

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY**

**SCHOOL OF NURSING**

**UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM**

**STUDENT HANDBOOK**



The MTSU School of Nursing is accredited by:

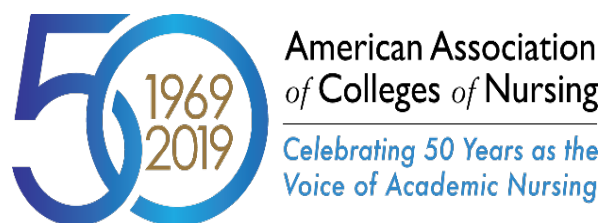
Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)

One Dupont Circle, NW

Suite 530

Washington, DC 20036-1120

<http://www.ccneaccreditation.org/>



This handbook is intended to provide undergraduate students pertinent information in relation to the School of Nursing. Content in this document applies to the traditional undergraduate concentration. None of the information contained herein shall be interpreted to create a contract. The information included is up-to-date as of the time of publication. The University reserves the right to make changes in policy, regulations and fees, as circumstances dictate, subsequent to publication. Additional information is available online at [www.mtsu.edu/nursing](http://www.mtsu.edu/nursing).

1/1992

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## Table of Contents

<b>I.</b>	<b>Mission</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Philosophy</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>III.</b>	<b>Program Outcomes</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Nursing Honor Code</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>V.</b>	<b>Code of Conduct</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>VI.</b>	<b>Partners in Education</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>VII.</b>	<b>Advising Guidelines</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>VIII.</b>	<b>Grading Scale</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>IX.</b>	<b>Course Exams</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>X.</b>	<b>Repeating a Course (2-C Policy)</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>XI.</b>	<b>Dosage Competency</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>XII.</b>	<b>Financial Need/Scholarships</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>XIII.</b>	<b>School of Nursing Scholarships</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>XIV.</b>	<b>Student Representation</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>XV.</b>	<b>Program Completion</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>XVI.</b>	<b>Additional Fees</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>XVII.</b>	<b>School of Nursing Security</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>XVIII.</b>	<b>Other Resources</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>XIX.</b>	<b>Handbook Protocol</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>XX.</b>	<b>Signature Pages</b>	<b>13</b>

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**SCHOOL OF NURSING**  
**STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**THE MISSION, PHILOSOPHY, CONCEPTS AND OUTCOMES OF THE BSN PROGRAM**

**I. MISSION**

The mission of Middle Tennessee State University School of Nursing is to provide excellence in nursing education by preparing individuals to meet the dynamic and complex healthcare needs of society. Through robust academic programs, the School of Nursing demonstrates its' commitment to the art and science of nursing.

**II. PHILOSOPHY**

The Middle Tennessee State University School of Nursing has established an operational framework with five core competencies at the foundation. There are communication, critical thinking, personal and professional relationships, leadership and the nursing process. From this base, additional concepts emerge to provide interaction with persons, the environment, health, professional nursing and nursing education.

**III. PROGRAM OUTCOMES**

Graduates of the baccalaureate program receive preparation designed to enable them to:

1. Develop professional knowledge and skills necessary to design, coordinate, and lead within the healthcare system.
2. Utilize the nursing process as a foundation for nursing practice.
3. Communicate in a variety of media to facilitate the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and information.
4. Employ critical thinking abilities for personal and professional development and nursing practice refinement.

5. Exhibit personal and professional development responsive to changes in nursing, healthcare and society.

#### **IV. NURSING STUDENT HONOR CODE**

##### **KNOWLEDGE, INTEGRITY, COMPASSION and SKILL**

The School of Nursing (SON) at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) values a strong sense of integrity and ethics among students and faculty alike and strives to facilitate the development of such behaviors through the use of the Nursing Student Honor Code. Students in the SON are held, not only to the standards outlined in the MTSU student handbook, but to the guidelines provided below.

##### **Statement of Nursing Student Honor Code**

Student conduct in the SON is expected to demonstrate ethical behaviors that reflect a strong sense of integrity in personal, academic, and professional conduct. The student is guided by the values of truth, justice, and respect for human dignity, as well as professional standards, in the practice of ethical and safe behaviors toward self, fellow students, faculty, staff, and patients when operating in any student capacity on or off University property.

