

Clinical Placement Guide for ENP PMC Students Outside the Middle TN Area

Welcome to the ENP program at VUSN! For students living more than two hours away from Vanderbilt, VUSN is excited to work with you to secure clinical placement outside the Middle TN area (OMTA). There are many advantages to OMTA placement such as staying in your hometown and/or making contacts in the area in which you hope to one day be employed. VUSN views clinical placement as a collaborative endeavor, and we are here to support you throughout the process of securing your site. On our orientation website, please review the document describing the role of the student/faculty/preceptor.

The timing of clinical rotations is dependent upon your individual plan of study. The ENP program has full-time, part-time, BSN-to-DNP, & post-master's certificate (PMC) student plans, so always make sure that the information you are reading is pertinent to your plan. Each plan of study is available on the website (https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/msn/enp/enp_curriculum.php). Two-semester PMC students start clinicals their first semester (either fall or spring depending on entry point). The chart below describes the clinical courses, along with the number of hours and site requirements.

ENP Clinical Rotations

Course	Total hours	Type of Clinical Site
6365: Trauma, Emergency & Critical Care 1	210	Main ED
6375: Trauma, Emergency & Critical Care 2	210	Main ED

Note that it takes approximately 3-4 months to secure a contract with any hospital or clinic where you would like to do your clinicals, so it is important that we start the process early. Site requests open up early on in the semester prior to the rotation. As a new PMC student, please make sure all requests for your first clinical rotation are submitted no later than 3 months prior to the start of the semester.

To ensure timely starts in your clinical courses, please follow these steps as you begin the process:

1. Be sure you have an active, unencumbered RN license in the state where you intend to complete clinicals. If you are in a compact state, you must have a “multistate” license issued by a compact state.
2. Begin contacting potential preceptors. ***Preceptors may be an NP, MD/DO, or PA with current board certification and licensure in good standing.***
3. Start with providers you know! For those you do not know, if possible, try to meet them in person. Explain that you are a Vanderbilt graduate student in the ENP program, and you are interested in knowing if they would be a preceptor. If they decline the opportunity to be a preceptor, then you might ask who they would recommend. If you can’t reach them personally, email might be another alternative. It would also be helpful for you to briefly summarize your current clinical experience, and provide a professional CV for them to review. If they have specific questions that you cannot answer, email us and we will help you!

Other talking points for this conversation include:

- Ask your potential preceptor about their clinical practice
- Discuss clinical needs/objectives (e.g., “Will need to do approximately XX hours of clinical per week starting XX through XX”).
- It may be useful to mention that you intend to stay in the local area after graduation (if in fact you do!). Many times, a clinical rotation turns into a job interview and future employment opportunity.
- There are benefits to precepting, including adjunct faculty appointment which will provide access to our digital library. For NPs, it counts towards their recertification requirements.
- If you don’t know the answer to their question, tell them you or your faculty member will be happy to get back to them. If they have never been a preceptor before, let them know that your faculty will follow up with them to talk to them about your clinical objectives and answer any questions about what your clinical rotation will entail.
- If they are willing to precept, you will need to gather information on their licensure and ideally a CV that will be uploaded into your site request in Exxat. You can usually look up their licensure information on the state database.

4. It often requires multiple contacts and follow-ups to receive a firm answer for a site. Be prepared for multiple contacts prior to an official “yes” or “no.”
5. Once a preceptor says “yes,” you need to provide this in Exxat. This initiates the clinical contract process. Clinical contracts with large health systems typically take 3 to 4 months to secure. Contracts with independently owned/operated sites may be a little faster, but you can’t start your clinical rotation until we have contracts cleared on both the preceptor and the hospital or clinic site as applicable. ED rotations commonly require two contracts, one with the hospital and one with the provider group that staffs the ED. Ask your preceptor if they are employed directly by the hospital or a contracted group. You will need contact information for both.
6. Students may have no more than two (2) clinical sites per semester. In some cases, students remain at the same site for subsequent rotations if they meet course requirements. In that case, the contracting process for the subsequent semesters becomes much easier.
7. If you are having trouble finding a site, your clinical placement faculty are always available to talk, troubleshoot and assist in any way that might be helpful. Limited opportunities in other cities may be available for students struggling to find placements in their home area.

One last helpful hint: PLEASE do not plan to move from one city, state to another during your clinical experiences. While it can be done when unavoidable (job transfers, military moves, etc.), it is very stressful and difficult for everyone, so we ask that you not plan to do so.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact us via email. We have a group email to make it easy - VUSNEnpCpTeam@vanderbilt.edu On behalf of all the ENP faculty, we welcome you to Vanderbilt & look forward to meeting you soon!

Your ENP Clinical Placement Faculty,

Michael Gooch, DNP, APRN

Mindy Johnson, DNP, APRN

Erica May, DNP, APRN

rev. 02/08/23