



VANDERBILT  
*School of Nursing*

# 2023-2024 VANDERBILT PRE-NURSING UNDERGRADUATE HANDBOOK

BS/MSN PEABODY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT  
BA/MSN COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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## Introduction

This Handbook was created for Vanderbilt undergraduates interested in obtaining either a **Master of Nursing (MN)** or **Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)** degree offered by Vanderbilt University. Although Vanderbilt University School of Nursing does not offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree, undergraduate students may apply for admission to the MN or MSN degree program.

If you have a bachelor's degree in another field other than nursing but are interested in becoming a professional registered nurse (RN), consider Vanderbilt's new **Master of Nursing (MN)** program. Our fast-moving, comprehensive master's program prepares highly motivated students to be RNs who deliver high-quality, comprehensive care in our changing health care environment. The MN program of study will equip you to take the National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) to become a registered nurse after completing just four semesters.

Another professional degree in nursing option at Vanderbilt is the **Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)**. The increase in knowledge and scope of nursing responsibilities, as well as changes in roles, functions, and practice settings, require a post-baccalaureate nursing education that builds on a rich liberal education base and a baccalaureate in nursing or its equivalent. Vanderbilt's MSN program is based on a variety of cognitive styles, life experiences, and educational backgrounds, and its flexibility allows all students to achieve the same goals through different options.

Students in the MSN program become a registered nurse (RN) during the program but continue on to an advanced practice specialty before they complete their degree. Students are eligible to take the certification exam in their advanced nursing practice specialty after MSN requirements are completed. The MSN degree is not awarded until the complete RN and advanced practice nursing curricula are completed.

The first three semesters in the MSN degree program are generalist nursing courses and prepares students to become a licensed Registered Nurse (RN). Students take the NCLEX-RN (licensure exam) after completing the generalist nursing courses and become RNs during the MSN program of studies. The generalist nursing courses provide the foundation equivalent to the bachelor's degree in nursing. Upon completion of three semesters of generalist nursing courses, students enter a minimum of an additional three to four (depending on the specialty) semester sequence of courses in their declared specialty to earn the MSN degree. After completing the MSN degree, students are eligible to take the advanced practice certification exam in their selected specialty. The MSN program requires a minimum of 6 semesters in a fall-spring-summer, fall-spring-summer calendar. Some specialties take one or two additional semesters.

All students entering with a degree in a field other than nursing are required to live within daily commuting distance of the Vanderbilt campus for the first three semesters of the program. In the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (AGPCNP), Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), Pediatric Nurse Practitioner - Primary Care (PNP-PC), Women's Health Gender Related Nurse Practitioner (WHGRNP) and the dual WHGRNP/AGPCNP specialty, students have the option of completing the remaining courses in a Modified Distance format.

Students entering the MSN program with an undergraduate or higher degree, in a field other than nursing, are eligible to apply to one of the following specialties:

- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner +
- Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner\*
- Family Nurse Practitioner \*
- Nurse-Midwifery (hybrid format)◇
- Nurse-Midwifery/Family Nurse Practitioner Dual Focus (hybrid format similar to Nurse-Midwifery)◇
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner - Primary Care\*
- Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Lifespan)+
- Women's Health Gender Related Nurse Practitioner\*

- Women's Health Gender Related Nurse Practitioner/Adult Gerontology Primary Care Dual Focus \*

- + Required to complete entire six-semester program of studies within daily commuting distance of Vanderbilt campus. Note that specialty year clinical placements sites may be a 150-mile one-way drive from campus.
- \* Required to complete the pre-specialty component of the MSN within daily commuting distance of Vanderbilt campus. The specialty component may be completed either with clinical placements within a 150-mile radius of Vanderbilt campus or with clinical placements outside of the middle Tennessee area (OMTA). As a rule, there are more spots available for applicants requesting OMTA placement.
- ◇ Required to complete the pre-specialty year within daily commuting distance of Vanderbilt campus. The specialty year will require blocks of time on Vanderbilt campus but all students will be required to travel to OMTA clinical sites.

Both the MN and the MSN requires strong commitment and continual dedication to learning. There is much to consider as you explore the options for entering into the nursing profession.

