

Yale SCHOOL OF NURSING

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Dear incoming students:

First and foremost, please accept our congratulations and welcome to the Yale School of Nursing (YSN). I am thrilled to welcome the YSN class of 2020 to the Graduate Entry Prespecialty in Nursing (GEPN) program. It is also my honor and pleasure to inform you all that you are about to embark on an exciting and challenging year. We as your GEPN faculty have already begun to plan for next year and are anxiously awaiting your arrival in the coming months. In order to help you acclimate to the GEPN program, I will address some specific information that you will need prior to beginning the school year.

Supplies for Clinical Practice

Clinical uniforms and other supplies

The initial clinical experience will be in a simulated laboratory setting where students will begin learning basic nursing skills (e.g. blood pressure, temperature, assessments), as well as other basic skills needed to provide safe care to patients. By the third week in September, you will be providing direct patient care in a variety of hospitals located within, and outside of New Haven, CT. Prior to clinical experiences, all students will need to purchase the following:

Clinical Uniforms: All students are required to purchase at least two pairs of navy blue colored scrubs and a white lab coat (knee length is preferred) for clinical.

Clinical Shoes: All shoes should be washable. Sneakers are acceptable as well as washable clogs of any color. No open toed shoes are allowed on the clinical units.

Stethoscope: All students will need to purchase their own stethoscope. You can buy your stethoscope online (many students use the web site, (<http://www.allheart.com>)). There are two stethoscopes you should consider and they are Littman or MDF. If you want to purchase the MDF stethoscope, the company recommends you purchase it from UniformDiscount.com.

The following recommendations are made based upon specialty practice:

- Adult/Gerontology Primary Nurse Practitioner or Acute Care Nurse Practitioner tend to purchase a more specialized stethoscope, such as the Littmann® Cardiology IV Stethoscope, Littmann® Master Cardiology Stethoscope, or Littmann® Soft Touch Cardiology STC Stethoscope. The MDF Classic Cardiology Stethoscope is comparable to the Littman Master Cardiology.
- Nurse-Midwifery/Women's Health Nurse Practitioner, psychiatric NP's, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, and the Family Nurse Practitioner students tend to prefer the Littmann® Cardiology IV Stethoscope, as it does have the capability to assess babies, adolescents and/or adults. The MDF 797CC ProCardial Stethoscope is comparable to the Littman Cardiology IV.

A stethoscope is an investment that you will have for years to come. If finances are tight, please do not worry about purchasing an expensive stethoscope now, however, you will be using the stethoscope quite often in the program and the earlier you become accustomed to it the better off you will be.

Other: A watch with a second hand, bandage scissors (trauma shears), a penlight (preferably with a diagram of pupillary size, and a reflex hammer are all required.

All students should purchase all required uniforms and equipment prior to the start of the fall semester. The aforementioned items and all clinical related items are available at any uniform shop or on any online uniform website.

Fall Schedule

You will receive a detailed course schedule for the fall upon your arrival in **August** but I wanted you to have an idea of how the GEPN schedule will look.

- ❖ You will have three days of didactic class each week during the fall semester:
 - Mondays - 8am to 12:00 pm
 - Thursdays - 8am to 5pm (with an optional review in the evening)
 - Fridays - 8am - 12:00pm
 - It is important to note that while we try to maintain all coursework within this timeframe, times may change based upon the need for review sessions, outside speakers, or interesting post-conferences within the Yale community.
- ❖ You will also have approximately 15 hours of clinical work each week:
 - A combination of six hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays or a 12-hour shift on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday.

