We get a lot of requests about our PNP track. Right now currently we have two! We have a PNP primary care track and a pediatric acute care track. These are run as two separate tracks, we currently do not have a dual track. However, if you are interested in both, we can work with your schedule to help you accomplish this. The difference between the two tracks is that the primary care PNP track will require you to do 600 hours of clinical in a primary care setting such as a clinic with a Pediatric NP or a Pediatrician. The primary care PNP track prepares students to work in a primary care setting. The acute care track will require you to do 600 hours in an acute care setting such as a hospital. The acute care PNP clinical is usually a combination of pediatric ER, Pediatric ICU, and general pediatric inpatient floors.

You are welcome to apply to either program however we do not usually accept students who have GPA’s below 3.0 or those who will have less than 2 years pediatric nursing experience prior to starting clinical. Trust us that this is for your benefit, you will need the pediatric experience and GPA to succeed in the program and to build relationships with Pediatricians and PNP’s that can become your preceptor.

Students are admitted each semester as space is available in the selected specialty track. Applications should be submitted by April 1 for consideration for fall admission by August 1 for spring semester admission and by February 1 for summer semester admission. Applications received at other times will be considered on a space available basis. For more information on details of the admission process, please contact the academic advising department for the college of nursing (contacts at the bottom of the page).

Both PNP programs start the clinical and corresponding courses in the Fall and go for 4 semesters. Fall, Spring, Summer, and a second Fall. If for any reason you have to drop a PNP class or clinical during this time you will have to wait an entire year to get back into sequence. You must take the PNP course with the corresponding PNP clinical if you are not enrolled in the clinical you cannot enroll in the class and vice versa. Although you can start some of the core courses or pre-requisites in multiple semesters……No one can start the actual PNP classes and clinical in any semester other than Fall. This goes for both primary care and acute care PNP students. All PNP students will graduate at the end of the second Fall semester in December.

All courses are offered completely in the on-line format, for the convenience of distance students and working nurses. Students log on anytime and anywhere to complete web-based courses that are expertly designed and highly interactive. It is very important that you understand it is the students responsibility to locate and arrange your own clinical hours with a preceptor. In order to do this, contracts will have to be signed between your preceptor, the facility, and our university. We will show you how to do all of this before you get started. We have arranged contracts with probably every state in the nation by now including Alaska and Hawaii. In addition we have had several students overseas most of these on military bases. If for some reason we are unable to accept students from your particular state you will find out during the admission process. Sometimes the contract is a breeze and can be finalized in as little as a week. Sometimes however it may take weeks, or even months, or in the rare instance a year. Most of the time our primary care PNP students do not have much trouble getting contracts approved. It can take a little longer to secure a contract in a hospital but we do it often, these students just have to work on it a little earlier.

You will do the 600 clinical hours in the state where you have an active RN license. You will only be required to come to our campus in Mobile, AL for a few consecutive days sometime during your first fall clinical course.
Acute care PNP track: I am the coordinator for primary care only. For acute care PNP questions please contact Anne Hedger annehedger@southalabama.edu