

# School of Nursing

**Lynn C. Parsons, Director**  
**Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building 201**

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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 leadership skills necessary to design, coordinate, and manage 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 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
	<b>16</b>	PSY 1410 (Soc/Beh Sci)	3
		HIST 2010, 2020, or 2030	3
			<b>17</b>

##### SOPHOMORE

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

##### JUNIOR

FALL		SPRING	
NURS 3170	3	NURS 3530	5
NURS 3350	5	NURS 3540	4
NURS 3360	4	NURS 3550	3
NURS 3570	3	NURS 3560	2
	<b>15</b>	NURS elective	3
			<b>17</b>

##### 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
	<b>14</b>	NURS 4580	3
			<b>15</b>

### 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 unconditional admission into upper-division nursing. Applicants must have no less than a grade of C (GPA 2.0) in all nursing courses. Provisional standing can be held by LPN-to-BSN students based on GPA. Students with a GPA between a 2.5 and a 2.749 may be admitted provisionally. This standing requires that students successfully complete the first nine (9) hours with a grade of C (GPA 2.0) or higher to continue in the program.

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 12 credit hours of required courses (NURS 3350, 3360, and 4005). The LPN-to-BSN student may challenge 16 credit hours for the following courses: NURS 3030, 3040, 3370, 3550, 3560, 4350, 4360, and 3170. The challenge exam may be repeated once within 30 days of the initial attempt. If unsuccessful, the student will be required to take the course. If the student is successful in all challenge exams, 28 credit hours will be held in escrow until completion of NURS 3000, 3010, 3570, 3530, and 3540.

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. 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
	<b>18</b>

#### SENIOR LEVEL

NURS 4530	3
NURS 4560	3
NURS 4570	3
NURS 4580	3
Elective	3
	<b>15</b>

*Challenge of 3000-level nursing courses is possible for associate degree and hospital diploma nursing graduates.*

## 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/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 that they are following the proper sequence for completion of the prerequisite courses.

## Admission and Progression in the Upper-division Nursing Curriculum

1. An updated information/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. Cumulative GPA (minimum 2.75) and ACT will be used to calculate a composite score.
4. Must have completed BIOL 2010/2011 with a grade of C (2.0) or better before making application to upper-division nursing.
5. 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.
6. Applicants must have no grade less than a C (2.00) in any prerequisite and General Education course **by the end of Summer Semester (for those entering in Fall Semester), or by the end of Fall Semester (for those entering in Spring Semester).**
7. Scores from a standardized examination along with the college grade point average will be used to rank candidates for progression to the upper division.
8. Students must attain a minimum grade of C (2.00) in all nursing courses.
9. 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.
10. 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.

11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. If a student fails a nursing course at MTSU, he/she **must** repeat that course at MTSU.
15. **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 (varies with individual choice)
2. skill lab supply costs (vary with each course)
3. liability insurance (\$15)
4. assessment tools and standardized exams (approximately \$80 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]

- 3000 Professionalism in Nursing.** One credit. Exposes the novice nursing student to the profession of nursing. Concept of professionalism explored and related to nursing. Includes a brief historical review of nursing and nursing theories. Professional values, practice standards, and communications with health care professional introduced. Legal implications for nursing explored.
- 3010 Pathophysiology.** Three credits. (Same as BIOL 3340.) Prerequisites: BIOL 2010/2011, 2020/2021, and 2230/2231. Basic mechanisms of disease processes and their role in disrupting normal physiology. Three hours lecture.
- 3030 Health Assessment.** Two credits. Prerequisites: BIOL 2010/2011 and 2020/2021; accepted into upper-division nursing. Corequisite: NURS 3040. Principles and techniques required for the assessment and analysis of data (diagnosis). Normal assessment findings and selected abnormal findings studied. Cultural variations and assessment variations across the lifespan explored.
- 3040 Health Assessment Laboratory.** One credit. Prerequisites: BIOL 2010/2011 and 2020/2021; accepted into upper-division nursing. Corequisite: NURS 3030. Opportunity to practice the basic principles and techniques required for the assessment and analysis of data (diagnosis). Normal assessment findings in the adult as well as selected abnormal findings studied. Cultural variations and assessment variations across the lifespan explored. Two-hour laboratory.
- 3111 Professional Role Development.** Three credits. Socializes the returning R.N. into the role of a baccalaureate nurse. Professionalism in nursing, role transition, history of nursing education, and issues pertinent to returning adult learners.

