Greetings! Thank you for your willingness to be a preceptor in our Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner graduate program. The purpose of this pamphlet is to provide you with an overview of the clinical rotations in our Family PMHNP program and to orient you to your responsibilities as a clinical preceptor. For more information about the program, please visit [http://uwyo.edu/nursing](http://uwyo.edu/nursing). Click on “programs” from the top menu bar. For information specifically related to precepting, click on “preceptor info” on the Right hand column of the page. You may also contact Dana Murphy-Parker, the Family PMHNP program director at dmurhyp@uwyo.edu or 307-766-5358.

**Clinical Rotations**
Students in the Family PMHNP program rotate through 6 clinical experiences over 2 1/2 years. Each experience builds upon previous experiences and students are expected to carry clinical knowledge forward. In addition to specific clinical courses, students also take advanced pathophysiology, and advanced pharmacotherapy. Students will have taken and passed these courses by the time they start their second semester and clinical rotation (N5111 and N5112).

**N5006. Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Decision-Making.** This is the first clinical course in the program and builds upon basic nursing assessment skills. It includes advanced assessment techniques, scientific and diagnostic reasoning, interviewing techniques that lead to clinical decision making. For the clinical portion of this course, students spend a minimum of 60 hours with a primary care provider observing how he/she performs wellness exams and obtains problem-focused histories and physical exams in an advanced role. Students are encouraged to actively engage in the clinical process but are NOT expected to see patients on their own, as they have not had any management-related content.

**N5111 and 5112. Advanced Primary Care: The Young (N5111) and Mature (N5112) Family**
These 2 courses expand upon the student’s basic assessment skills while stressing management strategies for the health promotion/maintenance needs of individuals across the lifespan. For the clinical portion of this course, students spend a minimum of 120 hours with a preceptor in a mental health setting. Students focus on mental health promotion and utilize primary prevention and secondary prevention strategies and tools to educate clients about the importance of mental health.

**N5672. Clinical: Diagnosis and Management of Children, Adolescents, and Older Adults for the PMHNP.** Clinical course that allows students to refine competencies as a Family PMHNP with a focus on child, adolescent, and geriatric diagnoses and management of acute and chronic mental illnesses in these populations. In this course, students spend 120 hours with a preceptor focusing their clinical skills on diagnoses and management of the child, adolescent and older adult population in mental health settings.

**5300. Clinical Practicum in Rural Health Nursing.**
This final clinical experience provides students with the opportunity to apply theoretical content, research findings, and actively involved in rural health settings appropriate to their area of concentration. For the clinical portion of this course, students spend a minimum of 240 hours of clinical in a mental health setting. This clinical is meant to give the students as much independent practice as possible under the supervision of a preceptor. This final clinical practicum is an opportunity to assimilate all of the skills learned throughout the program and ‘bring it all together’.

**Preceptor Expectations**
Preceptors in our PMHNP program are expected to role model excellent mental health skills and to give our students opportunities to obtain real-life, hands-on experiences in the mental health area. We also expect preceptors to let us know when they have questions or concerns related to precepting our students.
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

How will the program communicate with me? Initially, either a Family PMHNP student or a member of our Family PMHNP faculty will contact you to discuss your willingness to precept a student. If interested, you will be contacted again to ensure that a clinical contract is in place between your agency and UW and that we have a current preceptor qualification form on file for you.

The Family PMHNP student will then contact you to set up an initial meeting date, where the two of you can set up a clinical schedule. Approximately halfway through the student’s rotation, the instructor for the clinical course will contact you regarding a midway assessment. Finally, the clinical instructor (or other affiliated instructor) will perform a site visit with the student at your agency toward the end of the student’s rotation. During this visit, the instructor will observe the student seeing a few patients in your agency and will talk to you about the student’s performance.

