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What are Preceptors looking for in a Student?

July 7, 2021

- Communicating effectively is at the top of the list. You are a graduate student, and a certain level of professionalism is expected. Preceptors want a good fit when thinking about precepting students. They are interviewing you and your respect for their preferences for communication (email, text, or phone calls) along with your respect for their time goes a long way to making them feel comfortable with you.

- Be prepared for your first clinical day. Be committed to the preceptor and the time that you will have with them. Communicate what your school requirements are. Get the schedule from the preceptor and make sure you are informed about the attire. Willingness to go over the expectations of the preceptor, ASK what are your expectations of me during this rotation? How will I show you that I have accomplished these goals?

- Be open to constructive criticism from your preceptor. There is no need to pretend you know everything about the specialty. This sets you up for failure and will only disappoint and create tension between you and the preceptor. Always be willing to listen, you never know what else you will learn about something that you think you already knew.

frustrated, not always nice, depressed and they will not always be patient or appreciative for several reasons. Take care of yourself so that you can give your best to your patients.

- Be comfortable learning on your own. Research things on your own, write questions down for later and realize that sometimes things will be too busy to have a structured day. You are always able to set up time later to go over your notes/questions.

- Preceptors are invested in their office, clinic, or hospital. They spend enormous amounts of time in the clinic and their colleagues are their family. Be respectful of their time, confidential personal information, and let them help you reach your educational goals. Having a great experience with a student allows a nurse practitioner preceptor to want to continue giving back to the NP community.

- Passion, attentiveness, and optimism are key to giving the same level of care to the first patients you see in the morning to the last patient of the day. Be an advocate for your patients' best interests.

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