2020 FNU Catalog Addendum:
Temporary Policies Related to COVID-19

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All temporary policies related to COVID-19 were relayed to FNU students, faculty and staff via email, Canvas course notifications, and the FNU portal. Details regarding the dissemination of specific policy is listed in this document.

- On March 23, 2020, students who attended Clinical Bound in Winter 2020 or before received a message from President Sue Stone with notification that due to the fast-changing situation surrounding COVID19, FNU was suspending all clinical rotations until April 7, 2020.
- On March 27, 2020, President Sue Stone notified all FNU faculty, staff, and students that FNU is lifting the suspension on clinical rotations and students will be able to return to their credentialed sites starting Monday, April 6, as long as the site has not suspended clinical rotations.
- On March 28, 2020 all FNU students were notified via email by Dr. Joan Slager and the Department Chairs with guidance regarding enrolling in clinical courses and virtual Clinical Bound.
- On April 8, 2020 all FNU faculty, staff, and students were notified via email by the FNU Registrar about the creation of the 2020 FNU Catalog Addendum: Temporary Policies Related to COVID-19 and how to access it from the FNU portal.
- On April 29, 2020, all FNU faculty, staff, and students were notified via email by President Sue Stone that all Frontier Bounds, Clinical Bounds, and MH/NM/NP/WH712 will continue to be offered virtually through the summer 2020 term.

COVID-19 Registration for MSN and PGC Clinical Courses and Clinical Bound

Students Attending Clinical Bound Spring 2020 and Summer 2020
Students attending Clinical Bound (CB) in the spring 2020 and summer 2020 term, have the option to complete a virtual CB and enroll in a virtual MH/NM/NP/WH712 Clinical I course. Students must be able to participate in both the virtual CB and virtual 712 course.
Requirements For Enrolling in Virtual Clinical Bound MH/NM/NP/WH710 or MH/NM/NP/WH711

- Available for all required dates and times of the CB week - attendance at all events is mandatory.
- Have a quiet environment with a strong internet, a webcam, headset/microphone and flat working surface where you will not be interrupted and can wholly concentrate on the skills you are learning.
  - CNEP Students
    - Will be charged a CB fee of $500. This cost includes a pelvis/baby model and supplies needed for birth simulations. These supplies will be mailed to you.
    - It is suggested to have a partner for intrapartum skills during the CB week. This “helper” does not need to be a fellow student and could even be an older child.
    - MSN students will need to purchase supplies for physical assessment. The information for ordering these supplies, along with estimated costs, will be available in Canvas in the NM710 course.
    - It is suggested that MSN students have a partner (any adult-does not have to be a fellow student) for the physical assessment course skills.
  - WHNP Students
    - Will be charged a CB fee of $200.
    - MSN students will need to purchase supplies for physical assessment. The information for ordering these supplies, along with estimated costs, will be available in Canvas in the WH710 course.
    - It is suggested that MSN students have a partner (any adult-does not have to be a fellow student) for the physical assessment course skills.
  - FNP Students
    - Will be charged a CB fee of $200.
    - MSN students will need to purchase supplies for physical assessment. The information for ordering these supplies, along with estimated costs, will be available in Canvas in the NP710 course.
    - It is suggested that MSN students have a partner (any adult-does not have to be a fellow student) for the physical assessment course skills.
  - PMHNP Students
    - Will be charged a CB fee of $200.

Requirements For Enrolling in Virtual MH/NM/NP/WH712

- Available to commit 25-30 hours weekly in the weeks following your CB date to complete the 712 coursework.
- There will be face-to-face simulations and interactions with fellow students and faculty at specifically scheduled times (dates and times TBD).
- Have a quiet environment with a strong internet, a webcam, headset/microphone and flat working surface where you will not be interrupted and can wholly concentrate on the skills you are learning.