What should I do if I have concerns about the Family PMHNP program or the student I am precepting? If you have any concerns about the program or a student’s performance, please contact Dana Murphy-Parker, the Family PMHNP program director at 307-766-5358 or by e-mail at dmurphyp@uwyo.edu

What should I expect from Family PMHNP students? Family PMHNP students should demonstrate professionalism. Family PMHNP students are all licensed RNs and should observe professional norms related to patient confidentiality, respect, and documentation. Students should also be timely, neatly groomed, and prepared for clinical in terms of having adequate resources and knowledge. Although students are not expected to know everything on day one, they are expected to be accountable for their own learning needs and to research unfamiliar diagnoses, treatments, etc. as they are encountered.

What if a student incurs an injury while doing clinical with me? All Family PMHNP students are covered under UW’s Worker’s Comp policy. Students who incur clinical related injuries should notify their clinical instructor. Students should also be aware to follow the policy in the MS Graduate Student Handbook.

I’ve agreed to precept a Family PMHNP student, but am wondering whether other providers in my practice/agency can also precept students? Yes, licensed PMHNP, PMHCN, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, and Licensed Professional Counselors along with Licensed Clinical Social Workers may precept Family PMHNP students. However, Family Psych NP faculty must approve every preceptor before he/she spends any time with a student. If you have agreed to precept a student and believe that students may be spending time with other providers in your agency, please have these providers complete and return a Preceptor Qualification Form, which is available from http://uwyo.edu/nursing (see “Preceptor info” on the Right hand menu). Or contact Crystal McFadden, graduate nursing coordinator, at gradnurse@uwyo.edu or 307-766-6568.

I see patients in more than one clinical location (e.g., clinic, nursing home, hospital, jail). May Family PMHNP students accompany me to these other locations? Perhaps. We must have a contract in place between each clinical agency and UW. Sometimes an alternate clinical location is covered under an agency with which UW has a contract and no new contract is needed. Other times, a new contract must be sought. Figuring out the “contract” end of things can be complex, so please contact Crystal McFadden, graduate nursing coordinator, gradnurse@uwyo.edu or 307-766-6568 to discuss this.

How are students evaluated during their clinical rotations? Family PMHNP students are evaluated during their clinical rotations in a variety of ways. Faculty members perform on-site clinical site visits to discuss student performance with preceptors and to observe students interacting with patients. Faculty members also evaluate students on campus through simulated clinical experiences (e.g., standardized patients). Although Family PMHNP faculty rely heavily on preceptor feedback regarding the Family PMHNP student performance, Family PMHNP faculty members are ultimately responsible for evaluating students regarding specific clinical competencies.

We do ask preceptors to complete 2 evaluation forms for the Family PMHNP students they are precepting. The NP student is responsible for getting these forms to you; however, they are also available on our website: http://uwyo.edu/nursing (click on “Preceptor info” on the Right hand menu).

How many students can I precept at a time? According to our national guidelines, a preceptor may only precept 1 Family PMHNP student when the preceptor is also seeing patients and up to 2 Family PMHNP students if the preceptor is not also seeing patients. In general, we try to place only 1 student with a preceptor at a time and will discuss this issue with you further if 2 students are ever placed with you.

Once I agree to precept a Family PMHNP student, am I obligated to precept students every semester? No! We recognize that precepting is time and energy intensive and do not expect you to precept students every semester. Please let us know when and how often you are interested in precepting Family PMHNP students. Also, let us know if and when, you need a break!

How will I know what the clinical objectives are for the clinical course in which I am precepting a Family PMHNP student? You will find the clinical course syllabus with clinical objectives available from http://uwyo.edu/nursing (see “Preceptor info” on the Right hand menu). The clinical evaluation tool for that clinical course will also be available to you at this site.

How can I learn more about precepting students? Our website contains several interesting educational modules related to precepting. To access these modules, visit http://uwyo.edu/nursing. Click on “Preceptor info” on the Right hand menu.

Please contact Dana Murphy-Parker, PMHNP-BC, if you have any questions about the program or precepting Family PMHNP students: dmurphyp@uwyo.edu or 307-766-5358.

Thank you! We couldn’t have a Family PMHNP program without YOU!!
• Dana Murphy-Parker, MS, PMHNP-BC
Director: Family PMHNP Program

Revised 4/5/2012