

NURSE PRACTITIONER ADULT ACUTE AND CONTINUING CARE

Distance Accessible

What is an Acute and Continuing Care Nurse Practitioner?

An Acute and Continuing 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 and continuing care faculty highly recommend 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 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*
- Additional – Selected options may require experience prior to enrollment in a specialty courses.

* 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.

*An alternate master's in nursing pathways option is available: <http://www.uab.edu/nursing/student-information/acad-prog/amnp>

***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:

- 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).
- If your Visa status is F1 or J1, meet with your course faculty by week 2 of each semester to plan how you will meet Federal Regulations
- Possess a 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 30 days after the application submission deadline.

What are the classroom and clinical requirements?

Total Credit Hours: 47; Didactic Hours: 35; Clinical Hours: 12; Total Hours of direct Patient Care: 630 contact hours

Descriptive narrative: The 3 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 2 multiday intensives. Other visits may be required. You must pass a comprehensive examination.

How many semesters are required for full-time study? Is part-time study available?

Full-time study as defined by the University, 9 hours/semester, is possible for 4 of the 5 semesters required when students begin study in Fall semester. If full-time status is required, an elective can be taken during the remaining semester. Part-time programs of study are available for entry during any of the 3 semesters in the academic year.

Will I be able to apply to take a nurse practitioner certification examination when I complete the program?

You will be able to apply to take both the national certification examination for Adult Acute and Continuing 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

NUR 614	Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning for Advanced Practice Nursing	4	<u>Fall Year 1</u>	<u>Spring Year 1</u>
NUR 600	Research and Statistics for Advanced Practice.....	4	NUR 612	NUR 612
NUR 612	Advanced Pathophysiology	3		NUR 613
NCA 616	Diagnostic and Therapeutic Procedures I	2	<u>Spring Year 1</u>	
NCA 621	Advanced Adult Acute Care Nursing I.....	4	NUR 613	<u>Summer Year 1</u>
NUR 601	Role Development for Advanced Nursing Practice.....	3	NUR 614	NUR 600
NUR 613	Pharmacology and Therapeutics	3	<u>Summer Year 1</u>	NUR 601
NCA 622	Advanced Adult Acute Care Nursing II.....	3	NUR 601	<u>Fall Year 1</u>
NCA 685	Practicum I: Adult Acute Care Nurse Practitioner.....	3		NUR 614
NUR 602	Issues Affecting Advanced Nursing Practice.....	3	<u>Fall Year 2</u>	NCV 631
NCA 623	Advanced Adult Acute Care Nursing III.....	3	NUR 600	<u>Spring Year 2</u>
NCA 686	Practicum II: Adult Acute Care Nurse Practitioner.....	3	NCV 631	NCA 616
NCV 631	Electrocardiography for Advanced Practice.....	3	<u>Spring Year 2</u>	NCA 621L
NCA 692	Residency: Adult Acute Care Nurse Practitioner.....	6	NCA 616	
			NCA 621	<u>Summer Year 2</u>
			<u>Summer Year 2</u>	NCA 622
			NCA 622	NCA 685
			NCA 685	<u>Fall Year 2</u>
			<u>Fall Year 2</u>	NCA 623L
			NCA 623	NCA 686
			NCA 686	<u>Spring Year 3</u>
			<u>Spring Year 3</u>	NUR 602
			NCA 692	NCA 692
			NUR 602	

Where can I get more information?

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

General information about the application process

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