

NP Preceptor Fact Sheet

Preceptors are a vital component in the learning process for nurse practitioner (NP) students as they are the bridge to the “real world.” At the University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON) we offer an accredited, comprehensive curriculum taught by highly-experienced faculty members in lecture, small classroom, online, and simulation environments. For students to truly shape their knowledge and skills into a successful nursing career, they must be given an opportunity to transform theory into practice. Precepted clinical hours allow students to assess and diagnose patients under the guidance of accomplished nursing and medical professionals while incorporating components such as healthcare policy, communication skills, diverse patient/family needs, organizational structure, technology, and inter-professional collaboration. For more information, or if you are interested in becoming a NP preceptor, call Kristy Novak at (410) 706-0163 or email knovak@umaryland.edu.

Benefits of becoming a preceptor:

- Preceptors who work with NP students for multiple, consecutive semesters will have an opportunity to apply for faculty associate status
- Preceptors will receive a personalized thank-you (and confirmation of precepted hours) letter at the end of the semester, often useful when applying for clinical ladder status or other job advancements
- APRN Preceptor Training Program – enhance your teaching skills while earning CEs
- Preceptor hours may be used for NP re-certification (American Nurses Credentialing Center Category 5 – does not include Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists)
- Access to the University of Maryland, Baltimore’s Health Sciences and Human Services library
- Free job postings on the UMSON job board
- Referrals! NPs that you precept are likely to refer patients to you in the future
- Great opportunity to train your own staff as you get a free trial period with NP students eager to learn the profession and best practices
- Continue the lifelong learning process while enhancing the nursing community



Frequently Asked Questions

What is my responsibility as a Preceptor?

Preceptors are responsible for providing a safe, professional learning environment for students. The time commitment will vary as students will need to complete anywhere from 90 to 225 hours in the clinical environment each semester. Weekly schedules will be coordinated between the preceptor and student so that it is mutually beneficial. While students will typically arrive with their own clinical objectives, we urge preceptors to include those objectives with their own daily roles and responsibilities so the student can learn the realities of the position once they enter the field. The preceptor will also be responsible for submitting clinical evaluations at the middle and end of the semester to ensure that learning objectives are being met.

How much experience do I need in order to precept a student?

UMSON requires preceptors to hold a minimum of 2 years of experience under their license and a minimum of 6 month of experience at their current practice site.

What is the student's responsibility?

Prior to arriving at the clinical site, the student is responsible for maintaining compliance with university/clinical site policy regarding immunizations, licensure and certification, background checks, and drug screens. Once on site, students will adhere to professional standards for punctuality, dress code, and safety, in accordance with the policies of the health care facility in which they are placed. The student will provide contact information for themselves and their faculty mentor for communication purposes and will make the preceptor aware if any changes in scheduling or attendance should occur.

What do I do if a conflict arises while precepting a UMSON student?

While we have very high expectations of our students' professionalism when at a clinical site, conflicts are sometimes unavoidable. We encourage preceptors to communicate openly with students when an issue arises and provide constructive feedback so the student can learn from the experience. If the situation requires faculty involvement, the preceptor will be provided with the necessary contact information for a faculty member who will step in. Whether it's a quick conversation or some extra time spent one-on-one in the simulation lab, faculty members will always get to the root of the problem and resolve any student issues so those issues are not repeated.

How do precepted hours count toward my re-certification?

According to the ANCC's 2017 Certification Renewal Requirements, nurses and NPs must fulfill their contact hour requirement and may supplement their contact hours with a number of professional development opportunities within each five-year re-certification cycle. Preceptors who provide 120 hours of direct clinical supervision within their specialty area will fulfill Category 5 of the ANCC re-certification requirements. For more information regarding credentialing requirements and guidelines, go to:

<http://www.nursecredentialing.org/RenewalRequirements.aspx> (page 9)