



Whitson-Hester School of Nursing

Presentation to Academic & Student Affairs Committee
Board of Trustees

September 26, 2024





Whitson-Hester School of Nursing

TENNESSEE TECH

Our Story

- Founded in 1980, first nursing program in Upper Cumberland
- Grown from 26 graduates in 1982 to 182 in 2023
- Fourth largest public Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program in the state
- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) offered through TN eCampus (2004-2020). New Tennessee Tech MSN Program began in 2018
- Joint ETSU-TTU Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program began 2017
- More than 3,200 graduate and undergraduate degrees conferred



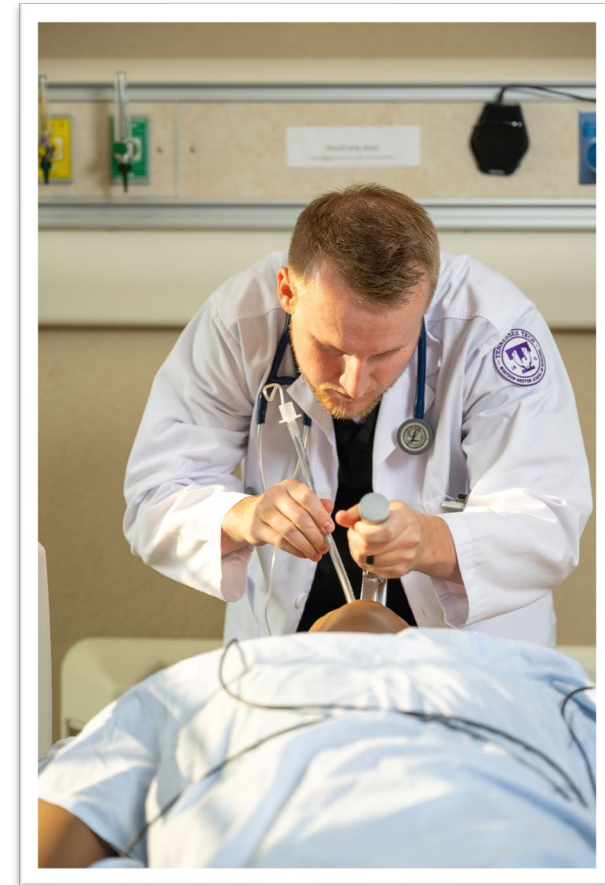


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ETSU-TTU Joint DNP Program

- Established the first and only joint Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program in the state in partnership with ETSU (2017)
- Joint TTU- ETSU Engineering Program established at same time
- Rationale for Joint Programs:
 - Sharing of concentrations with specialized faculty expertise
 - ETSU DNP was established program and could assist with mentorship of TTU
 - Collaborative partnerships encouraged by American Association of Collegiate Nursing (AACN)
 - Tennessee Higher Education Commission supportive and favorable towards Joint DNP program





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Programs of Study



Undergraduate

- Traditional BSN
- Accelerated BSN
- RN-to-BSN

Graduate Certificate

- Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner (NP)
- Family NP
- Women's Health NP
- Pediatric Primary Care NP
- Adult Gerontology Acute Care NP
- Nursing Education

Graduate

Master of Science

- Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
- Psychiatric NP
- Adult Gerontology Acute Care NP
- Nursing Administration
- Nurse Education

ETSU-TTU Joint DNP Program

- Family NP
- Psychiatric NP
- Nursing & Healthcare Leadership
- Adult Gerontology Acute Care NP
- Women's Health NP
- Pediatric NP





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Accreditation

- Fully accredited since 1982
- Completed accreditation visits for all undergraduate and graduate nursing programs through the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) in Fall 2023
 - Full compliance with CCNE standards—all programs were renewed for full 10-year accreditations
 - Five successful accreditation visits since 2018
- Accreditation for our programs meets graduates' key goals—being fully eligible to sit for the Registered Nursing licensure (NCLEX) or Advanced Practice Registered Nursing (APRN) certification exams
- Through state Nursing Compact agreements, graduates are eligible for licensure and practice not only in Tennessee but throughout the nation



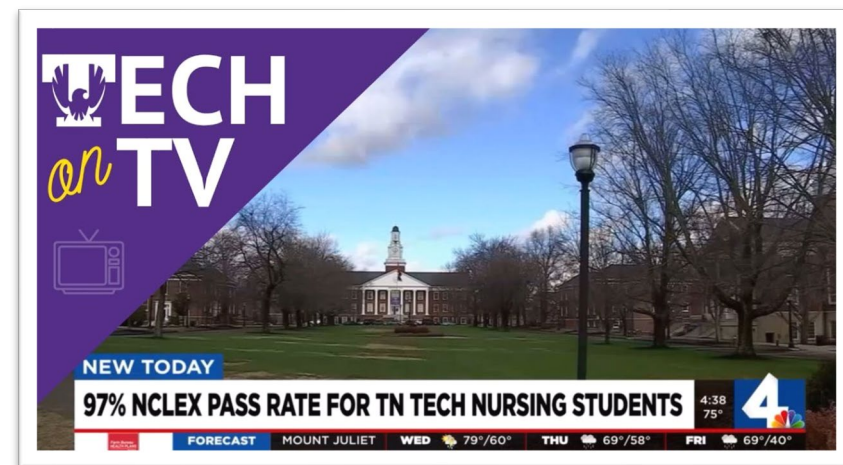


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Nursing Graduates are Career Ready!

