

MSN CLINICAL NURSE LEADER

Distance Accessible

What is a Clinical Nurse Leader?

The Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) is a leader in the health care delivery system in all settings in which health care is delivered. The CNL assumes accountability for patient care outcomes through the application of research-based information to design, implement, and evaluate patient plans of care. The CNL is a provider and manager of care at the point of care to patients and cohorts of patients within a healthcare setting. The role includes the design, implementation, and evaluation of patient care outcomes by coordinating, delegating, and supervising the care provided by the health care team, including licensed nurses, technicians, and other health professionals. CNL Master's graduates are eligible to sit for a national board certification through the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN).

Who employs Clinical Nurse Leaders?

Clinical Nurse Leaders are employed in both acute care and community agencies.

Can I specialize further as a Clinical Nurse Leader?

Clinical Nurse Leaders are Advanced Generalist Nurses. You may take electives within your program of study to develop additional expertise.

What specific specialty requirements do I need prior to entering the Clinical Nurse Leader Specialty Track?

There are no requirements for clinical experience prior to admission.

What are the admission criteria?

- A nursing degree (BSN or higher) from a regionally accredited institution, equivalent to the one offered by the School of Nursing at UAB
- 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*

* GRE/GMAT/MAT Waiver Process: http://www.uab.edu/nursing/images/stories/infostudents/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

For International Students: International students must meet the following additional criteria.

- Evaluation of all foreign transcripts by the Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc www.ece.org OR the World Education Services www.wes.org, and sent 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).
- All students with a Visa status of F1 or J1 must meet with the course faculty by week 2 of each semester to plan how adherence to federal regulations will be met
- Possess a license to practice nursing in the state where the student's clinical practicum will be conducted

When 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 : 32; Didactic hours: 23; Clinical hours: 9; Total clinical contact hours: 480

Descriptive narrative: You must be on-campus 1-2 times during the MSN Program for a total of 2-3 days. During these times, you will be tested in a simulation laboratory for your history-taking and physical examination skills. Should problems arise, an additional on-campus visit may be required.

Who will serve as my preceptor in the clinical courses?

A preceptor may be a nurse or other health care professional approved by the School of Nursing faculty. Students may make suggestions about the selection of a preceptor or the clinical faculty may secure a preceptor for the student. Students are given information about selecting preceptors and guidelines for working with them. Faculty are always available to students during their clinical preceptorship.

How many semesters are required for full time study?

Is part time study offered?

The specialty may be completed in 5 semesters when starting in the Spring term. Part-time study is available and can start during the fall and spring semesters in an academic year.

Will I be able to take a national certification examination when I complete the program of study?

Graduates of the Clinical Nurse Leader specialty track will be eligible to apply to sit for the Commission on Nursing Certification – CNL Certification Examination.

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

The CNL is certified by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Only those nurses that have graduated from a Master’s program with a CNL track and have passed the national CNL certification exam can use the credential of CNL. Additionally, the CNL 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.

A typical part-time program of study

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|----------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | Spring Start | Fall Start |
| NUR 600 | Research and Statistics for Advanced Practice4 | <u>Spring – Year I</u> | <u>Fall – Year I</u> |
| NUR 612 | Advanced Pathophysiology.....3 | NUR 612 | NUR 600 |
| NUR 613 | Pharmacology and Therapeutics3 | NUR 614 | NUR 612 |
| NUR 614L | Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning for Advanced Practice Nursing.....4 | <u>Summer– Year I</u> | <u>Spring – Year I</u> |
| NUR 643 | Introduction to Nursing Informatics.....3 | NUR 600 | NUR 613 |
| NCL 620 | Systems in Population-based Care I3 | NUR 643 | NUR 614 |
| NCL 621 | Systems in Population-based Care II3 | <u>Fall – Year I</u> | <u>Summer – Year I</u> |
| NCL 685L | Clinical Nurse Leader Practicum I2 | NUR 613 | NUR 643 |
| NCL 686L | Clinical Nurse Leader Practicum II2 | NCL 620 | |
| NCL 692L | Clinical Nurse Leader Capstone Practicum5 | NCL 685 | <u>Fall – Year 2</u> |
| | | | NCL 620 |
| | Total32 credits | <u>Spring – Year 2</u> | NCL 685 |
| | | NCL 621 | |
| | | NCL 686 | <u>Spring Year 2</u> |
| | | | NCL 621 |
| | | <u>Summer Year 2</u> | NCL 686 |
| | | NCL 692 | |
| | | | <u>Summer Year 2</u> |
| | | | NCL 692 |

Where can I get more information?

Internet website: <http://www.uab.edu/nursing>

General information about the application process

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