



**CARSON-NEWMAN**  
A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

# CLINICAL PLACEMENT PROCESS



Your clinical practicum is a time for you to embark on a journey of professional and personal growth as you gain valuable real-world experience. Students pursuing an online Master of Science in Nursing - Family Nurse Practitioner (MSN-FNP) or Post-Master's FNP Certificate (PMC-FNP) through Carson-Newman University receive ongoing clinical placement support throughout their program.

Carson-Newman is proud to offer each nursing student individualized attention during the clinical placement process so you can focus on building your competencies as a Family Nurse Practitioner. Our online FNP students are guided by a dedicated placement team who will coordinate your clinical rotations and match you with a qualified preceptor.



## **WHAT IS CLINICAL PLACEMENT?**

Clinical placement is the required clinical education component of Carson-Newman's Master of Science in Nursing - Family Nurse Practitioner (MSN-FNP) degree and the Post-Master's Certificate - Family Nurse Practitioner (PMC-FNP) program. Clinicals work in tandem with the classroom-based coursework to prepare you for your future as a Family Nurse Practitioner, providing primary care in the field. During clinicals, you may work in various professional settings including:

- Family practice
- Health clinics
- Pediatrics
- Women's health

## **WHAT IS A CLINICAL PRECEPTOR?**

A clinical preceptor is a highly qualified, seasoned medical professional who serves as a mentor to students in the healthcare field. Your clinical preceptor serves as your on-site educator and is in regular communication with your professors at Carson-Newman to track your clinical development.

Clinical preceptors will:

- Guide you through the initial assessments of your patients' medical condition and helping you identify a course of action for treatment
- Ensure that you have the knowledge and skills to meet the needs of a wide variety of patients with various ailments
- Help you sharpen your analytical skills and develop a clear path to fulfill your program's clinical requirements

*Please note: With the COVID-19 pandemic, the clinical placement process may be delayed as sites are balancing the workload of current health demands in addition to training students.*

## HOW DOES CLINICAL PLACEMENT BENEFIT YOU?

Carson-Newman's Department of Nursing believes you are only as successful as your training, which is why we support our students during the clinical placement process.

- **Our Network Support** — Your dedicated Placement Specialist will work with you and handle the logistics of securing quality placement sites and preceptors from our network of providers, as well as any referrals from you.
- **Your Focus** — Our support saves you hours, days, months of time, so you can focus on your coursework and core competencies
- **Your Success** — Your placement specialist will ensure clinical compliance for your program and state, to help you prepare for clinicals, supporting your clinical success

Additionally, you may find clinical placement sites to be potential locations for future employment opportunities upon graduation.

## HOW DOES THE CLINICAL PLACEMENT PROCESS WORK?

**1 Placement Intake Form.** A few months into your FNP program, you will receive a **placement intake form**. Using information from the form and clinical objectives, a **dedicated placement specialist** will locate an appropriate preceptor and handle the logistics for your clinical rotation. Before your clinical rotation starts, you will receive the name and location of your preceptor so you can meet and develop a schedule.

Some information you will be asked to provide on the placement intake form includes:

- Student Status
- General Information
- Relocation Plans
- Current Licensures
- Education History
- Current Work Experience
- Work Schedule
- Preceptor Referrals\*
- Clinical Site Preferences

Military students must also provide this additional information:

- Current Military Affiliation
- Location of Base (if currently residing)
- Military Branch

\*We encourage students to network shortly after enrolling in the program and to forward potential referrals if you have any sites in mind. This will help us place you in an area that fits your interests. If you have a potential preceptor or future employer in mind as well, we also encourage you to include this on the intake form. Our partnership with our students helps promote the best clinical experiences possible.

**2 Dedicated Placement Specialist.** A Placement Specialist will then work behind the scenes with Carson-Newman to source a quality placement site and preceptor for you. If you wish to work with a specific facility, your referrals are welcome.

**3 Clinical Clearance Requirements.** While the specialists are securing sites and preceptors, you are responsible for completing **clinical clearance requirements** in preparation for placement, including:

- Drug screening
- Background check
- Recommended vaccinations

**4 Clinical Placement Approval.** Once the sites have been approved by the Department of Nursing, Carson-Newman will share the placement site details with you.



## **CLINICAL PLACEMENTS AND EMPLOYMENT**

While many students maintain their jobs during clinical rotations, it is challenging to manage all of the responsibilities that come with this workload. In order to balance your clinical responsibilities, your full-time job, and your coursework, you will need to be very organized and deliberate with time management.

