



**Samuel Merritt
University**

**THE FAMILY NURSE
PRACTITIONER PROGRAM
STUDENT HANDBOOK
2019-2020**

Message from the Department Chair

Dear Graduate Student,

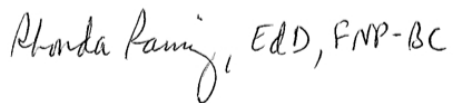
Welcome to the Samuel Merritt University Family Nurse Practitioner Program. Over the next five semesters (20 months) the FNP faculty will provide you with the foundation for your professional future as a Family Nurse Practitioner.

This handbook has been prepared to ease your transition into our graduate program and to provide guidance throughout your entire period of enrollment. In addition to this document, you should be familiar with the *Samuel Merritt University Catalog and Student Handbook*. An electronic copy of the *Catalog and Student Handbook* can be accessed via the University website.

We look forward to providing you with the best academic experience to prepare you for your profession.

Again, the faculty welcomes you to our program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rhonda Ramirez, EdD, FNP-BC". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rhonda Ramirez, EdD, FNP-BC
FNP Department Chair

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GRADUATE ACADEMIC CALENDAR

SAMUEL MERRITT UNIVERSITY FIVE YEAR ACADEMIC CALENDAR

ABSN SAC, RN to BSN, and all Graduate Programs (excluding CSPM) - all others use specific cohort calendar

	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
FALL TERM	FALL 2016	FALL 2017	FALL 2018	FALL 2019	FALL 2020
Orientation - SAC ABSN	8/8	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Orientation - OAK RN to BSN	8/23	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Orientation - SFP RN to BSN	8/25	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Orientation - SAC RN to BSN	8/26	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Orientation - OAK Graduate	9/8 - 9/9	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Classes begin	9/12/2016	9/11/2017	9/10/2018	9/9/2019	9/8/2020
Add/drop period	9/12 - 09/23	09/11 - 09/22	09/10 - 09/21	09/09 - 09/20	09/08 - 09/18
Last day to register	9/23/2016	9/22/2017	9/21/2018	9/20/2019	9/18/2020
Spring term advising	10/31 - 11/11	10/30 - 11/10	10/29 - 11/09	11/04 - 11/15	11/02 - 11/13
Spring term registration	11/14 - 11/18	11/13 - 11/17	11/12 - 11/16	11/18 - 11/22	11/16 - 11/20
Thanksgiving break	11/23-11/25	11/22-11/24	11/21-11/23	11/27-11/29	11/25-11/27
Last day of Fall term classes	12/16/2016	12/15/2017	12/14/2018	12/13/2019	12/11/2020
Final examinations	12/19 - 12/23	12/18 - 12/22	12/17 - 12/21	12/16 - 12/20	12/14 - 12/18
Grades due in Registrar's Office	12/30/2016	12/29/2017	12/28/2018	12/27/2019	12/25/2020
SPRING TERM	SPRING 2017	SPRING 2018	SPRING 2019	SPRING 2020	SPRING 2021
Orientation - OAK Graduate	12/1-12/2	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Orientation - SFP RN to BSN	12/1	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Orientation - SAC RN to BSN	12/2	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Orientation - OAK RN to BSN	12/6	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Classes begin	1/9/2017	1/8/2018	1/7/2019	1/6/2020	1/4/2021
Add/drop period	01/09 - 01/20	01/08 - 01/19	01/07 - 01/18	01/06 - 01/17	01/04 - 01/15
Last day to register	1/20/2017	1/19/2018	1/18/2019	1/17/2020	1/15/2021
Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday	1/16/2017	1/15/2018	1/21/2019	1/20/2020	1/18/2021
President's holiday break	2/20-2/22	2/19-2/21	2/18-2/20	2/17-2/19	2/15-2/17
Summer term advising	03/13 - 03/24	03/12 - 03/23	03/11 - 03/22	03/09 - 03/20	03/08 - 03/19
Summer term registration	03/27 - 03/31	03/26 - 03/30	03/25 - 03/29	03/23 - 03/27	03/22 - 03/26
Last day of Spring term classes	4/14/2017	4/13/2018	4/12/2019	4/10/2020	4/9/2021
Final examinations	04/17 - 04/21	04/16 - 04/20	04/15 - 04/19	04/13 - 04/17	04/12 - 04/16
Grades due in Registrar's Office	4/28/2017	4/27/2018	4/26/2019	4/24/2020	4/23/2021
SUMMER TERM	SUMMER 2017	SUMMER 2018	SUMMER 2019	SUMMER 2020	SUMMER 2021
New student orientation	3/30-3/31	3/22-3/23	3/28-3/29	3/26-3/27	3/25-3/26
Classes begin	5/8/2017	5/7/2018	5/6/2019	5/4/2020	5/3/2021
Add/drop period	05/08 - 05/19	05/07 - 05/18	05/06 - 05/17	05/04 - 05/15	05/03 - 05/14
Last day to register	5/19/2017	5/18/2018	5/17/2019	5/15/2020	5/14/2021
Commencement	5/26/2017	5/25/2018	5/24/2019	5/22/2020	5/28/2021
Memorial Day holiday	5/29/2017	5/28/2018	5/27/2019	5/25/2020	5/31/2021
Independence Day holiday	7/3-7/5	7/4-7/6	7/3-7/5	7/2-7/6	7/2-7/6
Fall term advising	07/17 - 07/28	07/16 - 07/27	07/15 - 07/26	07/13 - 07/24	07/12 - 07/23

SAMUEL MERRITT UNIVERSITY FIVE YEAR ACADEMIC CALENDAR

ABSN SAC, RN to BSN, and all Graduate Programs (excluding CSPM) - all others use specific cohort calendar

SUMMER TERM (continued)	SUMMER 2017	SUMMER 2018	SUMMER 2019	SUMMER 2020	SUMMER 2021
Fall term registration	07/31 - 08/04	07/30 - 08/03	07/29 - 08/02	07/27 - 07/31	07/26 - 07/30
Last day of Summer term classes	8/11/2017	8/10/2018	8/9/2019	8/7/2020	8/6/2021
Final examinations	08/14 - 08/18	08/13 - 08/17	08/12 - 08/16	08/10 - 08/14	08/09 - 08/13
Grades due in Registrar's Office	8/25/2017	8/24/2018	8/23/2019	8/21/2020	8/20/2021

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FNP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The FNP curriculum consists of 49 semester units, including interdisciplinary core courses, FNP specialty courses, clinical practica, and internship. A total of 630 clinical hours is required. The curriculum and clinical sites reflect the track's emphasis on serving multicultural and underserved populations and focus the student's clinical time on Primary Care, Women's Health and Pediatrics. Students will work with a MD, PA or NP "preceptor" who will supervise and mentor them through the clinic experience.

