



# **School of Nursing Catalog**

Vanderbilt University

2021/2022

Containing general information and courses of study for the 2021/2022 session

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# Calendar

## School of Nursing Calendar 2021/22

### FALL SEMESTER 2021\*

M.S.N. pre-specialty level new student orientation / Wednesday 18 August–Thursday 19 August

A.S.N./M.S.N. level new student orientation / Wednesday 18 August–Thursday 19 August

A.S.N./M.S.N. level classes begin / Friday 20 August

M.S.N. pre-specialty level classes begin / Friday 20 August

M.S.N. specialty level orientation (B.S.N. and M.S.N. entry) / Monday 23 August

Orientation for M.S.N. students progressing to the M.S.N. specialty level / Monday 23 August (afternoon only)

M.S.N. specialty level classes begin / Tuesday 24 August

*Important: Please check your specialty class schedule for specific information on start dates for required classes.*

D.N.P. New student orientation and intensive / Monday 30 August–Wednesday 1 September

D.N.P. Returning student orientation and intensive / Wednesday 1 September–Friday 3 September

End of student change period / Friday 3 September

Labor Day holiday (No VUSN classes) / Monday 6 September

Last day to withdraw with a “W” / Friday 3 October

M.S.N. and D.N.P. Fall Open House / Saturday 2 October

Vanderbilt Homecoming/Reunion / Thursday 4 November–Saturday 6 November

Thanksgiving holiday / Saturday 20 November–Sunday 28 November

Classes end for all students / Friday 10 December

December Pinning Ceremony / Friday 10 December

Final examinations / Monday December 7–Wednesday 9 December

### SPRING SEMESTER 2022\*

First day of spring semester for pre-specialty and specialty courses / Monday 3 January

*Important: Please check your specialty class schedule for specific information on start dates for required classes.*

Ph.D. and D.N.P. intensive / Monday 10 January–Thursday 13 January

End of student change period / Friday 14 January

Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday (No VUSN classes) / Monday 17 January

Last day to withdraw with a “W” / Wednesday 18 February

Spring Break / Saturday 5 March –Sunday 13 March

M.S.N. and D.N.P. Spring Open House / Saturday 5 March

Classes end / Friday 22 April



Final examinations / Monday 18 April–Wednesday 20 April

*Important: M.S.N. pre-specialty clinical continues during the week of final exams.*

## **SUMMER SEMESTER 2022\***

First day of summer semester for pre-specialty and specialty level students / Monday 2 May

*Important: Please check your specialty class schedule for specific information on start dates for required classes.*

Reception for graduates and May Pinning Ceremony / Thursday 12 May

Commencement / Friday 13 May

Ph.D. and D.N.P. intensive / Monday 16 May–Thursday 19 May

End of student change period / Thursday 19 May

Memorial Day holiday (No VUSN classes) / Monday 30 May

Last day to withdraw with a “W” / Friday 5 June

Independence Day holiday (No VUSN classes) / Monday 4 July

Pinning Ceremony for summer 2021 graduates / Sunday 7 August

*\*Subject to change*

## **Communicating with the School of Nursing**

### **Academic Matters**

Dean Pamela R. Jeffries

110 Godchaux Hall

(615) 322-3804

Mavis Schorn, Senior Associate Dean for Academics

278 School of Nursing

(615) 343-5876

### **Administration and Operations**

Rebecca Rue Keck, Senior Associate Dean for Administration and Operations, Chief Administrative Officer

105 Godchaux Hall

(615) 322-1177

### **Scholarships and Financial Aid**

Kristie Smith, Director of Student Financial Services

180 School of Nursing

(615) 322-8986

**Research Matters**

Mariann Piano, Senior Associate Dean for Research  
415 Godchaux Hall  
(615) 343-2998

*Center for Research Development and Scholarship*

Mariann Piano, Senior Associate Dean for Research  
415 Godchaux Hall  
(615) 343-2998

**Practice Matters**

Pam Jones, Senior Associate Dean for Clinical and Community Partnerships  
215 Godchaux Hall  
(615) 322-1561  
(615) 322-2591

**Assistant University Registrar**

Sara A. Donahoe, Director of Nursing Student Records  
173 School of Nursing  
(615) 343-7839

**Informatics**

Patty Sengstack, Senior Associate Dean for Informatics  
260 Frist Hall  
(615) 322-4639

**Cultural Diversity**

Rolanda Johnson, Associate Dean for Office of Diversity  
and Inclusion & Assistant Dean of Academics  
275 School of Nursing (615) 343-2228

**Student Affairs**

Tamika Hudson, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs  
179 School of Nursing  
(615) 343-3334

**Mailing Address**

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Nashville, Tennessee 37240-0008

**Employment opportunities for spouses**

Vanderbilt Employment Center

PMB 357700

2301 Vanderbilt Place

Nashville, Tennessee 37235-7700

(615) 322-8300

**School of Nursing**

# Nursing Administration

PAMELA R. JEFFRIES, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., A.N.E.F., F.S.S.H, Dean

MAVIS N. SCHORN, Ph.D., C.N.M., F.A.C.N.M., Senior Associate Dean for Academics

PAM JONES, D.N.P., M.S.N., R.N., Senior Associate Dean for Clinical and Community Partnerships

REBECCA RUE KECK, D.N.P., M.S.N., R.N., N.E.A.-B.C., Senior Associate Dean for Administration and Operations, Chief Administrative Officer

MARIANN PIANO, Ph.D., M.S.N., F.A.A.N., F.A.H.A., Senior Associate Dean for Research

PATRICIA SENGSTACK, D.N.P., R.N., CPHIMS, F.A.A.N., Senior Associate Dean for Informatics

TERRI ALLISON, DNP, ACNP-BC, FAANP, Assistant Dean for Academics, Doctoral Nursing Practice

BRYN EVANS, MMHC, PMP, Assistant Dean for Finance and Operations

ROLANDA JOHNSON, Ph.D., M.S.N., R.N., Assistant Dean for Academics

TERRAH FOSTER AKARD, Ph.D., R.N., C.P.N.P., F.A.A.N. Director of the Ph.D. in Nursing Science Program

MARILYN DUBREE, M.S.N., R.N., Assistant Dean for Clinical Practice

MARY ANN JESSEE, Ph.D., R.N., Assistant Dean for Academics, Generalist Nursing Practice

ROLANDA JOHNSON, Ph.D., M.S.N., R.N., Assistant Dean for Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

TAMIKA HUDSON, D.N.P., A.P.R.N., F.N.P.-C., Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

S.BRIAN WIDMAR, Ph.D., R.N., A.C.N.P.-B.C., C.C.R.N., C.N.E., F.A.A.N.P., Assistant Dean for Academics, Advanced Nursing Practice

CRAIG CARMICHAEL, M.B.A., C.P.A., Vice President, Academic and Research Enterprise

KRISTIE SMITH, M.Ed., Director of Student Financial Services

SARA A. DONAHOE, M.Ed., Assistant University Registrar and Director of Nursing Student Records

## Center for Research Development and Scholarship

MARIANN PIANO, Ph.D., M.S.N., F.A.A.N., F.A.H.A., Director

## Faculty Senate VUSN Senators

SUSIE LEMING LEE, ABBY PARISH, JULIA PHILLIPPI, COURTNEY PITTS

## VUSN Executive Committee

Pamela R. Jeffries, Chair. Terrah Foster-Akard, Terri Allison, Susan Andrews, Debbie Arnow, Bari Brooks, Christopher Cloar, Marilyn Dubree,, Bryn Evans, Brittany Haskell, Jo Ellen Holt, Leslie Hopkins, Tamika Hudson, Mary Ann Jessee, Rolanda Johnson, Pam Jones, Sharon Karp, Becky Keck, Betsy Kennedy, Ruth Klienpell, Brenda Kulhanek, Susie Leming-Lee, Ginny Moore, Shelagh Mulvaney, Brittany Nelson, Julia Phillippi, Marian Piano, Sara Putnam, , Elizabeth Rapisarda, Aggie Read, Anna Richmond, Mavis Schorn, Patricia Sengstack, Kim Steanson, Julia Steed, Betsey Usher, Philip Walker, Jennifer Wilbeck, Brian Widmar, Nancy Wise, Courtney Young-Pitts, Marci Zsamboky.

# Faculty

[vanderbilt.edu/faculty-affairs/faculty-registry/](http://vanderbilt.edu/faculty-affairs/faculty-registry/)

## Standing Committees

Charges of committees are summarized. For more detailed descriptions of committee charges, see School of Nursing Bylaws, Article V. Committee members serve until September of 2017. Ex officio members for 2016/2020 who are known at this time are listed below. Committee members, however, will not be chosen until September, after the printing of this catalog.

### Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committees are responsible for reviewing and evaluating the curriculum for each of their respective degree programs

M.S.N. Program Curriculum Committee, Jennifer Wilbeck, Chair; , Chair-elect.

D.N.P. Program Curriculum Committee, Debbie Arnow, Chair; , Chair-elect.

Ph.D. Program Curriculum Committee, Chair; , Chair-elect.

### Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is responsible for preparing a slate of consenting M.S.N. and D.N.P. candidates for chair-elect, secretary, senators, and elected committees.

Tamika Hudson, Chair; , Chair-elect.

### Non-Tenure Appointment/Promotion Committee

The Non-Tenure Appointment/Promotion Committee is responsible for receiving and reviewing dossiers of persons to be promoted to assistant, associate, and full professor of the practice and makes recommendations to the dean.

Jennifer Kim, Chair; Chair-elect.

### School Life Committee

The School Life Committee addresses concerns and issues that affect the quality of school life of faculty, students, and staff; promotes formal and informal programs to enhance the quality of school life; and assists in orientation of international members.

Brittany Haskell, Chair; , Chair-elect. Ex officio: Rebecca Keck, Rolanda Johnson, Pam Jones.

### Student Admissions and Academic Affairs Executive Committee

The Student Admissions and Academic Affairs Executive Committee is responsible for reviewing and acting upon applications for admission to the School of Nursing; reviewing student progress and considering and acting on student petitions for waiver of policy; and recommending to the Faculty Assembly conferral of degrees designating appropriate honors.

**M.S.N. Program SAAA Committee**, Aggie Read, Chair; , Chair-elect.

**D.N.P. Program SAAA Committee**, Anna Richmond, Chair; , Chair-elect.

**Ph.D. Program SAAA Committee**, , Chair. Ex officio: Terrah Akard.

### Program Evaluation Committee

Susan Andrews (Chair), Courtney Cook, Misty Evans, Mary Ann Jessee, Susie Leming-Lee, Tonia Moore-Davis, Abby Parish, Erin Rodgers, Jennifer Scroggie, Terry Witherington, Marci Zsamboky (Chair-elect).

### Appointment/Promotion Tenure Committee

The Tenure Committee is responsible for receiving and reviewing dossiers of persons to be promoted to associate professor or to be appointed to a rank holding tenure and making recommendations to the dean.

Shelagh Mulvaney, Chair. Terrah Foster Akard, Julie Barroso, Ruth Kleinpell, Pam Jeffries, Mariann Piano.

**Ph.D. Executive Committee**

, Chair., Chair. Members: Terrah Akard, Kate Clouse, Cathy Maxwell, Jeremy Neal, Deonni Stolldorf.

**Education and Operations Technology Committee**

Faculty Co-Chairs:Jo Ellen Holt and . Staff Chair: Rita Tejada.

**Ph.D. Subcommittees**

***Admissions Committee***

Chair. Mary Dietrich, Mary Jo Gilmer, Rolanda Johnson, Jeremy Neal, Bethany Rhoten. Ex officio: Terrah Foster Akard.

***Curriculum Committee***

, Chair. Leanne Boehm, , Kate Clouse, Cathy Maxwell .

***Evaluation Committee***

Chair. Ruth Kleinpell, Lori Schirle, Dioone Stolldorf.

***Diversity and Inclusion Committee***

Julia Steed (Chair); (Chair-elect).

# The Julia Hereford Society

Charitable gifts from alumni and friends provide critical support for our students, faculty members, and programs. The Julia Hereford Society recognizes financial support of Vanderbilt School of Nursing by those who make annual gifts of \$2,500 and up. Alumni who received their Vanderbilt School of Nursing degrees within the last ten years are eligible for membership with a commitment of \$1,000 annually. There are five recognition levels:

Member: \$2,500 (\$1,000 for recent graduates)  
Benefactor: \$5,000–\$9,999  
Dean’s List: \$10,000–\$24,999  
Cornelius Vanderbilt: \$25,000–\$99,999  
Lifetime: \$100,000 and up

## JHS Member Benefits

- New member recognition with commemorative Julia Hereford Society lapel pin
- Invitations to VUSN special events
- Informative monthly VUSN e-newsletter
- JHS celebration event hosted by Dean Norman

For more information on becoming a member of JHS, please email [VUSN-Giving@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:VUSN-Giving@vanderbilt.edu) or contact a member of the Development and Alumni Relations staff.

## Julia Hereford History

After graduating with a B.S.N. from Vanderbilt University School of Nursing in 1936, Julia Jane Hereford, Ph.D., R.N., was appointed to the VUSN faculty as an instructor in 1938. Her service on the faculty, along with the completion of her M.A. in teaching from the Teachers College of Columbia University in New York, earned her a promotion to the rank of assistant professor in 1943. In the fall of 1945, she served briefly as a member of the NLNE staff for post-graduate nursing education study, and, in 1947, Hereford was promoted to associate professor.

With the departure of Dean Francis Helen Zeigler in 1949, Hereford was promoted to professor and named dean of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. During her deanship (1949–1965), dramatic changes occurred in the nursing program, often in keeping with national trends, and, in some cases, breaking new ground for others to follow.

Hereford took two leaves of absence during her career (1958–1959 and 1965–1968), during which she undertook doctoral studies in administration at the University of Chicago. She returned to Vanderbilt in 1968 as a professor, and, upon the completion of her Ph.D. in 1972, she assumed additional duties as the school’s first director of academic advising. Hereford officially retired in 1977, but she remained active with Vanderbilt as an emeritus faculty member through the early 1980s. The Julia Hereford Society was established in 1984 to honor her legacy and those who generously support the School of Nursing.

## School of Nursing Faculty Practice Network

Vanderbilt School of Nursing has engaged in organized faculty practice for more than twenty years. The Vine Hill Community Clinic, established in 1991, served as the cornerstone of the independent, nurse-managed practices. In 2007, Vine Hill and five satellite sites were designated as a federally qualified Health Center Cluster. Now legally separate from the university, these sites continue as nurse-managed centers staffed by Vanderbilt School of Nursing advanced practice nurse faculty. Clinic operations are comprehensive, functioning similarly—with regard to clinical services, infrastructure, and accountability—to physician practices at Vanderbilt Medical Center.

Vanderbilt School of Nursing has a history of providing preventive and primary care, health education, health promotion, and chronic care management to elementary school students and their families at three sites. The initial clinic at Fall Hamilton Elementary was set up in 1995/96. The second clinic at Stratton Elementary was established in 1997, and the third clinic at Park Avenue Elementary opened in 2001. These schools serve neighborhoods with high rates of poverty as evidenced by the number of students qualifying for free and reduced lunch, averaging 90 percent of a total of 1,600 students. School health programs offer a practical and efficient way to positively affect the health of children and families. Schools are the center of the social structure for the student and a significant

source of interaction for parents. Through contact with one child, the school health provider is positioned to influence the health behaviors of the entire family.

The Vanderbilt Midwifery Practice provides women's health and prenatal services for patients at the West End Women's Health Center. They have delivery privileges at V.U. Medical Center, where they attend approximately 1,500 births each year. The faculty midwifery practice is a critical component of the academic program at Vanderbilt, ensuring clinical placements during three of four semesters and student access to culturally and economically diverse populations.

## **Nursing Education at Vanderbilt**

Vanderbilt University School of Nursing has a national reputation for excellence in nursing education and attracts students from across the nation and from several foreign countries.

The School of Nursing was founded in 1909 as the Training School for Nurses of Vanderbilt University Hospital, with a three-year program leading to eligibility for nurse licensure. Under university administration since 1930, the nursing school became a part of Vanderbilt University Medical Center in 1985. This relationship allows greater opportunity for nursing faculty and students to interact with nursing staff, medical faculty, and medical students in the areas of teaching, research, and practice.

The School of Nursing and Vanderbilt University Medical Center Nursing Services have developed a collaborative, interactive model of nursing practice, education, and research, focusing on quality patient care delivery. This collaborative model accommodates a rapidly and continually changing practice environment. Elements of the model are designed to foster innovation and interdisciplinary activity in an environment that promotes health and job satisfaction.

### **Accreditation**

The master's, post-master's certificate, and doctor of nursing practice nursing programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 887-6791. The school is approved by the Tennessee Board of Nursing. Vanderbilt School of Nursing was a charter member of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Nursing, which later was incorporated into the National League for Nursing (NLN). Vanderbilt University School of Nursing is a member of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20056; (202) 463-6930. The nurse-midwifery program is accredited by Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (formerly ACNM Division of Accreditation). For information: 8403 Colesville Road, Suite 1550, Silver Spring, MD 20910-6374; phone: (240) 485-1800; fax: 240-485-1818; email: [info@acnm.org](mailto:info@acnm.org); web: [midwife.org](http://midwife.org). The U.S. Department of Education is located at 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-0498; telephone (800) USA-LEARN (800-872-5327).

### **VUSN Mission**

The mission of Vanderbilt University School of Nursing is to lead in education, evidence-based practice, scholarship, and research in order to provide optimal health care to diverse communities through innovation, inclusion, and compassion.

### **Accidents/Injury/Illnesses**

Students are responsible for the costs of tests, treatment, and follow-up care for any accidents, injury, or illnesses that occur while enrolled as students at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. Students are not entitled to worker's compensation benefits.

### **Alcohol and Controlled Substance Policy**

Vanderbilt University is deeply concerned about the health and welfare of its students. University policies and regulations in general—and alcohol and controlled substances policies in particular—reflect that concern. The purpose of university policies, and the purpose of articulating them in great detail, is to enable students to make informed—and, it is hoped, intelligent—choices, as well as to enable them to understand the consequences of making poor choices. In compliance with the federal Drug-Free Schools and Campuses regulations, Vanderbilt has adopted a policy that includes the expectation that students will comply with federal, state, and local laws, including those relating to alcoholic beverages, narcotics, and other drugs. Further details found in the Vanderbilt University Student Handbook: [https://www.vanderbilt.edu/student\\_handbook/](https://www.vanderbilt.edu/student_handbook/).



Nursing students are not allowed to attend class, lab, or clinical practice under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances. Students suspected of using such substances will be asked to submit to voluntary breath, blood, or urine screening as a condition of progression. Some clinical placement sites require alcohol and drug screening. Additional standards of conduct, standards, and procedures may be found in the Student Handbook <https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/current/pdf/handbook.pdf>.

### **Appeal Process for M.S.N. and D.N.P. SAAA Committee Probation/Dismissal Decisions Grounds for Appeal**

Any VUSN student who has been subject to an adverse determination by the SAAA committee regarding academic standing may petition for a review of the determination on the following grounds:

- Academic sanction was not applied according to the published academic policies.
- Insufficient information to support the determination of the SAAA committee.
- New information that was not reasonably available for the initial presentation to the SAAA Committee, the introduction of which would reasonably be expected to affect the committee's determination. For further detail, refer to the Student Handbook at <https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/current/pdf/handbook.pdf>.

### **Application Procedure**

Vanderbilt University School of Nursing seeks to matriculate students with an array of life experiences and the potential to provide significant contributions to the nursing profession. We believe a diverse learning community fosters the development of exceptional leaders, educators, clinicians, informaticists, and researchers. A holistic approach is used to evaluate each candidate based on academic performance, professional goals, personal characteristics, leadership potential, commitment to service, and support of diversity, inclusion, and equity.

The link to the online application for the M.S.N, P.M.C., and D.N.P programs is found at [apply.vanderbilt.edu/apply](https://apply.vanderbilt.edu/apply). A \$50 non-refundable fee is required when the application is submitted. Interested applicants should carefully review information provided on the website and contact the Admission Office at [VUSNAdmissions@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:VUSNAdmissions@vanderbilt.edu) if they have questions about the program application procedure. All application materials must be received before the application can be sent for faculty review.

The School of Nursing begins reviewing M.S.N. and P.M.C. applications for admission to its new fall class beginning October 15 of the previous year. Applicants are encouraged to apply by October 15 to be considered for their intended specialty. However, M.S.N. and P.M.C. applications received after October 15 are reviewed on a rolling basis until the class is full. The School of Nursing begins reviewing D.N.P. applications for admission to its new fall class on December 1. D.N.P. applications received after December 1 are reviewed on a rolling basis.

All information submitted in the application process must be the applicant's own work complete, factually true, and honestly presented. Applicants providing false information may be subject to a range of possible disciplinary actions, including admission revocation, expulsion, or revocation of course credit, grades, and degree. Admissions decisions are made upon receipt of all application materials. A \$500 non-refundable matriculation fee is required upon acceptance.

Applications are considered current for one year; accepted applicants who do not enroll during that time must reapply for admission. Admitted students may apply for one deferral of admission, not to exceed one year, which must be approved by the SAAA committee. After one year, the student must reapply for admission.

### **Attendance and Absence Policy**

It is expected that students will attend all courses regardless of educational format. Attendance is required for on-campus block classes and/or intensives each semester. The Brightspace learning management system serves as the record of student participation and attendance in the online course environment. For face-to-face classes, student participation during in-class academic activities verifies attendance. Course instructors may set specific policies about absences from their courses. The School of Nursing does not distinguish types of absences. An instructor is under no obligation to accommodate students who are absent or who miss academic work without prior notification and makeup arrangements. Accommodations will be made for a student who misses an examination, work assignment, or other project because of observance of a religious holiday; this accommodation must be requested

by the student prior to the holiday.

As a rule, students incur no administrative penalties for absences from class, laboratory, or clinical, but they are responsible for the academic consequences of absence. Refer to [VUSN Student Handbook](#) for details.

### **Audit Courses**

Students may wish to audit courses in the School of Nursing for which they will receive no credit. Auditing courses requires registration and is subject to the following conditions:

1. Consent of the instructor must be obtained.
2. The instructor sets the conditions under which a course may be audited. Failure to meet those conditions is justification for withdrawal of the audit designation.
3. Auditing students are able to observe and listen during class. Online material is available for review.
4. Auditing students are not allowed to participate in class. This includes, but is not limited to, asking questions of the professor during or after class about the course, participating in group discussions (in class or online), or access to tests.
5. Audits carry no credit.

### **Calendar**

The official calendar of the School of Nursing is online at [nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/current/enrollment/calendar.php](http://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/current/enrollment/calendar.php) and printed at the front of this catalog and in the VUSN Student Handbook. These publications are available in August of each year online through the VUSN website at [vanderbilt.edu/catalogs/graduate/nursing/](http://vanderbilt.edu/catalogs/graduate/nursing/) and [nursing.vanderbilt.edu/current/handbook.pdf](http://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/current/handbook.pdf).

In the R.N. pre-specialty year and in selected specialties, course content is taught in a modified learning (block) format via the following: (1) courses offered in concentrated blocks of time on campus including weekends up to four times per semester, (2) online conferencing, and (3) digital video and distributed-learning methods that allow for continued faculty contact between sessions. Block schedules are available on the VUSN website prior to each semester at [nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/current/blockschedules/](http://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/current/blockschedules/). Students are expected to attend all on-campus sessions.

The D.N.P program is taught in a combination of online and on-campus intensives held for one week at the beginning of each semester. Continued student-faculty interactions will occur on a regular basis using various technology methods, synchronous and asynchronous. Intensive schedules are available on the VUSN website prior to each semester. Students are required to attend the D.N.P. Intensives.

MyVU is an online service that includes a calendar of events as well as articles of interest. It is the responsibility of the student to keep informed of any event or announcement applicable to the School of Nursing. Failure to know of an officially required event is not an excuse for non-attendance.

### **Change of Course**

*Dropping a Course.* The first five class days of the semester are allocated for necessary changes of course. Courses may be dropped without entry in the final record within the student change period.. Courses may be dropped only after consultation with the student's adviser and the course instructor. Dropping a course may affect the sequencing of the program of study and may change the student's expected date of completion of course work.

*Withdrawing from a Course.* Students may withdraw from a course and receive the grade W (withdrawal) according to the date published in the School of Nursing Calendar for each semester. If the course in question is a nursing course, the student will receive the grade W (withdrawal) if less than half of the course has elapsed. Students may not withdraw from a course after the published date in the School of Nursing Calendar or after the course is half completed, except under extenuating circumstances. If a Vanderbilt course is taken outside the School of Nursing, grade regulations of the appropriate school will apply.

### **Code for Nurses**

The school adheres to the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics for Nurses. The Code for Nurses is based on belief about the nature of individuals, nursing, health, and society. Recipients and providers of nursing services are

viewed as individuals and groups who possess basic rights and responsibilities and whose values and circumstances command respect at all times. Nursing encompasses the promotion and restoration of health, the prevention of illness, and the alleviation of suffering. The statements of the code and their interpretation provide guidance for conduct and relationships in carrying out nursing responsibilities consistent with the ethical obligations of the profession and quality in nursing care. The nurse provides services with respect for human dignity and the uniqueness of the client, unrestricted by considerations of social or economic status, personal attributes, or the nature of health problems.

## **Commencement**

The university holds its annual Commencement ceremony following the spring semester. Degree candidates must have completed successfully all curriculum requirements with at least a 3.0 overall GPA and have passed all prescribed examinations by the published deadlines to be allowed to participate in the ceremony. A student completing degree requirements in the summer or fall semester will be invited to participate in Commencement the following May; however, the semester in which the degree was actually earned will be the one recorded on the diploma and the student's permanent record. Students unable to participate in the graduation ceremony will receive their diplomas by mail.

## **Confidentiality and Privacy of Patient Information**

Trust and confidentiality are at the heart of the caregiver/patient relationship. The ANA Code for Nurses requires students to strive to protect the rights of patients – and one of their essential rights is the right to privacy and to have information about them kept confidential. In addition to professional codes, all health care organization will have policies regarding confidentiality that reflect ethical standards, as well as state and federal laws. Federal regulations are bringing a new measure of uniformity to confidentiality practices across the health care industry. See information on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) at [hhs.gov/hipaa/index.html](https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/index.html).

## **Core Performance Standards**

Essential eligibility requirements for participation and completion by students in the nursing program include the following core performance standards:

1. *Intellectual:* Ability to learn, think critically, analyze, assess, solve problems, and attain clinical and academic judgment.
2. *Interpersonal:* Interpersonal ability sufficient to appropriately interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.
3. *Communication:* Ability to speak and write with accuracy, clarity and efficiency in English and in computer-assisted formats.
4. *Mobility:* Physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces.
5. *Motor skills:* Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide therapeutic nursing interventions that are safe and effective and that maintain safety and security standards.
6. *Hearing:* Auditory ability sufficient to monitor, assess and respond to health needs.
7. *Visual:* Visual ability sufficient to distinguish colors, monitor, assess, and respond to health needs.
8. *Tactile:* Tactile ability sufficient to monitor, assess, and respond to health needs.
9. *Olfactory:* Olfactory ability to monitor, assess, and respond to health needs.
10. *Judgmental:* Mental and physical ability to demonstrate good judgment in decision-making in order to maintain safety and security of patients and to behave appropriately with patients, staff, students, supervisors and faculty.
11. *Affective:* Emotional stability and the capacity to be accountable and to accept responsibility.

All students enrolled in the M.S.N. degree, D.N.P. degree, or post-master's certificate program must satisfactorily demonstrate these competencies in the didactic, laboratory, seminar, and clinical practice courses throughout their program of study.

## **Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity**

Diversity is an integral component of Vanderbilt University School of Nursing's (VUSN) purpose to promote excellence and innovation in education, practice and research. Diversity and inclusion are embedded in each of these components. VUSN's diversity and inclusivity statement reflects the school's commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity.

### ***VUSN's diversity, inclusivity and anti-racism statement:***

At Vanderbilt University School of Nursing (VUSN), we are intentional about and assume accountability for fostering advancement and respect for equity, diversity, and inclusion for all students, faculty, and staff. We support our

efforts with respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person. To bring to life our vision of inclusive excellence, we seek to recruit, admit, hire, retain, promote, and support diverse and underrepresented groups of students, staff, and faculty. We value social justice and human rights. We embrace the plurality of humanity that composes our community including, but not limited to, age, race, ethnic origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, and religion.

We reject racism of any kind, be it systemic, institutional, or individual. We acknowledge the painful histories related to racism even within the nursing discipline, including education, practice, and research. We pledge to not let an unjust past continue to determine the future. We will enact practices which promote anti-racism and social justice across all entities within VUSN.

We affirm the inherent worth of each individual in order to protect, promote, and optimize the health and abilities of all people. As educators of advanced practice nurses, nurse scholars, nurse leaders, and nurse faculty, we accept the responsibility to foster and graduate highly educated, culturally sensitive health care professionals who mirror the diverse populations they serve.

### **Educational Resources and Materials Protection**

As a professional courtesy to the many who contribute expertise and effort to the creation of educational resources and materials for VUSN courses, please follow this policy regarding the appropriate use of materials as it relates to the course. Educational resources and materials include instructional media, lectures, and handouts, some of which may include copyrighted items.

A. Students should ask permission of the course coordinator to record classroom discussions, lectures, demonstrations, or simulations.

B. Any recorded instructional media, whether provided by the school or recorded by the student, and handouts should:

- a. Be used for educational purposes of the course only.
- b. Not be shared with students not enrolled in the course.
- c. Be deleted once the student graduates or otherwise ends the student relationship with Vanderbilt University School of Nursing.

### **Examinations**

Examination policies are determined by the instructor. A record of all grades given during the course and all final examinations and major papers are kept on file by the instructor for one year following the conclusion of the course.

A number of alternatives to standard in-class examinations are permitted at the instructor's discretion. These include take-home and self-scheduled examinations, oral examinations, on-line examinations, and term papers. Final examinations must be conducted during the final examination period at the end of the module or at the end of the semester.

Students are expected to take exams at the times specified in the course syllabus, and as announced by the course coordinator. Students must receive permission from the faculty prior to the scheduled exam to take the exam at a different time.

Any student more than fifteen minutes late to an in-class examination must present a satisfactory excuse. No student will be admitted after the first hour. Some courses require students to take examinations using online exam proctoring software.

### **Faculty Advisers**

Each student will be assigned a faculty adviser who will collaborate with the student to promote successful

completion of program requirements. The advising relationship consists of scheduled sessions each semester to ensure each student is afforded every opportunity for success. The complete program of studies should be approved within the first semester of enrollment.

The Assistant Dean for Academics, Doctoral Nursing Practice serves as adviser to special students taking doctoral level courses.

## **Graduation**

Degree candidates must have satisfactorily completed all curriculum requirements, have a cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0, have passed all prescribed examinations, and be free of all indebtedness to the university.

## **The Honor System**

### ***Honor code statement***

Vanderbilt University students pursue all academic endeavors with integrity. They conduct themselves honorably, professionally, and respectfully in all realms of their studies in order to promote and secure an atmosphere of dignity and trust. The keystone of our honor system is self-regulation, which requires cooperation and support from each member of the university community.

Vanderbilt students are bound by the Honor System inaugurated in 1875 when the university opened its doors. Fundamental responsibility for the preservation of the system inevitably falls on the individual student. It is assumed that students will demand of themselves and their fellow students complete respect for the Honor System. The Honor System at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing is conducted by students for the benefit of students, faculty, staff, and patients. The Honor System, as delineated by the Honor Code, requires students to conduct themselves with honor in all aspects of their lives as advanced practice nurses-in-training. By demanding great responsibility, the Honor System fosters an environment of freedom and trust that benefits the entire School of Nursing.

All work submitted as a part of course requirements is presumed to be the product of the student submitting it unless credit is given by the student in the manner prescribed by the course instructor. Cheating, plagiarizing, using unauthorized aid, or otherwise falsifying results of study are specifically prohibited under the Honor System. The system applies not only to examinations, but also to all papers or written work, plans of care, and any clinical practice requirements submitted to instructors. The student, by registration, acknowledges the authority of the Honor Council of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. Students are expected to become familiar with the [Vanderbilt University Student Handbook](#) and the [School of Nursing Student Handbook](#).

### ***Nursing Honor Council***

The Honor Council serves to educate the student body about their responsibilities outlined in the written code, to conduct investigations and hearings regarding reported violations of the code, and to decide the nature of penalties deemed appropriate for such violations. The membership consists of student representatives from pre-specialty and specialty levels of the M.S.N. program, the post-master's certificate program, and the D.N.P. program.

Representatives serve for one year from September through August. Officers of the council must be students in good standing. Alternates may also be elected to serve in the absence of representatives.

### ***Student Conduct***

Vanderbilt University strives to provide an optimal living and learning environment for the entire campus community. Students are expected to respect themselves and others, to act responsibly, and to take responsibility for their actions. The Office of Student Accountability, Community Standards, and Academic Integrity promotes good citizenships within the Vanderbilt University community through education. The student conduct system addresses student violations of university policy through fair, consistent, and confidential procedures. The student conduct system applies to all Vanderbilt students and student organizations; it addresses student misconduct allegations through procedures designed to provide a fair hearing and a just decision. The university's Office of Student Accountability, Community Standards, and Academic Integrity has original jurisdiction in all cases of non-academic misconduct involving graduate and professional students. For more information, visit [vanderbilt.edu/studentaccountability/](http://vanderbilt.edu/studentaccountability/).

## ***Nursing Student Conduct Council***

Although the university values personal freedom, celebration, and recreation, the policies and regulations that apply to student conduct at Vanderbilt are also informed by principles that value the health, safety, and well-being of students and other members of the university community, as well as their academic and personal success. The university's goal in establishing policies and holding students accountable for complying with them is to help students understand how their choices can affect not only their immediate neighbors, but also the university community as a whole.

Students and student organizations are expected to comply with all university policies, which are derived from tradition and evolve with contemporary practice. Ignorance of a policy is not a valid excuse for violating it. Grounds for corrective action cannot always be the subject of precise statement; however, when commonly held standards of conduct are broken, students must be held accountable if the university community is to be sustained.

The Office of Student Accountability, Community Standards, and Academic Integrity ([vanderbilt.edu/studentaccountability/](http://vanderbilt.edu/studentaccountability/)) has original jurisdiction in all cases of nonacademic misconduct involving undergraduate, graduate, and professional students.

### **Inclement Weather**

The inclement weather policy provides uniformity for students, faculty and staff regarding the cancellation of classes due to inclement weather conditions or other adverse events influencing normal operations of the School of Nursing. Refer to [YUSN Student Handbook](#) for details.

### **International Students**

Vanderbilt has a large international community representing approximately one hundred countries. The university welcomes the diversity international students bring to the campus, and encourages academic and social interaction at all levels.

### ***English Language Proficiency***

Proficiency in written and oral English is required for enrollment in the nursing program. Applicants whose native language is not English must present the results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with the application. The International TOEFL is administered at test centers throughout the world at different times during the year.

Applicants may access information regarding the TOEFL exam, including registration and sample tests, at [ets.org/toefl](http://ets.org/toefl). Inquiries and requests for application forms should be addressed to TOEFL, Box 6151, Princeton, New Jersey 08541-6151 U.S.A. The minimum acceptable score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language is 100 on the Internet-based test or 250 on the computer-based test. The minimum acceptable score on the IELTS is 6.5. For more information on the IELTS test, go to [ielts.org](http://ielts.org).

### ***Transcripts***

International student applicants who have completed college or university course work at an institution in a country other than the United States must obtain a complete course-by-course evaluation of foreign transcripts, degrees, and other official documentation. In all instances, the evaluating agency will require original, official documentation. Please note that the evaluating agency must send both the course-by-course report and copies of the native documents. If the agency does not provide copies of the documentation used to do the course-by-course evaluation, students must submit their official documentation to Vanderbilt. Official transcripts and course-by-course evaluation reports should be sent to the following address: Office of the University Registrar, Vanderbilt University, ATTN: Prior Degree Review, PMB 407701, Nashville, Tennessee 37240-7701 U.S.A. For further questions regarding prior degrees, please visit [registrar.vanderbilt.edu/academic-records/international-degrees.php](http://registrar.vanderbilt.edu/academic-records/international-degrees.php).

Evaluating agencies include (1) World Education Services, Bowling Green Station, P.O. Box 5087, New York, NY 10274-5087; telephone (212) 966-6311; website: [wes.org](http://wes.org); (2) Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc., Post Office Box 514070, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203-3470; telephone (414) 289-3412; website: [ece.org](http://ece.org); and (3) Josef Silny and Associates, Inc., 7101 SW 102 Avenue, Miami, FL 33173; telephone (305) 273-1616; website: [jsilny.org/](http://jsilny.org/).

### ***English Instruction***

Entering students may be required to take language support courses at the Vanderbilt English Language Center (ELC) concurrently with their academic courses. Students may also elect to take classes and participate in programming which includes Academic Writing, Academic Speaking, Pronunciation, and International Teaching Assistant (ITA) Communication to support their academic success. Throughout the academic year, academic workshops and 1-to-1 consultations for speaking and writing are also available. For more information, please visit [vanderbilt.edu/elc/](http://vanderbilt.edu/elc/).

### ***Financial Resources***

To meet requirements for entry into the United States for study, applicants must demonstrate that they have sufficient financial resources to meet expected costs of their entire educational program. Applicants must provide documentary evidence of their financial resources before visa documents can be issued.

United States laws and regulations restrict the opportunity for international students to be employed. Students may be allowed to work off campus only under special circumstances. Many spouses and dependents of international students generally are not allowed to be employed while in the United States.

### ***Visa and Immigration***

Applicants who are not United States citizens or residents of the U.S. will need to comply with applicable laws and regulations for entry into and travel within the U.S. before enrolling at Vanderbilt. For further information, visit [vanderbilt.edu/iss/](http://vanderbilt.edu/iss/).

### ***International Applicants who need an I-20 or DS-2019 Issued to Study in the United States***

Due to federal guidelines, the Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.), Post-Master's Certificate (P.M.C.) and Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) programs do not satisfy the requirements for F-1 or J-1 study. The federal regulations restrict the number of courses that can be delivered via an online format within a program of study for F-1 and J-1 students. As these programs have a significant online component, the educational format is not compatible with the structure required by the federal government for F-1 and J-1 students.

### ***Health and Accident Insurance***

International students, whether attending the university full time or part time, and their dependents residing in the United States are required to purchase the university's international student health and accident insurance unless, in the judgment of the university, adequate coverage is provided from some other source. Information concerning the limits, exclusions, and benefits of this insurance coverage can be obtained from the Student Health Center.

### ***Additional Requirements***

Prior to admission, international applicants who are nurses must have passed the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) examination and the NCLEX-RN licensing examination. Information on the CGFNS may be obtained by writing the commission at 3600 Market Street, Suite 400, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104-2651, U.S.A., or by calling (215) 222-8454 or at [cgfns.org](http://cgfns.org). The CGFNS exam is given in March, August, and November in forty-six locations worldwide, though not in Nashville. Information on the NCLEX-RN licensing exam may be obtained from the Tennessee Board of Nursing, 665 Mainstream Drive, 2nd Floor, Nashville, Tennessee 37243, U.S.A.; telephone (615) 532-5222; website: [tn.gov/health](http://tn.gov/health).

### ***Information***

Assistance in non-academic matters before and during the international student's stay at Vanderbilt is provided by International Student and Scholar Services, Student Life Center, 310 25th Avenue South, Suite 103, Nashville, TN 37240, U.S.A.; [vanderbilt.edu/iss/](http://vanderbilt.edu/iss/); telephone (615) 322-2753. Email: [iss@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:iss@vanderbilt.edu).

### ***Leave of Absence***

A student may request to take a leave of absence (LOA) from their course of study as following instruction found in the [VUSN Student Handbook](#):

### ***Medical Leave of Absence***



Students may experience life situations, or medical, and/or psychological conditions that significantly interfere with their academic and personal success. A medical leave of absence is intended to provide students with the opportunity to fully attend to their health and wellbeing, away from the stress associated with campus and academic life. A student who is temporarily unable to continue their course-of-study due to a medical reason must request a medical leave of absence (MLOA) from VUSN. Detailed information is found in the [VUSN Student Handbook](#).

### **Net Etiquette Statement**

Net etiquette describes professional communication and behaviors for online communication and interaction (email, discussion board postings, chats, wikis, blogs) to ensure a forum for dynamic and engaged learning. The expectations for net etiquette at VUSN may be described across three general areas: 1) Respect and Courtesy, 2) Participation and Collaboration, and 3) Presentation of Self. An inability to uphold net etiquette expectations may have repercussions related to student conduct. Further details regarding this policy are found in the [VUSN Student Handbook](#).

### **Orientation**

A required orientation program is held each fall prior to the registration period to acquaint new and continuing students with the school environment. The senior associate dean may call additional class meetings throughout the year as needed. Content may be provided in person, virtually or in combination.

### **Professional Licensure and Out of State Requirements**

State Boards of Nursing set standards for licensure. For students entering the M.S.N. program with a degree in a field other than nursing, successful completion of the pre-specialty courses prepares students to take the R.N. licensure exam (NCLEX-RN). While the NCLEX-RN is a national exam, most pre-specialty students obtain their initial R.N. license in the state of Tennessee and then may apply for R.N. licensure in a different state by following that state's prescribed procedures. State Boards may require R.N. practice experience and/or supplemental education modules. Graduation from the M.S.N. program or completion of the post-master's certificate (PMC) in nurse-midwifery or a nurse practitioner specialty prepares students for APRN licensure. Requirements for obtaining Advanced Practice (APRN) licensure vary by state. State Boards may require R.N. practice experience, transition to practice as APRN, supplemental education modules and/or approval of the program leading to an advanced practice certification. It is highly recommended that students who seek admission to M.S.N., Post Master's Certificate, and D.N.P. programs at VUSN contact their home state's Board of Nursing to verify that the desired program and its graduates will meet the eligibility criteria for approval for those credentials. The website of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing has contact information on Boards of Nursing in each state.

Vanderbilt University School of Nursing is required to meet state higher education requirements and state board of nursing requirements for students who complete clinical practice hours - outside of Tennessee. National program licensure and certification disclosures and state academic restrictions are found here ([hyperlink needed](#)).

### **Prior Degrees**

It is the policy of Vanderbilt University to verify prior educational credentials for all admitted students who intend to matriculate. All matriculated students must provide official copies of transcripts and any other required supporting documentation to Vanderbilt University as part of the prior degree verification process. The Office of the University Registrar will review transcripts and other supporting documentation for authenticity and to confirm degrees earned prior to matriculation at Vanderbilt. Offers of admission are contingent on a student's providing the required documentation. Students in the School of Nursing who are not able to provide evidence of prior degrees will not be permitted to register and may be subject to dismissal from the university.

### **Program of Studies**

Students are expected to follow the program of studies outlined in the [VUSN Student Handbook](#). A student may request from full time to part time status or change their specialty following the processes found in the VUSN Student Handbook.

When an absence from the school for one or more semesters is anticipated, the student must submit a [Request for Leave of Absence form](#) and must follow the process outlined in the [VUSN Student Handbook](#).

### **Program Evaluation**



Students are expected to participate in program evaluation activities while enrolled in the program and after they have left Vanderbilt. These data will be used for research purposes only. Procedures to protect individual confidentiality will be followed.

## Registration

Each semester, at a time specified in the calendar, all students are required to confer with their academic advisers and register for courses for the next semester. Registration for classes is done by computer on Your Enrollment Services (YES). Students should check carefully with their faculty advisers concerning progress toward completing degree requirements and to make necessary revisions in their program of studies. The School of Nursing requires continuous registration of all degree candidates. Responsibility to maintain registration rests with the student. To retain student status, the student must register each fall, spring, and summer semester or secure an approved leave of absence. Students who are registered for zero hours in order to satisfy requirements for an incomplete grade are considered degree candidates. Students registering for zero hours for the express purpose of completing an incomplete grade are charged \$200 plus applicable fees.

## State of Tennessee

Students should be aware that, should they have complaints about their academic program or their financial aid, Vanderbilt has a complaint procedure. To the extent possible, students should seek a resolution of such matters through the institution's complaint procedure before involving others.

The student has the right to call on the state of Tennessee and its appropriate agency to determine the course of action. Complaints may be filed with the following agencies in Tennessee:

- Complaints related to the application of state laws or rules related to the approval to operate or licensure of a particular professional program within a postsecondary institution may be referred to the appropriate agency (e.g., State Board of Education, Department of Health, and so on) within the Tennessee State Government and may be reviewed and handled by that licensing agency. Contact information may be found by searching for the appropriate division at [tn.gov](http://tn.gov).
- Complaints related to state consumer protection laws (i.e., laws related to fraud or false advertising) may be referred to the Tennessee Division of Consumer Affairs and may be reviewed and handled by that Unit. Contact information for the Consumer Affairs Division may be found at [tn.gov/attorneygeneral/working-for-tennessee/consumer-affairs](http://tn.gov/attorneygeneral/working-for-tennessee/consumer-affairs).

## Grade Complaint Process

Students who have a concern about the reasonable or fair evaluation of their academic performance should follow the grade complaint process in the course syllabus and [VUSN Student Handbook](#). Students should be aware that there is a time requirement for initiating a grade complaint. Retaliation against a student who pursues a complaint will not be permitted.

## Complaint Process

One of the goals of Vanderbilt University School of Nursing (VUSN) is to provide an environment that promotes learning and fair treatment. Situations may arise where a student (or former student) believes they have not been given fair treatment or has a complaint about the performance, action, or inaction of a member of the staff or faculty affecting the student during the period of their enrollment. Faculty and staff members welcome the opportunity to work with a student or former student who has a concern or complaint.

Complaints addressed under this VUSN Complaint Process may be categorized as being: 1) **grade-related**; or 2) **non-grade related** complaints, in each case that are not addressed through other processes at the University. Students should refer to the [University Student Handbook](#) for a list of decisions and student concerns that are not addressed under this VUSN Complaint Process because they may be addressed through other processes at the University. For example, if the complaint involves allegations of discrimination, harassment, and/or related retaliation based on a protected status, this step is not appropriate and the complaint should be directed to the Title IX and Student Discrimination Office.

Early identification and communication often result in timely and effective resolution. School of Nursing resources, such as the student's faculty advisor, academic director, Academic Assistant Deans, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, Assistant Dean for Enrollment Management or Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion are available to discuss student concerns or refer students to the appropriate school or university resource(s). Students may also

choose to report complaints in the VERITAS reporting system electronically; refer to the “Veritas Reporting System” section in the [VUSN Student Handbook](#) for more information.

When a complaint is not addressed through other University processes, students who decide to proceed with a complaint within VUSN should follow the steps outline in the [VUSN Student Handbook](#). *At no point during any processes should the student fear any form of retaliation. If a possible concern related to safety or retaliation arises, the student may submit an oral or written complaint directly to the Office of the Senior Associate Dean for Academics.*

### **Distance Education**

Students enrolled in distance education programs offered by Vanderbilt University in states other than Tennessee should seek resolution for complaints through Vanderbilt’s complaint procedure. Distance education students may also contact the appropriate authority in their state of residence. For further information please visit [vanderbilt.edu/provost/vanderbilt-university-distance-education-complaint-and-grievance-procedures](http://vanderbilt.edu/provost/vanderbilt-university-distance-education-complaint-and-grievance-procedures)

Additional information on complaint and grievance procedures can be found in the [VUSN Student Handbook](#).

### **Student Handbook**

The [VUSN Student Handbook](#) contains important curriculum information, student conduct standards, and policies and procedures that define community expectations for students enrolled at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. It is the responsibility of each student to become familiar with the Student Handbook. Questions regarding the Student Handbook should be directed to the assistant dean for student affairs. The handbook is updated annually and is available on the VUSN website at [nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/current/pdf/handbook.pdf](http://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/current/pdf/handbook.pdf).

In addition, Vanderbilt University publishes a [Student Handbook](#) that contains detailed information regarding university policies and regulations, the honor system, student accountability, residential life, alcohol and drug policies, and sexual misconduct and other forms of power-based personal violence.

### **Transfer Credit**

In order to be eligible for transfer credit, the course work must be completed (a) within the last five years (b) prior to enrollment at VUSN, (c) at the same academic level (equivalent master’s or equivalent doctoral level), and (d) from a regionally accredited institution or from an ACEN- or CCNE-accredited institution. In order to request transfer credit, a student must complete the Transfer Credit request form.

Only the credit hour value, and not the grade point average, will be posted to the student’s Vanderbilt transcript. Courses are evaluated for transfer credit only after the student has been admitted to a degree or certificate program. A student who seeks transfer credit must submit the request to the assistant university registrar/director of nursing student records at least six weeks before the course begins. Transfer credit is granted on a course-by-course basis, approved for a maximum of six credit hours and considered only for courses in which student earned a B- or better. Transfer credit is evaluated based on VUSN course equivalent content (for required courses), credit allotment, and satisfactory completion of courses. The faculty course coordinator and the academic director of the student’s program approve transfer credit.

### **Withdrawal from the University**

A student may voluntarily withdraw from VUSN after completing the Withdrawal from Vanderbilt University form. Once a student withdraws, the student is not permitted to attend classes or use school services. Course withdrawal policies may apply. A student may withdraw and receive the grade W (Withdrawal) in accordance with the date published in the School of Nursing calendar. A student may withdraw from Vanderbilt University after the published date in the School of Nursing calendar or after the courses are half completed. However, the student will receive a grade of F (Failing) in all enrolled courses except in extenuating circumstances. If the student withdraws, they may be considered for readmission by completing the application process. (Please see section on Readmission.) For further details, refer to the [VUSN Student Handbook](#).

### **The Informatics Milieu**

The Vanderbilt University School of Nursing (VUSN) is supported by a strong informatics team consisting of both faculty and staff. VUSN is known for technology and informatics solutions that set it apart from other schools of nursing. Innovations range from state-of-the-art smart-phone use to the delivery of classes via the web in a variety of formats. Products range from award-winning posters to online surveys and other state-of-the-art data-collection instruments. Students participate in online testing and other electronic applications such as the clinical log.

Computers are used heavily by faculty and students in their learning activities. All classes are available via an online learning management system. Wireless access is available throughout the VUSN physical campus so that students can connect portable devices to the Vanderbilt network. Orientation activities include the configuration of computers, tablets, and smart phones so that students can connect to online resources. Network connections are password-protected and authenticated for use. As a result, students and faculty have full access to all university electronic resources, including the innovative Eskind Biomedical Library. The extensive digital library of electronic journals, books, databases, and other resources is particularly important for the distance-learning programs, which rely on a blended-learning approach requiring only a few face-to-face meetings of students and faculty each semester, while allowing for continued faculty contact with students. Electronic delivery of lectures is video-streamed live and/or captured in digitized video format.

The skills lab facility includes both basic and advanced equipment and is considered to be a satellite facility for the larger Medical Center Simulated Lab Facility. In order to communicate with our off-site clinical preceptors, many of our faculty participate in video conferencing that includes the student, the preceptor, and a clinical faculty member.

The Frist Nursing Informatics Center (second floor, Frist Hall) was dedicated in 2005 and houses all the informatics faculty and staff. The informatics support team (twenty-six positions) consists of administrators, programmers, networking specialists, graphic designers, videographers, instructional designers, and multimedia developers. The support team is available to support all students and can be contacted via telephone and email. A twenty-seven-unit computer laboratory is provided, along with an eight-unit testing laboratory. All of these facets combine to make VUSN a progressive informatics experience for students, faculty, and staff.

### **Resources and Requirement for Students**

VUSN considers computer access and the Internet communication link an essential learning resource for all students. Before students begin classes, it is important to have computer skills to negotiate the Internet; download, move, and copy files; and use word-processing and spreadsheet software. More detailed information can be found on the [VUSN Technology Overview](#) webpage.

### **School of Nursing Facilities**

#### ***Mary Ragland Godchaux Hall***

Built in 1925, Mary Ragland Godchaux Hall is located next to Medical Research Building (MRB) III at 461 21st Ave. South. Faculty and administrative offices and research space for the nursing school are located within this 41,923 sq. ft. building. Renovated in 2006, Godchaux Hall contains a state-of-the-art IP-based videoconferencing classroom, two research interview rooms with video and audio recording options, a research observation room with video and audio recording controls, three equipped small seminar/conference rooms, one moderate-size electronic classroom for use with laptops and the school's historic living room updated with audio-visual capabilities.

#### ***Center for Research Development and Scholarship (CRDS)***

Housed on the fourth and fifth floors of Godchaux Hall, CRDS provides research consultation, support and resources for scholarly and research projects. CRDS assists with grant proposal development, Institutional Review Board application, paper and poster presentation, database management, instrument development, use of computers, literature searches, reference retrieval and manuscript preparation. CRDS resources are available to all School of Nursing faculty investigators.

#### ***Godchaux Nursing Annex***

Commonly known as the Annex or Nursing Annex, this facility includes two large- and two medium-size lecture halls, as well as four seminar-size classrooms. All can be quickly equipped for audio and video recording to tape or broadcast via streaming media. All classrooms in the 14,107 sq. ft. building have permanently installed projection devices and up-to-date presentation computers. All afford wireless access to the internet. The four larger halls are equipped with smart technology at the lectern.

## ***Patricia Champion Frist Hall***

The 20,323 sq. ft. Patricia Champion Frist building was completed in 1998. It houses the Frist Nursing Informatics Center, a multi-media classroom with installed networking for seventy-five students, a health-assessment/multipurpose classroom, the Dorothy Goldstein Student Lounge and fifty faculty offices. Two large and one small classroom have infrastructure capable of video streaming live lectures. The Dorothy Goldstein Student Lounge was renovated in 2019 and includes a privacy room for nursing mothers.

## ***The Frist Nursing Informatics Center (FNIC)***

The FNIC offers support for technical, audiovisual, web and communications needs of students, faculty and staff of VUSN. The center operates a suite of three computing labs in Frist Hall and supports student computing in activity spaces within the nursing complex. The student computer labs are equipped with 27 Dell Precision 3420 workstation computers used for normal computer functions, exams and viewing lectures, as well as scanners and printers. A full range of software is available for document preparation, with fewer tools available on testing computers. Instructional software is also available over the network or via CD/DVDs from the media library. Faculty and students use a web-based course management system called Brightspace for most course communication, group activities and the sharing of course resources. In addition, two-way synchronous audio and graphic collaboration is available using a web conferencing system called Skype for Business; and two-way, multi-point IP-based video collaboration is available using a system called Bluejeans. Experts in graphics, interactive educational design and information technology are available through the FNIC. Consultation and troubleshooting activities include assistance with design and development of instructional strategies, development of specialized interactive computer-based programs and webpages, design and maintenance of databases, design and development of graphics and instructional materials, video production and audiovisual editing services. The FNIC implements and maintains quality assurance for School of Nursing webpages and printed materials with assistance from designated departments.

## ***School of Nursing Building***

Newly opened in 2019, the 29,947 sq. ft. School of Nursing Building houses technologically advanced classrooms, conference and seminar rooms, student services offices, faculty offices and a state-of-the-art simulation teaching center. Admissions, Financial Aid, Student Affairs, Registrar, Clinical Placement and Alumni Affairs are on the first and second floors. The building's five floors also contain faculty offices and state-of-the-art conference rooms used for classes, seminars and meetings. The building's fifth floor includes the Sandra Coats Chase Terrace, an outdoor green space.

### ***Simulation and Skills Lab***

The entire third floor is dedicated to the 3,665 sq. ft. Simulation and Skills Lab where students interact with high-fidelity nursing mannequins in realistic simulation exercises. The lab contains 13 bays equipped with the latest technology in simulation capture, advanced mannequin simulators and a variety of skill task trainers. Each bay has a hospital bed, functioning headwall, vitals' monitor, simulated gas outlets and computer. Scenarios are brought to life by faculty working behind the scenes in control rooms equipped with video and audio capabilities. A briefing room and the Agnes K. Godchaux Conference Room are used for pre-briefing, debriefing and observation. An experienced simulation team of nurses, researcher, technician and lab director support students in learning that ranges from the acquisition of tactical skills to the application of progressing clinical reasoning.

### ***Wachmeister Interactive Classroom and Virtual Classroom***

The Wachmeister Interactive Classroom supports flipped classroom teaching and is equipped with five interactive 4K displays, a panoramic camera and touch panels. The room can be arranged into a variety of groups or configurations. Next door is the Virtual Classroom, used for distance learning and video production. The sound- and light-proofed room includes a green screen, lighting grid that allows for flexibility in curriculum development, three video cameras and cutting-edge recording equipment.

### ***Colleen Conway-Welch Atrium***

Godchaux Hall, the Annex, Patricia Champion Frist Hall and the School of Nursing Building are connected by the Colleen Conway-Welch Atrium, named in honor of VUSN's former dean. The glass-fronted atrium serves as the main entrance to the school and was designed for collaboration and engagement by students, faculty and staff. It features areas for study, eating, socialization, physical activity and events.

## ***Affiliated Clinical Education Facilities***

## ***Vanderbilt University Hospital***

Vanderbilt University Hospital (VUH) opened in 1980, with the major addition of the Critical Care Tower in 2009. The hospital is dynamic, growing, and dedicated to meeting the most critical and complex needs of our region, continuing Vanderbilt's more than century-old tradition of offering the best in patient care.

Many patients seen in the hospitals are from states other than Tennessee, with the majority coming from Kentucky, Alabama, and Mississippi.

Adjacent and attached to VUH is Medical Center East, primarily an outpatient services building, but also housing some operating rooms, patient rooms for Labor and Delivery, the Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center and the Vanderbilt Orthopaedics Institute.

## ***The Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt***

The Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt opened as a stand-alone facility in 2004, and is a place of hope and healing for pediatric patients and their families. Recognized as one of the premier children's hospitals in the nation by U.S. News and World Report for nine years running, Children's Hospital cares for the sickest patients in the region and beyond.

Children's Hospital is the most comprehensive pediatric facility in Tennessee, providing services including neurosurgery, cancer treatment, trauma care, transplant, and much more. Children's Hospital operates the region's only Level I pediatric trauma unit and a neonatal intensive care unit with the highest designated level of care.

The facility is filled with state-of-the-art equipment and information systems to provide the best treatment for patients. It offers a variety of family accommodations to help fulfill its mission of patient-and family-centered care. In addition, Children's Hospital is a top-ranked teaching and research facility. As a nonprofit organization, the hospital cares for children of Tennessee and surrounding states regardless of their ability to pay.

## ***Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital***

Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital, which opened in 1985, provides inpatient and partial hospitalization services to children, adolescents, and adults with psychiatric and substance abuse problems. Services include 24-hour crisis assessment and a year-round accredited school for children and adolescents. [vanderbilthealth.com/service-line/behavioral-health](http://vanderbilthealth.com/service-line/behavioral-health)

### *The Vanderbilt Clinic*

The Vanderbilt Clinic (TVC), a comprehensive outpatient facility, opened in 1988 and houses more than 100 medical specialty practice areas, the clinical laboratories, a center for comprehensive cancer treatment, and a day surgery center.

## ***Vanderbilt Stallworth Rehabilitation Hospital***

Vanderbilt Stallworth provides comprehensive inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services for adult and pediatric patients with neurological, orthopaedic, and other injuries, as well as chronic conditions and disabilities. The hospital specializes in treating stroke, brain, and spinal cord injury; multiple traumas; amputations; hip fracture; and other diagnoses. Stallworth is a designated Stroke Center of Excellence and repeatedly exceeds the national benchmarks for patient satisfaction and functional outcomes. This hospital is a joint venture with HealthSouth Corporation. [encompasshealth.com/locations/vanderbiltstallworth](http://encompasshealth.com/locations/vanderbiltstallworth)

## ***Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center***

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center (VICC) is Tennessee's only National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center providing treatment for both adult and pediatric cancer patients. It is also a member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network, a nonprofit alliance of twenty-six of the world's elite cancer centers collaborating to improve cancer care for patients everywhere. The Cancer Center unites physicians and scientists in research programs in key areas. VICC is ranked in the top 10 in competitively-awarded NCI grant support.

VICC is one of the few centers in the country with a comprehensive program for cancer survivors regardless of age, type of cancer, or where they received their oncology treatment. The center's clinical trials program includes robust work in Phase I drug development and designation by the NCI for Phase I and Phase II clinical trials.

The center also boasts several donor-supported research initiatives, including the Frances Williams Preston Laboratories established by the T. J. Martell Foundation, the A. B. Hancock Jr. Memorial Laboratory for Cancer Research, and the Robert J. Kleberg, Jr., and Helen C. Kleberg Center for Personalized Cancer Medicine. [vicc.org](http://vicc.org)

### ***Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development***

The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center strives to improve life for people with disorders of thinking, learning, perception, communication, mood, and emotion caused by disruption of typical development. Its core values include the pursuit of scientific knowledge with creativity and purpose; the education of scientists, practitioners, families, and community leaders; the facilitation of discovery by Kennedy Center scientists; and the translation of knowledge into practice. The center is one of fourteen National Institutes of Health research centers on mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. It has also been named a University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service by the federal Administration on Developmental Disabilities. The center is an interdisciplinary research, training, diagnostic, and treatment institute, embracing faculty and resources available through Vanderbilt University Medical Center, the College of Arts and Science, and Peabody College. [vkc.vumc.org/vkc](http://vkc.vumc.org/vkc)

### ***Vanderbilt Diabetes Center***

The Vanderbilt Diabetes Center provides a comprehensive approach to diabetes for patients of all ages that includes all aspects of health related to diabetes. It also offers programs to equip the next generation of caregivers and scholars. Other programs support the diabetes-related research of VUMC faculty members. [vanderbilthealth.com/service-line/diabetes-and-endocrinology](http://vanderbilthealth.com/service-line/diabetes-and-endocrinology)

### ***Center for Experiential Learning and Assessment (CELA)***

The Center for Experiential Learning and Assessment (CELA) provides an educationally rich simulation environment for training our students and other health care professionals to practice the highest quality clinical care. Simulation technology has now become a standard for medical education, surgical training, and health care team training. Such programs have resulted in improved performance, quicker response time, and less deviation from practice standards. Healthcare simulators increase trainee confidence and competence, improve patient safety, and can also yield cost and process efficiencies. Our work is grounded in theory-based research and informed by the best educational practices for competent clinical practice. CELA is also instrumental in conducting rigorous research that extends our knowledge and practice of experiential learning and assessment by simulations. The center consists of three programs: the Program in Human Simulations, the Simulation Technologies Program, and the Program in Surgical and Anatomical Simulation. The first program brings the traditional standardized patient methods toward a broader use of simulations involving all aspects of human interaction in medicine. The Simulation Technologies Program emphasizes the sophisticated use of computers, task trainers, virtual reality and mannequin-based technologies to simulate clinical challenges. The Program in Surgical and Anatomical Simulation is possible thanks to cadaveric gifts made through the Anatomical Donations Program. All programs provide both unique and integrated approaches to training our students in a safe and effective educational environment.

### ***Rudolph A. Light Hall***

Light Hall provides classroom and laboratory space for students in the School of Medicine. It houses the Department of Biochemistry, the Department of Molecular Physics and Biophysics, and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

### ***Ann and Roscoe Robinson Medical Research Building***

Laboratories and academic space for pharmacology, biochemistry, and molecular physiology and biophysics are housed in the Ann and Roscoe Robinson Medical Research Building. The eight-story building is also home to the A. B. Hancock Jr. Memorial Laboratory for Cancer Research.

### ***Frances Preston Medical Research Building***

This building is named in honor of the late Frances Williams Preston, President and CEO of Broadcast Music, Incorporated. This building consolidates the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center's programs into one primary location on the VUMC campus.



### ***Medical Research Building III***

MRB III houses research laboratories, teaching laboratories, research support areas, offices, conference rooms, classrooms, and a greenhouse for research and teaching. It is a joint undertaking of the College of Arts and Science and VUMC.

### ***Medical Research Building IV***

MRB IV houses a significant amount of wet lab space and supports continued growth in VUMC research programs.

### ***Medical Center North***

The Newman Clinical Research Center, an inpatient orthopaedic unit, and a general-care unit are inside Medical Center North. The complex also houses laboratories and administrative support services for VUMC.

Faculty and administrative offices and research space for medical school departments are in Medical Center North. The original portions of the building were completed in 1925. Since that time a number of connecting wings and buildings have been added.

### ***Vanderbilt Health One Hundred Oaks***

This 440,000-square-foot doctors' office suite opened for patient care in 2009 and is designed for easy access off the interstate highway system, abundant surface parking, automated check-in, and integrated services, labs, and radiology. It houses numerous specialty clinics, primary care services, and advanced imaging facilities.

[vanderbilthealth.com/locations/vanderbilt-health-one-hundred-oaks](http://vanderbilthealth.com/locations/vanderbilt-health-one-hundred-oaks)

### ***Vanderbilt Health Williamson County***

Vanderbilt Health Williamson County offers more than 250 physicians in practices ranging from primary care to sports medicine, GI, cancer care, imaging, and pediatrics. [vanderbilthealth.com/williamson](http://vanderbilthealth.com/williamson)

### ***Vanderbilt Dayani Center for Health and Wellness***

The Vanderbilt Dayani Center is a medically based fitness/health promotion center that specializes in modifying risk factors, for conditions including cardiovascular disease, weight management, stress, sedentary lifestyle, and smoking. It was the first Certified Medical Fitness Center in Tennessee, is closely aligned with the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and serves patient care, research, and education functions within VUMC.

[vanderbilthealth.com/service-line/dayani-center-health-and-wellness](http://vanderbilthealth.com/service-line/dayani-center-health-and-wellness)

### ***VUMC Strategy and Innovation Office***

The Strategy and Innovation Office's mission is to accelerate change in health care. It provides methods for reducing time to results, conducts research through demonstration projects, and supports active learning through sessions that leverage facts during solution design.

[vumc.org/strategy/SAI](http://vumc.org/strategy/SAI)

### ***Vanderbilt Heart and Vascular Institute***

The Vanderbilt Heart and Vascular Institute is a comprehensive and integrated program offering diagnosis, treatment, minimally invasive therapies, surgical intervention, disease management, state-of-the-art techniques, and personalized treatment programs to meet each patient's unique needs.

[vanderbilthealth.com/service-line/heart-and-vascular-care](http://vanderbilthealth.com/service-line/heart-and-vascular-care)

### ***Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center for Otolaryngology and Communication Sciences***

The Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center is devoted to comprehensive patient care, education, and research in the field of communication disorders and diseases, as well as ailments of the ear, nose, throat, head, and neck.

[vanderbilthealth.com/service-line/vanderbilt-bill-wilkerson-center](http://vanderbilthealth.com/service-line/vanderbilt-bill-wilkerson-center)

### ***Vanderbilt Transplant Center***

The Vanderbilt Transplant Center, one of the Southeast's largest, is a multidisciplinary alliance of transplant specialists. Each transplant program within the center represents a collaboration of medical and surgical professionals working together in the best interests of the transplant patient.

## Pre-Nursing Studies

The master of science in nursing (MSN), the first-professional degree in nursing at Vanderbilt, is specialty-related and offered at the graduate level. The increase in knowledge required of nurses and the scope of their responsibilities, as well as changes in role, functions, and practice settings, require post-baccalaureate nursing education built on a rich undergraduate liberal education or baccalaureate nursing degree or its equivalent. The school of nursing does not offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree.

Prospective students interested in nursing at Vanderbilt may apply for admission to any Vanderbilt undergraduate school awarding a BA or BS. In addition to their undergraduate faculty advisers, pre-nursing students are encouraged to work with a pre-nursing adviser to assist in planning their program of studies., Dr. Brandee Madden [brandee.madden@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:brandee.madden@vanderbilt.edu) or a (615) 875-9012 and Dr. Christy DeGregory at (615) 343-5326 serve as the pre-nursing advisers. Participation in the student organization, Pre- Nursing Society, is strongly recommended. Information about the Pre-Nursing Society is available at [anchorlink.vanderbilt.edu/organization/prenursingsociety](http://anchorlink.vanderbilt.edu/organization/prenursingsociety).

### Admission to the Masters of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program

Students are subject to all [MSN admission requirements](#), and no student is assured of admission to the School of Nursing. Before admission to the School of Nursing, applicants must have completed either a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree and prerequisite courses, including the following:

- A required introductory course in statistics that includes descriptive and inferential statistical techniques; Mathematics 1010-1011, Mathematics 2820, or Peabody Psychology 2110 will fulfill this
- Courses in human anatomy and physiology (MHS 3101 and 3102).
- BSCI 3234 Microbiology (3 credits. Course offered only in spring semester. If course is taken in spring 2023 or later, students will be required to complete the BSCI 1511 prerequisite before registering for BSCI 3234.
- 3 hours of human development across the lifespan are Human and Organizational Development 1250, Applied Human Development, or Peabody Psychology 1250, Developmental Psychology, will fulfill the requirement.
- 2 hours of nutrition are required. MHS 1600, Introduction to Nutrition and Health for a Changing World, fulfills the requirement for nutrition.

Admission to the School of Nursing is competitive. Students are encouraged to contact the School of Nursing Office of Admissions, at [yusn-admissions@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:yusn-admissions@vanderbilt.edu). Further explanation of the MSN degree program and nursing specialties offered is available on the [YUSN web site](#).

## Master of Science in Nursing



# The M.S.N. Degree

## **DEGREE OFFERED: Master of Science in Nursing**

The Master of Science in nursing, the first-professional degree in nursing at Vanderbilt, is specialty-related and offered at the graduate level. The increase in knowledge required of nurses and the scope of their responsibilities, as well as changes in roles, functions, and practice settings, require a post-baccalaureate nursing education built on a rich undergraduate liberal education or baccalaureate nursing degree or its equivalent.

Due to the present diversity in nursing programs, educational opportunities must be made available to facilitate progression to the M.S.N. as the first-professional degree. Vanderbilt School of Nursing offers several options for entry into a master's degree program designed to accommodate a variety of cognitive styles, life experiences, and professional backgrounds.

In addition to educating students, the M.S.N. program provides other benefits. Faculty members are engaged in the scientific investigation of nursing practice and theory, innovative nursing care, and participation in national, state, and local activities related to nursing and health care delivery. Thus, they serve as role models for students, the profession, and the public. The program constitutes an arena for excellence in nursing practice and research, as well as a forum for discussion and analysis of issues that affect health care, consumers, the nursing profession, and society.

## **M.S.N. Degree Requirements**

For students entering with a B.S.N., the M.S.N. is based on a minimum of 30 credit hours. All degree requirements must be completed within three years of first enrollment. The grade of B- or higher in each course and an overall 3.0 grade point average is required to complete the degree.

For students entering with a bachelor's or higher degree in a field other than nursing, the M.S.N. must be completed within five years of first enrollment and is granted based on a minimum of 83 credit hours or a grade of B- or higher in each course and an overall 3.0 grade point average. Refer to section on progression for requirements to progress from the generalist to the specialist level.

For students entering with an associate's degree in nursing or hospital diploma, the M.S.N. must be completed within five years of first enrollment and is granted on a minimum of 62 credit hours or a grade of B- or higher in each course and an overall 3.0 grade point average. Refer to section on progression for requirements to progress from the generalist to the specialist level.

No required core course, specialty course, or Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner elective course may be taken Pass/Fail. No audit courses apply to the degree. With approval, up to 6 hours may be transferred from other schools for courses taken within the past five years. No credit is awarded toward the degree for courses designated as prerequisite for admission.

## M.S.N. Certification

Students entering with a bachelor's or higher degree in a non-nursing field, upon completing the M.S.N. program, will be licensed as Registered Nurses and will be eligible to sit for national certification exam in their specialties and to apply for Advanced Practice Registered Nurse licensure as either a nurse practitioner or a nurse-midwife.

Students entering with an A.S.N., A.D.N., hospital diploma, or B.S.N., after completing M.S.N. degree requirements, will be eligible to sit for national certification exam in their specialties and to apply for Advanced Practice Registered Nurse

licensure as either a nurse practitioner or a nurse-midwife. Students entering the Post-Master's Certificate Program will be eligible to sit for national certification exam in their specialties and to apply for Advanced Practice Registered Nurse licensure as either a nurse practitioner or a nurse-midwife after completion of the certificate. Graduates of the Health Care Leadership and Nursing Informatics specialties are not required to take the national certification exam.

Graduates are encouraged to become certified in their specialty and should consult their academic directors for details. Certification is offered through several professional nursing organizations, including the American Nurses' Association. Graduates of each specialty are eligible to sit for the certification exams specific to their specialty. Some exams require documented work hours after graduation.

Certification examinations from American Nursing Credentialing Center include adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner, adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner, family nurse practitioner, informatics, psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner, and advanced nursing executive examinations. Graduates of the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program are also eligible to take the certification exam through the American Association of Critical Care Nurse Certification Corp. Graduates of the adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner, emergency nurse practitioner, and family nurse practitioner specialties are also eligible to take the certification exam offered by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board.

The Nursing Credentialing Center offers the women's health nurse practitioner and neonatal nurse practitioner exams. The Pediatric Nursing Certification Board offers the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Primary Care and the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Acute Care exams for which Vanderbilt graduates are eligible. The American Midwifery Certification Board offers the Nurse-Midwifery certification exam.

## M.S.N. Admission

All applicants apply online at [apply.vanderbilt.edu/apply](https://apply.vanderbilt.edu/apply).

The curriculum for the School of Nursing places great intellectual, psychological, motor, and sensory demands on students. Please refer to the section on core performance standards found in Nursing Education at Vanderbilt. In accordance with Vanderbilt's non-discrimination policy, the M.S.N. Student Admissions and Academic Affairs Committee is charged with making individualized determinations of the ability of each candidate for admission to successfully complete the degree or certificate requirements.

### Admission to the M.S.N. Program with a B.S.N.

Applications are holistically reviewed based on the following factors:

1. Graduation from an ACEN- or CCNE-accredited baccalaureate program with an upper division major in nursing (B.S.N.). Applicants from unaccredited B.S.N. programs will be considered on an individual basis.
2. *Grade Point Average*. It is recommended that applicants have at least an average of B in nursing and a cumulative average of B.
3. *Statement of Purpose and Application Questions*. A statement of your career goals in your selected specialty is required, as well as answers to the application questions.
4. *Interview*. An interview by telephone may be required for applicants for whom English is not their native language.
5. *Letters of Recommendation*. All applicants must provide three letters of professional or academic reference. References should be from faculty members, professional colleagues, or work supervisors who can evaluate the applicant's potential for success in a graduate program. It is required that at least one of the recommenders hold a master's or higher degree. Recommendations from family, friends, other students or co-workers are NOT appropriate. Applicants to the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner specialty are required to have one reference from a neonatologist and one from an NNP who can evaluate the applicant's clinical practice. While only three references are required, the online application system will allow you to provide names of up to five recommenders.

6. *Official Transcripts.* Applicants must submit one transcript from each United States post-secondary institution attended. Applicants who have completed college or university course work at an institution in a country other than the United States must obtain a complete course-by-course evaluation of the native transcripts, degrees, and other relevant documents. In all instances, the evaluating agency will require original, official documentation. Please note that the evaluating agency must send Vanderbilt both the course-by-course report and copies of the native documents. See list of International Transcript Evaluation Agencies.
7. *Current R.N. Licensure or Eligibility for R.N. Licensure.* Documentation of an unencumbered Registered Nurse license in the state(s) in which the student will be completing clinical training is required at the time of registration. A student admitted contingent upon NCLEX–RN examination results but who does not pass the exam will have the admission offer rescinded. The student will need to reapply for admission after obtaining R.N. licensure.
8. *Prerequisite Courses.* An introductory course in statistics that includes descriptive and inferential statistical techniques is required for admission.
9. *M.S.N./M.T.S. and M.S.N./M.Div. Programs.* Students applying for the dual degree M.S.N./M.T.S. or M.S.N./M.Div. programs must apply and be admitted to both the School of Nursing and the Divinity School.

### **Admission to the M.S.N. Program without a B.S.N.**

The School of Nursing offers two options for entry into the M.S.N. program for applicants who do not hold a B.S.N. Qualified applicants are eligible for admission in the following categories:

1. *Entry with a non-nursing liberal education baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited college or university.* Such applicants must earn a minimum grade of C in the required prerequisite courses in human anatomy, human physiology, lifespan development, microbiology/bacteriology, nutrition, and statistics. Courses in human anatomy, human physiology, and microbiology/bacteriology must have been taken within five years of the application date.
2. *Entry with an associate degree in nursing or a diploma from an ACEN-accredited nursing school with 78 semester or 120 quarter hours of transferable credit* (see Prerequisite Courses below). Note: Admission with an A.S.N., A.D.N., or hospital diploma is suspended effective Fall 2021.

### **Prerequisite Courses for A.S.N. Entry**

All prerequisite courses must be completed with a minimum grade of C.

*English (6 hours).* English composition or literature.

*Humanities (6 hours).* Humanities courses are those concerned with human thought, including literature, classics, drama, fine arts, history, philosophy, and religion. Technical or skill courses such as applied music or studio art are not acceptable as humanities courses.

*Statistics (3 hours).* An introductory course in statistics that includes descriptive and inferential statistical techniques is required.

*Social Sciences (9 hours).* Social Sciences include psychology, sociology, anthropology, political science, and economics.

*Natural Sciences (11 hours).* Natural Science courses in human anatomy and physiology and microbiology are required.

*Lifespan Development (3 hours).* A course in lifespan development that includes birth through late adulthood is required.

*Nutrition (2 hours).* Nutrition must be taken as a prerequisite course.

## **Admission Criteria**

Applications are holistically reviewed based on the following factors:

1. *Grade Point Average.* It is recommended that the applicant have at least a B average.
2. *Statement of Purpose and Application Questions.* A statement of your career goals in selected specialty is required, as well as answers to the application questions.
3. *Interview.* An interview by telephone may be required or for applicants for whom English is not their native language.
4. *Letters of Recommendation.* All applicants must provide three letters of professional or academic reference. References should be from faculty members, professional colleagues, or work supervisors who can evaluate the applicant's potential for success in a graduate program. It is required that at least one of the recommenders hold a master's or higher degree. Recommendations from family, friends, other students or co-workers are NOT appropriate. Applicants to the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner specialty are required to have one reference from a neonatologist and one from an NNP who can evaluate the applicant's clinical practice. While only three references are required, the online application system will allow you to provide names of up to five recommenders.
5. *Official Transcripts.* Applicants must submit one transcript from each post-secondary institution attended. See Admission to M.S.N. program with a B.S.N. for additional details regarding international transcripts.
6. *Current Licensure or Eligibility for R.N. Licensure.* Documentation of an unencumbered Registered Nurse license in the state(s) in which the student will be completing clinical training is required at the time of registration. A student admitted contingent upon NCLEX-RN examination results but who does not pass the exam will have the admission offer rescinded. The student may reapply for admission after obtaining R.N. licensure.  
Applicants must have a negative criminal conviction history to be eligible to apply for R.N. licensure. Students entering with a bachelor's or higher degree in a non-nursing field must meet eligibility requirements for nursing licensure in Tennessee. See section on Tennessee Board of Nursing Eligibility Requirements for Licensure for further details. For more information, visit [tn.gov/health](http://tn.gov/health).

Applicants who do not meet all the listed criteria will be considered on an individual basis. International applicants should refer to the information regarding English language proficiency and visa requirements found in the Nursing Education at Vanderbilt section of this catalog.

## **Student Classification**

The following classifications apply to all M.S.N. and post-master's certificate students.

### ***Regular Student***

Enrolled full time or part time in the School of Nursing, having met admission requirements. A full-time student in the program normally will enroll for a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 16 credit hours a semester.

### ***Special Student.***

Enrolled in one or more non-clinical pre-specialty or specialty courses but not working toward a master's degree or post-master's certificate in the School of Nursing. A limit of 7 credit hours is permitted in this non-degree status. Successful completion of courses taken as a special student does not guarantee admission to the M.S.N. or post-master's certificate program.

To be considered as a special student, an applicant must submit the online application form with transcripts and the non-refundable application fee at least two weeks before registration. Acceptance into a course is dependent upon availability of space and facilities after full-time and part-time students have been registered.

Registration as a special student requires approval by the assistant dean for enrollment management. All university and School of Nursing regulations, including the Honor System, apply to special students. Special students who desire to change to regular student status should make application for admission following regular procedures.

## **M.S.N.: The Academic Program**

## **Organizing Framework**

Course sequencing in the M.S.N. program with multiple entry options is designed to move students from (a) basic to advanced knowledge and skill levels, (b) simple to more complex practice situations, and (c) generalist to specialist role preparation. Course objectives include content in the three learning domains: cognitive, affective, and psychomotor, appropriately progressed in each taxonomy.

