeping him/her informed of activities and discussing learning needs; identify and discuss problems and progress
- Participate in professional collaborative efforts and collaborative communication with other members of the health care team
- Function under the Nurse Practice Act statutes and regulations for expanded nursing roles
- Maintain accurate clinical documentation records, including clinical logs, time logs, etc.
- Submit required assignments, documentation, etc, on time to the appropriate location and faculty member
- Complete preceptor/practicum site evaluation

## Unsatisfactory Student Behaviors

The following are some examples of unsatisfactory and unacceptable behavior in the practicum setting. Preceptors should report any unsatisfactory behavior to the course instructor and/or program director immediately. These individuals can be reached by calling 256-765-4931 during normal business hours or 256-668-5996 before/after business hours.

- Failure to notify preceptor of inability to attend planned practicum experience
- Failure to notify preceptor of late attendance to practicum experience
- Leaving the practicum experience early without preceptor approval
- Failure to be prepared for the practicum experience

- Failure to dress appropriately for the practicum experience; student should follow facility dress code
- Failure to possess needed equipment for the practicum experience
- Arriving at the practicum experience mentally dull due to illness, fatigue or substance abuse
- Failure to follow practicum site policy, procedures, and guidelines
- Failure to perform procedures at the expected knowledge level
- Failure to be accountable for actions
- Violation of patient confidentiality
- Failure to keep the environment and patient safe
- Failure to meet moral and ethical standards
- Failure to protect self from contact with body fluids of others
- Emotional instability
- Inappropriate use of social media
- Blatant medication errors
- Any situation where client is put in danger
- Failure to meet clinical outcomes
- Failure to submit required documentation

Any situation where the student places the client's life in danger or shows severe behavioral misconduct toward the client and family, practicum site, staff, faculty, or peers, may result in immediate Administrative Dismissal of the student from the program. Incidents of these types of behaviors include:

- Positive drug or alcohol test
- Evidence of dishonesty
- Falsifying information related to patient care or condition
- Sexual harassment
- Grossly unprofessional behavior
- Pattern of client endangerment
- Criminal, drug, or alcohol related misconduct as described by the Alabama Board of Nursing

## **Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions**

### **Vision**

The Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions vision is to improve health in the community by effecting change in systems and policies, and to promote research and scholarly activities that advance nursing and health care knowledge.

## Mission

The Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions mission is to graduate nurses and other health professionals who are prepared to assume professional roles in diverse health care environments.

## ACONHP Goals

1. Provide high quality, innovative student-centered nursing and health related programs built upon scientific disciplines.
2. Graduate nurses and health professionals who are prepared to practice person-centered care in diverse local, regional, and global healthcare environments.
3. Promote scholarship, scholarly activities, teaching, service, and practice that advances quality, safety, and knowledge in healthcare.
4. Develop professional partnerships across professions to enhance healthcare within complex systems.
5. Optimize the use of information processes and technologies in healthcare practices.
6. Foster a spirit of professional excellence and resilience amongst a diverse population of students, faculty, and staff.

## Graduate Program Outcomes

1. Demonstrate knowledge, competencies, and skills in advanced nursing practice, teaching, and/or leadership
2. Serve as a leader and change agent in nursing and health care delivery systems to ensure quality care across the lifespan
3. Utilize ethical decision-making, technology, and communication skills to provide culturally competent care
4. Effectively practice advanced nursing roles in collaborative relationships, across diverse disciplines, to improve patient and population health outcomes
5. Synthesize nursing knowledge through translation, integration, and application of evidence-based practice

