ANDERSON COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Vision and Mission

The Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions (https://www.una.edu/nursing/) (ACONHP) vision is to improve health in the community by effecting change in systems and policies, and to promote research and scholarly activities that advance nursing and health care knowledge. The ACONHP mission is to graduate nurses and other health professionals who are prepared to assume professional roles in diverse health care environments.

The nursing program at UNA is ranked in the top 10 most up and coming nursing programs in the south. Read the full article (http://www.bestmasterofscienceinnursing.com/best/up-and-coming-nursing-schools-in-the-south/).

Entering freshmen and transfer students complete a four-year curriculum leading to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Upon satisfactory completion of the program, students are awarded the BSN degree, and are eligible to take the NCLEX exam for licensing as a registered nurse (R.N.).

For Registered Nurses who wish to attain the BSN degree, our "RN to BSN Online Program" allows RNs to attain their BSN degree entirely online. For BSN prepared nurses, we also offer an MSN degree program completely online. Both the BSN and the MSN online programs provide an online learning environment that is educationally rewarding and designed to meet the schedule of the working student.

Approval and Accreditation

The baccalaureate degree program in nursing and master’s degree program in nursing at the University of North Alabama are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (http://www.ccneaccreditation.org (http://www.ccneaccreditation.org/)).

A Message from the Dean

Dr. Vicki Pierce

As Dean, I extend this welcome message on behalf of the faculty and staff of the Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions (ACONHP) at the University of North Alabama. We are here to support and assist you in your transformational student experience. Our faculty and staff have a reputation for being supportive and taking time to get to know their students by fostering a culture of respect for all. In the ACONHP, you will not be just a number. We care about you!

The ACONHP has been known for academic excellence and innovation since the first pre-licensure nursing program began in 1973. Hundreds of nurses have successfully completed the program and the college has established a reputation of maintaining exceptionally high NCLEX pass rates. In 2002, the RN-BSN track became the first online program offered at UNA. The online master of science in nursing program followed in 2006, and the family nurse practitioner track was added in 2019. The online BS in Applied Health Science degree with a track in Health Administration also began in 2019. This is the first non-nursing program offered in the college. Each of these programs strives to maintain a student-centered and personalized learning environment.

In October 2020, the ACONHP moved into Laura M. Harrison Hall. The building is a bright, pleasant place to learn and work and was designed to accommodate growth. The third floor of the facility is dedicated to experiential learning through simulation. The Simulation Center is an 8-bed hospital style unit with state-of-the-art medical equipment and high-fidelity simulation mannequins of various ethnicities, ages, and gender.

As you navigate our website, I hope you will find the resources helpful. Please feel free to contact me or our faculty and staff with any questions you may have. We are here to help you Roar with Excellence!

Degree Programs

The Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions (ACONHP) offers the baccalaureate of science in nursing (BSN) degree, the bachelor of science in applied health science (AHS) degree, and the master of science in nursing (MSN) degree. The ACONHP is structured into two departments: the Department of Nursing and Health Professions-Undergraduate Programs (UP) and the Department of Nursing and Health Professions-Graduate Programs (GP).

• Bachelor of Science in Nursing-Accelerated Option (https://catalog.una.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/nursing/bsn-accelerated-program/)
• Bachelor of Science in Nursing-Traditional Option (https://catalog.una.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/nursing/bsn-traditional-program/)
• BS in Applied Health Science (https://catalog.una.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/nursing/bsahs/)
• RN to BSN Nursing Post Licensure (https://catalog.una.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/nursing/bss-online-rnbsn-option/)

ACONHP Program Goals

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Program Goals</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>UP/GP</td>
<td>Provide high quality, innovative nursing and health related programs.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UP</td>
<td>Offer high quality Bachelor of Science degrees in nursing and health related programs.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GP</td>
<td>Offer high quality MSN and Post-Master’s Certificate Programs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>ACONHP</td>
<td>To build and maintain student-centered nursing and health related programs.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UP/GP</td>
<td>Graduate nurses and other health professionals who are prepared to practice in global healthcare environments.</td>
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Expected Program Outcomes

Graduates of the bachelor of science in nursing program will:

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>Program Goals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Function in professional nursing roles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Possess a foundation for graduate study</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Synthesize knowledge from a broad educational foundation upon which professional nursing practice is based</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Communicate and collaborate with members of the health team and other interested groups in identifying and meeting the health needs of individuals, families, and communities</td>
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Upon satisfactory completion of the program, the student is awarded the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and may be eligible to take the state licensing examination for qualification as a registered nurse (RN).

