

# RN-MSN (Second Degree) OPTION

## *Distance Accessible*

The **RN-MSN (Second Degree) Option** is an alternate pathway into the existing master's in nursing (MSN degree) for applicants who have a bachelor's degree in a field other than nursing, who are **currently licensed** registered nurses, with an associate's degree in nursing, and who seek MSN preparation.

### Program of Study

The RN-MSN option is available to ADN graduates, and is specifically designed for RNs who hold a bachelor's degree in a field other than nursing and declare their intention to obtain an MSN degree. The RN-MSN curriculum prepares 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.

**Flexible Scheduling:** Students are admitted into the RN-MSN in the fall and summer terms. Students follow a part-time program of study. Students desiring full-time study must be admitted in the fall. Students follow a prescribed program of study that prepares the ADN prepared nurse for success in the MSN. All courses and selected specialty courses are offered via distance education.

**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, a registered nurse, or a physician. The total number of clinical hours required varies depending on the option that is selected. Students must have a current RN license in the state where they do their clinical practica prior to enrolling in the advanced practice courses.

### Application Requirements

- **Admission** is based on the applicant's academic record and all application materials at the time of the application deadline. Courses in progress must be validated with a letter from the college or university students are attending.
  - **Degree Requirements:** students must complete a baccalaureate degree or higher in a field other than nursing from a regionally accredited college/university along with an ADN degree from a regionally accredited institution.
  - **Required Clinical Experience:** A minimum of 1 year of clinical experience prior to starting MSN coursework or as required by the specialty track.
  - **GPA:** A minimum cumulative or last sixty (60) semester hours of undergraduate GPA of 3.0 at the time of application. Admission is competitive and is based on space availability.
  - **References:** (3) Letters of professional reference attesting to the applicant's potential for graduate study
  - **Transcripts:** One official copy of all transcripts from all previous educational programs and coursework (mailed directly from the originating university directly to the School of Nursing)
  - **Licensure:** Possess an unencumbered nursing license to practice nursing in the state where you plan to conduct your clinical practicum.
  - **GRE/GMAT/MAT Requirement:** Students who have a 3.2 GPA or better may waive this requirement. 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 GRE.
  - **Test Waiver:** The GRE/GMAT/MAT Waiver process allows eligible candidates for master's study to have this requirement waived if they meet the following criteria:
    - Have earned a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university and have a cumulative GPA of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale. Approval for the waiver does not imply or guarantee admission to the MSN.
- \*\*The following individuals are not eligible for the GRE waiver process:**
- International applicants
  - Non-Native English speaking applicants
  - Dual degree seeking applicants MSN/MPH

### For International Students:

- The RN-BSN track is not eligible to applicants entering the US on an F-1 or J-1 student visa due to the online content. All other visa types should email UAB's Office of International Student and Scholar Services at [iss@uab.edu](mailto:iss@uab.edu) to determine eligibility.
- 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 with a course by course evaluation
- 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
- **Pre-requisites:** Students are eligible to apply if they will have successfully completed the prerequisite coursework (listed on the next page). Successful completion of all *prerequisite coursework* with a “C” or above and must be met prior to matriculation into the pathway. The final minimum cumulative/overall GPA must be a 3.0 or greater. Once you have applied through **Apply Now**, and upon receipt of ALL official transcripts, your course work will be evaluated for advisement purposes. Students may be granted an exemption from the prerequisite courses by writing a letter requesting the exemption to the MSN Program Manager. The student is required to provide documentation related to previous college course work or professional experience to support the request.

Prerequisite Courses		Credit Hours	Prerequisite Courses		Credit Hours
BY 115	Human Anatomy	4	MA 180	Descriptive Statistics	3
BY 116	Human Physiology	4	BY 261	Microbiology	4

- **Applications** are completed at the UAB School of Nursing at:

Candidates not eligible for the Waiver Process will be required to take the GRE/GMAT/MAT and submit an official score by the application deadline. Upon receipt of the applicant’s transcripts, the Office of Student Affairs at the SON will verify with the student that they do not need to take one of the following: GRE/GMAT/MAT.

**Students offered admission:**

**Prior to the first day of class**

- Those accepted will need to complete the UAB medical history questionnaire and physical, provide proof of required immunizations, and receive a satisfactory screening by the UAB Medical Center Student Health Service. Medical Clearance along with an annual drug screen and background check will need to be completed before the first day of class.
  - CPR certification is required. Below is a list of agencies that may provide you with this service.
  - American Heart Association’s Healthcare Provider Course (Course C or BLSC)
  - American Red Cross’ Professional Rescuer Course

**Students denied admission:**

Students who apply but are not admitted to the MSN, are eligible to apply to the RN-BSN to complete the RN-BSN degree requirements. Students who have successfully completed the BSN degree can apply to the MSN.

**Will I be awarded a bachelor of science in nursing degree?**

No, if you are offered admission, you will be admitted as a master’s of science in nursing student following the completion of three courses designed to bridge the upper division undergraduate nursing courses. The three courses are listed below:

Bridge Courses		Credit Hours
NUR 574Q	Transition to Professional Nursing Practice	4
NUR 597Q	Community Health Nursing for RNs	4
NUR 557Q	Leadership and Management for RNs	3

**Are there special requirements before beginning practicum courses?**

There are no requirements for clinical experience prior to admission to the MSN. However, students admitted to this specialty track are strongly encouraged to have at least one year of professional nursing or primary care experience in an area of medical or surgical nursing prior to enrolling in the advanced nursing clinical courses. Your program of study can be arranged so that you can gain the required experience while you are taking prerequisite courses. You will not be able to do full-time program of study if you are acquiring the needed experience while matriculating. Additionally, before beginning clinical courses, you must verify professional nurse licensure by the board of nursing in the state in which you will contract for clinical preceptorships.

For more information select <http://www.uab.edu/son> or contact:

**General Information and how to apply:**  
 Charlene Bender  
 MSN Program Manager  
 (205) 934-5491  
[cbender@uab.edu](mailto:cbender@uab.edu)