

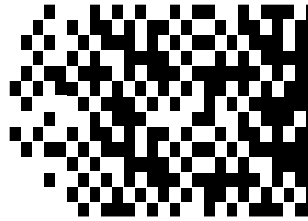


**The University of Tennessee
Health Science Center**

CENTERSCOPE
Student Handbook

2003-2004

**THE MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
STUDENT SERVICES • FINANCIAL AID • EMERGENCY PROCEDURES
ACADEMIC PROCESS • POLICIES & GUIDELINES • RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES
JUDICIAL SYSTEM • ORGANIZATIONS & OPPORTUNITIES
INFORMATION FROM THE COLLEGES**



College of NURSING

Donna Hathaway, Ph.D., Dean

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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

The College of Nursing at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center is dedicated to the advancement of nursing science through the conduct of advanced and expert nursing practice. This mission is accomplished through the preparation of individuals for advanced and expert nursing practice, the generation of knowledge essential for practice through research and clinical inquiry, and the promotion of advanced practice through distributive programming.

Our focus on advanced and expert nursing practice is operationalized through our degree programs, faculty research and practice, and distributive programming to the health care community. Degree options include the MSN, which prepares beginning advanced nurse practitioners for a variety of positions, the DNSc, which prepares expert clinicians for leadership positions in practice, and the Ph.D. which prepares graduates as research scientists.

Faculty research and practice involves the spectrum of nursing from acute to primary care and from neonatal to gerontology, while our distributive programs make use of emerging technology to foster and enhance advanced and expert nursing practice through avenues that are convenient and timely for clinicians and students. The unifying framework that transcends all of the college's programs centers around our dedication to the clinical dimension of nursing practice and enhancement of the health and well-being of patients served by nurses.

We welcome the opportunity to share more information about our college and encourage you to peruse our web site (www.utmem.edu/nursing). If you have additional questions about any of our programs, please feel free to contact me, or any of our faculty or staff.

Donna Hathaway, Ph.D., FAAN

ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

Donna Hathaway, Ph.D., Dean
Beth Kirby, Assistant to the Dean

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Cheryl Stegbauer, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Academic Programs
Marsha Chorice, Assistant Director
Carolyn Graff, Ph.D., Assistant Dean of Student Affairs

DISTRIBUTIVE PROGRAMS

(Computer Technology/Internet/Alumni/Outreach)
Cynthia Russell, Ph.D., Assistant Dean
Missy Robinson, Educational Coordinator

COLLEGE OF NURSING MISSION STATEMENT

The College of Nursing is an agent of social change whose mission is to prepare the next generation of nurses for practice, teaching, and research; to seek new insights into nursing care through critical inquiry; and to provide superb patient care.

COLLEGE OF NURSING VISION

The College of Nursing will be a leader in serving diverse students and clients in dynamic health care systems through innovative and state of the art education, research, and practice.

COLLEGE OF NURSING VALUES

The College of Nursing core values are:

1. *Innovation* and *excellence* in educational programs, clinical research, and advanced practice.
2. *Diversity* of students, faculty, staff, and clients; and
3. *Partnership* with students, health care professionals, and the larger community.

COLLEGE OF NURSING PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the College of Nursing is consistent with the goals and mission of UTHSC. The College philosophy focuses upon the nature of the PERSON, ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH, THE PROFESSION OF NURSING, and THE PROCESS OF EDUCATION.

The faculty believes that the PERSON is a unique integrated being that is continuously evolving with dignity and growth. The person's behavior reflects the interaction with the environment. Each person has the right to participate in making decisions that affect their health and to accept or refuse health care within the context of safety to society.

The faculty views ENVIRONMENT as all conditions influencing the life and development of the person. The health of individuals, families, and communities is affected by these conditions.

HEALTH is viewed as a dynamic state arising from a process of continuous change in the person and environment. The fac-

ulty views the promotion, maintenance, and restoration of health as a complex phenomenon involving the shared responsibility of the person, health care providers, and society.

NURSING is the diagnosis and treatment of actual or potential health problems. Nursing involves supportive and therapeutic interventions based on theoretical and scientific knowledge. The goal of nursing is to promote health throughout the life altered by illness. As health care professionals, nurses must exert leadership in nursing care. The nurse's role is that of a health care provider who, both independently and in collaboration with others, assesses, plans, implements, and evaluates nursing care.

