

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER

Distance Accessible

What is a Family Nurse Practitioner?

The Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) is a nurse who is prepared at the master's level as an advanced practice nurse to practice in a variety of primary care settings. The FNP is a clinical expert who is prepared to diagnose and manage commonly occurring episodic and chronic health problems of clients. The FNP promotes the health and education of clients who may be encountered as individuals, groups and/or families.

The FNP is prepared to obtain and assess health histories and physical examination data, order and interpret common diagnostic tests, identify actual and potential health problems, and formulate with the client/family a comprehensive plan of therapeutic measures that promote, maintain, or restore health. This plan may include consultation with other health professionals or referral for complicated medical management. Emphasis is placed on putting prevention into practice for adults and children; health education, and client follow-up to decrease health complications.

Who employs Family Nurse Practitioners?

FNPs are employed in a wide variety of health care agencies where primary health care is offered to clients of all ages.

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

Content is distance accessible in all courses and provides the student with a knowledge base for caring for patients with common health problems. A focus on the promotion of health through the management of episodic and commonly recurring health problems of individuals and families of all ages is a strong component of the program.

Clinical experiences provide the student with a variety of experiences in diverse settings such as clinics, public health departments, and private offices. . Practice settings are primary care based. Students complete a minimum of 630 preceptor hours of clinical practice and may do the clinical with an approved preceptor close to home. Students come to campus in Birmingham, Alabama for two intensive multi-day experiences during the entire program.

Who will serve as my preceptor in the clinical courses?

Either a nurse practitioner or physician with appropriate credentials and approved by faculty may serve as a preceptor. The preceptor may be someone identified by the student, the UAB faculty or an agency.

How long is the program of study?

The FNP program of study may be completed in a minimum of 17 months (4) semesters of full-time study or 6-8 semesters of part-time study.

Will I be eligible to take a nurse practitioner certification examination if I complete this program?

Once you complete the program, you will be eligible to sit for the national certification examinations for Family Nurse Practitioner offered by either the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners or the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

How do I become eligible to practice as an FNP in my state of residence?

FNPs are licensed by the state(s) 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?

Currently, there are no requirements for clinical experience prior to admission to the program. However, the faculty believes students admitted to the family nurse practitioner option must have at least one year of professional nursing experience in an area of primary care, or medical or surgical nursing prior to enrolling in the clinical courses. Your program of study can be planned so that you gain the required experience while taking prerequisite courses. Additionally, 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 cumulative or on the last 60 semester credit hours
- Letters of professional reference attesting to the applicant's potential for graduate study
- A minimum of 410 on the MAT, or a minimum of 480 on the GMAT or a combined score of 1000 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)*

*An interview may be required. All students need to be prepared to schedule an interview.

***GRE, MAT, or GMAT is 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 and Statistics for Advanced Practice	4
NUR 612	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NFH 614	Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning for Advanced Practice	4

Spring – Year I

NFH 621	Advanced Family Nursing I.....	5
NUR 613	Pharmacology and Therapeutics	3
NFH 685	Practicum I: Family Nurse Practitioner.....	3

Summer – Year I

NFH 622	Advanced Family Nursing II.....	4
NFH 686	Practicum II: Family Nurse Practitioner.....	3
NUR 601	Role Development for Advanced Nursing Practice.....	3

Fall – Year II

NUR 602	Issues Affecting Advanced Nursing Practice	3
NFH 692	Residency: Family Nurse Practitioner.....	6

Total41 credits

Where can I get more information?

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

General Information Regarding MSN Study

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Information about the Family Nurse Practitioner Distance Accessible Program

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