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News Brief - 5/7/13

More than 6,600 Students since 2008—WGU's Nursing Programs Turn Five

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SALT LAKE CITY — As the nation celebrates National Nurses Week, Western Governors University (WGU), www.wgu.edu, is celebrating, too. In the five years since the online, nonprofit university launched its first nursing programs, enrollment in WGU's CCNE*-accredited nursing programs has grown to more than 6,600 nurses, and more than 4,000 have graduated with a BSN or MSN. WGU's nursing programs are part of its newest college, the College of Health Professions, which also includes degrees in health informatics and healthcare management. Enrollment in this college has grown to 8,500 students since 2008.

At a time when qualified nurses and nurse educators are in short supply, WGU's programs are helping meet a critical need. With more hospitals working to reach "Magnet" designation, the demand for registered nurses with bachelor's degrees is growing. Yet, fewer than half of the nation's 3.1 million registered nurses have completed bachelor's degrees. WGU offers an [online B.S. in Nursing](#) program that allows working registered nurses to complete a bachelor's degree without sacrificing work and family obligations. In addition, the university's [master's degrees in nursing education](#) and [nursing management](#) are also helping to address the demand for nurse educators and leaders.

"WGU offers a high-quality, contemporary option for working nurses, many of whom have been waiting for an affordable, accredited nursing education program that helps them progress academically. We are so proud of the contributions our graduates are making every day, in every facet of nursing practice and education," said WGU Chief Nursing Officer Jan Jones-Schenk. "Our graduates are at the forefront of innovation and quality and epitomize those attributes we are celebrating about nurses this week."

WGU's online degree programs use a competency-based learning model that allows students to work through study materials on their own schedule and advance when they can demonstrate their knowledge. This approach to learning is ideal for working adults with prior education and work experience. Each student has one-on-one guidance and support from faculty mentors, who help the student stay on track, providing coaching, direction, and even tutoring, if needed. While WGU's degree programs are rigorous and challenging, competency-based learning enables students with the time and ability to accelerate their programs, often finishing sooner, saving both time and money. Tuition for WGU's nursing programs is charged at a flat rate of \$3,250 per six-month term, and terms can begin on the first day of any month.

For more information about degree programs in WGU's College of Health Professions or how WGU is celebrating National Nurses Week, please visit: www.wgu.edu/nursesweek.

*Western Governors University offers nursing programs that are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 5380, Washington DC 20036, 202-877-6791).

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NBC News Reports on WGU



"The dreams of 19 governors have become [WGU Grad Angie Gonzalez's] dream fulfilled."

—Tom Costello
NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams

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Featured News

 Find out why Fast Company calls WGU one of the world's 50 most-innovative companies, CNN says we're "a school without boundaries," and major news outlets from NPR to Bloomberg BusinessWeek are touting WGU's "potential to transform the higher education industry."

[Read about WGU in the news](#) »

Why We Are Different

WGU has an innovative learning model for helping working adults earn bachelor's and master's degrees. Learn more about how it can help you.

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