



FISK
UNIVERSITY

**Handbook for Fisk
Undergraduates
Interested in a
*Career in Nursing***

Updated April 29, 2015

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Introduction

This handbook was created for those undergraduate students at Fisk University interested in a nursing career. Though you may be interested in a career in nursing, and thus you consider your Fisk experience as pre-nursing preparation, while at Fisk you will major in one of our academic majors. Typically, our students find that majors in either **biology** or **psychology** are compatible with obtaining the pre-requisites for nursing programs in the course of obtaining your bachelor's degree are.

Paths to Becoming a Registered Nurse

There are several paths you can take to become a Registered Nurse, including a Bachelor's Degree in nursing (BSN) via an accelerated program after completing your Bachelor's degree at Fisk, or continuing on to complete the Masters of Science Degree in Nursing (MSN). For those who pursue the MSN you will be allowed to practice as an advance practice nurse in your chosen specialty area, once successful program completion, licensing and credentialing are realized.

Fisk University has two partnerships that allow obtaining a Master's of Science (MSN) degree in Nursing, which is the degree training necessary to become an advanced practice Nurse Practitioner.

1) **Bridge to the MSN at Vanderbilt University.**

Fisk University is one of several liberal arts colleges and undergraduate schools that has a Bridge to the MSN at Vanderbilt School of Nursing. This accelerated 12 semester program of study can be taken within a five calendar year period of time, with three years at Fisk and then two years at Vanderbilt. The program also is referred to as the **Senior Year in Absentia Program**.

Alternatively, students can complete the bachelor's degree in the usual four years (8 semesters) and then enter the MSN program for an additional two calendar years (6 semesters).

This unique combination of study provides the student with an excellent nursing education, strongly complemented by study in the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences. The profession of nursing builds on a liberal education, and a university provides the best possible environment for this kind of education. Considerable detail about this program, the diversity of nursing specialties it offers, and application details are provided on pp. 9-10 of this Handbook

2) **Affiliation Agreement with Rush University College of Nursing, Chicago Illinois** **(<http://www.rushu.rush.edu>)**

Fisk University has entered into an affiliation agreement with Rush University College of Nursing, which holds a few seats each year for **Biology Majors** who will have completed their BA in Biology. Students can enter these programs twice a year, fall (September) and spring (January).

a) Direct Entry Master's (MSN) for Non-Nurses, or their

b) Generalist Entry Master's (GEM) Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) Program

3) Accelerated second-degree programs to the BSN.

Because of the breadth of knowledge and maturity required to be a compassionate and competent health care professional in today's society, many pathways to the BSN now include second degree BSN, or accelerated degrees to the BSN, for those students who have already obtained their BA or BS degree in a major other than nursing. There are now many post-bachelor's accelerated BSN programs nationally. An example of such a program in the Nashville area offering a Accelerated Second Degree BSN (also known as 'Fast Track BSN') is Belmont University (<http://www.belmont.edu/>).

Typical Requirements for Admission to Accelerated BSN programs include:

- Your bachelor's degree from Fisk University, which can be in any major, but includes the pre-requisites outlined below
- A minimum 3.0 undergraduate GPA on a 4.0 scale (some schools do have a slightly lower GPA minimum)
- Graduate Record Exam (GRE) taken within the past five years.
 - o Fisk University provides you with the Kaplan preparation for the GRE, and you should take it NO LATER than the spring/early summer of your junior year. The GRE emphasizes reading for comprehension, writing skills, vocabulary understanding, mathematics through college algebra with a bit of statistics.
 - o You will need to sign up for your funded GRE preparation course via Ms Tashaye Byrdsong Woods (tbyrdsong@fisk.edu) in the Office of Student Affairs.
 - o For more information regarding the GRE, visit the [Educational Testing Service website](#).

Typical Enrollment Prerequisites for Admission to Accelerated BSN programs include:

- Human Anatomy and Physiology – two semesters (with Laboratory)
- Microbiology – one semester, with laboratory
- Basic Statistics – one semester [either HSS281 or NSCI 360]
- Human Growth and Development [SOC 282] *or* Child & Adolescent Psychology [PSYH 205] – one semester
- Undergraduate course work in Nutrition- strongly recommended if not required
 - o Students typically take this at Nashville State or at TSU. This is also offered at Vanderbilt, but courses fill quickly

Accelerated BSN programs require all admitted students to have completed the courses and required units listed above **prior** to the start of classes. Typically, an earned minimum grade for each nursing prerequisite course will be identified by the program. Thus you are **urged** to

identify possible programs of interest to confirm their expectations in order to optimally plan your curriculum.

