ECU College of Nursing

HRSA ANEW Grant Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Academic-Clinical Practice Collaborative and APRN RURAL Scholars Program

Website: Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Academic-Clinical Practice Collaborative and APRN RURAL Scholars at https://nursing.ecu.edu/ruralscholars/

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

SUMMARY OF THE PROGRAM

The purpose of the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Academic-Clinical Practice Collaborative at East Carolina University College of Nursing is to significantly strengthen the availability and capacity of the APRN primary care workforce in rural and underserved communities in Eastern North Carolina.

The APRN Rural and Underserved Roadmap to Advance Leadership (RURAL) Scholars Program provides each student receiving traineeship funds with 1-2 semesters of clinical placement in rural communities through our clinical partner Vidant Health; trains students in telehealth with a focus on telepsychiatry through the ECU Center for Telepsychiatry and E-Behavioral Health; and provides opportunities for improving the health of farmers, loggers, and fishermen and their families through the North Carolina Agromedicine Institute. APRN RURAL Scholars will commit to two years of employment in rural/underserved communities for their participation in the program. Participants in the RURAL Scholars program will be recognized at the ECUCON graduation ceremony for their participation in this program.

Full-time students who complete the APRN RURAL Scholars Program will receive $22,000 and part-time students will receive $11,000 minus the cost of the required course MPH 6036.

Activities to be completed by APRN RURAL Scholars are as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Care in Rural Health Immersion</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Primary Care Clinical Practicum:</strong> NP, NM, and CNS students will be jointly placed in Vidant Health rural clinics for two semesters (NP, NM) and 1 semester (CNS) per academic year. Pre- and post-primary care practicum surveys, documentation of clinical practicum experiences in Medatrax, and clinical site and clinical preceptor evaluations will be collected and analyzed each semester.</td>
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| MPH 6036 Fundamentals in Agromedicine: This 3-semester hour course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the fundamentals health and public health issues affecting agricultural populations in the U.S. and North Carolina. Course activities include a field trip to a local farm to see firsthand the numerous safety hazards farmworkers encounter daily. A farm tour reflection paper, special risk populations in agriculture literature review paper, and final examination is required for the course. This course will be offered fall and spring semesters Years 1-4. |

| Telehealth Experiences: NP, NM, and CNS students will participate once in telehealth collaborative experiences during the fall or spring semesters. Two 90-minute instructional |
Webinars are offered each semester in addition to one clinical experience per semester. Content learned will be applied in the Community Assessment Project.

**Purple and Golden Bus Tour:** NP, NM, and CNS students will participate, for the first time, in the ECU Division of Research, Economic Development and Engagement Purple and Golden Bus Tour. This bus tour was designed to introduce faculty members with identified research plans to the culture, geography, heritage, economy, and assets of the communities of Eastern NC (ENC). Funding is proposed to expand this opportunity to APRN RURAL Scholars. Students (and preceptors as space and funding allows) will participate in this bus trip at least once during their program. The bus trip will be offered each year of the grant in spring semester. Small-group debriefings, a reflection paper, and interviews with faculty participants about their research during the bus tour will be required.

**EAHEC Rural Health Symposium:** The overall objectives of the symposium are: rural health priorities, building leadership capacity, promoting effective rural health initiatives in ENC, addressing common health challenges and health disparities related to the aging population, military and veterans' health, mental health, oral health, school health, health literacy, and the impact of environmental health. The symposium also presents workforce strategies to increase the number of healthcare professionals in ENC. Students and preceptors will receive funding to attend this annual symposium. Assignments will include demonstration of how the content is applied to their clinical practicum experience.

**Standardized patient objective structured clinical examination (OSCE):** NP, NM, and CNS students will participate in a 2-hour OSCE case during the on-campus immersion experience summer semester of Years 1-4. Cases will be developed in collaboration with the ECU Office of Clinical Skills and Assessment Education that include American Indian rural residents, African American farmers, Latinx farm workers, and elderly farmers.

**Leadership in Rural Health**

**Innovation Lab: Primary Care in Rural Communities:** In this half-day session, we bring together legislators, healthcare administrators, primary care providers, and healthcare consumers in rural communities (through VH Office of Patient Experience) to explore new tools and methodologies for addressing the primary care healthcare needs of rural communities in ENC. This Lab will be offered summer semesters in Years 1-4 during the one-day on-campus immersion.