### Frequently Used Telephone Numbers and Email Addresses

Name	Phone	Email
Ms. Kristy L. Garcia Coordinator, Clinical Placement	256-765-4892	<a href="mailto:klgarcia@una.edu">klgarcia@una.edu</a>
Mrs. Lauren Shell Academic Advisor/Enrollment Specialist	256-765-4931	<a href="mailto:sshell@una.edu">sshell@una.edu</a>
Mrs. Callie Kindelsperger Administrative Assistant	256-765-4936	<a href="mailto:ckindelsperger@una.edu">ckindelsperger@una.edu</a>
Dr. Kristy Oden Graduate Program Chair	256-765-4829	<a href="mailto:kooden@una.edu">kooden@una.edu</a>
Dr. Peggy Bergeron Associate Professor	256-765-4581	<a href="mailto:mhbergeron@una.edu">mhbergeron@una.edu</a>
Dr. Will Brewer Associate Professor	256-765-5218	<a href="mailto:wbrewer@una.edu">wbrewer@una.edu</a>
Dr. Victoria Casson, Assistant Professor	256-765-4504	<a href="mailto:vcasson@una.edu">vcasson@una.edu</a>
Dr. Stephanie Clark Assistant Professor	256-765-4586	<a href="mailto:Sbarger1@una.edu">Sbarger1@una.edu</a>
Dr. Helen Coronel, Associate Professor	256-765-4679	<a href="mailto:hcoronel@una.edu">hcoronel@una.edu</a>
Dr. Wendy Darby Professor	256-765-4993	<a href="mailto:wadarby@una.edu">wadarby@una.edu</a>
Dr. Jenny Dawson Associate Professor	256-765-4451	<a href="mailto:jsdawson@una.edu">jsdawson@una.edu</a>
Dr. Ashton Glover, Assistant Professor	256-765-4183	<a href="mailto:hqlover2@una.edu">hqlover2@una.edu</a>
Dr. Clarissa Hall Associate Professor	256-765-4587	<a href="mailto:cdhall@una.edu">cdhall@una.edu</a>
Dr. Lakeva Harris Assistant Professor	256-765-5063	<a href="mailto:lbcasey@una.edu">lbcasey@una.edu</a>
Dr. Tera Kirkman Associate Dean	256-765-4382	<a href="mailto:trkirkman@una.edu">trkirkman@una.edu</a>
Dr. Laura Williams Professor	256-765-4401	<a href="mailto:llwilliams1@una.edu">llwilliams1@una.edu</a>

## Practicum Courses Overview

### ***NU 641 Overview***

#### **NU 641 – Family Nurse Practitioner I (4 credit hours)**

**Course Description:** The focus of this course is on advanced care of adults along the wellness-illness continuum. In the clinical course, family nurse practitioner students will diagnose and treat adult patients with undifferentiated systems as well as those with established diagnosis. Family nurse practitioner students will be providing initial, ongoing, and comprehensive care, which includes taking comprehensive histories, providing physical examinations, and other health assessment and screening activities, and diagnosing, treating, and managing patients with acute and chronic illnesses and diseases. Ordering, performing, supervising, and interpreting laboratory and imaging studies; prescribing medication and durable medical equipment; and making appropriate referrals for patients are skills that will be demonstrated by the family nurse practitioner student. Growth and development, health promotion, disease prevention, health education, cultural and environmental variables are integrated throughout. Prerequisite: NU 640.

#### ***Student Outcomes:***

1. Assess patients in various developmental states through comprehensive and/or focused health histories, physical examinations, and other applicable health assessments. (GP 1,2,3,4,5)
2. Interpret and utilize findings from relevant laboratory and diagnostic tests for developing diagnoses. (GP 1,2,3,4,5)
3. Choose patient-family centered evidence-based practices and theoretical perspectives that promote health and prevent disease of patients across the life span. ( GP 1,2,3,4,5)
4. Formulate and evaluate diagnoses, patient-family centered treatment plans, and ongoing care plans with respect for the complexity of individual and family health status. (GP 1,2,3,4,5)
5. Select and prescribe, monitor, and modify pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic treatment(s) for patients in various developmental stages. (GP 1,2,3,4,5)
6. Appraise effectiveness of treatment plans, patient teaching, and improvement of health outcomes and disease prevention with patients and their families. (GP 1,2,3,4,5)

## **NU 642 Overview**

### **NU 642 – Family Nurse Practitioner II (4 credit hours)**

**Course Description:** The focus of this course is on advanced care of adults along the wellness-illness continuum. In the clinical course, family nurse practitioner students will diagnose and treat adult patients with undifferentiated systems as well as those with established diagnosis. Family nurse practitioner students will be providing initial, ongoing, and comprehensive care, which includes taking comprehensive histories, providing physical examinations, and other health assessment and screening activities, and diagnosing, treating, and managing patients with acute and chronic illnesses and diseases. Ordering, performing, supervising, and interpreting laboratory and imaging studies; prescribing medication and durable medical equipment; and making appropriate referrals for patients are skills that will be demonstrated by the family nurse practitioner student. Growth and development, health promotion, disease prevention, health education, cultural and environmental variables are integrated throughout.