Nursing is a synthesis of both art and science. The art of nursing is the unique, creative synthesis and application of knowledge valuing cultural, spiritual, societal, and human attributes. The science of nursing is the contemplation, exploration, and research of the person, environment, and health.

Education for professional nursing practice includes a sound theoretical knowledge base to support experiential learning. The faculty believes that the educational process facilitates continuing personal and professional growth. The intent of the educational programs is to focus on the learner with active participation of the student in the learning process. Education is a life long process with the commitment of the learner to establish patterns of continued inquiry.

2003-04 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

SUMMER/FALL TERM, 2003

July 4

Independence Day Holiday

July 7

Mail-In Registration/Fee Payment

DEADLINE for all MSN, DNSc & Ph.D. Students (EXCEPTION: Entering Ph.D.)

July 7-20

New students must complete technology training during this two week period of time

July 7

Academic year begins for all RETURNING MSN ANESTHESIA students (graduating in December 2003)

July 7

Academic year begins for G2s (Ph.D.) and above

July 21 Academic year begins for all <u>NEW AND RETURNING</u> MSN/DNSc students (Except MSN Anesthesia)	December 5 Graduation (Attendance required)	April 23-24 Morris DVP - Day and Time TBD
July 21 New Student Orientation - College of Nursing (MSN/DNSc students)	December 5 Classes End (for students NOT graduating - MSN/DNSc)	May 3 Dissertation deadline (Ph.D. Students)
July 21-25 On campus session - all MSN/DNSc students (EXCEPTIONS: Entering Ph.D. and DNSc December graduates)	December 12 Grades Due (for students NOT graduating - MSN/DNSc)	May 21 Classes End (for all graduating MSN/DNSc students)
July 24 Reed Distinguished Visiting Professor (DVP)	December 22 End of Fall Term (Ph.D. Students)	May 26 Grades Due (for all graduating MSN/DNSc students)
July 24 Last day to add/drop classes	December 22-26; Jan. 1 University closed - Christmas Holiday (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)	May 27 Completion Date (for students graduating)
August 14 New Student Orientation - College of Graduate Health Sciences (New Ph.D. Students)	WINTER/SPRING TERM, 2004	May 28 Graduation
August 18 Fall term begins for New Ph.D. students	January 2 Mail-In Registration/Fee Payment Deadline for ALL Students	May 28 Classes End (for all MSN/DNSc students NOT graduating)
August 29 Deadline for new course proposals for Spring Semester	January 5 Academic year begins for all MSN/DNSc/Ph.D. students	June 2 Grades Due (for all MSN/DNSc students NOT graduating)
September 1 Application deadline for Nurse Anesthesia Option	January 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday	June 25 Academic year ends for non-graduating Ph.D. Students
September 1 Labor Day Holiday	January 22 Last day to add/drop classes	
October 1 Credentials Committee Deadline (Ph.D. Students)	January 26-30 On campus session MSN/DNSc students	*Third year DNSc student would arrange time on campus with their advisor for final defense.
November 1 *Deadline for final defense of dissertation (DNSc Students)	January 26-30 Bowns DVP - Day and Time TBD	
November 3 Dissertation deadline (Ph.D. Students)	February 1 Application deadline for MSN/DNSc students (EXCEPTION: Nurse Anesthesia applicants)	
November 14 Cashdollar DVP	February 2 Deadline for proposal defense of dissertation (DNSc Students)	
November 17 Deadline for dissertation to the Dean (DNSc Students)	March 1 Credentials Committee deadline (Ph.D. Students)	
November 27-28 Thanksgiving Holiday Break	March 8 DNSc Applicant Interviews	
December 1-5 On campus session all MSN/DNSc/Ph.D. students	March 10 MSN Applicant Interviews	
December 4 Classes end, final exams completed, and grades due (for all graduating students)	March 12 Ph.D. Applicant Interviews	
December 4 Completion Date (for students graduating - MSN/DNSc)	March 15-19 Spring Break (ALL STUDENTS)	
	March 31 Deadline for new course proposals for fall semester (Ph.D.)	
	April 9 Good Friday Holiday	
	April 19-23 All MSN/DNSc students on campus (EXCEPTION: Third year DNSc students)	

LEAVE OF ABSENCE, WITHDRAWAL, AND DROP TO PART-TIME STUDY:

Students wishing to withdraw from enrollment must notify, in writing, the Academic Dean of the College of Nursing. They must also complete a change of status form which qualifies them for withdrawal in good standing and is utilized in prorating the refund of tuition and fees. The change of status form is available in room 635 Lamar Alexander. Please see "UTHSC Refund Policy," in the "Academic Process" section of this handbook for university policy regarding student fee refunds.