Other expectations for applicants to accelerated BSN or MSN programs after Fisk University

Ultimately, you will be submitting a personal statement as part of your application to a nursing program. To assure the admissions committee that a health care profession in general, and nursing in particular, is the right match for your intellectual and personal gifts, it is important to have participated in activities that manifest your interest in the health of individuals beyond your family and circle of friends. There are a number of ways to do this:

- Participation in on-campus health awareness programs
- Shadowing a clinical professional, perhaps over winter break
- Interviewing (informally) individuals in the profession to learn about their challenges and their sources of professional satisfaction
- Volunteering, or service learning, opportunities at area hospitals or community health centers, like nearby Matthew Walker Community Health Clinic on Jefferson St.

Pre-Requisites for MSN Programs:

The following courses are required as prerequisites for matriculating into MSN programs, but not required at the time you apply:

- Statistics – one semester { Either HSS 281 or NSCI 360 fulfill this requirement}
- Microbiology – one semester, with laboratory
- Human Anatomy and Physiology – two semesters with laboratory
- Nutrition
- Developmental Psychology (usually covering the lifespan from birth to death)

Since occasionally a School of Nursing will have a particular pre-requisite requirement, it is always best to explore the websites of the schools to which you intend to apply in detail, and if any questions remain about pre-requisite courses or experiences, then call their Office of Admissions to clarify.

The Fisk – Vanderbilt Bridge to the MSN for Advanced Practice Nursing

Because this is a particularly advantageous program for individuals who want to specialize in one or another area of advanced practice nursing, we provide additional details here about the Vanderbilt MSN program, in particular. However, this information is also relevant for other MSN programs nationally, including our affiliation with Rush University College of Nursing in Chicago, or other Nashville MSN programs, for example, at Belmont University (www.belmont.edu/gradnursing/), Tennessee State University (www.tnstate.edu/nursing/), and Aquinas College (<http://www.aquinascollege.edu/academics/graduate-studies/school-of-nursing/>).

What is advanced practice nursing?

In an increasingly complex health care industry, advanced practice nurses are playing a vital role. They are offering new ways of delivering cost-effective care and increasing access to qualified practitioners for many patients and their families. They are often providing health care to underserved populations. Advanced practice nurses must be grounded in theory and research as guides to their clinical practice. While they work in collegial capacities with physicians, they must be prepared to diagnose and treat patients with acute and chronic illnesses and to prescribe medications. These responsibilities require nursing professionals who are as smart and savvy as they are caring and compassionate.

Advanced Practice Nurses perform these general functions:

- Obtain health histories and perform comprehensive physical examinations, including psychosocial, functional, and developmental assessment
- Order and interpret lab results and other diagnostic studies
- Develop differential diagnoses
- Develop/order therapeutic plan of care
- Maintain patient records
- Evaluate patient's response to plan of care and modify as needed
- Provide patient/family counseling and education
- Arrange for patient referrals/consultations
- Participate in research studies

To learn more about the MSN program at Vanderbilt, it is *essential* to attend at least one of the Vanderbilt School of Nursing Open Houses held twice per year; the dates are typically in October and March each year, and you can register online at www.vanderbilt.edu/nursing/. Alternatively, you can contact the VUSN Admissions Office for more information on Open House. ***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.

Students entering the MSN program are eligible to apply to one of the following specialties:

Vanderbilt's Advanced Practice Nursing Specialties for Accelerated MSN trainees

1. Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner *
2. Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner - Intensivist *
3. Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner *
4. Family Nurse Practitioner *
5. Nurse-Midwifery
6. Nurse-Midwifery/Family Nurse Practitioner - Dual Focus
7. Pediatric Nurse Practitioner - Primary Care *
8. Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Lifespan) *
9. Women's Health Nurse Practitioner - WHNP*
10. Women's Health Nurse Practitioner/ Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner - Dual Focus *

**Offered in modified learning (block) format for students who live at a distance.*

MSN trainee programs that require RN experience and thus will take additional time for experience/training

