



Preceptor Fact Sheet
Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Students
Attending Mercy University

We are asking that PMHNP students observe 30 counseling hours in one semester and 720 clinical practicum hours over three semesters (240 hours each semester)

- PMHNP students can be precepted by PMHNPs and psychiatrists
- PMHNP students can observe counseling and therapy with clinicians engaged in those services.

The clinical preceptor role is a key component in nurse practitioner education. Clinical preceptors are necessary to ensure that our students work with an experienced clinician who prepares them to obtain clinical skills in a real-world healthcare setting.

What Counts for Clinical hours

1. Direct Patient Care
 - a. Face-to-face
 - b. Telehealth
 - c. Therapy Sessions
2. Documentation
 - a. Progress notes or clinical notes
 - b. Psychiatric evaluations
 - c. Referrals
3. Case Conferences
4. Grand Rounds
5. Chart Reviews
6. Pre- and Post-Conference Meetings:
 - a. These are scheduled times for students to discuss cases, review procedures, and receive feedback from instructors or preceptors.
7. Clinical Site Visits
 - a. Students may spend time in various healthcare settings like hospitals, clinics, or specialized facilities, depending on their program

Important Considerations

1. Supervision:
 - a. Clinical hours are always supervised by a qualified professional
 - b. Preceptor signs weekly logs
2. Faculty work with preceptors to make sure practicum runs smoothly

Expectations for Students

By the end of the clinical rotation, students are expected to

1. Present patients
2. Accurately document clinical encounters and assessments in the electronic medical system platform

- a. Preceptor determines documentation schedule
3. Formulate differential diagnoses based on presenting symptoms and assessment data
4. See patients independently
 - a. Advanced certificate students: minimum 6 patients
 - b. MS PMHNP students: minimum 4 patients
5. Conduct comprehensive psychiatric evaluations, including biopsychosocial assessments.
 - a. Advanced certificate students: minimum 6
 - b. MS PMHNP students: minimum 4
6. Prepare referrals as needed

Clinical Preceptor Role

1. **Voluntary**
 - Preceptor decides if they want to precept
 - Preceptor and student work out the day(s) and time they will precept the student
 - Preceptors can share students for the requisite clinical hours to reduce burnout
3. **Teaching and Clinical Instruction**
 - Demonstrates clinical skills, procedures, and decision-making processes
 - Facilitates hands-on learning and critical thinking
 - Ensures safe and evidence-based patient care
4. **Supervision and Evaluation**
 - Observes and assesses clinical performance
 - Provides constructive feedback and formal evaluations.
5. **Professional Role Modeling**
 - Demonstrates professionalism, ethical practice, and communication.
 - Models interprofessional collaboration and patient-centered care.
6. **Liaison Role**
 - Acts as a bridge between the academic institution and the clinical setting.
 - Communicates student progress and any issues with faculty.

Benefits of Being a Preceptor

- Enhances teaching and leadership skills
- Contributes to the development of the profession
- Opportunity for professional recognition and development
- Often fulfills requirements for continuing education or recertification
 - ANCC counts precepting towards recredentialing requirements
 - A minimum of 120 hours of precepting, as a preceptor can be used as a category for renewal
 - AANP

- Precepting is an optional criterion that can be used to replace up to 25 non-pharmacology CE credits
- AMA
 - Physicians can earn AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ by teaching medical students and residents.
 - The AMA suggests a 2-to-1 ratio for credit calculation (e.g., 2 credits for 1 hour of teaching). These credits are generally awarded for verified teaching activities through accredited programs.
- Social Work
 - Formal learning experience: If the precepting involves a structured, educational approach with defined learning objectives and interaction with students, this may qualify for credit.

