Graduate Certificate Programs

Graduate certificate programs provide advanced study beyond the baccalaureate degree and are intended as both professional development and as an intermediate step towards a desired graduate degree. Middle Tennessee State University offers seven graduate certificates: Art Education, Critical Care Nursing, Dyslexic Studies, Geoscience, Gerontology, Health Care Management, and Nursing Informatics. The Gerontology, Health Care Management, and Dyslexic Studies certificates are interdisciplinary programs involving courses and faculty in multiple MTSU departments.

Requirements

Prospective students should apply to the Graduate School. Once a student is admitted to the graduate school, his or her application is transmitted to the director of the individual certificate program for admission consideration. For admission to the interdisciplinary graduate certificate programs in Gerontology and Health Care Management, students must possess a bachelor’s degree with an undergraduate grade point average of 2.75 (4.0 scale) and are required to submit a letter demonstrating their interest, detailing prior field experience, and outlining career goals and aspirations.

Students enrolled in the certificate program must comply with existing policies applicable to all graduate programs at MTSU. The time limit for use of credit toward the certificate is six years from the date of enrollment in the earliest course applied toward the certificate, including transferred courses. Students must maintain a cumulative graduate grade point average of 3.00 in courses leading to the certificate. Students may transfer up to six (6) credit hours of approved coursework into the certificate program.

Art Education

The graduate certificate in Art Education provides advanced study for professionals in public and private education, museums, and other visual art arenas who wish to gain a contemporary understanding of the field of art education while earning credits for career advancement. Specific requirements for the certificate in Art Education are found on page 64.

Critical Care Nursing

The goal of the graduate certificate program in Critical Care Nursing is to provide advanced knowledge and critical thinking skills to prepare the professional nurse to manage patients with complex health problems in the critical care environment. Students are required to complete 18 hours of graduate nursing courses. Specific course and program requirements are found on page 151.
Geoscience
The Department of Geosciences offers a graduate certificate in Geoscience that consists of 12-16 hours taken from a variety of geography and geology courses. The certificate in Geoscience should be of particular interest to those in the private sector, K-12 and community college education, and government agencies. The department also offers a minor at the graduate level and hours taken in the certificate program normally can be applied toward the minor requirements. Specific requirements for the certificate in Geoscience are found on page 115.

Nursing Informatics
A graduate certificate in Nursing Informatics is offered to prepare baccalaureate nurses functioning in informatics-related roles with the additional skills and knowledge related to the practice of nursing informatics and to prepare advanced practice nurses with the skills and knowledge for leadership in emerging informatics roles within health care organizations. Specific requirements for the certificate in Nursing Informatics are found on page 151.

Interdisciplinary Certificate Programs

Dyslexic Studies
The graduate certificate program in Dyslexic Studies is rooted in the research base that defines dyslexia and guides identification. It examines content and strategies for intervention. Prerequisites for admission are a certificate in some field integral to P-12 education, documentation of three or more years of successful experience in the career field, and permission of the program advisor. Candidates must be admitted to the College of Graduate Studies; present a letter of recommendation from a principal or supervisor; and submit a letter detailing professional experience, positions held, and motivation for studying dyslexia. See course descriptions on page 103.

Total required minimum hours: 18

Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DYST 6000</td>
<td>Introduction to Dyslexia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 6530</td>
<td>Psychology of Reading and Reading Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 6740</td>
<td>Brain Development and Learning Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDIS 5000</td>
<td>Language Development, Speech, and Literacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DYST 6010</td>
<td>Identifying Students with Dyslexia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DYST 6011</td>
<td>Interventions for Dyslexia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DYST 6012</td>
<td>Multisensory Teaching Strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DYST 6013</td>
<td>Practicum in Multisensory Teaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DYST 6020</td>
<td>Adolescents with Dyslexia and Other Literary Difficulties</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information, contact Diane J. Sawyer, director of the Tennessee Center for the Study and Treatment of Dyslexia, at (615) 898-5642 or dsawyer@mtsu.edu.

Gerontology
The certificate program in Gerontology provides supplementary education in gerontology for students preparing for careers in a broad range of positions. This program is also designed to give those already working in the field an opportunity to enrich existing skills and knowledge and to provide further opportunities for career advancement.

Total required minimum hours: 18

Core Requirements: 6 hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 6550</td>
<td>Seminar on Aging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 6900</td>
<td>Practicum: Applied Analysis*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NOTE: All students are required to complete this capstone experience during their last semester of coursework.

Remaining hours are to be selected from the following courses in conjunction with career goals and aspirations.

CDIS 5390 | Families in Later Life
CDIS 5800 | Speech, Language, and Auditory Problems of the Aged
REC 5380 | Introduction to Recreation for Persons with Disability
REC 5470 | Leisure and Aging
N FS 5210 | Nutrition in Aging
PSY 5610 | Adult Psychology and Aging
PSY 5630 | Death and Dying
SOC 5020 | Sociology of Aging
SOC 5030 | Topics in Gerontology
SOC 5040 | Health Care Delivery Issues
SOC 6660 | Program Management and Evaluation
SOC 6670 | Mental Health and Aging
SOC 6680 | Counseling Elders

For more information, contact Ron Aday in the Aging Studies Program at (615) 898-2693.

Health Care Management
The curriculum is designed to

1. offer support for individuals interested in the health care field who may or may not want to pursue a graduate degree to obtain recognition for a coherent body of graduate level study in the field of health care management.
2. provide for interdisciplinary collaboration in teaching, learning, and practice.
3. encourage qualified students to pursue graduate degrees related to their specific field of interest or practice.

Total required minimum hours: 18

Core Requirements: 9 hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 6000</td>
<td>Management and Operations Concepts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 6780</td>
<td>Health Care Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 5040</td>
<td>Health Care Delivery Issues</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remaining hours are to be selected from the following courses in conjunction with career goals and aspirations.

BLAW 6430 | Legal Environment of Management
ECON 6400 | Economics of Health Care
HLTH 6510 | The Nation’s Health
HLTH 6850 | Methods in Epidemiology
HLTH 6860 | Program Planning for Health Promotion
MGMT 6750 | Business Ethics
MKT 6900 | Health Care Marketing
NURS 5035 | Special Topics
NURS 5055 | Informatics for the Health Care Professional
SOC 5020 | Sociology of Aging
SOC 5030 | Topics in Gerontology
SOC 5040 | Health Care Delivery Issues

For more information, contact the Center for Health and Human Services at (615) 898-5950.