The FNP program is offered on a year-round basis with admission in the summer semester for the Oakland campus and in the fall semester for the Sacramento campus. The course sequencing is slightly different from the on-ground sequencing and the part-time length is seven semesters. Full-time students complete the program in five semesters, including two summer semesters. Part-time students complete the program in nine semesters. Online program admissions occur every semester in January, May and September. The online program offers an opportunity to admit students from other states. The curriculum is consistent with the highest national standards, including guidelines established by the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

The Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program focuses on preparing family-oriented primary care providers for multicultural and underserved populations. FNPs are advanced practitioners of nursing with a specialty in primary healthcare. They provide ongoing comprehensive care to individuals, families, and communities. FNPs are responsible for health promotion and maintenance, diagnosis, treatment, and management of health problems, consultation with other healthcare providers, and referral as indicated. FNPs function independently and interdependently with other providers of healthcare. Practice is based on concepts of family health nursing research and theory, as well as concepts from other related disciplines such as medicine and pharmacy. Students complete 49 graduate units and are awarded a Master of Science degree upon completion and are eligible for state and national certification. Full or part-time study is available for students who are licensed as registered nurses.

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon graduation the student will be able to...

- Provide family-oriented primary healthcare:
- Elicit a detailed and accurate history,
- Perform the appropriate physical exam, record pertinent data, and develops and implements plan of care.
- Perform and/or order and interpret relevant diagnostic studies.
- Perform appropriate office procedures.
- Provide health promotion and disease prevention.
- Integrates cultural considerations in the provision of primary care.
- Consult and refer within an interdisciplinary practice model.
- Collaborate with patients and families to provide evidence- based primary care that is theoretically sound.
- Assume a leadership role in the profession at local, state, national and international level.
- Produce quality work that demonstrates graduate level scholarly work and can withstand peer review.

CURRICULUM

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

N601 - Research Methods (3 units)

This course presents an overview of the research process, with emphasis on using the scientific method to identify and investigate problems in clinical practice. Major topic areas include: types of research approaches, formulation of research problems and hypothesis/research questions, preparing a literature review including theoretical/conceptual framework, study designs and selecting a research method, sampling, measurement of variables, data collection and analysis.

N602 - Analysis of Health Policy Issues (3 units)

This course focuses on political structures, the political process, and development of health care policy. The course begins with an overview of the health care system as shaped by cultural and societal values, perceived purposes of health care, and modern technology. Attention will be given to issues of economics, finance, regulatory systems, and social justice for consumer groups.

N619 - Advanced Pathophysiology (3 units)

This is a course which builds on prior knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and pathophysiology. The major focus of the course is the exploration of current theory and research related to pathophysiological processes as applied to commonly encountered problems in family-oriented primary care practice, including physiological and mental health disorders. The course includes a life span perspective, including content relevant to perinatal, pediatric, adult, and geriatric clients. Application of content to the care of diverse multicultural populations is emphasized.

N626 - Theoretical Foundations for Advanced Practice Nursing (3 units)

This course provides an opportunity to explore the principles, practice, scientific inquiry and the integration of contemporary theories in advanced practice nursing (APN). Learners will analyze selected theoretical frameworks and their application to clinical practice. Foundational theories specific to the domains of clinical practice, informatics, patient safety and ethics will be examined. The principles of interdisciplinary education and practice are also emphasized.

N670 - Family Centered Advanced Practice Nursing (2 units)

Healthcare in the 21st century requires APRN's to incorporate a broad set of concerns that influence health and family life. In this course global health and environmental justice are explored as pre-conditions for healthy families. The influences of culture, society, behavior, and human development on the health of the families are explored. The course examines family-centered healthcare in relation to interprofessional collaboration, evidence based practice, quality improvement, and safety.

N671/N671L - Advanced Physical Assessment/Lab (2 units theory, 1 unit lab)

This course focuses on the strategies and skills needed to assess individuals throughout the life span in a family-oriented primary care setting with diverse populations. The expected outcome is advanced physical assessment competency appropriate for the primary care practice. Analysis of assessment data based on developmental and ethnic variation is included. The integration of assessment data in the clinical decision making process is emphasized. This lab course is taken concurrently with N671 that focuses on the strategies and skills needed to assess individuals throughout the life span in a family-oriented primary care setting with diverse populations. The expected outcome is advanced physical assessment competency appropriate for the primary care practice. Analysis of assessment data based on developmental and cultural variation is included. The integration of assessment data in the clinical decision making process is emphasized. Online students participate in a mandatory 3 day intensive on the Sacramento Campus.

N672 - Professional Role Development for Advanced Practice Nursing (1 unit)

This course is an onsite/online hybrid seminar designed to introduce the APRN student to the role of the advanced practice nurse in the primary healthcare setting. The evolution of the role from an historical and legislative perspective is explored. Issues including the evolving scope of practice, key role competencies, and inter-professional collaboration are introduced. Each student will be expected to discuss his/her own philosophical/ethical framework for clinical practice. Using a case study approach the student will integrate a patient's cultural preferences, values, and health beliefs in a treatment plan.

N673 - Professional Advocacy for Entry to the Advanced Practice Role (1 unit)

This course is offered in the final semester of the FNP program and builds on N672, using an online hybrid format. The course is designed to socialize the graduating student to the role of a family nurse practitioner. Online modules and onsite seminars challenge students to explore the FNP scope of practice, prescribing regulations, and credentialing process as outlined in the Nurse Practice Act. Other topics discussed in the course include models for entrepreneurial practice, methods for negotiation of employment, and avenues for innovative leadership. The course will also explore methods for marketing the NP role to the general public as a high quality, accessible alternative to current mainstream healthcare options. The student will graduate with an up-to-date e-portfolio that documents achievement of NP core and population based competencies, professional achievements, and goals.

N674 - Health Protection, Promotion, & Screening for Individuals, Families, & Communities (3 units)

Collaborative inter-professional family-centered primary healthcare is influenced by 21st century innovations in technology, genetics, behavior/change theories, and environmental health. This course integrates these influences into the provision of healthcare services focused on health protection and promotion, disease prevention, and health screening across the life-span. Critical analyses of clinical strategies and interventions in health promotion and protection based on the evidence and relevant theoretical frameworks are included. The effects of social, cultural, and developmental influences are emphasized.

N675/N675L - Care of Acute & Episodic Conditions/Lab (3 units theory, 1 unit lab)

This course builds on N674 by focusing on the assessment, diagnosis, management, and patient education of common acute episodic illnesses across the lifespan. The course emphasizes evidence-based healthcare that is both patient-centered and provided in the context of a healthcare team. For each condition included the genetic, environmental, epidemiological, pathophysiological, cultural, and family implications are considered. Diagnostic reasoning/ testing in primary care including radiology, laboratory, microbiology, advanced imaging, and EKG are identified for each condition along with considerations of access, cost, efficacy, and quality as essential elements in planning healthcare services. The role of the NP as patient advocate, the process of negotiating an individualized treatment plan, the patient's right to refuse care, safety, and privacy requirements are included.

