

# Undergraduate Degree Requirements

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Throughout the undergraduate catalog, the phrase “hours earned at MTSU” refers to courses taken at the Murfreesboro campus as well as all forms of distance learning courses including Regents Online Degree course credit earned through instruction offered by MTSU.

## Baccalaureate Degrees, General Requirements for

To graduate from MTSU with a bachelor’s degree, a student must meet the following requirements.

1. Students must complete a minimum of 120 semester hours with a 2.00 grade point average. (Some programs may require more than 120 hours.)
2. A minimum of 25 percent of credit for each degree awarded by MTSU must be earned through instruction offered by the University. Typically, a minimum of 30 hours earned through MTSU is required; however, in degree programs of more than 120 semester hours a greater number of hours would be required.
3. At least 42 semester hours of junior and senior (3000-4000 level) courses must be completed with an average grade of C (2.00 GPA) or better. Courses numbered 1000 and 2000 which are substituted for 3000- or 4000-level courses may not be used in the calculation of the 42 upper-division hours. A minimum of 30 semester hours of junior and senior (3000-4000 level) courses must be completed through MTSU.
4. With approval of the dean of the college in which the student is pursuing the major, a candidate may complete six of the last 18 hours at another college or university or by CLEP. Otherwise, students must complete a minimum of 12 of the last 18 semester hours through MTSU.
5. No more than 60 semester hours completed by credit-by-examination, credit for service-related experience, and flight training may be counted for credit in a degree.
6. Students must complete at least nine semester hours at the upper-division level through MTSU in the major and at least three semester hours at the upper-division level through MTSU in each minor.
7. A minimum of 60 semester hours of senior college credit will be required of all students who transfer from colleges of less than four-year designation.
8. A minimum 2.00 GPA will be required in a major pursued as a graduation requirement and a minimum 2.00 is required in some minors.
9. All candidates must meet the General Education requirements as outlined on pages 60–63 and satisfy a technology requirement as outlined below.

**NOTE:** Information applicable to transfer students may be found on page 58.

10. No more than 25 percent of the credits for nonbusiness degrees may be in courses commonly found in a school of business. Additionally, a student can have only one business minor.
11. **During the second semester of the sophomore year, a student must complete an upper-division form and file it in the Records Office.** This form may be obtained from the office of the head of the department/school in which the student expects to major. A minimum 2.00 GPA in the major field and on all work attempted is required for unconditional admittance to the upper division and to candidacy, unless otherwise stated by a program, for the bachelor’s degree. Some programs require formal approval with additional requirements for admission to candidacy.
12. Any or all students may be required to take one or more tests designed to measure general education achievement and/or achievement in selected major areas as a prerequisite to graduation for the purpose of evaluation of academic programs. Unless otherwise provided for any individual program, no minimum score or level of achievement is required for graduation. Participation in testing may be required for all students, for students in selected programs, and for students selected on a sample basis.
13. All degree candidates must file a Notice of Intention to Graduate in the Records Office during the first semester of the senior year.
14. In compliance with SACS accreditation standards, all students will have training in and use of technology.

**NOTE: In all instances, meeting the requirements for graduation is the responsibility of the student. In addition to the general requirements above, candidates for the various degrees must meet certain specific requirements.**

## Bachelor of Arts Degree

Candidates for the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree must meet the following requirements:

1. The major must be completed in one of the disciplines or concentrations listed in (4) below. It must be identified as an approved degree in the Academic Inventory on pages 18-23 and described in this catalog by the department concerned.
2. One minor is required, and it must be chosen from the list of disciplines and concentrations in (4) below or from interdisciplinary minors listed beginning on page 76. Students wishing to be licensed to teach at the secondary level must meet the requirements for a minor in Secondary Education in addition to the basic requirements of one major and one minor.
3. To meet TBR policy requirements, students who receive the B.A. degree must demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language equivalent to two years of college-level coursework. To meet the requirement, students must successfully complete 2010 and 2020 or any courses numbered above the 2000 level in a single foreign

language. Students are eligible to register for these courses after successfully completing four high school units of the same language, a score on a language placement test equivalent to proficiency of a year of college-level study of the same foreign language, or the successful completion of 1010 and 1020.

4. At least 90 of the minimum 120 hours required for graduation must be in courses offered in the following subjects, but no more than 36 hours will be accepted in any one subject:

Art*	Philosophy
Biology*	Physics*
Chemistry*	Political Science
Economics*	Pre-law concentration
Labor Relations*	Public Administration concentration
Public Finance*	Psychology*
English	Speech and Theatre
Foreign Languages	Communication Studies concentration
French concentration	Theatre concentration
German concentration	Communication Disorders concentration
Spanish concentration	Sociology
Geography*	Anthropology concentration
Geology/Earth Science*	
History	
International Relations*	
Mathematics*	
Actuarial Science*	
Music*	

\*Major not available in the B.A. program

### Bachelor of Business Administration

Requirements for the Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.) degree may be found on page 163.

### Bachelor of Fine Arts

Requirements for the Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) degree may be found on page 226.

