



## Frequently Asked Questions:

1. *What defines an eligible preceptor?*
  - a. A licensed Medical Doctor (MD), or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) that is board-certified in their area of medicine. An NCCPA certified Physician Assistant (PA), Doctor of Nurse Practitioner (NP or DNP), or a certified nurse midwife. All providers must be licensed to practice in South Carolina or the state in which they are currently practicing.
  - b. Be in good standing with the state licensing board.
  - c. Practiced for at least 1 year in your current discipline.
  - d. Are willing to assist students in meeting their learning outcomes for the rotation.
  
2. *What kind of clinical experiences are students able to participate?*
  - a. PA students may participate in Core rotations (Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Surgery, Women's Health, and Behavioral Health) and any other medical specialty which would be considered an elective rotation. All clinical rotations are 4 weeks. All experiences should provide hands-on patient care for a minimum of 35 hours each week. (This may be modified for 12 hour shifts or shifts that involve 7on/7off) Participation in call, weekend rotations and other activities, such as long-term care facilities or nursing homes with preceptors is encouraged.
  
3. *What will a second year PA student be able to perform?*
  - a. Second year students should be able to perform comprehensive and focused histories, and physical examinations. While their clinical reasoning skills will strengthen over time, they should be able to develop a list of differential diagnoses and determine the next steps in the diagnosis and treatment of conditions. They should have basic skills in patient education and counseling related to common medical problems and will have had practice with medical procedures such as phlebotomy, splinting and wound care. The experience and ability of each student may vary, as students come from diverse backgrounds.
  
4. *What is required for the students and preceptors during the clinical experiences?*
  - a. Each rotation the student is required to complete will have learning objectives that will guide the experience and assist the student in meeting the learning outcomes. These will be provided to both the preceptor and the student in advance of the rotation. On the first day of the rotation, preceptors should meet with the student to discuss mutual expectations and should have a mid-rotation meeting to assess progress. Daily, informal honest feedback is important to help a

student refine their skills and grow into successful health professionals. Students will present a skills checklist to be completed. *A final evaluation completed by the preceptor will assess the student's knowledge, assessment, clinical reasoning skills, and professionalism which directly relates to successful completion of the clinical rotation learning outcomes.* Program clinical staff are available at any time throughout the rotation to provide support as needed.

5. *How to best include students in the clinical practice atmosphere?*

- a. Effective preceptors create an atmosphere that allows the student appropriate learning opportunities. It is typical on the first day or two to allow the student to become oriented to the practice and observe the preceptor. Then after a preceptor observes the student performing history and physical examinations, and feels comfortable with their skills, they should be able to progress doing these without direct observation. The student then can present the patient to the preceptor, discuss possible next steps and complete the patient visit with the preceptor confirming the student's findings. Periodic direct observation throughout the rotation is recommended.
- b. Students also need to practice clinical procedures as opportunities arise. This includes phlebotomy, starting IVs, wound care/repair, splinting and pap smears, which are taught in the first year and need to be reinforced throughout the clinical year. Students in a surgical setting need to be involved in the pre- and postoperative management of patients, and as appropriate, should assist in surgery.

6. *Can PA students spend time with other colleagues in the practice?*

- a. Students are allowed to spend time with other qualified practitioners within the practice. All preceptors must be identified to the program and complete a preceptor profile. It is typical for some practices to identify a *primary preceptor who will be responsible for coordinating the student's experience and completing the student evaluation with input from other participating preceptors.* The student can then spend time with several practitioners in the group over the course of the rotation. All practitioners who supervise the student should provide feedback for the final student evaluation.

7. *Is malpractice coverage provided for the student?*

- a. The student and University are covered and insured in the event of a malpractice claim. Coverage amounts are standard at \$ 1 million/ 3 million binder.

8. *What is the process for scheduling clinical rotations?*

- a. The FMU Clinical Coordinator will contact all interested preceptors to discuss the potential clinical rotation experience and obtain the necessary paperwork needed to secure the preceptor and clinical site. We will also review the clinical schedule and, along with the preceptor, determine the best rotation dates to host students. The preceptor will be able to communicate directly with the clinical faculty at all times regarding any questions or concerns.