



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

# 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 those students who are licensed to practice professional nursing (RN). Students must complete Pre-Nursing before applying to the School of Nursing. The RN-BSN completion program is available.

The nurse is a healthcare provider who is 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 [2003], *Nursing's Social Policy Statement* [2nd ed.], p. 6).

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

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

Three scholarships are available for Nursing majors. The Dorothy R. "Dode" Hanson Scholarship is available to undergraduates admitted to the School of Nursing and is based on grade point average (GPA). The Bertha Fink Scholarship is available to undergraduates admitted to the School of Nursing and is based on need; it is primarily for RNs returning for their degrees. The Norman and Carmelita Teeter Scholarship is available to undergraduates admitted to the School of Nursing and is based on need. Detailed information on these scholarships is available from the School of Nursing, (309) 298-2571; the Scholarship office, (309) 298-2001; or on the Web at [wiu.edu/Scholarship](http://wiu.edu/Scholarship).

## 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% of their graduating class OR have an ACT composite score of at least 24 and be in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. Transfer students with at least 12 semester hours (SH) and up to 59 SH of undergraduate courses are admitted with a grade point average of at least 3.3 OR 3.4 for 60 SH or more. To find out more, visit [wiu.edu/Honors](http://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.

HIGHER VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

### 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 <http://osa.wiu.edu>.

### Nursing Resource Centers (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 growing 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 Illinois University offers a caring and supportive learning environment to more than 13,000 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 Illinois University is a member of the NCAA and competes at the Division I level, sponsoring 20 intercollegiate sports in a broad-based athletics department. Western's presence in the Quad Cities spans more than 40 years, and that campus offers undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 1,500 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 programs guarantee that students can achieve their degrees within four years while paying a fixed rate for tuition, 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 sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, and veteran status.

### Campus Visits

The Admissions Reception Center (Sherman Hall 115) is open most weekdays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM when the University is in session. Group information sessions are available at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, and campus tours are conducted at 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM daily. Individual appointments with an admissions counselor, advisers/faculty, or a financial aid adviser may be arranged during the week. The Admissions Reception Center is open from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM most Saturdays when the University is in session. A group information session is available at 10:00 AM, and a campus tour is conducted at 11:00 AM. An individual appointment with an admissions counselor may be arranged. You may schedule your visit or tour online at [admissions.wiu.edu](http://admissions.wiu.edu) by selecting "Visit Campus." You may also schedule a visit, tour, or individual appointment by calling toll free (877) PICKWIU [742-5948] or (309) 298-3157, or by e-mailing [admissions@wiu.edu](mailto:admissions@wiu.edu).



[wiu.edu/nursing](http://wiu.edu/nursing)

### School of Nursing

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