The SON administration and faculty support the development of behaviors demonstrating integrity and ethics in all student arenas. The Honor Code is explained upon admission to the SON. As students progress through the curriculum, it is the obligation of all students to adhere to the higher ethical, personal, academic, and professional behaviors as outlined in the Honor Code. Each student is required to abide by all components of the Honor Code, including consequences for any violations. All students are ethically responsible for reporting any known or suspected violation of this Honor Code.

##### **Nursing Student Honor Pledge**

As a student of the Middle Tennessee State University School of Nursing, I do hereby truthfully pledge not to engage in any acts of academic or professional misconduct during my nursing education. I have read and been given the opportunity to ask questions about the Nursing Student Honor Code System presented in the School of Nursing Student Handbook. I understand the content contained therein, including the disciplinary processes as referenced in the university student Handbook, Resources and Rules. As an expectation of my admission to the progression through the nursing program, I will abide by the Nursing Student Honor Code at all times. I understand that any acts of academic

or professional misconduct violate the honor code and may result in sanctions as severe as dismissal from the nursing program.

## V. CODE OF CONDUCT

### **Academic and Professional Conduct**

Students enrolled in the nursing program will be held accountable for the provisions as stated by the Student Code of Conduct. As with the Nursing Student Honor Code, the Student Code of Conduct is based upon and demands the values of truth, integrity, and ethical behavior within academic and professional settings. Professional settings include those places in which a nursing student is functioning as a representative of the SON and MTSU, on or off campus. Failure to adhere to the provisions of academic and professional conduct of the Student Code of Conduct shall be deemed as misconduct, resulting in academic and/or disciplinary consequences up to and including dismissal from the nursing program. Academic and professional misconduct would include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Plagiarism. The adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, statements, images, or works of another person as one's own without proper acknowledgment.
2. Self-Plagiarism. The reuse of one's own work, ideas or assignments from a previous course without acknowledgment of earlier use.
3. Cheating. Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise inclusive of online work. The term academic exercise includes all forms of work submitted for credit or hours. Cheating includes but is not limited to receiving or providing answers on a written exam, storing any data within a calculator prior to or during an exam for use in providing responses to an exam, giving signals of any kind during an exam, sending and/or receiving text messages via cell phone with regard to answers to an exam, the procurement and/or distribution of an exam before or after it is given, including the use of cell phone camera options or copying computer generated assessments in order to reproduce an exam, and group collaboration on any independent assignment. Posting of forms, written papers, and exams to any free or paid-access social networking website(s) is strictly prohibited.
4. Fabrication. Fabrication or invention, either verbal or written, of written, of any information or citation in an academic exercise. This includes, but is not limited to, falsification of any information provided to a faculty or staff member, clinical site staff and preceptors (class-related or clinical); for example, the nursing care plan (NCP) database.
5. Facilitation. Helping or attempting to help another to violate a provision of the Code of Conduct.
6. The use or distribution of publisher test banks.

7. Posting of course materials in other internet locations outside of the official MTSU platform.
8. Posting of confidential client or facility information from clinical assignments or experiences to any online forum or webpage is strictly prohibited, as well as a breach of the federal HIPAA regulations.
9. Any behavior that threatens the safety of self, fellow students, faculty, staff, of patients when operating in a student capacity, representing the MTSU SON.
10. Other forms of unprofessional behavior or conduct includes but is not limited to:
  - a. Tobacco use (smoking, E-cigarettes or smokeless tobacco) at clinical sites and/or in nursing student uniform
  - b. Purchasing of alcohol or cigarettes in a nursing student uniform
  - c. Tardiness (clinical, classroom, lab, or simulation experiences)
  - d. Interruptions or inappropriate talking during class.
  - e. Intimidation of students and/or faculty or staff (angry, hostile, or violent behavior)
  - f. Use of cellphones or other electronic devices not approved by faculty in class or clinical
  - g. Academic misconduct
  - h. Fabrication of data in class, clinical, or other written assignments
  - i. Sleeping in class or clinical
  - j. Sexual harassment or inappropriate sexual comments
  - k. Use of vulgar, obscene, or disrespectful language towards patients, other students, faculty, or staff (social media sites, on campus or at clinical sites)
  - l. Any other behavior deemed by faculty as unacceptable

Any and all infractions of the Student Code of Conduct will be handled according to University policy as stated in the University Student Handbook of Resources and Rules. A copy of the University Student Handbook is available online via the official MTSU website.