This handbook is updated annually but it is not intended to be a comprehensive guide to the MN or MSN degree programs. Pre-nursing students should visit the Vanderbilt School of Nursing website at <https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/> for detailed information admission requirements. Pre-nursing students should:

- 1) complete the online admission information cards so that the School of Nursing Admissions Office is aware of your interest in nursing, <https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/admissions/inquiry.php>. On the card, indicate that you will enter with a BA/BS degree in a non-nursing field.
- 2) become a member of the Pre-Nursing Society (PNS).
- 3) meet with one of the VUSN-PNS advisors to discuss program questions and to select nursing prerequisite courses.
- 4) attend an online information session prior to applying to the program.  
Registration required  
[https://apply.vanderbilt.edu/portal/nursing\\_info\\_session](https://apply.vanderbilt.edu/portal/nursing_info_session).
- 5) Pre-nursing students are encouraged to email *admissions*-questions to [vusn-admissions@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:vusn-admissions@vanderbilt.edu).

## Vanderbilt Pre-Nursing Society

The Pre-Nursing Society is a Vanderbilt Student Organization that is open to any student that has an interest in nursing. The organization holds monthly meetings usually at the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing.

The major goals of this organization are to explore the field of nursing and increase the understanding of the role of the advanced practice nurse. This will be accomplished through:

- Participation in presentations, panel discussions, community service and other pertinent events;
- Exposure to clinical settings via 1-1 interviews with, or shadowing, a registered nurse or advanced practice nurse. Students are responsible for arranging their shadowing experience in consultation with their Pre-Nursing advisor. Contact the pre-nursing academic advisor, [brandee.j.madden@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:brandee.j.madden@vanderbilt.edu).
- Networking opportunities in the nursing community, and;
- Liaison activities between undergraduate and graduate nursing students.

### 2023-2024 Officers

**Co-Presidents:** Morgan Heath-Powers and Anna Chang ([morgan.a.heath-powers@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:morgan.a.heath-powers@vanderbilt.edu), [anna.chang@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:anna.chang@vanderbilt.edu))

**Vice President:** Sara Gregg ([sara.l.gregg@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:sara.l.gregg@vanderbilt.edu))

**Treasurer:** Isabella Hirsch ([isabella.f.hirsch@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:isabella.f.hirsch@vanderbilt.edu))

**Secretary:** Elena Lim ([elena.d.lim@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:elena.d.lim@vanderbilt.edu))

**Shadowing Coordinator:** Dawn Efionayi ([dawn.e.efionayi@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:dawn.e.efionayi@vanderbilt.edu))

**Community Service Chair:** Trinity Peacock ([trinity.a.peacock@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:trinity.a.peacock@vanderbilt.edu))

**Mentorship Coordinator:** Lillian Fleisher ([lillian.s.fleisher@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:lillian.s.fleisher@vanderbilt.edu))

## **Pre-Nursing Options at Vanderbilt**

Any Vanderbilt Undergraduate student interested in nursing at Vanderbilt and meeting admission requirements may apply for admission.

## **Pre-Nursing Studies at Peabody College**

Peabody students interested in nursing typically choose from one of these undergraduate majors:

1. Major Areas
  - a) **Child Development:** (The Department of Psychology and Human Development). This major is recommended for those students interested in pediatric primary care, family, or psychiatric mental health.
  - b) **Human and Organizational Development/Health and Human Services Track:** (The Department of Human and Organizational Development HOD.) This major is strongly recommended for students who are interested in nursing from a community (including counseling and working in health/human service organizations), organizational, administrative, or public health perspective or students who are unsure of their specialty area.
  - c) **Child Studies:** For information contact Dr. Vicki Harris at [vicki.s.harris@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:vicki.s.harris@vanderbilt.edu).

## **Pre-Nursing Studies in the College of Arts and Science**

Students enrolled in the College of A&S and interested in a career in nursing can select any undergraduate major. However, the undergraduate program of studies must include satisfactory completion of human anatomy and physiology I and II, microbiology, nutrition, statistics, and lifespan development. See section of prerequisite courses for details.

## **Frequently Asked Questions about Pre-Nursing**

What should be my major?

There is not a preferred major for applicants to the MSN program. All students need to complete a BA/BS degree and prerequisite courses prior to enrolling.

There are a variety of undergraduate majors that are natural complements to the nursing profession. Examples include: psychology, women's studies, medicine, health and society, child development, or child studies.

Students interested in the pre-nursing program at **Peabody College usually** major in Human and Organizational Development, Child Development, or Child Studies. Students in **Arts and Science** often consider Medicine, Health, and Society.

### **Should I apply to the MN or the MSN?**

#### **Master of Nursing:**

If you are interested in practicing as a registered nurse for your career, or you are interested in practicing as registered nurse before you return to school to become an advanced practice registered nurse (or other options), the MN program would be a great fit for you.

