

# College Of Nursing

Donna Hathaway, PhD, FAAN, Dean

Message from the Dean.....	132	Honor Society.....	136
Administration.....	132	Honor Council.....	136
College of Nursing Mission Statement .....	132	Student Government Association.....	136
College of Nursing Vision .....	132	Nursing Student	
College of Nursing Values.....	132	Assistance Program (NSAP) .....	137
College of Nursing Goals .....	132	Nursing Alumni Association.....	137
College of Nursing Philosophy.....	132	Degrees Offered .....	137
2007-08 Academic Calendar .....	133	Accreditation .....	137
Leave of Absence, Withdrawal &		Bachelor's Program.....	138
Drop to Part-time Study .....	134	Master's Program.....	139
Insurance & CPR Certification.....	134	Doctoral Programs.....	139
Grading.....	135	Doctor of Nursing Practice .....	139
Policies & Procedures .....	135	Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing.....	140
Class Attendance .....	135	Doctor of Nursing Practice –	
Special Students .....	136	Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing .....	141
Loans & Scholarships .....	136		

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

The College of Nursing at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center is dedicated to the preparation of nurse leaders for excellence today and tomorrow. This mission is accomplished through the preparation of individuals for leadership through the exemplary provision of direct patient care, direction of care for aggregate populations, and generation of knowledge for practice through research and clinical inquiry.

Our focus on the preparation of nurse leaders is operationalized through our degree programs, faculty research and practice, and community outreach activities. Degree options include the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), which prepares entry-level professional nurses; Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), which prepares advanced practice nurses; Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), which prepares expert clinicians for practice leadership; and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), which prepares research scientists.

The educational programs in the College of Nursing make extensive use of emerging technology to foster and enhance the preparation of nurse leaders through avenues that are meaningful as well as convenient and timely for students. Student experiences are also enhanced by faculty members' active involvement in research and practice, which involves the spectrum of nursing from acute to primary care and from neonatal to gerontology. 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 clients served by nurses.

We welcome the opportunity to share more information about our college and encourage you to peruse our web site ([www.utm.edu/nursing](http://www.utm.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, PhD, FAAN**  
Dean, College of Nursing

## ADMINISTRATION

### OFFICE OF THE DEAN

Donna Hathaway, PhD, Dean  
Susan Jacob, PhD, Executive Associate Dean  
Beth Kirby, Assistant Dean

### ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Office of Academic Affairs  
Cheryl Stegbauer, PhD, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & Director MSN/DNP  
Tommie Norris, DNS, Director Professional Entry Program  
Marsha Chorce, Assistant Director Graduate Program  
Christi Shelton, Assistant Director Professional Entry Program

### STUDENT AFFAIRS

James Pruettt, PhD, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs  
Ron Patterson, MAEd, Assistant Director of Student Affairs

## COLLEGE OF NURSING MISSION STATEMENT

To prepare nurse leaders for excellence today and tomorrow.

## COLLEGE OF NURSING VISION

Transforming health care through innovative preparation of nurse leaders

## 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 GOALS

1. Provide educational programs that are responsive to the current and projected workforce needs of our constituents
2. Prepare graduates who can practice effectively as part of an interdisciplinary team in a highly technical and complex health care delivery system
3. Establish and cultivate model sites for interdisciplinary practice, teaching, and research
4. Provide leadership in initiatives that address the nursing shortage, models of advanced nursing practice, and health policy related to nursing

## 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, and NURSING.

The faculty believes that the PERSON is a unique integrated being that is continuously evolving. Each person has the right to participate in making decisions that affect his/her 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 faculty views the promotion, maintenance, and restoration of health as a complex phenomenon involving the shared responsibility of the person, health care providers, and society. Faculty view nursing as stated in the second edition of Nursing's Social Policy Statement (ANA, 2003), "NURSING is the protection, promotion and optimization of health and abilities, prevention of illness and injury, alleviation of suffering through the diagnosis and treatment of human

response and advocacy in the care of individuals, families, communities, and populations” (p. 6). Nursing must provide leadership in influencing the organizational, social, economic, legal, and political factors within the healthcare system and society. “These and other factors affect the cost, access to, and quality of health care and the vitality of the nursing profession” (p. 6).