**Public Speaking Training:** In collaboration with the ECU School of Communication, this 2-hour session will prepare students for professional public speaking. Topics include working through communication anxiety, organizing an effective presentation, and professional communication. The session will be offered during the on-campus immersion. Following this session, students will examine a current topic/issue in the primary care of rural and underserved communities and complete a presentation via web conferencing for fellow students and faculty.

**Interview with a Public Health Department Director:** Facilitated interview with a health department director related to operational, strategic, and clinical roles. This will be accomplished during the on-campus immersion session or by webinar in the fall or spring semesters of Years 1-4.

**Assessment of Rural Communities**

The Rural Community Assessment project provides a snapshot of local policy, systems, and environmental strategies currently in place. With this data, strategies will be proposed to increase the number and capacity of APRN primary care providers that will result in sustainable changes. The intent of this project is to build upon existing community assessments conducted within their clinical practicum communities by articulating how the students’ proposed role after graduation could address the community’s identified priorities. The assessment will incorporate evidence-based strategies in plans for interventions. NP, NM, and CNS students will present the findings of their community assessment via a webinar to all students in their respective
programs, faculty, and community stakeholders. The session will be recorded and shared with community partners and stakeholders who were not able to attend the live session. This project will be due summer semester Years 1-4.

**Professional Networking/Preparation for Transition to Practice**

Seeking employment in rural and underserved communities: NP, NM, and CNS students will create an account and profile in the HRSA Health Workforce Connector and apply for an NPI number. Expectations for this experience are that students will create a report of opportunities available for their respective professions in rural and underserved communities in NC.

Attend at least one professional association meeting: NP, NM, and CNS students will attend at least one professional association meeting. Expectations for this experience are that students will complete a create “speed dating” form that documents the names, titles, places of employment, email addresses, and signatures of at least 5 APRNs at the professional meeting.

**STUDENT CLINICAL PLACEMENTS**

- Vidant Health has agreed to accept 84 students over a 4-year period at 8 Vidant Health clinics: Jacksonville, Kinston, Tarboro, Edenton, Washington, Belhaven, Ahoskie, and Wilson.
- Nurse practitioner (NP), nurse-midwifery (NM), and Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) students will require placement in a VH clinical site for 1-2 semesters, preferably 2 semesters at the same clinic.
- The courses, number of clinical hours, and number of students per course and per academic year is in the table below.
- Note that the required one-day on campus immersive experience will occur during summer session. All AGPCNP and CNS students will complete the summer session before enrolling in the Semester 1 courses described below. Nurse-midwifery and FNP students will complete the summer session after their Semester 2 courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Summer on campus day</th>
<th>Semester 1 (Fall)</th>
<th>Clinical Hours</th>
<th>Semester 2 (Spring)</th>
<th>Clinical Hours</th>
<th>Summer on campus day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NP (FNP)</td>
<td></td>
<td>NURS 8118: APN Practicum I: Primary Care of Adults</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>N 8119: Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum II: Obstetrics and Pediatrics</td>
<td>240 (120 OB/120 Peds)</td>
<td>After Semester 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No. of students: 7-9</td>
<td></td>
<td>No. of students: 7-9</td>
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<tr>
<td>NP (AGPCNP)</td>
<td>Before Semester 1</td>
<td>NURS 8123: APN Practicum III: Specialty Care of Adults/Geriatrics</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>NURS 8124: APN Practicum IV: Primary Care Clinical Residency</td>
<td>336</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No. of students: 7-8</td>
<td></td>
<td>No. of students: 7-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>NM</td>
<td></td>
<td>NURS 6119: NM Management:</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>NURS 6112: NM Management:</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>After Semester 2</td>
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Introduction to Primary Care

Well Woman Care

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<tr>
<th>CNS</th>
<th>Before Semester 1</th>
<th>NURS 6962: CNS Practicum III</th>
<th>180</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td># of students: 1-2</td>
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**BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS**

- Financial support through generous traineeship funding.
- A comprehensive and practical approach to learning about the primary care needs of rural and underserved communities.
- Opportunity to learn about special health care challenges of farmworkers, fishers, and loggers.
- Complimentary registration for the EAHEC Rural Health Symposium.
- Participation in the Purple and Golden Bus Tour, led by the Division of Research, Economic Development and Engagement.
- Learning about telehealth/telepsychiatry training through the ECU Center for Telepsychiatry and E-Behavioral Health.
- Special recognition upon graduation during the College of Nursing Recognition Ceremony.

**Questions?** Contact the Project Director Dr. Pamela Reis at reisp@ecu.edu.

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