



# MIDDLE TENNESSEE SCHOOL OF ANESTHESIA

*Reflecting Christ in Anesthesia Education*

## DOCTORATE OF NURSE ANESTHESIA PRACTICE PRACTICE DOCTORATE



## CLASS OF 2022 STUDENT HANDBOOK

315 Hospital Drive, P.O. Box 417, Madison, TN 37116 | [www.mtsa.edu](http://www.mtsa.edu)

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MTSA Policy 5.1.108

Page 21

Language was changed to include length of time by program, to include DNAP PD, DNAP C, and Fellowship programs (Pending BOT Approval)

New phrase added: ***MTSA considers this semester a blended semester as***

Page 99

Revisions February 2020

MTSA Policy 5.1.106

Page 23

No changes to policy. Procedures updated to include all programs and delete some information as the process is internal and automated. (Pending BOT Approval)

The statements, policies, guidelines, and procedures contained in this *Student Handbook* are intended to be informational for applicants, as some may be revised in the future, and are applicable to all enrolled students. Upon enrollment in July, all new students will be provided with this *Student Handbook*. All students are expected to abide by the contents of the current *Student Handbook*. This publication is revised at least annually, and amendments to policies and procedures are included in each new edition. MTSA reserves the right to make revisions to the contents of the *Student Handbook* as necessary, or as deemed advisable by the President's Council. Additionally, MTSA reserves the right to amend policies and procedures in the current *Student Handbook*, with such changes taking effect immediately upon approval by the President's Council. At the time of each revised edition, all students are provided with a link to access the current published electronic version of the *Student Handbook*, and students are also expected to abide by its contents.

## Program Administrator's Welcome

I would like to congratulate you on your hard work, dedication, and decision to join an elite team of nurses trained in the art of anesthesia. Nurse anesthesia continues to be ranked as one of the most lucrative careers both financially and from job satisfaction surveys. I want to personally thank you for choosing MTSA as the vehicle to achieve your higher education goals.

To become a member of one of the greatest professions in nursing, it will demand a level of responsibility you must adapt to quickly. Your success at MTSA, is in part, self-determined as we guide you on your journey. Every late night and long weekend will be worth the effort as you apply the anesthesia knowledge you've learned in the clinical setting.

I look forward to meeting you again and participating in your journey at MTSA!

Welcome!  
Dr. Rusty Gentry  
Program Administrator



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## **MISSION**

Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia exists to provide a Christian, Seventh-day Adventist learning environment that fosters the pursuit of truth, excellence in and access to graduate nurse anesthesia education, and a life of service.

## **VISION**

Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia endeavors to be a national leader in academic and professional excellence, specific to graduate nurse anesthesia education. The School will remain responsive to the needs of its constituents and its diverse student body.

## **CORE VALUES**

- ◆ Christian, Seventh-day Adventist values-driven curriculum and program
- ◆ Academic and clinical excellence that fosters a life of service
- ◆ Wholistic approach to education, health care, and a balanced lifestyle
- ◆ Graduate education that prepares nurses and CRNAs to complete their educational goals and enter the workplace with confidence

## **HISTORY, HERITAGE, AND CHRISTIAN LEGACY**

### **History & Heritage**

MTSA's quiet beginning has roots from more than a century ago. In 1904, a group of Seventh-day Adventist pioneers committed to health, wellness, and temperance traveled south from Battle Creek, Michigan to initiate a health care education institution among the poor, and founded Nashville Agricultural and Normal Institute. This School developed and transformed through name changes and maturity including an elementary school, high school, junior college, and eventually a full college. Concurrently on the campus, a health work began with Madison Sanitarium which developed into Madison Sanitarium and Hospital, Madison Hospital, and finally nearly a century later, Tennessee Christian Medical Center. The hospital provided a site for clinical training as the college educated scores of health care professionals. Since its beginning, the School regularly provided anesthesia at rural hospitals across the region as a service – which is the basis for the multiple clinical instruction locations today.

These ancestor institutions laid the ground work for MTSA which began as the Madison Hospital School of Anesthesia for nurses in 1950 as part of Madison College. This rich history began more than 60 years ago when Bernard V. Bowen, CRNA, DSc, founded the School to facilitate nurse anesthesia education within the framework of Seventh-day Adventist beliefs, which included no Saturday classes. MTSA started with just two students in a 12-month program, but soon expanded to 18-months, admitting 16 students annually. On July 1, 1980, the school changed its name from Madison Hospital School of Anesthesia and officially formed as it is known today—the Middle



Tennessee School of Anesthesia – the last vestige of Madison College and Madison Hospital that remains to this day.

### **Christian Seventh-day Adventist Legacy**

The Christian spirit of dedication and work that led to MTSA’s development is very much alive today. The School continues to foster a learning environment encouraging strong moral principles and a close relationship with God. The Institution celebrates the diversity of faiths represented in the student body, faculty, and staff, and respects the differences of persuasion that are present. It operates with a wholistic, balanced approach to life which includes the physical, mental, emotional, moral, and spiritual – while encouraging a relationship with God as the Creator.

As a Christian church, Seventh-day Adventists are a faith community rooted in the beliefs described by the Holy Scriptures (both Old and New Testaments). In harmony with a broad overall mission to reflect Christ in its educational program, and in keeping with its Adventist heritage, the Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia conducts classes with an exposure to Adventist beliefs.

Many of these beliefs are foundational and common to Protestant Christians from a variety of faith traditions and include -- The Trinity; the Divinity of Jesus; a literal six-day creation; and, Salvation through faith in Jesus. Yet, there may be some belief differences, including a 24-hour Sabbath rest from work and school beginning Friday evening sundown and concluding Saturday evening sundown, when no school-sponsored activities, classes, or events take place. You too may notice food choices limited to a diet exempt of certain options as a commitment to health and temperance.

Jesus Christ exemplified a life of service. It is MTSA’s desire to follow His pattern and honor the Bible, while exhibiting this through learning, scholarship, and ministry. For more information regarding the SDA church visit [www.adventist.org](http://www.adventist.org).



***Madison Hospital***  
***Circa 1977***



***Bernard Bowen, CRNA***  
***Founder, MTSA***

## **UNDERLYING EDUCATIONAL PRINCIPLES OF MTSA**

MTSA recognizes the expanded role CRNAs fill as contributing members of the health care team. It is no longer enough that nurse anesthetists be skilled in anesthesia administration. They must also be able to assess their patients' medical status and plan a comprehensive anesthetic management program that encompasses the pre- and post-anesthetic periods, as well as the operative period. MTSA aims to provide the academic climate and facilities necessary for the student to attain the body of knowledge and technical skills consistent with high standards of practice. In recognition of the important role played by CRNAs in the nation, and specifically in the Southeastern region of the United States, MTSA is historically constituted and strategically located, so as to play a vital part in meeting continuing needs for well-prepared anesthetists, both regionally and nationally.

MTSA believes that true education involves the growth of the spiritual, intellectual, and physical aspects of the student. In keeping with this belief, faculty members seek to provide a balanced program between the academic and clinical phases, so that knowledge and skills may be developed concurrently. The curriculum is integrated with academic and clinical experience occurring simultaneously. The acquisition of both intellectual and technical skills should start with the basic, then progress in logical steps to the more complex and advanced; each step building on the previous one. Throughout the entire educational process, Christian values should be emphasized in the daily lives of both faculty and students, for both their benefit and that of their patients.

MTSA believes that the student's role is one of an active participant in the educational process. This means students may participate in seminars, present case studies, write papers, and maintain independent study.

MTSA believes that the body of knowledge that constitutes the art and science of anesthesia is ever growing and ever changing. In keeping with this belief, MTSA endeavors to foster in both faculty members and students a thirst for knowledge and an intellectual curiosity that will promote lifelong professional growth and a desire for excellence. Graduates will be able to assist in the preparation of the next generation of anesthesia providers.

It is the goal of MTSA that graduates be well qualified to fill first level positions and be capable of working to their full scope of practice with other CRNAs or physician anesthesiologists.

It is the philosophy of MTSA that it be operated as a freestanding, single purpose, anesthesia specific, graduate degree granting institution.

## CAMPUS LOCATION & FACILITIES

The MTSA campus has offices and classroom facilities located in Madison, Tennessee. The academic and simulation classes are held on campus. There are three main buildings on campus.

**The Bernard V. Bowen Academic Center** houses The Center for Simulation, a technological state-of-the-art lecture hall, as well as two seminar rooms for study, small group use, and static simulation classes. The offices of the Program Administrators and the Director of Simulation are located in this building. There is also a student lounge in this building.

**The Student Support Center** houses the administrative support staff and faculty offices. On the first floor is the Nelda Faye Ackerman Learning Resource Center which includes a computer lab for student use. The second floor includes the Heritage Room, a conference/classroom designed with online learning technology.

**The P.T. Magan Building** houses a large collaborative classroom that can be divided into 2 separate rooms or divided into multiple small group areas, each with state of the art technology access. A small kitchenette is available for the student body for use in the P.T. Magan Building with additional seating in the corridor and back patio. The Office of the President, Vice President of Academics, and Administrative Personnel are housed in this building. A school fitness center is also available in this building with a 24-hour, secure ID access.

**School Hours:** School operating hours are Monday – Thursday, 8am to 6pm. Outside of regular operating hours, students may access all buildings using their student ID keycards. Church activities occur in the **Bernard V. Bowen Academic Center** from sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday, in observance of the Seventh-day Adventist Sabbath.

**Facility Access:** During the student’s first semester, students are given electronic keycards which enable secure access to all buildings on campus.

**Parking:** Students must use the adjacent parking lots of Skyline Medical Center and the Madison Campus Seventh-day Adventist Church. The parking lot behind Student Support Center and adjacent to Bernard V. Bowen Academic Center is for staff, faculty and visitors only. There is one handicap spot available in the staff lot for anyone who has a placard or license plate that needs this service. The P.T. Magan building student parking is noted with signage.

### Academic Facilities

**The Center for Simulation**, located in Bernard V. Bowen Academic Center, houses two realistic operating rooms with three computerized human patient simulators (Laerdal SimMan 3G, SimMan, and SimBaby) to enhance both academic and clinical education.

The **Nelda Faye Ackerman Learning Resource Center (LRC)**, located in Student Support Center, is a computer lab with multiple desktop computers and a printer, as well as a small group study lounge.

### Student Facilities

There are two student lounges, located in Bernard V. Bowen Academic Center and in the P.T. Magan building, equipped with a refrigerator, microwave, dishwasher, and a dining table. Bernard

V. Bowen Academic Center's lounge also has tables and chairs for students to meet. There are also vending machines in the lounge in Bernard V. Bowen Academic Center. Students are responsible for their food and clean-up of the lounges and are to notify staff if there is a problem. Drinks taken out of the lounges must have a cap or lid when going into classrooms.

In the main hallway, there is a student mailroom. Books and internal correspondence (i.e., billing notices, transcripts) are delivered to these boxes and students are notified by e-mail when they are placed in their box. Practice Doctorate PD1 (PD1) students have the larger mailboxes along the side and back walls to be able to hold their bags, textbooks, and simulation equipment. Progression to Practice Doctorate PD2 (PD2), the mailboxes are moved to a smaller size within the student mailroom. Practice Doctorate PD3 (PD3) students mailboxes are moved to a metal filing cabinet within the mailroom. Students are responsible for keeping the mailroom tidy.

The P.T. Magan building's copy/print station is located in the main hallway. The P.T. Magan Bernard V. Bowen Academic Center also houses the MTSA fitness center. There are separate male and female shower facilities as well as daily lockers for those using the fitness center. The center can be accessed 24 hours a day with the electronic card key.

The MTSA campus buildings and the outdoor covered porch areas are equipped with wireless internet service dedicated exclusively to students' use, to enable an entire class to work online simultaneously. The WiFi password will be given to students during the first semester intensive week.

## **School Visits**

Applicants are invited to contact the Admissions Coordinator to make an appointment to visit the School (615-732-7662, [info@mtsa.edu](mailto:info@mtsa.edu)). MTSA does not arrange for clinical anesthesia observation visits, so if applicants desire to observe in a clinical setting, they are encouraged to contact the anesthesia department in the hospital where they are currently employed.

# **DNAP PD PROGRAM ACCREDITATION**

## **Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges**

Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award a Master of Science (MS) degree with a Focus in Nurse Anesthesia and a Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) degree. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia. ([www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org))

## **Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA)**

MTSA is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA), which is a specialized accrediting body recognized by both the United States Department of Education and Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). The next accreditation review determination by the COA is scheduled for 2028. For questions specifically about the professional specialty accreditation of MTSA, contact the COA at the following address: \*

222 S. Prospect Avenue  
Park Ridge, IL 60048  
Phone: (847) 655-1160  
Website: <http://home.coa.us.com/>

## **Tennessee Board of Nursing (TBN)**

MTSA has approval for the Master of Science with a focus in Nurse Anesthesia program from the Tennessee Board of Nursing (TBN). For questions specifically about the Tennessee Board of Nursing's approval of MTSA, contact the Tennessee Board of Nursing at the following address:

State of Tennessee  
Department of Health  
Bureau of Health Licensure and Regulation  
Division of Health Related Boards  
227 French Landing, Suite 300  
Heritage Place Metro Center  
Nashville, TN 37243  
Phone: 1-800-778-4123  
Website: [www.Tennessee.gov/health](http://www.Tennessee.gov/health)

*Please note that normal inquiries about the institution, such as admission requirements, financial aid, educational programs, etc., should be addressed directly to the Institution, and not to the offices of any of these accreditation or approval organizations.*

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia, Inc. (MTSA), is a non-profit Tennessee corporation qualified as a 501(c) 3 organization in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia is owned by Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia, Inc. and is operated by a Board of Trust. Trustees represent the business, educational, financial, healthcare, and legal professions. The membership of the Board of Trustees is comprised of three categories, with approximately one-third community members, one-third Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs), and one-third physician anesthesiologists. As such, the Board of Trustee members contribute broad and varied interests, abilities, and experience. The Board is charged with policy decisions and ensuring the future advancement of the Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia. Since the Board typically meets semesterly, it delegates interim authority to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees. Operational authority is delegated to the President.

### **As of January 1, 2020, the members of the Board of Trustees are as follows:**

Vic Martin, CRNA, APN (Chairman)

Rod Schwindt, CRNA

Vicki Davies, CPA (Interim Vice-Chairman)

Brian Gelfand, MD

Jonathan Grooms, CRNA

Jeff Whitehorn, FACHE

Kenneth L. Schwab, EdD

Elizabeth Lemons, RN, MBA

Truitt Ellis, MD

The MTSA President is an ex-officio, non-voting member of the MTSA Board of Trustees. The Secretary of the Board of Trustees is the MTSA Special Assistant to the President.

## **STAKEHOLDER’S RIGHTS**

### **MTSA Policy 3.3.112**

*(REVISED 8/22/17)*

#### **Accrediting Agencies’ Rights**

Each accrediting agency with which MTSA has interaction shall expect that MTSA will be open and honest in its presentation of the School. It is expected that the administration will operate the School with the highest level of integrity, performance, and quality, so the accrediting agency and the public which the School serves shall have confidence in its operations.

#### **Affiliating Institutions’ Rights**

MTSA maintains many clinical affiliations. Each affiliate site should expect that MTSA will solicit and maintain licensure information, and a pertinent health history on each student such as current TB skin tests and relevant immunizations. Affiliates shall expect that MTSA will instruct its

students as to maintaining the privacy of health information of its patients. They shall expect that MTSA will provide basic safety instruction and an orientation related to anesthesia practice, and that MTSA will provide information regarding the outcomes expectations of students at each level.

## **Faculty and Staff Members' Rights**

Members of the MTSA administration, staff and faculty shall have academic freedom in teaching. This group shall be able to speak, write or act as citizens without institutional censorship or discipline, providing such actions are in harmony with the MTSA Mission, Vision, Values and Goals as found in the *MTSA Administrative Manual*.

Additionally, administration, staff and faculty must understand that as persons of learning and educational representatives of MTSA, they must remember the public may judge their professions and the institution by their words and acts.

While off campus, yet representing the School (i.e., conventions, seminars, etc), at all times, administration, staff and faculty should be accurate and show respect for the opinions of others, while abiding by MTSA standards and policies. Special care should be given when personal opinion is shared that may conflict with MTSA standards and/or policies and procedures.

MTSA faculty and staff have the right to be treated with respect by each student, and the student will be held accountable for doing so. Digressions may be reported to, with possible hearing by, the Progressions Committee and/or the President's Council.

Faculty and staff have a right to the grievance and due process protocol, as listed in the *MTSA Administrative Manual* and *Faculty Handbook*.

## **Patients' Rights**

Patients have a right to be cared for with the utmost respect by nurse anesthesia students as they are specializing in anesthesia. They should expect that the quality of care will reflect the scope and standards for nurse anesthesia practice, and abide by HIPAA regulations.

Doctoral students that are utilizing any patients or subjects in the course of their scholarly projects must have their project approved by the institutional review board (IRB).

## **Applicants' Rights**

Applicants have a right to expect that MTSA will follow the most current edition of the *MTSA Student Handbook* related to admission requirements and processes for the program in which they are interested, with the understanding that there will be updates and revisions at least annually.

## **Students' Rights**

Students have a right to expect that MTSA will treat them with respect, and will abide by the standards set forth in the most current edition of the *MTSA Student Handbook* applicable to their program of study. Students have the right to a grievance process as described in policy 5.1.102: Students' Rights: Complaints/Grievances.

## **NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY**

### **MTSA Policy 3.2.104**

MTSA admits students without regard to race, color, sex, age, disability, marital status, full- or part-time status, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the School. MTSA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, disability, marital status, full- or part-time status, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, grant and loan programs, or any other School-administered programs. The School will make reasonable accommodation wherever necessary for all applicants with disabilities, provided that the individual is otherwise qualified to safely perform the duties and assignments connected with requirements of the curriculum.

## **ANNUAL SECURITY REPORT**

### **MTSA Policy 3.3.113**

Annually, MTSA collects and submits the crime statistics from the Annual Security Report to the Secretary of Education to comply with the Clery Act. The Annual Security Report includes statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on campus and on public property immediately adjacent to the campus. The statistics are collected from the Campus Security Authorities and the Metro Nashville Police Department. The report also includes institutional policies concerning campus security, such as policies concerning sexual assault, and other matters. A paper or electronic copy of the Annual Security Report may be obtained by contacting the Office of the Vice President of Academics (615 732-7893) or at <http://www.mtsa.edu> .

## **CONSUMER INFORMATION**

The Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA), include requirements for disclosing information to the public. It is our hope that this concerted effort between MTSA and the Department of Education to provide pertinent consumer data will allow all students access to information they need to make the best decision possible for them and their future. These disclosures may be obtained from the MTSA administrative offices or by visiting the Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia website -



<http://mtsa.edu/admissions/financial-aid/consumer-information/> .

## **STUDENT LINES OF COMMUNICATION**

### **MTSA Policy 5.1.110**

**Email** is the official form of communication between students and MTSA, unless otherwise indicated on a class syllabus. This is how a student will be updated on policies, procedures, and items related to course work or degree requirements.

Students are issued an MTSA email address and are expected to check their email on a routine basis. The email is also linked to the internal school Google Calendar that includes class and simulation schedules. **No other email account may be used for official communication with the school.** In emergency situations only, text messages will be sent from BlackBoard Connect to students' cellphones to keep them informed of the situation.

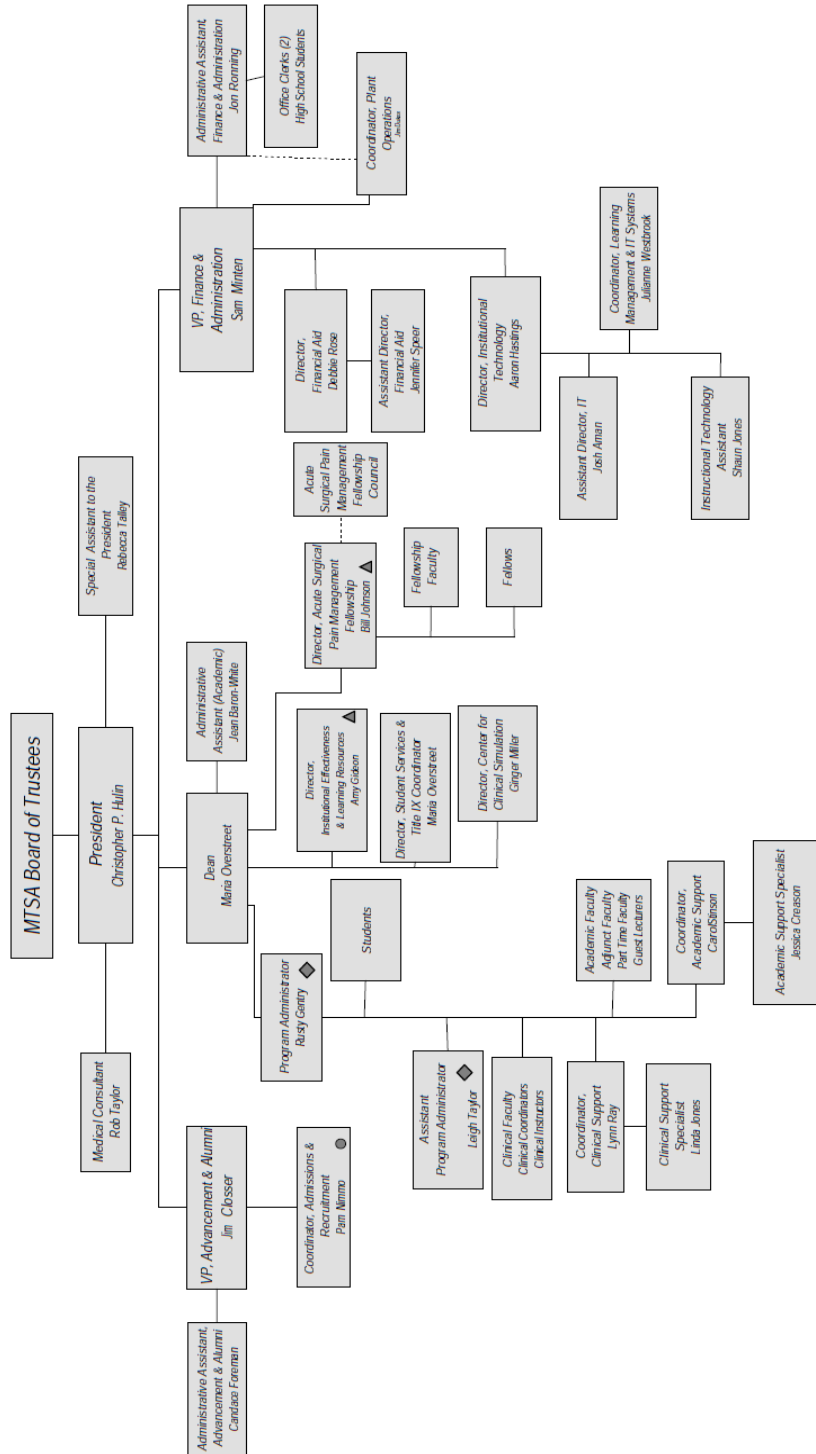
There are times when the students may not be able to talk directly with the Program Administrator as quickly as they may wish or may be uncomfortable talking to specific administrators. The following is an attempt to assure that students continue to have open lines of communication for issues they may perceive as problematic.

Should students find there are School-related (academic or clinical) issues they wish to address, the Program Administrator is the first person to whom students should address these issues. If the Program Administrator is unavailable, the following other CRNA faculty members are able to address these concerns: The Faculty Mentor/Advisor to whom the student is assigned, the Assistant Program Administrator, or the Vice President of Academics . If the issue involves an area other than academic/clinical, or students do not feel comfortable or it is not convenient to approach any of these faculty members, then it is entirely appropriate and even encouraged for students to address their concerns and/or issues with any of the MTSA administrators.

# MTSA ORGANIZATIONAL FLOWCHART

(Demonstrates Student Lines of Communication)

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE SCHOOL OF ANESTHESIA ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Additional Administrative Support Role

- ▲ Special Assistant to the President provides additional support to this title
- Administrative Assistant, Advancement & Alumni provides additional support to this title
- ◆ Administrative Assistant (Academic) provides additional support to this title

As of  
December 2018

# ADMISSIONS POLICY ACROSS ALL PROGRAMS

## MTSA Policy 5.4.104

*Revised 8/6/2018 – replaces all prior policies*

MTSA is a single purpose institution with a focus in graduate nurse anesthesia education and currently offers two degrees over two programs; DNAP degree in either completion or entry to practice format.

MTSA enrolls up to 72 accepted applicants into the new class for the DNAP Practice Doctorate (PD) Program, once each year. The Council of Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Programs (COA) does not limit MTSA class size for the DNAP completion program. MTSA determines the size of the class each year based on applicant pool and faculty resources.

The specific procedures for application and admission for each program are delineated further in the appropriate student handbook. Any questions regarding these admissions requirements should be forwarded to the Coordinator, Admissions and Recruitment.

General admissions requirements across all programs include but are not limited to:

- Baccalaureate degree from regionally accredited program (Master's or DNAP PD programs) or Master of Science degree from a COA accredited institution (DNAP completion program)
- Current professional licensures
- Submission of all transcripts
- Professional references
- Personal letter
- Recommended minimum cumulative GPA 3.0 or recent upper-level academic coursework demonstrating satisfactory proficiency

### **Additional Requirements for International Student Applicants**

#### **◆ Professional RN/APN/APRN Licensure (as indicated by program)**

Graduates who have not achieved licensure as professional Registered Nurses in the United States will not meet the eligibility requirements for application to MTSA.

#### **◆ Foreign School Transcripts**

For graduates of foreign schools, MTSA requires that all transcripts from foreign schools be reviewed by a common external agency. This review is the responsibility of the applicant, and will not be completed by MTSA. This external agency can be contacted via the following methods:

Director of Evaluation  
World Education Services, Inc.  
P.O. Box 745  
Old Chelsea Station  
New York, NY 10113-0745

Telephone Number: 212-966-6311; Fax 212-966-6395;

E-mail: [info@wes.org](mailto:info@wes.org)

MTSA enrolls up to 72 accepted applicants into the new class for the 36-month DNAP Practice Doctorate (PD) Program once each year, with classes beginning in January. All applications for the DNAP PD program must be uploaded and submitted through **NursingCAS** (including GRE scores) before the application deadline.

After the application deadline, the Screening Committee reviews the applicant pool, based on the following requirements, to determine which applicants will receive an invitation to interview with the Admissions Committee. The criteria in *Admission Requirements* will be used to determine if an applicant is invited to interview.

## ***PROGRAM SPECIFIC***

### **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

**For official Admissions Policy Across Programs, see MTSA Policy 5.4.104**

#### **◆ A Baccalaureate Degree**

A minimum of a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited program in nursing OR a licensed Registered Nurse with a minimum of a baccalaureate degree in a related field of science is required for interview and admission to MTSA. If the baccalaureate degree is not in nursing, the applicant must have at least 15 semester hours of biophysical sciences beyond the basic nursing degree (associate degree or diploma graduate).

#### **◆ Current Licensure as a Professional Registered Nurse (RN)**

After acceptance but prior to enrollment at MTSA, the student must have either a multi-state Tennessee RN license or hold a Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) or enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC) license. If the student is maintaining a permanent residence address in their NLC/eNLC license state, they can continue to use their NLC/eNLC license in TN. Students who have a TN Only license must have it changed to a multi-state license as soon as possible. If the student applies for a TN Only license before they reside in the state, they can have it changed by the Tennessee Board of Nursing (TBON) when they have a TN address and TN Driver's License. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) [website](#) lists the current NLC/eNLC states. The TBN address is as follows:

Tennessee Board of Nursing, Health Related Boards  
655 Main Stream Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Nashville, TN 37243  
Phone (615) 532-5166 or (800) 778-4123  
[tn.health@tn.gov](mailto:tn.health@tn.gov)

#### **◆ Critical Care RN Experience**

A minimum of one year (excluding orientation) of recent (within the last 3 years) nursing experience as a Registered Nurse in a critical care patient setting within the United States, its territories or a U.S. military hospital outside of the United States. Highest priority is given to applicants who have the most recent work in high acuity, large hospital ICU/CCU settings where a broad base of invasive hemodynamic monitoring experience, management of ventilated patients, and administration of frequently-titrated vasoactive drugs in the care of adult patients are likely. A mix of neonatal/pediatric and adult ICU experience may be accepted; however, as most patients cared for in the anesthesia educational program are adults, adult ICU experience is expected. Emergency Department experience alone does not meet the Council on Accreditation ICU requirements.

◆ **Verification of Continued Critical Care RN employment**

ALL applicants, whether recent RN graduates or RN candidates with additional experience in other areas of nursing, who have had less than one full year of recent critical care experience at the time of the interview, and who are accepted to MTSA will have been accepted ONLY with the contingency that they remain in the critical care area until the month of enrollment at MTSA. To assure MTSA that they have met this continued employment expectation, these candidates are required to have their nursing supervisor validate that they have continued employment in the critical care area up to the month of enrollment (January). The clinical validation of continued critical care must be on hospital letterhead and signed by the nursing supervisor, and is subject to verification by MTSA. It is the accepted applicant's responsibility to obtain and submit such verification to the Admissions Coordinator at MTSA (fax to (615)732-7662).

◆ **CCRN Certification**

CCRN is recommended for first-time applicants, and is highly recommended for all re-applicants.

◆ **Current Certifications**

**Prior to application:** Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) Provider status certification is required prior to any interview. This ACLS certification must stay current throughout the program. Certification need to be through the American Heart Association.

**Prior to enrollment,** all students must have Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) and Basic Life Support (BLS). If admitted into the program, the ACLS, BLS and PALS must have an expiration date specified by MTSA, to plan for one recertification on campus to maintain certifications throughout the program.

◆ **Transcripts**

Official transcripts (issued directly from the institution to NursingCAS and not stamped as issued to student) of ALL academic work since high school must be submitted to NursingCAS prior to the application deadline. Please check the website for specific application deadline dates. This includes any non-degree seeking courses taken at any time since high school. If applicant is enrolled in any course between the submission of the application and enrollment, they must have an official transcript for this course submitted to MTSA. Continued acceptance and enrollment are contingent upon MTSA's receipt of this official transcript.

◆ **Chemistry**

A minimum of a 3-credit hour college level general chemistry course covering the principles of basic chemistry, biochemistry, and organic chemistry is required. A chemistry course completed as part of a BSN degree curriculum is acceptable to fulfill the chemistry requirement. The

admissions committee and the MTSA administration will review a chemistry course not completed as part of a BSN degree curriculum on an individual basis.

◆ **Minimum 3.0 Cumulative GPA**

Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA (including a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in science areas.) It is highly recommended that the nursing school (cumulative) grade point average (GPA) be at least 3.0 based on a 4.0 grading system, and the science GPA be at least 3.0. Transcripts must demonstrate that all general education curriculum requirements from the baccalaureate degree are met.

◆ **References**

Three (3) references are required with your application. These must be from the following individuals: two from current ICU shift leader, team leader, nurse manager, or other nursing supervisor and one from an academic reference. Applicants will enter the name and email address of the reference in the NursingCAS application and forms will automatically be sent to listed references for completion. References are subject to verification.

◆ **Personal Letter**

A brief personal letter from the applicant is to address professional experience, desire to become a nurse anesthetist, and why the applicant chose MTSA. This letter is to be uploaded in the NursingCAS application and is sent to the Admissions Committee for review.

◆ **GRE Results**

The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) must be completed and results sent to NursingCAS, prior to any interview. To find the nearest testing center, go [here](http://www.ets.org/gre) (www.ets.org/gre). MTSA's GRE code is 1410.

**NOTE:** The GRE is waived for applicants who have earned a master's or doctoral degree from a regionally accredited college or university in the United States.

## **Additional Requirements for International RN/Student Applicants**

### **Professional RN License**

Applicants must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States and hold a current licensure as a professional Registered Nurse in the United States to meet the eligibility requirements for application to MTSA.

### **Foreign School Transcripts**

For graduates of foreign schools, MTSA requires that all transcripts from foreign schools be reviewed by a common external agency. This review is the responsibility of the applicant, and will not be completed by MTSA. This external agency can be contacted via the following methods:

Director of Evaluation  
World Education Services, Inc.  
P.O. Box 745  
Old Chelsea Station

New York, NY 10113-0745  
Telephone Number: 212-966-6311; Fax 212-966-6395;  
E-mail: [info@wes.org](mailto:info@wes.org)

## **Admissions Interview Process**

MTSA holds one admissions interview session period annually. Due to the number of applications MTSA typically receives, this annual meeting of the full Admissions Committee for the admissions interview session is projected to span two to three business days. The Admissions Committee meets for its annual interview session in mid-July. **An applicant's file must be complete prior to the deadline to be considered by the Screening Committee for an interview with the Admissions Committee.**

After the Screening Committee has determined an applicant is competitively qualified to meet with the Admissions Committee, the applicant will then be invited by MTSA to interview with the Admissions Committee during the annual interview session. Each applicant who receives an invitation from the Screening Committee to interview with the Admissions Committee will receive notification from the Admissions Coordinator regarding the scheduled date and time for his personal interview with the Admissions Committee. MTSA is under no obligation to invite every candidate who applies to the School to an interview, as the admission process to MTSA is competitive, and the overall applicant pool varies from year to year.

## **The Personal Interview**

The applicant is expected to dress in professional attire for this interview. The committee is interested in determining the candidate's base knowledge of physiology and associated critical care therapies. Specific emphasis is placed on the cardio-pulmonary systems, as well as one's understanding of the mechanism of action, of drugs the applicant listed on their application. The candidate should be prepared to answer questions related to ventilated patients, and invasive hemodynamic monitoring.

## **Personal Attestations**

In keeping with MTSA's drug free environment, applicants will be required to sign a statement relative to substance abuse prior to interview and enrollment and are expected to refrain from substance abuse as students.

## **Background Check and Release**

Students are expected to be good citizens; consequently, ALL applicants are required to complete and sign a form, indicating **any** charge, arrest, or conviction of a felony or misdemeanor, other than a minor traffic violation, even if they have been told that such a charge, arrest, or conviction has been expunged from their record (since some affiliates perform federal-level background checks, which reveal all charges, arrests, and convictions, even if expunged at another level).

## Applicants Accepted into another Nurse Anesthesia Program

If an applicant has already been accepted for admission at another school of anesthesia, but is still interested in interviewing for admission at MTSA, the applicant should submit documentation of acceptance at another anesthesia school on that school's official letterhead to the MTSA Admissions Coordinator, for inclusion in the applicant's file.

## Acceptance Process

The Screening Committee will determine which applicants will be accepted and MTSA will call and send acceptance letters to those selected for admission. Each selected applicant will be given a **2 (two) week period** in which to respond and the deadline will be stated in the invitation. If an applicant chooses to accept the offered position in the upcoming class, they **must** submit the **Non-Refundable Deposit** to MTSA with the acceptance response letter by the stated deadline. After the stated deadline, if the **Non-Refundable Deposit** has not been received at MTSA, the applicant will forfeit the offered position in the upcoming class, and MTSA may then offer the vacant position to an alternate applicant.

