



DNP

Practice Experience Requirements

Request for Practice Experience

Request for Practice Experience document: Your individualized request for Practice Experience (PE) activities that relate to the assignments and requirements of the course.

- Must obtain Practicum Coordinator's approval before proceeding with your PE hours.
- Must list tentative dates and hours planned to complete each activity.
- Must be uploaded in the course link that will also take you to the Jotform site. Once link is accessed, information regarding course and mentor are entered. (This information *must* be loaded at this site for compliance tracking. The link is located under the Request for Practice Experience link of your course.) ****This document is due at the end of Module 1.**
- Practicum Coordinator will review the document to ensure hours and activities line up with the Practice Experience expectations of the course.
- Once *Request for Practice Experience* document has been reviewed and approved, an unweighted score of 100 will be placed and this is the indication that request has been approved and experiences may begin.

Practice Experience Record

The Record is a detailed log of exact dates and hours spent on each activity and is submitted at the end of the course, during Module 8. Complete the hours required in each PE course and document the hours for successful completion of the course. ***The completion and submission of the Record is mandatory.***

Reflective Journal

Using the Practice Experience Record document located in the Required PE Documents section of the course, complete the table, indicating the experiences that were completed during the course.

Included with the Record, complete a brief reflection, selecting on course outcome and in 1-3 paragraphs (APA format) relate your practice experiences to your professional learning and the potential impact the practice experiences may have on your professional nursing practice.

The Reflection should include:

- A synthesis of the learning experiences.
- Achievement of course learning outcome.
- Application of theoretical content from the course to each practice experience reflection.
- Reflection of potential impact on future professional nursing practice.
- All cited references should be in APA format.

The Practice Experience Record, including the brief reflection, is due by the end of Module 8 and is a mandatory assignment for successful completion of the course.

Practice experiences (PEs) are educational opportunities built into the nursing programs to accommodate programmatic accreditor (CCNE and ACEN) requirements. Though it is a new type of assignment, PEs are not extra work, instead they replace more traditional schoolwork, such as reading and writing assignments. As interactive learning assignments, PEs encourage students to put what they learned in the classroom to work immediately.

ELAINE FOSTER
Ph.D., MSN, RN,
Associate Dean, Nursing
Programs



Practice Experience Assignments

600 Practice Experience Hours

- 210 hours in DNP core courses- N700, N725, N755, N758, N761
- 150 hours in five specialization course
- 180 hours in capstone courses – N740, N765
- 60 hours in two elective courses

Examples of the structured practice experiences for the first three DNP courses are listed below:

N700PE: Leadership: Setting the Example

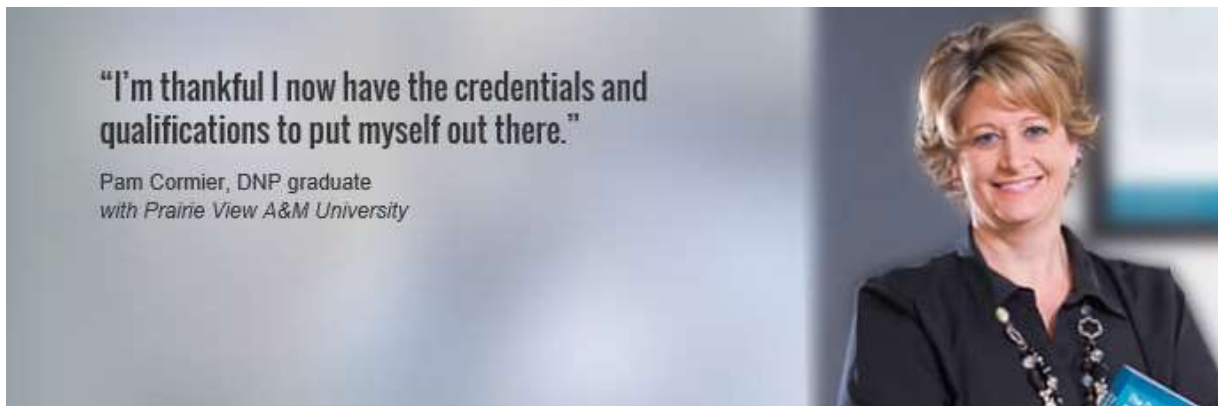
STRUCTURED PRACTICE EXPERIENCE	NUMBER OF PRACTICE EXPERIENCE HOURS
Organize Practice Experiences: Submit plan for practice experiences in Week One Request for Practice Experiences.	Up to 3 hours allowed.
Suggested Course Practice Experience Activities: You must complete at least 26.5 hours of active practice experiences. This is separate from “organizing” and “documenting” practice experiences within this course. This course requires a total of 30 hours of practice experiences.	
Required: Complete Certified Background Check	3 hours
Focus on nursing leadership opportunities and models within selected practice experience setting	3 hours
Interview a leader such as a dean or program director in your workplace related to his or her perceived leadership qualities	3 hours
Focus on observed leadership within a complex organization in selected practice experience setting	3 hours
Interview someone in upper management [president or provost] in your organization related to the stewardship activities of the organization	3 hours
Interview the head of Human Resources or the person in charge of hiring with the goal of discovering and analyzing the characteristics of the modern workforce with particular attention to generational issues, gender differences and diversity	3 hours