Professional nursing is a science and an art. The science of nursing requires that nurses study, explore, and research nursing and related knowledge areas. From these areas nurses develop and test nursing theories for the improvement of nursing practice and health care. The art of nursing requires that nurses use knowledge gained from the humanities, arts, and sciences as the foundation for acceptance and appreciation of clients’ values. Nursing care requires sensitivity as well as critical, logical, and analytical thinking to effect changes in clients and the health care system.

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.

## 2007-08 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

### SUMMER/FALL TERM 2007

July 2	Mail in registration/fee payment DEADLINE for all BSN, MSN, DNP and Ph.D. students (EXCEPTION: NEW PhD)
July 9	Academic year and classes begin for all RETURNING BSN students
July 9	Academic year and classes may begin for all RETURNING MSN, DNP students
July 9-13	New BSN students - ORIENTATION - MANDATORY ATTENDANCE
July 16	Classes begin for all NEW BSN students
July 20	NEW MSN Anesthesia students on campus
July 23	New student orientation - University and College of Nursing (MSN/DNP students)
July 23-27	Orientation and ON CAMPUS SESSION - All MSN/DNP/PhD students (EXCEPTIONS: Entering PhD students and DNP December graduates)
July 23	Academic year/classes begin for all NEW MSN/DNP students
July 23-27	Reed Distinguished Visiting Professor (DVP) - Day and Time TBD
July 27	Last day to drop/add classes -

	RETURNING STUDENTS
August 3	Last day to drop/add classes - (NEW BSN students)
August 10	Last day to drop/add classes - (NEW MSN/DNP students)
August 16	New Student Orientation and Registration - College of Graduate Health Sciences - (NEW PhD Students)
August 20	Academic year begins for NEW PhD students
August 31	Deadline for new course proposals for Spring semester - (PhD students)
September 1	Application deadline for Nurse Anesthesia (CRNA) Option
September 3	Labor Day Holiday
September 14	CRNA applicants contacted for interviews
September 24-28	CRNA on-campus interviews
October 1	Credentials Committee Deadline (PhD students)
October 1	Graduate Admissions Committee decisions regarding CRNA applicants
October 5	CRNA applicants contacted regarding admission decisions
October 31	CRNA acceptance decisions and guaranteed enrollment deposits (GED) due in Enrollment Services
November 1	Dissertation deadline (PhD students) - Noon deadline
November 2	Cashdollar Distinguished Visiting Professor (DVP) - 9 a.m. to Noon
November 27	Classes end for all graduating BSN students
November 22-23	Thanksgiving Holiday Break
November 30	Grades due for all graduating BSN students
December 3-7	On campus session - ALL BSN/MSN/DNP/PhD Students
December 6	Classes end, final exams completed, and grades posted for all MSN/DNP graduating students
December 6	Completion date for all graduating MSN/DNP students
December 7	Graduation (Attendance is mandatory)
December 7	Classes end for students NOT graduating - (BSN/MSN/DNP)
December 12	Grades due (for students NOT graduating - BSN/MSN/DNP)
December 19	Undergraduate Progression Committee Meeting

December 20	Graduate Progression Committee Meeting
December 21	End of Fall Term (PhD Students)
December 22- January 2	University closed - Holiday Break (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

