



Certificate Guidebook

Post-Master's Certificate, Nursing - Nursing Education (Post-MSN)

The Post-Master's Certificate, Nursing - Nursing Education (Post-MSN) program is a competency-based program that prepares students to be academic nurse educators in various educational and practice settings. Students are prepared to lead collaborative academic-practice partnerships to strengthen nursing practice by developing nurses who will lead and advance health in diverse populations. As academic nurse educators, graduates demonstrate a professional presence by helping nursing students acquire the knowledge, skills and competencies to work effectively in inter-professional teams across a variety of academic and healthcare settings. The WGU Post-Master's Certificate, Nursing - Nursing Education (Post-MSN) content is based on national standards and evidence-based research related to effective teaching, learning, curriculum design and development and nursing role development. It provides the knowledge and skills that enable educators to teach effectively in clinical and lab, online, hybrid, virtual and classroom learning environments. The content, resources, activities, and assessments in this program are consistent with recommendations from American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), The Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing, and the National League for Nursing (NLN), Scope of Practice for Academic Nurse Educators. This program builds on the core knowledge developed during the student's prior MSN degree. Areas of focus for this certificate program include: development of the context-based curriculum, learning objectives and outcomes, and learning materials that are an essential aspect of an academic educator role. This program will provide students opportunities to experience the application of nursing and educational theory, practical perspectives regarding learning, the development and socialization of learners, strategies to facilitate learning, and contemporary design and development of high-quality learning modules and assessments.

Understanding the Competency-Based Approach

Practically speaking, how do competency-based programs like those offered at Western Governors University (WGU) work? Unlike traditional universities, WGU does not award certificates based on completion of a certain number of credit hours or a certain set of required courses. Instead, you will earn your certificate by demonstrating your skills, knowledge, and understanding of important concepts.

Progress through a certificate program is governed not by the amount of time you spend in class but by your ability to demonstrate mastery of competencies as you complete required courses. Of course, you will need to engage in learning experiences as you review competencies or develop knowledge and skills in areas in which you may be weak. To help you acquire the knowledge and skills you need to complete your courses and certificate program, WGU provides a rich array of learning resources. Your program mentor will work closely with you to help you understand the competencies required for your program and to help you create a schedule for completing your courses. You will also work closely with instructors as you engage in each of your courses. As subject matter experts, instructors will guide you through the

as 15–20 hours per week to the program, while others may need to devote more time. For this reason, pre-assessments are there to help your program mentor form a profile of your prior knowledge and create a personalized Degree Plan.

How You Will Interact with Faculty

At WGU, faculty serve in specialized roles, and they will work with you individually to provide the guidance, instruction, and support you will need to succeed and complete your certificate. As a student, it is important for you to take advantage of this support. It is key to your progress and ultimate success. Upon your enrollment, you will be assigned a program mentor—an expert in your field of study who will provide you with regular program-level guidance and support from the day you start until the day you complete your certificate. Your program mentor will set up regular telephone appointments (weekly at first) with you, which you will be expected to keep. The mentor will review program competencies with you and work with you to develop a plan and schedule for your coursework. Your program mentor will serve as your main point of contact throughout your program—helping you set weekly study goals, recommending specific learning materials, telling you what to expect in courses, and keeping you motivated. In addition to regular calls, your program mentor is available to help you resolve questions and concerns as they arise.

You will also be assigned to an instructor for each course. Instructors are doctoral-level subject matter experts who will assist your learning in each individual course. When you begin a new course, your assigned instructor will actively monitor your progress and will be in touch to offer one-on-one instruction and to provide you with information about webinars, cohort sessions, and other learning opportunities available to help you acquire the competencies you need to master the course. Your instructor can discuss your learning for the course, help you find answers to content questions, and give you the tools to navigate the course successfully. In addition, you will communicate with instructors by posting in the online learning community and participating in live discussion sessions such as webinars and cohorts.

You will be required to complete performance assessments to demonstrate your competency. These include reports, papers, presentations, and projects that let you demonstrate your mastery of the required competencies. A separate group of faculty members, called evaluators, will review your work to determine whether it meets requirements. Evaluators are also subject matter experts in their field of

Orientation

The WGU orientation course focuses on acquainting you with WGU's competency-based model, distance education, technology, and other resources and tools available for students. You will also utilize WGU program and course communities, participate in activities, and get to know other students at WGU. The orientation course must be completed before you can start your first term at WGU.

Transferability of Prior College Coursework

Because WGU is a competency-based institution, it does not award certificates based on credits but rather on demonstration of competency. Students entering Post-Masters Certificate programs must have completed a graduate degree from an accredited institution and their degree verified before being admitted to WGU.

[Click here for the Student Handbook](#)

WGU does not waive any requirements based on a student's professional experience and does not perform a "résumé review" or "portfolio review" that will automatically waive any program requirements. Program requirements and transferability rules are subject to change in order to keep the program content relevant and current.

Remember, WGU's competency-based approach lets you take advantage of your knowledge and skills, regardless of how you obtained them. Even when you do not directly receive credit, the knowledge you possess may help you accelerate the time it takes to complete your program.

Continuous Enrollment, On Time Progress, and Satisfactory Academic Progress

WGU is a "continuous enrollment" institution, which means you will be automatically enrolled in each of your new terms while you are at WGU. Each term is six months long. Longer terms and continuous enrollment allow you to focus on your studies without the hassle of unnatural breaks between terms that you would experience at a more traditional university. At the end of every six-month term, you and your

your first term at WGU you must pass at least 3 competency units in order to remain eligible for financial aid. We know that SAP is complex, so please contact a financial aid counselor should you have additional questions. *Please note: The Endorsement Preparation Program in Educational Leadership is not eligible for federal financial aid.

