



**Samuel Merritt
University**

Online Master of Science Family Nurse Practitioner **Clinical Practicums Information**

An important component of the MSN Family Nurse Practitioner degree is the clinical practicums needed to graduate. You will complete three (3) semesters of clinical practicums which will total a minimum of 630 hours:

**NURSG 678L
Clinical Practicum I
210 hours**
(approximately two
days per week)

**NURSG 679L
Clinical Practicum II
210 hours**
(approximately two
days per week)

**NURSG 680L
Internship
210 hours**
(approximately two
days per week)

The majority of your clinical practicum hours will need to be in a primary care setting with some time spent in women's health and pediatric care settings (approximately 50-90 hours each). Other specializations can be considered and would need to be approved by the program director; these hours would be in addition to the primary care, women's health and pediatric hours.

Where to Complete **Clinical Hours**

Hours are completed in outpatient settings like community health clinics, urgent care and private doctors' offices; most require primarily daytime hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.), Monday through Friday.

After you start the program, Samuel Merritt University will assign a clinical coordinator to you. During your first semester, you will complete a clinical packet as a graded assignment in NURSG 672-Professional Role Development for APRNs. It is essential that the packet be completed on time and completely in order to assist your clinical coordinator in assisting you with placements. You and your assigned clinical coordinator collaborate to secure your clinical placement(s). You should take the lead and remain active in your search for clinical sites and preceptors throughout the program; be sure to begin brainstorming potential sites/facilities and preceptors before you start classes.



What is a Preceptor?

A preceptor is in effect a mentor in a clinical setting. Preceptors do not necessarily need to be NPs. They can be MDs or DOs. They help you develop a plan and provide guidance as you grow and develop your clinical knowledge and skills.

