

**Georgia College**  
**School of Nursing Family Psychiatric Mental Health Practitioner Education**  
**Preceptor Orientation Manual**

Thank you so much for being willing to share your experience and expertise with our students. Your role is vital in making sure that our students succeed in the program. The following information is a general overview of the program and of our expectations for the students.

**Introduction to Graduate Education:**

Advanced nursing practice as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, according to the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF), is grounded in graduate-level education and in clinical practice that integrates health-related theories and research. The advanced nursing practice provided by psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners is both autonomous and interdependent. Nurse practitioners are accountable as direct providers of clinical services in various settings using multiple practice models and evidence-based practice protocols.

A nurse practitioner student participating in community-based and acute care clinical experiences must have an unencumbered license as a RN in the State of Georgia and have met Department of Health requirements for yearly health exam/update, current immunizations and yearly PPD. Clinical experiences for the nurse practitioner students are completed to meet course requirements for specific clinical areas, such as diagnostic interviewing, diagnosis, and treatment modalities for mental health problems and psychiatric disorders of individuals across the lifespan. Prior to beginning the clinical placement in a clinical site, the student is encouraged to discuss the rotation and objectives with the preceptor after sharing his/her resume, course and personal learning objectives and this preceptor packet. The student should also provide the preceptor with the course coordinator and the clinical faculty name and contact information.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Typical learning objectives for nurse practitioner students participating in all clinical experiences include:

- Complete, interval and acute history
- Psychiatric examination & diagnostic skills
- Management of common mental health problems
- Use of diagnostic tests
- Initiation of referrals & consultation
- Promotion of continuity of care
- Assessment of patient, family, community agencies in mental health promotion
- Prevention of psychiatric disorders
- Effective communication with the patient and family

- Involvement of the patient in her or his care
- Participation in a multidisciplinary health care team

### **Progression and Expectations**

Advanced Physical Assessment NRS 5480 (45 clinical hours) – All students will have completed this course by the time they begin their first clinical course. This course is the foundation for the student’s clinical practice and focuses on mastering the necessary skills and procedures needed to perform complete physical exams and interval/acute histories and physicals. Appropriate documentation and referral/consultation process are introduced. The concepts of role development, diagnostic reasoning and decision making are introduced in this course.

Advanced Psychopharmacology and Neurobiology-All students will have completed this course by the time they begin their first clinical course. This course focuses on the study of advanced psychopharmacological treatment of psychiatric symptoms and disorders. With emphasis on neurobiology, medication selection, response monitoring and side effects management in the psychopharmacological treatment of individuals are covered. Prescriptive issues associated with comorbidities, available resources, and previous responses to psychotropic agents, ethnicity and age are discussed.

- First Clinical Course-NRS 7100 Foundations for Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing Across the Lifespan (100 clinical hours): Students will need close preceptor guidance in this first clinical course. Students are expected to demonstrate proficiency in diagnostic interviewing, distinguish DSM V criteria for the diagnosis of psychiatric disorders, explore treatment modalities and approaches and generate differential diagnosis and treatment plans.
- Second Clinical Course – NRS 7110 Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing I (100 clinical hours): Students are expected to be able to translate new knowledge and skills from previous clinical course but will initially need close preceptor guidance. Students are expected to demonstrate increasing independence, comprehensiveness, and proficiency in clinical, demonstrating beginning competence with the management of short-term and common psychiatric disorders across the lifespan.
- Third Clinical Course-NRS 7120 Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing II (100 clinical hours): Students are expected to demonstrate a progressive increased level of independence, depth, and proficiency in clinical skills and the management of client related problems. These courses do cover new content information for the students, so in the initial part of the semester closer supervision will be required. The focus of this course is chronic and complex psychiatric disorders across the lifespan.

- Fourth Clinical Course NRS 7200 Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Practicum (225 clinical hours): At the culmination of the final clinical students are expected to demonstrate a level of independence, depth, competence and proficiency in clinical skills and the management of client related problems of a novice Nurse Practitioner for clients of all ages AND evidence of mastering the novice level of the advanced practice nursing role in regards to professional behaviors, collaboration with other professionals, client education and follow up.

### **Orientation Checklist Suggestions:**

Items that the preceptor might want to include in the student's orientation to the practice site:

- Introduction to all staff and explanation of each person's responsibilities
- Student nametag & any required uniform/dress code
- Student Parking
- Student schedule/hours
- Preceptor schedule/hours & typical session
- Sick day/absence procedure
- Student workspace
- Office/site library, references & resources (pt. education materials)
- Telephone system
- Laboratory & x-ray procedures
- Referral procedures
- Community tour & resources
- Client/population characteristics

Student responsibilities that might need to be included in the orientation:

- Communication with office & nursing staff
- Charting/documentation/reporting responsibilities
- Responsibilities & involvement (to client & preceptor) when seeing clients i.e. hands on, observation or both
- Inpatient/rounds responsibilities
- Attendance at staff, quality assurance, community-based meetings
- Participation in specified community-oriented programs

**Preceptor: Please read this before completing the student evaluation.**

The electronic clinical evaluation form used by Georgia College was developed from Advanced Nursing Practice: Curriculum Guidelines and Program Standards for Nurse Practitioner Education from the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) and The Essentials of Master's Education for Advanced Practice Nursing from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN).

The E\*Value clinical evaluation form is to be utilized for the final evaluations for students in NRS 7100, 7010, 7120, and for the final evaluation in NRS 7200. The course faculty completes an evaluation after they observe the student in the clinical area. When clinical faculty visit the student in the clinical site prior to midterm, it is helpful to discuss with both the student and the faculty where the student is at that point, and identify any areas of concern. The preceptors provide valuable feedback for both the student and the faculty that is used by the faculty to determine the student's progression. We **require** that preceptors complete an online evaluation in E\*Value at the end of the semester.

Typically a student will move from a variety of scores at midterm to consistent competence or better at the final evaluation. There may be a situation that a student is not at the competent level in one particular skill in a certain course, but still moves on to the next semester if the faculty feels this is appropriate. It is however anticipated that students will be competent in all required areas to pass a clinical course and progress to the next clinical course. The course clinical faculty is responsible for assigning the grade of Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory to the student. Students take these courses in the order in which they are listed above. Successful completion of each course is required to progress to the next clinical course.

### **Completion of Evaluation Form**

- Complete the form at the end of the semester, or the end of your contracted clinical hours with the student. You will be emailed your user name and password for the electronic documentation system.
- Please check each behavior under the appropriate heading: competent, developing, below expectations or N/A (if there has not been an opportunity for the student to practice a skill or demonstrate a competency in your clinical setting).
- Note that the student must achieve a minimum score of "competent" on the final course evaluation for skills designated on the form in order to progress to the next clinical course.
- For the student's FINAL (4th) clinical course: All skills must be graded at a minimum of "competent" on the final evaluation for the student's final clinical course for the student to graduate.

If at any point in the semester, you have concerns related to the student's performance or the ability of the student to meet competence by the final evaluation, please discuss this with the course clinical faculty or contact Dr. Sallie Coke, Assistant Director of the Graduate Program (sallie.coke@gcsu.edu or by phone 478.719-2061).

Thank you for your valuable time and sharing your expertise with a future nurse practitioner student.

Additional preceptor information can be found here:

<http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.nonpf.org/resource/resmgr/Docs/PreceptorOrientationFAQs.pdf>

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