Tips for the Advanced Practice Clinical Job Search  
(Nurse Practitioner, Nurse-Midwife, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Nurse Anesthetist)

Please be reminded of the following steps and resources for moving along in your search for a position in advanced practice nursing.

1) Reflect on and document your experience at clinical rotations.  
2) Explore and prioritize opportunities.  
3) Build your network.  
4) Tweak your resume and cover letter.  
5) Attend career fairs.  
6) Prepare for Interviews

1) Reflect on and document your experience at clinical rotations. During your clinical rotations, it is vital that you take time to think about what you have learned and how it impacts your goals for developing as an advanced practice nursing professional. Make sure you do this on a regular basis as this will help you to:  
   - Elicit helpful feedback from your clinical supervisors and preceptors.  
   - Foster self-awareness that will help you to develop and prepare more thoroughly for the job search process, especially cover letter writing and interviewing.

2) Explore and prioritize opportunities. Once you identify hospitals and facilities of interest, be sure to check websites and/or contact recruiters to clarify hiring timetables. Take the time to consider what appeals to you about a particular hospital, healthcare facility or organization. Clues may be found by searching the website for the mission statement, core values, research priorities, current/upcoming projects and initiatives. You can also search for news items regarding the hospital/facility/organization.
   - Consider the many possible contexts in which you could work, including:
     - Hospital  
     - Community Health Clinic (Non-profit or for-profit)  
     - Private Practice  
     - Long-Term Care Facility  
     - Government (Federal, State or City)  
     - Higher Education  
     - Insurance Company  
     - Corporation

3) Build your network. Connecting with others in your profession can provide insight into what it's like to work at a particular hospital/facility as well as how to market yourself effectively in the job search. Informational interviewing is a great way to gather advice and build your network, though it's important to remember that the purpose of this type of meeting is to gather information and advice, not ask for a job or job interview. Here are some resources to get started:
   - QuakerNet (Penn’s Alumni Online Community): http://www.myquakernet.com
   - Penn Alumni LinkedIn Groups: http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/careerservices/networking/linkedin.php
   - Professional Associations are also a good resource for networking: http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/careerservices/careerfields/nursing.php#associations
4) **Tweak your resume and cover letter.** Career Services can provide critiques during appointments (call 215-898-4381 on weekdays between 9am-5pm to schedule), walk-in hours (Mondays, 12:00-1:00pm) or via e-mail. Keep in mind that the turnaround for e-mail critiques during this busy season is 2-3 business days on average. Therefore, it is best to use the following online resources to tweak your resume format as much as possible before a critique with a counselor.


5) **Attend career fairs and open houses.** Career fairs allow you to meet a number of recruiters in one place so that you are able to offer resumes to and obtain contact information from employers of interest. Every year, Career Services hosts **Nursing Career Day** in late November and early December for Penn Nursing students and alumni. Other relevant career fairs are offered via [http://events.advanceweb.com/](http://events.advanceweb.com/). Be on the lookout for open houses that hospitals or other health care facilities may host. For more details on career fairs hosted by Career Services (including Nursing Career Day), go to: [http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/careerservices/careerfairs/](http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/careerservices/careerfairs/)

6) **Prepare for Interviews.** The key to successful interviewing is thorough and thoughtful presentation. It is crucial that you reflect on your advanced practice clinical rotations and your previous nursing experience as you prepare answers that reflect concrete examples of your experience and your readiness to transition to advanced practice nursing.

- desire to work at a particular hospital/facility
- desire and qualifications for a particular area/specialty
- approach to working with patients and families under challenging circumstances
- ability to handle increased autonomy and authority
- ability to collaborate with staff (nurses, physicians, social workers, administrators, etc…)
- demonstrated leadership ability (e.g., supervision, committee involvement, mentoring/teaching)
- interest and involvement in advancing your field by way of research, publications, presentations
- strengths/weaknesses
- highlights and best practices

It is also extremely useful to practice interviewing. Career Services offers mock interviews as well as other tips and resources that can be found at: [http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/careerservices/interviewingadvice/](http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/careerservices/interviewingadvice/)