The curriculum design has three components: prerequisite liberal education requirements, generalist (pre-specialty) nursing courses, and specialist nursing courses. The prerequisite liberal education requirements assist the student in acquiring basic knowledge and understanding of human beings, culture, environment, and health through the study of the arts, humanities, and social, biological, and physical sciences. This basic knowledge is applied to the study of nursing in the nursing components of the curriculum.

The pre-specialty component of the curriculum consists of clinical and non-clinical courses that contain nursing practice and discipline content at the generalist level. Clinical experiences focus on situations that reflect an understanding of the nursing process and the nursing paradigm in health promotion and maintenance, illness care, and rehabilitation. The theoretical basis for practice is presented in the classroom and provides the scientific knowledge base needed to diagnose and treat human responses to actual or potential health problems. Non-clinical courses focus on the discipline of nursing in the areas of ethics, economics, politics, research, legal issues, healthcare delivery systems, and the heritage of nursing.

The specialist component of the curriculum is divided into three segments: core courses, specialty courses, and electives. The core courses focus on facilitating professional development in the advanced nursing practice role, using leadership and evidence evaluation skills to employ a systematic, evidenced base approach to problem solving to improve healthcare delivery. Specialty courses focus on advanced knowledge and skills in a given specialty area to equip graduates to function in complex situations and advanced practice roles, including those of nurse midwife, nurse practitioner, informatics nurse specialist, and nurse manager. Electives provide the opportunity to select course work that complements the students' career goals.

## **Program Goals/Outcomes**

The goals of the M.S.N. program are to prepare students:

- For advanced practice roles including nurse-midwives, nurse practitioners, nurse informaticists, and nurse leaders who have expertise and advanced knowledge in a specialty area and can function in complex situations independently and/or collaboratively with health care teams.
- To evaluate and apply advanced knowledge by means of critical thinking, clinical reasoning, and the use of electronic data in relation to advanced nursing practice.
- To engage in quality improvement initiatives and the delivery of safe, culturally responsive, high quality nursing care of individuals and populations using leadership skills.
- To evaluate and/or advocate for policies that improve the health of the public and the profession of nursing incorporating ethical principles.

All students are expected to meet the above program goals whether they enter the M.S.N. program with a B.S.N., an A.S.N., or a bachelor's degree other than nursing. Students who must complete the pre-specialty component of the program must also meet transitional objectives upon completion of the pre-specialty nursing courses.

## **Transitional Objectives/Outcomes**

On completion of the pre-specialty component, students will be able to:

- Synthesize knowledge from nursing, the humanities, the biophysical and social sciences, and current evidence to engage in professional nursing practice.
- Promote health and prevent illness in diverse patient populations through targeted education in multiple settings across transitions of care.
- Provide safe, culturally responsive health care to individuals, families, communities, and populations in diverse settings, through use of critical thinking, clinical reasoning, ethical decision-making, and information management, both independently and in collaboration with health care teams.
- Demonstrate leadership in professional nursing practice through commitment to reflective practice, accountability for nursing actions, patient advocacy, and evidence-based practice.
- Engage in improvement of the health care delivery system through inquiry and action into socioeconomic, political, legal, and ethical issues affecting professional nursing practice.

## **Pre-specialty Curriculum Overview**

The pre-specialty component is a sequence of generalist nursing courses bridging to specialty nursing courses for the master of science in nursing (M.S.N.). The pre-specialty component consists of 43 hours of generalist nursing courses. (Registered nurse pre-specialty curriculum consists of 26 hours.) Students entering without a prior degree in nursing complete the pre-specialty courses in three semesters (or a calendar year) of full-time study. Associate degree and hospital diploma registered nurses complete the pre-specialty courses in two semesters of full-time study.

Classes for students in the A.S.N. to M.S.N. entry component are scheduled in a concentrated format of three to four sessions per semester, consisting of three to four days of classes during each session, to facilitate the student's work schedule. On-line conferencing is required between sessions to keep the student in contact with the faculty. Students must have proficient computer skills and high-speed internet access.

After successful completion of the pre-specialty component, students will enter directly into the specialty master's component. The specialty component in most specialties can be completed in three semesters (one calendar year) of full-time study and follows the same curriculum plan as the direct entry M.S.N. program. Please refer to the Specialist Nursing Curriculum for sample curriculum plans in the various specialties.

### **Part-Time Studies**

Pre-specialty level students have five years from first enrollment to complete all M.S.N. degree requirements and are required to complete the pre-specialty component as full-time students, except for A.S.N.-entry students who may complete the pre-specialty year part time. Upon completion of the pre-specialty component, students may request to complete the specialty component as part-time students.

Part-time specialty-year students who enter with a B.S.N. have three years from first enrollment to complete all M.S.N. degree requirements.

### **Pre-specialty Curriculum for Entry with Degree in Field other than Nursing**

Level Director: Mary Ann Jessee

<b>FALL SEMESTER I</b>		<b>HOURS</b>
NURS 5101	Legal and Ethical Accountability in Professional Nursing Practice	2
NURS 5103	Human Experience of Health and Illness Across the Lifespan I	4
NURS 5105	Enhancement of Community and Population Health I	3
NURS 5106	Pharmacology for Nursing Care I	2
NURS 5115	Fundamentals of Clinical Practice	5
		<b>16</b>
 <b>SPRING SEMESTER I</b>		
NURS 5201	Inquiry and Evidence in Professional Nursing Practice	2
NURS 5203	Human Experience of Health and Illness Across the Lifespan II	5
NURS 5205	Enhancement of Community and Population Health II	3
NURS 5206	Pharmacology for Nursing Care II	2
NURS 5215	Integration of Theoretical and Clinical Aspects of Nursing I	3
		<b>15</b>
 <b>SUMMER SEMESTER I</b>		
NURS 5301	Leadership and Management in Professional Nursing Practice	2
NURS 5303	Human Experience of Health and Illness Across the Lifespan III	4
NURS 5305	Enhancement of Community and Population Health III	2
NURS 5306	Pharmacology for Nursing Care III	1
NURS 5315	Integration of Theoretical and Clinical Aspects of Nursing II	1
NURS 5325	Capstone Clinical Practicum	2
		<b>12</b>
		Total: 43

## Pre-specialty Curriculum for A.S.N. to M.S.N. Entry

Level Director: Sarah Fogel

### FALL SEMESTER I

NURS 5303	Human Experience of Health and Illness Across the Lifespan III	4
NURS 5401	Critical Thinking, Supporting Evidence, and Communication, Part I	3
NURS 5402	Epidemiology and Population-Based Nursing	3
NURS 5403	Health Care Systems and the Role of the Nurse as the Facilitator of Learning	3
		13

### SPRING SEMESTER I

NURS 5501	Critical Thinking, Supporting Evidence, and Communication, Part II	2
NURS 5502	Ethics in Nursing Practice	2
NURS 5505	Health Assessment for the R.N.	3
NURS 5506	Pharmacology for the R.N.	3
NURS 5515	Providing Care at the Community Level	3
		13

### SUMMER SEMESTER I

No courses required

Total: 26

## Specialist Nursing Curriculum Overview

The specialist component of the curriculum is divided into three segments: core courses, specialty courses, and electives. The core courses focus on facilitating professional development in the advanced nursing practice role, using leadership and evidence evaluation skills to employ a systematic, evidence-based approach to problem



solving to improve health care delivery. Specialty courses focus on advanced knowledge and skills in a given specialty area to equip graduates to function in complex situations and advanced practice roles, including those of nurse midwife, nurse practitioner, informatics nurse specialist, and nurse manager. Electives provide the opportunity to select course work that complements the students' career goals.

### **Core Courses (9 semester hours)**

NURS 6045, 6055, and 6065 encompass content that is essential for master's degree students enrolled in nurse-midwifery or in a nurse practitioner specialty and support students' professional formation as advanced practice nurses. Content on evidence-based practice, quality and safety, leadership, ethics, policy, and role development is addressed cumulatively through the successive courses. Further application of concepts learned in these courses will occur in the specialty course offerings.

### **Specialty Courses (30 semester hours minimum)**

This portion of the master's program consists of didactic and practicum courses in a selected specialty. The didactic courses cover advanced nursing content; the practicum courses place the student in the advanced practice role of nurse-midwife, nurse practitioner, informatics nurse specialist, or nurse manager. For detailed information about specialty courses, see the section on Specialist Curriculum and the appropriate course descriptions.

### **Electives (0-6 semester hours)**

Students select electives of interest, with the approval of their adviser, based on their professional goals. Options include courses related to the specialty. Courses available in the School of Nursing, the School of Medicine, the Divinity School, Owen Graduate School of Management, Peabody College, and the Graduate School allow nursing students to interact with other professional and graduate students. Most specialties do not require electives. Students may choose to take electives above the required credit hours for their specialty.

### **Thesis (0-6 semester hours)**

Students may elect to complete a thesis under the instruction and supervision of a member of the faculty of the School of Nursing. The thesis is a research project giving evidence of original investigation in an area of interest related to the student's specialty. Guidelines are available in the office of the senior associate dean for academics.

# Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

SPECIALTY DIRECTOR Brian Widmar

PROFESSORS Ruth M. Kleinpell, Jennifer L. Wilbeck

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS Terri Allison, Nathan Ashby, Courtney Cook , Megan Shifrin , Brian Widmar

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS, Sharon Bryant, Sarah Gast, Michael Gooch, Kathryn McNabb

INSTRUCTORS Brooke Bailey, Sarah Bloom, Nina Collins, Doug Smith, Patrick Stieve, Kristin Werking, Linda Wilkerson

The Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner specialty is designed to prepare nurse practitioners to provide care for critically ill, acutely ill, and chronically ill adult and older adult patients. Students receive didactic content about diseases across the illness trajectory, thus enabling students to learn about the chronic nature of many illnesses in addition to the acute episodic problems and critical care aspects of these same illnesses. Special options are available in trauma, oncology, cardiology, cardiac surgery, orthopaedics, emergency medicine, diabetes, general surgery, pulmonology, transplantation, neurology, neurosurgery, hospitalist, and intensivist. Enrollment in these options will be limited by availability of preceptors. For R.N.'s with at least two years of recent clinical experience, the specialty is offered in a modified distance format. Graduates are currently eligible to sit for either the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) or the American Association of Critical Case Nurses (AACN) Certification Board Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Certification exam.

## Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

### FALL I

NURS 6045 Professional Formation I: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice (2 credit hours)

NURS 6101 Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (3 credit hours)

NURS 6102 Advanced Physiology and Pathophysiology (4 credit hours)

NURS 6103 Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics (3 credit hours)

NURS 6105 Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (1 credit hour)

NURS 6114 Pathophysiology and Collaborative Management in Acute Care for the Adult-Gerontology ACNP I (3 credit hours)

### SPRING I

NURS 6055 Professional Formation II: Evidence-Based Change in Health Care Environments (3 credit hours)

NURS 6115 Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Practicum (4 credit hours)

NURS 6124 Pathophysiology and Collaborative Management in Acute Care for the Adult-Gerontology ACNP II (3 credit hours)

Elective (2 credit hours)

### SUMMER I

NURS 6065 Professional Formation III: Leading Collaborative Change: Improving Delivery of Health Care to Patients and Populations (4 credit hours)

NURS 6075 Professional Formation IV: Transition to Advanced Nursing Practice (1 credit hour)

NURS 6134 Pathophysiology and Collaborative Management in Acute Care for the Adult-Gerontology ACNP III (3 credit hours)

NURS 6195 Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship (4 credit hours)

**Total: 40 credit hours**

NOTE: Hospitalist option = 41 credit hours. Intensivist option = 42 credit hours.

## Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

SPECIALTY DIRECTOR Leslie Welch Hopkins

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITA Barbara F. Grimes

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR Karen Hande, Leslie Hopkins, Rolanda Johnson, Abby Parish

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS John Travis Dunlap, Sharon Jones, Kanah Lewallen, K. Melissa Smith-Hayes, Carrie Plummer.

The Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner specialty prepares advanced practice nurses to care for patients 13 years of age and up in a variety of settings. Graduates meet the requirements for the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner certification exam offered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Association of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board. There is a significant emphasis on disease prevention and health promotion, in addition to the treatment of common acute and chronic conditions of adults. This program offers a broad foundation in adult primary care. The range of clinical sites for AGPCNP students is tremendous and includes ambulatory clinics, private physician-owned practices, internal medicine practices, and long-term-care facilities, to name a few.

Students gain an understanding of the health care delivery system. They learn to assess, diagnose, and manage common acute and chronic adult health problems and to provide education about health maintenance and disease prevention to patients. In addition, emphasis is placed on the normal changes associated with the aging process. Frail elder adult issues, including physical, psychosocial, and functional changes are also included.

### **Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner**

**FALL I**

- NURS 6010 Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6011 Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6012 Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6020 Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6034 Adult Gerontology Primary Care I (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6045 Professional Formation I: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6205 Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (1 credit hour)

**SPRING I**

- NURS 6032 Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Woman (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6055 Professional Formation II: Evidence-Based Change in Health Care Environments (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6215 Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Clinical I (4 credit hours)
- NURS 6234 Adult Gerontology Primary Care II (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6236 Advanced Concepts in the Care of the Elderly (2 credit hours)

**SUMMER I**

- NURS 6031 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Adolescent (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6065 Professional Formation III: Leading Collaborative Change: Improving Delivery of Health Care to Patients and Populations (4 credit hours)
- NURS 6075 Professional Formation IV: Transition to Advanced Nursing Practice (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6134 Pathophysiology and Collaborative Management in Acute Care for the Adult-Gerontology ACNP III (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6195 Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship (4 credit hours)

**Total: 40 credit hours**

# Family Nurse Practitioner

SPECIALTY DIRECTOR Courtney Pitts

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS Courtney Pitts, Geri Reeves

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS Angelina Anthamatten, Melissa Glassford, Queen Henry-Okafor, Anna Richmond, Jannyse Starks, Julia Steed, Carol Ziegler

INSTRUCTORS Duke Chenault, Shannon Cole, Nicole Dellise, Mary Lauren Pfeiffer, Randy Smith

This specialty prepares graduates to deliver comprehensive primary care to individuals, from infancy through adulthood. Emphasis is on acquisition of the knowledge and skills necessary for a family-centered approach to health promotion and intervention in illness. Students gain clinical experience in primary health care settings with children and adults. The preceptorship facilitates development of clinical skills that prepare the graduate for the advanced practice role of the Family Nurse Practitioner. Graduates are eligible to sit for either the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Board Family Nurse Practitioner certification exam.

## Family Nurse Practitioner

### FALL I

- NURS 6010 Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6011 Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6012 Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6020 Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6030 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Adult (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6045 Professional Formation I: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6505 Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Family Nurse Practitioner (1 credit hour)

### SPRING I

- NURS 6032 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Woman (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6036 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Child and Adolescent (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6055 Professional Formation II: Evidence-Based Change in Health Care Environments (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6521 The Context of Primary Care: Family Nurse Practitioner Domains and Core Competencies for Practice (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6532 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Elderly (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6555 Practicum in Primary Health Care of the Family (4 credit hours)

### SUMMER I

- NURS 6065 Professional Formation III: Leading Collaborative Change: Improving Delivery of Health Care to Patients and Populations (4 credit hours)
- NURS 6075 Professional Formation IV: Transition to Advanced Nursing Practice (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6565 Practicum in the Primary Health Care of the Family (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6575 Clinical Decision Making for the Family Nurse Practitioner (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6585 Family Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship (4 credit hours)

**Total: 40 Credit Hours**

## Family/Emergency Nurse Practitioner

SPECIALTY DIRECTOR Jennifer L. Wilbeck

This master of science in nursing specialty offers a uniquely designed four-semester curriculum for experienced R.N.'s. Its foundation is the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing M.S.N. core of courses that delve into the themes and competencies that form the basis of graduate nursing education, including advanced health assessment, pathophysiology, and pharmacology.

The specialty is open to R.N.'s who have at least two years of current R.N. experience, at least one full year of which must be as an R.N. in the Emergency Department. This includes diploma R.N.'s, A.D.N.'s, B.S.N.'s, and post-master's students.

The Emergency Nurse Practitioner specialty is offered in a modified block format which includes: (1) visits to campus 3-4 times per semester for 2-5 days, (2) on-line conferencing, and (3) distributed learning methods allowing for continued faculty contact between sessions. Clinical placements can be arranged in the student's "home" area provided a suitable agency and preceptor are available. Sites and preceptors are subject to VUSN faculty approval. This program satisfies eligibility criteria for the Emergency Nurse Practitioner certification (ENP-C) exam as well as the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) certification examination offered by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board.

### **Emergency Care Focus**

The unique aspects and complexities of emergency care are explored within the following specialty courses: NURS 6301 Concepts in Advanced Emergency Nursing, NURS 6143 Fundamentals of Point of Care Ultrasound for the Advanced Practice Provider, NURS 6305 Advanced Health Assessment Application for the Adult-Gerontology ACNP, NURS 6385 Practicum in Emergency Care I, and NURS 6395 Practicum in Emergency Care II. Additionally, other courses have been modified to allow for varied learning experiences necessary for the ENP.

### **Family/Emergency Nurse Practitioner**

## **FALL I**

NURS 6010	Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)
NURS 6011	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (2 credit hours)
NURS 6012	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab (1 credit hour)
NURS 6020	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics (3 credit hours)
NURS 6030	Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Adult (3 credit hours)
NURS 6045	Professional Formation I: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice (2 credit hours)
NURS 6505	Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Family Nurse Practitioner (1 credit hour)

## **SPRING I**

NURS 6032	Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Woman (1 credit hour)
NURS 6036	Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Child and Adolescent (3 credit hours)
NURS 6055	Professional Formation II: Evidence-Based Change in Health Care Environments (3 credit hours)
NURS 6301	Concepts in Advanced Emergency Nursing (3 credit hours)
NURS 6385	Practicum in Emergency Care I (1 credit hour)
NURS 6521	The Context of Primary Care: Family Nurse Practitioner Domains and Core Competencies for Practice (2 credit hours)
NURS 6532	Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Elderly (1 credit hour)
NURS 6555	Practicum in Primary Health Care of the Family (4 credit hours)

## **SUMMER II**

NURS 6065	Professional Formation III: Leading Collaborative Change: Improving Delivery of Health Care to Patients and Populations (4 credit hours)
NURS 6075	Professional Formation IV: Transition to Advanced Nursing Practice (1 credit hour)
NURS 6143	Fundamentals of Point of Care Ultrasound for the Advanced Practice Provider (2 credit hours)
NURS 6395	Practicum in Emergency Care (1 credit hour)
NURS 6535	Practicum in Primary Health Care for the Adult for Dual Specialty (3 credit hours)
NURS 6595	Family Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship for Dual Specialty (3 credit hours)

## **FALL II**

NURS 6361	Pathophysiology and Collaborative Management in Emergent and Critical Care (3 credit hours)
NURS 6365	Trauma, Emergency and Critical Care Clinical I (3 credit hours)

**Total: 51 Credit Hours**

## **Neonatal Nurse Practitioner**

SPECIALTY DIRECTOR

PROFESSOR

INSTRUCTOR Nancy L. Kraft, Patti A. Scott

The Neonatal Nurse Practitioner specialty (NNP) prepares registered nurses to become nurse practitioners whose focus is the care and management of critically ill and convalescent premature and full-term infants through 2 years of age. Individuals who enter this specialty are self-directed and excited by the challenges of learning the role of a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner.

Recognizing that development is ongoing and cannot be separated from care, the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner specialty emphasizes a developmental approach to the care of high-risk neonates and infants. The curriculum

provides a broad theoretical and evidence-based practice approach to guide advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioner practice. Students in this program will learn to care for ill and convalescent neonates/infants through 2 years of age in a variety of settings.

The clinical experiences provided to students range from the care of healthy neonates to the care of those with short- and long-term health disruptions. Sites for clinical experiences are located in hospitals with a delivery service, Level II and Level III nursery. Upon graduation, students are prepared to assume entry-level roles as neonatal nurse practitioners and to contribute to the advancement of the nursing profession and discipline. Graduates are eligible to take the National Certification Corporation Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Certification Exam.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

Registered Nurse options are available to A.S.N./Diploma R.N.'s and B.S.N.'s who wish to pursue their M.S.N. studies to become a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner while working to meet their clinical nursing experience requirements. NRP certification is required prior to beginning classes. A minimum of two years of current R.N. experience in a Level III NICU is required prior to beginning clinical courses.

### **Neonatal Nurse Practitioner**

#### **FALL I**

NURS 6010	Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)
NURS 6045	Professional Formation I: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice (2 credit hours)
NURS 6602	Developmental/Neonatal Physiology (2 credit hours)
NURS 6605	Advanced Neonatal Health Assessment (3 credit hours)
NURS 6610	Neonatal Nursing Birth Through 2 Years of Age (2 credit hours)
NURS 6614	Neonatal Pathophysiology and Management I (3 credit hours)

#### **SPRING I**

NURS 6055	Professional Formation II: Evidence-Based Change in Health Care Environments (3 credit hours)
NURS 6615	Neonatal Practicum (3 credit hours)
NURS 6620	Introduction to Advanced Procedures for Neonatal Nurse Practitioners (3 credit hours)
NURS 6621	Advanced Neonatal Pharmacotherapeutics (3 credit hours)
NURS 6624	Neonatal Pathophysiology and Management II (3 credit hours)

#### **SUMMER I**

NURS 6065	Professional Formation III: Leading Collaborative Change: Improving Delivery of Health Care to Patients and Pop. (4 credit hours)
NURS 6075	Professional Formation IV: Transition to Advanced Nursing Practice (1 credit hour)
NURS 6695	Neonatal Preceptorship (6 credit hours)

**Total: 41 Credit Hours**

### **Nurse-Midwifery**

SPECIALTY DIRECTOR Julia Phillippi

PROFESSOR Mavis N. Schorn

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR Stephanie Devane-Johnson

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Jeremy Neal

INSTRUCTORS Melissa G. Davis, Tonia Moore-Davis

The Nurse-Midwifery specialty prepares students to manage the obstetric and primary health care needs of women across the lifespan as well as the care of the normal newborn. Nurse-midwifery courses are based on the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) "Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice: December 2012," which include



the “Hallmarks of Midwifery Care.” Students will obtain clinical experience in a variety of nurse-midwifery practices that meet the “Standards of Midwifery Practice” of the ACNM.

Graduates will be eligible to take the American Midwifery Certification Board exam. The Nurse-Midwifery program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME). For information: 8403 Colesville Road, Suite 1550, Silver Spring, MD 20910-6374; phone: 240-485-1802; Web: [midwife.org/acme](http://midwife.org/acme).

## **Nurse-Midwifery**

### **FALL I**

- NURS 6010 Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6011 Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6012 Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6045 Professional Formation I: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6805 Advanced Health Assessment Applications for Nurse-Midwifery (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6810 Women's Health for Nurse-Midwifery (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6811 Reproductive Anatomy and Physiology (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6812 Evolution of Midwifery in America (2 credit hours)

### **SPRING I**

- NURS 6020 Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6030 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Adult (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6055 Professional Formation II: Evidence-Based Change in Health Care Environments (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6825 Gynecologic, Antepartum and Primary Care (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6821 Antepartal Care for Nurse-Midwifery (3 credit hours)

### **SUMMER I**

- NURS 6065 Professional Formation III: Leading Collaborative Change: Improving Delivery of Health Care to Patients and Pop. (4 credit hours)
- NURS 6831 Skills for Nurse-Midwifery (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6835 Practicum in Intrapartum/Postpartum/Neonatal Nurse-Midwifery Care (4 credit hours)
- NURS 6836 Intrapartum Care for Nurse-Midwifery (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6838 Nurse-Midwifery Care of the Mother-Baby Dyad (2 credit hours)

### **FALL II**

- NURS 6841 Nurse-Midwifery Role Synthesis, Exploration, and Analysis (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6895 Advanced Clinical Integration Experience for Nurse-Midwifery (5 credit hours)

**Total: 52 credit hours**

## **Nurse-Midwifery/Family Nurse Practitioner**

SPECIALTY DIRECTORS Julia Phillippi, Courtney Pitts

*For listing of faculty for Nurse-Midwifery/Family Nurse Practitioner, see both Nurse-Midwifery and Family Nurse Practitioner.*

This is an exciting opportunity for individuals to gain dual certification in both specialties in order to manage the obstetric and primary health needs of women across the lifespan as well as those of the entire family. While enrolled in and following completion of the nurse-midwifery specialty, students take prescribed Family Nurse Practitioner courses. Emphasis is on expansion of the knowledge and skills required in the management of a family-centered approach to health promotion, risk reduction, and intervention in illness. Through the combination of Nurse-Midwifery and Family Nurse-Practitioner specialties, the Family Nurse Practitioner/Nurse-Midwifery graduate is prepared as an advanced practice nurse and midwife to deliver comprehensive primary care to individuals from birth through adulthood.

Graduates are eligible to take the American Midwifery Certification Board exam and the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Association of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board Family Nurse Practitioner certification examination. The Nurse-Midwifery specialty is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME). For information: 8403 Colesville Road, Suite 1550, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone: 240-485-1802; Web: [midwife.org/acme](http://midwife.org/acme).

### **Nurse-Midwifery/Family Nurse Practitioner**

#### **FALL I**

NURS 6010	Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)
NURS 6011	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (2 credit hours)
NURS 6012	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab (1 credit hour)
NURS 6045	Professional Formation I: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice (2 credit hours)
NURS 6805	Advanced Health Assessment Applications for Nurse-Midwifery (1 credit hour)
NURS 6810	Women's Health for Nurse-Midwifery (3 credit hours)
NURS 6811	Reproductive Anatomy and Physiology (2 credit hours)
NURS 6812	Evolution of Midwifery in America (2 credit hours)

#### **SPRING I**

NURS 6020	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics (3 credit hours)
NURS 6030	Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Adult (3 credit hours)
NURS 6055	Professional Formation II: Evidence-Based Change in Health Care Environments (3 credit hours)
NURS 6545	Practicum in Primary Health Care of the Adult (2 credit hours)
NURS 6815	Nurse-Midwifery Practicum I (2 credit hours)
NURS 6821	Antepartal Care for Nurse-Midwifery (3 credit hours)

#### **SUMMER I**

NURS 6065	Professional Formation III: Leading Collaborative Change: Improving Delivery of Health Care to Patients and Pop. (4 credit hours)
NURS 6831	Skills for Nurse-Midwifery (1 credit hour)
NURS 6835	Practicum in Intrapartum/Postpartum/Neonatal Nurse-Midwifery Care (4 credit hours)
NURS 6836	Intrapartum Care for Nurse-Midwifery (3 credit hours)
NURS 6838	Nurse-Midwifery Care of the Mother-Baby Dyad (2 credit hours)

#### **FALL II**

NURS 6841	Nurse-Midwifery Role Synthesis, Exploration, and Analysis (2 credit hours)
NURS 6895	Advanced Clinical Integration Experience for Nurse-Midwifery (5 credit hours)

#### **SPRING II**

NURS 6036	Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Child and Adolescent (3 credit hours)
NURS 6521	The Context of Primary Care: FNP Domains and Core Competencies for practice (2 credit hours)
NURS 6532	Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Elderly (1 credit hours)
NURS 6555	Practicum in the Primary Health Care of the Family (2 credit hours)
NURS 6585	Family Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship (4 credit hours)

**Total: 65 credit hours**

# Nursing and Health Care Leadership

PROFESSOR: Dan France

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS Debra Arnow, Pamela Jones, Susie Lemin-Lee

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS: JenniferBarut, Christian Ketel, Clare J. Thomson-Smith

This specialty prepares graduates for the advanced role of nursing and health care leadership. The program of study is designed to prepare nurses at the graduate level to lead the delivery of nursing and health care services in the everchanging health care environment. The curriculum provides a series of integrated learning experiences that focus on the development of nurses with critical thinking and analytic skills who are capable of leadership and innovation in a dynamic health care system. This part-time, six-semester program in a modified, distance-accessible format includes on-campus immersion experiences, courses using distant format, and two practicum courses. The practicum courses provide students with the opportunity to integrate and apply their learning from the courses in the practice setting. As part of the practicum courses, students will work collaboratively and in partnership with their respective health care agency to develop, implement, and evaluate agency-designated projects. Graduates acquire the breadth and depth of leadership knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform effectively and assume various leadership positions in a variety of health care settings.

## Nursing and Health Care Leadership

### FALL I

NURS 6411 Foundations of Leadership (3 credit hours)

NURS 6710 Fundamentals of Nursing Informatics—Nursing Informatics Professional Formation I (3 credit hours)

### SPRING I

NURS 6041 Principles of Healthcare Finance (3 credit hours)

NURS 6055 Professional Formation II: Application of Evidence in Healthcare Environments (3 credit hours)

### SUMMER I

NURS 6408 Strategic Planning (2 credit hours)

NURS 6410 Design Thinking and Innovation Health (3 credit hours)

### FALL II

NURS 6025 Applied Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (3 credit hours)

NURS 6414 Organizational Behavior in Complex Health Care Systems (3 credit hours)

### SPRING II

NURS 6417 Advanced Leadership and Human Capital (3 credit hours)

NURS 6485 Practicum I (3 credit hours)

### SUMMER II

NURS 6404 Directed Reading (2 credit hours)

NURS 6495 Practicum II (4 credit hours)

**Total: 35 Credit Hours**

## Nursing and Health Care Leadership (Fall 2020 only)

(Note: Program of study for students who entered the NHCL program of study, fall 2020, only.)

**FALL I**

NURS 6411 Foundations of Leadership (3 credit hours)

NURS 6710 Fundamentals of Nursing Informatics—Nursing Informatics Professional Formation I (3 credit hours)

**SPRING I**

NURS 6041 Principles of Healthcare Finance (3 credit hours)

NURS 6055 Professional Formation II: Application of Evidence in Healthcare Environments (3 credit hours)

**SUMMER I**

NURS 6408 Strategic Planning (2 credit hours)

NURS 6065 Professional Formation III - Leading Collaborative Change: Improving Delivery of Healthcare to Patients and Populations (4 credit hours)

**FALL II**

NURS 6025 Applied Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (3 credit hours)

NURS 6414 Organizational Behavior in Complex Health Care Systems (3 credit hours)

**SPRING II**

NURS 6417 Advanced Leadership and Human Capital (3 credit hours)

NURS 6485 Practicum I (3 credit hours)

**SUMMER II**

NURS 6404 Directed Reading (2 credit hours)

NURS 6495 Practicum II (4 credit hours)

**Total: 35 Credit Hours**

# Nursing Informatics

SPECIALTY DIRECTOR Brenda Kulhanek

PROFESSORS: Patty Sengstack

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR: Kelly Aldrich

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS Alvin Jeffery, Christian Ketel,

INSTRUCTOR Marcy Stoots, Michelle Ruslavage, Renee Robinson

The Nursing Informatics specialty prepares advanced practice nurses to serve the profession of nursing by supporting the information processing needs of patient care and management. Nursing informatics integrates nursing science, computer science, and information science in identifying, collecting, processing, and managing data, information, and knowledge to support nursing practice, administration, education, and research. Graduates of this specialty are known as informatics nurse specialists, recognizing that the person is both a nurse and an informaticist. The informatics nurse specialist is one of the specialties recognized by the American Nurses Credentialing Center with certification via computer-based testing. VUSN's informatics curriculum ensures that the content and concepts taught include current and emerging trends in health care information technology with an emphasis on data science and evidence-based care.

## Nursing Informatics

### FALL I

NURS 6411 Foundations of Leadership (3 credit hours)

NURS 6710 Fundamentals of Nursing Informatics (3 credit hours)

### SPRING I

NURS 6720 Professional Formation 2: Theories, Frameworks, and Models Supporting Informatics Practice (3 credit hours)

NURS 6732 Designing, Planning and Managing Scalable Projects (3 credit hours)

### SUMMER I

NURS 6723 Informatics of Clinical Practice (3 credit hours)

NURS 6724 Leveraging Technology for Learning and Teaching in Healthcare (3 credit hours)

### FALL II

NURS 6025 Applied Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (3 credit hours)

NURS 6727 Data to Information 1 (3 credit hours)

### SPRING II

NURS 6715 Nursing Informatics Practicum I (3 credit hours)

NURS 6728 Data to Information II (3 credit hours)

### SUMMER II

NURS 6730 Nursing Informatics Professional Formation 3: Advanced Concepts of Informatics (3 credit hours)

NURS 6795 Nursing Informatics Practicum II (3 credit hours)

**Total: 36 Credit Hours**

# Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Primary Care

SPECIALTY DIRECTOR, PRIMARY CARE Brittany H. Nelson

PROFESSORS Mary Jo Gilmer, Sharon Karp

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR: Natasha McClure

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS Brittany H. Nelson, Terry Witherington, Susan Baird, Anna Brown, Sharon Fleming,

INSTRUCTORS Carl Anderson, Margaret S. Anderson, Lani Kajihara-Liehr, Natalie Owen, Jennifer Ridgway

The Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) specialty is designed to prepare advanced practice nurses to provide care for children from birth to twenty-one years of age and, in special situations, to individuals older than the age of twenty-one in a variety of pediatric settings.

The Pediatric Nurse Practitioner-Primary Care specialty provides a broad theoretical and research foundation in advanced concepts of parent, child, and adolescent nursing. Clinical experiences occur across a variety of settings and focus on providing primary care to children of all ages. This specialty is available for students with or without a nursing background. Graduates are eligible to take the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Primary Care Certification exam offered by the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Certification Board.

## Pediatric Nurse Practitioner-Primary Care

### FALL I

NURS 6010	Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)
NURS 6045	Professional Formation I: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice (2 credit hours)
NURS 7011	Health Promotion of Behavior Development: Birth through Adolescence (3 credit hours)
NURS 7012	Advanced Practice Nursing in Pediatric Primary Care, part I (3 credit hours)
NURS 7013	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (2 credit hours)
NURS 7014	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab (1 credit hour)
NURS 7015	Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Primary Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (1 credit hour)

### SPRING I

NURS 6055	Professional Formation II: Evidence-Based Change in Health Care Environments (3 credit hours)
NURS 7021	Advanced Practice Nursing in Pediatric Primary Care, part II (3 credit hours)
NURS 7023	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics (3 credit hours)
NURS 7035	Practicum in Primary Health Care of Children (4 credit hours)

### SUMMER I

NURS 6065	Professional Formation III: Leading Collaborative Change: Improving Delivery of Health Care to Patients and Pop. (4 credit hours)
NURS 6075	Professional Formation IV: Transition to Advanced Nursing Practice (1 credit hour)
NURS 7032	Current Issues in the Delivery of Advanced Pediatric Care (2 credit hours)
NURS 7085	Advanced Pediatric Primary Care Preceptorship (5 credit hours)

**Total: 40 credit hours**

# Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Acute Care

SPECIALTY DIRECTOR, ACUTE CARE Kim K. Steanson

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS: Misty Evans, Kim K. Steanson

INSTRUCTORS Sheree Allen, Carl Anderson, Christin Diller, Marshay James

LECTURERS Jennifer Nelson, Suzanne Williams

The Pediatric Nurse Practitioner–Acute Care (PNP-AC) specialty is designed to prepare pediatric nurse practitioners to provide care for acutely, critically, and chronically ill pediatric patients and their families. This specialty is available for R.N.'s who have a minimum of two years of acute care experience with children or one year of experience in a pediatric critical care area. Clinical experiences are arranged across a variety of inpatient hospital settings and include pediatric intensive care units, emergency departments, and sub-specialty clinics. Graduates are eligible to take the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Acute Care Certification exam offered by the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Certification Board (PNPCB). Primary Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioners working in an acute care setting who are interested in meeting the qualifications for the PNP-AC Certification exam are encouraged to apply for the post-master's certificate program in this specialty, which can be completed in two semesters of part-time study.

## Pediatric Nurse Practitioner-Acute Care

### FALL I

NURS 6010	Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)
NURS 6045	Professional Formation I: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice (2 credit hours)
NURS 7011	Health Promotion of Behavior Development: Birth through Adolescence (3 credit hours)
NURS 7012	Advanced Practice Nursing in Pediatric Primary Care, part I (3 credit hours)
NURS 7013	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (2 credit hours)
NURS 7014	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab (1 credit hour)
NURS 7055	Clinicap Applications for the Acute Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (1 credit hour)

### SPRING I

NURS 6055	Professional Formation II: Evidence-Based Change in Health Care Environments (3 credit hours)
NURS 7022	Advanced Practice Nursing in Pediatric Acute Care I (3 credit hours)
NURS 7024	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics (3 credit hours)
NURS 7045	Advanced Practice Nursing in Pediatric Acute Care Practicum I (4 credit hours)

### SUMMER I

NURS 6065	Professional Formation III: Leading Collaborative Change: Improving Delivery of Health Care to Patients and Pop. (4 credit hours)
NURS 6075	Professional Formation IV: Transition to Advanced Nursing Practice (1 credit hour)
NURS 7031	Advanced Practice Nursing in Pediatric Acute Care II (3 credit hours)
NURS 7095	Advanced Practice Nursing in Pediatric Acute Care Practicum II (4 credit hours)

**Total: 40 credit hours**

# Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Lifespan)

SPECIALTY DIRECTOR Marci Zsamboky

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS Edith E. Cloyd, Jennifer Scroggie, Megan Simmons, Rose Vick, Jessica Walker, Marci Zsamboky , Brandee Madden, Melissa Ott, Matt Schroer, LeTizia Smith

INSTRUCTORS Chance Allen, Molly Butler, Virginia Gardner

This specialty focuses on the mental health care needs of individuals across the life-span within the context of their environment. Course content and a clinical practicum prepare students to use clinical judgment and critical thinking in the performance of comprehensive (physical and mental health) assessments, differential diagnoses, prescription of psychopharmacologic agents, and non-pharmacologic interventions, including case management; individual, group, and family psychotherapy; and mental health consultation/liaison. Students will have a primary mental health placement site over three semesters and additional supplemental clinical rotations to meet training requirements across the lifespan. Legal, ethical, social, cultural, financial, and policy issues that impact the delivery of mental health services and the PMHNP role are integrated throughout the curriculum.

Graduates of this specialty will be eligible to take the American Nurses Credentialing Center Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Lifespan) certification exam.

## Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Lifespan)

### FALL I

NURS 6010	Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)
NURS 6011	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (2 credit hours)
NURS 6012	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab (1 credit hour)
NURS 6020	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics (3 credit hours)
NURS 6045	Professional Formation I: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice (2 credit hours)
NURS 7212	Models and Theories of Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing (2 credit hours)
NURS 7214	Diagnostic Reasoning for the Psychiatric Mental Health NP (Part I) (2 credit hour)
NURS 7215	Theoretical Foundations and Practicum for Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing Across the Lifespan (1 credit hours)

### SPRING I

NURS 6055	Professional Formation II: Evidence-Based Change in Health Care Environments (3 credit hours)
NURS 7205	Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (1 credit hour)
NURS 7221	Neuroscience for Mental Health Practitioners (3 credit hours)
NURS 7222	Psychopharmacology (2 credit hours)
NURS 7224	Diagnostic Reasoning for the Psychiatric Mental Health NP (Part II) (1 credit hour)
NURS 7225	Practicum in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing with Individuals, Groups, and Families (3 credit hours)

### SUMMER I

NURS 6065	Professional Formation III: Leading Collaborative Change: Improving Delivery of Health Care to Patients and Pop. (4 credit hours)
NURS 7231	Population-based Mental Health Care Across the Lifespan (2 credit hours)
NURS 7232	Advanced Psychopharmacology (2 credit hours)
NURS 7294	Diagnostic Reasoning for the Psychiatric Mental Health NP (Part III) (1 credit hour)
NURS 7295	Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship (3 credit hours)

**Total: 41 credit hours**



# Women's Health Nurse Practitioner

SPECIALTY DIRECTOR Ginny Moore

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR Ginny Moore

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR: Lindsey Baksh

INSTRUCTORS, Erin DeBruyn, Tonia Moore-Davis, Shaunna Parker, Shelza Rivas, Stefani Yudasz

The Women's Health Nurse Practitioner specialty begins with the study of well-woman gynecologic and low-risk obstetric care. From this foundation, the specialty progresses to the study of high-risk obstetrics and deviations from normal gynecology. Emphasis is on health promotion of women from adolescence through advanced years. This specialty prepares the student for entry level advanced practice as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner.

Upon completion of the specialty, the student is eligible to sit for the National Certification Corporation Women's Health Nurse Practitioner exam.

## Women's Health Nurse Practitioner

### FALL I

NURS 6011	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (2 credit hours)
NURS 6012	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab (1 credit hour)
NURS 6020	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics (3 credit hours)
NURS 6034	Adult-Gerontology Primary Care (3 credit hours)
NURS 6045	Professional Formation I: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice (2 credit hours)
NURS 7305	Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Women's Health Nurse Practitioner (1 credit hour)
NURS 7310	Women's Health for Advanced Practice Nursing (3 credit hours)

### SPRING I

NURS 6010	Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)
NURS 6055	Professional Formation II: Evidence-Based Change in Health Care Environments (3 credit hours)
NURS 7315	Practicum in Women's Health (4 credit hours)
NURS 7320	Women's Health for Advanced Practice Nursing II (3 credit hours)

### SUMMER I

NURS 6031	Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Adolescent (1 credit hour)
NURS 6065	Professional Formation III: Leading Collaborative Change: Improving Delivery of Health Care to Patients and Pop. (4 credit hours)
NURS 6075	Professional Formation IV: Transition to Advanced Nursing Practice (1 credit hour)
NURS 7330	Women's Health Issues (1 credit hour)
NURS 7395	Preceptorship in Women's Health (5 credit hours)

**Total: 40 credit hours**

## Women's Health Nurse Practitioner/Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

SPECIALTY DIRECTORS Ginny Moore and Leslie W. Hopkins

For listing of faculty for Women's Health Nurse Practitioner/Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner, see both Women's Health Nurse Practitioner and Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner.

The Women's Health Nurse Practitioner (WHNP)/Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (AGPCNP) specialty is an exciting opportunity for individuals to gain certification in both specialties so they can meet the unique health care needs of women as well as primary health care needs of all adults as they pass from adolescence through the advanced years.

This specialty addresses a range of women's health issues, including well-woman health care, prenatal and postpartum management, and menopause. In addition, it provides a broad foundation in adult primary care with a significant emphasis on disease prevention and health promotion. Students gain an understanding of health care delivery systems in this country. They gain the knowledge and skills necessary to assess, diagnose and manage common acute and chronic health problems of adults, including the unique aspects related to women's health. In addition, they will be prepared to educate and counsel patients on health maintenance and disease prevention.

Students will learn from a group of professional faculty members who combine classroom instruction with hands-on clinical experience. Graduates of this specialty have the opportunity to gain certification as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner through the National Certification Corporation and as an Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner through the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Association of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board. As advanced practice nurses, they can practice in various health care settings, including collaborative physician internal medicine and women's health practices and women's health clinics.

**Women's Health Nurse Practitioner/Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner**

**FALL I**

NURS 6011	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (2 credit hours)
NURS 6012	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab (1 credit hour)
NURS 6020	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics (3 credit hours)
NURS 6034	Adult Gerontology Primary Care I (3 credit hours)
NURS 6045	Professional Formation I: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice (2 credit hours)
NURS 6205	Advanced Health Assessment for the Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (1 credit hour)
NURS 7305	Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Women's Health Nurse Practitioner (1 credit hour)
NURS 7310	Women's Health for Advanced Practice Nursing I (3 credit hours)

**SPRING I**

NURS 6010	Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)
NURS 6055	Professional Formation II: Evidence-Based Change in Health Care Environments (3 credit hours)
NURS 6215	Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Clinical I (4 credit hours)
NURS 6234	Adult Gerontology Primary Care II (3 credit hours)
NURS 7320	Women's Health for Advanced Practice Nursing II (3 credit hours)

**SUMMER I**

NURS 6031	Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Adolescent (1 credit hour)
NURS 6065	Professional Formation III: Leading Collaborative Change (4 credit hours)
NURS 6075	Professional Formation IV: Transition to Advanced Nursing Practice (1 credit hour)
NURS 6231	Essential Procedures for the Primary Care Provider (2 credit hours)
NURS 6236	Advanced Concepts in the Care of the Elderly (2 credit hours)
NURS 7315	Practicum in Women's Health (4 credit hours)
NURS 7330	Women's Health Issues (1 credit hour)

**FALL II**

NURS 6295	Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Clinical II (4 credit hours)
NURS 7395	Preceptorship in Women's Health (5 credit hours)

**Total: 56 credit hours**

## M.S.N. Dual Degree Programs

Dual degree programs attract outstanding students to both schools and will encourage interdisciplinary work and intra-school collaboration. Students apply to the School of Nursing and Vanderbilt Divinity School separately and must be accepted by both to pursue the dual degree. Ideally, students will apply for dual degree status prior to enrolling in either program. Each school will receive student tuition and provide financial aid, if any, during those semesters in which the student is registered for courses in the respective school.

### Curriculum Planning

Individual curriculum plans for dual degree students will be planned by the student's advisers from both schools in view of the student's goals, background, academic accomplishments, and program/degree choices. Such a curriculum plan will detail full- or part-time status, the school to be attended each year or semester, clinical and field education plans, electives, and courses to be shared by both programs. Such a plan is subject to revision as the student better defines their professional and vocational aspirations.

Students accepted to a dual degree status should arrange an appointment with the advisers from both schools as soon as possible to develop a comprehensive plan of study.

### M.S.N./M.T.S. Program

The M.S.N./M.T.S. program can usually be completed in three years (see below) for students with a prior B.S.N. and four years for students requiring the School of Nursing pre-specialty year. A student must be registered as a full-time student in the Divinity School for at least three semesters and in the School of Nursing for at least three semesters. A student will complete 51 hours for the M.T.S. and at least 40 hours for the M.S.N. (with an additional year's work for those requiring the pre-specialty year). Nine (9) elective hours from the total 51 M.T.S. program (Divinity hours) will be from the School of Nursing. Zero to 6 hours from the total M.S.N. program (School of Nursing hours) will be from the Divinity School, with hours varying depending on the student's major area of specialty. If the student elects to participate in field education experiences, students may be able to share School of Nursing Clinical Practica requirements. Any awarding of joint credit will require approval of both Vanderbilt Divinity School Field Education and the School of Nursing specialty director.

*For Pre-specialty Entry*

Year One:	VUSN Pre-specialty Year (fall, spring, summer)
Year Two:	VDS (fall, spring)
Year Three:	VUSN Specialty Year (fall, spring, summer)
Year Four:	VDS (fall, spring)

*For B.S.N. Entry*

Year One:	VDS (fall, spring)
Year Two:	VUSN Specialty Year (fall, spring, summer)
Year Three:	VDS (fall, spring)

**M.S.N./M.Div. Program**

The M.S.N./M.Div. program can usually be completed in four years for students with a prior B.S.N. and five for students requiring the School of Nursing pre-specialty year (see below). A student must be registered as a full-time student in the Divinity School for at least five semesters and in the School of Nursing for at least three semesters. A student will complete 84 hours for the M.Div. and a minimum of 40 hours for the M.S.N. (with an additional year's work for those requiring the pre-specialty year). Twelve (12) elective hours from the total 84 M.Div. program (Divinity hours) will be from the School of Nursing. Zero to 6 hours from the M.S.N. program (School of Nursing hours) will be from the Divinity School, with hours varying depending on the student's major area of specialty. Under certain circumstances, students may be able to share School of Nursing and Vanderbilt Divinity School credit for Divinity School Field Education requirements and School of Nursing Clinical Practica requirements.

***For Pre-specialty Entry***

Year One:	VUSN Pre-specialty Year (fall, spring, summer)
Year Two:	VDS (fall, spring)
Year Three:	VUSN Specialty Year (fall, spring, summer)
Year Four:	VDS (fall, spring)
Year Five:	VDS (fall, spring)

***For B.S.N. Entry***

Year One:	VDS (fall, spring)
Year Two:	Year Two: VUSN Specialty Year (fall, spring, summer)
Year Three:	VDS (fall, spring)
Year Four:	VDS (fall, spring)

# V.U.S.N. New Student Requirements

*Special Students, who are only enrolled in one course and are not seeking a degree from the School of Nursing, are not required to complete a background check or the new student requirements unless they apply and are admitted to VUSN.*

## **Background Check Requirement**

Upon acceptance, all full- and part-time students admitted to a MSN, Post-Master's Certificate or DNP program must complete a background check through Castle Branch using the package code specified under the New Student Compliance Requirements section of the VUSN Admitted Student webpage ([nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/admitted/index.php](https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/admitted/index.php)) for their entry type.

***Enrollment is contingent upon satisfactory evaluation of the results of the background check.***

Background Check Required for Readmission: Students returning from a break in enrollment must complete a new background check through Castle Branch by using the package code specified on the Current MSN/Post Master's Certificate/DNP Student Requirements webpage, [nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/currentstudents.php](https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/currentstudents.php). A new background check is not required for students returning from a VUSN approved deferment or LOA. However, all returning students must submit up-to-date documentation to their myCB account requirements prior to registration.

## **Disclosure of offenses post-background check completion**

Current full- and part-time MSN, Post-Master's Certificate, and DNP students are required to immediately report to their faculty adviser and the senior associate dean for academics any arrest, criminal charge or conviction occurring after their background checks have been completed. Required disclosure also includes but is not limited to allegations, investigations and/or disciplinary action from any licensing board or Abuse scan: Office of Inspector General (OIG), General Services Administrations (GSA), FDA Debarment Check, Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA), Office of Research Integrity (ORI), and Medicare and Medicaid Sanctions.

## **New Student Compliance Requirements**

The State of Tennessee requires certain immunizations for all students (including distance graduate and professional students) prior to registration. The University's *Immunization Hold* on registration is automatically cleared from Your Enrollment Services (YES) account (allow 10-business days) after the student has satisfactorily met the state-mandated requirements through the Student Health Portal.

In addition, all full- and part-time MSN, Post-Master's Certificate, and DNP students are required to meet the VUSN requirements for registration through Castle Branch. The *Nursing Requirement Hold* on registration is automatically cleared from Your Enrollment Services (YES) account (allow 10-business days) after the requirements for the student's entry type are satisfactorily completed through Castle Branch.

Students should use the process indicated on the VUSN Admitted Student webpage ([nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/admitted/index.php](https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/admitted/index.php)) under *New Student Compliance Requirements* to meet the state-mandated and VUSN student requirements for registration.

***Please note: If the new student fails to provide acceptable documentation of requirements, she/he will not be allowed to attend orientation and/or classes.***

## **How to Meet the VUSN New Student Compliance Requirements**

Place an order through Castle Branch ([https://www.castlebranch.com/online\\_submission/package\\_code.php](https://www.castlebranch.com/online_submission/package_code.php)) for the background check and document manager package by using the package code and classification for your entry type specified on the VUSN Admitted Student webpage ([nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/admitted/index.php](https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/admitted/index.php)) under *New Student Compliance Requirements*.

Placing this order creates your “myCB” account, which is an online document manager for the immunizations/titers, TB testing, training, certifications and licensure required as a VUSN student. Submit documentation of the following to each requirement in your myCB account’s To-Do-List prior to July 1 for fall, and December 1 for spring. Documentation can be submitted by file upload, fax, or mail. The student must click on the drop-down for each requirement in the To-Do-List to view instructions and download required forms. The documentation submitted must resemble a photocopy of the original with all dates and information clear and readable.

Complete the *VU Nursing Immunization and TB Testing form* ([nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/health\\_questionnaire.pdf](https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/health_questionnaire.pdf)) to meet the requirements listed below. Documentation of previously completed immunizations, titers and/or TB testing must be from the following sources for approval: official medical, state, county, or international immunization records (English required).

Non-RN entries (Pre-specialty students) also receive a drug screen as part of their Castle Branch background check and document manager package and should follow the instructions provided through their myCB account.

VUSN Immunization/Titer, TB Testing, CPR Certification, Health Insurance, Licensure and Certification Requirements for Registration:

1. Physical examination within six months of acceptance to the program, authenticated by a physician, an APRN, PA, or a DO documenting evidence of the student’s physical and mental capability to carrying out assignments in a nursing school program. Use the VU Nursing Immunization and TB Testing form at [nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/health\\_questionnaire.pdf](https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/health_questionnaire.pdf). (Also downloadable from the requirement’s drop-down in your myCB account.)
2. Measles, Mumps, Rubella: Two (2) MMR vaccinations given at least 28-days apart OR if no vaccination records available, lab evidence of immunity (positive titer results) for each Measles (Rubeola), Mumps, and Rubella. At least one of two MMR booster vaccinations is required prior to registration following a negative or equivocal titer result.
3. Varicella: Two varicella vaccines given at least 28 days apart OR if no vaccination records available, lab evidence of varicella immunity (positive titer). At least one of two Varicella booster vaccinations is required prior to registration following a negative or equivocal titer result.
4. Hepatitis B: A Hepatitis B vaccination series completed following the guidelines for dosing intervals published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) OR if no vaccination records available, lab evidence of immunity (positive anti-HBs or HBsAb surface antibody). A Hepatitis B booster vaccination series is required prior to observation or clinical following a negative or equivocal titer result. DNP students with no patient contact can choose to sign the Hepatitis B Waiver form (download from the myCB requirement’s drop-down).
5. Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis (Tdap): Documentation of vaccination within last ten years. (DTP/DTaP and Td/TD vaccines do not meet this requirement.)
6. All newly admitted students are required to submit a tuberculin skin test (PPD) completed within 12-months of program start. In addition to a PPD completed within 12-months of start, the Pre-specialty (non-RN) entry type is required to submit a second PPD completed within 3-months of program start. Alternatively, all newly admitted entry types may opt to complete one TB blood test (IGRA= QFT-Plus, QFT-GIT and T-Spot) in place of the PPD(s), completed within 3 months of program start.
  1. If reading(s) is/are negative, repeat one PPD or TB blood test annually.
  2. If positive, medical evaluation and documentation of a clear chest x-ray completed within 3 months of program start (lab report OR physician verification of results required). If there is evidence of a positive chest x-ray and/or symptoms of TB, the student must notify their Program Director and follow up with a medical evaluation and if needed, treatment. For each consecutive year of enrollment after completing a chest x-ray, the Annual Post-Chest X-ray TB Questionnaire ([nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/health\\_questionnaire.pdf](https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/health_questionnaire.pdf)) must be completed and signed by a healthcare provider.
7. Influenza: Annual flu vaccination is required or student must obtain an approved exemption through Vanderbilt University’s Student Health Center by submitting a request by October 1st, prior to each flu season at [vumc.org/student-health/influenza-vaccinations-students](https://vumc.org/student-health/influenza-vaccinations-students). Medical provider documentation of a

contraindication to the seasonal influenza vaccine is required for exemption approval. (Note: Minor side effects, such as low-grade fever, cold symptoms, or muscle aches, are not considered to be a medical contraindication to the influenza vaccine). In addition, students unable to receive an annual flu vaccination must also obtain an approved exemption (per site specifications) prior to placement at each clinical, observation or project site.

8. All students are required to have current health insurance coverage either through the University's student health insurance plan or by another policy while enrolled (monthly issued insurance is not acceptable). Clinical sites require students to have health insurance to cover any illness or injury that they may incur during the clinical training experience. Students who wish to be covered by a personal policy must complete a waiver EACH YEAR to decline the University's student insurance plan by January 1 for spring admits and August 1 for fall, Maymester and summer admits by submitting a waiver with proof of coverage at: <https://www.vumc.org/student-health/student-health-insurance>. If a waiver is not completed by the appropriate date, the student is automatically billed and enrolled in the University Student Health Insurance plan. Newly admitted VUSN students must also submit documentation to their Castle Branch account (myCB) of either the University's student health insurance coverage (proof available the first week of August at, <https://go.gallagherstudent.com/Universities/VanderbiltUniversity/Home>) or of their approved personal insurance with a copy (front & back) of their insurance card or a letter verifying coverage. More information on the University's student health insurance is provided at [www.vumc.org/student-health/immunization-requirements-new-students](http://www.vumc.org/student-health/immunization-requirements-new-students).
9. Current American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Life Support (BLS) CPR certification is required by all entry levels and specialties. BLS provided by the AHA is the only BLS card accepted. In addition to the AHA BLS, additional CPR certifications are required by the following specialties: AHA Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) is required by PNP-AC and ENP. AHA Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) is required by AGACNP and ENP. NNP specialty requires the Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) certification. Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) or Trauma Nurse Core Course (TNCC), or Advanced Trauma Care of Nurses (ATCN) required by ENP. Other specialties may require additional CPR certifications at specific stages of enrollment.
10. Copy of an unencumbered Registered Nurse's license in the state(s) where you reside/work and will be doing clinical training (if applicable). In addition, DNP students who are a NP, CNM or CRNA are required to submit an unencumbered Advance Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) designation in their state of residence and states of clinical practice and hold national board certification in their area of specialty as appropriate.
11. HIPAA and OSHA safety training is required annually by academic year through BrightSpace (VUNetID required). Instructions to complete the online training are available under the Castle Branch requirement's drop-down. Additional training may be required for particular clinical sites.
12. Honor Code and Plagiarism Tutorial. Read letter regarding plagiarism from the Senior Associate Dean for Academics ([nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/admitted/pdf/plagiarism.pdf](http://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/admitted/pdf/plagiarism.pdf)) and follow instructions under the Castle Branch requirement's drop-down to complete the latest version of a tutorial developed by Indiana University Bloomington.

### ***Clearing the VUSN Nursing Requirement Hold for Registration***

The newly admitted student must satisfactorily complete the Castle Branch background check and all of their myCB account, To-Do-List requirements with a July 1st Due Date must show as 'Complete'. Additionally, students admitted to the

Pre-specialty program (non-RN) must satisfactorily complete a drug screen through Castle Branch. Once the requirements for the student's entry type are satisfactorily completed, the Nursing Requirement Hold is automatically cleared from Your Enrollment Services (YES) account (allow 10-business days).

### ***Additional Clinical Site Requirements and Restrictions***

Additional immunizations, titers, TB testing, drug screening, and/or additional background checks may be required by some clinical, observation and project sites. Once enrolled, the student may complete immunizations, titers and TB testing at Student Health ([vumc.org/student-health/welcome](http://vumc.org/student-health/welcome)). A student who plans to use Student Health should call (615) 322-2427 to schedule an appointment. The student should bring a copy of the VU Nursing Immunization and TB Testing form ([nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/health\\_questionnaire.pdf](http://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/health_questionnaire.pdf)) and any required documentation to the appointment. Students are responsible for all charges incurred in order to meet clinical site requirements. Due to certain restrictions, VUSN is not able to accommodate clinical placements in all locations.

### ***Accidents/Injury/Illnesses***

Students are responsible for the costs of tests, treatment, and follow-up care for any accidents, injury, or illnesses that occur while enrolled as students at VUSN. Students are not entitled to worker's compensation benefits.

## ***How to Meet the State-Mandated Immunization Requirements for New Students at Vanderbilt University***

Follow instructions on the Vanderbilt Student Health Center's Immunization Requirements webpage ([vumc.org/student-health/immunization-requirements-new-students](http://vumc.org/student-health/immunization-requirements-new-students)) to enter dates and submit documentation of the following state-mandated requirements through the Vanderbilt Student Health Immunization Portal ([vanderbilt.studenthealthportal.com/Account/Logon?ReturnUrl=%2f](http://vanderbilt.studenthealthportal.com/Account/Logon?ReturnUrl=%2f)). Acceptable forms of documentation include official state/county immunizations, official signed or certified medical records, Yellow Book/immunization card from county of origin (English required), or the VU Nursing Immunization and TB Testing form ([nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/health\\_questionnaire.pdf](http://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/health_questionnaire.pdf)) completed and signed by a healthcare provider.

### ***Vanderbilt University's State-Mandated Immunization and/or Titer Requirements for Registration:***

1. Measles, Mumps, Rubella: Two (2) MMR vaccinations given at least 28-days apart OR if no vaccination records available, lab evidence of immunity (positive titer results) for each Measles (Rubeola), Mumps, and Rubella. At least one of two MMR booster vaccinations is required prior to registration following a negative or equivocal titer result.
2. Varicella: Two varicella vaccines given at least 28 days apart OR if no vaccination records available, lab evidence of varicella immunity (positive titer). At least one of two Varicella booster vaccinations is required prior to registration following a negative or equivocal titer result.
3. Hepatitis B: A Hepatitis B vaccination series completed following the guidelines for dosing intervals published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) OR if no vaccination records available, lab evidence of immunity (positive anti-HBs or HBsAb surface antibody). A Hepatitis B booster vaccination series is required prior to observation or clinical following a negative or equivocal titer result. DNP students with no patient contact can choose to sign the Hepatitis B Waiver form (download from the myCB requirement's dropdown).
4. Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis (Tdap): Documentation of vaccination within last ten years. (DTP/DTaP and Td/TD vaccines do not meet this requirement.)
5. All newly admitted students are required to submit a tuberculin skin test (PPD) completed within 12-months of program start. In addition to a PPD completed within 12-months of start, the Pre-specialty (non-RN) entry type is required to submit a second PPD completed within 3-months of program start. Alternatively, all newly admitted entry types may opt to complete one TB blood test (IGRA= QFT-Plus, QFT-GIT and T-Spot) in place of the PPD(s), completed within 3 months of program start.
  1. If reading(s) is/are negative, repeat one PPD or TB blood test annually.
  2. If positive, medical evaluation and documentation of a clear chest x-ray completed within 3 months of program start (lab report OR physician verification of results required). If there is evidence of a positive chest x-ray and/or symptoms of TB, the student must notify their Program Director and follow up with a medical evaluation and if needed, treatment. For each consecutive year of enrollment after completing a chest x-ray, the Annual Post-Chest X-ray TB Questionnaire ([nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/tbscreening\\_questionnaire.pdf](http://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/tbscreening_questionnaire.pdf)), must be completed and signed by a healthcare provider.
6. Influenza: Annual flu vaccination is required or student must obtain an approved exemption through Vanderbilt University's Student Health Center by submitting a request by October 1st, prior to each flu season at: [vumc.org/student-health/influenza-vaccinations-students](http://vumc.org/student-health/influenza-vaccinations-students). Medical provider documentation of a contraindication to the seasonal influenza vaccine is required for exemption approval. (Note: Minor side effects, such as low-grade fever, cold symptoms, or muscle aches, are not considered to be a medical contraindication to the influenza vaccine). In addition, students unable to receive an annual flu vaccination must also obtain an approved exemption (per site specifications) prior to placement at each clinical, observation or project site.
7. All students are required to have current health insurance coverage either through the University's student health insurance plan or by another policy while enrolled (monthly issued insurance is not acceptable). Clinical sites require students to have health insurance to cover any illness or injury that they may incur during the clinical training experience. Students who wish to be covered by a personal policy must complete a waiver EACH YEAR to decline the University's student insurance plan by January 1 for spring admits and August 1 for fall, Maymester and summer admits by submitting a waiver with proof of coverage at <https://www.vumc.org/student-health/immunization-requirements-new-students>. If a waiver is not completed by the appropriate date, the student is automatically billed and enrolled in the University's Student Health Insurance plan. Newly admitted VUSN students must also submit documentation to their Castle Branch account (myCB) of either the University's student health insurance coverage (proof available the first week of August at, <https://go.gallagherstudent.com/Universities/VanderbiltUniversity/Home>) or of their approved personal insurance with a copy (front & back) of their insurance card or a letter verifying coverage. More information on the University's student health insurance is provided at [vumc.org/student-health/requirements](http://vumc.org/student-health/requirements).



*Clearing the State-Mandated VU Immunization Requirement Hold for Registration:* The University's Immunization Hold is automatically cleared from Your Enrollment Services (YES) account when a message of compliance is received through your Student Health Immunization Portal (allow 10-business days).

## **V.U.S.N. Continuing Student Requirements**

### ***Disclosure of offenses post-background check completion***

Current full and part-time, MSN, Post-Master's Certificate, and DNP students are required to immediately report to their academic director and the Senior Associate Dean for Academics any arrest, criminal charge, or conviction occurring after his or her background check has been completed. Required disclosure also includes but is not limited to allegations, investigations, and/or disciplinary action from any licensing board or agency included under the Nationwide Health Care Fraud and Abuse scan; Office of Inspector General (OIG), General Services Administration (GSA), FDA Debarment Check, Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA), Office of Research Integrity (ORI), and Medicare and Medicaid Sanctions.

### ***Background Check Required for Readmission***

Students returning from a break in enrollment must complete a new background check through Castle Branch prior to registration by using the Package Code specified on the Current MSN/Post Master's Certificate/DNP Student Requirements webpage:

[nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/currentstudents.php](https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/currentstudents.php).

A new background check is not required for students returning from a VUSN approved deferment or LOA. However, returning students must submit up-to-date documentation to their myCB account requirements prior to registration.

### ***Maintaining Health Insurance, TB Testing, Annual Flu Vaccination, Training, Licensing and Certification Requirements***

While enrolled, continuing full and part-time, MSN, Post-Master's Certificate, and DNP students are required to update the following date-dependent documentation in their myCB account (<https://mycb.castlebranch.com/>), To-Do-List by the requirement's Renewal Date. (Renewal requirements are generated 21-days prior to the Renewal Date.) Students maintaining the Magnus Immunization Tracker through Castle Branch have an annual \$20 fee.

***Please note: Students who fail to maintain their Castle Branch (myCB) account's To-Do-List requirements with up-to-date documentation will not be allowed to begin/continue clinical course work and/or register for additional courses.***

### ***VUSN Requirements to Maintain for Registration:***

1. All students are required to have current health insurance coverage either through the University's student health insurance plan or by another policy while enrolled (monthly issued insurance is not acceptable). Clinical sites require students to have health insurance to cover any illness or injury that they may incur during the clinical training experience. Students who wish to be covered by a personal policy must complete a waiver EACH YEAR to decline the University's student insurance plan by January 1 for spring admits and August 1 for fall, Maymester and summer admits by submitting a waiver with proof of coverage at <https://www.vumc.org/student-health/student-health-insurance>. If a waiver is not completed by the appropriate date, the student is automatically billed and enrolled in the University's Student Health Insurance plan. Students must maintain current documentation of health insurance coverage through their Castle Branch (myCB) account. Documentation of the University's student health plan can be pulled each academic year, the first week of August at, <https://go.gallagherstudent.com/Universities/Vanderbilt%20University/Home>. Students who change providers during enrollment must provide current documentation of their coverage by contacting the VUSN Compliance Officer at: [lisa.boyer@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:lisa.boyer@vanderbilt.edu) or call (615) 343-3294.
2. Annual tuberculin skin test (PPD) or blood test (IGRA= QFT-Plus, QFT-GIT and T-Spot). If the student has been consecutively enrolled and a clear chest x-ray was submitted to myCB in the year(s) prior, complete the

Annual Post-Chest X-ray TB Questionnaire

([nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/tbscreening\\_questionnaire.pdf](https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/tbscreening_questionnaire.pdf)) to confirm the absence of symptoms (healthcare provider signature required).

1. If test is positive, medical evaluation and documentation of a clear chest x-ray (lab report OR physician verification of results required). If there is evidence of a positive chest x-ray and/or symptoms of TB, the student must notify their Program Director and follow up with a medical evaluation and, if needed, treatment.
2. Current American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Life Support (BLS) CPR certification is required by all entry levels and specialties. BLS provided by the AHA is the only BLS card accepted. In addition to the AHA BLS, additional CPR certifications are required by the following specialties: AHA Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) is required by PNP-AC and ENP. AHA Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) is required by AGACNP and ENP. NNP specialty requires the Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) certification. Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) or Trauma Nurse Core Course (TNCC), or Advanced Trauma Care for Nurses (ATCN) required by ENP. Other specialties may require additional CPR certifications at specific stages of enrollment.
3. HIPAA and OSHA safety training is required annually by academic year through BrightSpace (VUNetID required). Instructions to complete the online training are available under the Castle Branch (myCB) requirement's drop-down. Additional training may be required for particular clinical sites.
4. Copy of an unencumbered Registered Nurse's license in the state(s) where you reside/work and will be doing clinical training (if applicable). In addition, DNP students who are a NP, CNM or CRNA are required to submit an unencumbered Advance Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) designation in their state of residence and states of clinical practice and hold national board certification in their area of specialty as appropriate.
5. Influenza: Annual flu vaccination is required or student must obtain an approved exemption through Vanderbilt University's Student Health Center by submitting a request by October 1st, prior to each flu season at [vumc.org/student-health/influenza-vaccinations-students](https://vumc.org/student-health/influenza-vaccinations-students). Medical provider documentation of a contraindication to the seasonal influenza vaccine is required for exemption approval. (Note: Minor side effects, such as low-grade fever, cold symptoms, or muscle aches, are not considered a medical contraindication to the influenza vaccine.) In addition, students unable to receive an annual flu vaccination must also obtain an approved exemption (per site specifications) prior to placement at each clinical, observation or project site.

### ***Clearing the VUSN Continuing Student, Nursing Requirement Hold for Registration***

The continuing student must maintain up-to-date documentation through their myCB account by submitting the documentation specified under the requirement's drop-down. The readmitted student must have satisfactory completion of a new background check in addition to maintaining up-to-date documentation through their myCB account.

The Nursing Requirement Hold in Your Enrollment Services (YES) account is automatically cleared (allow 10-business days) when the student's myCB requirements show as 'Complete' by their Renewal Date.

### ***Additional Clinical Site Requirements and Restrictions***

Additional immunizations, titers, TB testing, drug screening, and/or additional background checks may be required by some clinical, observation and project sites. Once enrolled, the student may complete immunizations, titers and TB testing at Student Health (<https://www.vumc.org/student-health/welcome>). A student who plans to use Student Health should call (615) 322-2427 to schedule an appointment. The student should bring a copy of their VU Nursing Immunization and TB Testing form and any required documentation to the appointment. Students are responsible for all charges incurred in order to meet clinical site requirements.

Due to certain restrictions, VUSN is not able to accommodate clinical placements in all locations.

### ***Accidents/Injury/Illnesses***

Students are responsible for the costs of tests, treatment, and follow-up care for any accidents, injury, or illnesses that occur while enrolled as students at VUSN. Students are not entitled to worker's compensation benefits.

## **M.S.N. Academic Regulations**

### **Pass/Fail Courses**

Only elective courses may be taken Pass/Fail. Grades of C or above are recorded as Pass. The grade Pass is not

counted toward grade point averages. The grade of F applies as in any other course; although an F earns zero hours, the hours attempted are counted in calculating the grade point average. A student who has a choice about taking a course for a grade or Pass/Fail may register on a Pass/Fail basis or may change to Pass/Fail basis within one month of the first day of classes. After this time, one may change from a Pass/Fail to a letter grade basis according to the dates published in the university calendar, but not vice-versa.

### **Credit Hours**

The unit of measure of the student's work load is the semester hour. Credit hours are semester hours; e.g., a three-hour course carries credit of three semester hours. One semester credit hour represents at least three hours of academic work per week, on average, for one semester. Academic work includes, but is not necessarily limited to, lectures, laboratory work, homework, research, class readings, independent study, internships, practica, studio work, recitals, practicing, rehearsing, and recitations. Some Vanderbilt courses may have requirements which exceed this definition. Certain courses (e.g., dissertation research, ensemble, performance instruction, and independent study) are designated as repeatable as they contain evolving or iteratively new content. These courses may be taken multiple times for credit. If a course can be repeated, the number of credit hours allowable per semester will be included in the course description.

### **Course Load**

The normal full-time schedule is 12 to 16 hours per semester depending upon the individual specialty program. A student who wishes to carry more than 16 hours must secure authorization from the senior associate dean before registration. Students who elect to attend the program part time must be approved for part-time study by the program director and follow the approved part-time program of study.

Course load status for M.S.N. and post-master's certificate students is defined as follows:

*Full time:* Registered for 12 or more hours

*Three-quarter time:* Registered for at least 9 hours but fewer than 12 hours

*Half time:* Registered for at least 6 hours but fewer than 9 hours

*Less-than-half time:* Registered for at least 1 hour, but fewer than 6 hours

### **Ratio of Credit Hours to Clock Hours**

*Applied Science Laboratory.* Student activity within a group under faculty supervision in a special room with special equipment for the purpose of gaining new skills (one credit hour for two hours' activity per week—1:2).

*Clinical Conference.* Individual or group interaction with a faculty member about specific clinical experiences which is part of clinical experience or practicum (no separate credit).

*Clinical Experience.* Student practice supervised by faculty in an approved clinical agency or simulated patient care setting in conjunction with didactic course content (one credit hour for five hours' activity per week—1:5).

*Clinical Independent Study.* Indirect supervision of a student in specialized clinical practice which is not part of a regular course (one credit hour for five hours' activity per week—1:5).

*Didactic.* Instruction primarily by faculty presentation (one hour credit for one hour's activity per week—1:1).

*Non-Clinical Independent Study.* Indirect supervision of a student's reading, writing, or research which is not part of a regular course (credit varies according to type of activity).

*Practicum.* A separate clinical course in which knowledge, theories and concepts of nursing, and other disciplines are applied to the patient/client. When the student is in the clinical area, supervision may be by a combination of regular faculty, adjunct faculty, or clinical teaching associate (CTA). The regular faculty must be in contact with the

student either face to face, by email, or by telephone, and will meet with the student at regular intervals to review their objectives. The amount of supervision will vary depending upon the clinical setting and the level of learning. The student will recognize that the regular faculty member is responsible for assessing student learning and will be aware of the student's progress toward meeting the clinical objectives (one credit hour for five hours' activity per week—1:5).

*Preceptorship.* A separate clinical course which provides an opportunity for the student to assume the advanced practice role in a relatively independent experience, which can occur anywhere in the world. The regular faculty is responsible for establishing a learning contract with the student and the preceptor to define specific course objectives and learning activities. The preceptor will confer with the student once a week to evaluate progress. The preceptor will assist the student in implementing the specific objectives and learning experiences and will review the student's progress with the faculty member responsible for evaluation in the course. The faculty member will assign a final grade based upon achievement of the objectives specified in the learning contract, input from preceptor, and student self-evaluation (one hour credit for five hours' activity per week—1:5).

*Seminar.* A small group of students engaged in original problem solving under the guidance of a faculty member who interacts with them on a regular basis for reports, discussion, and planning (one credit hour for two hours' activity per week—1:2).

### **Grade Reports**

Students receiving a grade less than B- on any assignment are encouraged to meet with the course instructor to discuss their performance on the assignment and strategies for improvement. It is strongly recommended that students take advantage of resources available to improve their academic performance such as the School of Nursing Academic Enhancement program, the academic skills workshops available at the University Counseling Center and the Writing Studio.

A final grade recorded by the Office of the University Registrar may be changed only upon written request of the instructor.

## **VUSN: CLINICAL PLACEMENT**

The Clinical Placement Office works collaboratively with faculty, program directors, and students to ensure all students have a productive clinical experience. Clinical sites and preceptors are chosen for their ability to provide students with clinical experiences consistent with course and certification requirements and the mission of the school. Due to regulatory requirements or a lack of available and appropriate preceptors, VUSN may not be able to accommodate clinical placements in all areas of the country. Please discuss your preferences with your specialty faculty to be sure you understand all possible options.

### ***PreSpecialty Year Rotations***

Students during their PreSpecialty year will be placed in group clinical experiences. These group experiences may be in a hospital or community setting.

### ***Placements within the Greater Middle Tennessee Area - Specialty Year***

For students admitted as MTA (Greater Middle Tennessee Area) students, the Clinical Placement Office works with the specialty faculty to secure clinical sites. Clinical sites located within a 150-mile radius from the School of Nursing are considered to be within this area. As a result, students may have rotations in Kentucky, Alabama, and east or west Tennessee, depending on the appropriateness of the site. Faculty take into consideration a number of factors in assigning students to sites, including home address, specialty needs, and clinical interests.

Given the large number of health profession students in the area and the competition for sites, agencies and providers have asked that all Greater Middle Tennessee area VUSN placements be coordinated by a school representative. Students are not to reach out to local sites to arrange their own placements. If you identify a possible local placement, please contact your specialty director or course coordinator first; they will work with the Clinical Placement office staff to see if a placement is possible.

### ***Placements outside the Greater Middle Tennessee Area - Specialty Year***

For students admitted as OMTA (outside the Greater Middle Tennessee Area), students, faculty, and the Clinical

Placement staff work collaboratively to locate OMTA sites. Students are encouraged to develop a list of possible sites, as they often have a better knowledge of the area and can use personal networks and connections to identify a potential rotation.

The Clinical Placement office will research the area and share information on agencies and practices where VUSN either has an existing relationship or where a previous student has precepted. The Clinical Placement office also coordinates with the Alumni Relations office to share information on alumni in the area who might be able to assist.

Once the student has secured agreement from a preceptor for a rotation, they must submit information through the Clinical Placement system. This enables the faculty to vet the preceptor and ensure the experience is appropriate and will meet both the specialty requirements and the student's educational needs.

Once the faculty has vetted the preceptor, the Clinical Placement office is responsible for ensuring all appropriate agreements are in place and all agency requirements met, before a student may begin their rotation. Vanderbilt requires an agreement with all sites where a student will obtain experience. This includes the practice site as well as any ancillary sites, such as hospitals, surgery centers, and nursing homes. A student may not go with the preceptor to a site where the school does not have an active affiliation agreement. Even when Vanderbilt has an agreement with the site, the Clinical Placement office is required to confirm it is still valid.

Students are strongly encouraged to plan ahead. Given the competition for clinical placements in some parts of the country, securing a preceptor and negotiating and finalizing the necessary agreements can take several months, and in some cases up to a year.

In rare cases, Vanderbilt is unable to come to an agreement with an agency, or a particular area may not have an appropriate site or preceptor available; the Clinical Placement staff communicates on a regular basis with the faculty to allow sufficient time for a student to secure another placement, if necessary. Faculty must approve any additional sites for the student's clinical experience to ensure that the sites are necessary or appropriate to the student's clinical objectives. The number of sites and contracts will be limited per student. Due to the large number of placements each term, requests for rotations for a minimal number of hours (typically less than 80) must be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis by the faculty before an agreement is initiated.

### ***Clinical Requirements - MTA and OMTA***

For clinicals at the specialty level, an active and unencumbered RN license, valid for the state in which the student is doing the rotation, is required. Depending on the clinical placement location, students may be required to obtain additional state licenses. Due to regulatory requirements or a lack of available preceptors, VUSN cannot accommodate clinical placements in all areas of the country.

All requirements for enrollment must be completed and on file (see **Registration**) at the time of enrollment and must be kept current throughout the student's clinical practica. Clinical preceptors and/or agencies may require a drug screening, fingerprinting, additional criminal background checks, or other requirements specific to that site. Costs associated with these processes are the responsibility of the student. The Clinical Placement office will notify students of any additional requirements associated with their rotation.

Students may not begin their clinical rotations until they have met all the site requirements and have received confirmation from their faculty and the Clinical Placement office that they are cleared to start.

### ***Transportation and Lodging***

Students are responsible for their lodging and transportation to and from all clinical facilities and field trips. Practice sites should be chosen for their ability to provide experiences consistent with the program requirements, the mission of the school, and individual student objectives. MSN and PMC students should be prepared to travel 150 miles from the nursing school.

### **Tennessee Board of Nursing Eligibility Requirements for Licensure**

See Tennessee Board of Nursing Rules and Regulations at <https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules/1000/1000.htm> for information regarding eligibility for RN licensure in Tennessee.

Any individual who applies for initial licensure, temporary permit, or licensure renewal and supplies false or incomplete information regarding the individual's criminal record to the Board on an application for licensure will be denied said initial licensure, temporary permit, or renewal.

### **Student Dress Code**

Student dress code requirements are listed in the School of Nursing Student Handbook.

## **Academic Standards**

### **Good Academic Standing**

Good academic standing for M.S.N. and post-master's certificate students is defined as both a semester GPA of 3.0 or higher and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, all grades B- or higher and all grades of Satisfactory. Academic standing may also be altered by failure to maintain up-to-date documentation of student enrollment requirements (e.g., license, health requirements) or by unlawful conduct during enrollment.

Students who receive federal student financial aid may be required to meet different or additional requirements of "satisfactory academic progress" for financial aid purposes. For more information, please see: [vanderbilt.edu/enrollmentbulletin/financial-information/satisfactory-academic-progress-standards/](http://vanderbilt.edu/enrollmentbulletin/financial-information/satisfactory-academic-progress-standards/).

### **Completion of Program**

Students admitted to the M.S.N. program through the pre-specialty component must complete all pre-specialty courses within two calendar years and the specialty curriculum within three calendar years. Leaves of absence are counted in this time frame.

