

Zoom Meeting April 1st, 2020

Good evening,

My name is Dr. Teran, and I am the director of the online nursing program here at St. Thomas University. I would like to welcome you all here today and pray that all is well with you and your loved ones.

The coronavirus also known as COVID-19, has changed everyone's life but it has mostly affected the healthcare industry. This is the year of the nurse and we are truly being put to the test. I am very hopeful that COVID-19 will pass. We just have to be patient. CNN has reported that China has announced it will lift the lockdown on Wuhan, the city at the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic, on April 8, marking a significant milestone in its battle against this outbreak. This too will happen in the United States, in the future.

Now, how does this affect you in the meantime with your education? First please know that classes will continue as schedule. If you are registered for pediatrics you will be registered for the clinical component as well, these courses are co requisites. If you do not have a preceptor or do not wish to go to your clinical due to COVID-19, please do not worry. You will receive an incomplete grade for the course. When this crisis passes, you can complete your hours at that time.

The reason we are giving the incomplete is because we do not want you to have to wait for the course to be offered again, which would be two semesters later. Every student is in a different situation and we must find the best recourse to fit all.

Some of you may be wondering why we cannot offer simulation for clinicals:

- ANCC: American Nurse Credentialing Center
- AANP: American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
- AACN: American Association of Colleges of Nursing and
- CCNE: Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education

wrote a letter on this topic, and it stated:

“In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, these organizations reaffirm that all nurse practitioner (NP) students are required to complete a minimum of 500 supervised direct patient care clinical hours over the course of the NP program. In addition, clinical hours are distributed to support competency development that represents the needs of the chosen population. If additional clinical hours are required by the institution or a certification organization (anything over 500), these additional hours may be completed as simulation”.

STU only requires the minimum number of clinical hours - 500. I am sorry, there is nothing we could do to change the number of hours that you must complete. We must abide by these agencies' rules to make sure you can sit for boards and become certified as an NP. An option that you do have for clinical is Telehealth. The AACN states that “clinical experiences and time spent in each experience are varied and distributed in a way that prepares the students to provide care to the populations served, which may include telehealth and international direct care experiences”

What does this mean for you? You could ask preceptors if they do telehealth, let them know that this is an acceptable way for you to be precepted. There are rules that apply to this, your instructors will be posting an announcement attaching a link to a course that we are requesting for you to complete to be prepared for telehealth.

For the students in the Health assessment course: We are working with Shadow Health to provide you with a simulation lab. We will inform you as soon as we can on that option.

For the students that are ready to graduate and sit for boards. The ANCC & AANP testing centers have closed. A link has been provided in the chat for you to be able to access the certifications webpage to continue checking when they will be reopened.

In closing, I want to thank you all for the work you are doing and even more for your courage in facing the work we all have ahead of us. If the world was not aware of the importance of nursing before, they are most certainly aware now. Most of us did not become nurses for the glory or recognition. We became nurses because it was our calling. Take pride, take hope, and take comfort in knowing that you are needed, and your calling has purpose now more than ever before in our lifetime.

Q & A

Q: Will online courses continue as scheduled?

A: Yes, classes will continue. If you are registered for pediatrics you will be registered for the clinical component as well, since these courses are co-requisites.

Q: I don't have a preceptor for the pediatrics clinicals yet. What should I do?

A: You can:

1. Look for a preceptor. Here is a link with a list of preceptors.
<https://www.stu.edu/science/programs/nursing/msninfo>
2. If you do not have a preceptor or do not want to attend your clinicals due to COVID-19, you will obtain an incomplete for the course. This will allow you to make up the clinical hours once the crisis has passed.

Q: I am concerned about being exposed to COVID-19 during my pediatrics clinicals. What should I do?

A: If you do not want to attend your clinicals due to COVID-19, you will receive an incomplete for the course. This will allow you to make up the clinical hours once the crisis has passed.

Q: Can I complete my clinical hours using simulation?

A: No, because of the rules around clinical hours for NP programs. STU only requires the minimum number of clinical hours - 500. St. Thomas University cannot change the number of hours that you must complete. We must abide by these agencies' rules to make sure you can sit for boards and become certified as an NP.

AANP: American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board, AACN: American Association of Colleges of Nursing and CCNE: Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education has stated:

"In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, these organizations reaffirm that all nurse practitioner (NP) students are required to complete a minimum of 500 supervised direct patient care clinical hours over the course of the NP program. In addition, clinical hours are distributed to support competency development that represents the needs of the chosen population. If additional clinical hours are required by the institution or a certification organization (above the minimum 500 supervised direct patient care clinical hours), these additional hours may be completed as simulation, if students have completed the direct patient care clinical hours that are necessary and required for them to be fully prepared to practice as an NP in the population focus area:"

Q: What other options do I have to complete my clinicals?

A: An option that you do have for clinical is telehealth. The AACN/CCNE states that “clinical experiences and time spent in each experience are varied and distributed in a way that prepares the students to provide care to the populations served, which may include telehealth”

Q: I am in the Health Assessment course. What options do I have?

A: For the students in the Health assessment course: We are working with Shadow Health to provide you with a simulation lab. We will inform you as soon as we can on that option.

Q: If we receive an incomplete grade for the clinical portion, will we be able to continue onto the other semesters?

A: Yes, but you need to complete all courses before beginning the course NUR611

Q: In clinics, can we see patients online or by phone with the preceptor without physical patients?

A: Yes, via telehealth

Q: What will the exit (graduation) exam be like? Are we going to have a question bank, course or recommended bibliography?