Focus on leading change in nursing setting – What role does leadership play throughout the change process?	3 hours
Observe a leadership meeting in your workplace – curriculum committee, all faculty committee, faculty senate; or managers, directors, senior leadership (C-Suite) - Focus on power, politics, and policy	3 hours
Review the organizational chart within your PE setting, noting both formal and informal power structures and alliances	3 hours
Conclude Practice Experiences: Complete reflective journaling and documentation of practice experiences. Submit required Practice Experience Forms in Week 8.	Up to 1 hour allowed.

N725PE: Health Services Research

STRUCTURED PRACTICE EXPERIENCE	NUMBER OF PRACTICE EXPERIENCE HOURS
Organize Practice Experiences: Submit plan for practice experiences in Week One Request for Practice Experiences.	Up to 3 hours allowed.
Suggested Course Practice Experience Activities: You must complete at least 26.5 hours of active practice experiences. This is separate from “organizing” and “documenting” practice experiences within this course.	
Interview someone in a leadership position in your practice experience organization related to health services research and how research is found, accessed, and applied in this nursing practice setting	3 hours
Interview Information Technology Manager or personnel related to health services research – and how research is found, accessed, and applied in this nursing practice setting	3 hours
Interview a Chief Nursing Officer related to health services research – and how research is found, accessed, and applied in this nursing practice setting	3 hours
Interview two or more peers related to health services research, benchmarking and use of findings	6 hours
Interview two or more key stakeholders in your practice experience organization related to any suggestions they might have related to relevant research topics. How do these relate to implementation science?	6 hours
Explore role of a nurse researcher: DNP or PhD if DNP is not available, or other researcher to develop insight into this	6 hours

advanced practice role and its contribution to advancing nursing knowledge and practice.	
Conclude Practice Experiences: Complete reflective journaling and documentation of practice experiences. Submit required Practice Experience Forms in Week 8.	Up to 1 hour allowed.



N740PE: Capstone Project I

STRUCTURED PRACTICE EXPERIENCE	NUMBER OF PRACTICE EXPERIENCE HOURS
Organize Practice Experiences: Submit plan for practice experiences in Week One Request for Practice Experiences.	Up to 6 hours allowed.
Suggested Course Practice Experience Activities: You must complete at least 53 hours of active practice experiences. This is separate from "organizing" and "documenting" practice experiences within this course. This course requires a total of 60 hours of practice experiences.	
Complete CITI Training for Social and Behavioral Sciences to meet American Sentinel University IRB policies of DNP students.	6 hours
Interview a leader in your workplace related to their perceptions of issues in their environment Compare their observations to your observations and note areas of convergence that might be appropriate for a capstone project	3 hours
Interview someone in upper management or some of your peers in your organization related to implementation science and the possible applications in your workplace	3 hours

Conduct initial review of the literature using search strategies learned in N740PE to complete this section of your DNP Capstone Project	10 hours
Complete investigative review to complete Section 1 of the DNP Capstone Project Paper	5.5 hours
Conclude Practice Experiences: Complete reflective journaling and documentation of practice experiences. Submit required Practice Experience Forms in Week 8.	Up to 1 hour allowed.

