

Acute and Continuing Care Neonatal Nurse Practitioner *Distance Accessible*

What is a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner?

The Acute and Continuing Care Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP) is prepared at the Masters or DNP 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 who have serious and ongoing health problems. Examples of practice sites are Neonatal Intensive Care Units, Special Care or Step-down Units,

Can I specialize further as a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner?

Elective courses are available for knowledge base enhancement in areas such as cardiovascular and teaching.

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. An online or in-person interview is required because of the need to assure 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 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: 44; didactic hours: 32; clinical hours: 12; total hours of direct patient care: 630 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 base for care of 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 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?

The MSN program in the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner special track can be completed in 5 semesters if started in fall semester. Only the first three semesters are full-time study as defined by the University, 9 credit hours per semester. Part-time programs of study are available for entry during the fall and spring academic semesters.

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

Once you complete the program 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?

Coursework		Program of Study Options	
NUR 600	Research and Statistics for Advanced Practice 4	<u>Fall Start</u>	<u>Spring Start</u>
NUR 601	Role Development for Advanced Nursing Practice .. 3	<u>Fall Year I</u>	<u>Spring Year I</u>
NUR 602	Issues Affecting Advanced Nursing Practice..... 3	NUR 600	NUR 601
NUR 612	Advanced Pathophysiology..... 3	NUR 601	NUR 612
NNE 613	Neonatal Pharmacology and Therapeutics..... 3		
NNE 614	Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning for Advanced Nursing Practice..... 4	<u>Spring Year I</u>	<u>Summer Year I</u>
		NUR 612	NUR 600
		NNE 613	NNE 614
NNE 621	Advanced Neonatal Nursing I..... 4		
NNE 622	Advanced Neonatal Nursing II 4	<u>Summer Year I</u>	<u>Fall Year I</u>
NNE 623	Advanced Neonatal Nursing III 4	NNE 614	NUR 602
NNE 684L	Practicum I: Neonatal Nurse Practitioner 2	NUR 602	NNE 621
NNE 685L	Practicum II: Neonatal Nurse Practitioner 2		NNE 684
NNE 686L	Practicum III: Neonatal Nurse Practitioner 2	<u>Fall Year II</u>	<u>Spring Year II</u>
NNE 692L	Residency: Neonatal Nurse Practitioner 6	NNE 621	NNE 613
	Total44 credits	NNE 684	NNE 622
			NNE 685
		<u>Spring Year II</u>	<u>Summer Year II</u>
		NNE 622	NNE 623
		NNE 685	NNE 686
		<u>Summer Year II</u>	<u>Fall Year III</u>
		NNE 623	NNE 692
		NNE 686	
		<u>Fall Year III</u>	
		NNE 692	

Where can I get more information?

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

General information about the application process

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