General Policies and Program Statements

- The Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions retains the right to make modifications in its program/policies as deemed necessary by its faculty based on recommendations and mandates from the Alabama Board of Nursing and the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education. Students currently enrolled in the nursing program will be required to adhere to any modifications made during their enrollment as a nursing major.
- To progress in the professional nursing courses, students must possess a functional level of competence to perform the basic skills of a professional nurse. Skills include (but are not limited to):
  - Hearing ability (e.g., must be able to discern various health assessment sounds with a stethoscope);
  - Visual ability (e.g., must be able to read small print or medication vials);
  - Fine and gross motor skills (e.g., must possess physical stamina to perform full range of required client care activities for the duration of work role);
  - Emotional stability (e.g., must be able to assume responsibility and accountability for own actions);
  - Critical thinking (e.g., must demonstrate sound judgment regarding the provision of safe, ethical care in a variety of health care settings).
• Following admission to the ACONHP, students must:
  • Provide proof of physical examination
  • Present current immunization records (including Hepatitis B series). (An administrative clinical “unsatisfactory” grade will be issued to any student who fails to submit these requirements on time).
  • Demonstrate proof of CPR certification, nursing student liability insurance (purchased through the ACONHP approved vendor), tuberculosis testing (PPD) results, and OSHA updates.
  • Undergo an initial drug screening prior to beginning classes.
    • Additional drug screenings may be required at any time while the student is in the nursing program.
  • Standard achievement exams are given at various intervals throughout the nursing program at the student’s expense.
  • The ACONHP strongly encourages students to have personal health insurance as students are responsible for health related costs incurred when clinical accidents (i.e., needle sticks) occur.
  • Students may refer to information published by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) https://www.cdc.gov and the Occupational Safety Hazards (OSHA) guidelines https://www.osha.gov/law-regs.html.

First Time Freshman Early Admission Option

The Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions (ACONHP) offers early admission (EAdm) to a select group of highly qualified high school seniors who plan to seek a career in nursing. Applicants must be admitted to UNA and apply for the EAdm option by March 31. This select group of students will be guaranteed admission into the traditional nursing option as long as all requirements are met. A dedicated nursing advisor will be assigned to all EAdm students to help them develop a course schedule each semester. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission into the EAdm option.

EAdm Admission Requirements

• Students must apply for and be accepted into the University Honors Program the fall semester immediately following high school graduation;
• Minimum high school GPA requirement of 3.5, based on a 4.0 system at the time of application;
• Admitted and enrolled full-time in courses at UNA, by the fall semester immediately following high school graduation;
• Complete an EAdm application for the ACONHP located on the ACONHP website by March 31;
• Along with the EAdm application, students must submit an essay (see EAdm application for details).

Requirements for EAdm Students

Students selected for the EAdm option must complete all pre-requisite nursing coursework listed in the UNA Undergraduate Catalog while maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. Additionally, students must complete the requirements listed below to be guaranteed early admission placement.

• Maintain good standing in the University Honors Program;
• Meet with assigned advisor at least once per semester;
• Be continuously enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours each semester, (excluding summer);
• Make acceptable progress with expected date of entry into the traditional nursing option in 4-5 semesters, (excluding summer);
• Meet all current nursing application requirements;
• Students must complete an application for the traditional nursing option to the ACONHP during the last semester (fall or spring) of their prerequisite coursework;
• If students maintain a 3.5 cumulative GPA at the time of application, the entrance exam requirement will be waived. EAdm students who do not maintain the required cumulative GPA of 3.5 will be required to complete the entrance exam.
  • If cumulative GPA is 3.25-3.49 during the application cycle, the EAdm student must take the entrance exam and pass by 85% minimum cumulative score to qualify for guaranteed placement.

Students who do not meet these criteria are eligible for admission, but will be placed in the general traditional application pool.

*Requirements and conditions are subject to change.