A: Barkley Review will be used. There will not be a question bank.

Q: Should I take the exit (graduation) exam at the end of classes? If I do not pass it, what is the limit of attempts allowed?

A: This exit exam will be taking in your last course. You will have only two attempts.

Q: Are we able to use telephonic method for clinicals as well?

A: Yes, via telehealth

Q: What would the integration rotation look like if this isolation continues (Course NUR611)?:

A: The course NUR611 course does not have clinical portion.

Q: Are we allowed to do hospital rotation?

A: No. Family Nurse Practitioners need to complete Primary care hours. Hospital clinical is only used for Acute Care NP

Q: If we receive an incomplete grade for the clinical portion will we be able to continue onto the other semesters until the isolation finishes?

A: Yes – the reason for the incomplete grade is to allow you to finish the course.

Q: How do we get our school badge for clinicals?

A: Campus is currently closed to essential personnel only. The Student Success Center is working on an alternative approach.

Q: Do we have clinical jackets we can purchase online?

A: <https://www.bkstr.com/stthomasustore/search/keyword/lab%2520coat>

Q: Regarding telehealth in my case the preceptor is calling the patients at the same time of the appointments documenting as virtual visit, is that fine?

A: Telehealth is care that is provided at a distance and uses medical data transfer via audio, video, and other types of telecommunication.

Q: Does STU have a list of preceptors?

A: Yes, follow this link <https://www.stu.edu/science/programs/nursing/msninfo>

Q: Do I need an ID badge for the clinicals?

A: Yes, but in the current situation, you can be without.

Q: Is an acceptable site for rotation to be a with an MD?

A: Yes, but the MD cannot be a specialist.

Q: The office of my preceptor is open. Can I still go in person to complete my clinicals?

A: Yes, you can still attend your clinicals. If your site is open, we just ask you to please be safe.

Q: Is there a limit of clinicals that can be precepted with an MD vs ARNP?

A: We would like for you to be precepted by an NP, however; you can be with an MD if an NP is not available. You **CANNOT be precepted by a Physician Assistant.**

Q: Once we found a preceptor do we need to submit a form before starting or during?

A: Yes – we must approve your preceptor before you begin. Here is a link of where you can get the forms:
<https://www.stu.edu/science/programs/nursing/msninfo>

Q: If the preceptor will use telehealth do we need to send to the instructor the link of telehealth what we are doing? (need rephrase)

A: No, that is a HIPAA violation

Q: I contacted a few places and they stated they will allow me to do the clinical hours but not until the end of May. Will I be penalized due to lack of hours.?

A: No, you will not. You will obtain an incomplete grade.

Q: Both women's health courses are completely full. How do I go about enrolling?

A: Additional sections are being opened.

Q: Are we allowed to see the patients online with the preceptor and completed the clinicals hours like this?

A: Yes, through telehealth.

Q: Do we take the Barkley exit exam at home?

A: Yes

Q: How many hours for each clinical?

A: Each clinical requires 125 hours.

Q: If the isolation continues, how can we take the exit test?

A: You will be able to take this at home.

Q: How much time do we have to complete those clinical hours?

A: You must complete the clinical hours before you can start NUR 611, which integrates all the clinical and core courses.

Q: Can we see the patients online as our clinicals hours?

A: It must be through telehealth

Q: Can I have an ARNP for preceptor?

A: Yes

Q: Does the school offer a simulation program?

A: In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, these organizations reaffirm that all nurse practitioner (NP) students are required to complete a minimum of 500 supervised direct patient care clinical hours over the course of the NP program. In addition, clinical hours are distributed to support competency development that represents the needs of the chosen population.

If additional clinical hours are required by the institution or a certification organization (anything over 500), these additional hours may be completed as simulation.

STU only requires the minimum number of clinical hours - 500. There is nothing we can do to change the number of hours that you must complete. We must abide by these agencies' rules to make sure you can sit for board exams and become certified as an NP.

Q: Will we need to start our hours over or complete the hours we have not yet completed?

A: No, you will continue where you left off.

Q: The simulation program to create patient if telehealth is not available?

A: We cannot use Shadow Health for clinicals per guidelines for clinicals over 500 hours. STU has the minimum hours. We are not allowed to use simulation as clinical hours

Q: Where specifically can I find out when I am scheduled to begin clinicals?

A: After completing your core courses you begin the specialty ones. To access and see your courses,

Go to the www.stu.edu

-Click on MyBobcat from the top blue bar.

-Log in into MyBobcat using the STU username and password.

-Once you log in you will have access to the Main page.

-On the right hand-side click on "Student Self-Service"

Q: Can we apply for clinical at CVS minute clinic?

A: Yes.

Q: Can I finish my incomplete clinical while taking another clinical course?

A: Yes

Q: Will I still be able to contact my professor?

A: Yes

Q: Is it too late to drop any classes?

A: You may drop the class, but you will get a grade W and will be financially responsible.

Q: When does the term Summer 1 Start?

A:

- Summer 1: May 9 to June 26 (Peds Rotation)

- Summer 2: June 27 to August 14 (Women's Health)

Q: Are we going to receive our degrees and be allowed to sit for the boards without delay?

A: ANCC: <https://www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/>

All Prometric test centers are closed for 30 days, effective March 18, 2020. We know that these closures may cause significant disruption to your plans, and we are here to support you.

AANP: <https://www.aanpcert.org/index#news>

In response to the circumstances related to the 2020 coronavirus pandemic resulting in the closure of the majority of PSI test centers and cancellation of live continuing education meetings.