MASTER’S EDUCATION

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) curriculum is designed to prepare nurses for advanced nursing practice. MSN graduates are prepared to practice in a variety of roles in the health care system, requiring advanced knowledge of patient/client care delivery and a high level of critical thinking. In addition, MSN graduates have a foundation for future doctoral study in nursing. The University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing offers four focal areas for master’s study in nursing: preparation as a nurse practitioner in either acute and continuing care or primary care; preparation in the rapidly evolving area of nursing and health systems management; preparation as an adult or pediatric clinical nurse specialist; and preparation as a beginning nurse educator. In addition, students can work with faculty to design an individualized MSN program of study to meet unique career goals that are not addressed by the other focal areas.

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING

Students are admitted to master’s study in the fall, spring, and summer terms. Students may elect a five-term or longer program of study depending on their individual needs. The program of study is designed to meet the needs of the student with regard to full- or part-time study. All core courses and selected specialty courses are available online.

CLINICAL SCHEDULE: Clinical experiences for the MSN student are designed on an individual basis. The student contracts to work with a clinical preceptor who is either a certified registered nurse practitioner, a registered nurse, or a physician. The total number of clinical hours required varies depending on the option that is selected. Students must have the equivalent of one year of full-time relevant clinical practice experience and a current RN license in the state where they do their clinical practice prior to enrolling in the advanced practice courses.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for admission in good standing to study leading to the MSN degree include the following:

• BSN degree from a regionally accredited institution, equivalent to the one offered by the UAB School of Nursing

• Cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or over the last 60 semester hours;

• A combined score of 1000 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) or a combined score of 1500 on the verbal, quantitative, and analytical sections of the GRE; or a score of 480 on the GMAT or a score of 410 on the MAT;

• Letters of professional reference attesting to the applicant’s potential for graduate study; and

• Pre-admission interview with graduate faculty.

Probational admission may be available to students who do not meet these requirements. There is no minimal GRE, GMAT or MAT score requirement for probational admission, although the GRE, GMAT, or MAT is required.

ACUTE AND CONTINUING CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER

Acute and continuing care nursing at the School of Nursing is a holistic approach to health care that focuses on the needs and strengths of the acutely or critically ill adult, neonate, or pediatric client. Further concentration in cardiovascular, neuroscience, or trauma nursing may be available to those who select the adult acute-care nurse practitioner option.

PRIMARY-CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER

Primary-care nursing is a holistic approach to health care that focuses on the needs and strengths of the whole person within families and
communities; health promotion; disease prevention; and the identification, management, and/or referral of health problems. Students with an interest in primary care may select advanced study in adult, family, palliative care, pediatric, or women’s health nursing. Further concentration in occupational health and oncology nursing is available to those selecting the adult primary care practitioner option.

A coordinated degree offering between the School of Nursing and the School of Public Health is available to nurses with an interest in maternal-child health, international health, or health behavior. This educational offering allows students to complete the requirements for a master of science in nursing degree in combination with the requirements for a master of public health degree.

Advanced study for MSN graduates seeking preparation for becoming nurse practitioners in primary care, adult, or neonatal acute care is also available. Master’s graduates who have clinical specialization preparation may focus on adult, family, palliative care, or pediatric nursing. This program of study is designed to be completed in three consecutive terms of study beginning in the fall term.

**ADULT OR PEDIATRIC CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST**

The Clinical Nurse Specialist option prepares graduates to assume roles as advanced practice nurses in a variety of health care settings. Clinical nurse specialists provide expert nursing care as clinicians, consultants, educators, coordinators/managers, and researchers.

**NURSING AND HEALTH SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT**

Nurses enrolled in this option may elect either quality and health-systems management or nursing and health-systems administration.

**QUALITY AND OUTCOMES MANAGEMENT**

Health care delivery systems and institutions, managed-care organizations, community agencies, and consulting firms are employing a growing number of advanced practice nurses in roles designed to increase value to consumers and the health care community by continually assessing the outcomes of health care delivery and collaborating with other disciplines to improve the effectiveness of service delivery. Upon completion, graduates may choose to apply their expertise in the following roles: outcomes management leader, case/care coordinators and manager, quality/utilization review manager, research/grant/project manager, clinical-information coordinator, health care consultant, quality improvement facilitator, and nurse entrepreneur.

**NURSING AND HEALTH SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATION**

Nurses enrolled in this option are prepared for administrative positions in the rapidly changing health care environment. Nursing administrators assume leadership roles in planning, implementing and evaluating quality programs in a variety of health care settings. They collaborate with other health care executives in making decisions about health services, priorities and resource allocation.

**OTHER OPTIONS**

Other options in the graduate program include a post-baccalaureate certificate in teaching in nursing; a post-masters program of study to prepare nurse practitioners; and RN-BSN-MSN and BSN-PhD options.
General Information Regarding Graduate Studies:
Elizabeth Stullenbarger, RN, DSN
Associate Dean, Graduate Studies
(205) 934-3485
E-mail: bstullen@uab.edu

Application Materials:
Office of Student Affairs
(205) 975-7529
E-mail: sonstudaffrs@uab.edu
Web site:
www.uab.edu/son/grad_msn_forms.htm

Acute Adult Nurse Practitioner:
Linda Miers, RN, DSN
(205) 934-6849
E-mail: miersl@uab.edu

Adult Clinical Nurse Specialist:
Anne Williams, RN, PhD
(205) 934-6583
E-mail: williama@uab.edu

Adult and Occupational Health Nurse Practitioner:
Anne Foote, RN, DSN, CRNP
(205) 934-6569
E-mail: footea@uab.edu

Family Nurse Practitioner:
Shelley Huffstutler, RN, DSN, CFNP
(205) 934-6654
E-mail: huffstut@uab.edu

Neonatal Nurse Practitioner:
Lynda Harrison, RN, PhD
(205) 934-6787
E-mail: LyndaHarrison@uab.edu

Nursing and Health System Management:
Pamela Autrey, RN, PhD
(205) 975-1964
E-mail: pautrey@uab.edu

Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner:
Pam Fordham, RN, DSN, CRNP
(205) 934-6489
E-mail: fordhamp@uab.edu

Pediatrics Nurse Practitioner, Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist, Acute Care Pediatrics:
Jean Ivey, BSN, MSN, DSN, CRNP
(205) 934-0448
E-mail: pnp1@uab.edu

Women’s Health Care Nurse Practitioner:
Ann Clark, RN, PhD
(205) 934-6639
E-mail: clarkaj@uab.edu
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 focus of the class content is to provide a theoretical and practical base for students in diagnosing and managing health problems of neonates. Following graduate study, the NNP is eligible for certification through a national certifying agency.

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, and formulate a comprehensive plan of 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?

Didactic content is provided predominantly online in three core courses, three support courses, and three advanced nursing practice courses and provides the student with a strong, advanced acute-care base for caring for neonates. Students come to campus for one intensive on-site experience at the beginning of the program. Clinical experiences are arranged through practicum courses and residency courses. Practice sites may vary but are largely based in Level III NICU settings. Students complete a minimum of 660 hours of clinical practicum experience.

Who will serve as my preceptor in the clinical courses?

A preceptor may be either a neonatal nurse practitioner or a physician. Students may select a preceptor who must then be approved by the faculty. Faculty will provide students with an orientation to help with the process of securing 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?

Graduates of the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Program are 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. Your advisor in the
School of Nursing will assist you with that process when you are close to completing your program of study.

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

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. Students in the NNP option must have the equivalent of two years of experience as a registered nurse in a Level III (or equivalent) NICU prior to beginning the first advanced neonatal clinical course (NNE 614).

What is a typical program of study like?

Following is a sample plan for a student entering in fall semester. Other plans are available depending on individual needs.

**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
- NUR 613 Pharmacology & Therapeutics 3
- NNE 621 Advanced Neonatal Nursing I 4
  Genetics elective (optional) 3

**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
  Developmental Care elective (optional) 3

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**Fall – Year II**

- NNE 623 Advanced Neonatal Nursing III 4
- NNE 686 Practicum: Neonatal Nurse Practitioner 3

**Spring – Year II**

- NNE 692 Residency: Neonatal Nurse Practitioner 6

**Total 44 - 50 credits**

Information about Acute and Continuing Care Neonatal Nurse Practitioner – Online Program
Lynda Harrison, RN, PhD
(205) 934-6787
E-mail: LyndaHarrison@uab.edu
What is a Child/Adolescent Acute and Continuing Care Clinical Nurse Specialist?

This Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) is prepared at the masters level and is qualified to coordinate the care of complex cases in a specialty area, collaborate with staff in that area, or provide consultation and develop new research initiatives. The Clinical Nurse Specialist can take responsibility in developing the procedures and policies for a specialty unit, conducting a research project, helping staff solve problems related to particularly complex clients, and consulting with care providers in other states about various clinical issues.

Who employs Child/Adolescent Acute and Continuing Care Clinical Nurse Specialists?

Clinical Nurse Specialists are employed by hospitals or nursing services to leadership positions on a given unit, as members of an interdisciplinary team, and by physicians with specialty practices. They may serve as educators, consultants, or managers for agencies, corporations, or individuals.

What are the classroom content and clinical requirements for Child/Adolescent Acute and Continuing Care Clinical Nurse Specialists?

In addition to the core courses required for all masters students these CNSs will complete support courses, such as advanced Growth and Development and Pharmacology and Therapeutics. The CNS students will complete 8 credits of clinical didactic courses on acute and chronic health problems in children and adolescents. They also complete two CNS role courses. The clinical practica provide a minimum of 630 hours of clinical experience.

Who will serve as my preceptor in the clinical courses?

A preceptor may be a clinical nurse specialist or other advanced practice nurse or physician approved by the School of Nursing faculty. Students may select a preceptor in the specialty area they are interested in or their clinical advisor may suggest one. Approved preceptors and information about selecting preceptors and completing preceptor agreements is provided to students. Faculty are always available to students during their clinical preceptorships.

How long is the program of study?

The Child/Adolescent Acute and Continuing Care Clinical Nurse Specialist option can be completed in a minimum of 16 months (4 semesters) of full-time study beginning in the fall semester. However, many students choose to attend part-time and complete the program in 20-32 months (5-7 semesters).

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

Graduates of the program are eligible to sit for the certification by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). Maintenance of national certification is the professional responsibility of the CNS and is a requirement for practice in most states.

How do I become eligible to practice as a Child/Adolescent Acute and Continuing Care Clinical Nurse Specialist?

CNSs are licensed by the states in which they practice and are subject to the rules and regulations of the state’s practice act. You will need to contact your state’s board of nursing to learn their particular requirements. Your advisor in the School of Nursing will assist you with that process when you are close to graduation.
What kind of nursing experience do I need prior to entering the program?

There is no requirement for clinical experience prior to admission to the master’s program. However, CNS students are required to have at least 1 year of pediatric clinical experience prior to the enrolling in the advanced nursing courses. Your program can be arranged so that you can gain the required experience while you are taking prerequisite courses.

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
- NPE 614 Advanced Health Assessment Diagnostic Reasoning 4

**Spring – Year I**
- NUR 613 Pharmacology and Therapeutics 3
- NPS 621 Child/Adolescent Advanced Nursing I: Acute and Continuing Care 4
- NPS 685 Child/Adolescent Acute and Continuing Care CNS Practicum I 3
- NPS 616 Foundations of Clinical Nurse Specialist Practice 1

**Summer – Year I**
- NPS 622 Child/Adolescent Advanced Nursing II: Acute and Continuing Care 4
- NCC 686 Child/Adolescent Acute and Continuing Care CNS Practicum II 3
- NUR 601 Role Development for Advanced Nursing Practice 3
- NUR 633 Advanced Growth and Development 2
- NPS 617 Phenomena of Concern to Advance Practice Nurses 1

**Fall – Year II**
- NUR 602 Issues Affecting Advanced Practice Nursing 3
- NCC 692 Residency: Child/Adolescent Acute and Continuing Care PNP 3-6

For information about Child/Adolescent Acute and Continuing Care Clinical Nurse Specialist, contact:
Jean Ivey, BSN, MSN, DSN
(205) 934-0448
E-mail: pnp1@uab.edu
CHILD/ADOLESCENT ACUTE AND CONTINUING CARE PEDIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER

What is a Child/Adolescent Acute and Continuing Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner?

This Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) is prepared at the graduate level and is qualified to diagnose and manage the care of children and adolescents who are acutely ill or have serious long-term health problems that require more intense monitoring or hospitalization. Core and support courses prepare the student for specific content about health problems common to this population, and clinical practica provide specific management strategies and allow the student to sit for the national certification examination.

The Child/Adolescent Acute and Continuing Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner takes responsibility for admission of clients to acute-care facilities, including history taking, physical examination, and ordering appropriate diagnostic tests and functions as a member of an interdisciplinary health care team. In addition this PNP works with children, adolescents, and their families to develop a plan of care that addresses both short- and long-term health care needs and goals for health maintenance.

Who employs Child/Adolescent Acute and Continuing Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioners?

Child/Adolescent Acute and Continuing Care PNPs can be employed by those individuals and groups that serve children and adolescents who have serious and ongoing health problems. Examples of practice sites are emergency rooms and urgent-care centers, intensive care, special-care or step-down units, medical and surgical units, and specialty interdisciplinary teams or practices.

What are the classroom content and clinical requirements for Child/Adolescent

Acute and Continuing Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioners?

In addition to the core courses required of all masters’ students, these PNPs will complete support courses, such as advanced Growth and Development and Pharmacology and Therapeutics. Clinical didactic courses and associated clinical practicum experiences complete the preparation. The clinical practica total a minimum of 650 hours of clinical experience.

Who will serve as my preceptor in the clinical courses?

A preceptor may be a nurse practitioner, physician, or physician’s assistant approved by the School of Nursing faculty. Students may select a preceptor in the specialty area they are interested in or their clinical advisor may suggest one. Approved preceptors and information about selecting preceptors and completing preceptor agreements is provided to students. Faculty are always available to students during their clinical preceptorships.

How long is the program of study?

The Child/Adolescent Acute and Continuing Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner option can be completed in a minimum of 16 months (4 semesters) of full time study beginning in the fall semester. However, many students choose to attend part-time and complete the program in 20-32 months (5-7 semesters).

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

Graduates of the program are eligible to sit for certification by the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB). Maintenance of national certification is the professional responsibility of the PNP and is a requirement for practice in most states.

How do I become eligible to practice as a Child/Adolescent Acute and Continuing Care PNP?
The PNP 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. Your advisor in the School of Nursing will assist you with that process when you are close to graduation.

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

There is no requirement for clinical experience prior to admission to the master's program. However, PNP students are required to have at least one year of pediatric clinical experience prior to enrolling in the advanced nursing courses. The program of studies can be arranged so that students can gain the required experience while taking prerequisite courses.

**What is a typical program of study like?**

### Fall - Year I

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<td>NPE 614</td>
<td>Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning for Advanced Practice Nursing</td>
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### Spring - Year I

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<td>NCC 621</td>
<td>Child/Adolescent Advanced Nursing I: Acute and Continuing Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCC 685</td>
<td>Child/Adolescent Acute and Continuing Care PNP Practicum I</td>
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### Summer - Year I

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<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>NCC 622</td>
<td>Child/Adolescent Advanced Nursing II: Acute and Continuing Care</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCC 686</td>
<td>Child/Adolescent Acute and Continuing Care PNP Practicum II</td>
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<td>NUR 601</td>
<td>Role Development for Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
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<td>NUR 633</td>
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### Fall - Year II

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<tbody>
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<td>NUR 602</td>
<td>Issues Affecting Advanced Practice Nursing</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCC 692</td>
<td>Residency: Child/Adolescent Acute and Continuing Care PNP</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total 44 credits**

Information about Child/Adolescent Acute and Continuing Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
Jean Ivey, RN, DSN
(205) 934-0448
E-mail: pnp1@uab.edu
What is a Clinical Nurse Specialist?

A clinical nurse specialist is a licensed registered nurse who is prepared in a master’s program to practice in an advanced nursing role in a variety of primary, acute, or critical care settings. Clinical nurse specialists are clinical experts in "theory-based and/or research-based nursing practice within a specialty area."

What specialties are available for Clinical Nurse Specialist students in the School of Nursing?

The University of Alabama School of Nursing currently offers clinical specialization in adult or child/adolescent-health nursing. Within the broad area of adult health, students may choose to specialize in cardiology, gerontology, neuroscience, oncology, or other specialties of the student’s choice.

What does a Clinical Nurse Specialist do?

