

ADMISSION PROCESS

The School of Nursing hosts campus visits in October and March of each year. Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend to learn more about programs offered at the School of Nursing. Applicants are also encouraged to schedule an appointment with an Admissions Counselor for assistance with the application process.

There are 8 requirements of those who seek admission to Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. These requirements vary somewhat depending upon your educational background and whether you are already a Registered Nurse.

1. All applicants must submit an official application for admission and a Statement of Career Goals. The Application supplies basic information (name, address, etc.). The Goal Statement is your opportunity to tell us (as specifically as you can at this time) what you are planning to do with your career after you finish your Master's Degree. This is a statement which helps the faculty determine your fit with the specialties offered at VUSN as well as plan for your specific needs in terms of clinical experiences and professional networking.

Students are offered admission to their selected specialty; it is not possible to enter the program undecided about your specialty area. If you indicate several specialties on your application, please clearly indicate which specialty is your first choice. Your Goal Statement and Interview Survey responses should address your first choice of specialty.

Should you desire to change your specialty, you will need to submit a revised Goal Statement and Interview Survey to reflect the new specialty. Students will be reviewed for admission to the new specialty and must be accepted by the new specialty. Students will be allowed to move to the new specialty only on a space available basis.

2. All applicants must submit official transcripts of all post high school studies. Students admitted to Vanderbilt University School of Nursing have earned an undergraduate grade point average of a "B" or a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
3. All applicants must take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). A minimum combined score of 1500 on the verbal, quantitative and analytical sections of the GRE is required. NOTE: Applicants to the joint degree MSN/MBA must complete the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT).
4. All applicants must provide three letters of professional reference. References should be from faculty members, professional colleagues, or work supervisors who can evaluate your potential for success in a graduate program. Recommendations from friends, other students or co-workers are usually not appropriate.
5. All applicants must complete the interview survey. Both the writing style (i.e. grammar, punctuation, spelling, word use) and content of your responses will be used in

6. the overall evaluation of your application to the program. In addition to the written interview survey, applicants to the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner specialty are required to have a personal interview with a faculty member. Once your application is received you will be contacted to schedule the personal interview.
7. All applicants are required to have certain prerequisite courses from an accredited college or university.
 - A. If you have earned a BSN, you must have had a 3 semester hour or 4 quarter hour Statistics course.
 - B. If you have earned an ADN or a Diploma in Nursing, you must have earned at least 78 accredited semester or 110 accredited quarter hours including the following areas: 11 hours of natural science which must include courses in Microbiology, Human Anatomy & Physiology (covering the complete body system); 9 hours of Social Science; 6 hours of Humanities; 6 hours of English; 3 hours of Statistics; 2-3 hours of Nutrition and 3 hours of Developmental Psychology.
 - C. If you have earned a BA or BS in a discipline other than Nursing, you must have successfully completed 11 hours of natural science including courses in Microbiology, Human Anatomy & Physiology (covering the complete body system); 3 hours of Statistics; 2-3 hours of Nutrition and 3 hours of Developmental Psychology.
 - D. If you have earned at least 78 semester hours of college credits (basically equivalent to the completion of a Junior year of College), you must have successfully completed the following courses as part of the 78 hours: 11 hours of natural science which must include courses in Microbiology, Human Anatomy & Physiology (covering the complete body system); 9 hours of Social Science; 6 hours of Humanities; 6 hours of English; 3 hours of Statistics; 2-3 hours of Nutrition and 3 hours of Developmental Psychology. In order to be considered for admission, you need to have completed at least 66 of the 78 required prerequisite hours.

All applicants may request transcript review to determine which (if any) additional courses may be needed.
8. RN applicants must have graduated from an N.L.N. accredited school.
9. RN applicants must obtain current licensure in the State of Tennessee. For more information on obtaining an RN license by endorsement visit the Tennessee Department of Health web site at <http://www.state.tn.us/health>.

STANDARDIZED TEST INFORMATION

All applicants must take one of the following tests prior to entrance. The tests must be taken within 5 years of application.

1. Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Applicants take the GRE General Test, a computer-based exam, which consists of verbal, quantitative and analytical reasoning measures. A combined test score of 1500 on the verbal, quantitative and analytical sections is required for admission to the School of Nursing. A free booklet, the GRE General Test Descriptive Booklet, containing sample questions and information on test taking strategies is available by calling (609) 771-7670. For a recorded message giving updated information about the computer based GRE call 1-800-808-0090. Additional information regarding the GRE can be obtained by visiting the GRE web site at <http://www.gre.org>; writing the Educational Testing Service, P.O. Box 6000; Princeton, NJ 08541-6000; calling (609)771-7906 or by sending an e-mail message to gre-info@ets.org. The GRE General Test, available year round in many locations, is administered at 225 test centers in the United States and Canada, as well as in many overseas locations. To obtain information about test center locations or to schedule an appointment to take the GRE call the Prometric Testing Center at 1-800-GRE-Call (1-800-473-2255).

The fee is \$99 and the allotted test time is 4 1/2 hours. With the computer-based exam you can view your scores on the screen immediately after completing the test. Score reports are mailed to institutions (designated by the student) within 10-15 days.

2. Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) MSN/MBA students only All joint degree applicants must take the GMAT. The GMAT score will be sent to Owen Graduate School of Management. The School of Nursing will accept submission of a GMAT score in lieu of the GRE. You need not take an additional exam for the School of Nursing. For information about the GMAT, write GMAT; Educational Testing Service; P.O. Box 6103; Princeton, NJ 08541-6103, or call 1-800-GMAT-NOW, or e-mail; GMAT@ets.org or visit web site at <http://www.gmat.org>.

Where Are the Tests Available?

The GRE and GMAT are offered at most major colleges and universities. If you live within the Nashville area, you can take the GRE and GMAT at the Prometric Testing Center; 1685 Gallatin Pike; Madison TN 37115; Phone (615)860-9111 or the Prometric Testing Center; 304 Williamson Square; Franklin, TN 37064; Phone (615)790-5018.

PREREQUISITE COURSE FOR APPLICANTS WITH A BSN DEGREE

Statistics

A minimum of one undergraduate course in elementary statistics is required for admission. Students with a long interim since coursework in statistics should consider review, self-study or repeating a course prior to enrollment in the program.

IMPORTANT ADDRESSES

World Wide Web Address –
<http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/nursing/>

Email Address –
VUSN-admissions@mcm.vanderbilt.edu

Any entering RN's must have a current active Tennessee License. If you do not have one, contact the:
Tennessee Board of Nursing
426 Fifth Avenue North
1st Floor Cordell Hull Building Nashville,
Tennessee 37247-1010
Phone: (615) 532-5166
<http://www.state.tn.us/health/Boards/Nursing/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

In order to qualify for financial assistance a student must be enrolled for at least six credits per semester and be degree seeking. Need-based aid for graduate students includes scholarships and subsidized/unsubsidized loans. Non-need based aid for graduate students include scholarships and unsubsidized loans on which the interest accrues from the date of disbursement.

Scholarships

All internal scholarships are merit-based and are awarded based on a combination of the student's incoming grade point average and GRE or GMAT score. Full-time enrollment (12 hours per semester) is required to be considered for a scholarship award. Students do not apply directly to any of the scholarship benefactors; they simply need to complete the Internal Scholarship application available in mid-February. All awards are made through the School of Nursing Scholarship Committee according to the requirements of the funding source. Part-time students and post-master's students are not eligible for scholarships but may qualify for loans. The School of Nursing maintains an extensive list of scholarships available for women, minorities and graduate students. Additional scholarship searches can be done for free on the Sallie Mae web site at www.salliemae.com

In order for students to be considered for scholarships they must be accepted to the School of Nursing and have already deposited. The scholarship form is mailed with the entire financial aid packet in late February to students who have applied for admission to the School of Nursing.

Full Tuition Scholarships

The Scholarship Committee determines the recipient of the one, merit based, two years, full scholarship offered to the incoming student with the highest GPA and GRE or GMAT combination. There are also two merit based, one year, full scholarships awarded to students with the highest GPA's entering their second year of study.

Student Loans

Student loans comprise the majority of a financial aid package. The Federal Stafford Loan Program is the main source of funds which are borrowed from a lending institution. The Federal *Subsidized* Stafford Loan is need based and has a 6-month grace period prior to repayment. The maximum available is \$8,500 per two semesters. The Federal *Unsubsidized* Stafford Loan is non-need based and also has a 6-month grace period prior to repayment. The maximum available is \$10,000 per two semesters. If a student does not qualify for a *subsidized* loan it is possible to receive the entire 18,500 in an *unsubsidized* loan. With a *subsidized* loan the Department of Education pays the interest on the loan while the student is enrolled in school, during the grace period and any period of deferment. With an *unsubsidized* loan the student is responsible for payment of the accruing interest and may request that payment be deferred until the grace period expires. At which time, the interest is capitalized. All Federal Stafford Loans must be repaid within 120 months and the variable interest rate on a Federal Stafford loan is based on the 91-day T-Bill, and cannot exceed 8.25%.

