

# Pre-Nursing

The master of science in nursing (MSN), the first-professional degree in nursing at Vanderbilt, is specialty-related and offered at the graduate level. The increase in knowledge required of nurses and the scope of their responsibilities, as well as changes in role, functions, and practice settings, require post-baccalaureate nursing education built on a rich undergraduate liberal education or baccalaureate nursing degree or its equivalent. The school of nursing **does not** offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree.

Prospective students interested in nursing at Vanderbilt may apply for admission to any Vanderbilt undergraduate school awarding a B.A. or B.S. In addition to their undergraduate faculty advisers, pre-nursing students are encouraged to work with a pre-nursing adviser to assist in planning their program of studies.

Qualified students may apply to the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program after earning a baccalaureate degree at Vanderbilt and completing all admission requirements. Students are encouraged to contact the School of Nursing Office of Admissions at (615) 322-3800 or 888-333-9192 for further details of the program or email [VUSN-admissions@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:VUSN-admissions@vanderbilt.edu).

Current Vanderbilt undergraduate students interested in this program should consult Dr. Jana Lauderdale, pre-nursing adviser, at [jana.lauderdale@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:jana.lauderdale@vanderbilt.edu) or Paddy Peerman, Assistant Dean for Enrollment Management at (615) 322-3802 or [paddy.peerman@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:paddy.peerman@vanderbilt.edu), for advice on planning undergraduate studies to meet the program's requirements.

## ***Become Both A Registered Nurse (RN) and an Advanced Practice Nurse***

The first three semesters in the MSN degree program are generalist-nursing courses and prepares students for the NCLEX exam to become a **Registered Nurse** (R.N.). Students take the NCLEX 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 for course work in the selected nursing specialty. Upon completion of three semesters of generalist nursing courses, students enter a minimum of an additional three-semester sequence of courses in their declared specialty in order to earn the M.S.N. 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.

In an increasingly complex health care industry, advanced practice nurses are playing a vital role. Education and clinical training are preparing these professionals to assume such positions as **Nurse-Midwife and Nurse Practitioner**. Advanced practice nurses are offering and designing new ways of delivering cost-effective care and increasing access to qualified practitioners – often providing health care to underserved populations.

Advanced practice nurses work in collegial capacities with physicians and other health care providers, and are prepared to diagnose and treat patients with acute and chronic illnesses. These responsibilities require nursing professionals who are as smart and savvy as they are caring and compassionate. Vanderbilt School of Nursing prepares advanced practice nurses with an excellent education, real-world clinical experience and a solid grounding in theory, research and leadership.

## ***Pre-Nursing Requirements***

Students are eligible to apply to the M.S.N. program after graduation from any of Vanderbilt's undergraduate programs (A&S, Blair, Engineering or Peabody). Prior to beginning the M.S.N. program these courses must be completed:

MHS 1500 Microbiology (3-4 credits)

MHS 1600 Introduction to Nutrition and Health for a Changing World (3 credits)

MHS3101 Human Anatomy and Physiology I (4 credits)

MHS 3102 Human Anatomy and Physiology II (4 credits)

Statistics (3 credits): A number of undergraduate statistics courses are offered

Lifespan Development (3 credits):

HOD 1250 Applied Human

Development or Psy-PC 1250

(Developmental Psychology course meets this requirement)

***The prerequisite courses listed above do not need to be completed at the time of application. However, all prerequisite courses must be completed prior to the beginning of MSN classes in August.***

### **M.S.N. Admission Requirements**

Students must apply by November 1 of their senior year prior to beginning the M.S.N. in August.

#### **The M.S.N. application includes the following:**

Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher  
Three letters of reference  
Statement of nursing career goals  
Responses to application questions  
Official VU transcript and any other colleges/universities transcripts you attended  
Interview is required in some nursing specialties

### **M.S.N. Advanced Practice Specialties Available**

Adult-Gerontology **Acute Care** Nurse Practitioner  
Adult-Gerontology **Primary Care** Nurse Practitioner  
Family Nurse Practitioner  
Nurse Midwifery\*  
Nurse Midwifery/Family Nurse Practitioner\* (*dual certification*)  
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (primary care focus)  
Psychiatric-Mental-Health Nurse Practitioner (lifespan)  
Women's Health Nurse Practitioner  
Women's Health Nurse Practitioner/Adult Nurse Practitioner\* (*dual certification*)

**\* Requires additional semester(s)**

### **Pre-Nursing Society**

The Pre-nursing society is a Vanderbilt endorsed student organization that serves to support pre-nursing students on campus. The group acts as a resource for information regarding career opportunities in advanced practice nursing and the various specialty areas. A formal meeting is held each month (September – April) at the School of Nursing with volunteer/community service activities scheduled throughout the academic year. Shadowing experience with an advanced practice nurse can also be arranged for active members of the pre-nursing society.

### **Students 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) program **does 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 the MSN program has 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.

#### **For Additional Information:**

Visit the School of Nursing website at:  
[nursing.vanderbilt.edu](http://nursing.vanderbilt.edu)

E-mail the School of Nursing at:  
[vsun-admissions@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:vsun-admissions@vanderbilt.edu)

Call the School of Nursing Admissions Office at:  
(888) 333-9192