+ The Specialties below require not only an RN, which you will obtain during the course of your MSN training, but also RN experience. If you are interested in these areas, *please* Contact *admissions* office for details about the additional years of experience of training that will be needed for these sub-specialties

11. Emergency Nurse Practitioner *+ (Dual AG-AG-ACNP/FNP)
12. Nursing Informatics+ *
13. Pediatric Nurse Practitioner - Acute Care *
14. Neonatal Nurse Practitioner *+
15. Healthcare Leadership+(online only)

Expectations for Fisk University Students Year 1 thru Year 3 at Fisk

Fisk Students will declare majors in Biology or, in some cases, Psychology. The program requirements of the selected major along with the prerequisite nursing requirements will be completed. The median GPA of accepted students has ranged from 3.4-3.6, and thus this overall GPA is essential for competing for acceptance. The prerequisite nursing courses are listed below with the equivalent Fisk course numbers, and students must have a B or better in each of these courses for them to meet the pre-requisite requirements:

- Microbiology and Lab (4 credits); BIO 270 & 270L (Biol 101 and 101L at Fisk is a required pre-requisite for this course
- Human Anatomy and Physiology I and II and Labs (8 credits); BIO 221 & 221L; 222 & 222L
- Introduction to Nutrition (2 credits); NURS 231 – taken at Vanderbilt
- Statistics (3 credits); SSCI 280

- Child and Adolescent Psychology (4 credits); PSY 205 *OR* Life Cycle, Adulthood, and Aging (4 credits); SOC 282
- General Psychology (4 credits); PSY 180

Reminder! : During Years 1 and 2, attend at LEAST one Vanderbilt School of Nursing Open House in October and March; you must register on line.

Year 3

During the Fall Semester of Year 3, students will apply for admission to the Vanderbilt University Masters of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) program no later than November 1 (see p.9)

Year 4

Students accepted to the Vanderbilt MSN program will begin coursework at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing (VUSN) in Year 4. The first two semesters of the Year 4 nursing courses will count as electives toward completing the 120 hour academic coursework requirement at Fisk University. After successful completion of the courses listed below, students will be eligible to be awarded a bachelor’s degree in the selected major from Fisk University.

Year 4 Courses: Sample Pre-Specialty Curriculum for Non-Registered Nurse Students

FALL SEMESTER	HOURS
NURS 215 Legal and Ethical Accountability in Professional Nursing Practice	2
NURS 220 Principles of Client-Centered Care	1
NURS 225 Enhancement of Community and Population Health	2
NURS 235 Human Experience of Health and Illness Across the Lifespan	4
NURS 245 Fundamentals of Clinical Practice	5
NURS 255A Pharmacology for Nursing Care	<u>2</u>
Total Hours	16
SPRING SEMESTER II	
NURS 216 Inquiry and Evidence in Professional Nursing Practice	2
NURS 226 Enhancement of Community and Population Health II	3
NURS 236 Human Experience of Health and Illness Across the Lifespan II	5
NURS 246 Integration of Theoretical and Clinical Aspects of Nursing	3
NURS 255B Pharmacology for Nursing Care II	<u>2</u>
Total Hours	15

Students will graduate from Fisk University after the Year 4 Spring semester with a bachelor’s degree in their specified major. They will continue at VUSN beginning in Summer Semester of Year 4 and continue to complete the requirements for the MSN. Students will be eligible for RN licensure at the completion of the Year 4 Summer Semester.

SUMMER SEMESTER III

NURS 217 Leadership and Management in Professional Nursing Practice	2
NURS 227 Enhancement of Community and Population Health III	2
NURS 237 Human Experience of Health and Illness Across the Lifespan III	4
NURS 247A Integration of Theoretical and Clinical Aspects of Nursing II	1
NURS 247B Capstone Clinical Practicum	2

NURS 256 Pharmacology for Nursing Care III

Total Hours

$\frac{1}{12}$

Year 5

Students will begin coursework in their selected nursing specialty. Course requirements will vary according to the selected specialty. Upon completion of the VUSN requirements, students will be awarded a Master's of Science in Nursing.

Tuition Cost

An advantage of transitioning to a Master's program after only three years of undergraduate school is that the loans that you may take will be **eligible for loan 'forgiveness'**, based on the area and patient population where you ultimately serve as a nurse practitioner.

