

STUDIES IN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH NURSING

What is an Occupational Health Nurse?

The Occupational Health Nurse is prepared at the Master's level to practice with a secondary specialization in a variety of adult primary and occupational health settings. The courses are taken in conjunction with the Adult Nurse Practitioner (NP) specialty track to become prepared as a clinical expert in occupational health for the Adult population. For information about the Adult NP specialty track, see that Fact Sheet. The University of Alabama School of Nursing is a component of the Deep South Center for Occupational Health and Safety. The Deep South Center offers students rigorous studies to prepare for full interaction with other occupational health and safety programs. Graduate students who are United States citizens are eligible for partial tuition and stipend support through the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

Who employs Occupational Health Nurses?

The Adult NP with Occupational Health secondary specialization can work in industry, for cities and municipalities, or for any arena in which the working adult requires health care related to the job.

Can I specialize further?

Electives such as teaching courses may be taken to develop other competencies.

What kind of nursing experience do I need prior to entering the program?

There are no requirements for clinical experience prior to admission to the program. However, students admitted to this option should have at least one year of professional nursing experience in an area of medical or surgical nursing prior to enrolling in the clinical courses in order to be successful. Your program of study can be planned so that you gain the required experience while taking prerequisite courses. Your program of study can be arranged so that you can gain the required experience while you are taking prerequisite courses. If you need this experience, you will not be able to be in a full-time program of study. Before beginning clinical courses, you must verify professional nurse licensure by the board(s) of nursing in the state(s) in which you 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.

*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 by Email of your acceptance or denial within 30 days after the application submission deadline.

What are the classroom and clinical requirements?

Total credit hours: 61; Didactic Hours: 49; Clinical Hours: 12; total Hours of direct Patient Care: 630 contact hours.

Descriptive narrative: Didactic content specific to this secondary specialization is provided in 7 support courses, for example, Industrial Hygiene, and in 2 Adult Nurse Practitioner Courses. Clinical experiences in a variety of primary care clinics and occupational health 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.

Are there special requirements before beginning practicum courses?

There are no requirements for clinical experience prior to admission to the program. However, the faculty strongly encourages students to have at least one year of professional nursing in an area of medical or surgical nursing 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. Additionally, before beginning clinical courses, you must verify professional nurse licensure by the board of nursing in the state in which you will contract for clinical preceptorships.

Will I be able to apply to take a certification examination if I complete this program?

Once you complete the program, you will be able to apply to take one or both of the national certification examination for Adult Nurse Practitioners offered by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

How do I become eligible to practice in my state of residence?

You are 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.

What is a typical program of study like?

Program of Study Option

Coursework

NUR 600	Research and Statistics for Advanced Practice	4
NUR 601	Role Development for Advanced Nursing Practice	3
NUR 602	Issues Affecting Advanced Nursing Practice	3
NUR 612	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NUR 613	Pharmacology and Therapeutics.....	3
NUR 614	Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning for Advanced Nursing Practice.....	4
NUR 630	Principles of Epidemiology	3
NUR 671	Principles of Occupational Toxicology and Disease	3
NUR 674	Evaluation and Management of OH &S Programs	3
NAH 621	Advanced Adult Health Nursing I	4
NAH 622	Advanced Adult Health Nursing II	4
NAH 685	Practicum I: Adult Health Nurse Practitioner I	3
NAH 686	Practicum I: Adult Health Nurse Practitioner II	3
NAH 692	Residency: Adult Health Nurse Practitioner	6
ENH 621	Industrial Hygiene.....	3
ENH 670	Safety and Ergonomics.....	3
ENH 680	Interdisciplinary Field Studies*	2
ENH 681	Interdisciplinary Worksite Evaluation*	4
	Elective.....	1
	Total	61 credits

* Course taken twice throughout the program

<u>Fall Year 1</u>	<u>Spring Year 1</u>
NUR 601	NUR 601
NUR 612	NUR 613
ENH 680	ENH 670
<u>Spring Year 1</u>	<u>Summer Year 1</u>
NUR 614	NUR 612
ENH 670	NUR 630
ENH 681	
<u>Summer Year 1</u>	<u>Fall Year 1</u>
NUR 600	NUR 600
NUR 630	NUR 614
	ENH 680
<u>Fall Year 2</u>	<u>Spring Year 2</u>
NUR 602	NUR 674
NUR 613	NAH 621
NUR 671	ENH 685
<u>Spring Year 2</u>	<u>Summer Year 2</u>
NUR 674	NAH 622
NAH 621	NAH 686
ENH 685	
<u>Summer Year 2</u>	<u>Fall Year 2</u>
NAH 622	NUR 671
NAH 686	ENH 621
	NAH 692
<u>Fall Year 2</u>	<u>Spring Year 3</u>
ENH 621	NUR 602
NAH 692	ENH 681

Where can I get more information?

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

General information about the application process

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