- The Master of Nursing program is designed for those who are interested in entering the discipline of nursing as registered nurses. Our program will prepare you with advanced skills in interprofessional teamwork, health equity, clinical judgment, informatics, and also prepare with the foundational knowledge and experience needed to function as a clinical teacher, or preceptor, for new nurses once you are in practice or as an instructor for nursing students at a school of nursing.
- <https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/mn/index.php> This link provides a comparison between this MN program and the PreSpecialty entry MSN program (see below).

#### **Master of Science in Nursing, non-nursing entry (PreSpecialty)**

If you are interested in practicing only as an advanced practice registered nurse, then the MSN - PreSpecialty entry would be a great fit for you.

- The non-nursing entry pathway (PreSpecialty) of our Master of Science in Nursing program is designed for those who are interested in entering the discipline of nursing as an advanced practice registered nurse - a Nurse Practitioner or a Nurse-Midwife. This program prepares you first as a registered nurse in the first three semesters, then as an advanced practice nurse in the specialty to which you applied.

<https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/msn/prespecialty/index.php>

### **If I apply to the MSN, which specialty area should I apply to?**

You are eligible to apply to one of these nursing specialties: Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP), Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (AGPCNP), Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), Nurse-Midwifery (NM), Nurse-Midwifery/FNP (dual specialty), Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP), Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Primary Care (PNP-PC), Women's Health Gender Related Nurse Practitioner (WHGRNP) or WHGRNP/AGPCNP (dual specialty). When applying to MSN program at VUSN, you must apply to a specialty area. It is not possible to apply to the MSN program undecided about your area of nursing specialization.

If you are not sure of what you would like to specialize in, it is important to investigate the various options to make your specialty choice. It is recommended that you interview an advanced practice nurse in the area of your interest as well as spend time volunteering in hospital and clinic settings to learn more about health care delivery and your interest areas.

For information on the specialties, visit the Vanderbilt School of Nursing webpage at <https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu> and attend one of the Open Houses that are held in the fall and spring each year. It is recommended that you begin attending the Open House in the spring semester of your freshman year to be able to have multiple opportunities to interact with faculty about the possibilities for a major at VUSN.

**Several weeks before Open House, information is posted on the School of Nursing admissions web**

<https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/admissions/msn/index.php>.

## When should I apply?

Undergraduate students should complete their application by ***October 15 of their final year.***

Students admitted to the MN degree program at VUSN can complete all course requirements to be eligible for the registered nurse licensing exam in four semesters. They can then practice as an RN while also considering when and where to continue to advance their education.

Students admitted to the MSN degree program complete an additional two academic years (6 semesters) at VUSN (or slightly more depending on the specialty) to obtain an MSN, be licensed to practice as a registered nurse, be eligible to sit for the advanced practice nurse certification exam, and practice as an advanced practice nurse (select nurse practitioner specialties or nurse-midwife).

## How Do I Learn More about the Pre-Nursing Options at Vanderbilt?

There are several ways to learn more about the pre-nursing options at Vanderbilt:

1. Visit the [Pre-nursing Studies](#) webpage.
2. Join the Vanderbilt Pre-Nursing Society. Contact the PNS President for information: Morgan Heath-Powers and Anna Chang ([morgan.a.heath-powers@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:morgan.a.heath-powers@vanderbilt.edu), [anna.chang@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:anna.chang@vanderbilt.edu))
3. Attend information sessions. Programs host different information sessions both virtually and in person throughout each term. Please visit the [Nursing Admissions](#) webpage for a list of all upcoming events and whether they will be held virtually or in-person.
4. Set up a meeting with the Pre-nursing Advisor [brandee.j.madden@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:brandee.j.madden@vanderbilt.edu)
5. Attend at least one of the Vanderbilt School of Nursing Open Houses held twice per year; Open House is scheduled for September 9, 2023 and April 13, 2024. When the RSVP for the Open House is open, you can register to attend on the [Nursing Admissions](#) web site, in the [Open House portal](#).
6. Review the information about [Advanced Practice specialties](#) to determine which specialty is the best fit for you career goals. After carefully reviewing the scope of practice information and attending an online information, email the Academic Director with additional questions.

## International Applicants Who Need an I-20 or DS-2019 Issued to Study in the United States

Due to federal guidelines, the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), postmaster's certificate (PMC), and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) programs do not satisfy the requirements for F-1 or J-1 study. The federal regulations restrict the number of courses that can be delivered via an online format within a program of study for F-1 and J-1 students. As these programs have a significant online component, the educational format is not compatible with the structure required by the federal government for F-1 and J-1 students.

