

School of Nursing

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The School of Nursing offers a four-year program leading to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. The school also offers pre-nursing curriculum advisement for students planning to enter a nursing program elsewhere.

The purposes of this degree program are to

1. provide quality nursing education which prepares graduates for professional nursing practice as generalists;
2. prepare graduates who have an appropriate base for specialized study in nursing practice, education, administration, or research;
3. provide graduates with a professional practice base that is responsive to the changing health care needs of the citizens of Tennessee and the nation.

Graduates of the program receive preparation designed to enable them to

1. communicate through a variety of media to facilitate the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and information;
2. employ critical thinking abilities for personal and professional development and nursing practice refinement;
3. develop professional knowledge and skills necessary to design, coordinate, and lead within the health care system;
4. utilize the nursing process as a foundation for nursing practice;
5. exhibit personal and professional development responsive to changes in nursing, health care, and society.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

The Nursing Program consists of four academic years. Students enter the program as pre-nursing majors and must complete the first three semesters of a pre-nursing curriculum consisting of General Education courses and nursing prerequisites. Students then apply for admission to the last five semesters which include 71 semester hours of upper-division nursing courses. When a student applies for admission to the last five semesters and is accepted and becomes enrolled, he/she is then classified as a Nursing major. The number of students accepted into the nursing courses is limited, making the application process competitive.

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates are awarded the B.S.N. and become eligible to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) for Registered Nurse (RN) licensure.

Pre-nursing students enrolled in the University and pursuing the first three semesters of the curriculum should maintain a minimum 2.75 cumulative grade point average and are required to earn no less than a C (2.00) in any prerequisite course. Nursing clinicals may be offered in evening, night, or weekend shifts.

Sample Program of Study

The following program of study is recommended; however, students are expected to seek advising from the nursing faculty each semester to ensure proper sequence for program completion. The faculty reserves the right to make changes in curricula requirements and/or course sequencing as appropriate.

Curricular listings include General Education requirements in Communication, History, Humanities and/or Fine Arts, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, and Social/Behavioral Sciences categories as outlined on pages 64–67.

Required Nursing Curriculum for the B.S.N.

FRESHMAN

FALL		SPRING	
ENGL 1010 (Comm)	3	ENGL 1020 (Comm)	3
BIOL 2010/2011 (Nat Sci)	4	BIOL 2020/2021	4
MATH 1530 (Math)	3	PSCI 1030/1031 or	
COMM 2200 (Comm)	3	CHEM 1010/1011	
HIST 2010, 2020, or 2030	3	or 1030/1031 (Nat Sci)	4
	16	PSY 1410 (Soc/Beh Sci)	3
		HIST 2010, 2020, or 2030	3
			17

SOPHOMORE

FALL		SPRING	
ENGL 2020 or 2030 or		NURS 3000	1
HUM 2610 (Hum/FA)	3	NURS 3010	3
BIOL 2230/2231	4	NURS 3030	2
Humanities and/or Fine Arts	6	NURS 3040	1
Social/Behavioral Sciences	3	NURS 3370	3
	16	NURS elective	3
			13

JUNIOR

FALL		SPRING	
NURS 3170	3	NURS 3530	5
NURS 3350	5	NURS 3540	4
NURS 3360	3	NURS 3550	3
NURS 3570	3	NURS 3560	2
	14		14

SENIOR

FALL		SPRING	
NURS 4330	5	NURS 4530	3
NURS 4340	4	NURS 4550	3
NURS 4350	3	NURS 4560	3
NURS 4360	2	NURS 4570	3
	14	NURS 4580	3
		NURS 4540	1
			16

Special Provisions for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN)

Students holding the LPN license must meet freshman standards for admission to the University. A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 is required for admission into upper-division nursing. Applicants must have no less than a grade of C (GPA 2.0) in all nursing courses.

Each applicant pool will be considered separately. Students not admitted must reapply for consideration in the next pool of applicants.

Each LPN who has graduated from an NLN-accredited program and holds an LPN license will satisfy 11 credit hours of required courses (NURS 3350, 3360, and 4005).

Those students holding the LPN license from nonaccredited or foreign nursing schools will have to complete proficiency exams in addition to the other sophomore- and junior-level nursing courses.

Special Provisions for Licensed Two-Year and Hospital Diploma Graduates

Students holding the RN license must meet freshman and sophomore requirements. Each registered nurse who has graduated from an NLN-accredited program with an associate degree in nursing or a hospital diploma in nursing will satisfy 38 credit hours of required courses including HLTH 1530/1531. This credit, however, will be held in escrow until the student has matriculated and successfully completed NURS 3010, 3030, 3040, 3111, 3170, 3370, and 3570. Those holding degrees from non-NLN accredited or foreign nursing schools will have to complete proficiency exams in addition to the other junior-level nursing courses before credit is awarded for nursing courses.