### **Grievance Policy Statement**

Any student being disciplined for academic misconduct may refer to the MTSU Student Handbook, Resources and Rules, for the grievance policy and procedures. A grade appeal process is available for utilization by students, as indicated in VII. Policies and Procedures, section I of this handbook.

### **Grade Appeals**

Any undergraduate student grievance concerning grades, should be pursued according to process outlined in the MTSU Student Appeal of Grades Procedure.

## **Communication Avenues**

The SON faculty and the Director are available to students through many methods. Faculty have posted office hours on their doors. The director of the program has adopted several communication venues for students, as follows:

1. The purpose of the Student Advisory Board is to provide an avenue for open dialogue between the Director and representatives from the student body. Meetings will be held once per semester toward the end of the term in person or virtually. The Director will distribute the agenda prior to the meeting as well as minutes from the previous meeting for approval.

Each cohort of upper division Nursing, semesters one through five, will elect two representatives at the beginning of the fall semester to serve in this role. The same person should not serve more than two terms (one academic year). These representatives will be students other than those who serve in leadership roles for SNA.

Each representative is responsible for gathering and summarizing information from the peers in their cohort about our programs to be presented at each meeting. Information should be pertinent to programmatic assessment and evaluation that may be used to improve outcomes for all, not individual student complaints about specific issues/concerns with a faculty member or specific course. Each representative is also responsible for sharing information from the Director with their peers unless otherwise specified.

The Director will share information related to curriculum, program evaluation, and student success. The Director will also use information gathered from each representative to consider for program improvement and student success.

2. The Director's open office hours are held on at least two days each week. These hours are posted outside Nursing office, CKNB 221; or communicate with Administrative Assistant to set up appointment.

## **VI. MTSU Partners in Education (PIE) Information**

The faculty and staff of MTSU SON are committed to excellence in nursing education and believe that collaboration is a key to success in nursing. If a student desires to bring a family member or advocate to a meeting with SON faculty or staff, the student must notify the faculty or staff member at the time the meeting is requested to ensure all appropriate PIE documentation is completed prior to the meeting. Faculty and staff will not meet with students and PIE partners without prior notification.

The PIE Program helps address the needs of the students by creating such a partnership, fostering communication between students, their families and the university. Through



the Partners in Education program, PIE partners can request academic information and suggestions to help them provide effective support for their students.

Information about this program can be found at: <http://mtsu.edu/one-stop/docs/PIE-Student-Authorization-Release.pdf>

## VII. Advising Guidelines.

- a. Students must look on their Pipeline account under Assigned Advisor to ascertain the name and contact information (phone# and/or email address) for the student's assigned nursing academic advisor and faculty mentor.
- b. In order to meet with a faculty mentor, students should make appointments well in advance, as nursing faculty are frequently off campus (i.e., for clinical experiences with upper-division nursing students).
- c. Students should allow 3-5 working days for the faculty to respond.
- d. Make contact early in the semester to schedule an appointment with your academic advisor- do not wait until the last minute (priority registration time) to try and make an appointment to see your academic advisor. Go to the MTSU SON website to schedule an appointment with your academic advisor.
- e. The academic advisor's office is located in Suite 201 in the School of Nursing building.
- f. Students using Veteran's benefits and Finish Line scholarships MUST meet with their academic advisor each semester.
- g. All other students should meet with their academic advisor at least once each semester to review their progress.
- h. Students should submit their Intent to Graduate form to advisor during their 3<sup>rd</sup> semester of upper division nursing for review or any possible discrepancies prior to advisor submitting to Graduate Analyst for graduation confirmation.

## VIII. Grading Scale.

The School of Nursing uses a common grading scale as follows:

A=90-100	B=80-89
C=70-79	D=60-69
F=Below 59	

No extra credit will be awarded within any nursing course. Final grades will be rounded according to conventional mathematical rules. Students must attain a minimum grade of "B" (3.00) in all nursing courses (MTSU Undergraduate Catalog).