Requirements For Spring 2020 and Summer 2020 Clinical Bound Students to Enroll in In-Person MH/NM/NP/WH713

- Students attending virtual Clinical Bound in Spring 2020 and Summer 2020 who have a credentialed site that will allow them to attend in-person during the term may be allowed to register for MH/NM/NP/WH713. Approval to enroll in MH/NM/NP/WH713 is at the discretion of the Department Chair, in consultation with the Clinical Director and RCF.
● Spring 2020 CB students and Summer 2020 CB students approved to enroll in MH/NM/NP/WH713 may be given a prerequisite override to begin working at the in-person clinical site and accumulating MH/NP/NP/WH713 hours while simultaneously working in the virtual MH/NM/NP/WH712 course. Approval for the prerequisite override to work simultaneously in 712 and 713 is at the discretion of the Department Chair, in consultation with the Clinical Director and RCF.

● Spring 2020 CB students and Summer 2020 CB students may not begin working in-person at their clinical until all virtual Clinical Bound requirements have been successfully completed.

Continuing Clinical Students
Students who attended Clinical Bound in Winter 2020 or before and have a credentialed clinical site are able to return to their site provided the site has not suspended clinical rotations.

What steps should I take?
● Contact your RCF to arrange a meeting
  ○ Discuss the availability of your clinical site(s)
  ○ Discuss your readiness and ability to be back in clinical given current stressors
  ○ Discuss the credentialing status of your clinical site(s)
    ■ Students are not eligible to rotate at a site that isn’t fully credentialed
  ○ Discuss appropriate course registration for the Spring and Summer term
    ■ If you have a credentialed site ready for you now or within the next few weeks, you can add a new clinical course in order to comply with FNU continuous enrollment policies.
    ■ If there is a short interim time before you can enter the site, FNU faculty will be conducting simulated clinical activities to allow you to be academically engaged in your clinical courses until you are able to return to your in-person clinical site. In order to remain enrolled in a clinical course while unable to be in a clinical site, participation in the faculty directed simulated activities will be required.
    ■ Students who are unable to meet the minimum weekly clinical hour requirements should discuss their schedule with their RCF.

Option for Academic Hiatus
Students who do not have a clinical site that will allow them to be present, or students who feel they are unable to return to clinical for any reason at this time should consider taking an academic hiatus. Students may also register for PC 713: Principles of Independent Practice, if appropriate according to your POS or degree audit.

To request an Academic Hiatus for Spring term go to Self-Service->MyProfile->Status Change form. The status change form requesting an AH must be submitted no later than the end of add/drop period. Continue to monitor your FNU email and keep in touch with your RCF and academic advisor regarding your plans for the following term.

FNU has temporarily lifted the restriction on the maximum allowable AHs. Students who need to take a 3rd AH in Spring 2020 or Summer 2020 term due to COVID-19 will be reviewed by the Student Review Subcommittee of the Administrative Team. Students are to contact their Academic Advisor or Department Chair to petition for a third AH.
COVID-19 Guidance for Return to Clinical, Self-Monitoring, and Reporting for the MSN and PGC

On March 30, 2020, the Clinical Directors emailed all MSN and PGC students who had already been enrolled in clinical coursework as of the winter 2020 term with the following criteria for return to clinical and COVID-19 self-monitoring, risk assessment, exposure guidance during clinical rotations. Students are expected to work directly with their Regional Clinical Faculty (RCF) and consult the Clinical Director as necessary.

Criteria for All MSN and PGC Students to Return to Clinical for Spring and Summer Term 2020:

1. Current fully-credentialed sites and preceptors that are accepting students in the Spring term. Credentialing new sites to start in Spring 2020 is unlikely given the minimum time frame for credentialing is 6 weeks. If a student has identified a small, private practice willing to respond quickly to FNU Credentialing, they should discuss it with their RCF. Sites for the Summer term and later should be submitted so the credentialing process can begin.

