

VANDERBILT  School of Nursing  
*Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner  
Program*

February 28, 2023

Welcome future AG-ACNPs! I'd like to welcome you to Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and to the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AG-ACNP) program! We're excited to have you join us in an exciting and challenging program that will provide you with the foundation you'll need to embark upon a new career in advanced practice acute care nursing! If you were able to attend one of our Open House sessions in the fall or spring, then you already know a bit about our program. If you weren't able to join us, don't worry – we have a webinar posted on our AG-ACNP program page that will give you additional information. You'll also spend time with me and program faculty discussing program curriculum details and requirements during New Student Orientation.

Many of you are coming to Vanderbilt for the first time, either as a full-time or part-time student. You'll find both full-time and part-time curriculum plans on our AG-ACNP website, too. As you progress through the fall semester, you'll notice our focus is on the fundamentals of advanced practice nursing: physiology and pathophysiology, pharmacology, physical assessment, and diagnosing and treating complex health issues in the adult and older-adult patient.

Many of you are asking about clinical rotations. The focus for clinical experiences in the fall semester is the application of **advanced physical assessment**, including performance of the history and physical examination, and applying the clinical and diagnostic reasoning process. Faculty will be guiding you in building your assessment skills. The majority of your clinical hours will be obtained in the spring and summer; these clinical experiences will be done in actual clinical settings, in simulation labs, and in advanced skill workshops. Spring and Summer semester clinical rotations will emphasize the full scope of practice of the AG-ACNP. Drs. Sharon Bryant ([Sharon.bryant@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:Sharon.bryant@vanderbilt.edu)) and Kathryn McNabb ([kathryn.e.mcnabb@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:kathryn.e.mcnabb@vanderbilt.edu)) will be coordinating clinical placements for the AG-ACNP program. There is a Preceptor video included on this page, as well as additional information for distance or "Outside Middle Tennessee (OMTA)" clinical placements if you'll complete the program from a distance. As the new academic year approaches, you'll receive an orientation to the use of Exxat, our clinical placement tool. Preceptors can be physicians or nurse practitioners, *as long as they manage the care of acutely ill or clinically complex adult and older adult patients*. During the week of orientation, Dr. Bryant and Dr. McNabb will be available to you to guide you through the thought process of who might be an appropriate preceptor.

If you are an **experienced RN and plan to complete the program as an OMTA student**, you will **not** need to obtain a **Tennessee RN license**. During fall block weeks, you will see patients in Vanderbilt Hospital under direct faculty supervision. If you are currently an OMTA student who is later accepted to the intensivist focus and will relocate to Nashville, you **will need to obtain a Tennessee RN license or have a RN license from a compact state**.

Every AG-ACNP student follows the same curriculum, but we have an **optional** area of clinical focus that you might be interested in: the **intensivist focus**. After fall courses have started, we will have an informational session about this option, along with our offered elective courses, in September. Following this session, a call for applications to the intensivist focus will be opened. Decisions and notifications are typically made by mid-October. Check out our webpage and the "resources for admitted

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students” webpages for more information! Note – if you applied as an OMTA student and are interested in applying for the intensivist focus, be sure to work with Drs. Bryant and McNabb in setting up a clinical rotation in or near your hometown as well, in the event you are not accepted into that clinical focus area; it is very competitive, and spots are limited. Clinical placement contracts may take 2-3 months to finalize, and you’ll want to be able to start clinical rotations on time if you’ll be completing rotations in your home area!

Be sure to check out our **academic calendar**! Orientation for direct entry students is set for **August 22**. All AG-ACNP specialty students have an orientation session as well. At that time, you’ll participate in a general orientation and will learn more about the resources available to you at Vanderbilt. Classes begin on **August 23**, and for the first day of each class, attendance is required. This includes N6101 (Advanced Assessment and Clinical Reasoning), N6102 (Physiology), N6103 (Advanced Pharmacology), N6105 (Advanced Health Assessment Applications), and N6114 (Pathophysiology and Collaborative Management).

In preparing for the start of your AG-ACNP program, please be sure to review information that will be added to this website:

1. **The AG-ACNP calendar** which details our on-campus/block week activities.
2. **The Textbook List** includes required and recommended texts. Some of these are available via electronic platform (tablet/smartphone).
3. **A list of AG-ACNP program faculty and the courses they teach**
4. **Please be sure to practice using the electronic course management system (Brightspace)**: this is how you will obtain all of your course syllabi each semester, and it is the format we use for online content delivery.
5. Also, check out our **Preceptor Information video**, starring Drs. Sharon Bryant and Kathryn McNabb, who will assist you with the clinical placement process.

Lastly, on behalf of the AG-ACNP faculty, **welcome to Vanderbilt!** All of the program faculty are excited to have you join us, and we look forward to working with you as you expand and build your level of expertise, and transition to the role of the AG-ACNP! I look forward to meeting all of you at New Student Orientation in August!

Sincerely,



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