The Master of Nursing (MN) does satisfy the requirements for F-1 or J-1 study. Please contact [Vanderbilt International Student & Scholar Services](#) for more information.

### Advice for Student by Students

This handbook has been designed to offer you a brief overview of Vanderbilt's School of Nursing and the admission process.

The following are recommendations from our past and current students for consideration as you explore your interest in the health care field:

1. Volunteer, Interview, or Shadow
2. Volunteering at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center or Monroe Carroll Junior Children's Hospital is a wonderful way to explore different fields of health care and immerse oneself in the patient environment. Volunteering at one of the two Vanderbilt Hospitals is a minimal time commitment, but a unique and rewarding experience. There are opportunities for college students to volunteer in both the school year and summer months. Contact Volunteer services for both hospitals at [volunteer.services@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:volunteer.services@vanderbilt.edu) or by phone at (615)-322-2379, for more information and an application. ***You will also receive volunteer and community service opportunities through the Vanderbilt PNS organization.*** In addition, interviewing or shadowing a nurse, nurse practitioner, or nurse-midwife is a valuable experience. If you know a nurse in your community, request an interview to discuss their role. Contact a PNS nursing advisor for information about

potential interviews with nurses or advanced practice nurses in the local area. \*A Shadowing Program for PNS members is available. Contact the PNS shadowing coordinator for more information: Dawn Efonayi ([dawn.e.efionayi@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:dawn.e.efionayi@vanderbilt.edu))

### 3. CPR Certification

CPR training is required prior to beginning the first semester of Nursing School. Contact the American Heart Association (615) 256-1818 for information. \*\*Remember to ask for the **“health care provider course”** when you sign up, as this is a requirement for VUSN (includes infant, child, and adult CPR).

## Required Prerequisite Courses

No matter what your undergraduate major is the following courses are required as prerequisites for matriculating into the MSN degree program. Completion of the pre-requisites is required by the time classes begin but not required at the time you apply:

- 3 hours of Statistics
- \*\*Microbiology: BSCI 3234 (3 credits). Beginning 2023 you must also have completed the one-year Introduction to Biological Sciences series (BSCI 1510/1511) as a prerequisite.
- \*\*Human Anatomy & Physiology (BSCI 2101 & BSCI 3101) (4 credits each) Fall/ Spring; must take BSCI 2101 before BSCI 3101; also, you must have a semester of biology as a prerequisite. Meet with the nursing advisor to discuss your options.
- \*\*Nutrition: MHS 1600 Introduction to Nutrition and Health for a Changing World (3 credits). Please consult the [Vanderbilt Course Catalog](#) for course availability.
- Developmental Psychology: HOD 1250 or PSY-PC 1250

***\*\*All courses taken elsewhere are subject to the provisions of the Transfer Credit policies. If you need to take the pre-requisites off campus, please use this link to***

***assist you getting started with transferring courses to VU:***  
<https://acad.app.vanderbilt.edu/more/SearchTransferCredits.action>

## **Clinical Placement**

The VUSN Clinical Placement Office works collaboratively with faculty, program directors, and students to ensure all students have a productive clinical experience. Clinical sites and preceptors are chosen for their ability to provide students with clinical experiences consistent with course and certification requirements and the mission of the school. Due to regulatory requirements or a lack of available and appropriate preceptors, VUSN may not be able to accommodate clinical placements in all areas of the country. See further details at <https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/admissions/regulations.php>.

## **MN and MSN Pre-Specialty Clinical Rotations**

During the MN and MSN PreSpecialty programs, all students are required to live within daily commuting distance of Vanderbilt campus. Students in both programs will be placed in group clinical experiences in the middle Tennessee area (MTA). These group experiences may be in a hospital or community setting.

## **Advanced Practice Placements within the Greater Middle Tennessee Area—Specialty Year**

For MSN students admitted as MTA (Greater Middle Tennessee Area) students, the Clinical Placement Office works with the specialty faculty to secure clinical sites. Clinical sites located within a 150-mile radius from the School of Nursing are considered to be within this area. As a result, students may have rotations in Kentucky, Alabama, and east or west Tennessee, depending on the appropriateness of the site. Faculty take into consideration a number of factors in assigning students to sites, including home address, specialty needs, and clinical interests. Given the large number of health profession students in the area and the competition for sites, agencies and providers have asked that all Greater Middle Tennessee area VUSN placements be coordinated by a school representative. Students are not to reach out to local sites to arrange their own placements. If you identify a possible local placement, please contact your specialty director or course coordinator first; they will work with the Clinical Placement office staff to see if a placement is possible.

