Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) curriculum is designed to prepare nurses for advanced nursing practice and generalist practice. MSN graduates are prepared to practice in a variety of roles in a health care system requiring advanced knowledge of patient/client care delivery and a high level of critical thinking. In addition, MSN graduates have a foundation for future doctoral study in nursing.

For more information on our diverse specialty track concentrations click here.

DISTANCE ACCESSIBILITY & YOUR STATE

Applicants to any of our distance-accessible programs should become familiar with the regulations governing distance accessible programs in their home state of residence. Prospective students residing in states other than Alabama should contact their state Board of Nursing and Department of Education for specific rules and regulations pertaining to completion of clinical learning experiences in that state when enrolled in a distance accessible program. The ability to conduct course work is only guaranteed for students in Alabama and in states with an established agreement.

To check on the status of your state, please click here.

PROGRAM SCHEDULING

Students are admitted to master’s study in the summer and fall terms. Students will follow a part-time program of study. Student cohorts follow a prescribed course flow; however, individual needs are considered. All core, support, and selected specialty courses are available via distance education. However, this distance accessible MSN program is not completely online. Students are required to be on campus for selected learning experiences such as orientations, course intensives, and other experiences as deemed appropriate.

CLINICAL SCHEDULE

Clinical experiences for the MSN student are designed on an individual basis. The student contracts to work with a clinical preceptor who is a certified registered nurse practitioner or a physician (MD or DO). The total number of clinical hours required varies depending on the advanced specialty option that is selected. Students are required to hold a current RN license in the state where clinical practicum’s will be performed prior to enrolling in the advanced practice clinical courses.

MSN PROGRAM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- A nursing degree (BSN or higher) from a regionally accredited institution, equivalent to the one offered by the UAB School of Nursing

- An undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale either cumulatively or on the last 60 semester credit hours
• Three (3) letters of professional reference attesting to the applicant’s potential for graduate study submitted to NursingCAS
• Official copies of all transcripts from all postsecondary institutions attended submitted to NursingCAS
• Submit a current CV/Resume
• Submit a personal essay. Specific instructions for essay content and formatting can be found in the NursingCAS application
• Some MSN specialty track options may require experience prior to enrollment in specialty course work. Please be sure to visit http://www.uab.edu/nursing/home/academics and click on “Degree Programs” and then “Master of Science in Nursing” to view your advanced specialty concentration fact sheet to verify specific track requirements.
• Standardized test score (MAT, GRE)*A minimum score of 410 on the MAT; or a combined score of 1000 on the verbal and quantitative section of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or combined score of 297 on the New 2011 GRE.* Submit official scores directly to the UAB Graduate School (School Code: GRE/1856, MAT/1017). Scores are valid for 5 years from the date taken.

NOTE: The UAB School of Nursing does allow eligible candidates for masters’ study to have the requirement of satisfactory GRE or MAT scores waived for admission if they meet certain criteria. Click here for more information on the GRE/MAT WAIVER REQUIREMENTS and PROCESS.

MSN Admission Application Instructions

Applying for Admission

The UAB School of Nursing has partnered with NursingCAS, The Centralized Application Service for Nursing Schools, to collect and manage applications to our MSN program (not Nurse Anesthesia). It is extremely important that you carefully read all directions below to ensure successful submission of your application. Successful application submission relies on applicants careful completed of all questions and compliance with the directions.

DISTANCE ACCESSIBILITY & YOUR STATE

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To check on the status of your state, please click here.
Please follow the instructions carefully.

***We recommend ordering all official collegiate transcripts as the first step in the process and have them sent directly to NursingCAS and then complete the required NursingCAS fields for submission of your application.***

Some sections of the NursingCAS application will be REQUIRED by UAB although they are marked “optional”. Please review these instructions/checklist carefully for required MSN Program admission information and note that your application will not be considered until ALL sections listed are completed, submitted, and verified by NursingCAS and all required items are completed for the processing of your UAB MSN Program application. Missing information will delay or disqualify your application.

- **NursingCAS Application**
  - Submit an application to NursingCAS [here](#).
  - Information on how to apply, please use the NursingCAS [instruction checklist here](#).
  - Choose one of the following term designations, along with your desired advanced specialty concentration (except RN-MSN):
    - MSN Summer 2016
      - Application Deadline: October 22, 2015
    - MSN Fall 2016 (Deadline TBD)
    - RN-MSN applicants please choose the RN-MSN designation
      - You will select your desired advanced specialty concentration within the Questions tab on the NursingCAS application.

  Complete the **NursingCAS Application** and all of the following items

- **Items to be mailed to NursingCAS**
  - Submit official transcripts- All official transcripts must be mailed from the issuing institution’s registrar’s office directly to NursingCAS. In order to expedite the processing be sure to include the transcript request form. Please send transcripts as early as possible and no less than 4 weeks before the application deadline due to the time needed by Nursing CAS to verify your application.

    Mailing Address:
    NursingCAS
    Transcript Department
    P.O. Box 9201
    Watertown, MA 02471

    Note: If your transcript is sent to UAB you will be required to reorder your transcript to be sent directly to NursingCAS. UAB cannot forward your transcript as it will not be considered “official”.

- **Applicant Information Section (REQUIRED)**
  - Biographic Information
  - Contact Information
  - Citizenship Information
  - Race and Ethnicity
Other Information
Social Security

The UAB School of Nursing collects the social security number (SSN) for a variety of legally mandated activities, including income tax reporting and administration of federally supported financial aid programs. The SSN is not used as the student’s primary identification; however, students who do not provide this information at the point of application may experience a delay in financial aid processing, and we will not be able to process your NursingCAS application without this information. The UAB School of Nursing has adopted privacy policies and practices designed to protect student’s personal information. Only information required to efficiently conduct our business and meet state and federal reporting requirements is collected.

