

## Clinical Placement Process Quick FAQ's

**When clinicals begin:** Clinicals begin the first summer semester for full-time students. Part-time students will begin clinicals during the 2<sup>nd</sup> summer semester.

**Type of sites:** Majority of clinical hours must be in PRIMARY CARE (to include Internal Medicine for ANP/FNP students). Most urgent care sites are not approved by clinical faculty. Some specialty clinical experiences will be arranged during Role Practicum and Residency depending upon identified student learning objectives and needs as discussed between student and MUSC faculty.

**Preceptors:** Can be a board certified NP, MD, DO, PA. Please see Clinical Guidelines for further details.

**Hours:** *Advanced Care Management I, II, III* are 180 hours- about 12 hrs/wk or 1 ½ days/wk. *Role Practicum* (last clinical course) is 270 hours- about 18 hr/wk or 2 days/wk. *Residency for DNP students* is 150 hours/semester – about 10 hrs/wk or 1 ¼ days/wk. Students must prepare work schedules accordingly in order to complete clinical course requirements. Clinical hours cannot be front-loaded or stacked; clinicals must occur throughout the semester.

**How they are arranged:** All students should be prepared for the possibility of travel to clinical sites in order to obtain the depth and breadth of clinical experiences in order to meet graduation and AGNP/FNP/PNP certification requirements during the program of study.

*Charleston FNP/ANP area students-* Students find own clinical sites or seek placement assistance from Lowcountry AHEC. Although the Lowcountry AHEC tries their best to place students in sites in the Charleston area, it is not guaranteed and travel may be required to places such as Walterboro, Orangeburg, Jasper/Hampton and other rural areas of the Lowcountry.

*Charleston PNP students-* The PNP clinical faculty has very close relationships with pediatric sites in the Charleston area and will facilitate PNP student placements in a South Carolina pediatric site. Again, travel to a clinical site may be needed.

*South Carolina students-* Have the option of seeking help from the other regionally AHEC locations in the state or finding own clinical site.

*Out-of-State students-* Will find own clinical site. AHEC has offices in most states. A tip sheet will be provided at a later date.

**Process:** By the mid-August, the Graduate Program Coordinator will ask full-time students to complete a survey asking what city/state they plan to do clinicals and if they want the assistance of AHEC (if from SC). Once that is determined, the coordinator will provide students with the next steps that need to be followed over the fall semester. [There is a mid-December deadline to have all required clinical forms submitted for students seeking own clinical placement.]

**Affiliation agreements (Legal contracts):** Although many MUSC facility contracts are already in place, students are not limited to those sites. The process of obtaining a facility contract is fairly easy when forms are submitted in a timely manner. Smaller, private practice sites are usually easier to work with whereas larger healthcare systems can be more challenging so starting the agreement process as early as possible is imperative. Some clinical sites require more liability insurance coverage than provided by MUSC, and it is the student's responsibility to pay the difference (see Clinical Guidelines). When waiting for paperwork to be completed, it is best if the student is

proactive and obtains a copy of all paperwork to submit to the Graduate Program Coordinator to assist with timeliness and ensuring that clinical placement can start on time.

**Graduate Clinical Intranet Site**- Please refer to this site for all of your clinical needs!

<https://sp.musc.edu/nursing/graduates/Graduate/Home.aspx>

*Finding a clinical site is challenging and will require hard work and determination as preceptors volunteer to facilitate students' clinical learning without getting paid!!! Network with other health care professionals to find sites. Join the advanced practice group in your area to meet potential preceptors and learn about area practices. Contact the state board of nursing to see if they have any preceptor lists or suggestions. Check the internet as there are NP preceptor websites where NPs offer to precept.*

*Clinics are very busy and productivity is a pressure all practitioners and practices experience. It is important to express appreciation as this encourages preceptors/practices to work with you and other students. This goes a long way in ensuring you, as well as other students, will be able to use the clinical site. Do not forget to express appreciation for office staff time as well as preceptor time...being appreciative as well as an excellent NP student could lead to a possible position offer. Many of our students have been offered positions upon graduation.*