

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

School of Nursing, College of Arts and Sciences



Program of Study

The School of Nursing offers a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree for pre-licensure students, as well as for students licensed to practice professional nursing (RN) with the **Online RN-BSN Completion Program**. Pre-licensure students must complete all prerequisite courses before applying to the WIU School of Nursing.

Nurses are healthcare providers who are skilled in the care and nurturing of healthy and ill people. The American Nurses Association provides the following definition of nursing: "Nursing is the protection, promotion and optimization of health and abilities; prevention of illness and injury; alleviation of suffering through the diagnosis and treatment of human responses and advocacy in the care of individuals, families, communities and populations." (American Nurses Association [2010], *Nursing's Social Policy Statement* [3rd ed.], p. 3)

The baccalaureate generalist nurse is well-grounded in the arts, science and humanities; exercises appropriate clinical judgment; understands the reasoning behind policies and standards of professional nursing practice and accepts responsibility for continued development of the self and the discipline of nursing. Nurses are independent care providers licensed by the state of Illinois as registered nurses.

Faculty

Western's faculty members are dedicated educators, skilled in fostering active student participation. They are also active scholars engaged in numerous activities to promote the profession and practice of nursing. The faculty offer a broad range of competencies, thus providing excellent scope for students with different inclinations and talents. At the present time, there is one faculty member to every six students, and students are assigned faculty mentors.

Scholarships

The following scholarships are available to nursing majors: The Dr. Burdis Andernovics MD Memorial Scholarship, the Dorothy R. "Dode" Hanson Scholarship, the Bertha Grieshaber Fink Nursing Scholarship, the Ron and Gayle Peterson Nursing Scholarship, the Norman and Carmelita Teeter Scholarship and the Ruth Dexter Memorial Scholarship. Detailed information on these scholarships is available from the School of Nursing or scholarship office websites: wiu.edu/cas/nursing/financial-aid or wiu.edu/scholarship, or by calling the School of Nursing at (309) 298-2571 or the scholarship office at (309) 298-2001.

Honors in Nursing

To be eligible for the Centennial Honors College, entering freshmen must have an ACT composite score of at least 28 OR have a 26 or 27 composite ACT and be in the top 15 percent of their graduating class OR have an ACT composite score of at least 24 and be in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class. A comparable SAT score is acceptable. Transfer and current WIU students who wish to join the Honors College (including the Quad Cities Honors Program) must have a 3.4 GPA on a 4.0 scale based on 12 or more semester hours. Honors credit is given for honors coursework completed at other accredited institutions. To find out more, visit wiu.edu/Honors.

General honors seminars in the humanities, sciences and social sciences provide students with the opportunity to explore key academic issues with distinguished faculty members. In the nursing major, honors students take courses for honors credit and, as seniors, prepare an honors thesis under the direction of a School of Nursing faculty member.

Student Activities

Nursing students can participate in the Western Illinois University Student Nursing Association (open to all undergraduate nursing students) and the School of Nursing Honor Society (students are invited to join based on their GPA). A wide variety of student activities and organizations are available to all Western Illinois University students. Learn more at wiu.edu/osa.

Nursing Resource Center (NRC)

Nursing students can learn and practice nursing, health and physical assessment skills in the NRC using patient simulators. Faculty supervision is available to teach those skills and assist during practice.

Clinical Opportunities

Nursing majors will have the opportunity to practice nursing in a variety of healthcare settings with a variety of clients. Students practice in real-life settings with faculty supervision.

After College

There is a severe shortage of nurses in the United States and worldwide. The demand for more and better health care is greater now than any time in the past. There is a global nurse labor market that will continue to grow. Graduates can anticipate employment in a number of positions locally, in the state and nationwide. For those who have fluency in another language, there is the possibility of employment abroad. For those interested in the military, the Air Force, Army and Navy have excellent programs for nurses.

Graduate school allows nurses to practice at an advanced level, for example, as nurse practitioners, nurse educators or nurse administrators.

Higher Values in Higher Education

Located in Macomb (population 20,000), with a campus in the Quad Cities (Moline, IL), Western offers a caring and supportive learning environment to more than 10,000 students in west-central Illinois. Western students have all the advantages of a large public university—strong faculty, state-of-the-art technology and facilities, and a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities—in an atmosphere free from distractions. Western offers a broad-based athletics program, sponsoring 19 NCAA Division I intercollegiate varsity sports. Football competes in the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision through the Missouri Valley Football Conference; all other varsity sports compete at the Division I level through The Summit League. Western's presence in the Quad Cities spans more than 40 years, and that campus offers undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 1,400 students. The core values that are at the heart of the University are academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth and social responsibility.

Western's GradTrac and Cost Guarantee programs ensure that students can achieve their degrees within four years while paying a fixed rate for tuition, fees and room and board.

Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes discrimination based on an individual's membership in the following classes: sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, genetic information, veteran status, and any other classes protected by state or federal law.

Campus Visits

The Admissions Reception Center (Sherman Hall 115) is open most weekdays from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. when the University is in session. Group information sessions are available on Mondays and Fridays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., and individual appointments can be made on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Campus tours are conducted at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. Appointments with advisors, faculty or a financial aid advisor may be arranged separately during the week. The Admissions Reception Center is open from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. most Saturdays when the University is in session. A group information session is available at 10 a.m., and a campus tour is conducted at 11 a.m. Students may schedule a visit or tour online at wiu.edu/admissions by selecting "Visit Campus." Students may also schedule a visit, tour or individual appointment by calling toll free (877) PICKWIU (742-5948) or (309) 298-3157, or by emailing admissions@wiu.edu.



wiu.edu/nursing

School of Nursing

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