Courses

Your Degree Plan includes courses needed to complete your program. To obtain your certificate, you will be required to demonstrate your skills and knowledge by completing the assessment(s) for each course. In general there are two types of assessments: performance assessments and objective assessments. Performance assessments contain, in most cases, multiple scored tasks such as projects, essays, and research papers. Objective assessments include multiple-choice items, multiple-selection items, matching, short answer, drag-and-drop, and point-and-click item types, as well as case study and video-based items. Certifications verified through third parties may also be included in your program. More detailed information about each assessment is provided in each course of study.

Learning Resources

WGU works with many different educational partners, including enterprises, publishers, training companies, and higher educational institutions, to provide high-quality and effective learning resources that match the competencies you are developing. These vary in type, and may be combined to create the best learning experience for your course. A learning resource can be an e-textbook, online module, study guide, simulation, virtual lab, tutorial, or a combination of these. The cost of most learning resources is included in your tuition and Learning Resource Fee. They can be accessed or enrolled for through your courses. Some program-specific resources are not covered by your tuition, and you will need to cover those costs separately. WGU also provides a robust library to help you obtain additional learning resources, as needed.

Mobile Compatibility:

The following article provides additional details about the current state of mobile compatibility for learning resources at WGU.

[Student Handbook article: Can I use my mobile device for learning resources?](#)

Standard Path

As previously mentioned, competency units (CUs) have been assigned to each course in order to measure your academic progress. A standard plan for a student for this program would look similar to the one on the following page. Your personal progress can be faster, but your pace will be determined by your time commitment, and your determination to proceed at a faster rate.

Areas of Study for Post-Master's Certificate, Nursing - Nursing Education (Post-MSN)

The following section includes the areas of study in the program, with their associated courses. Your specific learning resources and level of instructional support will vary based on the individual

course plan together.

The learner creates learning environments that facilitate the achievement of student-centered outcomes.

The learner synthesizes information from theoretical, clinical, and professional organizations to support unique students needs and diverse learning styles in solving practice-based problems.

The learner creates a student-centered learning environment that supports collaboration and teamwork in nursing education.

The learner designs innovative, transformational, and experiential teaching and learning strategies to facilitate student development of professional behavior and professional context-based nursing principles, knowledge, and skills.

Contemporary Curriculum Design and Development in Nursing Education

Contemporary Curriculum Design and Development in Nursing Education analyzes the concepts of creating curriculum based on national nursing accreditation standards and instructional design best practices. Nurse educator students will create course content that supports learning in diverse, real-world environments where nurse educators facilitate learning. Instructional design strategies for delivering course content will reflect the mission of academic institution programs, contemporary trends in nursing education, and the needs of key stakeholders in nursing education and practice. Facilitation of Context-Based Student-Centered Learning is a prerequisite to this course.

This course covers the following competencies:

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focus on the necessity of interprofessional collaboration and the barriers and facilitators to overcoming the challenges associated with teaching and learning in nursing. Topics include the impact of emerging technology, challenges in nursing practice, and the role of the academic nurse educator as a scholar and a nursing education policy advocate. This course has no prerequisites.

This course covers the following competencies:

Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.

The learner recognizes the impact of trends, significant challenges, and developments in educational technology in higher education in the 21st century.

The learner proposes strategies for academic nursing education programs to address the current and future challenges faced by nursing practice.

The learner collaborates with nursing leaders in diverse healthcare settings to initiate change through policy efficacy that strengthens nursing practice and advances the future of healthcare.

Nursing Education Field Experience

The Nursing Education Field Experience provides the nurse educator student with clinical practice experiences with the opportunity to advance knowledge and expertise in a clinical area of practice and reflect on those experiences as they relate to the nurse educator role. Students demonstrate advanced clinical competence within a selected patient population that connect the four spheres of care identified by AACN The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education (2021) (e.g., Wellness/Disease Prevention; Chronic Disease Management, Regenerative/ Restorative Care, and Hospice/Palliative Care). Students also analyze the need-gap for a curriculum change, innovation, or improvement. Based on the identified need-gap, the student will begin the design and development of a course module or unit that reflects evidence-based instructional design and assessment principles and practices. This course prepares the nurse educator student with advanced clinical competence which lays the foundation of clinical relevance when they support student learning as a Nurse Educator.

This course is eligible for an In Progress grade. Please see the Grading Scale Policy for more information.

This course covers the following competencies:

The learner creates an environment in diverse academic settings that facilitates student learning and the achievement of desired cognitive, affective, and psychomotor outcomes.

The learner synthesizes contemporary theories, concepts, and principles in the development of assessments for student learning outcomes in various educational settings.

The learner designs learning objectives and curricula based on programmatic outcomes and utilization of evidence for best practices.

The learner creates a plan to pursue professional development related to the academic nurse educator role.

The learner creates a preferred future for nursing education and nursing practice by functioning as a change agent and leader.

Nursing Education Capstone

The Nursing Education Capstone course provides the Nurse Educator student an opportunity to apply previous course work towards the completion of an evidence-based curriculum proposal project. During this course students will build on previous work during their Nursing Education Field Experience course by planning the implementation and evaluation phases of their proposed curriculum change, innovation or improvement. The capstone project represents a synthesis of competencies across the Masters Science of Nursing—Nursing Education degree program, which prepares them to lead, manage, and transform nursing education in diverse and complex settings.

This course is eligible for an In Progress grade. Please see the Grading Scale Policy for more information.

This course covers the following competencies:

The learner integrates and synthesizes competencies from across the degree program and thereby demonstrates the ability to participate in and contribute value to the chosen professional field.

Accessibility and Accommodations