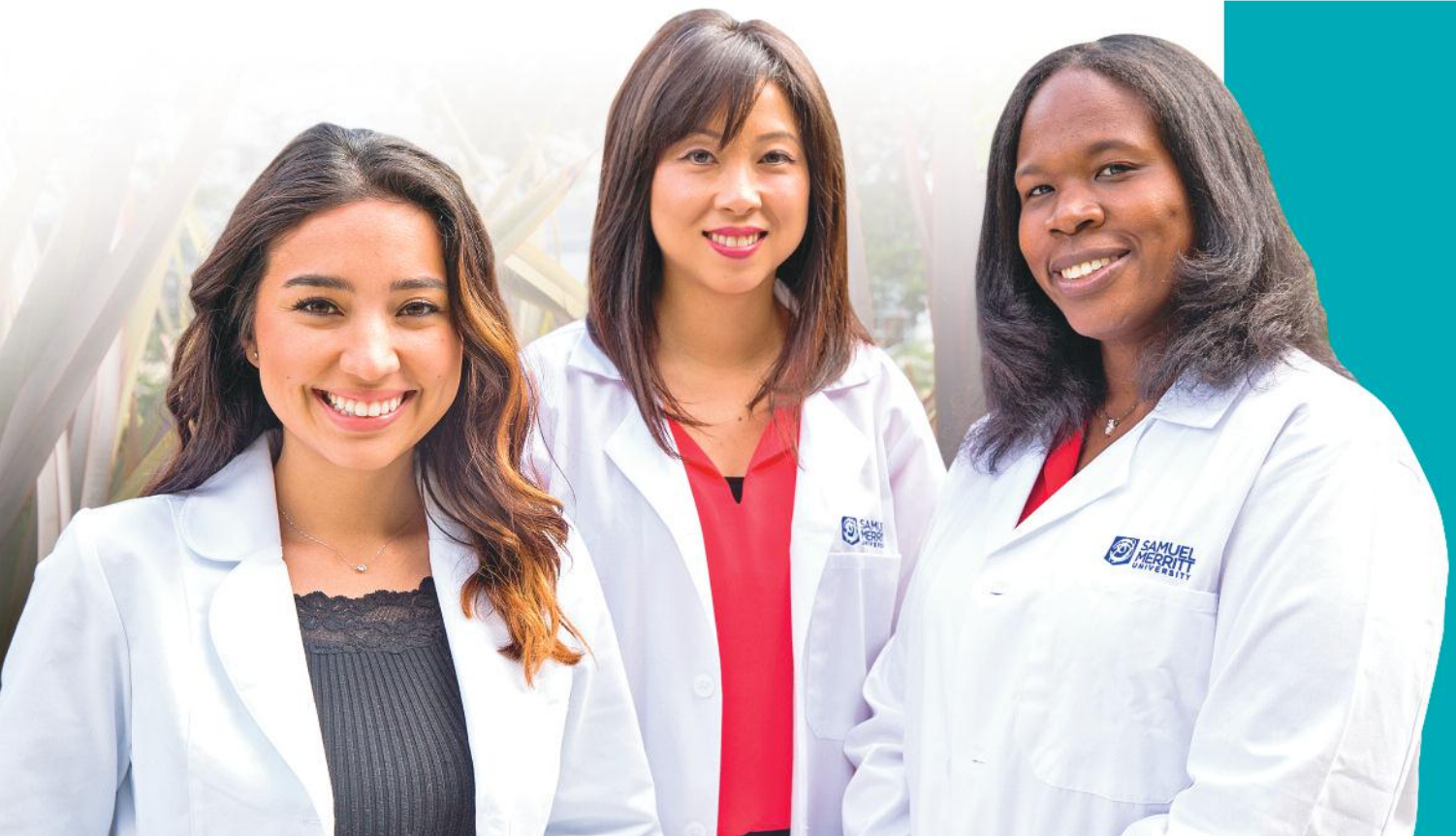
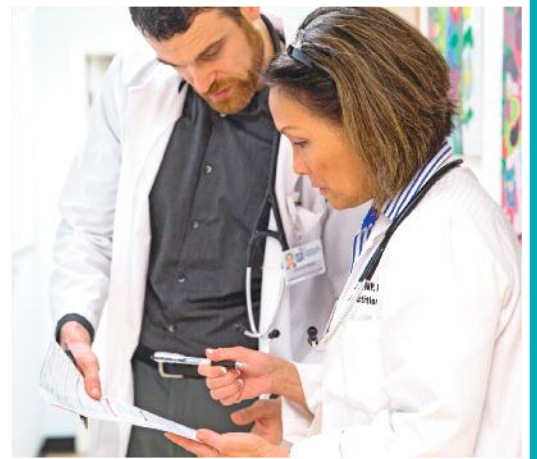
You are encouraged to reach out to providers with whom you would like to work. Many times, students are successful in finding a preceptor by talking with colleagues and friends. Your own network is a great resource!

Students should be prepared to travel up to 100 miles each way to a clinical site.

Scheduling Your Clinical Hours

Clinical practicums begin in the third (3rd) semester for full-time students and in the fourth (4th) semester for part-time students. The clinical practicum hours required per semester are the same for both full time and part-time students.

It is strongly recommended that your work schedule be adjusted and/or reduced to accommodate up to approximately two days per week that will be required to complete the clinical practicum hours.