Prerequisite: NU 640, NU 641

### **Student Outcomes:**

1. Assess patients in various developmental stages through comprehensive and/or focused health histories, physical examinations, and other applicable health assessments. (GP1,2,3,4,5)
2. Interpret and utilize findings from relevant laboratory and diagnostic tests for developing diagnoses. (GP 1,2,3,4,5)
3. Choose patient-family centered evidence-based practices and theoretical perspectives that promote health and prevent disease of patients across the life span. (GP1,2,3,4,5)
4. Formulate and evaluate diagnoses, patient-family centered treatment plans, and ongoing care plans with respect for the complexity of individual and family health status. (GP1,2,3,4,5)
5. Select and prescribe, monitor, and modify pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic treatment(s) for patients in various developmental stages. (GP 1,2,3,4,5)
6. Appraise effectiveness of treatment plans, patient teaching, and improvement of health outcomes and disease prevention with patients and their families. (GP 1,2,3,4,5)

## **NU 643 Overview**

### **NU 643 – Family Nurse Practitioner III (4 credit hours)**

**Course Description:** The focus of this course is on advanced care of adults along the wellness-illness continuum. In the clinical course, family nurse practitioner students will diagnose and treat adult patients with undifferentiated systems as well as those with established diagnosis. Family nurse practitioner students will be providing initial, ongoing, and comprehensive care, which includes taking comprehensive histories, providing physical examinations, and other health assessment and screening activities, and diagnosing, treating, and managing patients with acute and chronic illnesses and diseases. Ordering, performing, supervising, and interpreting laboratory and imaging studies; prescribing medication and durable medical equipment; and making appropriate referrals for patients are skills that will be demonstrated by the family nurse practitioner student. Growth and development, health promotion, disease prevention, health education, cultural and environmental variables are integrated throughout. Prerequisite: NU 640, NU 641, NU 642

### **Student Outcomes:**

1. Assess patients in various developmental stages through comprehensive and/or focused health histories, physical examinations, and other applicable health assessments. (GP1,2,3,4,5)
2. Interpret and utilize findings from relevant laboratory and diagnostic tests for developing diagnoses. (GP 1,2,3,4,5)
3. Choose patient-family centered evidence-based practices and theoretical perspectives that promote health and prevent disease of patients across the life span. (GP1,2,3,4,5)
4. Formulate and evaluate diagnoses, patient-family centered treatment plans, and ongoing care plans with respect for the complexity of individual and family health status. (GP1,2,3,4,5)
5. Select and prescribe, monitor, and modify pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic treatment(s) for patients in various developmental stages. (GP 1,2,3,4,5)
6. Appraise effectiveness of treatment plans, patient teaching, and improvement of health outcomes and disease prevention with patients and their families. (GP 1,2,3,4,5)

## **NU 644 Overview**

### **NU 644 – Family Nurse Practitioner IV (4 Credit Hours)**

**Course Description:** The focus of this course is on advanced care of females along the wellness-illness continuum. In this clinical course family nurse practitioner students will diagnose and treat female patients with undifferentiated systems as well as those with established diagnosis. Family nurse practitioner students will be providing initial, ongoing, and comprehensive care, which includes taking comprehensive histories, providing physical examinations, and other health assessment and screening activities, and diagnosing, treating, and managing patients with acute and chronic illnesses and diseases. Ordering, performing, supervising, and interpreting laboratory and imaging studies; prescribing medication and durable medical equipment; and making appropriate referrals for patients are skills that will be demonstrated by the family nurse practitioner student. Growth and development, health promotion, disease prevention, health education, cultural and environmental variables are integrated throughout. Prerequisite: NU 640, NU 641, NU 642, NU 643

