Welcome to Vanderbilt University! The Vanderbilt University School of Nursing (VUSN) has a long tradition of leadership in nursing and delivery of optimal patient care. Our program is focused on preparing you to become an advanced practice nurse in your chosen specialty. The first year of the MSN program, the pre-specialty level, includes pre-licensure courses through which you will gain and apply foundational knowledge and competencies for licensure as a registered nurse. As a prerequisite for advanced practice nursing, the pre-specialty level curriculum is the portal to the specialty in which you have been accepted. In order to become an advanced practice nurse, you must first demonstrate competency as a generalist nurse. The following information is to help you prepare for the pre-specialty level of your program. You will hear more about your selected specialty as the year progresses and you are closer to entering the specialty level.

**Admitted Students Web Page (available February 1st)**
Please refer to the VUSN web page and click on the “Admitted Students” tab for regularly updated information between now and orientation. Bookmark this page as updates will be added frequently. [http://www.nursing.vanderbilt.edu/newstudents/newstudents.html](http://www.nursing.vanderbilt.edu/newstudents/newstudents.html)

**Overview of Schedule**
Didactic courses are scheduled on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Courses are designed to engage you in active learning of foundational concepts of generalist nursing through multiple teaching strategies. Clinical courses are scheduled on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. You will begin learning and practicing generalist nursing in a laboratory environment and will be progressively integrated into hospital and community clinical experiences early in the first semester. Clinical experiences may consist of 4- hour, 8- hour, or 12-hour experiences, depending on the course, clinical site, and patient population. Clinical experiences may begin as early as 6:00 am for day sessions or as late as 2:30pm for evening sessions. Weekend sessions may also be required. Clinical experience assignments are unable to be completed until the first week of school due to multiple scheduling factors. Students should ensure their availability for any of the above clinical days and times.

Clinical experience sites include major medical centers, community hospitals, and community agencies in Davidson and surrounding counties. You must arrange transportation to and from clinical sites. Public transportation, biking, or walking will not be viable options for most sites. Primary and backup childcare should be arranged if needed because lab and clinical experience attendance is mandatory.

**Immunization, Uniform, Textbook, and Equipment Requirements**
You must complete a background check, any needed immunizations, and CPR certification as outlined on the enclosed document and the VUSN website. These requirements must be completed by August 1, 2016. You will **not** be allowed to begin classes until all requirements are
Questions concerning these requirements may be directed to Lisa Boyer at lisa.boyer@vanderbilt.edu.

Scrubs are required but should not be purchased prior to VUSN orientation. Student orientation will include a session on professional dress that will identify the correct scrubs to purchase. You will need a white, thigh length lab coat and a VUSN patch. Lab coats may be purchased from the VUSN Graduate Nursing Council and patches may be purchased from the bookstore. More information about lab coats and patches will be provided to you by the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs prior to Fall semester.

Required textbook information will be posted on the Admitted Student website in July. Technology requirements are found at http://www.nursing.vanderbilt.edu/tools/techtools.html. You will be required to have a laptop computer and a Turning Point license or clicker that meets the requirements listed in the above link.

Upon completion of orientation to VUSN in August, you will be formally welcomed to VUSN with a ceremonial presentation of a stethoscope. This instrument is a symbol that is representative of the holistic, client-focused care you will learn to provide as you navigate your nursing education.

Important dates for Fall 2016 semester
New first year MSN (pre-specialty) student orientation: August 17, 18, and 19
First day of class: Monday, August 22

Important contact information
New student orientation or other student services:
Sarah Ramsey, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, sarah.ramsey@vanderbilt.edu
Financial Aid information:
Kristie Smith, Director of Student Financial Services, kristie.l.smith@vanderbilt.edu
Immunization/CPR & clinical requirements:
Lisa Boyer, Clinical Placement Office Compliance Officer, Lisa.boyer@vanderbilt.edu
Registration information:
Sara Donahoe, Assistant University Registrar sara.a.donahoe@vanderbilt.edu. Note that you will receive registration information in June.

If you have questions regarding the first year, pre-specialty level of your MSN program, please contact me. I look forward to meeting you in August. Thank you for choosing VUSN!

Mary Ann Jessee, PhD, RN
Pre-specialty Level Director
Mary.a.jessee@vanderbilt.edu