VUSN tuition is higher than that for Fisk University and also includes associated course and program fees. Refer to the VUSN web site for a detailed tuition and fee description, as tuition and fees change each year. Students in this program pay the tuition differential themselves, though they are able to use already bestowed financial aid packages from Fisk toward the total tuition amount. Student loan repayment programs are updated online frequently.

Please refer to the **Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program** website for an overview of loan repayment programs: <http://www.hrsa.gov/loanscholarships/repayment/nursing/>.

Application Process for the MSN at Vanderbilt as part of our 3-2 Bridge Program with Vanderbilt School of Nursing

To assist in the application process and to ensure a quality application, it is necessary to become familiar with the admission requirements early. 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 online application is available on the School of Nursing web page at www.nursing.vanderbilt.edu. The online application for each Fall will open after September 15, and your application will be **due, in its entirety, by November 1 of the year preceding your matriculation**. The School of Nursing begins reviewing applications for admission to its new fall class on **November 1st** of the previous year, after which admissions are on a rolling basis. There is no published deadline, however, programs are very competitive and have a limited number of spaces for incoming students. Applicants who meet the November 1st early action date have a greater probability of being admitted.

Your official application must contain the following:

1. Statement of Purpose
2. Interview Survey
3. Official Transcripts : a minimum GPA of 3.2 is required, but the median GPA of applicants to VUSN for this MSN program is 3.4-3.6. Scholarship funding is dependent on academic performance.
4. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores
5. Letters of Recommendation
6. Resume (Optional)

Statement of Purpose and Interview Survey:

Submit as part of online application. Many aspects of your application rely on the input of others, or objective data (your transcripts and your GRE scores). Consequently, it is essential that you assure that the quality of your Statement of Purpose and your Interview Survey are thoughtful, polished, and well-articulated. Please make sure that at least TWO Fisk faculty read these before you submit them to Vanderbilt.

Your Statement of Purpose and Interview Survey responses should address your first choice of specialty. **It is not possible to enter the program without choosing your specialty area.**

Which specialty area should I apply to?

You should only **apply to 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.** If you are not sure of what you would like to specialize in, it is important to get as much experience as possible exploring 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 www.nursing.vanderbilt.edu. As noted above, once you apply in a particular specialty, it is very difficult to change.

1. Statement of Purpose- Submit as part of online application.

The Statement of Purpose is your opportunity to explain what you are planning to do with your career after you finish your Master's Degree. This statement helps the faculty determine your fit within the specialties offered at VUSN as well as to plan for your specific needs in terms of clinical experiences and professional networking. There is no set length for this statement however, it is generally at least a full page in length. Be sure that this statement directly reflects the health care delivery and role of the advanced practice nurse of your specialty and that you have specified what you plan to do with your career, short and long term, you may want to consider writing about why you are choosing this specialty, and what is important to you in your career.

2. Interview Survey Questions - Submit as part of online application. The Interview Survey is six questions asking for your response to a number of issues pertaining to nursing, nursing specialties, and the tasks of an adult learner. 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. 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. Other specialties may request a face to face interview.

Suggestions: The questions included in the interview survey 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:

- In both the statement of purpose and interview survey, be sure to demonstrate your understanding of the **role of the advanced practice nurse in the specialty you have chosen**. The VUSN faculty wants to be sure that you have a clear understanding of the career that you have chosen to undertake. You **MUST** distinguish your career goals as including responsibilities and opportunities that are not available to someone with a BSN degree only. The importance of this clarity cannot be over-emphasized !

- Do not be afraid to talk about your **achievements, or special talents** that would contribute to your ability to be an effective practitioner, and **experiences** you have had working in health care (with underserved populations, the elderly, children, the homeless etc.). ***This is a competitive program with limited enrollment so be sure to differentiate yourself from other applicants.***

Admitted Students to the MSN Program as a 3-2 Bridge to the MSN – Important Information for First-Time MSN Consortium Students at Vanderbilt

- Upon admission as a Consortium student at Vanderbilt, you will receive an email from the Office of the University Registrar with instructions on how to create your Vanderbilt University computing account, including your Vanderbilt email.
- After claiming your VUnetID and ePassword, please login to [YES](#) to verify your class enrollments.
- Attend only classes for which you are registered. You will not receive credit for a class for which you are not officially registered.
- Please note that all official communication from Vanderbilt will now be sent to your Vanderbilt email account. Please check this account daily, or have it directly linked to the account you *do* check daily.
- If you are planning to enroll at Vanderbilt as a Consortium student for a subsequent semester, please remember to process your class requests through your home school registrar.

