Admission Requirements for Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Degree Program

The School of Nursing (SON) offers the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. Students admitted to the Upper-Division BSN program must pursue one of two degree tracks: Traditional, and Registered Nurse (RN) to BSN. All applicants planning to pursue a BSN degree program at MTSU must formally apply for admission to BSN degree program. Admission to MTSU does not guarantee admission to upper division nursing. (See guidelines below.) Review of applicants by SON Admission Committee will occur in the semester prior to admission.

Applicants must thoroughly review and become familiar with the Admission Requirements prior to making application.

All BSN applicants must meet

1. General MTSU admission requirements for applicants seeking the BSN, and
2. Admission requirements to one of the two BSN degree tracks: Traditional, or RN to BSN

General admission requirements for applicants seeking the BSN

1. Be tentatively or fully admitted to MTSU by September 1st for Spring Upper-Division nursing admission and January 1st for Fall Upper-Division nursing admission.
2. Must have a posted cumulative GPA of 2.8 on a 4.0 scale by the application deadline.
3. Complete and submit application materials to the SON enclosed in a large letter-size envelope by February 1st for the following Fall semester and October 1st for the following Spring semester to include:
   
   o Application to SON available online
   o Documentation of prior work experience, if applicable. For further details please refer to page 3 of the Admissions Guidelines, “Optional Work Experience”.
   o All official undergraduate college transcripts from Universities attended other than MTSU.

4. Complete all general education and pre-nursing courses as outlined in the MTSU Undergraduate Catalog by:
o Earning a passing grade in all General Education and Pre-Nursing courses. A passing grade is defined as a grade of “C” (2.00) or better, an “S” (satisfactory), or a “P” (pass for courses graded pass/fail).

OR

o Receiving written approval for substitution/waiver of a course by the director of the School of Nursing and dean of the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences.

OR

o Receiving credit-by-examination for General Education course requirements as determined by MTSU (see MTSU Undergraduate Catalog for General Education Requirements).

o Students taking classes at other institutions must show proof of courses in which they are enrolled and provide final official transcripts to the SON.

5. Fulfill requirements for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) by testing English Proficiency as designated by MTSU Admission Standards. See http://www.ets.org/toefl

6. Confirm acceptance into the SON Upper-Division program according to the Admission Requirements as outlined on page 5 of this policy.

NOTES:

1. Students who desire to be considered for subsequent semesters must reapply for admission consideration.

2. The admission of non-Tennessee resident applicants is limited based on TBR policy. At least 80% of the total number of students enrolled in the SON must be Tennessee residents. Residency classification is determined by information submitted on the MTSU admission application and subsequent fee classification questionnaire.

Admissions requirements specific to the Traditional Track

1. Students planning to enter in Spring semester must successfully complete all general education and required nursing prerequisite courses by the end of the Fall semester. Students entering in Fall semester must complete all courses required by the end of the Summer semester.

2. Students must post a passing grade for at least one required biology course by the application deadline. (All biology courses must be complete and posted within the past seven years.)

3. Standardized admission entrance examination score must be included in the SON application packet by application deadline.

4. All eligible applicants must be interviewed. If the student is not available for interview, the opportunity is forfeited and the application deemed incomplete.

5. Students taking classes at other institutions must show proof of courses in which they are enrolled.
Note: Students will be chosen for admission on a competitive basis according to admission criteria that results in a calculated composite score. The number of admitted students is limited based on the availability of faculty and available clinical sites. If the number of eligible applicants exceeds the number of seats available, a list of eligible alternates for possible admission based on their composite score will be established. A composite score is calculated based on GPA, standardized admission entrance exam score, interview score, and credit for work experience, if applicable. (e.g. GPA 3.6 + Exam Score 3.5 + Interview Score 3.2 + Work Experience 0.5 = 10.8)

Optional Work Experience

Any applicant can receive one-half (1/2) point added to his/her composite score if documented evidence of clinical experience providing direct patient care for a period of at least 380 hours within two years prior to making application to Upper-Division nursing is submitted at the time of application. This information must be supplied in the following form:

Either--

Pay stubs, including the name of the institution and hours worked accompanied by a letter of verification describing type of work experience on official letterhead.

Or--

Letter of verification from manager of work area (e.g. head/charge nurse, unit manager, etc.) on official letterhead. Letter must address number of hours worked (if not verified by timesheet/ pay stubs), type of setting and nature of work.

Acceptable clinical experience includes providing direct patient assistance with activities of daily living (feeding, bathing, grooming, dressing, toileting), taking vital signs, calculating intake and output, ambulation of patients, emptying Foley catheter bags, Certified Nursing Assistant work in hospitals, nursing homes, long term care facilities, home health agencies, and hospice.

