

# Healthcare Traveler

THE MAGAZINE FOR HEALTHCARE TRAVEL PROFESSIONALS

## Going the Distance ONLINE DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS

### Western Governors University



Lisa Daggett

**A** private, non-profit, online institution, Western Governors University (WGU) is the only accredited university in the U.S. offering competency-based online degrees. Founded

by the governors of 19 western states, and supported by more than 20 leading corporations and foundations, it grants degrees based completely on proven competencies instead of required courses. Students earn a degree by demonstrating their proficiency through a series of carefully designed assessments, which allows for extensive personalization.

Accredited regionally by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, and nationally by the Distance Education and Training Council,

#### For More Info

Western Governors University  
College of Health Professions  
4001 South 700 East, Suite 700  
Salt Lake City, UT 84107-2533  
Phone: (866) 225-5948  
[www.wgu.edu](http://www.wgu.edu)



#### Expanding Horizons

Going the Distance...  
Allied Corner...

WGU graduates more than 400 students each year in a growing number of bachelor and master degree programs.

## Technical requirements

All online students need regular access to a reliable computer and high-speed Internet connectivity. Students receive technical support through the university's help desk.

## Online programs

As of May 2007, WGU's College of Health Professions offers two master's degree programs for baccalaureate-prepared nurses. One is geared toward prospective nurse leaders and managers, and the other is for prospective nurse educators. Both degrees were developed with assistance from the Hospital Corporation of America, a key partner with WGU, and a council of nursing competency experts. Enrollment for both programs is currently open, and the university is in the process of securing accreditation with the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. In the near future, WGU plans to offer an RN to BSN degree program, as well.

Applicants for either MSN program must possess a BSN degree; have a current, unencumbered RN license;

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and be actively working as a registered nurse at the time of application and enrollment. Most students complete the program in 2 to 3 years—though each individual determines his or her own pace—but it is possible to progress at a faster rate. Since WGU is a non-profit university, tuition for either degree is \$3,250 per 6-month term. WGU treats all students as full time and charges tuition at a flat rate regardless of the number of competency units attempted or completed.

**MSN: Leadership and Management Specialization.** This degree is designed for baccalaureate-prepared RNs interested in advancing into nursing and healthcare administration leadership roles. Students seeking this degree will learn all aspects of leadership and management roles, finance, human resources, and sys-

tem management and evaluation. The curriculum incorporates mastery of competencies consistent with those established by the American Nurses Credentialing Center for nurse administrator certification.

**MSN: Education Specialization.** Developed for baccalaureate-prepared registered nurses who want to advance into nurse educator roles in schools of nursing and other healthcare settings, it emphasizes research, theory, technology applied to nursing practice, evidence-based practice, ethics, and new roles for master's prepared nurses. The program includes mastery of competencies established by the National League for Nursing Nurse Educator Competencies. **HT**

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*For further information about the online program offered through Western Governors University's College of Health Professions, visit [www.wgu.edu](http://www.wgu.edu), e-mail Director of PR Gwen Castaldi at [gcastaldi@wgu.edu](mailto:gcastaldi@wgu.edu), or call (866) 225-5948.*

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