Clinical nurse specialists integrate knowledge of disease and medical therapy in a holistic assessment of adults or children/adolescents while focusing on the differential diagnosis of illness or wellness experiences that have non-disease-based etiologies and require nursing interventions to prevent, maintain, or alleviate. They design, implement, and evaluate population-based programs of care to enhance patient outcomes cost effectively. In addition, clinical specialists serve as leaders/consultants/mentors/change agents in advancing the practice of nursing to achieve quality, cost-effective patient outcomes within their specialty population and across populations when appropriate. They also lead multidisciplinary teams in designing and implementing alternative solutions that address system problems and/or patient care issues occurring across the full continuum of care.

How does a Clinical Nurse Specialist differ from an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner?

Although there are many similarities between the clinical nurse specialist and the acute-care nurse practitioner roles, there are some differences, as well. Acute-care nurse practitioners spend most of their time in direct patient-care activities to manage health problems that require secondary or tertiary interventions by health care providers. Often those interventions are of a nature that require hospitalization or care by specialists in a particular field. Clinical nurse specialists spend the majority of their time in indirect patient care activities to promote quality, cost effective patient outcomes. Their sphere of influence includes the patient, nursing personnel, and the organization. In many situations, clinical specialists and acute care nurse practitioners work collaboratively to achieve optimal patient outcomes.

Who employs Clinical Nurse Specialists?

There are a variety of employment opportunities available to clinical nurse specialists. They may be employed by hospitals to work in general specialty units, step-down units, intensive care units, or staff-development departments. They also may be employed by individual physicians or physician specialty groups to help manage the care of patients. Clinical specialists may coordinate research projects for medical or nursing research teams. Graduates of clinical specialist programs may also work as faculty or teaching staff in schools of nursing. Clinical nurse specialists may have various titles in their employment setting including care coordinator, case manager, clinical nurse specialist, research coordinator, disease state manager, and instructor.

What are the classroom content and clinical requirements for the Clinical Nurse Specialist student?

The didactic graduate courses provide students with a strong advanced generalist base for managing the care of adults or children/adolescents
with common health problems and with complex problems that may require intensive collaborative management. Selected specialty courses are available as elective support courses. The practicum and residency courses provide students clinical experiences appropriate to the spheres of influence for the clinical nurse specialist role, that is patients or clients, nursing personnel, and organizations or networks. Students will have the opportunity to explore and implement theory or research-based nursing strategies focusing on both disease-based and non-disease-based etiologies of illness. Students complete a minimum of 520 precepted clinical practice hours.

**Who will serve as my preceptor in the clinical courses?**

The preceptor should be an advanced practice nurse in your area of specialization. It should be someone who is willing to let you participate in the management of patients in his/her setting and in clinical projects in which he/she may be involved. 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 the Birmingham metropolitan area. If you do not know anyone who could serve as your preceptor, your advisor can help you identify an appropriate preceptor. A preceptorship orientation session will be held during the spring semester before you begin the clinical courses to help you with the process of securing a preceptor.

**How long is the program of study?**

The CNS program of study requires a minimum of 18 months (5 semesters) of full-time study beginning in the spring semester. However, many students choose to complete the program in 24 to 36 months (6-7 semesters). The faculty will assist you in developing a program plan best suited to your needs.

**Will I be eligible to take a certification exam if I complete this program?**

Once you complete the program, you will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for clinical nurse specialists in Medical Surgical Nursing or the Pediatric Clinical Specialist offered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. You also may be eligible to sit for Clinical Specialist certification examinations offered by specialty organizations such as the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses.

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

Individual states have different requirements regarding licensure for advanced practice nurses. You will need to contact your state’s board of nursing to learn its particular requirements. The faculty will assist you with that process when you are close to your graduation date.

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

There are no requirements for clinical experience prior to admission to the MSN program. However, students should have a minimum of one year of professional nursing experience on a medical or surgical nursing unit or child/adolescent area prior to enrolling in the advanced nursing and clinical specialist practicum courses. Graduates of this program and employers of our graduates comment about the value of this prior clinical experience.

**What is a typical program of study like?**

Following is a sample plan for a student entering in fall term. Other plans are available depending on individual needs.

**Fall – Year I**

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<tr>
<td>NCA/NPE 614</td>
<td>Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning for Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
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Spring – Year I
NUR 613 Pharmacology and Therapeutics 3
NCA/NPS 621 Advanced Acute Care Adult or
Child/Adolescent Nursing I 4
NCS/NPS 616 Foundations of Clinical Nurse
Specialist Practice 1
NCS/NPS 685 Practicum I: Clinical Specialization
in Adult or Child/Adolescent
Health 3

Summer – Year I
NCA/NPS 622 Advanced Acute Care Adult
or Child/Adolescent Nursing II
3 or 4
NCA/NPS 686 Practicum II: Clinical
Specialization in Adult or
Child/Adolescent Health 2
NCS/NPS 617 Phenomena of Concern Advanced
Practice 1
NUR 601 Role Development for Advanced
Nursing Practice 3
NUR 633 Advanced Growth and
Development (Child/Adolescent
only) 3

Fall – Year II
NUR 602 Issues Affecting Advanced Nursing
Practice 3
NCA 623 Advanced Acute Care Adult
Nursing (Adult only) 3
NCS 687 Practicum III: Clinical
Specialization in Adult Nursing 2
NPS 692 Residency: Child/Adolescent Acute
Care CNS (Child/Adolescent only) 6

Spring – Year II
NCS 692 Residency: Clinical Specialization
in Adult Health Nursing (Adult
only) 4

CNS Adult Acute Care
Total Credits 42

CNS in Child/Adolescent Acute Care
Total Credits 44

Information about Clinical Nurse
Specialist Adult Health Child/Adolescent
Health
Anne Williams, RN, PhD Jean Ivey, RN, DSN
(205) 934-6583; (205) 934-0448
E-mail: williama@uab.edu
E-mail: pnp1@uab.edu
FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER ONLINE

What is an FNP and what does an FNP do?
An FNP is a master’s-level prepared nurse who is a clinical expert trained to:
• Provide holistic primary care to patients of all ages ranging from infancy to elderly
• Perform routine histories and physical examinations
• Diagnose and manage acute and chronic illnesses
• Order and interpret common laboratory and other diagnostic tests to support the findings of the history and physical exam
• Prescribe medications
• Continue to approach patient’s care from a unique, culturally competent nursing perspective
• Practice in collaboration with a physician

Why attend UASON online FNP program?
• UASON is recognized internationally as a school of excellence
• The course content is 100% online
• The program is designed to promote cultural competence
• Faculty will make frequent contact with students in their communities
• A 1-800 number is available for students who need faculty or technical assistance
• Computers are available for check out while enrolled in the program
• Clinical practice can be performed with a nurse practitioner or physician in your area

Who can apply for this program?
BSN graduates who live in a medically underserved communities should consider this important career move.

Prior nursing experience is not required for admission to the program, but the faculty believe that students with at least 1 year of prior clinical experience in medical–surgical nursing will have a better chance of success.

How many credits are in this program and how long will it take?
• This program is 49-51 credit hours and will take between 1 and 3 years, depending on whether the student is part- or full-time.
• 650 hours of clinical practice with a preceptor, who may be a FNP or a physician, are required for completion.

What are the admission criteria?
• BSN degree equivalent to UASON
• Cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or on the last 60 semester hours
• An acceptable score on the GRE, GMAT, MAT exam. Score must be less than 10 years old
• Two letters of professional references
• Pre-admission interview

Contact for Information
Gail Hill, RN, PhD, CRNP
Phone: 205-934-6587
E-mail: hillg@uab.edu

Pam Bowen, RN, MSN, CRNP
Phone: 205-934-2778 or 1-800-485-2778
E-mail: bowenp@son.uab.edu
E-mail: pbowen@uab.edu

Are there special exams I must take at the end of this program?
Students will be eligible to take family nurse practitioner certification examinations offered either by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners or by the American Nurses’ Credentialing Center.
INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED STUDY

What is the individually designed study option?

As the health care system continues to change, there is likely to be an increasing number of highly motivated, goal-directed nurses who want to pursue advanced degrees in nursing. However, these nurses may want to make positive contributions in roles other than the traditional ones of advanced practice nurses (nurse practitioners or clinical nurse specialists), administrators, or quality outcomes managers. Therefore, this program option, leading to a Master of Science in Nursing degree, was developed to meet the individual needs of those innovative nurses. In collaboration with a faculty advisor, the prospective student selecting this option will have the freedom to develop a program of study that best suits his or her career goals.