## IX. Course Exams

An average of 80% or greater must be achieved on all quizzes/exams combined to pass the following courses:

- NURS 3010 Pathophysiology
- NURS 3030 Health Assessment
- NURS 3042 Basic Dosage Calculation
- NURS 3170 Clinical Pharmacology in Nursing
- NURS 3350 Introduction to Nursing Practice
- NURS 3380 Caring for Clients with Mental Health Alterations
- NURS 3530 Caring for Adult Clients I
- NURS 3550 Caring for the Childbearing Family
- NURS 3580 Health and Gerontology
- NURS 4330 Caring for Adult Clients II
- NURS 4585 Caring for Children and Teen Clients

No other course requirements will be used in calculating the exam average score. If a student meets the 80% exam average requirement, the remaining course assignments are added in to determine a final course grade.

The rule of math for rounding applies, so if a student's exam average is 79.5%--that would round to an 80% and meet the requirement. If students earn less than an 80% average on ALL quizzes/exams combined, their final course grade will be the COMBINED QUIZ/EXAM GRADE.

## X. Repeating a Course (2-C Policy)

If a student does not successfully complete a nursing course with a "B" (3.00) or better, the student may repeat the course **one (1) time only**. Even if a course is repeated with a higher grade earned, the failure is documented as part of the 2-C policy.

If a student is unsuccessful in a second course or on the second attempt at the same course, the student will be dismissed from the program according to the 2-C policy.

A student who is not successful in two or more courses in a single semester will be dismissed from the program.

## XI. Dosage Competency

All students must demonstrate competency in dosage calculation skills in each clinical semester. Competency must be established prior to administering medications. Competency in dosage calculation skills will be established by a score of 100% on dosage and calculation exams.

For those students who are unsuccessful on the first attempt, one additional attempt at the end of the course will be offered. Any student not deemed competent on the second attempt will receive a grade of "Fail" in the clinical course.

Dosage competency and calculation skills exams are linked to the following courses:

- NURS 3360 Introduction to Nursing Practice Clinical
- NURS 3390 Caring for Clients with Mental Health Alterations Clinical
- NURS 3540 Caring for Adult Clients I Clinical
- NURS 3560 Caring for the Childbearing Family Clinical
- NURS 4340 Caring for Adult Clients II Clinical
- NURS 4586 Caring for Children and Teen Clients Clinical
- NURS 4590 Capstone Clinical

## XII. Financial Need/Scholarships

Students with incomes falling below poverty level may be eligible for grant money as available. Only students who have registered financial status and needs with the MTSU Financial Aid Office will be considered. Students must have a current Free Application Federal Student Aid (FAFS) File (updated every January) for the Student Success Committee to make decisions and allocate funds. Students must be registered for courses prior to obtaining scholarships.

## XIII. School of Nursing Scholarships

There are several scholarships available to nursing students. Information about the criteria for these awards can be found on the SON website. Applications are to be completed and submitted online via a link on the MTSU SON website.

Students can apply for School of Nursing scholarships between February 1 and April 1. These applications must be received by the School of Nursing by April 1 in order for the student to be considered for a scholarship. The Committee will meet and review all submitted applications for foundation scholarships; money will be awarded at the beginning of fall semester. Incomplete scholarship packets will not be considered. Following is the link: <https://www.mtsu.edu/nursing/scholarships.php>

## **Americans with Disabilities Act**

### ADA Compliance at MTSU

#### Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Middle Tennessee State University is committed to campus access in accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1937. Any student interested in reasonable accommodations can consult the Disability & Access Center (DAC) website on the MTSU website and/or contact the DAC for assistance at 615-898/2783 or [dacemail@mtst.edu](mailto:dacemail@mtst.edu).

## **XIV. Student Representation**

Student elect representatives from each class in the upper division. These representatives serve on SON Committees: the Student Success Committee, the Alumni Committee and the Curriculum Committee. Students are voting members when policy decisions are formulated. Other students are encouraged to forward their concerns through their representatives to the appropriate committee. The representatives are encouraged to meet routinely each semester to share information and keep fellow students informed.

## **XV. Program Completion**

### **Graduation Policy**

In order to graduate from MTSU with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, the following criteria must be met:

1. Completion of 120 semester hours of credit including all of the prerequisite course (or approved substitutes), the nursing courses and the general core requirements.
2. Completion of 42 semester hours of upper division credit.
3. College grade point average of a 2.00 or better
4. Twelve (12) of the last 18 hours in residence at MTSU.
5. Intent to Graduate form on file in the Records Office.

