

# NURSE PRACTITIONER ADULT-GERONTOLOGY ACUTE CARE

## *Distance Accessible*

### What is an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner?

An Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (ACNP) is a nurse who is prepared in a master's program to practice in an advanced nursing role in a variety of acute or critical care settings. ACNPs are clinical experts who provide care to acutely or critically ill patients, many of whom may have chronic health problems. ACNPs provide continuous and comprehensive care to patients who are acutely or critically ill. At times ACNPs may function independently, but most often they function collaboratively with patients, their families, and other members of the health care team. The goals of the ACNP are to stabilize the patient, minimize complications, provide physical and psychological care, restore maximal health, and evaluate health risk factors. To achieve these goals ACNPs provide direct patient care management; admit and discharge patients from the hospital; perform histories and physicals; analyze clinical data; order and/or perform necessary diagnostic tests or procedures; develop, implement, and evaluate the therapeutic regimen; teach and provide support for patients and their families; minimize fragmentation by providing coordination of care; manage transition of the patient to step-down units or to out-patient settings; and serve as patient advocates.

### Who employs ACNPs?

The ACNP may be employed by hospitals to work in intensive care units, step-down units, and general units. The ACNP may be employed by physicians or physician groups to help manage the care of hospitalized patients, help patients make the transition to out-patient settings, and manage patients in clinic settings.

### Can I specialize as an ACNP?

There is a dual program of studies available with the Registered Nurse First Assistant track. Electives are available for knowledge base enhancement in subjects such as teaching, and diabetes management.

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

The acute care faculty highly recommends that students admitted to the ACNP study option have at least one year, and preferably two years, of professional nursing experience in the field of critical care nursing prior to enrolling in the advanced nursing clinical courses. Additionally, ACLS certification is highly recommended. Your program of study can be arranged so that you can gain the required experience while you are taking prerequisite courses. Should this be the case, you will have to pursue a part-time program of study.

### 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
- (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 297 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- Possess an unencumbered nursing license to practice nursing in the state where you plan to conduct your clinical practicum
- Additional – Selected options may require experience prior to enrollment in a specialty courses.

\* GRE/GMAT/MAT Waiver Process: [https://www.uab.edu/nursing/home/images/stories/info\\_sa/GRE\\_MAT\\_Waiver.pdf](https://www.uab.edu/nursing/home/images/stories/info_sa/GRE_MAT_Waiver.pdf)

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

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

You will be notified of your acceptance or denial within 60 days after the application submission deadline.

## For International Students:

- Prospective international students are asked to first contact International Recruitment and Student Services at [iss@uab.edu](mailto:iss@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](http://www.ece.org) OR the World Education Services [www.wes.org](http://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 297 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- Possess an unencumbered nursing license to practice nursing in the state where you plan to conduct your clinical practicum

## What are the classroom and clinical requirements?

Total Credit Hours: 45; Didactic Hours: 32; Clinical Hours: 13; Total Hours of direct Patient Care: 600 contact hours

**Descriptive narrative:** The three distance accessible didactic graduate core courses provide you with a strong advanced generalist base for managing the care of patients with common health problems and with complex problems that may require intensive collaborative management. Clinical experiences will be in clinics or doctors' offices, where you will manage common episodic and chronic health problems of patients, and in acute and critical care settings where you will learn to manage the care of acutely or critically ill patients. You must come to the Birmingham campus for an orientation and three additional visits for multiday intensives and you must pass a comprehensive examination in order to graduate. Should academic problems arise, an additional visit to campus may be required.

## How many semesters of study are required?

Students who start course work in the summer semester will take seven semesters to complete the program and students starting in the fall semester will take six semesters. 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 be able to apply to take a nurse practitioner certification examination when I complete the program?

Once you successfully complete the program, you will be awarded a Master of Science in Nursing degree and you will be able to apply to take both the national certification examination for Adult Acute Care NPs offered by both the American Nurses Credentialing Center and the American Association of Critical Care Nurses.

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

Nurse Practitioners are licensed by the states in which they practice and are subject to the rules and regulations thereof. You will need to contact your state's board of nursing to determine their requirements.

## What is a typical Program of Study like?

### Coursework

		Summer	Fall
NUR 604	Leadership in Advanced Nursing Practice Roles..... 3	<u>Summer Year I</u>	<u>Fall Year I</u>
NUR 606	Translating Evidence into Practice ..... 3	NUR 604	NUR 604
NUR 610	Health Care Systems for Adv. Nursing Practice ..... 3	NUR 612	NUR 612
NUR 612	Advanced Pathophysiology ..... 3	<u>Fall Year I</u>	<u>Spring Year I</u>
NUR 613	Pharmacology and Therapeutics ..... 3	NUR 606	NUR 606
NUR 614	Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning for Advanced Nursing Practice ..... 3	NUR 613	NUR 613
NCA 618	Focus on Adv. Nursing Practice Specialization ..... 3	<u>Spring Year I</u>	<u>Summer Year I</u>
NCA 621	Advanced Adult Acute Care Nursing I ..... 5	NUR 614	NUR 610
NCA 685	Practicum I: Adult Acute Care Nurse Practitioner ..... 3	NCA 618	NUR 614
NCA 622	Advanced Adult Acute Care Nursing II ..... 4	<u>Summer Year II</u>	NCA 618
NCA 686	Practicum II: Adult Acute Care Nurse Practitioner ..... 3	NUR 610	<u>Fall Year II</u>
NCA 623	Advanced Adult Acute Care Nursing III ..... 5	<u>Fall Year II</u>	NCA 621
NCA 692	Residency: Adult Acute Care Nurse Practitioner ..... 4	NCA 621	NCA 685
	Total ..... 45 credits	NCA 685	<u>Spring Year II</u>
		<u>Spring Year II</u>	NCA 622
		NCA 622	NCA 686
		NCA 686	<u>Summer Year II</u>
		<u>Summer Year III</u>	NCA 623
		NCA 623	NCA 692
		NCA 692	

## **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](mailto:cbender@uab.edu)

### **Information about Acute Adult Nurse Practitioner**

Carla Turner, DNP, CRNP, ACNP-BC  
Specialty Track Coordinator  
205-934-6852 | [turnc@uab.edu](mailto:turnc@uab.edu)