NURSING AND HEALTH SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATION
Distance Accessible

What is the graduate of the Master of Science in Nursing and Health Systems Administration prepared to do?
The Nursing and Health Systems Administration (NHSA) specialty track provides students with opportunities to explore innovative health care delivery systems in preparation for roles from unit managers to executive positions. The graduate is prepared for management at all levels of the organization, with a broad, system-wide knowledge base. The graduate has skills in customer service and finance, strategic and quality management, and the ability to design and implement care delivery models that extend beyond the walls of the organization into the community. Students learn how to work with a diverse group of stakeholders and interprofessional experts.

Who employs Nursing and Health Systems Administration graduates?
Graduates may assume a variety of positions in health care systems. National and international health systems employ advanced level nurses for management and executive positions. Employers include home health agencies, managed care entities, public and private sector hospitals, long-term and ambulatory care facilities, and insurance companies. The NHSA specialty track prepares graduates for unit manager, consultant, clinical coordinator and manager, product and service line manager, executive director, director of operation, and nurse executive positions.

Can I further specialize?
Elective courses are available for knowledge base enhancement in areas such as informatics and teaching.

What kind of experience do I need prior to entering the Nursing and Health Systems Administration Specialty Track?
There is no requirement for clinical experience prior to admission. However, faculty strongly encourage students admitted to the Nursing and Health Systems Administration option must have at least one year of professional nursing and management, for example a charge nurse, experience prior to enrolling in the clinical courses. Your program of study can be planned so that you gain experience while taking prerequisite courses. If you must have time to gain the year of experience, you will have to do a part-time program of study. You must provide verification of professional nurse licensure by the board of nursing in the state in which you will contract for clinical preceptorships.

What are the admission criteria?
- A nursing degree (BSN or higher) from a regionally accredited institution, equivalent to the one offered by UAB School of Nursing
- An undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale either cumulatively or on the last 60 semester credit hours
- Possess a nursing license to practice nursing in the state where you plan to conduct your clinical practicum
- (3) Letters of professional reference attesting to the applicant's potential for graduate study
- Standardized test score (MAT, GRE, GMAT)* A minimum score of 410 on the MAT; or a minimum score of 480 on the GMAT; or a combined score of 1000 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or combined score of 297 on the New 2011 GRE*
- Additional – Selected options may require experience prior to enrollment in a specialty courses.


Approval for the GRE/GMAT/MAT Waiver does not imply or guarantee admission to the MSN program. When all of your transcripts are evaluated, if you do not meet the requirements, you will be notified that you need to take the GRE/GMAT/MAT. Candidates not approved for the GRE/GMAT/MAT waiver will be required to take the GRE/GMAT/MAT before final action on their application for master's study. The School of Nursing at UAB must receive the official score by the posted materials deadline. Applicants for the GRE/GMAT/MAT waiver must meet the same requirements for admission to the MSN program as all other applicants.

***The following individuals are not eligible for the GRE waiver process:
- International applicants
- Non-Native English speaking applicants
- Dual degree seeking program applicants MSN/MPH

For International Students:
- Prospective international students are asked to first contact International Recruitment and Student Services at isss@uab.edu, (205), 934-3328, FAX 934-8664 to determine eligibility in order to submit an application into any academic program.
- All foreign transcripts evaluated by the Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc www.ece.org OR the World Education Services www.wes.org, sent from the evaluators directly to the School of Nursing
- A degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited educational institution in the United States
- A score of 500 or higher on the Test of English as a Foreign Language, TOEFL
- Standardized test score. A minimum combined score of 1000 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
- Possess a nursing license to practice nursing in the state where you plan to conduct your clinical practicum
What will I receive confirmation that I have been accepted into the program?
You will be notified of your acceptance or denial within 30 days after the application submission deadline.

What are the classroom and clinical requirements?
Total credit hours: 36 hours; (didactic hours: 28; clinical hours: 8); total contact hours of practicum experience: 480.
Descriptive narrative: Didactic content is provided in 3 specialty courses and provides the student with a strong advanced nursing role base for nursing administration. Practicum experiences offer extensive preparation for the advanced nursing administration role. The School of Nursing courses are distance-accessible. Electives or thesis hours can be taken in any semester. Students are required to visit the campus in Birmingham, AL for orientation, and students must pass a comprehensive examination in order to graduate. Should academic problems arise, an additional on-campus visit may be required.

How many semesters of study?
Students who start course work in the summer semester will take six semesters to complete the program. The programs of study are listed below.

Distance Accessibility
Applicants to any of our distance-accessible programs should become familiar with the regulations governing distance accessible programs in their state. Prospective students residing in states other than Alabama should contact their state’s Board of Nursing and Department of Education for specific rules and regulations pertaining to completion of clinical learning experiences in that state when enrolled in a distance accessible program. The ability to conduct course work is only guaranteed for student is Alabama and in states with an established agreement.

Will I meet requirements to take a certification examination when I graduate?
Once you successfully complete the program, you will be awarded a Master of Science in Nursing degree and meet the educational requirements to apply for certification in Nursing Administration either through the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) or the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). In order to sit for examinations, the organizations may have additional experience requirements. 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.

How do I become eligible to practice in my state of residence?
The graduate of NHSA is licensed by the state in which practice occurs 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.

What is a typical program of study like?

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Where can I get more information?
Internet website: https://www.uab.edu/nursing/home/

General information about the application process
Charlene Bender, MPH
MSN Program Manager
(205) 975-7529 | cbender@uab.edu

Information about Nursing and Health Systems Administration
Martha A. Dawson, MNHSA, FACHE
Specialty Track Coordinator
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