### **School of Nursing Pinning Ceremony**

The ceremony is to honor BSN graduates from the Fall/Spring Nursing classes and it an event sponsored and financed by the SON. The following guidelines apply:

1. Student attire for the ceremony will be academic regalia without mortar board/tam.
2. The ceremony will be held on the MTSU campus the Friday prior to graduation.
3. Family and friends are welcome to attend, on a space available basis.

4. Graduation candidates may purchase the SON pin, which is awarded upon successful completion of all requirements for the BSN. (See Pin Purchase Agreement). If no pin is purchased, a blue ribbon will be pinned to your gown.
5. Attendance at this event is not mandatory for students or faculty.

### **Graduation Awards**

The School of Nursing recognizes outstanding graduating seniors each semester. The following four awards are selected by the Faculty according to the criteria identified.

1. Outstanding Academic Achievement Award
  - Graduating senior
  - Highest GPA
2. Outstanding Leadership Achievement Award
  - Graduating senior
  - 3.0 minimum GPA
  - Leadership skills/potential (professional, e.g., SNA and/or community)
3. Spirit of Nursing Award graduating
  - Senior Community/professional
  - Involvement Academic achievements
4. Marie Potts/Clyde Hall Personal Achievement Award
  - The Marie Potts/Clyde Hall Personal Achievement Award. This award is given to the graduating senior who has, in the opinion of his/ her peers, overcome the greatest personal challenges or obstacles in order to complete his/her nursing education. The recipient of this award is nominated by classmates and selected by the Student Success Committee from the recommendations received.
5. Tracy McCauley Award for Clinical Excellence
  - This award is presented to a graduating senior student who has demonstrated consistent growth and excellence in the provision of client care during clinical and exemplified the attributes of knowledge, compassion, integrity and skill expected of a professional nurse. Nominations for this award will be made by the clinical faculty and the recipient selected by the Student Success Committee. Criteria includes satisfactory achievement of the SON five Core Competencies: Communication, Critical Thinking, Personal and Professional Relationships, Leadership and Nursing Process.

Other awards may be given on a case-by-case basis.

### **ATI and NCLEX Review**

Standardized exams will be administered throughout the program to assist in licensure preparation and facilitate student success in the program.

The School of Nursing requires the use of ATI resources in the undergraduate program. Various ATI products are used throughout nursing coursework to facilitate learning in all aspects of the curriculum and prepare students for the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX).

While enrolled in NURS 4590 (Capstone Clinical) during the last semester, students will be required to complete a 3-day live ATI NCLEX review and the Virtual ATI components. Students will work to achieve “green light” status in preparation for the NCLEX.

## XVI. Additional Fees

### Nursing Course Fee

A course fee is charged, in addition to tuition, for all nursing courses. Revenue from fees is used for funding:

- Salaries and benefits for 6 faculty and staff
- ATI resources
- Clinical lab equipment and supplies
- New equipment and maintenance
- Student clinical placement databases
- Other expenses as deemed necessary by the SON Director

### Testing, Licensure and Graduation Fees

During the final semester of the program students apply for testing and licensure with the Tennessee Board of Nursing. Fees associated with this process and with graduation include:

## ESTIMATED

### FEES THAT ARE DUE BEFORE GRADUATION

Criminal Background Check and Fingerprinting	\$35.15 (mandatory)
NCLEX Testing Fee	\$200.00 (mandatory)
Tennessee State Board License Fee	no charge
Picture for License	\$15.00 (mandatory)
Senior Pictures	Composite and/or picture packets (optional)
Nursing Pin	\$35.00 to 90.25 (optional)
Graduation Stole	\$38.36 (optional)

NCLEX Practice Exam

\$150.00 (optional)

This is not an inclusive list. There may be other fees as required in testing and licensure.  
These are the current costs as of July 7, 2023.

Other fees or costs before or during the nursing program can included (but are not limited to) required vaccinations, physical, lab tests, criminal background check, lab skills kit, stethoscope. malpractice insurance, personal health insurance, document management storage system and uniforms.

## XVII. School of Nursing Security

### **University Student IDs**

University issued student IDs must be worn at all times while in the clinical setting and the School of Nursing.