Once you apply for Federal Stafford Loans, the Financial Aid Office at Vanderbilt will be notified regarding how much of an award you are going to receive. Based on that information they will determine your eligibility for a Private Alternative Loan (based upon your credit history) which is a loan from a private bank or lender that should cover the cost of your living expenses. Financial Aid awards are made after you are accepted to the School of Nursing and have deposited. The Financial Aid office will send a package of loan awards in early April for individuals planning to begin school in the Fall assuming the individual has completed all appropriate financial aid paperwork.

Service Payback/Tuition Reimbursement

The National Health Service Corps (*Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Primary Health Care, 4350 East-West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814; 800-638-0824; <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/nhsc/>*) and the Indian Health Service (*I.H.S. Nurse Recruitment: Judy Enyart, RN, BSN, PHs/Indian Health Service, Five Corate Plaza, 3625 North West 56th Street, Oklahoma City, OK, 73112, Judy.enyart@mail.ihs.gov, 800-447-7036, <http://www.ihs.gov/>*) offer service-payback agreements. Service requirements are usually two to five years. The U.S. Public Health Service also offers *scholarships* (*Division of Scholarships and Loan repayments, 1010 Wayne Ave., Suite 240, Silver Spring, MD 20910; 800-638-0824*). Applications must be requested directly from these organizations during early spring. In addition, students are encouraged to explore funding options available through their home state. Some states have loan repayment programs if you agree to work in a medically under served area in that state.

The United States Public Health Service called the Commissioned Officer Student and Extern Program (C.O.S.T.E.P.) is a scholarship for students in the Adult Nurse Practitioner/Correctional Health specialty. Participants will receive pay allowances of approximately \$2,300 per month. For every month that the selecting agency funds the student a two-month obligation for service in that agency is incurred. For more information call 1-877-463-6327, select option # 1, dial 43360, or visit the Division of Commissioned Personnel web site at <http://dcp.psc.gov>, follow the link for "Commissioned Corps Web Site" and click on "Application".

Disbursement of Financial Aid Funds

All financial aid is credited directly to the student account. The financial aid file must be complete in order for available funds to credit the student account. All loans are disbursed in two equal installments to the student's account at the beginning of each semester. Any institutional loan promissory notes and paperwork must be completed and signed before loan funds disburse to the student account. Typically, scholarship funds are disbursed in the same manner.

Applying for Financial Aid

Financial aid is available from several sources for full and part-time qualified students. To apply for federal and institutional funds, the student must complete two applications: the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the CSS/Profile registration form. The processed data results in an Expected Family Contribution (E.F.C.) figure. This figure, with other financial aid formulas, determines the student's eligibility for financial aid based on federal guidelines.

All external scholarship applications must be initiated by the student. Filing the applications on time will ensure consideration for any internal scholarship and loan funds available. Financial aid forms must be filed annually. Contact the School of Nursing Financial Aid Office at (615) 343-3242 for any forms needed. If you have questions regarding the application for financial aid, please call Natalie Lauterbach at (615) 322-3800. If you have questions regarding your financial aid award once you have applied for financial aid please contact Joanie Hall in the University Financial Aid Office at 615-322-3591.

Note: Financial aid applications are not available for distribution until late-February.

Important Addresses:

Natalie Lauterbach
Vanderbilt University School of Nursing
101 Godchaux Hall
Nashville, TN 37240
(615) 322-3800

Joanie Hall
Vanderbilt University Office of Student Financial Aid
2309 West End Ave.
Nashville, TN 37203
(615) 322-3591

HONOR SCHOLARSHIPS

You are automatically considered for these scholarships once you are admitted to the School of Nursing based on your incoming GPA and GRE score. The blanket scholarship application (mailed out with the financial aid packet in February) that you fill out will put you in the running for all internal scholarships listed below.

