

Bachelor of Science in Nursing RN-BSN Completion Program (Online)

School of Nursing, College of Arts and Sciences



Program of Study

The School of Nursing offers an online Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree for students licensed to practice nursing as registered nurses (RNs). Students may request enrollment in Western Illinois University during their initial nursing education or may seek enrollment following their initial nursing program. Students may take up to nine credits in the nursing major prior to becoming licensed as an RN. Ideally, students should complete all general education and nursing support courses before taking nursing courses, but students are allowed to take general education courses with nursing courses.

The baccalaureate generalist nurse is well-grounded in the arts, sciences 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 (309) 298-2571 or scholarship office (309) 298-2001.

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.

Advance Placement Credit

The RN who has graduated from a state-approved Associate of Applied Science in Nursing or Diploma in Nursing program will receive 30 semester hours (SH) of advanced placement credit provided he or she (1) graduated within the last five years or (2) graduated more than five years ago and maintained continuous practice or has continuous continuing education (CE) in nursing since graduation from his or her associate or diploma program, and (3) successfully completed

(C+ or better) the first nine SH of nursing courses in the RN-BSN Completion Program. The RN who graduated more than five years ago and does not have continuous practice as an RN or continuous CE in nursing must take the RN-Comprehensive Predictor from the Assessment Technologies Institute to validate current nursing knowledge. Upon successful completion (C+ or better) of the first nine SH of nursing courses in the RN-BSN Completion Program, advanced placement credit will be placed on the student's WIU transcript in lieu of the 30 SH of transferred clinical courses required by pre-licensure students.

Program Specifics

All courses are offered online. Faculty are available by email, phone or in person. For those new to online learning, faculty are understanding and patient. Students can take the number of credits they feel comfortable taking (those new to online learning are encouraged to enroll for a smaller number of online credits so they can become acclimated to the new learning modality).

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

Currens Hall 510 • Western Illinois University
1 University Circle • Macomb, IL 61455-1390
Phone: (309) 298-2571



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