

Dear Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Students:

**Welcome to the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing (VUSN) Acute Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNPAC) Specialty!** Whether you are a new student or are continuing in your part time course of study, I congratulate each of you for your decision to pursue advanced practice nursing education in the specialty of pediatric acute care. Thank you for choosing Vanderbilt University School of Nursing! Hopefully, this letter will provide you with answers to many of your questions. Please familiarize yourselves with the curriculum. Each course in the curriculum will be critical to your success.

VUSN Orientation will be held on campus beginning on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, for all new full time and part time Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner students. Returning part-time specialty year students must attend orientation, if they did not attend in entirety last year. All PNPAC specialty classes will then begin on Thursday, August 24 and continue through Friday, August 25, 2023. A draft of orientation schedules will be posted on the [VUSN Admitted Students webpage](#) in early August.

Please refer to the [PNPAC Admitted Students webpage](#) for needed information about the program. There are several items to help you prepare for the coming year.

### **Block Schedule**

Pay close attention to the ‘Block Schedule’ for the year that provides specific dates for virtual class times as well as on-campus, face-to-face classes times. For in-person class dates, if you are traveling from outside the Middle Tennessee area, you must plan your travel to allow yourself to be present for the first morning class of each block schedule.

Part time students should cross-reference the courses in their specific plan of study against the block schedule to determine which days/times their specific courses meet face to face and/or online. An outline of the block schedule for the Fall is posted in the Admitted students section of the VUSN website.

### **Textbooks**

A list of required textbooks for the Fall 2023 semester is included on the admitted students webpage. Part time students should only purchase books for courses that they are taking during this academic year. Books will be available for you to purchase from the Vanderbilt bookstore <http://www.bkstr.com/vanderbiltstore.com> or you may purchase them from another source. Please note that some of the textbooks are available electronically through the Vanderbilt Eskind Digital library <https://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/biomedical> at no additional cost; some students choose to use the electronic version rather than purchasing the hard copy. Members of Facebook may choose to join Vanderbilt School of Nursing-Used Book Exchange group (<http://www.facebook.com/groups/246074745409324/>).

### **Equipment**

A list of equipment that is needed to complete the program and start work as a PNPAC is also provided. You will need to purchase your equipment **before** August block to be used in lab experiences while enrolled in N6011 and 7055 (and in N7045 and N7095). The equipment will be used beginning early in the semester, prior to in-person campus time, so purchasing

early in the semester (or in the summer) is important. Part-time students may wait until you are enrolled in the listed clinical courses to purchase the equipment. We recommend buying high quality equipment and have provided recommendations. You will be practicing with this equipment until it becomes part of your daily routine and you are very comfortable with its use. You may purchase equipment through the Vanderbilt Bookstore or from another source. We recommend purchasing your equipment during the summer (prior to August) to be sure it has arrived in time for your classes.

### **Clinical Preceptorships**

No primary care clinical practicum is required in the Fall semester. The fall courses, N6011 and N7055, will include lab time for advanced physical assessment, simulated patient encounters, history taking, and procedural skills.

All PNPAC students will complete three precepted clinical practicums beginning in January. The Spring clinical course, N7045 includes two 140-hour clinical rotations. The Summer clinical course, N7095 includes one clinical practicum of 280 hours.

It is important for you to thoughtfully consider three or four specific areas of clinical interest. Broad-based clinical experiences such as a rotation with a Pediatric Hospitalist, Pediatric Emergency Department, or PICU provide valuable learning opportunities and are highly recommended. Certain sub-specialties are appropriate for your shorter spring rotations, only **if** the preceptor provides inpatient disease management (not clinic based).

Outside Middle Tennessee Area (OMTA) students especially should begin to identify potential preceptors at their local Children's hospitals. VUSN's Office of Clinical Placement provides excellent resources to facilitate clinical placement for students. Please be assured that the PNPAC faculty is committed to assisting all students, both in the Middle Tennessee area (MTA) and OMTA, to be successful in their clinical courses. Due to limited clinical sites, admission to the PNPAC program is specific to either MTA or OMTA clinical placement per your acceptance letter.

### **Students within the Middle Tennessee Area (MTA)**

Every effort is made to place MTA students in the immediate Nashville area; however, MTA sites are considered those within a two-hour driving radius from Nashville.

**Please do not contact local clinical sites or individual preceptors.** MTA students will be assigned to an available, approved site by the Clinical Coordinator, Dr. Sheree Allen, with the assistance of Dr. Kelly Davis and APN leadership at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt. Ms. Brooke Wilson, Assistant Director, Office of Clinical Placement at VUSN works closely with the PNPAC specialty to help secure robust clinical experiences for students.

### **Students outside the Middle Tennessee Area (OMTA)**

All OMTA students please remember that you must plan on your clinical rotations to be outside of the Nashville area. The Pediatric Acute Care OTMA students should begin identifying potential acute care preceptors in their home geographic area. You will have an opportunity to meet with your clinical instructor and advisor during your time on campus this

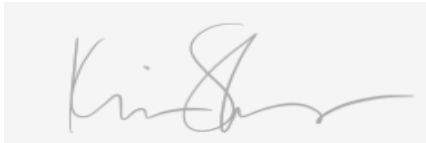
fall to discuss clinical requirements in more detail, but please begin to reach out to preceptors and also to the nursing education department at your current hospital (or at hospitals that you are considering for clinical placement). There are often early deadlines for requesting clinical placements at hospitals.

A Preceptor Recruitment Packet is also available on the new student webpage to share with your preceptor. Please note that Acute Care PNP's are the preferred preceptor and role model for PNPAC students as well as MD's who are boarded in pediatrics. PNPAC's must have been in practice for a minimum of two years and have been at their current clinical site for at least one year. On rare and selected occasions students may precept with a Primary Care educated PNP who has extensive work history in the acute care setting. These are considered on a case-by-case basis when the preceding options have been exhausted. Fellows and Residents are not permitted as PNPAC preceptors.

Exxat will be the database for all student clinical information. Additional information regarding the use of Exxat is available on the VUSN website. We will also be sending more information about Exxat early in the summer.

On behalf of the entire PNPAC faculty, welcome to Vanderbilt! We are all looking forward to meeting you in August. Please email me if I can be of assistance.

Have a wonderful summer!



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