Tips for Practicum Site and Preceptor Search

Securing a practicum site and preceptor can be as intensive as a job search. We recommend the following tips to facilitate your search process:

1. Review the following tutorial, which includes tips and tricks to market yourself to potential preceptors and field sites: [http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/ld.php?content_id=10419574](http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/ld.php?content_id=10419574).

2. Contact Career Services to update your resume and cover letters with a focus on finding a practicum field site. Career Services can also conduct mock interviews to prepare you for speaking with potential preceptors. You can find the Career Services website here: [http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/careerservices/home](http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/careerservices/home).

3. Review the field site list on the Field Education website [http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/fieldexperience/son/formsanddocuments](http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/fieldexperience/son/formsanddocuments). (Scroll to the bottom of the page to find a link to the field site list.) This is a list of field sites that Walden University School of Nursing students have used in the past. It does not necessarily mean that the site will be able to accommodate you or that we have an active affiliation agreement on file with them, but it is a good place to start.

4. Use your professional and personal networks to make connections. Develop a profile on professional networking sites (e.g. LinkedIn) to network. Connect with colleagues, friends, alumni of Walden, and a variety of other professional nursing related groups to locate a preceptor and site.

5. Contact your state board of nursing to see if they have a list of available preceptors or resources.

6. Schedule an appointment with your regional Nurse Field Education Coordinator to discuss ideas for securing a preceptor and field site. You can schedule an appointment online at [http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/fieldexperience/son/contactus](http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/fieldexperience/son/contactus).

7. Schedule an appointment with your Specialization Coordinator (contact information listed in Section 6 of the School of Nursing Practicum Manual). Specialization coordinators may be able to offer suggestions or advice on potential preceptors or practicum experiences.

8. Research professional nursing associations, organizations and networks to find preceptor resources. For nurse practitioner students, national organizations such as the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) provide a student resource center that may be helpful in finding a field site and preceptor ([http://www.aanp.org/education/student-resource-center/connecting-with-nps](http://www.aanp.org/education/student-resource-center/connecting-with-nps)). Students in other specializations should look for similar organizations that match their practicum focus.

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