CONTINUOUS REGISTRATION

Students are expected to register for course work each semester once they have been admitted. Any student who is unable to register for a semester must obtain a leave of absence form from the Office of Academic Affairs. Any student who cannot maintain continuous enrollment must seek readmission.

INSURANCE & CPR CERTIFICATION

All clinical agencies that provide clinical laboratories for the College of Nursing students require professional liability insurance and current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Therefore, enrolled College of Nursing students must be charged for insurance coverage and proof of current CPR certification according to standards of the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross. Students must obtain liability insurance coverage at the time of registration.

GRADING

The following grade ranges are utilized in the College of Nursing:

92-100	=	A
83-91	=	B
75-82	=	C
70-74	=	D
0-69	=	F

When for an acceptable reason a student does not complete all required course work, the grade may be recorded as incomplete (I) provided all work in the course is satisfactory. The student must remove the "I" within one semester. Failure to remove the "I" within the allowed time will result in a grade of "F" being recorded as the permanent grade.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

APPEAL PROCESS

The following policies for appeals apply to all students:

1. In those instances in which a student elects to appeal any academic action, he/she has the right to request a hearing before the Progression Committee. Such a request must be filed, in writing, with the chair of the committee within five (5) calendar days after the original action. At this hearing the student may present evidence and witnesses on his/her behalf, excluding legal counsel.

2. When a student requests a hearing, he/she must appear in person before the Progression Committee. Faculty of the course(s) at issue will be consulted to determine the nature of the student's difficulty. Each student shall be considered individually by the Committee.

3. Should the student be dissatisfied with the recommendation of the Progression Committee, he/she may appeal to the Dean

by filing a written appeal with the Dean's office within five (5) calendar days of receipt of notice of the recommendation. Action of the Dean may be appealed by filing a written appeal with the Chancellor within five days of receipt of the Dean's action.

RETESTING POLICY

No student will be given the opportunity to take a retest in a course to improve his/her grade after the final grade has been assigned. Any re-evaluation process must occur before the granting of the final course grade.

DISMISSAL

In addition to dismissal for academic failure, the faculty and administration of the college reserve the right to dismiss any student for unethical or illegal conduct. All students are expected to adhere to the principles of the American Nurses Association's Code for Nurses with Interpretative Statements and the Honor Code for the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Students who withdraw or are dismissed from the College may request readmission. Request for readmission must be made in writing and should be addressed to the Dean of the College of Nursing. Request for readmission is acted upon by the Dean in consultation with appropriate administrators and faculty committees. If readmission is granted, the level of placement in the program and remaining requirements will be specified.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

An application form to request a leave of absence must be completed and filed in the Office of Academic Affairs. A request for leave of absence is subject to the approval of the Dean. The student should be aware that requests for leave of absence may be denied, requiring the student to seek readmission.

GRADUATION*

To be recommended for a graduate degree in Nursing, a candidate must have completed satisfactorily the prescribed graduate curriculum with a grade point average of 3.0 or above and must have discharged all financial obligations to the university.

***Attendance at graduation is mandatory for all College of Nursing graduates.**

CLASS ATTENDANCE

The educational programs at UTHSC have been developed by the faculty and staff of these colleges to provide students with the information and experience necessary to become practicing professionals. All students are expected to attend the various educational opportunities provided for them by the college or school in which they are enrolled. Attendance is required at some of the educational experiences such as laboratories and related instruction, clinical activities, and small group conferences. In the College of Nursing, attendance is mandatory for all laboratories and clinical experiences.

SPECIAL STUDENTS

POLICIES & PROCEDURES FOR NON-DEGREE STUDENT CLASSIFICATION

The College of Nursing has a non-degree graduate student classification for those individuals who are not candidates for a degree but who wish to take courses for credit.

The non-degree classification is tailored to meet the needs of a variety of individuals including:

1. Individuals whose regular applications are pending or accepted but whose admission is not until the next term.

2. Individuals enrolled at other institutions who take courses at the College of Nursing for credit acceptable to the home institution.

3. Individuals who are registered nurses seeking to continue their development.

4. Individuals who wish to pursue a post-masters or post-doctoral non-degree course of study that leads to eligibility to sit for a certification examination.