After accepting a position in the upcoming class, if an accepted applicant changes his mind and decides at a later date to decline acceptance into the program at MTSA for any reason, the **Non-Refundable Deposit** will not be refunded.

Practice Doctorate Class of 2020	
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<b>Non-Refundable Deposit</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
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## Academic Contingency

MTSA highly encourages and has a strong expectation that applicants who are currently enrolled in a nurse anesthesia program at any school of nursing or in any specific master's or doctorate level course at any school will remain engaged in that program or course and will complete that program or course successfully (minimum grade of B) and in good standing prior to enrollment at MTSA. Applicants currently enrolled in any academic program or course must disclose this to MTSA during the application process.

The applicant should be aware that if they are accepted to MTSA, their acceptance is contingent upon successful completion (minimum grade of B) and continued engagement (attendance, participation, etc.) in the program or course in which he or she is enrolled. Furthermore, upon completion of any program or course in which an applicant has been enrolled, the applicant is required to have an official transcript for any program or course submitted to MTSA's Admissions Coordinator, prior to enrollment at MTSA.

## Additional Qualifications for Admission, Progression, and Graduation

Although this is not an all-inclusive list, MTSA believes the following qualifications represent some of the reasonable physical and intellectual requirements necessary to perform safely in both the educational program and profession of nurse anesthesia:



## **Observation and Communication**

- ◆ Ability to communicate clearly and effectively with patients of all ages, family members, and other members on the health care team in written and spoken English.
- ◆ Ability to process large amounts of information and activity in the operating room using visual, auditory, tactile, and other sensory cues to monitor and plan patient care.
- ◆ Ability to audibly distinguish the changes of pitch and tone of patient monitor devices and alarms.

## **Motor**

- ◆ Display fine motor skills, coordinating touch and vision, necessary to complete complex tasks such as cannulation of veins and arteries, performance of regional anesthesia and direct laryngoscopy etc.
- ◆ Demonstrate strength and ability to assist safe transfer of patient.
- ◆ Stamina to stand or sit for extended periods of times.
- ◆ Respond quickly to changes in patient condition and participate in intervention, including but not limited to cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and emergency transportation.

## **Cognitive**

- ◆ Possess foundational knowledge and ability to complete complex mathematical calculations without the use of electronic assistance.
- ◆ Skill to read and retain large amounts of information and draw from this information to critically analyze and problem solve.
- ◆ Ability to distinguish standard patient responses from non-standard responses and plan interventions accordingly using critical thinking. Also possess judgment to know when to call for assistance from other members of healthcare team.

## **Behavior**

- ◆ Exhibit professional and appropriate behavior when interacting with patients, all members of the healthcare team, and the general public.
- ◆ Maintain professionalism and confidentiality when dealing with patient issues, adhering to HIPAA guidelines.
- ◆ Demonstrate flexibility and efficiency while working in a rapidly changing environment. Gracefully accept changes in assignments and scheduling.
- ◆ Display good judgment and ethical behavior that is in coordination with common Christian standards including honesty, integrity, sensitivity to culture and the person, and adherence to the professional nursing code of ethics.

## **Re-Applicants**

All applicants who are re-applying must meet the following requirements:

1. Reapply in NursingCAS (follow instructions for re-application)

2. Submit a minimum of three (3) NEW references from professionals who have observed their clinical performance during the past year. (See Admission Requirements – References above).
3. Submit a transcript (to Nursing CAS) reflecting completion of at least three semester hours in graduate level biophysical science courses (i.e., Organic Chemistry, Advanced Physiologic Concepts of Acute Care, Advanced Pathophysiology, Physics, Biochemistry, and Pathophysiology). These courses must be completed within the past year or since last interviewing with the Admissions Committee. Grades less than ‘B’ are not considered competitive and are not accepted for this course completion requirement by MTSA; grades of ‘A’ are expected.
4. Continue working in an active critical care area with exposure to invasive hemodynamic monitors and ventilated patients and provide verification of such.

Candidates who have been repeatedly denied admission to MTSA are strongly encouraged to apply elsewhere. If a candidate has been granted any type of admissions interview during more than three (3) separate annual interview cycles, and the candidate has been denied a position as a student or as an alternate each time, the candidate may not be permitted to interview again. If a candidate has applied and been denied to receive any type of interview with the Admissions Committee, for more than three (3) annual interview cycles, additional re-applications will no longer be accepted.

*\* Any requests for alterations to deadlines for any admission criteria must be submitted in writing prior to the application deadline as noted on the school website. These requests must be reviewed for approval by the Nurse Anesthesia Program (NAP) Council.*

## **Application Checklist**

An applicant’s file must be complete prior to the deadline to be considered by the Screening Committee for an interview with the Admissions Committee. Each application file must contain all of the following items. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that all application is received prior to the deadline, including transcripts and reference letters.

- Doctorate of Nurse Anesthesia Practice: Practice Doctorate Program Application**  
(application form available on MTSA website, [www.mtsa.edu](http://www.mtsa.edu))
- Application fee of \$70 through NursingCas**
- Three (3) professional references (all references are subject to verification)**
  - ◆ These must be from the following individuals: two from current ICU shift leader, team leader, nurse manager, or other nursing supervisor and one from an academic reference.
  - ◆ Please have correct and complete addresses and phone numbers listed on the application form, in the event MTSA needs to contact them for further recommendation or clarification.
  - ◆ The applicant will list the references names and contact information in NursingCas and the evaluation form will automatically be sent to the references for them to complete and upload into NursingCas.
- GRE scores** if applicable. The GRE scores must be sent to NursingCas. MTSA school code: 1410

❑ **A copy of current BLS/ACLS certification**

*(PALS is not required prior to interview, but is required prior to enrollment.)*

❑ **A copy of current RN license**

- ◆ A copy of the current RN license for each state in which the applicant currently holds an RN license, including the expiration date for each.
- ◆ A list of all states in which the applicant has ever held an RN license

❑ **A personal letter to the Admissions Committee**

- ◆ This letter should briefly describe your educational background, nursing experience, reason for desiring the specialty of nurse anesthesia, and reason for desiring admission to MTSA, specifically.
- ◆ This letter should be no more than one page, single-spaced, with 12-point font.

❑ **Official academic transcripts from EVERY institution of higher learning attended.**

- ◆ This includes transcripts for any and all non-degree seeking academic courses taken since high school.
- ◆ MTSA cannot accept transcripts stamped “Issued to Student.” The transcripts must be sent to NursingCas from the institution.

**Submit all of the above items through NursingCAS prior to the admission deadline.**

## **EVALUATING AND AWARDING ACADEMIC CREDIT (Formerly Transfer Policy)**

### **MTSA Policy 5.4.105**

(8/2018 – replaces all prior transfer policies)

Due to the single purpose, lock step nature, anesthesia-focused educational curricula that MTSA offers, transfer credit will not be accepted to the DNAP PD program.

In the rare instance that a student applies to transfer into the DNAP Completion program from another DNAP completion program, MTSA would allow that applicant to petition the NAP Council for consideration of transfer of up to six (6) hours of academic credit for courses that are determined to be identical in overall student learning outcomes.

## **STUDENT TEMPORARY LEAVE OF ABSENCE POLICY**

### **MTSA Policy 5.1.108**

(REVISED 1/2020)

The study of nurse anesthesia is highly specialized, and the curriculum is formatted to follow a natural progression from basic principles to more advanced topics. Rarely, a student may experience a life circumstance that necessitates a temporary leave of absence from the program. The maximum duration of a Temporary Leave of Absence (TLOA) is twelve (12) weeks for students in the DNAP Practice Doctorate program, one (1) year in the Fellowship program and one (1) year for students in the DNAP Completion program. Exceptions to the program limit may be granted under extenuating circumstances. Students may request a TLOA from the nurse anesthesia program for the following reasons:

1. Medical emergency
2. Maternity
3. Call to active military service

MTSA will maintain the confidentiality of all information regarding TLOA in accordance with federal, state, and local law, and to the greatest extent consistent with the goal of processing such leaves. All records concerning a TLOA are confidential and the official copy of such records shall be retained by the school. Access to these records is limited by appropriate federal, state, and local law.

### **Process for Student TLOA:**

The Program Administrator must approve a student's TLOA. Only students who are in good standing (no current clinical or academic probation) can be granted a TLOA. TLOA must be requested and approved before, or within the current quarter of the absence. Requests for retroactive TLOA will not be approved.

To request a TLOA, a student must:

1. Notify the Program Administrator in writing (i.e. email) intent to request TLOA.
2. Meet personally with the Program Administrator and the Assistant Program Administrator to

discuss the reasons for the TLOA (unless medical circumstances prevent).

3. Submit the *MTSA Request for Temporary Leave of Absence* form. This form is located on the MTSA website (<http://mtsa.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Request-for-Temporary-Leave-of-Absence.pdf>), and must be submitted in writing, signed and dated by student, and include the reason for the student's request. The form will need to be signed by the Program Administrator and the Director of Financial Aid (if student has Title IV loans and needs a financial aid TLOA). A copy of the completely signed form will be given to the Coordinator of Academic Support and the Coordinator of Clinical Support, and kept in the student's permanent file.

Following the meeting with the Program Administrator, the student will be notified in writing about the TLOA decision and any requirements for the student's return to the nurse anesthesia program. The Program Administrator will determine requirements for re-entry into the nurse anesthesia program. Requirements for return may include: repeating some courses, extended clinical work, and/or extension of time in the nurse anesthesia program. These requirements will be in writing and signed by the Program Administrator and the student, and a copy will be kept in the student's permanent file. Applicable tuition will be determined by the Office of Financial Aid.

## Types of TLOA

**Medical/maternity TLOA:** Requests must be accompanied by a statement from a medical doctor explaining why the student must interrupt enrollment. Students granted a medical or maternity TLOA, must have a licensed physician certify in writing that the student's physical and/or mental health is sufficient to continue in the nurse anesthesia program. This documentation must state the student's condition that necessitated the TLOA has been corrected and the student is able to complete all curriculum requirements with reasonable accommodation; including classroom, simulation, and clinical, before they will be allowed to return to MTSA.

**Military Leave of Absence:** For those being inducted, requests must be accompanied by a copy of military orders indicating the induction date. For students being called to active military service Title 5, Section 40401, provides for an extended leave of absence up to a maximum of two (2) years due to approved educational reasons and for circumstances beyond a student's control. MTSA will approve a TLOA for students called for active military service as a result of mobilization of U.S. military reserves. Students will retain a student position.

## REFUND POLICY/WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES

### MTSA Policy 5.1.106

Revised 2/2020

Any student/Fellow who wishes to withdraw from MTSA must notify their Program Administrator in writing of this action. Any withdrawal without a prior meeting with the Program Administrator may be considered permanent.

### Refund Policy

MTSA will permit any student/Fellow to cancel their enrollment agreement within 72 hours of the enrollment day. Should a cancellation occur MTSA will refund 100% of the first tuition payment that was made by the student/Fellow, minus the deposit submitted to hold the student/Fellow position in class. Students/Fellows who have been given a medical withdrawal are assessed and adjusted no differently than other withdrawals.

### **Pro Rata Refund**

If a student/Fellow withdraws or is terminated from the program after the period allowed for cancellation of the enrollment agreement and has completed 60% or less of the period of attendance (semester), the student/Fellow is entitled to a partial prorated refund. MTSA will calculate whether a tuition refund is due, and if so, remit a refund within 45 days following the student's/Fellow's withdrawal or termination. For students receiving funds through the Federal Student Aid program, unearned funds will be returned to the aid programs in the order required under Federal Law. For students/Fellows receiving funds through a non-federal loan, the VA, or sponsor, unearned funds will be returned to the lender or agency. Any remaining balance will be paid to the student/Fellow. The pro rata percentage is based on days of attendance within the period of attendance. Students/Fellows who stop attending all classes but do not complete the official withdrawal process could owe a repayment of Title IV funds. Please contact the Office of Financial Aid (615-732-7884) for more information.

### **Determination of the Withdrawal Date**

The student's/Fellow's withdrawal date is the last date of the academic attendance as determined by the institution from its attendance records. If the institutional leave of absence is not considered an official leave of absence for Title IV purposes, the withdrawal date for a student/Fellow who takes an institutional leave of absence is the last date of attendance prior to the leave.

### **MTSA Internal Withdrawal Procedures:**

1. Program Administrator begins withdrawal procedure by forwarding the student's written document (email) of intent to withdraw to Academics.

### **Student receiving Veterans Benefits Withdrawal Procedure:**

1. Complete withdrawal procedure as noted above.
2. Contact the Office of Financial Aid for information regarding your veterans' benefits.
3. It is VA's policy, if you withdraw from your program at MTSA, Veterans Affairs (VA) must reduce or stop your benefits. You may have to repay all benefits for the program unless you can show that the change was due to mitigating circumstances.\*

*"Mitigating circumstances"* are unavoidable and unexpected events that directly interfere with

your pursuit of a course and are beyond your control. Examples of reasons VA may accept are extended illness and unscheduled changes in your employment. Examples of reasons VA may not accept are withdrawal to avoid a failing grade or dislike of the instructor. VA may ask you to furnish evidence to support your reason for a change. If a serious injury or illness caused the change, obtain a statement from your doctor. If a change in employment caused the change, obtain a statement from your employer.

For more information about VA policies, please contact [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) 1-888-GIBILL1 (1-888-442-4551)

## FINANCIAL ENROLLMENT AND OBLIGATIONS

Prior to enrollment, admitted applicants are required to contact the Department of Financial Aid to arrange to meet in person, online, or by phone to discuss financial aid needs. Information about the academic and clinical requirements is reviewed, as well as the enrollment process and student financial aid.

### Enrollment Day

On enrollment day, representatives from the Business Office and Financial Aid Office will review and summarize all costs, schedules, and obligations, and will issue and discuss the salient financial aid features of the current year's *Student Handbook*. Students will sign the Enrollment Contract and pay the Period 1 tuition, by direct payment or by deduction from a financial aid disbursement. Late enrollment is **not** permitted without special NAP Council or Progressions Committee approval. Students will be asked to review the Release of Information Policy and sign the consent form, and will also be made aware of HIPAA policies related to patient data collection for educational purposes.

### Current Tuition & Fees

Tuition and fees are due at the beginning of each of the payment periods, as outlined by the Business Office.

Following invitation from Admissions Office, written acceptance by incoming student and compilation of official class composite, a Financial Aid packet is mailed promptly to each member of the incoming class, which packet includes a Disbursement & Tuition Schedule for the 36-month program.

#### *Summary of Tuition & Fees (2018-2020)*

*Tuition*

*This amount includes the \$4,000 non-refundable deposit paid prior to enrollment. \**

**\$77,520**

*Fees*

***Since most fees are mandated by parties other than MTSA, the student will be responsible for payment of any fee increase (for a list of specific fees please contact the Business/Financial Aid Office).***

**\$18,080**

*Total tuition and fees:*

**\$95,600**

*\* Federal Loan and alternative loan monies are released over 9 separate disbursements. Contact the Office of Financial Aid for these specific dates and monetary amounts.*

**NOTE:** If any tuition due date coincides with an out-of-town rotation, and the student has chosen not to receive financial aid, it is the student’s responsibility to make arrangements with the Business Office to make payment on a timely basis.

Fees throughout the program may include:

- ◆ **3% Credit or Debit Card Fee:** if student uses a credit or debit card to pay tuition or purchase any item through the school.
- ◆ **Delinquent tuition fee:** A **\$100 late fee** will be assessed on delinquent tuition payments, for each MTSA business day (Mon-Thurs) that the tuition payment is delinquent. Therefore, if tuition is due on one Monday, but is not paid until the following Monday, an additional \$400 delinquent tuition fee is levied.

## **Additional Expenses Students May Incur**

### ***Expenses Covered by Tuition & Fees***

1. **TB Skin Testing:** After enrollment, students are required to have a current single-step TB skin test, with results measured in millimeters, on file with the office of the Coordinator of Clinical Support.

Before entering clinical rotations, students may need to update their TB test records as some affiliates require TB skin test 3 months before the assignment begins. Both the Coordinator of Clinical Support and the Clinical Assistant have been trained by the Davidson County Health Department and are qualified to administer this TB skin test **to current students only**.

If results are positive, a chest x-ray is required, until proof of normal chest x-rays for two consecutive years are in MTSA’s file. If the chest x-ray is required, MTSA will refer the student to another facility, and it must be performed at the **student’s additional expense**. If a student chooses not to have TB skin testing done at MTSA, the student will be responsible for meeting the same testing and documentation requirements, but these will be entirely on the student’s “off” time and **at the student’s personal additional expense**.

2. **Lab Coat:** After successful completion of second semester, each student will be presented with a lab coat with the MTSA logo. Students are expected to abide by MTSA’s complete **dress code**.
3. **Nationwide (Columbus) Children’s Hospital Housing Cleaning Deposit:** MTSA provides a \$300 allowance for students who rotate to Nationwide Children’s Hospital, \$100 of which is issued prior to travel. At the end of the student’s Columbus rotation, when the



cleaning agency inspects the hospital provided apartment and notifies MTSA's Business Office that the apartment was left in acceptable condition, the Business Office will issue a check to the student for the remainder of \$200.

4. **Molded earpiece:** This should be for the ear in which the student's hearing is best. Traditionally, MTSA has a company come to campus to make earpieces. If hearing is equal in both ears, it may be better to get the earpiece for the right ear, as the clinical instructor usually stands on the left side, allowing the student to better hear instructions.
5. **Nerve stimulator:** MTSA will order these for all students. Additional information will be provided during orientation.
6. **Pager:** Vanderbilt affiliate requires the use of a pager. Pager numbers will be issued to students prior to beginning clinical rotations. When on rotation at Vanderbilt, it is expected that the student will have their cellphone with pager number on them and turned on all day every weekday and during clinical, call and class time.
7. **Initial Mandatory Drug Screening:** Per requirements from some clinical affiliates, all students will receive drug testing after enrollment and at least one additional time during their tenure at MTSA. The cost for this initial testing is included in the fees set by MTSA. Students should also plan on receiving random drug testing, the cost for which is included in tuition and fees.
8. **AANA dues:** The charge for required associate (student) membership in the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) is covered in the student's tuition and fees.
9. **TASNA/TANA dues and fees:** The MTSA tuition and fees covers both the Tennessee Association of Student Nurse Anesthetists (TASNA) fee to each student enrolled in a nurse anesthesia educational program in Tennessee, and the Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetists (TANA) registration fee for the annual TANA meeting, at which attendance is required by MTSA during the .

### ***Expenses Covered by Student***

1. **Textbooks:** Students will purchase textbooks prior to entrance into the program. Prior to enrollment, MTSA distributes the list of textbooks for the school year. There are two lists: required texts, and optional "additional reading" texts.
2. **Physical Examination:** Each accepted applicant is required to have a physical exam during the months **prior to enrollment** and complete the Health History Form. This form is to be returned to the MTSA Admissions Coordinator by December 13, with all information required on the Health History form, or the accepted applicant's position in the incoming class may be forfeited. This includes:
  - The **actual lab reports** showing evidence of either immune or non-immune for the titers Rubella and Rubeola.
  - The **actual lab reports** giving evidence of positive Varicella titer drawn from a reputable laboratory with date and result, OR evidence of two Varicella vaccines given no less than one month apart and a post-vaccine titer. Any Varicella titer in the negative range (indicating no immunity) must have the Varivax vaccine in the two-stage process.

If the Varivax vaccine is indicated, it is the student's responsibility to obtain this vaccine and to provide documentation of such to the MTSA Admissions Coordinator prior to enrollment at MTSA.

- Written documentation of completed series of three Hepatitis B vaccines or documentation of refusal of the vaccine (from physician's office).
- Record of tetanus booster (from physician's office in the last seven years).
- Documentation (the actual report) of completion of the CDC-required TB skin test will be required within at least the 12 months prior to enrollment.
- Some clinical sites require various other vaccines prior to participation there, and these vaccines will be required (i.e. H<sub>1</sub>N<sub>1</sub>, flu, TDAP vaccine past the age of 18).
- All student health records may be shared with appropriate personnel at any clinical affiliate, if requested. Students must sign a release of information form.

MTSA reserves the right to deny admittance of an accepted applicant if the physical examination or health information deems that the person would be incapable of completing the program.

3. **Ohio Nursing License:** After the of school, an Ohio RN license must be obtained prior to rotating through an Ohio affiliate (i.e. Nationwide (Columbus) Children's Hospital). Obtaining this license and meeting all the continuing education requirements for such licensure prior to the start of the scheduled rotation is the student's responsibility. The student is encouraged to obtain information about the licensure prior to enrollment. However, as a cost containment measure, the student should wait until the latter part of the (Spring-to-Summer) to actually apply for licensure. The student must have obtained this license and a copy must be given to the Coordinator of Clinical Support before the student affiliates at any Ohio site. The Ohio Board of Nursing address is as follows

State of Ohio Board of Nursing  
17 South High Street, Suite 400  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-7410  
Phone: (614) 466-3947  
Fax: (614) 466-0388  
<http://www.nursing.ohio.gov/>  
<mailto:board@nursing.ohio.gov>

4. **Nursing license in other states:** If MTSA develops affiliates in other sites where the student is assigned, or if the student desires to participate in any other out-of-state affiliate, such as a Senior Elective in a state that is not a Nurse Licensure Compact state, licensure in that state must be obtained at the student's expense and be presented to the Coordinator of Clinical Support of MTSA prior to assignment at that location or prior to full approval of that Senior Elective site.
5. **Health Insurance Coverage:** Each student must provide evidence of personal health insurance coverage upon enrollment and must maintain coverage and documentation of such until graduation from MTSA. MTSA does not assume the student's medical care or

cost for medical care. MTSA does provide information to accepted applicants during the required first day of class regarding some group health insurance plans that are available for students to purchase.

6. **Scrubs:** Each student is **required** to own his/her own scrubs for use on campus and at clinical sites that do not provide scrubs for students to wear. Appropriate operating room apparel is furnished by some of the hospitals and may charge the student if the scrubs are not returned. Students are expected to abide by MTSA's complete **dress code**.
7. **Parking (refundable):** At all affiliating institutions, students will park only in authorized parking lots.

**Vanderbilt parking** -The fee the student submits to MTSA is paid by MTSA to Central Parking for a limited number of Vanderbilt parking cards/tags. These cards/tags are kept at MTSA by the Coordinator of Clinical Support. They are to be signed out by students only if they have a scheduled Vanderbilt rotation. The student is expected to pay a \$60.00 "lost park card" CASH deposit to the Coordinator of Clinical Support upon receipt of the park card. No checks will be accepted for this deposit.

After the student's rotation at Vanderbilt ends, the student must sign the card and tag back in to the Coordinator of Clinical Support at MTSA, and she will return the "lost park card" deposit to the student and then will give the card and tag to the next student scheduled to be at Vanderbilt. The student is not to pass the card and tag on to another student, but must turn it in personally. The School will keep the "lost park card" deposit if the card and tag are not returned to the School within one week after the rotation has ended.

**General Hospital parking** is by parking pass. These passes are available only during the rotation and are distributed and collected by the General Hospital Anesthesia Department. Failure to return the pass will result in a replacement fee, which if not paid immediately, will be collected before graduation.

8. **Meals:** Meals are not provided. Arrangements for meals vary at each affiliation for students. Students in semesters 3-5 returning to class from affiliates will be given adequate time for quick meals. The student lounge is equipped with tables and chairs, microwave ovens, coffee makers and coffee cups, a sink, ice machine, and refrigerators. If students wish to bring their own meals, they must provide their own dishes and utensils. MTSA does not provide daily housekeeping services, so students are expected to be responsible for keeping the lounge tidy (i.e. discarding one's trash, wiping up spills, etc.).
9. **Basic Housing:** It is the students' responsibility to find housing while attending MTSA, as no student housing is available. Admissions coordinator provides a current list of common apartment rental listings in the Middle Tennessee area.

**Accommodations while taking call:** While assigned on call, the student is required to stay within thirty (30) minutes of any hospital at which they are on call. Some hospitals, but not all, provide a room for the student to stay in-house while taking call. If the hospital does not provide a room and the student's home is farther than thirty (30) minutes from the hospital where they are assigned on call, the student is responsible to make their own arrangements for accommodations while taking call (i.e. staying with a classmate).

10. **Protective eyewear:** These are to be worn at all times in operating rooms; cost varies.
11. **iPad:** Every student will need to purchase an iPad with the following specifications (*iPad Pro* or *iPad Air 2*; minimum 32GB free space). Educational programs will be downloaded at first semester intensive week.

This device is used in the classroom for electronic access to PowerPoint slides, testing purposes, recording simulation exercises, and to support student learning. The student and supervising anesthesia providers will also use the iPad in the clinical environment for online completion of student clinical evaluations.

12. **For-Cause Drug Screening:** Any for-cause drug screens requested will be at an additional cost to the student (see ***Student Drug Testing Policy***).

### ***Expenses Covered by MTSA***

1. **School/Accident Related Insurance:** Because students perform clinical assignments in a health care arena where accidents may happen, such as needle sticks, and because clinical affiliate hospitals are unwilling to assume the risk of caring for students in such situation, MTSA provides an accident insurance policy to assure they have appropriate initial healthcare treatment for an untoward event. Although MTSA provides this personal school-related accidental/injury insurance policy, MTSA does not assume the student's medical care nor provide health insurance. This coverage applies only to school-related activities.
2. **Liability/Malpractice Insurance:** During the of the program, students are required to participate in the program for student malpractice coverage carried by MTSA with The State Volunteer Mutual Insurance Company (SVMIC) underwriters. During the entire portion of the program beyond the , students are required to participate in the program for student malpractice coverage carried by MTSA with American Casualty Company, which is recognized by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA). Both insurance companies provide basic limits of liability of a minimum of \$1,000,000 per incident with an aggregate of \$3,000,000, unless the student is in a state which has a different malpractice limit. Should the second-year basic premium increase, the student will be charged a fee in the amount of the increase only, up to \$200. Should the increase be greater than \$200, MTSA will cover the additional increase. **Should it be determined that the actual limits of this basic insurance need to be increased, the student will be asked to cover the actual cost of this increase.**

Each student should be aware that the *MTSA DNAP Practice Doctorate Student Handbook* is updated annually. While significant changes are rare, students must abide by the current version of the *MTSA DNAP Practice Doctorate Student Handbook* including abiding by the most current tuition and fee changes. The student will be notified of financial changes in advance.

## **FINANCIAL PLANNING & STUDENT FINANCIAL AID**

## RN Transition to Full-Time Student

Enrollment in a 36-month continuous course of full-time study during a period of extremely limited financial income may place immense strain on students and their families. Financial difficulties can have an adverse effect on academic endeavors. Applicants are advised to plan their sources of financial support very carefully prior to entry into the program, **since most students are able to work very little, if at all, throughout the program.** In light of this 36-month period of drastically decreased income, applicants who are accepted to MTSA should plan to adjust their lifestyles accordingly.

The Admissions Committee assumes that applicants will be as financially prepared as possible. The following information should prove helpful in financial planning:

- ◆ Some anesthesia groups may be willing to sponsor students attending MTSA. Students who intend to return to their own locality to work after graduation are encouraged to seek sponsorship from anesthesia groups or hospitals in that area. Students should be aware that such sponsorship must be disclosed to the Office of Financial Aid, and it may affect eligibility for Grad Plus or private loans, as discussed below.
- ◆ Part-time employment by a student is permissible **only if prior written approval** has been obtained from the Program Administrator. Failure to maintain satisfactory grades and/or clinical performance levels will give cause for permission for part-time employment to be denied or withdrawn. **It is advised that students do not work during the first five semesters. After this period, a suggested maximum is two shifts per week.**

**NOTE: Anesthesia students may NOT be employed by title OR by function as nurse anesthetists during the 36-month program.**

- ◆ A student's academic standing (i.e. probationary periods) may affect his ability and eligibility to receive financial assistance. If a student has been convicted of an offense under any federal or state law involving the possession or sale of illegal drugs, this may also affect his ability and eligibility to receive financial assistance.
- ◆ Students are encouraged to investigate various civic, church and state agencies in their state of residence to determine if there are grant or scholarships funds available for graduate level studies. Such funds are limited but are available in certain instances. Students should be aware that such scholarship funding **must** be disclosed to the Office of Financial Aid, and it may affect loan borrowing, as discussed below.

## Financial Aid Entrance Interview

All admitted applicants are required to schedule an initial entrance interview with the Financial Aid Office. This interview will occur prior to enrolling. All admitted applicants will be notified by mail of this requirement to schedule this appointment. For further information contact **finaid@mtsa.edu** .

To be considered for financial assistance, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (FAFSA) ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) is a free website; other websites charge a fee) every year during the 36-month program at MTSA. When applying for Financial Aid, the MTSA School Code is 007783-00.

## **Financial Assistance Programs**

Financial assistance programs available to MTSA students include:

### **Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans**

A non-need based federal student loan eligible to students who file a FAFSA. Loans are guaranteed by the federal government and are provided through the U.S. Department of Education. All first time borrowers must complete Loan Entrance Counseling and complete a Master Promissory Note.

- ◆ Students may borrow up to \$20,500 per loan period. (A loan period equals one year)
- ◆ Disbursement of each loan is made in three equal payments.
- ◆ Loans are “variable fixed”, meaning borrowers could receive a new rate with each new loan, but then that rate would be fixed for the life of the loan.
- ◆ Interest begins to accrue on loans from the date of disbursement and continues throughout the life of the loan.
- ◆ Loans have a six-month grace period, when the student ceases to be enrolled at least half-time before repayment begins.

### **Federal Graduate PLUS Loan**

Students must file a FAFSA. Federal Direct Graduate PLUS loans are made to credit-worthy eligible borrowers. All borrowers must complete a PLUS application and Master Promissory Note each new loan period Grad PLUS funds are borrowed.

- ◆ Students may borrow up to the cost of attendance minus any other financial assistance received.
- ◆ Loans are “variable fixed.”
- ◆ Borrowers are responsible for any interest that begins accruing the date of disbursement.
- ◆ If you have an adverse credit history, you may still obtain a Graduate PLUS loan by 1) obtaining an endorser who does not have an adverse credit history, and 2) documenting to the satisfaction of the U.S. Department of Education that there are extenuating circumstances relating to your adverse credit history. (With either option, PLUS credit counseling must be completed by the Graduate PLUS loan borrower).

### **Private Loans**

Private education loans are privately loaned from lenders outside of federal loan borrowing. Private or alternative loans require a separate application, credit check, multiple disclosures and a Self-Certification form. This will be performed each time you borrow for each a new loan period. MTSA encourages serious and deliberate consideration be given to making any borrowing decision. Examine all options. Terms and conditions for a Federal Direct Loan may be more

favorable than the provisions of private education loans. The Financial Aid Office will not certify any amount that exceeds the cost of attendance per loan period.

Consider visiting [www.elmselect.com](http://www.elmselect.com) for the review and selection process. In the “School Search” tab, type in *Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia*, then review the page of lenders used most frequently by MTSA students. Contact the lender of your choice.

MTSA has no preferred lender list or arrangement and does not endorse any loan product or service. Students may apply directly with any lender that they choose.

## **Military Assistance**

The various military programs offer financial assistance to students in exchange for service.

*\*Any scholarship or tuition assistance received by the student must be disclosed to the Office of Financial Aid and will be incorporated into the financial aid package.*

## **Disbursement Information**

The DNAP Practice Doctorate program is a three year program. Loans will be awarded for an academic year. Each academic year is one year long and each academic year has three semesters. Loans will be requested to disburse each semester on the tuition due dates. Loans will be processed to arrive in three equal disbursements.

Direct charges, (tuition and fees) will be deducted from the loans first. MTSA will make a deposit of any credit balance into the student’s bank account through an electronic transfer of funds. Students can view their disbursements on their CAMS student portal.

## **Electronic Funds Transfer Procedure**

1. MTSA receives the financial aid disbursement from the Department of Education and/or private loan source.
2. Tuition and fees are deducted from each student’s financial aid disbursement and posted to each student’s school account.
3. Any remaining credit balance on student’s school account will be moved via EFT to each student’s personal bank account by the posted disbursement date, as directed by the MTSA Authorization Agreement for Electronic Funds Transfer.
  - ◆ Students accounts are maintained in the Business Office and students may access account information on their CAMS student portal.

## **Cancellation Policy**

Students have a right to cancel all or part of the loan disbursement(s) awarded. The loans may be cancelled, with the Financial Aid Office, any time before the loan disbursement dates. Once MTSA is in receipt of the loan funds, students have a right to cancel all or part of the loans within 14 days after the disbursement date for the loan period. In order to cancel any or all of your federal aid, students must confirm in writing the award(s) and amount(s) and send the request to [finaid@mtsa.edu](mailto:finaid@mtsa.edu). Students are responsible for any unpaid balance on their student account. Borrowers will be advised of the status of their request for cancellation.

## **SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICY FOR FEDERAL AID**

(revised 7/2018)

Federal financial aid regulations require that recipients of federal aid maintain satisfactory academic progress toward the completion of their degree. Students must comply with the MTSA standards for Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). All students' academic standing is evaluated by the MTSA Progressions Committee. The Financial Aid Office will review students Title IV eligibility at the end of each semester. Students not meeting the required progression will be placed on Financial Aid Warning for the subsequent semester. This policy applies only to the eligibility to receive Federal Title IV aid.

MTSA Progressions Committee evaluates students' progress after each semester, decisions are made and notices are sent to the Financial Aid Office for the following reasons:

- 1) Activation of student probation,
- 2) Removal from probation,
- 3) Decision to suspend student,
- 4) Termination of a student.

### **Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Standards for Federal Aid**

- Maintain a cumulative grade point average (**GPA**) that is equal to or greater than the graduation standards (3.0) published by the program(s) (**Qualitative Requirement**);
- Successfully complete a minimum of all hours attempted (**PACE or Quantitative Requirement**); and
- Complete the program of study/degree within a maximum number of attempted credits allowed by the degree level—(**Maximum Completion Timeframe**).

### **Minimum GPA**

Students must earn a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA.

### **Minimum Pace**

Students must successfully complete 66.7% of the credit hours they attempt each semester.



**Maximum Timeframe**

Programs at MTSA have scheduled academic coursework which must be successfully completed. Students cannot receive federal aid after attempting 120% of the hours required for the completion of their academic program.

**Repeated coursework**

Each time a course is taken counts as an attempt. Only when a passing grade is received is it counted as a completion. Students may only receive federal aid funding for one repetition of a previously passed course. Any retaken class(es) may count against a student's satisfactory academic progress.

**Financial Aid Warning**

Any student not meeting the SAP requirements at the end of a semester will be placed on Financial Aid Warning, and continue to receive federal aid for one subsequent semester. The student will be monitored for SAP again at the end of the subsequent semester. If the student does not come into compliance with the SAP policy by the end of the subsequent semester, the student will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension. Students may not incur more than two Financial Aid Warnings.