What are the degree requirements for this option?

The curriculum for the individually designed study option calls for a minimum of 37 credits, which the prospective student, with the assistance of a faculty advisor, selects from currently existing 500- or 600-level courses, or develops a plan for independent study courses. In addition to the core course requirements (10 credits for Plan II [non-thesis option] or 13 credits for Plan I [thesis option]), students will be required to complete a minimum of 12 credits identified as support course credits (Plan II students will take 15 credits in this curriculum category) and a minimum of 12 credits identified as advanced nursing clinical course credits. At least three of the latter credits must be mentored practicum, residency, or application credits for a minimum of 135 contact hours. The student or the advisor may propose additional mentored practicum, residency, or application credits as needed to meet the learning needs and career goals of the student. Other courses in this latter category could be didactic or independent-study courses that instruct the application of content from core and/or support courses in a manner appropriate to the stated career goals.

Who will serve as my preceptor in the advanced nursing practice courses?

Obviously, due to the nature of this program option, there is a great deal of flexibility built into the advanced nursing practice courses. Preceptors may be current faculty within the School of Nursing or they may be individuals working in an area closely related to the student’s area of interest. They may be nurses or non-nurses, depending on the expertise of the preceptor and the learning needs of the student.

If I complete this program of study, will I be eligible to sit for clinical nurse specialist or nurse practitioner certification exams?

The student who selects this program option will not be eligible to sit for certification exams in either of these categories upon completion of the program and will not be eligible to be licensed as an advanced practice nurse in the State of Alabama. Students whose career goals include being a clinical nurse specialist or a nurse practitioner should seek admission to programs of study designed to prepare them for those roles.

Who should apply to this program option?

It is expected that very highly motivated and goal-directed students will be successful in this program option. Prospective students should be creative and critical thinkers who have a vision for nursing roles outside of those traditionally known. They must be able to write a statement of rationale describing their career goals and stating why the existing programs of study do not meet their needs. They also must be able to develop a proposed program of study that will meet their learning needs and career goals.

What are the admission requirements for applicants selecting this option?
The usual admission requirements for entry into the Master of Science in Nursing degree program apply to applicants for this option. In addition, though, applicants to this option will be required to prepare, and submit to the associate dean of graduate studies, a proposed program of study. They will also be expected to provide a written rationale for why this option is being selected and how the proposed plan will meet their individual learning needs and career goals in a way that existing program options will not. The final proposed program of study will be drafted with the assistance of the associate dean or faculty designee at the time of the admission interview, and must be approved at the time of admission by the MSN Admission Committee. If the Admission Committee approves the applicant’s individually designed program of study, admission will be recommended to the dean of the School of Nursing, who will have final approval of the proposal. If approved, the applicant will be sent an offer of admission consistent with other offers of admission sent by the School of Nursing. If denied, the applicant will be informed of the decision of the dean and the reasons for denying admission. Any changes in the program of study after admission will require the prior support of the academic advisor and the approval of the MSN Admission Committee. All other policies of the School of Nursing with respect to admission, progression, and graduation (e.g., transfer of credits, application of non-degree credits, conditional admission, probationary status, etc.) will apply to applicants to, or students in, the Individually Designed Study option.

Can I include courses in the program of study that are offered at other institutions?

Yes, but a minimum of 25 credits must be taken at UAB. Twenty-six credits should be taken in the School of Nursing (or another School of Nursing if transfer credits are applied toward the degree). Support courses may be taken in the School of Nursing or in other schools on or off campus, however, consistent with established policy, only 12 credits may be transferred to UAB and applied toward the degree requirements of this program of study. Independent study courses may be used to meet requirements if existing courses are not available in your focus area. Course objectives and learning activities for any independent courses should be proposed and submitted at the time of admission.

Credits applied to this degree option should not have been applied toward another degree except in extremely rare instances that are approved in advance by the dean of the School of Nursing. In such instances (i.e., if the prospective student already has a graduate degree in nursing or another discipline and can provide evidence of content/courses comparable to core content/course requirement in the School of Nursing), selected course or credit requirements may be waived. However, as in all other instances a minimum of 30 credits will be required for the MSN degree to be conferred.

What is a typical program of study like?

There is no typical program of study for this option, as each applicant will develop his or her own. However, following is a sample of how a full-time program plan might be developed. Other full-time or part-time plans are possible and will be arranged at the time of the admission interview. The length of the program will depend on the availability of courses needed to meet the student’s needs and on the other personal and professional obligations inherent in the lives of graduate students.

Fall Semester – Year I
NUR 600 Research and Statistics for Advanced Practice 4
Support Course 3
Advanced Nursing Practice Course 3
Support Course 3

Spring Semester – Year I
NUR 601 Role Development for Advanced Nursing Practice 3
Support Course 3
NUR 699 Thesis Research (Plan I) or
NUR 602 Issues Affecting Advanced Practice 3
Advanced Nursing Practice Course 3

**Summer Term – Year I**
Support Course 3
Support Course 3
Advanced Nursing Practice Course 3
Advanced Nursing Practice Course 3

**Total** 37 credits

**Information Regarding Individually Designed Study Option**
Elizabeth Stullenbarger, RN, DSN
Associate Dean, Graduate Studies
(205) 934-3485
E-mail: bstullen@uab.edu
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING AND MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH COORDINATED DEGREE PROGRAM FOR MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and Master of Public Health (MPH) in Maternal Child Health coordinated degree option is designed to address health care needs of women and children. The program of studies prepares graduates to participate in the development, implementation, and evaluation of innovative maternal child health programs and policies. Graduates might assume a variety of positions in nursing or maternal child health including health care providers, program directors, or project coordinators. This dual degree builds on the synergy generated through two complementary curriculum tracks.

What are the program requirements?

Students in the coordinated degree program option complete course work for 36 semester hours of credit in the School of Public Health and 25-38 semester hours of credit in the School of Nursing. Students may also choose to take additional electives either in the School of Nursing or the School of Public Health. Eighteen credits in the School of Public Health meet the requirements for core courses in the Master of Public Health program and provide a strong knowledge base in epidemiology, biostatistics, health behavior, environmental health sciences, and health care organization/policy. Eighteen additional credits meet the requirements for the Maternal Child Health discipline. The coordinated MPH and MSN degrees can be completed in two years or six consecutive terms if the student registers for full-time study beginning in the fall term. However, many students elect to register on a part-time basis and spread their program over seven or more terms.

What nursing specialty areas might I pursue?

Students may select a focus in the nursing curriculum on one of four tracks: Adult or Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist; Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (adult, family, pediatric, or women’s health); Quality and Outcomes Management in Health Systems; or Nursing and Health Systems Administration. Graduates of the nurse practitioner options are eligible to sit for certification examinations for the pediatric, family, adult, or women’s health nurse practitioner, depending on the specialty course of study.

What is the schedule for classes and clinical courses?

Courses in the School of Nursing are available during the day and evening hours during the week or online. Every effort is made to coordinate the scheduling of courses in the Schools of Public Health and Nursing to meet that student’s needs. Clinical experiences for MSN students are designed on an individual basis. Students contract to work with a clinical preceptor who is either a certified registered nurse practitioner or a physician. The total number of clinical hours ranges from 225 to 650 hours depending on the nursing specialty area.

What is the deadline for admission and application for financial aid?

Prospective students for the coordinated MPH and MSN degree option must be admitted to both the School of Nursing and the School of Public Health. The application deadline for fall admission is April 1 for the School of Public Health. Students must begin the MPH course work during the fall semester. If students want to be considered for School of Public Health financial aid, they should submit their application by February 15. Traineeships, assistantships, fellowships, and loans are available to students who meet specific criteria. Availability of financial aid varies from year to year.