NON-DEGREE INDIVIDUALS NOT SEEKING CERTIFICATION PREPARATION

Individuals who wish to enroll under the non-degree student classification will complete an abbreviated application form that is available from the College of Nursing, Office of Academic Programs. Individuals desiring to take graduate courses must hold a Baccalaureate or higher degree, meet course prerequisites, and declare this on the application. No test scores, transcripts, letters of evaluation, or admission committee approval will be required.

Applications will be sent to the College of Nursing who will process the forms through the Registrar's Office. The student must register and pay fees to the Cashier on the official date of registration for that term.

Only selected courses will be available to non-degree individuals and enrollment is limited to a space available basis. **Non-degree students are required to fulfill the same course requirements as regular students and are subject to all academic rules and regulations as outlined in the UTHSC CenterScope. Any coursework taken as a non-degree student will be on the student's UT transcript, and is considered during the admission process and is included in the Graduate GPA.**

At the time of admission to non-degree student status, no commitment is stated or implied concerning subsequent admission to the graduate nursing programs. If admission to a degree program is desired at a later time, a non-degree student must make separate application and satisfy the admission requirements of the degree program to which admission is sought.

A maximum of 12 semester hours as a special student in the College of Nursing may be applied to the MSN/DNSc degree, subject to approval by the Associate Dean for Academic Programs.

PROCEDURE FOR PROCESSING NON-DEGREE STUDENT ENROLLMENTS

1. The Associate Dean for Academic Programs will determine courses that are appropriate for non-degree students.

2. The Associate Dean for Academic Programs will compile and distribute a list of the course offerings that have been approved to interested applicants, along with an abbreviated application form with a deadline for application submission.

3. The applicant will mail the application form to the Office of Academic Programs.

4. Application will be sent to the Registrar by the Office of Academic Programs. Applicants will be contacted by the Office of Academic Programs if space is not available.

5. Applicants will complete the regular registration process and pay fees at the established times.

NON-DEGREE INDIVIDUALS SEEKING CERTIFICATION

Post Graduate Preparation in Advanced Practice Option

This option offers an opportunity for nurses holding a masters (MS or MSN) or doctoral degree in nursing to gain additional education that can lead to national certification in an advanced practice specialty. Nurses may apply to the following specialty areas of post-masters/post-doctoral study leading to preparation for national certification:

Primary Care Specialty Areas

Family Nurse Practitioner

Critical Care Specialty Areas

Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Nurse Anesthesia

Requirements for national certification are determined by the specific certifying agency. Generally, there are classroom and clinical instruction requirements and some certifying agencies have additional practice requirements. Faculty strive to assure that all the educational requirements are met, but since these are subject to change, the applicant should consult the certifying agency. Each applicant's materials are individually evaluated and a specific plan of study developed.

Academic Standards

The admissions requirements are consistent with the criteria for admission to the professional colleges of UTHSC. Academic standards include admission process, admission requirements, and all policies governing the progression of students.

Admission Procedures

An application packet for post-masters/post doctoral study can be obtained from the:

The University of Tennessee

Health Science Center

College of Nursing

Student Affairs

877 Madison Ave. Suite 637

Memphis, TN 38163

(901) 448-6125

website: www.utmem.edu/nursing

The completed application packet along with transcripts from each college or university attended should be returned to the above address.

Admission will vary depending on the number of positions available in each specialty area. Priority may be given to degree-seeking students.

LOANS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Students in the College of Nursing are eligible for loans and scholarship awards from various sources. Traineeships are available to full-time graduate students through the Professional Nurses Traineeship Program. A limited number of scholarships for graduate students are sponsored by local philanthropic organizations. A Student Emergency Loan to pay tuition and fees or other types of emergencies is available through the Office of Student Affairs. Interest on the loan begins to accrue at 6% per annum on the date the loan is made. For more information on financial aid refer to the section on Financial Aid in this handbook.

HONOR SOCIETY

Membership in the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Nursing Beta Theta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau is an honor conferred on students in the graduate programs who demonstrate academic and clinical excellence in their nursing courses. Graduates working in the community who have an earned baccalaureate degree are also eligible by demonstration of marked achievement in nursing education, practice, research, or publications.

Membership is available by invitation from the chapter. Graduate student eligibility is based upon grade point averages and faculty evaluations. Graduate students who have completed at least one-half of their curriculum and have a 3.5 GPA or greater are eligible. Graduate nurses working in the community may be nominated by a current member and must furnish supporting references. The faculty counselor from Sigma Theta Tau meets with the graduate class during the school year to explain application procedures.