Students admitted to an M.S.N. specialty with a B.S.N. and post-master's students must complete the curriculum within three calendar years. Leaves of absence are counted in this time frame.

### **Grading System**

Letter Grade	Numerical Points	Quality Equivalent
A+	97-100	4.0
A	93-96	4.0
A-	90-92	3.7
B+	87-89	3.3
B	83-86	3.0
B-	80-82	2.7
C+	77-79	2.3
C	73-76	2.0
C-	70-72	1.7
F	69 or below	0.0

All letter grades are counted in the computation of grade point averages. F grades are also counted in the computation of grade point averages, unless the course is repeated and completed with a passing grade. The grades Pass/Fail and Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory are not counted toward grade point averages.

**C.** The grade of C+ or below is not a passing grade. A student earning a grade lower than a B- in any required nursing course must repeat the course. A student may repeat one course, one time due to a grade less than B-. If after repeating a course for a grade less than B-, the student receives another grade less than B-, the student will be dismissed.

**F.** All F grades are counted in the computations of grade point ratios unless the student repeats the course and earns a passing grade.

**I. Incomplete.** An incomplete grade is a temporary grade given to a student who meets the following criteria:

- Requires additional time to complete course work after the conclusion of a course. All course requirements must be submitted for grading no later than the end of the next enrolled semester or the grade will automatically be converted to an F. (If a Leave of Absence is taken in the following semester, the grade of "I" must be removed by the end of the next enrolled semester.)
- Demonstrates ongoing and timely communication during the course with course coordinator.
- Obtains approval from the course coordinator for an incomplete grade. Students must follow the steps given in the VUSN Student Handbook [nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/current/pdf/handbook.pdf](http://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/current/pdf/handbook.pdf). Petitions for an incomplete course grade must be submitted to the course coordinator prior to grades being due for the semester. Completes a new contract with the course coordinator if an extension of the original contract is necessary.
- Understands that a pending incomplete grade in a prerequisite course for a course in the next semester may result in a change of progression.

**I: Incomplete in clinical course.** Students receiving a grade of I in a clinical course must register for zero hours of NURS 5999-Clinical Continuation. Tuition is charged at a rate of \$200.00.

**Late work.** Course assignments must be turned in on the date specified by the syllabus or the instructor. The grade for work not done in compliance with this schedule is zero unless an extension has been granted. Commonly five points per day will be deducted for work submitted after the assigned due date, but the deduction depends on the assignment, course syllabus, and decision between the faculty and student.

The student must request an extension from the course coordinator or instructor at least one day before the work is due. The course faculty/coordinator will deny or approve the request. If approved, the course faculty/coordinator and student negotiate a revised due date.

### **Repeat Courses**

Students enrolled in the M.S.N. program or post-master's certificate program are required to earn a grade of B- or higher or a grade of Satisfactory in all required courses. If a grade less than B- or a grade of Unsatisfactory is earned, the course must be repeated.

- Only one nursing course may be repeated one time.
- Only the latest grade counts in calculation of the grade point average.
- A student may only register for the same course twice. If the course is not successfully completed after the second registration, a third registration is not permitted (and the student may be subject to dismissal from the program). Course withdrawals count in the number of times a student may register for a course.
- If a grade less than a B- is earned in a required elective course and another (different) elective course may be taken to replace a required elective, the grade of the initial elective will continue to average in the GPA.
- A course taken at VUSN may not be repeated outside VUSN for credit toward the degree.
- Due to the sequential nature of nursing courses, repeating a course may necessitate dropping to a part-time program of study.
- Courses taken for a letter grade may not be repeated on a pass/fail basis, nor may a grade indicating withdrawal or incomplete work be counted in place of a letter grade.
- Students may not repeat a course already successfully completed.

### **Academic Probation/Dismissal**

The academic performance of MSN and P.M.C. students is reviewed by the MSN Student Admission and Academic Affairs (SAAA) committees at the end of each semester.

The committee, on the recommendation of the student's instructors, academic director, and/or academic adviser, promotes only those students who have demonstrated personal, professional, and intellectual achievement consistent with faculty expectations at the student's particular stage of professional development. If a student is deficient in a major area, the committee will review the student's total program performance.

Students will be placed on probation:

- If a semester GPA less than a 3.0 is earned.
- Only once during the entire program of study.

Students will be dismissed if:

- Previously placed on probation and the student's record warrants another probation. A student may be placed on probation only once during their entire program of studies.
- A second course grade is less than a B- or Unsatisfactory.
- Two or more grades earned during the program are less than a B- or Unsatisfactory.
- Unsatisfactory progress toward the degree is being made and improvement is judged unlikely.

When a student is placed on probation or dismissed, letters are sent to the student, the student's adviser, and the academic director. If a student cannot improve their grade point average because the needed course cannot be repeated in the following semester, the student will be continued on probation if satisfactory completion of the course in a subsequent semester will give the student at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average.

### **Readmission**

An M.S.N. or post-master's certificate (P.M.C.) student who has been dismissed or has withdrawn from the program may apply for readmission after an intervening period of at least one semester. The student will complete a new online application available at [apply.vanderbilt.edu/apply/](http://apply.vanderbilt.edu/apply/). An applicant for readmission must address the reason(s) that they left Vanderbilt and present a plan specifying changes that they made in order to ensure academic success.

The Student Admissions and Academic Affairs (SAAA) Committee will consider an application for readmission on presentation of substantial evidence of a responsible and successful period of work or study during the intervening period.

- There is no guarantee that a student will be readmitted. Readmission will depend on (a) evaluation of the likelihood of the applicant's successful performance in succeeding work; (b) the strength of the application; and (c) available program space.
- If the applicant's prior record warrants, they will be readmitted on probation.
- If additional course(s) have been completed since the applicant was last enrolled at VUSN, the applicant must provide an official transcript of all completed course(s).

Readmitted students must complete a new background check upon return.

### **Progression**

Most required nursing courses are sequential, and a student who fails to pass such a course cannot progress in the nursing curriculum until the course is successfully completed. This means that a student may not be permitted to take any other coursework until the course has been successfully completed.

To progress from the MSN generalist component to the MSN specialist nursing component, students who entered with a degree in a field other than nursing must:

- complete all required courses with grades B- or higher and
- earn at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average.

Students who entered with an A.D.N., an A.S.N., or a hospital diploma, must

- complete all required courses with grades B- or higher and
- earn at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average.

### **Registered Nurse Licensure**

- Students must hold an active Tennessee nursing license or an unencumbered registered nurse's license in the state where the student is completing specialty clinical training.
- Students must pass the NCLEX-RN exam before taking specialty level clinical courses.
- Specialty students must pass the NCLEX-RN exam by the end of the second of the specialty curriculum (whether full- or part-time).
- Specialty student who does not pass the NCLEX-RN exam by the end of the spring semester must take a Leave of Absence (LOA). The student can return after passing the NCLEX-RN exam and in accordance with the LOA policy.



## **Eligibility for Registered Nurse (R.N.) Licensure**

Students who entered with a degree other than nursing are eligible to apply to the National Council on Licensure Examination to become a registered nurse (NCLEX-RN) upon meeting the requirements specified by the Tennessee State Board of Nursing and upon recommendation by the faculty and the dean. To be recommended, students must meet the following requirements: (a) completion of the pre-specialty portion of the curriculum; (b) good academic standing (cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above); (c) no grade less than B-; (d) no incomplete grades; and (e) satisfactory criminal background check. Students who are ineligible to take the NCLEX-RN after completing the appropriate courses will not be allowed to enroll in specialty courses.

Students who are not successful on the first writing of the NCLEX-RN are subject to withdrawal from specialty level courses with a clinical component. The student cannot attend clinical practica until the R.N. license is obtained. The program of study for full-time students will be altered because of delay in being able to participate in clinical courses. Additional semester(s) will be required to complete clinical courses.

Students who do not enter as registered nurses are required to take examinations and review courses as specified by the senior associate dean for academics to prepare for the NCLEX-RN.

## **V.U.S.N. Clinical Placement**

The Clinical Placement Office works collaboratively with faculty, program directors, and students to ensure all students have a productive clinical experience. Clinical sites and preceptors are chosen for their ability to provide students with clinical experiences consistent with course and certification requirements and the mission of the school. Due to regulatory requirements or a lack of available and appropriate preceptors, VUSN may not be able to accommodate clinical placements in all areas of the country. Students should discuss their preferences with their specialty faculty to be sure they understand all possible options.

### **Pre-Specialty Year Rotations**

Students during their pre-specialty year will be placed in group clinical experiences. These group experiences may be in a hospital or community setting.

### **Placements within the Greater Middle Tennessee Area - Specialty Year**

For students admitted as MTA (Greater Middle Tennessee Area) students, the Clinical Placement Office works with the specialty faculty to secure clinical sites. Clinical sites located within a 150-mile radius from the School of Nursing are considered to be within this area. As a result, students may have rotations in Kentucky, Alabama, and east or west Tennessee, depending on the appropriateness of the site. Faculty take into consideration a number of factors in assigning students to sites, including home address, specialty needs, and clinical interests.

Given the large number of health profession students in the area and the competition for sites, agencies and providers have asked that all Greater Middle Tennessee area VUSN placements be coordinated by a school representative. Students are not to reach out to local sites to arrange their own placements. If you identify a possible local placement, please contact your specialty director or course coordinator first; they will work with the Clinical Placement office staff to see if a placement is possible.

### **Placements outside the Greater Middle Tennessee Area - Specialty Year**

For students admitted as OMTA (outside the Greater Middle Tennessee Area), students, faculty, and the Clinical Placement staff work collaboratively to locate OMTA sites. Students are encouraged to develop a list of possible sites, as they often have a better knowledge of the area and can use personal networks and connections to identify a potential rotation.

The Clinical Placement office will research the area and share information on agencies and practices where VUSN either has an existing relationship or where a previous student has precepted. The Clinical Placement office also coordinates with the Alumni Relations office to share information on alumni in the area who might be able to assist.

Once the student has secured agreement from a preceptor for a rotation, s/he must submit information through the Clinical Placement system. This enables the faculty to vet the preceptor and ensure the experience is appropriate and will meet both the specialty requirements and the student's educational needs.

Once the faculty has vetted the preceptor, the Clinical Placement office is responsible for ensuring all appropriate agreements are in place and all agency requirements met, before a student may begin their rotation. Vanderbilt requires an agreement with all sites where a student will obtain experience. This includes the practice site as well as any ancillary sites, such as hospitals, surgery centers, and nursing homes. A student may not go with the preceptor to a site where the school does not have an active affiliation agreement. Even when Vanderbilt has an agreement with the site, the Clinical Placement office is required to confirm it is still valid.

Students are strongly encouraged to plan ahead. Given the competition for clinical placements in some parts of the country, securing a preceptor and negotiating and finalizing the necessary agreements can take several months, and in some cases up to a year.

In rare cases, Vanderbilt is unable to come to an agreement with an agency, or a particular area may not have an appropriate site or preceptor available; the Clinical Placement staff communicates on a regular basis with the faculty to allow sufficient time for a student to secure another placement, if necessary.

Faculty must approve any additional sites for the student's clinical experience to ensure that the sites are necessary or appropriate to the student's clinical objectives. The number of sites and contracts will be limited per student. Due to the large number of placements each term, requests for rotations for a minimal number of hours (typically less than 80) must be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis by the faculty before an agreement is initiated.

### **Clinical Requirements - MTA and OMTA**

For clinicals at the specialty level, an active and unencumbered RN license, valid for the state in which the student is doing the rotation, is required. Depending on the clinical placement location, students may be required to obtain additional state licenses. Due to regulatory requirements or a lack of available preceptors, VUSN cannot accommodate clinical placements in all areas of the country.

All requirements for enrollment must be completed and on file (see Registration) at the time of enrollment and must be kept current throughout the student's clinical practica. Clinical preceptors and/or agencies may require a drug screening, fingerprinting, additional criminal background checks, or other requirements specific to that site. Costs associated with these processes are the responsibility of the student. The Clinical Placement office will notify students of any additional requirements associated with their rotation.

Students may not begin their clinical rotations until they have met all the site requirements and have received confirmation from their faculty and the Clinical Placement office that they are cleared to start.

### **Tennessee Board of Nursing Eligibility Requirements for Licensure**

See Tennessee Board of Nursing Rules and Regulations at [publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules/1000/1000.htm](http://publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules/1000/1000.htm) for information regarding eligibility for RN licensure in Tennessee.

Any individual who applies for initial licensure, temporary permit, or licensure renewal and supplies false or incomplete information regarding the individual's criminal record to the Board on an application for licensure will be denied said initial licensure, temporary permit, or renewal.

## **Post-Master's Certificates**

# Post-Master's Certificate Program

The purpose of the Post-Master's Certificate (P.M.C.) program is to provide, for nurses who already hold a master's or doctoral (D.N.P.) degree in nursing, an educational route to specialization in an area other than that obtained in their master's or D.N.P. program. The program is designed to strengthen or broaden the clinical capabilities of master's- or D.N.P.-prepared nurses who are planning a role expansion or role change. Post-master's certificate students are expected to master the same outcome criteria as M.S.N. advanced practice nursing students.

Post-master's certificate students must successfully complete all didactic and clinical requirements of the desired area of practice. In order to obtain a post-master's certificate in a nurse practitioner specialty, students are required to complete a minimum of 500 supervised hours in direct patient care.

The program of study includes academic and clinical courses, and completion results in awarding a certificate of academic achievement of post-master's study. Students do not complete a second M.S.N., but only the necessary courses to earn the post-master's certificate in the new specialty area. Completion of the requirements for the postmaster's certificate is posted on the student's official Vanderbilt University transcript. Post-master's certificate students are not awarded a Vanderbilt University School of Nursing pin—the pin is presented only to students who complete the M.S.N.

## Program Goals/Outcomes

The goals of the Post-Master's Certificate nursing program are to prepare:

- For advanced practice roles including nurse-midwives, nurse practitioners, nurse informaticists, and nurse leaders who have expertise and advanced knowledge in a specialty area and can function in complex situations independently and/or collaboratively with health care teams;
- To evaluate and apply advanced knowledge by means of critical thinking, clinical reasoning, ethical principles, and the use of current and emerging technologies and electronic data in relation to advanced nursing practice.

## Admission

All applicants apply online at [apply.vanderbilt.edu/apply](https://apply.vanderbilt.edu/apply).

The curriculum for the School of Nursing places great intellectual, psychological, motor, and sensory demands on students. Please refer to the section on core performance standards found in the Nursing Education at Vanderbilt chapter. In accordance with Vanderbilt's non-discrimination policy, the M.S.N. Student Admissions and Academic Affairs Committee is charged with making individualized determinations of the ability of each candidate for admission to successfully complete the certificate requirements.

All information submitted in the application process must be the applicant's own work, complete, factually true, and honestly presented. Applicants providing false information may be subject to a range of possible disciplinary actions, including admission revocation, expulsion, or revocation of course credit, grades, and degree.

Applicants may apply to the post-master's certificate program alone or in conjunction with application to the Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

## Admission Requirements

1. A master's or D.N.P. degree in nursing from an A.C.E.N.- or C.C.N.E.-accredited program.
2. Completed application and official transcript documenting conferral of master's or D.N.P. degree in nursing.
3. Unencumbered Registered Nurse license in the state where the student is doing clinical training.
4. All other admission requirements (statement of purpose, responses to application questions, references, and transcripts) must be completed. Applicants to the neonatal nurse practitioner specialty must provide recommendations from an NNP and a neonatologist that have worked with the applicant in a clinical setting.
5. Approval by the specialty director.

## Payment of Tuition, Fees, and Refunds

See the Financial Information section of this catalog.

## **Academic Standards and Regulations**

Students who are enrolled in the P.M.C. program must meet the same academic standards for enrollment, progression, and program completion as M.S.N. students. See Academic Regulations section under M.S.N. students. If a D.N.P. student is enrolled in a P.M.C. plan of study, D.N.P. academic standards and regulations apply.

## **Advanced Practice Roles Offered**

Post-master's certificate programs are available in the following specialties: adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner, adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner, emergency nurse practitioner, family nurse practitioner, neonatal nurse practitioner, nurse-midwifery, nurse-midwifery/family nurse practitioner, pediatric nurse practitioner (acute or primary care), psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioner (lifespan), and women's health nurse practitioner. Sample curriculum plans for the specific advanced practice specialty are available in the Student Handbook and on the website at [nursing.vanderbilt.edu](http://nursing.vanderbilt.edu).

## **Program of Studies**

The specialty director develops an individualized program of studies for a P.M.C. student based on evaluation of the student's prior academic work and a gap analysis of courses/experiences needed to qualify for advanced practice certification in the student's desired specialty. The student's program of study will contain didactic and clinical experiences sufficient to allow the student to master the competencies and meet the criteria for national certification in the population-focused area of practice. At least 12 credit hours must be taken at Vanderbilt to earn a post-master's certificate. Each student's record contains documentation of credit granted for prior didactic and clinical experiences through a gap analysis. The transcript for a P.M.C. advanced practice nurse graduate shows educational preparation for the advanced practice nurse role and at least one (1) population focus. Completion of the APRN clinical core courses (advanced physiology/pathophysiology, advanced health assessment, and advanced pharmacology) is required. Documentation of previous completion or need to complete the clinical core courses must be on the gap analysis. No transfer credit is awarded; all required courses must be taken at Vanderbilt. Twelve credit hours is the usual minimum amount of course work for a post-master's certificate, however, exceptions can be granted dependent on the gap analysis.

## **Certification**

Graduates are encouraged to become certified in their specialties and should consult their specialty directors for details. Certification is offered through several professional nursing organizations, including the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Graduates of each specialty are eligible to sit for the certification exams specific to their specialty. Some exams require documented work hours after graduation.

Certification examinations from the American Nursing Credentialing Center include adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner, adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner, family nurse practitioner, psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner (lifespan), and advanced nursing executive examinations. Graduates of the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program are also eligible to take the certification exam through the American Association of Critical Care Nurse Certification Corp. Graduates of the adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner, emergency nurse practitioner, and family nurse practitioner specialties are also eligible to take the certification exam offered by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board.

The Nursing Credentialing Center offers the women's health nurse practitioner and neonatal nurse practitioner exams. The Pediatric Nursing Practitioners Certification Board offers the pediatric nurse practitioner primary care and the pediatric nurse practitioner acute care exams for which Vanderbilt graduates are eligible. The American Midwifery Certification Board offers the nurse-midwifery certification exam.

# Emergency Nurse Practitioner Post-Master's Certificate

PROGRAM DIRECTOR Jennifer Wilbeck

The Emergency Nurse Practitioner role has long been established clinically, but academic programs offering educational preparation in this specialty role have only been in existence less than twenty years. The educational foundation of the FNP role provides the requisite foundation for ENP practice, but lacks any specialty content for a unique population. FNPs who desire a focus on emergency care need a specialized curriculum providing emergent and resuscitative care competencies, building on the FNP generalist foundation.

Recently, in response to ENP workforce growth and with acknowledged need for demonstrable competencies via certification, the American Association of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board announced plans to offer an ENP certification examination beginning in 2017. Graduates of the ENP PMC program will be eligible to take this certification exam.

## Eligibility for Admission to the ENP Post-Master's Certificate Nursing Program

The requirements for admission to the ENP PMC include the following:

1. A master's degree in nursing (M.S.N.) or a doctor of nursing practice (D.N.P.) from an accredited program
2. Completed application and official transcript documenting conferral of master's degree in nursing or the doctor of nursing practice
3. Unencumbered registered nurse license in the state where the student will obtain clinical training
4. National certification as a family nurse practitioner

A student may be enrolled in post-master's certificate courses while enrolled as a Vanderbilt doctor of nursing practice (D.N.P.) student; however, students may also be enrolled in only the PMC and not be enrolled in a degree-seeking program. Only students with a previous M.S.N. or D.N.P. and current national certification as an FNP may enroll in the ENP PMC.

## Certificate Requirements-12 credit hours total

Students complete a two-semester program totaling 12 credit hours. Classes will begin only in the fall semester and will include both one (1) didactic and one (1) clinical course in the first (fall) semester. The following semester (spring) will include one (1) didactic and one (1) clinical course.

### Sample Curriculum

#### FALL

NURS 6143	Intro. to Point of Care Ultrasound (2 credit hours)
NURS 6361	Patho and Collaborative Management in Emergent and Critical Care (3 credit hours)
NURS 6365	Trauma, Emergency, and Critical Care Clinical I (3 credit hours)

#### SPRING

NURS 6301	Concepts in Emergency Nursing (3 credit hours)
NURS 6375	Trauma, Emergency, and Critical Care Clinical II (3 credit hours)

**Total: 14 credit hours**

# Doctor of Nursing Practice

# The D.N.P. Degree

ASST. DEAN for ACADEMICS - DNP PROGRAM: Terri Allison

ASST DIRECTOR of DNP PROGRAM: Karen Hande

PROFESSORS: Terri Allison, Mark Frisse, Mary Jo Gilmer, Rolanda Johnson, April Kapu, Sharon Karp, Betsy Kennedy, Jennifer Kim, Ruth Kleinpell, Linda Norman, Mavis Schorn, Jennifer Wilbeck, Carol Ziegler

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS: Debbie Arnow, Laurie Conners, Stephanie Devane-Johnson, Karen Hande, Pam Jones, Brenda Kulhanek, Mary Lambert, Jana Lauderdale, Susie Leming-Lee, Melanie Lutenbacher, Betty Moore, Ginny Moore, Abby Parish, Courtney Pitts, Geri Reeves, Patricia Sengstack, Megan Shifrin, Dawn VanderHoef, Brian Widmar

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS: Angel Anthamatten, Sharon Bryant, Carol Callaway-Lane, Courtney Cook, Melissa Davis, Misty Evans, Sarah Gast, Melissa Glassford,, Michael Gooch, K. Melissa Smith-Hayes, Queen Henry-Okafor, Jo Ellen Holt, Leslie Hopkins, Becky Keck, Christian Ketel, Kanah Lewallen,,Natasha McClure, Brittany Nelson, Mary Lauren-Pfieffer, Julia Phillippi, Rameela Raman, Anna Richmond, Michelle Ruslavage, Patricia Scott, Kim Steanson, Julia Steed, Clare Thomson-Smith, Jessica Walker, Pam Waynick-Rogers, Christopher Ty Williams, Marci Zsamboky

INSTRUCTORS Sheree Allen, Melanie Allison, Sarah Folliard, Marshay James, Jason Jean, Michele Martens, Matthew Martin, Colleen Moss, Ken Nelson, Susanna Rudy, Stefani Yudasz

## **DEGREE OFFERED: Doctor of Nursing Practice**

The Doctor of Nursing Practice program prepares leaders in advanced nursing practice to bring evidence-based knowledge into the practice arena, improve health care outcomes and strengthen the leadership role in guiding complex care delivery and nursing education.

Increased complexity in health care, the explosion of knowledge and technology, and national issues related to patient safety and quality improvement call for fundamental changes in the education of all health care professionals. Redesigning care processes are indicated, with information technology systems enhancing evidence-based decision making at both the macro- and micro-system levels.

Addressing the above challenges identified by the Institute of Medicine and other national organizations, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (A.A.C.N.) published a position paper in 2004 targeting the adoption of the D.N.P. as the terminal degree for advanced nursing practice.

Advanced nursing practice is any form of nursing intervention that influences health care outcomes for individuals or populations, including the direct care of individual patients, management of care for specific populations, administration of nursing and health care organizations, and the development and implementation of health care policy.

VUSN has a long history of educating advanced practice nurses at the master's level in both direct and indirect patient care, e.g., nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, clinical nurse specialists, nursing informatics specialists, and health care leaders. Nurses prepared in practice doctorate programs have a blend of clinical, organizational, economic, and leadership skills to enable them to use nursing and other scientific findings to design sustainable programs of care delivery that are innovative, economically feasible and have significant impact on health care outcomes.

## **D.N.P. Degree Requirements**

# **DNP Advanced Clinical Practice Track, Advanced Systems Practice Track, and Executive Leadership Track**

There are three post-master's entry tracks for the DNP degree. The curriculum includes 36 hours of required coursework and can be completed over five or six semesters. Courses are delivered using a combination of formats with one on-site intensive experience each semester, comprised of 3-4 days each, with the remainder of the coursework completed using distance learning technologies. Requirements for the degree include successful completion of advanced coursework to include a minimum of 500 hours of practice integration and the successful completion of a project. All degree requirements must be completed within five years of enrollment.

*Course Load:* The unit of measure of the student's work load is the semester hour. All references to credit hours are semester hours. The normal full-time schedule is 6 hours per semester. The student's status is defined as follows:

- Full time: Registered for 6 or more hours;
- Half time: Registered for at least 2-3 hours, but less than 6 hours;
- Less than half time: Registered for at least 1 hour, but less than 3

### **Application Procedure**

The D.N.P. application is online at [apply.vanderbilt.edu/apply/](https://apply.vanderbilt.edu/apply/). A \$50 non-refundable fee is required when the application is submitted. The School of Nursing begins reviewing applications for admission to its new fall class on December 1. Applications received after December 1 are reviewed on a rolling basis until all spaces are full. All application materials must be received before the application can be sent for faculty review. A \$500 nonrefundable matriculation fee is required upon acceptance. All information submitted in the application process must be the applicant's own work, factually true and honestly presented. Applicants providing false information may be subject to a range of possible disciplinary actions, including admission revocation, expulsion, or revocation of course credit, grades and degree.

Applications are considered current for one year; accepted applicants who do not enroll during that time must reapply for admission. Students may apply for one deferral of admission, not to exceed one year, which must be approved by the D.N.P. Student Admissions and Academic Affairs Committee (SAAA) based on extenuating circumstances. After one year, the student must reapply for admission.

### **Required Courses**

<b>Required Courses</b>		<b>Credit Hours</b>
NURS 8010	Evidence-Based Practice I: The Nature of Evidence	2
		2
NURS 8012	Informatics for Scholarly Practice	
NURS 8064	Scholarly Writing	1
NURS 8014	Statistics in Health Sciences	3
NURS 8022	Evidence-Based Practice II: Evaluating and Applying Evidence	3
NURS 8024	Epidemiology	3
NURS 8032	Health Care Economics and Finance	3
or NURS 8034	Advanced Health Economics and Finance	
NURS 8042	Quality Improvement and Patient Safety	3
NURS 8044	Management of Organizations and Systems	3
or NURS 8045	Evidence-Based Mgmt in Health Care Organizations and Systems (required for Executive Leadership Track)	
NURS 8052	Health Policy	2
NURS 8054	Legal and Ethical Environment	3
		4
NURS 8105	Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice	
NURS 8069	Lean Methodology (required for Executive Leadership Track)	2
	Elective Courses	2/4
-	Total	<b>36</b>

## **BSN Entry to DNP: AGACNP Curriculum Plan and Required Hours**

<b>Semester</b>	<b>Course Number and Name</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
<b>Fall I</b>	NURS 6045 Professional Formation 1: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice	2
	NURS 6102 Advanced Physiology and Pathophysiology	4
	NURS 6103 Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics	3
	NURS 6114 Pathophysiology and Collaborative Management in Acute Care for the Adult-Gerontology ACNP I	3
	NURS 8064 Scholarly Writing	1
	Semester Total	13
<b>Spring I</b>	NURS 6124 Pathophysiology and Collaborative Management in Acute Care for the Adult-Gerontology ACNP II	3
	NURS 8014 Statistics in Health Sciences	3
	NURS 8054 Legal and Ethical Environment	3
	Semester Total	9
<b>Summer I</b>	NURS 6134 Pathophysiology and Collaborative Management in Acute Care for the Adult-Gerontology ACNP III	3



	NURS 8024	Epidemiology	3
	NURS 8032	Health Care Economics and Finance	3
		Semester Total	9
<b>Fall II</b>	NURS 6101	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning	3
	NURS 6105	Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner	1
	NURS 8010	Evidence-Based Practice I: The Nature of Evidence	2
	NURS 8042	Quality Improvement and Patient Safety	3
		Semester Total	9
<b>Spring II</b>	NURS 6115	Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Practicum <sup>3</sup>	4
	NURS 8022	Evidence-Based Practice II: Evaluating and Applying Evidence	3
	NURS 8105	Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice <sup>4</sup>	1
		Elective 1 (specialty required) <sup>1</sup>	2-3
		Semester Total	10-11
<b>Summer II</b>	NURS 6075	Professional Formation 4: Transition to Advanced Nursing Practice	1
	NURS 6195	Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship	4
	NURS 8105	Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice	1
		Semester Total	6
<b>Fall III</b>	NURS 8012	Informatics for Scholarly Practice	2
	NURS 8105	Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice	1
	NURS 8044	Management of Organizations and Systems	3
	NURS 6099	Clinical Elective <sup>2</sup>	2
		Semester Total	6-7
<b>Spring Year 3</b>	NURS 8105	Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice	1
	NURS 8052	Health Policy	2
		Semester Total	3
		Program Total	65-67

All students take the same core content. An optional intensivist focus area is offered including an elective and clinical experiences. The Intensivist program will require completion of 1-2 additional credit hours beyond the total listed in the B.S.N.-D.N.P. curriculum plan. Please note that acceptance into the intensivist focus requires residence in the Middle Tennessee/Nashville area prior to the start of the AGACNP clinical sequence.

\* Four elective credit hours are required for the DNP degree. Elective 1 may be a MSN or DNP level elective, as designated by your chosen specialty program. It may be for 2 or 3 credits, but it must be at least 2 credits.

\*\*This elective is not required to meet the specialty requirements for certification. The course offers an opportunity for students to obtain more in depth clinical experience in an area of interest.

AGACNP requires 630 clinical hours for the MSN degree; 500 direct clinical practice hours are required for board examination eligibility (MSN clinical hours are based upon a 1:5 ratio). DNP degree requires a minimum of 1000-practice hours post BSN (or 500 post-MSN). (DNP practice hours a based upon a 1:9 ratio)

## **BSN Entry to Advanced Clinical Practice DNP: FNP/ENP Specialty**

BSN ENTRY to DNP: FNP/ENP Curriculum Plan and Required Hours

<b>Semester</b>	<b>Course Number and Name</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
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<b>Fall I</b>	NURS 6010	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
	NURS 6011	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning	2
	NURS 6012	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab	1
	NURS 6020	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics	3
	NURS 6045	Professional Formation 1: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice	2
	NURS 8064	Scholarly Writing	1
		Semester Total	12
<b>Spring I</b>	NURS 6032	Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Woman	1
	NURS 6036	Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Child & Adolescent	3
	NURS 6521	The Context of Primary Care: FNP Domains and Core Competencies for Practice	2
	NURS 6532	Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Elderly	1
	NURS 8014	Statistics in Health Sciences	3
	NURS 8054	Legal and Ethical Environment	3
			Semester Total
<b>Summer I</b>	NURS 6143	Fundamentals of Point of Care Ultrasound for the Advanced Practice Provider	2
	NURS 8024	Epidemiology	3
	NURS 8032	Health Care Economics and Finance	3
			Semester Total
<b>Fall II</b>	NURS 6030	Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Adult	3
	NURS 6305	Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Emergency NP	1
	NURS 6535	Practicum in Primary Care of the Adult Dual Specialty	3
	NURS 8010	Evidence-Based Practice I: The Nature of Evidence	2
	NURS 8042	Quality Improvement and Patient Safety	3
		Semester Total	12
<b>Spring II</b>	NURS 6301	Concepts of Advanced Emergency Nursing	3
	NURS 6385	Practicum in Emergency Care I <sup>3</sup>	1
	NURS 6525	Practicum in Primary Health Care of the Child and Adolescent	2
	NURS 6395	Practicum in Emergency Care II	1
	NURS 8022	Evidence-Based Practice II: Evaluating and Applying Evidence	3
	NURS 8105	Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice <sup>4</sup>	1
		Semester Total	11
<b>Summer II</b>	NURS 6361	Pathophysiology & Collaborative Management in Emergent and Critical Care	3
	NURS 6365	Trauma, Emergency & Critical Care Clinical I	3
	NURS 6595	FNP Preceptorship for AGACNP/FNP Dual Specialty	3
	NURS 8105	Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice I	1
			Semester Total
<b>Fall III</b>	NURS 6099	Clinical Elective <sup>1</sup>	2
	NURS 8012	Informatics for Scholarly Practice	2
	NURS 8044	Management of Organizations and Systems	3
	NURS 8105	Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice	1
			Semester Total
<b>Spring III</b>	NURS 8052	Health Policy	2
	NURS 8105	Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice	1

Elective <sup>2</sup>	2
Semester Total	5
<b>Program Total</b>	<b>79</b>

## BSN ENTRY to DNP: FNP/ENP Curriculum Plan and Required Hours

Semester	Course Number and Name	Credit Hours
<b>Fall I</b>	NURS 6010 Advanced Pathophysiology	3
	NURS 6011 Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning	2
	NURS 6011L Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab	1
	NURS 6020 Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics	3
	NURS 6045 Professional Formation 1: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice	2
	NURS 8064 Scholarly Writing	1
	Semester Total	12
<b>Spring I</b>	NURS 6032 Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Woman	1
	NURS 6036 Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Child & Adolescent	3
	NURS 6521 The Context of Primary Care: FNP Domains and Core Competencies for Practice	2
	NURS 6532 Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Elderly	1
	NURS 8014 Statistics in Health Sciences	3
	NURS 8054 Legal and Ethical Environment	3
	Semester Total	13
<b>Summer I</b>	NURS 6143 Fundamentals of Point of Care Ultrasound for the Advanced Practice Provider	2
	NURS 8024 Epidemiology	3
	NURS 8032 Health Care Economics and Finance	3
	Semester Total	8
<b>Fall II</b>	NURS 6030 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Adult	3
	NURS 6305 Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Emergency NP	1
	NURS 6535 Practicum in Primary Care of the Adult Dual Specialty	3
	NURS 8010 Evidence-Based Practice I: The Nature of Evidence	2
	NURS 8042 Quality Improvement and Patient Safety	3
	Semester Total	12
<b>Spring II</b>	NURS 6301 Concepts of Advanced Emergency Nursing	3
	NURS 6385 Practicum in Emergency Care I <sup>3</sup>	1
	NURS 6525 Practicum in Primary Health Care of the Child and Adolescent	2
	NURS 6395 Practicum in Emergency Care II	1
	NURS 8022 Evidence-Based Practice II: Evaluating and Applying Evidence	3
	NURS 8105 Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice <sup>4</sup>	1
	Semester Total	11
<b>Summer II</b>	NURS 6361 Pathophysiology & Collaborative Management in Emergent and Critical Care	3

	NURS 6365	Trauma, Emergency & Critical Care Clinical I	3
	NURS 6595	FNP Preceptorship for AGACNP/FNP Dual Specialty	3
	NURS 8105	Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice I	1
		Semester Total	10
<b>Fall III</b>	NURS 6099	Clinical Elective <sup>1</sup>	2
	NURS 8012	Informatics for Scholarly Practice	2
	NURS 8044	Management of Organizations and Systems	3
	NURS 8105	Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice	1
		Semester Total	8
<b>Spring III</b>	NURS 8052	Health Policy	2
	NURS 8105	Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice	1
		Elective <sup>2</sup>	2
		Semester Total	5
		Program Total	79

## BSN ENTRY to DNP: FNP/ENP Curriculum Plan and Required Hours

<b>Semester</b>	Course Number and Name	Credit Hours	
<b>Fall I</b>	NURS 6010	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
	NURS 6011	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning	2
	NURS 6011L	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab	1
	NURS 6020	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics	3
	NURS 6045	Professional Formation 1: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice	2
	NURS 8064	Scholarly Writing	1
		Semester Total	12
<b>Spring I</b>	NURS 6032	Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Woman	1
	NURS 6036	Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Child & Adolescent	3
	NURS 6521	The Context of Primary Care: FNP Domains and Core Competencies for Practice	2
	NURS 6532	Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Elderly	1
	NURS 8014	Statistics in Health Sciences	3
	NURS 8054	Legal and Ethical Environment	3
		Semester Total	13
<b>Summer I</b>	NURS 6143	Fundamentals of Point of Care Ultrasound for the Advanced Practice Provider	2
	NURS 8024	Epidemiology	3
	NURS 8032	Health Care Economics and Finance	3
		Semester Total	8
<b>Fall II</b>	NURS 6030	Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Adult	3
	NURS 6305	Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Emergency NP	1
	NURS 6535	Practicum in Primary Care of the Adult Dual Specialty	3
	NURS 8010	Evidence-Based Practice I: The Nature of Evidence	2

	NURS 8042	Quality Improvement and Patient Safety	3
		Semester Total	12
<b>Spring II</b>	NURS 6301	Concepts of Advanced Emergency Nursing	3
	NURS 6385	Practicum in Emergency Care I <sup>3</sup>	1
	NURS 6525	Practicum in Primary Health Care of the Child and Adolescent	2
	NURS 6395	Practicum in Emergency Care II	1
	NURS 8022	Evidence-Based Practice II: Evaluating and Applying Evidence	3
	NURS 8105	Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice <sup>4</sup>	1
		Semester Total	11
<b>Summer II</b>	NURS 6361	Pathophysiology & Collaborative Management in Emergent and Critical Care	3
	NURS 6365	Trauma, Emergency & Critical Care Clinical I	3
	NURS 6595	FNP Preceptorship for AGACNP/FNP Dual Specialty	3
	NURS 8105	Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice I	1
		Semester Total	10
<b>Fall III</b>	NURS 6099	Clinical Elective <sup>1</sup>	2
	NURS 8012	Informatics for Scholarly Practice	2
	NURS 8044	Management of Organizations and Systems	3
	NURS 8105	Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice	1
		Semester Total	8
<b>Spring III</b>	NURS 8052	Health Policy	2
	NURS 8105	Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice Elective <sup>2</sup>	1
			2
		Semester Total	5
		Program Total	79

## **BSN ENTRY to DNP: FNP/ENP Curriculum Plan and Required Hours**

<b>Semester</b>	Course Number and Name	Credit Hours	
<b>Fall I</b>	NURS 6010	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
	NURS 6011	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning	2
	NURS 6011L	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab	1
	NURS 6020	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics	3
	NURS 6045	Professional Formation 1: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice	2
	NURS 8064	Scholarly Writing	1
		Semester Total	12
<b>Spring I</b>	NURS 6032	Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Woman	1
	NURS 6036	Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Child & Adolescent	3
	NURS 6521	The Context of Primary Care: FNP Domains and Core Competencies for Practice	2
	NURS 6532	Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Elderly	1
	NURS 8014	Statistics in Health Sciences	3
	NURS 8054	Legal and Ethical Environment	3

	Semester Total	13
<b>Summer I</b>	NURS 6143 Fundamentals of Point of Care Ultrasound for the Advanced Practice Provider	2
	NURS 8024 Epidemiology	3
	NURS 8032 Health Care Economics and Finance	3
	Semester Total	8
<b>Fall II</b>	NURS 6030 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Adult	3
	NURS 6305 Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Emergency NP	1
	NURS 6535 Practicum in Primary Care of the Adult Dual Specialty	3
	NURS 8010 Evidence-Based Practice I: The Nature of Evidence	2
	NURS 8042 Quality Improvement and Patient Safety	3
	Semester Total	12
<b>Spring II</b>	NURS 6301 Concepts of Advanced Emergency Nursing	3
	NURS 6385 Practicum in Emergency Care I <sup>3</sup>	1
	NURS 6525 Practicum in Primary Health Care of the Child and Adolescent	2
	NURS 6395 Practicum in Emergency Care II	1
	NURS 8022 Evidence-Based Practice II: Evaluating and Applying Evidence	3
	NURS 8105 Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice <sup>4</sup>	1
	Semester Total	11
<b>Summer II</b>	NURS 6361 Pathophysiology & Collaborative Management in Emergent and Critical Care	3
	NURS 6365 Trauma, Emergency & Critical Care Clinical I	3
	NURS 6595 FNP Preceptorship for AGACNP/FNP Dual Specialty	3
	NURS 8105 Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice I	1
	Semester Total	10
<b>Fall III</b>	NURS 6099 Clinical Elective <sup>1</sup>	2
	NURS 8012 Informatics for Scholarly Practice	
		2
	NURS 8044 Management of Organizations and Systems	3
	NURS 8105 Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice	1
	Semester Total	8
<b>Spring III</b>	NURS 8052 Health Policy	2
	NURS 8105 Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice Elective <sup>2</sup>	1
		2
	Semester Total	5
	Program Total	79

<sup>1</sup>This elective is not required to meet the specialty requirements for certification. The course offers an opportunity for students to obtain more in-depth clinical experience in an area of interest.

<sup>2</sup>Four elective credit hours are required for the DNP degree. Electives may be a MSN or DNP level elective, as designated by your chosen specialty program. It may be for 2 or 3 credits, but it must be at least 2 credits.

<sup>3</sup>ENP requires 980 clinical hours for the MSN degree (MSN clinical hours are based upon a 1:5 ratio).

<sup>4</sup>DNP requires a minimum of 1000 practice hours post BSN (or 500 post-MSN). (DNP practice hours are based upon a 1:9 ratio).

## **D.N.P. Admission**

Students enter the VUSN DNP program in one of the following categories:

### **Entry to the DNP Advanced Clinical Practice Track with an MSN Degree in Advanced Nursing Practice**

For students who have completed an advanced clinical practice program, this entry requires APRN certification as either a NP, CNM, CNS, or CRNA. For students who are progressing seamlessly from VUSN's MSN program, certification must be obtained prior to enrolling in NURS 8105: DNP Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice.

### **Entry to the DNP Advanced Systems Track**

This track has three entry options:

1. Applicants with an MSN in healthcare leadership, nursing administration, or nursing informatics may enter the Advanced Systems track or the Executive Leadership track (see below). National certification in the area of specialty is preferred.
2. Applicants with a BSN and a master's in a non-nursing, business- or health-related field to the Advanced Systems track must be certified or eligible for certification in one of the following:
  - American Organization for Nursing Leadership (A.O.N.L.) Certified in Executive Nursing Practice (C.E.N.P.). <https://www.aonl.org/initiatives/cenp>
  - American Nurses Credentialing Center (A.N.C.C.) Nurse Executive (NE-BC).

<https://www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/nurse-executive>

- American Nurses Credentialing Center Nurse Executive, Advanced (NEA-BC).

[www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/nurse-executive-advanced/](http://www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/nurse-executive-advanced/)

- Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Certified Professional in Health Information & Management Systems (CPHIMS).

[www.himss.org/resources-certification/cphims](http://www.himss.org/resources-certification/cphims)

- American Nurses Credentialing Center (A.N.C.C.) Informatics Nursing Certification (R.N.-BC) and have three years of informatics experience, with two of those years in a health care setting. <https://www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/informatics-nurse/>

Applicants may be awarded up to 500 clinical hours upon enrollment dependent on portfolio review, systems practice experience, and national certification relevant to advanced systems practice.

3. Applicants with an MSN in Nursing Education to the Advanced Systems track with an MSN or MN in Nursing Education must complete additional MSN level courses in Nursing and Healthcare Leadership as part of the DNP program and prior to enrollment in DNP courses, which lengthens the program of studies. A gap analysis will be conducted to evaluate completion of graduate level courses in Leadership, Finance, and Quality Improvement. The program length will be based on the individual gap analysis. After completing the MSN level courses, the student continues in DNP courses. Applicants with MSN or MN in Nursing Education to the advanced systems practice track must be certified or eligible for certification in one of the following:

- American Organization for Nursing Leadership (A.O.N.L.) Certified in Executive Nursing Practice (C.E.N.P.). <https://www.aonl.org/initiatives/cenp>
- American Nurses Credentialing Center (A.N.C.C.) Nurse Executive (NE-BC).

[www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/nurse-executive/](http://www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/nurse-executive/)

- American Nurses Credentialing Center Nurse Executive, Advanced (NEA-BC).

[www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/nurse-executive-advanced/](http://www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/nurse-executive-advanced/)

- Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Certified Professional in Health Information & Management Systems (CPHIMS).

[www.himss.org/resources-certification/cphims](http://www.himss.org/resources-certification/cphims)

- American Nurses Credentialing Center (A.N.C.C.) Informatics Nursing Certification (R.N.-BC) and have three years of informatics experience, with two of those years in a health care setting.

<https://www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/informatics-nurse/>

Applicants may be awarded up to 500 clinical hours upon enrollment dependent on portfolio review, prior MSN clinical hours, systems practice experience, and national certification relevant to advanced systems practice.

### **Entry to DNP Executive Leadership Track:**

This track has four entry options:

1. MSN in healthcare leadership or in nursing administration. Applicants may be awarded up to 500 clinical hours upon enrollment dependent on portfolio review, prior MSN clinical hours, systems practice experience, and national certification relevant to advanced systems practice
2. MSN in other advanced nursing practice specialties
3. BSN with a master's in a non-nursing, business- or health-related field (e.g. MBA, MPH, MHA, MMHC). Applicants may be awarded up to 500 clinical hours upon enrollment dependent on portfolio review, prior MSN clinical hours, systems practice experience, and national certification relevant to executive leadership practice.
4. MSN in Nursing Education: Applicants with an MSN or MN in Nursing Education must complete additional MSN level courses in Nursing and Healthcare Leadership as part of the DNP program and prior to enrollment in DNP courses, which lengthens the program of studies. A gap analysis will be conducted to evaluate completion of graduate level courses in Leadership, Finance, and Quality Improvement. The program length will be based on the individual gap analysis. After completing the MSN level courses, the student continues in DNP courses. Applicants may be awarded up to 500 clinical hours upon enrollment dependent on portfolio review, prior MSN clinical hours, systems practice experience, and national certification relevant to executive leadership practice.

Applicants to the Executive Leadership track must be certified or eligible for certification in one of the following:

- American Organization for Nursing Leadership (A.O.N.L.) Certified in Executive Nursing Practice (C.E.N.P.) <https://www.aonl.org/initiatives/cenp>
- American Nurses Credentialing Center (A.N.C.C.) Nurse Executive (NE-BC) [nursingworld.org/our-certifications/nurse-executive/](http://nursingworld.org/our-certifications/nurse-executive/)
- American Nurses Credentialing Center Nurse Executive, Advanced (NEA-BC) [nursingworld.org/our-certifications/nurse-executive-advanced/](http://nursingworld.org/our-certifications/nurse-executive-advanced/)
- American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE). [ache.org/fache](http://ache.org/fache)

### **Entry with MSN Adding Post-Master's Certificate**

Vanderbilt offers post-master's entry for advanced practice nurses who hold an MSN and wish to pursue additional advanced practice study for a new certification. Applicants with an MSN or MN in majors such as nursing education or clinical nurse leader must complete a Post-Master's Certificate in an advanced clinical practice specialty (Nurse-Midwifery or a Nurse Practitioner) as part of the DNP program, which lengthens the program of studies. The program length will be based on the individual portfolio review. After completing the Post-Master's Certificate portion, the student is eligible to take the national certification exam in the selected specialty, if required by the specialty, and continue in DNP courses. Applicants pursuing a new specialty should address their career goals for the new specialty as part of the DNP statement of professional goals.

### **Entry to BSN to DNP**

The BSN to DNP track is available for the following specialties: Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP) or Family Nurse Practitioner/Emergency Nurse Practitioner (FNP/ENP). The BSN entry to the DNP integrated program prepares students to provide an advanced level of evidence-based care to acute and critical care patient populations (AGACNP) or emergency care across the lifespan for all acuties (FNP/ENP). The program



emphasizes the implementation and evaluation of evidence, systems-level thinking, care quality and safety, and the development of meaningful interventions that may improve outcomes of care for the selected patient population. The program prepares students to serve as leaders in their area of practice. AGACNP students may build upon their program of study by additional specialization in the Intensivist focus option.

The BSN entry to the DNP program gives registered nurses with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree the ability to earn a Doctorate of Nursing Practice degree in eight semesters, without first obtaining a masters-level nursing degree. The BSN entry to DNP program requires the completion of 65-67 (AGACNP) or 79 (FNP/ENP) semester credit hours. The program is structured so that students complete nurse practitioner specialty and core DNP coursework first, and then transition into DNP-specific practice courses. Students will be eligible to take the specialty certification exam upon completion of specialty-specific course work and will be doctoral-prepared adult-gerontology acute care or family nurse practitioner/emergency nurse practitioners upon graduation. BSN entry to DNP students will complete a minimum of 1000 clinical/practice hours.

The DNP curriculum places great intellectual, psychological, motor, and sensory demands on students. In accordance with Vanderbilt's non-discrimination policy, the DNP Student Admissions and Academic Affairs Committee (SAAA) is charged with making individualized determinations of the ability of each candidate for admission to successfully complete the degree requirements. Vanderbilt School of Nursing considers the Internet communication link an essential learning resource for doctoral students. DNP students will be required to have a home computer, printer, and Internet service provider that has high-speed, broadband Internet access.

## **D.N.P.: The Academic Program**

### **DNP Program Goals**

Central to the DNP curriculum is the application of evidence-based practice methods within practice settings throughout the program of study. Evidence-based practice is classically defined as the integration of best research evidence with practice expertise and patient values to facilitate healthcare decision making. The goals of the DNP program are to prepare nurse scholars to:

1. Assess, analyze, evaluate, and manage complex health environments serving diverse populations to improve patient and population health outcomes;
2. Apply clinical scholarship and available evidence to make clinical and system decisions incorporating professional values and ethical principles;
3. Support and improve patient care and healthcare systems through the use of clinical practice models, health policy, informatics, and organizational leadership skills;
4. Advocate for clinical prevention, population health initiatives, and evidence-based health policy through interprofessional and stakeholder collaboration.

### **Student Classification**

The following classifications apply to all D.N.P. students:

*Regular Student.* Enrolled full time or part time in the School of Nursing, having met admission requirements.

*Special Student.* Enrolled in one or more non-clinical courses but not working toward the D.N.P. degree in the School of Nursing. A limit of 3 credit hours is permitted in this non-degree status. Successful completion of courses taken as a special student does not guarantee admission to the D.N.P. program. To be considered as a special student, an applicant must submit an online application form with transcripts and the non-refundable application fee at least two weeks before registration. Acceptance into a course is dependent upon availability of space and facilities after full-time and part-time students have been registered. Registration as a special student requires approval by the D.N.P. program director, Terri Allison. All university and School of Nursing regulations, including the Honor System, apply to special students. Special students who desire to change to regular student status should make application for admission following prescribed procedures.

### **Credit Hours**

The unit of measure of the student's work load is the semester hour. Credit hours are semester hours; e.g., a three-hour course carries credit of three semester hours. One semester credit hour represents at least three hours of academic work per week, on average, for one semester. Some Vanderbilt courses may have requirements which exceed this definition. Credit hours are determined based on course delivery methods, measurement of student work, and expectations of student achievement at the doctoral level. Credit hours taken per semester are used as a

basis for awarding financial aid. Academic work includes, but is not necessarily limited to, lectures, homework, research, class readings, discussion boards, independent study, and practica. Certain courses (e.g., independent study) are designated as repeatable as they contain evolving or iteratively new content. These courses may be taken multiple times for credit. If a course can be repeated, the number of credit hours allowable per semester will be included in the course description.

### **Course Load**

The unit of measure of the student's work load is the semester hour. All references to credit hours are semester hours. The normal full-time schedule is 6 hours per semester. Students admitted in fall 2018 or later are required to follow a five- or six-semester program of study as outlined in the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing Student Handbook. The student's status is defined as follows:

*Full time:* Registered for 6 or more hours

*Three-quarter time:* Enrolled in 4-5 credit hours

*Half time:* Enrolled in 2-3 credit hours

*Less-than-half time:* Registered for 1 credit hour

### **Ratio of Credit Hours to Clock Hours**

*Didactic.* Courses are offered in a blended format with one or more required face-to-face class sessions and one or more required online sessions. VUSN documents these activities through the class schedule or syllabus assuring that D.N.P. students are meeting the minimum semester hour credit hour requirement for the credit awarded. One credit hour for one hour of activity per week-1:1.

*Independent Study.* Independent learning or experience involving self-directed learning under indirect supervision by course or clinical faculty (credit varies according to type of activity).

*Practicum.* Practica are designed to demonstrate synthesis of expanded knowledge acquired within the D.N.P. curriculum. One credit hour for nine hours of activity per week-1:9. Practicum hours are not substantiated by the students' expertise in the health care system demonstrated prior to the D.N.P. program nor by time spent working on classroom assignments. The practicum hours signify the capability of the student to meet the AACN The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice (2006) [the Essentials]. [aacnnursing.org/DNP/DNP-Essentials](http://aacnnursing.org/DNP/DNP-Essentials). A minimum of 1,000 hours post B.S.N. or 500 hours post M.S.N. are required. The hours can be demonstrated through a variety of methods including:

- In-depth work/mentorship with experts from nursing, as well as other disciplines within practice environments
- Opportunities to build and assimilate knowledge for advanced specialty practice at a high level of complexity
- Opportunities for further synthesis and expansion of learning
- Experiences in the context within which the final D.N.P. project is completed
- Opportunities to integrate and synthesize the Essentials and specialty requirements necessary to demonstrate competency in an area of specialized advanced nursing practice

### **Practica**

Most students complete practice hours at their site of employment as an advanced practice nurse, health care leader, or nurse informaticist. Students are required to submit a signed "Letter of Understanding" between VUSN and their employer or practice site. The letter, though not a formal contract, is a signed memorandum of understanding that the student's employer is aware of the student's enrollment in the D.N.P. program at VUSN and will be able to work on the identified project topic within this professional practice setting under the supervision of the student's identified project committee and in association with the agency facilitator. The D.N.P. program director reviews the practice site for appropriateness and signs the letter of understanding. For students not employed in a setting appropriate to their area of study in the D.N.P. program, VUSN will execute affiliation agreements with a specified agency and preceptor for the student's practica course work. D.N.P students will be asked to complete the immunization/certification requirements as required by the school. Practice mentors and/or agencies may require a drug screening or additional criminal background check. Costs associated with these processes are the responsibility of the student.

## **Ph.D. in Nursing Science**

PROGRAM DIRECTOR Terrah Foster Akard

PROFESSORS Julie Barroso, Mary Jo Gilmer, Marianna LaNoue, Linda D. Norman

RESEARCH PROFESSORS Mary S. Dietrich, Nancy L. Wells

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS Terrah L. Akard, Jana L. Lauderdale, Melanie Lutenbacher, Anne M. Miller, Elizabeth R. Moore, Shelagh A. Mulvaney

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS Leanne Boehm, Kate Clouse, Alvin Jeffrey, Sharon M. Karp, Cathy A. Maxwell, Mulubrhan Mogos, Jeremy Neal, Chorong Park, Julia C. Phillippi, Bethany Rhoten, Lori Schirle, Deonni Stoldorf

## **DEGREE OFFERED: Doctor of Philosophy**

This program prepares scholars for research and academic careers in major universities and for research positions in public or private sectors of health care. Two tracks of study are available: Clinical Research and Health Services Research. These areas of study are reflective of the overall research interests and expertise of School of Nursing faculty members and the resources available in the medical center, the university, the School of Nursing nurse-managed and interdisciplinary care delivery centers, and the Veterans Affairs Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (Nashville campus). Faculty research interests include stress and coping, perceived control, health promotion, oncology, pediatric palliative care, impact of chronic conditions on individuals and families, family violence, health psychology/behavioral medicine, life transitions, and symptom management. Health services research topics include outcome measurement and interventions, workforce policy, and economic aspects of health care delivery.

Admission to the Ph.D. in Nursing Science program is through the Graduate School, which oversees all doctoral programs in the university. For additional information, go to [nursing.vanderbilt.edu/phd](http://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/phd). Application materials are online. Successful applicants to the program are those whose previous academic performance, letters of recommendation, Graduate Record Examination scores, and written goal statements meet admission standards for the School of Nursing and the Graduate School and whose research and career goals best match the school's research foci and faculty expertise.

The program requires 72 credit hours of study, of which 15 may be transferred from master's course work, pending review and approval by the graduate faculty. The core curriculum of the program includes 32 credit hours of required course work for all Ph.D. students, 15 credit hours of required course work specific to the selected track of study, and 10 credit hours of course work that supports the student's focus of research (4 research practica and 6 dissertation research credits).

Course work is delivered via a combination of formats using Internet technology with limited on-campus visits. Students work with faculty mentors who guide and oversee their educational program from admission through completion of degree requirements. Students participate in intensive research experiences connected with faculty research projects and are exposed to a variety of research designs and analytic techniques. Requirements for the degree include successful completion of advanced course work, a qualifying paper, an oral qualifying exam, and a dissertation (including oral defense of proposal and findings). Full-time and part-time options are available.

Further information about the Ph.D. program can be obtained by writing the Ph.D. Program, Office of Admissions, 604 Godchaux Hall, 461 21st Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee 37240, calling (615) 322-7410 or (855) 868-7410, or visiting the website at [nursing.vanderbilt.edu/phd](http://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/phd).

## **Financial Information**

Tuition for 2021/2022 is \$1,793 per credit hour for the M.S.N., Post-Master's Certificate, and D.N.P. programs. For information concerning tuition for the Ph.D. in nursing science, see the Graduate School Catalog.

*Rates for tuition and fees are set annually by the Board of Trust and are subject to review and change without further notice.*

The master of science in nursing may be completed in a minimum of three semesters of full-time study for students who enter with a B.S.N.; students admitted through the pre-specialty component complete the M.S.N. in six full-time semesters. Students admitted through the R.N. pre-specialty component complete the M.S.N. in a minimum of five full-time semesters. M.S.N. students attend fall, spring, and summer sessions. D.N.P. students admitted prior to fall 2018 may complete the degree requirements in either four consecutive semesters of full-time study or six semesters of part-time study. D.N.P. students admitted in fall 2018 or later complete the program in five or six semesters and complete a minimum of 36 credit hours.

The course fee for students registered for zero hours of Clinical Continuation (NURS 5999 ) or Thesis (NURS 7999 ) is \$200. Registration and payment of course fee retain student status. Students taking an incomplete or having a missing grade in a course register for zero hours, if not otherwise enrolled, until removal of the incomplete grade. The charge for each course in which an incomplete is recorded is \$200.00. Registration and payment of fees retain student status.

There will be a one-time fee of \$100 for processing transcripts.

### Other Fees

Application	\$50
Matriculation (non-refundable)	\$500
Student services fees	
Fall and spring (per semester)	\$281
Summer	\$96
Zero hours	\$200
Student health insurance (per year) (\$1,758, fall; \$1,757, spring)	\$3,515
Student Health Fee (fall/spring)	\$348
Student Health Fee (summer)	\$102
Transcript fee (one time)	\$100

Expenses for books and supplies will vary by specialty. Equipment such as tape recorders and diagnostic sets will be required for certain specialties.

A criminal background check arranged by the school is required of all new students at the student's expense. A minimal student requirements tracking fee will also be incurred at the student's expense.

### Payment of Tuition and Fees

Tuition, fees, and all other university charges incurred prior to or at registration are due and payable by August 15 for the fall semester and January 4 for the spring semester. All charges incurred after classes begin are due and payable in full by the last day of the month in which they are billed to the student.

If payment is not made within that time, cancellation of V-Net (long distance telephone) access for campus residents may result and additional charges to campus dining or flexible-spending accounts may be prohibited.

Students/guarantors will be responsible for payment of all costs, including reasonable attorney fees and collection agency fees, incurred by the university in collecting monies owed to the university. The university will assess a \$20 fee for any check returned by the bank and reserves the right to invoke the laws of the State of Tennessee governing bad checks.

## **Refunds of Tuition and Dormitory Charges**

University policy for the refund of tuition charges provides a percentage refund based on the time of withdrawal. Students who withdraw officially or are dismissed from the university for any reason may be entitled to a partial refund. Fees are nonrefundable. The refund schedules may be viewed at [vanderbilt.edu/stuaccts/](http://vanderbilt.edu/stuaccts/).

## **Tuition Payment Plan (The Vandy Plan)**

Information about the Vandy Plan is available on the Student Accounts website at [vanderbilt.edu/stuaccts](http://vanderbilt.edu/stuaccts).

## **Late Payment of Fees**

All charges not paid by the specified due dates will be assessed a late payment fee of 1.50% owed (minimum \$5).

## **Financial Clearance**

No transcript (official or unofficial) will be issued for a student who has an outstanding balance. Diplomas of graduating students will not be released until all indebtedness to the university is cleared.

## **Professional Liability Insurance**

The student tuition rate includes the cost for professional liability insurance. The policy covers only practice as a nursing student and does not extend to coverage of nursing practice outside of the student role. Details of the policy are available at the university's student insurance office, and students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with policy details and their responsibility in regard to insurance coverage.

## **Student Health Insurance**

Health insurance coverage that includes hospitalization is required for all students enrolled for 4 or more credit hours. Students with health insurance coverage complete an online petition found at [www.gallagherstudent.com](http://www.gallagherstudent.com) to waive insurance. Students taking 4 or more hours will be charged automatically for health insurance for the entire year unless the students have completed this waiver. Verification of other health insurance coverage is required to obtain a waiver.

## **Transcripts**

Official academic transcripts are supplied by the Office of the University Registrar on authorization from the student. Transcripts are not released for students with financial or other university holds.

## **Student Service Fees**

The required student service fees entitle degree-seeking students to use the facilities of Sarratt Student Center and the David Williams II Student Recreation and Wellness Center. The fees also cover admission to certain social and cultural events and subscriptions to certain campus publications. Specific information on these fees is published annually in the Student Handbook. By payment of an additional fee, students and their spouses may use their identification cards for admission to athletic events.

## **Financial Aid**

The majority of our nursing students rely on financial aid to pay for the nursing program. Upon applying to the School of Nursing, a financial aid packet will be mailed to you in mid January. That packet will include directions about completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA can be completed online at <https://studentaid.gov>. Once the FAFSA is completed, the student is then considered for all federal loans available based on your financial eligibility.

In order to qualify for financial loan assistance an M.S.N. and Post-Masters Certificate students must be enrolled in at least five credit hours per semester and be degree seeking. DNP students must be enrolled in at least two hours a semester to receive federal students loans. The loans offered are Federal Direct Unsubsidized loans and Federal Direct Grad PLUS loans. Both accrue interest from the date of disbursement.

Financial aid awards are made after you are accepted to the School of Nursing and you have deposited. Assuming

you have completed all of the appropriate financial aid paperwork, the School of Nursing (SON) Student Financial Services Office will send the student a financial aid award by the end of April that will consist of a nursing scholarship and loans for students planning to begin school in the fall.

### **Student Loans**

Student loans constitute the majority of a financial aid package. The Federal Unsubsidized Loan and the Federal Direct Grad PLUS loans are borrowed from the Federal Direct Loan Program. The Federal Direct unsubsidized loan is non need based and also has a six-month grace period prior to repayment. The maximum available is \$20,500 per academic year. With an unsubsidized loan, the student is responsible for payment of the accruing interest and may request that payment be deferred until the grace period expires, at which time the interest is capitalized. All Federal Stafford loans must be repaid within 120 months, and the fixed interest rate on a federal loan is 4.30 percent (for the 2021/2022 academic year).

As soon as the student has been awarded a federal loan, the SON Student Financial Services Office will determine how much the student will be offered in a Federal Direct Grad PLUS loan. The Federal Direct Grad PLUS loan enables graduate/professional students with a good credit history to borrow to pay educational expenses for at least half-time enrollment (six hours or more a semester). The student may borrow up to the annual cost of attending Vanderbilt minus any other aid for which the student is eligible. The majority of loans offered will be Federal Direct Grad PLUS loans. The fixed interest rate on this loan is 5.30 percent (for the 2020/2021 academic year). Your eligibility for this loan is based on your credit history, and, in some cases, a co-borrower is required. The borrower generally begins repayment of a PLUS loan within 60 days after the final loan disbursement. There is no grace period for these loans, so interest begins to accumulate at the time the first disbursement is made.

### **Internal Scholarships**

All internal scholarships for M.S.N. students are merit based and are awarded based on a combination of the student's incoming grade point average and GRE or other standardized test score. Scholarships for D.N.P. students are partial scholarships and are set at the same amount depending on the school's scholarship budget for that year. Full-time enrollment (12 hours per semester for M.S.N. students) is required to be considered for a scholarship award. In order for students to be considered for scholarships, they must be accepted to the School of Nursing. All awards are made through the School of Nursing according to the requirements of the funding source. The School of Nursing maintains an extensive list of scholarships available for women, minorities, and graduate students. Students who are pursuing a post-master's certificate are not eligible for scholarships or federal student loans but may apply for private loans.

### **Full-tuition Scholarships**

Three full-tuition, one-year scholarships are offered to incoming students. One is awarded to an outstanding first-year pre-specialty student. One is awarded to an outstanding direct-entry student, and one to an outstanding minority student. The rankings are based on the entering GPA, the statement of purpose on the admission application and faculty scores, and the recipients are determined by the scholarship committee. There are also three merit-based, one-year, full scholarships awarded to pre-specialty M.S.N. students with the highest GPAs entering their second year of study.

### **External Scholarships**

All external scholarship applications must be initiated by the student. Applicants may find external scholarships from a local library, the Internet, religious organizations, community organizations and civic groups, foundations, fraternities, sororities, and clubs.

### **Disbursement of Financial Aid Funds**

All financial aid (nursing scholarships and loans) is credited directly to the student's account. The financial aid file must be complete in order for available funds to credit the student's account. All loans are disbursed in equal installments to the student's account at the beginning of each semester. Any loan promissory notes and paperwork must be completed and signed before loan funds disburse to the student's account. Typically, scholarship funds are disbursed in the same manner.

# Honors and Awards

## Sigma Theta Tau

The Iota chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, international honor society of nursing, was installed at Vanderbilt University on 3 June 1953. Sigma Theta Tau is professional rather than social, and its purpose and functions may be compared to other honor societies. Sigma Theta Tau is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies.

Election to membership in the society is limited to students who have shown marked qualities of character, leadership, and ability in nursing and who have maintained a high scholastic average. Students in the direct entry M.S.N. program are eligible for membership after having completed 10 semester hours of the required curriculum. Students in the pre-specialty program are eligible for membership after having completed 22 hours of the required pre-specialty curriculum.

## Founder's Medal

The Founder's Medal, signifying first honors, was endowed by Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt as one of his gifts to the university. The Founder's Medal is conferred annually upon the graduating student in the School of Nursing who, in the judgment of the faculty, has achieved the strongest record in the areas of professional and academic performance in meeting the requirements for the master of science in nursing.

## Amy Frances Brown Prize for Excellence in Writing

This prize is awarded each year there is a worthy candidate among the graduates of the School of Nursing. The selection is based upon papers submitted to meet course requirements in either the pre-specialty or specialist nursing component of the curriculum.

## Specialty Awards

The School of Nursing Specialty Awards were initiated in August 1998 to recognize the most outstanding student in each specialty area. The awards are based on academic achievement, excellence in clinical practice, demonstrated leadership, community service and potential for future contributions to the nursing profession.

## Honor Scholarships

Vanderbilt's highly competitive Honor Scholarship program is based on academic merit. Six full honor scholarships are awarded to M.S.N. students each year in recognition of exceptional accomplishment and high promise in the field of nursing. This list includes the names of our scholarships. Each full-time student is awarded only one scholarship each year.

## Full Scholarships

THE HAROLD STIRLING VANDERBILT (HSV) SCHOLARSHIP honors the memory of the great-grandson of Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt and president of the university's Board of Trust from 1955 to 1968. The scholarship covers full tuition for three semesters and is awarded annually to an outstanding minority student in the incoming class.

THE JULIA HEREFORD ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP for a second-year student is awarded annually through the generosity of the Julia Hereford Society and the Julia Hereford Endowed Alumni Scholarship Fund.

THE C. W. KEMPKAU SCHOLARSHIP is awarded annually to an outstanding pre-specialty student in the incoming class.

THE LAURA CATHERINE RANKIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP for a second year student was established in Laura's memory by her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Allan Rankin, family, and classmates.

THE FRANCES SCOTT MORRISON SCHOLARSHIP for a second-year student was established in 2002. Preference is given to students who had relatives who served during World War II, specifically at Iwo Jima.

THE SCHOOL OF NURSING DEAN'S HONOR SCHOLARSHIP is awarded annually to an outstanding direct-entry student in the incoming class.

## **Partial Scholarships**

THE HELEN T. ALFORD SCHOLARSHIP was established with a gift in 2005 and will be awarded annually to a student demonstrating merit and financial need.

THE SARA K. ARCHER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR GERONTOLOGY NURSE PRACTITIONERS was established in 2007 and named in honor of former School of Nursing Dean Dr. Sara K. Archer.

THE BOTTORFF FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP was established in 2003 through a generous donation of Denny and Jean Bottorff to be awarded to a student demonstrating exceptional merit.

THE IMOGENE "GENE" WHITE BOTTORFF SCHOLARSHIP was established with a gift in 2008. Top priority shall be given to persons graduating from any high school in Boyle or Oldham County, Kentucky, or any qualified students who may have graduated elsewhere, but who are residents of such counties, or whose parent or grandparent is a resident (or was a resident at the time of his or her death).

THE EVA W., BARBARA T., SARA M. BOVENDER SCHOLARSHIP was established in 2010 to provide financial support to a deserving student.

THE INEZ BRAMLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP was established in 2006 and will be awarded annually to a minority student demonstrating merit and need.

THE BURRUS MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR NURSES was established in 1987 by George R. Burrus, M.D., in honor of his daughters, Lisa, Kate, and Nan, who are Vanderbilt School of Nursing graduates.

THE JAMES AND JANET CARELL SCHOLARSHIP was established with a gift in 2005 and will be awarded annually to a student demonstrating merit and financial need.

THE LILLIAN CARY SCHOLARSHIP is awarded to an M.S.N. student in the Family Nurse Practitioner specialty. Selection is based on academic merit and financial need.

THE THOMAS CONE SCHOLARSHIP was endowed through a gift from Thomas and Charlotte Cone to be awarded annually to a worthy and needy student who is a single parent.

THE DR. ROBERT H. ELROD SCHOLARSHIP was endowed in 2010 to provide assistance to nursing students in memory of his daughter and in honor of his granddaughter.

THE ALICE THOMPSON FISCHER SCHOLARSHIP FUND was established with a gift in 2006 and will be awarded annually to a student demonstrating merit and financial need.

THE CHARLES B. FUNK AND CAROL S. FUNK SCHOLARSHIP was established with a gift in 2006 and will be awarded annually to a student who is a U.S. citizen demonstrating merit and financial need.

THE LA JUAN FURGASON SCHOLARSHIP was established by Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Furgason in memory of their daughter, a 1967 BSN graduate of the School of Nursing.

THE VIRGINIA M. GEORGE SCHOLARSHIP IN NURSING was established in 2005 to provide financial support for students enrolled in the family nurse practitioner program.



THE BOBBIE LEE GILMER SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR NURSES was endowed in 2000 from a bequest of Bobbie Gilmer to be awarded annually to a worthy student.

THE DOROTHY S. GOLDSTEIN AND JULIE G. BOEHM SCHOLARSHIP was established by the late Dorothy Goldstein to be awarded annually to a minority student demonstrating both need and merit.

THE HALEY AWARD was endowed through a bequest from James H. Haley, Jr., to help support a worthy student of the School of Nursing.

THE HASSENPLUG SCHOLARSHIP was generated by the memorial initiated by the Class of '42 in memory of their creative teacher/mentor, Lulu K. Wolf Hassenplug. After ten dynamic and productive years at Vanderbilt, Hassenplug was the national leader who propelled nursing education to achieve true university stature. Endowment of the fund was reached in 2003 in honor of Hassenplug's 100th birthday. This award goes to an outstanding student whose career goal is directed toward academic nursing education.

THE WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND was established for minority students. It is awarded to minority students on the basis of merit and need.

THE FRANCES M. HOUSTON SCHOLARSHIP FUND is endowed for the benefit of the School of Nursing. Preference shall be given to students from Cannon County, Tennessee, and then to the surrounding counties of Coffee, Dekalb, Rutherford, Wilson, and Warren.

THE LIZZIE MINOR HOUSTON SCHOLARSHIP was endowed through the bequest of George Houston in honor of his wife. Preference is given to students from Cannon County, Tennessee, first; then, after two years, students from the surrounding counties of Coffee, Dekalb, Rutherford, Warren, and Wilson are considered.

THE SAMMIE S. SHAPIRO-RACHEL S. KELLY SCHOLARSHIP was established by bequests from the estates of these two sisters, both Vanderbilt alumnae, and is supported by contributions from members of their family. It is awarded annually to a worthy and needy student.

THE ELIJAH NEVINS KIRKPATRICK SCHOLARSHIP is supported by the Frank Godchaux III family in memory of Mr. Kirkpatrick, a Vanderbilt alumnus and father of Mrs. Godchaux. It is awarded annually to a student demonstrating both exceptional merit and financial need.

THE JOYCE KEMP LABEN SCHOLARSHIP was established in 1998 and will be awarded annually to a student in the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialty.

THE MILAH P. LYNN SCHOLARSHIP FUND was established in 1996 by a gift from Milah and Stephen Lynn. This scholarship is to be awarded to worthy, needy students.

THE MARKS FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND was established with a gift in 2011 and will provide financial support annually to deserving students in the School of Nursing.

THE KATHLEEN SUZANNE NELSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND was endowed through a bequest from Dr. Robert A. Nelson, Jr., in memory of his daughter, a 1975 graduate of the school.

THE SALLY BAUM NORDLUND AND D. CRAIG NORDLUND SCHOLARSHIP IN NURSING was established with a gift in 2005 and will be awarded annually to a student demonstrating merit and financial need.

THE COLEMAN D. OLDHAM HONOR SCHOLARSHIP was endowed in 1997 by Coleman and Emma Oldham to be awarded annually to a male student from Madison County, Kentucky, first, and then consideration to a male student from Kentucky demonstrating merit and financial need.

THE PASS IT ON SCHOLARSHIP was established in 2004. The scholarship is awarded with the recipient's full understanding that, given the time and opportunity, the recipient will, after graduation, provide financial, emotional, and/or moral support to other nursing students seeking to further their education.

THE VALERE POTTER SCHOLARSHIP FUND was established originally by a gift from the late Valere Blair Potter. This scholarship is awarded annually to second year pre-specialty students demonstrating exceptional merit and financial need.

THE LAURA CATHERINE RANKIN SCHOLARSHIP was established in Laura's memory by her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Allan Rankin, family, and classmates. Selection is based on academic excellence.

THE TABITHA JOHNSON REEVES SCHOLARSHIP FUND was established in 1998 to be awarded to a worthy student with financial need.

THE PAMELA RICHARDSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP was established in 1995 by her family and friends in her memory. Pamela Richardson was a VUSN student at the time she died. The scholarship will be awarded annually to a second year student demonstrating financial need and exceptional merit.

THE SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP is awarded annually to a student who can demonstrate a high level of participation in volunteer activities in the community and/or the School of Nursing.

THE JANICE AMBREY STALCUP MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP was established in 2011 by Doreen Wise, her nursing school roommate and friend, to provide financial support to deserving students.

THE ANN SCHUH TAYLOR SCHOLARSHIP IN NURSING was established with a gift in 2008 to be awarded annually to a student demonstrating merit and need.

THE VIRGINIA SADLER TOOMAY AWARD was established with a gift in 2005 to be awarded annually to a student demonstrating merit and need.

THE HILLIARD AND NANCY TRAVIS SCHOLARSHIP is supported by the generosity of Mrs. Nancy Travis and the late Mr. Hilliard Travis. Several awards are made annually to students in a variety of specialties.

THE JEANETTE AND LEON TRAVIS SCHOLARSHIP FOR NURSING AT ST. THOMAS HOSPITAL was established by Mrs. Jeanette Travis and the late Mr. Travis for nurses employed at St. Thomas Hospital who wish to pursue the M.S.N. degree at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. Inquiries regarding this opportunity should be directed to the St. Thomas Career Center, (615) 222-2361.

THE FRANCES HELEN ZIEGLER TUNNELL SCHOLARSHIP FUND was endowed through the will of this former dean of the School of Nursing and is awarded to a student demonstrating merit and need.

THE VANDERBILT MEDICAL CENTER AUXILIARY STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND was established in 2006 to be awarded to a student or students demonstrating merit and financial need.

THE LETTIE PATE WHITEHEAD SCHOLARSHIP FUND is supported by the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation. The awards are given to first-year, female pre-specialty students from southern states.

THE ZELLE SCHOLARSHIP was established in 1995. This scholarship is awarded annually to nursing students specializing in chronic care with a focus on rehabilitation nursing.

# Campus Resources

## Catalog Search

### Communicating with the School of Nursing

#### **Academic Matters**

Dean Pamela R. Jeffries

110 Godchaux Hall

(615) 322-3804

Mavis Schorn, Senior Associate Dean for Academics

278 School of Nursing

(615) 343-5876

#### **Administration and Operations**

Rebecca Rue Keck, Senior Associate Dean for Administration and Operations, Chief Administrative Officer

105 Godchaux Hall

(615) 322-1177

#### **Scholarships and Financial Aid**

Kristie Smith, Director of Student Financial Services

180 School of Nursing

(615) 322-8986

#### **Research Matters**

Mariann Piano, Senior Associate Dean for Research

415 Godchaux Hall

(615) 343-2998

*Center for Research Development and Scholarship*

Mariann Piano, Senior Associate Dean for Research

415 Godchaux Hall

(615) 343-2998

#### **Practice Matters**

Pam Jones, Senior Associate Dean for Clinical and Community Partnerships

215 Godchaux Hall

(615) 322-1561

(615) 322-2591

**Assistant University Registrar**

Sara A. Donahoe, Director of Nursing Student Records

173 School of Nursing

(615) 343-7839

**Informatics**

Patty Sengstack, Senior Associate Dean for Informatics

260 Frist Hall

(615) 322-4639

**Cultural Diversity**

Rolanda Johnson, Associate Dean for Office of Diversity  
and Inclusion & Assistant Dean of Academics

275 School of Nursing (615) 343-2228

**Student Affairs**

Tamika Hudson, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

179 School of Nursing

(615) 343-3334

**Mailing Address**

Vanderbilt University School of Nursing

Mary Ragland Godchaux Hall

461 21st Avenue South

Nashville, Tennessee 37240-0008

**Employment opportunities for spouses**

Vanderbilt Employment Center

PMB 357700

2301 Vanderbilt Place

Nashville, Tennessee 37235-7700

(615) 322-8300

**Doctor of Nursing Practice: D.N.P. Admission**

Students enter the VUSN DNP program in one of the following categories:

#### Entry to the DNP Advanced Clinical Practice Track with an MSN Degree in Advanced Nursing Practice

For students who have completed an advanced clinical practice program, this entry requires APRN certification as either a NP, CNM, CNS, or CRNA. For students who are progressing seamlessly from VUSN's MSN program, certification must be obtained prior to enrolling in NURS 8105: DNP Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice.

#### Entry to the DNP Advanced Systems Track

This track has three entry options:

1. Applicants with an MSN in healthcare leadership, nursing administration, or nursing informatics may enter the Advanced Systems track or the Executive Leadership track (see below). National certification in the area of specialty is preferred.
2. Applicants with a BSN and a master's in a non-nursing, business- or health-related field to the Advanced Systems track must be certified or eligible for certification in one of the following:
  - American Organization for Nursing Leadership (A.O.N.L.) Certified in Executive Nursing Practice (C.E.N.P.). <https://www.aonl.org/initiatives/cenp>
  - American Nurses Credentialing Center (A.N.C.C.) Nurse Executive (NE-BC).

<https://www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/nurse-executive>

- American Nurses Credentialing Center Nurse Executive, Advanced (NEA-BC).

[www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/nurse-executive-advanced/](http://www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/nurse-executive-advanced/)

- Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Certified Professional in Health Information & Management Systems (CPHIMS).

[www.himss.org/resources-certification/cphims](http://www.himss.org/resources-certification/cphims)

- American Nurses Credentialing Center (A.N.C.C.) Informatics Nursing Certification (R.N.-BC) and have three years of informatics experience, with two of those years in a health care setting. <https://www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/informatics-nurse/>

Applicants may be awarded up to 500 clinical hours upon enrollment dependent on portfolio review, systems practice experience, and national certification relevant to advanced systems practice.

