



Clinical Placement for Nursing@Simmons Students

As a Nursing@Simmons student, you will gain valuable real-world experience through clinical placements that enable you to work under a clinical preceptor. These placements are located at sites in or near your community and provide hands-on training that allows you to gain essential family nurse practitioner (FNP) skills.

As of March 2018, our team has helped Nursing@Simmons students secure:

nearly 3,900
total clinical placements

4,100
preceptors

9,300
affiliated sites

in 48
states in the U.S. and
the U.S. Virgin Islands

WHAT IS A CLINICAL PRECEPTOR?

Clinical preceptors are experienced, highly skilled medical professionals who share their knowledge and experience with students in clinical settings. Throughout your development, preceptors will consult with Simmons faculty to discuss your progress and act as on-site guides. This includes:

- Helping you develop critical thinking skills and a plan of action to meet your required clinical objectives
- Assigning patients whose health care needs are consistent with your level of knowledge and experience
- Supervising patient health assessments, discussing their needs, and providing guidance in developing treatment plans

While Nursing@Simmons students are asked to assist in identifying a clinical preceptor, the final selection will be made by the Nursing@Simmons Clinical Placement Team and approved by faculty.

WHERE CAN CLINICAL HOURS BE COMPLETED?

If you are currently working in a health care setting in which FNPs play a key role, you may complete clinical hours at your workplace; however, you may not conduct hours within the same department or under your current supervisor. Potential clinical placement settings include:

- Family practice
- Health/specialty clinics
- OB/GYN offices or pediatric offices
- Nursing homes and long-term care centers

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT AND CLINICAL ROTATIONS

Most students continue their regular jobs while conducting clinical rotations. It is, however, challenging for most students to balance coursework, time in clinical rotations, and full-time employment. If you do maintain a full-time work schedule during clinical rotations, it is expected that you will follow the schedule of the clinical placement site. Placements will not be approved based on specific scheduling needs.

CLINICAL PLACEMENT PROCESS

In our collaborative community committed to student support, your personal placement specialist will partner with you to help find a clinical opportunity near your community.



Select Your Clinical Placement

1. You will speak one-on-one with your personal placement specialist about potential clinical sites and preceptors.
2. You will secure sites and preceptors for each of your clinical placement terms.
3. Your specialist will manage the paperwork and work on vetting the site and preceptors to ensure they meet our program standards and help you achieve educational objectives.



Prepare for Your Clinical Placement

1. You will connect with your specialist six months before the first clinical placement term to review placement procedures and policies.
2. Your specialist will release your official clinical site and preceptor information two to four weeks before the start of each placement term.
3. You must follow up with your placement site to confirm your start date; set up your schedule; and verify that all documents, including immunizations and background checks, are complete.

Please note: Our goal is to place you as close to your home base as possible, but you may be expected to travel to clinical sites up to two hours each way, and you may not turn down placements due to transportation.

Although Nursing@Simmons provides a high level of placement support to each student, you are responsible for partnering with the placement team to secure placements. Once a site and preceptor is identified, final approval must be given by Simmons faculty.

CLINICAL SCHEDULE

MSN		
	Full Time	Part Time
Clinical Hours Required	672	672
Clinical Schedule	Terms 3, 4, 5	Terms 5, 6, 7
Rotations	Term 3: 224 Hours NURP 501A	Term 5: 224 Hours NURP 501A
	Term 4: 224 Hours NURP 502A	Term 6: 224 Hours NURP 502A
	Term 5: 224 Hours NURP 503A	Term 7: 224 Hours NURP 503A
Weekly Hours	Terms 3, 4, 5: 16 hours per week	Terms 5, 6, 7: 16 hours per week

RN to MSN		
	Full Time	Part Time
Clinical Hours Required	836	836
Clinical Schedule	Terms 3, 4, 6, 7, 8	Terms 3, 4, 8, 9, 10
Rotations	Term 3: 84 Hours NUR 387	Term 3: 84 Hours NUR 387
	Term 4: 80 Hours* NUR 454	Term 4: 80 Hours* NUR 454
	Term 6: 224 Hours NURP 501A	Term 8: 224 Hours NURP 501A
	Term 7: 224 Hours NURP 502A	Term 9: 224 Hours NURP 502A
	Term 8: 224 Hours NURP 503A	Term 10: 224 Hours NURP 503A
Weekly Hours	Terms 3, 4: 6 hours per week	Terms 3, 4: 6 hours per week
	Terms 6, 7, 8: 16 hours per week	Terms 6, 7, 8: 16 hours per week

*40 hours spent with mentor and 40 hours spent conducting a leadership project