**Financial Aid Suspension**

A student on Financial Aid Warning who does not comply with the SAP policy will lose eligibility for federal aid after the subsequent semester and will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension. All future federal aid will be cancelled. The student will be notified by the Financial Aid Office of their suspension status. The student will remain on this status until they come into compliance with the SAP policy or until they have appealed with a favorable decision. Any student incurring more than two Financial Aid Warnings, will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension.

**Financial Aid Probation**

Students who have successfully appealed will be placed on Financial Aid Probation. Students will receive notification that while on probation, they are eligible for federal aid for one subsequent semester. Failure to meet the academic standards will result in the student being placed on Financial Aid Suspension.

**Financial Aid Appeal**

Students on Financial Aid Suspension may appeal for reconsideration, according to the standard MTSA Appeals Process. If the student's appeal is granted, the student will be placed on Financial Aid Probation and be eligible for federal aid during their probationary period (one payment period). If the student does not meet the terms of the committee decision then the student will remain on Financial Aid Suspension and will not be eligible for federal aid.

Admission to MTSA or maintaining good academic standing, as defined by the academic program, does not necessarily constitute maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress for federal aid purposes.

## **Notification**

Students will be notified in writing of results of any evaluation that affects their eligibility for federal funding.

## **Federal Loan Entrance Counseling**

Prior to disbursement of Federal Direct Loans, students must complete the online Entrance Counseling by accessing <https://studentloans.gov>. MTSA is notified of the student's completion of this process.

## **Federal Loan Exit Counseling**

Prior to exiting MTSA, all students who have obtained federal student loans during their studies at MTSA are required to complete the Exit Counseling process by going to <https://studentloans.gov>.

## **Loan Summary Information**

The National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) is the Department of Education's central database for information regarding your federal student aid. Students can log into the website [www.nslds.ed.gov](http://www.nslds.ed.gov) using their FSA ID (FAFSA ID). Student's loan information and enrollment status are submitted to NSLDS by MTSA, who is an authorized user of the data system.

## **Repayment of Loans**

It is expected that students accepted into MTSA are good citizens and individuals of high integrity, who fully expect to repay all student loans. Students generally have 10-25 years to repay their loans, depending on the repayment program chosen. Payments on Federal Direct Loans are deferred until the student drops below a half-time enrollment status. Interest is accruing on the loans while the student is in school, and payments may be made towards the interest prior to graduation to lower loan balances. The loan servicer will notify students when the first payment is due, usually following the six months grace period upon graduation. To learn about loan repayment options, students should contact their lender.

In Tennessee, the Tennessee Board of Nursing is required by law to indefinitely suspend the license of a nurse upon determination that the licensee is in default on a student loan and has not made arrangements with the loan servicer for repayment.

## **Withdrawals and Return of Title IV Aid**

Students who officially or unofficially withdraw, fail to return from an approved leave of absence or are dismissed from enrollment at MTSA and were recipients of Title IV (federal) aid, may owe a repayment of federal aid back to the Department of Education. Students should be aware that eligibility for future federal aid may be jeopardized by withdrawing from MTSA after federal funds have been disbursed.

If a student ceases attendance from all his or her courses within a semester, the student will be considered a withdrawal for Title IV purposes. Students who elect to withdraw from courses must follow MTSA's official withdrawal process. The amount of federal aid a student earns, during their semester, is determined on a pro rata basis (for example: if you complete 30% of the semester, you earn 30% of the assistance you were originally scheduled to receive). Federal Title IV funds will be returned based on the percentage of period completed. Students who withdraw prior to completing 60% of the semester will have their financial aid prorated and unearned funds returned. After having reached 60% of the semester, the student is deemed to have earned 100% of the Title IV funds. MTSA has 45 days from the date that it determines a student withdrew to return all unearned funds for which it is responsible. Students will be responsible for any unpaid institutional charges that result from the return of funds to the Title IV programs.

Federal regulations stipulate how the return of Title IV Funds is calculated for students who have received federal assistance. If the student did not attend 60% of the payment period, the aid must be return to the appropriate program in the following order:

- Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan
- Federal Grad PLUS Loan

## **Post-Withdrawal Disbursement**

In rare cases, a student may be eligible to receive a late disbursement of Federal student aid funds that were not disbursed before a student withdrew but which the student has earned based on a Return of Title IV Funds calculation. This must be offered within 30 days of the student's withdrawal date. In such cases, the Financial Aid Office will notify the student of the "post-withdrawal" disbursement via an award notification. The school will advise the student that they have 14 calendar days from the date of the award notification to accept a post-withdrawal disbursement.

# ***MTSA POLICIES & PROCEDURES***

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY AND EXPECTATIONS**

### **MTSA Policy 5.4.101**

(Revised 1/2/19)

Students are to refer to individual course syllabi for class attendance policies. Attendance may be a major portion of specific course grades and all students are encouraged to attend all classes.

Any **class absence** should be arranged in advance with your course instructor. If you are going to miss class due to illness, you must contact your instructor(s), the Coordinator of Academic Support, and the Program Administrator by e-mail as soon as you know you are unable to make class.

Scheduled simulation is considered a clinical day, and for any clinical absence a personal day will

be deducted from personal emergency time. The simulation absence must be rescheduled.

Any **clinical absence** should be arranged in advance with the Coordinator of Clinical Support. If you are going to be unable to attend your **clinical rotation**, you must contact the facility student coordinator as instructed within Brightspace, and the Coordinator of Clinical Support and Program Administrator by e-mail as soon as you know you will be unable to make your shift. Any simulation absence, you must contact the Director of Simulation as instructed in the Simulation Syllabus. Any absence from clinical obligation not previously approved by MTSA in writing will be considered personal emergency time. An unexcused absence from a clinical assignment when the student is assigned to take call will be considered as two personal emergency days. This includes weekend and daily 16- or 24-hour "call" shifts.

If the process for notification of an absence is not followed by the student, and if MTSA becomes aware of such an absence, the student may be charged two (2) personal emergency time days for each day absent. If a student fails to follow this process in more than one instance, the personal emergency time charged may be made up after graduation.

Any absences in excess of specified vacation, holidays, or personal emergency time days may result in a delay in graduation of an equal number of days.

It is NOT the responsibility of the Coordinator of Academic Support to make the arrangements for the student to make up any missed tests or quizzes. Any make-up tests/quizzes/exams must be approved by the individual instructor according to his or her syllabus guidelines.

## **Clinical Schedule Change**

A change in the daily/monthly clinical schedules after it has been distributed to affiliates is highly discouraged and is usually only done in emergency cases where the student cannot work the day that he/she is scheduled. The student wanting to make a schedule change **must** find another student who is willing to exchange days with him/her. A form to request a schedule change can be obtained from the Coordinator of Clinical Support.

### **Procedure for requesting a schedule change:**

1. Obtain the form from the MTSA Coordinator of Clinical Support.
2. Return the completed form, with signatures of both students, to the Coordinator of Clinical Support Services
3. The students will be notified in a reasonable time by email from the office of the Coordinator for Clinical Support Services of the approval/denial for the schedule change.

## **Relief Student**

Each month, MTSA attempts to have a relief student available, whose function is to replace full-time clinical students (*semesters 6-9*) at an affiliate who have gone through the appropriate channels to be able to take scheduled personal day(s) off. When these relief students are not occupied replacing students for scheduled personal days, they are available to replace students who may call in sick. When neither of these needs arise, the relief student will go to the pre-

assigned base affiliate.

## **Additional Attendance Obligations**

A limited number of students will be able to attend state and national meetings, and such attendance may be at the student's expense, with advance clearance from the Program Administrator, Coordinator of Clinical Support, and the current affiliate clinical coordinator.

### **Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetists (TANA) Annual Convention**

This convention, currently held in Murfreesboro each fall, is a three-day event for Nurse Anesthetists and SRNA's to attend lectures on various aspects of nurse anesthesia practice. Students are required to attend a minimum of eleven (11) total hours of actual meeting sessions during the three days of meetings in their PD1 year at MTSA. Student research from courses may be presented at this meeting in poster sessions or oral presentations. Non-attendance is considered a personal day and is subtracted from the bank of personal emergency time granted.

#### Revision

This convention, currently held in Murfreesboro each fall, is a three-day event for Nurse Anesthetists and SRNA's to attend lectures on various aspects of nurse anesthesia practice. Students are required to attend two complete days at the conference, not to interfere with their personal religious observance.

Student research from courses may be presented at this meeting in poster sessions or oral presentations. Non-attendance is considered a personal day and is subtracted from the bank of personal emergency time granted

### **Special Afternoon/Evening Guest Lecturers**

Attendance at specific group functions and evening lectures by guest speakers is mandatory, unless the student is scheduled on vacation, call, or out-of-town affiliation. These are announced in advance and are part of MTSA's program. Attendance is required unless the student is on vacation or at an out-of-town affiliation. Non-attendance will result in Progressions Committee action with penalties including having a personal day subtracted from the bank of personal days granted and/or a one-day extension in the program for each missed day of an event.

## **Holiday Time**

MTSA celebrates six (6) Holidays in which the campus will be closed and there are no classes for students. **Holidays observed:** New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, & Christmas Day.

If a student is scheduled to be at **clinical** on a holiday, compensatory time will be granted and added to the student's personal "Comp time" bank (*see Compensatory Time below*).

## Vacation Breaks

Vacation breaks are scheduled at the end of each semester to allow students personal time off. Typically, all students get a two-week **semester break** from classes at the end of semester 1 and 2. During the semester breaks at the end of semesters 3, 4, and 5, students will have clinical duties for half of each break based on their group (A or B) and vacation during the other half of the break.

Vacation time from the start of semester 6 through the end of semester 9 will be as follows: two (2) weeks will be scheduled (5-day blocks) with the clinical office through the Coordinator of Clinical Support, and all students will be on vacation for one week in early September prior to the start of the Senior Elective.

Students may be scheduled a call-shift on the weekend prior to, or the day after vacation. Students will want to check their call schedule prior to making any travel arrangements during their vacation time.

## Personal Emergency Time

Students are given **three (3)** days of personal emergency time each academic year, for a total of **nine (9)** days of personal emergency time during the 36-month course. This time should only be taken for true illness, emergencies, and/or inclement weather. Using personal emergency time from clinical also prevents you from participating in academic activities for that day. You will need to follow the procedures for missing class as well. Students may be requested to submit a physician's report documenting illness.

Absences from meetings that require attendance (e.g., guest lecturers) will be charged to this bank of time unless the student is at an out-of-town affiliation. ***Personal emergency days Do Not carry over into the next academic year.***

### Procedure for taking Personal Emergency Time:

*The student MUST complete each of these steps:*

#### Clinical

1. **Call** the affiliate and ask to speak to the Student Coordinator if possible. If the Student Coordinator is not available, request to speak to someone in the anesthesia department, preferably, or else someone else in the operating room that can get a message to the Student Coordinator and other anesthesia staff. Announce the absence and inform them of the illness (or other emergent reason). If unable to speak with the actual Student Coordinator, make a note of the name of the individual to whom you directly spoke to report the absence, as this will need to be relayed to the Coordinator of Clinical Support.
2. Call the **Coordinator of Clinical Support** (615-732-7669) and leave a message on their voice mail regarding the specifics of the absence, to include the name of the individual to whom the illness (or other emergent reason) was reported at the affiliate.

3. Email the **Program Administrator** identifying that the appropriate procedure was followed and the time and name of the person at the clinical site with whom the student notified. If you are going to miss class, also include that information in your email.

### **Academic**

4. Call/email your class **instructor(s)** and inform them that you will be unable to attend class based on their contact preference on their syllabus. If you are going to miss an exam/test, it is your responsibility to reschedule it with your instructor.
5. Call the **Coordinator of Academic Support** (615-732-7663) and leave a message on their voice mail regarding the specifics of the absence.

### **Penalties for Failure to Complete Steps to Take Personal Emergency Time**

If MTSA finds that a student has failed to complete these when taking personal emergency time, the student will be charged **TWO (2)** full days for each day or portion of a day missed (without site Clinical Coordinator or designee approval). Furthermore, if MTSA finds that a student has failed to complete these steps when taking time off in more than one (1) instance, the student will not only be charged TWO (2) full days for each day or portion of a day missed (without site Clinical Coordinator or designee approval), but the student will also be required to make these days up **AFTER** the scheduled graduation date.

If a student takes time off (i.e. “calls in sick”) on the day before or after a scheduled day off, or before or after a weekend, or before or after a holiday, the student will be charged TWO (2) full days. The student may be requested to submit a physician’s report documenting illness.

Personal emergency time taken for sickness on dates of exams, and specifically final exam week, will be evaluated carefully. The student may be requested to submit a physician’s report and/or be required to use two (2) days for time taken during exam week. Students affiliating at sites where they are scheduled 24 hours on and 48 hours off are charged two (2) days for each one (1) personal emergency day taken while at that affiliation.

Absences in excess of personal emergency time must be arranged with the Program Administrator and may require days to be made up at the end of the program.

### **Compensatory Time**

Compensatory time is time earned for working on a scheduled holiday or for extra events. This time is recorded in a separate bank called **Comp Days** and managed by the **Coordinator of Clinical Support**. Comp days may be earned only when approved by the Program Administrator and/or the Coordinator of Clinical Support. Earned comp days may be taken off as the schedule permits. Earned comp days off must be scheduled fourteen (14) days in advance and coordinated through the Coordinator of Clinical Support. Only one student at a time may take an earned comp day in any affiliate, and then only with approval from the Coordinator of Clinical Support. Typically, one student is scheduled as a relief student, and this person can assume another student’s position in an assigned affiliate on the weekday they request off (weekends excluded).

If earned comp days are requested less than 48 hours in advance, it is highly unlikely the request can be honored. For all requests made less than 14 days in advance, two (2) comp days will be

subtracted from that student's bank of days. Comp days must be used within the calendar year they are earned ). ***No Comp Days can carry over to another year, unless earned late in the calendar year and approved by the Program Administrator.***

### **Procedure for taking Comp days:**

The following process for requesting days off is provided to better serve student requests and to adhere to COA guidelines regarding supervision and scheduling of students. **MTSA is the official supervising body of the SRNA schedule and their requests for time away from clinical.**

1. All requests for Comp Days are to be made to the Coordinator of Clinical Support.
2. All requests must be made at least 14 days in advance of the desired day(s) off. This allows the Coordinator of Clinical Support the opportunity to use every reasonable resource to grant the requested day(s) to the student.
3. Request forms are located in the student mail room. If a student is at an out-of-town facility, they should request an electronic copy of the form.
4. After the form is returned to the Coordinator of Clinical Support, the student will be notified as soon as possible if the time is granted.
5. The Coordinator of Clinical Support will notify the clinical site of the student day off from clinical.

## **STUDENT BEREAVEMENT POLICY**

### **MTSA Policy 5.1.115**

(Revised 8/2017)

The loss of a family member may require time away from MTSA. The family is defined as spouse/partner, son, daughter, mother, father, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister, brother, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, grandparent, grandparent-in-law, or grandchild. This policy would also include step-parent, step-sibling and step-child.

If there is a death in the family, students may take up to three (3) consecutive days off as leave. For students in a program with a clinical component, this leave may be taken without withdrawing time from the bank of personal emergency time and vacation days.

All students are eligible to utilize bereavement leave, if needed. Bereavement leave must be utilized within fourteen (14) days of the date of death. Exceptions for unusual circumstances (i.e., remains must be transported from overseas) must be coordinated with Program Administration, and with the Coordinator of Clinical Support if in clinical rotations. Students may be asked by MTSA personnel to provide a certification of the death, such as a death certificate or a published death notice.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

### **MTSA Policy 5.1.117**



There are no days off from clinical assignments exclusively for inclement weather. If the student is unable to travel to a clinical assignment, the student must notify the School, the affiliate, and the Program Administrator as soon as possible.

Should the student elect not to attend clinical or class, they will be charged a personal emergency day for the absence. Please refer to the **Request for Personal Emergency Time** section on who to contact.

Students are to use their judgment regarding travel, either to affiliations or to class. If the MTSA campus closes due to weather, a text message will be sent out through the school's emergency management software to notify all students not to come to class

## **SABBATH (SATURDAY) SCHEDULE POLICY**

### **MTSA Policy 3.3.109**

(Revised 5/15/18)

MTSA is currently independently operated and owns the property and buildings that house the School. In accordance with the Seventh-day Adventist history, as well as the history and mission of the school, the original policies of the School relative to Sabbath are the policies of the School today. They have been redefined to inform students and clinical facilities of the expectations of the School relative to Sabbath observance.

#### **◆ Academic Area**

Neither the Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia nor any of its faculty will schedule any academic class between sundown Friday until after sundown Saturday. It is recognized that not all students will choose Saturday as the day of worship. Accommodation will be made for classes that are scheduled outside of normal MTSA operating hours if attendance would violate or interrupt a student's normal religious observance. The accommodation may vary, but may include video captured lectures for students to review at another time or makeup coursework assigned by the faculty of record.

On occasion MTSA will expect students to attend one day of a local weekend conference organized by the Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetists or the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Students may choose the day they attend, either Saturday or Sunday.

#### **◆ Clinical Area**

Clinical affiliations have evolved over the years to support the clinical needs of the program. It is not the intent of MTSA to control whether or not an affiliate hospital schedules elective surgery on weekends. However, the Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia supports the choice of the student. Students are expected to do elective and call cases Monday through Friday and to take call for emergency cases on weekends as assigned. Should any student choose not to participate in call on a specified day due to religious convictions, MTSA will accommodate this student's request. A statement of religious observation from the student's current religious leader may also be requested. It should be noted that a student may have to complete clinical duties on extra weekend call shifts to accommodate their request. This is not punitive in nature, but may occur due to schedule changes to accommodate the request.

# GRADING POLICY

## MTSA Policy 5.4.108

(Revised 10/22/2019)

Advancement of each student to the next semester is made by the Progressions Committee, with faculty recommendation, at the end of each semester.

Students can view their final grades for each semester anytime by visiting the transcript section of the CAMS Student Portal <https://student.mtsa.edu/>.

### The MTSA Grading Scale is based on the following 4.0 grading system:

<b>A</b> =	90-100%	(4.0 Quality Points)
<b>B</b> =	80-89%	(3.0 Quality Points)
<b>C</b> =	70-79%	(2.0 Quality Points)
<b>F</b> =	Below 70%	(0.0 – Failing)
<b>I</b> =	Incomplete	<i>See Grade of Incomplete below</i>
<b>W</b> =	Withdrew	<i>See Grade of Withdrew below</i>
<b>WF</b> =	Withdrew Failing	<i>See Grade of Withdrew Failing below</i>
<b>T</b> =	Terminated	<i>See Terminated below</i>

*(There is no grade of “D” in the program)*

MTSA expects that all graduate level coursework should result in a minimum earned grade of “B”. The first earned grade between 70-79% (C) will require a scheduled meeting with the Program Administrator to discuss the student’s performance. A grade of “C” will also lead to an automatic academic or clinical probation. The second earned “C” in a course will result in dismissal from the program.

MTSA requires students to maintain a minimum overall academic cumulative GPA of 3.0 for both graduation and good academic standing. A student who falls below an academic cumulative GPA of 3.0 will be placed on academic/clinical probation. The student will have one (1) semester to improve the academic cumulative GPA to 3.0 or greater to be removed from probation. If the student fails to improve his or her GPA to 3.0 or greater during the following semester, they will be dismissed from the program.

Students who are placed on any type of probation more than two (2) times will be dismissed from the program. An active vote by the Progressions Committee to carry probation over to another term will count as an additional probation. Students will automatically be dismissed from the program for receiving a failing course grade in any course. Failing is defined as any grade below 70%.

Students have the right to appeal decisions of the Progressions Committee by filing an appeal with the Appeals Committee.

## Clinical Grades

Clinical grades are recorded from each of the MTSA approved Clinical Coordinators. The grade for each semester is an average of all of the grades from the clinical sites attended for that semester (exception: Nationwide Children's Hospital (Columbus, Ohio) has an MTSA approved clinical grading system).

MTSA requires completion of 75% of student daily clinical evaluations (as described in MTSA Clinical Standards Policy). Failure to submit at least 75% will result in a 5-point deduction from the final clinical grade.

<b>A</b> =	90-100%	
<b>B</b> =	80-89%	
<b>C</b> =	70-79%	Clinical Probation
<b>F</b> =	Below 70%	Clinical Probation / possible dismissal
<b>I</b> =	Incomplete	<i>See Grade of Incomplete below</i>
<b>W</b> =	Withdrew	<i>See Grade of Withdrew below</i>
<b>WF</b> =	Withdrew Failing	<i>See Grade of Withdrew Failing below</i>
<b>T</b> =	Terminated	<i>See Terminated below</i>

Any failure of a clinical rotation will be reviewed by the Program Administrator and Progressions Committee for determination of remediation, or up to and including dismissal from the program. If the student remains in the program, any failed clinical rotation will be repeated and must be successfully completed (grade of B or greater) prior to degree conferral.

Any student who earns a C for the **semester clinical grade** will be placed on Clinical Probation. The length of the probation will be determined by the Progressions Committee, as well as any remediation plan.

Any student who earns a C for a **single clinical rotation** will be required to meet with the Program Administrator for determination of a remediation plan and may be placed on Clinical Probation. The student will also be referred to Progressions Committee for further review.

### Notice of Placement on Academic/Clinical Probation

If it is deemed by the Program Administrator or the Progressions Council that the student will be probation due to clinical or academic issues, the student will be notified in the following ways:

1. The student will have a face-to-face meeting with the Program Administrator or Dean;

2. An e-mail with “read-receipt” will be sent to the student’s @mtsa.edu e-mail address documenting the probation decision
3. A certified letter will be sent with the decision through the United States Postal Service to the current address that the student has on file.

### **Grade of Incomplete (I)**

If a student is unable to meet all the requirements of a course by the end of the semester because of circumstances beyond his or her control, the grade of Incomplete (I) may be awarded by an instructor. An incomplete grade requires written understanding between the instructor and student acknowledging when the course will be completed. This discussion and written understanding for completion must occur before the last week of the semester.

The maximum time limit for submission of all course work necessary for removal of an incomplete is the end of the last day of classes of the following semester in which the incomplete was incurred (i.e. an incomplete awarded in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester must be converted by the last day of classes in the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester). If the time limit passes and the course is not completed, an unremoved grade of incomplete is changed automatically to a failing grade. Any failing grade will result in termination from the program. A grade of incomplete is not calculated in the grade point average. No student may graduate with an Incomplete on their transcript.

***Special Circumstances:*** the completion of the doctoral scholarly project may stand as incomplete through the Integrated Application of Evidence-Based Practice course series.

### **Withdrawing from a Course**

Students may drop a course within the first 72 hours of the semester with no grade.

### **Grade of Withdrew (W)**

Students wishing to withdraw from a course after the first 72 hours will either receive a grade of “W” or “WF.” To receive a W grade, a student must drop the course within the first 60% of the semester. A “W” grade does not impact a student’s GPA.

### **Grade of Withdrew Failing (WF)**

Students wishing to withdraw from a course after the deadline to withdraw with a “W” grade will receive a grade of “WF.” A WF grade is calculated into a student’s GPA as a failing grade (F).

### **Terminated (T)**

An administratively terminated student is issued a final grade of "T" for all courses in which he/she is currently enrolled, and the termination is noted on the student's transcript.

# STUDENT EXAM TAKING POLICY

MTSA Policy 5.1.104

(12/17)

All quizzes, tests, exams, and skill performance exams given at MTSA will be administered at the discretion of the instructor. A staff person may be asked to act as a test proctor. Staff proctor will communicate with the instructor any suspicions or concerns.

- ◆ MTSA expects that all students will take each quiz, test, exam, and skill performance exam with integrity and honesty.
- ◆ Students caught cheating or stealing testing material will immediately be asked to leave the classroom and will receive a grade of zero for that quiz or exam and will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal/termination.
- ◆ Any and all supplemental material, books, magazines, journals, papers (including blank paper), laptops, cell phones or any other electronic devices (smart watches, etc.), caps, hats (scrub hats are OK, but must be left on at all times during testing sessions), or any other material/device that may be construed as a device for cheating, must be left in the back of the classroom.
- ◆ Only the following materials are allowed on the desktop during **paper testing**: a pencil and scratch paper given by instructor, and an MTSA calculator if permitted by the instructor.
- ◆ All students present for the testing session must be in their assigned test seats before the session begins.
- ◆ There is to be **NO** talking, whispering, sign language, or gesturing once password for entry to test is presented.
- ◆ If a student must leave the room during test taking time for an emergency, they must have permission of the instructor or the MTSA staff proctor.
- ◆ During test taking time, to leave your seat you must first upload test & show the **green** ✓ to instructor from your seat
- ◆ After turning in test to the instructor, the student must immediately and quietly leave the classroom, without returning to his test or lecture seat (per instructor allowing).
- ◆ When students leave the classroom, they must not cause excessive noise or disturbance outside the classroom in the hallway.
- ◆ A mechanism for quiz/test/exam review is specific to each instructor and is included in the course syllabus.

## Student Testing Expectations

- ◆ Download test 1 hour prior to test time

- ◆ Make sure iPad is at least 50% charged (bring charger/power source)
- ◆ No hats (except scrub hat)
- ◆ No cell phones, smart watches, or any other smart technology
- ◆ All bags and books are left in the back of the classroom
- ◆ If allowed by instructor, scratch paper is to be turned in with name on top
- ◆ iPads to remain flat on desk
- ◆ Sit in seat & show **green ✓** when exam is uploaded
- ◆ **Any** issue with the test administration software, the student must immediately notify the Examsoft administration team by raising their hand and not pressing any other buttons or changing iPad settings. Failure to comply may result in forfeiture of exam and a grade of zero for that exam/quiz.

### **Instructor Testing Expectations**

- ◆ Address in syllabus to allow/not allow students to go outside when finished with exam
- ◆ If using Examsoft computerized testing, upload the test the day before
- ◆ Assure all student materials & electronics are at back of room before testing begins
- ◆ Once password is released, **NO TALKING**
- ◆ **No questions answered once test begins**

### **Technology Redundancy**

In case of technology failure, tests will be given with the Scantron system.

## **MTSA HONOR CODE**

### **MTSA Policy 5.1.113**

#### **Declaration of Honor**

MTSA's mission, focus on academic excellence, and culture of faith are grounded in the Christian values of truth, honor, and virtue. Abiding by these principles illuminates the pathway of learning, sustains the integrity and purpose of the School, thus preparing competent and caring nurse anesthetists.

#### **Honor Code**

The Honor Code of Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia is reflective of the Christian principles of truth, honor, integrity, and virtue. The Honor Code is vital in fostering an environment of trust, order, and unity within the school. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with and abiding by the Honor Code and all School policies.

## Academic Standards of Conduct

A thorough understanding and commitment to this Declaration of Honor and the Honor Pledge is essential to success of MTSA's honor system. The following avenues will be utilized to facilitate implementation of these statements:

1. The Declaration of Honor statement, with its accompanying Honor Pledge, will be included with the acceptance letter sent to selected applicants, and applicants accepting a student position at MTSA will be required to acknowledge affirmation by signing and dating the document as specified, and returning it with their acceptance verification.
2. Information regarding the Declaration of Honor and the Honor Code will be included in the program's *MTSA DNAP Practice Doctorate Student Handbook*.
3. The Declaration of Honor and the Honor Pledge will be discussed during all orientation programs.
4. Implementation and monitoring of adherence to these standards will be accomplished through the MTSA NAP Council, Progressions Committee, the President's Council, and the MTSA Appeals Committee.

## Honor Pledge

As a student of Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia, I will incorporate the principles of truth, honor, integrity, and virtue in all that I do while enrolled at MTSA. I acknowledge the Honor Code as vital in fostering an environment of trust, order, and unity within the School. I accept the sacred trust placed upon me to continue this heritage of honor in my efforts to become a competent nurse anesthetist. I freely pledge to abide by the MTSA Standards of Conduct and this Honor Code in all of my conduct.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

The Honor Pledge must be signed by each student and will be kept in the student's academic file.

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MTSA, in compliance with the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, educates the students, faculty and staff of the dangers of violent acts.

MTSA is a Christian school committed to upholding standards which promote respect and human dignity. Sexual crimes, in any form, severely violate the trust and respect essential to the preservation of a Christian environment and directly threaten the safety and well-being of community members. MTSA will not tolerate acts of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking committed by or against any member of the community. If any acts of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking are reported or committed, MTSA assures a swift response to an accusation while providing assistance to the alleged victim of such an offense. Definitions for these crimes, consent, and bystander intervention are listed in Appendix B as defined by the Clery Act. Steps will be taken to keep the parties involved as separated as possible (i.e. different clinical sites).

Please refer to page 10 of the Annual Security Report for more information.

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## **MTSA STANDARDS OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENTS**

### **MTSA Policy 5.1.114**

It is the philosophy of MTSA to uphold Christian ideals and values. While it is MTSA's policy to freely accept students regardless of religious persuasion, MTSA's philosophy is that students, faculty and staff are public representatives of MTSA, and are expected to avoid any conduct that would conflict with its Christian values.

Actions and conduct not in harmony with the Christian standards of MTSA include, but are not limited to, the following, and commission of any of these actions will result in disciplinary action that may include dismissal from the program. Students who witness or have personal knowledge of any participation in the following activities have a responsibility to report such infractions to MTSA administration. Dismissal from the School or any lesser penalty as determined by the Program Administrator and the Progressions Committee may result from participation in any of the following activities:

1. Furnishing false information to the School with the intent to deceive;
2. Knowingly providing false information or testimony during the investigation of, or hearing on a disciplinary matter;
3. Refusal or failure to respond to a request from MTSA to report to a School administrative office or other location;
4. Vandalism, malicious destruction, damage, or misuse of private or public property, including library or computer center material;
5. Forgery, alteration, destruction, or misuse of School documents, records, or identification;
6. Obstruction or disruption of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary proceedings, or other School activities, including any authorized activities on School property; In no event shall this rule be construed to prevent speech protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution;
7. Unauthorized use of or entry to School facilities and/or unauthorized possession of keys to School facilities;
8. Disorderly conduct or lewd, indecent, or obscene conduct on School-owned property or at any other institution affiliated with the School, or at School-sponsored functions;
9. Physical abuse of any person, or other conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person (i.e., this includes attending class or clinical under the influence of drugs or alcohol) whether such conduct occurs on or off School property;
10. Participation of students in group activities on or adjacent to the campus, which causes damage to public or private property, causes injuries to persons, or interferes with the orderly functioning of the School or the normal flow of traffic;
11. Violation of written School policies or regulations as stipulated herein or as published and/or announced by authorized School personnel;



12. Falsely reporting the presence of an unlawful explosive or incendiary device with the intent to mislead, deceive, or disrupt the operation of the School or a scheduled event sponsored by the School;
13. The use of tobacco in any form on the premises of MTSA, or any clinical affiliate, other than in properly designated smoking areas;
14. Possession, while on School-owned property, or of any other institution affiliated with the School, of any weapon such as, but not limited to, rifles, shotguns, ammunition, handguns, air guns, including explosives, such as firecrackers, unless authorized in writing by the School administration;
15. Unauthorized use or misuse of MTSA's computing facilities to include logging on an account without the knowledge and permission of the owner; changing, deleting, or adding to the programs, files and/or data without authorization of the owner; theft of program data or machine resources; attempts to thwart security of the computer system, including hardware and software;
16. Use of technological/electronic device(s) in the classroom. Students are allowed to use iPads or laptop computers in the classroom before class begins. However, the only use for iPads or laptops during any class will be for taking notes specifically related to the current class in session. No other activities utilizing any technological/electronic device(s), including but not limited to computers, iPads, PDAs, cell phones, or scanners, such as (but not limited to) web-surfing, Medatrax case record completion, game-playing, or text-messaging will not be allowed during any class. The only exception to this is if web-based research is part of the curriculum for a given class, and this is specifically stated by the instructor. Some (but not all) instructors may allow calculators to be used during quizzes/tests/exams. If they do, students are only permitted to use calculators provided by MTSA at that time, which have no communication or data storage capability (i.e. no cell phone or PDA calculators).
17. Participation in or conviction of theft, wrongful appropriation (i.e., theft with intent to temporarily deprive the owner of possession), unauthorized possession, or sale or damage to School property or any organization affiliated with the School or of another member of the School community (i.e., faculty, staff, student, or campus visitor);
18. Any act of arson, falsely reporting a fire or other emergency, falsely setting off a fire alarm, tampering with or removing from its proper location fire extinguishers, hoses, or any other fire emergency equipment, except when done with real need for such equipment;
19. An attempt to commit or to be accessory to the commission of any act in violation of other Standards of Conduct;
20. Commission of an act or an attempt to commit an act on School property or involving members of the School community (i.e., faculty, staff, student or campus visitor) in an act that would be in violation of state or federal law;
21. Violation of local, state, or federal law, whether on or off campus, when it appears that the student has acted in a way that adversely affects or seriously interferes with the School's normal educational function, or that injures or endangers the welfare of any member of the School or its affiliate community. Such violations include, but are not limited to, violation of state or federal drug laws, commission of or attempt or threat to commit rape, murder, felonious

assault, arson, or any other felonious crime against person or property. Any violation results in an arrest; the School must be notified within 24 hours.

22. Unprofessional conduct, or any conduct or action that could bring dishonor or discredit on MTSA or would reflect unfavorably on its reputation as a Christian institution
23. The use of any illegal drug;
24. The use addicting drugs and/or alcohol, which would impair judgment or function, including those prescribed by a physician, since mental alertness is crucial during the provision of anesthesia. Each student should notify MTSA of any medications he is using which may impair judgment or function. Additionally, whenever specimen samples are collected for drug testing, the student must notify the collection personnel of any medications in use currently. Student anesthetists administer narcotics daily and must not be lax in signing out drugs, administering them properly, or properly disposing of unused portions. If circumstantial evidence renders students suspect of drug abuse, they may be asked to have urine, blood, or hair analyses to document their non-use of drugs. MTSA reserves the right, and students should expect, that a routine or random analysis for drugs may be requested at any time and without prior notice, to rule out substance abuse;
25. Reporting for duty at any hospital or for any class or professional meeting while under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or ANY mood altering substance;
26. Unlawful use, manufacture, possession, distribution, or dispensing of drugs and/or alcohol on School-owned property or of any other institution affiliated with the School.
27. \* No student should start or initiate a general or regional anesthetic without proper supervision of a licensed anesthesia personnel.

\*Revised to include number 27 effective 12/13/2016 (NAP Council Meeting) for DNAP Program

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## **STUDENT DRUG & ALCOHOL POLICY**

### **MTSA Policy 5.1.111**

(Reviewed 11//19/19)

MTSA prohibits the possession, use, or distribution of illegal drugs and alcohol on the MTSA campus, the Madison Campus SDA Church campus, Tristar Skyline Madison Campus, or on the campus of any affiliate site.