Some students choose to reduce work hours temporarily to focus on clinicals; however, each student has unique circumstances. Carson-Newman staff will support you in discussing the best option for you.

In some cases, it is possible for you to find placement with your current employer, although these requirements vary by state. Please contact us directly with any site recommendations.

## **ONCE I RECEIVE MY SITE DETAILS, HOW LONG BEFORE I START MY CLINICALS?**

You'll receive an email notification 30 days before you start your clinicals with details that include the address, contact information, and any additional requirements your preceptor or site may need.

## **HOW SHOULD I PREPARE FOR MY CLINICAL PLACEMENT?**

Your placement specialist will ensure your clinical site and preceptor are secure and meet necessary requirements. Carson-Newman will handle all placement logistics during each of your clinical rotations. This helps our online FNP students stay focused on learning course material.

To prepare for clinical placement, you can take the following steps:

- Set objectives for what you'd like to learn and how you envision yourself developing during clinicals.
- Understand time commitments beforehand and start organizing your schedule. You may need to discuss changes in your availability with your supervisor or reach out to family members to help with coverage at home.
- Stay accessible and in communication with Carson-Newman staff. Don't be afraid to ask questions and seek clarification as needed.

## **WHAT CAN I EXPECT ON MY FIRST DAY OF CLINICALS?**

Clinical orientation is different for each site, but you can expect to complete the clinicals clearances, learn about appropriate dress codes and the necessary clinical tools. You'll also meet your preceptor and receive your name badge, identifying you as a student.

## **WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS A STUDENT?**

During clinical rotations, you are responsible to:

- Review goals and objectives for fulfilling clinical requirements
- Provide your preceptor with daily written objectives and evaluation forms
- Review existing clinical protocols and Carson-Newman protocols with your preceptor
- Document all clinical encounters using a SOAP (Subjective, Objective, Assessment and Plan) format
- Ensure you are always under the supervision of your preceptor

## **WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM MY PRECEPTOR?**

Your preceptor is there to be your on-site role model and to help you develop family nurse practitioner skills during your clinical rotation.

They will:

- Bridge the gap between theory and actual practice
- Orient you to the practice setting (key personnel, organization, and institutional policies)
- Help you plan clinical assignments
- Provide one-on-one supervision and daily feedback
- Review and co-sign all documentation in the clinical records

## **WHAT TOOLS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT ME DURING MY CLINICALS?**

Clinical faculty and your preceptor will be your main support during clinical rotation courses. You will also record your assessment and recommendations in SOAP (Subjective, Objective, Assessment and Plan) Notes. This will be reviewed and critiqued so you can achieve better practice methods.

## HOW WILL I BE EVALUATED AND WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You will be evaluated on a pass/fail basis. There are no letter grades given during clinicals. With the repetition of practice and assessment, as well as a variety of patient cases, you will learn the clinical skills necessary to confidently pursue a career providing primary care as a Family Nurse Practitioner.

## WHAT IS THE BREAKDOWN OF CLINICAL REQUIREMENTS?

In today's COVID-19 climate, Carson-Newman is working with students individually to create a plan to keep you on track for graduation.

Each online nursing program at Carson-Newman varies in terms of how often clinical rotations occur and other necessary components needed for completion.

Below is an outline of clinical requirements by program:

Master of Science in Nursing - Family Nurse Practitioner (MSN-FNP)					
Clinical Hours Required	660-690 depending on capstone choice				
Clinical Schedule	Term 3	Term 5	Term 6	Term 7	Term 8
Rotations	NURS 507 60 Hours	NURS 531 180 Hours	NURS 535 180 Hours	NURS 537 240 Hours	NURS 600 30 Hours (depending on capstone choice)
Weekly Hours	20 Hours per week				
Post-Master's FNP Certificate (PMC-FNP)					
Clinical Hours Required	500-660 depending on transcript evaluations				
Clinical Schedule	Term 1	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	
Rotations	NURS 507 60 Hours	NURS 531 180 Hours	NURS 535 180 Hours	NURS 537 240 Hours	
Weekly Hours	20 Hours per week				

## LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION?

A dedicated enrollment advisor is ready to provide detailed answers to any additional questions you may have about the clinical placement process, tuition rates, program details and requirements as well as full course descriptions.

To learn more about Carson-Newman's exceptional clinical placement process, or to inquire further about our Family Nurse Practitioner programs, call 1.800.293.9444, or email [admissions@onlinenursing.cn.edu](mailto:admissions@onlinenursing.cn.edu).