### WINTER/SPRING TERM 2008

January 2	Mail In Registration/Fee Payment Deadline for ALL Returning Students
January 3	Spring term begins for all returning MSN/DNP students
January 7	Spring term begins for RETURNING BSN students
January 15	Application deadline for BSN Program
January 21	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday - University Closed
January 21-25	On campus session for all MSN/DNP/PhD Students
January 21-25	Bowns Distinguished Visiting Professor (DVP) - Day and Time TBD
February 1	Application deadline for MSN/DNP/PhD students (EXCEPTION: Nurse Anesthesia applicants)
February 7	Undergraduate Admissions Committee decisions regarding BSN applicants
February 18	BSN applicants contacted regarding admission decisions
March 1	Credentials Committee deadline - (PhD Students)
March 8	MSN/DNP/PhD applicants contacted for interviews
March 16	BSN acceptance decisions and guaranteed enrollment deposits (GED) due in Enrollment Services
March 17-21	Spring Break (ALL STUDENTS)
March 21	Good Friday Holiday - University Closed
March 24-28	DNP applicant interviews
March - 24-28	MSN applicant interviews
March - 24-28	PhD applicant interviews
March 31	Deadline for new course proposals for Fall Semester (PhD Students)
April 4	MSN/DNP/PhD applicants contacted regarding admission decisions
April 21-25	All BSN/MSN/DNP/PhD students on campus
April 21-25	Morris Distinguished Visiting Professor (DVP) - Day and Time TBD (in conjunction with Alumni Day)
April 30	MSN and DNP acceptance decisions due in Enrollment Services

May 23	Classes End (For all graduating MSN/DNP/PhD students)
May 28	Grades Due (For all graduating MSN/DNP/PhD students)
May 29	Completion Date (For all graduating MSN/DNP/PhD students)
May 30	Graduation (Attendance is mandatory)
May 30	Classes End (For all returning BSN and MSN/DNP students NOT graduating)
June 4	Grades Due (For all returning BSN and MSN/DNP students NOT graduating)
June 11	Graduate Progression Meeting
June 18	Undergraduate Progression Meeting
June 20	Academic year ends for non-graduating PhD 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. A change of status form will be completed by the Office of Academic Affairs for students who withdraw, or take a leave of absence. This form qualifies them for withdrawal in good standing and is utilized in prorating the refund of tuition and fees. Please see "Refund Policy," in the "Academic Process" section of this handbook for university policy regarding student fee refunds. Students with Title IV Funding may not exceed 180 days leave from the University. If the leave of absence exceeds 180 days, loan repayment must begin. For further clarification, students may contact their lender directly or the Office of Financial Aid, (901) 448-5568, [www.utmem.edu/finaid/](http://www.utmem.edu/finaid/).

## CONTINUOUS REGISTRATION

Students are expected to register for course work each term once they have been admitted. Any student who is unable to register for a term must obtain a leave of absence form from the Office of Academic Affairs. Any student who cannot maintain continuous enrollment must seek readmission. Requests for readmission should be made in writing to the Dean of the College of Nursing.

## 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 provide 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. A Criminal

Background Check is required of all students prior to matriculation in the College of Nursing. Additionally, some clinical agencies may require that criminal background checks for students be conducted within a specified time prior to clinical experience in that agency.

## 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 term. 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 an 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.

### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

A change of status form to request a leave of absence must be completed through the College of Nursing 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 degree in Nursing, a candidate must have completed satisfactorily the prescribed curriculum with a grade point average of 3.0 or above for a graduate degree in nursing or a 2.0 or above for a baccalaureate degree in nursing and must have discharged all financial obligations to the university.

Students in the BSN program are required to take nationally normed tests throughout the curriculum and to make a satisfactory score on these tests as a requirement for progression in the program. During the last term of the BSN program, students are required to take a comprehensive exit examination and to make a satisfactory score on this examination prior to graduation. Individuals who do not make a satisfactory score will be remediated and retested prior to the end of the term. A satisfactory score on the examination is a requirement for graduation and to be able to take the national NCLEX examination for Registered Nurse (RN) licensure.

**\*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 GRADUATE 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.
5. There is no non-degree classification for the undergraduate program.

## **NON-DEGREE INDIVIDUALS SEEKING CERTIFICATION**

### **Post Graduate Preparation in Advanced Practice Option**

This option offers an opportunity for nurses holding a master's (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 members 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.

