

- ▶ Degrees & Programs
- ▶ Admissions
- ▶ Tuition & Financial Aid
- ▼ About WGU
 - The WGU Story
 - About Our Students
 - About WGU Faculty
 - Student and Grad Success
 - How We're Different
 - What Others Say
 - Accreditation and Recognition
 - University Governance
 - Online Library
 - Employment at WGU
 - The Night Owl Blog
 - ▼ WGU Newsroom
 - In the News
 - Featured Coverage
 - News Releases
 - Profiles
 - Newsletters
 - Resources
 - ▶ Why WGU
 - ▶ The WGU Experience

Home :: About WGU :: WGU Newsroom :: News Releases :: Recent Study Highlights Need for More Highly Educated Nurses, 4/25/14

Recent Study Highlights Need for More Highly Educated Nurses, 4/25/14



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[BACK TO THE NEWSROOM](#) →

News Brief - 4/25/14

Recent Study Highlights Need for More Highly Educated Nurses

3

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WGU offers programs, scholarships to increase accessibility of BSN and MSN degrees, which The Lancet found to help decrease hospital deaths

SALT LAKE CITY — In the wake of new research published earlier this year in The Lancet, Western Governors University (WGU), www.wgu.edu, is preparing for National Nurses Week by highlighting the importance of highly educated nurses.

The February 25, 2014, [study](#) examined 420,000 patient records from 300 hospitals across nine European countries and found that more nurses educated at the baccalaureate degree level translated to improved survival rates for patients who experience complications after surgery. Every 10% increase in nurses holding [bachelor's degrees in Nursing](#) was associated with a 7% decrease in the likelihood of an inpatient dying within 30 days of admission, according to the report.

"A highly educated nursing workforce is critical to our nation's healthcare, the well-being of American patients, and the success of organizations throughout the healthcare industry," said Jan Jones-Schenk, WGU's Chief Nursing Officer. "This study confirms the importance of RNs returning to school to earn their BSN or MSN degrees."

WGU's online [BSN and MSN degree programs](#) were designed to help meet this need by increasing the accessibility of affordable, high-quality higher education for nurses, whose busy lives and unpredictable work schedules are typically ill-fitted for a traditional university program. Additionally, WGU recently created the [Nurses Lead the Way Scholarship](#) to help RNs realize the dream of a degree.

WGU's accredited, competency-based degree programs were created for working adults looking to advance their careers in an educational setting that fits with their busy lives. The university uses technology to facilitate education in ways that work for individual learners, allowing them to study, complete assignments, and take assessments on their schedule and at their pace. Competency-based learning allows students to advance through their programs as soon as they're able to demonstrate mastery of the material—competencies that are defined by academic and industry experts to reflect the latest needs of the marketplace. Because WGU charges tuition at a flat rate per term regardless of how many courses are completed, professionals with knowledge and skills from work and previous college experience can often move through their programs more quickly, saving both time and money.

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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

[Watch the video](#) »

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.

[Watch the video](#) »

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- About WGU
- Academic Experience

WGU Resources

- Employment at WGU
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Degrees & Programs

- TEACHERS COLLEGE**
 - Teacher Licensure Programs
 - Graduate Programs for Licensed Teachers
- COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**
 - Business Bachelor's Degrees
 - Business Master's Degrees

WGU State Institutions

- WGU Indiana
- WGU Missouri
- WGU Tennessee

COLLEGE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- IT Bachelor's Degrees
- IT Master's Degrees

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

- Healthcare Bachelor's Degrees
- Healthcare Master's Degrees