## **MSN Advanced Practice Placements outside the Greater Middle Tennessee Area—Specialty Year**

For MSN students admitted as OMTA (outside the Greater Middle Tennessee Area), students, faculty, and the Clinical Placement staff work collaboratively to locate OMTA sites for the advanced practice portion of the MSN. Students are encouraged to develop a list of possible sites, as they often have a better knowledge of the area and can use personal networks and connections to identify a potential rotation. The Clinical Placement office will research the area and share information on agencies and practices where VUSN either has an existing relationship or where a previous student has precepted. The Clinical Placement office also coordinates with the Alumni Relations office to share information on alumni in the area who might be able to assist.

### **Application Process**

Vanderbilt University School of Nursing seeks to matriculate students with an array of life experiences and the potential to provide significant contributions to the nursing profession. We believe a diverse learning community fosters the development of exceptional leaders, educators, clinicians, informaticists, and researchers. A holistic approach is used to evaluate each candidate based on academic performance, professional goals, personal characteristics, leadership potential, commitment to service, and support of diversity, inclusion, and equity.

To assist in the application process and to ensure a quality application, it is necessary to become familiar with the [admissions process](#) early. Before starting an application, it is strongly recommended that you attend an information session offered by the School of Nursing admissions office. Whether you are in the process of applying or simply interested in what it entails, this section will not only explain the requirements, but will also provide recommendations and suggestions on how to create a well-rounded application. The MSN program only admits students for a fall start date. The MN program only admits students for a spring start date. The application opens each year on August 15 and the spring application cycle opens May 1. The fall 2024 priority review date is October 15, 2023. The online

application is available on the School of Nursing web page at <https://apply.vanderbilt.edu/apply/>.

If you are applying to AGPCNP, FNP, PNP-PC, WHNP, or WHNP/AGPCNP specialty, you will be required to indicate whether you want to complete the specialty year portion of the program in the middle Tennessee area (MTA) or outside of the middle Tennessee area (OMTA). Applications are holistically reviewed based on the following factors:

- Statement of Purpose
- Responses to application questions
- Official Transcripts
- Three Letters of Recommendation

### **Statement of Purpose and Responses to Application Questions**

All applicants should treat the Statement of Purpose and responses to application questions as seriously as an in-person interview. Assist the faculty reviewers with understanding more about you, why you want to enter the nursing profession, and your future plans. Respond to the questions clearly, provide examples, and use your best quality writing. Communicating a comprehensive understanding of the program for which you are applying is beneficial.

For **MSN** applicants:

- Your Statement of Purpose and responses to application questions should address your first choice of specialty. It is not possible to enter the program without choosing your specialty area.
- You may apply to only one specialty on your application. Please make sure that you thoughtfully choose your specialty prior to beginning the admission process. After admission, it is very difficult to change specialties.

For **MN** applicants: Your Statement of Purpose and responses to application questions should address why you want to become a registered nurse. You may

want to include populations you would like to serve, the type of care you would like to provide, or how this program will help you meet your professional goals.

### **Statement of Purpose**

Submit as part of your online application. The Statement of Purpose (750 words maximum) should reflect your understanding of the role of the advanced practice nurse and your interest in a particular patient population. Before writing your statement of purpose, please carefully review information about the specialty on our web site and other sources so that you clearly indicate to the faculty that your career goals match the specialty. If you are applying to a dual-specialty, be sure to address the scope of practice or populations in both specialties.

For the MSN, students are admitted to a specialty; it is not possible to enter the program *undecided* about a specialty area. If uncertain about a specialty, consider completing the MN, then deciding your future direction. While the online application system will allow you to submit more than one application, the School of Nursing can only consider one application per student per term.

### **Responses to Application Questions**

Responses are submitted as part of the online application. Each question is to be answered in 100-250 words. Both the writing style (grammar, punctuation, spelling, word use, etc.) and the content of your responses will be reviewed as part of the overall application.

### **Suggestions**

The application questions require you to examine yourself and your role as a future professional. It is highly recommended that you ask yourself these questions early and begin to cultivate answers. There is no set length for each response, or right or wrong answers. The key is to write concise, well-reasoned answers that demonstrate your individuality and your ability to maturely handle the demands of a rigorous graduate program.

