What is a Family Nurse Practitioner?

The Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) is a nurse who is prepared at the master's level as an advanced practice nurse to practice in a variety of primary care settings. The FNP is a clinical expert who is prepared to diagnose and manage commonly occurring episodic and chronic health problems of clients. The FNP promotes the health and education of clients who may be encountered as individuals, groups and/or families. The FNP is prepared to obtain and assess health histories and physical examination data, order and interpret common diagnostic tests, identify actual and potential health problems, and formulate with the client/family a comprehensive plan of therapeutic measures that promote, maintain, or restore health. This plan may include consultation with other health professionals or referral for complicated medical management. Emphasis is placed on implementing prevention measures into practice for adults and children; health education, and client follow-up to decrease health complications.

Who employs Family Nurse Practitioners?

Family Nurse Practitioners (FNP) are employed in a wide variety of primary care clinics where health care is offered to clients of all ages.

Can I specialize further as a Family Nurse Practitioner?

Elective courses are available for knowledge base enhancement in areas such as electrocardiography and diabetes management.

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

Currently, there are no requirements for clinical experience prior to admission. However, the faculty believes students admitted to the family nurse practitioner option must have at least one year of professional nursing experience in an area of primary care, or medical or surgical nursing prior to enrolling in the clinical courses. Your program of study can be planned so that you gain the required experience while taking prerequisite courses. Additionally, before beginning clinical courses, students must verify professional nurse licensure by the board(s) of nursing in the state(s) in which they will contract for clinical preceptorships.

What are the admission criteria?

- A nursing degree (BSN or higher) from a regionally accredited institution, equivalent to the one offered by UAB School of Nursing
- Possess an unencumbered nursing license to practice nursing in the state where you plan to conduct your clinical practicum
- 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 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 an unencumbered nursing license to practice nursing in the state where you plan to conduct your clinical practicum

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.

What are the classroom and clinical requirements?
Total credit hours: 45 hours; didactic hours: 32; clinical hours: 13; total hours of direct patient care: 600

Descriptive narrative: Didactic content is provided in 2 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 are required to visit the campus in Birmingham, AL for orientation and three multiday intensives, 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 are required?
Students who start course work in the summer semester will take seven semesters to complete the program. Students starting in the fall 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 be able to take a national certification examination when I complete the program of study?
Once you successfully complete the program, you will be awarded a Master of Science in Nursing degree and be able to apply to take either or both of the national certification examinations for Family Nurse Practitioner offered by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

How do I become eligible to practice as an FNP in my state of residence?
FNPs are licensed by the state(s) in which they practice and are subject to the rules and regulations of that state’s practice act. You will need to contact your state’s board of nursing to learn their particular requirements.

What is a typical program of study like?

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<td>Total</td>
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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 the Family Nurse Practitioner
D’Ann Somerall, MA, DNP, FNP-BC
Specialty Track Coordinator
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UAB is an equal education opportunity institution.