Bookstore

- The Vanderbilt bookstore is located at 2525 West End Avenue.
- For more information about the Vanderbilt bookstore, please see [Vanderbilt Bookstore](#).

Classroom Location

- Building and room numbers appear with your class schedule in YES under the “Student Schedule” header.
- For an online Vanderbilt campus map, please see [Campus Map](#).

Dropping and Adding Vanderbilt Courses

- Please contact your home school registrar who will process this request for you.
- When making an adjustment to your class schedule, it is important to be aware of the schedule adjustment deadlines at Vanderbilt.
- For more information about schedule adjustment deadlines for all Vanderbilt schools, please see [Calendars](#).

Grades

- The final grade for your class(es) in Year 4 will be sent to Fisk University and reflected on your Fisk transcript.
- The Office of the University Registrar at Vanderbilt does not release grade information to Consortium students.

OAK (Online Access to Knowledge)

- The OAK environment refers to a set of tools used to enhance student academic experience, including course management systems.
- For more information about OAK, including login access, please see [OAK](#).

Parking

- All vehicles parked on campus must be registered with the Traffic and Parking Office.
- You can purchase a parking permit online once you have authenticated your VUNetID and ePassword.
- For more information about parking at Vanderbilt, please see [Parking](#).

Schedule of Classes

- The searchable schedule of classes is available in YES.
- To search for classes, please see [Class Schedule](#).

Student Handbook

- The *Student Handbook* is designed to acquaint Vanderbilt students with the specific standards expected of them as members of the University community.
- The policies and regulations delineated in the handbook apply to all students enrolled at Vanderbilt.
- For an online version of the *Student Handbook*, please see [Student Handbook](#).

Student ID Card

- You will need a student ID card to access the library and to enter some buildings and labs. ID cards are made in the Vanderbilt Card Office, located in the Sarratt Student Center.
- For more information about student ID cards at Vanderbilt, please see [ID cards](#).

Transcripts

- The official record of your completion of any Vanderbilt coursework will be part of your Fisk University transcript.
- Consortium students do not have a Vanderbilt transcript.

VUNetID and ePassword

- Your VUnetID and ePassword will be your login credentials (user name and password) for accessing the Vanderbilt computing environment, including your Vanderbilt email.
- Vanderbilt University's policy on Computer Privileges and Responsibilities applies to all VUnetID related services. To review this policy, please see [Acceptable Use Policy](#).

YES (Your Enrollment Services)

- YES provides online access to information you will need while enrolled at Vanderbilt.
- This information includes your Vanderbilt courses, your class schedule and any grades that have been assigned for your Vanderbilt courses.
- To access YES, please see [YES login](#).

Advice for Student by Students

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

1. **Join Fisk's Pre-Nursing Club.** Monthly meetings will introduce students to health care professionals in nursing, and mentor application materials for accelerated second degree BSN programs or MSN programs.
2. **Volunteer.** Volunteering at a Nashville area hospital or community clinic is a wonderful way to explore different fields of medicine and immerse oneself in the patient environment. There are opportunities for college students to volunteer in both the school year and summer months.
3. **Shadowing a Medical Professional .** Interviewing or shadowing a medical professional is a valuable experience. If you know a nurse practitioner in your home community, request an interview to discuss their advance practice role during the winter or summer break.
4. **Hospital and Health Care related jobs while an undergraduate for certified Nurse Assistant Program graduates.** NATS, Inc. provides a certified Nurse Assistant Program for the middle Tennessee and surrounding areas. Pre-nursing students who need to work during the academic year may wish to obtain certified Nurse Assistant training as a way to increase job opportunities related to your ultimate career interests. An inherent purpose of the program is to prepare students to take the State Competency Evaluation required by the Tennessee Department of Health and Environment for placement on the State Nursing Assistant Registry.

For additional information, please visit www.natscnt.com. NATS, Inc. is located at 1161 Murfreesboro Rd, Suite 217, Nashville, TN, 37217. Applications are accepted daily and a flexible rotating curriculum allows for weekly enrollment. The Tuition is \$800 for day or night classes. Though students must fund this tuition themselves, Fisk University can provide you three hours of academic credit in Biology (as a 'General Elective', not for course credit for a Biology major required or elective course) as Bio 290 (Special Topics; Lee Limbird Section, for faculty signature).