This lab course is taken concurrently with N675. Learning strategies include simulation-based case studies and skills lab hours. Skills lab sessions focus on common office procedures performed in the primary care setting and clinical case discussions. Emphasis will be placed on interpretation of laboratory and diagnostic results and evaluation and management of patients based on such results.

N676 - Care of Chronic & Complex Conditions (3 units)

Trends in healthcare include an aging population, multiple co-morbidities, and increasing lifespan. Linked with these issues is a move to care for people in the community rather than in the acute care setting. The goal of this course is to identify and explore the care of persons with multiple co-morbidities including but not limited to diabetes, cardio-vascular disease, rheumatologic, and pulmonary conditions. The focus of evaluation intervention and treatment emphasizes the importance of quality of life, normal aging, and the optimization of health status in persons with chronic illnesses.

N677 - Advanced Pharmacology (3 units)

This course in clinical pharmacotherapeutics builds on prior knowledge of drug classifications, prototypes within classifications, actions, interactions, and side effects. The major focus is on medications that are commonly prescribed in the treatment and management of common acute and chronic illnesses in primary for patients across the lifespan. Emphasis is placed on safe and effective prescribing and supporting patient adherence. Legal considerations for furnishing controlled substances are also addressed.

N678L - Clinical Practicum (2 units)

Healthcare is undergoing an information explosion. Implementation of new and evolving standards for practice addresses issues of patient safety, the use of culturally and linguistically appropriate services (CLAS), informatics, and healthcare that is both team-based and patient-centered. Moreover, it is crucial that everyone involved in healthcare work together to improve both the health care system and the health of people through practice inquiry. In this course the learner is immersed in a variety of clinical settings and given the opportunity to apply these evolving standards in the provision of healthcare services. This clinical course is taken concurrently with N674 with an emphasis on health protection and promotion.

N679L - Clinical Practicum (6 units)

This course builds on N678L and continues to investigate healthcare services within the context of evolving standards for evidence-based practice. In this course the learner is immersed in a variety of clinical settings and given the opportunity to apply these evolving standards in the provision of healthcare services. This course emphasizes acute episodic healthcare conditions across the lifespan. This clinical course is taken concurrently with N675 with an emphasis on acute and episodic healthcare.

N680L - Internship (6 units)

This course builds on N678L and N679L by expanding the learner's focus to include the management of common complex chronic conditions. Again, in this course the learner is immersed in a variety of clinical settings and given the opportunity to apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to assess, diagnose, and develop a treatment plan across the lifespan. This clinical course is taken concurrently with N676 with an emphasis on chronic and complex healthcare problems. Online students participate in a mandatory 3 day intensive on the Sacramento campus.

N606 - Directed Synthesis Project

Preparation of a scholarly report on the implementation of a major health program or instructional innovation designed to improve health care to high-risk populations in the community. Such a project is the culmination of work initiated in the core theory and clinical courses in the student's area of concentration.

COURSE SEQUENCES

Oakland Campus - ELMSN-FNP Full Time Course Sequence

6 Semesters	Course Number	Course Title	Units
PRELICENSURE (SPRING)	N601	Research Methods	3
	N602	Analysis of Health Policy Issues	3
OAK Semester 1 (SUMMER)	N626	Theoretical Foundations for APNs	3
	N670	Family Centered Advance Practice Nsng	2
	N672	Professional Role Development for APNs	1
OAK Semester 2 (FALL)	N619	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
	N671/N671L	Advanced Physical Assessment/Lab	3
OAK Semester 3 (SPRING)	N674	Health Protection, Promotion & Screening	3
	N677	Advanced Pharmacology	3
	N678L	Clinical Practicum (90 Hours)	2
OAK Semester 4 (SUMMER)	N675/ 675L	Care of Acute & Episodic Conditions/Lab	4
	N679L	Clinical Practicum (270 Hours)	6
OAK Semester 5 (FALL)	N606	Synthesis Project	3
	N673	Professional Advocacy for Entry to AP Role	1
	N676	Care of Chronic & Complex Conditions	3
	N680L	Internship (270 Hours)	6

Sacramento Campus - ELMSN-FNP Full Time Course Sequence

6 Semesters	Course Number	Course Title	Units
PRELICENSURE (SUMMER)	N601	Research Methods	3
	N602	Analysis of Health Policy Issues	3
SAC Semester 1 (FALL)	N626	Theoretical Foundations for APNs	3
	N670	Family Centered Advanced Practice Nsng	2
	N672	Professional Role Development for APNs	1
SAC Semester 2 (SPRING)	N619	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
	N671/N671 L	Advanced Physical Assessment/Lab	3
SAC Semester 3 (SUMMER)	N674	Health Protection, Promotion & Screening	3
	N677	Advanced Pharmacology	3
	N678L	Clinical Practicum (90 Hours)	2
SAC Semester 4 (FALL)	N675/ 675L	Care of Acute & Episodic Conditions/Lab	4
	N679L	Clinical Practicum (270 Hours)	6
SAC Semester 5 (SPRING)	N606	Synthesis Project	3
	N673	Professional Advocacy for Entry to AP Role	1
	N676	Care of Chronic & Complex Conditions	3
	N680L	Internship (270 Hours)	6

Oakland Campus - ELMSN-FNP Part Time Course Sequence

9 Semesters	Course Number	Course Title	Units
PRELICENSURE (SPRING)	N601	Research Methods	3
	N602	Analysis of Health Policy Issues	3
OAK Semester 1 (SUMMER)	N626	Theoretical Foundations for APNs	3
	N672	Professional Role Development for APNs	1
OAK Semester 2 (FALL)	N619	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
OAK Semester 3 (SPRING)	N677	Advanced Pharmacology	3
OAK Semester 4 (SUMMER)	N670	Family Centered Advanced Practice Nsng	2
OAK Semester 5 (FALL)	N671/N671 L	Advanced Physical Assessment/Lab	3
OAK Semester 6 (SPRING)	N674	Health Protection, Promotion & Screening	3
	N678L	Clinical Practicum (90 Hours)	2
OAK Semester 7 (SUMMER)	N675/ 675L	Care of Acute & Episodic Conditions/Lab	4
	N679L	Clinical Practicum (270 Hours)	6
OAK Semester 8 (FALL)	N606	Synthesis Project	3
	N673	Professional Advocacy for Entry to AP Role	1
	N676	Care of Chronic & Complex Conditions	3
	N680L	Internship (270 Hours)	6

