

# NURSING

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Department Website (<https://www.uwec.edu/academics/college-nursing-health-sciences/departments-programs/nursing/>)

The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire College of Nursing and Health Sciences educates nurses at the baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral levels. At the graduate level we offer the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree and the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. The MSN degree is designed to enable students to assume leadership roles in advanced professional nursing. Students interested in the MSN degree choose a role preparation in either nursing education or nursing administration/leadership and management. They select a population focus in adult-gerontologic or family nursing. The DNP degree is a clinical doctorate designed to prepare nurses to assume leadership roles in the areas of advanced practice nursing (nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist) or nursing administration/nurse executive. The DNP degree is offered as a post-baccalaureate (BSN-to-DNP) option and as a post-master's (MSN-to-DNP) option. The BSN-to-DNP option includes adult-gerontologic primary care nurse practitioner (NP), family NP, adult-gerontologic clinical nurse specialist (CNS), and nurse administrator/nurse executive (adult-gerontologic or family population focus) options. The post-master's MSN-to-DNP option includes an advanced clinical practice option (for nurse practitioners or clinical nurse specialists) or a nurse executive option. The college also offers a post-master's certification program for nurses with master's degrees in nursing who are interested in credit-bearing administration or nursing education role preparation courses. Further and current information may be obtained from the Nursing Graduate Programs Director and the College website (<https://www.uwec.edu/academics/college-nursing-health-sciences/>).

## Accreditation

The nursing programs are approved by the Wisconsin State Board of Nursing. The baccalaureate degree program in nursing, master's degree program in nursing, and the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), 655 K Street NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, (202) 887-6791, through December 31, 2031.

## Health/Clinical Requirements

Admitted students must present evidence of having met current health requirements, such as immunity against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, varicella, rubella (measles), mumps, rubella, and hepatitis B, annual influenza vaccination, and tuberculin skin testing (evidence of two-step TB skin test is required if the student has never been tested for TB). Please refer to the specific health requirement information delineated on the college (<https://www.uwec.edu/academics/college-nursing-health-sciences/graduate-programs/>) website. Additional vaccinations and testing including laboratory titers and medical follow-up may be required. To secure admission acceptance, all health requirements, evidence of CPR certification, RN licensure, background check information, etc. must be submitted and approved, along with the appropriate fee(s).

Admitted students must maintain their immune status against infectious diseases. Tuberculin skin tests are offered at the Student Health Service. Any student whose skin test converts from negative to positive while enrolled in the program must have a chest X-ray and a medical evaluation, and provide a statement of the clinician's findings and recommendations. Annual interferon-

gamma release assays (IGRAs) including QFT-Gold and T-Spot results may be acceptable in lieu of TB skin test results. Students are not permitted to participate in clinical course work and experiences unless all immunizations, TB tests, CPR certification, RN licensure, background checks, and other health or clinical requirements are current and cleared/approved. Clinical facilities may have additional requirements, such as COVID-19 vaccinations, which must be met. Non-immune status may affect clinical placement and ability to progress or complete the program. BSN Completion program and graduate students must have current and appropriate RN licensure for admission and clinical placement and participation. The RN licensure must be maintained throughout the duration of the program, including Wisconsin RN licensure for graduate students.

All expenses associated with RN licensure, health surveillance, and care are borne by the student unless the Student Health Service specifically indicates otherwise. Students are not covered by health or accident insurance by UW-Eau Claire, the College, the practicum facility, or the practicum institution. In addition, workers' compensation insurance does not cover students while engaged in clinical practice. If a student suffers a needle stick or is injured while in practicum, they are personally responsible to pay for all medical bills and therefore will need personal health insurance.

Due to occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials, health care workers are at risk of acquiring Hepatitis B Virus infection and other serious infections. Students are considered to be at increased risk for needle-stick injuries. Such accidents can also be costly (e.g., student and patient testing, ER injury management, chemoprophylaxis, and potential illness care). The student, not the College, University, or clinical agency, is responsible for these expenses should an accidental exposure occur during a clinical experience.

Some clinical sites require students to show proof of health insurance; therefore, students are required to maintain health insurance for the duration of their education. Students must be able to provide proof of personal health insurance coverage if requested. Students are under a continuing obligation to notify the dean's office of the college of any lapse in personal health insurance coverage.

Students in need of accommodations are to work with the Services for Students with Disabilities Office to provide documentation and are to contact the appropriate course faculty as soon as possible, preferably prior to the start of each term.

## CPR Certification

All students must hold Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification at the Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers (American Red Cross) or Basic Life Support (BLS) Provider (American Heart Association) level. Evidence of CPR certification must be submitted at the time of admission. Admitted students must keep their certification current.

## Student Background Check Requirements

Based on Wisconsin State law, clinical agencies must have completed background checks for all students. Consequently, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences requires students admitted to the nursing programs to complete background check materials which are submitted by the students to [CastleBranch.com](https://www.castlebranch.com/) (<https://www.castlebranch.com/>).

[CastleBranch.com](https://www.castlebranch.com/) (<https://www.castlebranch.com/>) conducts Wisconsin and out of state criminal record and healthcare fraud and abuse searches, and includes the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) Background Information Disclosure (BID), a release for a Wisconsin

Department of Justice Criminal Background Check. More information regarding the Wisconsin Caregiver Law can be obtained from DHFS's (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/>) website. Students participating in clinicals in Minnesota may be required to complete further background checks (with associated fees). Additional, including out of state background checks (with associated fees) may be required by the college and by the clinical agencies. Clinical agencies may conduct further background checks. In addition to providing student background check findings, some clinical agencies require the College to submit photo images of students for identification and safety surveillance purposes.

