

**The Clinical Coordination Partnership
 Informal Research Surrounding
 Advanced Practice Professional (APP) Clinical Experiences
 August 18, 2015**

Note: Advanced Practice Professional Programs include nurse practitioner and physician assistant programs – for this inquiry all Minnesota based programs were requested information.

Background:

The Clinical Coordination Partnership is a membership funded/supported entity under the umbrella of HealthForce Minnesota, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. TCCP works to help the increase efficiencies in the clinical coordination environment between schools and the healthcare systems/hospitals in which clinical experiences take place. In the beginning TCCP primarily addressed Registered Nursing (RN) clinical experiences.

Today TCCP is also piloting efforts to bring similar efficiencies to the Advanced Practice Professional (APP) environment as well. TCCP coordinates a workgroup consisting of all Minnesota APP programs and major healthcare systems and has an online, centralized clinical scheduling software that is it piloting to help increase efficiencies.

Average/Typical Program Clinical Components:

Physician Assistant Clinicals: Usually 11 separate experiences in different healthcare specialties

Nurse Practitioner Clinicals: Usually 1,000 – 1,200 clinical hours within different “clumps” of time, additionally some specialties (i.e., nurse anesthetists) will require additional hours.

Schools asked for Feedback:

Physician Assistant Schools	Nurse Practitioner Schools
1. Augsburg College 2. Bethel University 3. St. Catherine University	1. Bethel University (Midwife) 2. College of St Scholastica 3. Metropolitan State University 4. Minnesota State University, Mankato 5. St Catherine University 6. University of Minnesota 7. Winona State University

Questions for Feedback:

1. Does your program have a policy to find clinical placements for students? If so, may the policy be shared or could you briefly describe?
2. Does your school have a policy that the student is responsible for finding their own clinical placements? If so, may the policy be shared or could you briefly describe?
3. Is there an alternate policy you follow when placing students in clinicals? If so, may the policy be shared or could you briefly describe?

Summaries of Collected Feedback:

Physician Assistant Schools:

“Per PA Accreditation guidelines, PAs Programs are not allowed to pass on the burden of seeking and confirming placements upon the student and therefore, all placements requests and confirmations go through the Program Clinical Coordinators. Students who have contacts are permitted and encouraged to pass on those contacts to the Program Clinical Coordinators so they can evaluate the placement to see if it meets criteria for student course and clinicals.”

Nurse Practitioner Schools:

Note: No school has a formal policy, mainly how they place clinicals is based on their clinical partners feedback and availability of staff. A summary of responses:

- University of Minnesota and College of St Catherine’s both have staff that place students into clinical. Both reported they started this because of clinical partner feedback.
- Minnesota State University, Mankato and Winona State University:
Both do help students find clinical placement, however, students are informed that finding clinical placement is a collaborative process or “tag team” effort between each student and the program’s clinical coordinator.
 - Students complete a “Clinical Placement Request” that is collected several months in advance of each anticipated clinical. This informs the clinical coordinator of the student’s place of residence, placement preferences (e.g., with their employer), and/or other places in the state they are willing to travel to (e.g. can stay with parents in Virginia, MN and willing to have an Iron Range or Duluth area preceptor). This is an important step because I have established rural clinical agency agreements and have found preceptors in the past and have not been able to find student’s willing into traveling to those locations!
 - Requests get submitted by the clinical coordinator through the TCCP software but this system is in Pilot stages and does not include all clinical sites
 - From there, students and the clinical coordinator tag team the efforts. Some agencies do not mind being contacted by students and some prohibit it. Some agencies only want to work with their employees. Some agencies only work with certain schools (U of M and St. Catherine’s have garnered such commitments). Some agencies find preceptors through a contact person within the agency; others want to be contacted only when a preceptor has been identified within their agency. The clinical coordinator shares these nuances with the student and they formulate a plan of attack and stay in touch about leads identified.
- Metropolitan State University & College of St Scholastica – utilizes the TCCP software for clinical requests of participating clinical sites. Otherwise does not secure clinicals for students --- report because they are a new program and would need more staff.
- Only school that did not provide feedback: Bethel Midwife.

Additional Information:

- Outstate and online programs typically require the student to secure their own clinical.