

ACUTE AND CONTINUING CARE NEONATAL NURSE PRACTITIONER *Distance Accessible*

What is a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner?

The Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP) is a nurse prepared at the graduate level in the advanced study of neonatal nursing. The NNP is a clinical expert who is prepared to diagnose and managing health problems of neonates.

The NNP assumes a leadership role in providing care to neonates and their families through the first two years of life. NNPs are prepared to obtain and assess health history and physical examination data, order/interpret appropriate diagnostic tests, identify actual and potential health problems. NNPs formulate comprehensive plans and therapeutic measures that promote, maintain and restore health. This plan may include consultation with other health professionals or referral to specialists for complicated medical management.

Who employs Neonatal Nurse Practitioners?

NNPs are employed in sites that provide care to neonates. These practitioners form collaborative relationships with representatives of all disciplines concerned with the health of neonates. Examples of practice sites are neonatal intensive care units (NICUs), physicians' offices, public health departments, pediatric specialty practices and clinics. Many of our students have been offered positions by their preceptors after they graduate.

What are the classroom content and clinical requirements for the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner student?

Content is distance accessible in all courses and provides the student with a strong advanced acute care knowledge base for caring for neonates. Clinical experiences are arranged through practicum courses and residency courses and may be done with an approved nurse practitioner or physician in your surrounding area. Practice sites may vary but are largely based in Level III NICU settings. Students complete a minimum of 675 preceptor hours of clinical practice and may do the clinical with an approved preceptor in your surrounding area. Students come to Birmingham, AL two times for intensive three or four day experiences.

Who will serve as my preceptor in the clinical courses?

Either a neonatal nurse practitioner or physician with appropriate credentials and approved by faculty may serve as your preceptor. The preceptor may be someone identified by you, the UAB faculty or an agency. A preceptorship orientation will be held before you begin the clinical courses that will help you in the process of selecting a preceptor.

How long is the program of study?

The NNP program of study requires a minimum of 20 months (5 semesters) of full-time study beginning in the fall semester. However, many students choose to complete the program in 24 to 30 months (6-7 semesters).

Will I be able to take a nurse practitioner certification examination when I complete the program?

Once you complete the program you will be eligible to sit for certification through the National Certification Corporation. Maintenance of national certification is the professional responsibility of the NNP and is a requirement for practice in most states.

How do I become eligible to practice as a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner in my state of residence?

The NNP is licensed by the states in which they practice and are subject to the rules and regulations of that state's practice act. You will need to contact your state's board of nursing to learn their particular requirements.

What kind of nursing experience do I need prior to entering the program?

Prior to beginning the first Advanced neonatal clinical course (NNE 614), you must have at least two years of experience as a registered nurse in a Level III (or equivalent) NICU within the last five years. Before beginning clinical courses, students must verify professional nurse licensure by the board(s) of nursing in the state(s) in which they will contract for clinical preceptorships.

What are the admission criteria?

- BSN degree from a regionally accredited institution, equivalent to the one offered by the School of Nursing at UAB
- A grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale either cumulatively or on the last 60 semester credit hours
- Letters of professional reference attesting to the applicant's potential for graduate study
- Standardized test score (MAT, GRE, GMAT)* A minimum score of 410 on the MAT; or a minimum score of 480 on the GMAT; or a combined score of 1000 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

Note: An interview may be required based on the student's means of entry into the program. All students need to be prepared to schedule an interview.

Note: Prior to submitting your application, please contact the NNP Program Director listed below for information regarding preceptorship availability in your regional area.

***GRE, MAT, GMAT are waived for students with a 3.2 or better GPA.** For complete details, please visit http://www.uab.edu/images/sonimg/PDF/GREMAT_waiver.pdf

If I do not meet the requirements, can I be admitted on probation?

No, probationary admission is not available to students who do not meet these requirements.

When will I receive confirmation that I have been accepted into the program?

You will be notified by Email of your acceptance or denial within 30 days after the application submission deadline.

For International Students: If your Visa status is F1 or J1, make an appointment with your course faculty by week 2 of each semester to plan how you will meet Federal Regulations.

What is a typical program of study like?

Fall – Year I

NUR 600	Research & Statistics for Advanced Practice	4
NUR 612	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NNE 614	Assessment & Diagnostic Reasoning for Advanced Practice	4

Spring – Year I

NUR 602	Issues Affecting Advanced Nursing Practice	3
NNE 613	Neonatal Pharmacology and Therapeutics.....	3
NNE 621	Advanced Neonatal Nursing I	4
NUR 637	Genetics elective (optional).....	3
NNE 684	Practicum I: Neonatal Nurse Practitioner	1

Summer – Year I

NUR 601	Role Development for Advanced Nursing Practice.....	3
NNE 622	Advanced Neonatal Nursing II	4
NNE 685	Practicum: Neonatal Nurse Practitioner..	3
NUR 644	Developmental Care elective (optional)	3
NUR 619	Health Issues of African Americans and Latinos (optional).....	3

Fall – Year II

NNE 623	Advanced Neonatal Nursing III	3
NNE 686	Practicum: Neonatal Nurse Practitioner..	3

Spring – Year II

NNE 692	Residency: Neonatal Nurse Practitioner	6
	Thesis (optional)	6

Total Required Credits:.....44

Where can I get more information?

Internet website: <http://www.uab.edu/son>

Information about Acute and Continuing Care Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Distance Accessible Program

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