



Preceptor Newsletter | January 2025

Another Semester, Another Student...

Ms. McKeehan taught both of my students in kindergarten. When the second was graduating, she said to me "You know, I teach these students to read and write, and then send them on to further their education, but I am always in kindergarten." Sometimes we feel like that as faculty and preceptors. We spend a semester or a year working with our students to move them from novice NP students to competent entry-level NPs, and then we start again with a new set of students.

In spring, UAMS students are either starting their first clinical semester or in their final preceptorship, with over 750 hours under their belt. However, even the most experienced student can be stressed in a new setting, with a new preceptor. For preceptorships at any educational level of the student, some strategies can make the start of any semester less stressful for students and preceptors.

Take a few minutes to orient the student to the clinical setting, routines, important staff and providers, and your expectations. Every clinical setting and preceptor are different, so what is expected in one preceptorship may be frowned upon in another. Setting expectations up front and acclimating the student to the clinical environment and culture can avert missteps and create a better preceptorship. The student will probably need 1/2 to 1 day with you to become accustomed to the clinical setting and get familiar with your workflow.

Give the student some pre-work before entering your setting. Asking the student to be familiar with the most common conditions or procedures in your setting will increase their comfort and decrease your time spent teaching in the first few weeks. Having the student create a template including history, physical exams, differential diagnoses, and recommended management/education for the top five or 10 conditions you see, will enable the student to be better prepared for your setting. If you provide a lot of well visits/preventative healthcare, developing a cheat sheet of age-and gender-appropriate screenings, immunizations, and anticipatory guidance will reinforce the student's prior education and set them up for success in your clinical setting.

Foster the student's growth by setting them loose - within reason. After that they should start by providing some patient care under direct or indirect supervision. With the new student that can be as simple as leading the history taking with you present, while more experienced students should complete a history and physical examination independently and provide you with their presumptive diagnosis and management plan. Regardless of the amount of involvement students have in the patient's care, we know you are responsible for confirming key parts of the history and exam and providing the diagnosis and the management plan.

You should receive information about each student's practicum objectives and requirements. If you do not have that information or have any questions or concerns, please contact the course faculty or

specialty coordinator. You can find contact information for the specialty coordinators in the Preceptor Handbook that was emailed to you with your Typhon link. If you do not have access to the Preceptor Handbook, please contact Lynette Mathews at LMathews@uams.edu and she will email one to you.

Thank you for being preceptors for UAMS students. If you have any recommendations to improve the preceptorship experience, please let us know.



Preceptor Spotlight

We are excited to recognize Kayla Nevala this month. Kayla is a dedicated Primary Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in the Pediatric Otolaryngology UAMS Department at Arkansas Children's Hospital. She brings expertise and passion to her role, focusing on providing exceptional care to children with ear, nose, and throat conditions.

As a preceptor, Kayla creates an engaging learning environment where students are encouraged to develop their skills, confidence, and knowledge in specialty care. Students consistently praise Kayla for her approachable demeanor, hands-on teaching style, and apparent commitment to their success. We are grateful for her invaluable contributions to our program and her role in shaping the future of pediatric healthcare through her mentorship.

Adjunct Faculty Opportunity

If you have provided at least 100 preceptor hours in the last year, you are eligible to receive an adjunct (unpaid) appointment in the College of Nursing. This includes access to the UAMS Library resources, such as Up-to-Date and an UAMS email address.

Application Materials: Cover Letter, CV or resume, copies of license and certification, and a short-form.

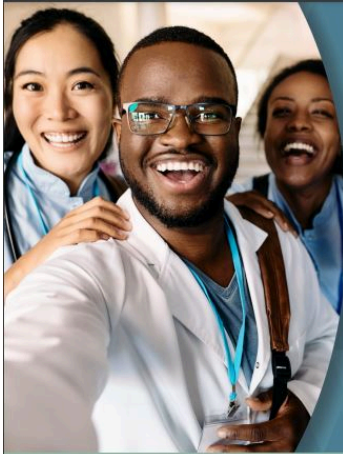


[UAMS Adjunct Faculty Application](#)

Enduring Material:
Speaker: Leonie DeClerk, PhD, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP
Topic: Mastering Feedback

[Enduring Material Module](#)

UAMS College of Nursing Upcoming Events:



Arkansas Nursing Research Day

NURSING EXCELLENCE:
Using Research to Advance Science & Practice

Save the Date!

MAY 2, 2025

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Hosted by **UAMS**
College of Nursing

save the
date

UAMS COLLEGE OF NURSING
PRECEPTOR RECOGNITION EVENT

APRIL 25, 2025
CENTRAL ARKANSAS AREA

[UAMS CON Website](#)

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