### **Clinical Labs**

Security cameras are in use in all clinical labs. Student must be wearing their University issued ID to enter the lab space

## XVIII. Other Resources

### **University Writing Center**

The University Writing Center (see them at the MTSU website-Writing Center page) offers free writing assistance for any writing assignment in any class. Please request someone with APA experience. The staff of English graduate assistants will with students to develop the skills needed to become a confident, competent writer by providing students with one-to one consultations and helpful handouts.

The center offers many online services including a grammar hotline for quick questions; and email drop box, as well as a chat room for writing assistance; and a web site filled with helpful handouts, exercises, and resource links for individual work.

### **University Career Center**

The University Career Center is located in the Keathley University Center (KUC) 328. Call 615-898-2500 for more information. The Career Center provides students help with resume and cover letter creation/review, career advising and career planning.

### **University Math Lab**

The University Studies Math Lab is located in Stark Agribusiness (SAG) 202. Walk-ins are welcome; no appointment needed. Call (615) 898-2465 for more information. The Math Lab provides students with: tutoring, access to lecture videos and practice problem solving.

## **XIX. Handbook Protocol**

All undergraduate students function under the current SON Student Handbook. The handbook is reviewed annually by the Student Success Committee and updated as required. Students are responsible for reading, understanding, and complying with the material in the SON handbook. Clarification or questions should be raised at the time the handbook is received. Additional School of Nursing guidance polices are found at the official nursing website [www.mtsu.edu/nursing](http://www.mtsu.edu/nursing). Individual faculty members will answer other questions are they arise.

This Handbook presents the terms of enrollment in the SON in effect at the time of publication, but there is no guarantee that provisions will not be changed or revoked. The Handbook is not intended to state contractual terms and does not constitute a contract between the student and the institution or the SON. The SON reserves the right to make changes as required to become effective whenever determined by the institution or the SON. These changes will govern current and formerly enrolled students. Enrollment of all students is subject to these conditions.

## **XX. Signature Pages**

The three documents to be signed and/or initialized include the Grading Scale, 2-C Policy, Authorization for Release of Student Information and Acknowledgment Background Check and Drug Screen and Maintaining Patient Privacy/Confidentiality/HIPAA. The Acknowledgement of Receipt, the School of Nursing Pin Purchase Agreement, Photographic Consent Release and Transcript Release will be acknowledged on the signature page and a copy given to each student. Each student must submit the signed pages at the end of Upper Division Orientation.



**Authorization for Release of Student Information and  
Acknowledgement  
Background Check and Drug Screen**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby authorize Middle Tennessee State University, (“University”) including all employees, agents, and other persons professionally affiliated with check (s), clinics and similar medical treatment facilities, to disclose the same to clinical affiliation sites if so required by the terms of clinical affiliation agreement, and to University administrators and faculty providing clinical instruction at such facilities as may be appropriate, waiving all legal rights to confidentiality and privacy.

I further authorize University to provide pertinent medical records (medical history, physical examination, immunization records) and health insurance information to hospitals, clinics and similar medical treatment facilities for clinical placement purposes if so required by the terms of the clinical affiliation agreement.

I expressly authorized disclosure of this information, and expressly release University, its officers, employees, and agents from any and all liability in connection with any statement made, documents produced, or information disclosed concerning the same.

I understand that a hospital, clinic or similar medical treatment facility may exclude me from clinical placement on the basis of a background check or positive drug screen. I further understand that if I am excluded from clinical placement, I will not be able to meet course requirements and/or the requirements for graduation. I release University, its offices, employees and agents from any and all liability in connection with any exclusion from clinical placement that results from information contained in a background check or drug screen.

Any hospital, clinic, or similar medical treatment facility to which I am assigned may be required by The Joint Commission’s policy to conduct an annual compliance audit of five percent (5%) or a minimum of thirty (30) background investigation files. I agree that, upon request from a hospital, clinic or similar medical treatment facility to which I am assigned, I will provide the results of my background check to be used for this audit purpose.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

**Middle Tennessee State University**  
**School of Nursing**  
**Maintaining Patient Privacy/Confidentiality/HIPAA**

As nursing students you will be expected to maintain patient confidentiality and follow HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) guidelines while at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). Discussion and disclosure of patient information occurs in the formal teaching environment throughout the program only as outlined by your clinical professor(s).

