

Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Quick Facts: Fall 2022

Congratulations on your admission and **Welcome** to Vanderbilt University School of Nursing! You have been selected among many highly qualified applicants to enter the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialty. The following are some “Quick Facts” that you may wish to know about the specialty you have selected. The information below pertains to your specialty program of study. The PMHNP program prepares all students to care for psychiatric patients across the lifespan. Please note that if you are entering as a RN Pre-Specialty student, you will need to complete the RN Pre-Specialty curriculum before starting the PMHNP program of study. Also, if you were accepted as a student from outside the Middle TN area (OMTA) you will need to complete your clinical experiences in your hometown, as we have a finite number of clinical placement sites in the Middle TN (MTA) area. Requests to switch from OMTA to MTA placements will not be accommodated.

The PMHNP program can be completed either as a full time student (finishing in 3 semesters), or as a part-time student. Part-time students are required to follow a two-year part-time (6 semester) program of study. There is a specific sequence of courses for both full-time and part-time students. Below is the sample program of study for full time study. Note the course titles have been abbreviated, and full course titles are available on-line and in the catalog (<https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/students/current/pdf/handbook.pdf>).

Full time Program of Study

Fall	Spring	Summer
6045 PF: Context and Role	7221 Neuroscience for PMH	7231 Pop-based MH Care
6011 Adv Health Assessment	6055 PF: Problem ID and EBP	7295 PMHNP Precetporship
6012 Adv Health Assessment Lab	7222 Psychopharm	6065 PF: Implementation PBS
6020 Adv Pharm	7205 Adv Health Assess/ Psych	7232 Adv Psychopharm
6010 Adv Patho	7224 Diagnostic Reasoning II	7294 Diagnostic Reasoning III
7212 Ind & Family Theory	7225 Psych Prac: Ind / Group/ Fam	
7214 Diagnostic Reasoning I		
7215 Psych Foundations Practicum		
Credit Hours	16 credits	13 credits
		12 credits

Part Time Program of Study

For the part-time program of study there is a specific sequence in which the courses must be taken. The majority of didactic classes must be completed before the clinical courses can begin. In the part-time plan, the course work is evenly distributed over 6 semesters.

Students Outside the Middle TN Area

Didactic lectures are provided via web-linked live-stream or archived videos through Brightspace. Unless there are regulatory or Board of Nursing restrictions, clinical placements are arranged within your local region working with the PMHNP clinical placement team and VUSN clinical placement office. Students come to campus 3 times in the Fall semester, 3 times in the Spring semester, and twice in the Summer semester. The on-campus “block” sessions provide excellent face-to-face interaction with classmates and faculty, as well as an opportunity for simulation and experiential learning. Please note that the OMTA option requires that you attend all on-campus “block” sessions (including Saturday and Sunday sessions, if indicated) in their entirety. All students are expected to attend virtual learning events as well. Please plan family responsibilities accordingly, as it will make your transition into the role of graduate student more pleasurable.

Approval of **all** clinical sites and preceptors by the PMHNP Academic Director is required and legal contracts must be in place **before** the middle of fall semester. Clinical placements for students in the Middle TN Area are arranged based on student interests and preceptor location and availability. Students bridging up from the Pre-Specialty Program **MUST** pass NCLEX **prior to** September 23, 2022 to continue in the first clinical course. Students outside the Middle TN area **MUST** secure a clinical placement by October for N7215 to prevent having to drop to part-time status.

All PMHNP students must attend the orientation program held in August 2022

Please be aware that orientation is required for all students. During this time students will be given computer access codes that will allow them to access Brightspace, our learning management platform. Both OMTA and MTA students must attend the orientation or get prior approval from the Dean. In addition, all students must have a white lab coat with the VUSN school patch on the lab coat for 7205 clinical. Most other outpatient clinical sites require that students wear professional business attire and their Vanderbilt student identification badges.

A list of required texts for fall semester PMHNP specialty courses will be posted on the new student web page this summer. You may wish to purchase selected texts before fall semester or wait and make book purchases at the VU Bookstore during orientation. As you enroll in each course, your faculty course coordinators will outline other texts and reading materials that you need. A computer and reliable internet are required, and a laptop with wireless capability will be an asset. You will be able to access the internet from most areas within the school using wireless network, so having this feature on your computer will maximize your work effort.

Important contact information includes:

New Student Orientation: Contact person: Dr. Tamika Hudson Tamika.s.hudson@vanderbilt.edu

Financial Aid Assistance: Contact person: Kristie Smith Kristie.L.Smith@vanderbilt.edu

Immunization/CPR/Background checks: Contact person: Lisa Boyer Lisa.Boyer@vanderbilt.edu.

PMHNP Director: Contact person: Marci Zsomboky Marci.l.zsomboky@vanderbilt.edu.

PMHNP Clinical Placement Coordinators: Contact: LeTizia Smith Letizia.b.smith@vanderbilt.edu and Marla Vinsant marla.d.vinsant@vanderbilt.edu (clinical placement staff)

Important dates for Fall 2022 semester:

August 17-18: New student orientation for **Pre-Specialty (non-nurse) students** (mandatory)

August 22: New student orientation for **Direct Entry (BSN) and Post Master's students** (mandatory)

August 23: Block classes for second year PMHNP students begin

I am excited to welcome you to the PMHNP program and look forward to meeting each of you as you begin your educational journey to become a PMHNP!

Best wishes,



Marci Zsamboky, DNP, PMHNP/CNS-BC, CNE
Assistant Professor of Nursing
Academic Director PMHNP Program (Lifespan)