### Bachelor of Music

Requirements for the Bachelor of Music (B.M.) degree may be found on page 255.

### Bachelor of Science

Candidates for the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree must meet the following requirements:

- Complete a major with a minimum of 24 semester hours.
- Many degree programs require a minor or minors of 15 credit hours or more. Specific requirements in the various departments must be met as listed in the colleges section in this catalog.
- The B.S. degree may be granted to a student who takes six semesters of college work before entering an advanced health-related or engineering professional school upon evidence of satisfactory completion of the first year's work and the unconditional admittance to the second year, if applicable, provided that
  - the minimum requirement for entrance to the professional school is 60 semester hours of college work;
  - the professional school is an integral part of a university accredited by the appropriate regional association or the professional school is accredited by the recognized national association in its field;
  - the last two semesters of pre-professional work are done at Middle Tennessee State University;
  - the candidate completes a minimum of 90 semester hours in required pre-professional courses;
  - the candidate completes, in the pre-professional work, at least 24 semester hours in upper-division courses, including at least 6 semester hours in his/her major field;

- the candidate meets all general requirements of the degree curriculum.

### Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) may be found on page 152.

### Bachelor of Social Work

Requirements for the Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.) degree may be found on page 274.

### Bachelor of University Studies Degree

The Bachelor of University Studies (B.Unv.S.) degree program is for the person who wishes to pursue a broad-based educational experience rather than a program designed to meet specific vocational or professional job opportunities. The degree is offered by the Colleges of Basic and Applied Sciences and Liberal Arts. Advisement is available through the Division of Continuing Studies and Public Services or the advisors for the college. Students may select from two specializations: basic and applied sciences and liberal arts.

Specific requirements are

- 41 semester hours fulfilling the General Education requirements;
- completion of at least nine semester hours at the upper-division level through MTSU in the college of specialization;
- a 2.00 GPA in the courses taken in the college of specialization;
- 54 semester hours selected from at least three of the six undergraduate colleges (excluding Honors) subject to the following guidelines:
  - A minimum of 27 semester hours of the 54 semester hours must be taken at the upper-division (3000-4000) level.
  - A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00 GPA must be attained on all degree credit courses.
  - A minimum of 21 semester hours must be completed in either Basic and Applied Sciences or in Liberal Arts. The maximum hours allowed in a specialization is 30.
  - Upper-division courses with the prefixes ELED, READ, SPED, FOED, YOED, or SPSE may not be used.
  - No fewer than 6 nor more than 12 semester hours may be taken in any one department. No more than 18 semester hours taken in departments within the Jennings A. Jones College of Business may be counted toward the B.Unv.S. degree.
  - Courses taken to satisfy the General Education requirements may not be counted to fulfill the 54 semester hours requirement in the University Studies program. Other courses from the General Education curriculum may be taken subject to limitations imposed by (a), (c), (d), and (e) above.

Additional information about the Bachelor of University Studies can be obtained from the deans of Basic and Applied Sciences, Liberal Arts, and Continuing Studies and Public Service.

### Second Bachelor's Degree

Candidates for a second bachelor's degree must meet the following requirements:

- A bachelor's degree previously earned must have been awarded by an institution of higher learning.
- All requirements for the major program in the new degree must be met, including a minimum of 9 upper-division hours taken through MTSU, and the entire major for the second bachelor's degree must be approved by the major department chair and by the dean whose college houses the program. Minor(s) required

by the major must include 3 hours of upper-division work taken through MTSU in each.

3. The General Education requirements for the first degree will satisfy General Education requirements for the second degree; however, the student must have completed 6 semester hours in American history as a requirement for the first degree or complete 6 semester hours from HIST 2010, 2020, and 2030 or the equivalent courses.
4. The technology requirement described on page 56, No. 14, will be met for the first degree or the second degree.
5. A minimum 2.00 GPA on all work attempted must be attained.
6. A minimum 2.00 GPA is required in the major pursued as a graduation requirement.
7. Students seeking a second bachelor's degree must complete an application for admission to upper division.

**NOTE:** The Admissions Office does not evaluate transcripts of students who have already received a bachelor's degree.

## Regents Online Degree Program (RODP)

Middle Tennessee State University is a participating institution in the Regents Online Degree Program. This program brings college courses to students at home, in the library, in the office, or on the road. Courses completed in the program are entirely online. These courses comprise the same content and rigor as courses on campus. Student assistance such as advising, library services, student support, bookstore, and other student services are also offered online. Technical support for accessing course materials is available 24 hours, 7 days per week.

If a student is admitted to MTSU and enrolls in an RODP course, the course is counted as offered through MTSU regardless of the delivery institution and will appear on the student's transcript as MTSU credit.

**Note:** Authorization to take RODP courses is required for all non-RODP majors. Acceptance of RODP courses as fulfilling requirements of standard degree programs is at the discretion of the individual department.

Degrees offered by MTSU through RODP include

- Bachelor of Science with a major in Professional Studies (concentrations in Information Technology or Organizational Leadership)
- Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Liberal Studies

Students must earn a minimum of 120 hours; meet MTSU upper-division, residency, senior hour, General Education, and GPA requirements; and complete the courses outlined in the specific degree program. Course requirements for these degrees can be found at [www.tn.regentsdegrees.org/campus/mtsu/](http://www.tn.regentsdegrees.org/campus/mtsu/).

