

**MENNONITE COLLEGE OF NURSING  
AT ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY  
Graduate Program – Family Nurse Practitioner Sequence  
General Guidelines for Clinical Experiences**

Students will be assigned to one or more selected primary care site(s) during the semester for a preceptored clinical experience. On a weekly basis, students will spend clinical time in the provision of direct care in the preceptor site. Students will be assigned a clinical preceptor who will provide guidance and ongoing, continuous feedback.

It is expected that students will conduct at least 3 to 4 patient encounters a day at the beginning of the semester, and expand their experiences to 4 or 5 or more encounters per day by the end of the semester. By the last semester, students may be seeing 7 to 10 patients per day in one clinical setting. Students will present their findings, assessment, and plan of care for each patient for the preceptor's approval and feedback. The student will complete all documentation/charting on the clients seen. ***All documentation will be co-signed by the preceptor.*** Notation will be included when the patient encounter was "staffed by....," "seen and rechecked by....," or "seen and agreed by..." the preceptor. The student signature will identify the role of "Student FNP."

When the student encounters any difficulties in the preceptor site related to availability of patients, guidance from preceptor, or other problems, the student must notify the faculty member immediately. The student will be primarily responsible for ensuring that preceptorship experiences are consistent with the student's goals and learning needs. Consultation from faculty regarding preceptorship placements can be requested at any time.

**Expectations for Clinical Behaviors**

The following general guidelines provide the student with expected minimal behaviors in all clinical courses.

**Students are expected to:**

1. Document all encounters clearly and comprehensively using a SOAP format.
2. Verbalize their rationale for management of patients in a way that demonstrates familiarity with extant and emerging knowledge.
3. Orally present case summaries in an organized format.
4. Individualize treatment approaches consistent with the background, needs, resources, desires, and values of each patient.
5. Develop management plans with consideration of the costs and benefits of various interventions relative to each individual's situation.
6. Perform technical skills with increasing competence.
7. Seek new learning opportunities.
8. Obtain consultation from preceptor as appropriate.
9. Utilize appropriate resources in the management of each patient situation.
10. Articulate the nurse practitioner role to patients and others who may be unfamiliar with this level of advanced nursing practice.
11. Demonstrate attributes appropriate to the role of professional nurse and nurse practitioner: honesty, promptness, respect, courtesy, and safe practice.
12. Conduct all interactions in a manner appropriate to legal standards and professional standards of ethics.