Sample Program of Study for MSN/MPH Coordinated Degree – Maternal Child Health Nursing and Health Systems Administration (NHS) – MSN Option
Sample Program of Study for MSN/MPH Coordinated Degree – Maternal Child Health Nurse Practitioner or Clinical Nurse Specialist – MSN Options

Year I
Fall
PUH 600 9
NUR 612Q* 3
NOM 611Q* 2
Total 14

Spring
PUH 601 6
MBA 632 3
NUR 630Q* 3
Total 12

Summer
NHSA 620Q* 3
HA 640 3
HCO 614 3
NHSA 630Q* 3
Total 12

Year II
Fall
MCH 600 3
MCH 605 3
NHSA 621 2
NHSA 685 2
NHSA 640Q* 3
Total 13

Spring
MCH 601 3
MCH 609 3
NHSA 622Q* 2
NHSA 686 4
Total 12

Summer
PUH 690 3
MCH 660** 3
MCH 690 3
Total 9

Total 75 Credits
*Q = Online; **MCH 660 may not be required if nursing and public-health faculty approve an equivalent of 135 hours of nursing practicum experience in a MCH setting.
### Sample Program of Study for MSN/MPH

**Coordinated Degree – Maternal Child Quality and Outcomes Management in Health Systems - MSN Option**

#### Year I

**Fall**

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**Summer**

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#### Year II

**Fall**

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<td>NHSA 640Q*</td>
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**Spring**

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<th>Credits</th>
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<td>MCH 601</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCH 609</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOM 622Q*</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOM 686</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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### General Information for the MSN/MPH Program

**Lynda Harrison, RN, PhD, FAAN**

(205) 934-6787  
E-mail: LyndaHarrison@uab.edu

### General Information Regarding MPH Studies:

**Carol Reichle, Department Coordinator**

Department of International Health  
(205) 934-3939  
E-mail: creichle@uab.edu
FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER

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. An 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 (children and women) across the life span who may be encountered as individuals, groups and/or families.

Who employs family nurse practitioners?

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

What does a family nurse practitioner do?

The Family Nurse Practitioner is prepared to obtain health histories, perform physical examinations, order and interpret common diagnostic tests, identify actual and potential health problems, promote health, and diagnose and manage commonly occurring episodic and chronic health problems of clients including women, children, and adults. The FNP practices in collaboration with other health professionals to promote health and manage common episodic and chronic health problems and makes referrals of clients with complicated medical conditions.

What are the classroom content and clinical requirements for the family nurse practitioner student?

Didactic content in all three of the advanced nursing courses provides the student with knowledge to offer primary care to clients with a focus on the promotion of health through the management of episodic and commonly recurring health problems of individuals and families of all ages. Clinical experiences provide the student a wide variety of choices to gain clinical experience in diverse settings such as clinics, public health departments, and private offices serving under-served areas.

Who will serve as my preceptor in the clinical courses?

Either a nurse practitioner or physician with appropriate credentials may serve as preceptor. It should be someone who has an active clinical practice in an area that complements family practice. The preceptor may be someone identified by the student, the faculty or an agency. A preceptorship orientation will be held before clinical courses begin, which will help in the process of selecting a preceptor.

How long is the program of study?

The FNP program of study may be completed in a minimum of 5 semesters of full-time study or 6-7 semesters of part-time study.

Will I be eligible to take a certification exam 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?

Individual states have different requirements regarding licensure for advanced practice nurses. You will need to contact a specific state board of nursing to learn the particular requirements for that state.

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 MSN 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 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.

**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**  
- NUR 621 Advanced Family Nursing 4  
- NUR 601 Role Development for Advanced Nursing Practice 3  
- NUR 613 Pharmacology and Therapeutics 3

**Summer – Year I**  
- NFH 622 Advanced Family Nursing II 4  
- NFH 685 Practicum I: Family Nurse Practitioner 3

**Fall – Year II**  
- NFH 623 Advanced Family Nursing III 4  
- NFH 686 Practicum II: Family Nurse Practitioner 3  
- NUR 602 Issues Affecting Advanced Nursing Practice 3

**Spring – Year II**  
- NFH 692 Residency: Family Nurse Practitioner 6

**Total 45 credits**

Information about Family Nurse Practitioner  
Shelley Huffstutler, DSN, RN, CFNP  
(205) 934-6654  
E-mail: huffstut@uab.edu
MMAASSTTEERR  OOFF  SSCCIIEENNCCEE  IINN  NNUURRSSIINNGG  AANNDD  MMAASSTTEERR  OOFF  PPUUBBBLIICC  HHEEAALLTTHH  
COCOORRDDIINNAATTEEDD  DDEEGGRREEEE  PPRROOGGRRAAMM  IINN  HHEEAALLTTHH  BBEEHHAAVVIIOORR

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and Master of Public Health (MPH) in Health Behavior coordinated degree option prepare students to develop expertise in an advanced-practice nursing specialty and in the field of health behavior. The program of studies will educate students to develop and apply health-education/health-promotion programs in community-based settings. Graduates are qualified for a variety of educational, service, and research positions in community nursing and/or health behavior. This dual degree builds on the synergy generated through two complementary curriculum tracks.

What are the program requirements?

Students in the coordinated degree program option complete course work for 36 semester hours of credit in the School of Public Health and 25-35 semester hours of credit in the School of Nursing. Students may also choose to take additional electives either in the School of Nursing or the School of Public Health. Eighteen credits in the School of Public Health meet the requirements for core courses in the Master of Public Health program and provide a strong knowledge base in epidemiology, biostatistics, health behavior, environmental health sciences, and health care organization/policy. Eighteen additional credits meet the requirements for the Health Behavior option.

The coordinated MPH and MSN degrees can be completed in two years or six consecutive terms if the student registers for full-time study beginning in the fall term. However, many students elect to register on a part-time basis and spread their program over seven or more terms.

What nursing specialty areas might I pursue?

Students may select a focus in the nursing curriculum on one of four tracks: Adult or Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist; Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (adult, family, pediatric, or women’s health); Quality and Outcomes Management in Health Systems; or Nursing and Health Systems Administration. Graduates of the nurse practitioner options are eligible to sit for certification examinations for the pediatric, family, adult, or women’s health nurse practitioner, depending on the specialty course of study.

What is the schedule for classes and clinical courses?

Courses in the School of Nursing are available during the day and evening hours during the week or on-line. Every effort is made to coordinate the scheduling of courses in the Schools of Public Health and Nursing to meet that student’s needs. Clinical experiences for MSN students are designed on an individual basis. Students contract to work with a clinical preceptor who is either a certified registered nurse practitioner or a physician. The total number of clinical hours ranges from 225 to 650 hours depending on the nursing specialty area.

What is the deadline for admission and application for financial aid?

Prospective students for the coordinated MPH and MSN degree option must be admitted to both the School of Nursing and the School of Public Health. The application deadline for fall admission is April 1 for the School of Public Health. Students must begin the MPH course work during the fall semester. If students want to be considered for School of Public Health financial aid, they should submit their application by February 15. Traineeships, assistantships, fellowships, and loans are available to students who meet specific criteria. Availability of financial aid varies from year to year.
### Sample Program of Study for MSN/MPH Coordinated Degree – Health Behavior Nursing and Health Systems Administration (NHSA) – MSN Option

#### Year I

**Fall**
- PUH 600 9
- NUR 612Q* 3
- NOM 611Q* 2
- Total 14

**Spring**
- PUH 601 6
- MBA 632 3
- NUR 630Q* 3
- HB 641 3
- Total 15

**Summer**
- NHSA 620Q* 3
- HA 640 3
- HCO 614 3
- NHSA 630Q* 3
- Total 12

#### Year II

**Fall**
- HB 643 3
- HB 630 3
- NHSA 621 2
- NHSA 685 2
- NHSA 640Q* 3
- Total 13

**Spring**
- HB 699 3
- NHSA 622Q* 2
- NHSA 686 4
- Total 9

**Summer**
- PUH 690 3
- HB Elective 3
- HB Internship 3
- Total 9

**Total 72 Credits**
*Q = Online;

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### Sample Program of Study for MSN/MPH Coordinated Degree - Health Nurse Practitioner or Clinical Nurse Specialist - MSN Options

#### Year I

**Fall**
- PUH 600 9
- NUR 612Q* 3
- N_614 4
- Total 16

**Spring**
- PUH 601 6
- NUR 613Q* 3
- NCS/NCA 616** 1
- N_621 4-5
- N_685 2-3
- HB 641 3
- Total 18-21

**Summer**
- N_622 4-5
- N_686 2-3
- Support Course 2-3
- NCS/NCA 617** 1
- Total 9-13

#### Year II

**Fall**
- N_623** 3
- NCS 687** 2
- HB 643 3
- HB 630 3
- N_692*** 3
- Total 14

**Spring**
- HB 699 3
- N__ 692*** or Acute Care NP 4-6
- NUR 620Q* 3
- Total 10-12

**Summer**
- PUH 690 3
- HB Elective 3
- HB Internship 3

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*Q = Online;
Total........9
*Q = Online; **Required only for acute care NP
or CNS students; ***Primary Care NP
**Totall 70--80 Credits

