

February 2023

Dear Vanderbilt University School of Nursing student,

Welcome to the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing (VUSN) Pediatric Nurse Practitioner– Primary Care (PNPPC) 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 would like to thank you for choosing Vanderbilt University School of Nursing! I hope this letter will provide you with answers to many of your questions, as well know the faculty and staff will walk through much of this information during the August orientation to help ensure your success.

During this journey, you will have the opportunity to learn from faculty well experienced in primary care in a hybrid format learning program that includes traditional face-to-face, synchronous online learning, and asynchronous online learning environments. In addition to didactic course work, you will have the opportunity to acquire 630 hours of clinical preceptorship in which you will experience gathering the history, performing the physical assessment, and development/modification of treatment plans for pediatric clients. Clinical experiences and application are further enhanced by simulations and interactions with standardized patients throughout the academic year.

#### Important Dates

Orientation at VUSN will be on August 23rd for all students. PNPPC classes will be held during the on-campus session on August 24<sup>th</sup> and August 25<sup>th</sup>. Please mark these dates on your calendar for VUSN.

#### 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**. There are several items on the new student page to help you prepare for the coming year and this page will be updated monthly with additional information.

First, the block schedule [class times on campus are called blocks] for the year that includes the dates the blocks will meet. A more detailed schedule will be posted in the early summer and will specify which courses meet on which dates. I recommend waiting to purchase plane tickets until the detailed schedule has been released. If you are traveling in from outside the state, you must plan your travel to allow yourself to be present for the first morning class.

Second, we will add a list of required textbooks for the fall semester; part time students should only purchase books for courses that they are taking during this upcoming academic year. 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. Please note that many books are available electronically through the Vanderbilt Ekind Digital library (at no additional cost); some students choose to use the electronic version rather than purchasing the hard copy.

Third, a 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 N6012 (and in N7035 and N7085); if you are a part-time student, you may wait until you are enrolled in the listed lab and clinical courses to purchase the equipment. We recommend buying quality equipment (stethoscope, otoscope, and ophthalmoscope) 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 Steel's link or from another source.

We recommend purchasing your equipment in early summer, prior to August, to be sure it has arrived in time for your classes. Supply chain issues have caused shipping delays of months in the past years.

#### Program Preparation

To best prepare for fall classes, we suggest that you review a physical exam text. We will add specific books to the admitted student page by early summer. You may also refer to your physical assessment or physical examination books from your undergraduate program. We will begin physical examination lab time early in the fall semester.

#### Preceptorships

VUSN has excellent staff and resources to facilitate clinical placement for their students. Clinical rotations occur during the spring and summer semesters. Please be assured that the PNPPC faculty is committed to assisting all students, both in the Middle Tennessee area (MTA) and Outside the Middle Tennessee Area (OMTA), to be successful in their clinical courses. Due to limited clinical sites, admission to the PNPPC program is specific to either MTA or OMTA clinical placement per your acceptance letter. If you have questions about your designation related to MTA or OMTA clinical placement, please me.

#### MTA Students


If you're planning on starting your Primary Care clinical rotations in the Middle Tennessee area, please do not contact local clinical sites. We have established sites in place, and local students will be assigned to an available site by the clinical coordinator, Professor Natalie Owen.

#### OMTA Students

Please remember that you must plan on your clinical site to be in an area outside of Middle Tennessee (outside the 150 mile radius of Nashville) and based on approval by the clinical coordinators, Dr. Sharon Fleming and Dr. Jennifer Ridgway, for the PNPPC program. For students who will complete their clinical rotations at an OMTA site, please refer to preceptorship information on the PNPPC orientation page.

On behalf of the entire PNPPC faculty and VUSN, we are excited to start a new academic year with you. It will be fast-paced and involve a lot of hard work, but it will be fun and worthwhile. Safe travels and we will see you in August!

Sincerely,



Brittany Nelson, DNP, APRN, CPNP

Program Director, Primary Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program