☐ Academic History Section
- High Schools Attended
- Colleges Attended
- College Transcripts (ALL COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS REQUIRED)
- Transcript Entry (ALL COURSE WORK ENTRY IS REQUIRED)

Tip: When starting your “Coursework Entry” be sure to have a copy of your transcript(s) in hand in order to complete this section. All college level course work (including in-progress course work) must be entered into the application in this section.

- Tests
  In this section enter: If you have taken or plan to take the GRE.
  ▪ Official GRE Scores within the last 5 years with acceptable verbal, quantitative and writing scores are required for all applicants; (UAB code 1856)
  ▪ TOEFL (for international students only); (UAB code 1856)

  Click here for more information on the GRE/MAT waiver process.

NOTE: Approval for the GRE/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/MAT. Candidates not approved for the GRE/MAT waiver will be required to take the GRE/MAT before a final decision can be made on their application for master’s study. The UAB School of Nursing must receive the official score by the posted admission deadline. Applicants for the GRE/MAT waiver must meet the same requirements for admission to the MSN program as all other applicants.

☐ Supporting Materials Section
- References (REQUIRED)
  Three (3) letters of professional reference and reference forms attesting to the applicant’s potential for graduate study. Suggestions include: healthcare supervisor or manager, faculty (recommended within the last 3 years), and healthcare professionals (not peers or family)

- Experience (REQUIRED)
  ▪ Employment, Healthcare Work Experience, and Community Enrichment
  ▪ Include the Organization, Supervisor, Dates and Details, this section is a very important part of your application that is required for consideration.
  Please describe your setting, highlighting your acute care experiences, and patient population

- Achievements (Highly Suggested)
  List any Awards and Honors you have received
• **Licensure and Certifications**
  List all Licensure and Certifications
  - Nursing License
  - Certifications (CCRN) – If a Certification is listed you are **REQUIRED** to upload a copy of your certification

☐ **Program Materials Section (REQUIRED)**  
  *Tip: Click here to see submission instructions for the “Documents” section.*

• **Documents Tab**  
  - **Personal Statement/Essay:** Upload a personal statement/essay to NursingCAS via the “Documents” tab in your chosen advanced specialty concentration portal. Specific instructions will be given under the “Documents” tab for required essay content and formatting (please answer all parts of the question)
  - **Curriculum Vitae (CV)/Resume:** Submit a current CV/Resume under the “Documents” tab

• **Prerequisites Tab**  
  - For **MSN applicants**, please identify your “Statistics” course taken.
  - For **RN-MSN applicants**, please identify the following: Anatomy (4 credit hours), Physiology (4 credit hours), Microbiology (4 credit hours) and Descriptive Statistics (3 credit hours).

  *Note: Anatomy and Physiology may be acceptable taken as A & P I and II.*

• **Questions Tab**  
  All supplemental questions in this section are mandatory. Failure to answer all “required” questions may significantly delay the processing of your NursingCAS application.

  ***In this section you will be asked if you currently live in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA), Medically Underserved Area/Population (MUA) and Rural Area. Please use the following links to answer those questions.*


**International Applicants:**

Along with the requirements listed above, international students will also have to:

• Prospective international students are asked to first contact the UAB International Recruitment and Student Services at iss@uab.edu, (205) 934-3328, FAX (205) 934-8664 to determine eligibility in order to submit an application into any UAB School of Nursing academic program. **Please note that we cannot ensure program eligibility unless you contact this office.** NursingCAS will **not issue a refund** of the application fee(s) for ineligible students.
• All foreign transcripts evaluated by the Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc. (www.ece.org) OR the World Education Services (www.wes.org), must be sent directly to NursingCAS. Click here for to see submission instructions.
• 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 score of 1000 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or combined score of 297 on the New 2011 GRE.
• Possess a nursing license to practice nursing in the state where you plan to conduct your clinical practicum

** IT IS THE APPLICANTS RESPONSIBILITY TO MONITOR THE STATUS OF THEIR APPLICATION ON A REGULAR BASIS. Please use the “Manage My Programs” section of the application to monitor the status of your application**

*An important note from NursingCAS**: Some email providers use filters to prevent users from receiving "Spam" (unsolicited, junk email). Email filters may interpret an email from NursingCAS or a nursing program as "Spam" and automatically delete a message to you. To avoid missing important NursingCAS emails, turn the "Spam" or "junk" email filters off during the application cycle. If your email provider does not allow you to turn the filter off, you may have access to a "junk mail file" that archives all messages identified as sent to multiple addresses. Periodically check your spam/junk email file for NursingCAS or nursing program-related messages.

**Who can I contact for help?**

**For questions regarding the NursingCAS application:**
Contact NursingCAS support via phone at 617-612-2880 Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM Eastern Time and Friday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Eastern Time and via email at nursingcasinfo@nursingcas.org. Or post questions to NursingCAS by following their Twitter and/or Facebook accounts.

**For questions regarding UAB DNP Program:**
For additional information on the Nursing program, please contact:

Ms. Michele Talley – for questions about the curriculum
MSN Program Director
talleym@uab.edu
(205) 934-6647

Ms. Charlene Bender – for questions about the admission process
MSN Program Manager
cbender@uab.edu
(205)975-7529