NURSE PRACTITIONER
PALLIATIVE NURSE SUBSPECIALTY COURSES

Distance Accessible

What is a Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner?
The Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner (PCNP) is a nurse who is prepared at the master’s level as an advanced practice nurse to practice in a variety of clinical settings. The PCNP works collaboratively with palliative care teams to provide holistic interdisciplinary care to promote quality of life and ameliorate stress for clients with life limiting illnesses and their family caregivers across the illness trajectory. Palliative care, like nursing, focuses on pain and symptom management, patient advocacy and education of the patient and family caregivers. The alignment of palliative care and nursing with emphasis on holistic care of the patient's body, mind and spirit, to serve the patient and family caregivers, and to take patient wishes into account when designing plans of care positions the PCNP as a leader in the field. The PCNP is expert in understanding disease states and prognoses and providing pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic management with the goal of improving quality of life. The PCNP also excels in effective communication with patients, family caregivers, team members, and collaborators in setting patient-driven goals of care and providing supportive care.

Who employs Palliative Care Nurse Practitioners?
Palliative Care Nurse Practitioners (PCNP) are employed in a wide variety of health care settings where palliative care services are offered to clients of all ages. These settings may include, but are not limited to the following: hospitals, outpatient care clinics, home health care, long-term care facilities, palliative care units, and hospice units. Palliative care experts are in high demand due to the need for palliative care services (rural and urban) significantly out weighing the supply of these experts.

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 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 of 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 297 on the New 2011 Graduate Record Examination (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:
- 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 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 30 days after the application submission deadline.
What are the classroom and clinical requirements?

Total credit hours: Didactic hours: 6

Descriptive narrative: Didactic content is provided in 2 palliative care sub specialty courses and provides the student with a strong advanced primary care base for caring for patients with common health problems.

How many semesters of study are required?

Students who start course work in the summer semester will take 2 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 course work, you will have obtained the didactic education to be applied towards a national certification examinations for your specialty.

What is a typical program of study like?

The Family Nurse Practitioner Specialty Track is used for an example with this palliative nursing subspecialty. Please check your specialty track fact sheet for courses and course hours per semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coursework</th>
<th>Program of Study</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NPA 621 Advanced Palliative Care Nursing I</td>
<td>Fall Year I NPA 621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPA 622 Advanced Palliative Care Nursing II</td>
<td>Spring Year I NPA 622</td>
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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 Palliative Care Subspecialty
Richard Taylor, DNP, APRN-BC
Subspecialty Course Coordinator
(205) 934.5196 | rtaylor@uabmc.edu