Sacramento Campus - ELMSN-FNP Part Time Course Sequence

9 Semesters	Course Number	Course Title	Units
PRELICENSURE (SUMMER)	N601	Research Methods	3
	N602	Health Policy	3
SAC Semester 1 (FALL)	N626	Theoretical Foundations for APNs	3
	N672	Professional Role Development for APNs	1
SAC Semester 2 (SPRING)	N619	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
SAC Semester 3 (SUMMER)	N677	Advanced Pharmacology	3
SAC Semester 4 (FALL)	N670	Family Centered Advanced Practice Nsng	2
SAC Semester 5 (SPRING)	N671/N671 L	Advanced Physical Assessment/Lab	3
SAC Semester 6 (SUMMER)	N674	Health Protection, Promotion & Screening	3
	N678L	Clinical Practicum (90 Hours)	2
SAC Semester 7 (FALL)	N675/ 675L	Care of Acute & Episodic Conditions/Lab	4
	N679L	Clinical Practicum (270 Hours)	6
SAC Semester 8 (SPRING)	N606	Synthesis Project	3
	N673	Professional Advocacy for Entry to AP Role	1
	N676	Care of Chronic & Complex Conditions	3
	N680L	Internship (270 Hours)	6

Online - MSN FNP - Full Time Course Sequence

5 Semesters	Course Number	Course Title	Units
Semester 1	N601	Research Methods	3
	N626	Theoretical Foundations for APNs	3
	N670	Family Centered Advanced Practice Nsng	2
	N672	Professional Role Development for APNs	1
Semester 2	N619	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
	N671/N671 L	Advanced Physical Assessment/Lab	3
	N674	Health Protection, Promotion & Screening	3
Semester 3	N602	Analysis of Health Policy Issues	3
	N677	Advanced Pharmacology	3
	N678L	Clinical Practicum (90 Hours)	2
Semester 4	N673	Professional Advocacy for Entry to AP Role	1
	N675/675L	Care of Acute & Episodic Conditions/Lab	4
	N679L	Clinical Practicum (270 hours)	6
Semester 5	N606	Synthesis Project	3
	N676	Care of Chronic & Complex Conditions	3
	N680L	Internship (270 hours)	6

Online - MSN FNP - Part Time Course Sequence

7 Semesters	Course Number	Course Title	Units
Semester 1	N601	Research Methods	3
	N670	Family Centered Advanced Practice Nsng	2
	N672	Professional Role Development for APNs	1
Semester 2	N619	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
	N626	Theoretical Foundations for APNs	3
Semester 3	N671/N671L	Advanced Physical Assessment/Lab	3
	N674	Health Protection, Promotion & Screening	3
Semester 4	N602	Analysis of Health Policy Issues	3
	N677	Advanced Pharmacology	3
	N678L	Clinical Practicum (90 hours)	2
Semester 5	N675/N675L	Care of Acute & Episodic Conditions/Lab	4
	N679L	Clinical Practicum (270 hours)	6
Semester 6	N676	Care of Chronic & Complex Conditions	3
	N680L	Internship (270 hours)	6
Semester 7	N606	Synthesis Project	3
	N673	Professional Advocacy for Entry to APN Role	1

SAMUEL MERRITT UNIVERSITY - FNP PROGRAM POLICIES

TRANSFER COURSE POLICY FOR FNP

The FNP program does not accept Advanced Health Assessment or Advanced Physical Exam as a transfer course. Other courses accepted as transfer may have an Audit requirement associated with them. This is at the discretion of the Program Chair. All coursework for a request for transfer must be current within 12 months of completion.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

Time spent logged into Canvas and posting assignments meet the attendance and participation requirements for courses delivered online.

Students are expected to participate in all coursework and classroom activities, and complete all assignments by the posted due date and time.

The faculty recognize that events may occur that interfere with participation and/or the completion of coursework by the assigned due date. It is imperative that students communicate with the course faculty as soon as they are aware of any conflict that interferes with the above stated expectations (*preferably PRIOR to due dates*).

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Academic integrity is expected of all faculty, staff and students in order to promote a productive and safe environment for learning. Key components of academic integrity are communication and mutual respect among the members of the Samuel Merritt University community. Faculty, staff, and students are expected to abide by the codes of conduct and ethics of this University, as well as the code of ethics of their respective professions, which includes reporting misconduct to the appropriate authorities. Lack of academic integrity includes, but is not limited to, plagiarizing, cheating, deception, breach of confidentiality, failure to report a clinical error, falsifying research results, and failure to confront and/or report misconduct of others.

Faculty members reserve the right to evaluate individual cases of academic dishonesty by a student and to take appropriate action, which may include failure on a paper or exam or failure in the course. Faculty may also recommend censure, probation, suspension or dismissal to the Academic Vice President. A written report of any action will be placed in the student's file in the Office of the Registrar. If the student's status in the program is affected, a permanent notation will be made on his/her transcript.

Regardless of any action taken by the course faculty member, lack of academic integrity constitutes grounds for suspension or dismissal from Samuel Merritt University through the Office of the Academic Vice President.

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM POLICY

Individual Assignments – graded assignments that are the students' original work. No portion of any assignment submitted may be the work of any other student in this course, or any other course.

Group Assignments – graded assignments that are the work and collaboration of a group of students (as assigned by instructor), that cumulatively is submitted as one assignment and will be graded based on

the submission of the group. No portion of any assignment submitted may be the work of any other student in this course, or any other course. Group assignments must have a page added to the submitted assignment that indicates the students' names and the work designated and completed by each student in the group.

Collaboration – students speaking with one another, or otherwise working on assignments together, in discussion settings. Collaboration is allowed only on a case-by-case basis, as allowed by the Instructor. All students involved in any collaboration will be named on all assignments submitted.

Cross-course collaboration – no students will be allowed to work together on assignments between courses, i.e. ELMSN-Hybrid-MSN ONL. Because each individual course is taught by different SMU faculty, there will be no cross-course collaboration allowed based on multiple faculty involved in teaching courses.

Course expectation – all assignments will be either individual or group (please refer to syllabus). Collaboration is allowed at the Instructors discretion and with clear instruction to students, otherwise all students must work individually or in their group. No student may submit any assignment that is not original, and completely their own work. Please refer to SMU Academic Student Handbook and Course Policies regarding academic dishonesty and plagiarism.

COMMUNICATION, PROFESSIONALISM AND CONDUCT

We recognize that students in the FNP program have overcome many challenges to get to this level in their education. It is our desire to support you in your learning processes and to support the reputation and quality of the SMU FNP program at the highest caliber. We further recognize that our FNP students are mature, responsible, competent at studying and learning, and are hard-working adults with many duties and responsibilities outside of the SMU FNP experience. In order to support you and ensure the mutually beneficial reputation of the SMU FNP program, we will clarify expectations between us.

