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**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY
School of Nursing
Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
(615) 898-2437

2-14890



RN to BSN

Online Bachelor of Science Program

**School of Nursing
Middle Tennessee State University**

RN to BSN

The School of Nursing's online bachelor of science program, also known as the RN to BSN, is an interactive experience through which students may earn a bachelor's degree in three semesters if all prerequisite courses are completed. Registered Nurses who graduated from an approved academic program with an associate degree in nursing or a hospital diploma in nursing will receive advanced standing credit for their knowledge and experience in the field of nursing. The RN to BSN is a unique program consisting of an exciting mix of online courses and real-life experience provided through clinicals. The purposes of MTSU's Nursing Program are:

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

Low-Residency

The RN to BSN's low-residency feature allows a huge range of students spanning many different generations, lifestyles, and schedules to pursue bachelor of science degrees on a customized, individual basis. During the application process, transcripts are evaluated to determine prerequisite requirements for admission to the upper-division nursing program. With semester studies in full swing, RN to BSN students complete almost all coursework online from home, the office, or whatever location best serves their needs and preferences. The only exceptions are the clinicals. For those who prefer a more traditional approach, MTSU's nursing faculty are available for meetings and consultations as students begin their studies. In addition, instructors are available by e-mail and phone throughout the semester, and students may schedule appointments with their instructors at any time. The MTSU School of Nursing holds a pinning ceremony at the end of the fall and spring semesters, and RN to BSN students are included.

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at MTSU is approved by the Tennessee Board of Nursing and is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission and Collegiate Commission for Nursing Education.

A Master of Science in Nursing is now available, through the Regents Online Degree Program (www.rod.org).

RN to BSN

MTSU School of Nursing Online Bachelor of Science Program

Getting Started: Prerequisites and Requirements

A total of 120 hours are required for graduation, and forty (40) hours plus HLTH 1530 will be posted to the students' records as they approach graduation. Students holding the RN license must meet general education requirements. A nursing advisor will assist in determining the exact plan of study. Upon successful completion of any prerequisites, the RN student will take the required nursing courses. Whenever possible, the same faculty members who teach on the MTSU campus will monitor, supervise, evaluate, and teach the online courses. The sequence of courses implies a commitment on the part of the MTSU School of Nursing to offer the courses online during the identified semester.

Required RN to BSN Course Listings and Descriptions

NURS 3010 Pathophysiology. Three credits. (Same as BIOL 3340.) Prerequisites: BIOL 2010, 2020, and 2230. Basic mechanisms of disease processes and their role in disrupting normal physiology. Three hours lecture.

NURS 3030 Health Assessment. Three credits. Prerequisites: BIOL 2010 and 2020. 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.

NURS 3040 Health Assessment Laboratory. One credit. Prerequisites: BIOL 2010 and 2020. 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. Three clock hours per week.

NURS 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.

NURS 3170 Pharmacological Requisites for Nurse Agency. Three credits. Prerequisites: General Education Natural Science; BIOL 2230, 2010, 2020; NURS 3010. Knowledge and responsibility necessary for the assessment and monitoring of clients receiving pharmaceuticals.

NURS 3570 Health Care Research. Three credits. Prerequisites: NURS 3350 and 3360; 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.

NURS 4530 Caring for the Community as Client. Three credits. 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.

NURS 4560 Nursing Care of Vulnerable Aggregates Clinical. Three credits. Prerequisites or 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. Nine clock hours per week.

NURS 4570 Professional Practice and Leadership. Three credits. Prerequisites: NURS 3530 and 3540. 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.

NURS 4580 Professional Practice and Leadership Clinical. Three credits. Prerequisite or corequisite: NURS 4570. Clinical application of professional practice and leadership principles. Provides independence in the management of nursing systems in various health care institutions. Six clock hours per week.

Nursing Electives (one is required)

NURS 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.

NURS 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.

NURS 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 the impact of automated data management through information systems in health care.

Customize Your Clinicals

Use the RN to BSN curriculum to customize your clinical experience. As you will notice in our course listings and descriptions, our program is set up to allow you the maximum flexibility when designing the clinical portion of your bachelor's degree.

With NURS 4560 and NURS 4580, the program works with the student to arrange the clinical portion of the degree at a facility near the student's hometown. The requirements are scheduled independently, meaning that the student will work with the facility to establish the makeup of the clinical, and the student will keep a log.

During community clinical, the student spends time as a volunteer in local health care agencies. Through this experience the student learns of valuable resources for potential client referral.

The other clinical, conducted as part of NURS 4580, will involve more leadership on the part of the student, who will work with a member of management at a facility. This is why NURS 4570 is a corequisite, increasing the student's knowledge of technical, administrative, and human relations skills.

MTSU School of Nursing Mission Statement

The Middle Tennessee State University School of Nursing educates individuals to function as professional nurses competent to meet the health care needs of individuals and groups across the life span and to adapt to future trends of health care.

Steps for Admission to the RN to BSN

For acceptance to the School of Nursing's online bachelor of science program, a student must do the following:

- Be admitted to MTSU. Obtain general University admissions forms at the Admissions Office, Cope 208, (615) 898-2111, by May 1 for fall admission or by November 1 for spring admission. If you enrolled at MTSU before, complete a re-enrollment form.
- Submit transcripts to the School of Nursing. These may be formal transcripts or a copy if authorized.
- Provide evidence of licensure as an RN.
- Consult with a nursing advisor. Dr. Karen Ward, (615) 898-2437 or kward@mtsu.edu.

Costs and Financial Aid

Nursing students pay the same fees as all other undergraduate students. These fees are described in detail in the current University catalog. Discipline-specific expenses will occur during the program. They may include such items as white uniforms, name pin, shoes, hosiery, watch with second hand, stethoscope, liability insurance, and nursing bag.

For financial aid applications, please contact the Admissions Office at the following address:

Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Financial aid information may also be obtained by calling (615) 898-2111.

For more details on admission, the progression requirements, and the School of Nursing, please call (615) 898-2437.

www.mtsu.edu/learn/online/onlinebsn.htm