HONOR COUNCIL

Please refer to the Honor Code Section IV, Addendum E, of the Student Judicial System section of this handbook (page 59), for the special provisions of the UTHSC Honor Code that pertain to the College of Nursing.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Functions of the College of Nursing Student Government Association include acting as intermediary between the nursing students and the College of Nursing faculty, planning social functions and, in general, addressing the needs of the College of

Nursing community. The College of Nursing President is also a member of the SGAEC and represents the Nursing College within the university level student governance system.

The elected officers for the student body of the College of Nursing are known as the Nursing Student Government Association (NSGA) and this council consists of the following positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Social Chair, Individual Option Representatives, Archivist, Honor Council President, and NSAP Council/Chairperson.

Jeffrey Young
President, NSGA

2002-2003 STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICERS

NSGA President Jeffrey Young
Vice President Joyce Elkins
Secretary/Treasurer Kelly McFarland
Honor Council President Marsha Davis

NURSING STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NSAP)

PURPOSE

1. To identify, support, and refer for treatment and rehabilitate students enrolled in the College of Nursing who are impaired as a result of family and/or social stress, alcohol and/or drug abuse and/or other psychiatric problems.

2. To sensitize and educate College of Nursing faculty and students regarding the impaired student professional.

3. To develop programs and procedures for professional nurses which support the Tennessee Board of Nursing.

4. To establish liaison and a referral system to the Tennessee Nurses' Peer Assistance Program and Tennessee Board of Nursing.

5. To develop a model which may be utilized by other professional nursing educational programs.

COMPONENTS:

1. NSAP Coordinating Council

Composed of one representative from each graduate option and appointed professionals.

a. Professionals will be appointed by the Dean to include clinical nursing faculty, those who have been impaired and are successful in rehabilitation, and others who are knowledgeable about drug, alco-

hol, psychiatric and psychological treatment.

b. Council members who may provide confidential information and consultation to the impaired or at-risk student.

c. The council members will develop guidelines which will be approved by the Dean.

d. The council will implement and function within the parameters of the approved guidelines.

e. The council will select and recommend evaluation, treatment, and monitoring resources.

2. College Administration

The administration will be responsible for any disciplinary action which might be necessary. This will occur only after previously established intervention techniques have failed and/or if the behavior of the impaired student flagrantly violates the ethical and professional standards of the profession and the University requiring immediate action.

3. College of Nursing Students

Effective and acceptable self and colleague monitoring behaviors are required from all students professionals. It is expected students will understand that providing assistance to impaired or at-risk colleagues at the student level is no different from behavior expected of the nursing professional.

4. Impaired or At-Risk Nursing Student

The impaired or at-risk student professional is one whose behavior violates the rules, regulations, traditions, and ethics of UTHSC and the accepted standards of the nursing profession as established by the Tennessee Board of Nursing. It is expected that in the majority of cases, impairment will result from one or a combination of:

a. inability to cope with the stress of professional education

b. alcohol and/or drug abuse, misuse or dependence

c. incapacitating psychological or psychiatric disorder

d. familial and social stressors

5a. Evaluation Resources

The council will select and recommend evaluation resources which can be both University and non-University based.

5b. Treatment Resources

The council will select and recommend treatment resources which can be both University and non-University based.

5c. Monitoring Process

The Chairperson of the council (non-student) will assume the monitoring responsibilities.

NURSING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Nursing Alumni Association represents more than 3,600 graduates from the Health Science Center campus and is an integral part of the university's National Alumni Association. Upholding the university tradition of recognizing outstanding students, the Nursing Alumni Association annually recognizes students through the Alumni Awards given to a graduating senior and master's student for outstanding clinical performance.

With the total endorsement of the Dean, alumni are now being selected to serve on several college committees where alumni representation is appropriate and advantageous to the future of the College of Nursing.

DEGREES OFFERED

The College of Nursing offers programs which lead to the Master of Science in Nursing degree and the Doctor of Nursing Science (D.N.Sc.) degree. The Ph.D. in Nursing is offered as a part of the College of Graduate Health Sciences.

The College of Nursing is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

MASTER'S PROGRAM

One graduate program in nursing at UTHSC culminates in a Master of Science in Nursing degree.

Students enroll on a full-time basis. There is no residency requirement. Students have five years in which to complete the program.

