NURSE EDUCATOR

Distance Accessible

What is a Nurse Educator?

The Nurse Educator (NE) is prepared at the Master’s level to teach nursing and patient care in a variety of settings. The NE designs and implements educational programs for specific populations including patients, families, nursing students, technical students, and continuing education for nurses.

Who employs the Nurse Educator?

The NE may be employed to teach in a University or College setting as an Instructor of Nursing. A variety of other employment opportunities exist within hospital and agency settings. In hospitals, the NE may work through the Nursing Administration department to provide education for health care teams throughout the medical center. The NE may be based in a Continuing Education Department, or with a specific hospital unit such as the critical care unit. Specialized agencies such as neurology or cardiovascular associates may employ the NE for teaching their patients.

Can I specialize further?

Electives are available for knowledge base enhancement in subjects such as cardiovascular topics, diabetes management, and informatics.

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 program. However, students admitted to this option should have at least one year of professional nursing or primary care experience in an area of medical or surgical nursing 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. In this case, you will have a part-time program of study in order to acquire the nursing experience. Additionally, before beginning clinical courses, you must verify professional nurse licensure by the board of nursing in the state in which you will contract for teaching their patients.

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](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 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
Descriptive narrative: Advanced nursing didactic content is provided in 5 courses and provides the student with a strong base of knowledge about patient care at an advanced level. Practicum and residency courses offer extensive preparation for the teaching role. You may be required to visit the campus but will be notified with time for planning the trip.

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.

Are there special requirements before beginning practicum courses?

There are no requirements for clinical experience prior to admission to the MSN program. However, students admitted to this specialty track are strongly encouraged to have at least one year of professional nursing or primary care experience in an area of medical or surgical nursing 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. You will not be able to do full-time program of study if you are acquiring the needed experience while matriculating. Additionally, before beginning clinical courses, you must verify professional nurse licensure by the board of nursing in the state in which you will contract for clinical preceptorships.

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 students in Alabama and in states with an established agreement. For up-to-date information on current state authorization statuses go to http://www.uab.edu/online/state-authorization.

How do I become eligible to practice as an NE in my state of residence?

Nurses are 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.

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 the Clinical Nurse Specialist Nurse Educator
Laura Steadman, EdD, CRNP, MSN, RN
Specialty Track Coordinator
(205) 996-7670 | lstead@uab.edu

UAB is an equal education opportunity institution.