NURSE PRACTITIONER
PEDIATRIC ACUTE CARE
Distance Accessible

What is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner – Acute Care?
The Pediatric Nurse Practitioner – Acute Care (CPNP-AC) is prepared at the master’s or DNP level in advanced practice nursing and is able to diagnose and manage the health problems of infants, children and adolescents who are acutely ill or have a long-term health problem that requires monitoring or hospitalization.

According to the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Certification Board, the CPNP-AC provides family-centered and culturally respectful care for pediatric patients with acute, complex, critical, and chronic illness across a variety of care settings. The CPNP-AC works closely with an interprofessional team to provide the highest level of evidence-based care for infants, children, adolescents, and young adults with life-threatening illnesses and organ dysfunction or failure. Due to their unique health care needs, a patient outside the traditionally defined pediatric age parameters may be best served by the CPNP-AC. The practitioner in this role is responsible for independent and collaborative decision making with direct accountability for clinical judgment. The CPNP-AC monitors and ensures the quality of health care practice and assists the patient and family in negotiating health care delivery systems.

Who employs Child/Adolescent Acute and Continuing Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioners?
The CPNP-AC is employed by individuals and groups that serve infants, children, adolescents, and young adults with life-threatening illnesses and organ dysfunction or failure in a variety of settings. The acute care PNP role is distinct and separate from the primary care PNP role, and is dependent on patient care needs, not settings. Due to their unique health care needs, a patient outside the traditionally defined pediatric age parameters may be best served by the CPNP-AC.

What specific specialty requirements do I need prior to entering the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Specialty Track?
There are no requirements for clinical experience prior to admission. However, students are required to have at least one year of pediatric nursing experience prior to enrolling in the advance nursing clinical courses. Your program of study can be arranged so that you can gain the required experience while you are taking prerequisite courses.

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 297 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)*
- Additional – Selected options may require experience prior to enrollment in a specialty courses.

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 iss@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](http://www.ece.org) OR the World Education Services [www.wes.org](http://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

UAB is an equal education opportunity institution.
When will I receive confirmation that I have been accepted into the program?

You will be notified of your acceptance or denial within 60 days after the application submission deadline.

What are the classroom and clinical requirements:

Total Credit Hours: 45; Didactic Hours: 32; Clinical Hours: 13; Total Hours of direct Patient Care: 600 contact hours

Descriptive narrative: Specialty-specific didactic content is provided in 4 specialty courses and provides the student with a strong advanced primary care base for caring for patients with common health problems. Clinical experiences in a variety of primary care and specialty clinic settings offer extensive preparation for the advanced practice role. Students are required to visit the campus in Birmingham, AL for orientation and three 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 of study are required?

Students start course work in the summer semester will take six semesters to complete the program. The program of study are listed below.

Will I be able to apply to take a nurse practitioner certification examination when I complete the program?

Once you successfully complete the program, you will be awarded a Master of Science in Nursing degree and you can apply to take the certification examination offered by the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB).

How do I become eligible to practice as a Pediatric Acute and Continuing Care NP?

PACC-NPs are licensed by the states in which they practice and are subject to the rules and regulations of the State’s Practice Acts. You will need to contact your State’s Board of Nursing to learn their particular requirements.

What is a typical program of study like?

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<tr>
<th>Coursework</th>
<th>Program of Study Options</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NUR 604 Leadership in Advanced Nursing Practice Roles</td>
<td>Summer</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUR 606 Translating Evidence into Practice</td>
<td>Summer Year I</td>
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<td>NUR 610 Health Care Systems for Adv. Nursing Practice</td>
<td>NUR 604</td>
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<td>NUR 612 Advanced Pathophysiology</td>
<td>NUR 612</td>
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<td>NUR 613 Pharmacology and Therapeutics</td>
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<td>NUR 614 Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning for Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
<td>NUR 606</td>
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<td>NCC 618 Focus on Adv. Nursing Practice Specialization</td>
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<td>NCC 621 Advanced Child/Adolescent Acute and Continuing Care Nursing I</td>
<td>Spring Year I</td>
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<td>NCC 685 Practicum I: Child/Adolescent Acute and Continuing Care Nurse Practitioner</td>
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<td>NCC 622 Advanced Child/Adolescent Acute and Continuing Care Nursing II</td>
<td>NCC 618</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCC 686 Practicum II: Child/Adolescent Acute and Continuing Care Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>NUR 610</td>
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<td>NDP 625 Advanced Dual Option PNP</td>
<td>Summer Year II</td>
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<td>NDP 692 Residency: Dual Option PNP</td>
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<tr>
<td>45 credits</td>
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Where can I get more information?

Internet website: [http://www.uab.edu/nursing](http://www.uab.edu/nursing)

General information about the application process
Charlene Bender, MPH
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Information about Nurse Practitioner
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