3. Applicants with an MSN in Nursing Education to the Advanced Systems track with an MSN or MN in Nursing Education must complete additional MSN level courses in Nursing and Healthcare Leadership as part of the DNP program and prior to enrollment in DNP courses, which lengthens the program of studies. A gap analysis will be conducted to evaluate completion of graduate level courses in Leadership, Finance, and Quality Improvement. The program length will be based on the individual gap analysis. After completing the MSN level courses, the student continues in DNP courses. Applicants with MSN or MN in Nursing Education to the advanced systems practice track must be certified or eligible for certification in one of the following:

- American Organization for Nursing Leadership (A.O.N.L.) Certified in Executive Nursing Practice (C.E.N.P.). <https://www.aonl.org/initiatives/cenp>
- American Nurses Credentialing Center (A.N.C.C.) Nurse Executive (NE-BC).

[www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/nurse-executive/](http://www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/nurse-executive/)

- American Nurses Credentialing Center Nurse Executive, Advanced (NEA-BC).

[www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/nurse-executive-advanced/](http://www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/nurse-executive-advanced/)

- Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Certified Professional in Health Information & Management Systems (CPHIMS).

[www.himss.org/resources-certification/cphims](http://www.himss.org/resources-certification/cphims)

- American Nurses Credentialing Center (A.N.C.C.) Informatics Nursing Certification (R.N.-BC) and have three years of informatics experience, with two of those years in a health care setting.

<https://www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/informatics-nurse/>

Applicants may be awarded up to 500 clinical hours upon enrollment dependent on portfolio review, prior MSN clinical hours, systems practice experience, and national certification relevant to advanced systems practice.

Entry to DNP Executive Leadership Track:

This track has four entry options:

1. MSN in healthcare leadership or in nursing administration. Applicants may be awarded up to 500 clinical hours upon enrollment dependent on portfolio review, prior MSN clinical hours, systems practice experience, and national certification relevant to advanced systems practice
2. MSN in other advanced nursing practice specialties
3. BSN with a master's in a non-nursing, business- or health-related field (e.g. MBA, MPH, MHA, MMHC). Applicants may be awarded up to 500 clinical hours upon enrollment dependent on portfolio review, prior MSN clinical hours, systems practice experience, and national certification relevant to executive leadership practice.
4. MSN in Nursing Education: Applicants with an MSN or MN in Nursing Education must complete additional MSN level courses in Nursing and Healthcare Leadership as part of the DNP program and prior to enrollment in DNP courses, which lengthens the program of studies. A gap analysis will be conducted to evaluate completion of graduate level courses in Leadership, Finance, and Quality Improvement. The program length will be based on the individual gap analysis. After completing the MSN level courses, the student continues in DNP courses. Applicants may be awarded up to 500 clinical hours upon enrollment dependent on portfolio review, prior MSN clinical hours, systems practice experience, and national certification relevant to executive leadership practice.

Applicants to the Executive Leadership track must be certified or eligible for certification in one of the following:

- American Organization for Nursing Leadership (A.O.N.L.) Certified in Executive Nursing Practice (C.E.N.P.) <https://www.aonl.org/initiatives/cenp>
- American Nurses Credentialing Center (A.N.C.C.) Nurse Executive (NE-BC) [nursingworld.org/our-certifications/nurse-executive/](https://www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/nurse-executive/)
- American Nurses Credentialing Center Nurse Executive, Advanced (NEA-BC) [nursingworld.org/our-certifications/nurse-executive-advanced/](https://www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/nurse-executive-advanced/)
- American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE). [ache.org/fache](https://www.ache.org/fache)

Entry with MSN Adding Post-Master's Certificate

Vanderbilt offers post-master's entry for advanced practice nurses who hold an MSN and wish to pursue additional advanced practice study for a new certification. Applicants with an MSN or MN in majors such as nursing education or clinical nurse leader must complete a Post-Master's Certificate in an advanced clinical practice specialty (Nurse-Midwifery or a Nurse Practitioner) as part of the DNP program, which lengthens the program of studies. The program length will be based on the individual portfolio review. After completing the Post-Master's Certificate portion, the student is eligible to take the national certification exam in the selected specialty, if required by the specialty, and continue in DNP courses. Applicants pursuing a new specialty should address their career goals for the new specialty as part of the DNP statement of professional goals.

Entry to BSN to DNP

The BSN to DNP track is available for the following specialties: Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP) or Family Nurse Practitioner/Emergency Nurse Practitioner (FNP/ENP). The BSN entry to the DNP integrated program prepares students to provide an advanced level of evidence-based care to acute and critical care patient populations (AGACNP) or emergency care across the lifespan for all acuties (FNP/ENP). The program emphasizes the implementation and evaluation of evidence, systems-level thinking, care quality and safety, and the development of meaningful interventions that may improve outcomes of care for the selected patient population. The program prepares students to serve as leaders in their area of practice. AGACNP students may build upon their program of study by additional specialization in the Intensivist focus option.

The BSN entry to the DNP program gives registered nurses with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree the ability to earn a Doctorate of Nursing Practice degree in eight semesters, without first obtaining a masters-level nursing degree. The BSN entry to DNP program requires the completion of 65-67 (AGACNP) or 79 (FNP/ENP) semester credit hours. The program is structured so that students complete nurse practitioner specialty and core

DNP coursework first, and then transition into DNP-specific practice courses. Students will be eligible to take the specialty certification exam upon completion of specialty-specific course work and will be doctoral-prepared adult-gerontology acute care or family nurse practitioner/emergency nurse practitioners upon graduation. BSN entry to DNP students will complete a minimum of 1000 clinical/practice hours.

The DNP curriculum places great intellectual, psychological, motor, and sensory demands on students. In accordance with Vanderbilt's non-discrimination policy, the DNP Student Admissions and Academic Affairs Committee (SAAA) is charged with making individualized determinations of the ability of each candidate for admission to successfully complete the degree requirements. Vanderbilt School of Nursing considers the Internet communication link an essential learning resource for doctoral students. DNP students will be required to have a home computer, printer, and Internet service provider that has high-speed, broadband Internet access.

## **Doctor of Nursing Practice: D.N.P. Degree Requirements**

DNP Advanced Clinical Practice Track, Advanced Systems Practice Track, and Executive Leadership Track

There are three post-master's entry tracks for the DNP degree. The curriculum includes 36 hours of required coursework and can be completed over five or six semesters. Courses are delivered using a combination of formats with one on-site intensive experience each semester, comprised of 3-4 days each, with the remainder of the coursework completed using distance learning technologies. Requirements for the degree include successful completion of advanced coursework to include a minimum of 500 hours of practice integration and the successful completion of a project. All degree requirements must be completed within five years of enrollment.

*Course Load:* The unit of measure of the student's work load is the semester hour. All references to credit hours are semester hours. The normal full-time schedule is 6 hours per semester. The student's status is defined as follows:

- Full time: Registered for 6 or more hours;
- Half time: Registered for at least 2-3 hours, but less than 6 hours;
- Less than half time: Registered for at least 1 hour, but less than 3

### Application Procedure

The D.N.P. application is online at [apply.vanderbilt.edu/apply/](http://apply.vanderbilt.edu/apply/). A \$50 non-refundable fee is required when the application is submitted. The School of Nursing begins reviewing applications for admission to its new fall class on December 1. Applications received after December 1 are reviewed on a rolling basis until all spaces are full. All application materials must be received before the application can be sent for faculty review. A \$500 nonrefundable matriculation fee is required upon acceptance. All information submitted in the application process must be the applicant's own work, factually true and honestly presented. Applicants providing false information may be subject to a range of possible disciplinary actions, including admission revocation, expulsion, or revocation of course credit, grades and degree.

Applications are considered current for one year; accepted applicants who do not enroll during that time must reapply for admission. Students may apply for one deferral of admission, not to exceed one year, which must be approved by the D.N.P. Student Admissions and Academic Affairs Committee (SAAA) based on extenuating circumstances. After one year, the student must reapply for admission.

### Required Courses

<b>Required Courses</b>		<b>Credit Hours</b>
NURS 8010	Evidence-Based Practice I: The Nature of Evidence	2
		2
NURS 8012	Informatics for Scholarly Practice	
NURS 8064	Scholarly Writing	1
NURS 8014	Statistics in Health Sciences	3
NURS 8022	Evidence-Based Practice II: Evaluating and Applying Evidence	3
NURS 8024	Epidemiology	3
NURS 8032	Health Care Economics and Finance	3
or NURS 8034	Advanced Health Economics and Finance	
NURS 8042	Quality Improvement and Patient Safety	3
NURS 8044	Management of Organizations and Systems	3
or NURS 8045	Evidence-Based Mgmt in Health Care Organizations and Systems (required for Executive Leadership Track)	
NURS 8052	Health Policy	2
NURS 8054	Legal and Ethical Environment	3
		4
NURS 8105	Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice	
NURS 8069	Lean Methodology (required for Executive Leadership Track)	2
	Elective Courses	2/4
	Total	<b>36</b>

#### BSN Entry to DNP: AGACNP Curriculum Plan and Required Hours

<b>Semester</b>	<b>Course Number and Name</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
<b>Fall I</b>	NURS 6045 Professional Formation 1: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice	2
	NURS 6102 Advanced Physiology and Pathophysiology	4
	NURS 6103 Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics	3
	NURS 6114 Pathophysiology and Collaborative Management in Acute Care for the Adult-Gerontology ACNP I	3
	NURS 8064 Scholarly Writing	1
	Semester Total	13
<b>Spring I</b>	NURS 6124 Pathophysiology and Collaborative Management in Acute Care for the Adult-Gerontology ACNP II	3
	NURS 8014 Statistics in Health Sciences	3
	NURS 8054 Legal and Ethical Environment	3
	Semester Total	9
<b>Summer I</b>	NURS 6134 Pathophysiology and Collaborative Management in Acute Care for the Adult-Gerontology ACNP III	3
	NURS 8024 Epidemiology	3
	NURS 8032 Health Care Economics and Finance	3
	Semester Total	9



<b>Fall II</b>	NURS 6101	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning	3
	NURS 6105	Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner	1
	NURS 8010	Evidence-Based Practice I: The Nature of Evidence	2
	NURS 8042	Quality Improvement and Patient Safety	3
		Semester Total	9
<b>Spring II</b>	NURS 6115	Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Practicum <sup>3</sup>	4
	NURS 8022	Evidence-Based Practice II: Evaluating and Applying Evidence	3
	NURS 8105	Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice <sup>4</sup>	1
		Elective 1 (specialty required) <sup>1</sup>	2-3
		Semester Total	10-11
<b>Summer II</b>	NURS 6075	Professional Formation 4: Transition to Advanced Nursing Practice	1
	NURS 6195	Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship	4
	NURS 8105	Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice	1
		Semester Total	6
<b>Fall III</b>	NURS 8012	Informatics for Scholarly Practice	2
	NURS 8105	Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice	1
	NURS 8044	Management of Organizations and Systems	3
	NURS 6099	Clinical Elective <sup>2</sup>	2
		Semester Total	6-7
<b>Spring Year</b> <b>3</b>	NURS 8105	Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice	1
	NURS 8052	Health Policy	2
		Semester Total	3
		Program Total	65-67

All students take the same core content. An optional intensivist focus area is offered including an elective and clinical experiences. The Intensivist program will require completion of 1-2 additional credit hours beyond the total listed in the B.S.N.-D.N.P. curriculum plan. Please note that acceptance into the intensivist focus requires residence in the Middle Tennessee/Nashville area prior to the start of the AGACNP clinical sequence.

\* Four elective credit hours are required for the DNP degree. Elective 1 may be a MSN or DNP level elective, as designated by your chosen specialty program. It may be for 2 or 3 credits, but it must be at least 2 credits.

\*\*This elective is not required to meet the specialty requirements for certification. The course offers an opportunity for students to obtain more in depth clinical experience in an area of interest.

AGACNP requires 630 clinical hours for the MSN degree; 500 direct clinical practice hours are required for board examination eligibility (MSN clinical hours are based upon a 1:5 ratio). DNP degree requires a minimum of 1000-practice hours post BSN (or 500 post-MSN). (DNP practice hours a based upon a 1:9 ratio)

BSN Entry to Advanced Clinical Practice DNP: FNP/ENP Specialty

BSN ENTRY to DNP: FNP/ENP Curriculum Plan and Required Hours

<b>Semester</b>	<b>Course Number and Name</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>	
<b>Fall I</b>	NURS 6010	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
	NURS 6011	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning	2
	NURS 6012	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab	1
	NURS 6020	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics	3
	NURS 6045	Professional Formation 1: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice	2
	NURS 8064	Scholarly Writing	1

	Semester Total	12
<b>Spring I</b>	NURS 6032 Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Woman	1
	NURS 6036 Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Child & Adolescent	3
	NURS 6521 The Context of Primary Care: FNP Domains and Core Competencies for Practice	2
	NURS 6532 Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Elderly	1
	NURS 8014 Statistics in Health Sciences	3
	NURS 8054 Legal and Ethical Environment	3
	Semester Total	13
<b>Summer I</b>	NURS 6143 Fundamentals of Point of Care Ultrasound for the Advanced Practice Provider	2
	NURS 8024 Epidemiology	3
	NURS 8032 Health Care Economics and Finance	3
	Semester Total	8
<b>Fall II</b>	NURS 6030 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Adult	3
	NURS 6305 Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Emergency NP	1
	NURS 6535 Practicum in Primary Care of the Adult Dual Specialty	3
	NURS 8010 Evidence-Based Practice I: The Nature of Evidence	2
	NURS 8042 Quality Improvement and Patient Safety	3
	Semester Total	12
<b>Spring II</b>	NURS 6301 Concepts of Advanced Emergency Nursing	3
	NURS 6385 Practicum in Emergency Care I3	1
	NURS 6525 Practicum in Primary Health Care of the Child and Adolescent	2
	NURS 6395 Practicum in Emergency Care II	1
	NURS 8022 Evidence-Based Practice II: Evaluating and Applying Evidence	3
	NURS 8105 Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice4	1
	Semester Total	11
<b>Summer II</b>	NURS 6361 Pathophysiology & Collaborative Management in Emergent and Critical Care	3
	NURS 6365 Trauma, Emergency & Critical Care Clinical I	3
	NURS 6595 FNP Preceptorship for AGACNP/FNP Dual Specialty	3
	NURS 8105 Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice I	1
	Semester Total	10
<b>Fall III</b>	NURS 6099 Clinical Elective1	2
	NURS 8012 Informatics for Scholarly Practice	2
	NURS 8044 Management of Organizations and Systems	3
	NURS 8105 Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice	1
	Semester Total	8
<b>Spring III</b>	NURS 8052 Health Policy	2
	NURS 8105 Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice Elective2	1
		2
	Semester Total	5
	<b>Program Total</b>	<b>79</b>

<b>Semester</b>	<b>Course Number and Name</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
<b>Fall I</b>	NURS 6010 Advanced Pathophysiology	3
	NURS 6011 Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning	2
	NURS 6011L Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab	1
	NURS 6020 Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics	3
	NURS 6045 Professional Formation 1: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice	2
	NURS 8064 Scholarly Writing	1
	Semester Total	12
<b>Spring I</b>	NURS 6032 Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Woman	1
	NURS 6036 Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Child & Adolescent	3
	NURS 6521 The Context of Primary Care: FNP Domains and Core Competencies for Practice	2
	NURS 6532 Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Elderly	1
	NURS 8014 Statistics in Health Sciences	3
	NURS 8054 Legal and Ethical Environment	3
	Semester Total	13
<b>Summer I</b>	NURS 6143 Fundamentals of Point of Care Ultrasound for the Advanced Practice Provider	2
	NURS 8024 Epidemiology	3
	NURS 8032 Health Care Economics and Finance	3
	Semester Total	8
<b>Fall II</b>	NURS 6030 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Adult	3
	NURS 6305 Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Emergency NP	1
	NURS 6535 Practicum in Primary Care of the Adult Dual Specialty	3
	NURS 8010 Evidence-Based Practice I: The Nature of Evidence	2
	NURS 8042 Quality Improvement and Patient Safety	3
	Semester Total	12
<b>Spring II</b>	NURS 6301 Concepts of Advanced Emergency Nursing	3
	NURS 6385 Practicum in Emergency Care I3	1
	NURS 6525 Practicum in Primary Health Care of the Child and Adolescent	2
	NURS 6395 Practicum in Emergency Care II	1
	NURS 8022 Evidence-Based Practice II: Evaluating and Applying Evidence	3
	NURS 8105 Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice4	1
Semester Total	11	
<b>Summer II</b>	NURS 6361 Pathophysiology & Collaborative Management in Emergent and Critical Care	3
	NURS 6365 Trauma, Emergency & Critical Care Clinical I	3
	NURS 6595 FNP Preceptorship for AGACNP/FNP Dual Specialty	3
	NURS 8105 Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice I	1
	Semester Total	10
<b>Fall III</b>	NURS 6099 Clinical Elective1	2
	NURS 8012 Informatics for Scholarly Practice	2
	NURS 8044 Management of Organizations and Systems	3
	NURS 8105 Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice	1

	Semester Total	8
<b>Spring III</b>	NURS 8052 Health Policy	2
	NURS 8105 Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice Elective2	1 2
	Semester Total	5
	Program Total	79

BSN ENTRY to DNP: FNP/ENP Curriculum Plan and Required Hours

<b>Semester</b>	Course Number and Name	Credit Hours
<b>Fall I</b>	NURS 6010 Advanced Pathophysiology	3
	NURS 6011 Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning	2
	NURS 6011L Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab	1
	NURS 6020 Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics	3
	NURS 6045 Professional Formation 1: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice	2
	NURS 8064 Scholarly Writing	1
	Semester Total	12
<b>Spring I</b>	NURS 6032 Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Woman	1
	NURS 6036 Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Child & Adolescent	3
	NURS 6521 The Context of Primary Care: FNP Domains and Core Competencies for Practice	2
	NURS 6532 Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Elderly	1
	NURS 8014 Statistics in Health Sciences	3
	NURS 8054 Legal and Ethical Environment	3
	Semester Total	13
<b>Summer I</b>	NURS 6143 Fundamentals of Point of Care Ultrasound for the Advanced Practice Provider	2
	NURS 8024 Epidemiology	3
	NURS 8032 Health Care Economics and Finance	3
	Semester Total	8
<b>Fall II</b>	NURS 6030 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Adult	3
	NURS 6305 Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Emergency NP	1
	NURS 6535 Practicum in Primary Care of the Adult Dual Specialty	3
	NURS 8010 Evidence-Based Practice I: The Nature of Evidence	2
	NURS 8042 Quality Improvement and Patient Safety	3
	Semester Total	12
<b>Spring II</b>	NURS 6301 Concepts of Advanced Emergency Nursing	3
	NURS 6385 Practicum in Emergency Care I3	1
	NURS 6525 Practicum in Primary Health Care of the Child and Adolescent	2
	NURS 6395 Practicum in Emergency Care II	1
	NURS 8022 Evidence-Based Practice II: Evaluating and Applying Evidence	3
	NURS 8105 Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice4	1
	Semester Total	11

<b>Summer II</b>	NURS 6361 Pathophysiology & Collaborative Management in Emergent and Critical Care	3
	NURS 6365 Trauma, Emergency & Critical Care Clinical I	3
	NURS 6595 FNP Preceptorship for AGACNP/FNP Dual Specialty	3
	NURS 8105 Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice I	1
	Semester Total	10
<b>Fall III</b>	NURS 6099 Clinical Elective1	2
	NURS 8012 Informatics for Scholarly Practice	2
	NURS 8044 Management of Organizations and Systems	3
	NURS 8105 Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice	1
	Semester Total	8
<b>Spring III</b>	NURS 8052 Health Policy	2
	NURS 8105 Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice Elective2	1
		2
	Semester Total	5
	Program Total	79

BSN ENTRY to DNP: FNP/ENP Curriculum Plan and Required Hours

<b>Semester</b>	Course Number and Name	Credit Hours
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	NURS 6011 Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning	2
	NURS 6011L Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab	1
	NURS 6020 Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics	3
	NURS 6045 Professional Formation 1: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice	2
	NURS 8064 Scholarly Writing	1
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	NURS 6036 Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Child & Adolescent	3
	NURS 6521 The Context of Primary Care: FNP Domains and Core Competencies for Practice	2
	NURS 6532 Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Elderly	1
	NURS 8014 Statistics in Health Sciences	3
	NURS 8054 Legal and Ethical Environment	3
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	NURS 8024 Epidemiology	3
	NURS 8032 Health Care Economics and Finance	3
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<b>Fall II</b>	NURS 6030 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Adult	3
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	NURS 6535 Practicum in Primary Care of the Adult Dual Specialty	3
	NURS 8010 Evidence-Based Practice I: The Nature of Evidence	2
	NURS 8042 Quality Improvement and Patient Safety	3
	Semester Total	12

<b>Spring II</b>	NURS 6301 Concepts of Advanced Emergency Nursing	3
	NURS 6385 Practicum in Emergency Care I3	1
	NURS 6525 Practicum in Primary Health Care of the Child and Adolescent	2
	NURS 6395 Practicum in Emergency Care II	1
	NURS 8022 Evidence-Based Practice II: Evaluating and Applying Evidence	3
	NURS 8105 Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice4	1
	Semester Total	11
<b>Summer II</b>	NURS 6361 Pathophysiology & Collaborative Management in Emergent and Critical Care	3
	NURS 6365 Trauma, Emergency & Critical Care Clinical I	3
	NURS 6595 FNP Preceptorship for AGACNP/FNP Dual Specialty	3
	NURS 8105 Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice I	1
	Semester Total	10
<b>Fall III</b>	NURS 6099 Clinical Elective1	2
	NURS 8012 Informatics for Scholarly Practice	
		2
	NURS 8044 Management of Organizations and Systems	3
	NURS 8105 Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice	1
	Semester Total	8
<b>Spring III</b>	NURS 8052 Health Policy	2
	NURS 8105 Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice Elective2	1
		2
	Semester Total	5
	Program Total	79

1This elective is not required to meet the specialty requirements for certification. The course offers an opportunity for students to obtain more in-depth clinical experience in an area of interest.

2Four elective credit hours are required for the DNP degree. Electives may be a MSN or DNP level elective, as designated by your chosen specialty program. It may be for 2 or 3 credits, but it must be at least 2 credits.

3ENP requires 980 clinical hours for the MSN degree (MSN clinical hours are based upon a 1:5 ratio).

4DNP requires a minimum of 1000 practice hours post BSN (or 500 post-MSN). (DNP practice hours are based upon a 1:9 ratio).

## Doctor of Nursing Practice: D.N.P.: The Academic Program

### DNP Program Goals

Central to the DNP curriculum is the application of evidence-based practice methods within practice settings throughout the program of study. Evidence-based practice is classically defined as the integration of best research evidence with practice expertise and patient values to facilitate healthcare decision making. The goals of the DNP program are to prepare nurse scholars to:

1. Assess, analyze, evaluate, and manage complex health environments serving diverse populations to improve patient and population health outcomes;
2. Apply clinical scholarship and available evidence to make clinical and system decisions incorporating professional values and ethical principles;
3. Support and improve patient care and healthcare systems through the use of clinical practice models, health policy, informatics, and organizational leadership skills;
4. Advocate for clinical prevention, population health initiatives, and evidence-based health policy through

interprofessional and stakeholder collaboration.

## Student Classification

The following classifications apply to all D.N.P. students:

*Regular Student.* Enrolled full time or part time in the School of Nursing, having met admission requirements.

*Special Student.* Enrolled in one or more non-clinical courses but not working toward the D.N.P. degree in the School of Nursing. A limit of 3 credit hours is permitted in this non-degree status. Successful completion of courses taken as a special student does not guarantee admission to the D.N.P. program. To be considered as a special student, an applicant must submit an online application form with transcripts and the non-refundable application fee at least two weeks before registration. Acceptance into a course is dependent upon availability of space and facilities after full-time and part-time students have been registered. Registration as a special student requires approval by the D.N.P. program director, Terri Allison. All university and School of Nursing regulations, including the Honor System, apply to special students. Special students who desire to change to regular student status should make application for admission following prescribed procedures.

## Credit Hours

The unit of measure of the student's work load is the semester hour. Credit hours are semester hours; e.g., a three-hour course carries credit of three semester hours. One semester credit hour represents at least three hours of academic work per week, on average, for one semester. Some Vanderbilt courses may have requirements which exceed this definition. Credit hours are determined based on course delivery methods, measurement of student work, and expectations of student achievement at the doctoral level. Credit hours taken per semester are used as a basis for awarding financial aid. Academic work includes, but is not necessarily limited to, lectures, homework, research, class readings, discussion boards, independent study, and practica. Certain courses (e.g., independent study) are designated as repeatable as they contain evolving or iteratively new content. These courses may be taken multiple times for credit. If a course can be repeated, the number of credit hours allowable per semester will be included in the course description.

## Course Load

The unit of measure of the student's work load is the semester hour. All references to credit hours are semester hours. The normal full-time schedule is 6 hours per semester. Students admitted in fall 2018 or later are required to follow a five- or six-semester program of study as outlined in the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing Student Handbook. The student's status is defined as follows:

*Full time:* Registered for 6 or more hours

*Three-quarter time:* Enrolled in 4-5 credit hours

*Half time:* Enrolled in 2-3 credit hours

*Less-than-half time:* Registered for 1 credit hour

## Ratio of Credit Hours to Clock Hours

*Didactic.* Courses are offered in a blended format with one or more required face-to-face class sessions and one or more required online sessions. VUSN documents these activities through the class schedule or syllabus assuring that D.N.P. students are meeting the minimum semester hour credit hour requirement for the credit awarded. One credit hour for one hour of activity per week-1:1.

*Independent Study.* Independent learning or experience involving self-directed learning under indirect supervision by course or clinical faculty (credit varies according to type of activity).

*Practicum.* Practica are designed to demonstrate synthesis of expanded knowledge acquired within the D.N.P. curriculum. One credit hour for nine hours of activity per week-1:9. Practicum hours are not substantiated by the students' expertise in the health care system demonstrated prior to the D.N.P. program nor by time spent working on classroom assignments. The practicum hours signify the capability of the student to meet the AACN The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice (2006) [the Essentials].

[aacnnursing.org/DNP/DNP-Essentials](http://aacnnursing.org/DNP/DNP-Essentials). A minimum of 1,000 hours post B.S.N. or 500 hours post M.S.N. are required. The hours can be demonstrated through a variety of methods including:

- In-depth work/mentorship with experts from nursing, as well as other disciplines within practice environments
- Opportunities to build and assimilate knowledge for advanced specialty practice at a high level of complexity
- Opportunities for further synthesis and expansion of learning
- Experiences in the context within which the final D.N.P. project is completed

- Opportunities to integrate and synthesize the Essentials and specialty requirements necessary to demonstrate competency in an area of specialized advanced nursing practice

## Practica

Most students complete practice hours at their site of employment as an advanced practice nurse, health care leader, or nurse informaticist. Students are required to submit a signed “Letter of Understanding” between VUSN and their employer or practice site. The letter, though not a formal contract, is a signed memorandum of understanding that the student’s employer is aware of the student’s enrollment in the D.N.P. program at VUSN and will be able to work on the identified project topic within this professional practice setting under the supervision of the student’s identified project committee and in association with the agency facilitator. The D.N.P. program director reviews the practice site for appropriateness and signs the letter of understanding. For students not employed in a setting appropriate to their area of study in the D.N.P. program, VUSN will execute affiliation agreements with a specified agency and preceptor for the student’s practica course work. D.N.P students will be asked to complete the immunization/certification requirements as required by the school. Practice mentors and/or agencies may require a drug screening or additional criminal background check. Costs associated with these processes are the responsibility of the student.

## Doctor of Nursing Practice: The D.N.P. Degree

ASST. DEAN for ACADEMICS - DNP PROGRAM: Terri Allison

ASST DIRECTOR of DNP PROGRAM: Karen Hande

PROFESSORS: Terri Allison, Mark Frisse, Mary Jo Gilmer, Rolanda Johnson, April Kapu, Sharon Karp, Betsy Kennedy, Jennifer Kim, Ruth Kleinpell, Linda Norman, Mavis Schorn, Jennifer Wilbeck, Carol Ziegler

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS: Debbie Arnow, Laurie Connors, Stephanie Devane-Johnson, Karen Hande, Pam Jones, Brenda Kulhanek, Mary Lambert, Jana Lauderdale, Susie Leming-Lee, Melanie Lutenbacher, Betty Moore, Ginny Moore, Abby Parish, Courtney Pitts, Geri Reeves, Patricia Sengstack, Megan Shifrin, Dawn VanderHoef, Brian Widmar

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS: Angel Anthamatten, Sharon Bryant, Carol Callaway-Lane, Courtney Cook, Melissa Davis, Misty Evans, Sarah Gast, Melissa Glassford,, Michael Gooch, K. Melissa Smith-Hayes, Queen Henry-Okafor, Jo Ellen Holt, Leslie Hopkins, Becky Keck, Christian Ketel, Kanah Lewallen,,Natasha McClure, Brittany Nelson, Mary Lauren-Pfieffer, Julia Phillippi, Rameela Raman, Anna Richmond, Michelle Ruslavage, Patricia Scott, Kim Steanson, Julia Steed, Clare Thomson-Smith, Jessica Walker, Pam Waynick-Rogers, Christopher Ty Williams, Marci Zsamboky

INSTRUCTORS Sheree Allen, Melanie Allison, Sarah Folliard, Marshay James, Jason Jean, Michele Martens, Matthew Martin, Colleen Moss, Ken Nelson, Susanna Rudy, Stefani Yudasz

## DEGREE OFFERED: Doctor of Nursing Practice

The Doctor of Nursing Practice program prepares leaders in advanced nursing practice to bring evidence-based knowledge into the practice arena, improve health care outcomes and strengthen the leadership role in guiding complex care delivery and nursing education.

Increased complexity in health care, the explosion of knowledge and technology, and national issues related to patient safety and quality improvement call for fundamental changes in the education of all health care professionals. Redesigning care processes are indicated, with information technology systems enhancing evidence-based decision making at both the macro- and micro-system levels.

Addressing the above challenges identified by the Institute of Medicine and other national organizations, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (A.A.C.N.) published a position paper in 2004 targeting the adoption of the D.N.P. as the terminal degree for advanced nursing practice.



Advanced nursing practice is any form of nursing intervention that influences health care outcomes for individuals or populations, including the direct care of individual patients, management of care for specific populations, administration of nursing and health care organizations, and the development and implementation of health care policy.

VUSN has a long history of educating advanced practice nurses at the master's level in both direct and indirect patient care, e.g., nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, clinical nurse specialists, nursing informatics specialists, and health care leaders. Nurses prepared in practice doctorate programs have a blend of clinical, organizational, economic, and leadership skills to enable them to use nursing and other scientific findings to design sustainable programs of care delivery that are innovative, economically feasible and have significant impact on health care outcomes.

## **Financial Information**

Tuition for 2021/2022 is \$1,793 per credit hour for the M.S.N., Post-Master's Certificate, and D.N.P. programs. For information concerning tuition for the Ph.D. in nursing science, see the Graduate School Catalog.

*Rates for tuition and fees are set annually by the Board of Trust and are subject to review and change without further notice.*

The master of science in nursing may be completed in a minimum of three semesters of full-time study for students who enter with a B.S.N.; students admitted through the pre-specialty component complete the M.S.N. in six full-time semesters. Students admitted through the R.N. pre-specialty component complete the M.S.N. in a minimum of five full-time semesters. M.S.N. students attend fall, spring, and summer sessions. D.N.P. students admitted prior to fall 2018 may complete the degree requirements in either four consecutive semesters of full-time study or six semesters of part-time study. D.N.P. students admitted in fall 2018 or later complete the program in five or six semesters and complete a minimum of 36 credit hours.

The course fee for students registered for zero hours of Clinical Continuation (NURS 5999 ) or Thesis (NURS 7999 ) is \$200. Registration and payment of course fee retain student status. Students taking an incomplete or having a missing grade in a course register for zero hours, if not otherwise enrolled, until removal of the incomplete grade. The charge for each course in which an incomplete is recorded is \$200.00. Registration and payment of fees retain student status.

There will be a one-time fee of \$100 for processing transcripts.

Other Fees

Application	\$50
Matriculation (non-refundable)	\$500
Student services fees	
Fall and spring (per semester)	\$281
Summer	\$96
Zero hours	\$200
Student health insurance (per year) (\$1,758, fall; \$1,757, spring)	\$3,515
Student Health Fee (fall/spring)	\$348
Student Health Fee (summer)	\$102
Transcript fee (one time)	\$100

Expenses for books and supplies will vary by specialty. Equipment such as tape recorders and diagnostic sets will be required for certain specialties.

A criminal background check arranged by the school is required of all new students at the student's expense. A minimal student requirements tracking fee will also be incurred at the student's expense.

#### Payment of Tuition and Fees

Tuition, fees, and all other university charges incurred prior to or at registration are due and payable by August 15 for the fall semester and January 4 for the spring semester. All charges incurred after classes begin are due and payable in full by the last day of the month in which they are billed to the student.

If payment is not made within that time, cancellation of V-Net (long distance telephone) access for campus residents may result and additional charges to campus dining or flexible-spending accounts may be prohibited.

Students/guarantors will be responsible for payment of all costs, including reasonable attorney fees and collection agency fees, incurred by the university in collecting monies owed to the university. The university will assess a \$20 fee for any check returned by the bank and reserves the right to invoke the laws of the State of Tennessee governing bad checks.

#### Refunds of Tuition and Dormitory Charges

University policy for the refund of tuition charges provides a percentage refund based on the time of withdrawal. Students who withdraw officially or are dismissed from the university for any reason may be entitled to a partial refund. Fees are nonrefundable. The refund schedules may be viewed at [vanderbilt.edu/stuaccts/](http://vanderbilt.edu/stuaccts/).

#### Tuition Payment Plan (The Vandy Plan)

Information about the Vandy Plan is available on the Student Accounts website at [vanderbilt.edu/stuaccts](http://vanderbilt.edu/stuaccts).

#### Late Payment of Fees

All charges not paid by the specified due dates will be assessed a late payment fee of 1.50% owed (minimum \$5).

#### Financial Clearance

No transcript (official or unofficial) will be issued for a student who has an outstanding balance. Diplomas of graduating students will not be released until all indebtedness to the university is cleared.

#### Professional Liability Insurance

The student tuition rate includes the cost for professional liability insurance. The policy covers only practice as a nursing student and does not extend to coverage of nursing practice outside of the student role. Details of the

policy are available at the university's student insurance office, and students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with policy details and their responsibility in regard to insurance coverage.

#### Student Health Insurance

Health insurance coverage that includes hospitalization is required for all students enrolled for 4 or more credit hours. Students with health insurance coverage complete an online petition found at [www.gallagherstudent.com](http://www.gallagherstudent.com) to waive insurance. Students taking 4 or more hours will be charged automatically for health insurance for the entire year unless the students have completed this waiver. Verification of other health insurance coverage is required to obtain a waiver.

#### Transcripts

Official academic transcripts are supplied by the Office of the University Registrar on authorization from the student. Transcripts are not released for students with financial or other university holds.

#### Student Service Fees

The required student service fees entitle degree-seeking students to use the facilities of Sarratt Student Center and the David Williams II Student Recreation and Wellness Center. The fees also cover admission to certain social and cultural events and subscriptions to certain campus publications. Specific information on these fees is published annually in the Student Handbook. By payment of an additional fee, students and their spouses may use their identification cards for admission to athletic events.

#### Financial Aid

The majority of our nursing students rely on financial aid to pay for the nursing program. Upon applying to the School of Nursing, a financial aid packet will be mailed to you in mid January. That packet will include directions about completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA can be completed online at <https://studentaid.gov>. Once the FAFSA is completed, the student is then considered for all federal loans available based on your financial eligibility.

In order to qualify for financial loan assistance an M.S.N. and Post-Masters Certificate students must be enrolled in at least five credit hours per semester and be degree seeking. DNP students must be enrolled in at least two hours a semester to receive federal student loans. The loans offered are Federal Direct Unsubsidized loans and Federal Direct Grad PLUS loans. Both accrue interest from the date of disbursement.

Financial aid awards are made after you are accepted to the School of Nursing and you have deposited. Assuming you have completed all of the appropriate financial aid paperwork, the School of Nursing (SON) Student Financial Services Office will send the student a financial aid award by the end of April that will consist of a nursing scholarship and loans for students planning to begin school in the fall.

#### Student Loans

Student loans constitute the majority of a financial aid package. The Federal Unsubsidized Loan and the Federal Direct Grad PLUS loans are borrowed from the Federal Direct Loan Program. The Federal Direct unsubsidized loan is non need based and also has a six-month grace period prior to repayment. The maximum available is \$20,500 per academic year. With an unsubsidized loan, the student is responsible for payment of the accruing interest and may request that payment be deferred until the grace period expires, at which time the interest is capitalized. All Federal Stafford loans must be repaid within 120 months, and the fixed interest rate on a federal loan is 4.30 percent (for the 2021/2022 academic year).

As soon as the student has been awarded a federal loan, the SON Student Financial Services Office will determine how much the student will be offered in a Federal Direct Grad PLUS loan. The Federal Direct Grad PLUS loan enables graduate/professional students with a good credit history to borrow to pay educational expenses for at least half-time enrollment (six hours or more a semester). The student may borrow up to the annual cost of attending Vanderbilt minus any other aid for which the student is eligible. The majority of loans offered will be Federal Direct Grad PLUS loans. The fixed interest rate on this loan is 5.30 percent (for the 2020/2021 academic year). Your eligibility for this loan is based on your credit history, and, in some cases, a co-borrower is required. The borrower generally begins repayment of a PLUS loan within 60 days after the final loan disbursement. There is no grace period for these loans, so interest begins to accumulate at the time the first disbursement is made.

#### Internal Scholarships

All internal scholarships for M.S.N. students are merit based and are awarded based on a combination of the student's incoming grade point average and GRE or other standardized test score. Scholarships for D.N.P. students are partial scholarships and are set at the same amount depending on the school's scholarship budget for that year. Full-time enrollment (12 hours per semester for M.S.N. students) is required to be considered for a scholarship award. In order for students to be considered for scholarships, they must be accepted to the School of Nursing. All awards are made through the School of Nursing according to the requirements of the funding source. The School of Nursing maintains an extensive list of scholarships available for women, minorities, and graduate students. Students who are pursuing a post-master's certificate are not eligible for scholarships or federal student loans but may apply for private loans.

#### Full-tuition Scholarships

Three full-tuition, one-year scholarships are offered to incoming students. One is awarded to an outstanding first-year pre-specialty student. One is awarded to an outstanding direct-entry student, and one to an outstanding minority student. The rankings are based on the entering GPA, the statement of purpose on the admission application and faculty scores, and the recipients are determined by the scholarship committee. There are also three merit-based, one-year, full scholarships awarded to pre-specialty M.S.N. students with the highest GPAs entering their second year of study.

#### External Scholarships

All external scholarship applications must be initiated by the student. Applicants may find external scholarships from a local library, the Internet, religious organizations, community organizations and civic groups, foundations, fraternities, sororities, and clubs.

#### Disbursement of Financial Aid Funds

All financial aid (nursing scholarships and loans) is credited directly to the student's account. The financial aid file must be complete in order for available funds to credit the student's account. All loans are disbursed in equal installments to the student's account at the beginning of each semester. Any loan promissory notes and paperwork must be completed and signed before loan funds disburse to the student's account. Typically, scholarship funds are disbursed in the same manner.

## Honors and Awards

#### Sigma Theta Tau

The Iota chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, international honor society of nursing, was installed at Vanderbilt University on 3 June 1953. Sigma Theta Tau is professional rather than social, and its purpose and functions may be compared to other honor societies. Sigma Theta Tau is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies.

Election to membership in the society is limited to students who have shown marked qualities of character, leadership, and ability in nursing and who have maintained a high scholastic average. Students in the direct entry M.S.N. program are eligible for membership after having completed 10 semester hours of the required curriculum. Students in the pre-specialty program are eligible for membership after having completed 22 hours of the required pre-specialty curriculum.

#### Founder's Medal

The Founder's Medal, signifying first honors, was endowed by Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt as one of his gifts to the university. The Founder's Medal is conferred annually upon the graduating student in the School of Nursing who, in the judgment of the faculty, has achieved the strongest record in the areas of professional and academic performance in meeting the requirements for the master of science in nursing.

#### Amy Frances Brown Prize for Excellence in Writing

This prize is awarded each year there is a worthy candidate among the graduates of the School of Nursing. The selection is based upon papers submitted to meet course requirements in either the pre-specialty or specialist nursing component of the curriculum.

#### Specialty Awards

The School of Nursing Specialty Awards were initiated in August 1998 to recognize the most outstanding student in each specialty area. The awards are based on academic achievement, excellence in clinical practice, demonstrated leadership, community service and potential for future contributions to the nursing profession.

## Honor Scholarships

Vanderbilt's highly competitive Honor Scholarship program is based on academic merit. Six full honor scholarships are awarded to M.S.N. students each year in recognition of exceptional accomplishment and high promise in the field of nursing. This list includes the names of our scholarships. Each full-time student is awarded only one scholarship each year.

## Full Scholarships

THE HAROLD STIRLING VANDERBILT (HSV) SCHOLARSHIP honors the memory of the great-grandson of Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt and president of the university's Board of Trust from 1955 to 1968. The scholarship covers full tuition for three semesters and is awarded annually to an outstanding minority student in the incoming class.

THE JULIA HEREFORD ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP for a second-year student is awarded annually through the generosity of the Julia Hereford Society and the Julia Hereford Endowed Alumni Scholarship Fund.

THE C. W. KEMPKAU SCHOLARSHIP is awarded annually to an outstanding pre-specialty student in the incoming class.

THE LAURA CATHERINE RANKIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP for a second year student was established in Laura's memory by her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Allan Rankin, family, and classmates.

THE FRANCES SCOTT MORRISON SCHOLARSHIP for a second-year student was established in 2002. Preference is given to students who had relatives who served during World War II, specifically at Iwo Jima.

THE SCHOOL OF NURSING DEAN'S HONOR SCHOLARSHIP is awarded annually to an outstanding direct-entry student in the incoming class.

## Partial Scholarships

THE HELEN T. ALFORD SCHOLARSHIP was established with a gift in 2005 and will be awarded annually to a student demonstrating merit and financial need.

THE SARA K. ARCHER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR GERONTOLOGY NURSE PRACTITIONERS was established in 2007 and named in honor of former School of Nursing Dean Dr. Sara K. Archer.

THE BOTTORFF FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP was established in 2003 through a generous donation of Denny and Jean Bottorff to be awarded to a student demonstrating exceptional merit.

THE IMOGENE "GENE" WHITE BOTTORFF SCHOLARSHIP was established with a gift in 2008. Top priority shall be given to persons graduating from any high school in Boyle or Oldham County, Kentucky, or any qualified students who may have graduated elsewhere, but who are residents of such counties, or whose parent or grandparent is a resident (or was a resident at the time of his or her death).

THE EVA W., BARBARA T., SARA M. BOVENDER SCHOLARSHIP was established in 2010 to provide financial support to a deserving student.

THE INEZ BRAMLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP was established in 2006 and will be awarded annually to a minority student demonstrating merit and need.

THE BURRUS MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR NURSES was established in 1987 by George R. Burrus, M.D., in honor of his daughters, Lisa, Kate, and Nan, who are Vanderbilt School of Nursing graduates.

THE JAMES AND JANET CARELL SCHOLARSHIP was established with a gift in 2005 and will be awarded annually to

a student demonstrating merit and financial need.

THE LILLIAN CARY SCHOLARSHIP is awarded to an M.S.N. student in the Family Nurse Practitioner specialty. Selection is based on academic merit and financial need.

THE THOMAS CONE SCHOLARSHIP was endowed through a gift from Thomas and Charlotte Cone to be awarded annually to a worthy and needy student who is a single parent.

THE DR. ROBERT H. ELROD SCHOLARSHIP was endowed in 2010 to provide assistance to nursing students in memory of his daughter and in honor of his granddaughter.

THE ALICE THOMPSON FISCHER SCHOLARSHIP FUND was established with a gift in 2006 and will be awarded annually to a student demonstrating merit and financial need.

THE CHARLES B. FUNK AND CAROL S. FUNK SCHOLARSHIP was established with a gift in 2006 and will be awarded annually to a student who is a U.S. citizen demonstrating merit and financial need.

THE LA JUAN FURGASON SCHOLARSHIP was established by Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Furgason in memory of their daughter, a 1967 BSN graduate of the School of Nursing.

THE VIRGINIA M. GEORGE SCHOLARSHIP IN NURSING was established in 2005 to provide financial support for students enrolled in the family nurse practitioner program.

THE BOBBIE LEE GILMER SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR NURSES was endowed in 2000 from a bequest of Bobbie Gilmer to be awarded annually to a worthy student.

THE DOROTHY S. GOLDSTEIN AND JULIE G. BOEHM SCHOLARSHIP was established by the late Dorothy Goldstein to be awarded annually to a minority student demonstrating both need and merit.

THE HALEY AWARD was endowed through a bequest from James H. Haley, Jr., to help support a worthy student of the School of Nursing.

THE HASSENPLUG SCHOLARSHIP was generated by the memorial initiated by the Class of '42 in memory of their creative teacher/mentor, Lulu K. Wolf Hassenplug. After ten dynamic and productive years at Vanderbilt, Hassenplug was the national leader who propelled nursing education to achieve true university stature. Endowment of the fund was reached in 2003 in honor of Hassenplug's 100th birthday. This award goes to an outstanding student whose career goal is directed toward academic nursing education.

THE WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND was established for minority students. It is awarded to minority students on the basis of merit and need.

THE FRANCES M. HOUSTON SCHOLARSHIP FUND is endowed for the benefit of the School of Nursing. Preference shall be given to students from Cannon County, Tennessee, and then to the surrounding counties of Coffee, Dekalb, Rutherford, Wilson, and Warren.

THE LIZZIE MINOR HOUSTON SCHOLARSHIP was endowed through the bequest of George Houston in honor of his wife. Preference is given to students from Cannon County, Tennessee, first; then, after two years, students from the surrounding counties of Coffee, Dekalb, Rutherford, Warren, and Wilson are considered.

THE SAMMIE S. SHAPIRO-RACHEL S. KELLY SCHOLARSHIP was established by bequests from the estates of these two sisters, both Vanderbilt alumnae, and is supported by contributions from members of their family. It is awarded annually to a worthy and needy student.

THE ELIJAH NEVINS KIRKPATRICK SCHOLARSHIP is supported by the Frank Godchaux III family in memory of Mr. Kirkpatrick, a Vanderbilt alumnus and father of Mrs. Godchaux. It is awarded annually to a student demonstrating both exceptional merit and financial need.

THE JOYCE KEMP LABEN SCHOLARSHIP was established in 1998 and will be awarded annually to a student in the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialty.

THE MILAH P. LYNN SCHOLARSHIP FUND was established in 1996 by a gift from Milah and Stephen Lynn. This scholarship is to be awarded to worthy, needy students.

THE MARKS FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND was established with a gift in 2011 and will provide financial support annually to deserving students in the School of Nursing.

THE KATHLEEN SUZANNE NELSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND was endowed through a bequest from Dr. Robert A. Nelson, Jr., in memory of his daughter, a 1975 graduate of the school.

THE SALLY BAUM NORDLUND AND D. CRAIG NORDLUND SCHOLARSHIP IN NURSING was established with a gift in 2005 and will be awarded annually to a student demonstrating merit and financial need.

THE COLEMAN D. OLDHAM HONOR SCHOLARSHIP was endowed in 1997 by Coleman and Emma Oldham to be awarded annually to a male student from Madison County, Kentucky, first, and then consideration to a male student from Kentucky demonstrating merit and financial need.

THE PASS IT ON SCHOLARSHIP was established in 2004. The scholarship is awarded with the recipient's full understanding that, given the time and opportunity, the recipient will, after graduation, provide financial, emotional, and/or moral support to other nursing students seeking to further their education.

THE VALERE POTTER SCHOLARSHIP FUND was established originally by a gift from the late Valere Blair Potter. This scholarship is awarded annually to second year pre-specialty students demonstrating exceptional merit and financial need.

THE LAURA CATHERINE RANKIN SCHOLARSHIP was established in Laura's memory by her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Allan Rankin, family, and classmates. Selection is based on academic excellence.

THE TABITHA JOHNSON REEVES SCHOLARSHIP FUND was established in 1998 to be awarded to a worthy student with financial need.

THE PAMELA RICHARDSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP was established in 1995 by her family and friends in her memory. Pamela Richardson was a VUSN student at the time she died. The scholarship will be awarded annually to a second year student demonstrating financial need and exceptional merit.

THE SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP is awarded annually to a student who can demonstrate a high level of participation in volunteer activities in the community and/or the School of Nursing.

THE JANICE AMBREY STALCUP MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP was established in 2011 by Doreen Wise, her nursing school roommate and friend, to provide financial support to deserving students.

THE ANN SCHUH TAYLOR SCHOLARSHIP IN NURSING was established with a gift in 2008 to be awarded annually to a student demonstrating merit and need.

THE VIRGINIA SADLER TOOMAY AWARD was established with a gift in 2005 to be awarded annually to a student

demonstrating merit and need.

THE HILLIARD AND NANCY TRAVIS SCHOLARSHIP is supported by the generosity of Mrs. Nancy Travis and the late Mr. Hilliard Travis. Several awards are made annually to students in a variety of specialties.

THE JEANETTE AND LEON TRAVIS SCHOLARSHIP FOR NURSING AT ST. THOMAS HOSPITAL was established by Mrs. Jeanette Travis and the late Mr. Travis for nurses employed at St. Thomas Hospital who wish to pursue the M.S.N. degree at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. Inquiries regarding this opportunity should be directed to the St. Thomas Career Center, (615) 222-2361.

THE FRANCES HELEN ZIEGLER TUNNELL SCHOLARSHIP FUND was endowed through the will of this former dean of the School of Nursing and is awarded to a student demonstrating merit and need.

THE VANDERBILT MEDICAL CENTER AUXILIARY STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND was established in 2006 to be awarded to a student or students demonstrating merit and financial need.

THE LETTIE PATE WHITEHEAD SCHOLARSHIP FUND is supported by the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation. The awards are given to first-year, female pre-specialty students from southern states.

THE ZELLE SCHOLARSHIP was established in 1995. This scholarship is awarded annually to nursing students specializing in chronic care with a focus on rehabilitation nursing.

## **Master of Science in Nursing: Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner**

SPECIALTY DIRECTOR Brian Widmar

PROFESSORS Ruth M. Kleinpell, Jennifer L. Wilbeck

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS Terri Allison, Nathan Ashby, Courtney Cook , Megan Shifrin , Brian Widmar

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS, Sharon Bryant, Sarah Gast, Michael Gooch, Kathryn McNabb

INSTRUCTORS Brooke Bailey, Sarah Bloom, Nina Collins, Doug Smith, Patrick Stieve, Kristin Werking, Linda Wilkerson

The Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner specialty is designed to prepare nurse practitioners to provide care for critically ill, acutely ill, and chronically ill adult and older adult patients. Students receive didactic content about diseases across the illness trajectory, thus enabling students to learn about the chronic nature of many illnesses in addition to the acute episodic problems and critical care aspects of these same illnesses. Special options are available in trauma, oncology, cardiology, cardiac surgery, orthopaedics, emergency medicine, diabetes, general surgery, pulmonology, transplantation, neurology, neurosurgery, hospitalist, and intensivist. Enrollment in these options will be limited by availability of preceptors. For R.N.'s with at least two years of recent clinical experience, the specialty is offered in a modified distance format. Graduates are currently eligible to sit for either the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) or the American Association of Critical Case Nurses (AACN) Certification Board Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Certification exam.

Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner



## **FALL I**

NURS 6045 Professional Formation I: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice (2 credit hours)

NURS 6101 Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (3 credit hours)

NURS 6102 Advanced Physiology and Pathophysiology (4 credit hours)

NURS 6103 Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics (3 credit hours)

NURS 6105 Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (1 credit hour)

NURS 6114 Pathophysiology and Collaborative Management in Acute Care for the Adult-Gerontology ACNP I (3 credit hours)

## **SPRING I**

NURS 6055 Professional Formation II: Evidence-Based Change in Health Care Environments (3 credit hours)

NURS 6115 Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Practicum (4 credit hours)

NURS 6124 Pathophysiology and Collaborative Management in Acute Care for the Adult-Gerontology ACNP II (3 credit hours)

Elective (2 credit hours)

## **SUMMER I**

NURS 6065 Professional Formation III: Leading Collaborative Change: Improving Delivery of Health Care to Patients and Populations (4 credit hours)

NURS 6075 Professional Formation IV: Transition to Advanced Nursing Practice (1 credit hour)

NURS 6134 Pathophysiology and Collaborative Management in Acute Care for the Adult-Gerontology ACNP III (3 credit hours)

NURS 6195 Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship (4 credit hours)

**Total: 40 credit hours**

NOTE: Hospitalist option = 41 credit hours. Intensivist option = 42 credit hours.

## **Master of Science in Nursing: Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner**

SPECIALTY DIRECTOR Leslie Welch Hopkins

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITA Barbara F. Grimes

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR Karen Hande, Leslie Hopkins, Rolanda Johnson, Abby Parish

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS John Travis Dunlap, Sharon Jones, Kanah Lewallen, K. Melissa Smith-Hayes, Carrie Plummer.

The Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner specialty prepares advanced practice nurses to care for patients 13 years of age and up in a variety of settings. Graduates meet the requirements for the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner certification exam offered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Association of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board. There is a significant emphasis on disease prevention and health promotion, in addition to the treatment of common acute and chronic conditions of adults. This program offers a broad foundation in adult primary care. The range of clinical sites for AGPCNP students is tremendous and includes ambulatory clinics, private physician-owned practices, internal medicine practices, and long-term-care facilities, to name a few.

Students gain an understanding of the health care delivery system. They learn to assess, diagnose, and manage common acute and chronic adult health problems and to provide education about health maintenance and disease prevention to patients. In addition, emphasis is placed on the normal changes associated with the aging process. Frail elder adult issues, including physical, psychosocial, and functional changes are also included.

Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

**FALL I**

- NURS 6010 Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6011 Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6012 Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6020 Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6034 Adult Gerontology Primary Care I (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6045 Professional Formation I: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6205 Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (1 credit hour)

**SPRING I**

- NURS 6032 Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Woman (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6055 Professional Formation II: Evidence-Based Change in Health Care Environments (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6215 Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Clinical I (4 credit hours)
- NURS 6234 Adult Gerontology Primary Care II (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6236 Advanced Concepts in the Care of the Elderly (2 credit hours)

**SUMMER I**

- NURS 6031 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Adolescent (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6065 Professional Formation III: Leading Collaborative Change: Improving Delivery of Health Care to Patients and Populations (4 credit hours)
- NURS 6075 Professional Formation IV: Transition to Advanced Nursing Practice (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6134 Pathophysiology and Collaborative Management in Acute Care for the Adult-Gerontology ACNP III (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6195 Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship (4 credit hours)

**Total: 40 credit hours**

**Master of Science in Nursing: Family/Emergency Nurse Practitioner**

SPECIALTY DIRECTOR Jennifer L. Wilbeck

This master of science in nursing specialty offers a uniquely designed four-semester curriculum for experienced R.N.'s. Its foundation is the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing M.S.N. core of courses that delve into the themes and competencies that form the basis of graduate nursing education, including advanced health assessment, pathophysiology, and pharmacology.

The specialty is open to R.N.'s who have at least two years of current R.N. experience, at least one full year of which must be as an R.N. in the Emergency Department. This includes diploma R.N.'s, A.D.N.'s, B.S.N.'s, and post-master's students.

The Emergency Nurse Practitioner specialty is offered in a modified block format which includes: (1) visits to campus 3-4 times per semester for 2-5 days, (2) on-line conferencing, and (3) distributed learning methods allowing for continued faculty contact between sessions. Clinical placements can be arranged in the student's "home" area provided a suitable agency and preceptor are available. Sites and preceptors are subject to VUSN faculty approval. This program satisfies eligibility criteria for the Emergency Nurse Practitioner certification (ENP-C) exam as well as the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) certification examination offered by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board.

## Emergency Care Focus

The unique aspects and complexities of emergency care are explored within the following specialty courses: NURS 6301 Concepts in Advanced Emergency Nursing, NURS 6143 Fundamentals of Point of Care Ultrasound for the Advanced Practice Provider, NURS 6305 Advanced Health Assessment Application for the Adult-Gerontology ACNP, NURS 6385 Practicum in Emergency Care I, and NURS 6395 Practicum in Emergency Care II. Additionally, other courses have been modified to allow for varied learning experiences necessary for the ENP.

### Family/Emergency Nurse Practitioner

#### **FALL I**

- NURS 6010 Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6011 Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6012 Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6020 Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6030 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Adult (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6045 Professional Formation I: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6505 Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Family Nurse Practitioner (1 credit hour)

#### **SPRING I**

- NURS 6032 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Woman (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6036 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Child and Adolescent (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6055 Professional Formation II: Evidence-Based Change in Health Care Environments (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6301 Concepts in Advanced Emergency Nursing (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6385 Practicum in Emergency Care I (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6521 The Context of Primary Care: Family Nurse Practitioner Domains and Core Competencies for Practice (2 credit hours)
  
- NURS 6532 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Elderly (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6555 Practicum in Primary Health Care of the Family (4 credit hours)

#### **SUMMER II**

- NURS 6065 Professional Formation III: Leading Collaborative Change: Improving Delivery of Health Care to Patients and Populations (4 credit hours)
- NURS 6075 Professional Formation IV: Transition to Advanced Nursing Practice (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6143 Fundamentals of Point of Care Ultrasound for the Advanced Practice Provider (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6395 Practicum in Emergency Care (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6535 Practicum in Primary Health Care for the Adult for Dual Specialty (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6595 Family Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship for Dual Specialty (3 credit hours)

#### **FALL II**

- NURS 6361 Pathophysiology and Collaborative Management in Emergent and Critical Care (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6365 Trauma, Emergency and Critical Care Clinical I (3 credit hours)

**Total: 51 Credit Hours**

## **Master of Science in Nursing: Family Nurse Practitioner**

SPECIALTY DIRECTOR Courtney Pitts

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS Courtney Pitts, Geri Reeves

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS Angelina Anthamatten, Melissa Glassford, Queen Henry-Okafor, Anna Richmond, Jannyse Starks, Julia Steed, Carol Ziegler

INSTRUCTORS Duke Chenault, Shannon Cole, Nicole Dellise, Mary Lauren Pfeiffer, Randy Smith

This specialty prepares graduates to deliver comprehensive primary care to individuals, from infancy through adulthood. Emphasis is on acquisition of the knowledge and skills necessary for a family-centered approach to health promotion and intervention in illness. Students gain clinical experience in primary health care settings with children and adults. The preceptorship facilitates development of clinical skills that prepare the graduate for the advanced practice role of the Family Nurse Practitioner. Graduates are eligible to sit for either the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Board Family Nurse Practitioner certification exam.

#### Family Nurse Practitioner

##### **FALL I**

- NURS 6010 Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6011 Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6012 Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6020 Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6030 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Adult (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6045 Professional Formation I: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6505 Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Family Nurse Practitioner (1 credit hour)

##### **SPRING I**

- NURS 6032 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Woman (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6036 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Child and Adolescent (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6055 Professional Formation II: Evidence-Based Change in Health Care Environments (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6521 The Context of Primary Care: Family Nurse Practitioner Domains and Core Competencies for Practice (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6532 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Elderly (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6555 Practicum in Primary Health Care of the Family (4 credit hours)

##### **SUMMER I**

- NURS 6065 Professional Formation III: Leading Collaborative Change: Improving Delivery of Health Care to Patients and Populations (4 credit hours)
- NURS 6075 Professional Formation IV: Transition to Advanced Nursing Practice (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6565 Practicum in the Primary Health Care of the Family (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6575 Clinical Decision Making for the Family Nurse Practitioner (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6585 Family Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship (4 credit hours)

**Total: 40 Credit Hours**

## **Master of Science in Nursing: M.S.N. Academic Regulations**

### Pass/Fail Courses

Only elective courses may be taken Pass/Fail. Grades of C or above are recorded as Pass. The grade Pass is not counted toward grade point averages. The grade of F applies as in any other course; although an F earns zero hours, the hours attempted are counted in calculating the grade point average. A student who has a choice about taking a course for a grade or Pass/Fail may register on a Pass/Fail basis or may change to Pass/Fail basis within one month of the first day of classes. After this time, one may change from a Pass/Fail to a letter grade basis according to the dates published in the university calendar, but not vice-versa.

### Credit Hours

The unit of measure of the student's work load is the semester hour. Credit hours are semester hours; e.g., a three-hour course carries credit of three semester hours. One semester credit hour represents at least three hours of academic work per week, on average, for one semester. Academic work includes, but is not necessarily limited to, lectures, laboratory work, homework, research, class readings, independent study, internships, practica, studio work, recitals, practicing, rehearsing, and recitations. Some Vanderbilt courses may have requirements which exceed this definition. Certain courses (e.g., dissertation research, ensemble, performance instruction, and independent study) are designated as repeatable as they contain evolving or iteratively new content. These courses may be taken multiple times for credit. If a course can be repeated, the number of credit hours allowable per semester will be included in the course description.

### Course Load

The normal full-time schedule is 12 to 16 hours per semester depending upon the individual specialty program. A student who wishes to carry more than 16 hours must secure authorization from the senior associate dean before registration. Students who elect to attend the program part time must be approved for part-time study by

the program director and follow the approved part-time program of study.

Course load status for M.S.N. and post-master's certificate students is defined as follows:

*Full time:* Registered for 12 or more hours

*Three-quarter time:* Registered for at least 9 hours but fewer than 12 hours

*Half time:* Registered for at least 6 hours but fewer than 9 hours

*Less-than-half time:* Registered for at least 1 hour, but fewer than 6 hours

Ratio of Credit Hours to Clock Hours

*Applied Science Laboratory.* Student activity within a group under faculty supervision in a special room with special equipment for the purpose of gaining new skills (one credit hour for two hours' activity per week—1:2).

*Clinical Conference.* Individual or group interaction with a faculty member about specific clinical experiences which is part of clinical experience or practicum (no separate credit).

*Clinical Experience.* Student practice supervised by faculty in an approved clinical agency or simulated patient care setting in conjunction with didactic course content (one credit hour for five hours' activity per week—1:5).

*Clinical Independent Study.* Indirect supervision of a student in specialized clinical practice which is not part of a regular course (one credit hour for five hours' activity per week—1:5).

*Didactic.* Instruction primarily by faculty presentation (one hour credit for one hour's activity per week—1:1).

*Non-Clinical Independent Study.* Indirect supervision of a student's reading, writing, or research which is not part of a regular course (credit varies according to type of activity).

*Practicum.* A separate clinical course in which knowledge, theories and concepts of nursing, and other disciplines are applied to the patient/client. When the student is in the clinical area, supervision may be by a combination of regular faculty, adjunct faculty, or clinical teaching associate (CTA). The regular faculty must be in contact with the student either face to face, by email, or by telephone, and will meet with the student at regular intervals to review their objectives. The amount of supervision will vary depending upon the clinical setting and the level of learning. The student will recognize that the regular faculty member is responsible for assessing student learning and will be aware of the student's progress toward meeting the clinical objectives (one credit hour for five hours' activity per week—1:5).

*Preceptorship.* A separate clinical course which provides an opportunity for the student to assume the advanced practice role in a relatively independent experience, which can occur anywhere in the world. The regular faculty is responsible for establishing a learning contract with the student and the preceptor to define specific course objectives and learning activities. The preceptor will confer with the student once a week to evaluate progress. The preceptor will assist the student in implementing the specific objectives and learning experiences and will review the student's progress with the faculty member responsible for evaluation in the course. The faculty member will assign a final grade based upon achievement of the objectives specified in the learning contract, input from preceptor, and student self-evaluation (one hour credit for five hours' activity per week—1:5).

*Seminar.* A small group of students engaged in original problem solving under the guidance of a faculty member who interacts with them on a regular basis for reports, discussion, and planning (one credit hour for two hours' activity per week—1:2).

Grade Reports

Students receiving a grade less than B- on any assignment are encouraged to meet with the course instructor to

discuss their performance on the assignment and strategies for improvement. It is strongly recommended that students take advantage of resources available to improve their academic performance such as the School of Nursing Academic Enhancement program, the academic skills workshops available at the University Counseling Center and the Writing Studio.

A final grade recorded by the Office of the University Registrar may be changed only upon written request of the instructor.

#### VUSN: CLINICAL PLACEMENT

The Clinical Placement Office works collaboratively with faculty, program directors, and students to ensure all students have a productive clinical experience. Clinical sites and preceptors are chosen for their ability to provide students with clinical experiences consistent with course and certification requirements and the mission of the school. Due to regulatory requirements or a lack of available and appropriate preceptors, VUSN may not be able to accommodate clinical placements in all areas of the country. Please discuss your preferences with your specialty faculty to be sure you understand all possible options.

##### *PreSpecialty Year Rotations*

Students during their PreSpecialty year will be placed in group clinical experiences. These group experiences may be in a hospital or community setting.

##### *Placements within the Greater Middle Tennessee Area – Specialty Year*

For students admitted as MTA (Greater Middle Tennessee Area) students, the Clinical Placement Office works with the specialty faculty to secure clinical sites. Clinical sites located within a 150-mile radius from the School of Nursing are considered to be within this area. As a result, students may have rotations in Kentucky, Alabama, and east or west Tennessee, depending on the appropriateness of the site. Faculty take into consideration a number of factors in assigning students to sites, including home address, specialty needs, and clinical interests.

Given the large number of health profession students in the area and the competition for sites, agencies and providers have asked that all Greater Middle Tennessee area VUSN placements be coordinated by a school representative. Students are not to reach out to local sites to arrange their own placements. If you identify a possible local placement, please contact your specialty director or course coordinator first; they will work with the Clinical Placement office staff to see if a placement is possible.

##### *Placements outside the Greater Middle Tennessee Area – Specialty Year*

For students admitted as OMTA (outside the Greater Middle Tennessee Area), students, faculty, and the Clinical Placement staff work collaboratively to locate OMTA sites. Students are encouraged to develop a list of possible sites, as they often have a better knowledge of the area and can use personal networks and connections to identify a potential rotation.

The Clinical Placement office will research the area and share information on agencies and practices where VUSN either has an existing relationship or where a previous student has precepted. The Clinical Placement office also coordinates with the Alumni Relations office to share information on alumni in the area who might be able to assist.

Once the student has secured agreement from a preceptor for a rotation, they must submit information through the Clinical Placement system. This enables the faculty to vet the preceptor and ensure the experience is appropriate and will meet both the specialty requirements and the student's educational needs.

Once the faculty has vetted the preceptor, the Clinical Placement office is responsible for ensuring all appropriate agreements are in place and all agency requirements met, before a student may begin their rotation. Vanderbilt requires an agreement with all sites where a student will obtain experience. This includes the practice site as well as any ancillary sites, such as hospitals, surgery centers, and nursing homes. A student may not go with the preceptor to a site where the school does not have an active affiliation agreement. Even when Vanderbilt has an agreement with the site, the Clinical Placement office is required to confirm it is still valid.

Students are strongly encouraged to plan ahead. Given the competition for clinical placements in some parts of the country, securing a preceptor and negotiating and finalizing the necessary agreements can take several months, and in some cases up to a year.

In rare cases, Vanderbilt is unable to come to an agreement with an agency, or a particular area may not have an appropriate site or preceptor available; the Clinical Placement staff communicates on a regular basis with the faculty to allow sufficient time for a student to secure another placement, if necessary. Faculty must approve any additional sites for the student's clinical experience to ensure that the sites are necessary or appropriate to the student's clinical objectives. The number of sites and contracts will be limited per student. Due to the large number of placements each term, requests for rotations for a minimal number of hours (typically less than 80) must be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis by the faculty before an agreement is initiated.

#### *Clinical Requirements - MTA and OMTA*

For clinicals at the specialty level, an active and unencumbered RN license, valid for the state in which the student is doing the rotation, is required. Depending on the clinical placement location, students may be required to obtain additional state licenses. Due to regulatory requirements or a lack of available preceptors, VUSN cannot accommodate clinical placements in all areas of the country.

All requirements for enrollment must be completed and on file (see **Registration**) at the time of enrollment and must be kept current throughout the student's clinical practica. Clinical preceptors and/or agencies may require a drug screening, fingerprinting, additional criminal background checks, or other requirements specific to that site. Costs associated with these processes are the responsibility of the student. The Clinical Placement office will notify students of any additional requirements associated with their rotation.

Students may not begin their clinical rotations until they have met all the site requirements and have received confirmation from their faculty and the Clinical Placement office that they are cleared to start.

#### *Transportation and Lodging*

Students are responsible for their lodging and transportation to and from all clinical facilities and field trips. Practice sites should be chosen for their ability to provide experiences consistent with the program requirements, the mission of the school, and individual student objectives. MSN and PMC students should be prepared to travel 150 miles from the nursing school.

#### Tennessee Board of Nursing Eligibility Requirements for Licensure

See Tennessee Board of Nursing Rules and Regulations at <https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules/1000/1000.htm> for information regarding eligibility for RN licensure in Tennessee.

Any individual who applies for initial licensure, temporary permit, or licensure renewal and supplies false or incomplete information regarding the individual's criminal record to the Board on an application for licensure will be denied said initial licensure, temporary permit, or renewal.

#### Student Dress Code

Student dress code requirements are listed in the School of Nursing Student Handbook.

#### Academic Standards Good Academic Standing

Good academic standing for M.S.N. and post-master's certificate students is defined as both a semester GPA of 3.0 or higher and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, all grades B- or higher and all grades of Satisfactory. Academic standing may also be altered by failure to maintain up-to-date documentation of student enrollment requirements (e.g., license, health requirements) or by unlawful conduct during enrollment.

Students who receive federal student financial aid may be required to meet different or additional requirements of "satisfactory academic progress" for financial aid purposes. For more information, please see: [vanderbilt.edu/enrollmentbulletin/financial-information/satisfactory-academic-progress-standards/](http://vanderbilt.edu/enrollmentbulletin/financial-information/satisfactory-academic-progress-standards/).

#### Completion of Program

Students admitted to the M.S.N. program through the pre-specialty component must complete all pre-specialty courses within two calendar years and the specialty curriculum within three calendar years. Leaves of absence

are counted in this time frame.

Students admitted to an M.S.N. specialty with a B.S.N. and post-master's students must complete the curriculum within three calendar years. Leaves of absence are counted in this time frame.

#### Grading System

Letter Grade	Numerical Points	Quality Equivalent
A+	97-100	4.0
A	93-96	4.0
A-	90-92	3.7
B+	87-89	3.3
B	83-86	3.0
B-	80-82	2.7
C+	77-79	2.3
C	73-76	2.0
C-	70-72	1.7
F	69 or below	0.0

All letter grades are counted in the computation of grade point averages. F grades are also counted in the computation of grade point averages, unless the course is repeated and completed with a passing grade. The grades Pass/Fail and Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory are not counted toward grade point averages.

**C.** The grade of C+ or below is not a passing grade. A student earning a grade lower than a B- in any required nursing course must repeat the course. A student may repeat one course, one time due to a grade less than B-. If after repeating a course for a grade less than B-, the student receives another grade less than B-, the student will be dismissed.

**F.** All F grades are counted in the computations of grade point ratios unless the student repeats the course and earns a passing grade.

**I. Incomplete.** An incomplete grade is a temporary grade given to a student who meets the following criteria:

- Requires additional time to complete course work after the conclusion of a course. All course requirements must be submitted for grading no later than the end of the next enrolled semester or the grade will automatically be converted to an F. (If a Leave of Absence is taken in the following semester, the grade of "I" must be removed by the end of the next enrolled semester.)
- Demonstrates ongoing and timely communication during the course with course coordinator.
- Obtains approval from the course coordinator for an incomplete grade. Students must follow the steps given in the VUSN Student Handbook [nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/current/pdf/handbook.pdf](https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/current/pdf/handbook.pdf). Petitions for an incomplete course grade must be submitted to the course coordinator prior to grades being due for the semester. Completes a new contract with the course coordinator if an extension of the original contract is necessary.
- Understands that a pending incomplete grade in a prerequisite course for a course in the next semester may result in a change of progression.

**I: Incomplete in clinical course.** Students receiving a grade of I in a clinical course must register for zero hours of NURS 5999-Clinical Continuation. Tuition is charged at a rate of \$200.00.

**Late work.** Course assignments must be turned in on the date specified by the syllabus or the instructor. The grade for work not done in compliance with this schedule is zero unless an extension has been granted. Commonly five points per day will be deducted for work submitted after the assigned due date, but the deduction depends on the assignment, course syllabus, and decision between the faculty and student.

The student must request an extension from the course coordinator or instructor at least one day before the work is due. The course faculty/coordinator will deny or approve the request. If approved, the course faculty/coordinator and student negotiate a revised due date.

#### Repeat Courses

Students enrolled in the M.S.N. program or post-master's certificate program are required to earn a grade of B-



or higher or a grade of Satisfactory in all required courses. If a grade less than B- or a grade of Unsatisfactory is earned, the course must be repeated.

- Only one nursing course may be repeated one time.
- Only the latest grade counts in calculation of the grade point average.
- A student may only register for the same course twice. If the course is not successfully completed after the second registration, a third registration is not permitted (and the student may be subject to dismissal from the program). Course withdrawals count in the number of times a student may register for a course.
- If a grade less than a B- is earned in a required elective course and another (different) elective course may be taken to replace a required elective, the grade of the initial elective will continue to average in the GPA.
- A course taken at VUSN may not be repeated outside VUSN for credit toward the degree.
- Due to the sequential nature of nursing courses, repeating a course may necessitate dropping to a part-time program of study.
- Courses taken for a letter grade may not be repeated on a pass/fail basis, nor may a grade indicating withdrawal or incomplete work be counted in place of a letter grade.
- Students may not repeat a course already successfully completed.

#### Academic Probation/Dismissal

The academic performance of MSN and P.M.C. students is reviewed by the MSN Student Admission and Academic Affairs (SAAA) committees at the end of each semester.

The committee, on the recommendation of the student's instructors, academic director, and/or academic adviser, promotes only those students who have demonstrated personal, professional, and intellectual achievement consistent with faculty expectations at the student's particular stage of professional development. If a student is deficient in a major area, the committee will review the student's total program performance.

Students will be placed on probation:

- If a semester GPA less than a 3.0 is earned.
- Only once during the entire program of study.

Students will be dismissed if:

- Previously placed on probation and the student's record warrants another probation. A student may be placed on probation only once during their entire program of studies.
- A second course grade is less than a B- or Unsatisfactory.
- Two or more grades earned during the program are less than a B- or Unsatisfactory.
- Unsatisfactory progress toward the degree is being made and improvement is judged unlikely.

When a student is placed on probation or dismissed, letters are sent to the student, the student's adviser, and the academic director. If a student cannot improve their grade point average because the needed course cannot be repeated in the following semester, the student will be continued on probation if satisfactory completion of the course in a subsequent semester will give the student at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average.

#### Readmission

An M.S.N. or post-master's certificate (P.M.C.) student who has been dismissed or has withdrawn from the program may apply for readmission after an intervening period of at least one semester. The student will complete a new online application available at [apply.vanderbilt.edu/apply/](http://apply.vanderbilt.edu/apply/). An applicant for readmission must address the reason(s) that they left Vanderbilt and present a plan specifying changes that they made in order to ensure academic success.

The Student Admissions and Academic Affairs (SAAA) Committee will consider an application for readmission on presentation of substantial evidence of a responsible and successful period of work or study during the intervening period.

- There is no guarantee that a student will be readmitted. Readmission will depend on (a) evaluation of the likelihood of the applicant's successful performance in succeeding work; (b) the strength of the application; and (c) available program space.
- If the applicant's prior record warrants, they will be readmitted on probation.
- If additional course(s) have been completed since the applicant was last enrolled at VUSN, the applicant must provide an official transcript of all completed course(s).

Readmitted students must complete a new background check upon return.

#### Progression

Most required nursing courses are sequential, and a student who fails to pass such a course cannot progress in the nursing curriculum until the course is successfully completed. This means that a student may not be permitted to take any other coursework until the course has been successfully completed.

To progress from the MSN generalist component to the MSN specialist nursing component, students who entered with a degree in a field other than nursing must:

- complete all required courses with grades B- or higher and
- earn at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average.

Students who entered with an A.D.N., an A.S.N., or a hospital diploma, must

- complete all required courses with grades B- or higher and
- earn at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average.

#### Registered Nurse Licensure

- Students must hold an active Tennessee nursing license or an unencumbered registered nurse's license in the state where the student is completing specialty clinical training.
- Students must pass the NCLEX-RN exam before taking specialty level clinical courses.
- Specialty students must pass the NCLEX-RN exam by the end of the second of the specialty curriculum (whether full- or part-time).
- Specialty student who does not pass the NCLEX-RN exam by the end of the spring semester must take a Leave of Absence (LOA). The student can return after passing the NCLEX-RN exam and in accordance with the LOA policy.

#### Eligibility for Registered Nurse (R.N.) Licensure

Students who entered with a degree other than nursing are eligible to apply to the National Council on Licensure Examination to become a registered nurse (NCLEX-RN) upon meeting the requirements specified by the Tennessee State Board of Nursing and upon recommendation by the faculty and the dean. To be recommended, students must meet the following requirements: (a) completion of the pre-specialty portion of the curriculum; (b) good academic standing (cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above); (c) no grade less than B-; (d) no incomplete grades; and (e) satisfactory criminal background check. Students who are ineligible to take the NCLEX-RN after completing the appropriate courses will not be allowed to enroll in specialty courses.

Students who are not successful on the first writing of the NCLEX-RN are subject to withdrawal from specialty level courses with a clinical component. The student cannot attend clinical practica until the R.N. license is obtained. The program of study for full-time students will be altered because of delay in being able to participate in clinical courses. Additional semester(s) will be required to complete clinical courses.

Students who do not enter as registered nurses are required to take examinations and review courses as specified by the senior associate dean for academics to prepare for the NCLEX-RN.

### **Master of Science in Nursing: M.S.N. Admission**

All applicants apply online at [apply.vanderbilt.edu/apply](https://apply.vanderbilt.edu/apply).

The curriculum for the School of Nursing places great intellectual, psychological, motor, and sensory demands on students. Please refer to the section on core performance standards found in Nursing Education at Vanderbilt. In accordance with Vanderbilt's non-discrimination policy, the M.S.N. Student Admissions and Academic Affairs Committee is charged with making individualized determinations of the ability of each candidate for admission to successfully complete the degree or certificate requirements.

Admission to the M.S.N. Program with a B.S.N.

Applications are holistically reviewed based on the following factors:

1. Graduation from an ACEN- or CCNE-accredited baccalaureate program with an upper division major in nursing (B.S.N.). Applicants from unaccredited B.S.N. programs will be considered on an individual basis.
2. *Grade Point Average.* It is recommended that applicants have at least an average of B in nursing and a cumulative average of B.
3. *Statement of Purpose and Application Questions.* A statement of your career goals in your selected specialty is required, as well as answers to the application questions.
4. *Interview.* An interview by telephone may be required for applicants for whom English is not their native language.
5. *Letters of Recommendation.* All applicants must provide three letters of professional or academic reference. References should be from faculty members, professional colleagues, or work supervisors who can evaluate the applicant's potential for success in a graduate program. It is required that at least one of the recommenders hold a master's or higher degree. Recommendations from family, friends, other students or co-workers are NOT appropriate. Applicants to the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner specialty are required to have one reference from a neonatologist and one from an NNP who can evaluate the applicant's clinical practice. While only three references are required, the online application system will allow you to provide names of up to five recommenders.
6. *Official Transcripts.* Applicants must submit one transcript from each United States post-secondary institution attended. Applicants who have completed college or university course work at an institution in a country other than the United States must obtain a complete course-by-course evaluation of the native transcripts, degrees, and other relevant documents. In all instances, the evaluating agency will require original, official documentation. Please note that the evaluating agency must send Vanderbilt both the course-by-course report and copies of the native documents. See list of International Transcript Evaluation Agencies.
7. *Current R.N. Licensure or Eligibility for R.N. Licensure.* Documentation of an unencumbered Registered Nurse license in the state(s) in which the student will be completing clinical training is required at the time of registration. A student admitted contingent upon NCLEX-RN examination results but who does not pass the exam will have the admission offer rescinded. The student will need to reapply for admission after obtaining R.N. licensure.
8. *Prerequisite Courses.* An introductory course in statistics that includes descriptive and inferential statistical techniques is required for admission.
9. *M.S.N./M.T.S. and M.S.N./M.Div. Programs.* Students applying for the dual degree M.S.N./M.T.S. or M.S.N./M.Div. programs must apply and be admitted to both the School of Nursing and the Divinity School.

