

NURSE PRACTITIONER FAMILY PRIMARY CARE

Distance Accessible

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 putting prevention 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 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.

*For non-nursing students with a bachelor's degree, 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: 41 hours; didactic hours: 29; clinical hours: 12; total hours of direct patient care: 630
 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 two 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 are required for full time study? Is part time study offered?

Full time study is 4 semesters starting in fall semester. Part-time study is available for students who start the MSN program in the fall or spring academic semesters.

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

Once you complete the program, you will be able to apply to take either or both of the national certification examinations for Family Nurse Practitioner offered by both 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?

Program of Study Options

<u>Coursework</u>		Fall Full-Time	Fall Part-Time	Spring Part-Time
NUR 600	Research and Statistics for Advanced Practice 4	<u>Fall Year I</u>	<u>Fall Year I</u>	<u>Spring Year I</u>
NUR 601	Role Development for Advanced Nursing Practice .. 3	NUR 601	NUR 602	NUR 601
NUR 602	Issues Affecting Advanced Nursing Practice..... 3	NUR 612	NUR 612	NUR 612
NUR 612	Advanced Pathophysiology..... 3	NUR 614	<u>Spring Year I</u>	<u>Summer Year I</u>
NUR 613	Pharmacology and Therapeutics 3	<u>Spring Year I</u>	NUR 600	NUR 613
NUR 614	Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning for Advanced Nursing Practice..... 4	NUR 613	NUR 614	<u>Fall Year I</u>
NFH 621	Advanced Family Nursing I 5	NFH 621	<u>Summer Year I</u>	NUR 600
NFH 685	Practicum I: Family Nurse Practitioner 3	NFH 685	NUR 613	NUR 614
NFH 622	Advanced Family Nursing II 4	<u>Summer Year I</u>	<u>Fall Year II</u>	<u>Spring Year II</u>
NFH 686	Practicum II: Family Nurse Practitioner..... 3	NUR 600	NUR 601	NFH 621
NFH 692	Residency: Family Nurse Practitioner 6	NFH 622	<u>Spring Year II</u>	NFH 685
	Total41 credits	NFH 686	NFH 621	<u>Summer Year II</u>
		NUR 602	NFH 685	NFH 622
		NFH 692	<u>Summer Year II</u>	NFH 686
			NFH 622	<u>Fall Year II</u>
			NFH 686	NFH 692
			<u>Fall Year III</u>	NUR 602
			NFH 692	

Where can I get more information?

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

General information about the application process

Lacy Lazenby
 MSN Program Manager
 (205) 934-3534
 E-Mail: lazenby@uab.edu

Information about the Family Nurse Practitioner

Pamela Bowen, PHD, FNP-BC
 (205) 934-2778
 Email: pbowen@uab.edu
 OR
 Brenda Iddins, DNP, FNP-BC
 (205) 996-9835
 Email: bwiddins@uab.edu

Master's Program Coordinator

Lygia Holcomb, DSN
 Assoc Prof/Asst Dean
 (205) 996-6935
 E-Mail: lholcomb@uab.edu