Please consider the following points:

- The School of Nursing is committed to the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Read the VUSN diversity and inclusion position statement <https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/about/diversity/index.php> and consider how you will contribute to a diverse and inclusive environment at VUSN.
- Include your **achievements, personal characteristics, or special talents** that contribute to your academic abilities and future in nursing including, **experiences** you have had working with underserved or at-risk populations. Provide a comprehensive list of your activities/experience in the Experiences section of the application.
- ***This is a competitive program with limited enrollment so consider how you might differentiate yourself from other applicants.***

### **Official Transcripts**

\* Applicants should request electronic transcripts using the Vanderbilt YES system. Please **do not** have paper copies mailed. **Please note:** Applicants must submit **official** transcripts from all post High School studies. To avoid errors, start your online application at <https://apply.vanderbilt.edu/apply/> before submitting transcripts.

Students admitted to this program must have earned an undergraduate grade point average of at least a "B," or a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. **The average GPA is approximately 3.5.**

### **Letters of Recommendation: Submitted Online**

All applicants must provide three letters of academic or professional reference. Your letters should be submitted by faculty members, professional colleagues, or job supervisors who can evaluate your potential for success in a graduate program. It is required that at least one of your recommenders hold a master's or higher degree. Since you are a current VU student, it is strongly recommended that at least two letters come from VU faculty familiar with your academic ability.

Additional letters from professionals will be accepted, but not required. Make sure the people completing your references, have direct knowledge of your abilities and

keep in mind, more is not better, quality of the reference is more important as to their knowledge of your academic or work performance.

Titles are not as important as the people who know you well. You will need to provide a valid e-mail address of your recommenders. References from peers, family members, or friends are not appropriate recommendations. The online application system will prompt you how to send the letters electronically.

### **All MN Graduates are Eligible for Seamless Transition to a Post Masters Certificate program or a Post Masters Certificate with a Doctorate in Nursing Practice**

The purpose of the post-master's certificate study program is to provide an educational route to an advanced nursing practice specialization. While the post-master's certificate will meet the advanced practice specialty requirements, the stacking of credits available to those who attend the MN program make completion of the doctorate very efficient. More information can be provided during information sessions or during your program of study.

### **All MSN Graduates are Eligible for Seamless Transition to Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Degree Program**

The Doctor of Nursing Practice program prepares leaders in advanced nursing practice to bring evidence-based knowledge into the practice arena, improve health care outcomes and strengthen the leadership role in guiding complex care delivery and nursing education. Vanderbilt's MSN program provides an opportunity to seamlessly progress from the MSN program to the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program. Following completion of the MSN degree, graduates are eligible to take their specialty-specific certification exam. Seamless progression allows students to work as an advanced practice nurse while completing the DNP program in either five or six semesters. See [DNP program details](#).

## **Faculty Contacts**

### **A&S Students**

Dr. Roger Moore, Senior Associate Dean & Director of Undergraduate Education  
(615) 322-2844, [roger.e.moore@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:roger.e.moore@vanderbilt.edu)

### **Child Development and Child Studies Majors**

Professor Vicki Harris

(615) 343-1896

[vicki.s.harris@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:vicki.s.harris@vanderbilt.edu)

### **HOD Majors**

Professor Kimberly Bess

(615) 343-7946

[kimberly.d.bess@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:kimberly.d.bess@vanderbilt.edu)

### **Vanderbilt School of Nursing (VUSN)**

Pre-Nursing Advisor

Professor Brandee Madden

[brandee.j.madden@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:brandee.j.madden@vanderbilt.edu)

### **VUSN Admissions Office**

(615) 322-3800

[vusn-admissions@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:vusn-admissions@vanderbilt.edu)

Ernie Rushing, Associate Dean of Enrollment, Alumni and Student Affairs

615-322-8503

[ernie.rushing@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:ernie.rushing@vanderbilt.edu)

Lauren Watt, Senior Admissions Officer

615-322-1077

[lauren.watt@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:lauren.watt@vanderbilt.edu)

Contact person for: Adult-Gerontology Acute Care NP, Adult-Gerontology Primary Care NP, Family Nurse Practitioner, and Psychiatric-Mental Health NP

Cheryl Feldner, Associate Director

615-343-6810

[cheryl.feldner@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:cheryl.feldner@vanderbilt.edu)

Contact person for: Nurse-Midwifery, dual Nurse-Midwifery/Family Nurse Practitioner, Pediatric Primary Nurse Practitioner, Women's Health Gender Related Nurse Practitioner and dual Women's Health Gender Related Nurse Practitioner/Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

### **Medicine, Health & Society**

Undergraduate Advisor

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