## **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 sponsored by local philanthropic organizations are awarded on an annual basis. Scholarship applicants are expected to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) annually; no other application is required. A Student Emergency Loan to pay tuition and fees or to help address 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 at large of Sigma Theta Tau International is an honor conferred on students in the undergraduate or graduate programs who demonstrate academic and clinical excellence in their nursing courses. Nurses in the community who have a minimum of 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. Student eligibility is based upon grade point averages and faculty evaluations. Eligible undergraduate and RN-BSN students must have completed one-half of their nursing curriculum, have a minimum 3.0 GPA, rank in the upper 35 percentile of the graduating class, and meet the expectation of academic integrity. Eligible graduate students have completed at least one-half of their curriculum, have a minimum 3.5 GPA, and meet the expectation of academic integrity. 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 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 Student Government Association Executive Council

(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.

#### **2006-2007 Student Government Association Officers**

NSGA President – Pat Keene

Vice President – Stefanie Gadd

Secretary/Treasurer – Liz Sykes

Social Chairs – Megan Scearce & Erica Wyatt

Honor Council President – Erin Carner

Honor Council Representative – BSN – Carmen Timbes

Honor Council Representative – MSN – Aaron Ketcher

Honor Council Representative – DNP – Tracy Saddler

National Student Assistance Prog. Chair – Natalie Howlas

BSN Representatives – Marie Anderson & Julie Douglas

FPNP Representative – Quitah Haille

ACNP Representative – Kimberly Poole

NNP Representative – None

CRNA Representative – Aaron Ketcher

DNP Representative – Katherine Cooper

Government Affairs Committee – None

## **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 Professional Assistance Program and the Tennessee Board of Nursing.

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

### **COMPONENTS:**

#### **1. 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.

#### **2. College of Nursing Students**

Effective and acceptable self and colleague monitoring behaviors are required from all student 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.

### **3. Impaired or At-Risk Nursing Students**

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

### **4a. Evaluation Resources**

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

### **4b. Treatment Resources**

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

### **4c. 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 nearly than 4,000 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 Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree, Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree, and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. The PhD in Nursing is offered as a part of the College of Graduate Health Sciences.

## **ACCREDITATION**

The University of Tennessee is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The baccalaureate and master's degree programs in the UTHSC College of Nursing are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE),

One DuPont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036, Phone: (202) 887-6791.

The MSN Nurse Anesthesia program is also accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA), 222 S Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge, IL 60068. Phone: (847) 655-1160.

The baccalaureate and master's degree programs are approved by the Tennessee Board of Nursing, 227 French Landing, Suite 300, Heritage Place Metro Center, Nashville, Tennessee 37243, Phone: (800)-778-4123.

## BACHELOR'S PROGRAM

The undergraduate program in nursing at the UTHSC culminates in a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. Students enroll on a full-time basis. The College of Nursing offers three options that lead to a student earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing.

The options are:

1. Traditional BSN Option – a 16-month, Web-enhanced program of study for individuals who have not earned a bachelor's degree in any field.
2. Second Degree BSN Option – a 16-month, Web-enhanced program of study for individuals who have an earned bachelor's degree or higher in a field other than nursing and who have completed the specified prerequisite courses for the Second Degree BSN Option.
3. RN-to-BSN Option – 16-month program of study for registered nurses (RN) who have earned a diploma or associate degree in nursing, who have completed 60 or more semester hours of bachelor's coursework at other colleges/universities, and who have completed the specified prerequisite courses for the RN-to-BSN option.

## BSN PROGRAM

The baccalaureate degree is the first professional degree in nursing. It provides the basis for beginning professional practice as a generalist and the foundation for graduate preparation in nursing. Learning in the undergraduate nursing program is directed toward the study of scientific rationale underlying nursing care and the development of critical thinking skills.