Final admission status to the nursing program is contingent upon return of criminal background check(s) with no findings that would prevent participation in the program. Because of background check or BID findings, clinical agencies may refuse placement of students. This may prevent progression in or completion of the program. The findings also may affect future licensure, licensure good standing, and employment. A criminal history is not an automatic bar to clinical agency placement, program progression, licensure/certification, and/or future employment. Admitted students are under a continuing obligation to notify the Dean's Office at the College of Nursing and Health Sciences of any new or pending charges or violations of federal, state, and local laws or the campus student conduct code, or RN licensure encumbrances or status changes that occur at any future date and during their tenure as College of Nursing and Health Sciences students. Failure to notify the college may result in loss of good academic standing in the college and an inability to progress in the program.

## Graduate Faculty

Kristen Abbott-Anderson, Ph.D., R.N.  
 Norah Airth-Kindree, D.N.P., R.N.  
 Mohammed Alasagheirin, Ph.D., R.N.  
 Josephine Arriola, D.N.P., R.N.  
 Theresa Dachel, D.N.P., R.N.  
 Beth Evans, Ph.D., R.N.  
 Gail Hanson Brenner, Ph.D., R.N.  
 Debra A. Jansen, Ph.D., R.N.  
 Catherine Kenney, D.N.P., R.N.  
 Megan Lagunas, Ph.D., R.N.  
 Der-Fa Lu, Ph.D., R.N.  
 Sonja Meiers, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.  
 Rachel Merkel, D.N.P., R.N.  
 Dalete Mota, Ph.D., R.N.  
 Jeanette Olsen, Ph.D., R.N.  
 Rachel Pierce, D.N.P., R.N.  
 Linda Sargent, D.N.P., R.N.  
 Lisa F. Schiller, Ph.D., R.N.  
 Mel Skoff, D.N.P., R.N.  
 Lorraine M. Smith, D.N.P., R.N.  
 Charlotte Sortedahl, D.N.P., R.N.  
 Angela Stombaugh, Ph.D., R.N.  
 Arin Van Wormer, Ph.D., R.N.  
 Marie Walsh, D.N.P., R.N.

## Graduate Options

The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire College of Nursing and Health Sciences educates nurses at the baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral levels. At the graduate level we offer the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree and the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree.

The **Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree** is designed to enable students to assume leadership roles in advanced professional nursing. Students

interested in the MSN degree choose a role preparation in either nursing education or nursing administration/leadership and management. They select a population focus in adult-gerontologic or family nursing.

- Nursing, Family Health-Education - Master of Science in Nursing (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/graduate/programs/nursing/nursing-family-health-education-msn/>)
- Nursing, Adult-Gerontology-Education - Master of Science in Nursing (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/graduate/programs/nursing/nursing-adult-gerontology-education-msn/>)
- Nursing, Adult-Gerontology-Administration - Master of Science in Nursing (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/graduate/programs/nursing/nursing-adult-gerontology-administration-msn/>)
- Nursing, Family Health-Administration - Master of Science in Nursing (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/graduate/programs/nursing/nursing-family-health-administration-msn/>)

The **Doctor of Nursing (DNP) degree** is a clinical doctorate designed to prepare nurses to assume leadership roles in the areas of advanced practice nursing (nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist) or nursing administration/nurse executive. The DNP degree is offered as a post-baccalaureate (BSN-to-DNP) option and as a post-master's (MSN-to-DNP) option. Further and current information may be obtained from the Nursing Graduate Programs Director and the College (<https://www.uwec.edu/academics/college-nursing-health-sciences/graduate-programs/>) website.

The **BSN-to-DNP option** includes adult-gerontologic primary care nurse practitioner (NP), family NP, adult-gerontologic clinical nurse specialist (CNS), and nurse administrator/nurse executive (adult-gerontologic or family population focus) options. Please consult the Nursing Graduate Programs Director regarding the availability and scheduling of the CNS option.

- Nursing, Adult-Gerontology-Administration - Doctor of Nursing Practice (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/graduate/programs/nursing/nursing-adult-gerontology-administration-dnp/>)
- Nursing, Adult-Gerontology-Primary Care Nurse Practitioner - Doctor of Nursing Practice (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/graduate/programs/nursing/nursing-adult-gerontology-primary-care-nurse-practitioner-dnp/>)
- Nursing, Adult-Gerontology-Clinical Nurse Specialist - Doctor of Nursing Practice (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/graduate/programs/nursing/nursing-adult-gerontology-clinical-nurse-specialist-dnp/>)
- Nursing, Family Health-Administration - Doctor of Nursing Practice (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/graduate/programs/nursing/nursing-family-health-administration-dnp/>)
- Nursing, Family Health-Nurse Practitioner - Doctor of Nursing Practice (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/graduate/programs/nursing/nursing-family-health-nurse-practitioner-dnp/>)

The **post-master's MSN-to-DNP option** includes an advanced clinical practice option (for nurse practitioners or clinical nurse specialists) or a nurse executive option.

- Nursing - Doctor of Nursing Practice (Post-Master's DNP) (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/graduate/programs/nursing/nursing-dnp/>)
- Nursing, Nurse Executive - Doctor of Nursing Practice (Post-Master's) (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/graduate/programs/nursing/nursing-nursing-executive-dnp/>)

## Graduate Certificates

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences offers a post-master's certification program for nurses with master's degrees in nursing who are interested in

credit-bearing nursing administration or nursing education role preparation courses.

- Post-MSN Nursing Administration (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/graduate/programs/nursing/post-msn-nursing-administration-certificate/>)
- Post-MSN Nursing Education (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/graduate/programs/nursing/post-msn-nursing-education-certificate/>)