

WOMEN'S HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER

What is a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner and what is their role in health care?

The women's health nurse practitioner (WHNP) is a specialist in the field of women's health. Master's prepared through a formal course of academic and clinical study, the WHNP delivers health care to women throughout their life span, and men with selected condition and needs in infertility contraception and sexually transmitted infections. The WHNP provides comprehensive care including wellness promotion and routine care for non-reproductive health problems. This is accomplished in a variety of settings. The WHNP is prepared to assume a role in any area of women's health and practices independently and in collaboration with the patient, family, physician, and other members of the health care team. In the direct delivery of primary patient care, the WHNP uses assessment, diagnostic measures, and management skills to incorporate the physical needs with the psychosocial needs of women. The practitioner plans and provides health education and counseling appropriate for the patient's needs. The WHNP demonstrates management skills in the delivery of health care within the system and seeks to maintain high quality care while improving outcomes.

Who employs Women's Health Nurse Practitioners?

Examples of practice sites are public health departments and other out-patient clinics, student health clinics, offices associated with hospitals, and private obstetrical or gynecologic practices.

What are the classroom content and clinical requirements for the WHNP student?

The didactic content is distance accessible and covers normal and abnormal obstetrics and gynecology as well as common non-reproductive health problems, and selected conditions in men. The clinical experiences are varied to allow for time in many clinical areas. The student will be supervised in the clinical area by faculty as well as other certified health care providers.

Who will serve as my preceptor in the clinical courses?

A preceptor may be either a nurse practitioner, certified nurse midwife or a physician. It should be someone who has an active clinical practice and is willing to let you participate in the management of patients in their practice setting. This may be someone you know or with whom you have worked in the past, and it can be someone from your local area if you live outside of Birmingham. If you do not know anyone who could serve as your preceptor, your advisor can help you identify an appropriate preceptor. A preceptorship orientation will be held before you begin the clinical courses to help you with the process of securing a preceptor.

How long is the program of study?

The WHNP program of study requires a minimum of 17 months (4 semesters) of full-time study. However, many students choose to complete the program in 24 to 36 months (6-9 semesters).

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

Once you complete the program, you will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for women's health nurse practitioners offered by the National Certification Corporation. Attainment and maintenance of national certification is a professional responsibility of the practitioner and a requirement to practice in most states.

How do I become eligible to practice as a WHNP in my state of residence?

Women's health nurse practitioners are licensed by the states in which they practice and are subject to the rules and regulations of that state's nurse practice act. You will need to contact your state's board of nursing to determine their requirements.

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

The faculty believes that students in the nurse practitioner study options must have at least one year of professional nursing experience prior to enrolling in the advanced nursing clinical courses. Experience in women's health is preferred. Your program of study can be arranged so that you can gain the required experience while you are taking prerequisite courses.

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

***GRE, MAT, 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		Nursing Practice.....3
NUR 600*	Research and Statistics for Advanced Practice 4	NWH 622 Advanced Women's Health Care II.....4
NUR 612*	Advanced Pathophysiology..... 3	NWH 686 Practicum II Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner3
NWH 614*	Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning for Advanced Practice 4	
Spring – Year I		Fall – Year II
NUR 613*	Pharmacology and Therapeutics 3	NUR 602* Issues Affecting Advanced Nursing Practice3
NWH 621	Advanced Women's Health Nursing I 4	NWH 692 Residency: Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner6
NWH 685	Practicum I: Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner..... 3	
Summer – Year I		
NUR 601*	Role Development for Advanced	
		Total 40 credits

* Indicates course offered in an online format

Where can I get more information?

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

General Information Regarding MSN Study

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