Students holding R.N. licensure must complete the following courses:

JUNIOR LEVEL

NURS 3010	3
NURS 3030	2
NURS 3040	1
NURS 3111	3
NURS 3170	3
NURS 3370	3
NURS 3570	3
	18

SENIOR LEVEL

NURS 4530	3
NURS 4560	3
NURS 4570	3
NURS 4580	3
Elective	3
	15

Admission and Progression in the Pre-nursing Curriculum

1. Any student formally admitted to the University may pursue the pre-nursing curriculum.
2. An information and application form, obtained from the School of Nursing, Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building 201, must be completed and on file in the School of Nursing.
3. Pre-nursing students are expected to seek advising from the nursing faculty each semester to ensure the proper sequence for program completion.



Admission and Progression in the Upper-division Nursing Curriculum

1. An updated information and application form and a progression to the junior level form must be on file in the School of Nursing.
2. Transcript validation of all prerequisite courses must be on file in the MTSU Records Office.
3. Student must have completed BIOL 2010/2011 with a grade of C (2.0) or better before making application to upper-division nursing.
4. Add 1/2 point to composite score for any student who can provide documented evidence of clinical experience providing direct patient care for a period of at least 380 hours within the two years prior to making application to upper-division nursing.
5. Applicants must have no grade less than a C (2.00) in any prerequisite and General Education course **by the end of Summer Term (for those entering in Fall Semester), or by the end of Fall Semester (for those entering in Spring Semester).**
6. Scores from a standardized examination along with the cumulative college grade point average will be used to calculate a composite score and to rank candidates for progression to the upper division. To be considered for admission to upper-division nursing, a minimum GPA of 2.75 is required.
7. Students must attain a minimum grade of C (2.00) in all theory courses as well as a "pass" in each corresponding lab/clinical course.
8. Comprehensive assessment tools and/or standardized exams are administered throughout the curriculum. Expenses associated with these exams are the responsibility of the student, and evaluation methods are incorporated into the course grades.
9. Students will be asked to present evidence of physical and/or mental health prior to or at any time during their enrollment in the nursing courses. Students must be physically, emotionally, and cognitively able to meet the criteria required for clinical skills. Students must be able to perform clinical skills without physical or psychological threat to themselves or others. Students who have chronic health problems which are controlled and which do not put themselves or others in danger are eligible to be considered for admission.
10. Faculty reserves the right to determine each student's eligibility to participate in clinical rotations based upon satisfactory preparation, meeting School of Nursing and clinical agency's policies, and performance at a safe level of practice. If any of these are not satisfactory, faculty may give a student an unsatisfactory grade and ask a student to leave the clinical agency for the day.
11. Students with infectious diseases will not be permitted to participate in clinical experiences. Causes for clinical absences must be cleared with the instructor and reported to the clinical agency before the clinical experience is to begin. Unexcused absences will be counted as unsatisfactory clinical performance.

12. Students will be dismissed from the Nursing major if they
 - a. commit a breach of ethics or gross professional negligence, or
 - b. use mind-altering drugs or alcohol when engaged in any nursing activity in or outside of class, or
 - c. fail to progress due to unsuccessful attainment of requirements. Students who fail to progress will be readmitted on a space-available basis. **Only one readmission for failure to progress will be allowed.** Students admitted from other nursing programs in which a grade of D (less than 2.00) was made in nursing will not be readmitted.
 - d. violate the student honor code.
13. If a student fails a nursing course at MTSU, he/she **must** repeat that course at MTSU.
14. **Further specific details regarding admission and progression are available in the School of Nursing.**

Accreditation

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing program holds full approval by the Tennessee Board of Nursing and is accredited by the National League for Nursing, Accrediting Commission, and Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

Costs

Nursing students pay the same fees as do all other undergraduate students at the University. These fees are described in detail elsewhere in this catalog. Additional expenses incurred by nursing students include (costs subject to change)

1. the cost of white uniforms, name pin, shoes, hosiery, watch with second hand, and stethoscope (approximately \$350)
2. skill lab supply costs (vary with each course)
3. liability insurance (\$10)
4. assessment tools and standardized exams (approximately \$90 per semester).

Pre-nursing Curriculum for Other Nursing Schools

Students planning to enter other schools of nursing must carefully select their courses according to the pre-nursing curriculum prescribed by the school to which they will apply. Nursing advisors will assist students with their course selections.

Courses in Nursing [NURS]

See back of catalog for course descriptions.

Graduate Study

The School of Nursing offers the Master of Science in Nursing through the Regents Online Degree Program (RODP). Requirements and a list of the courses offered for graduate credit are published in the Graduate Catalog.