- Graduates exceed national and accreditation performance benchmarks across all graduate and undergraduate programs
- First-time pass rates on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) average 97% over the last five years
- 97% pass rate outperformed every public and private Tennessee nursing program with 15 or more graduates in 2022
- 100% employed within year of graduation
- 100% of students engage in experiential learning activities





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Nursing Graduates are Career Ready!

- MSN graduates averaged a first-time certification exam pass rate of 95% from 2021 to 2023
- DNP graduates have a 100% certification rate in their respective specialties in 2022 to 2023

Student Success

Completion Rates: Program completion in specified time frame per cohort

- BSN students had a 93% completion rate in their programs of study (2022)
- RN-to-BSN students had a 100% completion rate in their programs of study (2022)
- MSN students had 90% completion rate and DNP students had 89% completion rate (2019)

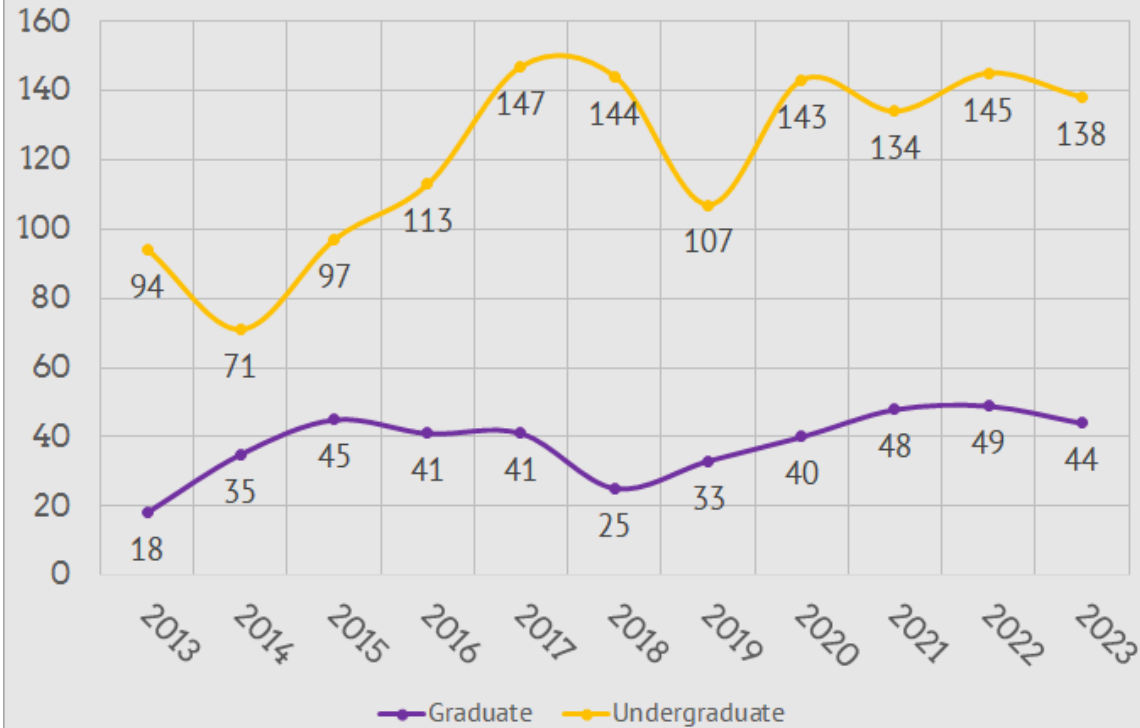




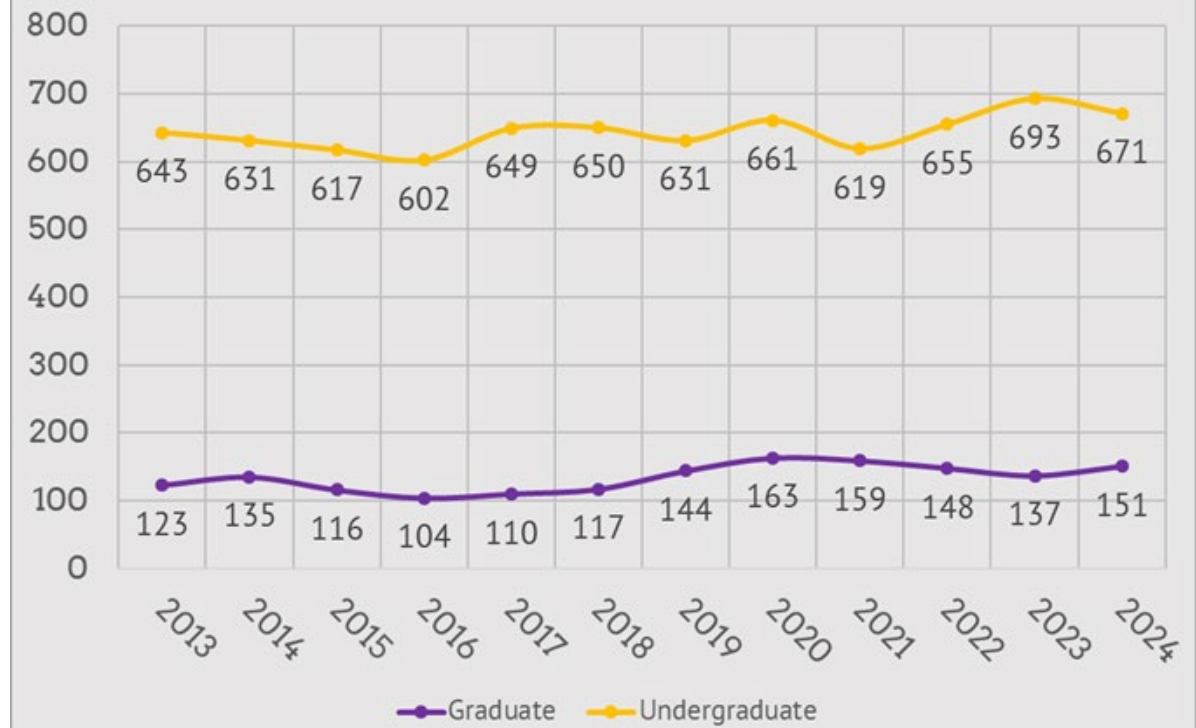
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Degrees Conferred by Year



Enrollment by Year





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National Enrollment Challenges

2021 to 2023...

Undergraduate ↓ 1%

Graduate ↓ 7-10%

Tennessee Tech Enrollments

2021 to 2024...

Undergraduate ↑ 8%

Graduate ↓ 1%

New Admission and Recruiting Initiatives

- Direct Entry Freshman Admission
- Accelerated pilot program for veterans and academically strong students
- Graduate Studies marketing campaign
- Recruitment events increased
 - Nursing Feature Fridays
 - High School visits
 - Health fairs
 - Community College visits
- Partnership with CRMC for scholarships, adjunct faculty...
- Clinical Partnerships: Over 300 clinical affiliations





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Clinical Partnerships in Tennessee





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“Going forward into college can be a scary thing but knowing that your academic department wants you to succeed and believes in you can make that transition so much easier. This is how I felt when I received my letter in the mail offering me a spot in the direct entry freshman program at the School of Nursing at Tennessee Tech. Knowing that I would not have to compete for a spot later on in my college career to pursue the degree of my dreams was a massive weight off of my shoulders going into the very stressful time of starting college. It only furthered my excitement for beginning this new chapter of my life and for beginning my career as a nurse after graduation! It was a massive affirmation that my hard work throughout high school was something that I was being recognized and rewarded for.”

