Pre-Nursing

Freshman students interested in nursing at Vanderbilt apply for admission to either the College of Arts and Science or Peabody College and indicate that pre-nursing is their intended program of studies. In addition to their faculty advisers in the College of Arts and Science or Peabody College, pre-nursing students will be assigned an adviser in the School of Nursing to assist them in planning their program of studies.

Qualified students may be admitted to the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program after earning a baccalaureate degree at Vanderbilt or after completing the pre-nursing program of studies in either the College of Arts and Science or Peabody College. Students are encouraged to write or call the School of Nursing Office of Admissions, 207 Godchaux Hall, (615) 322-3800 or 888-335-9192 for further details of the program or email VUSN-admissions@vanderbilt.edu.

Become Both A Registered Nurse (RN) and an Advanced Practice Nurse

In an increasingly complex health care industry, advanced practice nurses are playing a vital role. Education and clinical training are preparing these professionals to assume such positions as Nurse-Midwife and Nurse Practitioner. Advanced practice nurses are offering and designing new ways of delivering cost-effective care and increasing access to qualified practitioners - often providing health care to underserved populations.

Advanced practice nurses work in collegial capacities with physicians and other health care providers, and many are prepared to diagnose and treat patients with acute and chronic illnesses; others process and analyze critical patient data. These responsibilities require nursing professionals who are as smart and savvy as they are caring and compassionate. Vanderbilt School of Nursing prepares advanced practice nurses with an excellent education, real-world clinical experience and a solid grounding in theory, research and technology.

Pre-Nursing Studies in the College of Arts and Science

Students interested in nursing may either (a) complete BA or BS requirements in any major and enter the School of Nursing after earning their undergraduate degree or (b) earn both a BA or BS degree and an MSN through a senior-in-absentia program. This program combines three and one-half years (105 credit hours) of study in the College of Arts and Science with six semesters of study in the School of Nursing. Students will receive the baccalaureate from the College at the end of the eighth semester under the senior-in-absentia program and the M.S.N. from the School of Nursing after completing an additional five consecutive semesters of study (13 total semesters). This program of study requires that students complete the general curriculum (AXLE) requirements for the baccalaureate degree, complete a major and satisfy the prerequisite courses for admission to the School of Nursing.

The first three semesters in nursing are generalist nursing courses and serve as a “bridge” into the Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) program by preparing students for the NCLEX exam to become a Registered Nurse (R.N.). These courses also provide the foundation equivalent to the bachelor’s degree in nursing for course work in the selected nursing specialty. Upon completion of three semesters of pre-specialty courses, students enter a minimum of an additional three-semester sequence of courses in their declared specialty in order to earn the M.S.N. degree. After completing the MSN degree, students are eligible to take the advanced practice certification exam in their selected specialty.

Students must apply to the School of Nursing for admission by November 1 of their junior year. Students are subject to all nursing school admission requirements. Up to 16 hours of School of Nursing courses approved by the College may be counted toward completion of the undergraduate degree. Students interested in this program should consult Dr. Jana Lauderdale, pre-nursing adviser, at (615) 343-2228 or Paddy Peerman, Assistant Dean for Enrollment Management at (615) 322-3802 for advice on planning undergraduate studies to meet the program’s requirements.
Pre-Nursing Studies in Peabody College

Pre-nursing students at Peabody College may either (a) complete a major in human and organizational development or child development and earn both a B.S. and an M.S.N. through a senior-in-absentia program or (b) complete degree requirements at Peabody and enter the School of Nursing after graduation from Peabody College.

Students choosing either option must satisfy admission requirements for the M.S.N. program. Upon admission to the School of Nursing, the student is required to complete six semesters (two calendar years) of full-time study to earn the M.S.N.

Students interested in the senior-in-absentia program should refer to the section on Special Programs for Undergraduates in the Undergraduate Catalog. Under this option, students complete their first three years of study (91 credits) at Peabody, apply for admission to the School of Nursing by November 1 of their junior year, and, upon admission, take generalist nursing courses their senior year. Upon successful completion of the fall and spring semester nursing course work, students are awarded the B.S. in human and organizational development or child development. They then continue for an additional four semesters (summer, fall, spring, and summer) to earn the Master of Science in Nursing (12 semesters total).

Pre-Nursing Requirements

Students are eligible to apply to the M.S.N. program through the joint program with either the College of Arts and Science or Peabody College. In addition, students are eligible to apply to the M.S.N. program after graduation from any of Vanderbilt’s undergraduate programs (A&S, Blair, Engineering or Peabody). Prior to beginning the M.S.N. program these courses must be completed:

NURS 150 Microbiology (3-4 credits)
NURS 210 AB Human Anatomy and Physiology I and II (8 credits)
NURS 231A Introduction to Nutrition (2 credits)
Statistics (3 credits): A number of undergraduate statistics courses are offered
Lifespan Development (3 credits): HOD 1000 Applied Human Development or Psy-PC 1630 Developmental Psychology meet this requirement

M.S.N. Admission Requirements

Students must apply by November 1 of the year prior to beginning the M.S.N. Students in the joint program apply by November 1 of their junior year. The prerequisite courses listed above do not need to be completed at the time of application. However, courses must be completed prior to beginning the M.S.N. program.

A separate application to the M.S.N. program which includes the following items:
Graduate Record Exam (GRE) score, Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher
Three letters of reference
Statement of nursing career goals
Responses to application essays
Official VU transcript and any other colleges/universities attended
Interview is required in some nursing specialties

Advanced Practice Specialties Available

Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
Family Nurse Practitioner
Nurse Midwifery*

Nurse Midwifery/Family Nurse Practitioner (dual certification)
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (primary care focus)
Psychiatric-Mental-Health Nurse Practitioner (lifespan)
Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner
Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner (dual certification)*

* requires additional semester(s)

Pre-Nursing Society

The Pre-nursing society is a student organization that serves to support pre-nursing students on campus. The group acts as a resource for information regarding career opportunities in advanced practice nursing and the various specialty areas. A formal meeting is held each month (September – April) at the School of Nursing with volunteer/community service activities scheduled throughout the academic year. Shadowing experience with an advanced practice nurse can also be arranged for active members of the pre-nursing society.

For Additional Information:

Visit the School of Nursing website at: nursing.vanderbilt.edu

E-mail the School of Nursing at: vusn-admissions@vanderbilt.edu

Call the School of Nursing Admissions Office at: (888) 333-9192