- Day classes begin every Monday. Course completion in 5 weeks.
- Night class instruction begins every quarter with completion in 7 weeks.
- Authorized by the [Tennessee Higher Education Commission](#). Approved by the Tennessee Dept. of Health.

NATS, Inc. associates with many hospitals and long term care facilities in Nashville and the surrounding area, and typically reports that there are more positions available than NATS can fill.

4. **CPR Certification.** CPR training is required prior to starting 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 (includes infant, child and adult CPR).

Contacts:

1) Faculty Pre-Health Coordinator

Lee E Limbird, PhD. Professor and Dean, Room 205 DuBois Hall
llimbird@fisk.edu

2) Career Office Director

Tashaye Byrdsong Woods, MA
tbyrdsong@fisk.edu

Please!! Keep your eyes out for representatives from Second-Degree BSN and Accelerated MSN programs advertised from Ms. Byrdsong Wood's office!!

3) Student Leaders of the Pre-Nursing Club for the 2015- 2016 Academic Year

Sara Luttrell, <i>President</i>	saraeeluttrell@gmail.com	909.957.9880
Sydne Anderson, <i>Vice President</i>	sydneanderson1@gmail.com	502.475.6051
Arlena Obey, <i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	arlenaobey@yahoo.com	615.497.6852
Jakiya Thacker, <i>Recording Secretary</i>	jakiyathacker@gmail.com	615.977.7321
Deserae Warren, <i>Treasurer</i>	deseraelashay@yahoo.com	469.337.1005
Kammeran Cleaves, <i>Parliamentarian</i>	kmmrnclvs@yahoo.com	901.864.7353
Nailah Whitlock, <i>Historian</i>	nailah.whitlock@gmail.com	651.308.8750
Kinara Byrd, <i>Publications Agent</i>	kinarabyrd@gmail.com	773.240.3609
Shannon Davies, <i>Student Liaison</i>	Shannon.davies@my.fisk.edu	615.775.1283
Ashlee Lee, <i>Event Coordinator</i>	ashlee.lee@my.fisk.edu	205.470.9957

**Proposed PATHWAY for the Bridge to the MSN at Vanderbilt University
For those selecting PSYCHOLOGY as their Fisk academic Major**

Color coding: Red = CORE General Education REQUIREMENTS;

Blue = MSN transition pre-requisite requirements;

Black = Psychology Core, Elective or Cognate Requirements

FALL	#Cr	SPRING	# Cr	SUMMER
FIRST YEAR AT FISK				
Core 100 New Student Seminar	1	Core 120- Critical Thinking	2	? work on Language requirement- 0-12 credits , dependent on foreign language placement scores
Core 150- Composition I	3	CORE 160 Composition II and Oral communication I	3	
Core 131 Mathematics (Math 101, 110, 120 may be substituted)	4	CORE 260-Humanities	3	
PSY180 General Psychology (also required for the MSN)	4	PSY 262 Learning and Cognition	3	
General Biology & Lab	4	CORE Art Requirement: Music 206, for example	3	
		Language Requirement ?	4	
Total Hours	16		18	
SECOND YEAR AT FISK				
Anatomy and Physiology + Lab	4	Anatomy and Physiology+ Lab	4	? work on Language requirement TAKE GRE
PSY 205 Child & Adolescent Development and needed to bridge to Nursing MSN)	4	PSY 348 Abnormal Psych	4	
PSY Biological Psychology (PSY elective)	4	SOC 282 Across the Lifespan	3	
CORE 201- Business and Entrepreneurship	3	PSY XXX- PSY Elective	3	
SIGN UP FOR GRE PREP IN SPRING with thyrdson@fisk.edu [form required]	3	SSCI 280 Statistics (meets CORE 2nd course requirement in math)	4	
		TAKE GRE PREP and be serious about the time engaged in study and review		
Total Hours	18		18	
THIRD YEAR AT FISK				
PSY 310 Research Design	4	Microbiology and Lab (and needed to bridge to Nursing MSN)	4	
NURS 231 (VU) Intro to Nutrition	2	Psych 341 Social Psychology (PSY Elective), or Special topics course on Health Psychology, OR students can complete an independent study	4	
PSY 481 Senior Seminar (for MSN bridge students in Jr Yr.)	1	CORE Art/Global Studies Requirement	4	
Core 360- The World and its Peoples	4		3	
? Work on Language Requirement?	4			
APPLY to the MSN Pgm. by November 1 ! Retake GRE if needed				
Total Hours	15		15	
Total Hours completed on this program, not counting any hours needed to fulfill language requirement, is 95 credits. A total of 101 credits must be obtained at Fisk before the MSN transition, as the first year of the MSN is 19 credits, which will count as elective credits at FISK				

