



Students may be required to complete clinical observation as part of their degree requirements. Students engaged in clinical observation must comply with all university policies and with the specific requirements of their academic program.

In general, a student engaged in clinical observation is responsible for:

- Accurately recording and reporting their observation hours;
- Completing their clinical observation hours at a site that meets program requirements;
- Complying with the provisions of [Policy 9001 Student Conduct](#) and other university policies;
- Engaging in professional behavior appropriate to the environment and the patient/client population;
- Adhering to the HIPAA privacy rule, safeguarding any protected health information they may observe; and
- Discussing expectations with the supervising clinician before engaging in clinical observation on matters related clinical operations and the patient/client experience, such as the format for patient/client introductions, the appropriate timing of questions, etc.

A student engaged in clinical observation is prohibited from representing themselves as a licensed provider.

College of Chiropractic

Under certain circumstances, an intern in the doctor of chiropractic program may engage in clinical observation as a way to earn clinical internship hours. Refer to the section on Private Practice Rotations in the Doctor of Chiropractic Clinical Internship Manual for more information.

College of Graduate Studies

For information about clinical observation requirements for programs in the College of Graduate Studies, refer to the relevant student or program handbook.

College of Naturopathic Medicine

Clinical observation, known as preceptorship in the College of Naturopathic Medicine, is a requirement for completion of the doctor of naturopathic medicine degree. Preceptorship consists of clinical observation at approved sites outside the UWS clinic and affiliated community clinics.

A total of 175 preceptorship hours are required for completion of the doctor of naturopathic medicine degree. Specific requirements include:

- At least 125 of the 175 preceptorship hours must be completed with a preceptor who holds the degree of doctor of naturopathic medicine (ND or NMD).
- Students must complete preceptorship hours across three (3) or more sites.
- Students must complete a minimum of twenty-five (25) hours and a maximum of fifty (50) hours per site.

Preceptor sites must be pre-approved by the office of the dean. Preceptors must hold one of the following degrees: doctor of naturopathic medicine (ND or NMD), doctor of medicine (MD), doctor of

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osteopathy (DO), or doctor of chiropractic (DC). The preceptor must be licensed in the jurisdiction in which the preceptorship experience takes place and have a minimum of five (5) years of clinical experience. With approval by the office of the dean, a practitioner with between three (3) and five (5) years of clinical experience may be permitted.

Students may begin to accrue preceptorship hours following the successful completion of the course work of the first year of the program, unless otherwise approved by the office of the dean. Each approved preceptorship experience must be completed prior to requesting approval for an additional preceptorship experience.

Following completion of each preceptorship experience, the student is required to submit the following documentation to the office of the dean: a summary of patient contacts signed by the preceptor, an evaluation of the student completed by the preceptor, and an evaluation of the preceptor completed by the student. Copies of the required documentation may be obtained from the office of the dean.

Related Policies: [Policy 9001 Student Conduct](#)

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