Sample Program of Study for MSN/MPH
Coordinated Degree – Maternal Child
Quality and Outcomes Management in
Health Systems - MSN Option

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<td>Total</td>
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**Year II**

| **Fall**        |          |          |
| HB 643          | 3        |          |
| NUR 602Q*       | 3        |          |
| NOM 621Q*       | 2        |          |
| NOM 685         | 2        |          |
| NHSA 640Q*      | 3        |          |
| Total           | 13       |          |
| **Spring**      |          |          |
| HB 699          | 3        |          |
| NOM 622Q*       | 2        |          |
| NOM 686         | 4        |          |
| Total           | 12       |          |

**Summer**

|          |          |          |
| PUH 690  | 3        |          |
| HB Elective | 3    |          |
| HB 697   | 3        |          |
| Total    | 9        |          |

*Q = Online
**Total 7744 Credits

General Information for the MSN/MPH Program of Studies:
Lynda Harrison, RN, PhD, FAAN
(205) 934-6787
E-mail: LyndaHarrison@uab.edu

General Information Regarding MPH Studies:
Carol Reichle, Department Coordinator
Department of International Health
(205) 934-3939
E-mail: creichle@uab.edu
The redesign of health care organizations has mandated larger spans of control for nurse managers with expertise and leadership skills in organizational, human resource, and financial management. The need for the integration of clinical skills with business know-how has been fueled by a more diverse work force with direct responsibility for non-nursing staff, an increased emphasis on customer service and risk management, and the ability to design and implement care delivery models that extend beyond the walls of the organization into the community and its stakeholders.

What is the focus of the Nursing and Health Systems Administration option?

Realizing the potential to increase the value that nursing and its role to the organization as a whole through high patient-care standards and fiscal responsibility to the organization, the School of Nursing reactivated the Nursing and Health Systems Administration option. The curriculum reflects an interdisciplinary approach to the coordination of patient care services across multiple settings. The emphasis is on management at all levels of the organization, with the knowledge base becoming broader and increasingly system-wide. Students are given the opportunity to integrate the discipline of nursing with business administration in order to foster and promote innovative systems based on strong financial and entrepreneurial initiatives.

Will I be eligible to sit for the Nursing Service Administrator certification exam if I complete this program of study?

Graduates of the NHSA option meet the educational requirements to apply for certification in Nursing Administration, including the advanced certification, offered through the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). In order to sit for the exam, the applicant must also have held an administrative position at the nurse manager or nurse executive level for at least the equivalent of 24 months full-time practice within the past 5 years.

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 MSN program. However, it is a strong belief of the faculty that students admitted to the Nursing and Health Systems Administration option must have at least one year of professional nursing experience prior to enrolling in the clinical courses (NHSA 620, NHSA 621 and NHSA 622).

How long is the program of study?

Students who choose the Nursing and Health Systems Administration option can earn the MSN in four terms (one year plus one term) of full-time study. One may choose, however, to complete the program part-time over a longer period of time. All degree requirements must be completed within 5 years of admission. Students are admitted three times per year.

Who employs graduates with an MSN degree focused in Nursing and Health Systems Administration, and in what roles?

Health systems across the country (and internationally), including home health agencies, managed-care entities, public- and private-sector hospitals, long-term and ambulatory care facilities, and insurance companies are searching for advanced-level nurses for management and executive-level positions. The focus of the NHSA option prepares graduates for roles from first-line managers to executive positions including consultants, clinical coordinators and managers, product and service line managers, executive directors, directors of operations, and nurse executives.

What are the classroom and clinical requirements for the Nursing and Health Systems Administration student?

The core content examines the theory of nursing science, research and statistical knowledge and skills, as well as advanced nursing practice profes-
sional role development, management, and leadership. Support courses provide the basis for the integration of business management theories with the nursing administration framework. Courses include managerial accounting, human-resource management, management information systems, and organizational behavior. Electives may be chosen based on individual interests, including health care marketing, health economics, social, legal, and ethical issues, and health law. The advanced nursing clinical courses include both didactic and clinical learning opportunities. Didactic content is based on a synthesis of theoretical concepts for administrative practice, and builds on the knowledge and skills obtained in the core and support courses. The role emphasis of the nursing and health systems administrator evolves from beginning nurse manager, to the division or departmental level manager, and culminates at the executive level of management. A total of 225 practicum hours are included in the advanced nursing clinical courses.

Who will serve as my preceptor in the clinical portion of the advanced nursing courses?

The UAB School of Nursing has a wide professional network within the community, providing opportunities to learn from leaders who excel in a variety of health systems settings. Preceptor sites are arranged based on students individualized needs and areas of interest. Whether we assist you in finding a preceptor, or you do so yourself, the preceptor should be an advanced practice nurse in a leadership role appropriate for the managerial level pertaining to the didactic course content of study.

What is a typical program of study like?

The following is a sample plan for students entering the program in the fall semester; however, students may begin any semester. Support courses in each area may be selected from the School of Business, Graduate School of Management (MBA), School of Health Related Professionals, Department of Health Services Administration (HA) or School of Public Health, Department of Health Care Organization and Policy (HCO) based on your scheduling needs. Electives or thesis hours can be taken in any semester. Individualized program plans will be developed for students at the time of admission to the program.

**Fall – Year I**
- **NUR 601** Role Development for Advanced Nursing Practice 3
- **MBA 610 or HCO 614** Financial Analysis Reporting for Management 3
- **NUR 600** Research and Statistics for Advanced Practice 4

**Spring – Year I**
- **NUR 603** Principles of Epidemiology 3
- **NUR 643** Introduction to Nursing Informatics 3
- **NUR 602** Issues Affecting Advanced Nursing Practice 3

**Summer – Year I**
- **NHSA 620** Nursing and Health Service Administration I 3
- **NHSA 630** Health Services Marketing Management 3
- **MBA 632 or HA 631 or MPA 661** Managerial Processes and Behavior 3

**Fall – Year II**
- **NHSA 621** Nursing and Health Service Administration II 2
- **NHSA 685** Nursing and Health Systems: Practicum I 2
- **NOM 611** Creativity, Resources and Problem-Solving 2
- **NHSA 640** Nursing Economics 3

**Spring – Year II**
- **NHSA 622** Nursing and Health Service Administration III 2
- **NHSA 685** Nursing and Health Systems: Practicum II 4

**Total 43 credits**
**NURSING INFORMATICS**

The business of health care information management is growing by leaps and bounds. Management of the health care industry and care delivery relies extensively on the collection and analysis of data. Data can provide information about the patient, provider, processes of care delivery, and outcomes of the delivery system. This data is collected from many individuals practicing in different specialties and must be integrated, coordinated, and managed. In an era of constrained health care resources, doing more with less without sacrificing quality of care can be accomplished through the use of technology. However, leveraging technology to enhance nursing care will require workers who understand both clinical processes and technological applications. The president of the American Medical Informatics Association, Charles Safran, estimates that at least 6,000 nursing informatics specialists will be needed to help implement these initiatives.

**What is the focus of the Nursing Informatics option?**

Recognized by the American Nurses Association (ANA) as a nursing specialty in 1992, informatics is one of the fastest-growing practice areas in health care. Graves and Corcoran defined nursing informatics as “a combination of computer science, information science, and nursing science designed to assist in the management and processing of nursing data, information and knowledge to support the practice of nursing and the delivery of nursing care.” The focus of nursing informatics practice is the organization, analysis, and dissemination of information, not the computer itself. Nursing informatics specialists assist practitioners by providing information to enhance decision-making and the delivery of safe patient care. Although they may not be directly involved with care delivery, their work is integrally related to clinical and administrative practice. Nursing informatics specialists participate in the analysis, design, and implementation of information and communication systems; effectiveness and informatics research; and the education of nurses in informatics and information technology.

**Will I be eligible to sit for the Nursing Informatics Specialist certification exam if I complete this program of study?**

Graduates of the Nursing Informatics option meet the educational and clinical requirements to apply for certification in nursing informatics offered through the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

**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 MSN program. However, it is a strong belief of the faculty that students admitted to the Nursing Informatics option must have at least one year of professional nursing experience prior to enrolling in the clinical courses.

