

NURSE PRACTITIONER ADULT ACUTE AND CONTINUING CARE WITH SECONDARY SPECIALIZATION IN REGISTERED NURSE FIRST ASSISTANT

What is an Adult Acute and Continuing Care Nurse Practitioner with a secondary specialization as a Registered Nurse First Assistant?

An Adult Acute and Continuing Care Nurse Practitioner is a clinical expert who provides care to acutely or critically ill patients many of whom may have chronic health problems. A Registered Nurse First Assistant (RNFA) is a nurse who is prepared to work in collaboration with surgeons to perform delegated medical functions during the intraoperative phase of patient care. An RNFA provides continuous and comprehensive care throughout the perioperative period for acutely or critically ill patients who are undergoing surgery. The RNFA functions collaboratively with patients, families, surgeons, and other members of the health care team. The goals of the RNFA are to stabilize patients, minimize complications and promote safety, provide physical care, and provide competent assistance to the surgeon throughout the perioperative period. The RNFA provides direct patient care management; admits and discharges patients from surgical areas; performs histories and physicals; analyzes clinical data; orders and or performs necessary diagnostic tests or procedures; develops, implements, and evaluates the therapeutic regimen; provides pre- and post-operative teaching; minimizes fragmentation by providing coordination of care; manages transitions of patients to other units or out-patient settings; and serves as patient advocate. For further description of the Acute Adult Acute and Continuing Care Nurse Practitioner, see that Fact Sheet. There are three entry points into the RNFA coursework – post-BSN, post-MSN, and MSN dual Adult Acute/RNFA. For information regarding post-BSN and Post-MSN, see Certificate Options on the School of Nursing Web Site.

Who employs Dual Adult Acute Nurse Practitioners and RNFAs?

Adult acute NPs with an RNFA specialty may be employed by hospitals to work in intensive care units, step-down units, and general units. They may be employed by physicians to help manage the care of hospitalized patients, help patients make transitions to out-patient settings, and manage patients in clinic settings. They may work in specialty clinics or home health agencies to manage the health care of acutely ill or chronically critically ill patients. RNFAs may be employed by hospitals to work in perioperative services. They may also be employed by surgeons to help manage the care of surgical patients, and assist the surgeon during the operative phase. They may also be employed in surgical centers.

Can I specialize further?

Students may further their knowledge base through elective courses. Examples include cardiovascular nursing and advanced genetics.

What kind of experience do I need prior to entering the practicum courses?

The Adult Acute and Continuing Care faculty highly recommend that students admitted to the ACNP specialty track have at least one year of professional nursing experience 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. If you elect to take this route, you will be in 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: 54; Didactic Hours: 39; Clinical Hours: 15; Total Hours of direct Patient Care: 810 contact hours.

Descriptive narrative: The courses provide students with a strong advanced generalist base for managing the care of surgical patients with common health problems and complex problems that may require intensive collaborative management. Clinical practica are designed so that students will acquire the knowledge, skills, and practice experiences to develop the competencies. The Acute Adult NP specialty courses provide 10 credit hours of didactic content, and 12 credit hours (630 contact hours) of clinical experiences. Didactic content specific to the secondary specialization of RNFA is provided in NFA 620 and NFA 621 courses (see typical program of studies below). Clinical practicum hours are accomplished in the perioperative environment in NFA 622 courses. NFA 620 does require a 3-4 day on campus surgical lab. 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, as defined by the University as 9 hours, is available for the first year of enrollment if you begin during the Summer Academic term. The second year of study is available as part-time study, or electives may be added to achieve 9 hours each semester. Your academic adviser will work with you to achieve the best program of studies for progression through the combined Adult Acute and Continuing Care Nurse Practitioner with secondary specialization as RNFA track.

Will I be able to take a certification examination when I graduate?

Upon graduation, students may apply to take the Adult Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Examination offered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) and the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN).

The Perioperative Certification Board (PCB) requires 2000 hours to be eligible for the Registered Nurse First Assistant certification. The practica courses in this program of study are counted toward these hours. The UAB School of Nursing is approved by the PCB to offer the RNFA program.

How do I become eligible to practice as an ACNP/RNFA in my state of residence?

Individual states have different requirements regarding licensure for advanced practice nurses. You will need to contact your state's board of nursing to learn about specific requirements.

What is a typical program of study for the MSN ACNP/RNFA dual option??

Coursework

NUR 600	Research and Statistics for Advanced Practice..... 4		
NUR 612	Advanced Pathophysiology..... 3	<u>Fall Year 1</u>	<u>Spring Year 1</u>
NUR 601	Role Development for Advanced Nursing Practice.. 3	NUR 612	NUR 612
NUR 614	Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning for Advanced Practice Nursing..... 4	NFA 620	NUR 613
NFA 620	Surgical Techniques..... 3	NCV 631	NUR600
NUR 602	Issues Affecting Advanced Nursing Practice..... 3	<u>Spring Year 1</u>	<u>Summer Year 1</u>
NUR 613	Pharmacology and Therapeutics..... 3	NUR 613	NUR 612
NCA 621	Advanced Adult Acute Care Nursing I..... 4	NFA 621	NUR 601
NFA 621	Advanced Perioperative Nursing I..... 3	<u>Summer Year 1</u>	<u>Fall Year 1</u>
NCV 631	Advanced Electrocardiography.....3	NFA 622(3)	NUR 614
NCA 622	Advanced Adult Acute Care Nursing II..... 3	NUR 601	NFA 620
NCA 685	Practicum I: Adult Acute Care Nurse Practitioner.....3		NCV 631
NCA 623	Advanced Adult Acute Care Nursing III.....3	<u>Fall Year 2</u>	<u>Spring Year 2</u>
NCA 686	Practicum II: Adult Acute Care Nurse Practitioner.. 3	NUR 600	NFA 621
NCA 692	Residency: Adult Acute Care Nurse.....6	NUR614	NCA 621
NFA 622	Advanced Perioperative Nsg Practicum I..... 1-3		NFA 627
	Total..... 54 credit hours	<u>Spring Year 2</u>	<u>Summer Year 2</u>
		NUR 602	NCA 622
		NCA 621	NCA 685
		<u>Summer Year 2</u>	<u>Fall Year 2</u>
		NCA 622L	NCA 623
		NCA 685	NCA 868
		<u>Fall Year 2</u>	NFA 622
		NCA 623L	<u>Spring Year 3</u>
		NCA 686L	NCA 692
		<u>Spring Year 3</u>	NUR 602
		NCA 692L	NFA 622

Where can I get more information?

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

General information about the application process

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