

WISCONSIN INDIANHEAD TECHNICAL COLLEGE
ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING
STUDENT HANDBOOK

THE WITC NURSING PIN



Students graduating from the WITC ADN program traditionally plan and participate in a pinning ceremony. The WITC nursing pin is available for purchase at campus bookstores. The following explains the history and meaning of the tradition of the pinning ceremony.

On May 13, 1982, six Associate Degree Nursing students graduated from the WITC campus at Rice Lake.

On June 3, 1982, ten students graduated from Ashland. The WITC nursing cap and pin design were developed by these first nursing graduates.

The pinning ceremony is a celebration of tradition. The origin of pinning dates back to the time of the Crusaders, 700 – 900 years ago.

The Pope urged Crusaders to wear a cross on their heads and badges on their breasts. Sometime later the Nightingale School of Nursing adopted a badge in this tradition.

The symbolism of the WITC nursing pin includes:

- The pin, as a badge, will identify WITC and signify your enrollment or membership in a particular program
- The Nightingale lamp is a version of that which Florence Nightingale is said to have carried to the bedside of wounded soldiers during the Crimean wars

- The interconnected circles represent the holistic nature of the individual – the philosophy of your nursing program upholds the view of the individual as a bio-psycho-social-spiritual being. The words “Carative Art & Science” is wrapped around the inner design.
- The word “carative” is used to contrast “curative”, which has a medical focus. It indicates that nursing attempts to understand the feelings that accompany health concerns and to provide support for individuals in coping with concerns.
- “Art & Science” are terms used to describe nursing. Art is a branch of learning dependent upon special practice & skill. Science is a study & method of learning related to facts and laws determined by observations. The program at WITC maintains that both are important.

The Nightingale philosophy states that “Nursing is an art, the finest of the arts. It demands organized, practical and scientific training, and that is God’s work.” In 1874, Florence Nightingale said “Shall we do everything in our power to become proficient; not only in knowing the signs and what is to be done, but in knowing the reason why of such signs and why such a thing is done? ...many say ‘there is no time, the ward’s work gives us no time!’ But it is easy to degenerate into a mere drudgery about the wards, when we have good will to do it and are fonder of practical work than of giving ourselves the troubles of learning the reason why!”

The nursing pin is a tribute to the meaning of nursing excellence – caring artfully and scientifically to meet the needs of individuals.