

Nursing - Associate Degree

10-543-1 Associate Degree

Financial Aid Eligible

Program Overview

Nursing is the dynamic interpersonal goal-directed process that seeks to promote optimal health within the context of individuals, family, community, and society. The concept of caring, which is central to nursing, is communicated through both attitude and action. Nursing uses the nursing process, a problem-solving approach, to provide holistic care to individuals, families, and groups within the healthcare system. Nurses assess health and make clinical decisions to provide safe and effective nursing care according to the standards of practice within the legal, ethical, and regulatory frameworks. Nursing practice is based on its own body of knowledge. Through collaboration with other healthcare professionals, nursing is responsive to the needs of the community across the health-illness continuum.

Campus:



WISCONSIN
INDIANHEAD
TECHNICAL
COLLEGE

Ashland
New Richmond
Rice Lake
Superior

Special Features

An agreement between the Wisconsin Technical College System (WITCS) and the University of Wisconsin System (UWS) and some other private colleges allows graduates of the WITCS Nursing - Associate Degree program to transfer, with junior standing, into their baccalaureate nursing program.

For the student that is a licensed practical nurse (LPN) and is interested in becoming a registered nurse (RN), WITC offers an "LPN Progression to ADN" track. The LPN Progression pathway provides advanced standing for nursing courses in ADN Semesters 1 and 2 of the WITC ADN program. Additionally, credits may be transferred from the practical nursing program if the General Studies and/or elective credits were at an associate degree level. Contact the campus admissions advisor for more information.

Pre-Nursing Admission Requirements

Students in the pre-Nursing program must:

- Complete application form and submit with fee (fee waiver may apply if previously submitted)
- Complete Accuplacer entrance assessment to determine placement (waiver may apply with acceptable alternative test scores and/or postsecondary degree completion); note: required Accuplacer entrance assessment scores for core Nursing coursework are higher than pre-Nursing scores
- Have earned a high school diploma or GED certificate; current high school seniors must provide documentation upon graduation
- Complete WITC pre-ADN Admissions Quiz
- Submit signed Caregiver Background Check Statement of Understanding
- Review and sign the Functional Abilities Statement of Understanding
- Complete admissions interview with a WITC counselor (above requirements should be completed prior to interview)

Program-Specific Requirements

Pre-Nursing students must complete the petition process to be eligible for the core Nursing program (go to: <http://www.witc.edu/pgmpages/content/nurseassoc/pdfs/admission/ADN-Admissions-Procedures-01-23-2012.pdf> for detailed requirements). In addition to the requirements above, students in this program must:

- Complete one year of high school chemistry or one term of college-level chemistry with a 2.0 or better
- Complete a Nursing Assistant course with grade of C (2.0) or better
- Review the online informational presentation at www.witc.edu/pgmpages/nurseassoc/admissions
- Complete priority petition for admission forms:
 - WITC transcripts to verify course completion (priority admission is given to students who have completed the ADN program-required General Studies courses)
 - Submit signed Caregiver Background Check Statement of Understanding
 - Review and sign the Functional Abilities Statement of Understanding
 - Complete and sign Intent to Enter form
- Prior to attendance in core Nursing coursework,

student must:

- Have an acceptable Wisconsin Caregiver Background Check, National Criminal Background Check, Minnesota Caregiver Background Check (if applicable), and other states if applicable
- Pass a physical exam, have current immunizations, and demonstrate negative status for tuberculosis (Tb)
- Possess current certification of "CPR for Healthcare Providers" or the equivalent

Student Profile

Students in the ADN program should be able to:

- Be flexible and empathetic
- Handle emotional situations
- Adjust to diverse personalities and backgrounds
- Work under stress
- Communicate in writing and verbally
- Have good reasoning skills
- Think logically and be organized
- Use a computer to word process documents and search the Internet

Preparation for Admission

Students should strive to reach a comfort level in the following courses or skills:

- Algebra/Biology/Chemistry
- Anatomy/Physiology
- Medical Terminology
- Communications - written and oral
- Human Relations
- Keyboarding and computer applications

Program Outcomes

Employers will expect graduates of the ADN program to be able to:

- Implement one's role as a nurse in ways that reflect integrity, responsibility, ethical practices, and an evolving professional identity as a nurse committed to evidence-based practice, caring, advocacy, and quality care
- Demonstrate appropriate written, verbal, and nonverbal communication in a variety of clinical contexts
- Integrate social, mathematical, and physical sciences, pharmacology, and pathophysiology in clinical decision making
- Provide patient centered care by utilizing the nursing process across diverse populations and healthcare settings
- Minimize risk of harm to patients, providers, and self through safe individual performance and participation in system effectiveness
- Collaborate as an active member of the multidisciplinary healthcare team to provide effective patient care throughout the lifespan
- Use information and technology to communicate, manage data, mitigate error, and support decision-making

Collegewide outcomes and indicators will also be addressed to develop personal awareness, career effectiveness, and professionalism. See page 5 for a list of collegewide outcomes and indicators.

Career Outlook

WITC will help students prepare for their career goals with examples, experience, and expert support for a variety of positions:

- Registered Nurse
- Staff Nurse

- Ambulatory Care Nurse
- Charge Nurse
- Home Health Nurse
- Private Duty Nurse
- School Nurse

WITC's Nursing program is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission and approved by the Wisconsin State Board of Nursing. Concerns about the Nursing - Associate Degree program or questions about current status may be communicated to the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc (NLNAC) located at 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 500, Atlanta, GA 30326, phone 404.975.5000. Concerns may also be directed to the Wisconsin State Board of Nursing, PO Box 8935, Madison, WI 53708-8935, phone 608.266.8957.

Curriculum

Number	Course Title	Credits
Technical Studies Courses		
10543101	Nursing Fundamentals ▲ *	2
10543102	Nursing Skills ▲ *	3
10543103	Nursing Pharmacology ▲ *	2
10543104	Nursing: Intro to Clinical Practice ▲ *	2
10543105	Nursing Health Alterations ▲ *	3
10543106	Nursing Health Promotion ▲ *	3
10543107	Nursing: Clinical Care Across Lifespan ▲ *	2
10543108	Nursing: Intro to Clinical Care Management ▲ *	2
10543109	Nursing: Complex Health Alterations 1 ▲ *	3
10543110	Nursing: Mental Health and Community Concepts ▲ *	2
10543111	Nursing: Intermediate Clinical Practice ▲ *	3
10543112	Nursing Advanced Skills ▲ *	1
10543113	Nursing: Complex Health Alterations 2 ▲ *	3
10543114	Nursing: Management and Professional Concepts ▲ *	2
10543115	Nursing: Advanced Clinical Practice ▲ *	3
10543116	Nursing Clinical Transition ▲ *	2
		38

General Studies Courses[†]

10801195	Written Communication ▲	3
10801196	Oral/Interpersonal Communication	3
10806177	General Anatomy and Physiology ▲ *	4
10806179	Advanced Anatomy and Physiology ▲ *	4
10806197	Microbiology ▲ *	4
10809188	Developmental Psychology	3
10809196	Introduction to Sociology	3
10809198	Introduction to Psychology	3
		27
ELECTIVES		5

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS **70**

▲ Requires a prerequisite and/or corequisite that must be completed with a grade point of 2.0 or better.

† See page 40 for General Studies course descriptions.

* The second time a student withdraws from this class, it counts as an "F" (see ADN student handbook for details). Students must earn a grade point of 2.0 or better in all required courses.

Course Descriptions

(See page 40 for General Studies course descriptions)

10543101

Nursing Fundamentals - Credits: 2

This course focuses on basic nursing concepts that the beginning nurse will need to provide care to diverse patient populations across the lifespan. Current and historical issues impacting nursing will be explored within the scope of nursing practice. The nursing process will be introduced as a framework for organizing the care of patients with alterations in cognition, elimination, comfort, grief/loss, mobility, integument, and fluid/electrolyte balance. **PREREQUISITE:** Admission to Nursing program and **COREQUISITE:** 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology.

