

Resource Guide for Nurse Practitioner (NP) Students to Secure Preceptorships

The number of NP students needing clinical placement is outpacing NP preceptor availability. This guide is designed to be a resource to help NP students fulfill their requirements.

Local Resources

Check with your school first to see what assistance they provide in helping to line up preceptorships. For example, the USC College of Nursing has a Director of Clinical Partnerships as well as a Clinical Placement Coordinator.

Currently, SC has 6 NP programs (brick/mortar):

- USC
- MUSC
- Clemson
- Francis Marion
- Anderson University
- Charleston Southern University

Online programs accepting South Carolina students include:

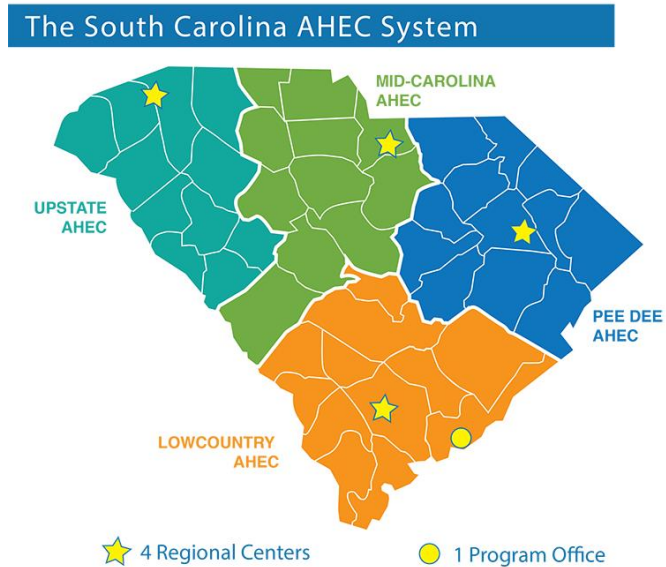
- Walden
- Chamberlain
- Purdue Global
- Georgetown University
- Post University

At this time, the most challenging clinical placements for NP students are Behavioral Health, OB and Pediatrics. An NP's preceptor can be a nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or physician.





Generally, NP students are registered nurses that are working FT/Part-time jobs while completing the didactic and clinical rigors of the NP program. This model creates some challenges for nursing students in securing clinical placements.

Regional Resources

Another resource is one of the four regional Area Health Education Centers (AHEC). AHECs are most known for providing continuing education units (CEUs) after you are working in the field and need to keep credentials updated. However, they are a great resource for assisting with clinical rotations. Some of the AHEC offices even provide housing options, especially for rotations located in rural areas. Below is a map of the four AHEC regions in South Carolina.



The AHEC offices have at least one Health Professions Student Coordinator who maintains good relationships with the providers in their region. If there is a specific facility or region for the desired NP placement, locate the regional office on the map. Below is the contact information to get started.

 Lowcountry AHEC <i>Excellence in Healthcare Through Education</i>	 Mid-Carolina AHEC Area Health Education Center	 Pee Dee AHEC <i>Building and Supporting the Healthcare Workforce South Carolina Needs</i>	 Upstate AHEC <i>Excellence in Health Care Through Education</i>
Lowcountry AHEC	Mid-Carolina AHEC	Pee Dee AHEC	Upstate AHEC
Walterboro	Lancaster	Florence	Greenville
(843) 782-5052	(803) 286-4121	(843) 777-5343	(864) 349-1160

Visit <https://www.scahec.net/> for more details.

National Resources

Consider becoming a member of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners® (AANP). There are student rates available, and membership offers opportunities for networking, subscriptions, and discounts. AANP has published a Preceptor Expectation Checklist and a Faculty Expectation Checklist to foster positive relationships and reduce barriers experienced in the preceptorship process. <https://www.aanp.org/>

<https://www.aanp.org/student-resources-2/planning-your-np-education>

The Health Resources and Services Administration has a search tool on its website, called “Find a Health Center” which allows you to put in a zip code and find all of the Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). Unlike the large hospital systems, FQHCs are an untapped resource for preceptorships.

<https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/>

Other Resources

There are a number of paid preceptor matching sites. (Listing them here does not mean they are being endorsed.)

- <https://go.nphub.com/nphub-enroll/>