

## Prespecialty Clinical Experiences

Students are not responsible for selecting clinical sites during the Prespecialty Level curriculum. Students are assigned to group clinical rotations by the course coordinators to provide the wide variety of experiences required to become a skilled generalist nurse. Each student will be assigned hospital clinical placements and a community agency clinical placement. If you have religious or cultural needs that limit your participation in school activities on certain days, please contact the Program Director ([mary.a.jessee@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:mary.a.jessee@vanderbilt.edu)).

### Hospital Clinical Experiences

The series of acute-care population focused clinical courses engages students in application of clinical and theoretical concepts with patients being treated for physical and mental health disorders and their families. This series of courses continues across each semester of the Prespecialty Level and consists of clinical experiences with adult medical/surgical, obstetrics, pediatrics, and psych/mental health patient populations.

Weekly hospital clinical experiences consist of two 8-hour sessions, or one 12-hour session plus a 4-hour conference session, and may begin as early as 6:00am or end as late as 9:00pm depending on the course, clinical site, and patient population. Hospital clinical experiences are scheduled Wednesday-Saturday. Students should expect to have Saturday clinical during at least one 5-week clinical rotation during the curriculum. Please plan to be available. Most clinical sites will be within 5 miles of the VUSN campus but some may be as much as 25 miles away. Please ensure your availability and transportation for any of these potential clinical schedules and sites.

Hospital clinical experience assignments will be made during the first week of classes once we have documentation of all completed New Student Compliance Requirements and University Required Training Modules. Students often ask for the clinical experience assignments and schedule to be provided earlier, but significant regulatory requirements prevent completion of these assignments until the first week of classes once all students have matriculated.

***Hospital Clinical Training Requirements:*** All Prespecialty students will have hospital clinical placements at multiple facilities over the course of the Prespecialty Level curriculum, and must complete Clinical Site Training Requirements for each site. Soon after you complete your VUSN Requirements (New Student Compliance Requirements and University Required Training Modules), you will receive email requests at your Vmail address to complete Clinical Site Training Requirements. All Prespecialty students will need to complete both Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) and Tristar Hospital clinical site training in preparation for clinical for the year.

These training requirements must be completed as soon as the requests are received to ensure clearance for clinical experience participation. Completion of these Clinical Site Training Requirements is separate from the VUSN requirements and New Student Compliance Requirements, and does not influence your registration for classes. However, failure to complete these requirements as directed will prevent you from beginning clinical experiences and will delay your program of study. If you have specific questions regarding the email requests for Clinical Site Training Requirements, please contact Rita Tejeda at [rita.tejeda@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:rita.tejeda@vanderbilt.edu).

If you have general questions concerning hospital clinical experiences or placements, please contact Dr. Heather Robbins, [heather.m.robbs@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:heather.m.robbs@vanderbilt.edu).

**Uniforms and Equipment:** Our clinical uniform requirements include a lab coat, black scrubs, and white, black, or brown solid leather or other impermeable material shoes with a full heel. All students are required to purchase scrubs and lab coats. There will be more information about scrub and lab coat requirements posted soon on the Prespecialty Uniform Requirements (June 1<sup>st</sup>). Students should also have shorts and a tank top or sports bra for assessment laboratory sessions as peer-engaged assessment practice is the foundation for learning the nursing physical assessment. If you have religious or cultural needs that limit your ability to assess or be assessed by your peers or by someone of a different gender, please contact the Vanderbilt University Office of Equal Opportunity and Access (<https://www.vanderbilt.edu/eoa/>) to seek appropriate accommodations.

A stethoscope and pen light must be purchased prior to the start of classes. We suggest a lightweight, single tubing stethoscope with a chest piece that incorporates both a bell and a diaphragm. If possible, you should test the sound quality of several stethoscopes before purchase. If you purchase online, please read the customer reviews for guidance. A basic stethoscope may cost you \$50-\$150 depending on your preference. Pen lights range from \$5 to \$25.

### Community Clinical Experiences

The series of community and population focused clinical courses engages students in application of clinical and theoretical concepts with patients and populations in the community. This series of courses continues across each semester of the Prespecialty Level and consists of clinical experiences with one designated clinical agency and patient population. Since this is a longitudinal clinical placement, students have the opportunity to select preferences for community clinical agency and population of interest prior to assignment to a clinical placement.

Information about the community clinical agencies and populations will be available on the Prespecialty Level Orientation page close to the start of the fall semester. Students will be provided the opportunity to ask questions about the agencies, populations, and associated clinical projects during New Student Orientation. Prior to the end of New Student Orientation, students will submit their top 3 choices for placement. Every effort will be made to accommodate one of each student's top choices. Students will be assigned either a Wednesday or Friday Community Health clinical placement. Students will spend 5 hours per week on average engaging in community clinical work. Community clinical experience start and stop times will depend on the specific agency and population.

Students interested in applying for a Global Health community clinical placement (Guatemala, Ecuador, or Guyana) must attend the Global Health Information Session which will be scheduled during New Student Orientation at VUSN. *After the session*, students will be required to complete and submit applications for their desired placement. Students wishing to be considered for the Guatemala placement are required to take a Spanish placement test.

If you have questions concerning community clinical experience placements, please contact Dr. Carrie Plummer [carrie.e.plummer@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:carrie.e.plummer@vanderbilt.edu).