10543102

Nursing Skills - Credits: 3

This course focuses on development of clinical skills and physical assessment across the lifespan. Content includes mathematical calculations and conversions related to clinical skills, blood pressure assessment, aseptic technique, wound care, oxygen administration, tracheostomy care, suctioning, management of enteral tubes, basic medication administration, glucose testing, enemas, ostomy care, and catheterization. In addition the course includes techniques related to obtaining a health history and basic physical assessment skills using a body systems approach. **PREREQUISITE:** Admission to Nursing program or current LPN license and **COREQUISITE:** 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology.

10543103

Nursing Pharmacology - Credits: 2

This course introduces the principles of pharmacology, including drug classifications and their effects on the body. Emphasis is on the use of the components of the nursing process when administering medications. **PREREQUISITE:** Admission to the Nursing program and **COREQUISITE:** 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology.

10543104

Nursing: Intro to Clinical Practice - Credits: 2

This introductory clinical course emphasizes basic nursing skills and application of the nursing process in meeting the needs of diverse clients. Emphasis is placed on performing basic nursing skills, the formation of nurse-client relationships, communication, data collection, documentation, and medication administration. **COREQUISITES:** 10543101 Nursing Fundamentals, 10543102 Nursing Skills, and 10543103 Nursing Pharmacology, 10801195 Written Communications, 10809188 Developmental Psychology, and 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology.

10543105

Nursing Health Alterations - Credits: 3

This course elaborates upon the basic concepts of health and illness as presented in Nursing Fundamentals. It applies theories of nursing in the care of clients through the lifespan, utilizing problem solving and critical thinking. This course will provide an opportunity to study conditions affecting different body systems and apply therapeutic nursing interventions. It will also introduce concepts of leadership, team building, and scope of practice. **PREREQUISITES:** 10543101 Nursing Fundamentals, 10543102 Nursing Skills, 10543103 Nursing Pharmacology, 10543104 Nursing: Introduction to Clinical Practice, and 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology.

10543106

Nursing Health Promotion - Credits: 3

This course will cover topics related to health promotion for individuals and families throughout the lifespan. We will cover nursing care of the developing family, which includes reproductive issues, pregnancy, labor and delivery, postpartum, the newborn, and the child. Recognizing the spectrum of healthy families we will discern patterns associated with adaptive and maladaptive behaviors applying mental health principles. An emphasis is placed on teaching and supporting healthy lifestyles choices for individuals of all ages. Nutrition, exercise, stress management, empowerment, and risk reduction practices are highlighted. Study of the family will cover dynamics, functions, discipline styles, and stages of development. **PREREQUISITES:** 10543101 Nursing Fundamentals, 10543102 Nursing Skills, 10543103 Nursing Pharmacology, 10543104 Nursing: Introduction to Clinical Practice, 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology, and 10809188 Developmental Psychology and **COREQUISITE:** 10806179 Advanced Anatomy and Physiology.

10543107

Nursing: Clinical Care Across Lifespan - Credits: 2

This clinical experience applies nursing concepts and therapeutic interventions to clients across the lifespan. It also provides an introduction to concepts of teaching and learning. Extending care to include the family is emphasized. **COREQUISITE:** 10543106 Nursing Health Promotion.

10543108

Nursing: Intro to Clinical Care Management - Credits: 2

This clinical experience applies nursing concepts and therapeutic nursing interventions to groups of clients across the lifespan. It also provides an introduction to leadership, management, and team building. **COREQUISITES:** 10543105 Nursing Health Alterations, 10806179 Advanced Anatomy and Physiology, and 10801196 Oral/Interpersonal Communication.

10543109

Nursing: Complex Health Alterations 1 - Credits: 3

Complex Health Alterations 1 prepares the learner to expand knowledge from previous courses in caring for clients across the lifespan with alterations in cardiovascular, respiratory, endocrine, and hematologic systems as well as clients with fluid/electrolyte and acid-base imbalance, and alterations in comfort. **PREREQUISITES:** 10543105 Nursing Health Alterations, 10543106 Nursing Health Promotion, 10543107 Nursing: Clinical Care Across the Lifespan, 10543108 Nursing: Introduction to Clinical Care Management, 10806179 Advanced Anatomy and Physiology, and **COREQUISITE:** 10806197 Microbiology.

