**Guide to the Required Summer Experience: N487 and N489**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

*What choices do I have to meet the requirement?*

Students must complete one of the following courses for graduation: N487, N488 or N489. N487 is offered in summer session and focuses on a work experience in a US health care setting. N488 is offered in the spring semester and focuses on practice improvement projects within cooperating local health care agencies. N489 focuses on being part of a health care delivery system in a country outside the US, and is offered in summer session. All three courses are primarily online, and have similar objectives and core content. The difference is the application of content in varied settings.

*What kind of placement should I get?*

You should seek a US or global health opportunity that will provide you with at least 84 hours in a health care delivery setting - this can include work in hospitals, home health agencies, private offices, some research projects, clinics, community health centers, etc. You should be enhancing nursing skills introduced at the junior level, or skills that will be forthcoming in the senior year (see summer experience description). Consider also your long-term career goals and possible connection to Honors work.

Some agencies may offer a formal “externship” program; others may only have NA positions available. Most students work at the NAI or NAIi level (see certification information below). The Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) has a list of student placements from previous summers that you can look at to get an idea of what students have done in the past. The experience is flexible so that you can fit your experience with your interests and future goals. If you have a question about whether a particular experience is appropriate, ask the Undergraduate Program Director or the N489 Course Coordinator, Chris Harlan.

*Am I automatically certified as an NAI and/or NAIi?*

No, after you have successfully completed all components of N364 at a C-level or above, you are eligible to become certified as an NAI and NAIi. You must complete a separate application for each and both are required for N487, and recommended for N488 and N489. You will receive an email near the end of the semester in which you take N364 with directions and deadlines for application.

*Do I have to find a paid position?*

No. Some students choose to work as a volunteer, or may participate in a study abroad program. This may result in additional costs for course tuition and/or expenses.

*How do I find placements to apply for?*

While you are responsible for finding an appropriate placement for the summer, the UG Program Director coordinates assistance and resources to help you in your search. For example, the Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) has **resource binders** available in room 1000 that include:

- letters from agencies that have summer placement opportunities (including research announcements)
- lists of student placements in previous years
- miscellaneous agency addresses and phone numbers (compiled from previous years)
- list of hospitals in NC with addresses and phone numbers
- list of NC licensed nursing homes with addresses and phone numbers
- any other information the UG Program Director receives related to the experience

**Help sessions** will be held during the fall and spring related to the experience: general info, special advice for those searching out of the state or country, etc. Watch your email and bulletin boards for announcements about these.
The health sciences library maintains a comprehensive website of national Health Externships and Service Opportunities at [http://guides.lib.unc.edu/nursingexternships/](http://guides.lib.unc.edu/nursingexternships/).

If you know of agencies that interest you, **call or write** the Nursing Director’s office at the agency and ask about opportunities available for the summer. Do not limit your inquiry to externship programs only, but rather seek information about NA positions. Be sure to tell them you will be a BSN student between junior and senior years of study.

An additional resource is **University Career Services**, 962-6507 or [http://careers.unc.edu/](http://careers.unc.edu/) As with any placement search, friends, advisors, and faculty can provide valuable tips and references.

**What if I want to apply out of the state or country?**

**Out of State:**
The health sciences library maintains a comprehensive website of national Health Externships and Service Opportunities at [http://guides.lib.unc.edu/nursingexternships/](http://guides.lib.unc.edu/nursingexternships/).

Be sure to check with the **Board of Nursing** in the state you are applying to see if there is anything special you must do to work in that state. A listing of state Boards of Nursing is available in the resource binders in Room 1000 and on the National Council website: [http://www.ncsbn.org](http://www.ncsbn.org).

The UG Program Director will hold help sessions for those interested in out of state placements - watch for announcements posted on the bulletin board and email. If you need further assistance with an out of state placement search, the Director can sometimes find UNC-CH alumni in your area that are willing to discuss searching strategies with you (note: this does not mean they will get you a placement, only that they will talk with you about what is possible). Ask Beverly Foster or Janet Hughes about this option.

**Out of the Country:**
The UNC-Chapel Hill Health Sciences Library has developed a website: **Global Health Internships and Service Opportunities** at [http://guides.lib.unc.edu/GlobalOpportunities](http://guides.lib.unc.edu/GlobalOpportunities) which gives information about study abroad programs.

The UNC-Chapel Hill Study Abroad Office, 962-7002 or [http://studyabroad.unc.edu/studyabroad.cfm](http://studyabroad.unc.edu/studyabroad.cfm) works with students to find individual placements. Other colleges/universities may also have study abroad programs that you can apply to for the summer, so you may try contacting their nursing schools to inquire about what is available.

The resource binder in the OAA includes some information about study abroad programs. See the list of miscellaneous agencies as well as the section on study abroad announcements. Chris Harlan, course coordinator for N489 will coordinate help sessions for those interested in international placements - watch for announcements on the bulletin board and on email. In addition, it is suggested that you talk with students who have gone abroad in the past (see list of previous placements).

**What questions should I ask the agency?**
Summer experiences can vary greatly, and students often comment in their final evaluations that they wish they had known certain things about their position before they took it. Student evaluation comments are posted on the undergraduate program website. These comments may give you some insight into what questions to ask, as well as what to look for in a job. Some common concerns students have when first contacting an agency are:

- Do you have a summer/student internship/externship program? If not, what opportunities during the summer do you have for a student?
- Will I have an RN supervisor while I am working?
• What is the deadline for application?
• When will the hiring decisions be made?

Which nursing skills will I be able to perform and how do I let my supervisor/preceptor know what they are?
Assuming you are certified and working at the NAI or NAII level in North Carolina, you can perform any of the accepted skills for those levels with appropriate nursing supervision. They are available on the North Carolina Board of Nursing website: [http://www.ncbon.com](http://www.ncbon.com) It is a good idea to take copies of the lists with you to your work site as a way of letting the staff know what you can/cannot do. Other situations or questions that arise should be addressed to Beverly Foster. Requirements out of state/country can vary and should be investigated through the state regulatory agency or sponsoring country/agency.

Can I work at more than one agency during the summer?
Yes, just be sure that you have at least 84 hours total. You will need to provide verification of your summer experience from each agency.

How and when do I apply for placements?
Treat this just as you would an application for any other position. Some agencies ask for a letter of reference from a faculty member, so be prepared to ask someone who knows your work and abilities. Many agencies have deadlines as early as January (for placement in the summer), while some are later. International and competitive national programs may require a fall application. Start making calls in the fall, be sure to ask about the deadlines when you call, and send out your applications as soon as possible.

Who can I talk to about the required experience?
The members of the OAA, Beverly Foster and Janet Hughes, will be able to answer your questions about searching for placements. Bev’s office is located in room 1008 Carrington Hall, the phone number is (919) 966-4995. A convenient way to get a quick response is by email to Beverly Foster at Bev_Foster@unc.edu or Janet Hughes, UG Program Assistant, Room 1000 at jmhughes@email.unc.edu. Chris Harlan will be a valuable resource for global health experiences and can be reached at harlan@email.unc.edu. In addition, faculty members that you know may also be able to help you with general suggestions and advice.

When will I be available for placement?
In general, you will be available for placement after spring commencement in May. Do not plan to begin work prior to that date.