Since many drugs alter one's alertness, and mental alertness is crucial during the provision of anesthesia, students may be screened for drugs and alcohol at any time they are committed to either clinical or classroom assignments. MTSA contracts with an outside company to perform drug/alcohol screening of students throughout the program of study, as needed.

Students should be aware that if they are found to test positive for alcohol, illegal substances or substances without a current and valid prescription, MTSA is obligated to report such violation of the drug and alcohol policy to the State Board of Nursing. Therefore, students are required to report any alertness-altering prescribed substance use (i.e. treatment for anxiety and learning disabilities) to the Program Administrator.

## Health Risks

As part of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, MTSA is required to inform all students of the health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol.

The use of alcohol can lead to the following serious health risks:

- Loss of muscle control, poor coordination, slurred speech
- Fatigue, nausea, headache
- Increased likelihood of accidents
- Impaired judgement
- Possible respiratory paralysis
- Death

Heavy use of alcohol can lead to the following problems:

- Damage to brain cells
- Increased risk of cirrhosis, ulcers, heart disease, heart attack
- Increased risk of cancers of the liver, mouth, throat, and stomach
- Hallucinations
- Personality disorders

Health risks associated with the use of illegal drugs include the following:

- Increased susceptibility to disease due to less efficient immune system
- Increased likelihood of accidents
- Personality disorders
- Addiction
- Anemia
- Poor coordination
- Death

## Resources

MTSA does not provide drug/alcohol counseling, treatment, or rehabilitation programs for students. Upon request or in appropriate situations, the School may refer the student to a private counselor, center, or program for assistance with such needs.

### Local Resources for Help in Davidson County

Metro Police Non-Emergency	615-862-8600
Nashville Poison Control	615-936-2034
National Domestic Violence Hotline	800-799-7233
RAINN National Rape Crisis Hotline	800-656-4673
TN Crisis Services & Suicide Prevention	855-274-7471
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline	800-273-8255

### **Legal Sanctions Under State and Federal Law**

The following is a summary of Tennessee and federal sanctions for the unlawful use of illicit drugs and alcohol. While the summary is a good faith effort to provide information, MTSA does not guarantee that it is an error-free or exhaustive accounting

Under federal law, a civil penalty of up to \$100,000 and imprisonment of up to one year may be imposed for simple possession of certain specified controlled substances. Possession of crack cocaine may lead to civil penalties of up to \$250,000 and imprisonment of up to twenty years. Also, possession of a controlled substance can result in the denial of federal benefits, such as student loans, grants, contracts and professional and commercial licenses, and the forfeiture of personal property and real estate used to transport, conceal or facilitate such possession. In addition, possession of a controlled substance can lead to ineligibility to receive or purchase a firearm.

Under federal law, it is unlawful to manufacture, distribute, dispense, deliver, sell or possess with intent to manufacture, distribute, dispense, deliver or sell controlled substances. The penalty imposed depends upon many factors that include the type and amount of controlled substance involved; the number or prior offenses, if any; whether death or serious bodily harm resulted from the use of such substance; and whether any other crimes were committed in connection with the use of the controlled substance. Even a first-time violation can result in life imprisonment; a fine of up to \$4,000,000 per individual; supervised release; or any combination of these penalties. These sanctions are doubled when the offense involves either: (1) distribution or possession at or near a school or university campus, or (2) distribution to persons under 21 years of age. Repeat offenders may face greater penalties.

Under Tennessee law, it is unlawful for any person under the age of 21 to buy, possess, transport (unless in the course of their employment) or consume alcoholic beverages, including wine or beer. It is unlawful for any adult to buy alcoholic beverages for or furnish them for any purpose to anyone under 21 years of age. These offenses are classified Class A Misdemeanors punishable by imprisonment for not more than eleven months and twenty-nine days or a fine of not more than \$2,500 or both. The offense of public intoxication is a Class A Misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment of not more than thirty days or a fine of not more than \$50 or both.

Under Tennessee law, the offense of possession or casual exchange of a controlled substance (such as marijuana) is punishable as a Class A Misdemeanor (eleven months, twenty-nine days and/or a fine of \$2,500). For the third and subsequent offense of possession of ½ oz. or less of marijuana, punishment is one to six years of imprisonment and a \$3,000 fine. If there is an exchange from a person over 21 years of age to a person under 21 and the older person is at least two years older than the younger and the older person knows that the younger person is under 21, then the offense is classified as a felony. Possession of more than ½ oz. of marijuana under circumstances where intent to resell may be implicit is punishable by one to six years of

imprisonment and a \$5,000 fine for the first offense. Maximum Tennessee penalties for possession, manufacture or distribution of substantial quantities of a controlled substance range from fifteen to sixty years of imprisonment and up to a \$500,000 fine. The State of Tennessee may, under certain circumstances, impound a vehicle used to transport or conceal controlled substances.

## STUDENT DRUG TESTING POLICY

### MTSA Policy 5.4.109

(Revised 5/15/2018)

MTSA is a faith-based organization concerned with the health and wellbeing of our employees & students. One of our goals is to provide a safe and drug-free institution of learning as well as protect the health and welfare of patients that may be treated by MTSA students during clinical rotations. All students will undergo drug screening during their tenure at MTSA.

MTSA contracts with an outside company that maintains sites nationwide to perform chain of custody drug screening. MTSA financially supports mandatory drug screening.

- 1) Mandatory Initial Drug Screening: All students will be required to have a drug screening prior to performing clinical duties. MTSA pays for this testing.
- 2) Mandatory Random Selection Drug Screening: While enrolled at MTSA, each semester a student(s) will be selected to participate in a random drug screening. The choice of student is randomly selected using an internet based random selection process generated by a computer program. Students will be required to have their test completed within 24 hours of notification. Clinical coordinators may be notified to allow students time to go to the closest testing site. MTSA pays for this testing.
- 3) For Cause Drug Screening: MTSA reserves the right to request **for cause drug screening at any time**. This screening must be completed within 24 hours of request. An example may be a student receipt of a “red card” in clinical, erratic student behavior in classroom/simulation, behavior outbursts, calling out at clinical without a physician visit for illness, or other incidents. MTSA pays for this testing.
- 4) Confirmational Drug Screening (Hair Test): A hair test drug screen will be conducted following any positive drug test results. **This test will be at the student’s own expense.**

If a student is unable to complete their drug screening within 24 hours or provide urine, hair testing may be performed **at the student’s added expense**. Any test that results in a “non-negative” will require follow up. Any additional retesting will be at the student’s expense.

Students may not begin or be allowed to continue clinical following a “non-negative” test result. The report will be sent to the **Program Administrator** for intervention and/or possible disciplinary actions. A student may resume clinical assignment after fulfilling any requirements set forth by the Program Administrator, and student submits a test sample for which a negative (“clear”) result is received.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

### **MTSA Policy 5.1.109**

Any student cheating on any test, exam, quiz, or assignment; who has falsified clinical documents, such as clinical evaluations or any other documentation; falsified signatures; or who has plagiarized any assignment, will be placed on immediate probation, with the recommendation for termination from the program. The case will be heard by the Progressions Committee and the Committee will make a determination of the recommendation for termination.

### **Possession or Sharing of Faculty Property or MTSA Property**

ALL quiz/test/exam questions/items are the express property of the faculty member who authored them and MTSA, and these questions/items are confidential information.

Any attempt to obtain, retain, re-create, possess, copy/reproduce, distribute, disclosure, transmit, or share of any portion of any quiz/test/exam materials (including portions of compilations of quiz/test/exam questions/items) from any class, by any instructor (whether they teach at MTSA or on any other campus), from any time (whether current or past), by any means (by written, electronic, oral or other form of communication, including but not limited to emailing, copying or printing of electronic files, and reconstruction through memorization/dictation), at any time (before, during, or after any quiz/test/exam), is considered to be cheating and stealing.

Receipt or acceptance of any portion of ANY quiz/test/exam questions/items is considered to be cheating.

After a quiz/test/exam, if a student has a question regarding any quiz/test/exam question/item, he or she must direct such a query only to the designated faculty member(s) responsible for that course (i.e. not to a guest lecturer), as students are prohibited from reviewing any quiz or test materials with MTSA staff members without instructor approval.

Nothing (to include notes and study guides) compiled during one year's class is to be shared in any manner with any other individual or group of individuals in any other year's class.

Any student found to have any such material in his or her possession, or to have participated in any such prohibited activities here identified, will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

## **OWNERSHIP OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POLICY**

### **MTSA Policy 4.2.113**

All class materials created by faculty members in the employ of MTSA (whether for courses at MTSA or their courses at other institutions) are the property of the faculty member, other institution, and/or MTSA. Such class materials include, but are not limited to, quiz/test/ exam questions, quizzes/tests/exams in whole or in part (to include individual questions), and any class materials created by the faculty member and distributed to students.

A faculty or staff member or student is entitled to full royalties from publications if the School paid no cost of travel, research, preparation of manuscript, or School/student labor. If a faculty or staff member or student obtains patent rights, he/she is entitled to full royalties, if the School paid no cost of travel, research, preparation of the patent, or School/student labor. If MTSA sponsors, pays for release time, provides funds for travel, production, or other related costs, the School and the faculty or staff member or student will sign a pre-contract indicating how MTSA would be reimbursed or how royalties would be distributed.

## STUDENT EVALUATIONS POLICY

### MTSA Policy 5.4.107

Students at MTSA evaluate all aspects of the program, facilities, and their own progression. These evaluations are coordinated and scheduled by the Clinical Support Specialist and are conducted via Medatrax. The data from these evaluations are compiled by the Clinical Support Specialist and are reviewed by the Evaluations Committee each semester.

Evaluations students complete:

<b>Student Evaluation of:</b>	<b>When Evaluation is Done:</b>
<b><i>Academic</i></b>	
<b>Student Evaluation of First Intensive Week</b>	End of first week of Semester 1
<b>Student Evaluation of Academic Faculty</b>	End of each Semester ( <i>one per course</i> )
<b>Student Evaluation of Academic Courses</b>	End of each Semester ( <i>one per course</i> )
<b>Simulation Experiences Evaluation</b>	End of Semesters 2, 3, 4, & 5
<b>Concepts in Clinical Course Series Evaluation</b>	End of Semesters 6, 7, 8, & 9
<b>Student Evaluation of Valley Review Course</b>	At completion of the Valley Review Course
<b>APEX Training Program Evaluation</b>	End of Semester 9
<b><i>Clinical</i></b>	
<b>Student Clinical Evaluation</b>	Every Clinical Day ( <i>Min 75% Completion per sem</i> )
<b>Student Clinical Site Evaluation</b>	End of each Clinical Rotation
<b>Student Clinical Faculty Evaluation</b>	End of each Clinical Rotation
<b>MTSA Student Self-Evaluation</b>	End of each Semester
<b>Senior Elective Rotation Evaluation</b>	End of Senior Elective Rotation
<b><i>Program</i></b>	
<b>Student Advisement Evaluation</b>	End of each Semester
<b>PD1 Student Affairs/Needs Evaluation</b>	End of PD1 at MTSA
<b>Benchmarking Student Opinions of Performance</b>	End of Semester 5
<b>PD2 Student Affairs/Needs Evaluation</b>	End of PD2 at MTSA
<b>Student Evaluation of the Learning Resource Center</b>	Prior to End of Each School Year
<b>Student Evaluation of Technology</b>	Prior to End of Each School Year

<b>Financial Lectures &amp; Guest Speaker Evaluations</b>	At end of each Lecture ( <i>as needed</i> )
<b>MTSA Program (Exit/Graduation Evaluation)</b>	Day after Graduation
<b>One-Year Post Graduation</b>	One Year after Graduation Date

## DRESS CODE POLICY

### MTSA Policy 5.1.119

This covers expected standards for dress in both clinical practice settings and academic settings, in addition to all other functions of the School, to include professional meetings. Students are also expected to abide by any affiliate hospital's dress code which may be more specific than MTSA's policy. At all times the student is expected to use common sense in dress. Any violation of this dress code may subject the student to an audience with and/or disciplinary action by the NAP Council and/or Progressions Committee.

All students are expected to present themselves in a clean, neat, and well-groomed manner. The following standards apply:

#### 1. Clothing:

- a. **Clinical:** Students are expected to own their own scrub clothes and to wear them where the clinical sites allow. At all times these are to be clean and fresh each day. Scrub pants and tops should be worn in such a manner that at no time do they reveal the undergarments. Students should dress in full scrub attire top and bottom (T-shirt tops and scrub bottoms are not a complete uniform). Students are subject to being sent home for failure to comply with appropriate dress policies, and the clinical day will have to be made up on another day. Scrubs provided by clinical sites are to be returned daily and are not to be worn away from the clinical site.
- b. **Simulation Labs:** Students are expected to wear clean scrubs when they are scheduled for simulation lab. Scrub pants and tops should be worn in such a manner that at no time do they reveal the undergarments.
- c. **Classroom:** Students may wear their personal surgical scrub clothes to class. All clothes must be neat and clean. They must not be faddish, to include torn or tattered jeans or offensive logos on shirts. Tops with spaghetti straps or tube-type tops are not appropriate, nor are clothes that reveal the midriff or undergarments, or tops that are revealingly low-cut. Workout attire is permitted so long as modesty is kept in mind. For ladies, skirts must be a modest length. Longer styles of shorts may be worn, but they must not be short shorts; Ball caps must be removed during any test period. Surgical scrub caps may be worn in class.
- d. **Professional** (To include AANA or TANA meetings and when giving class presentations): The attire must be "professional" to include at minimum a dress shirt and tie for men with khaki or dress pants. Professional attire does not include sandals or tennis shoes.
- e. **Lab coats:** After successful completion of the second semester, each student will be presented with a lab coat with the MTSA logo. Students are expected to wear this lab coat over their scrubs when they arrive and whenever they leave the operating room area at their



clinical assignments. Students are responsible to keep this lab coat clean and in good condition. Prior to some events (i.e. occasional TANA events), MTSA may notify students that they are expected to wear their lab coats at the occasion. If this occurs, students are expected to wear this MTSA logo lab coat and are responsible to ensure the lab coat is clean, pressed, and in good condition before the event.

2. **Jewelry:** Jewelry is to be limited to no more than one ring per hand (wedding set counts as one ring), no more than one earring per earlobe (dime size or smaller and only in the earlobes), and no necklaces. Jewelry is to be modest in appearance and moderate in quantity, with no visible body piercing or subcutaneous implants. Students must follow clinical sites rules, in regards to jewelry if they differ from the above.
3. **Tattoos:** In the clinical area, classroom, or professional meetings, students will not have visible *offensive* tattoos. Such must be covered at all times. Any visible tattooing must be moderate in amount.
4. **Hair:** Hair must be neat and clean and out of the face at all times. In the clinical area, it must be covered completely by a surgical scrub cap.
5. **Facial Hair:** Facial hair must be neat, well-trimmed and not to exceed three inches in length. In most of the clinical facilities, facial hair is subject to approval by Infection Control and the Operating Room Supervisor, those who are responsible for assuring it is appropriately covered in the operating room.
6. **Fingernails:** Fingernails must be neat and clean, not longer than 1/4<sup>th</sup> inch beyond the end of the fingertip. Only natural nails are approved for use in the clinical area. Polish is to be of a single color (clear, pale, pink, white, or red) with no adornments; no black or dark colors. Students must comply with individual facility Hospital requirements regarding nail polish.
7. **Shoes:** In the clinical and simulation areas, there shall be no open-toed footwear. Students may wear their own surgical shoes or clogs, if they contain no holes; however, in many affiliates, footwear may be required to be covered by shoe covers. In the classroom, tennis shoes or sandals may be worn if they are neat and clean.
8. **Aromas:** No perfumes, fragrant lotions, or colognes are to be worn in the clinical area. Any offensive or overpowering odor is to be called to the attention of the student as soon as it is noticed, whether in clinical or in the classroom. This includes the personal hygiene responsibilities of each student.
9. **Gum chewing:** Students are to use good judgment and demonstrate appropriate discretion and respect in deciding when gum chewing is acceptable. In the clinical area, it is never acceptable for students to chew gum while interacting with patients and/or family members preoperatively or postoperatively. In the classroom setting, it is never acceptable for students to chew gum while making presentations. In professional settings, it is never acceptable for students to chew gum while making presentations or interacting with officials, such as TANA officers or state legislators.

## Emergency Response Plan

MTSA has an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) set to appropriately respond to various types of emergencies. The ERP is an all-inclusive approach to various crises that might occur on our

campus. The plan describes how the School will respond to emergencies that would suddenly and significantly affect our campus. The plan is available by contacting the Office of the Vice President of Academics.. If a student notices an emergency situation, they should notify the nearest staff or faculty member of the problem. If an emergency situation happens on campus, an alert to students will be sent out via BlackBoard Connect.

## **Homeland Security**

In the event of a regional or national crisis, MTSA has agreed with the Public Health Department that on non-clinical mornings, PD1 students may be called to help in nursing activities requiring RNs (i.e. vaccination in the event of a bioterrorist attack).

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION POLICY**

### **MTSA Policy 3.1.104**

(New 8/6/2018)

MTSA provides complete, accurate, timely, accessible, clear and sufficient information to its students, constituents, and the public. The MTSA Office of Advancement & Alumni is the official clearing house for all publications targeted for external use (primarily used for marketing purposes, news release information, professional journal articles, *Airways* Newsletter, etc.) This Office is responsible for updating and maintaining the MTSA website with current and accurate information, as well as responsibility of all communications to the media. This Office provides a uniform, coordinated and professional presence in the community served. The Advancement Office representative coordinates newsmen's interactions with students, faculty and/or staff. It is the objective of this policy to provide accurate, timely and quality publications and media release information.

This policy encompasses the following information:

- MTSA's current student handbooks, which includes MTSA's mission and obligations and responsibilities of both students and the institution, as well as current academic calendars, grading policies, cost of attendance, and refund policies. These handbooks are provided on the MTSA website ([www.mtsa.edu](http://www.mtsa.edu)). Archival versions for up to 10 years of these handbooks are available to alumni upon request.
- All forms of print and electronic communications officially representing MTSA are consistent with handbook content and accurately portray the operations of MTSA.
- MTSA publishes statements of its goals for student achievement and the success of students in achieving those goals. This information on student success includes retention and graduation rates, NBCRNA first time and subsequent pass rates, job placement rates and other measures of student success appropriate to MTSA's mission and Council on Accreditation (COA) requirements.
- MTSA maintains valid documentation for statements regarding such matters as program excellence, learning outcomes, success in placement, and achievements of graduates and faculty.

This information on the website and/or MTSA student handbooks.

## **ACADEMIC POLICIES POLICY**

### ***MTSA Policy 3.3.114***

(New - 8/6/18)

MTSA publishes, implements, and disseminates academic policies that adhere to principles of good educational practice and that accurately represent the programs and services of the institution. Educational policies appear in MTSA publications including the Administrative Manual, student handbooks, as well as Faculty Handbook. These manual and handbooks are available to their constituents through handbooks either the MTSA website, MTSA's internal sharefile network, or in print, upon request. The manuals and handbooks are reviewed and updated annually to ensure accurate information is disseminated.

## **POLICY FOR AWARDING CREDIT**

### ***MTSA Policy 3.3.115***

(New - 8/6/18)

MTSA uses semester credit hours as the basis for measuring the amount of learning accomplished. This measurement of engaged learning delineates the units connected with student learning experiences in both traditional classroom settings and nontraditional classroom settings such as laboratories, studios, internships, practica and other experiential learning, and in semester and non-semester-based, face-to-face and distance learning delivery modes.

The purpose of this policy is to provide academic administrators (Vice President of Academics and Program Administrator) and faculty of MTSA guidance in setting credit hour recommendations for MTSA academic courses and programs consistent with federal regulations.

MTSA defines a credit hour with the following:

In order to comply with federal regulations and comply with Southern Association of Schools and Colleges: Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) policy, MTSA has adopted the federal definition of the Credit Hour as identified by SACSCOC in their policy statement on credit hours approved June 2011, edited January 2012, which follows:

Federal Definition of the Credit Hour. For purposes of the application of this policy and in accord with federal regulations, a credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates:

- a. Not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or ten to twelve weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time, or

- b. At least an equivalent amount of work as required outlined in item 1 above for other academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

**The awarding of credit hours for academic courses and programs:**

MTSA is responsible for determining the amount of credit hours awarded for MTSA academic courses and programs and will abide by the SACSCOC guidelines for flexibility in interpretation when assigning credit hours for student coursework, stated as follows:

- a. The institution determines the amount of credit for student work.
- b. A credit hour is expected to be a reasonable approximation of a minimum amount of student work in accordance with commonly accepted practice in higher education\*
- c. The credit hour definition is a minimum standard that does not restrict an institution from setting a higher standard that requires more student work per credit hour.
- d. The definition does not dictate particular amounts of classroom time versus out-of-class student work.
- e. In determining the amount of work the institution’s learning outcomes will entail, the institution may take into consideration alternative delivery methods, measurements of student work, academic calendars, disciplines, and degree levels.
- f. To the extent an institution believes that complying with the Federal definition of a credit hour would not be appropriate for academic and other institutional needs, it may adopt a separate measure for those purposes.
- g. Credits may be awarded on the basis of documentation of the amount of work a typical student is expected to complete within a specified amount of academically engaged time, or on the basis of documented student learning calibrated to that amount of academically engaged time for a typical student.

\*Note: For the purposes of this policy, an “hour” of instruction is interpreted as 50 minutes of contact time or its equivalent. Thus each semester hour of credit involves  $15 \times 50 = 750$  minutes = 12.5 hours of contact time, or its equivalent, excluding registration and final examination periods.

**RELEASE OF STUDENT RECORD INFORMATION**  
**MTSA Policy 5.1.301**

(Revised 11/2018)

MTSA shall comply with all provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 (as amended) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g, 34 CFR Part 99) pertaining to the release of student education records. MTSA shall disclose to current students annually of their rights under the FERPA Act.

## **MTSA Internal Constituents**

Student information, not identified as “Directory information”, shall only be available to MTSA employees that have a “need to know” and legitimate educational interest to carry out job related functions. The Vice President of Academics, Program Administrator, and Coordinator of Academic Support shall maintain a list of current employees who have electronic access to student records to fulfill their job requirements. MTSA’s President, Vice President of Academics, or Program Administrator may grant temporary authorization for electronic access. Any access, other than electronic, into a student’s record should be appropriately logged.

## **Student Rights under FERPA**

- ◆ Students have the right to inspect and review their educational record within 45 calendar days of making a request to the school’s Coordinator of Academic Support. The student will submit a written request that identifies the record(s) the student wishes to inspect. The Coordinator of Academic Support will then forward the request to the Program Administrator who will facilitate a meeting of the educational record review. A record of the request for access will be kept in the student education record.
- ◆ Students have the right to request that the school correct records they believe to be inaccurate or misleading by submitting a written request for amendment to either MTSA’s President, Vice President of Academics or Program Administrator within 7 calendar days of discovery. The student must identify the part of the record that they want changed and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides an amendment to the record is not warranted, MTSA will notify the student in writing of the decision stating they have a right to a formal hearing. “After the hearing, if the school decides not to amend the record, the... eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information” (99.31).
- ◆ Students have the right to provide written consent before MTSA discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student’s education records to third parties, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. MTSA discloses education records without a student’s prior written consent under the FERPA exception for disclosure to (34CFR § 99.31):
  - ◆ School officials with legitimate educational interest;
  - ◆ Other schools to which a student is transferring;
  - ◆ Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
  - ◆ Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
  - ◆ Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
  - ◆ Accrediting organizations;
  - ◆ To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
  - ◆ Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies.

Legitimate educational interest is access to educational records, by appropriate MTSA Administrators, faculty and staff members and other outside service providers, to fulfill his or her professional responsibilities for the School.

No official academic or clinical information concerning a student shall be released until all MTSA forms and records are updated and in proper form for release. Prior to the release of information, all currently enrolled students shall have no outstanding debt with MTSA. A health-related entity financially supporting a student during enrollment at MTSA may request/require periodic academic and/or clinical reports. MTSA shall release the information to such entities **only after receiving a signed and dated written release from the student** specifying the entity to which information is to be released. The releases must be filed with the Records Office, which is under the supervision of the Vice President of Academics and Program Administrator of the School.

Institutions may request that students complete an application for privileges. MTSA may act as a facilitator by providing the form and mailing it when completed by the student. This activity shall not constitute a release of records and no prior approval shall be required.

Prior to graduation, MTSA asks students to execute written release of record forms so there will be no delay in dispatching information to prospective employers. If a prospective employer requests record information and the release forms are on file and/or if the prospective employer supplies an authorization for release of records signed by the student/graduate, MTSA's Records Office will first return a standard form letter verifying the dates the student/graduate attended MTSA and the student's/graduate's graduation date, among other standard responses. Copies of the MTSA transcript may be included when deemed necessary for verification of the information provided. Other requests for letters of reference about students or graduates will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

## **Directory Information**

Except as herein provided, all directory information may be released to appear in public documents and/or publications or may otherwise be disclosed without student consent; unless a written notice barring disclosure is filed in the Office of the Program Administrator and/or the Office of the VP for Advancement & Alumni of MTSA.

“Directory Information” at MTSA shall include the following student information:

- ◆ name
- ◆ home address
- ◆ local address
- ◆ telephone listing (home and cell phone)

- ◆ pager listing
- ◆ email address
- ◆ major field of study
- ◆ dates of attendance
- ◆ the institution(s) attended and from which degree(s) were earned
- ◆ clinical schedule
- ◆ degrees awarded and/or honors received
- ◆ student identification photographs
- ◆ any photographs or digital audio/video recordings taken as part of the educational program or at any School-related functions

### **MTSA Clinical Affiliates**

As completion of affiliations is a graduation requirement, students are required to sign a pre-release consent form. The following information shall have limited release (primarily to affiliate health care institutions where students may participate in clinical rotations), at the discretion of MTSA:

- ◆ evidence of health insurance
- ◆ evidence of liability insurance
- ◆ recommendations/references
- ◆ copies of health history including vaccinations
- ◆ academic record
- ◆ clinical record
- ◆ emergency information form
- ◆ background check
- ◆ drug screen results

### **External Publication of Information**

The MTSA Office of Advancement & Alumni will be the official clearing house for all publications targeted for external use (primarily used for marketing purposes, news release information, professional journal articles, *Airways* Newsletter, etc.) This Office is responsible for all communications to the media, for release of information regarding staff, faculty and students in attempt to provide a uniform, coordinated and professional posture in the community served. The Advancement Office representative has the right to prohibit newsmen from interviewing students, faculty and/or staff. It is the objective of this policy to provide accurate, timely and quality publications and media release information.

If student believes there is a violation of their rights under FERPA they are encouraged to contact the compliance office within 180 calendar days at:

Family Policy Compliance Office

US Department of Education

400 Maryland Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20202-5920

1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327)

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/index.html>

## **COMPUTER AND NETWORK USE POLICY**

### **MTSA Policy 3.3.101**

#### **Purpose**

Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia (MTSA) provides computing, networking, and information services to all students, faculty, and staff. As this system often holds confidential, sensitive, and privileged information, MTSA expects all users to operate and maintain a secure environment, and to protect the system from misuse, unauthorized access, and potential corruption of the network infrastructure.

This policy applies to both school provided and personal devices that have interaction both internally and externally via the MTSA shared network, school provided e-mail accounts, school related software program/app (i.e. Blackboard, Medatrax), social media, and internet.

#### **User Rights and Responsibilities**

MTSA computers and networks can provide access to resources on and off campus, as well as the ability to communicate with other users worldwide. Such access is a privilege, and requires that individual users act responsibly. Users must respect the rights of other users, respect the integrity of the systems and related physical resources, and observe all relevant laws, regulations, and contractual obligations.

#### **Misuse**

Users will be held accountable for their conduct under current MTSA policies. Complaints alleging misuse of computing, networking, or information resources may result in the restriction of computing privileges and/or other internal disciplinary actions. Additionally, misuse can be prosecuted under applicable statutes. Reproduction or distribution of copyrighted works, including, but not limited to, images, text, or software, without permission of the owner is an infringement of U.S. Copyright Law and is subject to civil damages and criminal penalties including fines and imprisonment.

Examples of misuse include, but are not limited to, the activities in the following list:



- ◆ Using a computer account that you are not authorized to use. Obtaining a password for a computer account without the consent of the account owner.
- ◆ Using the Campus Network to gain unauthorized access to any computer systems.
- ◆ Knowingly performing an act which will interfere with the normal operation of computers, terminals, peripherals, or networks.
- ◆ Knowingly running or installing on any computer system or network, or giving to another user, a program intended to damage or to place excessive load on a computer system or network. This includes but is not limited to programs known as computer viruses, Trojan horses, and worms.
- ◆ Attempting to circumvent data protection schemes or uncover security loopholes.
- ◆ Violating terms of applicable software licensing agreements or copyright laws.
- ◆ Deliberately wasting computing resources.
- ◆ Using electronic mail to harass others (see *Computer Based Discrimination/Harassment* below).
- ◆ Masking the identity of an account or machine.
- ◆ Posting materials on electronic bulletin boards that violate existing laws or the University's codes of conduct.
- ◆ Attempting to monitor or tamper with another user's electronic communications, or reading, copying, changing, or deleting another user's files or software without the explicit agreement of the owner.

To report misuse of MTSA electronic resources, submit written communication to your immediate supervisor or the Director of IT.

### **Electronic Based Discrimination/Harassment**

As per MTSA's [\*Discrimination/Harassment Policy\*](#) "It shall be a violation of this policy for any employee or any student to discriminate against or harass an employee or student through disparaging conduct or communication that is inherently discriminatory". This includes, but is not limited to, discrimination in regards to race, color, sex, age, disability, marital status, full or part time status, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin (see [\*Nondiscrimination Policy\*](#)).

This policy covers employee and student communication using MTSA issued e-mail (sent by or received to), school based online programs/apps (i.e. Blackboard, Medatrax), and all employee and student social media accounts during their tenure when used as a representative of MTSA.

To report the misuse of MTSA electronic resources in relation to possible discrimination/harassment, a complaint may be submitted either orally, in writing, or electronically to the MTSA Title IX Coordinator ([titleIXcoordinator@mtsa.edu](mailto:titleIXcoordinator@mtsa.edu)).

### **MTSA Shared Network**

The MTSA shared network is for staff and faculty use only. Permission to access files on the shared network will be requested for staff and faculty by administration. Requests will be sent to

the MTSA IT Department. Requests for access will be approved after consideration of HIPAA and FERPA regulations related to the sharing of privileged information in the requested files (see [Release of Student Record Information & Stakeholder's Rights](#)).

At no time shall the following types of files be stored on the shared network: personal photos, music, videos, files that contain harmful components including malware, spyware, viruses, and/or tracking programs, pornography, or anything deemed harmful or illegal. The MTSA IT Department may access user files as required to protect the integrity of computer systems. For example, following organizational guidelines, IT may access or examine files or accounts that are suspected of unauthorized use or misuse, or that have been corrupted or damaged.

### **MTSA Issued E-Mail Addresses**

MTSA currently issues each staff, faculty, and student an e-mail account through a business Google account. This e-mail account is considered the official line of communication between these parties, as well as official MTSA communication outside of the school. This e-mail is not for personal use and is considered the property of MTSA.

This account is kept and maintained by the MTSA IT Department and is not considered a secure e-mail account to send privileged information across unless such attachments are encrypted or password protected.

If there is suspected abuse/neglect of MTSA issued e-mail accounts, MTSA IT can access any MTSA e-mail account with written request from the Executive Committee and Director of IT to review and retrieve e-mails in relation to the claim. At least one half of the Executive Committee must approve this request. These e-mails will then be shared with the Executive Committee and Director of IT and may result in disciplinary action by Progressions Committee for students and the Executive Committee for employees.

E-mail accounts will be deleted 90 days after a student graduates from MTSA. E-mail accounts will be deleted one (1) week after students are dismissed from the program. Students are responsible for notifying their contacts and carrying their contact list over to a personal e-mail before deletion. No information will be kept from deleted accounts unless an e-mail is preserved as a PDF in the student permanent file.

E-mail accounts will be deleted 90 days after a staff, faculty, or administrative member leaves the employ of MTSA. The departing member is responsible for notifying their contacts and carrying their contact list over to a personal e-mail before deletion.

### **MTSA Website & Social Media**

MTSA has a website ([www.mtsa.edu](http://www.mtsa.edu)) that is maintained by the VP of Advancement & Alumni and/or his designee. Content to be posted to the website must be submitted to this office.

MTSA maintains school accounts on various social media platforms and will evaluate representation for the school on new platforms as they emerge. These accounts are also maintained by the VP of Advancement & Alumni and/or his designees, as well as the MTSA IT Department.

All policies, procedures, and guidelines regarding university trademarks, names, and symbols apply to the website and social media sites. The Department of Advancement & Alumni can offer guidance about how to properly use names, logos, etc., to resolve branding and copyright/trademark issues in these venues. MTSA does not permit explicit or implied institutional endorsements of any kind through use of its name, trademarks, logos, or images – including pictures of campus buildings.

MTSA does not prescreen content posted by third person parties to social media sites, but it shall have the right to remove, in its sole discretion, any content that it considers to violate MTSA policies. MTSA does not endorse or take responsibility for content posted by third parties. MTSA, through the Department of Advancement & Alumni, will work to correct inaccuracies on MTSA sites by responding with correct, factual information and including source citations (links, video, contact information, etc) when appropriate.

## **Technology Requirements**

**Mobile Smart Phone:** A **mobile smart phone**, with **data plan** (internet access) is **required** during the entire length of the program. As students travel to several affiliates, a mobile phone may be needed for emergency use. At clinical sites where students do not have WiFi access, the smart phone will be used as a backup for clinical evaluation completion. Utilizing Blackboard Connect technology, the smart phone will also be used to receive urgent messages from MTSA administration. All students are required to have **voicemail** on their home telephone and/or mobile smart phone throughout the **entire** program, and to check their messages daily.

**It is the responsibility of all students to keep the School updated with their current phone number, throughout the entire program**

**Computer:** Every student must have reliable access to either a desktop or a laptop personal computer for completion of scholarly papers and presentations. Each student will also be required to have reliable high-speed internet access to complete online assignments and conduct research. MTSA recommends a laptop PC; however, a home desktop computer will be adequate. The personal computer should have a processor speed at least 1.8-2.0 GHz.

Due to the nature of the online component, students must make sure their home computer has an internet speed of 2MBPS (upload/download) or greater for a successful Web-Ex connection. Operating system requirements and supported web browser information can be found **here**. Computers must have an internal or external web camera and microphone. Students can test their internet speed at **www.speedtest.net**.

MS Office applications are the current standard at MTSA. The latest version of Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, and Microsoft Excel is required; therefore, each student will be given access to Microsoft Office 365. For wireless compatibility, laptops must have internal wireless capability “N or G”; older type “B” systems are not supported.