MSN PROGRAM

The purpose of the master's curriculum is to provide preparation for advanced levels of clinical practice and for advanced study at the doctoral level.

The program provides the opportunity to: 1) elect an area of clinical specialization; 2) develop an advanced level of clinical competence for leadership in practice that provides consumers with primary, secondary and/or tertiary categories of health care; 3) develop a research base for systematic review, testing and evaluation of nursing care actions, their effects and outcomes, and 4) acquire the foundation for doctoral study.

MSN ADMISSION PROCESS

Application packets are obtained from the UTHSC, Office of Admissions. Preference is given to residents of Tennessee.

The Applicant must:

1. Submit an application and official transcripts for all college and university work to the UTHSC Admissions Office. Information on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines will be given upon request.

2. Hold an unrestricted RN license in applicant's state of residence or employment.

3. Have earned a minimum of a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university. If the baccalaureate degree is in Nursing, it must be from a program accredited by a national level body responsible for nursing accreditation. If the baccalaureate degree is not in nursing, the applicant may be admitted but with the requirement of successful completion of prerequisite courses in the College of Nursing prior to enrolling in the MSN courses.

4. Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Applicants with cumulative GPAs less than 3.0 generally are not competitive but may submit additional documents for special consideration that include Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores and/or evidence of outstanding professional leadership.

5. Submit three (3) references from graduate-prepared nurses or faculty members who can address their potential or ability for functioning in the advanced practice or research role (clinical skills, critical thinking, independent decision making, collaborative skills with other health professionals, and nursing leadership). Applicants currently enrolled in a nursing program must submit at least one (1) reference from a faculty member in that program.

6. Submit a three (3) to five (5) page essay describing professional goals and how the program will enhance future roles and activities. The purpose of the essay is to provide the Admissions Committee insight into the professional goals and expectations of the applicant and to evaluate written communication skills.

7. Hold a current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation or advanced life support prior to and during enrollment.

8. Have access to a computer and possess minimum capabilities for computer literacy.

9. Experience requirements for certain options must be met prior to admission (neonatal and anesthesia).

10. An interview will be scheduled for applicants meeting admission criteria. The purpose of the interview is to evaluate communication and decision-making skills; educational goals; and current leadership, scholarship, practice roles and activities. For doctoral programs, match of applicant's educational goals with faculty programs of practice or research is an important factor that is assessed in interview.

11. Applicants whose native tongue is not English must present a minimum score of 550 (earned within two years prior to application) of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

Computation of Cumulative GPA: A cumulative GPA will be the most recent bachelor's program (regardless of degree major) and all subsequent collegiate work. Applicants without a bachelor's degree and who hold a master's or doctoral degree as their first academic degree will have cumulative GPA calculated to include that master's or doctoral degree and subsequent academic work.

The College of Nursing, as a part of the University of Tennessee system, is a state supported institution and gives priority to Tennessee residents; however, non-residents may be considered. Questions regarding residency status should be addressed to the Director of Admissions, Suite 119, Randolph Hall.

MSN Promotion, Retention, and Progression Requirements

These policies govern the progression of students in the Master's Program.

1. Promotion and graduation require recommendation of the Progressions Committee and endorsement by the Dean.

2. Consistent with other professional degrees on campus, promotion requirements are as follows:

All students must demonstrate satisfactory behavior in personal and professional areas deemed necessary by faculty for academic success and competency in clinical practice. Such areas may include ability to establish rapport with clients; ability to work effectively with other members of the health care team; dependability; judgment; integrity; initiative; and interest.

3. Any student who earns a D or F in any course will be dismissed from the program.

4. To be considered in good academic standing, a student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or better. A student whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 may be dismissed.

5. Dismissal may result from serious deficiencies in personal or professional behavior, or from failure to meet stipulated conditions within the designated time period.

6. Students who wish to withdraw from a course must notify the Academic Dean of the College of Nursing in writing and meet with their advisor. Students who withdraw from a theory or clinical nursing course must also withdraw from the corequisite nursing course. A change of status form must be completed as required by the University.

DOCTOR OF NURSING SCIENCE PROGRAM

The Doctor of Nursing Science (DNSc) degree is a three year course of study that prepares graduates for advanced levels of nursing practice. Emphasis is placed on nursing care that is based upon philosophical, ethical, and scientific principles. The first two to three terms of the curriculum mirror the MSN program, and students focus on acquisition of knowledge and skills in a chosen area of advanced practice. Years two and three provide additional course work in supporting areas and in clinical practice. The last year is devoted substantially to a residency preparing the DNSc student in an area of advanced nursing practice and refining abilities to examine and evaluate nursing practice through a research utilization project.

