

# **NURSE PRACTITIONER FAMILY PRIMARY CARE with FORENSIC NURSE SUBSPECIALTY**

## *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.

### **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 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.

### **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.

### **Can I specialize further as a Family Nurse Practitioner?**

Elective courses are available for knowledge base enhancement in areas such as electrocardiography and 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 a 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](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 [iss@uab.edu](mailto: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 1000 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
- Possess a 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: 55 hours; didactic hours: 41; clinical hours: 14; total hours of direct patient care: 840

Descriptive narrative: Didactic content is provided in 3 FNP specialty courses and 3 Forensic Nursing 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. Students completing the FNP Track with Forensic Nursing Sub-Specialty will have successfully obtained the didactic education requirements and 240 clinical hours of the required 2000 for their portfolio toward Certification in Advanced Forensic Nursing.

**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?**

**Program of Study**

**Coursework**

NUR 604	Leadership in Advanced Nursing Practice Roles .....	3
NUR 606	Translating Evidence into Practice.....	3
NUR 610	Health Care Systems for Adv. Nursing Practice.....	3
NUR 612	Advanced Pathophysiology.....	3
NUR 613	Pharmacology and Therapeutics .....	3
NUR 614	Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning for Advanced Nursing Practice.....	3

