NURSE PRACTITIONER
FORENSIC NURSE SUBSPECIALTY COURSES
Distance Accessible

What is a Forensic Nurse in Advanced Nursing Practice?
The Advanced Forensic Nurse (AFN) is a graduate nurse who is educated to practice in advanced forensic nursing in a variety of forensic nursing settings with individual patients and in systems. The AFN is a clinical expert, prepared to evaluate, diagnose, and manage commonly occurring trauma reactions of individual patients and their families who are intersecting with the legal system. The AFN promotes health through emotional and physical care of individual patients and their families following trauma, and promote primary, secondary, and tertiary care of populations in communities and systems. The AFN is prepared to obtain and assess health histories and physical examination data, order and interpret common diagnostic tests, identify actual and potential health problems, and formulate with the client/family a comprehensive plan of therapeutic measures that promote, maintain, or restore health following trauma. The plan may include consultation with or referral to other health professionals for complicated forensic medical management or to support systems in the community. The AFN is also prepared in public health and evaluation science for the purposes of managing systems by using concepts, theories, and frameworks that promote equity and minimize disparities of health in populations of forensic medical patients.

Who employs Advanced Forensic Nurses?
Employment for Advanced Forensic Nurses (AFN) includes a wide variety of leadership, administrative, and medical forensic practice roles, including leadership in systems and practice in roles that provides care to clients of all ages – from birth through death. Employers include hospitals, community based clinics, not-for-profit organizations, government systems, and entrepreneurial activities.

What kind of nursing experience do I need prior to entering the program?
Currently, there are no requirements for clinical experience prior to admission. However, the faculty believes students admitted to the subspecialty course option must have at least one year of professional nursing experience in an area of primary care, or medical or surgical nursing prior to enrolling in the clinical courses. Your program of study can be planned so that you gain the required experience while taking prerequisite courses. Additionally, students must verify professional nurse licensure by the board(s) of nursing in the state(s) in which they practice.

What are the admission criteria?
• A nursing degree (MSN or higher) from a regionally accredited institution, equivalent to the one offered by UAB School of Nursing
• Possess an unencumbered nursing license to practice nursing in the state where you plan to conduct your clinical practicum
• 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 297 on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE*)

GRE/GMAT/MAT Waiver Process:
• 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.

***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:

- Prospective international students are asked to first contact International Recruitment and Student Services at isss@uab.edu, (205), 934-3328, FAX 934-8664 to determine eligibility in order to submit an application into any academic program.
- 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 297 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
- Possess an unencumbered 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: 6 hours didactic

Descriptive narrative: Didactic content is provided in Forensic Nursing specialty courses and provides the student with a strong advanced primary care base for caring for patients with common health problems. Should academic problems arise, an on-campus visit may be required.

How many semesters of study are required?

Students start course work in the fall semester will take two semesters to complete the program. The program of study is listed below.

Distance Accessibility

Applicants to any of our distance-accessible programs should become familiar with the regulations governing distance accessible programs in their state. Prospective students residing in states other than Alabama should contact their state’s 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 student is Alabama and in states with an established agreement.

Will I be able to take a national certification examination when I complete the program of study?

Once you successfully complete the three courses, you will have successfully obtained the didactic education requirements for your portfolio toward Certification in Advanced Forensic Nursing.

What is a typical program of study like?

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<td>Total ................................................................6 credits</td>
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Where can I get more information?

Internet website: https://www.uab.edu/nursing/home/

General information about the application process
Charlene Bender, MPH
MSN Program Manager
(205) 975-7529 | cbender@uab.edu

Information about the Forensic Nursing Subspecialty Courses
Patricia Speck, DNSc, APRN, FNP-BC, DF-IAFN, FAAFS, FAAN
Subspecialty Course Coordinator
(205) 934-6790 | pmspeck@uab.edu