In addition to the advanced clinical practice series, all students enroll in core courses focusing on concepts essential for analysis and evaluation of practice outcomes such as epidemiology, health and policy issues, health economics, philosophy of practice, clinical research utilization and health care quality improvement, health information management, and leadership. Each student selects an area for scholarly examination of internal and external factors that influence nursing care in his/her clinical area. This process guides the student in identification and evaluation of practice issues. Students collaborate with expert clinicians in their specialty areas.

MINIMUM DNSc ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Application packets are obtained from the UTHSC, Office of Admissions. Admission to the DNSc program is competitive. Students who meet only the minimum requirements are not guaranteed admission. The Applicant Must:

1. Submit an application and official transcripts for all college and university work to the UTHSC Admissions Office. Information on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines will be provided upon request.

2. Hold an unrestricted RN license in applicant's state of residence or employment.

3. Have obtained a minimum of a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university. If the baccalaureate degree is in Nursing, it must be from a program accredited by a national level body responsible for nursing accreditation. If the baccalaureate degree is not in nursing, the applicant may be admitted but with the requirement of successful completion of prerequisite courses in the College of Nursing prior to enrolling in the DNSc courses.

4. Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Applicants with cumulative GPAs below 3.0 generally are not competitive but may submit additional documents for special consideration that include Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores and/or evidence of outstanding professional leadership.

5. Submit three (3) references from graduate-prepared nurses or faculty members who can address their potential or ability for functioning in the advanced practice or research role (clinical skills, critical thinking, independent decision making, collaborative skills with other health professionals, and nursing leadership). Applicants currently enrolled in a nursing program must submit at least one (1) reference from a faculty member in that program.

6. Submit a three (3) to five (5) page essay describing professional goals and how the program will enhance future roles and activities. The purpose of the essay is to provide the Admissions Committee insight into the professional goals and expectations of the applicant and to evaluate written communication skills.

7. Hold a current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation or advanced life support prior to and during enrollment.

8. Have access to a computer and possess minimum capabilities for computer literacy.

9. Experience requirements for certain options must be met prior to admission (neonatal and nurse anesthesia).

10. An interview will be scheduled for applicants meeting admission criteria. The purpose of the interview is to evaluate communication and decision-making skills; educational goals; and current leadership, scholarship, practice roles and activities. Match of applicant's educational goals with faculty programs of practice or research is an important factor that is assessed in interview.

11. Applicants whose native tongue is not English must present a minimum score of 550 (earned within two years prior to application) of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

Computation of Cumulative GPA: A cumulative GPA will be the most recent bachelor's program (regardless of degree major) and all subsequent collegiate work. Applicants without a bachelor's degree and who hold a master's or doctoral degree as their first academic degree will have cumulative GPA calculated to include that master's or doctoral degree and subsequent academic work.

DNSc Promotion, Retention, and Progression Requirements

1. Promotion and graduation require recommendation of the Progressions Committee and endorsement by the Dean.

2. Consistent with other professional degrees on campus, promotion requirements are as follows:

All students must demonstrate satisfactory behavior in personal and professional areas deemed necessary by faculty for academic success and competency in clinical practice. Such areas may include ability to establish rapport with clients; ability to work effectively with other members of the health care team; dependability; judgment; integrity; initiative; and interest.

3. Any student who earns a D or an F in any course will be dismissed from the program.

4. To be considered in good academic standing, a student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better. A student whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 may be dismissed.

5. Dismissal may result from serious deficiencies in personal or professional behavior or from failure to meet stipulated conditions within the designated time period.

6. Students who wish to withdraw from a course must notify the Academic Dean of the College of Nursing in writing and meet with their advisor. Students who withdraw from a theory or clinical nursing course must also withdraw from the corequisite nursing course. A change of status form must be completed as required by the University.

7. Students who receive the grade of No Progress (NP) in N800 Thesis for the second time are not allowed to progress without review and recommendation of the Graduate Promotions Committee.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Program Minimum Skills DNSc/MSN Nurse Anesthesia

The applicant will possess the mental, auditory, visual, sensory, strength, manual dexterity, and communication skills to:

1. Perform a systematic and complete history and physical examination on a client.

2. Communicate significant examination findings to other professionals and client/family.

3. Appropriately assess and record subjective and objective findings.

4. Maintain effective relationships and interact appropriately with other professionals and clients/families, demonstrating skills of leadership collaborations and decisiveness.

