

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 chosen clinical preceptor. These placements take place in or near your community, and provide hands-on training that allows you to gain essential Family Nurse Practitioner skills.

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 meet clinical objectives and develop a plan of action.
- Assigning patients who are consistent with your level of knowledge and experience.
- Supervising patient health assessments and guiding you to develop critical thinking skills.
- Discussing patient needs and providing guidance in developing treatment plans.
- Identifying areas of strength and areas that may need improvement.
- Challenging you to grow as a clinical expert, scholar, and leader.
- Providing recommendations for professional placement.

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

CLINICAL HOURS AND SCHEDULE

Clinical hours will begin after you complete your clinical immersion weekend held on the Simmons campus in Boston, MA. For full-time students, clinical hours will take place in terms 3, 4, and 5. For part-time students, clinical hours will take place in Terms 5, 6, and 7.

You can expect to complete a total of 672 clinical hours (224 hours per term) and should plan to complete 16 clinical hours per week.

WHERE CAN CLINICAL HOURS BE COMPLETED?

Clinical hours can be completed in a variety of health care settings that allow aspiring Family Nurse Practitioners to play a key role, including:

- Family practice, family medicine, and community health clinics.
- OB/GYN and pediatric offices.
- Specialty and urgent care clinics.
- Nursing homes and long-term care centers.
- Hospitals.

CLINICAL PLACEMENT TEAM SUPPORT

Each Nursing@Simmons student is assigned a dedicated Clinical Placement Specialist. These specialists are here to support you throughout your academic journey in various ways, such as:

- Partnering with you to secure a clinical placement site and a dedicated preceptor.
- Connecting with you prior to your first clinical rotation to prepare you and address any questions or concerns.
- Acting as a resource that you can turn to for guidance and assistance throughout the clinical experience.

FAQs

- 1. Is clinical placement guaranteed to be in place before the final three terms of the program?**

Although Nursing@Simmons does not guarantee clinical placement, our dedicated team provides a high level of placement support to each student. Our Clinical Placement Specialists and faculty members partner with students and local health care providers to establish placement opportunities.
- 2. What will be the topic/focus of each clinical semester?**

The first rotation focuses on women's health and pediatrics. Each of the two subsequent clinical terms focus on acute and chronic care, although there is some flexibility in when students gain these experiences across the three clinical courses. In some cases, a student may be placed in a clinical setting that does not reflect the current didactic classroom topics.
- 3. How do Nursing@Simmons Clinical Placement Specialists find placement all over the U.S.?**

Our Clinical Placement Specialists use databases and established partnerships to find potential placements based on your location. We also partner with you to pinpoint local preceptors within your area.
- 4. Who is responsible for securing my clinical placements?**

As a student, you are responsible for partnering with the Clinical Placement Team to secure placements, and once a location/candidate is identified, final approval must be made by Simmons faculty.
- 5. Can I complete my clinical placement where I work?**

You may complete clinical hours where you work; however, you may not conduct hours within the same department or under your current supervisor.
- 6. Can I still work my regular job while I'm doing my clinical rotations?**

Most students maintain their regular jobs while conducting clinical rotations. It is, however, challenging for most students to balance course work, 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 clinic. Placements will not be approved based on specific scheduling needs. It is crucial that an employer be flexible with your work schedule, as most offices operate on a Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. schedule.
- 7. Do you have relationships with any hospitals, clinics, or doctor's offices in my area?**

Clinical Placement Specialists will provide this information to students directly, as each area is different.
- 8. How far away will my clinical placement be from where I live/how far will I have to drive?**

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