Admission to the M.S.N. Program without a B.S.N.

The School of Nursing offers two options for entry into the M.S.N. program for applicants who do not hold a B.S.N. Qualified applicants are eligible for admission in the following categories:

1. *Entry with a non-nursing liberal education baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited college or university.* Such applicants must earn a minimum grade of C in the required prerequisite courses in human anatomy, human physiology, lifespan development, microbiology/bacteriology, nutrition, and statistics. Courses in human anatomy, human physiology, and microbiology/bacteriology must have been taken within five years of the application date.
2. *Entry with an associate degree in nursing or a diploma from an ACEN-accredited nursing school with 78 semester or 120 quarter hours of transferable credit* (see Prerequisite Courses below). Note: Admission with an A.S.N., A.D.N., or hospital diploma is suspended effective Fall 2021.

### ***Prerequisite Courses for A.S.N. Entry***

All prerequisite courses must be completed with a minimum grade of C.

*English (6 hours).* English composition or literature.

*Humanities (6 hours).* Humanities courses are those concerned with human thought, including literature, classics, drama, fine arts, history, philosophy, and religion. Technical or skill courses such as applied music or studio art are not acceptable as humanities courses.

*Statistics (3 hours).* An introductory course in statistics that includes descriptive and inferential statistical techniques is required.

*Social Sciences (9 hours).* Social Sciences include psychology, sociology, anthropology, political science, and economics.

*Natural Sciences (11 hours).* Natural Science courses in human anatomy and physiology and microbiology are required.

*Lifespan Development (3 hours).* A course in lifespan development that includes birth through late adulthood is required.

*Nutrition (2 hours).* Nutrition must be taken as a prerequisite course.

### **Admission Criteria**

Applications are holistically reviewed based on the following factors:

1. *Grade Point Average.* It is recommended that the applicant have at least a B average.
2. *Statement of Purpose and Application Questions.* A statement of your career goals in selected specialty is required, as well as answers to the application questions.
3. *Interview.* An interview by telephone may be required or for applicants for whom English is not their native language.
4. *Letters of Recommendation.* All applicants must provide three letters of professional or academic reference. References should be from faculty members, professional colleagues, or work supervisors who can evaluate the applicant's potential for success in a graduate program. It is required that at least one of the recommenders hold a master's or higher degree. Recommendations from family, friends, other students or co-workers are NOT appropriate. Applicants to the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner specialty are required to have one reference from a neonatologist and one from an NNP who can evaluate the applicant's clinical practice. While only three references are required, the online application system will allow you to provide names of up to five recommenders.
5. *Official Transcripts.* Applicants must submit one transcript from each post-secondary institution attended. See Admission to M.S.N. program with a B.S.N. for additional details regarding international transcripts.
6. *Current Licensure or Eligibility for R.N. Licensure.* Documentation of an unencumbered Registered Nurse license in the state(s) in which the student will be completing clinical training is required at the time of registration. A student admitted contingent upon NCLEX-RN examination results but who does not pass the exam will have the admission offer rescinded. The student may reapply for admission after obtaining R.N. licensure.

Applicants must have a negative criminal conviction history to be eligible to apply for R.N. licensure. Students entering with a bachelor's or higher degree in a non-nursing field must meet eligibility requirements for nursing licensure in Tennessee. See section on Tennessee Board of Nursing Eligibility Requirements for Licensure for further details. For more information, visit [tn.gov/health](http://tn.gov/health).

Applicants who do not meet all the listed criteria will be considered on an individual basis. International applicants should refer to the information regarding English language proficiency and visa requirements found in the Nursing Education at Vanderbilt section of this catalog.

#### Student Classification

The following classifications apply to all M.S.N. and post-master's certificate students.

##### *Regular Student*

Enrolled full time or part time in the School of Nursing, having met admission requirements. A full-time student in the program normally will enroll for a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 16 credit hours a semester.

##### *Special Student.*

Enrolled in one or more non-clinical pre-specialty or specialty courses but not working toward a master's degree or post-master's certificate in the School of Nursing. A limit of 7 credit hours is permitted in this non-degree status. Successful completion of courses taken as a special student does not guarantee admission to the M.S.N. or post-master's certificate program.

To be considered as a special student, an applicant must submit the online application form with transcripts and

the non-refundable application fee at least two weeks before registration. Acceptance into a course is dependent upon availability of space and facilities after full-time and part-time students have been registered.

Registration as a special student requires approval by the assistant dean for enrollment management. All university and School of Nursing regulations, including the Honor System, apply to special students. Special students who desire to change to regular student status should make application for admission following regular procedures.

## **Master of Science in Nursing: M.S.N. Certification**

Students entering with a bachelor's or higher degree in a non-nursing field, upon completing the M.S.N. program, will be licensed as Registered Nurses and will be eligible to sit for national certification exam in their specialties and to apply for Advanced Practice Registered Nurse licensure as either a nurse practitioner or a nurse-midwife. Students entering with an A.S.N., A.D.N., hospital diploma, or B.S.N., after completing M.S.N. degree requirements, will be eligible to sit for national certification exam in their specialties and to apply for Advanced Practice Registered Nurse licensure as either a nurse practitioner or a nurse-midwife. Students entering the Post-Master's Certificate Program will be eligible to sit for national certification exam in their specialties and to apply for Advanced Practice Registered Nurse licensure as either a nurse practitioner or a nurse-midwife after completion of the certificate. Graduates of the Health Care Leadership and Nursing Informatics specialties are not required to take the national certification exam.

Graduates are encouraged to become certified in their specialty and should consult their academic directors for details. Certification is offered through several professional nursing organizations, including the American Nurses' Association. Graduates of each specialty are eligible to sit for the certification exams specific to their specialty. Some exams require documented work hours after graduation.

Certification examinations from American Nursing Credentialing Center include adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner, adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner, family nurse practitioner, informatics, psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner, and advanced nursing executive examinations. Graduates of the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program are also eligible to take the certification exam through the American Association of Critical Care Nurse Certification Corp. Graduates of the adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner, emergency nurse practitioner, and family nurse practitioner specialties are also eligible to take the certification exam offered by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board.

The Nursing Credentialing Center offers the women's health nurse practitioner and neonatal nurse practitioner exams. The Pediatric Nursing Certification Board offers the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Primary Care and the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Acute Care exams for which Vanderbilt graduates are eligible. The American Midwifery Certification Board offers the Nurse-Midwifery certification exam.

## **Master of Science in Nursing: M.S.N. Degree Requirements**

For students entering with a B.S.N., the M.S.N. is based on a minimum of 30 credit hours. All degree requirements must be completed within three years of first enrollment. The grade of B- or higher in each course and an overall 3.0 grade point average is required to complete the degree.

For students entering with a bachelor's or higher degree in a field other than nursing, the M.S.N. must be completed within five years of first enrollment and is granted based on a minimum of 83 credit hours or a grade of B- or higher in each course and an overall 3.0 grade point average. Refer to section on progression for requirements to progress from the generalist to the specialist level.

For students entering with an associate's degree in nursing or hospital diploma, the M.S.N. must be completed within five years of first enrollment and is granted on a minimum of 62 credit hours or a grade of B- or higher in each course and an overall 3.0 grade point average. Refer to section on progression for requirements to progress from the generalist to the specialist level.

No required core course, specialty course, or Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner elective course may be taken Pass/Fail. No audit courses apply to the degree. With approval, up to 6 hours may be transferred from other schools for courses taken within the past five years. No credit is awarded toward the degree for courses designated as prerequisite for admission.

## Master of Science in Nursing: M.S.N. Dual Degree Programs

Dual degree programs attract outstanding students to both schools and will encourage interdisciplinary work and intra-school collaboration. Students apply to the School of Nursing and Vanderbilt Divinity School separately and must be accepted by both to pursue the dual degree. Ideally, students will apply for dual degree status prior to enrolling in either program. Each school will receive student tuition and provide financial aid, if any, during those semesters in which the student is registered for courses in the respective school.

### Curriculum Planning

Individual curriculum plans for dual degree students will be planned by the student's advisers from both schools in view of the student's goals, background, academic accomplishments, and program/degree choices. Such a curriculum plan will detail full- or part-time status, the school to be attended each year or semester, clinical and field education plans, electives, and courses to be shared by both programs. Such a plan is subject to revision as the student better defines their professional and vocational aspirations.

Students accepted to a dual degree status should arrange an appointment with the advisers from both schools as soon as possible to develop a comprehensive plan of study.

### M.S.N./M.T.S. Program

The M.S.N./M.T.S. program can usually be completed in three years (see below) for students with a prior B.S.N. and four years for students requiring the School of Nursing pre-specialty year. A student must be registered as a full-time student in the Divinity School for at least three semesters and in the School of Nursing for at least three semesters. A student will complete 51 hours for the M.T.S. and at least 40 hours for the M.S.N. (with an additional year's work for those requiring the pre-specialty year). Nine (9) elective hours from the total 51 M.T.S. program (Divinity hours) will be from the School of Nursing. Zero to 6 hours from the total M.S.N. program (School of Nursing hours) will be from the Divinity School, with hours varying depending on the student's major area of specialty. If the student elects to participate in field education experiences, students may be able to share School of Nursing Clinical Practica requirements. Any awarding of joint credit will require approval of both Vanderbilt Divinity School Field Education and the School of Nursing specialty director.

#### *For Pre-specialty Entry*

Year One:	VUSN Pre-specialty Year (fall, spring, summer)
Year Two:	VDS (fall, spring)
Year Three:	VUSN Specialty Year (fall, spring, summer)
Year Four:	VDS (fall, spring)

#### *For B.S.N. Entry*

Year One:	VDS (fall, spring)
Year Two:	VUSN Specialty Year (fall, spring, summer)
Year Three:	VDS (fall, spring)

### M.S.N./M.Div. Program

The M.S.N./M.Div. program can usually be completed in four years for students with a prior B.S.N. and five for students requiring the School of Nursing pre-specialty year (see below). A student must be registered as a full-time student in the Divinity School for at least five semesters and in the School of Nursing for at least three semesters. A student will complete 84 hours for the M.Div. and a minimum of 40 hours for the M.S.N. (with an additional year's work for those requiring the pre-specialty year). Twelve (12) elective hours from the total 84 M.Div. program (Divinity hours) will be from the School of Nursing. Zero to 6 hours from the M.S.N. program (School of Nursing hours) will be from the Divinity School, with hours varying depending on the student's major area of specialty. Under certain circumstances, students may be able to share School of Nursing and Vanderbilt

Divinity School credit for Divinity School Field Education requirements and School of Nursing Clinical Practica requirements.

*For Pre-specialty Entry*

Year One:	VUSN Pre-specialty Year (fall, spring, summer)
Year Two:	VDS (fall, spring)
Year Three:	VUSN Specialty Year (fall, spring, summer)
Year Four:	VDS (fall, spring)
Year Five:	VDS (fall, spring)

*For B.S.N. Entry*

Year One:	VDS (fall, spring)
Year Two:	Year Two: VUSN Specialty Year (fall, spring, summer)
Year Three:	VDS (fall, spring)
Year Four:	VDS (fall, spring)

## **Master of Science in Nursing: M.S.N.: The Academic Program**

### Organizing Framework

Course sequencing in the M.S.N. program with multiple entry options is designed to move students from (a) basic to advanced knowledge and skill levels, (b) simple to more complex practice situations, and (c) generalist to specialist role preparation. Course objectives include content in the three learning domains: cognitive, affective, and psychomotor, appropriately progressed in each taxonomy.

The curriculum design has three components: prerequisite liberal education requirements, generalist (pre-specialty) nursing courses, and specialist nursing courses. The prerequisite liberal education requirements assist the student in acquiring basic knowledge and understanding of human beings, culture, environment, and health through the study of the arts, humanities, and social, biological, and physical sciences. This basic knowledge is applied to the study of nursing in the nursing components of the curriculum.

The pre-specialty component of the curriculum consists of clinical and non-clinical courses that contain nursing practice and discipline content at the generalist level. Clinical experiences focus on situations that reflect an understanding of the nursing process and the nursing paradigm in health promotion and maintenance, illness care, and rehabilitation. The theoretical basis for practice is presented in the classroom and provides the scientific knowledge base needed to diagnose and treat human responses to actual or potential health problems. Non-clinical courses focus on the discipline of nursing in the areas of ethics, economics, politics, research, legal issues, healthcare delivery systems, and the heritage of nursing.

The specialist component of the curriculum is divided into three segments: core courses, specialty courses, and electives. The core courses focus on facilitating professional development in the advanced nursing practice role, using leadership and evidence evaluation skills to employ a systematic, evidenced base approach to problem solving to improve healthcare delivery. Specialty courses focus on advanced knowledge and skills in a given specialty area to equip graduates to function in complex situations and advanced practice roles, including those of nurse midwife, nurse practitioner, informatics nurse specialist, and nurse manager. Electives provide the opportunity to select course work that complements the students' career goals.

### Program Goals/Outcomes

The goals of the M.S.N. program are to prepare students:

- For advanced practice roles including nurse-midwives, nurse practitioners, nurse informaticists, and nurse leaders who have expertise and advanced knowledge in a specialty area and can function in complex situations independently and/or collaboratively with health care teams.
- To evaluate and apply advanced knowledge by means of critical thinking, clinical reasoning, and the use of electronic data in relation to advanced nursing practice.
- To engage in quality improvement initiatives and the delivery of safe, culturally responsive, high quality nursing care of individuals and populations using leadership skills.

- To evaluate and/or advocate for policies that improve the health of the public and the profession of nursing incorporating ethical principles.

All students are expected to meet the above program goals whether they enter the M.S.N. program with a B.S.N., an A.S.N., or a bachelor's degree other than nursing. Students who must complete the pre-specialty component of the program must also meet transitional objectives upon completion of the pre-specialty nursing courses.

#### Transitional Objectives/Outcomes

On completion of the pre-specialty component, students will be able to:

- Synthesize knowledge from nursing, the humanities, the biophysical and social sciences, and current evidence to engage in professional nursing practice.
- Promote health and prevent illness in diverse patient populations through targeted education in multiple settings across transitions of care.
- Provide safe, culturally responsive health care to individuals, families, communities, and populations in diverse settings, through use of critical thinking, clinical reasoning, ethical decision-making, and information management, both independently and in collaboration with health care teams.
- Demonstrate leadership in professional nursing practice through commitment to reflective practice, accountability for nursing actions, patient advocacy, and evidence-based practice.
- Engage in improvement of the health care delivery system through inquiry and action into socioeconomic, political, legal, and ethical issues affecting professional nursing practice.

#### Pre-specialty Curriculum Overview

The pre-specialty component is a sequence of generalist nursing courses bridging to specialty nursing courses for the master of science in nursing (M.S.N.). The pre-specialty component consists of 43 hours of generalist nursing courses. (Registered nurse pre-specialty curriculum consists of 26 hours.) Students entering without a prior degree in nursing complete the pre-specialty courses in three semesters (or a calendar year) of full-time study. Associate degree and hospital diploma registered nurses complete the pre-specialty courses in two semesters of full-time study.

Classes for students in the A.S.N. to M.S.N. entry component are scheduled in a concentrated format of three to four sessions per semester, consisting of three to four days of classes during each session, to facilitate the student's work schedule. On-line conferencing is required between sessions to keep the student in contact with the faculty. Students must have proficient computer skills and high-speed internet access.

After successful completion of the pre-specialty component, students will enter directly into the specialty master's component. The specialty component in most specialties can be completed in three semesters (one calendar year) of full-time study and follows the same curriculum plan as the direct entry M.S.N. program. Please refer to the Specialist Nursing Curriculum for sample curriculum plans in the various specialties.

#### Part-Time Studies

Pre-specialty level students have five years from first enrollment to complete all M.S.N. degree requirements and are required to complete the pre-specialty component as full-time students, except for A.S.N.-entry students who may complete the pre-specialty year part time. Upon completion of the pre-specialty component, students may request to complete the specialty component as part-time students.

Part-time specialty-year students who enter with a B.S.N. have three years from first enrollment to complete all M.S.N. degree requirements.

### **Pre-specialty Curriculum for Entry with Degree in Field other than Nursing**

Level Director: Mary Ann Jessee



<b>FALL SEMESTER I</b>			<b>HOURS</b>
NURS 5101	Legal and Ethical Accountability in Professional Nursing Practice	2	
NURS 5103	Human Experience of Health and Illness Across the Lifespan I	4	
NURS 5105	Enhancement of Community and Population Health I	3	
NURS 5106	Pharmacology for Nursing Care I	2	
NURS 5115	Fundamentals of Clinical Practice	5	
			<b>16</b>
<b>SPRING SEMESTER I</b>			
NURS 5201	Inquiry and Evidence in Professional Nursing Practice	2	
NURS 5203	Human Experience of Health and Illness Across the Lifespan II	5	
NURS 5205	Enhancement of Community and Population Health II	3	
NURS 5206	Pharmacology for Nursing Care II	2	
NURS 5215	Integration of Theoretical and Clinical Aspects of Nursing I	3	
			<b>15</b>
<b>SUMMER SEMESTER I</b>			
NURS 5301	Leadership and Management in Professional Nursing Practice	2	
NURS 5303	Human Experience of Health and Illness Across the Lifespan III	4	
NURS 5305	Enhancement of Community and Population Health III	2	
NURS 5306	Pharmacology for Nursing Care III	1	
NURS 5315	Integration of Theoretical and Clinical Aspects of Nursing II	1	
NURS 5325	Capstone Clinical Practicum	2	
			<b>12</b>
			Total: 43

## Pre-specialty Curriculum for A.S.N. to M.S.N. Entry

Level Director: Sarah Fogel

### FALL SEMESTER I

NURS 5303	Human Experience of Health and Illness Across the Lifespan III	4
NURS 5401	Critical Thinking, Supporting Evidence, and Communication, Part I	3
NURS 5402	Epidemiology and Population-Based Nursing	3
NURS 5403	Health Care Systems and the Role of the Nurse as the Facilitator of Learning	3
		13

### SPRING SEMESTER I

NURS 5501	Critical Thinking, Supporting Evidence, and Communication, Part II	2
NURS 5502	Ethics in Nursing Practice	2
NURS 5505	Health Assessment for the R.N.	3
NURS 5506	Pharmacology for the R.N.	3
NURS 5515	Providing Care at the Community Level	3
		13

### SUMMER SEMESTER I

No courses required

Total: 26

### Specialist Nursing Curriculum Overview

The specialist component of the curriculum is divided into three segments: core courses, specialty courses, and electives. The core courses focus on facilitating professional development in the advanced nursing practice role, using leadership and evidence evaluation skills to employ a systematic, evidence-based approach to problem solving to improve health care delivery. Specialty courses focus on advanced knowledge and skills in a given specialty area to equip graduates to function in complex situations and advanced practice roles, including those of nurse midwife, nurse practitioner, informatics nurse specialist, and nurse manager. Electives provide the opportunity to select course work that complements the students'

career goals.

### **Core Courses (9 semester hours)**

NURS 6045, 6055, and 6065 encompass content that is essential for master's degree students enrolled in nurse-midwifery or in a nurse practitioner specialty and support students' professional formation as advanced practice nurses. Content on evidence-based practice, quality and safety, leadership, ethics, policy, and role development is addressed cumulatively through the successive courses. Further application of concepts learned in these courses will occur in the specialty course offerings.

### **Specialty Courses (30 semester hours minimum)**

This portion of the master's program consists of didactic and practicum courses in a selected specialty. The didactic courses cover advanced nursing content; the practicum courses place the student in the advanced practice role of nurse-midwife, nurse practitioner, informatics nurse specialist, or nurse manager. For detailed information about specialty courses, see the section on Specialist Curriculum and the appropriate course descriptions.

### **Electives (0-6 semester hours)**

Students select electives of interest, with the approval of their adviser, based on their professional goals. Options include courses related to the specialty. Courses available in the School of Nursing, the School of Medicine, the Divinity School, Owen Graduate School of Management, Peabody College, and the Graduate School allow nursing students to interact with other professional and graduate students. Most specialties do not require electives. Students may choose to take electives above the required credit hours for their specialty.

### **Thesis (0-6 semester hours)**

Students may elect to complete a thesis under the instruction and supervision of a member of the faculty of the School of Nursing. The thesis is a research project giving evidence of original investigation in an area of interest related to the student's specialty. Guidelines are available in the office of the senior associate dean for academics.

## **Master of Science in Nursing: Neonatal Nurse Practitioner**

SPECIALTY DIRECTOR

PROFESSOR

INSTRUCTOR Nancy L. Kraft, Patti A. Scott

The Neonatal Nurse Practitioner specialty (NNP) prepares registered nurses to become nurse practitioners whose focus is the care and management of critically ill and convalescent premature and full-term infants through 2 years of age. Individuals who enter this specialty are self-directed and excited by the challenges of learning the role of a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner.

Recognizing that development is ongoing and cannot be separated from care, the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner specialty emphasizes a developmental approach to the care of high-risk neonates and infants. The curriculum provides a broad theoretical and evidence-based practice approach to guide advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioner practice. Students in this program will learn to care for ill and convalescent neonates/infants through 2 years of age in a variety of settings.

The clinical experiences provided to students range from the care of healthy neonates to the care of those with short- and long-term health disruptions. Sites for clinical experiences are located in hospitals with a delivery service, Level II and Level III nursery. Upon graduation, students are prepared to assume entry-level roles as neonatal nurse practitioners and to contribute to the advancement of the nursing profession and discipline. Graduates are eligible to take the National Certification Corporation Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Certification Exam.

## Eligibility Criteria

Registered Nurse options are available to A.S.N./Diploma R.N.'s and B.S.N.'s who wish to pursue their M.S.N. studies to become a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner while working to meet their clinical nursing experience requirements. NRP certification is required prior to beginning classes. A minimum of two years of current R.N. experience in a Level III NICU is required prior to beginning clinical courses.

Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

### FALL I

- NURS 6010 Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6045 Professional Formation I: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6602 Developmental/Neonatal Physiology (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6605 Advanced Neonatal Health Assessment (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6610 Neonatal Nursing Birth Through 2 Years of Age (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6614 Neonatal Pathophysiology and Management I (3 credit hours)

### SPRING I

- NURS 6055 Professional Formation II: Evidence-Based Change in Health Care Environments (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6615 Neonatal Practicum (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6620 Introduction to Advanced Procedures for Neonatal Nurse Practitioners (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6621 Advanced Neonatal Pharmacotherapeutics (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6624 Neonatal Pathophysiology and Management II (3 credit hours)

### SUMMER I

- NURS 6065 Professional Formation III: Leading Collaborative Change: Improving Delivery of Health Care to Patients and Pop. (4 credit hours)
- NURS 6075 Professional Formation IV: Transition to Advanced Nursing Practice (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6695 Neonatal Preceptorship (6 credit hours)

**Total: 41 Credit Hours**

## Master of Science in Nursing: Nurse-Midwifery

SPECIALTY DIRECTOR Julia Phillippi

PROFESSOR Mavis N. Schorn

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR Stephanie Devane-Johnson

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Jeremy Neal

INSTRUCTORS Melissa G. Davis, Tonia Moore-Davis

The Nurse-Midwifery specialty prepares students to manage the obstetric and primary health care needs of women across the lifespan as well as the care of the normal newborn. Nurse-midwifery courses are based on the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) "Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice: December 2012," which include the "Hallmarks of Midwifery Care." Students will obtain clinical experience in a variety of nurse-midwifery practices that meet the "Standards of Midwifery Practice" of the ACNM.

Graduates will be eligible to take the American Midwifery Certification Board exam. The Nurse-Midwifery program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME). For information: 8403 Colesville Road, Suite 1550, Silver Spring, MD 20910-6374; phone: 240-485-1802; Web: [midwife.org/acme](http://midwife.org/acme).

Nurse-Midwifery

## **FALL I**

- NURS 6010 Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6011 Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6012 Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6045 Professional Formation I: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6805 Advanced Health Assessment Applications for Nurse-Midwifery (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6810 Women's Health for Nurse-Midwifery (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6811 Reproductive Anatomy and Physiology (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6812 Evolution of Midwifery in America (2 credit hours)

## **SPRING I**

- NURS 6020 Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6030 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Adult (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6055 Professional Formation II: Evidence-Based Change in Health Care Environments (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6825 Gynecologic, Antepartum and Primary Care (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6821 Antepartal Care for Nurse-Midwifery (3 credit hours)

## **SUMMER I**

- NURS 6065 Professional Formation III: Leading Collaborative Change: Improving Delivery of Health Care to Patients and Pop. (4 credit hours)
- NURS 6831 Skills for Nurse-Midwifery (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6835 Practicum in Intrapartum/Postpartum/Neonatal Nurse-Midwifery Care (4 credit hours)
- NURS 6836 Intrapartum Care for Nurse-Midwifery (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6838 Nurse-Midwifery Care of the Mother-Baby Dyad (2 credit hours)

## **FALL II**

- NURS 6841 Nurse-Midwifery Role Synthesis, Exploration, and Analysis (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6895 Advanced Clinical Integration Experience for Nurse-Midwifery (5 credit hours)

**Total: 52 credit hours**

## **Master of Science in Nursing: Nurse-Midwifery/Family Nurse Practitioner**

SPECIALTY DIRECTORS Julia Phillippi, Courtney Pitts

*For listing of faculty for Nurse-Midwifery/Family Nurse Practitioner, see both Nurse-Midwifery and Family Nurse Practitioner.*

This is an exciting opportunity for individuals to gain dual certification in both specialties in order to manage the obstetric and primary health needs of women across the lifespan as well as those of the entire family. While enrolled in and following completion of the nurse-midwifery specialty, students take prescribed Family Nurse Practitioner courses. Emphasis is on expansion of the knowledge and skills required in the management of a family-centered approach to health promotion, risk reduction, and intervention in illness. Through the combination of Nurse-Midwifery and Family Nurse-Practitioner specialties, the Family Nurse Practitioner/Nurse-Midwifery graduate is prepared as an advanced practice nurse and midwife to deliver comprehensive primary care to individuals from birth through adulthood.

Graduates are eligible to take the American Midwifery Certification Board exam and the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Association of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board Family Nurse Practitioner certification examination. The Nurse-Midwifery specialty is accredited by the Accreditation

Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME). For information: 8403 Colesville Road, Suite 1550, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone: 240-485-1802; Web: [midwife.org/acme](http://midwife.org/acme).

Nurse-Midwifery/Family Nurse Practitioner

**FALL I**

- NURS 6010 Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6011 Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6012 Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6045 Professional Formation I: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6805 Advanced Health Assessment Applications for Nurse-Midwifery (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6810 Women's Health for Nurse-Midwifery (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6811 Reproductive Anatomy and Physiology (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6812 Evolution of Midwifery in America (2 credit hours)

**SPRING I**

- NURS 6020 Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6030 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Adult (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6055 Professional Formation II: Evidence-Based Change in Health Care Environments (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6545 Practicum in Primary Health Care of the Adult (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6815 Nurse-Midwifery Practicum I (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6821 Antepartal Care for Nurse-Midwifery (3 credit hours)

**SUMMER I**

- NURS 6065 Professional Formation III: Leading Collaborative Change: Improving Delivery of Health Care to Patients and Pop. (4 credit hours)
- NURS 6831 Skills for Nurse-Midwifery (1 credit hour)
- NURS 6835 Practicum in Intrapartum/Postpartum/Neonatal Nurse-Midwifery Care (4 credit hours)
- NURS 6836 Intrapartum Care for Nurse-Midwifery (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6838 Nurse-Midwifery Care of the Mother-Baby Dyad (2 credit hours)

**FALL II**

- NURS 6841 Nurse-Midwifery Role Synthesis, Exploration, and Analysis (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6895 Advanced Clinical Integration Experience for Nurse-Midwifery (5 credit hours)

**SPRING II**

- NURS 6036 Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Child and Adolescent (3 credit hours)
- NURS 6521 The Context of Primary Care: FNP Domains and Core Competencies for practice (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6532 Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Elderly (1 credit hours)
- NURS 6555 Practicum in the Primary Health Care of the Family (2 credit hours)
- NURS 6585 Family Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship (4 credit hours)

**Total: 65 credit hours**

**Master of Science in Nursing: Nursing and Health Care Leadership**

PROFESSOR: Dan France

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS Debra Arnow, Pamela Jones, Susie Lemin-Lee

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS: JenniferBarut, Christian Ketel, Clare J. Thomson-Smith

This specialty prepares graduates for the advanced role of nursing and health care leadership. The program of study is designed to prepare nurses at the graduate level to lead the delivery of nursing and health care services in the everchanging health care environment. The curriculum provides a series of integrated learning experiences that focus on the development of nurses with critical thinking and analytic skills who are capable of leadership and innovation in a dynamic health care system. This part-time, six-semester program in a modified, distance-accessible format includes on-campus immersion experiences, courses using distant format, and two

practicum courses. The practicum courses provide students with the opportunity to integrate and apply their learning from the courses in the practice setting. As part of the practicum courses, students will work collaboratively and in partnership with their respective health care agency to develop, implement, and evaluate agency-designated projects. Graduates acquire the breadth and depth of leadership knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform effectively and assume various leadership positions in a variety of health care settings.

#### Nursing and Health Care Leadership

##### **FALL I**

NURS 6411 Foundations of Leadership (3 credit hours)

NURS 6710 Fundamentals of Nursing Informatics—Nursing Informatics Professional Formation I (3 credit hours)

##### **SPRING I**

NURS 6041 Principles of Healthcare Finance (3 credit hours)

NURS 6055 Professional Formation II: Application of Evidence in Healthcare Environments (3 credit hours)

##### **SUMMER I**

NURS 6408 Strategic Planning (2 credit hours)

NURS 6410 Design Thinking and Innovation Health (3 credit hours)

##### **FALL II**

NURS 6025 Applied Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (3 credit hours)

NURS 6414 Organizational Behavior in Complex Health Care Systems (3 credit hours)

##### **SPRING II**

NURS 6417 Advanced Leadership and Human Capital (3 credit hours)

NURS 6485 Practicum I (3 credit hours)

##### **SUMMER II**

NURS 6404 Directed Reading (2 credit hours)

NURS 6495 Practicum II (4 credit hours)

#### **Total: 35 Credit Hours**

Nursing and Health Care Leadership (Fall 2020 only)

(Note: Program of study for students who entered the NHCL program of study, fall 2020, only.)

**FALL I**

- NURS 6411 Foundations of Leadership (3 credit hours)  
NURS 6710 Fundamentals of Nursing Informatics—Nursing Informatics Professional Formation I (3 credit hours)

**SPRING I**

- NURS 6041 Principles of Healthcare Finance (3 credit hours)  
NURS 6055 Professional Formation II: Application of Evidence in Healthcare Environments (3 credit hours)

**SUMMER I**

- NURS 6408 Strategic Planning (2 credit hours)  
NURS 6065 Professional Formation III - Leading Collaborative Change: Improving Delivery of Healthcare to Patients and Populations (4 credit hours)

**FALL II**

- NURS 6025 Applied Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (3 credit hours)  
NURS 6414 Organizational Behavior in Complex Health Care Systems (3 credit hours)

**SPRING II**

- NURS 6417 Advanced Leadership and Human Capital (3 credit hours)  
NURS 6485 Practicum I (3 credit hours)

**SUMMER II**

- NURS 6404 Directed Reading (2 credit hours)  
NURS 6495 Practicum II (4 credit hours)

**Total: 35 Credit Hours**

**Master of Science in Nursing: Nursing Informatics**

SPECIALTY DIRECTOR Brenda Kulhanek

PROFESSORS: Patty Sengstack

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR: Kelly Aldrich

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS Alvin Jeffery, Christian Ketel,

INSTRUCTOR Marcy Stoots, Michelle Ruslavage, Renee Robinson

The Nursing Informatics specialty prepares advanced practice nurses to serve the profession of nursing by supporting the information processing needs of patient care and management. Nursing informatics integrates nursing science, computer science, and information science in identifying, collecting, processing, and managing data, information, and knowledge to support nursing practice, administration, education, and research. Graduates of this specialty are known as informatics nurse specialists, recognizing that the person is both a nurse and an informaticist. The informatics nurse specialist is one of the specialties recognized by the American Nurses Credentialing Center with certification via computer-based testing. VUSN's informatics curriculum ensures that the content and concepts taught include current and emerging trends in health care information technology with an emphasis on data science and evidence-based care.

Nursing Informatics



**FALL I**

NURS 6411 Foundations of Leadership (3 credit hours)  
NURS 6710 Fundamentals of Nursing Informatics (3 credit hours)

**SPRING I**

NURS 6720 Professional Formation 2: Theories, Frameworks, and Models Supporting Informatics Practice (3 credit hours)  
NURS 6732 Designing, Planning and Managing Scalable Projects (3 credit hours)

**SUMMER I**

NURS 6723 Informatics of Clinical Practice (3 credit hours)  
NURS 6724 Leveraging Technology for Learning and Teaching in Healthcare (3 credit hours)

**FALL II**

NURS 6025 Applied Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (3 credit hours)  
NURS 6727 Data to Information 1 (3 credit hours)

**SPRING II**

NURS 6715 Nursing Informatics Practicum I (3 credit hours)  
NURS 6728 Data to Information II (3 credit hours)

**SUMMER II**

NURS 6730 Nursing Informatics Professional Formation 3: Advanced Concepts of Informatics (3 credit hours)  
NURS 6795 Nursing Informatics Practicum II (3 credit hours)

**Total: 36 Credit Hours**

**Master of Science in Nursing: Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Acute Care**

SPECIALTY DIRECTOR, ACUTE CARE Kim K. Steanson

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS: Misty Evans, Kim K. Steanson

INSTRUCTORS Sheree Allen, Carl Anderson, Christin Diller, Marshay James

LECTURERS Jennifer Nelson, Suzanne Williams

The Pediatric Nurse Practitioner-Acute Care (PNP-AC) specialty is designed to prepare pediatric nurse practitioners to provide care for acutely, critically, and chronically ill pediatric patients and their families. This specialty is available for R.N.'s who have a minimum of two years of acute care experience with children or one year of experience in a pediatric critical care area. Clinical experiences are arranged across a variety of inpatient hospital settings and include pediatric intensive care units, emergency departments, and sub-specialty clinics. Graduates are eligible to take the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Acute Care Certification exam offered by the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Certification Board (PNPCB). Primary Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioners working in an acute care setting who are interested in meeting the qualifications for the PNP-AC Certification exam are encouraged to apply for the post-master's certificate program in this specialty, which can be completed in two semesters of part-time study.

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner-Acute Care

**FALL I**

NURS 6010	Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)
NURS 6045	Professional Formation I: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice (2 credit hours)
NURS 7011	Health Promotion of Behavior Development: Birth through Adolescence (3 credit hours)
NURS 7012	Advanced Practice Nursing in Pediatric Primary Care, part I (3 credit hours)
NURS 7013	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (2 credit hours)
NURS 7014	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab (1 credit hour)
NURS 7055	Clinicap Applications for the Acute Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (1 credit hour)

**SPRING I**

NURS 6055	Professional Formation II: Evidence-Based Change in Health Care Environments (3 credit hours)
NURS 7022	Advanced Practice Nursing in Pediatric Acute Care I (3 credit hours)
NURS 7024	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics (3 credit hours)
NURS 7045	Advanced Practice Nursing in Pediatric Acute Care Practicum I (4 credit hours)

**SUMMER I**

NURS 6065	Professional Formation III: Leading Collaborative Change: Improving Delivery of Health Care to Patients and Pop. (4 credit hours)
NURS 6075	Professional Formation IV: Transition to Advanced Nursing Practice (1 credit hour)
NURS 7031	Advanced Practice Nursing in Pediatric Acute Care II (3 credit hours)
NURS 7095	Advanced Practice Nursing in Pediatric Acute Care Practicum II (4 credit hours)

**Total: 40 credit hours**

**Master of Science in Nursing: Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Primary Care**

SPECIALTY DIRECTOR, PRIMARY CARE Brittany H. Nelson

PROFESSORS Mary Jo Gilmer, Sharon Karp

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR: Natasha McClure

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS Brittany H. Nelson, Terry Witherington, Susan Baird, Anna Brown, Sharon Fleming,

INSTRUCTORS Carl Anderson, Margaret S. Anderson, Lani Kajihara-Liehr, Natalie Owen, Jennifer Ridgway

The Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) specialty is designed to prepare advanced practice nurses to provide care for children from birth to twenty-one years of age and, in special situations, to individuals older than the age of twenty-one in a variety of pediatric settings.

The Pediatric Nurse Practitioner-Primary Care specialty provides a broad theoretical and research foundation in advanced concepts of parent, child, and adolescent nursing. Clinical experiences occur across a variety of settings and focus on providing primary care to children of all ages. This specialty is available for students with or without a nursing background. Graduates are eligible to take the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Primary Care Certification exam offered by the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Certification Board.

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner-Primary Care

**FALL I**

- NURS 6010 Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)  
NURS 6045 Professional Formation I: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice (2 credit hours)  
NURS 7011 Health Promotion of Behavior Development: Birth through Adolescence (3 credit hours)
- NURS 7012 Advanced Practice Nursing in Pediatric Primary Care, part I (3 credit hours)  
NURS 7013 Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (2 credit hours)  
NURS 7014 Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab (1 credit hour)  
NURS 7015 Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Primary Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (1 credit hour)

**SPRING I**

- NURS 6055 Professional Formation II: Evidence-Based Change in Health Care Environments (3 credit hours)  
NURS 7021 Advanced Practice Nursing in Pediatric Primary Care, part II (3 credit hours)  
NURS 7023 Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics (3 credit hours)  
NURS 7035 Practicum in Primary Health Care of Children (4 credit hours)

**SUMMER I**

- NURS 6065 Professional Formation III: Leading Collaborative Change: Improving Delivery of Health Care to Patients and Pop. (4 credit hours)  
NURS 6075 Professional Formation IV: Transition to Advanced Nursing Practice (1 credit hour)  
NURS 7032 Current Issues in the Delivery of Advanced Pediatric Care (2 credit hours)  
NURS 7085 Advanced Pediatric Primary Care Preceptorship (5 credit hours)

**Total: 40 credit hours**

**Master of Science in Nursing: Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Lifespan)**

SPECIALTY DIRECTOR Marci Zsamboky

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS Edith E. Cloyd, Jennifer Scroggie, Megan Simmons, Rose Vick, Jessica Walker, Marci Zsamboky, Brandee Madden, Melissa Ott, Matt Schroer, LeTizia Smith

INSTRUCTORS Chance Allen, Molly Butler, Virginia Gardner

This specialty focuses on the mental health care needs of individuals across the life-span within the context of their environment. Course content and a clinical practicum prepare students to use clinical judgment and critical thinking in the performance of comprehensive (physical and mental health) assessments, differential diagnoses, prescription of psychopharmacologic agents, and non-pharmacologic interventions, including case management; individual, group, and family psychotherapy; and mental health consultation/liaison. Students will have a primary mental health placement site over three semesters and additional supplemental clinical rotations to meet training requirements across the lifespan. Legal, ethical, social, cultural, financial, and policy issues that impact the delivery of mental health services and the PMHNP role are integrated throughout the curriculum.

Graduates of this specialty will be eligible to take the American Nurses Credentialing Center Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Lifespan) certification exam.

Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Lifespan)

## **FALL I**

NURS 6010	Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)
NURS 6011	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (2 credit hours)
NURS 6012	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab (1 credit hour)
NURS 6020	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics (3 credit hours)
NURS 6045	Professional Formation I: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice (2 credit hours)
NURS 7212	Models and Theories of Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing (2 credit hours)
NURS 7214	Diagnostic Reasoning for the Psychiatric Mental Health NP (Part I) (2 credit hour)
NURS 7215	Theoretical Foundations and Practicum for Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing Across the Lifespan (1 credit hours)

## **SPRING I**

NURS 6055	Professional Formation II: Evidence-Based Change in Health Care Environments (3 credit hours)
NURS 7205	Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (1 credit hour)
NURS 7221	Neuroscience for Mental Health Practitioners (3 credit hours)
NURS 7222	Psychopharmacology (2 credit hours)
NURS 7224	Diagnostic Reasoning for the Psychiatric Mental Health NP (Part II) (1 credit hour)
NURS 7225	Practicum in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing with Individuals, Groups, and Families (3 credit hours)

## **SUMMER I**

NURS 6065	Professional Formation III: Leading Collaborative Change: Improving Delivery of Health Care to Patients and Pop. (4 credit hours)
NURS 7231	Population-based Mental Health Care Across the Lifespan (2 credit hours)
NURS 7232	Advanced Psychopharmacology (2 credit hours)
NURS 7294	Diagnostic Reasoning for the Psychiatric Mental Health NP (Part III) (1 credit hour)
NURS 7295	Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship (3 credit hours)

**Total: 41 credit hours**

## **Master of Science in Nursing: The M.S.N. Degree**

### **DEGREE OFFERED: Master of Science in Nursing**

The Master of Science in nursing, the first-professional degree in nursing at Vanderbilt, is specialty-related and offered at the graduate level. The increase in knowledge required of nurses and the scope of their responsibilities, as well as changes in roles, functions, and practice settings, require a post-baccalaureate nursing education built on a rich undergraduate liberal education or baccalaureate nursing degree or its equivalent.

Due to the present diversity in nursing programs, educational opportunities must be made available to facilitate progression to the M.S.N. as the first-professional degree. Vanderbilt School of Nursing offers several options for entry into a master's degree program designed to accommodate a variety of cognitive styles, life experiences, and professional backgrounds.

In addition to educating students, the M.S.N. program provides other benefits. Faculty members are engaged in the scientific investigation of nursing practice and theory, innovative nursing care, and participation in national, state, and local activities related to nursing and health care delivery. Thus, they serve as role models for students, the profession, and the public. The program constitutes an arena for excellence in nursing practice and research, as well as a forum for discussion and analysis of issues that affect health care, consumers, the nursing profession, and society.

## **Master of Science in Nursing: V.U.S.N. Clinical Placement**

The Clinical Placement Office works collaboratively with faculty, program directors, and students to ensure all students have a productive clinical experience. Clinical sites and preceptors are chosen for their ability to provide students with clinical experiences consistent with course and certification requirements and the mission

of the school. Due to regulatory requirements or a lack of available and appropriate preceptors, VUSN may not be able to accommodate clinical placements in all areas of the country. Students should discuss their preferences with their specialty faculty to be sure they understand all possible options.

### **Pre-Specialty Year Rotations**

Students during their pre-specialty year will be placed in group clinical experiences. These group experiences may be in a hospital or community setting.

### **Placements within the Greater Middle Tennessee Area - Specialty Year**

For students admitted as MTA (Greater Middle Tennessee Area) students, the Clinical Placement Office works with the specialty faculty to secure clinical sites. Clinical sites located within a 150-mile radius from the School of Nursing are considered to be within this area. As a result, students may have rotations in Kentucky, Alabama, and east or west Tennessee, depending on the appropriateness of the site. Faculty take into consideration a number of factors in assigning students to sites, including home address, specialty needs, and clinical interests.

Given the large number of health profession students in the area and the competition for sites, agencies and providers have asked that all Greater Middle Tennessee area VUSN placements be coordinated by a school representative. Students are not to reach out to local sites to arrange their own placements. If you identify a possible local placement, please contact your specialty director or course coordinator first; they will work with the Clinical Placement office staff to see if a placement is possible.

### **Placements outside the Greater Middle Tennessee Area - Specialty Year**

For students admitted as OMTA (outside the Greater Middle Tennessee Area), students, faculty, and the Clinical Placement staff work collaboratively to locate OMTA sites. Students are encouraged to develop a list of possible sites, as they often have a better knowledge of the area and can use personal networks and connections to identify a potential rotation.

The Clinical Placement office will research the area and share information on agencies and practices where VUSN either has an existing relationship or where a previous student has precepted. The Clinical Placement office also coordinates with the Alumni Relations office to share information on alumni in the area who might be able to assist.

Once the student has secured agreement from a preceptor for a rotation, s/he must submit information through the Clinical Placement system. This enables the faculty to vet the preceptor and ensure the experience is appropriate and will meet both the specialty requirements and the student's educational needs.

Once the faculty has vetted the preceptor, the Clinical Placement office is responsible for ensuring all appropriate agreements are in place and all agency requirements met, before a student may begin their rotation. Vanderbilt requires an agreement with all sites where a student will obtain experience. This includes the practice site as well as any ancillary sites, such as hospitals, surgery centers, and nursing homes. A student may not go with the preceptor to a site where the school does not have an active affiliation agreement. Even when Vanderbilt has an agreement with the site, the Clinical Placement office is required to confirm it is still valid.

Students are strongly encouraged to plan ahead. Given the competition for clinical placements in some parts of the country, securing a preceptor and negotiating and finalizing the necessary agreements can take several months, and in some cases up to a year.

In rare cases, Vanderbilt is unable to come to an agreement with an agency, or a particular area may not have an appropriate site or preceptor available; the Clinical Placement staff communicates on a regular basis with the faculty to allow sufficient time for a student to secure another placement, if necessary.

Faculty must approve any additional sites for the student's clinical experience to ensure that the sites are necessary or appropriate to the student's clinical objectives. The number of sites and contracts will be limited per student. Due to the large number of placements each term, requests for rotations for a minimal number of hours (typically less than 80) must be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis by the faculty before an agreement is initiated.

### **Clinical Requirements - MTA and OMTA**

For clinicals at the specialty level, an active and unencumbered RN license, valid for the state in which the student is doing the rotation, is required. Depending on the clinical placement location, students may be required to obtain additional state licenses. Due to regulatory requirements or a lack of available preceptors, VUSN cannot accommodate clinical placements in all areas of the country.

All requirements for enrollment must be completed and on file (see Registration) at the time of enrollment and must be kept current throughout the student's clinical practica. Clinical preceptors and/or agencies may require a drug screening, fingerprinting, additional criminal background checks, or other requirements specific to that site. Costs associated with these processes are the responsibility of the student. The Clinical Placement office will notify students of any additional requirements associated with their rotation.

Students may not begin their clinical rotations until they have met all the site requirements and have received confirmation from their faculty and the Clinical Placement office that they are cleared to start.

### **Tennessee Board of Nursing Eligibility Requirements for Licensure**

See Tennessee Board of Nursing Rules and Regulations at [publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules/1000/1000.htm](http://publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules/1000/1000.htm) for information regarding eligibility for RN licensure in Tennessee.

Any individual who applies for initial licensure, temporary permit, or licensure renewal and supplies false or incomplete information regarding the individual's criminal record to the Board on an application for licensure will be denied said initial licensure, temporary permit, or renewal.

## **Master of Science in Nursing: V.U.S.N. Continuing Student Requirements**

### *Disclosure of offenses post-background check completion*

Current full and part-time, MSN, Post-Master's Certificate, and DNP students are required to immediately report to their academic director and the Senior Associate Dean for Academics any arrest, criminal charge, or conviction occurring after his or her background check has been completed. Required disclosure also includes but is not limited to allegations, investigations, and/or disciplinary action from any licensing board or agency included under the Nationwide Health Care Fraud and Abuse scan; Office of Inspector General (OIG), General Services Administration (GSA), FDA Debarment Check, Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA), Office of Research Integrity (ORI), and Medicare and Medicaid Sanctions.

### *Background Check Required for Readmission*

Students returning from a break in enrollment must complete a new background check through Castle Branch prior to registration by using the Package Code specified on the Current MSN/Post Master's Certificate/DNP Student Requirements webpage: [nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/currentstudents.php](http://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/currentstudents.php).

A new background check is not required for students returning from a VUSN approved deferment or LOA. However, returning students must submit up-to-date documentation to their myCB account requirements prior to registration.

### *Maintaining Health Insurance, TB Testing, Annual Flu Vaccination, Training, Licensing and Certification Requirements*

While enrolled, continuing full and part-time, MSN, Post-Master's Certificate, and DNP students are required to update the following date-dependent documentation in their myCB account (<https://mycb.castlebranch.com/>), To-Do-List by the requirement's Renewal Date. (Renewal requirements are generated 21-days prior to the Renewal Date.) Students maintaining the Magnus Immunization Tracker through Castle Branch have an annual \$20 fee.

***Please note: Students who fail to maintain their Castle Branch (myCB) account's To-Do-List requirements with up-to-date documentation will not be allowed to begin/continue clinical course work and/or register for additional courses.***

*VUSN Requirements to Maintain for Registration:*

1. All students are required to have current health insurance coverage either through the University's student health insurance plan or by another policy while enrolled (monthly issued insurance is not acceptable). Clinical sites require students to have health insurance to cover any illness or injury that they may incur during the clinical training experience. Students who wish to be covered by a personal policy must complete a waiver EACH YEAR to decline the University's student insurance plan by January 1 for spring admits and August 1 for fall, Maymester and summer admits by submitting a waiver with proof of coverage at <https://www.vumc.org/student-health/student-health-insurance>. If a waiver is not completed by the appropriate date, the student is automatically billed and enrolled in the University's Student Health Insurance plan. Students must maintain current documentation of health insurance coverage through their Castle Branch (myCB) account. Documentation of the University's student health plan can be pulled each academic year, the first week of August at, <https://go.gallagherstudent.com/Universities/Vanderbilt%20University/Home>. Students who change providers during enrollment must provide current documentation of their coverage by contacting the VUSN Compliance Officer at: [lisa.boyer@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:lisa.boyer@vanderbilt.edu) or call (615) 343-3294.
2. Annual tuberculin skin test (PPD) or blood test (IGRA= QFT-Plus, QFT-GIT and T-Spot). If the student has been consecutively enrolled and a clear chest x-ray was submitted to myCB in the year(s) prior, complete the Annual Post-Chest X-ray TB Questionnaire ([nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/tbscreening\\_questionnaire.pdf](https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/tbscreening_questionnaire.pdf)) to confirm the absence of symptoms (healthcare provider signature required).
  1. If test is positive, medical evaluation and documentation of a clear chest x-ray (lab report OR physician verification of results required). If there is evidence of a positive chest xray and/or symptoms of TB, the student must notify their Program Director and follow up with a medical evaluation and, if needed, treatment.
  2. Current American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Life Support (BLS) CPR certification is required by all entry levels and specialties. BLS provided by the AHA is the only BLS card accepted. In addition to the AHA BLS, additional CPR certifications are required by the following specialties: AHA Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) is required by PNP-AC and ENP. AHA Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) is required by AGACNP and ENP. NNP specialty requires the Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) certification. Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) or Trauma Nurse Core Course (TNCC), or Advanced Trauma Care for Nurses (ATCN) required by ENP. Other specialties may require additional CPR certifications at specific stages of enrollment.
3. HIPAA and OSHA safety training is required annually by academic year through BrightSpace (VUNetID required). Instructions to complete the online training are available under the Castle Branch (myCB) requirement's drop-down. Additional training may be required for particular clinical sites.
4. Copy of an unencumbered Registered Nurse's license in the state(s) where you reside/work and will be doing clinical training (if applicable). In addition, DNP students who are a NP, CNM or CRNA are required to submit an unencumbered Advance Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) designation in their state of residence and states of clinical practice and hold national board certification in their area of specialty as appropriate.
5. Influenza: Annual flu vaccination is required or student must obtain an approved exemption through Vanderbilt University's Student Health Center by submitting a request by October 1st, prior to each flu season at [vumc.org/student-health/influenza-vaccinations-students](https://vumc.org/student-health/influenza-vaccinations-students). Medical provider documentation of a contraindication to the seasonal influenza vaccine is required for exemption approval. (Note: Minor side effects, such as low-grade fever, cold symptoms, or muscle aches, are not considered a medical contraindication to the influenza vaccine.) In addition, students unable to receive an annual flu vaccination must also obtain an approved exemption (per site specifications) prior to placement at each clinical, observation or project site.

*Clearing the VUSN Continuing Student, Nursing Requirement Hold for Registration*

The continuing student must maintain up-to-date documentation through their myCB account by submitting the documentation specified under the requirement's drop-down. The readmitted student must have satisfactory

completion of a new background check in addition to maintaining up-to-date documentation through their myCB account.

The Nursing Requirement Hold in Your Enrollment Services (YES) account is automatically cleared (allow 10-business days) when the student's myCB requirements show as 'Complete' by their Renewal Date.

#### *Additional Clinical Site Requirements and Restrictions*

Additional immunizations, titers, TB testing, drug screening, and/or additional background checks may be required by some clinical, observation and project sites. Once enrolled, the student may complete immunizations, titers and TB testing at Student Health (<https://www.vumc.org/student-health/welcome>). A student who plans to use Student Health should call (615) 322-2427 to schedule an appointment. The student should bring a copy of their VU Nursing Immunization and TB Testing form and any required documentation to the appointment. Students are responsible for all charges incurred in order to meet clinical site requirements.

Due to certain restrictions, VUSN is not able to accommodate clinical placements in all locations.

#### *Accidents/Injury/Illnesses*

Students are responsible for the costs of tests, treatment, and follow-up care for any accidents, injury, or illnesses that occur while enrolled as students at VUSN. Students are not entitled to worker's compensation benefits.

## **Master of Science in Nursing: V.U.S.N. New Student Requirements**

*Special Students, who are only enrolled in one course and are not seeking a degree from the School of Nursing, are not required to complete a background check or the new student requirements unless they apply and are admitted to VUSN.*

#### *Background Check Requirement*

Upon acceptance, all full- and part-time students admitted to a MSN, Post-Master's Certificate or DNP program must complete a background check through Castle Branch using the package code specified under the New Student Compliance Requirements section of the VUSN Admitted Student webpage ([nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/admitted/index.php](http://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/admitted/index.php)) for their entry type.

### ***Enrollment is contingent upon satisfactory evaluation of the results of the background check.***

Background Check Required for Readmission: Students returning from a break in enrollment must complete a new background check through Castle Branch by using the package code specified on the Current MSN/Post Master's Certificate/DNP Student Requirements webpage, [nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/currentstudents.php](http://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/currentstudents.php). A new background check is not required for students returning from a VUSN approved deferment or LOA. However, all returning students must submit up-to-date documentation to their myCB account requirements prior to registration.

#### *Disclosure of offenses post-background check completion*

Current full- and part-time MSN, Post-Master's Certificate, and DNP students are required to immediately report to their faculty adviser and the senior associate dean for academics any arrest, criminal charge or conviction occurring after their background checks have been completed. Required disclosure also includes but is not limited to allegations, investigations and/or disciplinary action from any licensing board or Abuse scan: Office of Inspector General (OIG), General Services Administrations (GSA), FDA Debarment Check, Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA), Office of Research Integrity (ORI), and Medicare and Medicaid Sanctions.

#### *New Student Compliance Requirements*

The State of Tennessee requires certain immunizations for all students (including distance graduate and professional students) prior to registration. The University's *Immunization Hold* on registration is automatically cleared from Your Enrollment Services (YES) account (allow 10-business days) after the student has satisfactorily met the state-mandated requirements through the Student Health Portal.



In addition, all full- and part-time MSN, Post-Master's Certificate, and DNP students are required to meet the VUSN requirements for registration through Castle Branch. The *Nursing Requirement Hold* on registration is automatically cleared from Your Enrollment Services (YES) account (allow 10-business days) after the requirements for the student's entry type are satisfactorily completed through Castle Branch.

Students should use the process indicated on the VUSN Admitted Student webpage ([nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/admitted/index.php](https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/admitted/index.php)) under *New Student Compliance Requirements* to meet the state-mandated and VUSN student requirements for registration.

***Please note: If the new student fails to provide acceptable documentation of requirements, she/he will not be allowed to attend orientation and/or classes.***

#### *How to Meet the VUSN New Student Compliance Requirements*

Place an order through Castle Branch ([https://www.castlebranch.com/online\\_submission/package\\_code.php](https://www.castlebranch.com/online_submission/package_code.php)) for the background check and document manager package by using the package code and classification for your entry type specified on the VUSN Admitted Student webpage ([nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/admitted/index.php](https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/admitted/index.php)) under *New Student Compliance Requirements*.

Placing this order creates your "myCB" account, which is an online document manager for the immunizations/titers, TB testing, training, certifications and licensure required as a VUSN student. Submit documentation of the following to each requirement in your myCB account's To-Do-List prior to July 1 for fall, and December 1 for spring. Documentation can be submitted by file upload, fax, or mail. The student must click on the drop-down for each requirement in the To-Do-List to view instructions and download required forms. The documentation submitted must resemble a photocopy of the original with all dates and information clear and readable.

Complete the *VU Nursing Immunization and TB Testing form* ([nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/health\\_questionnaire.pdf](https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/health_questionnaire.pdf)) to meet the requirements listed below. Documentation of previously completed immunizations, titers and/or TB testing must be from the following sources for approval: official medical, state, county, or international immunization records (English required).

Non-RN entries (Pre-specialty students) also receive a drug screen as part of their Castle Branch background check and document manager package and should follow the instructions provided through their myCB account.

VUSN Immunization/Titer, TB Testing, CPR Certification, Health Insurance, Licensure and Certification Requirements for Registration:

1. Physical examination within six months of acceptance to the program, authenticated by a physician, an APRN, PA, or a DO documenting evidence of the student's physical and mental capability to carrying out assignments in a nursing school program. Use the VU Nursing Immunization and TB Testing form at [nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/health\\_questionnaire.pdf](https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/health_questionnaire.pdf). (Also downloadable from the requirement's drop-down in your myCB account.)
2. Measles, Mumps, Rubella: Two (2) MMR vaccinations given at least 28-days apart OR if no vaccination records available, lab evidence of immunity (positive titer results) for each Measles (Rubeola), Mumps, and Rubella. At least one of two MMR booster vaccinations is required prior to registration following a negative or equivocal titer result.
3. Varicella: Two varicella vaccines given at least 28 days apart OR if no vaccination records available, lab evidence of varicella immunity (positive titer). At least one of two Varicella booster vaccinations is required prior to registration following a negative or equivocal titer result.
4. Hepatitis B: A Hepatitis B vaccination series completed following the guidelines for dosing intervals published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) OR if no vaccination records available, lab evidence of immunity (positive anti-HBs or HBsAb surface antibody). A Hepatitis B booster vaccination series is required prior to observation or clinical following a negative or equivocal titer result. DNP students with no patient contact can choose to sign the Hepatitis B Waiver form (download from the myCB

requirement's drop-down).

5. Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis (Tdap): Documentation of vaccination within last ten years. (DTP/DTaP and Td/TD vaccines do not meet this requirement.)
6. All newly admitted students are required to submit a tuberculin skin test (PPD) completed within 12-months of program start. In addition to a PPD completed within 12-months of start, the Pre-specialty (non-RN) entry type is required to submit a second PPD completed within 3-months of program start. Alternatively, all newly admitted entry types may opt to complete one TB blood test (IGRA= QFT-Plus, QFT-GIT and T-Spot) in place of the PPD(s), completed within 3 months of program start.
  1. If reading(s) is/are negative, repeat one PPD or TB blood test annually.
  2. If positive, medical evaluation and documentation of a clear chest x-ray completed within 3 months of program start (lab report OR physician verification of results required). If there is evidence of a positive chest x-ray and/or symptoms of TB, the student must notify their Program Director and follow up with a medical evaluation and if needed, treatment. For each consecutive year of enrollment after completing a chest x-ray, the Annual Post-Chest X-ray TB Questionnaire ([nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/health\\_questionnaire.pdf](https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/health_questionnaire.pdf)) must be completed and signed by a healthcare provider.
7. Influenza: Annual flu vaccination is required or student must obtain an approved exemption through Vanderbilt University's Student Health Center by submitting a request by October 1st, prior to each flu season at [vumc.org/student-health/influenza-vaccinations-students](https://vumc.org/student-health/influenza-vaccinations-students). Medical provider documentation of a contraindication to the seasonal influenza vaccine is required for exemption approval. (Note: Minor side effects, such as low-grade fever, cold symptoms, or muscle aches, are not considered to be a medical contraindication to the influenza vaccine). In addition, students unable to receive an annual flu vaccination must also obtain an approved exemption (per site specifications) prior to placement at each clinical, observation or project site.
8. All students are required to have current health insurance coverage either through the University's student health insurance plan or by another policy while enrolled (monthly issued insurance is not acceptable). Clinical sites require students to have health insurance to cover any illness or injury that they may incur during the clinical training experience. Students who wish to be covered by a personal policy must complete a waiver EACH YEAR to decline the University's student insurance plan by January 1 for spring admits and August 1 for fall, Maymester and summer admits by submitting a waiver with proof of coverage at: <https://www.vumc.org/student-health/student-health-insurance>. If a waiver is not completed by the appropriate date, the student is automatically billed and enrolled in the University Student Health Insurance plan. Newly admitted VUSN students must also submit documentation to their Castle Branch account (myCB) of either the University's student health insurance coverage (proof available the first week of August at, <https://go.gallagherstudent.com/Universities/VanderbiltUniversity/Home>) or of their approved personal insurance with a copy (front & back) of their insurance card or a letter verifying coverage. More information on the University's student health insurance is provided at [www.vumc.org/student-health/immunization-requirements-new-students](https://www.vumc.org/student-health/immunization-requirements-new-students).
9. Current American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Life Support (BLS) CPR certification is required by all entry levels and specialties. BLS provided by the AHA is the only BLS card accepted. In addition to the AHA BLS, additional CPR certifications are required by the following specialties: AHA Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) is required by PNP-AC and ENP. AHA Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) is required by AGACNP and ENP. NNP specialty requires the Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) certification. Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) or Trauma Nurse Core Course (TNCC), or Advanced Trauma Care of Nurses (ATCN) required by ENP. Other specialties may require additional CPR certifications at specific stages of enrollment.
10. Copy of an unencumbered Registered Nurse's license in the state(s) where you reside/work and will be doing clinical training (if applicable). In addition, DNP students who are a NP, CNM or CRNA are required to submit an unencumbered Advance Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) designation in their state of residence and states of clinical practice and hold national board certification in their area of specialty as appropriate.
11. HIPAA and OSHA safety training is required annually by academic year through BrightSpace (VUNetID required). Instructions to complete the online training are available under the Castle Branch requirement's drop-down. Additional training may be required for particular clinical sites.
12. Honor Code and Plagiarism Tutorial. Read letter regarding plagiarism from the Senior Associate Dean for Academics ([nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/admitted/pdf/plagiarism.pdf](https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/admitted/pdf/plagiarism.pdf)) and follow instructions under the Castle Branch requirement's drop-down to complete the latest version of a tutorial developed by Indiana University Bloomington.

#### *Clearing the VUSN Nursing Requirement Hold for Registration*

The newly admitted student must satisfactorily complete the Castle Branch background check and all of their myCB account, To-Do-List requirements with a July 1st Due Date must show as 'Complete'. Additionally, students admitted to the Pre-specialty program (non-RN) must satisfactorily complete a drug screen through Castle Branch. Once the

requirements for the student's entry type are satisfactorily completed, the Nursing Requirement Hold is automatically cleared from Your Enrollment Services (YES) account (allow 10-business days).

#### *Additional Clinical Site Requirements and Restrictions*

Additional immunizations, titers, TB testing, drug screening, and/or additional background checks may be required by some clinical, observation and project sites. Once enrolled, the student may complete immunizations, titers and TB testing at Student Health ([vumc.org/student-health/welcome](http://vumc.org/student-health/welcome)). A student who plans to use Student Health should call (615) 322-2427 to schedule an appointment. The student should bring a copy of the VU Nursing Immunization and TB Testing form ([nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/health\\_questionnaire.pdf](http://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/health_questionnaire.pdf)) and any required documentation to the appointment. Students are responsible for all charges incurred in order to meet clinical site requirements. Due to certain restrictions, VUSN is not able to accommodate clinical placements in all locations.

#### *Accidents/Injury/Illnesses*

Students are responsible for the costs of tests, treatment, and follow-up care for any accidents, injury, or illnesses that occur while enrolled as students at VUSN. Students are not entitled to worker's compensation benefits.

#### *How to Meet the State-Mandated Immunization Requirements for New Students at Vanderbilt University*

Follow instructions on the Vanderbilt Student Health Center's Immunization Requirements webpage ([vumc.org/student-health/immunization-requirements-new-students](http://vumc.org/student-health/immunization-requirements-new-students)) to enter dates and submit documentation of the following state-mandated requirements through the Vanderbilt Student Health Immunization Portal ([vanderbilt.studenthealthportal.com/Account/Logon?ReturnUrl=%2f](http://vanderbilt.studenthealthportal.com/Account/Logon?ReturnUrl=%2f)). Acceptable forms of documentation include official state/county immunizations, official signed or certified medical records, Yellow Book/immunization card from county of origin (English required), or the VU Nursing Immunization and TB Testing form ([nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/health\\_questionnaire.pdf](http://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/health_questionnaire.pdf)) completed and signed by a healthcare provider.

#### *Vanderbilt University's State-Mandated Immunization and/or Titer Requirements for Registration:*

1. Measles, Mumps, Rubella: Two (2) MMR vaccinations given at least 28-days apart OR if no vaccination records available, lab evidence of immunity (positive titer results) for each Measles (Rubeola), Mumps, and Rubella. At least one of two MMR booster vaccinations is required prior to registration following a negative or equivocal titer result.
2. Varicella: Two varicella vaccines given at least 28 days apart OR if no vaccination records available, lab evidence of varicella immunity (positive titer). At least one of two Varicella booster vaccinations is required prior to registration following a negative or equivocal titer result.
3. Hepatitis B: A Hepatitis B vaccination series completed following the guidelines for dosing intervals published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) OR if no vaccination records available, lab evidence of immunity (positive anti-HBs or HBsAb surface antibody). A Hepatitis B booster vaccination series is required prior to observation or clinical following a negative or equivocal titer result. DNP students with no patient contact can choose to sign the Hepatitis B Waiver form (download from the myCB requirement's drop-down).
4. Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis (Tdap): Documentation of vaccination within last ten years. (DTP/DTaP and Td/TD vaccines do not meet this requirement.)
5. All newly admitted students are required to submit a tuberculin skin test (PPD) completed within 12-months of program start. In addition to a PPD completed within 12-months of start, the Pre-specialty (non-RN) entry type is required to submit a second PPD completed within 3-months of program start. Alternatively, all newly admitted entry types may opt to complete one TB blood test (IGRA= QFT-Plus, QFT-GIT and T-Spot) in place of the PPD(s), completed within 3 months of program start.
  1. If reading(s) is/are negative, repeat one PPD or TB blood test annually.
  2. If positive, medical evaluation and documentation of a clear chest x-ray completed within 3 months of program start (lab report OR physician verification of results required). If there is evidence of a positive chest x-ray and/or symptoms of TB, the student must notify their Program Director and follow up with a medical evaluation and if needed, treatment. For each consecutive year of enrollment after completing a chest x-ray, the Annual Post-Chest X-ray TB Questionnaire ([nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/tbscreening\\_questionnaire.pdf](http://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalplacement/pdf/tbscreening_questionnaire.pdf)), must be completed and signed by a healthcare provider.
6. Influenza: Annual flu vaccination is required or student must obtain an approved exemption through Vanderbilt University's Student Health Center by submitting a request by October 1st, prior to each flu season at: [vumc.org/student-health/influenza-vaccinations-students](http://vumc.org/student-health/influenza-vaccinations-students). Medical provider documentation of a contraindication to the seasonal influenza vaccine is required for exemption approval. (Note: Minor side effects, such as low-grade fever, cold symptoms, or muscle aches, are not considered to be a medical

contraindication to the influenza vaccine). In addition, students unable to receive an annual flu vaccination must also obtain an approved exemption (per site specifications) prior to placement at each clinical, observation or project site.

7. All students are required to have current health insurance coverage either through the University's student health insurance plan or by another policy while enrolled (monthly issued insurance is not acceptable). Clinical sites require students to have health insurance to cover any illness or injury that they may incur during the clinical training experience. Students who wish to be covered by a personal policy must complete a waiver EACH YEAR to decline the University's student insurance plan by January 1 for spring admits and August 1 for fall, Maymester and summer admits by submitting a waiver with proof of coverage at <https://www.vumc.org/student-health/immunization-requirements-new-students>. If a waiver is not completed by the appropriate date, the student is automatically billed and enrolled in the University's Student Health Insurance plan. Newly admitted VUSN students must also submit documentation to their Castle Branch account (myCB) of either the University's student health insurance coverage (proof available the first week of August at, <https://go.gallagherstudent.com/Universities/VanderbiltUniversity/Home>) or of their approved personal insurance with a copy (front & back) of their insurance card or a letter verifying coverage. More information on the University's student health insurance is provided at [vumc.org/student-health/requirements](http://vumc.org/student-health/requirements).

*Clearing the State-Mandated VU Immunization Requirement Hold for Registration:* The University's Immunization Hold is automatically cleared from Your Enrollment Services (YES) account when a message of compliance is received through your Student Health Immunization Portal (allow 10-business days).

## **Master of Science in Nursing: Women's Health Nurse Practitioner**

SPECIALTY DIRECTOR Ginny Moore

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR Ginny Moore

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR: Lindsey Baksh

INSTRUCTORS, Erin DeBruyn, Tonia Moore-Davis, Shaunna Parker, Shelza Rivas, Stefani Yudasz

The Women's Health Nurse Practitioner specialty begins with the study of well-woman gynecologic and low-risk obstetric care. From this foundation, the specialty progresses to the study of high-risk obstetrics and deviations from normal gynecology. Emphasis is on health promotion of women from adolescence through advanced years. This specialty prepares the student for entry level advanced practice as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner.

Upon completion of the specialty, the student is eligible to sit for the National Certification Corporation Women's Health Nurse Practitioner exam.

Women's Health Nurse Practitioner

**FALL I**

NURS 6011	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (2 credit hours)
NURS 6012	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab (1 credit hour)
NURS 6020	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics (3 credit hours)
NURS 6034	Adult-Gerontology Primary Care (3 credit hours)
NURS 6045	Professional Formation I: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice (2 credit hours)
NURS 7305	Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Women's Health Nurse Practitioner (1 credit hour)
NURS 7310	Women's Health for Advanced Practice Nursing (3 credit hours)

**SPRING I**

NURS 6010	Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)
NURS 6055	Professional Formation II: Evidence-Based Change in Health Care Environments (3 credit hours)
NURS 7315	Practicum in Women's Health (4 credit hours)
NURS 7320	Women's Health for Advanced Practice Nursing II (3 credit hours)

**SUMMER I**

NURS 6031	Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Adolescent (1 credit hour)
NURS 6065	Professional Formation III: Leading Collaborative Change: Improving Delivery of Health Care to Patients and Pop. (4 credit hours)
NURS 6075	Professional Formation IV: Transition to Advanced Nursing Practice (1 credit hour)
NURS 7330	Women's Health Issues (1 credit hour)
NURS 7395	Preceptorship in Women's Health (5 credit hours)

**Total: 40 credit hours**

**Master of Science in Nursing: Women's Health Nurse Practitioner/Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner**

SPECIALTY DIRECTORS Ginny Moore and Leslie W. Hopkins

For listing of faculty for Women's Health Nurse Practitioner/Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner, see both Women's Health Nurse Practitioner and Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner.

The Women's Health Nurse Practitioner (WHNP)/Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (AGPCNP) specialty is an exciting opportunity for individuals to gain certification in both specialties so they can meet the unique health care needs of women as well as primary health care needs of all adults as they pass from adolescence through the advanced years.

This specialty addresses a range of women's health issues, including well-woman health care, prenatal and postpartum management, and menopause. In addition, it provides a broad foundation in adult primary care with a significant emphasis on disease prevention and health promotion. Students gain an understanding of health care delivery systems in this country. They gain the knowledge and skills necessary to assess, diagnose and manage common acute and chronic health problems of adults, including the unique aspects related to women's health. In addition, they will be prepared to educate and counsel patients on health maintenance and disease prevention.

Students will learn from a group of professional faculty members who combine classroom instruction with hands-on clinical experience. Graduates of this specialty have the opportunity to gain certification as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner through the National Certification Corporation and as an Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner through the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Association of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board. As advanced practice nurses, they can practice in various health care settings, including collaborative physician internal medicine and women's health practices and women's health clinics.

## Women's Health Nurse Practitioner/Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

### **FALL I**

NURS 6011	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (2 credit hours)
NURS 6012	Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab (1 credit hour)
NURS 6020	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics (3 credit hours)
NURS 6034	Adult Gerontology Primary Care I (3 credit hours)
NURS 6045	Professional Formation I: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice (2 credit hours)
NURS 6205	Advanced Health Assessment for the Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (1 credit hour)
NURS 7305	Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Women's Health Nurse Practitioner (1 credit hour)
NURS 7310	Women's Health for Advanced Practice Nursing I (3 credit hours)

### **SPRING I**

NURS 6010	Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)
NURS 6055	Professional Formation II: Evidence-Based Change in Health Care Environments (3 credit hours)
NURS 6215	Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Clinical I (4 credit hours)
NURS 6234	Adult Gerontology Primary Care II (3 credit hours)
NURS 7320	Women's Health for Advanced Practice Nursing II (3 credit hours)

### **SUMMER I**

NURS 6031	Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Adolescent (1 credit hour)
NURS 6065	Professional Formation III: Leading Collaborative Change (4 credit hours)
NURS 6075	Professional Formation IV: Transition to Advanced Nursing Practice (1 credit hour)
NURS 6231	Essential Procedures for the Primary Care Provider (2 credit hours)
NURS 6236	Advanced Concepts in the Care of the Elderly (2 credit hours)
NURS 7315	Practicum in Women's Health (4 credit hours)
NURS 7330	Women's Health Issues (1 credit hour)

### **FALL II**

NURS 6295	Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Clinical II (4 credit hours)
NURS 7395	Preceptorship in Women's Health (5 credit hours)

**Total: 56 credit hours**

## **Nursing Education at Vanderbilt**

Vanderbilt University School of Nursing has a national reputation for excellence in nursing education and attracts students from across the nation and from several foreign countries.

The School of Nursing was founded in 1909 as the Training School for Nurses of Vanderbilt University Hospital, with a three-year program leading to eligibility for nurse licensure. Under university administration since 1930, the nursing school became a part of Vanderbilt University Medical Center in 1985. This relationship allows greater opportunity for nursing faculty and students to interact with nursing staff, medical faculty, and medical students in the areas of teaching, research, and practice.

The School of Nursing and Vanderbilt University Medical Center Nursing Services have developed a collaborative, interactive model of nursing practice, education, and research, focusing on quality patient care delivery. This collaborative model accommodates a rapidly and continually changing practice environment. Elements of the model are designed to foster innovation and interdisciplinary activity in an environment that promotes health and job satisfaction.

### Accreditation

The master's, post-master's certificate, and doctor of nursing practice nursing programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 887-6791. The school is approved by the Tennessee Board of Nursing. Vanderbilt School of Nursing was a charter member of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Nursing, which later was incorporated into the National League for Nursing (NLN). Vanderbilt University School of Nursing is a member of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20056; (202) 463-6930.



The nurse-midwifery program is accredited by Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (formerly ACNM Division of Accreditation). For information: 8403 Colesville Road, Suite 1550, Silver Spring, MD 20910-6374; phone: (240) 485-1800; fax: 240-485-1818; email: [info@acnm.org](mailto:info@acnm.org); web: [midwife.org](http://midwife.org). The U.S. Department of Education is located at 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-0498; telephone (800) USA-LEARN (800-872-5327).

#### VUSN Mission

The mission of Vanderbilt University School of Nursing is to lead in education, evidence-based practice, scholarship, and research in order to provide optimal health care to diverse communities through innovation, inclusion, and compassion.

#### Accidents/Injury/Illnesses

Students are responsible for the costs of tests, treatment, and follow-up care for any accidents, injury, or illnesses that occur while enrolled as students at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. Students are not entitled to worker's compensation benefits.

#### Alcohol and Controlled Substance Policy

Vanderbilt University is deeply concerned about the health and welfare of its students. University policies and regulations in general—and alcohol and controlled substances policies in particular—reflect that concern. The purpose of university policies, and the purpose of articulating them in great detail, is to enable students to make informed—and, it is hoped, intelligent—choices, as well as to enable them to understand the consequences of making poor choices. In compliance with the federal Drug-Free Schools and Campuses regulations, Vanderbilt has adopted a policy that includes the expectation that students will comply with federal, state, and local laws, including those relating to alcoholic beverages, narcotics, and other drugs. Further details found in the Vanderbilt University Student Handbook: [https://www.vanderbilt.edu/student\\_handbook/](https://www.vanderbilt.edu/student_handbook/).

Nursing students are not allowed to attend class, lab, or clinical practice under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances. Students suspected of using such substances will be asked to submit to voluntary breath, blood, or urine screening as a condition of progression. Some clinical placement sites require alcohol and drug screening. Additional standards of conduct, standards, and procedures may be found in the Student Handbook <https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/current/pdf/handbook.pdf>.

#### Appeal Process for M.S.N. and D.N.P. SAAA Committee Probation/Dismissal Decisions Grounds for Appeal

Any VUSN student who has been subject to an adverse determination by the SAAA committee regarding academic standing may petition for a review of the determination on the following grounds:

- Academic sanction was not applied according to the published academic policies.
- Insufficient information to support the determination of the SAAA committee.
- New information that was not reasonably available for the initial presentation to the SAAA Committee, the introduction of which would reasonably be expected to affect the committee's determination. For further detail, refer to the Student Handbook at <https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/current/pdf/handbook.pdf>.

#### Application Procedure

Vanderbilt University School of Nursing seeks to matriculate students with an array of life experiences and the potential to provide significant contributions to the nursing profession. We believe a diverse learning community fosters the development of exceptional leaders, educators, clinicians, informaticists, and researchers. A holistic approach is used to evaluate each candidate based on academic performance, professional goals, personal characteristics, leadership potential, commitment to service, and support of diversity, inclusion, and equity.

The link to the online application for the M.S.N, P.M.C., and D.N.P programs is found at [apply.vanderbilt.edu/apply](http://apply.vanderbilt.edu/apply). A \$50 non-refundable fee is required when the application is submitted. Interested applicants should carefully review information provided on the website and contact the Admission Office at [VUSNAdmissions@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:VUSNAdmissions@vanderbilt.edu) if they have questions about the program application procedure. All application materials must be received before the application can be sent for faculty review.

The School of Nursing begins reviewing M.S.N. and P.M.C. applications for admission to its new fall class beginning October 15 of the previous year. Applicants are encouraged to apply by October 15 to be considered for their intended specialty. However, M.S.N. and P.M.C. applications received after October 15 are reviewed on a rolling basis until the class is full. The School of Nursing begins reviewing D.N.P. applications for admission to its

new fall class on December 1. D.N.P. applications received after December 1 are reviewed on a rolling basis.

All information submitted in the application process must be the applicant's own work complete, factually true, and honestly presented. Applicants providing false information may be subject to a range of possible disciplinary actions, including admission revocation, expulsion, or revocation of course credit, grades, and degree. Admissions decisions are made upon receipt of all application materials. A \$500 non-refundable matriculation fee is required upon acceptance.

Applications are considered current for one year; accepted applicants who do not enroll during that time must reapply for admission. Admitted students may apply for one deferral of admission, not to exceed one year, which must be approved by the SAAA committee. After one year, the student must reapply for admission.

#### Attendance and Absence Policy

It is expected that students will attend all courses regardless of educational format. Attendance is required for on-campus block classes and/or intensives each semester. The Brightspace learning management system serves as the record of student participation and attendance in the online course environment. For face-to-face classes, student participation during in-class academic activities verifies attendance. Course instructors may set specific policies about absences from their courses. The School of Nursing does not distinguish types of absences. An instructor is under no obligation to accommodate students who are absent or who miss academic work without prior notification and makeup arrangements. Accommodations will be made for a student who misses an examination, work assignment, or other project because of observance of a religious holiday; this accommodation must be requested by the student prior to the holiday.

As a rule, students incur no administrative penalties for absences from class, laboratory, or clinical, but they are responsible for the academic consequences of absence. Refer to [VUSN Student Handbook](#) for details.

#### Audit Courses

Students may wish to audit courses in the School of Nursing for which they will receive no credit. Auditing courses requires registration and is subject to the following conditions:

1. Consent of the instructor must be obtained.
2. The instructor sets the conditions under which a course may be audited. Failure to meet those conditions is justification for withdrawal of the audit designation.
3. Auditing students are able to observe and listen during class. Online material is available for review.
4. Auditing students are not allowed to participate in class. This includes, but is not limited to, asking questions of the professor during or after class about the course, participating in group discussions (in class or online), or access to tests.
5. Audits carry no credit.