5. Accurately analyze alterations in functional patterns.

6. Maintain flexibility and emotional stability in response to novel, unique situations and stress.

7. Demonstrate advanced use of the nursing process: develop, implement, educate and counsel clients, prescribe appropriate therapy, demonstrate self care skills and evaluate appropriate plans of action for diagnosed problems.

8. Safely provide airway management and able to maintain advanced life support systems while operating and interpreting multiple monitoring modalities.

9. Rapidly respond and intervene in emergency situations requiring anesthesia care throughout the spectrum of practice settings.

10. Speak, write, and comprehend the English language proficiently.

11. Use computer to word process, e-mail, and access the world wide web.

Program Minimum Skills DNSc/MSN Acute Care Nurse Practitioner/Medical Surgical Nursing

The applicant will possess the mental, auditory, visual, sensory, strength, manual dexterity, and communication skills to:

1. Perform a systematic and complete history and physical examination on a client with complex problems.

2. Communicate significant examination findings to other professionals and client/family.

3. Appropriately record subjective and objective findings.

4. Maintain effective relationships and interact appropriately with other professionals and clients/families, demonstrating skills of leadership collaboration and decisiveness.

5. Accurately analyze alterations in functional patterns.

6. Anticipate potential common, acute, and life-threatening problems encountered in critically ill patients.

7. Maintain flexibility and emotional stability in response to novel and high stress situations.

8. Demonstrate advanced use of the nursing process-assess and diagnose actual and potential health/illness problems; develop, implement, educate, and counsel clients, prescribe appropriate therapy, demonstrate self care skills and evaluate appropriate plans of action for diagnosed problems.

9. Identify ethical dilemmas in critical care practice and participate in ethical decision-making using a systematic approach.

10. Develop/participate in the development of theory based educational programs for critically ill patients/families and nursing personnel.

11. Analyze/critique critical care research and demonstrate/role model the appropriate integration of research into practice.

12. Speak, write, and comprehend the English language proficiently.

13. Use computer to word process, e-mail, and access the world wide web.

Program Minimum Skills DNSc/MSN Family Nurse Practitioner/ Neonatal Practitioner/ Psychiatric Family Nurse Practitioner

The applicant will possess the mental, auditory, visual, sensory, strength, manual dexterity, and communication skills to:

1. Perform a systematic and complete history and physical examination on a client.

2. Communicate significant examination findings to other professionals and client/family.

3. Appropriately record subjective and objective findings.

4. Maintain effective relationships and interact appropriately with other professionals and clients/families, demonstrating skills of leadership, collaboration and decisiveness.

5. Accurately analyze alterations in functional patterns.

6. Anticipate potential common, acute self-limiting, and selected chronic problems.

7. Maintain flexibility and emotional stability in response to novel, unique situations and stress.

8. Demonstrate advanced use of the nursing process-assess and diagnose actual and potential health/illness problems; develop, implement, educate and counsel clients, prescribe appropriate therapy, demonstrate self care skills and evaluate appropriate plans of action for diagnosed problems.

9. Develop insight into own emotional functioning to evaluate the ability to provide therapeutic intervention for a client.

10. Speak, write and comprehend the English language proficiently.

11. Use computer to word process, e-mail, and access the world wide web.

Ph.D. IN NURSING PROGRAM

The Ph.D. in Nursing emphasizes the critical evaluation of existing knowledge through hands-on research preceptorships backed by rigorous coursework. Upon entering the Ph.D. program, students become immersed in clinical research that develops and tests concepts of nursing care. Students completing the program take their place among today's foremost nursing research scientists and scholars.

The UT Ph.D. program began in the fall of 1988 and is offered by the College of Nursing in Memphis and Knoxville as a part of their respective Graduate Schools. The Ph.D. program concentrates on theories and models of nursing and intense research mentorship with accomplished faculty researchers. Faculty work with students on an individual basis to design a program of learning experiences and directed research that will assure successful preparation for a career as a scientist in clinical nursing research.

Ph.D. Admissions

Graduates of accredited institutions are eligible to apply for admission to the Ph.D. program in the College of Graduate Health Sciences. Information regarding admission criteria, application process, and course descriptions can be found under the UTHSC College of Graduate Health Sciences in the Catalog, and the UTHSC Home Page (www.utmem.edu).