### BSN Promotion, Retention and Progression Requirements

These policies govern the progression of students in the Bachelor'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. To be considered in good academic standing, a student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better. A student whose GPA falls below 2.0 may be dismissed.

4. A student must maintain a minimum semester and cumulative GPA of 2.0 in order to progress to the subsequent term or to graduate.

5. A student must earn a minimum grade of "C" in every course. A student who earns a "D" in any course must repeat that course and earn the grade of "C" or better. Dismissal from the program will result from a student earning a grade of "F" or more than one "D" or from serious deficiencies in personal or professional behavior.

6. Students who wish to withdraw from a course must notify the Associate Dean for Academic Programs of the College of Nursing in writing and meet with their advisor. A change of status form must be completed as required by the University.

7. Students in the BSN program are required to take nationally-normed tests throughout the curriculum and to make a satisfactory score on these tests as a requirement for progression in the program. During the last term of the BSN program, students are required to take a comprehensive exit examination and to make a satisfactory score on this examination prior to graduation. Individuals who do not make a satisfactory score will be remediated and retested prior to the end of the term. A satisfactory score on the examination is a requirement for graduation and to be able to take the national NCLEX examination for Registered Nurse (RN) licensure.

## CORE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

### Minimum Performance Standards for BSN Students

All students admitted to the BSN nursing program must meet the following core performance standards for admission and progression:

1. Critical thinking sufficient for clinical judgment.
2. Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, groups, and populations from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.
3. Communication abilities sufficient for verbal and written interaction with others.
4. Physical abilities sufficient to walk from room to room and in hallways, maneuver in small spaces and the strength necessary to lift patients as needed.
5. Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective nursing care.
6. Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.
7. Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in nursing care.
8. Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment and to provide nursing intervention.

## MASTER'S PROGRAM

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Program offers preparation for advanced levels of clinical practice and for advanced study at the doctoral level.

The program provides the opportunity to: 1) select an area of clinical specialization (i.e., option); 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 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 3.0 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 Associate Dean for Academic Programs 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 co requisite nursing course. A change of status form must be completed as required by the University.

## DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

### Doctor of Nursing Practice

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree is a course of study that prepares graduates for advanced levels of nursing practice. Emphasis is placed on nursing care based upon philosophical, ethical, and scientific principles. Students who enter the DNP program prior to completing the required Master's level entry into advanced practice must complete additional study that mirrors the MSN curriculum; and those students focus on acquisition of knowledge and skills in a chosen area of advanced practice

as a foundation for doctoral study. The last year of the DNP program is focused on a clinical residency devoted to the DNP student's area of advanced nursing practice and refining abilities to examine and evaluate nursing practice through a quality improvement project.

In addition to the advanced clinical practice series, all DNP 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.

### DNP Promotion, Retention, and Progression Requirements

These policies govern the progression of students in the Doctor of Nursing Science 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 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 Associate Dean for Academic Programs 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 co requisite 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.

## CORE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

### Minimum Standards for DNP/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.

### Minimum Standards DNP/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.

### Minimum Standards DNP/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.

## Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing emphasizes the critical evaluation of existing knowledge through hands-on research preceptorships backed by rigorous coursework. Upon entering the PhD 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 PhD 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 PhD 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.

### **Doctor of Nursing Practice – Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing**

The Doctor of Nursing Practice – Doctor of Philosophy (DNP-PhD) Program provides highly motivated and qualified students with an integrated advanced clinical and research program of study leading to a combined DNP/PhD degree. This program combines the existing DNP and PhD nursing programs, which are based in the College of Nursing and College of Graduate Health Sciences, respectively. Unlike the traditional DNP program, the first three and final two semesters of the DNP/PhD program focus on developing students' ability to conduct clinical research. Thus, students do not enroll in clinical specialty courses until the fourth term of the program. The total time to graduation varies and depends on the student's background. Students must be accepted to the College of Nursing DNP program to be considered for admission to the DNP/PhD Program.