As your FNP administration, faculty and staff, you can expect:

1. We will strive to be current in our academic, political, and professional knowledge in advanced practice nursing.
2. We will be prepared for your learning in all FNP courses and clinical rotations.
3. We will show up for FNP courses and FNP clinical rotations with an “I am here to learn with you” attitude, on time, and as scheduled.
4. We will “set the bar high” in our expectations of you in the FNP student role.
5. We will strive to communicate effectively orally and in writing, in a timely manner.
 - We will strive to provide feedback on papers and assignments to you within 7 days of receiving them.
 - We will strive to answer your emails and phone calls to us within 72 hours.
 - If we are unavailable to you during these time frames for any reason, we will contact you at a minimum of two weeks in advance and inform you either through Canvas or email and provide the name of a reliable contact person that can return your emails and phones in our absence.
 - We will use graduate level wording, and proper English composition, spelling and grammar in our communications to you.
5. If we change our class, lab or schedule in a way that impacts your classes or your clinical rotations, except in an extreme emergency, we will give you a minimum of a two week notice.
6. We will strive to be FNP role models for you.

7. We will work together to see every adverse or challenging situation as an opportunity to learn.
8. Whenever possible, we will provide a minimum of a two week notification of your upcoming clinical rotation sites.

As SMU FNP students, we expect:

1. You will be prepared when coming to FNP theory and clinical rotations. This means, you have read the required material, when appropriate, and have a positive, “I am here to learn with you” attitude, will commit to show up on time, be engaged, and attend and participate during the full time scheduled.
2. You will demonstrate an effective meaningful professional communication manner, both orally and in writing, in a timely manner. You will use graduate level wording and proper English composition, spelling and grammar in your communications to us. When you receive an email or written communication from us, we expect an acknowledgement of that communication in a timely manner written within 72 hours.
3. You will strive to “set the bar high” in your expectations of us in FNP administration, faculty and staff roles.
4. If you change your attendance schedule to a class, lab, clinical or other University based activity, except in an extreme emergency, you will give us a minimum of a two week notice, and if you are going to miss in a clinical site where multiple SMU FNP students are in practice, we expect you to find a replacement for you in your absence.
5. You will strive to be role models and mentors for other FNP students.
6. You will strive to see each adverse or challenging situation as an opportunity to learn.
7. You will keep your clinical hours current and documented, and respond rapidly to requests related to potential or current clinical sites timely.
8. You will notify the Clinical Coordination Team of any changes to your home address and updates to your RN license.

LATE SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Up to 50% point deduction will occur for assignments submitted late. Assignments are not accepted beyond the fifth day past the due date, unless *prior* arrangements are made with the course faculty.

A student who does not attend required course meetings/activities will receive a lower grade for the course.

GRADING POLICY

Graduate students of nursing are required to attain a cumulative score of 80% in order to pass a course and the program. The grade scale is as follows and found in all course syllabi:

94 – 100% = A

90 – 93% = A -

87 – 89% = B+

83 – 86% = B

80 – 82% = B-

< 80% unsatisfactory completion of the course and/or program

75 – 79% = C

72 – 74.9% = C-

69 – 71.9% = D

<68.9% = F

If a student does not pass a course with an 80% or higher they have one opportunity to repeat the course to pass. If two or more courses are not passed at 80% or higher in a semester then this is considered a failure and thus dismissal from the program. Please see the general academic policy regarding progression in the SMU catalog: https://www.samuelmerritt.edu/academic_affairs/catalogs.

FNP PROGRAM GRADE APPEAL POLICY

General Information:

The primary authority of the instructor in the assignment of grades must be respected. An instructor's evaluation of a student's work and performance in that instructor's course must not be over-ridden merely because of a difference of opinion or evaluative judgment, provided it is formed in accordance with the generally accepted canons of the relevant discipline and academic institution. The university presumes that every instructor wants and tries to be non-prejudicial, objective, and consistent in the assignment of grades. This presumption, however, may be over-ridden by weight of evidence to the contrary.

Steps of the Appeal Process:

1. The burden of proof rests on the student and can only concern the final grade. The appeal process must be completed within a two week time frame from the final submission date for the grade.
2. Within two days of final grade submission, the student must submit an appeal in writing to the instructor who submitted the grade. The student must use the form supplied and document supporting proof of why the grade needs changing.
3. The instructor in question must respond within two days of the submitted paper work.
4. If the student remains dissatisfied with the decision then they must submit to program Chair/Director within 48 hours.
5. If the student remains dissatisfied with the decision, they must submit to the Associate Dean of the graduate programs and if they are not available to the Dean of the School of Nursing within 48 hours of denial for change.

6. If the student continues to feel dissatisfied with the decision they may appeal the denial of the grade change following the guidelines of the grievance process in the University catalog. This is in accordance with Samuel Merritt University Academic Policy on Grade Changes found in the University catalog. https://www.samuelmerritt.edu/academic_affairs/catalogs

FNP INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

A grade of “I” or “incomplete” may be **agreed upon** between the **faculty member and student** when the student’s work is substantially complete yet incomplete due to circumstances beyond the student’s control. **Substantially complete in the FNP program means 75% of the work is completed.** A petition for an incomplete is initiated by the student, and **approved in writing by the faculty member and/or program director. This is completed two weeks prior to the end of the semester.** It is not the responsibility of the faculty member to petition for an incomplete grade, but an instructor may originate an incomplete grade if the student is unable to do so and has specifically requested an incomplete grade from the instructor. The petition must include the reason for the incomplete grade, the coursework to be completed, and the deadline for submitting the work. **The student must satisfactorily complete the work prior to the end of the next semester. Once the petition is approved, the Registrar enters the Incomplete as the grade for the student.**

Students completing incomplete course work in the following semester and who have not registered for any other semester courses are enrolled in a zero unit course on Canvas. The student will register for this course under guidance by the Registrar. If the student is completing incompletes as well as carrying the normal course load for the following semester, they do not register for the course but must have a specific completion plan determined by the faculty granting the incomplete as well as the Chair of the program.

Upon completion of the coursework, the instructor may submit a change of grade form to the Office of the Registrar. An incomplete grade not changed by the due date becomes an “F.” An incomplete grade, even when cleared, is part of the student’s academic record. Please see the general policy for Incomplete grades in the SMU catalog: https://www.samuelmerritt.edu/academic_affairs/catalogs.

FNP REMEDIATION POLICY FOR RETURN FROM LOA

Students who take a Leave of Absence (LOA) are vulnerable to loss of important and salient content required to be effective, safe, and good FNP’s. A remediation plan is determined based on the length of time of the LOA and the courses completed prior to taking the LOA.