**iPad:** Every student will need to purchase an iPad with the following specifications (*iPad Pro* or *iPad Air 2*; minimum 32GB free space). Educational programs will be downloaded at first semester intensive week.

This device is used in the classroom for electronic access to PowerPoint slides, testing purposes, recording simulation exercises, and to support student learning. The student and supervising anesthesia providers will also use the iPad in the clinical environment for online completion of student clinical evaluations.

## **STUDENT COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES POLICY**

### **MTSA Policy 5.1.102**

Students have a right to expect that MTSA will treat them with respect and will abide by the standards set forth in the most current edition of the program's *MTSA DNAP Practice Doctorate Student Handbook*.

MTSA encourages and welcomes feedback on aspects of its operation. It recognizes the rights of students to express dissatisfaction or make formal complaints about processes or services provided by MTSA. Grievances are formal complaints brought by a student regarding MTSA's provision of education and academic services affecting their role as a student. A grievance must be based on a claimed violation of a MTSA rule, policy, or established practice. This policy does not limit MTSA's right to change rules, policies, or practices.

The three categories for grievances are as follows: Complaints, Discrimination / Harassment allegations, and an Appeal of a Committee Decision (such as Progressions Committee or NAP Council)

### **How to File an Informal Complaint:**

As a first step, MTSA offers students an informal process to lodge a concern or suggestion. This process allows students to provide MTSA with information or suggestions relating to processes or services provided.

**Step 1:** Student raises concern regarding a particular service or process with the relevant faculty, staff member, or brings item to the School Life Committee (SLC) to be heard.

**Step 2:** Faculty, staff member, or SLC will listen or consider the concern

**Step 3:** Faculty, staff member, or SLC explores options/implications of resolving the issue, i.e.

- ◆ No action is deemed appropriate
- ◆ Lodging a suggestion letter to the Vice President of Academics
- ◆ Advising the student to lodge a Formal Written Complaint

## Grounds for a Formal Complaint

A student has the right to file a complaint. This MTSA Student Complaint/Grievance Policy is for all issues in which the student believes he has been adversely affected. Examples may include:

- ◆ Improper, irregular, or negligent conduct against a student by a faculty or staff member of MTSA;
- ◆ Failure to adhere to appropriate or relevant published MTSA policies and procedures;
- ◆ A decision made without sufficient consideration of facts, evidence or circumstances of specific relevance to the student;
- ◆ A penalty, where applied, is considered too harsh;
- ◆ Failure by MTSA to make a decision within a timely manner, reasonable to the complaint.

## How to File a Formal Written Complaint:

A complaint must be submitted in writing to the MTSA Vice President of Academics using the Student Complaint form, available on the MTSA website or through the Office of the Vice President of Academics, identifying the student grievant, the respondent individual(s) involved, the incident, the rule/policy/established practice claimed to be violated, and a brief statement of the redress sought. Upon submission of a written complaint, the Vice President of Academics will provide the student grievant with written acknowledgement of receipt of the complaint via e-mail, as well as a more detailed outline of the process.

Complaints should be addressed to:

Office of the Vice President of Academics  
Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia  
P.O. Box 417  
Madison, TN 37116

## Withdrawal of Complaint:

A student may at any time during the complaints resolution process withdraw a complaint. This is done by putting their intent to withdraw an informal or formal complaint in writing and forwarding it to the Office of the Vice President of Academics.

## Appeal of a Committee Decision

Students who are not satisfied with the decisions of the Progressions Committee can **appeal those decisions to the Appeals Committee**, the highest appellate body in the School. The Appeals Committee has the right to review the entire issue, and may support the Progressions Committee's action or return it to the Progressions Committee for further review.

## CONSUMER PROTECTION POLICY MTSA Policy 5.1.203

## **Procedures to follow in response to U.S. Department of Education 10.29.10 Final Rules**

In accordance with the Department of Education's final regulations published on October 29, 2010, the following is the complaint process related to receiving and resolving complaints for TICUA member institutions that are legally authorized to provide post-secondary education in Tennessee and are exempt from regulation by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

### **Complaints**

1. All complaints should first be routed through the appropriate complaint/appeals process as outlined by each university.
2. Depending on the nature of complaint, the matter should be brought to the attention of the office directly responsible for that area of the college or university.
3. Complaints and appeals should be well-documented and move through the appropriate campus supervisory structure prior to appealing to any off-campus authority.

### **Off Campus Authorities**

- ◆ Complaints relating to quality of education or accreditation requirements shall be referred to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), (<http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/081705/complaintpolicy.pdf>) or the Council on Accreditation (COA) (<http://home.coa.us.com/contact/Pages/Concerns.aspx>).
- ◆ Complaints related to the application of state laws or rules related to approval to operate or licensure of a particular professional program within a postsecondary institution shall be referred to the appropriate State Board (i.e., State Boards of Health, State Board of Education, and so on) within the Tennessee State Government and shall be reviewed and handled by that licensing board (<http://www.tn.gov>, and then search for the appropriate division);
- ◆ For students attending programs in Tennessee, complaints related to state consumer protection laws (e.g., laws related to fraud or false advertising) shall be referred to the Tennessee Division of Consumer Affairs and shall be reviewed and handled by that unit (<http://www.tn.gov/consumer/>).
- ◆ For out-of-state students using distance learning programs, complaints related to consumer protection laws shall be filed using the Tennessee NC-SARA Portal form: <http://tn.gov/assets/entities/thec/attachments/ComplaintForm.pdf>

## **DISCRIMINATION / HARASSMENT POLICY**

### **MTSA Policy 3.2.303**

Discrimination/Harassment will not be tolerated. Employees and students at MTSA shall be provided a work and learning environment free of discrimination/harassment per the MTSA Nondiscriminatory Policy. It shall be a violation of this policy for any employee or any student to discriminate against or harass an employee or student through disparaging conduct or communication that is inherently discriminatory. The basis of these complaints may arise, but not

be limited to, the following provisions of law:

- ◆ Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq.;
- ◆ Title VII of the Code of Federal Regulations; 29 CFR §1604.11;
- ◆ Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681, et seq.;
- ◆ Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 791 et seq.;
- ◆ Claims of sexual harassment under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e et seq.

The following situations are examples of when employees and students should report possible discrimination / harassment to the Title IX Coordinator:

- ◆ Unreasonably interferes with the individual's work or performance;
- ◆ Feels intimidated, hostility or an offensive work environment;
- ◆ Explicit or implicit term threats to terms of employment or academic success;
- ◆ Encounters submission to or rejection of sexual conduct will be used as a basis for decisions affecting the harassed employee or student.

Alleged victims of sexual, racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, or religious discrimination/ harassment shall report these incidents immediately if they believe their rights as guaranteed by the State or Federal Constitution, State or Federal laws or School policies have been violated. This report should be made in writing to the Title IX Coordinator, except when the Title IX Coordinator is the offending party. If the Title IX Coordinator is the offending party, the report shall be made to the President of MTSA. All allegations of discrimination/harassment shall be reported in writing to and fully investigated by the office of the Title IX Coordinator or the President, as appropriate.

### **Reports should be addressed to:**

Title IX Coordinator  
Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia  
P.O. Box 417  
Madison, TN 37116  
titleIXcoordinator@mtsa.edu

An oral complaint may be submitted; however, such complaint shall be reduced to writing to insure a more complete investigation. The complaint should include the following:

- ◆ Identity of the alleged victim and person accused;
- ◆ Location, date, time and circumstances surrounding the alleged incident;
- ◆ Description of what happened;
- ◆ Identity of witnesses (if any); and
- ◆ Any other evidence available.

A substantiated charge against an employee shall result in disciplinary action up to and including termination. A substantiated charge against a student may result in corrective or disciplinary action

up to and including removal from the School.

There will be no retaliation against any such person who reports discrimination/harassment or participates in an investigation. However, any employee/student who refuses to cooperate or who gives false information during the course of any investigation may be subject to disciplinary action. The willful filing of a false report shall itself be treated as a violation of this policy and shall result in severe repercussions to the maker of the report.

## **Investigation Procedures**

The privacy and anonymity of all parties and witnesses to complaints will be respected. The complaint and identity of the complaining party shall not be disclosed except (1) as required by law or this policy; or (2) as necessary to fully investigate the complaint; or (3) as authorized by the complaining party. However, because an individual's need for confidentiality must be balanced with obligations to cooperate with police investigations, legal proceedings, to provide due process to the accused, to conduct a thorough investigation, or to take necessary action to resolve a complaint, the identity of parties and witnesses may be disclosed. This will occur only in appropriate circumstances and only to individuals deemed necessary to possess such knowledge.

The Title IX Coordinator, or a designated complaint manager appointed by them, shall address the complaint of discrimination/harassment promptly and equitably. The person conducting the complaint investigation shall file a written report within ten (10) MTSA business days with the Title IX Coordinator. After receipt of the report from the person conducting the investigation, the Title IX Coordinator of MTSA, or the President, as appropriate, shall render a written decision within ten (10) MTSA business days.

## **STUDENT APPEALS POLICY**

### **MTSA Policy 5.1.116**

#### **Appeal of a Progressions Committee Disciplinary Action**

The disciplinary action of the Progressions Committee may be appealed to the next higher body, the MTSA Appeals Committee. The standard procedure of an appeal is as follows:

1. In all cases, the request for an appeal must be submitted in writing to the Program Administrator within four (4) MTSA business days of written notice of the Progressions Committee decision. If the fourth day falls on a legal or School holiday, the time is extended to the next regular MTSA business day. Regular business days for MTSA are Monday through Thursday.
2. All written documentation from the appellant must be submitted for the Appeals Committee's consideration within the same time provided for filing a request for an appeal (4 MTSA business days). Within 12 MTSA business days of the receipt of a written request for an Appeals Committee hearing, the NAP Council will designate an Appeals Committee according to administrative policy of MTSA. The Appeals Committee will meet and make a decision within 12 MTSA business days after the designation of the Appeals Committee. This time may



be extended by MTSA administration for good cause.

3. The Appeals Committee will review the request for appeal together with any written documents and other supporting evidence to determine if the appeal presents a substantial question within the scope of review. The scope of review shall be limited to the following:
  - i. **Appropriateness of the Penalty:** In cases appealing the appropriateness of the penalty, the Appeals Committee shall uphold the penalty unless the penalty is shown to be “clearly unreasonable” or arbitrary (i.e., “that which has been clearly and fully proven to have no sound basis or justification in reason.”).
  - ii. **New Evidence:** In cases appealed on grounds of new evidence, the student(s) must show that such evidence is material to the decision of the Appeals Committee on issue of the charges and the findings and that said evidence could not have been discovered with due diligence prior to the original hearing.
  - iii. **Due Process:** In cases appealed on grounds of denial of due process, the student(s) must demonstrate that the Progressions Committee’s process at the initial hearing was not conducted in conformity with properly prescribed procedures. The student(s) must also show that the alleged discrepancy was materially averse to the student(s) interest.
4. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final. Any reconsideration of the decision will be remanded to the Progressions Committee.

## Grade Appeal Procedure

MTSA maintains a grade appeal and due process protocol. Students of MTSA have the right to appeal a final course grade they consider to have been assigned unfairly, or the grade was derived in a different manner than was outlined in the course syllabus. The faculty members of MTSA have the responsibility of assigning final course grades according to the course syllabus and grading rubrics. Should a disagreement occur about a grade assignment, it is the intention of MTSA to uphold the integrity of both students and faculty. This appeal process is not intended to weaken the work of the faculty. This grade appeal process does not apply to any dismissal from MTSA related to academic standing.

### Appeal Process:

**Step 1:** *Within 5 MTSA business days after posting of final grades:* The student must email a request to meet with the course instructor (to the instructor’s MTSA email address), to discuss how the grade was assigned. After this meeting, if the student and faculty member agree the grade was appropriately assigned, the appeal process ends and the final grade will stand as posted. If the issue is still unresolved, the student may continue to the next step of the grade appeal process.

**Step 2:** *Within 5 MTSA business days after receiving decision from Instructor:* The student must file the written grade appeal form, (available by electronic request from the Office of the Vice President of Academics ) supporting documents, and the written decision of the instructor, to the Office of the Vice President of Academics . The Office of the Vice President of Academics will have five MTSA business days to review the appeal

and supporting documents. The Office of the Vice President of Academics may also ask to meet with the student and/or the course instructor for clarification of information, or additional information that may be deemed necessary. The decision of the Office of the Vice President of Academics will be emailed (via MTSA email addresses) to the student and course instructor.

If student is not satisfied with the resolution of their appeal, they can request to be heard by the next meeting of the Progressions Committee. If the grade the student received causes dismissal from the program, an ad hoc Progressions Committee may be requested.

## **STUDENT PROGRESSIONS**

### **Academic and Clinical Progression**

Advancement of each student to the next higher level of anesthesia training and responsibility is made by recommendations from the Progressions Committee per semester.

In order to receive an unencumbered recommendation for academic progression, the student must meet the conditions of the **Grading Policy 5.4.108**. MTSA expects graduate students to:

- ◆ Maintain graduate level coursework at a minimum earned grade of B
- ◆ Maintain a minimum overall academic cumulative GPA of 3.0
- ◆ Expect dismissal for earning a failing course grade, second “C” in any course, or third probation

In order to receive an unencumbered recommendation for clinical progression, the student must meet the conditions of the **Policy of MTSA Clinical Standards 5.4.103**. MTSA expects graduate students to:

- ◆ Complete all clinical objectives for the current level for advancement to the next level
- ◆ Receive satisfactory clinical evaluations
- ◆ Keep current multi-state Tennessee Nursing License or Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) or enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC) nursing license on file at MTSA
- ◆ Obtain any other nursing license in timely manner for additional out of state rotations (Ohio)

## **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

### **Administrative Responsibility to Disciplinary Actions**

In accordance with School policy, By-Laws, and Board of Trustees actions, the Program Administrator, who is the chief disciplinary officer, delegates the supervision of student disciplinary actions to the Progressions Committee, the NAP Council, and the President’s Council. Actions that may be taken by the Program Administrator prior to presentation to the Progressions Committee include verbal counseling, disciplinary warning, remediation, probation, suspension, and loss of privilege. Recommendations and actions taken by the Progressions Committee may be subject to review by the NAP Council and/or the President’s Council, prior to going to the Appeals

Committee.

The Program Administrator, administrative officers, faculty, and staff are responsible for working with students to encourage compliance with all School policies and the Standards of Conduct.

## **Progressions Committee**

The MTSA Progressions Committee is an ongoing committee which meets regularly to determine students' progress within the program. When the Progressions Committee meets to discuss specific issues that involve individual student(s), the individual student(s) will be invited to speak to the Progressions Committee regarding the issue before a decision is rendered. The individual student(s) are invited to speak to the Progressions Committee, but the student(s) are not permitted to invite others to attend. The NAP Council is responsible for implementation and monitoring of any remedial and/or punitive actions. If the student(s) is (are) not satisfied with the decision of the Progressions Committee and/or the NAP Council or President's Council, the student(s) may request a formal hearing by the MTSA Appeals Committee.

## **Actions Which May Be Recommended by Progressions Committee**

The actions which may be recommended (but not limited to) and brief explanatory notes are as follows:

### **Loss of Privilege**

These penalties are intended to serve as reminders of operating regulations and are for specific periods of time. Such penalties may include loss of scholarship, loss of right to participate in certain School activities, loss of privilege of use of facilities, etc.

### **Disciplinary Warning**

Disciplinary warnings are used for minor infractions. A warning indicates that further violations will result in more severe disciplinary actions. Warnings will be issued to a student in written form. A written warning, once issued, will be placed on the permanent file of the student. A student may petition the Warning to the NAP Council for documented situations, such as sickness or family issues.

### **Probation**

Probation means that a student is permitted to remain at the School or clinical affiliate on a probationary status. If a student is found responsible for a similar violation during probation, the student may be suspended or dismissed. Other conditions of probation are specific to the individual case and may include loss of eligibility to serve on School committees or participate in specified School activities. Any probation for any cause will be reflected on the permanent transcript. Students who are placed on any type of probation greater than two (2) times will be dismissed from the program. An active vote to carry probation over to another term will count as an additional probation. Students' clinical probationary status will be made known to the affiliates' clinical coordinators where the student is scheduled to affiliate.

**ANY probationary period, regardless of the type of or reason for the probation, may negatively affect a student's eligibility to receive federal financial assistance.**

## **Indefinite Suspension**

Indefinite suspension means that no specific date has been recommended for readmission of the suspended student. This penalty is used when the prognosis of rehabilitation is uncertain, and the Progressions Committee and/or the NAP or President's Council desires that some additional evidence of rehabilitation be presented by the student prior to readmission to the School. Applications for readmission shall be considered by the Admissions Committee, with consultation from the Progressions Committee and the NAP and/or President's Council.

## **Permanent Dismissal/Termination**

Permanent dismissal means that a student is permanently barred from readmission to the School. This penalty is used when the violation of one or more of the Standards of Conduct is deemed so serious as to warrant a total and permanent disassociation from the School community.

## **Academic Issues**

### **See Grading Policy 5.4.108**

- ◆ Students should expect dismissal for earning a failing course grade, second "C" in any course, or third probation

## **Clinical Issues**

### **See Clinical Standards at MTSA 5.4.103**

- ◆ Students who have not received satisfactory clinical evaluations may be placed on clinical probation. This may be done at the recommendation of the Program Administrator to the Progressions Committee, the Progressions Committee independently, or by the Program Administrator in the interim between committee meetings. This probation will be reflected on the student's transcript.
- ◆ If a student is placed on clinical probation, the student's status will be made known to the affiliates' Clinical Coordinators where the student is scheduled to affiliate. If aware of the cause of probation, the affiliate will be better able to assist the student in remediation.
- ◆ Students who are placed on any type of probation greater than two (2) times will be dismissed from the program. An active vote to carry probation over to another term will count as an additional probation.
- ◆ Any student having been placed on a clinical probation may be extended in the program. The duration of such an extension will be determined by the Progressions Committee. PD2 students participate in specialty rotations (i.e., cardiovascular, pediatrics, obstetrics), and if their clinical progress prohibits their full participation in specialty areas, they will need to extend in the program to complete these rotations. The length of the extension in the program, due to inadequate clinical progress in a specialty rotation, will also be determined by the Progressions Committee (*see Remediation Policy*).

- ◆ Students whose clinical performance warrants an extended time in the program will be charged for the extension. The extension cost will be prorated per semester. Financial aid may not be available for this extension in the program, depending on Federal guidelines for financial aid.
- ◆ Students will keep a current Tennessee or Nurse Licensure Compact state RN license and current licenses for any state in which the student affiliates on file at MTSA. Failure to do so will lead to **suspension** from School until a current license is obtained. Any suspended time must be made up after graduation.
- ◆ Students completing pediatric rotation in Ohio must submit a copy of their Ohio license before the start of the PD2. This means making application late in the PD1, at least two months before scheduled to affiliate there. The Coordinator of Clinical Support will assist with this process. Students desiring to participate in a full affiliation or a Senior Elective in a state other than Tennessee or one of the Nurse Licensure Compact states, **must** present evidence of RN licensure in that state prior to full approval of that elective. **Not having current RN licensure prior to these affiliations will result in withdrawal from the clinical site and may lead to an extension in the program.**
- ◆ Students should expect dismissal for earning a failing course grade, second “C” in any course, or third probation

### **Discipline / Penalty Related Issues**

- ◆ A student may be placed on a general probation for other issues, such as if conduct or health fails to meet acceptable levels. General probation may be at the recommendation of the Program Administrator to the Progressions Committee, the NAP Council to the Progressions Committee, or the Progressions Committee independently. The duration of probation is determined by the Progressions Committee and is expected to be between one and three months. Upon completion of the probationary period, the student may be restored to full student standing, have probation continued (duration is at the discretion of the Progressions Committee), or, in extreme cases, be dismissed from the program.
- ◆ If the student has been on probation for any cause during his time in the program, specific permission must be obtained from the Progressions Committee for the student to be eligible to participate in a Senior Elective rotation of his choice, rather than one assigned by the School.
- ◆ A student may be placed on suspension if conduct in any area fails to meet acceptable levels, to include cheating in any form. The duration of the suspension will be determined by the Progressions Committee. Upon completion of the suspended period, the student may be restored to full standing with no probation, or allowed to re-enter the program and placed on probation for a duration that will be determined by the Progressions Committee.
- ◆ Students who are required to spend an extended time in the program will be charged for the extension. The extension cost will be prorated per semester. The extension in the program may negatively affect a student’s eligibility to receive state or federal financial assistance.
- ◆ In extreme cases, a student may be dismissed from the program without probation or suspension.
- ◆ Occasionally, the Progressions Committee meets to discuss specific issues that involve individual students. In this instance, the Progressions Committee invites the individual

student(s) directly involved to speak to the issue before rendering a decision. The individual student(s) directly involved are invited to speak to the Progressions Committee, but the student(s) are not permitted to invite others to attend. Should students not agree with this decision, they may appeal the issue to the Appeals Committee, the highest appellate body of the School.

- ◆ There may be times the Progressions Committee, in its discussion of students' performance in general, determines that an action should be taken related to individual students. Upon notification of the decision, any students who feel extenuating circumstances existed which may have impacted on any decision of the Progressions Committee, and were unable to speak on their own behalf before the original decision was rendered, may give a written request to the Progressions Committee to speak on their own behalf to appeal the decision. The Progressions Committee will meet to allow a student to speak to the issue (The student is not permitted to invite others to attend). The Progressions Committee may decide to alter its original decision or to stand by it. Should a student still not be in agreement with the final decision, the student may address the issue to the Appeals Committee.
- ◆ Students must give written notice to the Program Administrator if they desire to have a decision heard by the Appeals Committee. The Program Administrator will assemble an Appeals Committee according to administrative policy. The Appeals Committee has the right to review the entire issue and may support the Progressions Committee's action or may render a decision that may be more lenient or more severe. The student and Progressions Committee are expected to abide by the decision of the Appeals Committee.
- ◆ Upon completion of a probationary period, the student's situation will be reviewed by the Progressions Committee and his or her status determined. Depending on the student's progress, he or she may be restored to full student standing, have probation continued, or, in extreme cases, be dismissed from the program.
- ◆ ALL probationary periods, regardless of the type of probation or the reason for the probation, will be reflected in the student's permanent file.
- ◆ **ANY probationary period, regardless of the type of or reason for the probation, may negatively affect a student's eligibility to receive federal financial assistance.**

## REMEDIATION POLICY

### MTSA Policy 5.4.106

(Revised 5/15/2018)

Rather than discipline, the Program Administrator and the nurse anesthesia program faculty members may elect for student remediation for issues in such areas as academic performance, clinical performance, or professionalism issues. It is recognized that a number of issues may lead to remediation, most of which are related to clinical / academic / professional problematic behavior and are defined as (but not limited to):

1. An inability or unwillingness to acquire and integrate clinical/academic/professional standards into one's repertoire of acceptable behavior;
2. An inability or unwillingness to acquire and integrate clinical/academic/professional skills

in order to reach an expected level of competency;

3. An inability or unwillingness to adaptively manage personal stress, psychological dysfunction, and/or excessive emotional reactions that interfere with clinical/academic/professional functioning.

Professional judgement by the Program Administrator and the nurse anesthesia program faculty members is utilized to determine when a student's behavior rises to the level of remediation or discipline.

Examples of problems which usually require mediation include one or more of the following traits:

- ◆ The student does not acknowledge, understand, or address the problem when it is identified;
- ◆ The problem is not a simple reflection of a skill deficit that can be remedied by academic or clinical training;
- ◆ The quality of services delivered by the student is deemed unsafe clinical practice or academically consistently below the level expected of a doctorate program;
- ◆ The problem is not restricted to one area of clinical/academic/professional functioning;
- ◆ A disproportionate amount of attention by faculty/training personnel is required to address the student's problems;
- ◆ The student's behavior does not change as a function of feedback, remedial efforts, and/or time;
- ◆ The problematic behavior has ethical or legal ramifications for the department;
- ◆ The student's behavior when representing the department negatively affects the public view of the department.

Remediation contracts will be written and signed by both the Program Administrator and the student. The content of the contract is completely dependent on the type and scope of identified problematic behavior and is at the discretion of the Program Administrator and the nurse anesthesia program faculty.

Failure to successfully complete a remediation contract may result in disciplinary action, including a formal written warning, probation, suspension, or dismissal.

## **MTSA STUDENT SERVICES**

### **Intensive Week**

The first week of classes in Semester 1 will be held on campus. All students are required to attend this intensive week. Sessions will be held to discuss the academic and clinical requirements of the program, review of the student handbook, as well as an orientation to the MTSA campus. Students will attend their first class in each of their semester 1 courses to meet the faculty and acclimate to MTSA. Classroom activities will be held to assist in building community within the cohort before returning home for the semester.

## **Financial Aid Entrance Interview**

All admitted applicants are required to schedule an initial entrance interview with the MTSA Financial Aid Office. For more information, see the *Financial Aid* section of this handbook.

## **Professional Liability Insurance**

Carrying liability insurance for MTSA students is to offer specific protection against third party claims that may arise as a result of some action when students are participating in the provision of anesthesia. When a claim is made, the insurance carrier has the right to defend the insured, thus MTSA has afforded students this protection. For more information, see the *Additional Expenses* section of this handbook.

## **School/Clinical Related Accident Insurance**

Because students perform clinical assignments in a health care arena where accidents may happen, such as needle sticks, and because clinical affiliate hospitals are unwilling to assume the risk of caring for students in such situation, MTSA provides an accident insurance policy to assure they have appropriate healthcare treatment for an untoward event. Although MTSA provides this personal school-related accidental/injury insurance policy, MTSA does not assume the student's medical care nor provide health insurance. This coverage applies only to school related activities. The student must carry personal health insurance at all times throughout the program. For more information, see the *Additional Expenses* section of this handbook.

## **MTSA Campus Community Day**

The first day of semester 2, MTSA hosts a community day introducing the student and their family to life at MTSA. The goal of this day is to show that MTSA is a family-oriented community devoted to supporting our student in all aspects of their life while they are studying here. The day is broken up in lectures and events not only to educate, but to let the student and their families mingle with their classmates to form a foundation to stand on for rest of their school days.

**Student attendance for MTSA Campus Community Day is required.**

One of the educational sessions is designed to increase the knowledge and awareness of the rigors of graduate education/life that may arise. Due to the high risk of addiction with anesthesia providers, a licensed counselor reviews how students and families can recognize at-risk behaviors, seek counseling, and demonstrate support and understand to the student's behavior and attitude.

## **Academic and Clinical Schedules**

Complete daily schedules of class and clinical assignments for Semesters 3-5 are given each student upon completion of Semester 2, which includes vacation. At any time, students can refer to the MTSA calendar to view the updated daily schedule for the upcoming month, which details the simulation schedules in addition to the specific academic class schedules.



## **Business Services**

The business offices at MTSA support students in assistance with their business needs such as Fax, Copy, Mail, Notary, Registered Nursing Licensure out-of-state, fingerprinting, transcripts, & wellness documents (i.e., TB skin tests) at no additional charge. MTSA students have to provide documentation of multiple items to multiple places while in school and to employers after graduation.

## **Community Service Program**

MTSA believes in “giving back” to the community, and thus has ongoing opportunities for the entire school to participate in community service projects. The professional aspects course has continued to include a service project. Within this course, each student or a group of students is asked to participate in a community related project to launch their career devotion to a life of service. Students participate as they can in the local community *Annual Community Police Department Bike Run* in which students serve in the First Aid Station. Staff and Faculty are also encouraged to participate. Students can suggest other community service projects that they feel fit with the mission of the school for consideration to the School Life Committee outside of their professional aspects course.

## **Mission Trip Participation**

MTSA students may have the opportunity to participate in mission trips at locations outside the United States. The missions program at MTSA helps to fulfill the mission statement of the school. MTSA will accommodate scheduling for a limited number of students to take part in the MTSA sponsored mission trips. Currently MTSA does not provide financial support to students or faculty for their participation. All participation is voluntary. Students may be allowed to participate in mission trips not sponsored by the MTSA mission program during semesters six (6) and nine (9).

### **MTSA Procedure for Mission Trips**

- ◆ MTSA does not financially sponsor student participation, but may be able to accommodate scheduling for a limited number of students to take part in some mission trips.
- ◆ Students are never permitted to participate in mission trips as the sole or primary anesthesia provider, but must be accompanied by qualified CRNA and/or anesthesiologist supervisors.
- ◆ Students are not permitted to record any anesthetics or procedures performed on mission trips in their case logs in Medatrax, as the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Programs (COA) does not allow these to be counted toward their required numbers of cases and procedures.
- ◆ The logistics associated with scheduling and accommodating requests are complex, and students should understand that not all requests may be honored.
- ◆ Any student who has been on any type of probation or suspension during the program is not eligible to participate.
- ◆ Mission trips will be approved only during semesters six (6) and nine (9). After the Senior Schedule is published, specialty rotation sites are confirmed, and the “vacation drawing” has occurred, the student may make a request for participation in a mission trip.

- ◆ A complete description of the mission trip, mission sponsors, and itinerary must be submitted with the request. After review by the Program Administrator and review of the clinical schedules, the requests may either be granted or denied.
- ◆ The student will be notified within 4 business days if the request will be granted.
- ◆ Vacation days and/or Comp days will be used for any mission trip in the following manner:  
*\*Any days during the trip that are not spent in the operating room or clinic will be counted as vacation days. (I.e. excursions, tours, safaris, beach days, etc.)*

## **Computer Services**

### **Computer Lab**

The on-campus computer lab is next to the LRC. There are ten computer stations and a high speed printer available for student use. Students have free printing privileges for research and coursework needs.

### **Medatrax Record Keeping Services**

The purpose of Medatrax Record-keeping Services is to facilitate maintenance of clinical record keeping, as well as student evaluations. MTSA arranges with an online data management systems company (currently Medatrax), to allow students to enter and maintain accurate current clinical data, and to allow students to complete anonymous programmatic evaluations.

### **Online Video Capture & Conferencing**

MTSA utilizes the latest in WebEx computer technology as a student support service. The video capture platform and video share technology allows students to interact online and develop a sense of community. Students can interact with each other in real-time using any mobile or desktop device and sessions can be video captured to store or share with other classmates who couldn't join live. Video can also be uploaded and comments, with video placement time stamps, can be posted to create asynchronous student interaction and collaboration for course content and student projects.

### **Technical Support**

MTSA has two technical support personnel who are in able to be contacted directly on campus as well as by e-mail. Students are encouraged to contact technical support for any problems that originate with the hardware or software related to their academics. They are also available to help with issues regarding broken/lost access card keys.

### **Wireless Internet Access**

The entire MTSA campus has free wireless access for students. There is substantial bandwidth available that will allow all students to be able to use their iPad for coursework and exams.

## **Distant Affiliate Information**

### **Housing**

Clinical affiliates located approximately 100 miles or more from MTSA provide living semesters for the students currently assigned to rotations at their site. All of the living semesters which may be provided by any of these out-of-town affiliates are ONLY for the use of the student(s) currently rotating at those facilities. Living semesters are NOT provided for students' family members or pets at any time, and these are the responsibility of the student and his or her family. If a student is not satisfied with the accommodations provided by any of these out-of-town affiliates, he/she may make alternative arrangements at his/her own personal additional expense. Any other travel expenses and living expenses at out-of-town affiliations are the responsibility of the student.

### **Procedure**

- ◆ Students must be good citizens in caring for the living accommodations provided by the affiliates.
- ◆ Each student must complete a checklist regarding the care of the accommodations.
- ◆ If MTSA gets a complaint about the cleanliness, either from the site or documented evidence (via date-stamped pictures) from the next students arriving at the site, each student who just left the site will not receive the remainder of the final travel allowance. Any students leaving a site who may be concerned that there may be a problem with perception of their level of housing cleanliness before they left are welcome to take date-stamped pictures of the cleaned accommodations, such as pictures of the clean sink, refrigerator, beds, etc. as they leave the site.

## **Student Services for Rotations at Distant Clinical Sites**

### **◆ Dislocation Allowances for Selected Distant Clinical Affiliations**

MTSA provides a one-time dislocation allowance to students assigned and scheduled to affiliate at specified distant clinical rotations located greater than 100 miles from MTSA's campus (*see Additional Expenses*).

### **◆ Internet Service at Selected Distant Clinical Affiliations**

MTSA recognizes students need the ability to maintain regular communication while assigned at distant clinical affiliations, so MTSA ensures high-speed internet service at the affiliate-sponsored housing at selected clinical sites, which are located greater than 100 miles from MTSA's campus.

## **Fitness Center**

The Fitness Center is an excellent facility provided for the health and wellness benefit of students, faculty, staff, and administration. There are also separate male and female shower facilities in the P.T. Magan building. This can be accessed during off-hours with the student card access.

We ask that all students using the center follow the guidelines and procedures below for their own safety, to maintain the equipment, and to assure cleanliness of the facility. Before you can use the center, you will need to sign a waiver which will be discussed during Intensive Week.

### **General Rules for Fitness Center Use**

Participants are asked to adhere to the following guidelines:

- ◆ Participants must report injuries to either 911 or the MTSA Administrator on-call.
- ◆ Please show respect for the equipment, facility, and toward others using the center.
- ◆ Do not move or rearrange the equipment and/or exercise machines, unless otherwise permitted.
- ◆ No horseplay or loud, offensive language will be tolerated.
- ◆ Use a spotter when lifting heavy weights. Do not drop or throw the weights. Keep hands and loose clothes away from weight stacks, cables, and pulleys.
- ◆ To assure that all participants are able to use the machines, please limit use of cardio machines to 30 minutes when others are waiting.
- ◆ Proper attire is required at all times: Shirts, shorts or exercise pants, and athletic shoes must be worn. No sandals, open-toe shoes, or bare feet. Sport-bras must be covered by another shirt.
- ◆ Plastic water bottles are allowed. All other drinks, food, and glass containers are not allowed.
- ◆ The use of photographic equipment to take pictures of any person in the fitness center is prohibited without written consent of the person(s) being photographed.
- ◆ Please wipe off equipment after use with the sanitizer(s) that is provided. Please pick up trash, towels, and personal belongings before leaving. Try to leave the center in better condition than when you arrived.

Consult your physician prior to undertaking exercise in the center.

### **Nelda Faye Ackerman Learning Resource Center (LRC)**

The mission of the Nelda Faye Ackerman Learning Resource Center is to foster the advancement of education, research, scholarship, and professional practice in nurse anesthesia by providing access for students and faculty to the information needed to support and enhance these activities.

The Nelda Faye Ackerman Learning Resource Center has a collection of textbooks and anesthesia-specific journals for student use, as well as PubMed, OVID and Science Direct on line resources. The LRC is open during regular business hours of the School. Additionally, the library is open from Sunday – Thursday, 5 a.m. until midnight, and Friday, 5 a.m. until 4 p.m. These extended hours are available via students' electronic door access key card. The LRC maintains a computer laboratory adjacent to the library, which consists of 10 desktop computers with internet access and a printer for use by students. Since MTSA typically has only one (1) class on campus at a time, the student-to-computer ratio in the computer lab is approximately seven (7) students to one (1) desktop computer. All buildings on the MTSA campus, as well as the outdoor covered porch area,

are equipped with high-speed wireless internet access.

