Acute Care
Neonatal Nurse Practitioner
Distance Accessible

What is a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner?

The Acute Care Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP) is prepared at the Master’s level in advanced practice nursing and is able to diagnose and manage the health problems of newborns, infants and toddlers up to the age of two, who are acutely ill or have a long-term health problem that requires monitoring or hospitalization. The NNP takes responsibility for admission of clients to acute care facilities as well as specialty clinics. The NNP is prepared to obtain and assess health history and physical examination data; order/interpret appropriate diagnostic tests; identify actual and potential health problems; and formulate comprehensive plans and therapeutic measures that promote, maintain, and restore health. The Neonatal Nurse Practitioner forms collaborative relationships with representatives of all disciplines concerned with the health of neonates which may include consultation with other health professionals or referral to specialists for complicated medical management.

Who employs Neonatal Nurse Practitioners?

NPs are employed by individuals or facilities that serve newborns that have serious and ongoing health problems. Examples of practice sites are Neonatal Intensive Care Units, Special Care or Step-Down Units,

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

Prior to beginning the first advanced neonatal clinical course (NNE 684), you must have at least two years of experience as a registered nurse in a Level III (or equivalent) NICU within the last five years. 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. You may be contacted to confirm clinical practice sites are available in your location.

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:

- This program is distance-accessible and therefore not eligible for applicants who plan to enter the US in F-1 or J-1 student status.
- If you plan to enroll in the MSN program in an immigration status other than F or J, please email International Student & Scholar Services at isss@uab.edu for confirmation of your eligibility for the 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; didactic hours: 32; clinical hours: 13; total hours of direct patient care: 600 contact hours.

Descriptive narrative: Advanced practice nursing didactic neonatal content is offered in 4 specialty courses and provides the student with a strong advanced acute and continuing care base for caring for neonates and infants with common and complex health problems. Clinical experiences in a variety of primary care and specialty clinics provide a basis for care if the infant and young toddler. The primary focus for the NNP is in an acute care Neonatal Intensive Care Unit with the majority of clinical hours in a Level III or equivalent NICU. This combination offers extensive preparation for the advanced practice role. Students are required to visit the campus in Birmingham, AL for orientation and three multi-day 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 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 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 the neonatal certification examination through the National Certification Corporation.

How do I become eligible to practice as a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner in my state of residence?
NNPs 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 the particular requirements.

What is a typical Program of Study for the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner specialty track?

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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
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Information about Acute and Continuing Care Neonatal Nurse Practitioner
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