**How long is the program of study?**

Students who choose the Nursing Informatics option can earn the MSN in four terms (one year plus one term) of full-time study. One may choose, however, to complete the program part-time over a longer period of time. All degree requirements must be completed within five years of admission. Students are admitted three times per year.

**Who employs graduates with an MSN degree focused in Nursing Informatics, and in what roles?**

Health systems across the country (and internationally), including home-health agencies, managed-care entities, public- and private-sector hospitals, long-term and ambulatory-care facilities, and insurance companies are searching for nurses educated in informatics. These nurses support the collection, analysis, and dissemination of clinical information. They are also integral to the selection and design of facility clinical-informa-
tion systems. Also, companies that design, build, and implement information systems in acute and ambulatory care employ masters-prepared informatics nurse specialists as systems analysts and project managers.

What are the classroom and clinical requirements for the Nursing Informatics student?

The core content examines the theory of nursing science, research, and statistical knowledge and skills, as well as advanced nursing practice, professional role development, management, and leadership. Support courses provide the basis for the integration of theories related to the field of informatics for the practice of nursing informatics. Courses include systems analysis, project management, financial reporting and analysis, database modeling, and organizational behavior. The advanced nursing clinical courses include both didactic and clinical learning opportunities. Didactic content is based on a synthesis of theoretical concepts for nursing informatics practice, and builds on the knowledge and skills obtained in the core and support courses. A total of 200 practicum hours are included in the advanced nursing clinical courses.

Who will serve as my preceptor in the clinical portion of the advanced nursing courses?

The UAB School of Nursing has a wide professional network within the community, providing opportunities to learn from leaders who excel in a variety of health-systems settings. Preceptor sites are arranged based on students individualized needs and areas of interest. Whether we assist you in finding a preceptor or you do so yourself, the preceptor should be an advanced-practice nurse in an informatics role appropriate for the level of didactic course content of study.

What is a typical program of study like?

Students may begin any semester. Support courses are offered by the UAB School of Business, School of Management (MBA), and the School of Health Related Professionals. These courses are not presently offered online, but some will be in the future. Students may take comparable courses from other institutions with prior faculty approval. Students may transfer up to 12 credit hours into the school of nursing from another university. All core nursing courses are offered online. Nursing informatics courses are offered partially online with four Saturday on campus seminars each semester. A total of 43 credit hours are required to complete the degree. For more information please contact Jacqueline Moss, PhD, RN. (205)-934-0657 or e-mail mossja@uab.edu.

Fall – Year I
NUR 601 Role Development for Advanced Nursing Practice 3
NUR 600 Research and Statistics for Advanced Practice 4
HI 600 Analysis and Design of Health Information Systems 4

Spring – Year I
HI 601 Databases and Data Modeling 4
MBA 618 Technology Based Project Management 3
MBA 610 Financial Reports and Analysis for Management 3

Summer – Year I
NUR 602 Issues in Advances Nursing Practice 3
NUR 643 Introduction to Nursing Informatics 3
HI 585 Making the Computer Work for You: Introduction to BVA and Visual Basic 3

Fall – Year II
NNI 621 Conceptual Basis for Informatics Practice 3
NNI 685 Nursing Informatics Practicum I 2
MBA 632 Organizational Process and Behavior 3
**Spring – Year II**

NNI 622  The Information System Life-Cycle 3
NNI 686  Nursing Informatics Practicum II 2

**Total 43 Credits**

Information Regarding Nursing and Health Systems Administration
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What is a Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner?

The Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner (PCNP) is a nurse who is prepared at the master’s level as an advanced-practice nurse to practice in a variety of primary- and palliative-care settings. The PCNP is a clinical expert who is prepared to diagnose and manage commonly occurring episodic and chronic health problems of clients. Palliative Care Nurse Practitioners work interdependently with other health professionals to provide care to children and adults who have incurable, progressive diseases. They perform histories and physicals, analyze clinical data; order and/or perform diagnostic tests and procedures; develop, implement, and evaluate management plans; teach and provide support for patients and families; participate in the interdisciplinary team approach to palliative care; and participate in appropriate and effective collaboration and referral.

Who employs Palliative Care Nurse Practitioners?

Palliative Care Nurse Practitioners are employed in a wide variety of health care settings where palliative care is provided for clients of all ages. Positions may be available in area hospice organizations, hospitals, and health care clinics. You might find these practitioners working for oncologists or in other medical specialties.

What does a Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner do?

The PCNP is prepared to obtain health histories, perform physical examinations, order and interpret common diagnostic tests, identify actual and potential health problems, promote health, and diagnose and manage commonly occurring episodic and chronic health problems of clients including adults and children. The PCNP practices in collaboration with other health professionals to promote health and wellness, manage common episodic and chronic health problems, and make referral of clients with complicated medical conditions.

What are the classroom content and clinical requirements for the Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner?

Didactic content in all three of the advanced nursing courses provides the student with knowledge to offer primary care to clients with a focus on the promotion of health and comfort through the management of episodic and commonly recurring health problems of individuals and families of all ages. Clinical experiences provide the student a wide variety of choices to gain clinical experience in diverse settings such as clinics, public-health agencies, hospice settings, inpatient palliative-care units and private offices serving clients with progressive terminal illnesses.

Who will serve as my preceptor in the clinical courses?

Either a nurse practitioner or physician with appropriate credentials may serve as your preceptor. It should be someone who has an active clinical practice in an area that compliments palliative care practice. 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 PCNP program of study may be completed in a minimum of 4 semesters of full-time study or 6-7 semesters of part time study.

Will I be eligible to take a certification exam 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 and Palliative Care Management offered by either the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners or the American Nurses Credentialing Center.
How do I become eligible to practice as a PCNP in my state of residence?

Individual states have different requirements regarding licensure for advanced practice nurses. You will need to contact a specific state board of nursing to learn the particular requirements for that state.

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 MSN program. However, the faculty believes students admitted to the Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner option must have at least one year of professional nursing experience in an area of 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.

What is a typical program of study like?

The following is a sample plan for a student entering in the fall semester. Other plans are available depending on individual needs. All courses are online.

**Fall - Year I**

- NUR 612 Advanced Pathophysiology 3
- NPA 614 Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning for Advanced Nursing Practice 4

**Spring - Year I**

- NUR 613 Pharmacology and Therapeutics 3
- NPA 621 Culturally Competent Palliative Care Nursing I 5
- NPA 685 Practicum I: Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner 3

**Summer - Year I**

- NPA 622 Culturally Competent Palliative Care Nursing II 4
- NPA 686 Practicum II: Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner II 3

**Fall - Year II**

- NUR 601 Role Development for Advanced Nursing Practice 3
- NPA 692 Residency: Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner 6
- NUR 602 Issues Affecting Advanced Nursing Practice 3

**Total 41 credits**

Information about Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner Online Program
Pam Fordham, RN, DSN
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**PEDIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER**

**What is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner?**

The Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) is a nurse prepared at the graduate level as an advanced-practice nurse able to diagnose and manage common acute and chronic problems in infants, children and adolescents. Core and support courses provide a theoretical and practical base for students, followed by specific content and practica that prepare the students to sit for a national certification examination.

The PNP assumes a leadership role in providing care to infants, children, and adolescents. PNPs are prepared to obtain and assess health history and physical examination data, order and interpret appropriate diagnostic tests, identify actual and potential health problems, and formulate with the client and family a comprehensive plan of 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 Pediatric Nurse Practitioners?**

PNPs are employed in all sites that offer primary care to infants, children and adolescents. These practitioners form collaborative relationships with representatives of all disciplines concerned with the health of infants, children, and adolescents. Examples of practice sites are primary-care agencies and clinics, physicians’ offices, public-health departments, school-based clinics, student health clinics, 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 Pediatric Nurse Practitioner student?**

Didactic content is provided in four specialty courses and provides the student with a strong advanced primary-care base for caring for patients with common health problems. Clinical experiences in a variety of primary-care and specialty-clinic settings offer extensive preparation for the advanced practice role. Students complete a minimum of 650 hours of clinical practicum experience.

**Who will serve as my preceptor in the clinical courses?**

A preceptor may be a nurse practitioner, physician, or physician's assistant approved by the School of Nursing faculty. Students may select a preceptor or the clinical advisor may suggest a preceptor for the student. Students are given information about selecting preceptors and guidelines for working with them. Faculty are always available to students during their clinical preceptorships.