## **Collaborative Student Study Areas/Lounges**

The Student Lounge serves to assist in the improvement of the welfare of student life at MTSA, and to provide students with a neutral environment in which to build community. The Student Lounge in Bernard V. Bowen Academic Center has tables and chairs, microwave ovens, television with satellite dish, sink, dishwasher, ice machine, two refrigerators, coffee maker, and soda and snack machines.

The LRC in Student Support Center has several independent study areas as well as large areas for group study. On the first floor of Student Support Center are two smaller collaborative study areas – one of which is equipped with a freestanding anesthesia machine and two airway management simulators for hands-on practice. The hallways of all three campus buildings have lounge chairs and benches, as well as high-top table and chairs for individual use.

The entire campus is equipped with wireless internet access to more effectively enable students to utilize their personal laptop computers while studying.

## **Periodically Hosted Meals**

The School periodically provides lunch or refreshments to students for special occasions such as National Nurse Anesthetists Week.

## **Prayer Board**

With “Reflecting Christ in Anesthesia Education”, MTSA has a prayer board posted in the primary classroom where the PD1 class meets daily. Approximately once each week during regular class sessions, the prayer board is updated to include all current requests and praises from students, staff, faculty, alumni, and other community members who often call in to have their requests included.

## **School Chaplin**

The School Chaplin is available to support individual students and the School community through pastoral care. The Chaplin leads the weekly on-campus religion DREL 800 series, where all PD1 students are in attendance. Through this relationship, students have a source to contact should they face emotional or spiritual issues. The School Chaplin is also available via email or phone.

## **Professional Development**

### **Job Interview Training**

Students who are in need of help transitioning into a CRNA with resumes, interviewing, job placement and job development can meet independently or in small groups with the Program Administrator. These skills are also taught in the Senior Board Review class in developing the student’s personal portfolio.

## **Scholarly Development Program**

Multiple opportunities exist for students to participate as a student representative from their class in local, regional, and national meetings and conferences as MTSA promotes and encourages student's participation in local, regional and national committees that govern CRNAs. Students are elected to these positions by their class and final appointment is by vote from the NAP Council. and MTSA financially supports the student' representation. These activities are intended to promote their learning about CRNA issues as well as enhancing development of specific professional aspects in their behavior. These conferences include, but are not limited to: Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetists (TANA) Annual Conference, American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) Congress and their annual public policy meeting in Washington D.C., and Tennessee Legislative Day on Capitol Hill.

## **Student Representation in MTSA Committees Policy**

### **MTSA Policy 5.1.118**

(Revised 8/6/2017)

Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia has students from each class as full members on major committees within the School. In these committees they have full voting rights afforded to any member of the committee. Students are selected for a term that includes the full period of time they are in school at MTSA.

The students nominate their class representatives on these committees, which are taken to NAP Council for confirmation. As sensitive issues about individuals and situations are likely to occur in many of these meetings, students are expected to keep within the committee those things discussed in the committee, keeping personal issues confidential.

Alternates to each position are selected as each student may be unable to come to the School due to distance, clinical, work, or call obligation. In these instances, an alternate is asked to serve, if available. Every effort is made to have a student representative available if decisions are to be made that may affect any student's progression in the School.

Student representatives serve as full voting members on the following committees:

### **Master's & Practice Doctorate Program:**

- ◆ Progressions Committee
- ◆ Admissions Committee
- ◆ Appeals Committee
- ◆ School Life Committee
- ◆ Information Technology Committee
- ◆ AANA Meeting Representatives
- ◆ TANA

## **DNAP Completion Program:**

- ◆ Progressions Committee
- ◆ Appeals Committee
- ◆ Optional representation on other committees

## **Senior Elective Program**

MTSA incorporates a **Senior Elective clinical experience** during the final three months of the program, in which each student must participate. Students may select and be approved for one of the current elective sites, or may work with MTSA to develop a new site. The Senior Elective process allows students to choose a clinical site in which to do their final rotation for purposes such as intensifying in a specific area of anesthesia, or where they would prefer to work upon graduation. In many cases, the Senior Elective program facilitates graduate job placements, and thus facilitates their orientation to places of future employment.

## **Student Advisement**

Advising is an essential part of student success and progression at MTSA. Success in the graduate program of nurse anesthesia depends not only on being a successful student in the academic courses, but also includes being successful in each of the clinical assignments. Therefore, advising at MTSA takes two forms, academic advising and clinical advising.

Upon enrollment, students are assigned a CRNA faculty member for the purpose of advisement/mentorship. The student is to have scheduled quarterly advising sessions throughout their PD1. During these sessions, the students' academic and clinical performances are reviewed, discussion of student progress or lack of progress occurs, and any remediation plans can be made. These sessions may be modified based upon the progress of the student. The advisement turns into mentorship as the student progress in the program and by the PD2 the MS student is required to continue contact with their mentor at least twice as they continue to advance in their clinical experiences. Online meetings can occur via WebEx or telephone conversations or email communication as the student may be traveling to distant clinical sites.

The CRNA Advisor/Mentors review progress with each of their assigned students in both the academic and clinical areas. These evaluations are summaries of the student's self-evaluation form, Daily Case Evaluations, Quarterly Evaluations, and the Academic Record. There is a designated CRNA Advisor/Mentor who schedules these quarterly sessions with each student individually. All PD1 students have regular scheduled quarterly advising sessions with their assigned CRNA Advisor/Mentor, which may be adjusted or modified based on progress of the student. PD2 students will have advising sessions at least twice during the PD2 with their assigned advisor. Because Senior students are not on campus at regularly scheduled times, the PD2 advisement session may take place by telephone, email, SKYPE, Face-Time, or any combination of these methods.

The MTSA Program Administrator is the full-time MTSA administrator who has the primary responsibility for interim student advisement. However, if the student chooses, the Assistant Program Administrator is also present at MTSA on a full-time basis and is available for student advisement. Both of these full-time CRNA administrators are available for informal discussions with students. Their offices are in close proximity to the classrooms, and dialogue is encouraged. Bernard V. Bowen Academic Center

## **STUDENT COUNSELING POLICY**

### **MTSA Policy 5.1.105**

(Revised 8/6/2017)

In accordance with MTSA's mission and core values, MTSA believes students should strive to achieve a healthy & balanced life. MTSA also believes that at times counseling may be needed to help students readjust to the stressful environment and changing lives of graduate school. MTSA has established a plan of action to assist students maintain this balance.

Should the need arise for counseling services for students, MTSA will provide referral to a counseling service and will fund the initial three (3) assessment/counseling sessions. The Director of Student Services maintains a list of current approved providers for counseling. Students can be referred for counseling by Administration, Faculty, Mentor, or student's self-referral to the Director of Student Services.

MTSA cannot mandate a student receive the counseling service.

MTSA offers counseling for financial issues, referral can be made through the Director of Financial Aid.

### **Student Records / Transcript Requests**

The purpose of the MTSA Office of Records is to serve as custodian of student academic and clinical records. This office provides verification of graduation for graduates of MTSA, as well as facilitating offering letters of reference from faculty related to students' or graduates' performance as students to potential employers, upon request by the student or graduate. All requests for verifications, transcripts, and/or letters of reference should be submitted **IN WRITING** to the Academic Support Specialist (**Lynn@mtsa.edu**) who is responsible for such records. Transcript Request are located on the MTSA website in the Alumni & Friends section. Complete the **Transcript Request Form** and return to Office of Records at MTSA via email, fax or mail as stated on the form.

## **INSTITUTIONAL STATISTICS**

### **Attrition & National Certification Exam (NCE) Pass Rates**

### **Doctorate of Nurse Anesthesia (DNAP) Practice Doctorate Program\***

*MTSA DNAP Practice Doctorate Class of 2022 Student Handbook | 89*



(\*First Class Will Graduate in December, 2020)

<b>CLASS OF 2020</b>	<b>NUMBER OF STUDENTS</b>	<b>MTSA BENCHMARK</b>
Enrolled (January 2018)	TBD	72
Attrition rate		N/A
Graduated	<i>To Graduate December 2020</i>	94%
Employed within 6 months of Graduation (& NCE & APN in TN & some other states)		100%
<b>Passed NCE 1st Time</b>		=/>National Mean
Passed a subsequent NCE		100%
National Average		N/A

### **Master's of Science (MS) with a Focus in Nurse Anesthesia Program\*\***

(\*\**Final Class Will Graduate in November, 2019*)

<b>CLASS OF 2019</b>	<b>NUMBER OF STUDENTS</b>	<b>MTSA BENCHMARK</b>
Enrolled (July 2017)	71	72
Attrition rate		N/A
Graduated	<i>To Graduate November 2019</i>	94%
Employed within 6 months of Graduation (& NCE & APN in TN & some other states)		100%
<b>Passed NCE 1st Time</b>		=/>National Mean
Passed a subsequent NCE		100%
National Average		N/A

<b>CLASS OF 2018</b>	<b>NUMBER OF STUDENTS</b>	<b>MTSA BENCHMARK</b>
Enrolled (July 2016)	72	72
Attrition rate	2.78%	N/A
Graduated	70	94%
Employed within 6 months of Graduation (& NCE & APN in TN & some other states)	70 (100%)	100%
<b>Passed NCE 1st Time</b>	<b>60 (85.71%)</b>	=/>National Mean
Passed a subsequent NCE	10 (14.29% → 100%)	100%
National Average	84.30%	N/A

<b>CLASS OF 2017</b>	<b>NUMBER OF STUDENTS</b>	<b>MTSA BENCHMARK</b>
Enrolled (July 2015)	72	72
Attrition rate	4.16%	N/A
Graduated	69	94%
Employed within 6 months of Graduation (& NCE & APN in TN & some other states)	67 (97.1%)	100%
<b>Passed NCE 1st Time</b>	<b>54 (78.26%)</b>	=/>National Mean
Passed a subsequent NCE	15 (21.74% → 100%)	100%
National Average	82.6%	N/A

<b>CLASS OF 2016</b>	<b>NUMBER OF STUDENTS</b>
Enrolled (July 2014)	72
Attrition rate	1.38%
Graduated (November 2016)	71
Employed within 6 months of Graduation (& NCE & APN in TN & some other states)	69 (97.2%)
<b>Passed NCE 1st Time</b>	<b>43 (60.5%)</b>
Passed a subsequent NCE	28 (39.4% → 100%)
National Average	84.5%

<b>CLASS OF 2015</b>	<b>NUMBER OF STUDENTS</b>
Enrolled (July 2013)	64
Attrition rate	4.68%
Graduated (November 2015)	61
Employed within 6 months of Graduation (& NCE & APN in TN & some other states)	58 (95.1%)
<b>Passed NCE 1st Time</b>	<b>47 (77.0%)</b>
Passed a subsequent NCE	13 (21.3% → 98.3%)
National Average	85.0%

<b>CLASS OF 2014</b>	<b>NUMBER OF STUDENTS</b>
Enrolled (July 2012)	68
Attrition rate	4.41%
Graduated (November 2014)	65
Employed within 6 months of Graduation (& NCE & APN in TN & some other states)	65 (100%)
<b>Passed NCE 1st Time</b>	<b>56 (86.1%)</b>
Passed a subsequent NCE	9 (13.9% → 100%)
National Average	87.8%

<b>CLASS OF 2013</b>	<b>NUMBER OF STUDENTS</b>
Enrolled (July 2011)	72
Attrition rate	6.94%
Graduated (November 2013)	67
Employed within 6 months of Graduation (& NCE & APN in TN & some other states)	67 (100%)
<b>Passed NCE 1st Time</b>	<b>56 (83.6%)</b>
Passed a subsequent NCE	11 (16.4% → 100%)
National Average	88.4%

<b>CLASS OF 2012</b>	<b>NUMBER OF STUDENTS</b>
Enrolled (July 2010)	72
Attrition rate	4.16%
Graduated (November 2012)	69
Employed within 6 months of Graduation (& NCE & APN in TN & some other states)	67
<b>Passed NCE 1st Time</b>	<b>57 (82.6%)</b>
Passed a subsequent NCE	12 (17.4% → 100%)
National Average	88.5%

<b>CLASS OF 2011</b>	<b>NUMBER OF STUDENTS</b>
Enrolled (July 2009)	72
Attrition rate	1.38%
Graduated (November 2011)	71
Employed within 6 months of Graduation (& NCE & APN in TN & some other states)	71 (100%)
<b>Passed NCE 1st Time</b>	<b>62 (87.3%)</b>
Passed a subsequent NCE	9 (12.7% → 100%)
National Average	89.1%

## **PRACTICE DOCTORATE PROGRAM INFORMATION**

### **Length of Program**

The program is 36 months of full-time enrollment. MTSA defines full-time status as enrollment for 9 or more credit hours in a semester. One credit hour is equivalent to 15 classroom/lab hours. Of these 36 months, 18 days are allotted for selected legal holidays, 9 for personal emergency days, and scheduled vacation weeks each school year based on the student's progression through the calendar in relation to their rotation schedule.

Graduation exercises occur only once in the program. Students completing all aspects of the academic and clinical program are required to march in a graduation ceremony concurring with their completion of the program. Students who have not achieved the benchmark score on the SEE exam will be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony but will not receive a diploma until the set benchmark score is achieved.

## Changes to Program

In keeping with its philosophy of offering a program of the highest quality, MTSA continually evaluates its educational program via its institutional effectiveness process, and reserves the right to make changes in the policies, curriculum, or practicum at any time to include any fees or costs related to these changes. Such changes are expected to be minimal. Students will receive notification of these changes and are expected to abide by them.

## RN to Nurse Anesthetist Transition

While all students accepted at MTSA have had acute care nursing experience, this experience has been obtained in various hospital settings. Traditionally in these settings, hospitals schedule nurses on shifts with each nurse reporting to the oncoming nurses at the end of their shift, and then being able to leave at a predictable time. Because surgery schedules vary in number and length of cases on a daily basis, most anesthesia scheduling is not handled as in other nursing environments. Typically, a CRNA, much like an anesthesiologist (MDA), accepts a job, not a shift. It is expected that the anesthetist (CRNA or MDA) will work until the job is done, or until the surgery schedule is such that the "late" or "call" team can cover the cases.

As an anesthetist, if cases finish by 10:00am, unless you are designated as the "late" or "call" person, your duty for the day may be completed. Opportunities may arise for learning experiences that are not associated with a surgical case. By leaving early, the student may miss out on such experiences. However, if more cases last later in the night than the "late" or "call" person(s) can handle, other anesthesia providers are expected to stay until the work is done. Employers are cognizant of the actual number of anesthesia providers needed to complete the tasks in a reasonable number of hours.

When students are at selected affiliates, they will be engaging with physician anesthesia residents who have never had the scheduling of hours nurses have. Their expected hours will still be longer than MTSA students. Students should be aware of the residents' longer hours and be patient with them as they learn to understand student nurse anesthetists' hours. At some affiliates, student nurse anesthetists from MTSA may work with student nurse anesthetists from other nurse anesthesia programs. Other nurse anesthesia programs may have different expectations of clinical hours for their students; however, MTSA students are expected to abide by MTSA's clinical pattern as described here.

During semesters 3-5, students should maintain a relatively fixed schedule of coming to clinical every other morning and class every Monday through Thursday afternoon and evening. The requirement is that students will attend all classes every day that class is scheduled.

In semesters 6-9, the class load decreases and clinical expectations increase, where students function more as CRNAs described in the above paragraphs. If students are assigned to a hospital and the cases are finished early, they may be dismissed early. On the other hand, if students are assigned to a facility and the cases last longer than an assigned block of time, they are expected to function as a CRNA would, until relief is available.

Currently, the COA requirement is that the hours be "reasonable." COA published the following definition in 2015 to help clarify what constitutes a reasonable number of hours: A reasonable number of hours to promote effective student learning should not exceed 64 hours per week. This

time commitment includes the sum of hours spent in class and all clinical hours averaged over four weeks. Students must have a ten-hour rest period between scheduled clinical duty periods (i.e. assigned continuous clinical hours) At no time may a student provide direct patient care for a period longer than 16 continuous hours.

**During semesters 6 through 9**, students will affiliate in some sites where they have long hours; however, they will also be assigned to sites where the hours are much shorter. MTSA expects that students' scheduled hours at any given site should not exceed an average of 50 hours per week in a four-week period. MTSA tracks clinical hours by a specialized, self-reported tracking service, Medatrax, to assure overall obligated time is not excessive. Case logs must be completed by each student in a timely manner, within at least one week (but within one day is preferred) of the performance of the anesthetic, or the student may be asked to use a personal emergency time day to come to MTSA to complete these.

MTSA and its affiliates make schedules for students with their monthly time averaged in each affiliate (time taken from the Medatrax clinical record) to assure that hours are reasonable. At some facilities, the students may be asked to actually clock in and out to keep track of their time.

As it is MTSA's aim to prepare students both in academic and clinical knowledge and experience to become a CRNA, MTSA also chooses to orient the student to the time commitment and expectations of the CRNA. These time commitments will be different from typical nursing hours. Historically, clinical medical education has been offered in exchange for service. This is true with students at MTSA as they matriculate through the program. Recently, the AANA has encouraged its members to lobby congress to seek Medicare funding for those supervising the anesthesia when student nurse anesthetists are involved, where presently they are unable to do so if the ratio of instructor to student is 1:2. In accord with this initiative, students should realize that while they are not specifically used as staff, their services extend the abilities of the professional anesthesia staff to offer anesthesia services in many facilities.

## **Outcome Criteria for Student Upon Graduation**

*(Doctorate Student Learning Outcomes/DSLOs)*

As per the COA Standards of Accreditation Practice Doctorate (last revised June 2016), graduates from MTSA's Doctorate of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) program will acquire knowledge, skills, and competencies in patient safety, perianesthetic management, critical thinking, communication, leadership, and professionalism. Measurement of these DSLOs occur throughout the program in the course/clinical experience in which they reside.

### ***Patient safety***

**The graduate must demonstrate the ability to:**

1. Be vigilant in the delivery of patient care.
2. Refrain from engaging in extraneous activities that abandon or minimize vigilance while providing direct patient care (e.g., texting, reading, emailing, etc.).

3. Conduct a comprehensive equipment check.
4. Protect patients from iatrogenic complications.

### ***Perianesthesia***

**The graduate must demonstrate the ability to:**

5. Provide individual care throughout the perianesthetic continuum.
6. Deliver culturally competent perianesthetic care.
7. Provide anesthesia services to all patients across the lifespan
8. Perform a comprehensive history and physical assessment.
9. Administer general anesthesia to patients with a variety of physical conditions
10. Administer general anesthesia for a variety of surgical and medically related procedures.
11. Administer and manage a variety of regional anesthetics.
12. Maintain current certification in ACLS and PALS.

### ***Critical Thinking***

**The graduate must demonstrate the ability to:**

13. Apply knowledge to practice in decision making and problem solving.
14. Provide nurse anesthesia services based on evidence-based principles.
15. Perform a preanesthetic assessment before providing anesthesia services.
16. Assume responsibility and accountability for diagnosis.
17. Formulate an anesthesia plan of care before providing anesthesia services.
18. Identify and take appropriate action when confronted with anesthetic equipment-related malfunctions.
19. Interpret and utilize data obtained from noninvasive and invasive monitoring modalities.
20. Calculate, initiate, and manage fluid and blood component therapy.
21. Recognize, evaluate, and manage the physiological responses coincident to the provision of anesthesia services.
22. Recognize and appropriately manage complications that occur during the provision of anesthesia services.
23. Use science-based theories and concepts to analyze new practice approaches.
24. Pass the national certification examination (NCE) administered by NBCRNA.

### ***Communication***

**The graduate must demonstrate the ability to:**

25. Utilize interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients and their families.
26. Utilize interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective

interprofessional exchange of information and collaboration with other health care professions.

27. Respect the dignity and privacy of patients while maintaining confidentiality in the delivery of interprofessional care.
28. Maintain comprehensive, timely, accurate, and legible healthcare records.
29. Transfer the responsibility for care of the patient to other qualified providers in a manner that assures continuity of care and patient safety.
30. Teach others.

## ***Leadership***

**The graduate must demonstrate the ability to:**

31. Integrate critical and reflective thinking in his or her leadership approach.
32. Provide leadership that facilitates intraprofessional and interprofessional collaboration.

## ***Professional Role***

**The graduate must demonstrate the ability to:**

33. Adhere to the *Code of Ethics for the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist*.
34. Interact on a professional level with integrity.
35. Apply ethically sound decision-making processes.
36. Function within legal and regulatory requirements.
37. Accept responsibility and accountability for his or her own practice.
38. Provide anesthesia services to patients in a cost-effective manner.
39. Demonstrate knowledge of wellness and substance use disorder in the anesthesia profession through completion of content in wellness and substance use disorder.
40. Inform the public of the role and practice of the CRNA.
41. Evaluate how public policy making strategies impact the financing and delivery of healthcare.
42. Advocate for health policy change to improve patient care.
43. Advocate for health policy change to advance the specialty of nurse anesthesia.
44. Analyze strategies to improve patient outcomes and quality of care.
45. Analyze health outcomes in a variety of populations.
46. Analyze health outcomes in a variety of clinical settings.
47. Analyze health outcomes in a variety of systems.
48. Disseminate research evidence.
49. Use information systems/technology to support and improve patient care.
50. Use information systems/technology to support and improve healthcare systems.
51. Analyze business practices encountered in nurse anesthesia delivery settings.



# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Each student must successfully accomplish each of the following goals to be eligible to become a Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) graduate of MTSA:

- ◆ Satisfactory completion of all academic courses, including all DSLOs, as well as review seminars;
- ◆ Completion of a SEE Exam with a benchmark score to be set each year;
- ◆ Satisfactory completion of all categories of clinical procedures required by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA) and NBCRNA;
- ◆ Satisfactory completion of practicum at assigned affiliates (as determined by the Program Administrator and the Progressions Committee and to include anesthesia service at sites in medically underserved areas) and senior electives, including the MTSA-required care plans, and clinical case records;
- ◆ Completion of the 36-month program, with absences in excess of scheduled vacation days, eighteen holidays, and nine personal emergency days being made up prior to graduation;
- ◆ Completion of any and all financial obligations to MTSA;
- ◆ Completion of the Financial Assistance Exit Interview for students who have borrowed federal loans while attending MTSA;
- ◆ Participation in the graduation exercise, unless specific prior permission for graduation in absentia is granted in writing from the Program Administrator, with approval by the NAP Council. Exceptions generally will not be made unless the circumstances preventing attendance are beyond the control of the student.

## Credential Awarded

Upon satisfactory completion of the program of study at Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia, the student is awarded a diploma with the degree Doctorate of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP). The graduate is then eligible to apply to take the National Certification Examination administered by the NBCRNA. Upon successful completion of this examination, the graduate will bear the title of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA).

## APN License in Tennessee

Due to the institution of the Advance Practice Nurse License in Tennessee in 2005, some sites do not allow new Nurse Anesthetists to practice until they have completed the National Certification Examination and obtained their APN license. This regulation varies by hospital and anesthesia group and is beyond the control of MTSA. Furthermore, different states have varying regulations regarding APN or APRN licensure. It is advisable to inquire about such details when interviewing for job placement.

## ACADEMIC & CLINICAL SUMMARY

The **first semester** courses of the DNAP Practice Doctorate program are online. MTSA considers this semester a blended semester as there is a mandatory attendance at a one week (M-Th) Intensive Week on campus. During the intensive week, students meet each other, their instructors, and other faculty and staff members. Instruction is given related to technology and on-line class work, and the use of the learning management system and testing software. The MTSA DNAP student handbook is reviewed and all students are required to sign the MTSA Honor Code. Throughout the intensive week, classes meet and students begin their assignments for the first semester.

**Semester Two** begins in May and continues through the end of August. At this time all classes are held on the campus of MTSA and attendance is mandatory (*see Attendance Policy*). Course work and time in the Simulation Lab is scheduled Monday-Thursday of each week. This semester includes intense training and preparation to enter the clinical rotations in the third semester. After the successful completion of classwork and Simulation check-offs, the students are honored in the White Coat Ceremony to mark their progression into the clinical setting.

**Semester Three** begins in September. At this time the class is divided into groups A and B. This division is utilized for clinical assignments. For **semesters three through five** clinical assignments are on an every-other-morning basis, and are typically 2 months in length at an assigned clinical site. For example, Group A will be assigned to clinical Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning, and on Sunday if there is a “call assignment” for the first week. During the second week, group A will have a Tuesday and Thursday schedule, which will include Saturday if there is “call assignment” that week. **Nashville General Hospital at Meharry** is the only location where the student has a call assignment during semesters 3-5.

Academic course work continues Monday-Thursday during **semesters three through five**, as well as having clinical hours assigned as described above.

During semesters **six through nine**, students attend clinical every day, or as assigned for their hours at a specific clinical site. These clinical rotations may vary in length from one month to three months at a site. MTSA follows the COA guidelines of not exceeding 64 hours per week of clinical hours and classroom hours (averaged over a four-week period). Additionally, during semesters six through nine, students will complete their Doctoral Scholarly Project. This will include dissemination of their work. Academic work during these semesters will include Concepts in Clinical Application and Practice to prepare the students to take and pass the NCE Board exam.

Vacation breaks are scheduled at the end of each semester. Each group (A and B) will be assigned to one full week of vacation (M-F and one weekend) and then one full week of clinical. While group A is on vacation, group B will have an all-day, every day clinical assignment. The other week while group B is on vacation, group A will have an all-day, every day clinical assignment.

# MTSA CLINICAL STANDARDS POLICY

## MTSA Policy 5.4.103

(Revised 5/15/18)

Advancement of each student to the next higher level of anesthesia training and responsibility is made at semester intervals by the Progressions Committee. In order to be eligible to advance to the next higher level, the student must:

- ◆ Meet all clinical objectives for the current level for advancement to the next level;
- ◆ Successfully complete all assigned clinical affiliations;
- ◆ Keep and maintain a current multi-state Tennessee RN license or Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) or enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC) license on file with MTSA during the entire program. The student must possess a current RN license for any state in which he is assigned for clinical rotations. If a student's RN license lapses for any reason, the student will immediately be removed from of his clinical rotation and placed on probation. The student may not return to clinical rotations until documentation of a current RN license is presented to MTSA. Any clinical days the student misses during this period must be made up prior to graduation or the student may be extended in the program to compensate for these days.

In addition, all students are required to have an annual influenza vaccine. If a medical condition exists that prohibits the student from receiving the vaccine, the student must present documentation from their primary care provider stating why the influenza vaccine is contraindicated.

Clinical grades will be recorded on the transcript under Clinical Performance. They will be recorded as GS (Good Standing) or Prob/C (Probation Clinical) and accompanied by the letter grade earned, as described above, for that semester (see *Grading Policy, Clinical Grade*).

### Clinical Supervision of Nurse Anesthetist Students

Supervision of the MTSA nurse anesthesia students in any clinical facility is restricted to anesthesiologists and CRNAs, who are immediately available in all clinical areas, and in any non-anesthetizing areas where students may be involved in the care of patients. Supervision does not exceed the ratio of two nurse anesthesia students to one anesthesiologist or one CRNA. At no time are resident physicians or graduate registered nurse anesthetists the sole agents responsible for the student. The supervision ratio is determined by the level of the student, complexity of the case, anesthetic, procedure, and experience of the instructor.

### Clinical Care Plan Submission

ALL STUDENTS are required to do care plans on each clinical day during the third semester. During the third semester, care plans should be completed at a minimum of one per clinical day and on any procedure the student is unfamiliar with. The clinical faculty, as part of the Daily Clinical Evaluation Tool, will evaluate each pre-induction Care Plan for accuracy and completeness.

Fourth Semester: Each student will turn in one care plan per week. This should be an in-depth, detailed care plan. Care plans will be submitted at case conference. They will continue to have a minimum of a verbal care plan on all cases, which will be evaluated by the clinical instructor.

Written Care Plan submissions may be reviewed by the CRNA mentor and included in the student's semester progress meeting and report.

*\* For all other anesthetic cases, it is required that the students at least complete a verbal care plan to the clinical instructor.*

Fifth Semester: One care plan submission will occur included with case study for presentation during Case Conference.

## Clinical Grading

Clinical grades are recorded on the transcript under Clinical Performance. They are recorded as GS (Good Standing) or Prob/C (Probation Clinical) and accompanied by the letter grade earned, as described above, for that quarter. The penalties for delinquent documentation are found under the [Disciplinary Actions](#) section.

1. End of Rotation Evaluations:	60%
2. Clinical Performance / Daily Clinical Reports	40%
3. Comment Cards	
• Sentinel Events	
Yellow Card	Up to 8% deduction each
Red Card	Up to 16% deduction each
• Commendation	
Green Card	Up to 2% addition each
4. Case Number & Anesthesia Time Thresholds	P/F
5. Student Evaluation of Clinical Sites	P/F
6. Clinical Self-Assessment Tool	P/F

### 1. End of Rotation Evaluations

An End of Rotation Evaluation is completed by the CRNA or Anesthesiologist assigned as Clinical Coordinator at the clinical rotation site or by the Clinical Faculty using feedback obtained from the clinical site. These Coordinators and/or Faculty will comment on the student's experience and will recommend a grade for that particular rotation.

### 2. Clinical Evaluation of Students

*MTSA Policy 5.4.102*

Clinical evaluations are used to determine advancement to the next clinical level and to give the student immediate feedback on his progress.

Evaluations of students' clinical performance by instructors is subjective; however, instructors are made aware of the expectations of students at each level and are able to evaluate students by those

expectations and by comparing performance of students within a given class, and within classes at the same level in the past. Students should be aware that the purpose of the tool is not just to log how well the student is doing (as important as positive feedback is), but to note specifically where they need to improve. Students should utilize every opportunity to seek advice about how to improve.

The Medatrax tool is user friendly, and is reviewed and revised periodically. Each online entry has room for two clinical days to be evaluated, containing case and date information which the student fills out, and a place for instructors to give scores, general comments, and to list specifically any areas where improvements are needed.

The student clinical evaluation tools should be submitted to the clinical instructor for a grade each day. The affiliate Clinical Coordinator is responsible for submitting a clinical numerical grade to the School through Medatrax, when he completes the monthly summary (Narrative Evaluation of Performance). The student clinical evaluation tools will contain all instructors' comments about the student's clinical performances while rotating with the instructors and is very beneficial in determining the students' final evaluation grade for the month.

In most institutions, the affiliate Clinical Coordinator completes the summary after the student leaves and then submits it through Medatrax to the School, and the student is notified the evaluation is available for his review. However, if students question the summary evaluation or wish to talk to the instructor who completed the summary, they may contact him or her. Students are also free to make their own comments once the summary evaluation is submitted to the School.

## **Expectations of Students**

### **Semesters Three - Five**

Students begin clinical rotations in their third semester on an “every other day” schedule. At least one evaluation should be completed per clinical day, but two cases can be evaluated if the student or instructor so desires. MTSA requires that students have at least 75% completion of student clinical evaluations at each rotation site. If a student does not meet the 75% completion mark at the end of the rotation, five (5) points will be deducted from the clinical grade at that rotation.

### **Semesters Six - Nine**

Students clinical rotations increase to a daily schedule in their sixth semester until graduation. Students continue to be expected to seek evaluations from clinical instructors using the MTSA student evaluation tool Medatrax. The exceptions to the use of this student evaluation tool are Nationwide (Columbus) Children's Hospital and the OB affiliation at Vanderbilt, where MTSA has approved an alternate evaluation system. Students are expected to meet the 75% completion requirement of student clinical evaluations at each rotation site. If a student does not meet the 75% completion mark at the end of the rotation, five (5) points will be deducted from the clinical grade at that rotation.

## **3. Comment Cards**

MTSA has developed a “card system” to assist in the evaluation process of all students at all levels. Giving these cards is the prerogative of each instructor. Following are suggestions about when and

why these cards may be given:

◆ **Commendation Card (Green card)**

The first card is the “Commendation Card” (green card). Green cards are to be completed by an instructor to acknowledge outstanding performance in any area. These are to be submitted directly to the School and are to be discussed at NAP Council and the end of semester Progressions Committee meeting.

◆ **Area Needing Improvement Card (Yellow card)**

The next card developed is the “Area Needing Improvement Card” (yellow card). From time to time, a student’s performance may not be quite as advanced as the instructor feels it should be for the student’s level in the program. Also, if the instructor has seen several students at the same level and their performance is significantly better than the student being evaluated, the instructor is asked to identify specific areas in writing where the student can improve. These yellow cards are to be submitted directly to MTSA, and will be discussed at NAP Council and the end of semester Progressions Committee meeting.

◆ **Critical Incident Card (Red card)**

The final card developed is a “Critical Incident Card” (red card). Instructors determining that the student’s level of performance is below that level acceptable for this stage in the program according to the Semester Objectives on the back of the card, and that the performance could or would have caused significant morbidity or mortality without intervention, are asked to complete this card. They must have the card sent directly to the School. To receive a Critical Incident Card is very serious. Any student receiving a Red Card may be required to complete a drug screen within 24 hours of the school receiving notice of the Red Card. At the NAP council and end of semester Progressions Committee meeting, all Critical Incident Cards will be discussed. Each student’s end of semester performance at each affiliate is discussed in the Progressions Committee meetings.

Receipt of Critical Incident Cards can lead to probation, suspension, or in extreme cases, such as an affiliate site’s refusal to allow the student to continue in that rotation, or failure of a Rotations; may lead to termination from the program.

All cards will become part of the student’s permanent file. A letter grade for clinical performance will be recorded on the transcript. Information used in tabulating this grade follows the section regarding Clinical Case Records because clinical evaluations, care plans, paperwork, and faculty/mentor review of performance are utilized in this grade.

During end of semester Evaluations Committee meetings, daily case evaluations, any cards, and general observations about each student are discussed. Any recommendations by that committee are given to the Progressions Committee, which typically meets the following week. The Progressions Committee makes the final decision relative to any action regarding performance. Should it be determined that there may be a negative decision by the Progressions Committee (i.e., probation or termination), the student will be offered the opportunity to discuss his performance with the Progressions Committee, prior to any decision.

#### **4. Case Number & Anesthesia Time Thresholds**

Each student is required to keep a daily clinical log counting the number and types of procedures as outlined by the NBCRNA. The student keeps these case records electronically either via the MTSA-supplied iPad or another electronic device. The company MTSA has hired to organize and store this data is Medatrax. On each case the student performs, a detailed record must be kept of specific information regarding that case. Medatrax totals the case numbers on a running basis, as the student logs and saves the data daily. It also places the total for that month as the beginning total on the next monthly Clinical Case Record so the cases are cumulative from one month to the next.