#### Calendar

The official calendar of the School of Nursing is online at [nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/current/enrollment/calendar.php](https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/current/enrollment/calendar.php) and printed at the front of this catalog and in the VUSN Student Handbook. These publications are available in August of each year online through the VUSN website at [vanderbilt.edu/catalogs/graduate/nursing/](https://vanderbilt.edu/catalogs/graduate/nursing/) and [nursing.vanderbilt.edu/current/handbook.pdf](https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/current/handbook.pdf).

In the R.N. pre-specialty year and in selected specialties, course content is taught in a modified learning (block) format via the following: (1) courses offered in concentrated blocks of time on campus including weekends up to four times per semester, (2) online conferencing, and (3) digital video and distributed-learning methods that allow for continued faculty contact between sessions. Block schedules are available on the VUSN website prior to each semester at [nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/current/blockschedules/](https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/current/blockschedules/). Students are expected to attend all on-campus sessions.

The D.N.P program is taught in a combination of online and on-campus intensives held for one week at the beginning of each semester. Continued student-faculty interactions will occur on a regular basis using various technology methods, synchronous and asynchronous. Intensive schedules are available on the VUSN website prior to each semester. Students are required to attend the D.N.P. Intensives.

MyVU is an online service that includes a calendar of events as well as articles of interest. It is the responsibility



of the student to keep informed of any event or announcement applicable to the School of Nursing. Failure to know of an officially required event is not an excuse for non-attendance.

#### Change of Course

*Dropping a Course.* The first five class days of the semester are allocated for necessary changes of course. Courses may be dropped without entry in the final record within the student change period. Courses may be dropped only after consultation with the student's adviser and the course instructor. Dropping a course may affect the sequencing of the program of study and may change the student's expected date of completion of course work.

*Withdrawing from a Course.* Students may withdraw from a course and receive the grade W (withdrawal) according to the date published in the School of Nursing Calendar for each semester. If the course in question is a nursing course, the student will receive the grade W (withdrawal) if less than half of the course has elapsed. Students may not withdraw from a course after the published date in the School of Nursing Calendar or after the course is half completed, except under extenuating circumstances. If a Vanderbilt course is taken outside the School of Nursing, grade regulations of the appropriate school will apply.

#### Code for Nurses

The school adheres to the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics for Nurses. The Code for Nurses is based on belief about the nature of individuals, nursing, health, and society. Recipients and providers of nursing services are viewed as individuals and groups who possess basic rights and responsibilities and whose values and circumstances command respect at all times. Nursing encompasses the promotion and restoration of health, the prevention of illness, and the alleviation of suffering. The statements of the code and their interpretation provide guidance for conduct and relationships in carrying out nursing responsibilities consistent with the ethical obligations of the profession and quality in nursing care. The nurse provides services with respect for human dignity and the uniqueness of the client, unrestricted by considerations of social or economic status, personal attributes, or the nature of health problems.

#### Commencement

The university holds its annual Commencement ceremony following the spring semester. Degree candidates must have completed successfully all curriculum requirements with at least a 3.0 overall GPA and have passed all prescribed examinations by the published deadlines to be allowed to participate in the ceremony. A student completing degree requirements in the summer or fall semester will be invited to participate in Commencement the following May; however, the semester in which the degree was actually earned will be the one recorded on the diploma and the student's permanent record. Students unable to participate in the graduation ceremony will receive their diplomas by mail.

#### Confidentiality and Privacy of Patient Information

Trust and confidentiality are at the heart of the caregiver/patient relationship. The ANA Code for Nurses requires students to strive to protect the rights of patients – and one of their essential rights is the right to privacy and to have information about them kept confidential. In addition to professional codes, all health care organization will have policies regarding confidentiality that reflect ethical standards, as well as state and federal laws. Federal regulations are bringing a new measure of uniformity to confidentiality practices across the health care industry. See information on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) at [hhs.gov/hipaa/index.html](https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/index.html).

#### Core Performance Standards

Essential eligibility requirements for participation and completion by students in the nursing program include the following core performance standards:

1. *Intellectual:* Ability to learn, think critically, analyze, assess, solve problems, and attain clinical and academic judgment.
2. *Interpersonal:* Interpersonal ability sufficient to appropriately interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.
3. *Communication:* Ability to speak and write with accuracy, clarity and efficiency in English and in computer-assisted formats.
4. *Mobility:* Physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces.
5. *Motor skills:* Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide therapeutic nursing interventions that are safe and effective and that maintain safety and security standards.
6. *Hearing:* Auditory ability sufficient to monitor, assess and respond to health needs.
7. *Visual:* Visual ability sufficient to distinguish colors, monitor, assess, and respond to health needs.
8. *Tactile:* Tactile ability sufficient to monitor, assess, and respond to health needs.

9. *Olfactory*: Olfactory ability to monitor, assess, and respond to health needs.
10. *Judgmental*: Mental and physical ability to demonstrate good judgment in decision-making in order to maintain safety and security of patients and to behave appropriately with patients, staff, students, supervisors and faculty.
11. *Affective*: Emotional stability and the capacity to be accountable and to accept responsibility.

All students enrolled in the M.S.N. degree, D.N.P. degree, or post-master's certificate program must satisfactorily demonstrate these competencies in the didactic, laboratory, seminar, and clinical practice courses throughout their program of study.

#### Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity

Diversity is an integral component of Vanderbilt University School of Nursing's (VUSN) purpose to promote excellence and innovation in education, practice and research. Diversity and inclusion are embedded in each of these components. VUSN's diversity and inclusivity statement reflects the school's commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity.

#### *VUSN's diversity, inclusivity and anti-racism statement:*

At Vanderbilt University School of Nursing (VUSN), we are intentional about and assume accountability for fostering advancement and respect for equity, diversity, and inclusion for all students, faculty, and staff. We support our efforts with respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person. To bring to life our vision of inclusive excellence, we seek to recruit, admit, hire, retain, promote, and support diverse and underrepresented groups of students, staff, and faculty. We value social justice and human rights. We embrace the plurality of humanity that composes our community including, but not limited to, age, race, ethnic origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, and religion.

We reject racism of any kind, be it systemic, institutional, or individual. We acknowledge the painful histories related to racism even within the nursing discipline, including education, practice, and research. We pledge to not let an unjust past continue to determine the future. We will enact practices which promote anti-racism and social justice across all entities within VUSN.

We affirm the inherent worth of each individual in order to protect, promote, and optimize the health and abilities of all people. As educators of advanced practice nurses, nurse scholars, nurse leaders, and nurse faculty, we accept the responsibility to foster and graduate highly educated, culturally sensitive health care professionals who mirror the diverse populations they serve.

#### Educational Resources and Materials Protection

As a professional courtesy to the many who contribute expertise and effort to the creation of educational resources and materials for VUSN courses, please follow this policy regarding the appropriate use of materials as it relates to the course. Educational resources and materials include instructional media, lectures, and handouts, some of which may include copyrighted items.

A. Students should ask permission of the course coordinator to record classroom discussions, lectures, demonstrations, or simulations.

B. Any recorded instructional media, whether provided by the school or recorded by the student, and handouts should:

- a. Be used for educational purposes of the course only.
- b. Not be shared with students not enrolled in the course.
- c. Be deleted once the student graduates or otherwise ends the student relationship with Vanderbilt University School of Nursing.

#### Examinations

Examination policies are determined by the instructor. A record of all grades given during the course and all final examinations and major papers are kept on file by the instructor for one year following the conclusion of the course.

A number of alternatives to standard in-class examinations are permitted at the instructor's discretion. These include take-home and self-scheduled examinations, oral examinations, on-line examinations, and term papers. Final examinations must be conducted during the final examination period at the end of the module or at the end of the semester.

Students are expected to take exams at the times specified in the course syllabus, and as announced by the course coordinator. Students must receive permission from the faculty prior to the scheduled exam to take the exam at a different time.

Any student more than fifteen minutes late to an in-class examination must present a satisfactory excuse. No student will be admitted after the first hour. Some courses require students to take examinations using online exam proctoring software.

#### Faculty Advisers

Each student will be assigned a faculty adviser who will collaborate with the student to promote successful completion of program requirements. The advising relationship consists of scheduled sessions each semester to ensure each student is afforded every opportunity for success. The complete program of studies should be approved within the first semester of enrollment.

The Assistant Dean for Academics, Doctoral Nursing Practice serves as adviser to special students taking doctoral level courses.

#### Graduation

Degree candidates must have satisfactorily completed all curriculum requirements, have a cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0, have passed all prescribed examinations, and be free of all indebtedness to the university.

#### The Honor System *Honor code statement*

Vanderbilt University students pursue all academic endeavors with integrity. They conduct themselves honorably, professionally, and respectfully in all realms of their studies in order to promote and secure an atmosphere of dignity and trust. The keystone of our honor system is self-regulation, which requires cooperation and support from each member of the university community.

Vanderbilt students are bound by the Honor System inaugurated in 1875 when the university opened its doors. Fundamental responsibility for the preservation of the system inevitably falls on the individual student. It is assumed that students will demand of themselves and their fellow students complete respect for the Honor System. The Honor System at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing is conducted by students for the benefit of students, faculty, staff, and patients. The Honor System, as delineated by the Honor Code, requires students to conduct themselves with honor in all aspects of their lives as advanced practice nurses-in-training. By demanding great responsibility, the Honor System fosters an environment of freedom and trust that benefits the entire School of Nursing.

All work submitted as a part of course requirements is presumed to be the product of the student submitting it unless credit is given by the student in the manner prescribed by the course instructor. Cheating, plagiarizing, using unauthorized aid, or otherwise falsifying results of study are specifically prohibited under the Honor System. The system applies not only to examinations, but also to all papers or written work, plans of care, and any clinical practice requirements submitted to instructors. The student, by registration, acknowledges the authority of the Honor Council of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. Students are expected to become familiar with the [Vanderbilt University Student Handbook](#) and the [School of Nursing Student Handbook](#).

#### *Nursing Honor Council*

The Honor Council serves to educate the student body about their responsibilities outlined in the written code, to conduct investigations and hearings regarding reported violations of the code, and to decide the nature of penalties deemed appropriate for such violations. The membership consists of student representatives from pre-specialty and specialty levels of the M.S.N. program, the post-master's certificate program, and the D.N.P. program.

Representatives serve for one year from September through August. Officers of the council must be students in good standing. Alternates may also be elected to serve in the absence of representatives.

### *Student Conduct*

Vanderbilt University strives to provide an optimal living and learning environment for the entire campus community. Students are expected to respect themselves and others, to act responsibly, and to take responsibility for their actions. The Office of Student Accountability, Community Standards, and Academic Integrity promotes good citizenships within the Vanderbilt University community through education. The student conduct system addresses student violations of university policy through fair, consistent, and confidential procedures. The student conduct system applies to all Vanderbilt students and student organizations; it addresses student misconduct allegations through procedures designed to provide a fair hearing and a just decision. The university's Office of Student Accountability, Community Standards, and Academic Integrity has original jurisdiction in all cases of non-academic misconduct involving graduate and professional students. For more information, visit [vanderbilt.edu/studentaccountability/](http://vanderbilt.edu/studentaccountability/).

### *Nursing Student Conduct Council*

Although the university values personal freedom, celebration, and recreation, the policies and regulations that apply to student conduct at Vanderbilt are also informed by principles that value the health, safety, and well-being of students and other members of the university community, as well as their academic and personal success. The university's goal in establishing policies and holding students accountable for complying with them is to help students understand how their choices can affect not only their immediate neighbors, but also the university community as a whole.

Students and student organizations are expected to comply with all university policies, which are derived from tradition and evolve with contemporary practice. Ignorance of a policy is not a valid excuse for violating it. Grounds for corrective action cannot always be the subject of precise statement; however, when commonly held standards of conduct are broken, students must be held accountable if the university community is to be sustained.

The Office of Student Accountability, Community Standards, and Academic Integrity ([vanderbilt.edu/studentaccountability/](http://vanderbilt.edu/studentaccountability/)) has original jurisdiction in all cases of nonacademic misconduct involving undergraduate, graduate, and professional students.

### *Inclement Weather*

The inclement weather policy provides uniformity for students, faculty and staff regarding the cancellation of classes due to inclement weather conditions or other adverse events influencing normal operations of the School of Nursing. Refer to [VUSN Student Handbook](#) for details.

### *International Students*

Vanderbilt has a large international community representing approximately one hundred countries. The university welcomes the diversity international students bring to the campus, and encourages academic and social interaction at all levels.

### *English Language Proficiency*

Proficiency in written and oral English is required for enrollment in the nursing program. Applicants whose native language is not English must present the results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with the application. The International TOEFL is administered at test centers throughout the world at different times during the year.

Applicants may access information regarding the TOEFL exam, including registration and sample tests, at [ets.org/toefl](http://ets.org/toefl). Inquiries and requests for application forms should be addressed to TOEFL, Box 6151, Princeton, New Jersey 08541-6151 U.S.A. The minimum acceptable score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language is 100 on the Internet-based test or 250 on the computer-based test. The minimum acceptable score on the IELTS is 6.5. For more information on the IELTS test, go to [ielts.org](http://ielts.org).

### *Transcripts*

International student applicants who have completed college or university course work at an institution in a

country other than the United States must obtain a complete course-by-course evaluation of foreign transcripts, degrees, and other official documentation. In all instances, the evaluating agency will require original, official documentation. Please note that the evaluating agency must send both the course-by-course report and copies of the native documents. If the agency does not provide copies of the documentation used to do the course-by-course evaluation, students must submit their official documentation to Vanderbilt. Official transcripts and course-by-course evaluation reports should be sent to the following address: Office of the University Registrar, Vanderbilt University, ATTN: Prior Degree Review, PMB 407701, Nashville, Tennessee 37240-7701 U.S.A. For further questions regarding prior degrees, please visit [registrar.vanderbilt.edu/academic-records/international-degrees.php](http://registrar.vanderbilt.edu/academic-records/international-degrees.php).

Evaluating agencies include (1) World Education Services, Bowling Green Station, P.O. Box 5087, New York, NY 10274-5087; telephone (212) 966-6311; website: [wes.org](http://wes.org); (2) Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc., Post Office Box 514070, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203-3470; telephone (414) 289-3412; website: [ece.org](http://ece.org); and (3) Josef Silny and Associates, Inc., 7101 SW 102 Avenue, Miami, FL 33173; telephone (305) 273-1616; website: [jsilny.org/](http://jsilny.org/).

### *English Instruction*

Entering students may be required to take language support courses at the Vanderbilt English Language Center (ELC) concurrently with their academic courses. Students may also elect to take classes and participate in programming which includes Academic Writing, Academic Speaking, Pronunciation, and International Teaching Assistant (ITA) Communication to support their academic success. Throughout the academic year, academic workshops and 1-to-1 consultations for speaking and writing are also available. For more information, please visit [vanderbilt.edu/elc/](http://vanderbilt.edu/elc/).

### *Financial Resources*

To meet requirements for entry into the United States for study, applicants must demonstrate that they have sufficient financial resources to meet expected costs of their entire educational program. Applicants must provide documentary evidence of their financial resources before visa documents can be issued.

United States laws and regulations restrict the opportunity for international students to be employed. Students may be allowed to work off campus only under special circumstances. Many spouses and dependents of international students generally are not allowed to be employed while in the United States.

### *Visa and Immigration*

Applicants who are not United States citizens or residents of the U.S. will need to comply with applicable laws and regulations for entry into and travel within the U.S. before enrolling at Vanderbilt. For further information, visit [vanderbilt.edu/issv](http://vanderbilt.edu/issv).

### *International Applicants who need an I-20 or DS-2019 Issued to Study in the United States*

Due to federal guidelines, the Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.), Post-Master's Certificate (P.M.C.) and Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) programs do not satisfy the requirements for F-1 or J-1 study. The federal regulations restrict the number of courses that can be delivered via an online format within a program of study for F-1 and J-1 students. As these programs have a significant online component, the educational format is not compatible with the structure required by the federal government for F-1 and J-1 students.

### *Health and Accident Insurance*

International students, whether attending the university full time or part time, and their dependents residing in the United States are required to purchase the university's international student health and accident insurance unless, in the judgment of the university, adequate coverage is provided from some other source. Information concerning the limits, exclusions, and benefits of this insurance coverage can be obtained from the Student Health Center.

### *Additional Requirements*

Prior to admission, international applicants who are nurses must have passed the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) examination and the NCLEX-RN licensing examination. Information on the CGFNS may be obtained by writing the commission at 3600 Market Street, Suite 400, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104-2651, U.S.A., or by calling (215) 222-8454 or at [cgfns.org](http://cgfns.org). The CGFNS exam is given in March, August, and November in forty-six locations worldwide, though not in Nashville. Information on the NCLEX-RN licensing exam may be obtained from the Tennessee Board of Nursing, 665 Mainstream Drive, 2nd Floor, Nashville, Tennessee 37243, U.S.A.; telephone (615) 532-5222; website: [tn.gov/health](http://tn.gov/health).

### *Information*

Assistance in non-academic matters before and during the international student's stay at Vanderbilt is provided by International Student and Scholar Services, Student Life Center, 310 25th Avenue South, Suite 103, Nashville, TN 37240, U.S.A.; [vanderbilt.edu/issv](http://vanderbilt.edu/issv); telephone (615) 322-2753. Email: [issv@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:issv@vanderbilt.edu).

## Leave of Absence

A student may request to take a leave of absence (LOA) from their course of study as following instruction found in the [VUSN Student Handbook](#):

### *Medical Leave of Absence*

Students may experience life situations, or medical, and/or psychological conditions that significantly interfere with their academic and personal success. A medical leave of absence is intended to provide students with the opportunity to fully attend to their health and wellbeing, away from the stress associated with campus and academic life. A student who is temporarily unable to continue their course-of-study due to a medical reason must request a medical leave of absence (MLOA) from VUSN. Detailed information is found in the [VUSN Student Handbook](#).

## Net Etiquette Statement

Net etiquette describes professional communication and behaviors for online communication and interaction (email, discussion board postings, chats, wikis, blogs) to ensure a forum for dynamic and engaged learning. The expectations for net etiquette at VUSN may be described across three general areas: 1) Respect and Courtesy, 2) Participation and Collaboration, and 3) Presentation of Self. An inability to uphold net etiquette expectations may have repercussions related to student conduct. Further details regarding this policy are found in the [VUSN Student Handbook](#).

## Orientation

A required orientation program is held each fall prior to the registration period to acquaint new and continuing students with the school environment. The senior associate dean may call additional class meetings throughout the year as needed. Content may be provided in person, virtually or in combination.

## Professional Licensure and Out of State Requirements

State Boards of Nursing set standards for licensure. For students entering the M.S.N. program with a degree in a field other than nursing, successful completion of the pre-specialty courses prepares students to take the R.N. licensure exam (NCLEX-RN). While the NCLEX-RN is a national exam, most pre-specialty students obtain their initial R.N. license in the state of Tennessee and then may apply for R.N. licensure in a different state by following that state's prescribed procedures. State Boards may require R.N. practice experience and/or supplemental education modules. Graduation from the M.S.N. program or completion of the post-master's certificate (PMC) in nurse-midwifery or a nurse practitioner specialty prepares students for APRN licensure. Requirements for obtaining Advanced Practice (APRN) licensure vary by state. State Boards may require R.N. practice experience, transition to practice as APRN, supplemental education modules and/or approval of the program leading to an advanced practice certification. It is highly recommended that students who seek admission to M.S.N., Post Master's Certificate, and D.N.P. programs at VUSN contact their home state's Board of Nursing to verify that the desired program and its graduates will meet the eligibility criteria for approval for those credentials. The website of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing has contact information on Boards of Nursing in each state.

Vanderbilt University School of Nursing is required to meet state higher education requirements and state board of nursing requirements for students who complete clinical practice hours outside of Tennessee. National program licensure and certification disclosures and state academic restrictions are found here ([hyperlink needed](#)).

## Prior Degrees

It is the policy of Vanderbilt University to verify prior educational credentials for all admitted students who intend to matriculate. All matriculated students must provide official copies of transcripts and any other required supporting documentation to Vanderbilt University as part of the prior degree verification process. The Office of the University Registrar will review transcripts and other supporting documentation for authenticity and to confirm degrees earned prior to matriculation at Vanderbilt. Offers of admission are contingent on a student's providing the required documentation. Students in the School of Nursing who are not able to provide evidence of prior degrees will not be permitted to register and may be subject to dismissal from the university.

## Program of Studies



Students are expected to follow the program of studies outlined in the [VUSN Student Handbook](#). A student may request from full time to part time status or change their specialty following the processes found in the VUSN Student Handbook.

When an absence from the school for one or more semesters is anticipated, the student must submit a [Request for Leave of Absence form](#) and must follow the process outlined in the [VUSN Student Handbook](#).

#### Program Evaluation

Students are expected to participate in program evaluation activities while enrolled in the program and after they have left Vanderbilt. These data will be used for research purposes only. Procedures to protect individual confidentiality will be followed.

#### Registration

Each semester, at a time specified in the calendar, all students are required to confer with their academic advisers and register for courses for the next semester. Registration for classes is done by computer on Your Enrollment Services (YES). Students should check carefully with their faculty advisers concerning progress toward completing degree requirements and to make necessary revisions in their program of studies. The School of Nursing requires continuous registration of all degree candidates. Responsibility to maintain registration rests with the student. To retain student status, the student must register each fall, spring, and summer semester or secure an approved leave of absence. Students who are registered for zero hours in order to satisfy requirements for an incomplete grade are considered degree candidates. Students registering for zero hours for the express purpose of completing an incomplete grade are charged \$200 plus applicable fees.

#### State of Tennessee

Students should be aware that, should they have complaints about their academic program or their financial aid, Vanderbilt has a complaint procedure. To the extent possible, students should seek a resolution of such matters through the institution's complaint procedure before involving others.

The student has the right to call on the state of Tennessee and its appropriate agency to determine the course of action. Complaints may be filed with the following agencies in Tennessee:

- Complaints related to the application of state laws or rules related to the approval to operate or licensure of a particular professional program within a postsecondary institution may be referred to the appropriate agency (e.g., State Board of Education, Department of Health, and so on) within the Tennessee State Government and may be reviewed and handled by that licensing agency. Contact information may be found by searching for the appropriate division at [tn.gov](http://tn.gov).
- Complaints related to state consumer protection laws (i.e., laws related to fraud or false advertising) may be referred to the Tennessee Division of Consumer Affairs and may be reviewed and handled by that Unit. Contact information for the Consumer Affairs Division may be found at [tn.gov/attorneygeneral/working-for-tennessee/consumer-affairs](http://tn.gov/attorneygeneral/working-for-tennessee/consumer-affairs).

#### Grade Complaint Process

Students who have a concern about the reasonable or fair evaluation of their academic performance should follow the grade complaint process in the course syllabus and [VUSN Student Handbook](#). Students should be aware that there is a time requirement for initiating a grade complaint. Retaliation against a student who pursues a complaint will not be permitted.

#### Complaint Process

One of the goals of Vanderbilt University School of Nursing (VUSN) is to provide an environment that promotes learning and fair treatment. Situations may arise where a student (or former student) believes they have not been given fair treatment or has a complaint about the performance, action, or inaction of a member of the staff or faculty affecting the student during the period of their enrollment. Faculty and staff members welcome the opportunity to work with a student or former student who has a concern or complaint.

Complaints addressed under this VUSN Complaint Process may be categorized as being: 1) **grade-related**; or 2) **non-grade related** complaints, in each case that are not addressed through other processes at the University. Students should refer to the [University Student Handbook](#) for a list of decisions and student concerns that are not addressed under this VUSN Complaint Process because they may be addressed through other processes at the University. For example, if the complaint involves allegations of discrimination, harassment, and/or related retaliation based on a protected status, this step is not appropriate and the complaint should be directed to the

## Title IX and Student Discrimination Office.

Early identification and communication often result in timely and effective resolution. School of Nursing resources, such as the student's faculty advisor, academic director, Academic Assistant Deans, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, Assistant Dean for Enrollment Management or Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion are available to discuss student concerns or refer students to the appropriate school or university resource(s). Students may also choose to report complaints in the VERITAS reporting system electronically; refer to the "Veritas Reporting System" section in the [VUSN Student Handbook](#) for more information.

When a complaint is not addressed through other University processes, students who decide to proceed with a complaint within VUSN should follow the steps outline in the [VUSN Student Handbook](#). *At no point during any processes should the student fear any form of retaliation. If a possible concern related to safety or retaliation arises, the student may submit an oral or written complaint directly to the Office of the Senior Associate Dean for Academics.*

## Distance Education

Students enrolled in distance education programs offered by Vanderbilt University in states other than Tennessee should seek resolution for complaints through Vanderbilt's complaint procedure. Distance education students may also contact the appropriate authority in their state of residence. For further information please visit [vanderbilt.edu/provost/vanderbilt-university-distance-education-complaint-and-grievance-procedures](http://vanderbilt.edu/provost/vanderbilt-university-distance-education-complaint-and-grievance-procedures)

Additional information on complaint and grievance procedures can be found in the [VUSN Student Handbook](#).

## Student Handbook

The [VUSN Student Handbook](#) contains important curriculum information, student conduct standards, and policies and procedures that define community expectations for students enrolled at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. It is the responsibility of each student to become familiar with the Student Handbook. Questions regarding the Student Handbook should be directed to the assistant dean for student affairs. The handbook is updated annually and is available on the VUSN website at [nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/current/pdf/handbook.pdf](http://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/current/pdf/handbook.pdf).

In addition, Vanderbilt University publishes a [Student Handbook](#) that contains detailed information regarding university policies and regulations, the honor system, student accountability, residential life, alcohol and drug policies, and sexual misconduct and other forms of power-based personal violence.

## Transfer Credit

In order to be eligible for transfer credit, the course work must be completed (a) within the last five years (b) prior to enrollment at VUSN, (c) at the same academic level (equivalent master's or equivalent doctoral level), and (d) from a regionally accredited institution or from an ACEN- or CCNE-accredited institution. In order to request transfer credit, a student must complete the Transfer Credit request form.

Only the credit hour value, and not the grade point average, will be posted to the student's Vanderbilt transcript. Courses are evaluated for transfer credit only after the student has been admitted to a degree or certificate program. A student who seeks transfer credit must submit the request to the assistant university registrar/director of nursing student records at least six weeks before the course begins. Transfer credit is granted on a course-by-course basis, approved for a maximum of six credit hours and considered only for courses in which student earned a B- or better. Transfer credit is evaluated based on VUSN course equivalent content (for required courses), credit allotment, and satisfactory completion of courses. The faculty course coordinator and the academic director of the student's program approve transfer credit.

## Withdrawal from the University

A student may voluntarily withdraw from VUSN after completing the Withdrawal from Vanderbilt University form. Once a student withdraws, the student is not permitted to attend classes or use school services. Course withdrawal policies may apply. A student may withdraw and receive the grade W (Withdrawal) in accordance with the date published in the School of Nursing calendar. A student may withdraw from Vanderbilt University after the published date in the School of Nursing calendar or after the courses are half completed. However, the student will receive a grade of F (Failing) in all enrolled courses except in extenuating circumstances. If the



student withdraws, they may be considered for readmission by completing the application process. (Please see section on Readmission.) For further details, refer to the [VUSN Student Handbook](#).

### The Informatics Milieu

The Vanderbilt University School of Nursing (VUSN) is supported by a strong informatics team consisting of both faculty and staff. VUSN is known for technology and informatics solutions that set it apart from other schools of nursing. Innovations range from state-of-the-art smart-phone use to the delivery of classes via the web in a variety of formats. Products range from award-winning posters to online surveys and other state-of-the-art data-collection instruments. Students participate in online testing and other electronic applications such as the clinical log.

Computers are used heavily by faculty and students in their learning activities. All classes are available via an online learning management system. Wireless access is available throughout the VUSN physical campus so that students can connect portable devices to the Vanderbilt network. Orientation activities include the configuration of computers, tablets, and smart phones so that students can connect to online resources. Network connections are password-protected and authenticated for use. As a result, students and faculty have full access to all university electronic resources, including the innovative Eskind Biomedical Library. The extensive digital library of electronic journals, books, databases, and other resources is particularly important for the distance-learning programs, which rely on a blended-learning approach requiring only a few face-to-face meetings of students and faculty each semester, while allowing for continued faculty contact with students. Electronic delivery of lectures is video-streamed live and/or captured in digitized video format.

The skills lab facility includes both basic and advanced equipment and is considered to be a satellite facility for the larger Medical Center Simulated Lab Facility. In order to communicate with our off-site clinical preceptors, many of our faculty participate in video conferencing that includes the student, the preceptor, and a clinical faculty member.

The Frist Nursing Informatics Center (second floor, Frist Hall) was dedicated in 2005 and houses all the informatics faculty and staff. The informatics support team (twenty-six positions) consists of administrators, programmers, networking specialists, graphic designers, videographers, instructional designers, and multimedia developers. The support team is available to support all students and can be contacted via telephone and email. A twenty-seven-unit computer laboratory is provided, along with an eight-unit testing laboratory. All of these facets combine to make VUSN a progressive informatics experience for students, faculty, and staff.

### Resources and Requirement for Students

VUSN considers computer access and the Internet communication link an essential learning resource for all students. Before students begin classes, it is important to have computer skills to negotiate the Internet; download, move, and copy files; and use word-processing and spreadsheet software. More detailed information can be found on the [VUSN Technology Overview](#) webpage.

### School of Nursing Facilities *Mary Ragland Godchaux Hall*

Built in 1925, Mary Ragland Godchaux Hall is located next to Medical Research Building (MRB) III at 461 21st Ave. South. Faculty and administrative offices and research space for the nursing school are located within this 41,923 sq. ft. building. Renovated in 2006, Godchaux Hall contains a state-of-the-art IP-based videoconferencing classroom, two research interview rooms with video and audio recording options, a research observation room with video and audio recording controls, three equipped small seminar/conference rooms, one moderate-size electronic classroom for use with laptops and the school's historic living room updated with audio-visual capabilities.

### *Center for Research Development and Scholarship (CRDS)*

Housed on the fourth and fifth floors of Godchaux Hall, CRDS provides research consultation, support and resources for scholarly and research projects. CRDS assists with grant proposal development, Institutional Review Board application, paper and poster presentation, database management, instrument development, use of computers, literature searches, reference retrieval and manuscript preparation. CRDS resources are available to all School of Nursing faculty investigators.

### *Godchaux Nursing Annex*

Commonly known as the Annex or Nursing Annex, this facility includes two large- and two medium-size lecture halls, as well as four seminar-size classrooms. All can be quickly equipped for audio and video recording to tape or broadcast via streaming media. All classrooms in the 14,107 sq. ft. building have permanently installed

projection devices and up-to-date presentation computers. All afford wireless access to the internet. The four larger halls are equipped with smart technology at the lectern.

### *Patricia Champion Frist Hall*

The 20,323 sq. ft. Patricia Champion Frist building was completed in 1998. It houses the Frist Nursing Informatics Center, a multi-media classroom with installed networking for seventy-five students, a health-assessment/multipurpose classroom, the Dorothy Goldstein Student Lounge and fifty faculty offices. Two large and one small classroom have infrastructure capable of video streaming live lectures. The Dorothy Goldstein Student Lounge was renovated in 2019 and includes a privacy room for nursing mothers.

### *The Frist Nursing Informatics Center (FNIC)*

The FNIC offers support for technical, audiovisual, web and communications needs of students, faculty and staff of VUSN. The center operates a suite of three computing labs in Frist Hall and supports student computing in activity spaces within the nursing complex. The student computer labs are equipped with 27 Dell Precision 3420 workstation computers used for normal computer functions, exams and viewing lectures, as well as scanners and printers. A full range of software is available for document preparation, with fewer tools available on testing computers. Instructional software is also available over the network or via CD/DVDs from the media library. Faculty and students use a web-based course management system called Brightspace for most course communication, group activities and the sharing of course resources. In addition, two-way synchronous audio and graphic collaboration is available using a web conferencing system called Skype for Business; and two-way, multi-point IP-based video collaboration is available using a system called Bluejeans. Experts in graphics, interactive educational design and information technology are available through the FNIC. Consultation and troubleshooting activities include assistance with design and development of instructional strategies, development of specialized interactive computer-based programs and webpages, design and maintenance of databases, design and development of graphics and instructional materials, video production and audiovisual editing services. The FNIC implements and maintains quality assurance for School of Nursing webpages and printed materials with assistance from designated departments.

### *School of Nursing Building*

Newly opened in 2019, the 29,947 sq. ft. School of Nursing Building houses technologically advanced classrooms, conference and seminar rooms, student services offices, faculty offices and a state-of-the-art simulation teaching center. Admissions, Financial Aid, Student Affairs, Registrar, Clinical Placement and Alumni Affairs are on the first and second floors. The building's five floors also contain faculty offices and state-of-the-art conference rooms used for classes, seminars and meetings. The building's fifth floor includes the Sandra Coats Chase Terrace, an outdoor green space.

### ***Simulation and Skills Lab***

The entire third floor is dedicated to the 3,665 sq. ft. Simulation and Skills Lab where students interact with high-fidelity nursing mannequins in realistic simulation exercises. The lab contains 13 bays equipped with the latest technology in simulation capture, advanced mannequin simulators and a variety of skill task trainers. Each bay has a hospital bed, functioning headwall, vitals' monitor, simulated gas outlets and computer. Scenarios are brought to life by faculty working behind the scenes in control rooms equipped with video and audio capabilities. A briefing room and the Agnes K. Godchaux Conference Room are used for pre-briefing, debriefing and observation. An experienced simulation team of nurses, researcher, technician and lab director support students in learning that ranges from the acquisition of tactical skills to the application of progressing clinical reasoning.

### **Wachtmeister Interactive Classroom and Virtual Classroom**

The Wachtmeister Interactive Classroom supports flipped classroom teaching and is equipped with five interactive 4K displays, a panoramic camera and touch panels. The room can be arranged into a variety of groups or configurations. Next door is the Virtual Classroom, used for distance learning and video production. The sound- and light-proofed room includes a green screen, lighting grid that allows for flexibility in curriculum development, three video cameras and cutting-edge recording equipment.

### **Colleen Conway-Welch Atrium**

Godchaux Hall, the Annex, Patricia Champion Frist Hall and the School of Nursing Building are connected by the Colleen Conway-Welch Atrium, named in honor of VUSN's former dean. The glass-fronted atrium serves as the main entrance to the school and was designed for collaboration and engagement by students, faculty and staff. It features areas for study, eating, socialization, physical activity and events.

## Affiliated Clinical Education Facilities *Vanderbilt University Hospital*

Vanderbilt University Hospital (VUH) opened in 1980, with the major addition of the Critical Care Tower in 2009. The hospital is dynamic, growing, and dedicated to meeting the most critical and complex needs of our region, continuing Vanderbilt's more than century-old tradition of offering the best in patient care.

Many patients seen in the hospitals are from states other than Tennessee, with the majority coming from Kentucky, Alabama, and Mississippi.

Adjacent and attached to VUH is Medical Center East, primarily an outpatient services building, but also housing some operating rooms, patient rooms for Labor and Delivery, the Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center and the Vanderbilt Orthopaedics Institute.

### *The Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt*

The Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt opened as a stand-alone facility in 2004, and is a place of hope and healing for pediatric patients and their families. Recognized as one of the premier children's hospitals in the nation by U.S. News and World Report for nine years running, Children's Hospital cares for the sickest patients in the region and beyond.

Children's Hospital is the most comprehensive pediatric facility in Tennessee, providing services including neurosurgery, cancer treatment, trauma care, transplant, and much more. Children's Hospital operates the region's only Level I pediatric trauma unit and a neonatal intensive care unit with the highest designated level of care.

The facility is filled with state-of-the-art equipment and information systems to provide the best treatment for patients. It offers a variety of family accommodations to help fulfill its mission of patient-and family-centered care. In addition, Children's Hospital is a top-ranked teaching and research facility. As a nonprofit organization, the hospital cares for children of Tennessee and surrounding states regardless of their ability to pay.

### *Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital*

Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital, which opened in 1985, provides inpatient and partial hospitalization services to children, adolescents, and adults with psychiatric and substance abuse problems. Services include 24-hour crisis assessment and a year-round accredited school for children and adolescents. [vanderbilthealth.com/service-line/behavioral-health](http://vanderbilthealth.com/service-line/behavioral-health)

### *The Vanderbilt Clinic*

The Vanderbilt Clinic (TVC), a comprehensive outpatient facility, opened in 1988 and houses more than 100 medical specialty practice areas, the clinical laboratories, a center for comprehensive cancer treatment, and a day surgery center.

### *Vanderbilt Stallworth Rehabilitation Hospital*

Vanderbilt Stallworth provides comprehensive inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services for adult and pediatric patients with neurological, orthopaedic, and other injuries, as well as chronic conditions and disabilities. The hospital specializes in treating stroke, brain, and spinal cord injury; multiple traumas; amputations; hip fracture; and other diagnoses. Stallworth is a designated Stroke Center of Excellence and repeatedly exceeds the national benchmarks for patient satisfaction and functional outcomes. This hospital is a joint venture with HealthSouth Corporation. [encompasshealth.com/locations/vanderbiltstallworth](http://encompasshealth.com/locations/vanderbiltstallworth)

### *Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center*

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center (VICC) is Tennessee's only National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center providing treatment for both adult and pediatric cancer patients. It is also a member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network, a nonprofit alliance of twenty-six of the world's elite cancer centers collaborating to improve cancer care for patients everywhere. The Cancer Center unites physicians and scientists in research programs in key areas. VICC is ranked in the top 10 in competitively-awarded NCI grant support.

VICC is one of the few centers in the country with a comprehensive program for cancer survivors regardless of age, type of cancer, or where they received their oncology treatment. The center's clinical trials program

includes robust work in Phase I drug development and designation by the NCI for Phase I and Phase II clinical trials.

The center also boasts several donor-supported research initiatives, including the Frances Williams Preston Laboratories established by the T. J. Martell Foundation, the A. B. Hancock Jr. Memorial Laboratory for Cancer Research, and the Robert J. Kleberg, Jr., and Helen C. Kleberg Center for Personalized Cancer Medicine. [vicc.org](http://vicc.org)

#### *Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development*

The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center strives to improve life for people with disorders of thinking, learning, perception, communication, mood, and emotion caused by disruption of typical development. Its core values include the pursuit of scientific knowledge with creativity and purpose; the education of scientists, practitioners, families, and community leaders; the facilitation of discovery by Kennedy Center scientists; and the translation of knowledge into practice. The center is one of fourteen National Institutes of Health research centers on mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. It has also been named a University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service by the federal Administration on Developmental Disabilities. The center is an interdisciplinary research, training, diagnostic, and treatment institute, embracing faculty and resources available through Vanderbilt University Medical Center, the College of Arts and Science, and Peabody College. [vkc.vumc.org/vkc](http://vkc.vumc.org/vkc)

#### *Vanderbilt Diabetes Center*

The Vanderbilt Diabetes Center provides a comprehensive approach to diabetes for patients of all ages that includes all aspects of health related to diabetes. It also offers programs to equip the next generation of caregivers and scholars. Other programs support the diabetes-related research of VUMC faculty members. [vanderbilthealth.com/service-line/diabetes-and-endocrinology](http://vanderbilthealth.com/service-line/diabetes-and-endocrinology)

#### *Center for Experiential Learning and Assessment (CELA)*

The Center for Experiential Learning and Assessment (CELA) provides an educationally rich simulation environment for training our students and other health care professionals to practice the highest quality clinical care. Simulation technology has now become a standard for medical education, surgical training, and health care team training. Such programs have resulted in improved performance, quicker response time, and less deviation from practice standards. Healthcare simulators increase trainee confidence and competence, improve patient safety, and can also yield cost and process efficiencies. Our work is grounded in theory-based research and informed by the best educational practices for competent clinical practice. CELA is also instrumental in conducting rigorous research that extends our knowledge and practice of experiential learning and assessment by simulations. The center consists of three programs: the Program in Human Simulations, the Simulation Technologies Program, and the Program in Surgical and Anatomical Simulation. The first program brings the traditional standardized patient methods toward a broader use of simulations involving all aspects of human interaction in medicine. The Simulation Technologies Program emphasizes the sophisticated use of computers, task trainers, virtual reality and mannequin-based technologies to simulate clinical challenges. The Program in Surgical and Anatomical Simulation is possible thanks to cadaveric gifts made through the Anatomical Donations Program. All programs provide both unique and integrated approaches to training our students in a safe and effective educational environment.

#### *Rudolph A. Light Hall*

Light Hall provides classroom and laboratory space for students in the School of Medicine. It houses the Department of Biochemistry, the Department of Molecular Physics and Biophysics, and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

#### *Ann and Roscoe Robinson Medical Research Building*

Laboratories and academic space for pharmacology, biochemistry, and molecular physiology and biophysics are housed in the Ann and Roscoe Robinson Medical Research Building. The eight-story building is also home to the A. B. Hancock Jr. Memorial Laboratory for Cancer Research.

#### *Frances Preston Medical Research Building*

This building is named in honor of the late Frances Williams Preston, President and CEO of Broadcast Music, Incorporated. This building consolidates the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center's programs into one primary location on the VUMC campus.

#### *Medical Research Building III*

MRB III houses research laboratories, teaching laboratories, research support areas, offices, conference rooms,

classrooms, and a greenhouse for research and teaching. It is a joint undertaking of the College of Arts and Science and VUMC.

#### *Medical Research Building IV*

MRB IV houses a significant amount of wet lab space and supports continued growth in VUMC research programs.

#### *Medical Center North*

The Newman Clinical Research Center, an inpatient orthopaedic unit, and a general-care unit are inside Medical Center North. The complex also houses laboratories and administrative support services for VUMC.

Faculty and administrative offices and research space for medical school departments are in Medical Center North. The original portions of the building were completed in 1925. Since that time a number of connecting wings and buildings have been added.

#### *Vanderbilt Health One Hundred Oaks*

This 440,000-square-foot doctors' office suite opened for patient care in 2009 and is designed for easy access off the interstate highway system, abundant surface parking, automated check-in, and integrated services, labs, and radiology. It houses numerous specialty clinics, primary care services, and advanced imaging facilities.

[vanderbilthealth.com/locations/vanderbilt-health-one-hundred-oaks](http://vanderbilthealth.com/locations/vanderbilt-health-one-hundred-oaks)

#### *Vanderbilt Health Williamson County*

Vanderbilt Health Williamson County offers more than 250 physicians in practices ranging from primary care to sports medicine, GI, cancer care, imaging, and pediatrics. [vanderbilthealth.com/williamson](http://vanderbilthealth.com/williamson)

#### *Vanderbilt Dayani Center for Health and Wellness*

The Vanderbilt Dayani Center is a medically based fitness/health promotion center that specializes in modifying risk factors, for conditions including cardiovascular disease, weight management, stress, sedentary lifestyle, and smoking. It was the first Certified Medical Fitness Center in Tennessee, is closely aligned with the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and serves patient care, research, and education functions within VUMC.

[vanderbilthealth.com/service-line/dayani-center-health-and-wellness](http://vanderbilthealth.com/service-line/dayani-center-health-and-wellness)

#### *VUMC Strategy and Innovation Office*

The Strategy and Innovation Office's mission is to accelerate change in health care. It provides methods for reducing time to results, conducts research through demonstration projects, and supports active learning through sessions that leverage facts during solution design.

[vumc.org/strategy/SAI](http://vumc.org/strategy/SAI)

#### *Vanderbilt Heart and Vascular Institute*

The Vanderbilt Heart and Vascular Institute is a comprehensive and integrated program offering diagnosis, treatment, minimally invasive therapies, surgical intervention, disease management, state-of-the-art techniques, and personalized treatment programs to meet each patient's unique needs.

[vanderbilthealth.com/service-line/heart-and-vascular-care](http://vanderbilthealth.com/service-line/heart-and-vascular-care)

#### *Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center for Otolaryngology and Communication Sciences*

The Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center is devoted to comprehensive patient care, education, and research in the field of communication disorders and diseases, as well as ailments of the ear, nose, throat, head, and neck.

[vanderbilthealth.com/service-line/vanderbilt-bill-wilkerson-center](http://vanderbilthealth.com/service-line/vanderbilt-bill-wilkerson-center)

#### *Vanderbilt Transplant Center*

The Vanderbilt Transplant Center, one of the Southeast's largest, is a multidisciplinary alliance of transplant specialists. Each transplant program within the center represents a collaboration of medical and surgical professionals working together in the best interests of the transplant patient.

[vanderbilthealth.com/service-line/transplant-center](http://vanderbilthealth.com/service-line/transplant-center)

## **Ph.D. in Nursing Science**

PROGRAM DIRECTOR Terrah Foster Akard

PROFESSORS Julie Barroso, Mary Jo Gilmer, Marianna LaNoue, Linda D. Norman

RESEARCH PROFESSORS Mary S. Dietrich, Nancy L. Wells

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS Terrah L. Akard, Jana L. Lauderdale, Melanie Lutenbacher, Anne M. Miller, Elizabeth R. Moore, Shelagh A. Mulvaney

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS Leanne Boehm, Kate Clouse, Alvin Jeffrey, Sharon M. Karp, Cathy A. Maxwell, Mulubrhan Mogos, Jeremy Neal, Chorong Park, Julia C. Phillippi, Bethany Rhoten, Lori Schirle, Deonni Stollendorf

### **DEGREE OFFERED: Doctor of Philosophy**

This program prepares scholars for research and academic careers in major universities and for research positions in public or private sectors of health care. Two tracks of study are available: Clinical Research and Health Services Research. These areas of study are reflective of the overall research interests and expertise of School of Nursing faculty members and the resources available in the medical center, the university, the School of Nursing nurse-managed and interdisciplinary care delivery centers, and the Veterans Affairs Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (Nashville campus). Faculty research interests include stress and coping, perceived control, health promotion, oncology, pediatric palliative care, impact of chronic conditions on individuals and families, family violence, health psychology/behavioral medicine, life transitions, and symptom management. Health services research topics include outcome measurement and interventions, workforce policy, and economic aspects of health care delivery.

Admission to the Ph.D. in Nursing Science program is through the Graduate School, which oversees all doctoral programs in the university. For additional information, go to [nursing.vanderbilt.edu/phd](http://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/phd). Application materials are online. Successful applicants to the program are those whose previous academic performance, letters of recommendation, Graduate Record Examination scores, and written goal statements meet admission standards for the School of Nursing and the Graduate School and whose research and career goals best match the school's research foci and faculty expertise.

The program requires 72 credit hours of study, of which 15 may be transferred from master's course work, pending review and approval by the graduate faculty. The core curriculum of the program includes 32 credit hours of required course work for all Ph.D. students, 15 credit hours of required course work specific to the selected track of study, and 10 credit hours of course work that supports the student's focus of research (4 research practica and 6 dissertation research credits).

Course work is delivered via a combination of formats using Internet technology with limited on-campus visits. Students work with faculty mentors who guide and oversee their educational program from admission through completion of degree requirements. Students participate in intensive research experiences connected with faculty research projects and are exposed to a variety of research designs and analytic techniques. Requirements for the degree include successful completion of advanced course work, a qualifying paper, an oral qualifying exam, and a dissertation (including oral defense of proposal and findings). Full-time and part-time options are available.

Further information about the Ph.D. program can be obtained by writing the Ph.D. Program, Office of Admissions, 604 Godchaux Hall, 461 21st Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee 37240, calling (615) 322-7410 or (855) 868-7410, or visiting the website at [nursing.vanderbilt.edu/phd](http://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/phd).

### **Post-Master's Certificate Program**

The purpose of the Post-Master's Certificate (P.M.C.) program is to provide, for nurses who already hold a master's or doctoral (D.N.P.) degree in nursing, an educational route to specialization in an area other than that obtained in their master's or D.N.P. program. The program is designed to strengthen or broaden the clinical capabilities of master's- or D.N.P.-prepared nurses who are planning a role expansion or role change. Post-master's certificate students are expected to master the same outcome criteria as M.S.N. advanced practice nursing students.

Post-master's certificate students must successfully complete all didactic and clinical requirements of the desired area of practice. In order to obtain a post-master's certificate in a nurse practitioner specialty, students are



required to complete a minimum of 500 supervised hours in direct patient care.

The program of study includes academic and clinical courses, and completion results in awarding a certificate of academic achievement of post-master's study. Students do not complete a second M.S.N., but only the necessary courses to earn the post-master's certificate in the new specialty area. Completion of the requirements for the postmaster's certificate is posted on the student's official Vanderbilt University transcript. Post-master's certificate students are not awarded a Vanderbilt University School of Nursing pin—the pin is presented only to students who complete the M.S.N.

#### Program Goals/Outcomes

The goals of the Post-Master's Certificate nursing program are to prepare:

- For advanced practice roles including nurse-midwives, nurse practitioners, nurse informaticists, and nurse leaders who have expertise and advanced knowledge in a specialty area and can function in complex situations independently and/or collaboratively with health care teams;
- To evaluate and apply advanced knowledge by means of critical thinking, clinical reasoning, ethical principles, and the use of current and emerging technologies and electronic data in relation to advanced nursing practice.

#### Admission

All applicants apply online at [apply.vanderbilt.edu/apply](http://apply.vanderbilt.edu/apply).

The curriculum for the School of Nursing places great intellectual, psychological, motor, and sensory demands on students. Please refer to the section on core performance standards found in the Nursing Education at Vanderbilt chapter. In accordance with Vanderbilt's non-discrimination policy, the M.S.N. Student Admissions and Academic Affairs Committee is charged with making individualized determinations of the ability of each candidate for admission to successfully complete the certificate requirements.

All information submitted in the application process must be the applicant's own work, complete, factually true, and honestly presented. Applicants providing false information may be subject to a range of possible disciplinary actions, including admission revocation, expulsion, or revocation of course credit, grades, and degree.

Applicants may apply to the post-master's certificate program alone or in conjunction with application to the Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

#### Admission Requirements

1. A master's or D.N.P. degree in nursing from an A.C.E.N.- or C.C.N.E.-accredited program.
2. Completed application and official transcript documenting conferral of master's or D.N.P. degree in nursing.
3. Unencumbered Registered Nurse license in the state where the student is doing clinical training.
4. All other admission requirements (statement of purpose, responses to application questions, references, and transcripts) must be completed. Applicants to the neonatal nurse practitioner specialty must provide recommendations from an NNP and a neonatologist that have worked with the applicant in a clinical setting.
5. Approval by the specialty director.

#### Payment of Tuition, Fees, and Refunds

See the Financial Information section of this catalog.

#### Academic Standards and Regulations

Students who are enrolled in the P.M.C. program must meet the same academic standards for enrollment, progression, and program completion as M.S.N. students. See Academic Regulations section under M.S.N. students. If a D.N.P. student is enrolled in a P.M.C. plan of study, D.N.P. academic standards and regulations apply.

#### Advanced Practice Roles Offered

Post-master's certificate programs are available in the following specialties: adult-gerontology acute care nurse

practitioner, adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner, emergency nurse practitioner, family nurse practitioner, neonatal nurse practitioner, nurse-midwifery, nurse-midwifery/family nurse practitioner, pediatric nurse practitioner (acute or primary care), psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioner (lifespan), and women's health nurse practitioner. Sample curriculum plans for the specific advanced practice specialty are available in the Student Handbook and on the website at [nursing.vanderbilt.edu](http://nursing.vanderbilt.edu).

#### Program of Studies

The specialty director develops an individualized program of studies for a P.M.C. student based on evaluation of the student's prior academic work and a gap analysis of courses/experiences needed to qualify for advanced practice certification in the student's desired specialty. The student's program of study will contain didactic and clinical experiences sufficient to allow the student to master the competencies and meet the criteria for national certification in the population-focused area of practice. At least 12 credit hours must be taken at Vanderbilt to earn a post-master's certificate. Each student's record contains documentation of credit granted for prior didactic and clinical experiences through a gap analysis. The transcript for a P.M.C. advanced practice nurse graduate shows educational preparation for the advanced practice nurse role and at least one (1) population focus. Completion of the APRN clinical core courses (advanced physiology/pathophysiology, advanced health assessment, and advanced pharmacology) is required. Documentation of previous completion or need to complete the clinical core courses must be on the gap analysis. No transfer credit is awarded; all required courses must be taken at Vanderbilt. Twelve credit hours is the usual minimum amount of course work for a post-master's certificate, however, exceptions can be granted dependent on the gap analysis.

#### Certification

Graduates are encouraged to become certified in their specialties and should consult their specialty directors for details. Certification is offered through several professional nursing organizations, including the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Graduates of each specialty are eligible to sit for the certification exams specific to their specialty. Some exams require documented work hours after graduation.

Certification examinations from the American Nursing Credentialing Center include adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner, adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner, family nurse practitioner, psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner (lifespan), and advanced nursing executive examinations. Graduates of the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program are also eligible to take the certification exam through the American Association of Critical Care Nurse Certification Corp. Graduates of the adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner, emergency nurse practitioner, and family nurse practitioner specialties are also eligible to take the certification exam offered by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board.

The Nursing Credentialing Center offers the women's health nurse practitioner and neonatal nurse practitioner exams. The Pediatric Nursing Practitioners Certification Board offers the pediatric nurse practitioner primary care and the pediatric nurse practitioner acute care exams for which Vanderbilt graduates are eligible. The American Midwifery Certification Board offers the nurse-midwifery certification exam.

### **Post-Master's Certificate Program: Emergency Nurse Practitioner Post-Master's Certificate**

PROGRAM DIRECTOR Jennifer Wilbeck

The Emergency Nurse Practitioner role has long been established clinically, but academic programs offering educational preparation in this specialty role have only been in existence less than twenty years. The educational foundation of the FNP role provides the requisite foundation for ENP practice, but lacks any specialty content for a unique population. FNPs who desire a focus on emergency care need a specialized curriculum providing emergent and resuscitative care competencies, building on the FNP generalist foundation.

Recently, in response to ENP workforce growth and with acknowledged need for demonstrable competencies via certification, the American Association of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board announced plans to offer an ENP certification examination beginning in 2017. Graduates of the ENP PMC program will be eligible to take this certification exam.

Eligibility for Admission to the ENP Post-Master's Certificate Nursing Program

The requirements for admission to the ENP PMC include the following:

1. A master's degree in nursing (M.S.N.) or a doctor of nursing practice (D.N.P.) from an accredited program



2. Completed application and official transcript documenting conferral of master's degree in nursing or the doctor of nursing practice
3. Unencumbered registered nurse license in the state where the student will obtain clinical training
4. National certification as a family nurse practitioner

A student may be enrolled in post-master's certificate courses while enrolled as a Vanderbilt doctor of nursing practice (D.N.P.) student; however, students may also be enrolled in only the PMC and not be enrolled in a degree-seeking program. Only students with a previous M.S.N. or D.N.P. and current national certification as an FNP may enroll in the ENP PMC.

Certificate Requirements-12 credit hours total

Students complete a two-semester program totaling 12 credit hours. Classes will begin only in the fall semester and will include both one (1) didactic and one (1) clinical course in the first (fall) semester. The following semester (spring) will include one (1) didactic and one (1) clinical course.

Sample Curriculum

#### **FALL**

NURS 6143	Intro. to Point of Care Ultrasound (2 credit hours)
NURS 6361	Patho and Collaborative Management in Emergent and Critical Care (3 credit hours)
NURS 6365	Trauma, Emergency, and Critical Care Clinical I (3 credit hours)

#### **SPRING**

NURS 6301	Concepts in Emergency Nursing (3 credit hours)
NURS 6375	Trauma, Emergency, and Critical Care Clinical II (3 credit hours)

**Total: 14 credit hours**

## **Pre-Nursing Studies**

The master of science in nursing (MSN), the first-professional degree in nursing at Vanderbilt, is specialty-related and offered at the graduate level. The increase in knowledge required of nurses and the scope of their responsibilities, as well as changes in role, functions, and practice settings, require post-baccalaureate nursing education built on a rich undergraduate liberal education or baccalaureate nursing degree or its equivalent. The school of nursing does not offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree.

Prospective students interested in nursing at Vanderbilt may apply for admission to any Vanderbilt undergraduate school awarding a BA or BS. In addition to their undergraduate faculty advisers, pre-nursing students are encouraged to work with a pre-nursing adviser to assist in planning their program of studies., Dr. Brandee Madden [brandee.madden@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:brandee.madden@vanderbilt.edu) or a (615) 875-9012 and Dr. Christy DeGregory at (615) 343-5326 serve as the pre-nursing advisers. Participation in the student organization, Pre-Nursing Society, is strongly recommended. Information about the Pre-Nursing Society is available at [anchorlink.vanderbilt.edu/organization/prenursingsociety](http://anchorlink.vanderbilt.edu/organization/prenursingsociety).

### **Admission to the Masters of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program**

Students are subject to all [MSN admission requirements](#), and no student is assured of admission to the School of Nursing. Before admission to the School of Nursing, applicants must have completed either a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree and prerequisite courses, including the following:

- A required introductory course in statistics that includes descriptive and inferential statistical techniques; Mathematics 1010-1011, Mathematics 2820, or Peabody Psychology 2110 will fulfill this
- Courses in human anatomy and physiology (MHS 3101 and 3102).
- BSCI 3234 Microbiology (3 credits. Course offered only in spring semester. If course is taken in spring 2023 or later, students will be required to complete the BSCI 1511 prerequisite before registering for BSCI 3234.
- 3 hours of human development across the lifespan are Human and Organizational Development 1250, Applied Human Development, or Peabody Psychology 1250, Developmental Psychology, will fulfill the

requirement.

- 2 hours of nutrition are required. MHS 1600, Introduction to Nutrition and Health for a Changing World, fulfills the requirement for nutrition.

Admission to the School of Nursing is competitive. Students are encouraged to contact the School of Nursing Office of Admissions, at [yusn-admissions@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:yusn-admissions@vanderbilt.edu). Further explanation of the MSN degree program and nursing specialties offered is available on the [VUSN website](#).

## School of Nursing Calendar 2021/22

### FALL SEMESTER 2021\*

M.S.N. pre-specialty level new student orientation / Wednesday 18 August–Thursday 19 August

A.S.N./M.S.N. level new student orientation / Wednesday 18 August–Thursday 19 August

A.S.N./M.S.N. level classes begin / Friday 20 August

M.S.N. pre-specialty level classes begin / Friday 20 August

M.S.N. specialty level orientation (B.S.N. and M.S.N. entry) / Monday 23 August

Orientation for M.S.N. students progressing to the M.S.N. specialty level / Monday 23 August (afternoon only)

M.S.N. specialty level classes begin / Tuesday 24 August

*Important: Please check your specialty class schedule for specific information on start dates for required classes.*

D.N.P. New student orientation and intensive / Monday 30 August–Wednesday 1 September

D.N.P. Returning student orientation and intensive / Wednesday 1 September–Friday 3 September

End of student change period / Friday 3 September

Labor Day holiday (No VUSN classes) / Monday 6 September

Last day to withdraw with a “W” / Friday 3 October

M.S.N. and D.N.P. Fall Open House / Saturday 2 October

Vanderbilt Homecoming/Reunion / Thursday 4 November–Saturday 6 November

Thanksgiving holiday / Saturday 20 November–Sunday 28 November

Classes end for all students / Friday 10 December

December Pinning Ceremony / Friday 10 December

Final examinations / Monday December 7–Wednesday 9 December

### SPRING SEMESTER 2022\*

First day of spring semester for pre-specialty and specialty courses / Monday 3 January

*Important: Please check your specialty class schedule for specific information on start dates for required classes.*

Ph.D. and D.N.P. intensive / Monday 10 January–Thursday 13 January

End of student change period / Friday 14 January

Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday (No VUSN classes) / Monday 17 January

Last day to withdraw with a “W” / Wednesday 18 February

Spring Break / Saturday 5 March –Sunday 13 March

M.S.N. and D.N.P. Spring Open House / Saturday 5 March

Classes end / Friday 22 April

Final examinations / Monday 18 April–Wednesday 20 April

*Important: M.S.N. pre-specialty clinical continues during the week of final exams.*

SUMMER SEMESTER 2022\*

First day of summer semester for pre-specialty and specialty level students / Monday 2 May

*Important: Please check your specialty class schedule for specific information on start dates for required classes.*

Reception for graduates and May Pinning Ceremony / Thursday 12 May

Commencement / Friday 13 May

Ph.D. and D.N.P. intensive / Monday 16 May–Thursday 19 May

End of student change period / Thursday 19 May

Memorial Day holiday (No VUSN classes) / Monday 30 May

Last day to withdraw with a “W” / Friday 5 June

Independence Day holiday (No VUSN classes) / Monday 4 July

Pinning Ceremony for summer 2021 graduates / Sunday 7 August

*\*Subject to change*

## **School of Nursing Faculty Practice Network**

Vanderbilt School of Nursing has engaged in organized faculty practice for more than twenty years. The Vine Hill Community Clinic, established in 1991, served as the cornerstone of the independent, nurse-managed practices. In 2007, Vine Hill and five satellite sites were designated as a federally qualified Health Center Cluster. Now legally separate from the university, these sites continue as nurse-managed centers staffed by Vanderbilt School of Nursing advanced practice nurse faculty. Clinic operations are comprehensive, functioning similarly—with regard to clinical services, infrastructure, and accountability—to physician practices at Vanderbilt Medical Center.

Vanderbilt School of Nursing has a history of providing preventive and primary care, health education, health promotion, and chronic care management to elementary school students and their families at three sites. The initial clinic at Fall Hamilton Elementary was set up in 1995/96. The second clinic at Stratton Elementary was established in 1997, and the third clinic at Park Avenue Elementary opened in 2001. These schools serve neighborhoods with high rates of poverty as evidenced by the number of students qualifying for free and reduced lunch, averaging 90 percent of a total of 1,600 students. School health programs offer a practical and efficient way to positively affect the health of children and families. Schools are the center of the social structure for the student and a significant source of interaction for parents. Through contact with one child, the school health provider is positioned to influence the health behaviors of the entire family.

The Vanderbilt Midwifery Practice provides women’s health and prenatal services for patients at the West End Women’s Health Center. They have delivery privileges at V.U. Medical Center, where they attend approximately 1,500 births each year. The faculty midwifery practice is a critical component of the academic program at Vanderbilt, ensuring clinical placements during three of four semesters and student access to culturally and economically diverse populations.

## **School of Nursing: Nursing Administration**

PAMELA R. JEFFRIES, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., A.N.E.F., F.S.S.H, Dean

MAVIS N. SCHORN, Ph.D., C.N.M., F.A.C.N.M., Senior Associate Dean for Academics

PAM JONES, D.N.P., M.S.N., R.N., Senior Associate Dean for Clinical and Community Partnerships

REBECCA RUE KECK, D.N.P., M.S.N., R.N., N.E.A.-B.C., Senior Associate Dean for Administration and Operations, Chief Administrative Officer

MARIANN PIANO, Ph.D., M.S.N., F.A.A.N., F.A.H.A., Senior Associate Dean for Research

PATRICIA SENGSTACK, D.N.P., R.N., CPHIMS, F.A.A.N., Senior Associate Dean for Informatics

TERRI ALLISON, DNP, ACNP-BC, FAANP, Assistant Dean for Academics, Doctoral Nursing Practice

BRYN EVANS, MMHC, PMP, Assistant Dean for Finance and Operations

ROLANDA JOHNSON, Ph.D., M.S.N., R.N., Assistant Dean for Academics

TERRAH FOSTER AKARD, Ph.D., R.N., C.P.N.P., F.A.A.N. Director of the Ph.D. in Nursing Science Program

MARILYN DUBREE, M.S.N., R.N., Assistant Dean for Clinical Practice

MARY ANN JESSEE, Ph.D., R.N., Assistant Dean for Academics, Generalist Nursing Practice

ROLANDA JOHNSON, Ph.D., M.S.N., R.N., Assistant Dean for Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

TAMIKA HUDSON, D.N.P., A.P.R.N., F.N.P.-C., Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

S.BRIAN WIDMAR, Ph.D., R.N., A.C.N.P.-B.C., C.C.R.N., C.N.E., F.A.A.N.P., Assistant Dean for Academics, Advanced Nursing Practice

CRAIG CARMICHAEL, M.B.A., C.P.A., Vice President, Academic and Research Enterprise

KRISTIE SMITH, M.Ed., Director of Student Financial Services

SARA A. DONAHOE, M.Ed., Assistant University Registrar and Director of Nursing Student Records

### **Center for Research Development and Scholarship**

MARIANN PIANO, Ph.D., M.S.N., F.A.A.N., F.A.H.A., Director

### **Faculty Senate VUSN Senators**

SUSIE LEMING LEE, ABBY PARISH, JULIA PHILLIPPI, COURTNEY PITTS

### **VUSN Executive Committee**

Pamela R. Jeffries, Chair. Terrah Foster-Akard, Terri Allison, Susan Andrews, Debbie Arnow, Bari Brooks, Christopher Cloar, Marilyn Dubree,, Bryn Evans, Brittany Haskell, Jo Ellen Holt, Leslie Hopkins, Tamika Hudson, Mary Ann Jessee, Rolanda Johnson, Pam Jones, Sharon Karp, Becky Keck, Betsy Kennedy, Ruth Klienpell, Brenda Kulhanek, Susie Leming-Lee, Ginny Moore, Shelagh Mulvaney, Brittany Nelson, Julia Phillippi, Marian Piano, Sara Putnam, , Elizabeth Rapisarda, Aggie Read, Anna Richmond, Mavis Schorn, Patricia Sengstack, Kim Steanson, Julia Steed, Betsey Usher, Philip Walker, Jennifer Wilbeck, Brian Widmar, Nancy Wise, Courtney Young-Pitts, Marci Zsamboky.

Faculty

[vanderbilt.edu/faculty-affairs/faculty-registry/](http://vanderbilt.edu/faculty-affairs/faculty-registry/)

## **School of Nursing: Standing Committees**

Charges of committees are summarized. For more detailed descriptions of committee charges, see School of Nursing Bylaws, Article V. Committee members serve until September of 2017. Ex officio members for 2016/2020 who are known at this time are listed below. Committee members, however, will not be chosen until September, after the printing of this catalog.

Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committees are responsible for reviewing and evaluating the curriculum for each of their

respective degree programs

M.S.N. Program Curriculum Committee, Jennifer Wilbeck, Chair; , Chair-elect.

D.N.P. Program Curriculum Committee, Debbie Arnow, Chair; , Chair-elect.

Ph.D. Program Curriculum Committee, Chair; , Chair-elect.

#### Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is responsible for preparing a slate of consenting M.S.N. and D.N.P. candidates for chair-elect, secretary, senators, and elected committees.

Tamika Hudson, Chair; , Chair-elect.

#### Non-Tenure Appointment/Promotion Committee

The Non-Tenure Appointment/Promotion Committee is responsible for receiving and reviewing dossiers of persons to be promoted to assistant, associate, and full professor of the practice and makes recommendations to the dean.

Jennifer Kim, Chair; Chair-elect.

#### School Life Committee

The School Life Committee addresses concerns and issues that affect the quality of school life of faculty, students, and staff; promotes formal and informal programs to enhance the quality of school life; and assists in orientation of international members.

Brittany Haskell, Chair; , Chair-elect. Ex officio: Rebecca Keck, Rolanda Johnson, Pam Jones.

#### Student Admissions and Academic Affairs Executive Committee

The Student Admissions and Academic Affairs Executive Committee is responsible for reviewing and acting upon applications for admission to the School of Nursing; reviewing student progress and considering and acting on student petitions for waiver of policy; and recommending to the Faculty Assembly conferral of degrees designating appropriate honors.

**M.S.N. Program SAAA Committee**, Aggie Read, Chair; , Chair-elect.

**D.N.P. Program SAAA Committee**, Anna Richmond, Chair; , Chair-elect.

**Ph.D. Program SAAA Committee**, , Chair. Ex officio: Terrah Akard.

#### Program Evaluation Committee

Susan Andrews (Chair), Courtney Cook, Misty Evans, Mary Ann Jessee, Susie Leming-Lee, Tonia Moore-Davis, Abby Parish, Erin Rodgers, Jennifer Scroggie, Terry Witherington, Marci Zsamboky (Chair-elect).

#### Appointment/Promotion Tenure Committee

The Tenure Committee is responsible for receiving and reviewing dossiers of persons to be promoted to associate professor or to be appointed to a rank holding tenure and making recommendations to the dean.

Shelagh Mulvaney, Chair. Terrah Foster Akard, Julie Barroso, Ruth Kleinpell, Pam Jeffries, Mariann Piano.

#### Ph.D. Executive Committee

, Chair., Chair. Members: Terrah Akard, Kate Clouse, Cathy Maxwell, Jeremy Neal, Deonni Stoldalorf.

#### Education and Operations Technology Committee

Faculty Co-Chairs: Jo Ellen Holt and . Staff Chair: Rita Tejada.

#### Ph.D. Subcommittees *Admissions Committee*

Chair. Mary Dietrich, Mary Jo Gilmer, Rolanda Johnson, Jeremy Neal, Bethany Rhoten. Ex officio: Terrah Foster Akard.

### *Curriculum Committee*

, Chair. Leanne Boehm, , Kate Clouse, Cathy Maxwell .

### *Evaluation Committee*

Chair. Ruth Kleinpell, Lori Schirle, Dioone Stolldorf.

### *Diversity and Inclusion Committee*

Julia Steed (Chair); (Chair-elect).

## **School of Nursing: The Julia Hereford Society**

Charitable gifts from alumni and friends provide critical support for our students, faculty members, and programs. The Julia Hereford Society recognizes financial support of Vanderbilt School of Nursing by those who make annual gifts of \$2,500 and up. Alumni who received their Vanderbilt School of Nursing degrees within the last ten years are eligible for membership with a commitment of \$1,000 annually. There are five recognition levels:

Member: \$2,500 (\$1,000 for recent graduates)

Benefactor: \$5,000-\$9,999

Dean's List: \$10,000-\$24,999

Cornelius Vanderbilt: \$25,000-\$99,999

Lifetime: \$100,000 and up

### **JHS Member Benefits**

- New member recognition with commemorative Julia Hereford Society lapel pin
- Invitations to VUSN special events
- Informative monthly VUSN e-newsletter
- JHS celebration event hosted by Dean Norman

For more information on becoming a member of JHS, please email [VUSN-Giving@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:VUSN-Giving@vanderbilt.edu) or contact a member of the Development and Alumni Relations staff.

### **Julia Hereford History**

After graduating with a B.S.N. from Vanderbilt University School of Nursing in 1936, Julia Jane Hereford, Ph.D., R.N., was appointed to the VUSN faculty as an instructor in 1938. Her service on the faculty, along with the completion of her M.A. in teaching from the Teachers College of Columbia University in New York, earned her a promotion to the rank of assistant professor in 1943. In the fall of 1945, she served briefly as a member of the NLNE staff for post-graduate nursing education study, and, in 1947, Hereford was promoted to associate professor.

With the departure of Dean Francis Helen Zeigler in 1949, Hereford was promoted to professor and named dean of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. During her deanship (1949-1965), dramatic changes occurred in the nursing program, often in keeping with national trends, and, in some cases, breaking new ground for others to follow.

Hereford took two leaves of absence during her career (1958-1959 and 1965-1968), during which she undertook doctoral studies in administration at the University of Chicago. She returned to Vanderbilt in 1968 as a professor, and, upon the completion of her Ph.D. in 1972, she assumed additional duties as the school's first director of academic advising. Hereford officially retired in 1977, but she remained active with Vanderbilt as an emeritus faculty member through the early 1980s. The Julia Hereford Society was established in 1984 to honor her legacy and those who generously support the School of Nursing.

## **Life at Vanderbilt**

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Student Access provides accommodations to students with disability-related limitations. Common

accommodations include, but are not limited to, extended time for testing, assistance with locating sign language interpreters, audio textbooks, physical adaptations, supplemental notes, and reading services. Students may also request accommodations related to housing, dining, and transportation. Accommodations are determined on an individual, case-by-case basis. Specific concerns pertaining to student accommodations or access on campus should be directed to the Office for Student Access ([studentaccess@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:studentaccess@vanderbilt.edu)) or by calling (615) 343-9727. For additional information please visit the Student Access website: [vanderbilt.edu/student-access](http://vanderbilt.edu/student-access).

## **Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center**

The Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center provides educational and cultural programming designed to highlight the history and cultural experiences of African Americans. Initially referred to as “the Afro House,” in 1984, the center was named in honor of the first African American student admitted to Vanderbilt University in 1953, Bishop Joseph Johnson (B.D. '54, Ph.D. '58). The BCC activities focus on providing student support and development, campus enrichment, and community engagement.

### **Student Support and Development (Inclusion)**

One of the major aims of the BCC is student support and development. To accomplish this objective, the BCC offers student-driven programming, mentoring initiatives, organizational meeting spaces, service opportunities, and leadership skills training. The BCC also serves as a haven for students, with opportunities for informal fellowship with other students of all levels and backgrounds as well as with faculty and staff.

### **Campus Enrichment (Diversity)**

With campus programming focused on Africans and African Americans, the BCC enriches the overall campus environment by promoting intercultural competence. Specifically, the BCC works with numerous campus partners to sponsor lectures, musical performances, art exhibitions, films, and discussions on African and African American history and culture.

### **Community Engagement (Equity)**

Additionally, the BCC engages in community outreach and service by working with various civic and cultural groups in the Nashville area. Through community programs and by supporting students as they tutor and mentor young people from underserved areas in the city, the BCC advocates for social justice and equity on campus and in the larger community.

The BCC is located in the center of campus directly behind Buttrick Hall and across from the main campus mailroom. For more information, please call (615) 322-2524 or visit [vanderbilt.edu/bcc](http://vanderbilt.edu/bcc).

## **David Williams II Recreation and Wellness Center**

Vanderbilt’s David Williams II Recreation and Wellness Center is a fully functioning facility for Vanderbilt students, faculty, and staff.

More than two-thirds of Vanderbilt students utilize program spaces such as fitness rooms, participate in club sports, intramurals, group fitness classes, and many more of the student program offerings. The variety of programs available for meeting students’ diverse interests include over 30 club sports teams, and intramural sports such as softball, flag football, basketball, table tennis, and soccer.

The facility features a 289,000-square-foot layout that houses four full-sized courts for basketball, volleyball, and badminton; five racquetball and two squash courts; four-lane bowling alley; five group fitness classrooms; more than 14,000 square feet of weight and fitness room space; rock-climbing wall; seven multipurpose rooms; and an indoor field house featuring 120-yard turf field surrounded by a 300-meter track. The exterior surroundings include more than seven acres of field space, including three natural grass fields and one turf field.

There is a diverse selection of group fitness classes offered weekly, and a variety of wellness offerings that

students can benefit from such as healthy eating through Vandy Cooks and personalized nutrition coaching.

If you are seeking outdoor adventure, you can create your own adventure trip with tips and gear from the outdoor rental center.

**The Student Services fees** support our facilities, fields, and programs (see Financial Information). Student spouses must also pay a fee to use the facilities.

For additional information, please visit us at [vu.edu/vandyrec](http://vu.edu/vandyrec).

## **Follett Higher Education at Vanderbilt**

The Vanderbilt University Bookstore is operated by Follett Higher Education and is located at 2525 West End Avenue. This bookstore offers textbooks (new, used, digital, and rental), computers, supplies, dorm accessories, licensed Vanderbilt merchandise, and best-selling books.

The bookstore features extended hours of operation and hosts regular special events. Visitors to the bookstore café can enjoy Starbucks coffees, sandwiches, and desserts while studying. Free customer parking is available in the 2525 garage directly behind the bookstore. For more information, visit [bkstr.com/vanderbiltstore](http://bkstr.com/vanderbiltstore) or call (615) 343-2665.

## **Inclusive Excellence**

Diversity, inclusion, and community engagement are essential cornerstones of Vanderbilt's commitment to equity and trans-institutional discovery and learning. The Office for Inclusive Excellence has as its mission to work in partnership with members of the Office of the Provost and Vanderbilt colleges and schools to ensure that we advance the success and affirmation of all students and faculty. The Office for Inclusive Excellence oversees and establishes strategic initiatives to promote academic success, professional and cultural education, and inclusivity and belonging. Visit [vanderbilt.edu/inclusive-excellence](http://vanderbilt.edu/inclusive-excellence) for more information.

## **International Student and Scholar Services**

ISSS provides immigration advising and services, including the processing of immigration paperwork, to international students and scholars. The office works with admission units, schools, and departments to generate documentation needed to bring nonimmigrant students and scholars to the U.S. Further, ISSS keeps abreast of the regulations pertaining to international students and scholars in accordance with the Departments of Homeland Security and State. ISSS advising staff are available to support students' and scholars' requests through email, phone calls, virtual drop-in hours (Tuesday and Thursday from 7-9a.m.; Monday - Thursday from 1:30-3:30p.m.), and private appointments. ISSS puts a strong emphasis on providing employment workshops to inform international students about professional development and employment options while enrolled and after graduation. ISSS conducts regular workshops on Curricular Practical Training (CPT), Optional Practical Training (OPT), and Academic Training (AT). ISSS also supports more than 300 alumni international students who have already graduated and are either on OPT or AT work permission. For additional information on ISSS services, visit [vanderbilt.edu/issv](http://vanderbilt.edu/issv).

## **Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center**

The Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center leads co-curricular campus initiatives related to women's and gender issues. The center partners with many departments, programs, and individuals across campus to raise awareness about the ways in which gender shapes and is shaped by our lived experiences. Because its aim is to make the Vanderbilt community more inclusive and equitable, the center encourages all members of the Vanderbilt community to take part in its events and resources.

The Women's Center celebrates women and their accomplishments and fosters empowerment for people of all identities. The center offers individual support and advocacy around a variety of issues, including gender stereotyping, gender equity, leadership, parenting, body image, disordered eating, pregnancy and reproduction, sexual health, and more. The Women's Center is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is



located at 2304D Vanderbilt Place, Franklin House. For more information, please call (615) 322-4843, email [womenctr@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:womenctr@vanderbilt.edu), or visit [vanderbilt.edu/womenscenter](http://vanderbilt.edu/womenscenter).

## **Nondiscrimination, Anti-Harassment, Anti-Retaliation, and Sexual Misconduct**

The Title IX Office ([vanderbilt.edu/title-ix](http://vanderbilt.edu/title-ix)) and/or the Equal Opportunity and Access Office ([vanderbilt.edu/ea](http://vanderbilt.edu/ea)) investigate allegations of prohibited discrimination, harassment, and retaliation involving members of the Vanderbilt community. This includes allegations of sexual misconduct and other forms of power-based personal violence. Mary Roy is Vanderbilt's Title IX coordinator.

If you believe that a member of the Vanderbilt community has engaged in prohibited discrimination, harassment, or retaliation, please contact the Title IX Office and/or the Equal Opportunity and Access Office. If the offense is criminal in nature, you may file a report with Vanderbilt University Police Department.

The Title IX Office also facilitates the provision of supportive measures and other accommodations for students affected by sexual misconduct and power-based personal violence. Some examples of these supportive measures are no contact orders, adjusted course schedules, and housing changes.

Specific concerns pertaining to prohibited discrimination, harassment, or retaliation, including allegations of sexual misconduct and other forms of power-based personal violence, should be directed to the Title IX Office at (615) 343-9004.

## **Office of LGBTQI Life**

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex (LGBTQI) Life office is a welcoming space for individuals of all identities and a resource for information and support about gender and sexuality. LGBTQI Life serves the entire Vanderbilt community through education, research, programming, support, and social events. The office also serves as a comfortable study and socializing space, as well as a connection point to the greater Nashville LGBTQIA+ community. In addition, LGBTQI Life conducts tailored trainings and consultations for the campus and community. The Office of LGBTQI Life is located in the K. C. Potter Center, Euclid House, 312 West Side Row. For more information, please visit [vanderbilt.edu/lgbtqi](http://vanderbilt.edu/lgbtqi).

## **Office of the University Chaplain and Religious Life**

The Office of the University Chaplain and Religious Life provides opportunities to explore and practice religion, faith, and spirituality and to more deeply understand one's personal values and social responsibility via educational programming, encounters with various faith perspectives, and engagement with religious and spiritual communities. The office welcomes and serves all students, faculty, and staff and provides an intellectual home and ethical resource for anyone in the Vanderbilt community seeking to clarify, explore, and deepen understanding of their lives and/or faith.

Recognizing the importance of exploring one's faith in community, the office facilitates opportunities for individuals of a shared faith to worship/practice their particular religious tradition. Whether guided by one of our affiliated chaplains or a student-run religious organization, these groups foster a sense of community and common values. For a complete listing of campus religious groups, resources, services, and programming opportunities, visit [vanderbilt.edu/religiouslife](http://vanderbilt.edu/religiouslife).

