

June 2023

Dear Vanderbilt University School of Nursing student,

Welcome to the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing (VUSN) Pediatric Nurse Practitioner– Primary Care (PNPPC) Program! I'm Brittany Nelson, the Program Director of the PNP Program. The PNPPC faculty and I look forward to the opportunity to work with you on your journey to become a pediatric nurse practitioner.

I wanted to send a few updates as we are moving toward the start of the fall semester in August.

Important Dates

Reminder that orientation to VUSN will be on August 23rd and this will include an orientation to the PNP program. Then PNPPC classes will be held on-campus on August 24th and August 25th. Please review the block schedule and which courses that you are taking.

On the VUSN webpage under calendars and then block schedules, an updated block schedule has been added. This calendar has more details about times and specific courses. Please review and let me know if you have questions.

Admitted Student Page

Please refer to the PNPPC Admitted Student page on VUSN home page for needed information about the program—please check this page monthly.

The textbook list is on the admitted student page. Please note that most of the books are available electronically through the Vanderbilt ESKIND Digital Library. We understand that textbooks are expensive and using electronic books are one way to limit your expenses. Books will be available for you to purchase from the Barnes & Noble at Vanderbilt Bookstore (<http://www.vubookstore.com>) or you may purchase them from another source such as Amazon. The Bright Futures pocket manual is not available electronically so you may wish to purchase.

Also, please see the list of equipment that is needed to complete the program and start work as a PNPPC is provided. You will need to purchase your equipment before August block to be used in lab experiences while enrolled in N6014 and N7015 (and in N7035 and N7085). We recommend buying quality equipment (stethoscope, otoscope, and ophthalmoscope) and have provided recommendations. The N6014 course is a lifespan health assessment lab, and the recommended otoscope/ophthalmoscope is of lesser quality and cost. The PNP faculty recommend that you buy the alternative higher quality, and hence higher priced otoscope/ophthalmoscope; PNP's rely heavily on their otoscope/ophthalmoscope use of this equipment will be part of your daily routine. Please order your equipment ASAP due to supply chain issues.

Test dates have been listed on a calendar for PNP courses (N7011, N7012) for the fall semester. We have not received the official dates for the pathophysiology course exam dates—we will post those as soon as possible. Please review the exam dates and plan ahead to be available to take the exams as scheduled.

Optional Prep

The fall semester is the heaviest in terms of courses and content. We provide foundational education in this semester to prepare you to enter the clinical preceptorships in the spring semester. Given the course load, the fall will be a busy semester for you. Current students gave a recommendation to offer future students the option to get started on some online modules that are required for the fall N7012 course—completion of the modules will be required by the end of the fall semester but if you wish to get started early then we are providing that opportunity. Students will complete 18 online modules on vaccines through the CDC called “You Call the Shots’, and these modules provide excellent information needed for practice in pediatrics. If you choose to start early, please keep track of the individual certificates of completion, as well you will have a completion quiz at the end where you must earn an 80%. We will have you upload the final transcript in N7012 Brightspace. More information on our admitted student page as well.

Preceptorships

If you are an OMTA student and have not been in contact with Dr. Fleming or Dr. Ridgway, please reach out. We are here to support you! If you have a lead on a preceptor, then they can coach you through the process. If you do not have a lead, then they will work with you to identify alumni and previous preceptors in the area where you are searching.

If you are an MTA student, then Professor Owen will meet with you during the August block and discuss more details about that process.

Thanks for watching! We are excited to start a new academic year with you.

Sincerely,

Brittany Nelson, DNP, APRN, CPNP

Program Director, Primary Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program