

CLINICAL NURSE EDUCATOR

Distance Accessible

What is a Nurse Educator?

The Nurse Educator (NE) is prepared at the Master's level to teach nursing and patient care in a variety of settings. The NE designs and implements educational programs for specific populations including patients, families, nursing students, technical students, and continuing education for nurses.

Who employs the Nurse Educator?

The NE may be employed to teach in a University or College setting as an Instructor of Nursing. A variety of other employment opportunities exist within hospital and agency settings. In hospitals, the NE may work through the Nursing Administration department to provide education for health care teams throughout the medical center. The NE may be based in a Continuing Education Department, or with a specific hospital unit such as the critical care unit. Specialized agencies such as neurology or cardiovascular associates may employ the NE for teaching their patients.

Can I specialize further?

Electives are available for knowledge base enhancement in subjects such as cardiovascular topics, diabetes management, and informatics.

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 or primary care experience 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. In this case, you will have a part-time program of study in order to acquire the nursing experience. 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.

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

What are the classroom and clinical requirements?

Total Credit Hours: 46; Didactic Hours: 41; Clinical Hours: 5 Total Hours of contact hours in the Nurse Educator Residency: 270 contact hours

Descriptive narrative: Advanced nursing didactic content is provided in 5 courses and provides the student with a strong base of knowledge about patient care at an advanced level. Practicum and residency courses offer extensive preparation for the teaching role. You may be required to visit the campus but will be notified with time for planning the trip.

How many semesters are required for full-time study in the Adult Health Nurse Educator track? Is part-time study available?

Full-time study is defined by the University as 9 credit hours or more each semester. The Adult Health Nurse Educator specialty track can be completed in 4 semesters of full-time study and one semester of part-time study (6 hours) for the student who begins in Summer semester. All other entry semesters will require part-time study. Your academic adviser will work with you to develop a program of studies to meet your needs.

Are there special requirements before beginning practicum courses?

There are no requirements for clinical experience prior to admission to the MSN program. However, students admitted to this specialty track are strongly encouraged to have at least one year of professional nursing or primary care experience 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. You will not be able to do full-time program of study if you are acquiring the needed experience while matriculating. 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.

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

Nurses are licensed by the states 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?

| <u>Coursework</u> | | <u>Program of Study Option</u> | |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| NUR 600 | Research and Statistics for Advanced Nursing Practice..... | 4 | |
| NUR 601 | Role Development for Advanced Nursing Practice..... | 3 | |
| NUR 602 | Issues Affecting Advanced Nursing Practice. | 3 | |
| NUR 612 | Advanced Physiology and Pathophysiology. | 3 | |
| NUR 613 | Pharmacology and Therapeutics..... | 3 | |
| NUR 614 | Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning..... | 4 | |
| NCA 621 | Advanced Adult Acute Care Nursing I..... | 4 | |
| NCA 622 | Advanced Adult Acute Care Nursing II..... | 3 | |
| NCA 623 | Advanced Adult Acute Care Nursing III..... | 3 | |
| NCS 616 | Foundations of Clinical Nurse Specialist Practice..... | 1 | |
| NCS 617 | Phenomena of Concern to Advanced Practice Nurses..... | 1 | |
| NCS 685 | Adult CNS Practicum I..... | 2 | |
| NTC 650 | Instructional Strategies in Teaching Nursing. | 3 | |
| NTC 652 | Curriculum and Program Development..... | 3 | |
| NTC 654 | Evaluation of Instruction..... | 3 | |
| NTC 692 | Residency: Nurse Educator..... | 3 | |
| Total | | 46 credits | |
| | | Fall Part-time | Spring Part-time |
| | | Fall Year 1 | Spring Year 1 |
| | | NUR 612 | NUR 600 |
| | | NTC 650 | NUR 612 |
| | | Spring Year 1 | Summer Year 1 |
| | | NUR 614 | NUR 613 |
| | | NTC 652 | |
| | | Summer Year 1 | Fall Year 1 |
| | | NUR 601 | NUR 614 |
| | | NTC 654 | NTC 650 |
| | | Fall Year 2 | Spring Year 2 |
| | | NUR 600 | NCS 616 |
| | | NUR 613 | NCA 621 |
| | | | NCS 685 |
| | | Spring Year 2 | Summer Year 2 |
| | | NCS 616 | NUR 602 |
| | | NCA 621 | NCA 622 |
| | | NCS 685 | |
| | | Summer Year 2 | Fall Year 2 |
| | | NUR 602 | NCS 617 |
| | | NCA 622 | NCA 623 |
| | | Fall Year 3 | Spring Year 3 |
| | | NCS 617 | NUR 601 |
| | | NCA 623 | NTC 652 |
| | | Spring Year 3 | Summer Year 3 |
| | | NTC 692 | NTC 654 |
| | | | NTC 692 |

Where can I get more information?

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

General information about the application process

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

Information about the Clinical Nurse Specialist Nurse Educator

Ann Williams, PhD, RN
 Specialty Track Coordinator
 Phone: (205) 934-6583
 E-mail: williamsa@uab.edu

Master's Program Coordinator

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