Number of Practice Experience Hours*	Preparation	Practice Experiences	Reflective Journaling
15	1.5	12.5	1
30	3	26	1
45	4.5	39.5	1
60	6.0	53	1
75	7.5	66.5	1
90	9	80	1
Above 90	9	Balance of hours	1

***May not apply to courses with special PE requirements or capstone courses.**

Types of acceptable practice learning experiences in the DNP Courses:

- **Viewing Virtual Presentations** related to the course topic in the American Sentinel University Nursing Presentation Hall (within the American Sentinel University Virtual World). Maximum hours = 12 hours
- **Reading scholarly (research) articles** related to the course topic on one approved topic of choice. Select one middle range theory to study and apply to your clinical practice; select one clinical topic and apply current evidence based practice literature to improvement of contemporary nursing practice. Maximum hours = 12 hours – or maximum of 2 hours per scholarly research article/evidence-based practice guideline document.
- **Interview diverse** nurses (or other key stakeholders) related to the course topic. Diverse nurses may be nurses with various degrees, nurses working in different types of health care settings, nurses working with diverse populations. Maximum 1 hour per interview.
- **Webinars** related to the course topic. Maximum number of webinar hours per course = 5 hours.
- **Continuing education hours** related to the course topic. A continuing education hour equals 50 minutes of actual learning time per one continuing education hour. Completion of a quiz in 5-10 minutes without study time. Participation in a live learning experience is acceptable for practice learning experiences. Submission of the CEU form will be required. Maximum number of webinar hours per course = 5 hours.

The practice experiences in the DNP program provide the students with great flexibility and the opportunity to personalize each experience. I also appreciate the layout; having hours designated in each course and having suggested activities provided but not required. This allows autonomy for the students and lets each student streamline the experience to best meet their needs.

TAMMY STEFEK,
DNP, Educational
Leadership
Specialization



Obtaining experiences with your preceptor (Specialization Track Practice Experience Hours: Precepted Practice Experiences)

- Total number of required hours in the specialization are 150 hours.
- The number of hours vary within courses by specialization. Please check each course syllabus, course description, and practice experience assignment sheet for number of required hours in each PE (practice experience) course.
- We strongly recommend one agency agreement and one preceptor to facilitate your precepted practice experiences throughout your DNP program.
- You will likely interact with multiple key stakeholders, nurses, and informants during your precepted practice experiences. It is best to have one preceptor as your primary point of contact and local person to verify precepted practice experiences and serve as a local mentor.
- Be very creative in designing the types of experiences within agency settings. Attend meetings; interview key stakeholders to better understand course topics; observe meetings, labs, clinical, classrooms; explore strategic planning, assessment and evaluation, core measures discussions; think about what you really want to learn to become a more informed and educated nurse leader at the doctoral level. What is it in this topic area that you don't know or struggle with to meet deliverables in your own work setting? Practice experiences are the opportunity to seek, explore, learn, and grow in a safe environment. This is a wonderful time to ponder what you learning in the classroom with what you are observing in the practice or academic setting. Rarely, if ever, will you be given this rich learning opportunity. Make the most of it!

PE documents are due

End of Module 1

Request for Practice Experience document and mentor request to the JotForm link

End of Module 8

Practice Experience Record



NURSING IS A **PRACTICE DISCIPLINE** THAT INCLUDES BOTH DIRECT AND INDIRECT CARE ACTIVITIES THAT **IMPACT HEALTH OUTCOMES**. BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS PROVIDE RICH AND VARIED OPPORTUNITIES FOR **PRACTICE EXPERIENCES** DESIGNED TO ASSIST GRADUATES TO **ACHIEVE** THE ESSENTIALS OF BACCALAUREATE EDUCATION FOR **PROFESSIONAL NURSING PRACTICE**.

American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 2008