Examples of remediation plans for students who are away for one year and have completed advanced pharmacology, health assessment and a clinical course will be expected to participate in a case study simulation using a standardized patient to demonstrate knowledge of the three courses. This is completed while observed by two faculty members. If the student is an online student, this is done utilizing synchronistic technology in front of two faculty members. All sessions will be recorded. If a student has not completed or entered the clinical semesters, an exam or demonstration of knowledge will be completed

covering content from the courses attended. Each remediation is individualized based on the student's needs.

If a student is away for less than a year LOA, need for remediation is determined based on the students' academic and professional performance in the courses completed. Examples are as above; a case study simulation and/or exam of content.

The student is still held accountable to SMU's Leave of Absence policy, which is found in the University Catalog https://www.samuelmerritt.edu/academic_affairs/catalogs.

SPECIFIC FNP COURSE POLICIES

For All Courses

- Students are expected to arrive to class and/or clinical site meetings on time, appropriately attired, wearing SMU nametag, and adequately prepared.
- Students are expected to maintain professional communication with staff, faculty, and peers at all times.
- Online students are expected to participate on time in Discussion Boards and other assigned activities.

For Theory Courses

- It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with all course requirements.
- Students are expected to be attentive to classroom activities and NOT spend time on personal email or other unrelated activities while class is in session.

For Clinical Courses

The University requirement for FNP clinical hours is 630 over the final 3 semesters.

The guidelines for dividing clinical hours for the 3 clinical semesters are as follows: The minimum clinical hours are: N678L - 90 hours, N679L - 270 hours, N680L - 270 hours. Accrued hours for pediatrics and for women's health should be **at least 10% of the total minimum hours** required in the program.

Clinical hours are those spent in the clinical practice setting or clinical simulations. This may include group discussions and presentations about patients, clinical events, and research about medical conditions encountered related to specific patient diagnosis and management *while at the practice site*.

The following *do not* count towards the FNP Program clinical hour requirement: travel to and from the clinical assignments, professional conferences, CEUs, and research related to general patient diagnosis and management *outside* of the clinic.

It is of mutual understanding that the FNP Program Policies include the following:

- Students cannot precept in the same work-unit where they are employed.
- Students cannot precept with a relative, friend or anyone with whom they have a relationship (e.g. a care provider).
- Hours for the program must be in family or primary care setting.
- Students can spend limited time in specialty practices approved by the FNP Program.
- If the student decides not to accept a clinical assignment, they must sign the FNP Program waiver.

- A student might be required to find their own clinical site.
- The program's focus is Primary care and although most of your clinical hours will be in primary care settings of family practice, pediatrics or women's health, we do support some specialty rotations that cross over.
 - These may include but are not limited to Dermatology, ENT, and Oncology, wound care, hematology, podiatry, orthopedics, urgent care, occupational health and psychiatry. Very specialized settings, such as aesthetics, outpatient surgery center and travel medicine to name a few may be arranged through your faculty and clinical coordinator. However, no more than 1/4 of your clinical hours for that semester may be in a specialized setting.
- Students are expected to attend clinical days as if it were their place of employment. Therefore, students must notify the clinical faculty, preceptor, and clinical site as soon as possible if they cannot attend clinical, will be late, or there is a change in hours.
 - In some cases, students might be able to obtain clinical hours at faculty practices. Students should check with their assigned clinical coordinator to see if this is an option.
 - Updating of the Doodle (Faculty Practice only) schedule is the responsibility of the student. Edits less than 2 weeks must be arranged & approved with the faculty of that day.
 - A minimum of 4 students and a maximum of 6 will be scheduled each day. Less than or greater than is at the discretion of the faculty.
 - Sacramento Faculty Practice is scheduled each semester by the FNP Clinical Coordinator. In the case a student is sick or has an emergency, it is the student's responsibility to identify a replacement and notify the Clinical Faculty and FNP Clinical Coordinator by emailing the names and identifying the dates exchanged to SACFacultyPractice@SamuelMerritt.edu.
 - Unless it is an illness or emergency situation, students are expected to find their own replacement for the day that they will miss if the remaining student count drops below the minimum of 4.
 - If a student fails to contact the faculty for a missed day, or removes self within 24 hours prior to clinic without approval, the student is put on 'tentative fail' of the clinical course. He/ she will have to make up those clinical hours with another clinic day by the deadline established. Those make up hours are not allowed to be recorded into InPlace. The 'tentative fail' is lifted once agreement has been met/ clinical hours made up.
 - An absence of more than one day of clinical during the semester jeopardizes meeting competencies, and must be discussed with the clinical faculty for remediation.
- Students are expected to provide the names and contact information of their preceptors to their clinical instructor at the beginning of the semester and throughout the rotation.
- Students are expected to notify the Clinical Coordination Team of any changes to their home address and updates to their RN license.
- Contracts for clinical sites can take up to 3 months to process.
- For faculty sites, students are expected to participate in pre- or post- clinical conference and complete their documentation and tasks by the end of clinic day.
- Students at risk in clinical are expected to:
 - Meet with their clinical faculty to review expectations as soon as possible.
 - A learning contract will be initiated.
 - At any time during the student's clinical rotation, a learning contract can be initiated as soon as concerns or problems are noted.
 - A midterm student self-evaluation, along with a learning contract will be initiated for review during the student's final evaluation.

- Complete a plan for remediation, including learning goals. This midterm evaluation or when concerns are first noted will be completed in writing.

DESCRIPTION OF CLINICAL SITES FOR THE FNP PROGRAM

The main goal of Primary Care is to provide patients with a broad spectrum of preventive and curative care over a period of time and coordinate all of the care that the patient receives, and facilitate continuity and integration of health care services.

Primary Care Family Practice: a person, adult or child seeks care here for routine (well check- ups, paps, family planning, school physicals, disability paperwork, DMV physicals), minor acute issues (e.g. cold or ankle sprain) and chronic conditions (e.g. diabetes or high blood pressure). Patients are established here as their medical home, are seen for chronic management (like diabetes) and are referred out to specialists (like Physical Therapy) from here.

Goal: birth to older ages seen, screen, prevent disease, educate, immunize, diagnose, manage chronic diseases, refer to specialty.

Urgent Care: stand alone or hospital based, out patient setting where patients are seen for acute care conditions that are not life threatening (e.g. minor cuts, injury, sprains, falls, colds, coughs, burns). This site could be or not be affiliated with patients' medical home clinic. Often used when patients' primary care clinic is not open, like evenings or weekends - or they cannot access a last minute appointment. They are not managing chronic conditions here.

Goal: stabilize this 1 thing and have patient return to primary care clinic; sees all ages.

Emergency Department: Hospital based, for evaluation & stabilization of possible life threatening acute conditions (heart attack, stroke, bleeding, trauma, head injury, animal bites, seizures, acute breathing problems, anything brought in by ambulance or even helicopter). Patient is either stabilized and then discharged and told to go back to Primary Care or admitted into hospital. Only short term acute treatments, No chronic management.