-Noah Vaughn (Class of 2028)



NURSING FEATURE FRIDAYS

Whitson-Hester School of Nursing
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You're Invited!

The Whitson-Hester School of Nursing would like to invite you to come visit us for "Nursing Feature Fridays" this Fall! We have a select number of dates available that we would like to host groups of area high school students with serious interest in healthcare! We will showcase our simulation center technology, discuss university and program admissions and meet with a hometown employer! This will be an exciting opportunity to give your students an eagle eye view of the university, the School of Nursing and a potential employer!

The Dates

- September 13th
- October 4th
- October 11th
- October 18th
- November 15th
- November 22nd

To Schedule
Reach out to Charla McPeake
cmcpeake@utitech.edu

The Plan

- 9-9:45 A.M. Arrival at WHSON
- 10-11 A.M. Simulation Lab Tours
- 11-11:30 A.M. WHSON Student Success Center & Faculty
- 11:30-12 P.M. University Admissions
- 12-1 P.M. Lunch with Hospital Partner

COOKEVILLE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
It's the Way We CARE

RN Career Scholarship Program

Commit To Your Career!

Cookeville Regional Medical Center is now offering a \$2,500 RN career scholarship per semester!

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Freshman and accelerated students that are awarded the scholarships will be required to sign a three year work commitment contract.

SUBMIT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION TO:
Christy Kinnard, Employment Manager
ckinnard@crmhealth.org or call (931) 783-2010.

www.crmhealth.org





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ESTAR
Sanos



ASPIRES



CHART

(Collaboration for Healthcare Access
in Rural Tennessee)



Art Intervention

With Dementia/Alzheimer's Patients



SIM Ghosts Conference

Escape Rooms in Clinical Simulation





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STEM Days



Senior Hospital Simulation



EMA Mock Disaster



Mock Deposition at Putnam County Courthouse



Study Abroad



MSN Residency Days





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Week of Welcome and Other Student Events through Semester

40 Years of Graduates Celebration



White Coat Ceremony
Collaboration with CRMC





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