2. Students participating in inpatient clinical rotations must ensure that there is appropriate PPE available.

3. Students may be prohibited from attending inpatient clinical sites in areas identified as high risk - the Clinical Director will evaluate in collaboration with RCF and student on a case by case basis as needed.

4. Students must complete required COVID-19 education as prescribed by your program prior to return to clinical.

All MSN and PGC students must review the following information:

a. What Healthcare Personnel Should Know About Caring for Patients with Confirmed or Possible COVID-19 Infection  

b. Healthcare Professionals: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers  

Additionally, CNEP students must review the following prior to returning to clinical:

c. Interim Considerations for Infection Prevention and Control of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Inpatient Obstetric Healthcare Settings  

COVID19 Self-monitoring, Risk Assessment and Exposure Guidance During Clinical Rotations:

1. Students may not care for known COVID-19 patients or a Person Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19.

2. Students may be prohibited from attending inpatient clinical sites in areas identified as high risk - the Clinical Director will evaluate in collaboration with RCF and student on a case by case basis as needed.

3. During a clinical rotation if a student is exposed to COVID-19 and/ or tests positive for COVID-19, please follow the host sites protocol and complete an FNU incident report. Please review the CDC guidelines: Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure in a Healthcare Setting to Patients with Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) prior to your return to clinical during Spring Term 2020.  
4. Students who are a Person Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19 or have known exposure to a person with a COVID-19 positive test must remove themselves from the clinical environment for at least 14 days from known exposure or positive COVID-19 test. Students will document exposure or testing to RCF and complete an incident report. Additionally, students will notify the host site.

5. Students with a known exposure, positive COVID-19 testing or a PUI, may return to the clinical setting in accordance with the host site’s protocol and policy. At a minimum, the student must self-isolate for 14 days and be free of the signs and symptoms listed below prior to returning to clinical.

6. Students must self-monitor daily prior to clinical rotation. Students are not permitted to attend clinical if they have any of the signs and symptoms outlined below:
   - Fever: either measured temperature ≥100.0°F or subjective fever.
   - Cough, shortness of breath, and sore throat.
   - Muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, headache, runny nose, and fatigue
   - Feeling unwell

COVID-19 MSN and PGC Temporary Telehealth Clinical Practicum Requirements

On April 1, 2020, the Clinical Directors emailed all MSN and PGC students who had already been enrolled in clinical coursework as of the winter 2020 term with the following criteria regarding approved temporary telehealth clinical practicum requirements.

On May 12, 2020, the Admin Team approved the ability for students to conduct telehealth visits in a location other than the credentialed clinical location. Students were informed of this policy change by their assigned RCF: Regional Clinical Faculty.

If a student elects to participate in telehealth visits, the following are required:
   - Students must complete telehealth visits at their credentialed clinical location under the supervision of a preceptor. [Removed May 12, 2020]
   - Students must complete telehealth visits under the supervision of a preceptor.
   - The preceptor and student are not required to be physically present in the same location.
   - Students cannot go to a preceptor’s home for telehealth visits.
   - All telehealth visits must be HIPAA compliant and adhere to the following:
     - Be conducted via secure online connection with the preceptor. FNU students cannot conduct telehealth visits via telephone.
     - Be conducted in a private, dedicated, quiet space without interruption. There can be no other individuals that can see or hear the interactions.
     - Be conducted in a professional setting. If students are conducting visits from home the background behind the student should present a professional image at all times, i.e. there should be no beds, no bathroom fixtures (toilet or showers), no offensive pictures or art, etc.
     - No written documentation of the visit can be stored on a personal computer. All documentation must be submitted in an EMR.
   - Students should present themselves in a professional manner during all telehealth visits, i.e. when conducting telehealth visits from home, personal dress and grooming should be the same as if the student were physically in the clinical setting.
Clinical documentation for telehealth visits is identical to in-person visits. Students will document visits in the FNU Clinical Log and annotate as a telehealth visit.