Goal: Treat this 1 thing and discharge or admit; sees all ages.

Outpatient Pediatrics: Stand alone, out patient primary care for just pediatric aged patients. Medical home for pediatric patients. All acute and chronic management of different conditions seen as well as routine visits (well checks, immunizations, asthma, rashes, colds, coughs, etc.). Referrals made to specialty from here (like Rheumatology).

Goal: Birth to age 18 years, well or sick (non-urgent or emergent care).

Women's Health Clinic: Out patient reproductive health clinic and perinatal care (and sometimes primary care). Routine paps, breast exams, STI screening, birth control, family planning, some procedures such as LEEP, colposcopy, abortions, and sterilization. Pregnancy management. High risk pregnant teens. Goal: Routine, acute and chronic ob/gyn conditions. Sees ages 13 and up.

Specialty: any clinical site that focuses on management of one system (e.g. dermatology or cardiology) or treats only selected acute diagnoses/ conditions without follow up or management (Urgent Care, Emergency Department, Minute clinics [Retail Clinics]).

Transgender Care Clinic: Primary care may take place here along with transgender-specific care.

REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CLINICAL PLACEMENTS

1. Samuel Merritt University will be responsible for securing no more than one clinical site (90 Hours) for N678L & up to three clinical sites for N679L (270 Hours) & N680L (270 Hours). If students refuse any placement, the students will be responsible for securing their own site(s). A student-selected site must be reviewed and approved by the program chair.
2. Students must be able to travel 100 miles or more from the assigned campus (Oakland or Sacramento) or from the address as listed in the SMU records for online students.
3. Students must be able to attend up to three clinical days per week. Clinical days may not be continuous.
4. Students must respond to emails from clinical faculty or clinical coordinator within 48 hours. Failure to communicate within that time period will result in suspension of student's participation in clinic.
5. If students are terminated from a clinical site due to unprofessional behavior such as absences, tardiness or unprofessionalism, they risk failure of the course.

CLINICAL CONTRACTS

For New Contracts (with Uncontracted Facilities), or Renewal Contracts (or contracts expiring before/during your clinical rotation) – A Clinical Contract Request Form (CCRF) must be submitted at least 90 days/60 working days prior to the start of the semester. If submitted after this, the Clinical Coordination team cannot guarantee that the contract will be processed in time for the upcoming semester.

SAFE AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN CLINICAL SETTINGS

Policy

A student whose pattern of behavior is found to be unsafe and/or unprofessional may be excluded from a clinical practicum at any time and could receive a failing grade in the course. The student is referred to the department chair and may be subject to further disciplinary action.

Guidelines

The student will demonstrate patterns of healthcare professional behavior which follow the legal and ethical professional codes; promote the well-being of clients, healthcare workers, and self in the biological, psychological, sociological, and cultural realms; demonstrate accountability in preparation, documentation and continuity of care; and show respect for the human rights of individuals.

Indicators to be used as guidelines for evaluating safe and professional practice are:

Regulatory

The student practices within the boundaries of the applicable State Practice Act, the guidelines and objectives of the department, and the rules and regulations of the healthcare agencies. Examples of safe and/or professional practice include, but are not limited to the following:

1. notifying the agency and/or instructor of clinical absence.
2. adhering to the dress code.

3. presenting for clinical practicum free from the influence of un-prescribed psychoactive drugs, including alcohol.
4. demonstrating accountability by making up missed clinical experiences, as designated by faculty member.
5. arriving promptly for clinical assignments.
6. meeting obligations in a timely manner.

Ethical

The student practices according to the relevant professional association's Code of Ethics, Standards of Practice, and the State Practice Acts. Examples of safe and/or professional practice include, but are not limited to the following:

1. accepting assignments in keeping with the University's policy of non-discrimination.
2. appropriately performing any activity related to clinical practice.
3. reporting unethical behavior of other healthcare providers, including other students.
4. demonstrating honesty in all aspects of clinical practice.

Biological, Psychological, Social, and Cultural Realms

The student's practice meets the needs of the human from a biological, psychological, sociological and cultural standpoint. Examples of safe and/or professional practice include, but are not limited to the following:

1. displaying stable mental, emotional and physical behavior.
2. following through on referrals or interventions to correct own areas of deficiency in clinical practice which, if ignored, may result in harm to others.
3. building interpersonal relationships with agency staff, coworkers, peers and/or faculty that result in clear, constructive communication, promoting quality client care and/or unit functioning.
4. being physically capable of carrying out essential procedures.

Accountability

The student's practice demonstrates accountability in the responsible preparation, documentation and promotion of continuity in the care of clients. Examples of safe and/or professional practice include, but are not limited to the following:

1. communicating concisely both orally and in writing.
2. documenting client behavior accurately and comprehensively.
3. reporting questionable professional practices.
4. undertaking activities with adequate orientation, theoretical preparation and appropriate assistance.
5. demonstrating honesty in all aspects of practice.

Dress code

Students are expected to dress professionally in appropriate clothing for their clinical setting. The following serves as a guideline for the FNP-program and is in conjunction with the clinical agency's expectations.

1. It is expected that compliance with the dress code of each individual clinical agency will be respected.
2. Appropriate attire and a neat personal appearance are required when interacting with faculty and peers in classroom situations.
3. Appropriate attire and neat personal appearance are required during interactions with patients and clinical colleagues.

4. Lab coats should be worn with SMU name tags during every clinical rotation.
5. Attire to be worn under lab coat should be either casual professional or more formal professional attire depending on the setting.
6. Scrubs are **not** proper attire for most nurse practitioners, unless they are consistent with other practitioners in the assigned clinical setting, or are covered with a lab coat.
7. Ties for men are optional.
8. Closed toed and low-heeled shoes should be worn in clinic (clogs are the exception but no high-heeled mules). Shoes should be appropriate for the clinical setting (No flip-flops, sandals or open toes).
9. Hair should be arranged so as not to interfere with patient care and safety.
10. Nails should be clean, short and maintained to ensure patient safety. Artificial nails are not permitted for patient care.
11. Perfumed or scented products should not be worn, as many patients are intolerant.
12. Jewelry should not interfere with patient care or safety.

CLINICAL PERFORMANCE

The Clinical Coordinator will help prepare you for clinic by providing a clinical guide, set up training to learn our Clinical Database- InPlace and work with you on Clinical Placements.

