



February 20, 2023

Greetings Future Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners,

Welcome to the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) program at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing (VUSN)! We are excited to have you join us in our highly ranked program, which reflects the quality of our program and the success of our graduates. The PMHNP faculty and I look forward to working with you in the upcoming year(s). Graduate school is an exciting time of personal and intellectual growth, and it is a joy to watch each of you develop into excellent PMHNPs during your time in the program. In addition to the materials outlined below, I, along with the PMHNP faculty, will meet with you during the New Student Orientation in August to discuss program details, clarify your questions, and provide strategies to help maximize your experiences at VUSN. New Student Orientation for specialty year students, which is required, will occur on **Wednesday, August 23, 2023**.

As you prepare for starting the PMHNP program, please review the following materials posted on this website. These materials pertain only to the PMHNP program of study. If you are entering as a Pre-Specialty student, then you will need to complete the Pre-Specialty curriculum before starting the PMHNP program of study.

- **The PMHNP Block Schedule.** Please check this page for updates on important dates. PMHNP specialty level classes will begin on **Thursday, August 24, 2023**. Please mark your calendar with the PMHNP block class dates posted. It is a VUSN expectation that students are present for all block classes for which they are registered. This is an expectation for both on campus and virtual classes held unless otherwise noted. The fall semester textbook list will be posted here in the summer.
- **The PMHNP Curriculum Plan.** 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. Please see the link to the Student Handbook where you can find details about all of the PMHNP curriculum plans.
- **Clinical Placement Information.** The VUSN PMHNP clinical placement team works to align students with clinical placement experiences across the lifespan.
  - OMTA Students. Dr. LeTizia Smith, who is the PMHNP faculty clinical placement coordinator, along with the clinical placement team will be reaching out to all students who reside outside the Middle Tennessee Area (OMTA) in the upcoming months to provide assistance in identifying and contacting sites in your geographical area. In the meantime, please review Dr. Smith's OMTA Student Clinical Placement Orientation video and other materials on the website as they will provide you with more information about the processes in securing a clinical placement. Please note that all clinical sites and preceptors must be approved by clinical placement faculty. A contract must be in place by October of the fall semester to begin clinicals and prevent having to drop to part-time status.
  - MTA Students. To best organize and manage our clinical partnerships in Middle Tennessee, the clinical placement team will assign sites to Middle Tennessee Area (MTA) students based on areas of interest and learning needs. Students bridging up from the Pre-Specialty program must pass NCLEX prior to **September 29, 2023** to continue in the first clinical course.

On behalf of the entire PMHNP faculty and VUSN, we welcome you and look forward to meeting you in August!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Megan Simmons'.

Megan Simmons, DNP, PMHNP-BC  
Assistant Professor of Nursing  
Director, PMHNP Program (Lifespan)