



About WGU

News Brief - 11/29/07

**Western Governors University Introduces New Online Bachelor's in Nursing Degree for Working Nurses**

*Competency-based Program Offers Flexibility Nurses Need in a Degree Completion Program*

SALT LAKE CITY -- Western Governors University ([www.wgu.edu](http://www.wgu.edu)) has created a new bachelor's degree program designed to help working nurses make career progress in the most accessible and cost-effective way—online, through WGU's competency-based model. The new [online nursing degree](#), Bachelor of Science in Nursing, comes at a time when the nation's nursing shortage is dire and the need is high for existing nurses to acquire more academic credentials and further competence in their chosen field.

The [Bachelor of Science in Nursing](#) curriculum incorporates the Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice established by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. The degree program, in WGU's College of Health Professions, will help expand nurses' knowledge beyond the clinical aspects of nursing, with study in patient education, health promotion, technology integration, and healthcare systems and policies.

This [nursing degree program](#) is designed for nurses who have an associate's degree or diploma in nursing and hold a current unencumbered registered nurse license (no suspensions, revocations, or investigations). Students must be actively working in the profession.

WGU's unique online competency-based model provides flexibility and convenience for working nurses who need to obtain a bachelor's degree while continuing to work and meet family commitments without travelling to a traditional campus. Most students will be able to complete the program in 12 to 18 months, although completion time is determined by the student's pace and can certainly be accelerated.

Tuition for the degree is \$2,790 per term or \$ 5,580 per year, which is less than half of what many other reputable online universities and traditional universities charge for a similar online nursing program.

For more information about B.S. Nursing program eligibility requirements and application, go to: [www.wgu.edu/nursingbachelors](http://www.wgu.edu/nursingbachelors) or call toll-free 1-866-225-5948.

WGU's Future of Nursing Scholarships are also available to qualified applicants in this degree program. Go to: <http://www.wgu.edu/nursingscholarships>

**About Western Governors University (WGU)**

WGU is the only accredited university in the U.S. offering online competency-based degree programs. The private non-profit university was founded and is supported by 19 governors, as well as more than 20 leading corporations and foundations, which include corporations and foundations such as Convergys, Dell Computer, Oracle, Qwest, Hospital Corporation of America, Farmers Insurance, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. WGU offers bachelor's and master's degrees in business, information technology, teacher education and health professions, with students in all 50 states. More information is available at [www.wgu.edu](http://www.wgu.edu).

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- Accreditation
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**"Competency-based..."**

"I like the idea of a competency-based program. In some areas I already had expertise and skills so I could take an independent study class and build the portfolio and take the exams. In other areas I needed more instruction."

—Gretchen Burr, WGU graduate, high school teacher

**"I am an expert..."**

"Western Governors has raised the bar for online courses. Instead of graduating from their courses and saying, "I have passed all of the requirements," they want their students to say, "I graduated from WGU and I am an expert in the field of..."

—Jeffrey Cravy, WGU graduate student

**"Competency-based..."**

"Google has pioneered the idea of access to information. The reason Google thinks WGU is such a good idea is because WGU has pioneered the concept of competency-based education whenever you want it."

—Eric Schmidt, CEO of Google Inc.

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