## **Official University Communications**

Certain federal statutes require that information be delivered to each student. Vanderbilt delivers much of this information via email. Official electronic notifications, including those required by statutes, those required by university policy, and instructions from university officials, will be sent to students' Vanderbilt email addresses: [user.name@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:user.name@vanderbilt.edu). Students are required to be familiar with the contents of official university notifications, and to respond to instructions and other official correspondence requiring a response. Some messages will include links to the YES Message Center, which is a secure channel for official communication of a confidential nature. However, students should not wait to receive such a message, and should check YES frequently to remain current on official, confidential communications.

The university makes every effort to avoid inundating students with nonessential email (often called “spam”), and maintains separate lists from which students may unsubscribe for announcements of general interest.

## **Prior Degrees**

It is the policy of Vanderbilt University to verify prior educational credentials for all admitted students who intend to matriculate. All matriculated students must provide official copies of transcripts and any other required supporting documentation to Vanderbilt University as part of the prior degree verification process. The Office of the University Registrar will review transcripts and other supporting documentation for authenticity and to confirm degrees earned prior to matriculation at Vanderbilt. Offers of admission are contingent on a student providing the required documentation.

Effective Spring 2022, incoming students will not be permitted to register for classes until they have provided the required evidence of prior degrees. Students for whom the Office of the University Registrar is unable to verify prior degrees may be subject to dismissal from the university.

## **Project Safe Center**

The Project Safe Center partners with students, faculty, and staff to create a campus culture that rejects sexual violence and serves as a resource for all members of the Vanderbilt community. The Project Safe Center provides support to survivors of intimate partner violence and engages the campus community in prevention of sexual assault, dating violence and domestic violence, and stalking.

Bystander intervention training, an online education module addressing sexual violence, and a variety of programs and presentations on consent, healthy relationships, and violence prevention are available through the Project Safe Center. A 24-hour support hotline answered by Project Safe’s victim resource specialists is available at (615) 322-SAFE (7233).

The Project Safe Center, located at 304 West Side Row, is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For more information, please call (615) 875-0660 or visit [vanderbilt.edu/projectsafe](https://vanderbilt.edu/projectsafe).

## **Schulman Center for Jewish Life**

The 10,000-square-foot Ben Schulman Center for Jewish Life is the home of Vanderbilt Hillel. The goal of the center is to provide a welcoming community for Jewish students at Vanderbilt and to further religious learning, cultural awareness, and social engagement. Vanderbilt Hillel is committed to enriching lives and enhancing Jewish identity. It provides a home away from home, where Jews of all denominations come together, united by a shared purpose. The Schulman Center is also home to Grin’s Cafe, Nashville’s only kosher and vegetarian restaurant. For further information about the Schulman Center, please call (615) 322-8376 or email [hillel@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:hillel@vanderbilt.edu).

## **Student Care Network**

The Student Care Network is a holistic network of services and resources pertaining to health and wellness available to all Vanderbilt University students. Primary offices include the Office of Student Care Coordination, the University Counseling Center, the Student Health Center, and the Center for Student Wellbeing. Students also have access to a wide range of additional on-campus, virtual, and community resources through the Student Care Network – from the Vanderbilt Recreation and Wellness Center to the Project Safe Center – and a variety of community providers. To facilitate finding resources, students may refer to the Student Care Network website: [vanderbilt.edu/studentcarenetwork/](https://vanderbilt.edu/studentcarenetwork/), or contact the Office of Student Care Coordination at [vanderbilt.edu/carecoordination/](https://vanderbilt.edu/carecoordination/).

Medical Notification Policy

Vanderbilt University expects students to be honest with their instructors about their ability to attend class

and/or complete course work, and asks instructors to work with students on these issues. Therefore, the primary offices of the Student Care Network (Office of Student Care Coordination, University Counseling Center, Student Health Center, and Center for Student Wellbeing) do not provide notes for minor illnesses or routine appointments that may lead to missed classes and/or a delay in completion of assignments. Instead, the primary offices provide students with cards documenting visits to their office, which students may use in discussion with their instructors regarding absences and/or missed work to demonstrate that they sought care for medical issues. The reason for the visit and any details of minor illnesses or routine appointments are not provided on the card. A student's right to privacy, particularly as it relates to medical information, is one of the important issues that guides this policy. In addition, since there is great variability in each student's response to minor illnesses, the primary offices cannot always predict which students will miss assignments and/or classes in response to such ailments. Honest communication between students and their instructors can better address these situations.

In cases of more serious illness, injury, or crisis, especially those that may require prolonged bed rest or hospitalization, the primary offices or the Office of Housing and Residential Experience will notify a student's academic dean so instructors may be formally informed through a dean's notification that the student may need short-term consideration related to absences and/or course work as a result of such illness, injury, or crisis. It is the student's responsibility to follow-up with their instructors to establish a plan for any make-up work. It is the instructor's prerogative to determine what, if any, alterations to course work are appropriate in either of the situations outlined above.

#### Office of Student Care Coordination

The [Office of Student Care Coordination](#) is committed to supporting undergraduate, graduate, and professional students in successfully navigating life events related to academic stress and/or medical, mental health, and/or other personal concerns that may interfere with a student's ability to achieve their academic and personal goals. This team of Student Care Coordinators is the central and first point of contact for students to help identify needs and determine the most appropriate resources in Vanderbilt's Student Care Network and in the Nashville community to address concerns. Student Care Coordinators collaborate with students to develop a student success plan, share education about and facilitate connections to appropriate on and off-campus resources, and provide accountability through supportive follow up meetings. Student Care Coordinators work closely with campus partners, including the Center for Student Wellbeing, the University Counseling Center, the Student Health Center, the Office of Housing and Residential Experience, and faculty and staff to help maintain the safety and health of Vanderbilt students.

In addition, the Office of Student Care Coordination supports the Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation (CARE) Team and Welfare Panel and coordinates support for students returning from medical leaves of absence. The Office of Student Care Coordination's goal is for students to have the right support, in the right place, at the right time. Information about scheduling an appointment with the office of Student Care Coordination is available at [vanderbilt.edu/carecoordination/](http://vanderbilt.edu/carecoordination/).

#### Confidentiality

Though staff typically have a background in mental health services, it is important to understand that work with a Student Care Coordinator is not counseling or therapy. The services of the Office of Student Care Coordination fall under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). This means the content of meetings with a Student Care Coordinator will be kept private to the extent possible; however, information may be shared on a need-to-know basis with appropriate personnel within Vanderbilt University in order to coordinate and provide you with the best care. If it is necessary to share information with off-campus providers or others, you will be asked to sign a written release.

#### Student Health Center

The Student Health Center provides primary care and some specialty services for students. Services include routine medical care, chronic disease management, office-based gynecology, travel medicine, nutrition services, and sports medicine. The Student Health Center also has a lab and can perform some office-based tests and can also send samples to the Vanderbilt Medical Center laboratory as needed.

The Student Health Center's hours of operation are posted on the center's website: [vumc.org/student-](http://vumc.org/student-)

[health/about-center](#). Students seeking treatment should call ahead at 615-322-2427 to schedule appointments. Online appointments are available for most types of appointments: [yumc.org/student-health/online-appointments](http://yumc.org/student-health/online-appointments). Telemedicine appointments are also available for some types of visits.

Students with urgent issues will be seen on a “same-day” basis, and if no appointment time is available, will be worked in on a “first-come, first-served” basis, and triaged according to severity of illness.

Emergency on-call consultation services are available at 615-322-2427, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. More detailed information about services and health related topics may be found at the Student Health Center website: [yumc.org/student-health/](http://yumc.org/student-health/).

### Immunization Requirements

The State of Tennessee requires certain immunizations and tuberculosis screening for all students (undergraduate, graduate, and professional). ***Students not in compliance with these mandated immunizations and tuberculosis screening will NOT be allowed to register for classes.*** Waivers for required vaccines may be granted for religious or medical reasons. Waiver requests are reviewed by the Student Health Center and the Title IX and Student Discrimination Office or Student Access Services. Instructions for providing waiver request documentation can be found on the immunizations requirements website: [yumc.org/student-health/immunization-requirements-new-students](http://yumc.org/student-health/immunization-requirements-new-students).

Immunization requirements include:

1. **Meningococcal meningitis vaccine (one injection after age 16)** for all incoming students living in on- campus housing.
2. **Measles, mumps, and rubella (2 injections)** for all incoming students.
3. **Varicella vaccine (two injections)** for all students who have not had documented chickenpox or bloodwork proof of immunity.
4. **Tuberculosis screening**, which includes on on-line risk assessment followed by blood testing or skin testing when indicated.

All incoming students must upload a Student Health Center Immunization and Tuberculosis Screening Requirements form. Instructions and further information are located on the immunizations requirements website: [yumc.org/student-health/immunization-requirements-new-students](http://yumc.org/student-health/immunization-requirements-new-students). The completed Immunization and Tuberculosis Screening Requirements form must be uploaded to the Student Health Center immunization portal by May 15, 2021. The form also collects important health history information that enables the Student Health Center staff to better serve individual student needs.

### Student COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement

Vanderbilt University requires new and returning students to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The requirement applies to all undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. Students can request accommodations for medical exemptions through the [Student Access office](#) and religious exemptions through the [Equal Opportunity and Access office](#).

Students must submit their vaccination record through the university’s [vaccine tracker submission form](#), including those who received their vaccine from the Student Health Center, Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC), or a VUMC clinic. A hold will be placed on a student’s course registration until the vaccination record has been verified unless they have an approved (or in-process request for) accommodation. Students who do not comply with this requirement will have their class registration canceled prior to the first day of the term.

### *International students*

International students may be able to be vaccinated upon arrival and should work with [International Student and Scholar Services](#) related to their arrangements and any requirements while they become fully vaccinated.

## Charges

There are no office-visit co-pays for most routine visits, but students will incur small charges for some medications that are dispensed; there are also small co-pays associated with some office procedures or specialty visits (such as colposcopy). Many of the supplies, medications or in-house lab tests are free of charge. If charges are incurred, credit cards and the Commodore Card may be used for payment at the Student Health Center.

Any lab tests not performed at the Student Health Center are sent to the Vanderbilt University Medical Center and are billed to the student's health insurance company by the Medical Center. In addition, when a student is referred to a specialist outside of the Student Health Center, charges incurred are billed by that clinic to the student's health insurance company. Any amount remaining after health insurance has paid its share is the student's responsibility. If a student has an Emergency Department visit after-hours because of a serious illness or injury, the Medical Center will bill the student and his/her/their insurance company.

Sports Medicine specialists from the Medical Center come to Student Health for the convenience of the students, but these visits are not free of charge; the Sports Medicine specialists will bill the insurance on file for the student. The applicable co-pays will be billed by the Vanderbilt University Medical Center (not Student Health) after the visit.

## Confidentiality

Care provided at the Student Health Center is confidential in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations. It is only with explicit written consent from the student that the Student Health Center may communicate with Deans, parents, professors, or other health care professionals. HIPAA does have a clause that allows notification of families in the event that the student is in an emergency or life-threatening situation.

Vanderbilt University Medical Center personnel will ask treated students in the Emergency Department about notification of staff in Housing and Residential Experience and the Student Health Center. Except in cases of a life-threatening emergency, notification requires the student's permission and is strongly encouraged. This practice enables the University to provide support and assistance to students and their families.

## Quarantine

Vanderbilt University must enforce public health mandates as required by public health authorities, and may also follow Medical Center and Student Health Center recommendations when the University determines them to be in the best interest of the Vanderbilt community and the public. Based on the aforementioned mandates and/or recommendations, the University may issue directives to students regarding isolation and/or quarantine. As a result, among other needed interventions, students in campus housing, or students traveling as part of Vanderbilt programs or activities, may be required to relocate so that appropriate isolation and/or quarantine can be accomplished. Failure to comply with University directives may result in corrective action through the University's accountability process.

## The University Counseling Center

The University Counseling Center (UCC) provides mental health assessment, support, and treatment for students. The UCC promotes social justice and an affirming caring culture through clinical outreach, consultation, and training services. The UCC knows that each student is unique both in terms of their identity and lived experiences, and works with campus partners to provide a comprehensive pathway of support options for students that are flexible and attentive to each individual's particular needs, opportunities, and challenges in a spirit of collaboration and mutual respect.

The diverse team of clinical professionals includes psychologists, licensed counselors including substance use specialists, doctoral interns, practicum students, postdoctoral fellows, and psychiatric medical providers representing a wide variety of backgrounds and identities. Services include short-term individual therapy, a variety of group therapy and workshops options, drop-in consultations, ADHD and learning disabilities evaluations, and psychiatric assessment and treatment.

Students with pressing/acute issues may visit the UCC without appointment to meet with the Urgent Care Counseling clinician. If there are multiple students seeking Urgent Care Counseling services, the students will be seen on a “first-come, first-served” basis. Flexibility is maintained to address student needs according to level of acuity. Additionally, students may seek brief support for distressing situations through the UCC’s daily drop-in consultation services as detailed on the UCC’s website: [vanderbilt.edu/ucc/services/drop-in-consultation/](http://vanderbilt.edu/ucc/services/drop-in-consultation/). This program enables students to have rapid access to a counselor for support and guidance. The UCC staff is also available to all VU community for consultations about students of concern and other mental health-related questions.

The UCC is open according to the schedule posted on the center’s website: [vanderbilt.edu/ucc](http://vanderbilt.edu/ucc). Students seeking to schedule an appointment should visit the Office of Student Care Coordination’s website at [vanderbilt.edu/carecoordination](http://vanderbilt.edu/carecoordination) or call 615-343-WELL (9355).

The UCC also focuses on prevention and education programs, often collaborating with the Center for Student Wellbeing to design and deliver programs such as MAPS (Mental Health Awareness & Prevention of Suicide) and ADHD skill-building workshops. These initiatives are designed to foster coping skills and overall resilience and mental health.

More details about services may be found at the UCC website: [vanderbilt.edu/ucc](http://vanderbilt.edu/ucc).

#### Charges

The UCC does not charge for services. Students requiring laboratory testing are referred to the Student Health Center. Charges for these tests are made in accordance with Student Health Center policies.

#### Confidentiality

The UCC is a confidential setting under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). To the extent permitted by law, the UCC does not share information about students or anything discussed in session, with the exception of safety concerns, which may override the confidentiality policy. For example, limits of confidentiality include situations that involve imminent risk to a client or another individual, and situations involving elder or child abuse. The UCC encourages students to sign a written release of information form if they would like for the UCC to share information with members of the student’s family or others. The UCC may share attendance and additional minimally necessary information with the other primary Student Care Network offices, including the Office of Student Care Coordination, Student Health Center, and Center for Student Wellbeing for the purposes of care coordination.

#### Center for Student Wellbeing

The Center for Student Wellbeing cultivates engagement in lifelong well-being practices and endeavors to create a culture that supports students’ personal development and academic success through a holistic and integrative framework. The Center’s areas of focus include, for example, alcohol and other drug education and recovery support, self-care and personal growth, strengthening physical and emotional health, developing academic skills and time management, and support for supporting students in distress. The Center provides prevention programming, individual coaching, skill building workshops, substance use screenings, meditation and yoga, and referrals to campus resources.

New appointments for Center for Student Wellbeing services may be scheduled through the Office of Student Care Coordination or by contacting the CSW at 615-322-0480. Information is available at [vanderbilt.edu/healthydores/](http://vanderbilt.edu/healthydores/).

#### Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) Eligibility

Degree and non-degree seeking students (excluding Division of Unclassified (DUS) and Consortium students) enrolled in 4+ credit hours, a 0-credit research/dissertation course, or any other course that is considered to

equate to full-time enrollment are automatically enrolled in and will be billed for SHIP underwritten by Aetna and administered by Academic HealthPlans (AHP), unless they complete the online waiver process. Information about the plan is available online at [vanderbilt.myahpcare.com/](http://vanderbilt.myahpcare.com/). In addition, students may email [SHIP@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:SHIP@vanderbilt.edu) with questions.

#### Cost

The annual premium, which is approved each year by the Board of Trust, is billed to students through their student account. The premium is a separate charge from tuition.

#### Coverage Period

Coverage for students begins August 12 and extends through August 11 the following calendar year. If a student withdraws from school within the first 31 days of a coverage period, they will not be covered under the Policy and the full premium will be refunded, less any claims paid. After 31 days, the student will be covered for the remainder of the Plan year providing plan premiums are paid, and no refund will be allowed. Graduating within 31 days of the start of the coverage period shall not be considered a withdrawal from school.

#### Coverage Benefits

SHIP provides hospital, surgical, and major medical benefits. A brochure explaining the limits, exclusions, and benefits of the plan is available online at [vanderbilt.myahpcare.com/](http://vanderbilt.myahpcare.com/) and the [Student Care Network](#) website. SHIP requires that the Student Health Center be the student's primary care provider in Nashville, but will provide coverage for referrals to specialists when a referral is made by a Student Health Center. SHIP does not require referrals for behavioral health.

#### Waiver of Insurance Plan

A student who does not wish to subscribe to SHIP must notify the University of comparable coverage under another policy. Comparable criteria coverage for domestic and international students is found at [vanderbilt.edu/studentcarenetwork/waive/](http://vanderbilt.edu/studentcarenetwork/waive/).

Waiver of the student insurance plan does not affect eligibility for services at the Student Health Center. The online waiver process may be found online at [vanderbilt.myahpcare.com/waiver](http://vanderbilt.myahpcare.com/waiver). The insurance charge will not be waived if the online process is not completed by August 1 for the fall semester, or by January 4 for students who are newly enrolled for the spring semester. **The waiver process must be completed each academic year.** Newly enrolled eligible summer session students planning to take full-time coursework in the fall must complete both a summer waiver form due July 22 and a fall waiver form due August 1. Additional information about the waiver process may be found on the Student Care Network website.

A student who does not wish to subscribe to SHIP must notify the University of comparable coverage under another policy. Comparable criteria coverage for domestic and international students is found at [vanderbilt.edu/studentcarenetwork/waive/](http://vanderbilt.edu/studentcarenetwork/waive/).

Waiver of the student insurance plan does not affect eligibility for services at the Student Health Center. The online waiver process may be found online at [vanderbilt.myahpcare.com/waiver](http://vanderbilt.myahpcare.com/waiver). The insurance charge will not be waived if the online process is not completed by August 1 for the fall semester, or by January 4 for students who are newly enrolled for the spring semester. **The waiver process must be completed each academic year.** Newly enrolled eligible summer session students planning to take full-time coursework in the fall must complete both a summer waiver form due July 22 and a fall waiver form due August 1. Additional information about the waiver process may be found on the Student Care Network website.

#### Family Coverage

An additional premium is charged for family insurance coverage. An eligible student who wishes to provide coverage for their spouse and/or children, may do so at [vanderbilt.myahpcare.com/](http://vanderbilt.myahpcare.com/). It is the student's responsibility to enroll their dependents each year. Dependents are not automatically enrolled.



## Qualifying Events for Students and Dependents

Students who initially waive coverage can request to add coverage if they experience a qualifying event. Examples of a qualifying event include (a) reaching the age limit of another health insurance plan, (b) loss of health insurance through marriage or divorce, (c) involuntary loss of coverage from another health insurance plan, and (d) entering the United States of America. A qualifying event does not include a student who is seeking enrollment to gain access to a benefit that was exhausted under their private insurance plan. Coverage will be effective beginning the first day following the loss of coverage, and the charges will be added to the student's account. Eligible dependents may also be added if the student experiences one of the following qualifying events: (a) marriage, (b) birth of a child, (c) divorce, (d) the dependent entering the country for the first time, or (e) the dependent losing coverage under another insurance plan. Requests to add coverage based on a qualifying event must be received within 31 days of the qualifying event. Forms received more than 31 days after the qualifying event will not be processed.

## Student Centers

A variety of facilities, programs, and activities are provided in multiple student center locations or spaces managed by our team - Alumni Hall, Benton Chapel, The Commons Center, E. Bronson Ingram College, Kissam Center, Zeppos College, Engineering and Science Building, Community Event Space, Sarratt Student Center | Rand Hall, and the Student Life Center.

Sarratt Student Center | Rand Hall is the main student center hub, housing a 300-seat cinema, art gallery, art studios, multicultural space, large lounge spaces, large and small meeting spaces, and a courtyard. The facility is also home to Vanderbilt Student Communications, radio station, TV station, and the Pub at Overcup Oak restaurant. Rand Hall houses the Rand Dining Center, a multipurpose venue, meeting and seminar rooms, plus large, open lounge space. Some of the offices located in Sarratt Student Center | Rand Hall include the Dean of Students, Arts and Campus Events, Greek Life, International Student and Scholar Services, Student Center for Social Justice and Identity, Student Organizations, Leadership and Service, Student Care Coordination and Student Accountability, Community Standards and Academic Integrity. Also included in this facility is a United States Postal Service office.

The Vanderbilt Student Life Center is the university's large event space. It is both the fulfillment of students' vision to have a large social space on campus and a wonderful complement to Sarratt Student Center | Rand Hall. The Student Life Center has more than 18,000 square feet of event and meeting space, including the 9,000-square-foot Commodore Ballroom, which is one of the most popular spaces to have events on campus. The center is also home to the Career Center, Global Education Office, and Office of Immersion Resources.

The Commons Center is the community crossroads of The Ingram Commons living and learning community. It has it all: the Dining Hall and great food; a living room with a concert-grade grand piano, and the occasional live musical performance; a small rec room with cardio equipment, free weights, and weight machines; meeting and study rooms; and academic support services like the Writing Studio, the Career Center, and the CASPAR pre-major advising center. The third floor of The Commons Center is the home of the Department of Political Science.

Alumni Hall was the original student center on campus when the building opened in 1925. Re-opened in fall 2013 after a yearlong renovation that transformed every space in the facility, Alumni Hall has returned to its role as a student center after serving other purposes over the years. In the renovated Alumni Hall, students have access to an exercise room as well as several new meeting and event spaces. The Vanderbilt Graduate School calls Alumni Hall home, and lounge space on the first floor serves as a robust hub for student life within the Graduate School community.

Opened in fall 2014 and fall 2018, respectively, Kissam Center for Warren and Moore College and E. Bronson Ingram College are part of the Vanderbilt residential college system. Kissam Center is home to meeting and event spaces, the Kissam Market, and Kissam Kitchen. E. Bronson Ingram College offers a dining facility, including the award-winning Bamboo Bistro pho concept.



Zeppos College opened in the fall of 2020 and is the fourth residential college to open in the West End neighborhood. It features a state-of-the-art dining hall, great room, study lounges, and several other event spaces designed to help foster community among students and residential faculty.

Benton Chapel is the largest and main chapel for Vanderbilt University. Dedicated in 1959, the chapel would become the ecumenical home for the various ministries, classes, promotions and special events in the lives of the students, staff, faculty and community here at Vanderbilt. Although decorated in a Christian theme, no one denomination is prevalent making the chapel available to be used by different denominations and traditions through the week.

Engineering and Science Building is a 250,000 square foot structure and home to both the ESB, which includes laboratories, classrooms and a state-of-the-art clean room, and Vanderbilt's Innovative Pavilion, which includes the Wond'ry and its makerspace.

Opened in fall 2020 as part of the reimagined West End Neighborhood, the Community Event Space is home to many student organization programs, rehearsals and events. The space has two large floors, one with a full-length mirror that allows for the ideal rehearsal space for our performing arts groups.

## **Student Records (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)**

Vanderbilt University is subject to the provisions of federal law known as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (also referred to as FERPA). This act affords matriculated students certain rights with respect to their educational records. These rights include:

1. The right to inspect and review their education records within 45 days of the day the University receives a request for access. Students should submit to the Office of the University Registrar written requests that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. The Office of the University Registrar will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the Office of the University Registrar does not maintain the records, the student will be directed to the University official to whom the request should be addressed.
2. The right to request the amendment of any part of their education records that a student believes is inaccurate or Students who wish to request an amendment to their educational record should write the University official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the University decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the student will be notified of the decision and advised of his or her right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records to third parties, except in situations that FERPA allows disclosure without the student's consent. These exceptions include:
  - Disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A "school official" is a person employed by the University in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support-staff position (including University law enforcement personnel and health staff); contractors, consultants, and other outside service providers with whom the University has contracted; a member of the Board of Trust; or a student serving on an official University committee, such as the Honor Council, Student Conduct Council, or a grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.
  - Disclosure to parents if the student is a dependent for tax purposes
  - Disclosure to appropriate individuals (e.g., parents/guardians, spouses, housing staff, health care personnel, police, ) where disclosure is in connection with a health or safety emergency and knowledge of such information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.
  - Disclosure to a parent or legal guardian of a student, information regarding the student's violation of any federal, state, or local law, or of any rule or policy of the institution, governing the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance if the University has determined that the student has committed a disciplinary violation with respect to the use or possession and the student is under the age of 21 at the time of the disclosure to the parent/guardian.
  - Disclosure to various authorized representatives of government entities (such as, compliance with Student and Exchange Visitors Information System [SEVIS], Solomon Amendment, etc).

FERPA provides the university the ability to designate certain student information as “directory information.” Directory information may be made available to any person without the student’s consent unless the student gives notice as provided for, below. Vanderbilt has designated the following as directory information: the student’s name, address, telephone number, email address, student ID photos, major field of study, school, classification, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weights and heights of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student, and other information that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. Any student who does not wish disclosure of directory information should notify the Office of the University Registrar in writing. No element of directory information as defined above is released for students who request nondisclosure except as required by statute.

The request for nondisclosure does not apply to class rosters in online class management applications, or to residential rosters—or rosters of groups a student may join voluntarily—in online, co-curricular engagement applications, or rosters of other information on the websites of student organizations that a student may join. Neither class rosters in online class management applications, nor residential rosters in online co-curricular engagement applications, are available to the public.

As of January 3, 2012, the U.S. Department of Education’s FERPA regulations expand the circumstances under which students’ education records and personally identifiable information (PII) contained in such records—including Social Security Numbers, grades, or other private information—may be accessed without consent. First, the U.S. Comptroller General, the U.S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or state and local education authorities (“Federal and State Authorities”) may allow access to student records and PII without consent to any third party designated by a Federal or State Authority to evaluate a federal- or state-supported education program. The evaluation may relate to any program that is “principally engaged in the provision of education,” such as early childhood education and job training, as well as any program that is administered by an education agency or institution.

Second, Federal and State Authorities may allow access to education records and PII without consent, to researchers performing certain types of studies, in certain cases even when the University objects to or does not request such research. Federal and State Authorities must obtain certain use-restriction and data security promises from the third parties that they authorize to receive PII, but the Authorities need not maintain direct control over the third parties.

In addition, in connection with Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems, State Authorities may collect, compile, permanently retain, and share without student consent, PII from education records, and may track student participation in education and other programs by linking such PII to other personal information that they obtain from other Federal or State data sources, including workforce development, unemployment insurance, child welfare, juvenile justice, military service, and migrant student records systems.

If a student believes the university has failed to comply with FERPA, he or she may file a complaint using the Student Complaint and Grievance Procedures as outlined in the *Student Handbook*. If dissatisfied with the outcome of this procedure, students may file a written complaint with the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202-5920.

Questions about the application of the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act should be directed to the Office of the University Registrar or to the Office of General Counsel.

## **The Commodore Card**

The Commodore Card is your official Vanderbilt ID. It is used for identification, for access to residence halls, academic buildings, and campus events, the rec center, libraries and as a debit card for meal plans and other purchases on and off campus. You will receive a digital Commodore Card on your iOS or Android device which you can provision prior to arriving at Vanderbilt, so you are all set the moment you step foot on campus. You will also receive a plastic card for some activities such as using Nashville public transit.

Physical ID cards are issued at the Commodore Card Office, 184 Sarratt Student Center, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm. Digital ID cards are available for iOS and Android devices. For more information, please visit [vanderbilt.edu/cardservices](http://vanderbilt.edu/cardservices).

## **VA Compliance Statement**

Any covered individual will be able to attend or participate in the course of education during the period beginning on the date on which the individual provides to the educational institution a certificate of eligibility for entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 31 or 33 (a “certificate of eligibility” can also include a “Statement of Benefits” obtained from the Department of Veterans Affairs’ (VA) website – eBenefits, or a VAF 28-1905 form for chapter 31 authorization purposes) and ending on the earlier of the following dates:

1. The date on which payment from VA is made to the institution.
2. 90 days after the date the institution certified tuition and fees following the receipt of the certificate of eligibility.

Vanderbilt University will not impose any penalty, including the assessment of late fees, the denial of access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities, or the requirement that a covered individual borrow additional funds, on any covered individual because of the individual’s inability to meet his or her financial obligations to the institution due to the delayed disbursement funding from VA under chapter 31 or 33.

## **Vanderbilt Child and Family Center**

Vanderbilt Child and Family Center provides support and resources to the community of Vanderbilt families across the spectrum of life. As reflected in our provision of new parent support, early childhood education, family life resources, and elder care support, VCFC values the university’s commitment to the education of the whole person and cultivation of lifelong learning. Visit [vanderbilt.edu/child-family-center](http://vanderbilt.edu/child-family-center).

## **Vanderbilt Directory**

Individual listings in the online People Finder Directory consist of the student’s full name, Vanderbilt email address, and campus mailing address (if available). Students may elect to add additional contact information to their listings, including school, academic classification, local phone number, local address, permanent address, cellphone, pager, and fax numbers. Student listings in the People Finder Directory are available to the Vanderbilt community via logon ID and e-password. Students may choose to make their online People Finder listings available to the general public (i.e., viewable by anyone with access to the internet), or to block individual directory items. Students who have placed a directory hold with the Office of the University Registrar will not be listed in the online directory.

Directory information should be kept current. Students may report address changes, emergency contact information, and missing person contact information via the web by logging in to YES (Your Enrollment Services) <https://yes.vanderbilt.edu> and clicking on the Personal Information link.

## **Vanderbilt University Police Department**

The Vanderbilt University Police Department, (615) 322-2745, is a professional law enforcement agency dedicated to the protection and security of Vanderbilt University and its diverse community ([police.vanderbilt.edu](http://police.vanderbilt.edu)).

The Vanderbilt University Police Department comes under the charge of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration. As one of Tennessee’s larger law enforcement agencies, the Vanderbilt University Police Department provides comprehensive law enforcement and security services to all components of Vanderbilt University including the academic campus, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Vanderbilt Health at One Hundred Oaks, and a variety of university-owned facilities throughout the Davidson County area.

The Police Department includes a staff of more than one hundred people, organized into three divisions under the Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief of Police: Operations Division (Main Campus, Medical Center, and 100 Oaks Precincts), Administrative Division, and Auxiliary Services Division. All of Vanderbilt’s commissioned police officers have completed officer training at a state-certified police academy and are required

to complete on-the- job training as well as attend annual in-service training. Vanderbilt police officers hold Special Police Commissions and have the same authority as that of a municipal law enforcement officer, while on property owned by Vanderbilt, on adjacent public streets and sidewalks, and in nearby neighborhoods. When a Vanderbilt student is involved in an off- campus offense, police officers may assist with the investigation in cooperation with local, state, or federal law enforcement. The department also employs non-academy-trained officers called community service officers (commonly referred to as CSOs) who lend assistance 24/7 to the Vanderbilt community through services that include providing walking escorts, providing jump starts, and unlocking cars. For non-emergency assistance from a community service officer, dial (615) 322-2745 (2-2745 from an on-campus extension).

The Vanderbilt University Police Department provides several services and programs to members of the Vanderbilt community:

### VandyRide

The Vanderbilt University Police Department administers the VandyRide escort system at Vanderbilt University. The VandyRide escort system provides vehicular escorts to designated locations on campus. The service consists of vans that operate from 6:00 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. GPS technology allows students to track VandyRide on their route via computer or mobile phone using the VandySafe app, setting up text message alerts to let them know when a van will be arriving at their stop. Please visit [vanderbilt.edu/movevu/commuter-options](http://vanderbilt.edu/movevu/commuter-options) to download the app.

Stop locations were chosen based on location, the accessibility of a secure waiting area, and student input. Signs, freestanding or located on existing structures, identify each stop. A walking escort can be requested to walk a student from his/her stop to the final destination. An ADA van is also accessible to students with mobility impairments. For complete information about the VandyRide service, including routes, stops, and times, please visit [vandyvans.com](http://vandyvans.com) or call (615) 322-2554.

As a supplement to the VandyRide van service, walking escorts are available for students walking to and from any location on campus during nighttime hours. Walking escorts are provided by VUPS officers. The telephone number to call for a walking escort is either (615) 322-2745 (2-2745 from a campus phone) or (615) 421-8888 (1-8888 from a campus phone), after which, a representative from VUPD will be dispatched to the caller's location, or to a designated meeting point to accompany the caller to his or her destination.

### Emergency Phones

Emergency telephones (Blue Light Phones) are located throughout the university campus, Medical Center, and 100 Oaks.

Each phone has an emergency button that when pressed automatically dials the VUPD Communications Center.

An open line on any emergency phone will activate a priority response from an officer. An officer will be sent to check on the user of the phone, even if nothing is communicated to the dispatcher. Cooperation is essential to help us maintain the integrity of the emergency phone system. These phones should be used only for actual or perceived emergency situations.

An emergency response can also be activated by dialing 911 from any campus phone. Cellphone users can dial (615) 421-1911 to summon an emergency response on campus. Cellphone users should dial 911 for off-campus emergencies. Callers should be prepared to state the location from which they are calling.

### Exchange Area

The Vanderbilt University Police Department has designated the lobby of the Police building located at 111 28th Ave South as an "Exchange Area." The Exchange Area is for Vanderbilt University students, faculty, and staff to trade legal items bought and sold online on various secondhand applications in a safe environment. Either the seller or buyer must be Vanderbilt affiliated (student, faculty, or staff). The affiliated person must complete the

online registration form at [police.vanderbilt.edu/safedeal](https://police.vanderbilt.edu/safedeal) prior to the actual trade.

## Security Notices

In compliance with the U.S. Department of Higher Education and the Jeanne Clery Act, Security Notices are issued to provide timely warning information concerning a potentially dangerous situation on or near Vanderbilt University. This information is provided to empower our students and employees with the information necessary to make decisions or take appropriate actions concerning their own personal safety. Security Notices are distributed throughout Vanderbilt to make community members aware of significant crimes that occur at the university. They are distributed through Vanderbilt email lists and through the department's webpage, [police.vanderbilt.edu/pdfs/annual-security-report.pdf](https://police.vanderbilt.edu/pdfs/annual-security-report.pdf).

## Educational and Assistance Programs

The Crime Prevention Unit of Vanderbilt University Police Department offers programs addressing issues such as sexual assault, domestic violence, workplace violence, personal safety, RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) classes, and victim assistance. VUPD provides additional services including property registration (for bikes, laptops, etc.), lost and found, weapons safekeeping, and Submit a Crime Tip. For further information on available programs and services, call (615) 322-7846 or visit [police.vanderbilt.edu/services](https://police.vanderbilt.edu/services).

Additional information on security measures and crime statistics for Vanderbilt is available from the Vanderbilt University Police Department, 111 28th Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee 37212. Information is also available at [police.vanderbilt.edu](https://police.vanderbilt.edu).

## Annual Security Report

The *Vanderbilt University Annual Security Report* is published each year to provide you with information on security-related services offered by the university and campus crime statistics in compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act and the Tennessee College and University Security Information Act.

This booklet is prepared with information provided by the Nashville Metropolitan Police Department, the Department of Student Athletics, Office of the Dean of Students, the Office of Housing and Residential Experience, and the Vanderbilt University Police Department. It summarizes university programs, policies, and procedures designed to enhance personal safety for everyone at Vanderbilt.

A copy of this report may be obtained by writing or calling the Vanderbilt University Police Department, 111 28th Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee 37212, or by telephone at (615) 875-9157. A PDF copy of this report may also be obtained on the website at [police.vanderbilt.edu/crimeinfo/index.php](https://police.vanderbilt.edu/crimeinfo/index.php).

# Vanderbilt University

## Accreditation

Vanderbilt University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. Questions about the accreditation of Vanderbilt University may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website ([www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org)).

Please contact SACSCOC only in relation to Vanderbilt's accreditation. Inquiries about admission requirements, educational programs, and financial aid should be directed to the university.

## Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Excellence at Vanderbilt is inextricably tied to the university's commitment to fostering an inclusive community where people of all identities, backgrounds, and perspectives can thrive. The Vice Provost for Strategic Initiatives

and the Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer work in partnership with students, faculty, and staff to identify and implement best practices that advance equity, diversity, and inclusion across campus in pursuit of building and supporting an inclusive community enriched by a broad variety of experiences and knowledge. Visit [vanderbilt.edu/diversity](http://vanderbilt.edu/diversity) for more information.

## **Mission, Goals, and Values**

Vanderbilt University is a center for scholarly research, informed and creative teaching, and service to the community and society at large.

Vanderbilt will uphold the highest standards and be a leader in the quest for new knowledge through scholarship, dissemination of knowledge through teaching and outreach, and creative experimentation of ideas and concepts.

In pursuit of these goals, Vanderbilt values most highly intellectual freedom that supports open inquiry, equality, compassion, and excellence in all endeavors.

## **Modification Policy and Nondiscrimination Statement**

The university reserves the right, through its established procedures, to modify the requirements for admission and graduation and to change other rules, regulations, and provisions, including those stated in this bulletin and other publications, and to refuse admission to any student, or to require the withdrawal of a student if it is determined to be in the interest of the student or the university. All students, full time or part time, who are enrolled in Vanderbilt courses are subject to the same policies.

Policies concerning noncurricular matters and concerning withdrawal for medical or emotional reasons can be found in the Student Handbook, which is on the Vanderbilt website at [vanderbilt.edu/student\\_handbook](http://vanderbilt.edu/student_handbook).

### **NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

In compliance with federal law, including the provisions of Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, Executive Order 11246, the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974 as amended by the Jobs for Veterans Act, and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, as amended, and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, Vanderbilt University does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of their race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, military service, covered veterans status, or genetic information in its administration of educational policies, programs, or activities; admissions policies; scholarship and loan programs; athletic or other university-administered programs; or employment. In addition, the university does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of their gender expression. Requests for information, inquiries or complaints should be directed to these offices: Equal Opportunity and Access Office, [eoavanderbilt.edu](mailto:eoavanderbilt.edu), telephone (615) 343-9336; Title IX Office, Title IX Coordinator, [titleix@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:titleix@vanderbilt.edu), telephone (615) 343-9004, 110 21st Avenue South, Suite 975, Nashville TN 37203; Student Access Office, [studentaccess@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:studentaccess@vanderbilt.edu), telephone (615) 343-9727.

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## **Obtaining Information about the University**

*Notice to current and prospective students:*

In compliance with applicable state and federal law, the following information about Vanderbilt University is available:

Institutional information about Vanderbilt University, including accreditation, academic programs, faculty, tuition, and other costs, is available in the catalogs of the colleges and schools on the Vanderbilt University website

at [vanderbilt.edu/catalogs](http://vanderbilt.edu/catalogs).

Information about financial aid for students at Vanderbilt University, including federal and other forms of financial aid for students, is available from the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships on the Vanderbilt University website at [vanderbilt.edu/financialaid](http://vanderbilt.edu/financialaid). The Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships is located at 2309 West End Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee 37240-7810, (615) 322-3591 or (800) 288-0204.

Information about graduation rates for students at Vanderbilt University is available on the Vanderbilt University website at [vanderbilt.edu/pie/student/](http://vanderbilt.edu/pie/student/). Paper copies of information about graduation rates may be obtained by writing the Office of the University Registrar, Vanderbilt University, PMB 407701, 110 21st Avenue South, Suite 110, Nashville, Tennessee 37240-7701 or by calling (615) 322-7701.

The Vanderbilt University Annual Security Report on university-wide security and safety, including related policies, procedures, and crime statistics, is available from the Vanderbilt University Police Department on the university website at [police.vanderbilt.edu/pdfs/annual-security-report.pdf](http://police.vanderbilt.edu/pdfs/annual-security-report.pdf). A paper copy of the report may be obtained by writing the Vanderbilt University Police Department, 2800 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, Tennessee 37212, or by calling (615) 343-9750. For more information, see the “Vanderbilt University Police Department” section of this catalog.

A copy of the annual Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act Report on the Vanderbilt University athletic program participation rates and financial support data may be obtained by writing the Vanderbilt University Office of Athletic Compliance, 2601 Jess Neely Drive, P.O. Box 120158, Nashville, Tennessee 37212 or by calling (615) 322-7992.

Information about your rights with respect to the privacy of your educational records under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act is available from the Office of the University Registrar on the Vanderbilt University website at [registrar.vanderbilt.edu/ferpa](http://registrar.vanderbilt.edu/ferpa). Paper copies of this information about educational records may be obtained by writing the Office of the University Registrar, Vanderbilt University, PMB 407701, 110 21st Avenue South, Suite 110, Nashville, Tennessee 37240-7701, or by calling (615) 322-7701. For more information, see the “Student Records (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)” section of this catalog.

## **The Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries**

The Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries system at Vanderbilt University houses nearly five million items and provides access to millions more resources through its nine campus libraries: Central Library (A&S); Peabody Library; Annette and Irwin Eskin Family Biomedical Library and Learning Center; Walker Management Library; Wilson Music Library; Massey Law Library; Stevenson Science and Engineering Library; the Divinity Library; and the Special Collections Library. These libraries share an online presence that provides access to an integrated catalog of print and e-resources, as well as information about library services, workshops, programs, exhibitions, research guides, and librarian subject specialists.

Library staff teach students to be information literate and help them develop research skills in an increasingly complex information environment. Students can connect with a librarian in person or ask questions through the library website. Library spaces across campus offer quiet individual study spaces, group study, and instructional rooms, as well as learning commons and cafes. Faculty- and student-curated exhibitions throughout the libraries offer intellectual and creative insights that encourage students to think critically and see their own work in new ways. Students, faculty, and staff come to the library to read in a cozy nook, meet friends for group study, grab a quick meal, or attend an author’s talk. Even if you are off campus, digital library resources are at your fingertips via your phone, laptop, or computer.

The oldest items in the library date from ca. 2500 BCE, and new publications are being added every day. Among the collection strengths are: Latin American history, politics, and culture; the History of Medicine Collections; the W. T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire and Modern French Studies; the Southern Literature and Culture Collections; the United States Playing Card Collection; and the Vanderbilt Television News Archive, the world’s most

extensive archive of television news covering 1968 to present. The libraries are also involved in digital scholarship, publishing and partnering with faculty on the *Revised Common Lectionary*, one of the first published web-based resources of scriptural readings for the liturgical year, *Ecclesiastical and Secular Sources for Slave Societies*, a digital preservation program for endangered documents related to slave societies, the *Global Music Archive*, a multimedia archive for traditional and popular song, music, and dance of Africa and the Americas, and *Syriaca*, a digital project for the study of Syriac literature, culture, and history.

Get to know your libraries and your librarians early in your career at Vanderbilt. They have the information you need—and can help you transform that information into knowledge, creativity, and success.

## The University

Comodore Cornelius Vanderbilt, who gave a million dollars to build and endow Vanderbilt University in 1873, expressed the wish that it “contribute . . . to strengthening the ties which should exist between all geographical sections of our common country.”

A little more than a hundred years later, the Vanderbilt Board of Trust adopted the following mission statement: “We reaffirm our belief in the unique and special contributions that Vanderbilt can make toward meeting the nation’s requirements for scholarly teaching, training, investigation, and service, and we reaffirm our conviction that to fulfill its inherited responsibilities, Vanderbilt must relentlessly pursue a lasting future and seek highest quality in its educational undertakings.”

Today as Vanderbilt pursues its mission, the university more than fulfills the Commodore’s hope. It is one of a few independent universities with both a quality undergraduate program and a full range of graduate and professional programs. It has a strong faculty of more than 4,200 full-time members and a diverse student body of more than 12,800.

The 334-acre campus is about one and one-half miles from the downtown business district of the city of Nashville, combining the advantages of an urban location with a peaceful, parklike setting of broad lawns, shaded paths, and quiet plazas.

The schools of the university offer the following degrees:

**College of Arts and Science.** Bachelor of Arts.

**Blair School of Music.** Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Musical Arts.

**Divinity School.** Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, Master of Theology, Doctor of Ministry.

**School of Engineering.** Bachelor of Engineering, Bachelor of Science, Master of Engineering.

**Graduate School.** Master of Arts, Master of Fine Arts, Master of Liberal Arts and Science, Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy.

**Law School.** Master of Laws, Doctor of Jurisprudence.

**School of Medicine.** Master of Education of the Deaf, Master of Genetic Counseling, Master of Public Health, Master of Science in Clinical Investigation, Master of Science in Medical Physics, Master of Science (Applied Clinical Informatics, Speech-Language Pathology), Doctor of Audiology, Doctor of Medical Physics, Doctor of Medicine.

**School of Nursing.** Master of Science in Nursing, Doctor of Nursing Practice.

**Owen Graduate School of Management.** Master of Accountancy, Master of Business Administration, Master of Management in Health Care, Master of Marketing, Master of Science in Finance.

**Peabody College.** Bachelor of Science, Master of Education, Master of Public Policy, Doctor of Education.

No honorary degrees are conferred.

## University Courses

By tackling pressing real-world problems and addressing big questions, University Courses educate the whole student and promote lifelong learning. The courses leverage the natural synergies across Vanderbilt’s ten schools and colleges, giving students the opportunity to reach beyond their area of study and interact with faculty at the intersection of disciplines. Each course promotes trans-institutional learning while providing



opportunities to embrace diverse perspectives. For more information, visit [vu.edu/university-courses](https://vu.edu/university-courses).

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# Courses by Subject Areas

## Nursing

### **NURS5095 - Prespecialty Clinical Directed Study**

#### **Catalog Description**

This clinical course is designed to facilitate prespecialty student maintenance of clinical competencies in the event the student is unable to progress as planned in the clinical course curriculum of the prespecialty level. Students enrolled in this course will complete independent review of prior clinical and non-clinical course content, supervised laboratory practice, and facilitated clinical experience as directed by the faculty to demonstrate maintenance of clinical competency at the level of the last successfully completed prespecialty course. Prerequisite: Successful completion of at least one prespecialty clinical course. [1]

### **NURS5101 - Legal and Ethical Accountability in Professional Nursing Practice**

#### **Catalog Description**

This course provides an opportunity for the student to explore current legal and ethical issues in health care. Students will gain understanding of legal and ethical concepts, applying them in identification and analysis of complex scenarios affecting professional nursing practice. Legal principles, nursing liability, ethical theories, and decision-making are discussed as foundational concepts for professional nursing practice. Corequisites: 5103, 5105, 5106, 5115. [2]

### **NURS5103 - Human Experience of Health and Illness Across the Lifespan I**

#### **Catalog Description**

Nursing 5103 is the first of three didactic courses examining the human experience of health and illness across the lifespan from infancy through senescence. The framework incorporates the following concepts and their influence on health and response to illness: growth and development, mental health, gender, lifestyle, value systems, spirituality, ethnicity, environment, and psychosocial, economic, and cultural issues. The impact of these factors on individuals, families, and aggregates will be explored. Basic concepts/knowledge of selected interventions will be introduced. Selected health problems involving the sensory, hematological, endocrine, renal/urinary, cardiovascular, and respiratory systems will be presented; the epidemiology, pathophysiology, medical management (select pharmacologic, non-pharmacologic, and surgical), and nursing management will be addressed. Health promotion, including primary, secondary, and tertiary, anticipatory guidance, and patient education will be discussed. Corequisite: 5101, 5105, 5106, 5115. [4]

### **NURS5105 - Enhancement of Community and Population Health I**

#### **Catalog Description**

This course is the first in a sequence of three blended didactic and clinical practice courses designed to engage the student in exploration of population and community-based health care principles that impact health and wellness of the individual, community, and population. Evidence-based public health frameworks and relevant theories including quality improvement, social determinants of health, and health equity are used to foster student understanding of health status, resource availability, and barriers to access that influence overall health and wellness of the individual, community, and population. The community clinical experience is designed to engage the student in interprofessional learning, advocacy, and action in collaboration with community organizations to assess and intervene on specific challenges to maximizing the health of peoples in communities and populations. Corequisite: 5101, 5103, 5106, 5115. [3]

### **NURS5106 - Pharmacology for Nursing Care I**

#### **Catalog Description**

This course presents an introduction to pharmacologic knowledge, the clinical indications for drug use as a treatment modality, and the role of the nurse in drug therapy. The course will present content on the prototype drug from major drug classifications that serves as a framework for continued self-study of new drug information. Emphasis will be placed on major drug classifications and their respective prototype drug(s) that are more commonly encountered in drug therapy. Corequisite: 5101, 5103, 5105, 5115. [2]

## **NURS5115 - Fundamentals of Clinical Practice**

### **Catalog Description**

This course is the first in a sequence of three clinical practice courses. The course is designed to provide the student with the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required to apply the nursing process (assessment, analysis, planning, intervention, and evaluation) in the delivery of client-centered nursing care. Students will learn and practice assessment and intervention skills in a didactic classroom setting and in a simulated laboratory setting and progress to full application of the nursing process in an adult medical/surgical clinical setting with maximum faculty guidance. Corequisite: 5101, 5103, 5105, 5106. [5]

## **NURS5201 - Inquiry and Evidence in Professional Nursing Practice**

### **Catalog Description**

This course provides an introduction to nursing research and the evidence based practice process. Special emphasis is placed on integration of nursing science with clinical judgment and patient preferences for care. Students gain knowledge of the contributions of qualitative and quantitative research to clinical practice. Knowledge development and the interrelationships among theory, practice and research are discussed. The nurse's role as advocate for human subjects in research is presented. Students identify clinical problems, search scholarly literature for information related to those problems, and critically appraise the scholarly information for application to clinical practice. The course culminates with the presentation of an evidence based nursing project addressing a selected clinical problem for the purpose of improving patient outcomes. Prerequisites: 5101, 5102, 5103, 5105, 5106, 5115; corequisites: 5203, 5205, 5206, 5215. [2]

## **NURS5203 - Human Experience of Health and Illness Across the Lifespan II**

### **Catalog Description**

Nursing 5203 is the second of three didactic courses examining the human experience of health and illness across the lifespan from infancy through senescence, including the childbearing cycle. The framework incorporates the following concepts and their influence on health and response to illness: growth and development, mental health, gender, lifestyle, value systems, spirituality, ethnicity, environment, and psychosocial, economic, and cultural issues. The impact of these factors on individuals, families, and aggregates will be explored. Basic concepts/knowledge of selected interventions will be introduced. Selected health problems involving mental health disorders with appropriate treatment modalities and settings, gastrointestinal, reproductive (including maternity focus) systems, and care of the client with cancer will be presented. The epidemiology, pathophysiology, medical management (non-pharmacologic, and surgical), and nursing management will be addressed. Health promotion, including primary, secondary, and tertiary, anticipatory guidance, and patient education will be discussed. Prerequisite: 5101, 5102, 5105, 5103, 5115, 5106. Corequisite: 5201, 5205, 5215, 5206. [5]

## **NURS5205 - Enhancement of Community and Population Health II**

### **Catalog Description**

This course is the second in a sequence of three clinical practice courses designed to provide the student with an opportunity to explore population and community based health care principles that impact the client. This course will provide the student with an opportunity to use evidence-based practice to enhance the knowledge base regarding factors that impact the client's health status within the community and population. This course will focus on how evidence-based practice may be used to increase healthy lifespans, decrease discrepancies in health status and improve health outcomes. The course explores population-based care models and environments in which health care is delivered: community agencies, clinics, neighborhoods/communities, schools, the family, and the workplace. Prerequisite: 5101, 5102, 5105, 5103, 5115, 5106. Corequisite: 5201, 5203, 5215, 5206. [3]

## **NURS5206 - Pharmacology for Nursing Care II**

### **Catalog Description**

This course extends and builds upon pharmacological knowledge from earlier pharmacology courses and the Health and Illness Across the Lifespan series. The focus of the course is drug therapy most commonly seen in specific clinical settings and specific patient situations. The course presents a context for safe drug administration and for continued self-study of new drug information. Emphasis is placed on pharmacological interventions to achieve safe and optimal patient outcomes. Prerequisite: 5101, 5102, 5105, 5103, 5115, 5106. Corequisite: 5201, 5205, 5203, 5215. [2]

## **NURS5215 - Integration of Theoretical and Clinical Aspects of Nursing I**

### **Catalog Description**

This course is the second of a sequence of three clinical practice courses. It is designed to provide the student with the opportunity to integrate theory, practice, and evidence in the application of the nursing process in a clinical setting for diverse client aggregate populations across the lifespan (child-bearing families/newborn health, pediatric and adolescent health, adult and older adult health, and psychiatric/mental health). Students will analyze and integrate aggregate specific concepts in the provision of client-centered care in a variety of health care settings with moderate faculty guidance. Prerequisite: 5101, 5102, 5105, 5103, 5115, 5106. Corequisite: 5201, 5205, 5203, 5206. [3]

## **NURS5301 - Leadership and Management in Professional Nursing Practice**

### **Catalog Description**

This course provides an introduction to leadership and management in nursing. Course content focuses on leadership and decision-making theories, power and influence, team building, communication, and problem solving skills. The course is designed to facilitate transition to practice and management of professional issues that reflect the current complexity in provision of care with respect to patient, organizational, and professional advocacy. Quality improvement and management skills will be emphasized including delegation and assignment, managed care, outcomes management, resource allocation, conflict resolution, and economic principles pertinent to the efficient and effective delivery of health care services. Prerequisite: 5101, 5201; corequisite: 5303, 5305, 5306, 5315, 5325. [2]

## **NURS5303 - Human Experience of Health and Illness Across the Lifespan III**

### **Catalog Description**

This is the third of three didactic courses examining the human experience of health and illness across the lifespan - from infancy through senescence - with an emphasis on increasing complex acute and chronic issues. The course provides the student with the theoretical basis to apply principles of chronic illness, including assessment and intervention skills, to at-risk populations. The impact of multi-system factors on individuals, families, and aggregates or populations/communities will be explored. The epidemiology, pathophysiology, medical management (pharmacologic, non-pharmacologic, and surgical), and nursing management for selected health problems will be addressed. Health promotion, anticipatory guidance, and patient education will be discussed. Prerequisite: 5101, 5201, 5105, 5205, 5103, 5203, 5115, 5215, 5106, 5206. Corequisite: 5301, 5305, 5315, 5325, 5306. [4]

## **NURS5305 - Enhancement of Community and Population Health III**

### **Catalog Description**

This course is the third in a sequence of three clinical practice courses designed to provide the student with an opportunity to explore population and community-based health care principles that impact the client. This course addresses healthcare systems related issues that impact the client's ability to maintain and maximize health. Students will have the opportunity to build on their knowledge of clients within communities and populations, collaborate to synthesize and evaluate data, identify appropriate programs, and disseminate findings. Prerequisite: 5101, 5201, 5102, 5105, 5205, 5103, 5203, 5115, 5215, 5106, 5206. Corequisite: 5301, 5303, 5315, 5325, 5306. [2]

### **NURS5306 - Pharmacology for Nursing Care III**

#### **Catalog Description**

This course presents pharmacologic knowledge, the clinical indications for medication use as a treatment modality, and the role of the nurse in medication therapy. Emphasis is placed on the variations of pharmacologic therapy in critical and complex situations with the goal of achieving safe and optimal client outcomes in specific situations. Major medication classifications and commonly encountered prototype(s) within specialty areas will serve as a framework for continued learning of new pharmacologic information. Additionally, this course engages students in group activities which require collaboration, negotiation, and rationalizations of decisions essential for client centered care.. Prerequisite: 5101, 5201, 5102, 5105, 5205, 5103, 5203, 5115, 5215, 5106, 5206. Corequisite: 5301, 5305, 5303, 5315, 5325. [1]

### **NURS5315 - Integration of Theoretical and Clinical Aspects of Nursing II**

#### **Catalog Description**

This course is the final rotation of the second in the sequence of three clinical practice courses. This course is designed to provide the student with the opportunity to integrate theory, practice, and evidence in the application of the nursing process in a clinical setting for diverse client aggregate populations across the life span (child-bearing families/newborn health, pediatric and adolescent health, adult and older adult health, and psychiatric/mental health). Students will analyze and integrate aggregate specific concepts in the provision of client-centered care in variety of health care settings with moderate faculty guidance. Prerequisite: 5101, 5201, 5102, 5105, 5205, 5103, 5203, 5115, 5215, 5106, 5206. Corequisite: 5301, 5305, 5303, 5325, 5306. [1]

### **NURS5325 - Capstone Clinical Practicum**

#### **Catalog Description**

This course is the third in a sequence of three clinical practice courses. This course is designed to provide the student with the opportunity to synthesize theory, practice, and evidence in the application of the nursing process for multiple complex adult medical-surgical clients. Students will synthesize acquired knowledge, skills, and attitudes to prevent illness and promote health, prioritize and delegate nursing care, and engage as leaders within the inter-professional health care team to meet the needs of clients on the continuum of health. Prerequisite: 5101, 5201, 5102, 5105, 5205, 5103, 5203, 5115, 5215, 5106, 5206. Corequisite: 5301, 5305, 5303, 5315, 5306. [2]

### **NURS5401 - Critical Thinking, Supporting Evidence and Communication, Part 1**

#### **Catalog Description**

This course focuses on identification of the unique strengths/perceptions of each RN student and a development of an individualized plan for learning. The course assists RN students in identifying and developing strategies to foster critical thinking, lifelong learning, and nursing practice role development. Theory development and research are introduced as processes essential to the organization and development of nursing knowledge. Limited to RN students. [3]

### **NURS5402 - Epidemiology and Population-Based Nursing**

#### **Catalog Description**

This course provides the student with an opportunity to explore population-based health care principles of prevention, health maintenance and health promotion within the context of Healthy People 2020. Notably, the course will focus on how these principles are used to increase healthy lifespan, decrease discrepancies in health status and health outcomes for different populations and assure access to preventive services for all. It emphasizes epidemiologic principles and population-based holistic health promotion/disease prevention as an integral part of populations at risk for illness, disability, or premature death. Further, the course explores population-based care models and environments in which health care is delivered: community agencies, neighborhoods/communities, schools, the family, and the workplace. Legislation and policy implications for primary, secondary, and tertiary care will be discussed. [3]

**NURS5403 - Health Care Systems and the Role of the Nurse as Facilitator of Learning**  
**Catalog Description**

This course addresses health care systems and the role of the nurse as teacher and facilitator of learning in health care. Course content focuses on leadership concepts, decision-making, team building, communication, managerial skills, and integrates the foundational concepts of teaching and counseling patients and families. The course also provides information on contemporary trends in the organization and delivery of health care to individuals, families and populations to include quality improvement and legal/regulatory issues. In addition, course content will include the impact of managed care and financial pressures on health care providers along with outcomes management, financial management, conflict resolution and economic principles pertinent to the delivery of health care services. The course provides concepts related to change management and the teaching and learning processes. Corequisites: 5401, 5402, 5406. [3]

**NURS5406 - Human Experience of Health and Illness Across the Lifespan III**  
**Catalog Description**

This didactic course examines the human experience of health and illness across the lifespan, from infancy through senescence, with an emphasis on complex acute and chronic issues. The course provides the student with the theoretical basis to apply principles of chronic illness, including assessment and intervention skills, to at-risk populations. The impact of multi-system factors on individuals, families, and aggregates or populations/communities will be explored. The epidemiology, pathophysiology, medical management (pharmacologic, non-pharmacologic, and surgical), and nursing management for selected health problems will be addressed. Health promotion, anticipatory guidance, and patient education will be discussed. Prerequisite: Successful completion of an ASN, ADN, or Diploma in Nursing. Corequisite: 5401, 5402, 5403. [4]

**NURS5501 - Critical Thinking, Supporting Evidence and Communication, Part 2**  
**Catalog Description**

This course is the second of a two course sequence addressing critical thinking, research utilization, and communication. Students in this course will identify, evaluate, and engage the various steps of scholarly inquiry in order to address research problems related to professional nursing practice. Students also will explore the theoretical and research foundations for evidence-based practice in nursing. Prerequisite: 5401. [2]

**NURS5502 - Ethics in Nursing Practice**  
**Catalog Description**

This didactic and seminar course addresses basic ethical principles and special problems/issues as sources for ethical reflection. Ethical dilemmas in health care are discussed using professional and analytical methods of investigation. Students are expected to reflect on their personal values and beliefs, ethical principles, clinical experiences, and literature sources while engaging in all assignments. Prerequisite: 5401. [2]

**NURS5505 - Health Assessment for the Registered Nurse**  
**Catalog Description**

This course is designed to provide the RN student the opportunity to learn and practice the skills of assessment in a classroom, laboratory setting, and then in a clinical area for a variety of client populations across the life span. The student's specialty population will be considered in the choice of health care setting utilized for practice. Prerequisite: 5406, 5402. Corequisite: 5506. [3]

**NURS5506 - Pharmacology for the Registered Nurse**  
**Catalog Description**

This course extends and builds upon pharmacological knowledge from foundational pharmacology courses and pathophysiology courses. The focus of the course is the variations of drug therapy in complex situations. The course presents cases of complex drug regimens for analysis and evaluation by the student. Emphasis will be placed on pharmacological interventions to achieve safe and optimal patient outcomes in specific situations. [3]



**NURS5515 - Providing Care at the Community Level**  
**Catalog Description**

This course is an introduction to the scope and practice of family and community health nursing. It emphasizes, through didactic and community practice, the promotion and maintenance of the health of diverse populations across the lifespan. The epidemiological process and the nursing process serve as the organizing framework for didactic content and clinical interventions to support family and community health. Social, cultural, economic, environmental, and ethical issues related to specific populations will be explored. Limited to RN students. Prerequisite: 5402; or with permission of instructor. [3]

**NURS5598 - Independent Study - Non Clinical**  
**Catalog Description**

Ind Study - Non Clinical [1-6]

**NURS5999 - [Clinical Continuation]**  
**Catalog Description**

MSN, post-master's certificate, or DNP students enroll in this course to resolve an incomplete grade in a prior semester's clinical course. Enrollment in the course is considered to carry at least half-time status. Tuition is charged at a flat rate of \$200. Students may enroll in this course no more than twice. Offered as needed. [0]

**NURS6010 - Advanced Pathophysiology**  
**Catalog Description**

This is a graduate level, advanced pathophysiology course designed to meet the educational needs of those pursuing certification as advanced practice nurses. The course builds on pre-acquired knowledge of normal human anatomy and physiology. Classic and current research findings form the basis for analysis of pathophysiologic processes and their effect on individual and multiple body systems. Students analyze the effect and progression of selected disease entities in diverse populations across the lifespan. The course provides a foundation for clinical assessment, diagnosis and management of clients experiencing alterations or risks of alterations in their health status. Pre/corequisite: Courses in normal human anatomy and physiology. [3]

**NURS6011 - Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning**  
**Catalog Description**

This course is the foundational didactic course for advanced nursing practice. Students differentiate abnormal from normal findings using advanced assessment techniques, interpret diagnostic study results and use clinical reasoning to formulate diagnoses for culturally diverse individuals. Health promotion and disease prevention strategies are discussed. Prerequisite: Admission to specialty and graduate level standing. [2]

**NURS6012 - Advanced Health Assessment Lab**  
**Catalog Description**

(Previously NURS 6011L) This course is the foundational physical exam and health assessment lab companion course for Advanced Health Assessment, N6011 for advanced nursing practice. Students differentiate abnormal from normal findings using advanced assessment techniques, interpret diagnostic study results and use clinical reasoning to formulate diagnoses for culturally diverse individuals. Students interpret data and problem-solve utilizing case studies and standardized patients. Prerequisite: Admission to specialty and graduate level standing. [1]

**NURS6020 - Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics**  
**Catalog Description**

This course is designed to provide students with the knowledge of pharmacotherapeutics that will enable the student to safely and appropriately select pharmacologic agents for the management of common acute and chronic health problems of diverse populations. Specific content of the course covers representative drugs of a pharmacologic group, indications for use, drug selection, titration of dose, key adverse effects, and monitoring of therapy. [3]

## **NURS6025 - Applied Quality Improvement and Patient Safety**

### **Catalog Description**

This course focuses on the application of quality improvement methodology and measurement of outcomes across a broad range of health care settings. Students learn the systematic methods of continuous quality improvement, based on the work of Deming and others. The use of various outcome measurement instruments and data collection tools are explored. [3]

## **NURS6030 - Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Adult**

### **Catalog Description**

This course is designed to provide students with knowledge needed to assess and manage common acute and chronic health problems in the adult population. Multidimensional interventions are discussed (e.g., culturally and environmentally sensitive; health promoting). Pre/corequisite: 6101 or 6011. [3]

## **NURS6031 - Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Adolescent**

### **Catalog Description**

This didactic course presents knowledge that is necessary for the practice of primary health care nursing of adolescents. Course content includes the principles of health promotion, disease prevention and assessment, and management of common primary health care problems in diverse adolescent populations. Emphasis is placed on developmental needs and the pathophysiologic processes underlying certain conditions. The impact of the family on the health of the adolescent is explored. Students are introduced to the dynamics of the managed care environment. Pre/corequisite: 6011 or 6101. [1]

## **NURS6032 - Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of the Woman**

### **Catalog Description**

This didactic course presents the knowledge that is necessary for the practice of primary care of the female patient by advanced practice nurses. Course content includes the principles of health promotion, disease prevention and assessment, and the management of common primary health care problems in the female population. Emphasis is placed on management of women's health issues in a general, primary care setting. Pre/corequisite: 6011. [1]

## **NURS6034 - Adult Gerontology Primary Care I**

### **Catalog Description**

This course is designed to provide students with knowledge needed to assess and manage common acute and chronic health problems in the adult population. Multidimensional interventions are discussed (e.g., culturally and environmentally sensitive, health promoting). Pre/corequisite: 6011. [3]

## **NURS6036 - Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Child and Adolescent**

### **Catalog Description**

This course presents knowledge necessary for the practice of primary health care of children and adolescents. Course content includes the principles of health promotion, disease prevention, and assessment and management of common primary health care problems in diverse pediatric and adolescent populations ages 0-21 years. Emphasis is placed on developmental needs and the pathophysiologic processes underlying certain conditions. The impact of the family on the health of the child/adolescent is explored. This course builds on pre-requisite knowledge by exploring the pathophysiologic disease processes underlying certain conditions that are specific to the pediatric and adolescent population as well as exploring treatment of these processes. Pre/corequisite: 6011. [3]

**NURS6041 - Principles of Health Care Finance**  
**Catalog Description**

In this course, students learn to apply accounting and economic principles, and financial management strategies to effectively manage health care resources in health care organizations. Students acquire the knowledge and skills to utilize computer software for conducting efficient financial analysis. [3]

**NURS6045 - Professional Formation 1: Roles and Contexts for Advanced Nursing Practice**  
**Catalog Description**

This course offers an introduction to the principles, concepts, and frameworks for advanced nursing practice. Students will integrate principles of evidence-based practice, quality and safety, leadership, ethics, policy, and role development. Students will identify the role of advanced nursing practice in the healthcare environment with emphasis on leadership in quality and safety as a part of interprofessional teams. [2]

**NURS6055 - Professional Formation 2: Application of Evidence in Healthcare Environments**  
**Catalog Description**

This course is the second in a series of courses facilitating Professional Formation in the Advanced Nursing Practice role. Students will develop skills to evaluate and synthesize supporting evidence and examine ethical dilemmas of implementation, to develop and articulate innovative solutions. Students will learn how to assess clinical processes, identify advanced nursing practice problems, and determine how to address problems. Prerequisite: 6045. [3]

**NURS6060 - Conceptualization and Integration of Evidence for Advanced Nursing Practice**  
**Catalog Description**

This course provides the student with the opportunity to explore a relevant problem in advanced nursing practice. Concepts related to the selected problem are identified and critically appraised. Methodologies to generate evidence will be presented to examine knowledge related to the selected problem and make practice recommendations. This course builds upon prerequisite knowledge. Prerequisite: 6050. [3]

**NURS6065 - PF 3: Leading Collaborative Change: Improving Delivery of Healthcare to Patients and Populations**  
**Catalog Description**

This course is the third in a series building Professional Formation in an advanced nursing practice role. Students will develop leadership skills for participation in interprofessional teams to address practice problems and improve care delivery. Students will plan evidence-based solutions that meet the six aims for healthcare quality from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. Students will be prepared to advocate for policy change at the institutional, state, and federal level to improve the health of populations. Prerequisite: 6055. [4]

**NURS6070 - APN Role Within the U.S. Healthcare Delivery System**  
**Catalog Description**

This course provides students with an understanding of how the U.S. healthcare system works, including major components of both service delivery and financing of care. Students analyze and evaluate the healthcare delivery system, focusing on the role of the Advanced Practice Nurse within the system. The relationships between and among the various stakeholders, including consumers, providers, payers, regulatory agencies, and policy makers, are explored as well as their impact on healthcare delivery. The focus is on economic implications of health planning, organization of personnel and resources, design of payment systems, and cost effectiveness of healthcare delivery. [3]

**NURS6075 - Professional Formation 4: Transition to Advanced Nursing Practice**  
**Catalog Description**

This course facilitates professional formation through transition to the advanced nursing practice role. Students will evaluate practice settings appropriate for their scope and navigate the employment search and hiring process. Students will also explore the credentialing/privileging process and will discuss strategies for continued professional development. [1]

**NURS6080 - Local Applications of Global Health**  
**Catalog Description**

This is a 1 credit hour elective course designed for graduate students interested in the local context of global health applications. This course will consist of weekly discussions led by interdisciplinary experts in global health, within and outside of VU. Topics will focus on interdisciplinary innovations that alleviate health disparities in diverse settings locally and abroad. Students will engage in learning through readings, attendance and participation in discussion and debates at weekly seminars and assignments. This course is designed for students interested in reciprocity in global health and caring for underserved populations locally and abroad, and builds on a diverse base of prerequisite knowledge in interdisciplinary fields pertaining to health, social justice, sustainable development, and working in interdisciplinary teams. [1]

**NURS6084 - Planetary Health, Policy and Social Justice**  
**Catalog Description**

This is a 3 credit hour elective course designed for students interested in exploring the intersections between primary care, planetary health and climate change (according to WHO, currently the greatest threat to global health), social justice and policy. The causes of climate change and the resulting primary, secondary and tertiary impacts on people and communities will be examined through the lens of global health and policy. Students will work with local agencies to develop evidence-based and targeted adaptation and mitigation strategies as well as policy-based solutions, all incorporating science and engineering, political science and policy, law and economics as well as nursing and medicine to address healthspan disparities related to climate change and social vulnerability. [3]

**NURS6085 - Professional Formation 5: Role of the APN in Improving Delivery of Healthcare - Indiv. & Populations**  
**Catalog Description**

Students will identify the role of advanced nursing practice in the healthcare environment with emphasis on leadership in quality and safety as a part of interprofessional teams. Students will incorporate ethical principles in clinical scenarios and in the use of current and emerging technologies. Students will develop plans for system change to deliver high quality care to patients and populations. [2]

**NURS6090 - JOINT STUDIES MED SCHOOL**  
**Catalog Description**

JOINT STUDIES MED SCHOOL

**NURS6091 - LGBTI Health in Inter-professional Practice**  
**Catalog Description**

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) Health in Inter-professional Practice is a course focusing on specific healthcare needs (from the perspective of many health-related professions) of people who identify as a sexual or gender minority. Guidance for self-exploration of biases, discomforts, strengths and talents that may impede or restore the provision of equitable healthcare delivery for LGBTI people will be provided. Language, sexual development, disease prevention, health risks and legal and ethical issues related to gender identity and sexual orientation will be defined and explored within the context of different healthcare environments. Additionally, specific healthcare concerns for patients with disorders of sexual development (DSD) or intersex will be explored. Students will interact with inter-professional and -disciplinary team members while developing knowledge and skills to provide expert and equitable care for LGBTI people. Students will engage in learning through readings, synchronous and asynchronous discussions, written assignments and a discipline-specific project. Pre/corequisite: Admission to any graduate or professional degree program across the Vanderbilt campus. [2]

**NURS6098 - Independent Study, Non-Clinical**  
**Catalog Description**

Content varies according to individual needs and interest. A contract is made between the student and the faculty sponsor, with copies for the student, the sponsor, the program director, and the student's record. [Variable credit 1-6]

**NURS6099 - Independent Study: Clinical**  
**Catalog Description**

A program of independent study in a selected area of nursing practice under the direction of a faculty sponsor. A contract is made between the student and the faculty sponsor, with copies for the student, the sponsor, the program director, and the student's record. [Variable credit 1-6]

**NURS6101 - Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning**  
**Catalog Description**

Students differentiate abnormal from normal findings using advanced assessment techniques, interpret diagnostic study results, and use clinical reasoning to formulate diagnoses for culturally diverse adults and older adults. Students interpret data and problem solve utilizing case studies and surrogate patients. Health promotion and disease prevention strategies are discussed. Prerequisite: Admission to specialty and graduate level standing. [3]

**NURS6102 - Advanced Physiology and Pathophysiology**  
**Catalog Description**

This course provides in-depth discussion of complex physiologic and pathophysiologic concepts across the lifespan essential for advanced practice nursing of adult and geriatric patient populations in acute care settings. Physiology of each organ system is discussed from the cellular level to the function of organ systems. Emphasis is placed on integrating physiologic concepts to predict, evaluate, and manage pathologic processes. Prerequisite: Courses in undergraduate level human anatomy and physiology. [4]

**NURS6103 - Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics**  
**Catalog Description**

This course builds on knowledge of the basic principles of pharmacology to establish a knowledge base for clinical judgments in the pharmacologic management and evaluation of adults and older adults as related to the role of Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioners. Drug interactions, incompatibilities, side effects, and contraindications are discussed. Appropriate patient education is integrated. Pre/corequisite: 6102. [3]

**NURS6105 - Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner**

**Catalog Description**

This course builds on knowledge of advanced health assessment with a focus on clients commonly seen in the acute care practice setting. Advanced health assessment skills include obtaining appropriate health histories and performing physical examinations on adult patients with complex problems in a variety of acute and chronic health care settings, as well as participating in direct patient care. In addition, the course emphasizes proper documentation of data obtained from the history and physical exams and the development of appropriate differential diagnoses, problem lists, and therapeutic plans of care. Pre/corequisite: 6101, graduate-level standing, admission to the specialty. [1]

**NURS6114 - Pathophysiology and Collaborative Management in Acute Care for the Adult-Gerontology ACNP I**

**Catalog Description**

NURS 6114 is the first of a three-course series that explores, at an advanced level, pathophysiology, assessment, diagnoses, and collaborative management of adults and older adults with selected episodic/chronic health problems in acute/critical care. Each student demonstrates the ability to analyze, integrate, and synthesize pathophysiologic concepts and current research findings for collaborative management of adult health problems. The course goals are met through didactic content and case study analyses. Pre/corequisite: 6102, 6103. [3]

**NURS6115 - Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Practicum**

**Catalog Description**

This course is designed to provide clinical experience in development and application of the roles of the acute care nurse practitioner. The students apply and evaluate nursing theory and pathophysiologic and psychosocial concepts in planning and delivery of care in clinical settings. The student practices in clinical settings for a total of 280 hours. Clinical conferences are held weekly and focus on pathophysiology, diagnoses, and therapeutic management related to episodic/chronic problems in acute/critical care in the adult population. Prerequisite: 6101, 6102, 6103, 6105, 6114; corequisite: 6124. [4]

**NURS6123 - Pathophysiology and Collaborative Management in Acute Care for the Adult-Gerontology ACNP II**

**Catalog Description**

This course explores, at an advanced level, the pathophysiology, assessment, diagnosis, and collaborative management of adults and older adults with selected episodic/chronic health problems in acute/critical care, including oncology and renal and fluid and electrolyte disorders. Each student demonstrates his/her ability to analyze, integrate, and synthesize pathophysiologic concepts for collaborative management of adult health problems. The course goals are met through didactic content and case study analyses. Pre/corequisite: 6050. Prerequisite: 6102, 6103, 6113. [3]

**NURS6124 - Pathophysiology and Collaborative Management in Acute Care for the Adult-Gerontology ACNP II**

**Catalog Description**

NURS 6124 is the second of a three-course series that explores, at an advanced level, pathophysiology, assessment, diagnoses, and collaborative management of adults and older adults with selected episodic/chronic health problems in acute/critical care. Each student demonstrates in writing his or her ability to analyze, integrate, and synthesize pathophysiologic concepts and current research findings for collaborative management of adult health problems. The course goals are met through didactic content and case study analyses. Prerequisite: 6045, 6102, 6103, 6114. Pre/corequisite: 6055. [3]

**NURS6133 - Pathophysiology and Collaborative Management in Acute Care for the Adult-Gerontology ACNP III**

**Catalog Description**

This course is third in a sequence of courses that explores, at an advanced level, the pathophysiology, assessment, diagnosis, and collaborative management of adults and older adults with selected episodic/chronic health problems in acute/critical care, including hematologic, hepatic, endocrine, and gastrointestinal disorders as well as psychosocial needs. Each student demonstrates his or her ability to analyze, integrate, and synthesize pathophysiologic concepts for collaborative management of adult health problems. The course goals are met through didactic content and case study analyses. Prerequisite: 6050, 6102, 6103, 6113 & 6123. Corequisite: 6060 & 6070. [3]

**NURS6134 - Pathophysiology and Collaborative Management in Acute Care for the Adult-Gerontology ACNP III**

**Catalog Description**

This course is third in a sequence of courses that explores, at an advanced level, the pathophysiology, assessment, diagnosis, and collaborative management of adults and older adults with selected episodic/chronic health problems in acute/critical care, including hematologic, hepatic, endocrine, and gastrointestinal disorders as well as psychosocial needs. Each student demonstrates his or her ability to analyze, integrate, and synthesize pathophysiologic concepts for collaborative management of adult health problems. The course goals are met through didactic content and case study analyses. Prerequisite: 6045, 6055, 6102, 6103, 6114, 6124. Pre/corequisite: 6065, 6075. [3]

**NURS6135 - Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Practicum in Intensive Care**

**Catalog Description**

This course is designed to provide clinical experience in development and application of the roles of the acute care adult nurse practitioner with an intensivist focus. The clinical setting will be used for application and evaluation of pathophysiologic and psychosocial concepts in planning and developing care in the clinical setting. Student will be assigned to multidisciplinary critical care teams and will rotate through these teams during the course. The student will practice in clinical settings for a total of 280 hours. Clinical conferences will be held weekly and will focus on pathophysiology, diagnoses, and therapeutic management related to episodic/chronic problems in critical care in the adult population. Prerequisites: 6101, 6102, 6103, 6105, 6114; Pre/corequisite: 6124. [4]

**NURS6140 - Introduction to Transplantation**

**Catalog Description**

This elective course consists of didactic content related to the care of adults undergoing transplantation with emphasis on immunology, immunosuppression, and criteria for transplantation, as well as complications related to transplantation and immunosuppression. An overview of transplantation of the heart, lung, liver, kidney, pancreas, and bone marrow is presented. Ethical, psychosocial, and donor selection/management issues are discussed. [2]

**NURS6141 - Introduction to Neurocritical Care and Management of Neurological Disease**

**Catalog Description**

This course provides an introduction into the subspecialty field of neurocritical care and management of neurological disease across care settings (i.e. outpatient specialty clinic to intensive care). This course will build upon a foundational understanding of neurocritical care and management of neurological disease specific to the role of the AGACNP or ENP. Prerequisite: 6101, 6102, 6103, 6114. [2]

**NURS6142 - Concepts in Advanced Trauma Nursing**  
**Catalog Description**

This course explores, at an advanced practice level, pathophysiology, assessment and diagnosis and collaborative management of adults who have experienced a severe trauma. Each student will demonstrate in writing his or her ability to analyze, integrate, and synthesize pathophysiologic concepts and current research findings for the collaborative management of trauma patients. Pre/corequisite: 6101, 6105, 6114, 6115, 6124. [2]

**NURS6143 - Fundamentals of Point of Care Ultrasound for the Advanced Practice Provider**  
**Catalog Description**

This course introduces advanced practice students to the utilization of point of care ultrasound (POCUS) in clinical practice. Course concepts include basic ultrasound physics and mechanics, anatomical landmarks in the context of pathophysiology, ultrasound exam types, and ultrasound methods for diagnostic, procedural and therapeutic applications of the technology in patient care. Students will participate in module-based didactics and apply course concepts during hands on simulation experiences. Pre/corequisite: 6521 or permission of the instructor. Priority goes to students in the FNP/ENP specialty. [2]

