



Final Annual Report

Tennessee Tech University

President

Provost

Whitson-Hester School of Nursing

Nursing RODP MSN



Nursing MSN Mission

Department/Unit Contact: Sarah Farris, Specialist

Mission/Vision/Goal Statement

The mission of the Regents Online Master of Science in Nursing program is to use technology to improve access to high-quality, affordable, student-centered graduate nursing education opportunities through cooperation with and among the six Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) universities. The vision of the Regents Online Master of Science in Nursing program is a better life for Tennesseans through excellence in graduate nursing education. The program offers concentrations in Nursing Education, Nursing Administration, Nursing Informatics, and Family Nurse Practitioner (having the highest enrollment). Additionally, the program offers post-master's certificates (PMC) in the four aforementioned concentrations.

The purposes of the Regents Online Master of Science in Nursing program are to:

- Increase access to graduate nursing education, especially for nurses aspiring to teach in entry-level nursing programs, manage professional practice work settings, and practice as advanced clinicians in a changing healthcare delivery system.
- Maximize the effective use of technology for delivery of graduate-level instruction. Distance delivery through the use of technology will increase access to graduate education, especially in remote areas of the state and for practicing nurses for whom time flexibility is a critical resource.
- Provide student access to web-based courses and degree programs. Web-based courses will reach populations not currently enrolled in graduate education, and will also permit students who are currently enrolled in on-campus courses to take additional courses, thus completing the program sooner.
- Encourage and support collaboration among TBR institutions. Course development and delivery will be cost-effective because courses will be developed by one institution and used by all.



Goal 1: Compliance with National Accreditation Agencies and the TN State Board of Nursing

Define Goal

RATIONALE: Ongoing accreditation through the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). The ACEN “supports the interests of nursing education, nursing practice, and the public by the functions of accreditation. Accreditation is a voluntary, self-regulatory process by which non-governmental associations recognize educational institutions or programs that have been found to meet or exceed standards and criteria for educational quality. Accreditation also assists in the further improvement of the institutions or programs as related to resources invested, processes followed, and results achieved. The monitoring of certificate, diploma, and degree offerings is tied closely to state examination and licensing rules, and to the oversight of preparation for work in the profession.” <http://www.acenursing.org/mission-purpose-goals>

RATIONALE: Ongoing full approval of the Tennessee State Board of Nursing—the TN State Board of Nursing’s mission and responsibilities “center around three broad functions—licensure, education and practice. The board prescribes the minimum curriculum for all nursing programs on ground, online, distance, or via other electronic means and annual approves schools of nursing meeting board standards. Schools not meeting standards are investigated and the board is authorized to place the school on conditional approval or close the program if standards are not met.” <http://health.state.tn.us/boards/Nursing/index.htm>

Intended Outcomes / Objectives

Goal 2: Certification Pass Rates Above National Averages

Define Goal

Certification is a requirement for the FNP graduates to practice in the field.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives

Goal 3: Graduation Rates above 90%

Define Goal

Graduation rate above 90% was established by the RODP executive committee.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives



Goal 4: Graduate Student Learning Outcomes

Define Goal

Core Student Learning Outcomes:

Synthesize nursing knowledge into evidence based practice

Concentration Specific SLO's:

FNP - Demonstrate competency in providing primary care across the life span to individuals, families, groups, and communities.

Nursing Administration - Demonstrate advanced level nursing administration competencies in healthcare delivery systems, policies, and practice.

Nursing Education - Demonstrate nurse educator competencies in didactic and clinical settings, with a working knowledge of organizational structure and role responsibility.

Nursing Informatics - Apply Nursing Informatics knowledge and skills required to manage technology in healthcare systems.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives

Assessment: ACEN Accreditation and the TN State Board of Nursing

Goal/ Outcome/ Objective: Goal 1

Type of Tool: National Accrediting Agency Requirements and Standards

Rationale

Self-study and on-site evaluations by ACEN provide an opportunity to examine closely all aspects of the academic program, including program quality relative to: 1) Mission and administrative Capacity; 2) Faculty and staff; 3) Student policies, development, and services; 4) Curriculum; 5) Resources; and 6) Student learning. Nationwide certification examination pass rates, evaluation of outcomes for congruence with similar on-ground programs, and percentages of students who obtain jobs serve to evaluate quality.

Frequency of Assessment: Every five years; annually

Assessment: ANCC and AANP National Certifications

Goal/ Outcome/ Objective: Goal 2

Type of Tool: Certification Exam

Rationale

90% of graduates pass on their first attempt.

Frequency of Assessment: After graduation



 **Assessment: Graduate Student Learning Outcomes Metrics**

Goal/ Outcome/ Objective: Goal 4

Type of Tool: Capstone Project, Exit Exam, Other

Rationale

 MSN RODP SLOs 4-14-15 with Metrics and Benchmarks

Frequency of Assessment: Last semester of program

 **Assessment: Graduation and Retention Rates**

Goal/ Outcome/ Objective: Goal 3

Type of Tool: Graduation Rate

Rationale

Graduation rates defined by RODP are 150% of the prescribed program length. Six years for FNP; Five and one-half for other concentrations.

Frequency of Assessment: Every semester



Results: ANCC and AANP National Certifications

Goal/Objective/Outcome Number: Goal 2

Results

In 2016, the TTU Whitson-Hester School of Nursing FNP combined certification pass rate for first-time exam takers did exceed the ANCC National first-time pass rate and the ANPP national first time pass rate. See attached table.

In 2015, the TTU Whitson-Hester School of Nursing FNP combined certification pass rate for first-time exam takers did exceed the ANCC National first-time pass rate. The AANP fell below the 2015 scores.

*A correction was made to the 2015 scores as incorrect information was entered on the 2015-2016 IE report. The following information for 2015 is correct.



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
TTU Combined National 1st Time Pass Rate	100% (11/11)	66.6% (4/6)	93% (14/15)	80.1(21/26)	79% (35/44)	84% (27/32)
ANCC National 1 st Time Pass Rate	87.3%	86.0%	83.4%	79.4%	74.81%	81.6%
AANP National 1 st Time Pass Rate	89%	87%	88%	87.5%	81.6%	81.65%

Attachments

No items to display.



Results: Compliance with National Accreditation Agencies and the TN State Board of Nursing

Goal/Objective/Outcome Number: Goal 1

Results

The TBR Regents Online Degree Program (RODP) consortium is fully accredited by ACEN through 2019 and by the Tennessee State Board of Nursing.

In 2016, The WHSON continues to maintain full approval by the Tennessee Board of Nursing.

Attachments

No items to display.



Results: Graduate Student Learning Outcomes Metrics

Goal/Objective/Outcome Number: Goal 4

**Results**

The core graduate student learning outcomes and graduate student learning outcomes for the four concentrations exceeded the established benchmarks in 2015. The data for July 2016 to present (Academic Year 2016-2017) is not completed yet as the year is still running. It will be available in the Fall of 2017.

Attachments

 MSN RODP SLOs 4-14-15 with Outcomes

**Results: Graduation Rates above 90%**

Goal/Objective/Outcome Number: Goal 3

Results

The total number of graduates from the TTU WHSON MSN program showed a 95% increase in 2016 (see attached table). Determining the graduation rate based on the RODP definition resulted in a graduation rate of 86%, slightly below the benchmark of 90%.

Attachments

 2016-17 MSN Graduates by year