

Nursing Associate Degree Program

Western Technical College

Program Details

Philosophy Statement

Wisconsin Technical College System Nursing Curriculum Philosophy

This philosophy incorporates Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) faculty beliefs regarding nursing education as shaped by the WTCS nursing mission statement.

Nursing is the dynamic interpersonal goal-directed process that seeks to promote optimal health within the context of individuals, family, community and society. The concepts of caring and integrity are central to nursing and communicated through both attitude and action. Nursing uses the nursing process, a problem solving approach to provide holistic, patient centered care to individuals, families, and groups. Nurses assess health and make clinical decisions to manage and provide safe and effective nursing care according to standards of practice within the legal, ethical and regulatory frameworks. Nursing is based on knowledge and science and is demonstrated by evidence-based practice. Through collaboration with other health care professionals, nursing is responsive to the needs of the community across the health-illness and lifespan continuum.

Individuals, families, and groups are diverse, complex living beings, in which physical, psychological, cultural and spiritual health processes are in constant interaction. This constant interaction provides the capacity for change. Individuals have inherent worth, dignity and autonomy in health care decisions.

Nursing education facilitates the development of knowledge, attitudes and skills appropriate to the learner's level of nursing practice. Nursing education integrates concepts from nursing and other disciplines and takes place in institutions of higher learning. As a practice discipline, nursing education requires the use of performance based instruction with measureable competencies. Faculty and learners create a safe, cooperative environment which stimulates the spirit of inquiry, clinical reasoning, and self-directed life-long learning. Excellence in nursing education is achieved by providing students with a rigorous and dynamic curriculum using technology, partnerships and resources. Graduates are prepared to meet community specific healthcare needs as entry level practitioners.

System-wide Curriculum

The WTCS Nursing Programs provide seamless curriculum, which is flexible and accessible for learners on a statewide basis. Prior learning, experience and career mobility are valued and efforts are aimed at facilitating articulation between levels of nursing. Information gathering within the community network that includes advisory committees, employers, and health care consumers enhances curriculum review and revision. *(Approved 12/11)*

Mission Statement

The Nursing programs within the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) are committed to educational excellence. We prepare nurses with the knowledge, skills and attitude to enhance and restore the well-being of individuals, families, and the community by using the nursing process. We value: diversity, evidence-based practice, holistic, patient-centered care, honesty, integrity and fairness, life-long learning, safe and cooperative work environments, partnerships with students, businesses, government, educational systems, and communities, wise use of technology and resources entrusted to us.

Annual Program Completion Rate

The Associate Degree Nursing Program's accreditor, Accreditation Commission for Nursing Education (ACEN) requires the program to establish a benchmark for its' annual program completion rate. Western Technical College expected level of achievement for the Associate Degree Nursing Program is a completion rate at or above 70.75% (completing the program within 150% of the length of the program from enrollment in the first nursing course).

Graduation Year	Program Completion Rate (Completing within 6 Terms of Starting the Program (All Cohorts))
2014 (Spring)	73%
2014 (Fall)	87%
2015 (Spring)	86%
2015 (Fall)	82%
2016 (Spring)	68.6%
2016 (Fall)	82%

National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) National Council Licensing Examination (NCLEX) Results

Upon completion of graduation requirements, the graduate will be eligible to take the National Council Licensing Examination (NCLEX) through the National Council State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN). This national examination is recognized in all 50 states and U. S. territories and is one of the requirements for state licensure. The ACEN requires programs to have a 3-year mean for the licensure pass rate to be at or above the national mean for the same 3-year period.

Licensure Examination Pass Rate

Yearly	Number Tested*	Number Passed*	Western Annual RN Rate (WBON)*	National Average NCLEX-RN Pass Rate**
2015	90	84	93%	85%
2016	97	79	81%	85%
2017	95	82	86%	87%

*Data retrieved from Wisconsin State Board of Nursing

**Data retrieved from National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) website; Values include Total RN Candidates: First time, US Educated RN Candidates

Job Placement Rate

Job placement rates are collected via the Job Placement Data Survey which is sent out by the Western Technical College 6-12 months post-graduation. Western's Nursing Program's goal is that 94.8% of the Nursing graduates will be working as a Nurse within 6-12 months following graduating from the Nursing program.

Percent of Graduates Employed in Nursing Within 1 Year	
Academic Year	Job Placement Rate
2012 – 2013	94.8%
2013 - 2014	97.2%
2014 - 2015	94.1%
Three-Year Average	95.3%