

NURSE PRACTITIONER FAMILY PRIMARY CARE

Distance Accessible

What is a Family Nurse Practitioner?

The Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) is a nurse who is prepared at the master's level as an advanced practice nurse to practice in a variety of primary care settings. The FNP is a clinical expert who is prepared to diagnose and manage commonly occurring episodic and chronic health problems of clients. The FNP promotes the health and education of clients who may be encountered as individuals, groups and/or families. The FNP 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. This plan may include consultation with other health professionals or referral for complicated medical management. Emphasis is placed on implementing prevention measures into practice for adults and children; health education, and client follow-up to decrease health complications.

Who employs Family Nurse Practitioners?

Family Nurse Practitioners (FNP) are employed in a wide variety of primary care clinics where health care is offered to clients of all ages.

Can I specialize further as a Family Nurse Practitioner?

Elective courses are available for knowledge base enhancement in areas such as diabetes management.

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 family nurse practitioner 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, before beginning clinical courses, students must verify professional nurse licensure by the board(s) of nursing in the state(s) in which they 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 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 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: https://www.uab.edu/nursing/home/images/stories/info_sa/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.

*****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:

- This program is distance-accessible and therefore not eligible for applicants who plan to enter the US in F-1 or J-1 student status.
- If you plan to enroll in the MSN program in an immigration status other than F or J, please email International Student & Scholar Services at iss@uab.edu for confirmation of your eligibility for the 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 1000 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 60 days after the application submission deadline.

What are the classroom and clinical requirements?

Total credit hours: 45 hours; didactic hours: 32; clinical hours: 13; total hours of direct patient care: 600

Descriptive narrative: Didactic content is provided in 2 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 who start course work in the summer semester will take seven semesters to complete the program. Students starting in the fall semester will take six semesters to complete the program. The programs of study are 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 program, you will be awarded a Master of Science in Nursing degree and be able to apply to take either or both of the national certification examinations for Family Nurse Practitioner offered by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

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

FNPs are licensed by the state(s) 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</u>	
		Summer	Fall
NUR 604	Leadership in Advanced Nursing Practice Roles 3	<u>Summer Year I</u>	<u>Fall Year I</u>
NUR 606	Translating Evidence into Practice..... 3	NUR 604	NUR 604
NUR 610	Health Care Systems for Adv. Nursing Practice..... 3	NUR 612	NUR 612
NUR 612	Advanced Pathophysiology..... 3	<u>Fall Year I</u>	<u>Spring Year I</u>
NUR 613	Pharmacology and Therapeutics 3	NUR 606	NUR 606
NUR 614	Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning for Advanced Nursing Practice..... 3	NUR 613	NUR 613
NFH 618	Focus on Adv. Nursing Practice Specialization..... 3	<u>Spring Year I</u>	<u>Summer Year I</u>
NFH 621	Advanced Family Nursing I..... 5	NUR 614	NFH 610
NFH 685	Practicum I: Family Nurse Practitioner..... 3	NFH 618	NUR 614
NFH 622	Advanced Family Nursing II 4	<u>Summer Year II</u>	NFH 618
NFH 686	Practicum II: Family Nurse Practitioner..... 3	NUR 610	<u>Fall Year II</u>
NFH 623	Advanced Family Nursing III 5	<u>Fall Year II</u>	NFH 621
NFH 692	Residency: Family Nurse Practitioner 4	NFH 621	NFH 685
	Total45 credits	NFH 685	<u>Spring Year II</u>
		<u>Spring Year II</u>	NFH 622
		NFH 622	NFH 686
		NFH 686	<u>Summer Year II</u>
		<u>Summer Year III</u>	NFH 623
		NFH 623	NFH 692
		NFH 692	

Where can I get more information?

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

General information about the application process

Information about the Family Nurse Practitioner

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