FNP Student Expectations

1. Attend all prearranged clinical conferences in a timely manner. Notify preceptors promptly if you are unable to be at clinical.
2. Share with clinical faculty and clinical coordinator regarding strengths, weaknesses and learning needs and preferences.
3. Provide clinical faculty and preceptor with written personal objectives that are consistent with overall course objectives.
4. Participate in self-evaluation as well as preceptor and faculty evaluation.
5. Participate appropriately in the clinical agency in relation to dress, demeanor, nametag, confidentiality and use of resources.
6. Develop collaborative and considerate working relationships with all client and staff colleagues in the clinical agency.
7. Advocate for clients/families rights for appropriate care and self-determination above the student's learning needs.



CLINICAL SITE SELECTION AGREEMENT FNP PROGRAM

I understand the following regarding placements in a clinical site for the purpose of acquiring required hours to complete the FNP Program.

It is understood that:

1. Samuel Merritt University will be responsible for securing no more than one clinical site (90 Hours) for N678L & up to three clinical sites for N679L (270 Hours) & N680L (270 Hours). If students refuse any placement, the students will be responsible for securing their own site(s). A student-selected site must be reviewed and approved by the program chair.
2. Students must be able to travel 100 miles or more from the assigned campus (Oakland or Sacramento) or from the address as listed in the SMU records for online students.
3. Students must be able to attend up to three clinical days per week. Clinical days may not be continuous.
4. Students must respond to emails from clinical faculty or clinical coordinator within 48 hours. Failure to communicate within that time period will result in suspension of student's participation in clinic.
5. If students are terminated from a clinical site due to unprofessional behavior such as absences, tardiness or unprofessionalism, they risk failure of the course.

Student Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

INPLACE STUDENT CLINICAL PLACEMENT AND TRACKING SYSTEM

The FNP Program utilizes the web-based clinical student tracking system developed and maintained by InPlace. This secure, password protected software application has multiple functions related to the general management of the FNP clinical curriculum as well each student's self-management of their individual data-- professional profile, documentation of required credentials, and completed clinical cases.

Every student is fully oriented to the use of InPlace during the second semester (just prior to first clinical rotation, N678L); thereafter it is the student's responsibility to maintain their account as directed during the orientation. The Clinical Coordinator and clinical instructors are responsible for monitoring and maintaining designated components of the site.

At the end of every semester, the Clinical Coordinator will send a summary of hours to each preceptor. It is crucial that you accurately reflect time spent with each preceptor and that each site location documented is accurately reflected of the day you spent at clinic.

Each student's account provides program or clinical agency administrators with access to any necessary credential or regulatory document whenever required for the purposes of ascertaining compliance with accreditation standards or policies. **The importance of maintaining all documents up to date on InPlace cannot be overemphasized. Additionally, students are required to maintain current documents as soft copy on a USB (aka jump- or flash-) drive at all times when physically present at any clinical agency.**

Specific requirements regarding student documentation for use of InPlace can be found in the clinical course syllabus pertinent to the use of this system.

COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT

OSCE

An Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) is a type of examination often used in health sciences to test clinical skill performance and competence in skills such as communication, clinical examination, procedures and interpretation of results.

For on-campus students, An OSCE usually comprises a circuit of short (usually 20 minutes) stations, in which each student is examined on a one-to-one basis with one or two impartial examiner(s) and standardized patients (actors). Each station has a different examiner, as opposed to the traditional method of clinical examinations where a student would be assigned to an examiner for the entire examination. Students rotate through the stations, completing all the stations on their circuit. In this way, all students take the same stations.

As the name suggests, an OSCE is designed to be:

- *Objective* - all students are assessed using exactly the same stations with the same scoring scheme. In an OSCE, students get points for each step that they perform correctly which therefore makes the assessment of clinical skills more objective rather than subjective, where one or two examiners decide whether or not the student fails based on their subjective assessment of their skills.

- *Structured* - stations in OSCEs have a very specific task. Where simulated patients are used, detailed scripts are provided to ensure that the information that they give is the same to all students. Instructions are carefully written to ensure that the student is given a very specific task to complete. The OSCE is carefully structured to include parts from all elements of the curriculum as well as a wide range of skills.
- *Clinical Examination* - the OSCE is designed to apply clinical and theoretical knowledge. Where theoretical knowledge is required (for example, answering questions from the examiner at the end of the station) then the questions are standardized and the student is only asked questions that are on the scoring sheet.

Simulation

Patient encounter simulations are conducted throughout the FNP curriculum beginning in Advanced Physical Assessment and continuing into Clinical Practica. To realistically reproduce a patient encounter, standardized patients (SPs) are sometimes utilized. These SPs portray patients during an interview and physical examination with the student. These SPs report their symptoms to the student and the student, in turn, conducts the patient interview and performs a physical examination. Through these interviews, students learn how to communicate with patients in certain medical situations, followed by the appropriate physical assessment.

Oral Exams

In the final semester of the program, students undergo oral examinations with two faculty members. These exams are conducted to assess students' foundation of knowledge and their ability to critically think through three clinical case scenarios, one each in pediatrics, women's health, and internal medicine.

Online OSCE and Oral Examination

The OSCE experience for the online students is embedded in the 3 clinical courses N678L, N679L using an online methodology. Each clinical course has 3 evaluation experiences in the final weeks of the semester. The first experience is a medical decision-making scenario based on a case study, the second evaluation is a telephone triage experience, and the final experience is a video-taped patient evaluation using a standardized patient scenario.

Online students participate in the culminating evaluative experience referred to as the oral exams using a web-based format. See the previous description of the oral examination.

Online students may be required to come to campus for an in person OSCE assessment by FNP faculty. This is dependent on the recommendation of their faculty for the clinical and health assessment based courses and is in consultation with the Chair of the FNP program. The visit to campus is at the student's expense.

EVALUATION

Student Outcome Evaluation/Program Evaluation:

All students are required to complete evaluation instruments assessing the outcomes of their educational program. Ongoing evaluations are conducted in all programs to assess and ensure quality educational experiences. The evaluation instruments are collected each semester and/or during the final term prior to graduation. Failure to complete the instruments may result in a hold (Stop List) on the academic record.

Students are required to complete and submit an evaluation each semester reviewing current clinical site (non-faculty practice), preceptor (non-faculty) and Clinical Faculty Evaluation. The electronic evaluation will be submitted to you through InPlace, the SMU clinical database.

GRADUATE PROGRESSION AND GRADUATION

All students must satisfactorily complete all required prerequisite courses to progress in the major. In order to matriculate into the 5th semester of the Family Nurse Practitioner, the Entry-level Master of Science in Nursing student must successfully complete the curriculum as outlined in the current catalog and pass a standardized assessment test as determined by the School of Nursing at the prescribed passing score.

Graduate students in the Master of Science in Nursing programs must achieve satisfactory academic performance, including: a minimum grade of “B-” in all required courses; a grade of “S” on all clinical experiences; and a cumulative grade point average 3.0. Graduate students are also required to complete evaluation instruments assessing their learning experiences, including clinical coursework, at periodic intervals.

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