- Two to three hours per week for the Interprofessional, Longitudinal Clinical Experience (ILCE) with the Yale School of Medicine and the Physician Associate Program.
- ❖ Special workshops, simulations, and classes will be scheduled throughout the semester with several group clinical conferences on Tuesdays or Wednesdays from 1pm to 3pm.
- ❖ All classes begin **Monday, August 28, 2017**, with your clinical rotations beginning approximately three weeks after the start of the program. We at YSN believe in the importance of early real-life clinical experiences in order to build your practice as a nurse. Therefore, while we will spend the first two weeks of the program preparing you for the safe delivery of basic care for your patients, very quickly under the guidance of preceptors you will be caring for your patients in the hospital environment. The expectation is that students will review their respective patients' charts on the day prior to the clinical day in order to develop a plan of care for the patient each week. These care plans will then be handed in to your preceptors for grading and comments.
- ❖ In the first semester, medical surgical clinical groups are scheduled on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and/or Saturdays for:
 - Day shifts: 8am – 2pm *or*
 - Evening shifts: 3pm – 9pm, 4pm – 10pm, or 5pm – 11pm *or*
 - Twelve hour shifts: 7am - 7pm
- ❖ In addition, you will each be assigned to an interprofessional team of nursing, medical, and physician associate students and will complete clinical assignments on either Monday or Friday afternoons. We will discuss this in more detail in August when you arrive.
- ❖ **CLINICAL PLACEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE GEPN PROGRAM WILL NOT BE CHANGED BASED ON OUTSIDE SCHEDULING CONFLICTS. CLINICAL PLACEMENTS ARE ALSO MANDATORY. YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR 1ST CLINICAL ASSIGNMENT DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF THE GEPN PROGRAM.**

Please Note: Students who are parents will need to make sure that their day care includes availability typically *prior* to 7 am on your clinical day. Clinical assignments are made with a variety of factors in mind and therefore all students will be expected to attend various clinical sites and times throughout the GEPN year.

Spring and summer terms

- ❖ Clinical shifts in the spring and summer terms will be either an *eight or twelve hour shift*. Clinical days in the spring and summer will be a combination of Wednesday through Saturday with a few Sunday rotations in our maternity rotation. Once again, clinical shifts are mandatory so please plan accordingly for next spring and summer as the pre-specialty year runs through the end of July.
- ❖ You can expect to have two to three days per week of class and two to three shifts per week of clinical practice. The specific days of the week in which we hold class and clinical will vary by rotation.

- ❖ Assigned clinical shifts include both day and evening shifts as well as Saturday 12 hour shifts (7am - 7 pm).

Equity will be considered for weekend shifts. For example, if you have a Saturday shift during one rotation we will try our absolute best to place you in a weekday shift for the next rotation. Community Health rotation is 90 hours of clinical which are held Monday through Friday (40 hours per week) in either January through March or June and July.

- ❖ In August of 2018, you will study for and be eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). The passing of the NCLEX-RN is a requirement to continuing your graduate studies in your chosen specialty. We help prepare you throughout the GEPN year to ensure you are successful on the exam.

Vacation times have been set, and are firm for you all. They are located in the academic calendar you will receive. The fall semester will run from August 28th through December 15th, 2017. You will have a break in November from the 22nd to the 26th, and at the end of the fall term you will have a winter break from December 16th until January 8th

If there are personal commitments during the GEPN year, please let the faculty know early about your needs. In general, you should understand that accommodations for clinical hours **cannot** be made or expected and that all hours must be completed to be eligible to sit for the NCLEX-RN exam.

Also, please keep in mind that you will need to be flexible. Despite our best efforts, the schedule is subject to change due to a variety of reasons. We make every effort to let you know of changes well in advance but sometimes even the best-laid plans go awry. We rely on your flexibility and feedback to ensure the best educational experience possible.

In closing, may I be the first to congratulate you on your acceptance to the GEPN program and trust you are as excited as we to begin your studies in August. I hope you are able to schedule some vacation time over the coming months and give yourself ample time to adjust to the Yale community and New Haven so that you start school feeling rested and at home at YSN.

If you have questions about the information in this letter, or anything else for that matter, please feel free to contact me at philip.martinez@yale.edu.

Sincerely,



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Specialty Coordinator for Graduate Entry Prespecialty in Nursing