- 3170 Pharmacological Requisites for Nurse Agency.** Three credits. Prerequisites: General Education Natural Science; BIOL 2230/2231, 2010/2011, 2020/2021; NURS 3000, 3010, 3030, 3040, 3370. Knowledge and responsibility necessary for the assessment and monitoring of clients receiving pharmacotherapeutics. Three hours lecture.
- 3350 Introduction to Nursing Practice.** Five credits. Prerequisites: NURS 3000, 3010, 3030, 3040, and 3370. Corequisites: NURS 3170 and 3360. Introduces nursing care concepts necessary to support basic care of clients across the lifespan; foundation for subsequent nursing courses. Five hours lecture.
- 3360 Introduction to Nursing Practice—Clinical.** Four credits. Prerequisites: NURS 3000, 3010, 3030, 3040, and 3370. Corequisites: NURS 3170 and 3350. Nursing practice applied in laboratory and clinical settings. Eight hours laboratory per week for duration of course.
- 3370 Health and Gerontology.** Three credits. Focuses on the normal aging process and related health care issues from an interdisciplinary perspective. Incorporates concepts of health promotion, prevention, and adaptation for those who are aging and their families. Three hours lecture.
- 3530 Caring for Adult Clients I.** Five credits. Prerequisites: NURS 3170, 3350, 3360, and 3570. Corequisite: NURS 3540. Professional nursing care in a variety of settings for the adult client with simple and chronic health problems. Five hours lecture.
- 3540 Caring for Adult Clients I—Clinical.** Four credits. Prerequisites: NURS 3170, 3350, 3360, 3570. Corequisite: NURS 3530. Applying the nursing process in a clinical setting with the adult client experiencing acute and chronic health deviations. Twenty hours clinical/lab per week for duration of course (approximately six weeks).
- 3550 Caring for the Childbearing Family.** Three credits. Prerequisites: NURS 3170, 3350, 3360, and 3570. Corequisite: NURS 3560. Incorporates the nursing process and critical thinking skills into the professional nursing care of the childbearing female and the family. Focuses on health promotion, prevention, and adaptation for the childbearing client. Three hours lecture.
- 3560 Caring for the Childbearing Family—Clinical.** Two credits. Prerequisites: NURS 3170, 3350, 3360, and 3570. Corequisite: NURS 3550. Nursing process for applying the clinical application and principles of nursing and family theory to childbearing families. Focuses on health promotion, prevention, and adaptation for childbearing families. Sixteen hours clinical/lab per week for duration of course (approximately six weeks).
- 3570 Health Care Research.** Three credits. Prerequisites: NURS 3000, 3010, 3030, 3040, and 3370; MATH 1530; or permission of the director of the School of Nursing. Utilizes systematic inquiry and analysis by reinforcing the problem-solving method. Utilization of research in the improvement of health care practice to affect positive client outcomes examined. Attention given to a thorough search and critique of current research literature related to a problem area selected by the student. Three hours lecture.
- 4005 Independent Health Care Study.** One to three credits. Prerequisites: Admission to the upper division of the nursing program and permission of instructor. Allows the student to pursue individual interests in nursing by contracting with an instructor and documenting the plan of learning as well as its fulfillment. One to three lectures or two to six laboratory hours.
- 4035 Special Topics in Nursing.** Three credits. Explores selected nursing topics in depth. Specified topic offered each semester according to student interest and faculty availability. Can be taken for a maximum of nine hours.
- 4036 Nursing's Image in the Media.** Three credits. Explores the variety of images that the public, the media, and nurses hold of nurses and the nursing profession. Examines personal beliefs regarding these images and the influence these beliefs can play in major health care issues.
- 4037 End-of-Life Care.** Three credits. Focuses on the role of the nurse in end-of-life care across the lifespan and among cultures. Covers a wide range of topics and issues, incorporating a holistic perspective. Students explore their personal values, beliefs, and practices related to end-of-life.
- 4038 Medical/Surgical Practicum.** Three credits. Prerequisites: Admission to upper division nursing program; NURS 3530 and 3540; and permission of instructor. Allows students to pursue individual interests in nursing by contracting with an instructor and documenting the plan of learning as well as its fulfillment. Six laboratory hours.
- 4039 Health Care Issues and Trends.** Three credits. Online course provides opportunities for examination and critical evaluation of significant issues and trends in the current health care environment.
- 4055 Informatics for the Health Care Professional.** Three credits. Theoretical foundations of informatics for health care professionals. Examines information technology and tools on the Internet. Emphasis on impact of automated data management through information systems in health care.
- 4210 Health Care Research.** Three credits. Prerequisites: MATH 1530. The research process in developing a research proposal for a student-identified problem in the health care delivery system. Discussion and critique of related research findings and research proposals of peers. Three hours lecture.
- 4330 Caring for Adult Clients II.** Five credits. Prerequisites: NURS 3530, 3540, 3550, and 3560. Corequisite: NURS 4340. Incorporates the nursing process and critical thinking skills into the professional nursing care of the adult client experiencing complex, multi-system illness, failure, and trauma. Opportunities for the nursing student to combine acquired knowledge from previous nursing courses and courses from other disciplines with new phenomena encountered in a variety of high acuity care settings. Five hours lecture.
- 4340 Caring for Adult Clients II—Clinical.** Four credits. Prerequisites: NURS 3530, 3540, 3550, and 3560. Corequisite: NURS 4330. Opportunity for nursing students to integrate didactic and empirical knowledge and skills for clients with critical needs into the acute care setting. Understanding of complex, multi-system illness, failure, and trauma in providing nursing care. Twenty hours clinical/lab for duration of course (approximately four weeks).
- 4350 Caring for Children and Teen Clients.** Three credits. Prerequisites: NURS 3530, 3540, 3550, and 3560. Corequisite: NURS 4360. Incorporates the nursing process and critical thinking skills into the professional nursing care of children, adolescents, and their families. Principles of growth and development and family-centered care. Three hours lecture.