#### **Student Outcomes:**

1. Assess female patients in various developmental stages through comprehensive and/or focused histories, physical examinations, and other applicable health assessments. (GP1,2,3,4,5)
2. Interpret and utilize findings from relevant laboratory and diagnostic tests for developing a diagnosis. (GP 1,2,3,4,5)
3. Choose patient-centered evidence-based practices and theoretical perspectives to promote the health of female patients. (GP 1,2,3,4,5)
4. Formulate and evaluate diagnosis, treatment plans, and ongoing care plans with respect for the complexity of individual and family health status. (GP 1,2,3,4,5)
5. Select and prescribe, monitor, and modify pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic treatment for female. (GP 1,2,3,4,5)
6. Appraise effectiveness of treatment plans, patient teaching, and improvement of health outcomes and disease prevention with patients and their families. (GP 1,2,3,4,5)

## **NU 645 Overview**

### **NU 645 – Family Nurse Practitioner IV (4 credit hours)**

**Course Description:** The focus of this course is on advanced care of infants, children, and adolescents along the wellness-illness continuum. In this clinical course family nurse practitioner students will diagnose and treat pediatric patients with undifferentiated systems as well as those with established diagnosis. Family nurse practitioner students will be providing initial, ongoing, and comprehensive care, which includes taking comprehensive histories, providing physical examinations, and other health assessment and screening activities, and diagnosing, treating, and managing patients with acute and chronic illnesses and diseases. Ordering, performing, supervising, and interpreting laboratory and imaging studies; prescribing medication and durable medical equipment; and making appropriate referrals for patients are skills that will be demonstrated by the family nurse practitioner student. Growth and development, health promotion, disease prevention, health education, cultural and environmental variables are integrated throughout. Prerequisite: NU 640, NU 641, NU 642, NU 643, NU644

#### **Student Outcomes:**

1. Assess pediatric patients in various developmental stages through comprehensive and/or focused health histories, physical examinations, and other applicable health assessments. (GP 1,2,3,4,5)
2. Interpret and utilize findings from relevant laboratory and diagnostic tests for developing diagnoses. (GP 1,2,3,4,5)
3. Choose patient-family centered evidence-based practices and theoretical perspectives that promote health and prevent disease of pediatric patients. (GP 1,2,3,4,5)
4. Formulate and evaluate diagnoses, patient-family centered treatment plans, and ongoing care plans with respect for the complexity of individual and family health status. (GP1,2,3,4,5)
5. Select and prescribe, monitor, and modify pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic treatment(s) for pediatric patients. (GP 1,2,3,4,5)
6. Appraise effectiveness of treatment plans, patient teaching, and improvement of health outcomes and disease prevention with patients and their families. (GP 1,2,3,4,5)

## ***NU 651 Overview***

### **NU 651 – Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner I (4 credit hours)**

**Course Description:** This is a foundational course and practicum for the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner student. Students will be introduced to theoretical content and clinical practice guidelines for assessing, diagnosing, and intervening in dysfunctional coping patterns and psychiatric disorders of individuals across the lifespan. The DSM-5 (Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders) will be used as the basis for diagnostic nomenclature across the lifespan. Emphasis will be placed on the assessment, diagnosis, and evidence-based non-pharmacological treatment of mental health disorders. Clinical practicum provides students the opportunity to integrate theory and practice in supervised clinical experiences. Students will complete a total of 120 clinical hours with an approved site and preceptor.

Prerequisites: [NU 508](#), [NU 607](#), [NU 614](#), [NU 650](#).

## ***NU 652 Overview***

### **NU 652 – Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner II (4 credit hours)**

**Course Description:** PMHNP II will build on the foundational course and practicum for the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner across the life span. This course presents advanced concepts in neuroscience and the clinical management of targeted psychiatric symptoms, related to the treatment of various psychiatric disorders. The course incorporates current scientific knowledge of neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, and neurochemistry, and its application to clinical problems seen in a variety of settings. Emphasis will be placed on the assessment, diagnosis, and evidence-based pharmacological treatment of mental health disorders. Clinical practicum provides students the opportunity to integrate theory and practice in supervised clinical experiences. Students will complete a total of 120 clinical hours with an approved site and preceptor. Prerequisites: [NU 508](#), [NU 607](#), [NU 614](#), [NU 650](#), [NU 651](#).