The NBCRNA requires that students fulfill a given number of experiences, and the accurate keeping of this log is the student's proof he has met and/or exceeded these requirements. This clinical record also includes the student's committed time hours in the school of anesthesia. The record must be completed in its entirety. Medatrax only allows a maximum period of one week in which students are permitted to enter or change data for any given date. Medatrax will disallow any entries or adjustments beyond seven days after any given date. Therefore, all entries for any date must be completed within less than one week from that date.

When these are not turned in on time, the student may be removed from clinical and charged a personal or vacation day to complete the record at MTSA. Any completion of or adjustments to the record after the seven-day window will require the student to contact the Clinical Support Specialist who will contact Medatrax. Students are NOT to contact Medatrax directly for this issue.

Failure to complete Medatrax clinical records as directed will result in disciplinary action. Falsification of any clinical documentation by the SRNA is considered cheating and will result from termination from the program.

MTSA has assigned a staff person to oversee submissions and work with students as they become familiar with clinical record completion on Medatrax. MTSA reserves the right to spot check for accuracy with the affiliate to which the student was assigned. MTSA uses this record to perform time studies periodically at selected affiliate sites. This record is very important, as it is submitted as a part of the student's final transcript to the NBCRNA for their determination of the student's eligibility to take the National Certification Examination upon graduation. Instructions will be given during the second semester regarding the accurate completion of this form. Medatrax has been very willing to help students with data entry issues.

#### **Completion of Time Segment of Monthly Student Clinical Case Records:**

The "time" segment of the record, Section XVI, is of importance in documenting the obligated or committed time to the program of anesthesia, and specifically in documenting numbers of clinical hours.

MTSA is especially interested in the following information:

- ◆ actual time students spend doing cases (anesthesia time)
- ◆ time students spend making pre and post anesthesia visits
- ◆ time obligated in the clinical area but not doing a case, not doing pre/post visits,

- and not assigned to a call shift (non- anesthesia time),
- ◆ call time (differs in affiliates: 24hr call shifts, 3P-11 P shifts, 7P-7A shifts, etc.)
- ◆ class time

## **Clinical Time Commitment**

COA published the following definition in 2015 to help clarify what constitutes a reasonable number of hours: A reasonable number of hours to promote effective student learning should not exceed 64 hour average over four weeks This time commitment includes the sum of hours spent in class and all clinical hours averaged over four weeks. Students must have a ten-hour rest period between scheduled clinical duty periods (i.e. assigned continuous clinical hours) At no time may a student provide direct patient care for a period longer than 16 continuous hours.

MTSA requires that students not be scheduled at clinical assignments more than five (5) consecutive days without a day off. Extenuating circumstances may temporarily alter the schedule, and will need completion of a specific form. In some affiliates with specific learning experiences the call time may be non-in-house, every other day for a short period (one month). In some affiliates, the assignments vary in such a pattern as to have some week's heavy and some light, but the general monthly balance is expected to approximate the stated 64-hour average over four weeks. Using the students' logged time, MTSA conducts time studies to assure that the general time commitments are reasonable.

## **5. Student Evaluation of Clinical Sites**

Students are required to evaluate the clinical sites and clinical instructors at the end of each rotation. These evaluations are part of the program's evaluation of institutional effectiveness. These evaluations completed by the students online with Medatrax.

Completion of these evaluations is mandatory. Failure to complete evaluations as directed will result in disciplinary action. These evaluations are anonymous to MTSA, and are reviewed regularly by committees at MTSA.

The Evaluation Committee reviews all evaluations, including those regarding general programmatic issues, as well as those pertaining to specific administrative, academic and clinical faculty members. The Clinical Support Specialist is responsible to notify Medatrax when an evaluation is to be posted on the website for students to complete. A deadline is given for completion of the evaluations by the Clinical Support Specialist. In extreme cases, students will be required to take a personal emergency day to complete evaluations. MTSA maintains the anonymity of all student evaluations through Medatrax. *Students should ensure that any comments they enter on these evaluations are accurate and truthful, in the event that a comment is so concerning that it indicates further follow-up or verification is needed.*

## **6. Clinical Self-Assessment Tool**

The purpose of the self-assessment tool is to provide an opportunity for the student to reflect and comment on areas that are not always addressed in the daily clinical evaluation. The form is to be completed prior to your scheduled advisement session each semester with your Mentor.



## Other Documentation

All documentation must be kept up-to-date, including but not limited to parking passes, TB skin tests, proof of insurance, and nursing licenses (TN/OH). All of these are kept on file with the Coordinator of Clinical Support.

## CLINICAL ROTATIONS

The desirability of providing students with enrichment to their learning experience through affiliations with other health care institutions is recognized by MTSA. Accordingly, ALL students should be prepared to affiliate at a variety of institutions in the Nashville area and elsewhere, to include Ohio and Kentucky in most instances, on a rotating basis. MTSA does not pay student stipends. Dislocation allowances may be provided by affiliations in some distant Senior Elective sites.

*MTSA retains the right to change affiliations, rotation schedules, or length of rotations at any time. Students will be given as much advance notice as possible.*

## Clinical On-Call experiences

All students are required to participate in an “on-call” experience. The on-call experience is defined as clinical time that is outside the regular schedule of the OR, such as evenings or weekend shifts, and actual on-call assignments for emergencies. These evening, weekend and on-call assignments are made by the Coordinator of Clinical Support and the Clinical Coordinator at the clinical rotation.

## Clinical Site Visits

Designated MTSA administrators and/or faculty visit all active clinical sites at least annually to assure the availability of quality clinical experiences and an appropriate clinical learning environment for students.

## Affiliate Site Information

As of January 1, 2018, regular affiliations are conducted at the following institutions:

### HOSPITAL/FACILITY

### LOCATION

For additional information and directions, click on the facility name to link to their website.  
(Sites in medically underserved areas (MUA) are preceded by a (+).)

#### **Centennial Medical Center**

*Nashville, TN*

#### **Located about 14 miles from MTSA**

Semester 3-5: typically 1-2 month rotations

Semester 6-9: typically 1-2 month rotations

*Specialty rotations: Cardiac and OB*

Centennial has 657 licensed beds and over 1,200 physicians covering a wide variety of specialties. The Centennial Heart Center offers a full complement of

cardiac care delivered by more than 50 cardiac specialists. Each year the heart center performs nearly 1,200 heart surgeries and almost 6,000 minimally invasive cardiac procedures.



*Hendersonville, TN*

## **Hendersonville Medical Center**

### **Located about 10 miles from MTSA**

Semester 3-5: typically 1-2 month rotations

Semester 6-9: typically 1 month rotations



*Hopkinsville, KY*

Hendersonville Medical Center, part of the TriStar Family of Hospitals, is a 110-bed comprehensive medical center north of Nashville in Sumner County.

## **Jennie Stuart Medical Center**

### **Located about 70 miles from MTSA**

Semester 3-5: NONE

Semester 6-9: typically 1 month rotation

*Specialty* rotation: Regional



Jennie Stuart Medical Center (JSMC) is an acute-care hospital licensed for 194 beds. They are a private, not-for-profit community hospital with a primary service area in Christian, Trigg and Todd counties. The secondary service area includes Caldwell, Hopkins and Muhlenberg counties in Kentucky, and Montgomery County in Tennessee. Medical services at JSMC include Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation, Convenient Care, Critical Care, Diabetes Education, Diagnostic Imaging, Laboratory, Maternity, Outpatient Procedures, Pediatrics, Pharmacy, Same-day Services, Sleep Disorders Center, and Surgery.

## **Maury Regional Medical Center**

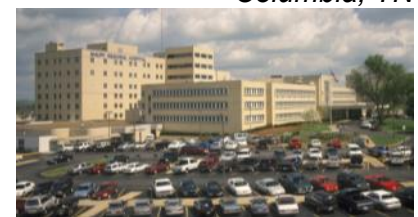
### **Located about 60 miles from MTSA**

Semester 3-5: typically 1-2 month rotations

Semester 6-9: NONE

*Columbia, TN*

Maury Regional Medical Center is accredited by the Joint Commission and is the largest hospital between Nashville and Huntsville. The 275-bed facility has a medical staff of more than 170 physicians and 2,000 employees who serve a region consisting of more than a semester-million people in southern Middle Tennessee. From a comprehensive interventional and surgical heart program that has attained chest pain center accreditation to a neonatal intensive care and cancer center, Maury Regional Medical Center offers a wide range of advanced services.



## **+Medical Center at Bowling Green & Interventional Pain Services**

### **Located about 59 miles from MTSA**

Semester 3-5: NONE

Semester 6-9: typically 1 month rotations

*Bowling Green, KY*

Growing from a 35-bed city hospital to a 490-bed regional healthcare system over the past 80+ years, the Medical Center & its affiliated hospitals offer South-central Kentucky the following services: comprehensive cardiac program including open heart surgery, obstetrics and neonatology, cancer treatment and orthopedic services.



## +Nashville General Hospital at Meharry

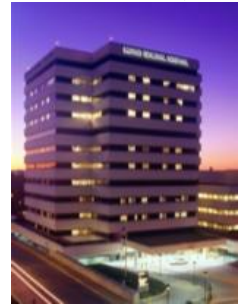
### Located about 14 miles from MTSA

Semester 3-5: typically 1-2 month rotations

Semester 6-9: typically 1 month rotations

General Hospital at Meharry has provided healthcare to Nashville/ Davidson County since 1890, during which time it has grown to the current 125-bed facility. In 1999, General Hospital moved from the original building to the renovated Hubbard Hospital on the Meharry Medical College campus. The name reflects this move and highlights a partnership with Meharry Medical College, one of only four historically black medical colleges in the U.S.

*Nashville, TN*



*Columbus, OH*

## +NorthCrest Medical Center

### Located about 25 miles from MTSA

Semester 3-5: typically 1 month rotations

Semester 6-9: typically 1 month rotations

*Specialty rotation:* Regional

NorthCrest Medical Center began operations in 1956 under the name of Jesse Holman Jones Hospital and serves Robertson and surrounding counties as well as southern Kentucky. NorthCrest is a 109-bed, not-for-profit, community hospital which offers a full-range of healthcare services from cardiac care and rehabilitation, obstetrics and women's services, pulmonary rehabilitation, to surgery and 24-hour emergency services.

*Springfield, TN*



## +Skyline Medical Center

### Located about 14 miles from MTSA

Semester 3-5: typically 1-2 month rotations

Semester 6-9: NONE

TriStar Skyline Medical Center is Tennessee's first comprehensive stroke center and a national leader in neuroscience. The facility is equipped with 213 beds and offers a full array of acute care services, including cardiology, oncology, orthopedics/spine, rehabilitation and emergency services. As an Accredited Chest Pain Center with PCI, TriStar Skyline is a leading provider of emergency heart care.

Nashville, TN



## +Southern Tennessee Regional Health System - Lawrenceburg

### Located about 95 miles from MTSA

Semester 3-5: NONE

Semester 6-9: typically 1 month rotations

STRHS-Lawrenceburg, formerly Crockett Hospital, is a 99-bed, acute care facility located in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, 85 miles south of Nashville. They have been providing the best healthcare in Lawrence County and surrounding counties in Southern Middle Tennessee since 1974. They expanded the facility and services in 1991 with the addition of an Outpatient Surgery Unit, a state-of-the-art 24-hour physician-staffed Emergency Department, and an Intensive Care Unit. The hospital opened a 10-bed Physical Rehabilitation Unit in 1997, and a Women's Health Center in 1999. Diagnostic imaging services include in-house MRI, Nuclear Medicine, CT, X-ray, Digital Mammography and Ultrasound. The Rehabilitation Unit provides Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapies. In 2009, a \$5.6 million construction was completed which expanded the Emergency Department, Outpatient Surgery Unit and Registration area.

Lawrenceburg, TN



*When students affiliate at STRHS-Lawrenceburg, they are provided a room and a dislocation allowance by the anesthesia group there. MTSA assures that basic cable and internet service are provided in the student room. Students will also receive a "one-time travel expense" (\$100) from MTSA to help cover the cost of the trip to and from this institution.*

## St. Thomas Mid-Town (formerly Baptist)

Nashville, TN

### Located about 14 miles from MTSA

Semester 3-5: typically 1-2 month rotations

Semester 6-9: typically 1-2 month rotations

*Specialty rotations: Cardiac & OB*

St. Thomas Mid-Town Hospital is the largest not-for-profit community hospital in Middle Tennessee, licensed for 683 acute and rehab care beds. The main campus covers nearly two million square feet and spans more than six city blocks or 38 acres. St. Thomas Mid-Town Hospital is a member of Saint Thomas Health Services, a faith-based ministry serving Middle Tennessee.





## **St. Thomas Rutherford** (formerly MTMC)

### **Located about 38 miles from MTSA**

Semester 3-5: NONE

Semester 6-9: typically 1 month

St. Thomas Rutherford, in Murfreesboro, TN, is a 286 bed facility. There are 1400 associates, 320 affiliated physicians. Over 7500 surgeries are performed annually, along with 2500 babies delivered. In 2010 a new \$268 million dollar facility was opened at the location to serve the residents of the greater Murfreesboro area.

*Murfreesboro, TN*



## **St. Thomas - West**

### **Located about 17 miles from MTSA**

Semester 3-5: typically 2 weeks – 2 month rotations

Semester 6-9: typically 1-2 month rotations

*Specialty rotation: Cardiac (CVA group)*

The Catholic Daughters of Charity health care ministry reached Nashville in 1898, when Saint Thomas was established. Today, the 541-bed facility, with more than 3,500 employees and 750 physicians on staff, provides adult specialty health care in service to a market area of more than two million residents of Middle Tennessee, Southwestern Kentucky & Northern Alabama.

*Nashville, TN*



*Students have rotations with 2 different anesthesia groups – AMG & CVA.*

## **Summit Medical Center (SMC) & Summit Surgery Center (SSC)**

### **Located about 10 miles from MTSA**

Semester 3-5: typically 1-2 month rotations

Semester 6-9: NONE

Originally a 100-bed facility, Donelson Hospital expanded numerous times in its 21-year history. SMC was constructed and opened in 1994, and is a 188-bed facility today. SMC is a medical and surgical facility known for emergency care, cardiac services, oncology services, orthopedic surgeries, diabetes management and obstetric services. Equally important is the emphasis that Summit places on Outpatient Services. SMC has an Ambulatory Surgery Center, which contains three floors of medical office space. The complex is located at the Summit Outpatient Center. Entrances are available off Old Hickory Blvd & Central Pike.

*Hermitage, TN*



## +Sumner Regional Medical Center (SRMC)

Gallatin, TN

### Located about 21 miles from MTSA

Semester 3-5: typically 1-2 month rotations

Semester 6-9: typically 1-month rotations

*Specialty rotation:* Regional

Since opening in 1959 as Sumner County Memorial Hospital, SRMC has grown from a facility with just 50 employees and seven physicians to a comprehensive health care leader in the community with over 1,000 employees and 300 physicians. Since 1994, SRMC has served as the flagship hospital of the health care entity, HighPoint Health System. SRMC is accredited by the Joint Commission and is one of the largest non-government employers in Sumner County. Today, SRMC operates as a 155-bed facility and provides quality care in numerous areas, including cancer treatment, cardiac care, same-day surgery, orthopedics, diagnostics, and women's health and rehabilitation services.



## Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) & Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt

Nashville, TN

### Located about 15 miles from MTSA

Semester 3-5: typically 1-2 month rotations

Semester 6-9: typically up to 6 month rotations

*Specialty rotations:* Pediatric, OB, & Trauma

VUMC is a comprehensive healthcare campus dedicated to patient care, research and biomedical education. Within this system is VUMC, a twin-towered, 658-bed structure supported by the latest systems and technology. Patients are referred to Vanderbilt to receive both routine inpatient care and highly specialized medical treatment and surgical procedures. The Hospital is also home to the region's only Level I Trauma Center as well as the region's only Level IV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.



Constructed in 2004, the freestanding Vanderbilt Children's Hospital is filled with state-of-the-art equipment and information systems. With 222 beds dedicated to high-level pediatric, subspecialty treatment, and trauma care, the hospital is also a teaching and research facility. Children's Hospital reaches children from Nashville to all Middle Tennessee counties and regions beyond. In 2007, a total of 104,169 of VCH's patients came from Davidson County. 16,151 patients came from out of state. Patients came from 45 states plus the District of Columbia.

## Williamson Medical Center

Franklin, TN

### Located about 33 miles from MTSA

Semester 3-5: typically 1-2 month rotations

Semester 6-9: NONE

Williamson Medical Center is a 185-bed hospital dedicated to serving the health care needs of the surrounding communities. Founded in 1957, Williamson Medical Center offers comprehensive inpatient and outpatient services, 24-hour emergency care, preventive health screenings and wellness activities.



## Senior Elective

MTSA recognizes that there are hospitals and anesthesia groups willing to give clinical instruction to students that cannot accommodate the entire student body of MTSA. For this reason, the Senior Elective has been developed. Each student enrolled in the Practice Doctorate Program is required to participate in a Senior Elective taken during the last semester of the program.

A clinical affiliate agrees to have the position for a limited number of MTSA students. These facilities have the right to approve or deny student participation at the affiliation. MTSA reserves the right to limit the number of students in a Senior Elective at a site to prevent dilution of the clinical experience. Those requests made first, and those with hospitals already having contracts with MTSA, will be considered first. The cost of the Senior Elective is included in the tuition. All tuition and fees are set by the MTSA Board of trustees.

A list of facilities that have participated in MTSA's "Senior Elective" program is available in the office of the Coordinator of Clinical Support.

**To be eligible for consideration for a Senior Elective of his choice, the student must meet the following criteria:**

1. Maintain an overall 3.0 GPA
2. No failures in any class
3. Above average clinical evaluations
4. Met or have the potential to meet all case requirements
5. No Progressions Committee action preventing student's participation
6. Specific permission from the Progressions Committee if the student has been on probation for any cause during his time in the program
7. Failure to meet the SEE benchmark score may prevent participation in the Senior Elective program

Students not meeting these criteria or not submitting their Senior Elective paperwork prior to the stated deadline will be assigned at any one of the regular active affiliates, including those located in other states, or at another senior elective affiliate with whom MTSA already has a current contract. In either of these cases, the student will be personally responsible for the entire cost of the Senior Elective, including any additional expenses, such as housing, travel, and non-NLC state RN licensure (if applicable).

MTSA is willing to develop a Senior Elective with any anesthesia group willing to offer specific clinical experience to students, and whose anesthesiologists and CRNAs are capable and desirous of becoming clinical instructors and are willing to enter into MTSA's senior elective contract agreement. MTSA does not provide living accommodations for students, so the affiliate or student is expected to cover this expense. The student is responsible for identifying the Senior Elective site of his choice.

The contract must be in progress by the end of the student's PD2 at MTSA. All final paperwork must be submitted to MTSA by the end of March in Semester 7. Please see Coordinator of Clinical Support for actual calendar date.



## Process & Deadline

The following are the two initial considerations when seeking a Senior Elective affiliation:

1. If MTSA already has a contract with the affiliate/anesthesia group:
  - a. Is the affiliate willing to participate in the Senior Elective Program?
  - b. Will the affiliate accept the specific student?
  - c. Is a housing/dislocation allowance available, and the terms acceptable to the student?
  - d. When was the last time the site had MTSA student(s)?
2. If MTSA does not have a contract with the affiliate/anesthesia group:
  - a. The affiliate and anesthesiology group in the affiliate must be willing to sign a contract with MTSA.
  - b. The affiliate or student must be willing to provide housing.

MTSA has major interests in where students seek Senior Elective affiliates, including but not limited to the amount of valid experience available, clinical instructors' qualifications, and monitoring available. These are partially discovered by the questionnaire the affiliate must complete for MTSA and the CVs the potential clinical instructors supply to MTSA. The MTSA Program Administrator or their designee will complete the on-site visit required by Council on Accreditation (COA) to the affiliate at some time during the process of seeking and arranging the elective. Living arrangements must be satisfactory to the student. The student must meet criteria to participate in a Senior Elective of his choice.

The Coordinator of Clinical Support has a list of affiliate sites that have previously participated in the senior elective. Unless the site has had students within the past three years, Council on Accreditation requires a new contract to be executed, including a site visit. These affiliates may again choose to participate in Senior Electives; however, they will be able to accommodate only a few members of any given class. Students who would like to be considered for positions in one of these should get the name of the contact person at the affiliate (usually the chief anesthesiologist) from the MTSA Coordinator of Clinical Support. The student must contact that person to determine if they wish to have a student during the final semester of the program. If they wish to participate, students should tell them they are exploring the possibility and wish to apply for the position. Students then are to follow up with a letter and CV.

**IF NO CONTRACT EXISTS**, and this is a site where the student would like to have a Senior Elective developed, the student must do the initial contact with the site. Usually, the anesthesiologists are the best people to contact first to discuss participation in the elective. An anesthesiologist who sees merit in the program can be a great facilitator in moving it through administration at the facility. In fact, many times, once convinced to participate, the anesthesiologist will take care of getting the signatures of approval from all involved at the facility. This may be a lengthy process, as the three-party contract between MTSA, the anesthesiology group and the affiliate hospital is apt to be reviewed by all three sets of attorneys. Any changes in the sample contract MTSA supplies to the affiliate/anesthesia group are subject to review by MTSA's attorney, which requires still more time. Students should be VERY serious about accepting the affiliate before the contract expenses start. ONLY unusual circumstances should

keep a student from completing the process and actually deciding to participate there.

Sample contracts for the affiliate/anesthesia group agreeing to have students with them and a letter of explanation about the Senior Elective are available with the Coordinator of Clinical Support at MTSA. The student is responsible for sending these contracts. The Coordinator of Clinical Support will take the name of the site the student is contacting and process any subsequent feedback regarding meetings or conversations they have had with the anesthesiologists.

When the students have sent the sample contracts, they need to give the Coordinator of Clinical Support the phone numbers and addresses of those individuals contacted. Students who have not heard back from them in a reasonable amount of time may ask the Coordinator of Clinical Support to follow up on the initial contact. If the Coordinator of Clinical Support has received no response from her effort to contact them, she will notify the student. MTSA is NOT responsible to continue to seek responses.

Once the student decides on an affiliate, there is a final contract the student and the affiliate MUST sign in order to confirm both the student and affiliate's decision to participate in the elective. The School must have a copy of this signed and dated agreement. Signing the contract indicates a decision is permanent. If a student changes his mind after signing this contract, the student will be charged an additional fee, up to the amount of the senior elective fee for one additional month.

Honoring any agreement made is very important. It is not unusual for students to initially explore more than one area. Students should tell each site this is an initial exploration. Students may make final arrangements at any time in the program, if they are sure this is where they wish to do the elective and wish to "lock in" their choice. Students must make the decision by the deadline (see below), or they will be assigned to a site by MTSA. Once students have officially agreed, MTSA will consider this their final choice and schedule it for them. No changes are expected, and will only be considered if the Program Administrator and/or NAP Council, after review of the situation, determines the circumstances are unusually extenuating and far beyond the control of the student.

If the student has been exploring more than one site, it is not only the student's responsibility to sign the contract with the one they have decided to accept, they must also notify those alternate sites not chosen. Many students may be contacting the same affiliate, yet the affiliate has limited room. It is unprofessional behavior to allow them to hold a position for a student if that student has already made the choice for another affiliate.

## **Deadline for Finalizing the Senior Elective Agreement**

The student is responsible for identifying the Senior Elective site of his choice and initiating contact with the anesthesia group no later than early in the senior year. Out of respect for the scheduling processes at MTSA and the participating affiliates, as well as processing by the Council on Accreditation, submission is **highly** encouraged by the beginning of semester 6 in September. The contract must be in progress by the end of the student's PD2 at MTSA. All final paperwork must be submitted to MTSA by the end of March in Semester 7. Please see Coordinator of Clinical Support for actual calendar date.

This date is the deadline for the students and the affiliates to have made choices and have all contracts official. If students have not chosen by then, MTSA will assign students to a site MTSA

makes every attempt to make this assignment within driving distance of the School; however, this may not be possible in all instances.

Requesting a Senior Elective with a regular full-time affiliate where limited experience is available is not likely to be approved by MTSA because it would dilute the experience for the other two classes of students.

## ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Advancement of each student to the next higher level of anesthesia training and responsibility is made at semesterly intervals by recommendations from the NAP Council and is a primary function of the Progressions Committee. In order to receive an unencumbered recommendation for academic progression, the student must meet the following conditions:

- ◆ MTSA expects that all graduate level coursework should result in a minimum earned grade of “B” (See: Grading Policy). The first earned grade between 70-79% (C) will require a scheduled meeting with the Program Administrator to discuss the student’s performance. The first grade of “C” will also lead to automatic academic probation and an appearance before the Progressions Committee. The second earned “C” in a course will result in dismissal from the program. Academic course grades during the PD1 will carry over to the subsequent years for purposes of determining penalties based on course grades and progression.
- ◆ MTSA requires students to maintain a minimum overall academic cumulative GPA of 3.0 for both graduation and good academic standing. A student who falls below an academic cumulative GPA of 3.0 will be placed on academic probation. The student will have one (1) semester to improve the academic cumulative GPA to 3.0 or greater to be removed from probation. If the student fails to improve his or her GPA to 3.0 or greater during the following semester, they will be dismissed from the program.
- ◆ Students will automatically be dismissed from the program for receiving a final failing course grade in any course. Failing is defined as any grade below 70%.
- ◆ Students who are placed on any type of probation greater than two (2) time periods will be dismissed from the program. (If there is an active vote to continue student on probation from one period to a second period, that action will count as another probation occurrence).
- ◆ Students have the right to appeal decisions of the Progressions Committee by following the **MTSA appeal process**.
- ◆ Each student is carefully evaluated for academic achievement and clinical performance on a regular and continuing basis. Academic grades are published each semester. Clinical practicum evaluations are received from each affiliation, reflected on the official transcripts as letter grades, and used in tabulating the final grade point average. During the program, the student will receive both an academic transcript and a clinical transcript. The clinical transcript will be delayed approximately two months behind the semester’s end. Both are merged at the end of the program to give a cumulative academic/clinical grade point average. Students shall be advised semesterly by a CRNA faculty member concerning their academic and clinical progress each semester.

- ◆ Every effort is made to adhere to class and clinical schedules. Class hours, course sequencing, clinical seminars, and clinical practicum hours have been estimated carefully, but are dependent on day-to-day situations at each affiliation, and should, therefore, be recognized as estimates that are subject to alteration to meet daily situations. Many classes are taught by instructors who hold CRNA/MD positions in other facilities. When obligations in these facilities, such as “call,” prohibit the instructor from meeting class on a particular day, the class will be rescheduled. This rescheduling will be done as far in advance as possible. All subject matter may change to benefit the student and/or MTSA. Students scheduled for class and not for clinical will be expected to adjust to changes in academic scheduling.

## **SELF EVALUATION EXAMINATION (SEE)**

All students will be required to take the Self Evaluation Examination (SEE) a minimum of twice prior to graduation. Students must be scheduled to take the exam no later than April 30th and the first SEE must be completed by July 30th. Students will have to achieve a benchmark score based on the prior year SEE national mean. Failure to pass the SEE will require the student to repeat the SEE. Students who meet the benchmark score on their first attempt will retake the SEE exam approximately six weeks prior to graduation to gauge their continuing preparation for the NCE. Each student must pass the SEE prior to graduation to be scheduled to take the NCE.

The fees for the student’s taking of the SEE exam twice are including in the MTSA tuition and fees. Any additional retaking of the SEE exam are taken at the student’s expense.

### **ADDITIONAL SEE INFORMATION:**

The SEE is a valuable tool to gauge progress in the education program, assess knowledge of anesthesia practice, and to prepare students for the National Certifying Examination (NCE) experience. The exam is 240 computer adapted questions covering these four domain levels: Basic Sciences; Equipment, Instrumentation and Technology; Basic Principles of Anesthesia; Advanced Principles of Anesthesia. The SEE is administered at approved testing sites across the nation. Data from the SEE will be reviewed and each student will receive counsel regarding knowledge areas that need further study and review.

# ACADEMIC COURSE SEQUENCING

## DNAP-PD Class of 2022

Number	Course Title	Credit Hrs.
<b>Semester 1</b>		
DAPP 800	Anatomy & Physiology	2
DBAP 800	Basic Principles of Anesthesia I	2
DMAT 800	Math for Nurse Anesthetists	1
DAPH 800	Pharmacology for the Advance Practice Nurse: Nurse Anesthetists	2
DEDU 830	Introduction to the Nurse Anesthesia Profession	2
<b>Total Semester Hours:</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Semester 2</b>		
DAPP 810	Advanced Anatomy & Physiology I	2
DEBP 810	Evidence-Based Practice I	2
DREL 800	Religion and a Christian Worldview I	1
DAHA 800	Advanced Health Assessment	3
DPCE 800	Physics, Chemistry and Biochemistry for Nurse Anesthesia	2
DAPH 810	Advanced Pharmacology Principles I	2
DBAP 805	Basic Principles of Anesthesia II	2
DACS 800	Simulation I	1
<b>Total Semester Hours:</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Semester 3</b>		
DAPP 820	Advanced Anatomy & Physiology II	4
DEBP 820	Evidence-Based Practice II	2
DAPH 820	Advanced Pharmacology Principles II	2
DREL 810	Religion and a Christian Worldview II	1
DBAP 810	Advanced Principles in Nurse Anesthesia	4
DEDU 850	Quality Improvement for Safety and Wellness in Patient Populations	3
DACP 800	Clinical Practicum I	4
DACS 810	Simulation II	1
<b>Total Semester Hours:</b>		<b>21</b>
<b>Semester 4</b>		
DBAP 820	Advanced Physiology & Pathophysiology: Regional Anesthesia	3
DEBP 830	Evidence-Based Practice III	2
DBAP 840	Advanced Physiology & Pathophysiology: Pediatric Anesthesia	2
DAPH 830	Advanced Pharmacology Principles III	2
DBAP 850	Advanced Physiology & Pathophysiology: Cardiac & Respiratory Anesthesia	2
DACP 810	Clinical Practicum II	4
DACS 820	Simulation III	3
<b>Total Semester Hours:</b>		<b>18</b>
<b>Semester 5</b>		
DBAP 830	Advanced Physiology & Pathophysiology: Obstetrics Anesthesia	2
DEDU 840	Healthcare Policy, Business, and Legal Issues	3
DEBP 840	Evidence-Based Practice IV	2
DEDU 820	Ethics, Leadership & Multicultural Healthcare in Nurse Anesthesia	2
DAPP 830	Advanced Topics in Pathophysiology	2
DACP 820	Clinical Practicum III	4
DACS 830	Simulation IV	1
<b>Total Semester Hours:</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Semester 6</b>		
DEDU 860	Concepts in Clinical: Application and Practice I	3
DACP 830	Clinical Practicum IV	10
<b>Total Semester Hours:</b>		<b>13</b>

<b>Semester 7</b>		
DEDU 870	Concepts in Clinical: Application and Practice II	3
DACP 840	Clinical Practicum V	10
<b>Total Semester Hours:</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>Semester 8</b>		
DEDU 880	Concepts in Clinical: Application and Practice III	3
DACP 850	Clinical Practicum VI	10
<b>Total Semester Hours:</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>Semester 9</b>		
DEDU 890	Concepts in Clinical: Application and Practice IV	3
DACP 860	Clinical Practicum VII	10
<b>Total Semester Hours:</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>Total Program Semester Hours:</b>		<b>131</b>

# Course Catalog

## Academic Courses

**DACS 800 – 830:** Simulation I-IV (I, II & IV are 1 Hr. each, III is 3 Hrs.)

This course spans four semesters, with one credit hour per course awarded and with separate grades given for each consecutive course. Each course has learning activities aligned to supplement classroom teachings and readings. Simulation is intended for students to practice and demonstrate basic, advanced skills, decision-making and critical thinking as they progress in their studies and clinical practice experiences. Students practice fiberoptic intubations, jet ventilation, advanced airway techniques for difficult airways, CVP placement, one lung ventilation, hypo and hypertension management, epidural and spinal placement, pediatric laryngospasm, ultrasound guided regional anesthesia, and management of vascular complications.

(DSLO: D:1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38)

**DAHA 800:** Advanced Health Assessment (3 hours)

This course builds upon the basic health assessment skills developed in the undergraduate nursing program of study. The clinical basis for a comprehensive history and physical assessment in advanced nursing practice will be developed and will then be related specifically to the provision of anesthesia care. The course will utilize practice sessions to evaluate the body and its functions using inspection, palpation, percussion, auscultation and advanced assessment techniques. The course will also include: identification of diagnostic testing that may be appropriate for a patient, cultural and developmental variations and needs of a patient, establishing a differential diagnosis based on the assessment data, and developing an effective and appropriate plan of care for a patient. 12-Lead ECG and arrhythmias and the identification and differential diagnosis related to dysrhythmias will be part of this course. Critical thinking, diagnostic reasoning, and communication skill development will be enhanced through case presentation and simulation experiences.

(DSLO: 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28)

**DAPH 800:** Pharmacology for the Advanced Practice Nurse: Nurse Anesthetists (2 hours)  
[Online]

This course is designed to discuss concepts related to the advanced pharmacotherapeutics of frequently encountered and prescribed non-anesthesia specific medications at the cellular and systems levels. Many patients receiving anesthesia will be concurrently receiving medications from one or more of the categories discussed. In addition to medication indications, interactions, side effects, contraindications, and important patient education; the legal requirements and implications of being a safe and conscientious provider and prescriber will be integrated throughout the course.

(DSLO: 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 13, 14, 16, 17, 26, 34, 36, 37)

**DAPH 810:** Advanced Pharmacology Principles I (2 hours)

In this course topics will include: pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacotherapeutics of

commonly used anesthesia medications and discussed at the systemic, organ, and cellular levels. Other areas addressed when applicable are the influence of genetics and integration to the clinical setting.  
(DSLO: 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 21, 22)

### **DAFH 820: Advanced Pharmacology Principles II (2 hours)**

This course is designed to build upon basic knowledge of pharmacologic mechanisms of action, cardiothoracic physiology and vasoactive medications. The course covers pathophysiologic considerations in the cardiac patient, as well as an overview of hemodynamic goals during anesthesia. In addition, clinical pharmacology of vasoactive drugs and their application during anesthesia is included. The course assists the student to build advanced knowledge in order to use a variety of current anesthetic techniques, agents, adjunctive drugs and equipment while providing anesthesia.

(DSLO: 1, 4, 5, 7, 13, 14, 15, 19, 21, 22, 23)

### **DAFH 830: Advanced Pharmacology Principles III (2 hours)**

This course focuses on advanced concepts in anesthesia pharmacology. The course includes current standards of anesthesia practice in the ambulatory setting, and includes content on advanced fluid therapy, transfusion products and electrolytes. The course focuses on drugs of abuse and antiretroviral therapy and the implications for anesthesia management including anesthetic considerations for specific medically treated disease processes. Drug interactions, and variations of metabolism is considered through the important context of Pharmacogenomics as they relate to the efficacy, safety, and personalized anesthetic drug administration.