Mercy University Responsibilities

1. Preceptor Preparation and Support

- Orientation
 - Course objectives
 - Evaluation tools
 - Institutional expectations
- Resources
 - Syllabi
 - Evaluation forms
 - Academic support materials to facilitate teaching

2. Communication and Collaboration

- Faculty clinical coordinator role
 - Site visits
 - Check-ins to support preceptors and address concerns
 - Ensure consistency and collaboration
- Feedback Mechanisms
 - Collect feedback from preceptors about the program, curriculum, and student preparedness for continuous improvement

3. Recognition and Incentives

- Professional Development
 - Attend faculty seminar day at Mercy
 - Faculty development opportunities (e.g., research project with faculty member)
 - Library resources
 - Participate in the Center for Teaching and Learning
- Formal Recognition
 - Letter acknowledging preceptor hours for recredentialing

4. Quality Assurance and Evaluation

- Monitor Clinical Sites
- Preceptor Feedback
 - Collect and incorporate preceptor input into clinical education program reviews and improvements.
- Student Outcomes Tracking
 - Monitor student performance and feedback to ensure the effectiveness of the clinical teaching.

Information about the PMHNP Programs

Mercy University is offering two PMHNP tracks:

- Post Master's PMHNP (starts fall 2025)
 - Practicing NPs with various levels of experience
 - RN with a MS in Nursing who have taken the 3Ps and may have psychiatric nursing experience:
 - Advanced pathophysiology
 - Advanced pharmacology
 - Advanced health assessment
- MS PMHNP (starts spring 2026)
 - RNs mostly hospital based and may have psychiatric nursing experience
 - RNs with home care experience and may have psychiatric nursing experience
 - RNs who obtained a MS in Nursing but have not taken the 3Ps
 - May have psychiatric nursing experience

Program Total Clinical Hours: 750

Cohort: Post Master's PMHNP Schedule

| Year 1 Fall semester 2025 (15 weeks) | Year 1 Spring semester 2026 (15 weeks) | Year 1 Summer semester 2026 (10 weeks) |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Therapeutic Modalities ▪ Counseling observations 30 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum weekly hours: 2 hours ▪ However, student may complete more hours in a week if preceptor is amenable ▪ Days and hours worked out with the preceptor ▪ The student will observe counseling but that does not preclude the student being asked to prepare and present a counseling session | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mental Health 1 – Adults ▪ Precepting hours: 240 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum weekly hours: 16 hours ▪ However, student may complete more hours in a week if preceptor is amenable ▪ Days and hours worked out with the preceptor | No classes but student can make up clinical hours not completed |

| Year 2 Fall semester 2026 (15 weeks) | Year 2 Spring semester 2027 (15 weeks) | Year 2 Summer semester 2027 (10 weeks) |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health 2 – Children & Adolescents Precepting hours: 240 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum weekly hours: 16 hours However, student may complete more hours in a week if preceptor is amenable Days and hours worked out with the preceptor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health 3 – Behavioral Health (substance use treatment) Precepting hours: 240 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum weekly hours: 16 hours However, student may complete more hours in a week if preceptor is amenable Days and hours worked out with the preceptor | No classes but student can make up clinical hours not completed |

Cohort: MS PMHNP schedule

| Year 2 Summer 2027 (10 weeks) | Year 2 Fall semester 2027 (15 weeks) | Year 3 Spring semester 2028 (15 weeks) |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Therapeutic Modalities Counseling observations 30 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum weekly hours: 2 hours However, student may complete more hours in a week if preceptor is amenable Days and hours worked out with the preceptor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health 1 – Adults Precepting hours: 240 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum weekly hours: 16 hours However, student may complete more hours in a week if preceptor is amenable Days and hours worked out with the preceptor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health 2 – Children & Adolescents Precepting hours: 240 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum weekly hours: 16 hours However, student may complete more hours in a week if preceptor is amenable Days and hours worked out with the preceptor |
| Year 3 Summer 2028 | Year 3 Fall semester 2028 (15 weeks) | Year 4 Spring semester 2028 (15 weeks) |
| No classes but student can make up clinical hours not completed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health 3 – Behavioral Health (substance use treatment) Precepting hours: 240 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum weekly hours: 16 hours However, student may complete more hours in a week if preceptor is amenable Minimum weekly hours: 16 hours Days and hours worked out with the preceptor | No classes but can make up clinical hours not completed. |