## ***NU 653 Overview***

### **NU 653 – Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner III (4 credit hours)**

**Course Description:** PMHNP III continues to build on the role of the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner across the life span. Continuation of advanced concepts in neuroscience and incorporating current scientific knowledge of neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, and neurochemistry, and its application to clinical problems seen in a variety of settings. Emphasis will be placed on the assessment, diagnosis, and evidence-based pharmacological and nonpharmacological treatment of mental health disorders. Clinical practicum provides students the opportunity to integrate theory and practice in supervised clinical experiences. Students will complete a total of 120 clinical hours with an approved site and preceptor.

Prerequisites: [NU 508](#), [NU 607](#), [NU 614](#), [NU 650](#), [NU 651](#), [NU 652](#).

## ***NU 654 Overview***

### **NU 654 – Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner IV (4 credit hours)**

**Course Description:** PMHNP IV builds on previous course reasoning courses by refining the student's ability to identify and apply theoretical content and clinical practice guidelines for assessing, diagnosing, and intervening in the dysfunctional coping patterns and psychiatric disorders of individuals and families across the lifespan. In addition to expanding on clinical aspects of the PMHNP role, the course introduces professional aspects of the PMHNP role in the healthcare delivery system and a variety of conceptual models and therapies related to the practice of individual psychotherapy and family therapy. Models of personality development and family dynamics provide a theoretical basis for understanding the development of psychopathology and selection of appropriate therapeutic strategies. Clinical practicum provides students the opportunity to integrate theory and practice in supervised clinical experiences. Students will complete a total of 120 clinical hours with an approved site and preceptor.

Prerequisites: [NU 508](#), [NU 607](#), [NU 614](#), [NU 650](#), [NU 651](#), [NU 652](#), [NU 653](#).

## ***NU 655 Overview***

### **NU 654 – Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner V (4 credit hours)**

**Course Description:** PMHNP V builds on previous courses in the PMHNP track and prepares the student for practice. This course presents advanced concepts for refining the student's ability to identify and apply theoretical content and clinical practice guidelines for assessing, diagnosing, and intervening in the dysfunctional coping patterns and psychiatric disorders of individuals and families, and groups across the lifespan. In addition to expanding on clinical aspects of the PMHNP role, the course introduces professional aspects of the PMHNP role in the healthcare delivery system and a variety of conceptual models and therapies related to the practice of group therapy. Clinical practicum provides students the opportunity to integrate theory and practice in supervised clinical experiences. Students will complete a total of 120 clinical hours with an approved site and preceptor.

Prerequisites: [NU 508](#), [NU 607](#), [NU 614](#), [NU 650](#), [NU 651](#), [NU 652](#), [NU 653](#), [NU 654](#).

## **NU 680 Overview**

### **NU 680 – Evidence-based Practice and Teaching/Learning Practicum I (4 credit hours)**

**Course Description:** This practicum experience is designed to integrate theory and evidence-based teaching practices in the academic setting. Learners select an experienced nurse educator preceptor in the academic setting where they will have opportunities to participate in all phases of the teaching role, including classroom and clinical instruction in an area of specialization, and to experiment with different teaching materials, teaching strategies, and evaluation methods. The practicum area of specialization will be the same for Practicum I and II. Translating research into evidence-based teaching practice is the goal. In Practicum I and Practicum II, students will utilize new knowledge to create and evaluate one (1) evidence-based project that addresses an identified learning need in a selected clinical area of specialization. Prerequisites OR Corequisites: NU 605, NU 606, and NU 616

#### **Student Outcomes:**

1. Assess the learning needs of prospective and current health care providers including culturally-related learning styles.
2. Use information and communication technologies, resources, and teaching-learning principles in educating students, peers, and patients.
3. Use comprehensive assessment, teaching, and evaluation strategies to meet diverse learning needs in traditional and nontraditional educational settings.
4. Demonstrate appropriate classroom and clinical teaching skills that will effectively meet the educational needs of prospective and current health care providers.
5. Integrate evidence, clinical judgment, research, interprofessional and leadership perspectives using translational processes to improve teaching practice.
6. Identify a problem related to health promotion, disease prevention, or disease management in a selected clinical area of specialization.
7. Synthesize the effect of legal, regulatory, and professional standards and guidelines on nursing education.
8. Critically analyze the identified health problem and develop an evidence-based strategy for the incorporation of research into the treatment regimen in the form of a teaching/learning project

