

February 10, 2023

Welcome to the Prespecialty Level of Vanderbilt University School of Nursing's MSN program! We are excited you chose nursing as your career path, and grateful you selected VUSN for your nursing education. Admission to your chosen specialty area is the first step to becoming an Advanced Practice Nurse. As a student with a degree in a field other than nursing, you must complete the Prespecialty Level and become a generalist nurse, prior to advancing to your specialty level curriculum.

The VUSN faculty and staff continuously work to provide an inclusive, supportive learning environment that facilitates your development of the knowledge, skills, and attitudes essential for the provision of safe, evidence-based, client-centered nursing care. We invite you to join with faculty and staff, students in your Prespecialty cohort, and students ahead of you in their journey, to cultivate a learning environment where every unique individual, background, and perspective belongs.

The Prespecialty Level is a dynamic, participatory curriculum that builds upon your previous education, career, and life experiences to facilitate your transformation into a competent, confident generalist nurse. In this curriculum, you will engage in a variety of active, engaged teaching and learning strategies both as an individual and collaboratively with peers and faculty. Your self-directed, reflective learning, coupled with frequent assessment and feedback from faculty and peers, will support your development into a skilled generalist nurse able to make sound decisions to promote the health of diverse individuals, families, and communities. Upon successful completion of the three-semester Prespecialty Level curriculum, you will be eligible to take the National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) to become a registered nurse, and will progress directly to your specialty level education.

VUSN Requirements

In preparation for the Prespecialty curriculum, you must complete several important time-sensitive tasks. Information on all requirements will be available on the [Admitted Students Webpage](#). This is the primary method of communication along with your Vmail (VU email address), so please review the site frequently for updates. The first tasks to complete include:

1. Claim your VUNetID. You will receive an email from NoReply@vanderbilt.edu at the email address you listed in the admission process. This is required to gain access to essential VU online platforms.
2. Install [DUO Multi-Factor Authentication](#) on your devices. This is required to gain access to essential VU online platforms. Accessing the instructions using the link above will require your VUNetID.
3. Complete the New Student Compliance Requirements through the Exxat platform and the [Student Health Portal](#).
 - a. You will receive an email invitation at your Vmail address that will grant you access to the Exxat platform. Please watch for this and access as soon as it is received.
4. Completing the University Required Training Modules (More information will be available from the Office of the Dean of Students in the upcoming months)..

*All of these requirements must be completed by **July 1, 2023** for you to register for fall 2023 classes.*

Clinical Site 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 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 so that students to be cleared for clinical experience participation. Completion of these Clinical Site Training Requirements is separate from the VUSN 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, please contact Rita Tejeda at rita.tejeda@vanderbilt.edu.

Prespecialty Level Information ([Prespecialty Level Orientation Page](#))

Class Schedule

The Prespecialty Level 2023-2024 Class Schedule will be available on the Prespecialty Level Orientation page in February, 2023. All Prespecialty students follow the same full-time curriculum. Generally, didactic course sessions are scheduled on Monday and Tuesday, and clinical experiences are scheduled Wednesday-Saturday.

Clinical Experiences

Each student will be assigned hospital clinical placements and a community agency clinical placement. Students have the opportunity to select preferences for community clinical agency placement. Please review the detailed [Clinical Experience Information](#) on the Prespecialty Level Orientation page.

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 according to our specific Prespecialty Uniform Requirements found on the Admitted Students Webpage (available June 1). We suggest purchasing two pairs of scrubs. Students should also have shorts and a tank top or sports bra for assessment laboratory sessions.

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. 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.

Technology, Text, and Resource Requirements

A laptop or home computer that meets the [VUSN Technology Requirements](#) is required for testing. Purchase of [Remote Proctor](#) software is required for examinations. Required learning resources (text and online resources) and specific costs for these requirements will be available in May. Please check the Admitted Students Webpage and the Prespecialty Level Orientation page for updates.

Total Estimated Costs in Addition to Tuition and Fees for the Prespecialty Level *These costs are estimated as of February 2023 and are subject to change.

Prior to Fall Semester Start

- Compliance Fees: \$180 (background check, drug screen, compliance portal fee) plus variable costs for immunizations
- Uniforms and Equipment: \$150 – \$250 (depending on choices)
- Technology, Text, and Required Resources
 - ATI resource bundle: \$500 per semester (e-texts and online learning requirements)
 - Other texts: \$200 per year (less if purchase used)
 - Remote Proctor: \$180 per year

Spring Semester 2024

- ATI resource bundle: \$500 semester payment

Summer Semester 2024

- ATI resource bundle: \$500 semester payment
- NCLEX Registration and Application Process: \$300

If you have questions regarding your specialty level, please contact your specialty level director. If you have questions regarding the Prespecialty Level, please feel free to contact me via email at mary.a.jessee@vanderbilt.edu. I look forward to meeting you in August. Thank you for choosing VUSN!

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