Advisement is available through the Division of Continuing Studies and Public Service at (615) 898-5611.

## Graduate Degrees

Information on graduate degrees available through MTSU may be found in the section on the College of Graduate Studies in this catalog and in the Graduate Catalog.

## Transfer Students

The following guidelines determine the general education requirements of transfer students.

1. If a transfer student has earned an associate degree, the student must meet the following general education requirements:
  - a. 9 quarter or 6 semester hours of English composition
  - b. 12 quarter or 9 semester hours of humanities (to include at least 6 quarter or 3 semester hours of literature)
  - c. 9 quarter or 6 semester hours of American or Tennessee history
  - d. 12 quarter or 8 semester hours of natural/physical sciences with labs
  - e. 6 quarter or 3 semester hours of mathematics
  - f. 9 quarter or 6 semester hours of social and behavioral sciences
  - g. 6 quarter or 3 semester hours of oral communication.

**NOTE:** Students who have earned an associate degree from any college or university may meet the MTSU general degree requirements by completing the requirements listed above.

2. If a transfer student has not received an associate degree, the student will be treated like any other MTSU student and will have to meet the MTSU General Education requirements as stated in the MTSU catalog under which the student chooses to graduate.

## Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) Common Catalog Statement Regarding General Education

Effective Fall Semester 2004, all institutions in the State University and Community College System of Tennessee (the Tennessee Board of Regents System) will share a common lower-division (freshman and sophomore) general education core curriculum of forty-one (41) semester hours for baccalaureate degrees and the Associate of Arts and the Associate of Science degrees. The courses composing the general education curriculum are contained within the following subject categories:

### Baccalaureate Degrees\*

Subject Area	Credit Hours
Communication	9 hours**
Humanities and/or Fine Arts (including at least 3 hours in literature)	9 hours
Social/Behavioral Sciences	6 hours
History	6 hours***
Natural Sciences	8 hours
Mathematics	3 hours
<b>Total</b>	<b>41 hours</b>

\*Foreign language courses are an additional requirement for the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree. The B.A. degree requires proficiency in a foreign language equivalent to completion of two years of college-level work.

\*\*Six hours of English composition and three hours in English oral presentational communication are required.

\*\*\*Students who plan to transfer to Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) universities should take six hours of American History (a maximum of three hours of Tennessee History may substitute). Students who plan to transfer to non-TBR institutions should check requirements and take the appropriate courses.

Although the courses designated by TBR institutions to fulfill the requirements of the general education subject categories vary, transfer of the courses is assured through the following means:

- Upon completion of an A.A. or A.S. degree from a TBR institution, the requirements of the lower-division general education core will be complete and accepted by a TBR university in the transfer process.
- If an A.A. or A.S. is not obtained, transfer of general education courses will be based upon fulfillment of complete subject categories. (Example: if all eight hours in the category of Natural Sciences are complete, then this block of the general education core is complete.) When a subject category is incomplete, course-by-course evaluation will be conducted. The provision of block fulfillment pertains also to students who transfer among TBR universities.
- Institutional/departmental requirements of the grade of C will be honored and enforced.
- Certain majors require specific courses to be taken in general education. Check the departmental catalog section(s) for major requirements that must be fulfilled under lower-division general education.

Courses designated to fulfill general education requirements by Middle Tennessee State University are published on pages 61-63 of this catalog. A complete listing of the courses fulfilling general education requirements for all TBR institutions is available on the Web site ([www.tbr.state.tn.us](http://www.tbr.state.tn.us)) under Transfer and Articulation Information.

## Computation of Grade Point Average for Checking Degree Requirements

**Major Average**—If a student has more courses in a major area than are actually required, only those courses specifically required for the major will be used to determine the required 2.00.

**Minor Average**—For those minors which require a 2.00 grade point average (GPA), only those courses specifically required for the minor will be used to determine the required 2.00.

**Upper-Division**—The 2.00 GPA is calculated for the “best” 42 upper-division hours.

**Teacher Education**—Guidelines for computation of grade point averages for admission to the teacher education program, for eligibility to student teaching, and for subject area endorsement may be obtained in the administrative offices of the College of Education and Behavioral Science, McWhorter Learning Resources Center. Additional information can be found under Licensure of Teachers in the College of Education and Behavioral Science section.

**Excessive Repeats**—All attempts in excess of one are figured in all averages: upper division, major, minor, cumulative, etc.

**Developmental Courses**—These courses are calculated into the cumulative GPA to determine retention; however, the developmental courses do not count toward degree requirements and the grades are not used to determine the 2.00 GPA required for a degree.

**Cumulative Average**—The cumulative average includes all quality hours from all colleges. The first attempt of a repeated course is excluded. Even if a course does not count toward graduation requirements, it will be counted in the cumulative average.

**High School Deficiency Courses**—Courses used to complete specific high school deficiencies are not used to determine the 2.00 GPA required for a degree.