Privacy and security concerns for patients and their families include any form of documentation such as electronic medical records (EMR), verbal and written reports in the agency setting, laboratory or medical testing reports such as X-Rays, MRIs, etc.....No electronic media such as Facebook, Twitter, etc. are to be used for disseminating patient information be it intentional or unintentional in any form (graphic or text). No patient information with personal identifiers is to be removed from any health care setting at any time. Students must engage in appropriate academic and professional conduct as outlined in the MTSU School of Nursing Student Handbook which can be found online. Patient information is to be protected at all times.

Student work such as case studies and care plans will not use the patient's actual name. This information will be coded per the clinical professor(s) directive.

Breach of confidential information is considered an act of academic and professional misconduct, is a violation of the MTSU School of Nursing Student Honor Pledge. Such a breach may result in academic and/or disciplinary consequences up to and including dismissal from the nursing program.

I have read and understand the information presented. I have also received a copy of this information for reference throughout the program.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Acknowledgement  
Background Check and Drug Screen**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby authorize Middle Tennessee State University, (“University”) including all employees, agents, and other persons professionally affiliated with check (s), clinics and similar medical treatment facilities, to disclose the same to clinical affiliation sites if so required by the terms of clinical affiliation agreement, and to University administrators and faculty providing clinical instruction at such facilities as may be appropriate, waiving all legal rights to confidentiality and privacy.

I further authorize University to provide pertinent medical records (medical history, physical examination, immunization records) and health insurance information to hospitals, clinics and similar medical treatment facilities for clinical placement purposes if so required by the terms of the clinical affiliation agreement.

I expressly authorized disclosure of this information, and expressly release University, its officers, employees, and agents from any and all liability in connection with any statement made, documents produced, or information disclosed concerning the same.

I understand that a hospital, clinic or similar medical treatment facility may exclude me from clinical placement on the basis of a background check or positive drug screen. I further understand that if I am excluded from clinical placement, I will not be able to meet course requirements and/or the requirements for graduation. I release University, its offices, employees and agents from any and all liability in connection with any exclusion from clinical placement that results from information contained in a background check or drug screen.

Any hospital, clinic, or similar medical treatment facility to which I am assigned may be required by The Joint Commission’s policy to conduct an annual compliance audit of five percent (5%) or a minimum of thirty (30) background investigation files. I agree that, upon request from a hospital, clinic or similar medical treatment facility to which I am assigned, I will provide the results of my background check to be used for this audit purpose.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

**Middle Tennessee State University**  
**School of Nursing**  
**Maintaining Patient Privacy/Confidentiality/HIPAA**

As nursing students you will be expected to maintain patient confidentiality and follow HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) guidelines while at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). Discussion and disclosure of patient information occurs in the formal teaching environment throughout the program only as outlined by your clinical professor(s).

Privacy and security concerns for patients and their families include any form of documentation such as electronic medical records (EMR), verbal and written reports in the agency setting, laboratory or medical testing reports such as X-Rays, MRIs, etc. No electronic media such as Facebook, Twitter, etc. are to be used for disseminating patient information be it intentional or unintentional in any form (graphic or text). No patient information with personal identifiers is to be removed from any health care setting at any time. Students must engage in appropriate academic and professional conduct as outlined in the MTSU School of Nursing Student Handbook which can be found online. Patient information is to be protected at all times.

Student work such as case studies and care plans will not use the patient's actual name. This information will be coded per the clinical professor(s) directive.

Breach of confidential information is considered an act of academic and professional misconduct, is a violation of the MTSU School of Nursing Student Honor Pledge. Such a breach may result in academic and/or disciplinary consequences up to and including dismissal from the nursing program.

I have read and understand the information presented. I have also received a copy of this information for reference throughout the program.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Signature Page

**Initial:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Grading Scale
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2-C Policy
- \_\_\_\_\_ MTSU Nursing Student Handbook
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nursing Student Honor Code Agreement
- \_\_\_\_\_ Statement for Written Work
- \_\_\_\_\_ School of Nursing Pin Purchase Agreement
- \_\_\_\_\_ Photographic Consent and Release
- \_\_\_\_\_ Transcript Release
- \_\_\_\_\_ Program Outcomes

I hereby acknowledge receipt and understanding of all the above, as evidenced by my initials and signature below.