Full Scholarships

The Harold Stirling Vanderbilt (HSV) Scholarship honors the memory of the great-grandson of Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt and president of the University's Board of Trust from 1955 to 1968. The scholarship covers full tuition for three semesters. Selection is based on academic excellence and potential for contribution to the Nursing profession; financial need is not a criterion.

The Julia Hereford Alumni Scholarship is awarded annually through the generosity of the Julia Hereford Society and the Julia Hereford Endowed Alumni Scholarship Fund. Recipients are selected by a committee of faculty members and alumni. Students who meet the criteria will be sent applications by VUSN.

The C. W. Kempkau Scholarship is awarded to an outstanding Bridge student in each entering class. This scholarship continues through the second year of study.

Partial Scholarships Awarded for Merit & Financial Need

The Lillian Cary Scholarship is awarded to an MSN student in the Family Nurse Practitioner Specialty. Selection is based on academic merit and financial need.

The Frances Helen Ziegler Tunnell Graduate Honor Scholarship was endowed through the will of this former dean of the School of Nursing and is awarded to a meritorious student with financial need.

The Joe C. Davis Scholarship Fund is supported by the Joe C. Davis Foundation. Preference is given to non-RN students returning to school via the Bridge program.

The La Juan Furgason Scholarship Fund was established by Mr. & Mrs. G. A. Furgason in memory of their daughter, a 1967 BSN graduate of the School of Nursing.

Edward T. Goldstein Scholarship Fund established by Dorothy S. Goldstein in memory of her husband.

The Haley Award was endowed through a bequest from James H. Haley, Jr., to help support a worthy VUSN student..

The William Randolph Hearst Endowed Scholarship Fund was established for minority students. It is awarded to minority students on the basis of merit and need.

The Frances M. Houston Scholarship Fund was established by George M. Houston to honor his wife. Preference is given to students from Cannon county, Tennessee, or surrounding counties (Coffee, DeKalb, Rutherford, Warren, Wilson).

The Sammie S. Shapiro-Rachael S. Kelly Scholarship was established by bequests from the estates of these two sisters, both Vanderbilt alumnae, and is supported by contributions from members of their family. It is awarded annually to a worthy and needy student.

The Elijah Nevins Kirkpatrick Scholarship is supported by the Frank Godchaux, III family in memory of Mr. Kirkpatrick, a Vanderbilt alumnus and father of Mrs. Godchaux. It is awarded annually to students demonstrating both exceptional merit and financial need.

The Jennie Wamsley Long Memorial Scholarship was established in 1996 by Sallie Wamsley, the School's Registrar, along with family, friends and co-workers in memory of her daughter. The scholarship is to be awarded to a worthy and needy Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner student.

The Kathleen Suzanne Nelson Scholarship Fund was endowed through a bequest from Dr. Robert A. Nelson, Jr., in memory of his daughter, a 1975 MSN graduate of the School.

The Valere Potter Scholarship Fund was established originally by a gift from the late Valere Blair Potter. This scholarship is awarded annually to second year bridge students demonstrating exceptional merit and financial need.

The Laura Catherine Rankin Memorial Scholarship was established in Laura's memory by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Allan Rankin, family and classmates.

The Mildred West Reed Memorial Scholarship was established in 1996 by a bequest from Mildred Reed who was a 1930 graduate of the School of Nursing.

The Hilliard Travis Scholarship Fund is supported by the generosity of Mrs. Hilliard Travis and the late Mr. Travis. Several awards are made each year to students in specialties that involve nursing care for neonates and children.

The Frances Phillips Ward Scholarship was established in memory of the late Frances Ward by her family and friends. It is awarded to a student in the adult acute care nurse practitioner specialty, preferably with an oncology focus.

Lettie Pate Whitehead Scholarship Fund is supported by the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation. The awards are given to first year female bridge students from southern states.

The Jeanette and Leon Travis Scholarship for Nursing at St. Thomas Hospital was established by Mrs. and the late Mr. Travis for nurses employed at St. Thomas Hospital. Inquiries regarding this opportunity should be directed to Hospital Organization & Development, St. Thomas Hospital.

The Zelle Scholarship is supported by Mr. Robert Zelle and will be awarded annually to a student specializing in adult acute care with a focus on rehabilitation.

The Pamela Richardson Memorial Scholarship was established in 1995 by her friends and family in her memory. Pamela Richardson was a VUSN student at the time she died. The scholarship will be awarded annually to a second year student demonstrating financial need and exceptional merit.