

**University of South Alabama, College of Nursing**  
**Adult-Geron Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Track, Frequently Asked Questions**

***What is an Adult-Geron Primary Care Nurse Practitioner?***

An adult-geron primary care nurse practitioner (AGPCNP) is a master's or doctorally prepared advanced practice nurse who provides advanced nursing care to adults, elders, and family members over the age of 13 years utilizing an interprofessional approach in primary care clinics, health departments, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, VA facilities, rural health clinics, hospice facilities, and other out-patient settings. AGPCNPs work collaboratively with other health team members to provide holistic health care that includes health promotion, disease prevention, and diagnosis and management of episodic and chronic illnesses.

See American Academy of Nurse Practitioners website:

<http://www.aanp.org/all-about-nps/what-is-an-np>

See American Nurse Credentialing Center website:

<http://www.nursecredentialing.org/AdultGeroPrimaryCareNP-Eligibility.aspx>

***Is the entire program online or do I have to come to campus for some classes?***

Classes are fully online. All AGPCNP students come to campus at least one time during the program for an intensive orientation with class and skills lab sessions that lasts 3-4 days. This session is scheduled in summer each year prior to the fall semester just before the first semester in the professional component of the program.

***What type clinical preceptors and clinical sites do I need and how many clinical hours do I need?***

Clinical preceptors can be Adult NPs, Geron NPs, Adult-Geron NPs, DOs, or MDs. Every AGPCNP must have a mix of time between NPs and MDs.

AHN 591 - Spring semester – 180 clinical hours

AHN 593 - Summer semester – 180 hours

AHN 596 - Fall semester – 240 clinical hours

***Can I complete clinical hours where I live and who arranges clinical sites?***

The majority of AGPCNP students complete clinical hours in their home communities or within driving distance of their home communities with faculty approved preceptors. Students in remote areas have sometimes had to travel outside their communities to find clinical sites. Students are responsible for finding appropriate clinical sites. If a student cannot locate a clinical

site in their home area, faculty is often able to provide names of nearby sites that have been used by previous students.

Our Standard Response.

Specialty tracks within the College of Nursing's graduate program require a practice component. Although faculty assists students in locating appropriate practice/clinical sites, it is ultimately the student's responsibility to secure a site and preceptor if indicated. Students who are unsuccessful in being accepted by an agency in their home community may have to travel to another area to complete practice requirements or withdraw from the program. Please review the list of clinical affiliations found under the "Current Student" tab on the College of Nursing Web Site at <http://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/con/students/clinicalagencies.html>. If there is not a clinical site listed near you or you are interested in a site not listed, negotiations should be initiated as soon as you begin the program through the Track Coordinator for your specialty.

***Can I complete clinical hours in the hospital or nursing home or home health agency where I work for pay?***

All clinical hours for the AGPCNP track are completed in outpatient clinics, long-term care facilities, rehab facilities, assisted living facilities, VA facilities, home health agencies, or palliative care facilities. You may not complete clinical hours with a provider that you work with.

***I see names of clinical affiliation sites for:***

***<http://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/con/students/clinicalagencies.html>***

***but none of the sites are near me. What does this mean?***

The affiliation list on the webpage is simply a list of clinical agencies with which USA has a long term affiliation agreement. Most AGPCNP students use clinical sites that are not on the website list. The contract process is just a little different for sites that are not on the list and will be explained by the Track Coordinator during the mandatory 3-4 day orientation.

***Can I work full time and do well in the AGPCNP program?***

AGPCNPs work alongside physicians and do many of the same things that physician do. All students must learn to provide this high level care for both genders and young adult, adult, and older adult patients so a great deal of planned study time is necessary to do well in the program. Many AGPCNP students work full time while they are taking core and support courses. Once enrolled in the clinical courses, many students find it necessary to cut back to part time work.

***Is there a "state board" test for AGPCNPs?***

Rules and regulations for practicing AGPCNPs are determined by state boards of nursing so they vary, somewhat, from state to state, but most states require that all NPs pass one of two national certification examinations. AGPCNP certification exams are offered by American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) and by American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). Program graduates are eligible to sit for either of these.