ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF NURSING

Welcome to the School of Nursing at Western Carolina University. We have grown significantly over the last several years and now offer many exciting education options at the undergraduate and graduate level.

A career in nursing is challenging, rewarding, and offers varied and exciting work environments. Now more than ever, nurses prepared at the baccalaureate and master’s level are in great demand by health care employers. Our faculty are invested in nurturing students as they prepare for their roles as clinicians, teacher/educators, researchers, leaders, life-long learners, and responsible members of society. The School of Nursing was established in 1969 under the leadership of Dr. Mary K. Kneedler, a nationally recognized leader in health care who helped develop the Head Start program under President Lyndon Johnson. The School of Nursing is approved by the North Carolina Board of Nursing. The baccalaureate degree in nursing and master’s degree in nursing at Western Carolina University are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

The MS Nurse Anesthesia program is also accredited by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Commission on Accreditation.

For more information about Western Carolina University’s School of Nursing undergraduate and graduate programs, please contact Student Services: 828.654.6499 or WCUnursing@wcu.edu.

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

“WCU’s Nurse Anesthesia program is a top-flight program with phenomenal professors and staff. They are home to state-of-the-art teaching facilities and our clinical sites offer everything an anesthesia student could want — diverse clinical populations in a range of settings that afford an incredible degree of autonomy with just the right amount of mentorship and guidance from clinical instructors. We’re also in the middle of world class outdoor adventure opportunities and the amazingly beautiful and creative city of Asheville. What more could you ask for?”

-Jon Lowrance, Spring ’15, Nurse Anesthesia Student

“The professors show that they care and push you to do your best.”

-Kara Blakenship, Fall ’14, BSN Student

“I chose Western Carolina University because of it’s 100% NCLEX pass rates in the ABSN program, affordable cost, and because its located in the most beautiful mountain range in the country.”

-Sarah Rozran, Fall ’15, ABSN student

828.654.6499
NURSING.WCU.EDU

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School of Nursing Programs

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Students in the BSN program have opportunities to closely interact with nursing faculty throughout their academic and clinical experiences. The low student-to-faculty ratio in the BSN program allows personalized advisement while also providing a comprehensive curriculum and educational experiences. Students attend classes on the WCU Cullowhee campus.

ACCELERATED BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

The Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) program is designed for a student with a prior bachelor’s degree. The ABSN four-semester program allows students to work part-time while attending classes full-time. Cohorts begin each August and graduate the following year in December. Students attend classes at the Biltmore Park Instructional site located in Asheville.

ONLINE RN TO BSN PROGRAM

The WCU online RN to BSN Program adds value to basic nursing education, broadens perspective of current clinical practice, enhances leadership potential, and prepares students for graduate study in nursing. Students will complete 24 hours of online core courses and six to eight hours of upper division online WCU electives on a full-time or part-time basis. Students are admitted twice a year and can begin the program in either January or August.

REGIONALLY INCREASING BACCALAUREATE NURSES (RIBN)

Western North Carolina RIBN is a four-year option that dually admits and enrolls students both at a regional community college and WCU and provides a seamless associate to baccalaureate nursing education. Students can apply to the RIBN option through the following community colleges: Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Blue Ridge Community College, Isothermal Community College and Southwestern Community College.

GRADUATE FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER PROGRAM

The MS degree with a focus in Family Nurse Practitioner is a two-year program consisting of 51-52 semester hours. Courses are taught at the Biltmore Park Instructional Site, typically two days per week. Clinical placements are arranged on an individual basis with a preceptor in a variety of locations, including rural sites.

ONLINE GRADUATE NURSE EDUCATOR PROGRAM

The MS degree with a focus in Nursing Education track is a two-year program consisting of 38-39 semester hours. All courses except the practicum are taught online, and practicum courses are arranged with a preceptor in a location determined by your interest. Students are admitted twice a year and can begin the program in either January or August.

ONLINE GRADUATE NURSE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The MS degree with a focus in Nursing Leadership track is a two-year program consisting of 40-41 semester hours. This program prepares the nurse leader/administrator to address issues that impact health care organizations. All courses except practicums are taught on-line, and practicum courses are arranged with a preceptor with an emphasis on medically underserved and culturally diverse populations. Students are admitted twice a year and can begin the program in either January or August.

GRADUATE NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAM

The MS degree with a focus in Nurse Anesthesia program is a 28-month program and requires a minimum of 66 course credits. Classes are held at the Biltmore Park Instructional Site in Asheville and clinical rotations are at various sites in Western North Carolina and a pediatric rotation in Kentucky.

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE PROGRAM

The post-master’s DNP is a hybrid program and a collaboration with UNC Charlotte. It is designed to prepare nurses for leadership in clinical practice. The DNP program can be completed in five semesters. New cohorts begin each fall semester. Students will be required to attend a 3 1/2 day immersion session at the beginning of each semester alternating between UNC Charlotte and WCU's Biltmore Park Instructional Site in Asheville.

WHY CHOOSE WCU NURSING

• Small class sizes
• Personal attention from faculty
• High NCLEX and licensure exams pass rates
• 3 state-of-the-art simulation labs

WCUnursing@email.wcu.edu
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