## ***NU 681 Overview***

### **NU 681 - Evidence-based Practice and Teaching/Learning Practicum II (4 credit hours)**

**Course Description:** This practicum experience is designed to provide students an opportunity to demonstrate advanced nursing care and use evidence-based practices to strengthen patient care delivery skills. Learners select an experienced advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) preceptor in an area of specialization, who will provide opportunities and guidance in delivering direct client and family services in a setting of their choice (i.e. acute and critical care, long term care, home health, or community-based settings). The practicum area of specialization will be the same for Practicum I and II (i.e. family health, adult health, women's health, or pediatric health). Synthesizing translational processes to improve practice and associated health outcomes for patient aggregates is the goal. In Practicum I and Practicum II, students will utilize new knowledge to create and evaluate one (1) evidence-based project that addresses an identified learning need in a selected clinical area of specialization. Prerequisites OR Corequisites: NU508, NU614, NU607.

#### ***Student Outcomes:***

1. Integrate advanced health assessment, pharmacology, and pathophysiology skills in the clinical practicum setting.
2. Evaluate the unique health needs of selected clients and caregivers.
3. Incorporate research findings and evidence-based practices to improve health outcomes for patient aggregates.
4. Collaborate to positively impact the health of individuals, groups, and communities.
5. Model advanced level leadership expertise, clinical decision making skills, and person-family centered communication in the pursuit of continuous quality improvement for selected populations.
6. Integrate ethical-legal guidelines, professional policies and regulations, and standards of practice associated with the advanced nursing care role.
7. Critically analyze a clinical problem related to health promotion, disease prevention, or disease management in a selected clinical area of specialization.
8. Create a strategy for the incorporation of research into the treatment/teaching regimen in the form of an evidence-based project.

## **NU 682 Overview**

### **NU 682 – Evidence-based Practice and Leadership Practicum I (4 credit hours)**

**Course Description:** This practicum experience is designed to integrate theory and evidence-based leadership and management practices into the healthcare setting. Learners select an experienced mid-level nurse manager or leader in the healthcare setting. Learners should select a nurse leader or manager preceptor where they will have exposure to all aspects of the role, including but not limited to writing policy and procedure, staffing, budgeting, purchasing, role-modeling, staff interaction, problem identification with resolution, conflict management, participation in inter-disciplinary meetings, etc. Learners will translate current research into evidence-based practice. In Practicum I and Practicum II, students will utilize new knowledge to create and evaluate one quality improvement project that addresses an identified need within the clinical setting. The clinical area for Practicum I is mid-level leadership and management and for Practicum II the clinical area is upper management and leadership. Pre-requisite/Co-requisite: NU 608 Business Concepts for Nurses, NU 617 Leadership and Management in Nursing, and/or NU 618 Quality Improvement in Nursing

#### **Student Outcomes:**

1. Evaluate current, evidence-based research related to an identified leadership/management concept.
2. Choose effective communication techniques in a variety of healthcare settings.
3. Support the nurse leader/manager role with knowledge from nursing and related disciplines.
4. Appraise the identified leadership/management issue and construct an evidence-based strategy for the incorporation of research in to an improvement plan or resolution in the form of an evidence-based proposal.
5. Choose a variety of evidence-based leadership/management concepts and strategies to apply in the practicum setting.
6. Evaluate theories of nursing leadership/management utilized or observed in the practicum experience.
7. Improve leadership/management skills through the integration of evidence, clinical judgement, research, interprofessional, and leadership skills.
8. Interpret the effect(s) of legal, regulatory, and professional standards and guidelines on nursing leadership/management.
9. Determine concepts related to financial/strategic management, human resource management, information technology, and performance improvement that are utilized in the practicum setting.

