

University of Pennsylvania
School of Nursing
Family Health Nurse Practitioner Program

WHAT PRECEPTORS CAN EXPECT FOR STUDENT PERFORMANCE... BY SEMESTER

At any time during the semester if you have concerns about your student's performance, please contact Liz Bowman, clinical coordinator, at ebowman@nursing.upenn.edu. And thank you, as always, for your valuable support of our program!

First Semester: Spring, January through May

Students are having initial primary care clinical experiences for 14 weeks. Each student has 2-3 days of clinical, totaling 18 hours a week. Students will be evaluated twice during this time period, performing at Level II by late April/early May. In the classroom the focus of lectures is clinical issues of middle age and older adults.

When NP students begin their clinical rotations in January, the expectation is that they will:

- a. be able to take a history for a routine physical exam
- b. obtain a history of a complaint
- c. perform a physical exam
- d. understand the role of the nurse practitioner
- e. understand the principles of community health

After collection of a history and performing a physical exam, the student will then consult with the preceptor about assessments and management plans. In the beginning, the preceptor will be providing most of the care and validating physical assessment findings where indicated. With time and knowledge, the student is expected to begin to make assessments, manage patient care and provide education under the supervision of the preceptor.

The expectation for this evaluation period is that the NP student will master history taking and physical assessment skills on patients presenting for both routine physical exams and health complaints. Charting and case presentation will be developed during this period with guidance from the preceptor.

LEVEL I, Mid-Spring expectations for this evaluation period include:

- a. 75% of the time the history should be complete
- b. 80-90% of the time the physical exam should be correctly and completely performed

- c. 90% of the time, the student will need to rely on the preceptor for formulation of diagnoses and management plans for acute and chronic health problems; this includes diagnostic workup and ordering lab tests

LEVEL II - End of Spring Semester

The expectation for this evaluation period is that the NP student, having mastered history taking and physical assessment, will move on to develop diagnosis and management skills. Case presentation and documentation will be clear, concise and appropriate.

The expectation for this level is that the student will be functioning correctly, accurately and thinking independently in all areas, most of the time, with appropriate preceptor consultation.

For Level II, the expectations for this evaluation period include:

- a. 85% of the time the student should be able to elicit a complete history and relevant history of present illness
- b. 90-95% of the time the student should be able to perform a complete exam and relevant exam for HPI
- c. 50% of the time the student will need to rely on the preceptor for formulation of diagnoses and management plans for acute and chronic health problems; this includes assistance with diagnostic workup and ordering appropriate tests

Summer Sessions I and II, May through August

During the summer the semesters are condensed into 6 weeks each. The classroom content focuses on the adolescent and young adult, as well as women's health. Students are in clinical for 12 weeks, usually 2 sites for a total of 16 hours per week.

LEVEL III – Summer Sessions for FHNP students

The expectation for this period is that the student will be increasing management and diagnostic skills. Health maintenance and patient education should be incorporated into all patient encounters. The student should function correctly, accurately and think independently a majority of the time, with appropriate preceptor consultation.

In Level III, the expectations for this evaluation period include:

- a. 95% of the time elicit a complete history
- b. 95% of the time perform a complete physical exam

- c. 30% of the time student will need to rely on the preceptor for formulation of diagnoses and management plans for acute and chronic health problems

Fall Semester, September through December

For the final semester of study, 14 weeks in duration, the Family Health Nurse Practitioner students are in their pediatric component of this program, both in the classroom as well as clinically. Skills of clinical reasoning, organization, documentation and case presentation should carry over from adult rotations. Pediatric clinical knowledge increases as the semester progresses. Students are again evaluated twice during this period, now as Level IV practitioners:

LEVEL IV – Mid-Fall and End of Fall Sessions

The expectation for the final evaluation period is that the student can function safely and competently as a beginning nurse practitioner. This advanced practice primary care nurse will be competent at collecting information, managing care, providing education and determining when to refer to a physician or other health care provider. The preceptor will be utilized as a consultant, validating management plans and serving as a resource when needed.