(DSLO: 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 37, 44, 46, 47)

### **DAPP 800: Anatomy & Physiology (2 hours) [<sup>+</sup>Online]**

This course focuses on concepts foundational to an understanding of human physiology. Functional systems of the cell, cell metabolism, cell membrane transport, membrane potentials, action potentials, cell receptors, cell markers, nervous system foundational concepts, and skull and brain anatomy and physiology are discussed. Understanding these concepts is prerequisite to a comprehension of all cell, tissue, organ, and systems physiology and pathophysiology.

(DSLO: 13, 14, 21, 23)

### **DAPP 810: Advanced Anatomy & Physiology I (2 hours)**

This course is designed to discuss concepts related to anatomy and physiology of the nervous system, including the vertebral column, spinal cord, cranial nerves, pain modulation; the autonomic nervous system, physiology of skeletal muscle contraction, the neuromuscular synapse, and smooth muscle contraction; physiology of the heart; systemic and pulmonary circulations; microcirculation; hematopoietic system; and hemostasis/blood coagulation. Selected pathophysiologic and anesthesia-related examples are integrated.

(DSLO: 13, 14, 21, 23)

### **DAPP 820: Advanced Anatomy & Physiology II (4 hours)**

This course focuses on concepts related to inflammation-immunity; physiology of the renal system; acid-base balance; integrated mechanisms of blood pressure regulation; and the endocrine system. Selected pathophysiologic and anesthesia examples are integrated.

(DSLO: 13, 14, 21, 23)



**DAPP 830: Advanced Topics in Pathophysiology (2 hours)**

This course engages the student in advanced clinically oriented topics that focus on advanced principles of management and techniques in the delivery of anesthesia. These concepts and principles are applied to patient situations in which the patient has a complex, or an unusual presentation. Special emphasis is placed on the anatomy, physiology, and pathophysiology topics found in the Basic Sciences section of the National Certification Examination. (DSLO: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51)

**DBAP 800 & 805: Basic Principles of Anesthesia I & II (2 Hrs. each)**

These courses present basic principles and concepts of anesthetic management, fluid and blood management, and anesthesia equipment and monitoring. Quality of care, vigilance and anesthesia patient safety are integrated with theory and practice of peri-anesthetic management of patients with various comorbidities and diagnoses. Anesthetic management for a variety of procedures is explored through lecture and discussion. The courses will cover principles related to mechanical ventilation, anesthesia gas elimination and gas monitoring devices, standard and advanced patient monitors, including cardiac and neuromuscular monitors.

(DSLO: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23)

**DBAP 810: Advanced Principles in Nurse Anesthesia (4 hours)**

This course presents concepts of anesthetic management including commonly used anesthetic equipment, its proper function, operation, and maintenance. Patient and anesthesia safety are integrated with theory, evidence and practice of pre-anesthetic management of patients with multiple disease processes across the lifespan. Anesthetic management for a variety of procedures is explored through lecture and discussion.

(DSLO: 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23)

**DBAP 820: Advanced Physiology & Pathophysiology: Regional Anesthesia (3 hours)**

This course describes central neuraxial blockade used in daily anesthesia practice. Methods of administration are described and demonstrated in the simulation laboratory. Spinal, epidural, combined spinal/epidural anesthesia, and caudal anesthesia, as well as applicable neuroanatomy and central neuraxial pharmacology are presented. Use of anesthesia, pharmacologic principles of regional anesthesia with emphasis on regional anesthesia including ultra-sound guidance of brachial plexus, lumbar and sacral plexus, as well as truncal blocks are included. This course describes the anatomy and physiology of pain and the impact of pain on society as well as the individual as it relates to lost wages and the propensity to transition from acute to chronic pain.

(DSLO: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 29, 30, 44)

**DBAP 830: Advanced Physiology & Pathophysiology: Obstetrics Anesthesia (2 hours)**

The administration anesthesia to the pregnant female is discussed with special emphasis on alterations in physiology in the pregnant state. The course focuses on common pathophysiologic states seen in the pregnant state, and the effects on the neonate of labor, delivery with implications for anesthesia delivery. Specific techniques are outlined for the alternative paths that may be required in the anesthesia care of the pregnant female and techniques for emergency care of the newborn.

(DSLO: 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22)

**DBAP 840: Advanced Physiology & Pathophysiology: Pediatric Anesthesia (2 hours)**

This course introduces the basic and advanced concepts and techniques necessary for the provision of safe anesthesia in the OR/ procedure rooms for neonates, infants, children, and adolescents. Special consideration is given to mental and physical developmental benchmarks for this age group. Lectures will include specific aspects of pediatric airway management, anatomy & physiology, congenital heart disease, pharmacology, most common pediatric syndromes, caudal (regional) anesthesia, treatment of pediatric trauma and abuse.

(DSLO: 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 35, 36, 37)

**DBAP 850: Advanced Physiology & Pathophysiology: Cardiac and Respiratory Anesthesia (2 hours)**

This course presents anesthesia considerations for patients with a variety of cardiac lesions, including coronary artery disease, valve disease, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, congenital cardiac disease and different forms of cardiomyopathy. Anesthesia techniques specifically tailored to meet the unique needs of each lesion are discussed, and monitoring strategies are considered. Surgical concerns for coronary artery bypass, valve repair/replacement, cardiac transplantation and non-cardiac surgery issues are covered. Vascular surgery in relationship to cardiac disease is reviewed, as well as many uncommon cardiac diseases.

(DSLO: 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 29, 32, 35, 36, 37)

**DEBP 800: Evidence-Based Practice I (2 hours)**

This course is the first of a four-part sequence that begins with the basics of review as to what constitutes evidence-based practice and the components for the translation of scholarly information into practice. At the culmination of these four courses each student will have completed a doctoral scholarly project and created an ePortfolio for their work throughout the Practice Doctorate program.

In this beginning course, the DNAP Practice Doctoral Students will encounter opportunities to explore the conceptual, theoretical, and empirical foundations of nursing knowledge. Specific emphasis is placed on the research process and methods of identifying, conceptualizing, designing, implementing, evaluating, and translating evidenced-based research into practice. Both quantitative and qualitative research methods are explored and analyzed.

This course also provides an overview of statistical analysis methods most often reported in healthcare research literature. Topics include descriptive and inferential univariate and multivariate parametric and nonparametric data analyses. Emphasis is placed on: 1) integrating all aspects of the research process to enhance rigor and the quality of evidence; 2) the appropriate use and critical assumptions of statistical analysis methods, 3) reasoned interpretation of research results, and 4) the systematic critical analysis and evaluation of published research studies.

(DSLO: 14, 23, 35, 36)

**DEBP 810: Evidence-Based Practice II (2 hours)**

This course is the second of a four-part sequence that began with the basics of review in the translation of evidence to practice.

In this second course, the DNAP Practice Doctoral Students will review and explore the foundational concepts necessary for critically evaluating and synthesizing theoretical and empirical knowledge. Each student will select a concept of interest related to nurse anesthesia clinical practice, nurse anesthesia student education, or administration/management of nurse anesthesia practice. The learner will be introduced to PICOT statements and how the question of inquiry guides the research. Students will then begin the process of selecting, analyzing, and synthesizing related theoretical and research literature. This course will provide the foundational knowledge and skills for the completion of the literature review and

synthesis for the scholarly project.  
(DSLO: 23, 44, 45, 46, 47)

### **DEBP 820: Evidence-Based Practice III (2 hours)**

This course is the third of a four-part sequence that began with the basics of review in the translation of evidence to practice.

In this third course, the DNAP Practice Doctoral Students will be assigned to a small group and the group will discover and participate in analyzing and critiquing clinical practice guidelines, identify a clinical problem, reviewing, analyzing, and synthesizing the literature, create recommendations for solving the clinical problem based on the evidence. The culmination of this course will result in the group creating a poster of their findings and recommendations to present at the next TANA meeting. This course provides the foundational knowledge and skills for the completion of the small group scholarly projects.

(DSLO: 23, 44, 45, 46, 47)

### **DEBP 830: Evidence-Based Practice IV (2 hours)**

This four-course sequence relates to components of the Practice Doctorate (DNAP) scholarly project. The Evidence-Based Practice course sequence began with review of fundamental concepts and theories related to scholarly endeavors as well as provided an overview of statistical analysis methods most often reported in healthcare research literature.

Each student group will identify a salient, specific problem related to clinical nurse anesthesia practice; education of nurse anesthesia students, colleagues, patients/families, or the public about some specific aspect of anesthesia; or business administration/management of anesthesia practice. The student group will perform a research literature review; explicate the framework/model of the problem; critically analyze, integrate, and evaluate related research; and synthesize the body of knowledge. Specific recommendations will be made by the group for applications to evidence-based nurse anesthesia clinical practice, education, or business administration/management. The student group with guidance and supervision by their Faculty, both process and content, will create a proposal for a Nurse Anesthesia improvement project derived from the evidence. The student group will create a plan for a quality improvement project or will implement a project and critically analyze the outcome/findings. Additional research needed to expand understanding of the problem will be proposed.

The final outcome/product of a scholarly paper will be presented to the faculty and peers in a formal, scholarly, paper or poster or other approved platform. Additional dissemination of outcome/findings may include presentations at local, regional, or national nurse anesthesia conferences; and/or submission of a manuscript to an appropriate professional journal.

(DSLO: 13, 14, 23, 25, 26, 30, 35, 48)

### **DEDU 820: Ethics, Leadership and Multicultural Healthcare in Nurse Anesthesia (2hour)**

The course is introduced with a review of philosophical foundations of applied and professional ethics, including ethical decision making. Within nursing as a profession, and nurse anesthesia as a specialty within nursing, are found statements of ethical promises made to society over time. Members of these professions are expected to act according to these ethical promises. For Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, these promises are codified in the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Code of Ethics. As advanced practice nurses, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists care for patients across the lifespan. The focus of the course will be related to ethical issues in nurse anesthesia practice and ethical practice issues across advanced nursing specialties. Multi-cultural variances will be a sub-focus in this course with readings and discussions to address the everchanging role of culture in society and the effects of culture in healthcare, patient care delivery, and patient preferences.

(DSLO: 6, 13, 25, 26, 27, 31, 33, 35, 36, 37, 44)

**DEDU 830: Introduction to the Nurse Anesthesia Profession (2 hour) [*Online*]**

This course is an introduction for the new student to nurse anesthesia. The student will learn about the history of nurse anesthesia, its importance in society and healthcare, as well as the impact of nurse anesthesia in healthcare past and present. Topics will include the history of key individuals, the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA), changes in technology, and healthcare advances that have had an impact on nurse anesthesia. Additionally, a review will be completed of the *Code of Ethics for the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist* and the *Standards for Nurse Anesthesia Practice*. This course is conducted on-line.

(DSLO: 13, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37)

**DEDU 840: Healthcare Policy, Business, and Legal Issues (3 hours)**

This course focuses on public policy issues and how they relate to the nurse anesthesia profession. It will include an examination of the process of policy formation within the health care industry including origin, implementation, and analysis. The student will critically analyze a policy issue relating to their Capstone Phenomenon of Interest (if appropriate) using the policy review model of Equity, Efficiency, and Effectiveness (3 E's). Students will be prepared to assume leadership and influence of health policy development and advocacy for the patient and profession.

(DSLO: 5, 13, 14, 23, 26, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 51)

**DEDU 850: Quality Improvement for Safety and Wellness in Patient Populations (3 hours)**

Epidemiology focuses on the distribution and determinants of disease frequency in human populations. This course prepares the student to use epidemiological strategies to examine patterns of illness or injury in groups of people as well as threats to patient safety. Concepts of health, risk, and disease causality are examined. Implications for development of data based programs for disease/injury prevention, quality improvement directed at improving individuals and aggregates receiving anesthesia are discussed. Further exploration of Quality Improvement for aggregates and individuals receiving anesthesia is achieved by providing opportunities to analyze, synthesize, and apply knowledge of quality improvement and patient safety in anesthesia practice. The course examines the theoretical basis of human error, introduces a systems approach to error investigation and analysis, and integrates concepts of teamwork, crisis resource management and monitoring systems in anesthesia practice.

(DSLO: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 21, 22, 23, 26, 30, 32, 35, 36, 37, 38, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50)

**DEDU 860: Concepts in Clinical: Application & Practice I (3 hours)**

This course series is designed to assist the student in preparation for the national certification examination by integrating clinical and didactic knowledge. Application of information and critical thinking will be emphasized during the review sessions. During each semester the students will be on campus for focused review sessions that will be facilitated by the faculty members. Review materials will include the use of APEX Anesthesia Review, assigned readings, and comprehensive examinations.

(DSLO: 5, 6, 7, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24)

**DEDU 870: Concepts in Clinical: Application & Practice II (3 hours)**

This course series is designed to assist the student in preparation for the national certification examination by integrating clinical and didactic knowledge. Application of information and critical thinking will be emphasized during the review sessions. During each semester the students will be on campus for focused review sessions that will be facilitated by the faculty members. Review materials will include the use of APEX Anesthesia Review, assigned readings, and comprehensive examinations.  
(DSLO: 5, 6, 7, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24)

**DEDU 880: Concepts in Clinical: Application & Practice III (3 hours)**

This course series is designed to assist the student in preparation for the national certification examination by integrating clinical and didactic knowledge. Application of information and critical thinking will be emphasized during the review sessions. During each semester the students will be on campus for focused review sessions that will be facilitated by the faculty members. Review materials will include the use of APEX Anesthesia Review, assigned readings, and comprehensive examinations.  
(DSLO: 5, 6, 7, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24)

**DEDU 890: Concepts in Clinical: Application & Practice IV (3 hours)**

This course series is designed to assist the student in preparation for the national certification examination by integrating clinical and didactic knowledge. Application of information and critical thinking will be emphasized during the review sessions. During each semester the students will be on campus for focused review sessions that will be facilitated by the faculty members. Review materials will include the use of APEX Anesthesia Review, assigned readings, and comprehensive examinations.  
(DSLO: 5, 6, 7, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24)

**DMAT 800: Math for Nurse Anesthetists (1 hour) [*Online*]**

This course will build upon the math skills developed in the undergraduate nursing program of study. Emphasis will be placed on dosage calculations, dilutions, ratios, and conversions as they relate to time, temperature, pressure, and concentration. Each concept will be taught as it relates to the practice of nurse anesthesia. Students will be required to calculate the administration dosages of medicines used in both general and regional anesthesia, for patients of all ages, body mass indexes, and physical conditions. Classroom time will be used to present various patient related scenarios, and students will learn to apply knowledge to clinical practice in decision making and problem solving.  
(DSLO: 13, 17, 20)

**DPCE 800: Physics, Chemistry, and Biochemistry for Nurse Anesthesia (2 hours)**

This course relates the physical principles and laws of the universe to the science and practice of anesthesia. The student is then shown how the physical forces of matter and energy may be controlled, regulated, and applied in the form of scientific and efficient anesthesia administration. A review of drug related mathematics is a part of this class. Lectures, problem-solving coaching, active learning sessions, and worksheets will be used to ensure that students are capable of transferring what is learned in this class to their final performance evaluation.  
(DSLO: 13, 17, 19, 20)

**DREL 800: Religion and a Christian Worldview I (1 hour)**

These courses address the spiritual component of MTSA's philosophy that true education involves the growth of the spiritual, intellectual, and physical aspects of the student. The Religion 800 section includes lectures, reading, and discussion designed to help students explore their spiritual beliefs and how those beliefs will impact their professional life as nurse anesthetists.  
(DSLO: 6, 13, 34, 35, 39)

### **DREL 810: Religion and a Christian Worldview II (1 hour)**

These courses address the spiritual component of MTSA's philosophy that true education involves the growth of the spiritual, intellectual, and physical aspects of the student. Religion 810 focuses on the personal impact of one's spiritual worldview and examines specific doctrines of Judeo-Christian beliefs through the frame of Seventh-day Adventist Theology. This gives the student the opportunity to deeply consider their own beliefs.  
(DSLO: 6, 13, 34, 35, 39)

## **Clinical Practicum Courses**

### **DACP 800: Clinical Practicum I (4 hours)**

This initial clinical course is designed to integrate clinical practice with basic didactic coursework. Students are assigned to affiliated clinical sites with designated anesthesia areas. Students are introduced to anesthesia equipment, procedures, medications and the perioperative environment. A proper understand of basic anesthesia equipment, and monitors will allow the student to expound basic nursing principles to the anesthesia environment. Students are required to meet or exceed level specific objectives and experiences which build from simple cases and techniques to the more complex cases and procedures. Clinical experience will be guided by certified registered nurse anesthetists and anesthesiologists.  
(DSLO: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38)

### **DACP 810: Clinical Practicum II (4 hours)**

This second clinical course is designed to integrate with more advanced didactic coursework with focus on pathophysiology. Students will experience more advanced anesthetic techniques, and initiate call responsibilities. Students will be assigned to affiliated clinical sites and anesthesia related specialty areas. Students will be assigned to more complicated cases and will be required to meet or exceed level specific objectives. Clinical experiences will be guided by certified registered nurse anesthetists and anesthesiologists.  
(DSLO: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38)

### **DACP 820: Clinical Practicum III (4 hours)**

The third clinical practicum course is designed to build on more advanced didactic coursework including in depth pathophysiology, applied pharmacology and specialty case management. Case specific focus should focus on the continued development with more common surgical procedures and exposure to more complex surgical procedures to include thoracic, cranial vault procedures and vascular procedures. Students will be assigned to affiliated clinical sites and anesthesia related specialty areas. Students will be assigned to increasingly complicated cases and will be required to meet or exceed level specific objectives. Clinical experiences will be guided by certified registered nurse anesthetists and anesthesiologists.  
(DSLO: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38)

### **DACP 830: Clinical Practicum IV (10 hours)**

The fourth clinical practicum course is designed to assist the nurse anesthesia student to apply concepts from didactic coursework including focus on cardiovascular, thoracic, and vascular anesthesia. Advanced

airway techniques and sophisticated laboratory analysis will be included. Students will be assigned to affiliated clinical sites and anesthesia related specialty areas. Students will be assigned to increasingly complicated and specialty cases and will be required to meet or exceed level specific objectives. Clinical experiences will be guided by certified registered nurse anesthetists and/or anesthesiologists.

(DSLO: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38)

#### **DACP 840: Clinical Practicum V (10 hours)**

This fifth clinical course is designed to assist the nurse anesthesia student to apply concepts from didactic coursework including focus on professional interpersonal relations becoming of a nurse anesthetist, while clinically focusing on case requirements required for neurosurgical, trauma, orthopedic, renal transplant and hepatic transplant anesthesia. Students will apply advanced principles of fluid and blood management and demonstrate the ability to treat perioperative hematologic disorders. Students will be assigned to affiliated clinical sites and anesthesia related specialty areas. Students will be assigned to increasingly complicated and specialty cases and will be required to meet or exceed level specific objectives. Clinical experiences will be guided by certified registered nurse anesthetists and/or anesthesiologists.

(DSLO: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38)

#### **DACP 850: Clinical Practicum VI (10 hours)**

This sixth clinical course is designed to assist the nurse anesthesia student to synthesize content from all advanced principles courses and to become increasingly independent in their clinical practice. Students should demonstrate the professional traits of a nurse anesthetist focusing on communication and proper interpersonal relationships conducive to all staff involved in an operative procedure. Students will be assigned to affiliated clinical sites and anesthesia related specialty areas. Students will be assigned to increasingly complicated and specialty cases and will be required to meet or exceed level specific objectives. Clinical experiences will be guided by certified registered nurse anesthetists and/or anesthesiologists.

(DSLO: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38)

#### **DACP 860: Clinical Practicum VII (10 hours)**

This seventh clinical course is designed to assist the nurse anesthesia student to synthesize content from all advanced principles courses and to become increasingly independent in their clinical practice. Students should demonstrate the professional traits of a nurse anesthetist focusing on communication and proper interpersonal relationships conducive to all staff involved in an operative procedure. Students will be assigned to affiliated clinical sites and anesthesia related specialty areas. Students will be assigned to increasingly complicated and specialty cases and will be required to meet or exceed level specific objectives. Clinical experiences will be guided by certified registered nurse anesthetists and/or anesthesiologists.

(DSLO: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38)

## ACADEMIC FACULTY



### **Chris Hulin, DNP, MBA, CRNA**

#### ***President***

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 8am-6pm

Location: P.T. Magan Building – Administrative Offices

Contact Email: [chris.hulin@mtsa.edu](mailto:chris.hulin@mtsa.edu)

Phone: 615-732-7841

To Request an Appointment [Click Here](#)

#### **Courses Taught**

##### **Practice Doctorate Program**

Healthcare Policy, Business, & Legal Issues

#### **Education**

##### **DNP**

Doctor of Nursing Practice  
Samford University  
Birmingham, AL  
2010

##### **MS**

Master of Science with a focus in Nurse  
Anesthesia  
Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia  
Madison, TN  
2006

##### **MBA**

Master of Business Administration  
Management & Finance  
Regis University  
Denver, CO  
2001

##### **MSN**

Master of Science in Nursing Administration  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville, TN  
1995

##### **BSN**

Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Cumberland University  
Lebanon, TN  
1994





## **Rusty Gentry, DNAP, CRNA**

### ***Program Administrator***

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 8am-6pm

Location: Bernard V. Bowen Academic Center – Administrative Offices

Contact Email: [rusty.gentry@mtsa.edu](mailto:rusty.gentry@mtsa.edu)

Phone: 615-732-7664

To Request an Appointment [Click Here](#)

## Courses Taught

### Practice Doctorate Program

Concepts in Clinical: Application and Practice I – IV

## Education

### **DNAP**

Doctorate in Nursing Anesthesia Practice  
Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia  
Madison, TN  
2015

### **MS**

Master of Science with a focus in Nurse  
Anesthesia  
Gooding Institute of Nurse Anesthesia  
Panama City, FL  
2005

### **MSN**

Master of Science in Nursing  
University of Alabama  
Birmingham, AL  
1996

### **BSN**

Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
University of Alabama  
Birmingham, AL  
1994

### **ADN**

Associates Degree in Nursing  
Jefferson State Community College  
Birmingham, AL  
1991



**Bill Johnson, DNAP, CRNA**  
*Director, Acute Surgical Pain Management  
Fellowship and DNAP Completion Program*

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 8am-6pm

Location: **Student Support Center** – First Floor

Contact Email: **bill.johnson@mtsa.edu**

Phone: 615-732-7846

To Request an Appointment **Click Here**

## Courses Taught

### *Practice Doctorate Program*

Advanced Physiology & Pathophysiology: Regional  
Anesthesia I and II

## Education

### **DNAP**

Doctorate in Nursing Anesthesia Practice  
Nurse Anesthesia Education Focus  
Texas Wesleyan University  
Fort Worth, TX  
2015

### **MHS**

Master of Health Science  
Texas Wesleyan University  
Fort Worth, TX  
1999

### **BA**

Bachelor of Individual Studies  
Biology/Chemistry  
Columbia College  
Columbia, MO  
1997

### **ADN**

Associate Degree in Nursing  
Columbia College  
Columbia, MO  
1994



**Ginger Miller, DNP, CRNA**  
***Director, Simulation Lab***

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 8am-3pm

Location: Bernard V. Bowen Academic Center –  
Administrative Offices

Contact Email: [ginger.miller@mtsa.edu](mailto:ginger.miller@mtsa.edu)

Phone: 615-732-7848

To Request an Appointment [Click Here](#)

## Courses Taught

### Practice Doctorate Program

Simulation

Advanced Physiology & Pathophysiology:

Obstetrics Anesthesia

## Education

### DNP

Doctor of Nursing Practice  
Administrative Track  
University of North Florida  
Jacksonville, FL  
2018

### MSN

Master Science with focus in Nurse  
Anesthesia  
University of Akron  
Akron, OH  
2003

### BSN

Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Mount Carmel College of Nursing  
Columbus, OH  
1993



**Leigh Taylor, MS, CRNA**  
***Assistant Program Administrator***

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 8am-3pm

Contact Email: [leigh.taylor@mtsa.edu](mailto:leigh.taylor@mtsa.edu)

Phone: 615-732-7850

*To Request an Appointment **Click Here***

**Courses Taught**

**Practice Doctorate Program**

Introduction to the Nurse Anesthesia Profession

Evidence-Based Practice I-IV

Clinical Practicum I-VII

**Education**

**DNP**

Doctor of Nursing Practice with  
Education Focus

Samford University

Birmingham, AL

2019 (*scheduled 5-3-2019*)

**MS**

Master of Science with a focus in Nurse  
Anesthesia

Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia

Madison, TN

2013

**BS**

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Bellarmino University

Donna & Allan Lansing School of Nursing

Louisville, KY

2009

**BS**

Bachelor of Science in Biology

Centre College

Danville, KY

2007





Student Support Center **Mary Elizabeth “Ikey”  
DeVasher, Ph.D., CRNA, APN**  
**Dean, Emerita**

Office Hours: By Appointment Only

Location: Student Support Center – Second Floor

Contact Email: [ikey@mtsa.edu](mailto:ikey@mtsa.edu)

Phone: 615-732-7677

## Courses Taught

### **Practice Doctorate Program**

Ethics, Leadership, and Multicultural Healthcare in  
Nurse Anesthesia

## Education

### **Ph.D.**

Doctor of Philosophy in Professional Studies in  
Education  
Capella University  
Minneapolis, MN  
2008

### **MS**

Master of Science with a focus in Nurse Anesthesia  
Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia  
Madison, TN  
1994

### **M. Ed.**

Master of Education  
Tennessee State University  
Nashville, TN  
1984

### **BA**

Bachelor of Arts in Health Care Education  
Ottawa University  
Ottawa, KS  
1981

### **Certificate – Nurse Anesthesia**

Madison Hospital School of Anesthesia  
Madison, TN  
1969

### **BS**

Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Mountain Sanitarium & Hospital School of Nursing  
Fletcher, NC  
1966





**Katrin Sames, DNAP, CRNA**  
***Part-Time Faculty***

Office Hours: Tuesday by Appointment

Location: Student Support Center – Second Floor

Contact Email: **katrin.sames@mtsa.edu**

Phone: 615-732-7845

**Courses Taught**

**Practice Doctorate Program**

Advanced Principles of Anesthesia: Pediatric Anesthesia

Quality Improvement for Safety and Wellness in Patient Populations

Physics, Chemistry and Biochemistry for Nurse Anesthesia

**Education**

**DNAP**

Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Richmond, VA  
2012

**MS**

Master of Science with a focus in Nurse Anesthesia  
Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia  
Madison, TN  
2007

**BSN**

Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Middle Tennessee State University  
Murfreesboro, TN  
2003



## **John Shields, DNP, CRNA** *Part-Time Faculty*

Office Hours: Thursdays by Appointment

Location: Student Support Center – Second Floor

Contact Email: [john.shields@mtsa.edu](mailto:john.shields@mtsa.edu)

Phone: 615-732-7895

### **Courses Taught**

#### **Practice Doctorate Program**

Advanced Physiology & Pathophysiology: Cardiac and Respiratory Anesthesia

Advanced Topics and Pathophysiology

### **Education**

#### **DNP**

Doctor of Nursing Practice  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville, TN  
2013

#### **MS**

Master of Science with a focus in Nurse Anesthesia  
Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia  
Madison, TN  
2005

#### **Certificate – Nurse Anesthesia**

Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia  
Madison, TN  
1985

#### **BSN**

Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Austin Peay State University  
Clarksville, TN  
1982

#### **BS**

Bachelor of Science in Biology  
*Minor - Chemistry*  
University of Tennessee  
Nashville, TN  
1980



**Brett Clay, DNAP, CRNA**  
***Part-Time Faculty***

Office Hours: Mondays by Appointment

Location: Student Support Center – Second Floor

Contact Email: [brett.clay@mtsa.edu](mailto:brett.clay@mtsa.edu)

Phone: 615-732-7842

**Courses Taught**

**Practice Doctorate Program**

Anatomy & Physiology

Advanced Anatomy & Physiology I – II

**Community Education Courses**

Advanced Physiologic Foundations for Nursing  
Practice

**Education**

**DNAP**

Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice  
Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia  
Madison, TN  
2014

**MS**

Master of Science with a focus in Nurse  
Anesthesia  
Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia  
Madison, TN  
2010

**BSN**

Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Western Kentucky University  
Bowling Green, KY  
2006



# **Brent Dunworth, DNP, MBA, APRN, CRNA**

***Part-Time Faculty***

Office Hours: By Appointment Only

Contact Email: [brent.dunworth@mtsa.edu](mailto:brent.dunworth@mtsa.edu)

## **Courses Taught**

### ***Practice Doctorate Program***

Ethics, Leadership, and Multicultural Healthcare in  
Nurse Anesthesia

## **Education**

### **DNP**

Doctorate of Nursing Practice  
University of Pittsburg  
Pittsburg, PA  
2016

### **MBA**

Masters of Business Administration  
Waynesburg University  
Waynesburg, PA  
2014

### **MSN**

Masters of Science in Nursing  
*Nurse Anesthesia*  
University of Pittsburg  
Pittsburg, PA  
1999

### **BSN**

Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
University of Pittsburg  
Pittsburg, PA  
1996



**Michael Gooch, DNP, MSN, RN, ACNP-BC, FNP-BC, ENP-BC, CFRN, CTRN, CEN, NREMT-P**  
***Part-Time Faculty***

Office Hours: By Appointment Only

Contact Email: [michael.gooch@mtsa.edu](mailto:michael.gooch@mtsa.edu)

## **Courses Taught**

### **Practice Doctorate Program**

Pharmacology for the Advance Practice Nurse: Nurse Anesthesia

## **Education**

### **DNP**

Doctorate of Nursing Practice  
Loyola University  
Chicago, IL  
2016

### **Post Masters Certificate**

Family Nurse Practitioner  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville, TN  
2008

### **MSN**

Masters of Science in Nursing  
*Acute Care Nurse Practitioner*  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville, TN  
2005

### **BSN**

Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Middle Tennessee State University  
Murfreesboro, TN  
2001



**Julie Murphy, CRNA, APRN**  
***Part-Time Faculty***

Office Hours: By Appointment Only

Contact Email: [julie.murphy@mtsa.edu](mailto:julie.murphy@mtsa.edu)

**Courses Taught**

Simulation Sessions

**Practice Doctorate Program**

Simulation Instructor

**Education**

**DNAP (In Process)**

**MS**

Masters of Science with a focus of Nurse  
Anesthesia  
Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia  
Madison, TN  
2000

**BSN**

Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Southern Adventist University  
Collegedale, TN  
1996



**Michael Pilla, M.D.**  
***Part-Time Faculty***

Office Hours: By Appointment Only

Contact Email: [michael.pilla@mtsa.edu](mailto:michael.pilla@mtsa.edu)

**Courses Taught**

***Practice Doctorate Program***

Lecture: Advanced Health Assessment

**Education**

**MD**

University of Pennsylvania School of  
Medicine  
Philadelphia, PA  
1994

**BS**

Bachelor of Science in Biology  
Widener University  
Chester, PA  
1990

**BA**

Bachelor of Science in Psychology  
Widener University  
Chester, PA  
1990



**Kim Sharkey, DNAP, CRNA**  
***Part-Time Faculty***

Office Hours: By Appointment Only

Contact Email: [kim.sharkey@mtsa.edu](mailto:kim.sharkey@mtsa.edu)

**Courses Taught**

***Practice Doctorate Program***

- Basic Principles of Anesthesia I & II
- Advanced Principles in Nurse Anesthesia
- Ethics, Leadership, and Multicultural Healthcare in Nurse Anesthesia
- Introduction to the Nurse Anesthesia Profession
- Advanced Pharmacology I, II, III

**Education**

**DNAP**

Doctorate of Nurse Anesthesia Practice  
Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia  
Madison, TN  
2014

**Post Master Certification**

*Nurse Anesthesia*  
Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia  
Madison, TN  
2008

**MSN**

Masters of Science in Nursing  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville, TN  
1995

**BS**

Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
University of Indianapolis  
Indianapolis, IN  
1991





**Rob Taylor, M.D.**  
***Part-Time Faculty, Medical Consultant***

Office Hours: By Appointment Only

Contact Email: [rob.taylor@mtsa.edu](mailto:rob.taylor@mtsa.edu)

**Courses Taught**

***Practice Doctorate Program***

Lecture: Advanced Health Assessment

Concepts in Clinical: Application and Practice I – IV

**Education**

**MD**

Loma Linda University

Loma Linda, CA

1996

**BSN**

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Southern Adventist University

Collegedale, TN

1993



**Ken Wetmore, MA**  
***Part-Time Faculty, School Chaplin***

Office Hours: By Appointment Only

Contact Email: [ken.wetmore@mtsa.edu](mailto:ken.wetmore@mtsa.edu)

Phone: 509-481-8457

**Courses Taught**

***Practice Doctorate Program***

Religion and a Christian Worldview I – II

**Education**

**MA**

Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership  
Gonzaga University  
Spokane, WA  
2014

**BA**

Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations  
Southern Adventist University  
Collegedale, TN  
1999

# CALENDAR – PRACTICE DOCTORATE CLASS OF 2022

January 6, 2020	Semester 1 Begins
January 6 – 9, 2020	Semester 1 Intensive Week
April 13 – 16, 2019	Semester 1 Finals Week
April 20 – May 3, 2020	<i>Spring Break</i>
May 4, 2020	Semester 2 Begins
May 4, 2020	MTSA Family Day
May 25, 2020	<i>Memorial Day – No Classes</i>
August 10 - 13, 2020	Semester 2 Finals Week
August 13, 2020	White Coat Ceremony
August 17 – August 30, 2020	<i>Fall Break</i>
August 31, 2020	Semester 3 Begins
September 7, 2020	<i>Labor Day – No Classes</i>
October 16-18, 2020	TANA Annual Meeting
November 26, 2020	<i>Thanksgiving – No Classes</i>
December 7 – 10, 2020	Semester 3 Finals Week
December 14, 2020– January 3, 2021	<i>Winter Break</i>
January 4, 2021	Semester 4 Begins
April 12 – 15, 2021	Semester 4 Finals Week
April 19 – May 2, 2021	<i>Spring Break</i>
May 3, 2021	Semester 5 Begins
May 31, 2021	<i>Memorial Day – No Classes</i>
August 9 – 12, 2021	Semester 5 Finals Week
August 16 – 29, 2021	<i>Fall Break</i>
August 30, 2021	Semester 6 Begins
January 3, 2022	Semester 7 Begins
March/April date TBA	Valley Review Workshop
May 2, 2022	Semester 8 Begins
August 29, 2022	Semester 9 Begins
August 29- September 4, 2022	<i>Sr. Break</i>
September 5, 2022	Sr. Elective
December 11, 2022	Graduation Day

*Clinical schedule begins semester 3 through semester 9 and does not necessarily follow academic breaks. See the Coordinator of Clinical Support for clinical break schedule beginning semester 3.*