FOURTH YEAR AT FISK is ACTUALLY AT VANDERBILT School of Nursing !!

**Proposed PATHWAY for the Bridge to the MSN at Vanderbilt University
For those selecting BIOLOGY as their Fisk academic Major**

Color coding:

Red = CORE General Education REQUIREMENTS;

Blue = MSN transition pre-requisite requirements:

Black = Biology Core Required courses Or Biology Cognate Requirements

FALL	# Cr	SPRING	# Cr	SUMMER
FIRST YEAR AT FISK				
Core 100 New Student Seminar Core 150- Composition I Math 101 College Algebra [core MATH or Math 110 may be substituted] BIO 101/101L General Biology* I & Lab <i>PSY 180 General Psychology (also used to fulfill CORE social sciences requirement)</i>	1 3 4 4 4	Core 120- Critical Thinking CORE 160 Composition II Math 110 Pre-Calculus BIO 102/102L General Biology II & Lab <i>SOC 282 Across the Lifespan (3cr.)-online</i> <i>OR Child and Adolescent Psych (4 Cr)</i> The following Fall CORE 260 Humanities/Cultural Experience	2 3 4 4 3 3	Language requirement- 0-12 credits, dependent on foreign language placement scores
Total Hours	16		19	
SECOND YEAR AT FISK				
<i>BIO 221/221L Anatomy and Physiology I & Lab [Bio major requirement]</i> CHEM 113/103L Genl. Chemistry I/ Lab Math 120 Calculus [Bio major Cognate] <i>PSY 205 Child Adolescent Psych, if you didn't take SOC 282 in the Spring</i> CORE 201- Business and Entrepreneurship SIGN UP FOR GRE PREP IN SPRING with tbyrdsong@fisk.edu [form required]	4 4 4 4 3	<i>BIO 222/222L Anatomy and Physiology II & Lab [also Bio major requirement]</i> CHEM 114/104L Genl. Chemistry II/lab <i>BIO 270/270L Microbiology and Lab [also Bio major requirement]</i> <i>HHS 280 Statistics⁺⁺</i> CORE 220 Creative Arts TAKE GRE PREP and be serious about the time engaged in study and review	4 4 4 4 2	Language requirement? "TAKE GRE"
Total Hours	19		18	
THIRD YEAR AT FISK				
PHY 130/130L University Physics I & Lab BIO 360/360L Molecular Cell Biology & Lab CHEM 233/203L Organic Chemistry I & Lab [biology major cognate course] Core Art Requirement (2-4 hours) <i>NURS 231 (VU) Intro to Nutrition</i> BIO 497 Biology Senior Seminar APPLY to the MSN Pgm. by November 1 ! ? re-TAKE GRE?	4 4 4 2 2 1	140/140L University Physics II & Lab CHEM 234/204L Organic Chemistry II & Lab [biology major cognate course] BIO 350/350L Genetics & Lab (4 cr.) Core 360- World & Its Peoples BIO 498 Biology Senior Seminar	4 4 4 4 1	
Total Hours	17		17	
Note, that if you select the BRIDGE to the MSN at Vanderbilt after three years AND you also choose to be a Biology major, taking the Bio Core Courses, Bio cognates, Bio electives AND the CORE General Education requirements means that you will have 112 hours (instead of the minimum 101 hrs) BEFORE bridging to the MSN at Vanderbilt , since your first year at VU counts as elective hours at Fisk, and there are 19 hours in your first two semesters at Vanderbilt. These hours at Fisk do NOT include the language hours you will need to take if you do NOT place out of languages. ELECTIVE courses in Biology will be met by some of the Nursing courses taken in year one of the MSN.				
FOURTH YEAR AT FISK is ACTUALLY AT VANDERBILT School of Nursing!!				