Student's Signature and Date

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Student's Name (print)

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## **Student Acknowledgements**

I acknowledge receipt of and am accountable for the items below:

### **GRADING SCALE**

The School of Nursing uses a common grading scale as follows:

A=90-100	B=80-89
C=70-79	D=60-69
F=Below 59	

No extra credit will be awarded within any nursing course. Final grades will be rounded according to conventional mathematical rules. Students must attain a minimum grade of “B” (3.00) in all nursing courses (MTSU Undergraduate Catalog).

### **REPEATING A COURSE (2-C POLICY)**

If a student does not successfully complete a nursing course with a “B” or better, the student may repeat the course ***one (1) time only***. Even if a course is repeated with a higher grade earned, the failure is documented as part of the 2-C policy.

If a student is unsuccessful in a second course or on the second attempt at the same course, the student will be dismissed from the program according to the 2-C policy.

### **MTSU NURSING STUDENT HANDBOOK**

I have reviewed a copy of the Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) School of Nursing (SON) Student Handbook (current edition). It has been reviewed with me, and I have been given the opportunity to ask any questions I might have about its content. I understand that I am responsible for reading, understanding, and complying with the material contained in the MTSU SON handbook. The current MTSU SON Student Handbook: [http://mtsu.edu/nursing/student\\_info.php#handbook](http://mtsu.edu/nursing/student_info.php#handbook)

### **NURSING STUDENT HONOR CODE AGREEMENT**

I acknowledge receipt of the Nursing Student Honor Code document in the MTSU School of Nursing Student Handbook. I have read, been given the opportunity to ask questions, and understand the content of the document, including the possible sanctions as outlined in the pledge. I agree to abide by every component of the Honor Code at all times during

my nursing education in the MTSU SON program. In so doing, I will actively uphold academic integrity and professional ethics. I agree to abide by Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) guidelines as established by Federal Regulations regarding patient information and confidentiality.

Student Copy

### **STATEMENT FOR WRITTEN WORK**

I will complete all assignments in my nursing courses without any assistance from another person, technical device, or written material other than those expressly permitted by the faculty.

### **SCHOOL OF NURSING PIN PURCHASE AGREEMENT**

When a student becomes a candidate for graduation from the School of Nursing, he/she may purchase a School of Nursing pin. The pin will be awarded to the student upon successful completion of all requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Any student not successful in completing requirements for graduation, the pin will either (a) be returned to the company and the student's money returned or (b) be held in the Nursing office until degree requirements are met successfully.

I understand and agree to comply with the above conditions

### **PHOTOGRAPHIC CONSENT AND RELEASE**

I hereby willingly grant, and irrevocably consent to the authorize Middle Tennessee State University, its officers, employees and agents (collectively, "the University") the right and permission to:

1. Record my likeness/image and voice on a video, audio, photographic, digital, electronic or any other medium now known or hereafter developed;
2. Use my name in connection with these recordings;
3. Use, reproduce, publish, republish, broadcast, re-broadcast, adapt, edit, modify, make derivative works, distribute, display or otherwise use or reuse, exhibit or distribute in any medium, these recordings and likenesses/images for any purpose the University deems appropriate, including promotional or advertising efforts.

I understand that I will receive no compensation for any use of such recordings.

I understand that all such recordings, in whatever medium, shall remain the property of the University. I hereby assign any copyright or other proprietary interest which I might assert successors, transferees, licensees, distributors or other parties, commercial or non-profit.

I hereby release the University from liability for a violation of any personal or proprietary right I may have in connection with such use.

I have read and fully understand the terms of this document.

### **TRANSCRIPT RELEASE**

I authorize MTSU School of Nursing to send my official transcript to the Tennessee Board of Nursing at the end of my final semester after my degree has been awarded.

### **PROGRAM OUTCOMES**

Graduates of the baccalaureate program receive preparation designed to enable them to:

1. Develop professional knowledge and skills necessary to design, coordinate, and lead within the healthcare system.
  2. Utilize the nursing process as a foundation for nursing practice.
  3. Communicate in a variety of media to facilitate the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and information.
  4. Employ critical thinking abilities for personal and professional development and nursing practice refinement.
  5. Exhibit personal and professional development responsive to changes in nursing, healthcare and society.
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