## **NU 683 Overview**

### **NU 683 – Evidence-based Practice and Leadership Practicum II (4 credit hours)**

**Course Description:** This practicum experience is designed to integrate theory and evidence-based leadership and management practices into the healthcare setting. Learners select an experienced upper-level nurse manager or leader in the healthcare setting. Learners should select a nurse leader or manager preceptor where they will have exposure to all aspects of the role, including but not limited to budgeting, large scale staffing, financial planning, policy and procedure, accreditation, interdisciplinary team meetings and planning, etc. Learners will translate current research into evidence-based practice. In Practicum I and Practicum II, students will utilize new knowledge to create and evaluate one quality improvement project that addresses an identified need within the clinical setting. The clinical area for Practicum I is mid-level leadership and management and for Practicum II the clinical area is upper management and leadership. Pre-requisite/Co-requisite: NU 608 Business Concepts for Nurses, NU 617 Leadership and Management in Nursing, and/or NU 618 Quality Improvement in Nursing.

#### **Student Outcomes:**

1. Choose effective communication techniques, leadership/management skills, collaboration skills, and information technology skills in a variety of healthcare settings.
2. Integrate knowledge from nursing, related disciplines, and evidenced-based research in the nurse leader/manager role and/or to a nurse leadership/management concept.
3. Develop an evidence-based strategy for the incorporation of research into an improvement plan or resolution in the form of an evidence-based research project.
4. Determine a variety of evidence-based leadership/management concepts and strategies utilized in the practicum setting.
5. Compare and contrast the management/leadership process utilized by upper level management in comparison to mid-level management.
6. Integrate evidence, clinical judgment, research, interprofessional and leadership perspectives using translational processes to improve leadership/management skills.
7. Appraise the effect(s) of legal, regulatory, and professional standards and guidelines on nursing leadership/management.
8. Explain concepts related to financial/strategic management, human resource management, informational technology, and performance improvement in the practicum setting.
9. Evaluate theories of nursing leadership/management utilized or observed in the practicum experience.



### Practicum Application

Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Semester: Choose an item. Year: Choose an item. Course: Choose an item.

Clinical Focus (Education Students only): Choose an item.

Preceptor Information	
Preceptors Full Name (as it appears on their nursing license)	
Preceptors Title/Credentials	
Preceptors Degrees/Certifications/Licensure #s	
Preceptors Email Address	
Preceptors Phone Number	
Preceptors Years of Experience	
Brief Description of Job Duties	
Name of Organization/Clinic/Hospital	
Address of Organization/Clinic/Hospital	
Information Needed to Secure a Contractual Agreement between the Organization and UNA	
Name and Title of individual authorized to sign clinical affiliation agreements	
Email address of the individual authorized to sign clinical affiliation agreements	



## ***Graduate Practicum Preceptor Intent of Relationship***

### **Student:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ UNA Graduate Nursing Student, RN License # \_\_\_\_\_  
am enrolled in practicum course number NU \_\_\_\_\_. For NU 680 and NU 681, please specify  
the clinical population area chosen: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Preceptor Information:**

Name:

Date:

Address:

Telephone #:

Email Address:

Site(s) we have agreed to utilize for purposes of this practicum course  
(organization/clinic/hospital):

**Name and Address of Site(s):**

Telephone #:

Email Address:

Signature of Administrative Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Administrative Representative:

Position/Title:

### **Preceptor:**

I agree to serve as preceptor for the student listed above and have received information regarding The University of North Alabama Graduate Program from the course instructor. I will submit my Professional Profile or curriculum vita as requested.

Printed Name of Preceptor:

Signature of Preceptor: \_\_\_\_\_



### Professional Profile

(to be completed by the preceptor; may submit curriculum vita instead)

Date: Click or tap to enter a date.

Preceptors Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Credentials: Click or tap here to enter text. Agency Affiliation: Click or tap here to enter text.

Address: Click or tap here to enter text.

Telephone #: Click or tap here to enter text. Email Address: Click or tap here to enter text.

Position Title: Click or tap here to enter text.

Position Responsibilities (include teaching responsibilities): Click or tap here to enter text.

Education: Choose an item.

If MSN degree or higher is non-nursing, please describe: Click or tap here to enter text.

License #: Click or tap here to enter text. State of License: Click or tap here to enter text.

Certificates, honors, awards, publications, etc: Click or tap here to enter text.

Experience (past 5 (five) years; may attach resume if desired):

Dates	Organization/Clinic/Hospital	Position