**How long is the program of study?**

The PNP program of study requires a minimum of 16 months (4 semesters) of full-time study beginning in the fall semester. However, many students choose to attend part-time and complete the program in 20 to 32 months (5-7 semesters).

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

Graduates of the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program are eligible to sit for certification through the National Certification Board of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and Nurses (NCBP-NP/N) or through The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). Maintenance of national certification is the professional responsibility of the PNP and is a requirement for practice in most states.

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

The PNP is licensed by the states in which they
practice and is 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. Your advisor in the School of Nursing will assist you with that process when you are close to completing your program of study.

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 MSN program. However, students in the PNP program are required to have at least one year of pediatric nursing experience prior to enrolling in the advanced nursing clinical courses. Your program of study can be arranged so that you can gain the required experience while you are taking prerequisite courses.

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
NPE 614 Assessment and Diagnostic Reason for Advanced Nursing Practice  4

Spring – Year I
NUR 613 Pharmacology and Therapeutics  3
NPE 621 Advanced Pediatric Nursing I  5
NPE 685 Practicum I: Pediatric Nurse Practitioner  3

Summer – Year I
NPE 622 Advanced Pediatric Nursing II  5
NPE 686 Practicum II: Pediatric Nurse Practitioner  3
NUR 601 Role Development for Advanced Nursing Practice  3
NUR 633 Growth and Development  2

Fall – Year II
NUR 602 Issues Affecting Advanced Nursing Practice  3
NPE 692 Residency: Pediatric Nurse Practitioner  6

Information about Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Jean Ivey, BSN, MSN, DSN (205) 934-0448 E-mail: pnp1@uab.edu
QUALITY AND OUTCOMES MANAGEMENT IN HEALTH SYSTEMS

Available primarily as a Web-based distance-learning option

What is the focus of the Quality and Outcomes Management in Health Systems option?

As a result of the phenomenal changes in today's health care system, nurses are assuming new and exciting responsibilities. A major trend in health care is more sophisticated assessment and management of the outcomes of patient/client care delivery. As consumers, health care systems, and other provider organizations, payers, and employers emphasize high-quality, cost-effective outcomes, nurses are becoming key leaders in efforts to achieve these outcomes. Consequently, the School of Nursing at UAB has responded to the need for nurse leaders who are well grounded in clinical and organizational performance excellence. Graduates of this option are knowledgeable about: clinical delivery processes and outcomes; services management, including determining patient requirements and satisfaction; cost-effectiveness and financial outcomes; leadership, teamwork, and collaboration; information and knowledge management; utilization of research and best practices; managed care and complex integrated delivery systems; and the tools and techniques of quality improvement. They use creativity and systems thinking to solve complex problems and remove barriers to accessible, high-quality health services.

Who employs graduates with an MSN degree focused in quality and outcomes management in health systems, and in what roles?

Organizations of all sizes are searching for talented leaders who can advance an international agenda of continuously improving the safety, appropriateness, and effectiveness of health services across the care continuum. Potential employers include: health care delivery systems and institutions; managed-care organizations; insurance companies; community, state, and federal agencies, including the military; consulting firms; and a variety of health care suppliers and research firms. These organizations employ an increasing number of advanced level nurses in various roles designed to maximize value for consumers, the health care community, and a global society. After completing this option, and depending upon one's professional experience, graduates may choose to apply their expertise by seeking such mid and senior managerial roles as:

- VP, process improvement
- Outcomes management leader
- VP, quality and outcomes management
- Quality/utilization review director
- Case/care coordinator or manager
- Director of case management
- Clinical information manager
- Internal or external consultant
- Safety and risk analyst
- Project/research/grant manager
- Nurse entrepreneur

Individuals currently in mid-level clinical or managerial nursing leadership positions will find that this program of study provides an opportunity for strengthening knowledge and skills in clinical and organizational outcomes management, strategic/quality planning, implementing improvement strategies, building relationships with various stakeholders, designing cost-effective care processes, and implementing change in complex health-delivery systems. These competencies are often identified as critical requisites for effective senior leadership in turbulent environments. The cross-continuum, multi-organizational perspective emphasized in this option is integral to success in each of the above roles, as well as in new roles for advanced level nurses that will evolve during the 21st century. In addition, graduates have a strong foundation for doctoral study if this becomes an individual's professional goal.

I am employed full-time. Will I be able to go to school and continue to work?

Like many significant learning experiences of long-term benefit, graduate study requires a serious commitment of time and energy, usually from individuals whose lives are very full.

Consequently, the School of Nursing at UAB is committed to providing high-quality, convenient education. Students will be able to complete this
option primarily via Web-based technology and by attending two intense one-week sessions during the year in which they are enrolled in the advanced-level practicum courses. From the convenience of their own homes or offices, students will have access to world-class education and faculty in one of the top-ranked schools of nursing in the U.S.

This option has been designed so that nurses who are employed full-time can earn the MSN in two years. However, depending on other responsibilities, some students may choose to complete the program over a longer period of time. All degree requirements must be completed within 5 years of admission. Students are admitted three times per year and non-degree study is an option for many courses. Pending approval, up to 12 semester hours of relevant coursework taken at other academic institutions may be transferred to UAB.

What will the courses be like?

You, your classmates, faculty, clinical preceptors, and guest experts will form a virtual learning community. In Web-based or online courses, learning takes place through multiple mechanisms. A virtual classroom is developed and may be accessed at the UAB Web site at your convenience. Online teaching strategies vary from course to course, just as they do in a brick-and-mortar classroom. An online course may include: text information with embedded definitions and links to relevant sites; short AV segments; or a bulletin board to which students and faculty post discussion points and read one another’s responses. In some courses, students may form virtual teams and “meet” in chat rooms. The courses are highly interactive and, for the learner’s convenience, most communication is asynchronous. Communication among members of the learning community may also take place via fax and telephone. Other forms of technology will be used as appropriate. For more information about the exciting frontier of online learning and the equipment requirements, please visit the School of Nursing Web site.

In practicum courses, students apply new knowledge and collaborate with health-team members in value-enhancing, improvement-focused projects and preceptorship experiences. Faculty will assist students in identifying preceptors in or near their local area. The second and third practicum can be arranged at UAB or a UAB-affiliated health-care organization in the Birmingham area for any student who would like to complete their practica in residence on campus.

Two one-week sessions will be held on the UAB campus. These intense sessions provide opportunities for students to practice verbal presentation skills, meet and interact with peers, faculty, and other leaders in the field, and participate in other planned learning experiences. On-campus sessions are held near the end of the fall and summer terms during the year the student is enrolled in the advanced course sequence (NOM 620-622 & NOM 685-687). Attendance at these sessions is necessary in order to meet degree requirements. Students are responsible for all expenses associated with attending the on-campus session, including travel, room, board, and local transportation.

What is a typical program of study like?

The following is a sample plan for students entering the program in the fall semester; however, students may begin any semester. Support courses in each area may be selected from the School of Business, Graduate School of Management (MBA); School of Health Related Professions, Department of Health Services Administration (HA); or School of Public Health, Department of Health Care Organization and Policy (HCO) based on your scheduling needs. Electives or thesis hours can be taken in any semester. Individualized program plans will be developed for students at the time of admission to the program.
Fall – Year I
NUR 601 Role Development for Advanced Nursing Practice 3
MBA 610 or HCO 614 Financial Analysis and Reporting for Management 3
NUR 600 Research and Statistics for Advanced Practice 4

Spring – Year I
NUR 630 Principles of Epidemiology 3
NUR 643 Introduction to Nursing Informatics 3
NUR 602 Issues Affecting Advanced Nursing Practice 3

Summer – Year I
NOM 620 Quality and Outcomes Management I 3
NHSA 630 Health Services Marketing Management 3
MBA 632 or HA 631 or MPA 661 Managerial Process and Behavior 3

Fall – Year II
NOM 621 Quality and Outcomes Management II 2
NOM 685 Quality and Outcomes Management: Practicum I 2
NOM 611 Creativity, Resources & Problem-Solving 2
NHSA 640 Nursing Economics 3

Spring – Year II
NOM 622 Quality and Outcomes Management III 2
NOM 686 Quality and Outcome Management: Practicum II 4

Total 43 credits

Information Regarding Quality and Outcomes Management in Health Systems
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