**NURS6147 - Advanced Concepts in Cardiovascular Nursing**  
**Catalog Description**

This course is designed to provide a conceptual basis for the diagnosis and treatment of human response to actual and/or potential cardiovascular health problems. The concomitant influence of physical, psychological, social, cultural, and environmental variables will also be explored. Emphasis is placed on acute and/or critically ill adult and older-adult patients with alterations in cardiovascular health states, as well as on the selection and application of concepts and theories relevant to advanced cardiovascular nursing. N6147 is an elective support course for students within the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AG-ACNP) Program who wish to develop a foundation for advanced practice in the management of cardiovascular disease. Learning experiences focus on management of cardiovascular disease in acute and critically ill adult and older-adult patient populations. Prerequisite: 6102, 6103 or with permission of course coordinator. [3]

**NURS6148 - Concepts of Hospital Practice**  
**Catalog Description**

This course builds on the foundational knowledge of advanced practice nursing covered in the pre-requisite coursework. Hospitalist practice is focused on the comprehensive care of the hospitalized patient who may be admitted to the general or surgical floor, step-down unit or low-acuity ICU. This course will prepare the students to provide wide-ranging medical and post-surgical care to admitted patients throughout the patient hospital trajectory from emergency room to discharge. Discussion of leadership and management strategies specific to hospital systems will allow students to understand the importance of safe and quality patient care and patient discharge. Multidisciplinary team management discussion includes utilization of common multidisciplinary services involving physical, occupational and speech therapy, case managers and social work. Specific patient care topics include the following: infectious disease, acute cardiac and pulmonary disease, trauma, dermatology, nephrology, and geriatric care. Concurrent enrollment in 6115 and 6124 is strongly recommended but not required for enrollment in the course. Pre/corequisite: 6101, 6102, 6103, and 6114. Special permission is necessary for students not meeting pre-requisite requirements. [2]

**NURS6149 - Advanced Critical Care Concepts for the ACNP Intensivist**  
**Catalog Description**

This course assists students in developing the competence to evaluate, diagnose and treat patients with a variety of complex critical illnesses. Students will be educated on a variety of advanced intensive care topics. The primary focus is on evidence-based practice diagnostics and treatment of the critically ill patient. This course builds on previous coursework, including the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner core courses. Prerequisite: 6102, and Fundamental Critical Care Support Provider Certification through the Society of Critical Care Medicine's Course. [3]



**NURS6155 - Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Intensivist Practicum**  
**Catalog Description**

This course is designed to provide clinical experience in and application and integration of the roles of the adult gerontology acute care nurse practitioner as an intensivist. The clinical setting will be used for application, synthesis, and evaluation of nursing theory and pathophysiologic and psychosocial concepts. The student will practice in clinical settings for a total of 280 hours and will focus on working with complex patients in a variety of intensive care units. Clinical conference will be held every week and will focus on pathophysiology, diagnoses, and therapeutic management related to critical care and acute care problems for the adult population in an intensive care setting or step down unit. Prerequisite: 6101, 6102, 6103, 6105, 6114, 6124, 6135, 6149. Pre/corequisite: 6134. [4]

**NURS6165 - Advanced Clinical Skills for the AG-ACNP Hospitalist**  
**Catalog Description**

The course engages the Hospitalist student in simulation geared toward diagnostic techniques and patient management strategies utilized by the adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner for hospitalized patients. Additional diagnostic skills and documentation techniques such as assessment note dictation will be introduced in this course. Procedures include I&D of an abscess and skin biopsy. Prerequisite: 6102. Completion or current enrollment in 6148 is required for enrollment in the course. No exceptions will be made. [1]

**NURS6170 - Advanced Critical Care Simulation**  
**Catalog Description**

This course is designed to provide advanced cognitive and procedural experience in the critical care simulator at the Center for Experimental Learning and Assessment at the Vanderbilt School of Medicine. Simulations are designed to provide clinical content surrounding the management of complex patients in the ICU setting. These class sessions provide an opportunity for students to integrate complex diagnostics and therapeutics with communication and team management skills. Sessions focus on clinical situations that student NPs are unlikely to directly manage during their clinical rotation where more experienced providers are available. Prerequisite: 6101, 6105, 6102, 6103, 6114, 6135, 6149. Pre/corequisite: 6134. [1]

**NURS6195 - Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship**  
**Catalog Description**

This course is the final clinical preceptorship, and it is designed to provide clinical experience in and application and integration of the roles of the acute care nurse practitioner. The clinical setting will be used for application, synthesis, and evaluation of nursing theory and pathophysiologic and psychosocial concepts. The students practice in clinical settings for a total of 280 hours, and will focus on working with complex adult and older adult patients. Clinical conference will be held every week and will focus on pathophysiology, diagnoses, and therapeutic management related to episodic/chronic problems in acute/critical care in the adult population. Prerequisite: 6101, 6102, 6103, 6105, 6114, 6115, 6124, RN licensure; Pre/corequisite: 6134. [4]

**NURS6205 - Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner**  
**Catalog Description**

This course builds on knowledge of advanced health assessment with a focus on clients commonly seen in the adult practice setting. Advanced health assessment techniques are emphasized. Diverse approaches are used in expanding proficiency in conducting histories and physical examinations in clinical laboratory settings with adult clients. Pre/corequisite: 6011, graduate-level standing, admission to the specialty. [1]

**NURS6215 - Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Clinical I**  
**Catalog Description**

This course is a clinical practicum focusing on adult health care with emphasis on health promotion, management of common acute and chronic health problems, and client education. Students participate in a clinical rotation in adult health care settings which provide the opportunity for health assessment of the adult and the development of a comprehensive plan of care. Clinical conferences highlight pathophysiological processes and psychological needs of the adults and their families. The role of the nurse practitioner as a primary health care provider in a variety of adult settings will be examined. Students explore relevant resources related to adult health care and apply findings to client situations. Pre/corequisite: 6011/6105, 6020, 6010, 6034. [4]

**NURS6231 - Essential Procedures for the Primary Care Provider**  
**Catalog Description**

This course builds on knowledge of advanced health assessment and primary care of the adult with a focus on procedures commonly performed in the adult practice setting. Using principles of universal precautions and infection control as a foundation, students will learn invasive procedures related to different body systems. Pre/corequisite: 6011. [2]

**NURS6234 - Adult Gerontology Primary Care II**  
**Catalog Description**

This course is designed to provide students with knowledge needed to assess and manage less common acute and chronic diseases and health problems in the adult and geriatric population. Multidimensional interventions are discussed (e.g., culturally and environmentally sensitive care, health promotion, symptom palliation). Prerequisite: 6011, 6034; Pre/corequisite: 6010. [3]

**NURS6236 - Advanced Concepts in the Care of the Older Adult**  
**Catalog Description**

This didactic course presents the advanced concepts in the care of the elderly patient. Students examine selected age/related changes, disease processes and comorbidities. Pathophysiology, clinical presentations, interventions, and outcomes are identified. This course integrates the principles of health promotion, disease prevention and rehabilitation. Emphasis is placed on developmental needs and the pathophysiologic processes underlying certain conditions. The impact of the family on the health of the elderly is explored. Students are introduced to the dynamics of the managed care environment. [2]

**NURS6237 - Concepts of Mental Health for Adults**  
**Catalog Description**

This didactic course presents common mental health disorders seen in primary care settings within the scope of practice of the AGNP. This course identifies pathophysiology, clinical presentations, interventions, and outcomes of common mental health disorders in adult and geriatric patients. Importance is placed on early screening, diagnosis, treatment and referrals. The reciprocal relationship of mental and physical health is emphasized. Pre/corequisite: 6010, 6020, 6034. [1]

**NURS6295 - Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Clinical II**  
**Catalog Description**

In this clinical course, the student implements the role of the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner working with patients in the primary care setting. The focus is on the synthesis of theory, knowledge and skills from previous courses for the Adult Nurse Practitioner scope of practice. Pre/corequisites: 6010, 6011, 6020, 6031, 6034, 6045, 6055, 6065, 6205, 6215, 6234, 6236. [4]

**NURS6301 - Concepts of Advanced Emergency Nursing**  
**Catalog Description**

This course explores at an advanced practice level the knowledge base and skills necessary to render emergency and trauma care. This will provide a foundation for future ENP role development. The essential evaluation, stabilization and critical time management techniques will be discussed utilizing didactic classroom instruction, case scenarios & lab/simulations. This class will address frequently encountered diseases and injuries in an emergency care setting. Prerequisite: 6011. Current RN licensure or permission of the instructor. [3]

**NURS6305 - Advanced Health Applications for the Family/ Emergency Nurse Practitioner**  
**Catalog Description**

Advanced health assessment skills emphasized in this course include performing appropriate health histories and physical examinations on patients of all ages presenting for emergency care. Systematic and organized health assessments that are sensitive to cultural and developmental needs are explored through didactic modules, simulations & clinical experiences. In addition, the course explores best practices for performing procedural skills and emphasizes proper documentation of gathered data. Pre/corequisite: 6011, or post-master's status, graduate-level standing, admission to the ENP specialty. [1]

**NURS6361 - Pathophysiology & Collaborative Management in Emergent & Critical Care**  
**Catalog Description**

This didactic course is designed to facilitate ENP student exploration of the pathophysiology, assessment, diagnosis, and collaborative management of selected urgent and emergent health problems across the lifespan. Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze, integrate, and synthesize pathophysiologic concepts and current research findings for collaborative management of commonly encountered & critical care conditions within emergency care settings. Prerequisite: Enrollment in ENP Specialty Program. Co-requisite: NURS 6365. [3]

**NURS6365 - Trauma, Emergency & Critical Care Clinical I**  
**Catalog Description**

N6365 provides the FNP prepared student with clinical experiences supporting the development and application of the emergency nurse practitioner role. Emergency Department settings allow the student to apply management skills, nursing theory, critical thought incorporating pathophysiologic and psychosocial concepts in planning care for acutely & critically ill patients across the lifespan. Clinical conferences allow students to explore the synthesis of didactic knowledge with clinical experiences in emergency care. Prerequisite: Enrollment in ENP Specialty Program. Co-requisite: NURS 6361. [3]

**NURS6375 - Trauma, Emergency & Critical Care Clinical II**  
**Catalog Description**

N6375 is the second in a 2-part clinical sequence designed to provide the FNP with clinical experience in development and application of the roles of the acute care emergency nurse practitioner. Emergency Department settings allow the student to apply management skills, nursing theory, pathophysiologic and psychosocial concepts in planning care for patients across the lifespan. The student will practice in clinical settings for a total of 210 hours. Clinical conferences will be held weekly and will focus on pathophysiology, diagnoses, and collaborative and therapeutic management related to emergency care. Prerequisites: Enrollment in ENP Specialty Program, 6361, 6365. Co-requisite: 6301. [3]

**NURS6385 - Practicum in Emergency Care I**  
**Catalog Description**

This course is designed to provide clinical experience in development and application of the roles of the emergency nurse practitioner. Emergency Care settings provide the student the opportunity to apply management skills, pathophysiologic and psychosocial concepts in planning care for patients. Clinical conferences will focus on pathophysiology, diagnoses, and therapeutic management related to emergency care of patients across the lifespan. Prerequisites: 6011, 6020. Corequisites: 6301, 6525. [1]

## **NURS6395 - Practicum in Emergency Care II**

### **Catalog Description**

This course is designed to provide clinical experience in development and application of the roles of the Family & Emergency Nurse Practitioner. Emergency Care settings will provide the student the opportunity to apply management skills, pathophysiologic and psychosocial concepts in planning care for patients. Clinical conferences will focus on pathophysiology, diagnoses, and therapeutic management related to emergency care of patients across the lifespan. Pre/corequisites: 6301, 6305, 6385. [1]

## **NURS6404 - Directed Reading**

### **Catalog Description**

This directed reading course introduces students to contemporary issues that influence society and healthcare. Students explore the socio-political and ethical environments in which advanced practice nurse leadership takes place. Students demonstrate critical thinking and analysis in the course assignments and discussions. This course builds on leadership knowledge and skills acquired during earlier semesters in the NHCL program as well as from experiential knowledge acquired by the student as a practicing nurse. [1]

## **NURS6408 - Strategic Planning for Health Care Organizations**

### **Catalog Description**

This course focuses on short- and long-term strategic issues that affect the financing, organization, and delivery of health care services. Students develop competency in strategic planning and apply these skills to complex healthcare organizations. [2]

## **NURS6410 - Design Thinking and Innovation Health**

### **Catalog Description**

This course offers students an immersive experience in design thinking, a human-centered approach to innovation. Students are introduced to the concepts of the design thinking process - a systematic approach to creative problem-solving and innovation. A brief background is provided on the theory and relevant history of design thinking. The stages of the design thinking process and methodologies are described. Examples of design thinking are provided to demonstrate how design thinking has been used to create innovations that promote the adoption and spread of ideas. This course also prepares students' mindset for innovation as a design thinker. [3]

## **NURS6411 - Foundations of Leadership**

### **Catalog Description**

The call for nurses to advance and assume leadership positions within their organizations is a current imperative. Amid the complex nature of leadership within health care, this course provides students with a foundation in the many aspects of leadership ranging from an understanding of personal attributes, strengths, and challenges to a review of contemporary leadership theories and conflict management. This introductory course provides practical application of leadership principles. Enrollment limited to students in Nursing Informatics or Nursing and Health Care Leadership. [3]

## **NURS6414 - Organizational Behavior in Complex Health Care Systems**

### **Catalog Description**

This course provides an in-depth analysis of the theories and concepts of organizational behavior in complex health care systems and provides insight into why people behave the way they do. The content balances classical management ideas with thorough coverage of the most recent organizational behavior developments and contemporary trends. The course is designed for nursing managers and leaders who are charged with predicting and effectively influencing those they lead. Prerequisite: 6411. [3]

**NURS6417 - Advanced Leadership and Human Capital**  
**Catalog Description**

This course focuses on the art and science of leading and managing people. The course guides students in their quest to become resonant leaders, coaches, and mentors, and to embrace diversity in the teams they lead. Reality based decision making is explored as an approach to support high quality and safe patient care. [3]

**NURS6485 - Practicum I**  
**Catalog Description**

This course is a leadership/management practicum experience in which students apply models of quality improvement, informatics, leadership and organizational behavior, outcome measurement, and financial management in a selected health care setting. This practicum provides students with an opportunity to work closely with a leader in a variety of health care settings. Students contribute to the functioning of the health care agency and complete an agency designated project(s) during the practicum. Pre-co-requisites: All specialty courses except 6404. [3]

**NURS6495 - Practicum II**  
**Catalog Description**

This practicum provides the student with an opportunity to work closely with a manager or administrator in a formal mentorship arrangement in a health care setting. The student has an opportunity to observe and practice management and leadership skills in a health care organization. The role of a leader is explored in the context of the changing health care environment. In addition, the student explores population health strategies, works on agency designated projects, and presents the process and results of a completed project. This practicum builds on skills and experiences attained in 6485, Practicum I, of the NHCL program. Students are assigned to a more senior leader in N6495, and complexity of course deliverables is enhanced. Pre/co-requisites: All specialty courses except 6404. [4]

**NURS6505 - Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Family Nurse Practitioner**  
**Catalog Description**

This course builds on knowledge of advanced health assessment with a focus on clients commonly seen in the family practice setting. Advanced health assessment techniques are emphasized. Diverse types of approaches are used in expanding proficiency in conducting histories and physical examinations in laboratory and clinical settings. Communication techniques unique to the specialty population are emphasized. Systematic and organized health assessments that are sensitive to cultural and developmental needs are explored. Pre/corequisite: 6011, graduate-level standing, admission to the specialty. [1]

**NURS6521 - The Context of Primary Care: Family Nurse Practitioner Domains and Core Competencies for Practice**  
**Catalog Description**

This course is designed to provide Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) students with the knowledge of the context of primary care and related domains and core competencies of family nurse practitioner practice identified by the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF). Specific content of the course covers the hallmarks of primary care and the seven domains and focuses on operationalizing competencies into practice. Competencies needed to promote and protect health and prevent disease are emphasized. Pre-requisite knowledge: This course builds on previous course work involving the assessment, diagnosis, and management of common and chronic conditions seen in the primary care setting. Pre-requisite: Graduate status and FNP specialty student required. [2]

**NURS6525 - Practicum in Primary Health Care of the Child and Adolescent**  
**Catalog Description**

This course is a clinical practicum focusing on child and adolescent health care with an emphasis on health promotion, management of common health problems, and client education. A developmental approach across the lifespan is used in assessing the client and family in formulating the treatment plan. Students participate in a clinical rotation in a pediatric health care setting which provides the opportunity for health assessment of the child and adolescent and formulation of a comprehensive plan of care. Clinical conferences highlight various pathophysiological and psychological processes encountered with children and their families. The role of the nurse practitioner as a primary health care provider in a variety of pediatric settings is examined. Relevant resources and research related to the child and adolescent are explored with the application of findings to the care of clients. Prerequisites: 6010, 6011, 6020, 6305, Corequisite: 6036. [2]

**NURS6531 - Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Child**  
**Catalog Description**

This course presents knowledge necessary for the practice of primary health care of children. Course content includes the principles of health promotion, disease prevention and assessment, and management of common primary health care problems in diverse pediatric populations. Emphasis is placed on developmental needs and the pathophysiologic processes underlying certain conditions. The impact of the family on the health of the child is explored. Students are introduced to the dynamics of the managed care environment. Prerequisite: 6011. [2]

**NURS6532 - Advanced Practice Nursing in the Primary Care of The Older Adult**  
**Catalog Description**

In this didactic course, knowledge is presented that is necessary for the practice of primary health care nursing of the elderly. Course content includes the principles of health promotion, disease prevention and assessment, and management of common primary health care problems in diverse elderly populations. Emphasis is placed on developmental needs and the pathophysiologic processes underlying certain conditions. The impact of the family on the health of the elderly is explored. Students are introduced to the dynamics of the managed care environment. Prerequisite: 6011. [1]

**NURS6535 - Practicum in Primary Health Care of the Adult for Dual Specialty**  
**Catalog Description**

This course is a clinical practicum focusing on adult health care with an emphasis on health promotion, management of common acute and chronic health problems, and client education. A developmental approach across the lifespan is used in assessing the client and family in formulating the treatment plan. Students participate in a clinical rotation in adult health care settings which provide the opportunity for health assessment of the adult and the development of a comprehensive plan of care. Clinical conferences highlight pathophysiological processes and psychological needs of the adults and their families. The role of the nurse practitioner as a primary health care provider in a variety of adult settings will be examined. Students explore relevant resources related to adult health care and apply findings to client situations. Corequisites: 6010, 6011, 6020, 6030, 6305. [3]

**NURS6538 - Behavioral Health for Primary Care I**  
**Catalog Description**

This course provides the theoretical content for managing dysfunctional coping patterns and psychiatric disorders of individuals presenting to primary care settings. The DSM-5 (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders) will be used as the basis for diagnostic nomenclature and differential diagnosis. Emphasis will be placed on screening and assessment of common psychiatric disorders to inform appropriate management within the primary care setting. Permission must be granted by the FNP academic director prior to enrolling in the course. Prerequisites: 6010, 6011, 6011L, 6020, 6030, 6505. Corequisite: 6555. [1]

**NURS6539 - Behavioral Health for Primary Care II**  
**Catalog Description**

This course provides evidence-based treatment strategies for common psychiatric disorders in the primary care setting. Pharmacological and nonpharmacological interventions will be discussed as well as strategies for timely referral and collaboration with mental health professionals as indicated. Permission must be granted by the FNP academic director prior to enrolling in the course. Prerequisite: NURS 6538. [2]

**NURS6545 - Practicum in Primary Health Care of the Adult**  
**Catalog Description**

This course is a clinical practicum focusing on adult health care with emphasis on health promotion, management of common acute and chronic health problems, and client education. Students participate in a clinical rotation in adult health care settings which provide the opportunity for health assessment of the adult and the development of a comprehensive plan of care. Clinical conferences highlight pathophysiological processes and psychological needs of the adults and their families. The role of the nurse practitioner as a primary health care provider in a variety of adult settings will be examined. Students explore relevant resources related to adult health care and apply findings to client situations. This course is for NMW and NMW/FNP students. Prerequisite: 6011, 6805, 6810; Pre/Corequisite: 6020, 6821. [2]

**NURS6555 - Practicum in Primary Health Care of the Family**  
**Catalog Description**

This course is a clinical practicum focusing on child, adolescent and adult health care with an emphasis on health promotion, management of common health problems, and client education. A developmental approach across the lifespan is used in assessing the client and family in formulating the treatment plan. This course builds on knowledge acquired in previous courses of advanced health assessment, pharmacology, pathophysiology, and primary care of the child, adolescent, adult and elderly client. Students participate in a clinical rotation in a primary care setting which provides the opportunity for health assessment of clients of all ages and the formulation of a comprehensive plan of care. Clinical conferences highlight various pathophysiological and psychological processes encountered with clients and their families. The role of the nurse practitioner as a primary health care provider in a variety of primary health care settings will be examined. Relevant resources/research related to health is explored with the application of findings to the care of clients. Prerequisites for FNP: 6011, 6505; Corequisites for FNP: 6010, 6020, 6030, 6036. Prerequisite for NMW/FNP: 6045; Corequisites for NMW/FNP: 6010, 6020, 6030, 6036, 6585. [Variable credit - 4 for FNP; 2 for NMW/FNP]

**NURS6565 - Practicum in Primary Health Care of the Family**  
**Catalog Description**

This course is a clinical practicum focusing on child, adolescent and adult health care with an emphasis on health promotion, management of common health problems, and client education. A developmental approach across the lifespan is used in assessing the client and family in formulating the treatment plan. Students participate in a clinical rotation in a primary care setting which provides the opportunity for health assessment of clients of all ages and the formulation of a comprehensive plan of care. Clinical conferences highlight various pathophysiological and psychological processes encountered with clients and their families. The role of the nurse practitioner as a primary health care provider in a variety of primary health care settings will be examined. Relevant resources/research related to health is explored with the application of findings to the care of clients. Prerequisite: 6010, 6011, 6020, 6030, 6036, 6505, 6532, 6555. [1]

**NURS6575 - Clinical Decision Making for the Family Nurse Practitioner**  
**Catalog Description**

This clinical course builds on knowledge and skills developed in previous didactic courses and implemented in the first practicum. Emphasis is on utilization of evidence-based practice and the integration of technology into primary care. This course focuses on management of the patient with complex acute or chronic illness. The purpose of the course is to enable the student to enter practice with the ability to independently manage patients across the lifespan. Prerequisite: 6010, 6011, 6020, 6030, 6032, 6036, 6505, 6521, 6532, 6555. Corequisite: 6565, 6585. [1]

## **NURS6585 - Family Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship**

### **Catalog Description**

In this clinical course, the student implements the role of the family nurse practitioner working with clients across the lifespan and their families in urban and/or rural primary care settings. The focus is on the integration of theory, knowledge, and skills from previous courses within the family nurse practitioner scope of practice. Pre/corequisite for FNP students: 6555; pre/corequisite for NMW/FNP students: 6545, 6555. [5]

## **NURS6595 - Family Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship for Dual Specialty**

### **Catalog Description**

In this clinical course, the student implements the role of the family nurse practitioner working with clients across the lifespan and their families in primary care settings. The focus is on the integration of theory, knowledge, and skills from previous courses within the family nurse practitioner scope of practice. Prerequisites: 6020, 6030, 6032, 6036. [3]

## **NURS6602 - Developmental/Neonatal Physiology**

### **Catalog Description**

This course provides an in-depth examination of human genetics, embryologic development and normal physiologic functioning of developing body systems. Mechanisms involved in cell division, gametogenesis, and inheritance patterns are addressed. The structural and functional development of fetal systems, during critical periods, is emphasized. Abnormalities and alterations in fetal development are explored. Environmental factors that influence the structural and functional development of fetal systems are discussed. Long-term clinical implications of alterations in structure and physiologic functioning are also addressed. [2] Fall.

## **NURS6605 - Advanced Neonatal Health Assessment**

### **Catalog Description**

This core course provides opportunities for NNP students to develop the knowledge and skills needed to perform a comprehensive health and gestational age assessment. Data to collect when eliciting a health history, principles of performing a physical and gestational age assessment, diagnostic study interpretations, and examination techniques are stressed in the didactic portion of the course. Critical thinking is emphasized as the basis for synthesis of knowledge regarding the performance of health histories, physical assessments, and identification of potential diagnostic tests for alterations in clinical findings. Emphasis is placed on the recognition of assessment findings that deviate from normal. This supervised clinical experience will occur in the regular newborn nursery and/or Level II Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Students will have the opportunity to perform health histories, health assessments and gestational age assessments with both normal term and/or late preterm infants who are well and just growing in anticipation of discharge from the hospital. [3]

## **NURS6610 - Neonatal Nursing Birth Through 2 Years of Age**

### **Catalog Description**

This course focuses on the health status and care of the neonates and infants through 2 years of age. Emphasis is placed on theories of attachment, growth and development through 2 years of age. This course is designed to help students in the use of critical thinking to foster health promotion, primary prevention of illness and management of common older infant medical conditions. Physical, social, cognitive and emotional growth will be addressed as well as issues associated with the development of sleep/wake cycles, infant behavior, newborn laboratory screening, feeding, infant and childhood immunizations, safety, and common parental concerns. Normal variations and minor disruptions in aspects of newborn and infant health are emphasized. Knowledge synthesized from this course provides an essential working foundation for future neonatal/infant course work. Clinical practice in the role of the NNP related to infant outcomes and ethical dilemmas are discussed. Corequisite: 6602. [2]



**NURS6614 - Neonatal Pathophysiology and Management I**  
**Catalog Description**

This is the first of two sequential courses in which students examine the pathophysiology and management of ill neonates/infants and their families. Theory and research form the basis for discussions of clinical assessment and restorative care. This course emphasizes the role of the advanced practice nurse in the care of high-risk neonates/infants. Perinatal risk factors associated with variations in neonatal health and functioning are also examined. Issues, trends and legal issues of the NNP role are addressed. Corequisite: 6602, 6605, 6610. [3]

**NURS6615 - Neonatal Practicum**  
**Catalog Description**

Clinical practicum and seminars provide opportunities for developing advanced skills in the nursing care of level II neonates and infants through 2 years of age. Experiences in facilitating and evaluating continuity of care across several settings are a major thrust. Students may work collaboratively with NNPs on unit-based projects as part of the practicum. Advanced practice nursing roles and expert skills are critically examined in clinical and individual conferences. RN licensure is required prior to beginning clinical hours. This course builds on the knowledge obtained during the fall and early part of the spring semesters. Students are expected to attend deliveries and provide complete care to neonates/infants in a level II nursery. Experiences will also occur in the newborn follow-up clinic or pediatrician office to care for older infants through 2 years of age if available. Prerequisite: 6602, 6605, 6610, 6614; corequisite: 6620, 6624; successful completion of Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) is required prior to clinical. [3]

**NURS6620 - Introduction to Advanced Procedures for Neonatal Nurse Practitioners**  
**Catalog Description**

This course provides students with an introduction to the advanced practice skills commonly performed by neonatal nurse practitioners. A step-by-step practical approach is taken to describe the procedures. Students demonstrate an understanding of essential intensive care nursery concepts, skill, and equipment necessary for completing direct bedside assessment and care of neonates in a safe manner. The theoretical basis, indications and complications for these skills are emphasized. Students have the opportunity to practice the skills presented in the course under the supervision of experienced Advanced Practice Neonatal Nurses. The differentiation between normal and abnormal lab values are also emphasized. In addition, professional issues relevant to the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner will be discussed - tips for interviewing, negotiating an advanced practice position, development of an evidence based protocol, professional responsibilities, and professional development. Prerequisite: 6602, 6605, 6610, 6614. Corequisite: 6621, 6624. [3]

**NURS6621 - Advanced Neonatal Pharmacotherapeutics**  
**Catalog Description**

This course provides students preparing for roles within the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner specialty with knowledge of the pharmacotherapeutics for common classifications of drugs used to care for neonates and infants. The physiologic action of selected prescription drugs, unexpected client responses and major untoward effects encountered in diseases of the neonates are discussed. Pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic principles, their clinical application and the use of pharmacologic agents in the prevention of illness and the restoration and maintenance of health are emphasized. Emphasis is placed on indications for correct drug choice, usual dose, routes of administration, pharmacological mechanisms in association with drug interactions, adverse effects; and contraindications for use are included. Discussions of clinical judgments in the management and evaluation of pharmacologic therapeutic agents for neonatal use are emphasized. Prerequisite: Graduate level standing and admission to the NNP specialty. Can be taken as a special student with permission of the instructor. [3]

**NURS6624 - Neonatal Pathophysiology and Management II**  
**Catalog Description**

This is the second of two sequential courses in which students examine the pathophysiology and management of ill neonates/infants and their families. Theory and research form the basis for discussions of clinical assessment and restorative care. This course continues to emphasize the role of the advanced practice nurse in the care of high-risk neonates/infants. Integration of previous knowledge of embryology, physiology, pathophysiology, interpretation of lab data, radiologic findings and collaboration with other health professionals are emphasized. Prerequisite: 6602, 6605, 6610, 6614; Corequisite: 6620, 6621. [3]

## **NURS6695 - Neonatal Preceptorship**

### **Catalog Description**

Students synthesize theory, knowledge, and skills from previous courses within the neonatal nurse practitioner scope of practice. Clinical preceptorships provide students with opportunities to further develop expertise relevant to the assessment and management of groups of neonates and infants through 2 years of age. Prerequisite: 6602, 6605, 6610, 6614, 6615, 6620, 6624; all core courses, RN licensure, NRP (Neonatal Resuscitation Program) and PALS (Pediatric Advanced Life Support). [6]

## **NURS6710 - Fundamentals of Nursing Informatics-NI Professional Formation 1**

### **Catalog Description**

This course provides an overview of informatics and the role it plays in the delivery of evidence based care. With a focus on healthcare information technology's contribution to data acquisition, this course will enhance the learner's understanding of the transformation of data into information and knowledge. A practical approach is taken to ensure learners understand essential elements of informatics practice such as the system development lifecycle, the electronic health record, national health policy, patient quality, and the safe use of technology. This course prepares the learner to optimize the use of clinical systems and technology tools to continue to advance practice and drive clinical transformation. [3]

## **NURS6715 - Nursing Informatics Practicum I**

### **Catalog Description**

In this course, the learner implements the role of the informatics nurse specialist in a health care setting. The focus is on the integration and application of theory, knowledge, and skills from previous courses within the various roles open to an informatics nurse specialist. Learners are provided an opportunity to work closely with a preceptor to observe and participate in real world informatics activities. Under the guidance of the preceptor, learners will have the opportunity to use current informatics evidence and research from the literature, collect and analyze data, demonstrate critical thinking skills, identify researchable clinical informatics problems, and identify and evaluate various informatics roles. Prerequisite: 6723. [3]

## **NURS6720 - Theories, Frameworks and Models Supporting Informatics Practice-NI Professional Formation 2**

### **Catalog Description**

This course is the second in a series of courses facilitating professional formation for the informatics nurse specialist. Building on content from NI Professional Formation 1, learners will develop knowledge and skills in the concepts, theories, models, and frameworks that support informatics practice. Topics include evidence-based practice, organizational theories, systems thinking, the socio-technical model, human factors engineering principles, and information science theories. The application of ethical principles and systematic change processes will be emphasized throughout the course. Prerequisite: 6710. [3]

## **NURS6723 - Nursing Informatics and the Information System Lifecycle**

### **Catalog Description**

This course focuses on a structured approach to methods, techniques, and tools for information system development and implementation used by informatics nurse specialists. The information system life cycle approach incorporates the following phases: planning, analysis, design, implementation, and evaluation. Planning and management of disaster recovery, business continuity, and methods of evaluating effectiveness and return on investment are included. Prerequisite: 6710, 6720, 6732. [3]

## **NURS6724 - Designing, Planning, and Managing Informatics Training and Education**

### **Catalog Description**

Informatics nurse specialists must have the knowledge and ability to support health care providers and patients through training and education. This course will expose learners to various learning theories and educational delivery methods that provide the skills to develop effective and efficient learning activities. [3]

### **NURS6727 - Data to Information I**

#### **Catalog Description**

Informatics nurses must possess a fundamental understanding of database structure and function, and the ability to perform basic database coding adds value to the role. In this course learners will gain the practical skills to create a database, add data, query the data, and begin the process of analyzing results, using statistical concepts. Data analysis will be continued in the Data to Information II course. [3]

### **NURS6728 - Data to Information II**

#### **Catalog Description**

Building upon Data to Information I, this course focuses on the use of rapidly growing clinical data to support continuous learning in healthcare. Learners will be exposed to key concepts in Learning Health Systems, data science, machine learning, "big data," and the application of diverse methods to improve the quality of healthcare outside of traditional clinical trials and related approaches. The course will emphasize data science studies in biomedical literature, clinical prediction models, and collaboration with data scientists. Prerequisite: 6727. [3]

### **NURS6730 - Advanced Concepts of Informatics-NI Professional Formation 3**

#### **Catalog Description**

This course is the third in a series of courses facilitating professional formation in the informatics nurse specialist role. Building on content from NI Professional Formation 2, learners will acquire advanced knowledge in contemporary health informatics topics applicable to local, national, and global environments. Ranging from interoperability to knowledge representation to genetics/genomics to health policy to healthcare delivery outside the clinical environment, this survey course will cover a large breadth of topics and facilitate learners' ability to acquire greater content depth in a self-directed manner. Learners will also be exposed to professional development and career planning resources. Prerequisite: 6720. [3]

### **NURS6732 - Designing, Planning and Managing Scalable Projects**

#### **Catalog Description**

Regardless of size or scope, all new and existing projects within a healthcare setting can benefit from leaders able to execute successful project management skills. Project management skills covered in this course include determining project scope, time, cost, quality, human resource, communications, risk, and procurement management. This course will expose learners to the tools and skills required to successfully manage complex informatics projects within healthcare settings. Learners will be exposed to tools and frameworks found in business and management environments. Practical skills that leverage software will be acquired through hands-on application. Prerequisite: 6710. [3]

### **NURS6795 - Nursing Informatics Practicum II**

#### **Catalog Description**

This practicum builds on skills and experiences obtained in Nursing Informatics Practicum I. The learner will continue to be mentored by a preceptor in a healthcare setting. The focus is on the integration and application of theory, knowledge, and skills from previous courses with increasing complexity and advanced critical thinking. Under the guidance of the preceptor, learners will have the opportunity to grow their informatics knowledge and further evaluate their role as an informatics nurse specialist. In this second practicum, students will complete an informatics related project pertinent to a healthcare organization using evidence and data to address a real world problem. Prerequisite: 6715. [3]

**NURS6805 - Advanced Health Assessment Applications for Nurse-Midwifery**  
**Catalog Description**

This course builds on knowledge of advanced health assessment with a focus on clients commonly seen in the nurse-midwifery practice setting. Techniques, including communication skills, used in assessment of the health status of non-pregnant and pregnant persons and the fetus are developed and refined in laboratory and clinical settings. Congruence of philosophical concepts among the profession, school, and the program is introduced. The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice (including Hallmarks of Midwifery and Midwifery Management Process), Standards for Midwifery Practice, and Code of Ethics provide the basis for clinical actions. This course builds on knowledge of advanced health assessment with a focus on clients commonly seen in the nurse-midwifery practice setting. Pre/corequisite: 6011, graduate-level standing, admission to the specialty. [1]

**NURS6810 - Gynecologic, Reproductive and Sexual Health for Nurse Midwifery**  
**Catalog Description**

Consistent with the emerging definitions of reproductive health and practice of individuals needing reproductive care, this course examines a full range of health issues, with a focus on gynecologic needs. This course includes prevention, social/structural determinants of health, patient education, and reconceptualization of individuals' relationships with health care providers. Topics from menarche, preconception to menopause will be covered. This course builds on knowledge of basic reproductive anatomy and physiology as well as techniques of assessment to facilitate student's ability to translate knowledge into clinical application. Students synthesize knowledge of organic processes, identify deviations from normal and appropriate interventions; including management of complications and emergencies utilizing consultation, collaboration, and/or referral as indicated. Pre/corequisite: 6011. [3]

**NURS6811 - Reproductive Anatomy and Physiology**  
**Catalog Description**

Normal anatomy and physiologic processes of reproduction, including changes during the maternity cycle, are studied. Selected physiologic processes associated with healthy women across the lifespan, human genetics, development of the products of conception, the maternity cycle and the implications for client adaptations are examined. [2]

**NURS6812 - Evolution of Midwifery in America**  
**Catalog Description**

This course surveys the historical and social literature of midwifery nursing and medicine in the context of the care of women and infants. Development of midwifery and the professional organization are analyzed and interpreted. Development of the midwife and nurse-midwife are examined in relation to societal, economic, and political issues involved in health care systems from the 18th century to present. Dynamics that affect midwifery and medical models of care will be discussed to provide critical understanding of the health care of women and persons accessing sexual and/or reproductive care in America. Prerequisite: none. [2]

**NURS6815 - Nurse-Midwifery Practicum I**  
**Catalog Description**

This course addresses the clinical application of preconception, antepartum, primary care, and comprehensive gynecologic/reproductive/sexual health care from adolescence through the lifespan. Students apply advanced knowledge of normal physiology, pathophysiology and psychosocial concepts to nurse-midwifery care of individuals in ambulatory clinical settings. The midwifery management process is used as the foundation for clinical encounters. Students have the opportunity to apply components of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) Philosophy, Code of Ethics, ACNM Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice (including Hallmarks of Midwifery), and the Standards for Midwifery Practice. Clinical experience is under the supervision of nurse-midwifery, nurse practitioner, or physician preceptors. Students participate in discussions related to a variety of professional practice issues inherent to outpatient clinical practice. Prerequisites: 6011, 6011L, 6805, 6810; corequisites: 6020, 6821. [2]

**NURS6821 - Antepartal Care for Nurse-Midwifery**  
**Catalog Description**

This course provides the theoretical basis for person-centered care during pregnancy, which respects and is inclusive of diverse histories, backgrounds, and identities. Pregnancy is viewed as a normal physiologic and developmental process that affects and is affected by a variety of factors, including psychosocial, epidemiologic, legal and ethical issues. Strategies are presented for health promotion, disease prevention, and health education, including empowerment of individuals seeking midwifery care and collaboration with other members of the interprofessional health care team. Selected complications of pregnancy are addressed, and appropriate application of technology, pharmacologic, non-pharmacologic, and evidence-based integrative therapies are considered. A variety of evidence supporting management decisions is critically examined, including published research, standards of care, and risk management principles. The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) Philosophy, Code of Ethics, ACNM Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice (including Hallmarks of Midwifery and Midwifery Management Process), and the Standards for Midwifery Practice provide the framework for the course. Prerequisite: 6810. Pre/corequisite: 6811. [3]

**NURS6825 - Practicum for Gynecologic, Antepartum & Primary Care for Nurse-Midwifery**  
**Catalog Description**

This course addresses the clinical application of preconception, antepartum, primary care, and comprehensive gynecologic/reproductive/sexual health care from adolescence through the lifespan. Students apply advanced knowledge of normal physiology, pathophysiology and psychosocial concepts to nurse midwifery care of individuals in ambulatory clinical settings. The midwifery management process is used as the foundation for clinical encounters. Students have the opportunity to apply components of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) Philosophy, Code of Ethics, ACNM Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice (including Hallmarks of Midwifery), and the Standards for Midwifery Practice. Clinical experience is under the supervision of nurse midwifery ,nurse practitioner, or physician preceptors. Students participate in discussions related to a variety of professional practice issues inherent to outpatient clinical practice. Clinical conferences highlight physiologic and pathophysiological processes and psychological needs of the adults and their families. This course is for NMW students. Prerequisite: 6011, 6012, 6805, 6810; Pre/corequisite: 6020, 6821. [3]

**NURS6831 - Skills for Nurse-Midwifery**  
**Catalog Description**

This course provides nurse-midwifery students with clinical and laboratory experiences needed to develop skills necessary during uncomplicated birth and specific complicated or emergency situations in the intrapartum and postpartum periods. Prerequisite: 6805, 6810. Pre/Corequisite: 6821. [1]

**NURS6835 - Practicum in Intrapartum/Postpartum/Neonatal Nurse-Midwifery Care**  
**Catalog Description**

Students will integrate principles, current literature, theory and research findings into the management of the care of individuals during the intrapartum and postpartum periods, and management of the newborn from birth to 28 days of life. Methods of screening for abnormalities, supporting healthy adaptation to extrauterine life, and facilitating healthy parental-newborn family relationships are applied. Students have the opportunity to apply components of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) Philosophy, Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice (including the Hallmarks of Midwifery and Midwifery Management Process), and Standards for the Practice of Midwifery, and the Code of Ethics in the management of labor, birth, and the puerperium, as well as in management of the newborn through 28 days of life. Clinical objectives are achieved in a variety of settings under the preceptorship of experienced certified nurse-midwives and physicians. Prerequisite: 6011, 6020, 6805, 6811, 6815. Pre/Corequisite: 6831, 6836, 6838. [4]

**NURS6836 - Intrapartum Care for Nurse-Midwifery**  
**Catalog Description**

This course examines the theoretical basis of intrapartum nurse-midwifery management. Multidisciplinary theories, concepts, and research are synthesized to develop safe management plans that are culturally and ethically appropriate and applicable to the physical, emotional, and educational needs of the laboring person and their family. Nurse-midwifery management recognizes pregnancy and birth as a normal physiologic and developmental process. Management includes non-intervention in the absence of complications as well as selected intrapartum complications and emergencies. A variety of evidence supporting management decisions is critically examined, including published research, standards of care, and risk management principles. The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), Philosophy, Code of Ethics, ACNM Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice (including Hallmarks of Midwifery and Midwifery Management Process), and the Standards for Midwifery Practice provide the framework of the course. Prerequisite: 6011, 6020, 6805, 6810, 6811, 6815, 6821. [3]

**NURS6838 - Postpartum and Neonatal Care for Nurse-Midwifery**  
**Catalog Description**

This course examines theory and research related to nurse-midwifery management of the postpartum women/individuals and newborns individually and as a dyad, and strategies for facilitating healthy physiological adaptation and parental-family-newborn relationships. Methods of screening for and collaborative management of common abnormalities are discussed. Management includes non-intervention in the absence of complications as well as selected complications and emergencies. The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice (including Hallmarks of Midwifery and Midwifery Management Process), Standards of Midwifery Practice and Code of Ethics provide the framework for the course. Prerequisite: 6010, 6020 and 6811. [2]

**NURS6841 - Nurse-Midwifery Role Synthesis, Exploration, and Analysis**  
**Catalog Description**

This course is designed to prepare the nurse-midwifery student for entry into professional practice. In addition, concepts related to leadership, reimbursement and quality principles to continually improve healthcare are applied. The course builds on information initially discussed in NURS 6812 Evolution of Midwifery in America. Pre-requisites: 6812. Co-requisites: 6895 or permission of instructor. [2]

**NURS6895 - Advanced Clinical Integration Experience for Nurse-Midwifery**  
**Catalog Description**

The final nurse-midwifery practicum allows the student to practice full scope nurse-midwifery under the supervision of experienced Certified Nurse-Midwife preceptors, managing health care from perimenarche through menopause and newborn health care through the first month of life. Full scope nurse-midwifery care includes the areas of gynecology, preconception, antepartum, intrapartum, postpartum, newborn, breast-feeding support, and primary care of the pregnant and non-pregnant individual. Students immerse themselves in the clinical practice to which they are assigned and work in collaboration with the client and other health care providers, consulting and referring according to the nurse-midwifery management process. Academic faculty are closely involved with the selection of appropriate clinical sites and ongoing advisement and evaluation of the student during the practicum. A written comprehensive exam is taken after the practicum is completed. By the end of the course, the graduate is prepared to assume the role of the beginning professional nurse-midwife and to sit for the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) certification examination. The AMCB Philosophy, Code of Ethics, and Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice (including the Hallmarks of Midwifery and Midwifery Management Process), and the Standards for Midwifery Practice provide the framework for the course. Prerequisite: 6810, 6815, 6821, 6831, 6835, 6836, 6838. Corequisite: 6841. [5]

**NURS7011 - Health Promotion of Behavior Development: Birth through Adolescence**  
**Catalog Description**

This course focuses on the theoretical basis for pediatric advanced nursing practice emphasizing the development of the child and adolescent as an individual within the context of family and society. Using a family-centered approach, this course considers factors, techniques and research which facilitate or interfere with healthy development. Emphasis is placed on developing strategies for providing appropriate anticipatory guidance, health promotion, and disease prevention interventions within the life course. Pre/corequisite: None. [3]

**NURS7012 - Advanced Practice Nursing in Pediatric Primary Care-Part I**  
**Catalog Description**

This is the first course in a two-part pediatric primary care didactic course sequence. Information is presented that is necessary for the practice of primary health care nursing of children and adolescents. Course content includes information related to the principles of health promotion, disease prevention, and assessment and management of common primary health care problems in children and adolescents by pediatric nurse practitioners. Content is presented within a family-centered and developmental perspective and includes content related to advanced pathophysiology, research, psychosocial factors, and ethical considerations. Prerequisite: Graduate level standing, admission to the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program; Corequisite: 7011, 7013, 7015 or 7025, 6010. [3]

**NURS7013 - Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning**  
**Catalog Description**

Students differentiate abnormal from normal findings using advanced assessment techniques, interpret diagnostic study results and use clinical reasoning to formulate diagnoses for culturally diverse pediatric patients. Synthesizing a systematic, organized, family-centered health assessment that is sensitive to growth and development needs is emphasized. Health promotion and disease prevention strategies are discussed. Pre/corequisite: 6010, 7015 or 7025. [2]

**NURS7014 - Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning Lab**  
**Catalog Description**

This course is the foundational health assessment lab companion course for Advanced Health Assessment, N7013 for advanced nursing practice. The lab course builds on knowledge of advanced pediatric health assessment derived from didactic content in N7013. Diverse, interactive laboratory experiences, aided by surrogate patients, allow the student to develop proficiency in verbal and written communication, and advanced health assessment techniques within the context of developmentally appropriate, family-centered care. Corequisite: 7013. [1]

**NURS7015 - Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Primary Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner**  
**Catalog Description**

This course builds on knowledge of advanced health assessment with focus on clients commonly seen in the pediatric practice setting. Techniques, including communication skills, used to assess the health status of children and adolescents are enhanced and refined. Diverse clinical experiences are used to develop proficiency in history taking and health assessment techniques with children and adolescents within the context of family centered care. Synthesizing a systematic and organized health assessment, differential diagnosis and interventions that are sensitive to growth and developmental needs. Corequisite: 7013. [1]

## **NURS7021 - Advanced Practice Nursing in Pediatric Primary Care-Part II**

### **Catalog Description**

In this second part of the pediatric primary care didactic course sequence, information is presented that is necessary for the practice of primary health care nursing of children and adolescents. Course content builds upon the information presented in Part I related to the principles of health promotion, disease prevention, and assessment and management of common primary health care problems in children and adolescents. Using a family-centered and developmental perspective, related advanced pathophysiology, research, psychosocial factors, and ethical considerations are explored. Prerequisite: 6010, 7011, 7012, 7013/7015; Pre/corequisite: 7023. [3]

## **NURS7022 - Advanced Practice Nursing in Pediatric Acute Care-Part I**

### **Catalog Description**

In this first part of the pediatric acute care didactic course sequence, information is presented that is necessary for the practice and management of acutely ill, critically ill, and chronically ill children and adolescents. Course content relates to the principles of assessment and management of common health care problems in children and adolescents. A portion of the course includes information necessary for PNs to care for pediatric clients with special needs and their families. Using a family-centered and developmental perspective, related advanced pathophysiology, research, psychosocial factors, and ethical considerations are explored. Prerequisite: 6010, 7011, 7013, 7012, 7025; corequisite: 7024, 7045. [3]

## **NURS7023 - Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics**

### **Catalog Description**

This course is designed to provide students with the knowledge of pharmacokinetics that will enable the student to safely and appropriately select pharmacologic agents (prescription and over the counter) for the management of common acute and chronic health problems of pediatric clients. Specific content of the course covers representative drugs of a pharmacologic group, indications for use, drug selection, titration of dose, key adverse effects, and monitoring of therapy and alternative therapy. Prerequisite: Graduate level standing; admission to the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner program; Corequisites: 6010, 7011. [3]

## **NURS7024 - Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics**

### **Catalog Description**

This course is designed to provide students with the knowledge of pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics which will enable the student to safely and appropriately select pharmacologic agents for the management of acute and chronic health problems of pediatric clients in the acute care setting. Specific content of the course covers representative drugs of pharmacologic groups, indications for use, drug selection, titration of dose, key adverse effects, drug to drug interactions and monitoring of therapy. Legal and ethical considerations in pediatric pharmacotherapy are discussed. Pre/co-requisites: 6010, 7011, 7012, 7013, 7025. [3]

## **NURS7025 - Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Acute Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner**

### **Catalog Description**

This clinical, lab course builds on knowledge of advanced pediatric health assessment derived from didactic content in NURS 7013. Diverse, interactive laboratory experiences, aided by standardized and surrogate patients, allow the student to develop proficiency in verbal and written communication, and advanced health assessment techniques within the context of developmentally appropriate, family-centered care. Co-requisite: 7013. [1]



## **NURS7031 - Advanced Practice Nursing in Pediatric Acute Care-Part II**

### **Catalog Description**

This course is the second part of the acute care content designed to provide students with the knowledge necessary for the management of acutely ill, chronically ill, and critically ill children and adolescents. Course content builds upon the illness management presented in NURS 7022, and that of NURS 7025 related to the principles of assessment and management of common health care problems and developmental issues in children and adolescents. A portion of the course includes information necessary for PNP-ACs to care for pediatric clients with special needs and their families. Using a family-centered and developmental perspective, related advanced pathophysiology, research, psychosocial factors, and ethical considerations are explored. Prerequisites: 6010, 7011, 7013, 7022, 7025, 7045. Corequisite: 7095. [3]

## **NURS7032 - Current Issues in the Delivery of Advanced Pediatric Care**

### **Catalog Description**

The focus of this course is on the pediatric nurse practitioner role in developing, implementing, and evaluating comprehensive care with pediatric clients. Applications of effective strategies with selected families and populations are emphasized. The course provides an opportunity for synthesis of knowledge and skills, including management and communication strategies, health policies and trends, appropriate theories, and ethical principles. Pre/corequisite: None. [2]

## **NURS7035 - Practicum in Primary Health Care of Children**

### **Catalog Description**

This course is a precepted clinical practicum focusing on pediatric health care in the primary care setting with an emphasis on health promotion, management of common health problems, and client education. A developmental approach is used in assessing the child and adolescent and formulating the treatment plan. Nursing strategies to educate and assist children and families in adaptation to special health needs will be discussed and implemented. Learners also participate in clinical conferences where various pathophysiological and psychological processes encountered with the child and his/her family will be discussed. The role of the nurse practitioner as a primary health care provider in a variety of pediatric settings is examined. Learners explore relevant resources/research related to pediatric health care and apply findings to the care of clients. Prerequisite: 6010, 7011, 7012, 7013, 7015; Pre/corequisite: 7021, 7023. [4]

## **NURS7045 - Advanced Practice Nursing in Pediatric Acute Care Practicum - I**

### **Catalog Description**

This course is a precepted clinical practicum focusing on inpatient management of acutely ill, chronically ill, and critically ill pediatric patients. A developmental approach is used to assess hospitalized pediatric patients and formulate a comprehensive plan of care. Precepted clinical rotations in acute pediatric health-care settings provide the opportunity for advanced health assessment of the child, interdisciplinary collaboration, and comprehensive patient care management. All clinical experiences must occur in the acute care setting. Integrated principles of advanced pathophysiologic and psychosocial concepts will be applied to the care of acutely ill pediatric patients and their families. Emphasis will be placed on evidence-based, family-centered, culturally-competent pediatric health care. The role of the pediatric nurse practitioner as an acute care provider in a variety of pediatric settings will be examined. Prerequisite: 6010, 7011, 7012, 7013, 7025. Corequisite: 7022 and 7024. [4]

## **NURS7055 - Clinical Applications for the Acute Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner**

### **Catalog Description**

This course builds on knowledge of advanced health assessment with focus on synthesis and clinical applications in the pediatric acute care population. Diverse, case-based, clinical experiences are used to develop proficiency in history taking and focused physical exam of children and adolescents within the context of family centered care. Synthesis of objective and subjective findings to develop differential diagnoses for conditions common to the pediatric acute care population is emphasized. Rationale, protocols and techniques of advanced diagnostic and procedural skills are introduced. Corequisite: 7013, 7014. [1]

**NURS7085 - Advanced Pediatric Primary Care Preceptorship**  
**Catalog Description**

The focus of this clinical practicum is on implementation of the pediatric nurse practitioner role in delivering primary care to pediatric clients. The preceptorship provides a broad practice experience which allows for synthesis of knowledge and skills acquired in prerequisite and corequisite coursework. Emphasis is on providing comprehensive care to pediatric clients and families across a variety of practice settings in collaboration with other health professionals. At least 240 of the total clinical hours will be in primary care settings. Clinical seminars will focus on professional role issues for pediatric nurse practitioners and case presentations. Prerequisite: 6010, 7011, 7012, 7013, 7015, 7021, 7023, 7035. [5]

**NURS7095 - Advanced Practice Nursing in Pediatric Acute Care Practicum - II**  
**Catalog Description**

This course is a precepted clinical practicum focusing on the management of acutely ill, chronically ill, and critically ill pediatric patients and building upon the knowledge and experience gained in N7045. A developmental approach is used to assess hospitalized pediatric patients and formulate a comprehensive plan of care. Precepted clinical rotations in acute pediatric health-care settings provide the opportunity for advanced health assessment of the child, interdisciplinary collaboration, and comprehensive patient care management. All clinical experiences must occur in the acute care setting. Integrated principles of advanced pathophysiologic and psychosocial concepts will be applied to the care of acutely ill pediatric patients and their families. Emphasis will be placed on evidence-based, family-centered, culturally-competent pediatric health care. The role of the pediatric nurse practitioner as an acute care provider in a variety of pediatric settings will be examined. Prerequisite: 6010, 7011, 7012, 7013, 7022, 7025, and 7045. Corequisite: 7031. [4]

**NURS7205 - Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner**  
**Catalog Description**

This course is a precepted clinical practicum focusing on assessment and management of medical comorbidities and its impact on mental health. Systematic health assessments related to identification and management of comorbid medical conditions and the interrelationship of physical and psychiatric conditions and treatments are explored. Data collection and analysis builds upon the knowledge of advanced health assessment. Integrated principles of advanced pathophysiologic and pharmacologic concepts will be applied in the care of medically acute and chronically ill patients and their families. Health promotion, disease prevention, and client education is utilized in the management of clients' health problems. Communication techniques unique to the specialty population are emphasized. Pre/corequisite: 6010, 6011, 6011L, 6020, graduate-level standing, admission to the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program. [1]

**NURS7212 - Theories of Individual and Family Psychotherapy**  
**Catalog Description**

This course introduces a variety of conceptual models and theories related to the practice of individual psychotherapy and family therapy. Models of personality development and family dynamics provide a theoretical basis for understanding the development of psychopathology and selection of appropriate therapeutic strategies. Students will apply selected theories to case study material and evaluate the utility of theory-based research findings for specific client populations. [2]

**NURS7214 - Diagnostic Reasoning for the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Part I)**  
**Catalog Description**

This didactic course provides the theoretical content and clinical practice guidelines for assessing, diagnosing, and intervening in dysfunctional coping patterns and psychiatric disorders of individuals across the lifespan. The DSM-5 (Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders) will be used as the basis for diagnostic nomenclature across the lifespan. Emphasis will be placed on the assessment, diagnosis, and evidence-based non-pharmacological treatment of mental health disorders. Pre/Corequisite: 6011, 7212. Corequisite: 7215. [2]

## **NURS7215 - Foundational Practicum for Advanced Practice Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing Across the Lifespan**

### **Catalog Description**

This course serves as the introduction to the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner clinical experience. Clinical practicum provides students the opportunity to integrate theory and practice in supervised clinical experiences. Students will complete a total of 70 clinical hours with an approved site and preceptor. Clinical supervision of process dynamics, reflective practice and evidence-based psychiatric nursing interventions occurs during group clinical conference. Pre/corequisite: 6011, 7212. Corequisite: 7214. [1]

## **NURS7216 - Child and Adolescent Psychopathology**

### **Catalog Description**

This course builds on prerequisite knowledge of theoretical foundations of advanced nursing practice, mental health assessment, group and family therapy, models and theories of psychiatric nursing, neurobiology, psychopharmacology, research methods, pathophysiology, and clinical practicum with psychiatric patients. This two-credit course for post-master's Adult PMHNP or Adult PMHCNS students reviews the major childhood disorders; looking at epidemiology, health and mental health promotion and prevention, risk factors, taxonomy, cultural factors, assessment issues specific to children and adolescents, use of rating scales, as well as evidence-based child and adolescent specific treatments. Individual therapy, cognitive-behavioral therapy, family-based interventions, psychopharmacological interventions, trauma-based interventions and combinations of these treatments will all be presented. Pre/corequisite: Admission to the PMHNP specialty level as a post-master's student who holds current ANCC certification as an Adult Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) or Adult Psychiatric Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist (PMHCNS), has a master's degree or a post-master's certificate in psychiatric mental health nursing from an NLNAC or CCNE accredited program documented by official transcripts, holds a nursing license in an eligible state, and receives approval from the PMHNP Program Director to be eligible to take this course. [2]

## **NURS7221 - Neuroscience for Mental Health Practitioners**

### **Catalog Description**

This course presents advanced concepts in neuroscience and the clinical management of targeted psychiatric symptoms, related to the treatment of various psychiatric disorders. The course reflects current scientific knowledge of neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, and neurochemistry, and its application to clinical problems seen in a variety of settings. This course complements diagnostic and psychopharmacology content from 7222 to provide the advanced practitioner with knowledge related to clinical management of psychiatric illnesses. Pre/corequisite: 6010 and 7222 or permission of faculty. [3]

## **NURS7222 - Psychopharmacology**

### **Catalog Description**

This course presents advanced concepts in neuroscience, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics and the clinical management of targeted psychiatric symptoms, related to the psychopharmacologic treatment of various psychiatric disorders across the lifespan. The course reflects current scientific knowledge of psychopharmacology and its application to clinical problems seen in a variety of settings. This course builds on diagnostic and neuroscience content from 7221 to provide the advanced practitioner with knowledge related to clinical management of psychotropic medications. Pre/corequisite: 6010, 6020 and 7221 or permission of faculty. [2]

## **NURS7224 - Diagnostic Reasoning for the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Part 2)**

### **Catalog Description**

This didactic course builds on the first diagnostic reasoning course by expanding the student's ability to identify and apply theoretical content and clinical practice guidelines for assessing, diagnosing, and intervening in the dysfunctional coping patterns and psychiatric disorders of individuals and groups across the lifespan. The DSM-5 (Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders) will be used as the basis for diagnostic nomenclature across the lifespan. Emphasis will be placed on refining skills in the assessment, diagnosis, and evidence-based non-pharmacological and pharmacological treatment of mental disorders in individuals, families, and groups. Prerequisites: 6011, 7214, and 7215; corequisites: 7205, 7221, 7222, and 7225. [1]

**NURS7225 - Practicum in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing with Individuals, Groups and Families**  
**Catalog Description**

This course builds on the first advanced practicum course by expanding the student's ability to identify and apply concepts, theories, and principles to complex groups. The student gains skill in implementing evidence-based practice interventions, case load management, and analyzing process dynamics with individuals, families, and groups so that patterns in self and others are identified accurately and with regularity. Students will explore the PMHNP scope of practice through exposure to multiple roles and models. They will continue to refine diagnostic skills, pharmacological management, non-pharmacological management, and clinical reasoning. Prerequisites: 6011, 7214, and 7215; corequisites: 7205, 7221, 7222, and 7224. [3]

**NURS7231 - Population-based Mental Health Care Across the Lifespan**  
**Catalog Description**

This course focuses on systems issues affecting clients across the lifespan who require special attention from the advanced practice psychiatric nursing role. Emphasis is placed on effective management of current practice issues without compromising the special needs of these populations. These issues deal with the areas of effective evidence-based treatments, interface with families, developmental task resolution, legal/ethical decision-making, socialization, placements, co-morbidities in care and finances. This content is then conceptualized and operationalized relative to the advanced practice psychiatric nursing role and its interface with both the interdisciplinary psychiatric team of care and other health care professionals involved in the holistic treatment of the patient. Pre/corequisite: Admission to the PMHNP specialty level. Successful completion of 7215, 7225 clinical coursework. [2]

**NURS7232 - Advanced Psychopharmacology**  
**Catalog Description**

Explores advanced concepts related to the targeted clinical management of psychiatric symptoms and disorders across the lifespan. Applies knowledge of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics and evidence-based practices to the management of complex patients with psychiatric disorders across the lifespan. Prepares the advanced practice registered nurse to evaluate available evidence to manage psychiatric disorders in persons with complex multimorbid psychiatric and physical health conditions. This course builds on diagnostic and neuroscience content from 7221 and 7222 to provide the advanced practitioner registered nurse with knowledge related to clinical management of psychotropic medications. Prerequisites: 7221 and 7222. [2]

**NURS7275 - Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship with Child and Adolescent Focus**  
**Catalog Description**

This clinical course builds on prerequisite knowledge of theoretical foundations and provides a synthesis experience during which the student implements the role of the psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner applying current evidence-based practice focusing on children and adolescent clients and their families. Additional prerequisite knowledge includes mental health assessment and differential diagnosis, group and family therapy, models and theories of psychiatric nursing, neurobiology, psychopharmacology, research methods, pathophysiology, and previous psychiatric-mental health nursing experience. The clinical emphasis is on assessment, diagnosis, and both pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic intervention with children and adolescents with behavioral, developmental, and mental health disorders or at risk for mental illness within the context of their families and communities. Both direct (assessment, diagnosis, intervention) and indirect (consultation, case management, supervision) roles will be implemented. This preceptorship is designed for ANCC Certified Adult PMH-CNSs or Adult PMHNPs seeking post-master's certificate as Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner prepared across the lifespan. Pre/Co-requisite: Admission to the PMHNP specialty level as a post-master's student who holds one or more of the following current ANCC certification(s): Clinical Nurse Specialist in Adult Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing (Adult PMH-CNS) or Adult Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Adult PMHNP); has a master's degree or post-master's certificate in psychiatric mental health nursing from an NLNAC or CCNE accredited program documented by official transcripts, hold a nursing license in an eligible state, and receives approval from the PMHNP Program Director to be eligible to take this course based on Gap Analysis of transcripts. Gap Analysis of transcripts documents completion of equivalent content and clinical for 6010, 6011, 6020, 6050, 6060, 6070, 7205, 7211 or 7212, 7215, 7221, 7222, 7225, 7231. N7216 Child/Adolescent Psychopathology is required co/pre-requisite. [3]

## **NURS7285 - Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship with Adult and Geriatric Focus**

### **Catalog Description**

This clinical course builds on prerequisite knowledge of theoretical foundations of advanced practice mental health nursing and provides a synthesis experience during which the student implements the role of the psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner applying current evidence-based practice focusing on adult and geriatric clients and their families. Additional prerequisite knowledge includes mental health assessment, group and family therapy, models and theories of psychiatric nursing, neurobiology, psychopharmacology, research methods, pathophysiology, and previous psychiatric-mental health nursing experience. The clinical emphasis is on assessment, diagnosis, pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions with adults and geriatric clients with mental illness and for persons/populations at risk for mental illness, as well as primary prevention in mental health. Both direct (assessment and intervention) and indirect (consultation, case management, supervision) roles will be implemented. This preceptorship is designed for ANCC Certified Adult Psychiatric-Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialists and Child/Adolescent Psychiatric-Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialists seeking post-master's certificate as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner prepared across the lifespan.

Pre/corequisite: Admission to the PMHNP specialty level as a post-master's student who holds one or both of the following current ANCC certification(s): Clinical Nurse Specialist in Adult Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing (Adult PMH-CNS) or Clinical Nurse Specialist in Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing (Child/Adolescent PMH-CNS); has a master's degree or post-master's certificate in psychiatric mental health nursing from an NLNAC or CCNE accredited program documented by official transcripts, holds a nursing license in an eligible state, and receives approval from the PMHNP Program Director to be eligible to take this course; 6011, 6020, 6010, 7221, and 7222; Gap analysis of graduate transcripts for completion of equivalent content and clinical for 7211 or 7212, 7215, 7225, 7231, 6070, 6050. [3]

## **NURS7294 - Diagnostic Reasoning for the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Part 3)**

### **Catalog Description**

This didactic course builds on the first and second diagnostic reasoning courses by refining the student's ability to identify and apply theoretical content and clinical practice guidelines for assessing, diagnosing, and intervening in the dysfunctional coping patterns and psychiatric disorders of individuals and groups across the lifespan. In addition to expanding on clinical aspects of the PMHNP role, the course introduces professional aspects of the PMHNP role in the healthcare delivery system. Prerequisite: 7225; corequisite: 7295. [1]

## **NURS7295 - Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship**

### **Catalog Description**

This clinical course provides a synthesis experience during which students implement the role of the psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner. The focus is on assessment and intervention with persons with mental illness and persons/populations at risk for mental illness, and primary prevention in mental health. Interprofessional collaboration with other health care providers is emphasized. Prerequisite: 7225; corequisite: 7294. [3]

## **NURS7305 - Advanced Health Assessment Applications for the Women's Health Nurse Practitioner**

### **Catalog Description**

Advanced techniques used in assessment of the health status of women are taught. Students in the course have the opportunity to enhance and refine their assessment and diagnostic skills in a laboratory setting. Diverse applications are used to expand proficiency in history taking and health assessment techniques specifically directed at the health care of women. Pre/corequisite: 6011, graduate-level standing, admission to the specialty. [1]

**NURS7310 - Women's Health for Advanced Practice Nursing I**  
**Catalog Description**

Consistent with the emerging definitions of women's health and women's health practice, this course examines a full range of health issues unique to women, focusing on obstetric and gynecologic issues. Women's health specialization includes prevention across the lifespan, societal and political determinants of health, patient education, culturally competent care, and reconceptualization of women's relationships with healthcare providers. This course will focus on the health assessment and maintenance of wellness including normal gynecologic issues, the childbearing family, and the low-risk pregnancy. Students utilize current research in women's health and identify potential research opportunities in obstetrics and gynecology. Corequisite: 6011. [3]

**NURS7315 - Practicum in Women's Health**  
**Catalog Description**

This practicum offers opportunities for students to engage in specific components of advanced nursing practice during self-directed clinical experiences in collaboration with preceptors. Students will apply advanced knowledge of normal physiology, pathophysiology and psychosocial concepts to nursing care of women across the lifespan. Pre/corequisite: 6011, 6020, 7305, 7310, 7320. [4]

**NURS7320 - Women's Health for Advanced Practice Nursing II**  
**Catalog Description**

Building on prior knowledge of experience with women's health emphasizing wellness, students will begin to critically examine and evaluate evidence regarding deviations from normal gynecology and low-risk pregnancy. This course focuses on advanced nursing practice through the comprehensive assessment and management of disease processes and treatment of obstetric-gynecologic abnormalities. Concepts include disease and risk identification, culturally competent care, management, treatment, risk reduction, patient education, consultations and referrals. Pre/corequisite: 6010, 7310. [3]

**NURS7330 - Women's Health Issues**  
**Catalog Description**

In this course, students examine major historical, political and cultural influences on the health and health care of women in the United States. Students develop a woman-centered holistic approach to care, which is the central concept in their women's health nursing practice. Enrollment limited to WHNP and WH/AGPCNP students. [1]

**NURS7395 - Preceptorship in Women's Health**  
**Catalog Description**

The Women's Health Nurse Practitioner specialty begins with the study of healthy childbearing women and gynecologic, well-woman care then continues with the study of high-risk obstetrics and deviations from normal gynecology. Emphasis is on health maintenance of women throughout the life span. This course prepares students for entry-level advanced practice as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner. Pre/corequisite: 7315, all core courses. [5]

**NURS7999 - THESIS**  
**Catalog Description**

THESIS

## **NURS8010 - Evidence-Based Practice I: The Nature of Evidence**

### **Catalog Description**

This course explores the philosophical underpinnings for nursing knowledge relevant to advanced nursing practice at the doctoral level. Methods by which nursing knowledge is generated, levels of evidence, nursing theories and theories from other disciplines informing nursing practice will be investigated. Students will identify and analyze concepts relevant to their topic of interest. Admission to the DNP Program or permission of instructors required. [2]

## **NURS8012 - Informatics for Scholarly Practice**

### **Catalog Description**

This course provides an overview of informatics and the role it plays in the delivery of evidence based care. With a focus on healthcare information technology's (IT) contribution to data acquisition, this course will enhance the student's understanding of the transformation of data into information and knowledge for scholarly practice and inquiry. A practical approach is taken to ensure students understand and can synthesize evidence based aspects of informatics practice including evolving trends such as the use of social media in health care, use of remote monitoring systems, simulation strategies, patient portals and patient generated health data. Driving this evolution is the involvement of the federal government via healthcare reform policies. This course prepares the student to optimize the use of clinical systems and technology tools to continue to advance practice and drive clinical transformation. [2]

## **NURS8014 - Statistics in Health Sciences**

### **Catalog Description**

This course provides the foundation for the critical evaluation and synthesis of published health sciences evidence including an overview of the appropriate use and interpretation of commonly used statistical techniques for generating that evidence. Students will analyze the research methods and reported statistical results in published literature with an emphasis on implications for advanced nursing practice decisions. Students will develop plans for analysis of data collected with consideration of the alignment of project purpose with methods. Students will develop skills necessary to translate the statistical findings for stakeholders. Prerequisite: Admission to the DNP program or permission of instructors. [3]

## **NURS8022 - Evidence-Based Practice II: Evaluating and Applying Evidence**

### **Catalog Description**

This course will build on Evidence-Based Practice I by preparing DNP students to evaluate evidence designed to improve clinical outcomes related to their identified topic of interest, and to translate the evidence into practice environments. Prerequisite: 8010. [3]

## **NURS8024 - Epidemiology and Population Health**

### **Catalog Description**

This course focuses on methods to assess factors associated with the distribution and determinants of health and disease in human populations. The course introduces students to epidemiologic methods for describing disease rates; cohort, case-control, and cross-sectional studies; odds ratios, relative risks, confidence intervals, and tests of significance; and concepts of confounding, effect modification, and bias. Concepts of public health and health promotion, determinants of health, epigenetics and cultural diversity are examined. This course prepares students to analyze and translate evidence into practice and serves as a foundation in clinical prevention and population health. Prerequisite: 8014. [3]

## **NURS8032 - Health Care Economics and Finance**

### **Catalog Description**

This course covers basic economic theory, market drivers and restraints, health care finance and reimbursement, cost-benefit analysis and health care entrepreneurship. Theory and application are integrated throughout the course with a particular focus on the clinical role of the DNP within the contemporary health care environment. Students take either 8032 or 8034. [3]

## **NURS8034 - Advanced Health Care Economics and Finance**

### **Catalog Description**

This course addresses advanced application of economic theory, financial principles and financial modeling in the health care market. Theory and application are integrated and aimed at preparing the student to assume an executive-level DNP role in large and complex health care organizations. [3]

## **NURS8042 - Quality Improvement and Patient Safety**

### **Catalog Description**

This course introduces students to improvement science and prepares them to design, implement and evaluate evidence-based quality health care practices for patient populations (individuals and aggregates) in acute, home and community settings. Working as partners in interdisciplinary teams, students will assess organizational culture, gather safety information, analyze data and translate findings into systems changes through action learning experiences within their own organizations. [3]

## **NURS8044 - Management of Organizations and Systems**

### **Catalog Description**

This course synthesizes leadership theory and organizational models within the context of the health care industry. Models of human resource management, change management, strategic planning, program development and implementation will be explored and applied. Based on these theories and models, the student will derive the DNP's role in complex health care organizations. [3]

## **NURS8045 - Evidence Based Leadership in Healthcare Organizations: Creating sustainable value in Health Care**

### **Catalog Description**

This course is specifically designed for DNP students with demonstrated leadership competencies in organizational theory and behavior, leadership principles and practices, and organizational structure and culture through prior graduate education and career history. These experienced nurse leaders will apply evidence based leadership methodology towards creating sustainable value within their own health care environments. The DNP Leadership role is explored as an important catalyst for transforming traditional organizational decision-making and policy development to an evidence based approach. [3]

## **NURS8052 - Health Policy**

### **Catalog Description**

This course addresses health policy from the perspectives of evidence development, analysis and economic impact within a socio-political context. There is a secondary focus on the role of regulation within the U.S. health care system. The DNP contribution to health policy development is explored. [2]

## **NURS8054 - Legal and Ethical Environment**

### **Catalog Description**

This course provides a comprehensive analysis of the legal, regulatory and ethical environments that impact DNP practice. [3]

## **NURS8064 - Scholarly Writing**

### **Catalog Description**

This course is designed to prepare students to be disciplined thinkers and effective communicators. The course explores general principles of analytical, expository, and argumentative writing and provides opportunity to review elements of the scholarly writing process; implement strategies to compose, review and proofread composition; critique one's own work; and evaluate the writing of others. [1]



## **NURS8066 - Curriculum Strategies for Health Professionals Education**

### **Catalog Description**

(Required course for students who have received a Nurse Faculty Loan) This course is an introduction to the role of academic nurse educator in facilitating student learning. Theories and science of learning, curriculum development and course design, enhancement of the learning environment, and teaching strategies for the classroom, clinical, and simulated learning setting will be explored. Prerequisite: Graduate-level standing. [3]

## **NURS8067 - Educational Evaluation for Learning in the Health Professions**

### **Catalog Description**

(Required course for students who have received a Nurse Faculty Loan) This course provides an introduction to theoretical foundations and evidence-based strategies for assessment, measurement, and evaluation in nursing education. Course participants explore assessment of clinical and didactic learning across cognitive, psychomotor, and affective domains for diverse learners, and are introduced to strategies for curriculum and program evaluation. Emphasis is placed on development of test items, interpretation of test results, evaluation of written assignments, and assessment of clinical skill performance. Discussion of legal, ethical, and social issues related to evaluation is included. Prerequisite: None, although completion of 8066 is strongly recommended. [3]

## **NURS8068 - Online Methodologies for Nursing Education**

### **Catalog Description**

This course prepares nurse educators to teach in blended, hybrid, and online environments. Students will learn effective course design and teaching/learning strategies for students in the online setting, including pedagogical approaches to facilitate social processes of online learning, collaboration, and engagement. Moving from theoretical to practical application, students will create an online learning module and evaluate a sample course for quality. Prerequisites: None, although completion of N8066 and N8067 is recommended. [3]

## **NURS8069 - Lean Methodology in Healthcare**

### **Catalog Description**

This course focuses on the analysis and application of Lean principles to improve a process or system. This course builds on basic quality improvement principles. Topics include a history of the Toyota production system including how to identify the eight wastes in health care, how to implement 5S, A3 concepts, data collection, and value stream mapping of current state and future state processes. [2]

## **NURS8072 - Fundamentals of Global Health: Addressing Global Health Disparities**

### **Catalog Description**

This is a 3 credit hour elective course designed for graduate students interested in global health and will consist of seven units: Introduction to Global Health, Health Disparities, Health Care Delivery Systems, Evidence-based Practice, Non-communicable and Communicable illnesses, Trauma and Violence and Effective, Ethical Models for Global Health Engagement. The course will focus on best practices for allocating scarce resources and engaging in interdisciplinary global health work with diverse communities from a cultural, ethical and clinical perspective. Students will engage in learning through readings, synchronous and asynchronous discussions, case studies and written assignments. This course is designed for students interested in caring for and empowering underserved populations locally and abroad. [3]

## **NURS8073 - Genetics in Clinical Practice**

### **Catalog Description**

This is an elective course which focuses on the genetic basis of disease, genetic risk assessment and counseling, clinical genetics and management guidelines. The course will serve as the basis for the healthcare professional to holistically integrate genetic/genomics, epigenetics, and scientific concepts into personalized health care. This course is provided for doctoral and graduate students and offered during the spring, summer, and fall semesters. Students outside the School of Nursing should contact the instructor for permission to enroll. [2]

**NURS8074 - Foundations of Genetics/Genomics in Healthcare**  
**Catalog Description**

This is an elective course which focuses on the molecular basis of genetic disease, inheritance of disease and distribution of genetic diseases in populations. The course aims to expose students in the health sciences to genetic/genomic concepts for integration in clinical care and research endeavors. The ethical, legal and social implications of genetic testing will be addressed along with the available technology and applications of data science. This course is provided for doctoral and graduate students and offered during the fall and spring semesters. Students outside the School of Nursing should contact the instructor for permission to enroll. [3]

**NURS8076 - Building a Professional Scholarship Trajectory**  
**Catalog Description**

This is an elective course for the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing Doctorate of Nursing Practice Program focused on building a professional scholarship trajectory. Students will develop a plan for pursuing scholarship initiatives. Topics include developing a professional biography, analyzing benefits of professional involvement, evaluating sources for publishing the DNP project, analyzing the role of social media and professional networking in development of career goals, and developing strategies to secure professional opportunities for building a scholarship trajectory. Pre-requisite: admission to the DNP program or permission of faculty. [1]

**NURS8077 - Cancer and Implications for Care**  
**Catalog Description**

This course provides a comprehensive overview of cancer to include screening, diagnosis, staging, treatment and social determinants of care. Genomic applications in oncology are incorporated throughout the course to include diagnostic, prognostic, and therapeutic implications. Integration of palliative care and cancer survivorship are addressed. The focus of the course is clinical oncology within a personalized health care environment. Pre-requisite: Admission into any graduate or doctoral degree program or via permission of instructor. [3]

**NURS8078 - Innovations for Teaching in Clinical and Simulated Settings**  
**Catalog Description**

This course provides an overview of teaching, learning, and evaluation of generalist and advanced practice student performance in clinical and simulated environments. Students explore evidence-based strategies for the design and implementation of simulation scenarios, including effective debriefing. Trends and issues related to clinical teaching, precepting students in the clinical setting, and simulation innovation are discussed. Completion of N8066 and N8067 strongly recommended. [3]

**NURS8079 - Mentored Teaching and Role Synthesis**  
**Catalog Description**

This capstone course in the Nurse Educator Certificate program provides the learner an opportunity to integrate new knowledge and operationalize nurse educator competencies and best pedagogical practices in an area of particular interest. Learners will explore educator role expectations and engage in reflective analysis as they complete a mentored project. Prerequisite: 8066, 8067, and either 8068 or 8078. To enroll, contact the IOR one semester prior to registering for permission and to begin identification of goals and potential project. [3]

**NURS8080 - Independent Study**  
**Catalog Description**

Individualized study with content related to the student's practice and scholarly project. A contract is made between the student and faculty adviser with copies for the student, faculty adviser, program director, and student's academic record. With the adviser's guidance, the student is responsible for identifying study objectives and DNP competencies that are addressed within the course, and for specifying the primary DNP competency related to this study and learning activities and evaluation method. In addition, the student must complete the independent study agreement form that is available on the School of Nursing website. Prerequisite: Consent of faculty adviser. [Variable credit 1-4]

## **NURS8081 - Independent Study in Contemporary Issues in Executive Healthcare Leadership**

### **Catalog Description**

Individualized study to explore contemporary issues in healthcare leadership. The DNP student will consult with their faculty adviser in selecting a relevant topic. A faculty member with expertise in the area of the student's interest will be identified as a resource for the student's focused study. With the faculty member's guidance, the student will develop the study objectives and DNP competencies to be addressed with this independent study. The learning activities and evaluation methods will be determined with the faculty member. An independent study agreement form will be completed, found on the School of Nursing website. Prerequisite: Consent of faculty adviser. [1-4]

## **NURS8105 - DNP Integrative Application of Evidence-Based Practice**

### **Catalog Description**

NURS 8105 is an integrative application course that provides a progressive sequence to advance and develop the student into a practice scholar. This course offers the student mentored opportunities to develop and implement the DNP project and apply scholarship to improve healthcare system, patient, and/or population health outcomes. The student is expected to accrue a minimum of 500 practice hours to achieve the Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice competencies. Pre-requisites: 8010 and 8042. Co-requisite: 8022. This course is designed to be repeated for at least four terms. Students will earn one credit hour in each of the first four terms of enrollment for a maximum of four credit hours; students will earn zero credit hours in subsequent terms until completion of the sequence. [1]

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