10543110

Nursing: Mental Health and Community Concepts - Credits: 2

This course will cover topics related to the delivery of community and mental health care. Specific health needs of individuals, families, and groups will be addressed across the lifespan. Attention will be given to diverse and at-risk populations. Mental health concepts will concentrate on adaptive/maladaptive behaviors and specific mental health disorders. Community resources will be examined in relation to specific types of support offered to racial, ethnic, economically diverse individuals and groups. **PREREQUISITES:** 10543105 Nursing Health Alterations, 10543106 Nursing Health Promotion, 10543107 Nursing: Clinical Care Across the Lifespan, 10543108 Nursing: Introduction to Clinical Care Management, 10806179 Advanced Anatomy and Physiology, and **COREQUISITE:** 10809198 Introduction to Psychology.

10543111

Nursing: Intermediate Clinical Practice - Credits: 3

This intermediate level clinical course develops the RN role when working with clients with complex health care needs. A focus of the course is developing skills needed for managing multiple clients across the lifespan and priorities. Using the nursing process, students will gain experience in adapting nursing practice to meet the needs of clients with diverse needs and backgrounds. **COREQUISITES:** 10543109 Nursing Complex Health Alterations 1, 10543110 Nursing: Mental Health and Community Concepts, and 10543112 Nursing Advanced Skills, 10809198 Introduction to Psychology, and 10806197 Microbiology.

10543112

Nursing Advanced Skills - Credits: 1

This course focuses on the development of advanced clinical skills. Content includes advanced IV skills, blood product administration, chest tube systems, basic EKG interpretation and nasogastric/feeding tube insertion. **PREREQUISITES:** 10543105 Nursing Health Alterations, 10543106 Nursing Health Promotion, 10543107 Nursing: Clinical Care Across the Lifespan, 10543108 Nursing: Introduction to Clinical Care Management, and 10806179 Advanced Anatomy and Physiology.

10543113

Nursing: Complex Health Alterations 2 - Credits: 3

Complex Health Alterations 2 prepares the learner to expand knowledge and skills from previous courses in caring for clients across the lifespan with alterations in the immune, neuro-sensory, musculoskeletal, gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary, renal/urinary and the reproductive systems. The learner will also focus on management of care for clients with high-risk perinatal conditions, high-risk newborns and the ill child. Synthesis and application of previously learned concepts will be evident in the management of clients with critical/life threatening situations. **PREREQUISITES:** 10543109 Nursing Complex Health Alterations 1, 10543110 Nursing: Mental Health and Community Concepts, 10543111 Nursing: Intermediate Clinical Practice, 10543112 Nursing Advanced Skills, and 10806197 Microbiology.

10543114

Nursing: Management and Professional Concepts - Credits: 2

This course covers nursing management and professional issues related to the role of the RN. Emphasis is placed on preparing for the RN practice. **PREREQUISITES:** 10543109 Nursing: Complex Health Alterations 1, 10543110 Nursing: Mental Health and Community Concepts, 10543111 Nursing: Intermediate Clinical Practice, and 10543112 Nursing Advanced Skills.

10543115

Nursing: Advanced Clinical Practice - Credits: 3

This advanced clinical course requires the student to integrate concepts from all previous courses in the management of groups of clients facing complex health alterations. Students will have the opportunity to further develop critical thinking skills using the nursing process in making clinical decisions. Continuity of care through interdisciplinary collaboration is emphasized. **COREQUISITES:** 10543113 Nursing Complex Health Alterations 2, and 10809196 Introduction to Sociology.

10543116

Nursing Clinical Transition - Credits: 2

This clinical experience integrates all knowledge learned in the previous courses in transitioning to the role of the graduate nurse. The course promotes relatively independent clinical decisions, delegation, and works collaboratively with others to achieve client and organizational outcomes. Continued professional development is fostered. **PREREQUISITES:** 10543113 Nursing Complex Health Alterations 2, 10543114 Nursing Management and Professional Concepts, and 10543115 Nursing Advanced Clinical Practice.

Graduate Employment Information

(WITC Graduate Survey Responses 2009-2010; for most recent data, go to witic.edu)

Number of graduates	96	Number employed	84	% employed in WITC district	67%
Number of responses	89	Percent employed	99%	Range of yearly salary	\$36,397-\$73,067
Number available for employment	85	Employed in related field	83	Average yearly salary	\$49,663

career vision