- 4360 Caring for Children and Teen Clients—Clinical.** Two credits. Prerequisites: NURS 3530, 3540, 3550, and 3560. Corequisite: NURS 4350. Provides assistance in transferring knowledge to the implementation of nursing care of children, adolescents, teens, and their families in a variety of clinical settings. Twelve hours clinical/lab per week for duration of course.
- 4530 Caring for the Community as Client.** Three credits. Prerequisites: NURS 4330, 4340, 4350, 4360. Corequisites: NURS 4550 and 4560. Opportunity for students to learn theoretical concepts and epidemiological principles related to health promotion and preventive services. Primary, secondary, and tertiary levels of prevention covered. Focuses on the work of an interdisciplinary health care team and concepts of nursing and public health when working with the individual, family, group, and community as client. Three hours lecture.
- 4550 Caring for Clients with Mental Health Alterations.** Three credits. Prerequisites: NURS 4330, 4340, 4350, and 4360. Corequisites: NURS 4530, 4560. Opportunity for students to learn theoretical concepts relating to mental health and psychiatric nursing. Interpersonal and group communication, psychopathology, and legal and ethical issues explored. Methods used in providing nursing care for clients with alterations in mental health presented. Interdisciplinary health care team and its function in the psychiatric setting explored. Three hours lecture.
- 4560 Nursing Care of Vulnerable Aggregates Clinical.** Three credits. Prerequisites: NURS 4330, 4340, 4350, and 4360. Corequisites: NURS 4530 and 4550. Familiarizes the undergraduate nursing student with ways to care for aggregates. Emphasis on clients in the community and in in-patient psychiatric facilities. Sixteen hours clinical/lab per week for duration of class (approximately four weeks).
- 4570 Professional Practice and Leadership.** Three credits. Prerequisites: NURS 4330, 4340, 4350, and 4360. Corequisite: NURS 4580. Opportunity for students to learn theoretical concepts relating to leadership in nursing. Theories of leadership and management including legal and ethical issues explored. Three hours lecture.
- 4580 Professional Practice and Leadership Clinical.** Three credits. Prerequisites: NURS 4330, 4340, 4350, 4360. Corequisite: NURS 4570. Clinical application of professional practice and leadership principles. Provides independence in the management of nursing systems in various health care institutions. Sixteen hours clinical/lab per week for duration of course (approximately four weeks).

### Graduate Study

The School of Nursing offers graduate certificates in Critical Care Nursing and Nursing Informatics. Requirements for these and a list of the courses offered for graduate credit are published in the Graduate Catalog.