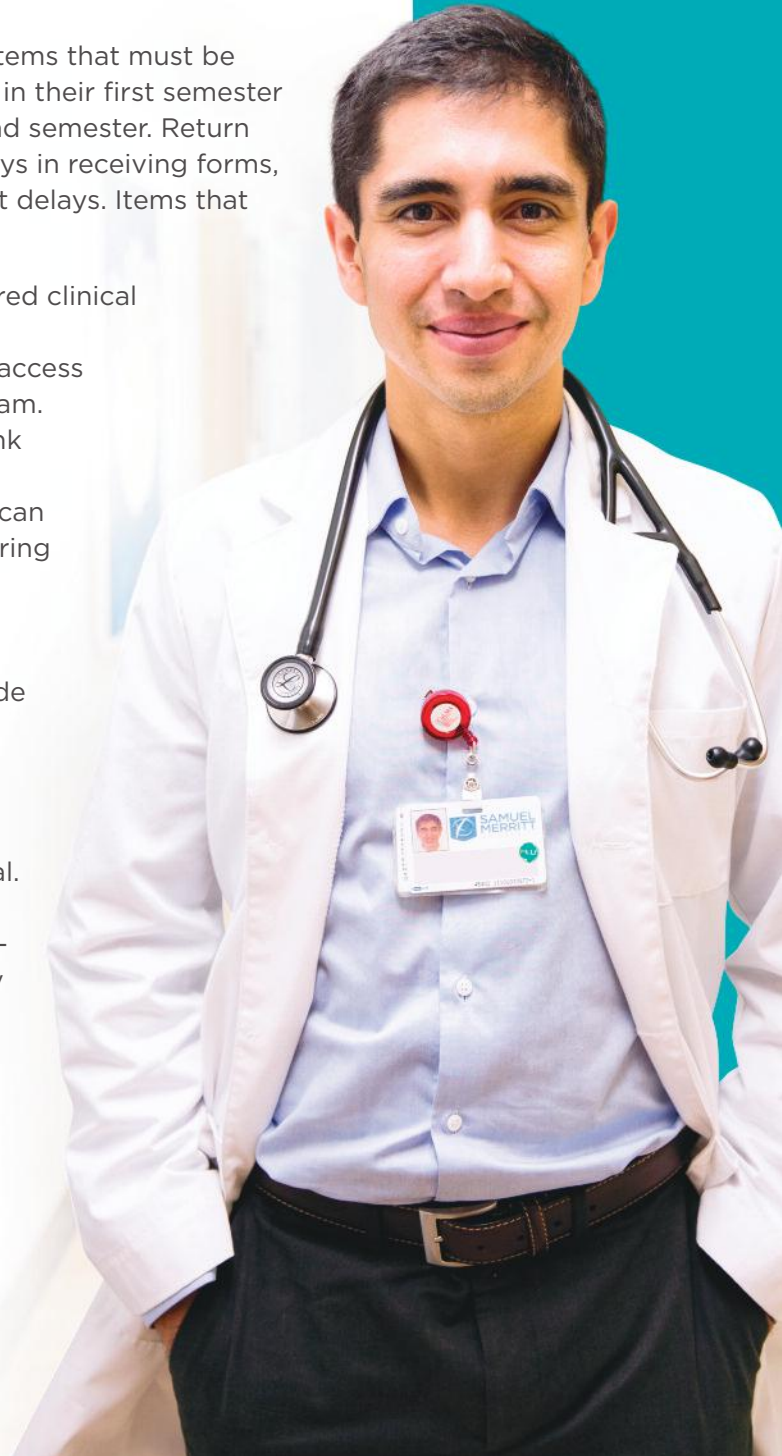




Items to be Completed Prior to Placements

The clinical coordinator will provide you a checklist of items that must be completed. Full-time students will receive the checklist in their first semester and part-time students will receive it during their second semester. Return the requested documents by the stated deadlines. Delays in receiving forms, documents or updates could result in clinical placement delays. Items that will be requested/required to be completed:

- **FNP Clinical Site Application** - Form lists your preferred clinical sites/preceptors and your availability.
- **Updated Resume** - Clinical coordinators do not have access to the copy you provide when you apply to the program.
- **Clinical Student Profile** - Fill out the online form. A link will be provided.
- **BSL/CPR Card** - BLS must be approved by the American Heart Association and must be current at all times during your enrollment.
- **RN License** - Must always be current during your enrollment in the program. Students must possess current RN licenses for the state(s) in which they reside and attend clinical rotations.
- **State ID Card/Driver's License.**
- **Lab Coat Order Form.**
- **Health Record Updated and Complete** - Online through Student Health and Counseling (SHAC) portal.
- **Samuel Merritt University Student ID Card.**
- **Samuel Merritt University Healthstream Certificates** - Must be completed through Samuel Merritt University even if you have completed for your employer. There is a fee, which is paid directly to Healthstream. Certificates must always be current during your enrollment in the program.



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