Positions that do not include direct patient care are not acceptable (e.g. dietary, volunteer, pharmacy technician, lab technician, dental assistant, anesthesia technician).

Transfer students with previous nursing courses from an accredited nursing program will:

1. Receive an evaluation of previous nursing course(s) to determine advanced placement in the Nursing program. Evaluation may include, but is not limited to:
   - Review of catalog and course syllabi from transferring institution,
   - Completion of written examination, and
   - Performance of a clinical practice demonstration
2. Take the MTSU nursing course(s) if prior B.S. nursing course(s) is/are lacking hours or content as determined by MTSU nursing faculty.
3. Students with failures in any upper division nursing course from other institutions will NOT be considered for admission to the MTSU Upper Division Nursing Program.

**Admission Requirements specific to the RN to BSN Track**

Student must meet all General Admission Requirements and requirements regarding the transfer of upper-division coursework from other nursing programs (if applicable). Additionally, the student must meet the following RN to BSN program requirements:

1. Provide evidence of graduation from an accredited nursing program.
2. Provide proof of current/active Tennessee RN license.
3. Students taking classes at other institutions must show proof of courses in which they are enrolled.
4. Provide current criminal background check documentation.

**Note: RN to BSN applicants track have the option to:**

1. Submit SON application by selected deadline dates of March, April, and October. (Contact the assigned SON advisor for further information.)
2. Eliminate time limitation for required biology courses.
3. Eliminate standardized admission entrance examination and the interview process.
4. Eliminate calculation of a composite score.
5. Receive advanced standing credit for selected courses (contact your SON advisor for further information). Advanced standing credit is awarded in last semester prior to graduation at MTSU.

**Accepted Applicants for All Tracks**

Upon official acceptance into one of these tracks, students must complete the following requirements prior to enrolling in Upper-Division courses:

- Signature Page (clarifies student acceptance of placement in the entering class).
- Authorization for release of information and acknowledgement of acceptance of admission slot.
- MTSU Student ID card (transfer students will obtain Student ID card upon acceptance of class placement and must have this card prior to beginning class).
- Transcripts (from colleges or universities other than MTSU) that include courses completed following admission decision.
- Current record of history and physical examination.
- Current cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification (CPR) by American Heart Association “Healthcare Provider”.
Acknowledgement of current physical, emotional and cognitive ability to meet the criteria required for clinical skills (see Appendix A, Core Performance Standards).

- Current professional liability insurance.
- Evidence of current medical health insurance.
- Documentation of immunizations and blood test/titers.
- Must have a cumulative undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of no less than 2.80 on a 4.0 scale, to include general education and required nursing prerequisite courses with a passing grade as defined by SON policy.

**Progression Requirements for students admitted to all tracks**

In order for students to progress through the nursing curriculum, they must:

1. Maintain current documentation in the SON as outlined above.
2. Achieve success in nursing courses in the order outlined in the BSN Upper-Division nursing curriculum with a minimum grade of “C” (2.00) in all theory courses, as well as, a “pass” in each co-requisite lab/clinical course. Course taken at MTSU with a grade less than “C” must be repeated at MTSU. Only one repeat is permitted.
3. Schedule an appointment with their assigned nursing faculty advisor each semester to monitor progress.

**General Considerations**

If a student must interrupt her/his program of study or exit the program, a letter must be submitted to the SON Admission Committee Chairperson requesting to interrupt/exit the program. The student will be readmitted on a space-available basis. The student will be reviewed for readmission to Upper-Division nursing courses according to the following criteria:

- Evidence that admission requirements to the degree program have been met.

Students seeking readmission to the Upper-Division nursing program will be readmitted by the following prioritization:

1. Student who had been accepted into the nursing program but took a semester off for health reasons.
2. Student who has been accepted into the nursing program but failed one class, and/or, who has interrupted the educational process for another reason. (Only one repeat of a nursing (NURS) course is permitted.
3. Qualified students transferring from other Upper-Division nursing programs. Students can be dismissed from the nursing program for a variety of reasons, which include, but are not limited to:
Failure to progress due to unsuccessful completion of requirements: Students are dismissed from the program if they receive a second failing grade in any combination of two or more nursing courses (required theory or clinical), regardless of the semester in which they occur.

Violation of the School of Nursing Honor Code. Refer to Student Honor Code found in the School of Nursing Student Handbook.

Breach of ethics or gross professional negligence.

Use of mind-altering drugs or alcohol when engaged in any nursing activity in or outside of class.

Evidence of any other disciplinary offenses as outlined in the MTSU Rights and Responsibilities of Students.

Updated 12/4/2015