Students must notify their Clinical Credentialing Coordinator that they will be completed telehealth visits.

For Nurse-Midwifery Students:
- No more than 20% of program clinical hours may be telehealth visits
- Acceptable telehealth visit types include:
  - preconception care visits, up to 30% of visit type
  - return antepartum visits, up to 30% of visit type
  - breastfeeding support visits, up to 30% of visit type
  - family planning visits, up to 30% of visit type
  - common health problems, up to 30% of visit type
  - non-postpartum gynecologic visits, up to 30% of visit type
  - peri/postmenopausal visits, up to 30% of visit type

For Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner Students
- No more than 20% of program clinical hours may be telehealth visits
- Acceptable telehealth visit types include:
  - preconception care visits, up to 30% of visit type
  - return antepartum visits, up to 30% of visit type
  - breastfeeding support visits, up to 30% of visit type
  - family planning visits, up to 30% of visit type
  - common health problems, up to 30% of visit type
  - gynecologic visits, up to 30% of visit type
  - peri/postmenopausal visits, up to 30% of visit type

For Family Nurse Practitioner Students
- No more than 20% of program clinical hours may be telehealth visits
- FNP Students may participate in any telehealth visit performed by the preceptor.
- No more than 30% of each population-focused visit can be performed via telehealth

For Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Students
- Students may see children, adolescents, adults or older adults via telehealth. Examples of telehealth visits include initial evaluations, follow up visits and psychotherapy visits.
- Students may complete 135 hours, may seek clinical director approval for more than 135 hours, but not to exceed 270 hours.

COVID-19 Eligibility for Exception to Graduate Early from the MSN or PGC

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and clinical site closures, Frontier Nursing University will consider individual petitions for early degree conferral for students who meet all of the following criteria as of March 24, 2020. Petitions from students who do not meet all of the criteria will not be considered.

The Regional Clinical Faculty (RCF) will identify students who meet the following criteria and present them for endorsement to the Clinical Director. The Clinical Director will bring the student’s petition to the Student Review Subcommittee of the Administrative Team for final approval.
The following criteria must be met as of March 24, 2020 to qualify for this exception:

- No clinical site available to complete remaining regular established degree requirements
- Completed MH/NM/NP/WH717 Comps Review according to the Final Comprehensive Review Course Policy
- Minimum of 500 direct patient hours completed per certification requirements as of March 24, 2020.
- 80% of hours and all visit types completed (minimum 500 hours for PGC; 540 hours for MSN)
- MH/NM/NP/WH716 MDAT successfully completed
- Declaration of Safety (DOS) complete (preceptor validation of novice, safe advance practice nurse)
- Case presentation complete
- Preceptor summaries submitted
- End of Clinical form submitted
- Not on a performance plan
- Support of the RCF
- Approval from the Student Review Subcommittee of the Administrative Team

COVID-19 Early Grading for Spring 2020 Clinical Courses

According to federal financial aid guidelines, institutions cannot disburse funds to students who are not academically engaged in coursework in a given term. In light of the uncertainty of clinical rotation sites during the COVID-19 pandemic, and in an effort to confirm that students will only receive financial aid for courses in which they have been academically engaged, on April 2, 2020 the Registrar’s Office asked all Regional Clinical Faculty (RCF) to submit spring term grades immediately for any student who has worked ahead of their course registration and already completed clinical course hours and requirements for a spring term course.

COVID-19 Extension for Board Certification for DNP Direct Admission Students

Due to testing facilities around the US being closed for the COVID-19 pandemic, students who entered the DNP via Direct Admission in April 2020 (DNP Class 38) will be given until the start of their third term (October 5, 2020) to complete their board certification.

If testing facilities remain closed, this temporary policy will be revised. If testing facilities reopen and a student does not obtain certification by the extended deadline, the student will be unable to continue in the DNP coursework and must take an Academic Hiatus (AH), if eligible.